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MINUTES OF JANUARY MEETING

Amy Bates, President called the meeting to order at 7:40P.M. and asked for unfinished business. Frank Cross announced that the TI-FAIRE was scheduled for April 30 in Dallas. Place and times would be announced later. Dave Eisfeldt brought the results, printed out, of the TI survey taken last year. He has it for anyone interested in the good numbers. Frank Cross announced that we spent $22 on stamps and our current bank balance is $114.07. There was no new business.
Dr. Jeff Hull gave our program on Data base I. He handed out examples of the output of the program and described for us what to expect from and how to use a good data base program. Frank Cross gave a short Demo on how to use an Archiver program.
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LIBRARY NEWS

Two new diskettes are going into the Disk library this month. They are "DIAGDOCS" and "MICROPENDI". The first disk is the Documentation for the diagnostics that TI released in 1987 for the TI-99/4A that they had used only in-house until the release. "MICROPENDI" is a catalog/search program that has an index of all the MICROpendium articles. If you have a name or subject that you want to find in one of the old MICROpendiums, you can use this program to find it. Both of these disks were down-loaded off of "GENIE".
                    Frank Cross
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TI WRITER TIP

The Formatter makes sure that you have two spaces after each period. This can cause such strange things as:

   Mr. Smith
   1023 N. Fargo Street

These extra spaces jump off the page to the reader as simply wrong. The easiest way I have found to solve this is to use the `^` sign to control the spacing. Mr.^Smith will print with just one space as will 1023 N.^Fargo Street.

```
**********************************************************************
     Here is a number game that is short and kind of habit
forming. I have seen this game on a PC compatible and
thought I would write a similar one for the TI.
The program starts out by asking you how many digits. If you
want a 3 digit number (100 -999) to guess, then enter 3.
Any number you are trying to guess will not start with a
zero. In the upper right of the screen will be displayed
"#R" and "RP" . "#R" means the number of numbers in your
guess that match the answer. "#RP" means the number of
numbers that are in the right place. You will be promted
when you have guessed the correct number . You will get 10
attempts at solving the number. You may change the number of
attempts by changing line 270. Good Luck....Dave Eisfeldt.
```

```
100 REM NUMBER GAME
110 REM BY Dave Eisfeldt
120 CALL CLEAR
130 INPUT "HOW MANY DIGITS":D
140 IF D<1 OR D>10 THEN 130
150 CALL CLEAR
160 UL=10^D
170 RANDOMIZE
180 RNUM=INT(UL*RND)
190 RNUM$=STR$(RNUM)
200 IF LEN(RNUM$)<>D THEN 170
210 REM CALL CLEAR
220 ANSW$=""
230 FOR I=1 TO LEN(RNUM$)
240 ANSW$="_"&ANSW$
250 NEXT I
260 DISPLAY AT(3,15):"#R   #RP"
270 FOR I=1 TO 10
280 RP,R=0
290 DISPLAY AT(I+4,2):ANSW$
300 DISPLAY AT(22,2):"GUESS"
310 ACCEPT AT(22,9)VALIDATE(DIGIT)SIZE(+LEN(RNUM$)):GUESS$
320 IF LEN(GUESS$)=LEN(RNUM$)THEN 330 ELSE 300
330 DISPLAY AT((I+4),2):GUESS$
340 FOR Z=1 TO LEN(RNUM$)
350 F$=SEG$(RNUM$,Z,1)
360 G$=SEG$(GUESS$,Z,1)
370 IF F$=G$ THEN RP=RP+1
380 P=POS(RNUM$,G$,1):: IF P>0 THEN R=R+1 ::
390 NEXT Z
400 DISPLAY AT(I+4,15):R;" ";RP
410 IF RP=LEN(RNUM$)THEN 460
420 NEXT I
430 CALL SOUND(3000,200,2)
440 DISPLAY AT(I+4,10):"SORRY" :: DISPLAY AT(I+5,2):"NUMBER=";RNUM$
450 GO TO 510
460 FOR T=1 TO 5
470 DISPLAY AT(1,5):" "
480 CALL SOUND(200,T*300,10)
490 DISPLAY AT(1,5):"YOU GOT IT"
500 NEXT T
510 DISPLAY AT(24,1):"PLAY AGAIN Y" :: ACCEPT AT(24,12)SIZE(-1):A$
520 IF A$="Y" THEN CALL CLEAR :: GO TO 100
530 STOP
```

CHAPTER 4: NAMING CELLS AND COPYING

Reload your file. Press T. Press L or ENTER. Type SPENCER. Press ENTER.

TITLES-You need to identify the columns by months, so let's put the name of the months across the top of the worksheet. Place the cell pointer at R1C2. Press A. Type January. Press the right direction key to move the cell pointer to R1C2, and Type February. Continue in this manner until December. Remember that moving the cell pointer automatically enters the word and places you in the ALPHA/VALUE: command each time you press a direction key to enter data. There isn't any need to press ENTER each time. Press ENTER after the last title and return to the main command menu.

FORMAT: ALIGN CENTER-Because they are text, the months are aligned to the left in the "General" format. Let's center the names of the months over the columns. Place the cell pointer at R1C2. Press F. Press C. Since it would be easier to format the whole row instead of individually, let's do so. Press CHARACTER FORWARD(CTRL 4) to move the cursor to R1C2. Delete the C2 from the cell reference, using BACKSPACE(FCTN 9). The R1 stays. (The same with C1 would mean to format all of column 1.) Press TAB(CTRL A). Type C(Center). Press ENTER. The names are now all centered over the columns.

COPY RIGHT COMMAND-The figures entered are only for January. Copy the January figures into the rest of the months. To copy SALES into the next 11 months, move the cell pointer to R3C2. Press C. Choose R. Type 11, for the number of times you want R3C2 copied. Press ENTER. Press PAGE RIGHT(CTRL D) to look at the next months. To copy a group of cells such as R6 through R10 in column 2, place the cell pointer at R6C2. Press C. Press R. Leave the 11 that was placed there the last time. Press TAB(CTRL A). Press :. Press DOWN until the cell pointer is at R10C2. Press ENTER and then PAGE RIGHT.

NAMING CELLS-Multiplan has a way to name groups of cells so that you can refer to them easily. You can name a whole row such as Row 3; you can name it SALES, meaning the whole line of numbers showing sales. When naming a group of cells, make the name continuous; do not use spaces or hyphens.

To build a formula for GROSS PROFITS, you must first name the groups of cells that contain sales and total cost figures. Then these names will be used to make your formula. We'll start by naming row 3 SALES. Move the cell pointer to R3C1. Press N(Name). Press TAB(CTRL A). Press the RIGHT direction key(now you should be at R3C2.) Press :. Press the RIGHT direction key until you are at R3C13(DECEMBER). You should see-----to refer to:R3C2:R3C13. Press ENTER. You could have typed 13 after the colon instead of moving the cell pointer if you knew which cells you needed to compose into a group. Now Name the group of cells that defines TOTAL COSTS. Move the cell pointer to R10C1. Press N. The range is the same as in SALES so just Press ENTER. Multiplan changes any spaces in titles to underlines and deletes any illegal characters in titles when they are being defined as names. The titles are not effected. Do the same for MATERIAL, LABOR and OVERHEAD. Move the cell pointer to the title. Press N. Press ENTER. If you forget which cells a name refers to Press N, then RIGHT direction key and step forward through the list of names. Press CANCEL(CTRL C) to return to the regular command line.

BUILDING A FORMULA USING NAMES-Consider that GROSS PROFITS is SALES minus TOTAL COSTS. Now build the formula. Place the cell pointer at R15C2, next to GROSS PROFITS. Press =. Type SALES. Press -. Type TOTAL_COSTS. Press ENTER and your formula is complete. Look at R15C2. Multiplan calculated the formula and placed the results in the cell. Copy this formula to the right 11 times. Press C, R, 11, ENTER.

GOTO NAME COMMAND-Named cells are easy to locate with GOTO. Press G. Choose Name by pressing N or ENTER. Type SALES(you can use the direction keys to "step through" the list of names. When you come across the name you want, press ENTER). Press ENTER. Your cell pointer has moved to the first cell in the SALES area. The cell pointer always goes to the first cell in the named area. The only way to remove a name is to define it as blank. So, to remove Sales, press N, then the RIGHT direction key until SALES appears, then TAB(CTRL A). Press the DELETE key (FCTN 8) to erase the row and column numbers to which SALES refers. You should press the CANCEL(CTRL C) key now because you do not want to remove the SALES, you'll need to redefine SALES as referring to R3C2:13 before continuing.

CALCULATING FUNCTIONS:SUM-Let's see how SPENCER CERAMICS is doing by adding a sums column. Use the GOTO command to get to R1C14. Press G, R, 1, Press TAB(CTRL A), 14 and then ENTER. Enter the title Sum in C14, by pressing A; type Sum, press ENTER. Place the cell pointer at R3C14. We will now calculate the sales total. Press =. Type SUM(Sales). Press ENTER. At R3C14 you will see ##########.

NUMBER SIGNS(#)-When numbers are too large to be shown #'s will appear. So let's widen the column. Use the FORMAT WIDTH command. Press F, W, 15, ENTER. You should now see $24000.00 in R3C14.

ERROR VALUES-Let's undefine SALES. Press N, RIGHT direction key until SALES appears, TAB(CTRL A), DELETE key(FCTN 0). Press ENTER and the name SALES no longer exists. Notice that R3C14 changes to #NAME?. This means that Multiplan came across a name that is not defined. Now redefine SALES to refer to R3C2:13. Press N. Type SALES, the press ENTER. The value $24000.00 reappears. Other error values are #DIV/0!, #N/A, #NULL!, #NUM!, #REF!, and #VALUE!.

RELATIVE REFERENCES AND ABSOLUTE REFERENCES-When you refer to cells by row and column(R3C2, R2C14:12) numbers, you are using absolute references. When using + or - a number of rows(R[-4]C) you are using relative references. First we need to edit the formula in R3C14. Right now it contains SUM(Sales). Because names are defined by absolute references, SALES is handled the same as an absolute reference. You need to change SALES to relative references. Move the cell pointer to R3C14. Press E(Edit). BACKSPACE(FCTN 9) TO ERASE THE "SALES)" leaving Sum. You should see SUM(. Press LEFT direction key until you get to R3C2. You will notice Multiplan added the reference to the formula. Press :. Press the LEFT direction key until you reach R3C13. Press). Press ENTER. The total of R3 appears under SUM. Now you can use the same formula to calculate the sums for TOTAL COSTS and GROSS PROFITS by copying the formula.

COPYING A FORMULA:THE COPY COMMAND-Press C, F(From). Multiplan will propose that you copy from the active cell, which is what you plan to do. Press TAB(CTRL A). The response in "to cells" isn't correct. Press the DOWN direction key until the cell pointer reaches R10. R10C14 is one of the cells to receive the formula. The other is R15. Since they are not next to each other you can't use a range. Instead, you need to make a list of cells. To make a list, use the comma. Press ,(Comma). Press DOWN direction key until you get to R15. Press ENTER and watch the numbers appear in rows 10 and 15.

Save your work. Goto R3C2. Place storage disk in drive 1 and Press T, S, ENTER.

See you next time for CHAPTER 5: WINDOWS, COPYING FORMULAS, and OPTIONS and CHAPTER 6: PRINTING A WORKSHEET.

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March meeting Speaker

We are pleased to announce that we will have a guest from Texas Instruments at our March 22 meeting. He is Pete Jaden, who worked in the Home Computer Division of TI. He helped write Multiplan and several other of the software packages for the TI-99/4A. He will be bringing along a 99/8 to demonstrate to us(what could have been!). He is bringing other members of his family to help him demonstrate his system. He will answer questions that you might have on the history of the TI. He has offered to donate and will bring with him, a set of 99er MAGAZINE and HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE to the Brazos Valley 99ers'Users Group. Please plan to be at this meeting to offer your thanks to a very nice contribution to our group.

Frank Cross

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NEXT MEETING!

FEB 23

HORIZON COMPUTER LIMITED has been purchased by BUD MILLS SERVICES. The bare Horizon Card may still be purchased as before, but your orders should be sent to:

        BUD MILLS SERVICES
        166 Dartmouth Drive
        Toledo Ohio 43614

ANNOUNCING THE HRD+ RAMDISK

This Ramdisk is constructed on the HORIZON Ramdisk Board using the Hitachi 62256LP12 (32K) CMOS Memory chips (or the equivalent NEC 43256LP12).

The Card is available NOW in several memory sizes- ONE+MEG, 800K (GENEVE), 512K, 384K (DSDD), 192K (DSSD), and 96K (SSSD). See attached Order Form for Prices.

The Operating System (Thanks to John Johnson and Mike Ballman of the Miami Users Group) allows the Ramdisk to be divided into TEN logical drives or less. Only two DSK_(numbers) are used, the remaining drives will respond to DSK(name). The Menu program (Ver. 7.3) allows for 9 calls plus fifteen menu selections that you can edit on screen to customize the way you want it to appear - no more sector editing. XB programs can now be loaded from a call.

The HRD+ Kits include:
    The HORIZONS RAMDISK BOARD
    Assembly instructions
    Op System and MENU Software
    User Documentation
    and ALL required parts.

Note: This Menu Ver. 7.3 works on ANY Horizon Ramdisk and allows BOOTING the Geneve.

A special note to GENEVE users. Any HRD+ Ramdisk IS compatable with Your GENEVE...BUT the GENEVE will only allow the use of up to 1140 sectors (260k) without patching your SYS file.
At the present time you can use

any HORIZON Ramdisk to BOOT your SYStem files. We have a SYS patch available to allow you to format and use a 384-800k HRD+RAMDISK as an 80 track Disk with your GENEVE.
    We also have a PHEONIX mod that ADDS a 90, 180, or 256k BOOT drive on top of any 384 to 800k Ramdisk on the same card and same CRU. This is only for the GENEVE.

    Sorry NO credit cards.

Money Orders or Certified Checks are preferred.

Allow two weeks for Personal checks.

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PURCHASE ORDER
PRICES Subject to CHANGE Due to present
Economic conditions and Trade Policy

                              Price effective
To BUD MILLS SERVICES   TO Mar. 1,1988
   166 Dartmouth Dr.
   Toledo Ohio 43614   DATE_____

From name _____
    address_____

    city_____state_____

    zip_____ phone (_____)_____-_____

Please "RUSH" my HRD+RAM kit(s)
___PRE-PAID by Check or Money Order

Quan	Type Kit	cost/ea	amt
	HRD+RAM ONE MEG	$435.00	
	HRD+RAM 800k/GENEVE	$375.00	
	HRD+RAM 512k	$265.00	
	HRD+RAM 384k DSDD	$225.00	
	HRD+RAM 192k DSSD	$165.00	
	HRD+RAM 96k SSSD	$140.00	

The above Kits include the HORIZON Card
    Instructions,MENU ROS and ALL parts

    | Upgrade old 180k to | |

256k w/instructions	$30.00
6264LP15 Chips	$ 3.25
32/16 Console Mem Mod	$27.00
62256LP12 Chips	$11.00
W.PA PROTO Card	$30.00
Bare HORIZON card	$38.00
MANUAL and SOFTWARE	$ 7.00
PHOENIX MOD to add a 90k BOOT Drive to 384 - 800k/GENEVE	$60.00
Cost to Build a Kit	$60.00

```
                         Item total  |$
                        -------------+----
5% discount 5 or more of each KIT  |
==           ===           -------------+----
                         Sub-total   |$
                        -------------+----
  Ohio Residents add 6% sales tax  |
                        -------------+----
  If order is under $30 ADD $2 S/H|
                         ----- --- ---    +----
will this HRD+ be                  |
used with the      AMOUNT ENCLOSED |$
Geneve??_____         =====================

   your signature X_____
```
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Call TI-COMM BBS on 419 385 7484
for current prices or information
300 Baud,7bit,even / 1200,8bit,no

Shipping and handling included

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If you already have a built-up
HORIZON RAMDISK

We DO NOT recommend converting your
card to the one Meg circuit.

You CAN add 64k to your 180k HORIZON
RAMDISK to have a total 256k

This upgrade kit contains:

8   6264 lp 15 memory chips
1   741s02
1   741s154
hookup wire and instructions
Latest version of MENU programs

Just a personal note
  I have recieved comments from many
that did not buy my kit that wished
they had. I know that you will be
pleased to recieve QUALITY parts
promptly that I personally guarantee.
Over 800 KITS have been sent to
satisfied customers.

P.S.   The 32/16 Console Mem Mod by
Mike Ballman of The Miami Users Group
has successfully added 2 of the
62256lp12 memory chips to the
CONSOLE 16 bit BUSS resulting in a
45 to 50% increase in speed.
  CAUTION ... This modification may
not be compatible for some programs
(like FAST-COPY). Game speed will
be a real CHALLENGE. Ideal uses are
for BBS or Multiplan recalcs. Two
32k chips are required, but only 32k
is used. Mike is working on software
that may allow use of the other
idle 32k if possible.
  This kit requires piggyback soldering
in YOUR CONSOLE!!!
  Instructions are provided.
  BLACK SILVER CONSOLES ONLY ! ! !

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Save Money?
Safeway has an offer out now for a
book of ten each of the twenty-two
cent stamps for two dollars. It
comes in a coupon book. I asked
about the limit on them at Safeway
and they just shrugged. I bought 6
for myself. We will discuss and
vote at the next meeting about
putting a large amount of our bank
money in stamps as that is one or
our largest expenses. Please come
to the meeting and contribute your
feelings.
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At last! A direct equivalent for the popular but out of production Gram Kracker has been designed by an Engineer in Massachusetts. It's called the Gramulator.

A wire-wrapped prototype was demonstrated to the Magnetic User Group in Andover, MA at their September meeting and it performed flawlessly. The Gramulator offers virtually all of the features of the Gram Kracker, but is targeted to cost less.

No production Gramulators have been built yet. To go from prototype to a production model requires an investment of about $1000. As with anything else, the more that can be made in one batch, the cheaper they will be.

You are invited to respond to this offer if you would consider purchasing the product. Technical questions are welcome. Please write to:

Mark Van Coppenollo
52 Audubon Road
Haverhill, MA 01830
(617)-372-0336

Actual production of the Gramulator depends on the amount of feedback received - no feedback, no product.

FEATURES:

The Gramulator simulates 64K GRAM and 16K of RAM (in two 8K banks at >6000->7FFF).

1) You can customize the built in TI operating system in GROM 0 and TI Basic in GROM's 1 and 2.
2) You can backup your GROM and ROM cartridges to disk to protect your investment and reduce wear on the Cartridge port. All TI, Atarisoft and Parker Brothers cartridges can be backed up. (Does not work with MBX).
3) Acts as a "Super Space" cartridge allowing you to run programs requiring RAM at >6000->7FFF (including Myarcs XBII).
4) Allows you to use a customized GROM 0, or 1 and 2, while a cartridge is in the slot. One application is that you can use your own character set with a cartridge like TI Writer.
5) Capable of loading user written GPL code.
6) A total of 80K of memory with lithium battery backup.

The software needed to load and save GRAM and GROM will be built in for instant access. A memory editor, which will be supplied on disk, will allow you to alter and save any program loaded into the built in GRAM or RAM. User documentation and technical information will be included.

Memory expansion and a disk drive are required to take full advantage of the Gramulator.

Atarisoft is a trademark of Atari Inc.
Gram Kracker is a trademark of Millers Graphics. MG has no conection with the design or production of the Gramulator.
MBX is a trademark of Milton Bradley Co.
Myarc XBII is a trademark of Myarc Inc.
Grom Graphics Programming Language and 99/4A are trademarks of Texas Instruments.

The above notice of the Gramulator was retyped from a page of Topics - LA 99ers.

Making the IBM connection

Well, it may sound sacrilegious, but I had a need. I used to be able to scan my eye over copy and typos and literals would leap out of the page. Alas, it looks like advancing age has dulled the senses. So bad has it become that in a recent document I missed a typo in the first line.

As a result, I have recently submitted some of my stuff to a spelling checker. I would like to use Dragonslayer's, but it just doesn't make the grade. So I resort to a spelling checker on a PC (Microsoft Word) or a Unix system. Since I just happen to have a PC sitting next to my TI, I decided to ship over a TI Writer file, load it into Word, and have it checked. Here's what I had to do:

1. Make a cable. The PC end requires a DB-25 female. The TI end requires a DB-25 male. Connect:

```
TI IBM
1  1
2  2
  3  3
  6 20
  7  7
 20  6
```

Note that you would usually cross pins 2 and 3 (TXD and RXD). But TI and IBM assigned them differently so they must be wired straight through.

2. Now load up a comm program on the PC. I used Crosstalk XVI. Issue the command GO LOCAL. The PC is now listening at the RS232 port.

3. On the TI I keyed in and ran this simple Xbasic program:

```
100 OPEN #1:"RS232.BA=9600",OUTPUT
110 OPEN #2:"DSKn.FILENAME",DISPLAY,
    VARIABLE 80, INPUT
120 LINPUT #1:A$ 130 IF EOF(1) THEN CLOSE #1::
    CLOSE #2:: STOP
140 PRINT #1:A$ :: GOTO 120
```

Once the file is stored on the PC disk, load it into Word and use Library Spell to check it.

Variations on the theme include a plethora of comm programs for the PC, for example, Procomm. You can also fire up Fast-Term, or an equivalent, on the TI.

That was how I transferred files up to a few weeks ago. But, thanks to Mike Dodd, I have eliminated the wiring and now simply copy the TI file directly to a PC disk using PC Transfer. What a useful program.