

THE GUILFORD 99'ER NEWSLETTER

UOL.1 NO.11

DECEMBER

Ken Bailey, President
Bob Carmany, U. Pres.
Carl Foster, Sec/Treas.

Edwin Simpson, Newsletter Ed.
George Von Seth, Program Lib.
Sandy Carmany, Education

OUR NEXT MEETING

DATE: December 4, 1984
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: Zayre's Department Store
1421 E. Cone Blvd.
Electronics Dept.

PROGRAM: ELECTION OF OFFICERS for 1985
and a general business meeting. The
"Sights and Sounds of the Season" will
follow. Bring in your graphic and
music programs that are related to the
holiday season and we will demonstrate
them to the group.

We are approaching the end of
another year and we will present a
slate of officers for the coming year
at this month's meeting. For those of
you who missed the meeting last
month, a "NOMINATION Committee" was
selected to present a slate of
officers for the coming year. It seems
that not everyone was interested in
serving on our executive board, but
they did manage to select enough
members to fill the various
positions.

We are going to keep you in
suspense until meeting time, though,
and not divulge the names that were
submitted. You will have to come to
the meeting to find out!

This month, we have a short
utility program and an addition to
Carl Foster's Anagram program.

The first one is a short program
written by Joseph Martin that will
help you figure out those loan
payments. It runs in either Basic or
Extended Basic.

You enter the amount of the loan,
the interest rate, and the number of
months of the term of the loan. The
program will return the monthly
payment, total interest repaid, and the
total amount repaid.

It is "user friendly" and designed
to calculate simple interest loans.

100 CALL SCREEN(11)
110 CALL CLEAR
120 INPUT "ENTER AMOUNT OF LOAN ":L
130 PRINT
140 INPUT "ENTER NUMBER OF MONTHS ":T
150 PRINT
160 INPUT "ENTER INTEREST RATE ":R
170 FOR S=1 TO 6
180 PRINT
190 NEXT S
200 PAY=((R/1200)*((1+R/1200)^T)*L)
/(((1+R/1200)^T)-1)
210 PAY=INT(PAY*100+.5)/100
220 PRINT
230 PRINT "MONTHLY PAYMENT= ";PAY
240 PRINT "TOTAL REPAY= ";(PAY*T)
250 PRINT "TOTAL INTEREST=
";((PAY*T)-L)
260 PRINT
270 FOR S=1 TO 6
280 PRINT
290 NEXT S
300 PRINT "ENTER ANOTHER LOAN (Y/N)"
305 CALL KEY(0,KEY,STATUS)
310 IF STATUS=0 THEN 305
315 IF (KEY<>78)*(KEY<>89) THEN 305
320 IF KEY=89 THEN 110
330 CALL CLEAR
340 PRINT "SEE YA NEXT TIME!"
350 FOR D=1 TO 1000
360 NEXT D
370 CALL CLEAR
380 END

We hope that this program will
help you out when you contemplate a
credit purchase and we would like to
thank Joseph Martin for sending it in
to the newsletter for all of us to
share.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Carl Foster has altered the Anagram program that appeared in the August issue of the newsletter to let you use an unconditional dump of the word list to a printer. The words will no longer be printed on the screen by using these modifications. Line 101 can be altered to fit the OPEN statement required by your printer (ie. "RS232.BA= ..."). The changed and new lines to be inserted are as follows:

```
101 OPEN #1:"PIO"
290 PRINT #1:W$&" ";:G=G+1::U$=W$:
ON W-2 GOTO 330,320,310,300
360 PRINT #1:" ";G;"TOTAL COMBINATIONS
.":G=0::U$=""
369 CLOSE #1
370 GOTO 101
380 END
```

We now have a computer console that is the property of our Users' Group. Carl Foster has the console that we authorized to be purchased several months ago. The console will be at all of our monthly meetings. Let's put it to good use --- anyone willing to demonstrate a program or procedure at one of our monthly meetings is urged to contact our newly elected Program Chairman at this meeting.

If anyone in the Users' Group has successfully altered the SNAP-CALC program from the August, 1984 issue of HCM so that the results can be printed out on an 80-column printer, we would like to hear about it.

In fact, if anyone has altered or improved one of the programs in our library or from elsewhere to make it run faster, better, or more smoothly, drop us a line at the newsletter P.O. Box 21691 so that we can "spread the word". Just as there is more than one way to "skin a cat", there is usually more than one way to program a task.

BITS & BYTES

By the time that you read this all of the forms for our tax-exempt status will be completed and mailed to "Uncle Sam". Hopefully, we will have something to report in the near future.

For all of you Forth fanatics, it is interesting to note that the Wycove System will run TI Forth but the reverse is not true. Bob Carmany is working on a compatibility screen to allow Wycove to run ANY TI screen.

Incidentally, our Forth classes will continue in mid-January. Sorry for the interruption, folks! With the election of officers and the Holiday season coming up, it has been a busy time for everyone.

BASIC classes will be started shortly after the beginning of the year and we will probably have some EXTENDED BASIC classes starting then, too!

For those of you who are interested, there are a couple of good games and a spreadsheet in TI LOGO in the September issue of HCM that might be worth looking at.

If there is an expressed need for it, we could include some LOGO II programs in the library. LOGO II is really a pretty powerful language, after all!

As we mentioned last month, there are some excellent prices on selected items in the latest Triton catalogue --- cartridges at \$5.95 each or 6 for \$29.95. Brendles' on High Point Rd. has some real "stocking stuffers", too! They have a limited selection of cartridges in the display case for \$4.84 each --- they are all game cartridges, though.

It sometimes pays to ask for TI cartridges and equipment in these stores. There is still some of it around and not necessarily on the display racks.

THE GUILFORD 99'ER USERS' GROUP NEWSLETTER IS FREE TO DUES PAYING MEMBERS OF THE USERS' GROUP (ONE COPY PER FAMILY, PLEASE). DUES ARE \$6.00 PER FAMILY PER YEAR. SEND CHECK TO P.O. BOX 21691, GREENSBORO, N.C. 27420. THE SOFTWARE

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: WICO Command Control Joystick & TI adapter \$10.00. Bridge Bidding I - \$5.00, The Crazy Fun House - \$3.50, Gorilla Kong - \$2.50, Fearless Freddie - \$1.00. All of these are on cassette. Edwin Simpson 292-2022 5 P.M.-10 P.M.

FOR SALE: A new Disk Controller and Disk Manager. #02.00. George Jordan 299-4999

FOR SALE: A full TI System -- purchased as a spare and never needed. Includes P-Box, Mem Expansion, RS232, P-Code Card, Speech Synthesizer and console, TI Writer, Multi-plan, Editor-Assembler, Pascal Editor, Pascal Compiler, and Pascal Editor Linker. Will sell individually at 20% less than best current catalogue prices, or the full system at an additional 10% discount. Howard Arnold Lewisville, N.C. 945-5348

FOR SALE: 2 Dual Cassette Cables, \$10.00 each. 2 Cassette cases (hold 8 tapes each), \$5.00 each. Bobby Brodie 643 4730

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ?

We recommend the following:

For game "freaks" -

Frogger (Parker Brothers, cartridge) and Miner 2049er (Tigervision, cartridge). For the more sophisticated game player, try Zork I, II, and III (adventure games on diskette from Infocom).

For students -

TI Writer or another word processing program is a must. Most require full systems and all require printers. The above products are available from Unisource and Triton and some may be available locally.

PRODUCT REVIEW

BY EDWIN SIMPSON

THE CRAZY FUN HOUSE
EXTENDED BASIC (CASSETTE)
MILLERS GRAPHICS

The object of the game is to clear each maze of all dots and trip squares. Depending on the number of dots you clear before tripping each square, one of the following things happens: the maze turns invisible, a ghost comes out and chases you, or 7 ghosts float through the maze. If you trip a square when the maze becomes invisible either the maze becomes visible or 1 ghost comes out or 7 ghosts come out. I could continue, but I think you get the picture.

The game has three timers controlling different things. With each succeeding level, the ghosts get faster and you have less time to complete the maze. The maze is a large one which means that the figures and graphics are small. Movement is not continuous like Munchman and your man jumps from place to place but this is not really a negative factor. The colors used in the game are excellent. The main problem with the game is the obviously complex changes I started to detail above. It is an ingenious programming job, but you need a better memory than I have or more time to spend playing the game in order to become familiar enough with it to do well.

As mentioned in our last meeting, we are going to be able to exchange program library material with the Users' Group in Raleigh. They have a library of some 400 programs that we hope to have down-loaded and ready for the library in the near future. There will probably be some duplications, but we are sure that many of the programs will be unique to our library.

While we are on the subject of the library, we would like to thank Mack Jones for his diskette of 11 programs that he donated to the library. We will have them ready shortly.

THE HARDWARE SHOPPER

Last month, someone asked the question: "What can you do with a computer?" Of course, he was referring to what do you do besides play games and use it for an expensive adding machine.

We are going to take some time here to explore that question and the myriad of possibilities.

The answer to the question is "whatever you want to do with it". If you want a computer controlled home, A/D ELECTRONICS makes a little number called FIRST ADE. It plugs into the joystick port and (with the proper interfaces and probes) allows you to control or monitor virtually anything in your house. It will enable the TI 99/4A to heat or cool your house, monitor the temperature in your freezer, or create a burglar alarm system. The address is P.O. Box 20300, Sacramento, CA 95826.

Of course, your TI can do other things, too. In the realm of home finances, there are packages available to run a household or a small business. The TI-produced MULTI-PLAN is not the only one around. With the appropriate disk system and printer, etc. it will run a fair-sized small business. There are ledgers, mailing lists, and various other sophisticated packages to go with it. You don't have to go that far, however, because there are mini-spread sheets that will perform as well in limited applications like a home budget.

A spread sheet is a "what if" application. With the proper logic model, you can see the effects of a proposed raise, medical expenses, or any other item on a budget for a year or more.

Then, there is always the computer application that you are reading -- word processing. There are many word processing packages available. Of course, there is TI-Writer but for those with a more limited budget, there are others that don't require a disk system or memory expansion.

One of the most exciting areas is that of education. The renowned PLATO series (which requires a disk drive and interpreter cartridge) covers about everything from grade 1 to 12. There are other educational packages (KIDware, for example) that the student can use to study everything from astronomy to zoology. Some are cassette based and others are on disk. We have some nice programs in the library to help with spelling and math.

There are music synthesizer cards for the PEB and music editors that allow the user to compose all sorts of music from rock to classical.

So, you could have your computer wake you up in the morning, start your coffee at 6:47, turn on the lights, make sure that the house is warm enough. It could make phone calls for you and allow you to handle your household budget and even a small business. And, you can still play Munchkin or TI Invaders.

There are virtually unlimited applications for the TI 99/4A. If you want to do something, your computer can probably either do the task itself or make it much easier for you to do.

A recent computer program on educational TV indicated that at some time in the not too distant future, we may accomplish most of our jobs, education, and daily activities exclusively with a computer or with the aid of a remote terminal in our living room.

The Software Shopper column will be used this month to give you a listing of some of the software packages that will let you use the TI 99/4A to accomplish the various tasks that we have discussed here. We will try to list several in each category that are not the usual TI-produced variety. The listings will be third-party listings. So, until next month, happy computing!!

President of the group with the necessary corrections. In addition, the Secretary/Treasurer gave an updated financial report which indicated a balance in the checking account of \$94.44. Expenditures were: \$20.00 to the Postmaster and \$2.25 service charge to Greensboro National Bank.

It was suggested by the body that we investigate to find out which banking institutions would provide us banking free of charge.

Mr. T.D. Nordin, who is a member of the A.T. & T. Computer Club, joined our Group and extended an invitation to us to meet at the A.T. & T. Center at some future time.

John Hyatt informed the Group that he could arrange for us to use printing facilities of his father's business in Climax, N.C.

The offer was accepted and our next newsletter will be printed there.

The Vice President appointed a Nominating Committee to bring in a slate of officers at our next meeting. The Committee consisted of John Hyatt, George Von Seth, and Bob Stitz.

Dave Cohen suggested that we communicate with other 99'er Groups, especially the one in Raleigh, N.C. He agreed to draft a form letter to be sent to other TI groups of interest.

After the business was concluded, the Vice President did program demonstrations that were listed in the last newsletter, and answered questions of concern.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carl Foster Sec/Treas.

With the cold winter months coming up, this is a reminder to watch out for static electricity discharges when you get ready to program. Use static control spray or just make sure that you touch something metal BEFORE you sit down to program at your console. One good "ZAP" could wipe out your computer!!

other information in the newsletter. Here are a few of them that you have missed or forgotten:

To get the 99/4A to say any phrase in the resident vocabulary with the Speech Synthesizer attached, it must have the following form:
CALL SAY("#TEXAS INSTRUMENTS#")

If you want to eliminate the prospect of accidentally "zilching" your program when using Extended Basic, type in the following line and press ENTER before you start programming:
CALL INIT :: CALL LOAD(-31806,16)

If you get a BAD VALUE message in one of your programs while it is reading a DATA statement, you can type in the following line without clearing the screen to isolate the last values that were read. If A and B are the values, type:
PRINT A,B

To expand a PRINT statement, when the computer won't allow you to enter any more characters go ahead and close the quotes. Go to the EDIT mode and move the cursor to the closing quotation mark and continue -- it will give you about another half line of characters!

We hope that you have been saving those back issues of our newsletter. We will be sharing some more tips and suggestions with the Group from time to time. If you have run into a programming problem, drop us a line a P.O. Box 21691 and we will see what we can do to solve it.

The best way to store disks is to store them standing up. If they are stored laying on their side, they can be damaged by imbedding dirt in the disk. So, either store them upright in the box or get one of the "disk files" that are available.