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CEDAR RAPIDS/MARION

NEXT MEETING: 6:30 PM FEB. 11, 1992

WEST MUSIC, COLLINS ROAD SQUARE

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Correction: Last month's article of TIPS manipulator review was by Dick Beery, not Deck Berry.

I have additional assignments for newsletter articles. They are:

June: Jerry Canady, John Finical
 July: Wayne Betts, Betty Hobel
 August: David Askelson, Patti Thoma
 September: Gary Bishop (What's good for the goose . . .)

I wish to thank Sister Margaret Mary Flynn, BVM for submitting her article early, it appears in this issue. -Editor.

While I have your attention, the editor requests some assistance in preparing and delivering this fine rag of a newsletter. A person or persons is/are needed to: pick up the newsletter at the printer, fold, staple, obtain stamps, affix stamps, affix mailing labels provided, and deliver the newsletters to the post office or local mail box. None of these items requires much time, and one person could perform all the tasks in just a few minutes each month. The newsletters could be posted at your convenience. These simple tasks are an excellent low effort level/opportunity to serve your club. As I canvas our members to seek a volunteer, please consider helping out. Now, I could continue to perform all these tasks myself, but I don't want to appear selfish or trying to hoard all the glory. -Editor Gary Bishop.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING

Our January the 14th meeting at West Music had twelve members in attendance. Bruce Winter read the Treasurer's report, which was approved as read. The minutes for the December meeting were approved as printed in the last newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. Newsletters from our newsletter exchange were brought in so they could be taken home and read. 2. Ed Edwards brought in a copy of DM 1000 that has the docs available, a copy will be in the library. 3. The March 7 Eastern Iowa Computer Fair was discussed. The Fair time is 8-5, location is the IBEW building on Wiley Blvd. 4. We need to include the authors name at the beginning of our newsletter articles so they will be included if the articles get reprinted by other TI groups. 5. Gary is still working on contacting other Iowa TI groups that are no longer active. 6. We got into a discussion on the possibility of doing IBM programing, on the TI, for a fellow member that is going to have to become familiar with the IBM for work.

NEW BUSINESS: 1. The Cleveland Free-Net BBS was discussed. 2. Bob Heiderstadt is looking for a power supply plug for connecting to a disk drive.

PROGRAM: Gary Bishop brought in his Sound F/X program that he purchased at the Chicago TI Fair, for the evenings program. This is a digitized sound program by Barry Boone that works through the sound chip in our TI, to reproduce some unbelievable sound reproductions, both voice and music.

Submitted by Bob Wahlstrom, Secretary

SYNOPSIS OF A RECENTLY RECEIVED NEWSLETTER:

Chicago Times, January 1992: Prez Sez..Election results, Cedar Rapids members attended December Swap Meet meeting, Sr. Pat Taylor wants to exchange a daisy wheel printer for a dot matrix one, DOS library starting, new library list out soon, 1993 Faire Chairman is Jim Deards, Thanks to all who helped with 1992 Faire including Gary Bishop; Membership News...Over 60 renewals at the Faire; Page Pro 99 Page Formatter- XB program to use with Page Pro; List of Board Members; Programming contest- Want to enter? A tutorial on TPA; Items for sale- system, printer, Modem, TI monitor, games, etc; Pascal/p Code Part 9.

TI AND SENIOR CITIZENS
FROM NOVICE TO TEACHER!

From Novice to Teacher! Miracle? Perhaps. But when you consider that the TI was part of the process it seems less than miraculous. When creative USERS tackle a process to clarify a program, they mercifully consider all stages of intelligence toward a computer approach.

Last fall when a TI system was made available to the Roberta Kuhn Center where courses are made available to Senior Citizens of the Dubuque area, a search was initiated for an instructor. I had not even reached my rocking chair as a new retiree when as a self-taught Apple user, I was tapped to answer this need.

With the generous services of Gary Bishop (behind the scenes), Ed Edwards and the proficient coaching of Sr. Pat Taylor and all the help provided by the manuals, I took on the job.

Twelve eager beavers registered for the class. I set up four classes with three in a class to enable "hands-on" experience. Enthusiasm mounted each week as we went from labels to signs to greeting cards and seasonal stationery. The crowning achievement was the Mail List in Nameloc for Christmas mailing.

Classes resume on February 4 and our main objective in this coming series of classes is to work with the Word Processor. The TI program Funnelweb and Plus! combined are excellent and I expect that the instructor will also capitalize on its use.

To me, one of the most impressive factors is the mutual support of the TI USERS as well as the tremendous creativity that is apparent.

Sr. Margaret Mary Flynn, BVM

FOR SALE

TI console, TI printer (actually an Epson MX-70 in disguise), TI 300 baud modem, P Box with disk controller and SS drive, 32K, RS232. TI Writer, Extended Basic, TE-II, DM cart, Lots of disks including TI Artist with manuals. Make offer. Betty 319-854-6210 toll free from Cedar Rapids. Call after 5 PM weekdays, or other reasonable hours on the weekend.

From huckster Gary: TI Writer with manual, disks, cart, \$8; complete Multiplan \$8, all adventure games/tapes/disks/tunnels of doom: \$5 for all, PRK/HBM \$1 ea., cart games such as Car Wars, etc: \$1 ea, speech synth \$15; full height double sided disk drive (used): \$10. 319-377-9574.

AN UNTHINKABLE METHOD OF FINDING A USER GROUP
by Gary Bishop

I recently received a call from a person that had purchased a console at a garage sale. Yes, they are still being sold that way! Anyway, the person had the usual questions about what can be done with the computer, how to expand it, how much would it cost, etc. I'm thinking: "new member, new member!" all the time. I then asked the person how she found my name and number. She then told me what she did; her actions would be, at least for me, unthinkable.

She opened up the local telephone book, and called the number for the local sales office of Texas Instruments. We are very fortunate to have a local office right here in Cedar Rapids. Anyway, the local TI office told her that the computer isn't made any more, but she could try contacting me for help. The reason the TI office knew about me was I had regular contact with the TI office in the course of my job, and the personnel there were aware of me and our club. What a stroke of luck! How many other places have a local TI office, and an office that still has contact with a users' group no less? Very few, would be my guess. TI still provided support and assistance for the newcomer, by steering her to me. I'm still amazed that this sequence of events occurred.

POSTSCRIPT

After I wrote the above piece, I called the local TI office about obtaining a memory data book. My call rang through to Minneapolis. With deep dismay I was told the local TI office was closed due to budget cutting/recession, and the local personnel were let go. I felt a very real sense of loss, because the office had served me well over the years. To helpful servant Janet, and sales engineer and all-around good guy Dave Andrews: wherever your toils take you, may you find the success and fulfillment you had at TI. I've had lay-offs and job eliminations in my lifetime; they are extremely stressful and full of despair. I empathize. -Gary Bishop

INABILITY TO RECEIVE HELP

A member contacted me concerning a problem. This person had a problem to solve; a problem that just screamed out for a computer to assist with. Well, this person sought advice, perused the available literature, and received a lot of information, but no solutions to the problem. In days of yore, we had a lot of people that could jump on such a problem, with each person taking a small chunk and coding up a solution in extended basic. Not any more. We still have a lot of expertise, but lack of time. Or maybe we have fallen below a critical mass required to do this type of thing. I don't have a solution to the person's problem. I'm pointing out a situation that exists in our club. Can it be changed? I'm not completely sure, but probably not.

Any ideas? Not about the person's problem, but the situation that exists in the club. Granted, we cannot be all things to all people, but we seem to be unable to obtain/maintain new members. Think about it long and hard. The survival of the club could be at stake. -Gary Bishop.

The Prez's Blurbs

Trivia...How do you get a DF80 file from TI Writer? After admiring the right justified lines Gary has in our Newsletter I decided that I would get the program he was using from him and shape up my articles by doing the same. Surprise! He uses TI Formatter. As a result I have finally put that program on my Ramdisk and am actually using it.

XB.XB...Repeated cleanings no longer kept my Extended Basic cartridge from being intermittent. I soldered it into my Widgit slot number one. Then I put Velcro on the Widgits foot to keep it from moving around. It has been about two weeks since I did this and the number of intermittents has gone from twice a week to zero. The Widgit also is much more stable and easier to use. Do I recommend it? Yes. Is it an easy fix? Well, it is easier than putting the board in the console, but it takes a reasonable amount of soldering skill. For anyone interested here are some tips. First remove the XB board from the case by taking out the screw and unlocking the plastic snaps down by the connector. These locks are released by pushing a flat blade screw driver into the slots in the case. Next tin the contacts on the board and the Widgit. This is very important. The plastic on the Widgit is not high temperature. Now plug the board in. Make sure to get the side with the components away from the switches on the Widgit. Now solder it in. You will have to bridge the solder a little, but it works quite well. Good luck. Obviously you do so at your own risk. I used Radio Shacks quick drying epoxy on the Velcro.

DM1000...At a recent club meeting I asked if anyone knew the command in DM1000 that would cause the file copy section to copy all the files on a disk etc. No one had an answer then but Ed Edwards did bring a copy of the latest version 5.0 to the next meeting. This version had docs and the command is "control C". But it does not work on my old version 3.5. It must be an addition to the new version that I read about in one of our exchange newsletters. I now use 5.0. A case of being educated ahead of my own software.

Sector Editing...I have had more success using the sector editor on another assembly program. The victim this time was the default printer command in the editor of the Funnelweb E/A section. I mention this because this is something you can do even if you know nothing about assembly programs. Happily even assembly programs usually put these commands in text form. I use Funnelwebs Dpatch program. Go to it and note the main menu commands using the control key. Next press 2 and enter the file name. You will be given the sectors used in hex numbers. Note them and press "control C" to return to the main menu. Press 1 and enter the drive and first hex number you were given. Now press "control A" and you will read the sector in ASCII. Look through the sectors for the old default name and change to your desire. Save the change with "control W".

DF80 file from TIW...Enter PF and then F DSKx.FileName. It works.

EOF..Jack Johns...CR

TAKING CONTROL OF FORMATTER

--by John Owens
JUG 99'er NEWS

June 1990

OR HOW TO AVOID TI-WRITER "FF" (FORMATTER FRUSTRATION)

The TI-Writer Formatter automatically "wastes" 5 lines at the top of a page and 3 lines at the bottom. There is no "automatic" way to change this that I know of. If you want to control the blank space at the top and bottom of your pages, use DEFINE PROMPT (.DP) to start and stop your printer using the following steps:

- a. Prepare text in EDITOR in any FORMAT
- b. Print to DISK in the desired FORMAT
- c. Change CURSOR to FIXED MODE (CTRL-0)
- d. Remove LINE FEED'S from formatted file (Use REPLACE STRING)
- e. Delete (FCTN-3) 6 blank lines and 1 PAGE BREAK for each page
- f. Add PAGE LENGTH (.PL) formatter code
- g. Add DEFINE PROMPT (.DP) and SPACE (.SP) formatter codes
- h. Save to DISK and print out through the FORMATTER

This technique gives you ABSOLUTE CONTROL over where your printer STARTS printing and HALTS printing and waits for you to let it continue. NO more "wasted" blank lines and sheets of paper. Try the following:

1. PREPARE TEXT IN EDITOR

I use a 40 column screen to avoid windowing and then print the text to DISK via the Formatter to expand the text to 80 column format. I use the following FORMATTER COMMANDS to PRINT to DISK.

```
(.FI;LM8;RM76;IN +5 CR)
```

Now load the new DISK file to EDITOR, place the cursor in FIXED FORMAT (CTRL-0) and use REPLACE STRING (RS) to quickly remove all "LINE FEEDS" (LF) that are in the new file. To put the LINE FEED symbol on the screen: Hit CTRL-U, SHIFT-J, CTRL-U. ie: /CTRL-U,SHIFT-J,CTRL-U// Delete 6 blank lines and "BEGIN PAGE" codee from each page in text (on screen).

2. SET PLAGE LENGTH (.PL)

Add a LARGE page length code as follows: (.PL nnn) Where "nnn" is about 20 lines higher than the last line of your file. This prevents the FORMATTER from automatically "breaking the page" until you print the complete file.

3. ADD DEFINE PROMPTS

ON the two line just before the text type in the following without the ().

```
(.DP 1:"SETPAPER"  
(NUMBER 1 SURROUNDED BY ASTERISK)
```

To print a page with two blank lines at the top and bottom of each page, use the following:

After EACH sixty two lines of text add the following dot command on the next line without the ().

```
(.SP 4)
```

After the last line of text, add the following define prompt on

NEXT PAGE

the next two lines without the ().

```
(.DP 2:"EXIT" CR)
(NUMBER 2 SURROUNDED BY ASTERISK)
Save file to DISK
```

4. PRINT TEXT VIA THE FORMATTER

The printer will start, skip 5 lines and STOP. The Formatter screen will prompt you to "SET PAPER". Roll your paper to place the print head 2 lines from the top of the paper and HIT ENTER. The printer will print all pages and STOP. You will be prompted to "EXIT". *Note (from editor): My Gemini10X advances 5 spaces as indicated, but only after the prompt "SET PAPER". In order to obtain proper paper alignment, I modified the DP commands (.DP 1:"ENTER" AND .DP 2:"SET PAPER")*

To EXIT, Hit FCTN -4, ENTER and you will Exit Formatter and return to the TI WRITER menu.

Note: This ARTICLE was printed using this procedure. Note that there are only two (2) blank lines at the top and bottom of the first page and two blank lines at the top of the second page. (Isn't GREAT to be able to be in CONTROL of the FORMATTER!!!)

5. The above procedure will let you print several SHORT FILES (less than a page) without "wasted" space between files. The use of DEFINE PROMPTS before the first line of text and after the last line of text files lets you determine exactly where your printer will START and STOP for each SHORT FILE! This technique is very good for RECEIPE FILES and can be used to print postcards and to address envelopes. You will be prompted to "SET PAPER" before each new SHORT FILE starts printing. For SHORT FILES, you only need to do steps (a), (f), (g) and (h) as shown in the first paragraph of this article. Add FORMATTER codes in STEP (a).

6. EXAMPLES

Examples of FORMATTING CODES used to print this article are shown below. Steps (a) through (h) only take about five minutes after you do it once or twice. It is easy!!!

```
-donot key in the ( )
(.CO FILE#1)
(.PL 140)
(.DP 1:"SET PAPER"
(NUMBER 1 SURROUNDED BY ASTERISK)
THIS IS THE FIRST LINE OF TEXT (do not include Formatter codes)
-----
-----
-----
THIS IS LINE 62 OF TEXT
(.SP 4)
THIS FIRST LINE OF PAGE 2
-----
-----
-----
THIS IS THE LAST LINE OF MY TEXT ON PAGE 2
(.DP 2:"EXIT"
(NUMBER 2 SURROUNDED BY ASTERISK)
```

7. Have FUN and enjoy that feeling of having the FORMATTER under your CONTROL!!!! No more "runaway" printers and wasted paper!!! Avoid TI-WRITER "FF" (FORMATTER FRUSTRATION)

Another opportunity for service to the club has appeared. As our exchange newsletters pass through my hands, I have been providing a synopsis of their contents. The synopsis is an attempt to give those members that can't attend meetings a way to feel connected to the TI world. Well, this month, only one synopsis is published. Jack Johns has regularly provided the review of the Chicago UG newsletter, which is printed inside. I lost my hand-written notes of recent newsletters in what my wife not-so-lovingly calls "that computer mess." Therefore, no additional synopses.

The opportunity for service? Volunteer to provide a synopsis of a newsletter of your choosing, and submit it to me. Several members have found the synopsis useful, so lets continue a fine product for others to benefit. Contact me if you wish to help with a review for the newsletter of your choosing. -Editor

***** Ease of contacting the newsletter editor *****

Inputs to the newsletter can be submitted to the editor in many fashions: mail to the address on the back of this newsletter, hand me a TI Writer disk, or or any one of the following methods:

If you are on the local Email network, my address is: gdbishop@crems
For you Internet people: gdbishop@crems.cr.rockwell.com
You can connect to me on ham radio packet at: NQ0V@WA0RJT

How many more ways can a guy have to make it easy to submit stuff for a newsletter?

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