



## =The 99er Connection=

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January 1991

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NEW YEAR'S DAY

1 Tuesday

5 Saturday

05:30 1st Saturday Sidewalk Sale  
09:00 SUPER SATURDAY INFOMART

12 Saturday

02:30 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Mr. Gatti's at Marsh and Walnut  
Hill Ln.

18 Friday

05:15 NEXT STEP MEETING: Wyatt's  
Cafeteria at Josey Ln. and Beltline Rd.

21 Monday MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

February 1991

2 05:30 1st Saturday Sidewalk Sale

12 Lincoln's birthday

14 Valentines Day

16 Saturday

09:00 SUPER SATURDAY INFOMART

18 Friday

05:15 NEXT STEP MEETING: Wyatt's  
Cafeteria at Josey Ln. and Beltline Rd.

22 Friday

George Washington's birthday

23 Saturday

02:30 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Mr. Gatti's at Marsh and Walnut  
Hill Ln.

# SHAKING THE BUSHES

A lot of us lead some incredibly busy lives. One member flies all over the country and never knows if or when he'll be able to make the meetings. When he comes, he brings enthusiasm and knowledge which he shares generously.

Then there are illnesses or family matters and all other obstructions in life in this age of time.

But we are still trying to keep a good thing GROWING with entries in the newsletter and additions to the library. Declining membership in the TI WORLD is definitely a problem, but we have some interesting solutions.

Some members of the original group would like to step aside and let NEW MEMBERS hold office. But they are needed very badly to help ones who don't know the 99/4A very well. We appreciate and help and encouragement they offer.

We want to work to get NEW MEMBERS and have a spirit of harmony at our gatherings each month. Everyone of us can mix pleasure and business when we have our meetings. We want our club to have another great year in 1991.

It is my hope that the DALLAS TI HOME

COMPUTER GROUP will participate but I have such limited experience in the computer field that I'm still learning and I am involved in a lot of the clubs activities.

We have such a wonderful group of people; they are all so willing to give of their time and help in anyway they can. I know this from first hand experience.

I hope that I can do the right thing as your club president. I'm going to need all the HELP I can get. Please feel free to correct me in any way, for this I will not be offended. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ELECTING ME YOUR PRESIDENT FOR THE YEAR OF 1991.

MATTIE



**The 80 Column**

by David Axberg

The year 1991 looks like it is going to be an exciting year for the 4A faithful. After conversations with Bud Mills and Chris Bobbitt this last week, I am convinced some super hardware and software are on the way.

Shipments are now being made of the new EDS harddrive controllers. This could be the answer that many of us have been looking for ... a reliable and well software supported harddrive controller.

I have been trying for the last week to contact John W. McDevitt, the president of Rave 99, to ask him about his new product the PEB-II. The advertisements are wonderful, but now I want to know more about the 200 watt power supply, the 11 expansior slots, the ability to place the console motherboard in the cabinet, and the switchable 99er/9640 capability. The on'y negative thing I have heard about the new PEB-II is that it requires the user to "Strap" or bypass the voltage regulators on the cards in the box. This means that with this modification to your cards, you can not use them in a stock TI PEB or it will "blow" the cards. Sounds like a great opportunity for someone to come up with a new card case designed to FIT

into the PE-II but NOT in the stock TI PEB.

Now what are we as 99er's going to do with the proliferation of alternatives for the use of a mouse and with the serious introduction of software that addresses the capabilities of the TMS9938 video processor chip? i.e. 80 column displays and the use of 256 colors!!! Programs such as MENU for program access, TELCO 2.3 for communications, FunnelWeb 4.31 for wordprocessing and Y.A.P.P. for graphics have demonstrated that the 99er can be as capable as any "clone" software in providing productive functionality. Now for the first time, we have CHOICES as to which mouse we will use. Should it be the TMS9938 compatible or the serial ASGARD? The Geneve 9640, the DIJIT Advanced Video Processor Card (AVPC), and the Mechatronics 80 column card, all used the capabilities of the TMS9938 chip.

The TMS9938 has a "mouse driver" and the "80 column display" capability already encoded in the chip. This means 99er software developers do not have to create an interface to utilize the mouse capability. That is why both TELCO and FunnelWeb were able to incorporate the 80 column displays with relative ease; and why Y.A.P.P. requires only a DSR entry to operate.

How you chose to incorporate the TMS9938 into your 99er is going to depend on how involved you want to be in the installation. DIJIT's AVPC is no longer in production so locating one could be a challenge. Its installation requires the user to remove the cover from the

console and make a modification to the existing video processor chip (the placement of jumper clips and one pin of the chip had to be bent). The AVPCard itself is installed in the standard TI PEB as any other card.

The MYARC 9640 has the TMS9938 included in its "motherboard" configuration and is addressed when using programs developed specifically for 9640. To the best of my knowledge, it is not accessible through the 4A mode. However, that could change if the market shows enough demand to justify it.

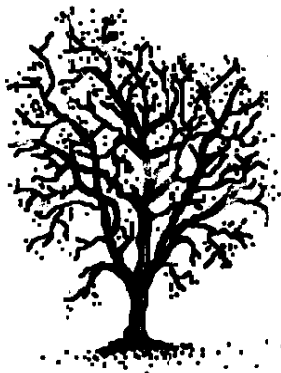
The last alternative is probably the most convenient, the Mechatronics "sidecar" 80 column card. The only thing the user must do is position the "sidecar" in same manner as he would install the "speech synthesizer", and it is done!! The mouse port is on the side of the card and easily accessible.

I am very optimistic there will be more software addressing the use of a mouse for the 4A this year because the most prolific software distributor is now in the business ... Chris Bobbitt. One will beget the other. Have we waited long enough to see our 99er come into its own? I think so.

My TI 99er project plans for 1991 are first check out the RAVE 99 PE-II. Second, find as many people as possible doing reviews on the EDS harddrive controller's performance. And finally, I plan on doing some serious software shopping for new 80 column versions of PAGE PRO, TI-Base, TI-Artist, and Spellcheck. Also "mouse" versions of cShell99 and FunnelWeb.

But the most important thing I can do in 1991 is to stay in touch with the developers of the products for the 99er. Remember, the opportunities we have now as a result of seeing and talking directly to the people that make the hardware and software should not be wasted. We have the phone numbers and addresses of Barry Boone, Bud Mills, Chris Farherty, and Chris Bobbitt. Take the time to express your thoughts about existing products, new products, and products not yet invented. The only way to make things happen is to be involved.

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LATCH KEY  
By Jim Stewart



Since this is my last Membership Chairman's column, I thought I'd explain why I chose the column name... "Latchkey." The dictionary defines it as "a key for releasing a latch, esp. on an outside or front door. That may sound abstract to many of you...but I'll never forget the early excitement my 99/4a brought to me...yet I also recall I was constantly frustrated because I couldn't understand something by myself. I'd read and read, or type programs dozens of times..but always I kept asking myself 'Why can't I understand this?'

I was knocking at that door, begging for someone to let me in and point the way so I could find the answers I was looking for. That was when I found the people of DTIHCG. When I reached out, the latchkey was there, offered by dozens of people with hearts of gold and the willingness to share their knowledge with me. My point is, each of us must be that latchkey. There will only be seekers at the door so long as those inside hear their plea, and make the effort to share, teach, learn, and demonstrate to those following a little behind, the benefits of us sharing this friendly and rewarding adventure. If you believe in Stewardship, it is your duty to pass on to others the help and knowledge you have received. That's what "Latchkey" has meant to me, and if you believe in it too, our DTIHCG membership will grow and grow!

"NEWing From Inside a Basic Program----Can It Be Done?"

By: Jonathan D. Guidry  
731-H Creighton Dr.  
New Iberia, LA. 70560

The NEW command is very valuable to the programmer. However, it only executes in intermediate mode. Have you ever wondered how to make the computer clear the memory from INSIDE a program? If you tried to use the word "NEW" after a line number, you got a \*COMMAND ILLEGAL IN A PROGRAM error. The keyword new, in intermediate mode, resets memory positions -31868 and -31952 to FF, FF, FF, FF in hexadecimal. Here is an example of the usage of resetting memory positions -31868 and -31952. (NOTE: If you plan to use the below example, the E/A or Minimem or Extended Basic and the Memory Expansion must be in place).

```
CALL INIT
CALL LOAD (-31868,255,255,255,255)
CALL LOAD (-31952,255,255,255,255)
```

In Extended Basic, chain the three statements together using the double colons (::). If you have a program in memory at the time these are executed, it will be erased. Try it. These statements are more useful at the end of a program. For example, if you place these statements at the end of a directory program called LOAD in Extended Basic, it will give you back the prompt after it is finished, and the memory will be erased.

These three statements can also guard that top-secret program you've been working on by erasing the memory if the correct password isn't given at the beginning of the program. It also prevents snooping. (Heck, I have 4 little brothers and sisters who snoop--ages 6 to 13). Also, do not forget they can be put anywhere in a program.

For those of you who want to ask me a question, send compliments, etc., please do not hesitate to write me directly or call me. Also, send me anything of use that you would think of being of help to me. I do not know everything, I am just an advanced hobbyist. (Heck, I am just starting to learn the TMS 9900 Assembly Language). Thank you for reading this and have a nice day.

Jonathan

D. Guidry

Addendum pertaining to protected programs. If you want to protect an Extended Basic program using the address I gave you last month with the "NEW" command I gave you this month, use the following subroutine. (If it detects the program not being protected, then it clears the memory.)

```
30000 SUB PROT
30020 CALL PEEK(-31931,4)
30030 IF A<>128 THEN 30050
30040 SUBEXIT
30050                                CALL
LOAD(-31868,255,255,255,255) ::
CALL                                LOAD(-31952,
255,255,255,255)
30060 SUBEND
```

# BBS MUSTINGS

Message 40086 08:22:56 12/29/90 Re: DISK  
CONTROLLER To: ALL From: ERNIE  
PERGEM-PALATINE, IL

Can anyone tell me if the modification  
for the TI Disk Controller is still  
available? At one point there was one  
for both the RS232 and the TIDC.

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Message 40000 23:55:11 12/25/90 Re:  
HEAVENLY 40,000 To: ALL From: JOHN  
GUIDON-LUBBOCK, TX

When I signed on I noticed that it had  
been some 9,999 messages since I last  
visited. It is nice to be here for the  
board's forty-thousandth message! What  
an honor and on "What a board!" Thanks  
for letting me visit y'all. Well, the  
day is almost done so I'll be movin' on.  
Tell Dad there are going to be some  
gooies at the 1st Saturday Sidewalk  
Sale... I know he never misses the  
thing, of course, from going so many  
times with him at 3:00 O'Clock in the  
morning! Hi Robert, Greg, Tom, Charlice  
and especially you, Crevi. To all of my  
friends, Merry Christmas.

\_jPg\_

YOU MAY BE MISSING SOMETHING

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## HAVE YOU TRIED THE BBS LATELY?

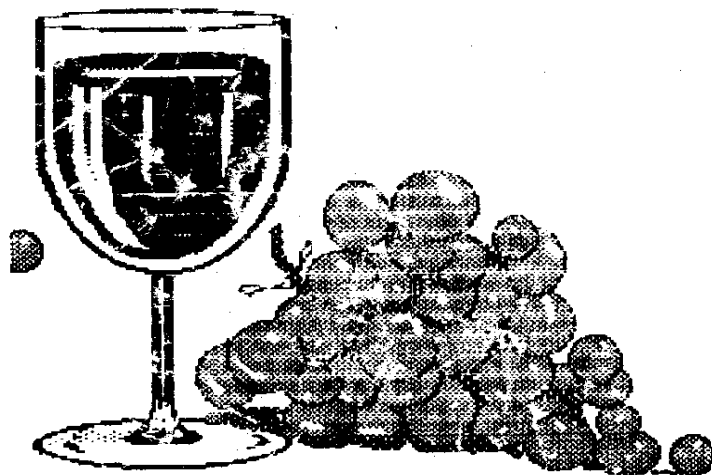
Message 40067 19:44:18 12/28/90 Re:  
TELCO To: JAY URISH(RETRIEVED) From:  
BUTCH SPILL-ARLINGTON, TEXAS

Using Telco to download is very simple.  
You just do a function 4 keypress then  
select TIBBS Xmodem from the list with  
the arrow keys. You then have another  
menu pop up that is prompting you for a  
save filename. You answer DSKn.File  
name (where DSKn is the number of the  
drive you wish to save to ie:DSK1 etc.)  
and then enter. The program start auto  
matically and once the program is  
recieved another small bar pops up and  
says to press any key. You are then  
taken back to terminal mode and can  
proceed as usual. "Butch"

Message 40074 22:39:56 12/28/90 Re:  
R:40047 HELLO Message 40083 00:19:32  
12/29/90 Re: R:40077 TELCO To: BUTCH  
SPILL From: JAY URISH-DALLAS, TX

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP BUTCH YOU SAVED THE  
DAY.I SUCCESFULLY D/LOADED MONOPOLY.  
AND ITS REAL COOL I WILL TRY HARD TO GET  
TO THE NEXT MEETING AND I SEE YOU THERE  
I HOPE.THANKS FOR THE CALL

JAY URISH



Welcome to our  
 new Officers!  
 Mattie Bush  
 Rip Dowling  
 Linda Way  
 Charlice Althar  
 John Buie

## OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	MATTIE BUSH	214-637-4937
VICE - PRESIDENT	RIP DOWLING	8017-467-0369
TREASURER	LINDA WAY	214-437-5955
SECRETARY	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	JOHN BUIE	214-278-1936

## CHAIRPERSONS

HARDWARE / MERCHANDISE SALES	BUTCH SPILL	214-777-7777
DON	THERRY WEBER	214-686-1714
PROGRAM	BUTCH SPILL	214-777-7777
CCD ALTERNATE	JACKIE GUIDON	214-239-6829
BBS SYSOP	LOUIS GUIDON	214-239-6829
MINISIG	THERRY WEBER	214-686-1714
MEMBERSHIP	SHARON RENDICK	214-337-0229
HISTORIAN	BILL PRY	214-247-3909
DISKETTE SALES	JIM STEWART	214-625-0923
NEXT-STEP	ROSS WHITMORE	214-352-3889
REGISTRATION	MARY LEARD	214-563-1257
SOCIAL	NICHOLLE DOWLING	8017-467-0369

## LIBRARIANS

SOFTWARE	BILLY MONROE	214-285-5397
CARTRIDGE AND TAPE	BILLY MONROE	214-285-5397
NEWSLETTER	DICK HEAVER	214-625-4804
ADVENTURE	SHAWN HADNORTH	214-278-6300
EDITOR	RON FERGUSON	8017-481-3904

These people are DTICG officers and chairpersons. They help themselves and you, by giving each of their time in working to make this a better club for all of us. Most attend the three hour Committee Chairmen's Meeting (the officers meet for an hour before that!) on the Saturday following the INFOMART meeting. Any interested member is invited to join us for the next Chairperson's Meeting.

Thank them individually, when you have the opportunity.