THE GUILFORD 99'ER NEWSLETTER

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The Guilford 99'er Users' Group Newsletter is free to dues paying members (One copy per family, please). Dues are $12.00 per family, per year. Send check to 3202 Canterbury Dr., Greensboro, NC 27408. The Software Library is for dues paying members only. (George von Seth, Editor)

OUR NEXT MEETING ? ? ?

IS THIS

OUR

LAST

MEETING?

COME TO THIS DECEMBER MEETING AND VOICE YOUR DESIRES AS TO THE FUTURE OF THE CLUB.

DATE: December 6, 1988 TIME: 7:30 PM PLACE: Glenwood Recreation Center 2010 S. Chapman Street.

Assuming the continuation of the club, dues for 1989 are due and payable at this meeting. We will also have to determine the new officers for the new year, as well as Program Chairman and Newsletter Editor.

COME ONE-
COME ALL-
THIS IS THE FUTURE OF YOUR CLUB!!!!!!!

This meeting has always been our CHRISTMAS PARTY. We do not have any appointed committee for refreshments - SO, those who will, bring your own and some for your friends. The club will supply punch.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

RAMBLING BYTES

By: "Mac Jones"

As most of you know, we really didn't have a November meeting per sec. We agreed since November was election month and the Center is used for voting, that we would just have a disk-swap on the first Tuesday and go to Bonnie Jones' house for the meeting the following Wednesday. As it turned out, quite a few members could not make the trip. Although Ben had fixed many good snacks, there were only six of us that made the trip. George and Lester brought their wives or there would have been only four! Sooooo, there was no real meeting and just a lot of fun and conversation. Bonnie and Ben were excellent hosts and we we almost overstayed our time we were having such a great visit.

I would like to state since most of the members were not present, that we will plan on having our annual Christmas party on December the 6th, which will be the regular meeting night. The club will provide the punch, so if you will bring a snack (each family), I feel that we will have ample goodies. Of course a meal will not be served, just tid-bits. I think last year we had sausage balls, cookies, etc, and everyone seemed to enjoy being there. I will bring the "box" so we can have Christmas music/programs so if you have any good disks that you want us to see, bring them along.

There was no nominating committee chosen at the Nov. meet for the lack of attendance, so I guess Scott may want to hold nomination suggestions from the floor....that will be up to the membership and Scott.

As you know, dues are due in December for the following year and I sincerely hope that all the members will join us for another year. We need the support of all of you if we are to continue as a club. Newsletters and postage have taken a big chunk of our funds, but of course, that is what it is for. I don't know of many clubs that are operating to make money and neither is ours. Before you decide not to re-join us for another year, look at the fringes you can enjoy as a member. First, there is our newsletter. True, there is only a few contributing to it, but it gives us a means to let you know just what is going on in the TI world by affording us a means of exchange with other groups. It also gives you the library which is full of programs that makes your trusty TI a very powerful tool. I know in my case, if I had not had the TI when my Grandsson was small, I would have had quite a time keeping him interested in something to do if it hadn't been for the wonderful games and learning programs that I have. Now, he has one of his own, but we still enjoy together the new things that the modem brings us.

I hope you can all be with us for the last monthly meeting of 1988 as we all enjoy the fellowship and goodies. In closing I would again like to thank Bonnie and Ben for having us visit their home and thank Ben for the swell snack he provided.

I would like to offer a warm "welcome back" to Buddy Cato who recently joined our ranks for the coming year. Good to have you back Buddy.

At the club's suggestion, I sent post cards to some of our old members who have not been with us for the past year and hopefully, we can get at least one out of the ones I sent to come back. The card to Fred Barnett in High Point was returned as a return to sender, so I guess he has moved and left no forwarding address.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Christmas party, so until then, enjoy the good TImes.

DATA BASE NOTES

There have been a couple of developments in the TI marketplace lately. By far the most significant is the introduction of TI-BASE. I completely new-generation database. TI-BASE allows several things that were unthought of until recently.

First, there is a complete command language that can be used to perform tedious taks like ordering data files and manipulating data. You can use the built-in language to create your own data screens, print-outs and virtually anything else that you wish. It makes the TI-BASE package one of the most powerful yet designed and certainly THE most powerful in the TI community.

Another significant feature is the ability to have five databases active at once. Not only are they accessable, but you can interchange data between them at will! This facility to have five interactive databases available is a real dazzler!

TI-BASE is truly an unlimited database. You can store 16,129 records per database! You can have a total of 17 fields per record and each field can be 25 characters long! Even that isn't an absolute size limit --- with the ability to have five inetractive databases on-line at once, just multiply the total number of records available by five for a maximum!!!

The best part of the whole package is the price. One would expect to pay $100 or more for a database program with all of these capabilities ---- you certainly do with any other computer! However, the most recent TENEX catalog has the package advertised for a mere pittance ---$19.95. You get the instruction book, the program disk, and a disk-based tutorial program and included example files. If ever there was a deal, this is it!! If you are intested in databases, see the extensive review of TI-BASE later in the newsletter from the TI*MES (England) UG.

While we are on the subject of databases, Mike Dodd has come out with an update of William Warren's FRBASE. The main change is that the disk storage format has been changed to allow the data disks to be read by a disk manager program like DM1000. This makes it possible to copy the disks without using some exotic track copier. On the bad side, the total number of sectors available has been reduced by two so that the standard sector 0 and sector 1 format can be placed on the disk. This results in a reduction in the number of records that can be stored on each disk ---now 348 on SSSD and 718 on DSSD.

There are some problems, however. The color combination on the released version leaves much to be desired (white/transparent). The "fix" is simple, using a disk sector editor (Birdwell is easiest with its 'Find String' facility)

simply search the PRB:1 and CRT:1 files for the string "07F0" and replace the "F0" (white/transparent) portion with the color combination of your choice.

Another problem was that the PRBASE utility diskwouldn't work correctly with the Vn 2.1 release. A major editing was undertaken and the problems that existed were corrected. The updated version is on ROS in the same package as Vn 2.1. Enjoy!

GRAPHICS

GRAPHICS : COMPATABILITY This article has been prompted by a very odd chart of the various Graphics programs for the TI which I came across in a US newsletter- odd because at the end of the day it failed to tell you very much and was decidedly biased!

This article also follows -in a way- from the discussion of various formats of disk file.

Each type of file is referred to by means of a short abbreviation, details of which are given in the first section below:

1. List of Formats:

TI ARTIST- Fonts (_F files, referred to later as TIAF)
Pictures (_P and _C files, referred to as TIAP)
Slides (_S files, TIAS)
Instances (_I files, TIAI)
GRAPHX.....Clipart, inc fonts (GC)
Pictures (GP)
CSGD.....Pictures (/DT files, CP)
Graphics (/GR files, CG)
Fonts-usual (/CH files, CF)
-care: see note at end!!
Fonts-DocuPrinter (/FP files, CD)
Labels (/LB files, CL)
Letterheadings (/LH files, CH)
JOYPAINT...Pictures (JP)
Compressed pictures (JC)
PICASSO....Pictures (PP)
Fonts (PF)
Icons (PI)
BITMAC.....Pictures (BP)
DRAW N PLOT..Pictures (DP)
DRAW A BIT 1.Pictures (DAB1)
DRAW A BIT 2.Pictures (DAB2)
MAX RLE....Pictures: DV80 files or DF128 files (MP)
PAINT N PRINT (Module)...PNPP.

Max RLE and PICASSO are available from the disk library.

NOTE: CSGD uses two different sets of /CH files. The font editor creates one set of /CH files, which then have to be converted to another type of /CH file for use. The /CH files referred to here are always the converted files. The conversion program is on CSGD Volume 1.

2. MUTUALITY:

This section indicates the types of file each graphics program can use from the above list, WITHOUT using an external conversion utility. The ability to both save and load can be assumed unless otherwise noted:

MAX/RLE.....TIAP. GP. MP TI ARTIST.....TIAP.TIAF.TIAS.TIAI.DAB1.DAB2.DP.GP
GRAPHX.....GC.GP

CSGD 1 AND 2.....CP.CF.CG
CSGD 3.....CF.CG.CH.CL and LOAD ONLY CD.

PICASSO.....PP.PI.PF.TIAP
Can also LOAD a TI Writer text file.
JOYPAINT.....JP JOYPAINT PAL 2...JP.TIAP.JC
Can also LOAD GP.DP

Where more than one type is listed in the above section, conversions are possible as part of the main program, which is usually much faster.

3. GRAPHICS UTILITIES including external (eg separately loaded) conversion routines on main graphics disks:-

THE PRINTERS APPRENTICE... Uses its own picture and font formats, can also use TIAP.
TPA TOOLBOX.....Uses TPA fonts and graphics, plus can convert into TPA format the following: TIAI.TIAF.TIAP.CF
PRINT WIZARD.....Creates its own format from TIAI and TIAF
FONT WRITER 2.....Uses, in various utilities, TIAF.TIAI.TIAP.CF.CG.GP
CAN CONVERT: CG to TIAI, CP to TIAI, TIAI to CG and TIAI to CP.
PICASSO can convert an XB font to PF, or load a PF into an XB program.
Convert BP to PP. Make use of CF and CG files.
EXTENDED GRAPHICS PACKAGE. Requires Paint n Print module.

CSGD 1 can convert an XB screen into CP.
ARTIST EXTRAS (Texaments) can convert: CF or CD to TIAF, CG to TIAI, and CP to TIAI. Allows SUPERSKETCH to be used as an input device for TI Artist.
ARTCONVERT (Trio+) can convert TIAI and TIAF to TI Writer graphics.
ARTIST ENLARGER(Asgard) works with TIAF and TIAI.
GRAPHICS EXPANDER AND BIGTYPE (Genial) works with TIAF.TIAP, and TIAI.
GRAPHICS LISTER (Mnemlec). TIAI.

PICASSO UTILITIES(Asgard). Ad description fails to indicate what this does.
DISPLAY MASTER (Inscebot). TIAP.
CSGD CATALOGER (sic) (Texaments). CG.CF.TIAF.TIAI.
GRAPHY SLIDE SHOW.(Asgard). GP.
DESIGNER LABELS. (Texaments) TIAI.

EXTENDED BUSINESS GRAPHS (Gt Lakes) JP.
CHART MAKER II (QS99). DP.
CALENDAR MAKER 99.(Asgard). TIAI.

PICTURE IT. (Merritt).(Disk Library).TIAI to Banner, XB, and TI Writer.
GRAPHIC LABELLER (disk library). CG.
JBM103 (Disk library) enables graphics to be loaded/saved to/from Extended Basic bit-mapped screens in TIAP format.
UTIL12 (Disk library) has a utility to convert from TIAI to Extended Basic program format merge file, or listing to disk or printer.
UTIL 7 (Disk Library) has a utility to convert TIAI to TI Writer graphics.

UTIL17 (Disk library) has a utility to convert a segment (5x5 chars) of a GP to CG, and a utility to convert CG to TIAI and/or Extended Basic merge file.(Called XBGC).
TASS (Disk Library) TIAP.GP.DAB2. Slide show.
COMIC 1 (Disk Library)A utility which enables you to create a machine code animation sequence from up to 100 TIA Pictures.(TIAP). The animation speed is adjustable as the program runs, and can be very fast indeed.
MYARC UTILITIES (Disk library). TIAP and GP to load into Myarc XB program.

Programs in MICROpendium. Back issues available to subscribers: Feb 1987. CONVERT TIAP to/from Myarc XB.
July 1987. ROTATE. TIAI.
Oct 1987. Print utility. TIAI.

PICASSO and PICTURE IT are COPYRIGHT. Other Disk Library programs are FAIREWARE. All other programs are copyright commercial programs.

The de facto standard has been set by TI ARTIST- only graphics programs released before TI Arist lack TIA capabilities, apart from CSGD, although external utilities have been created to remedy that!

As far as PRINTERs go, all these work with EPSON FX series printers or any printer which follows Epson commands- the usual commands used are:

ESC * (8 pin bit image mode)
ESC K (480 DOT 8 PIN mode)
ESC L (960 dot 8 pin)
ESC Z (1920 dot 8 pin)
ESC A n (Line spacing in n/72 inch)
ESC l n (Left margin setting)

A few programs allow GEMINI printers to be used, but Gemini used two incompatible codings in their printers, and Gemini owners often report problems. A very few programs will support other printer codings.

The vast majority of the programs listed above remain available. Not a bad choice at all for an orphan computer, whose manufacturers left it with a VIDEO GRAPHS module which compares very badly with the above.

I have deliberately omitted a few simple programs such as Nortons Graphics Package, and an input device, SUPERSKETCH- but note that Supersketch can be interfaced to TI Artist. Any other omissions are due entirely to my ignorance of the products involved, or in the case of very new items, news was not with me when this was printed!

TI BASE IN REVIEW

TI BASE : REVIEW (From TI*MES newsletter)
Program: Sophisticated DATABASE.
One disk, 34 page manual, function strip.
PUBLISHER: INGLESBOY. SUPPLIER: TENEX PRICE:US$19.95

MICROpendium has already published a lengthy and detailed review of this program, which I am sure everyone with a disk system has read - hmmm? So this will be a short overview and a handful of hints.

TI BASE is unique in the TI world in its "3D" capability: it is possible to use five databases simultaneously, and move data between them or create a report taking data from different databases. It can operate by means of a "command language" including the capability of an initial auto-loaded command file.

The manual gives considerable technical detail on data base structure, and if you wish to do anything that the command language cannot handle, the information is there to help you out, so you can use a Basic or Machine Code utility of your own. A Command is available to make small patches in the machine code, to cover any minor revision.

The manual describes the database as capable of:
up to 255 characters per FIELD.
up to 17 fields per RECORD.
up to 16129 records per DATABASE.

A database will be comprised of two storage files on disk: a structure file which describes the database, and a data file, which is in IF format, with pure data- no field separators, making it easy to interface to, provided you remember the difference between internal and display formats! A 255 byte disk sector will be used in accordance with the disk DSR for records up to 255 bytes- that is, you can have 12 records of 20 bytes in a single sector. For longer records the program carries out its own blocking.

Here are the commands you can use in a command file: APPEND BLANK, BOTTOM, DOCASE-BREAK-ENDCASE, CATALOG, CHANGE, CLEAR, CLOSE, COLOR, COPY, CREATE, DELETE, DISPLAY, DO, EDIT, IF-ELSE-ENDIF, WHILE-ENDWHILE, FIND, FORMAT, LOCAL, MODIFY, MOVE, PACK, PRINT, QUIT, READ, RECALL, RECOVER, REPLACE, RETURN, SCROLL, SELECT, SET, SORT, TOP, USE, WAIT, WRITE. The system variable eof is available for testing. Strings can be concatenated and trailing blanks trimmed. Maths is available- +-*/ .sqr.log.alog.sin.cos.tan.atan.<.>.<>.=.*.NOT.AND.OR.

If like me you have not met the symbol ^, you may like to know that: 4 ^ 4 = 0 5 ^ 9 = -1 9 ^ 5 = 1 You are probably aware of boolean math, which in this database runs: (9 = 9) = 1 (9 = 0) = 0

Also available are three "date" operators, DAY,MONTH,and YEAR. These are not explained at all in the manual! It is necessary to tell you that the database uses three types of data: Numbers, Characters and Dates. Wit the version I have, there is no apparent difference between Characters and Dates- both may be any length and contain anything:

You can place a number or date into a character variable/field. You can place a character string into a date field.

You can place a date or character string into a numeric field ONLY if they only contain numbers.

The length of fields/variables has to be declared.

If you try to place more characters into a character string/date field or variable, your input will be truncated to the declared length - useful form of SEG$ possible here!

If you try to place a number into a field which is too small, all is lost. The field will display as an asterisk, and will have no function. Bear in mind that when declaring the size of a number, it is much better to overdeclare than to lose data. Although you are stuck with right justification, you can still move your number to/from character string variables and concatenate or trim on the string. There is a lot of power to play with in this program.

If your date variable/field is in the form MM/DD/YY that is, 02/28/88, or if the first eight characters of a character string are in this format, you may extract the individual elements- day, month and year, as follows:

NUMBER=DAY(DATE) will set NUMBER to 28 in this example.

STRING=YEAR(DATE) will set string to 88 in this example.

This is quite a different database to use, and I did have a little trouble getting on top of it at first- notable hang ups for me were:

Failing to notice that string handling must be carried out through an intermediate local variable.

Failing to SET HEADING OFF when printing selected records!

Undocumented features:

SET is shown as used with =, which appears to be optional- see example below.

DELETE is indicated as marking a file as not in use until it is EITHER RECALLed or permanently lost by PACKing. In fact, if you SORT before PACKing, the delete marker is also removed, and the file is not permanently lost.

DATE on program startup can be any 8 characters.

NUMBER fields are RIGHT justified, and leading blanks cannot be stripped, so it will often be more convenient to use CHAR fields for numbers- unless you wish to use math.

CATALOG DSKn, will produce a different report with less information if there are any active local variables. The catalog disk command shows disk name, sectors used and free, and file names, in the order they were created, plus "file type" as a single digit, then number of sectors in file, and record length. The final two items are dropped if there is a local variable defined.

Make sure you make heavy use of the file copy command to back up files on your disk- it is remarkably easy to corrupt data/structure files!! There IS a RECOVER command, which goes a long way to recovering data, but life is easier if you use pure copy files instead. Recovered files are probably better copied directly into a new pristine data base with an identical structure, using a command file, rather rely on the repair job to hold!

Page Up and Page Down can also be carried on by using Function E and X.

FIND is a single key search, from the top down to the bottom. It will find only the first occurrence- anything else you can do with the command language, possibly using a temporary intermediate database (five can be in use at once!).

Assume data in sorted field is:

1 IN

2 INSTRUMENT

3 INSTRUCT

4 INSTRUMENTS

then... FIND "IN" would locate record 1

FIND "INSTRU" would locate record 2

FIND "INSTRUM" would find record 2 FIND "INSTRUMENTS" would find record 4... and so on.

SORT is also on a single key, and works by creating an index- your records will retain record numbers in the order you

actually keyed them in, and SORT OFF will restore the database to original record number order.

If you require to actually reallocate record numbers to sorted records, or to carry out a multiple key sort, then you can easily use the "SORT1 AND SPELL1" disk from the group library- this group has paid a licence fee to allow us to copy this disk for our members.

IBM users will be familiar with ECHO ON, and not be shy in using SET TALK ON.

The command files are rather like BATCH files, and can even be used to format a disk, catalog a disk, or copy or delete disk files!

HINT: The function keys are described ONLY on the function strip. You may think it a good idea to note them also in the manual!

INPUT screens are standard, but it is possible to create you own by using command files, and you can structure a database so that the user is hardly aware he is using TI BASE! You can READ an input from a screen location (similar to ACCEPT AT) and use this to choose some other command file to run or to select an event in a CASE structure.

DISLIKES:

It is not possible to print out database structure information. If you want a record of this information you must write it down.

It is not possible to PRINT to disk. The PRINT command must go to a printer.

There is no way of picking up an error (to avoid built in error messages, and to suspend a possibly destructive sequence once things go awry), nor to test for the presence of a specific file on a disk. The disk catalog is to screen only.

Some examples of command files.

First, the basic data files I am using, looking like this when SORT is OFF and heading and record number are set ON:

```
REC AUTHOR_SN INIT_FN TITLE
0000 HEINLEIN ROBERT PUPPET [illegible]
0001 HEINLEIN ROBERT MOON IS A [illegible]
0002 HEINLEIN ROBERT A MENACE FROM EARTH, THE
0003 HEINLEIN ROBERT DOOR INTO SUMMER, THE
0001 HEINLEIN ROBERT STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND
```

Here is our first, simple, command file- parameters have been set, so that the command file can be run without making any assumptions, and the first comment line begins with an asterisk:

```
* COMMAND TEST FILE A/C
SET TALK OFF
SET HEADING=OFF
USE BOOKLIST
* datafile booklist on default data disk
CLEAR
SORT ON TITLE LOCAL TEMP C 60
LOCAL IN C 2
TOP
WHILE .NOT. (EOF)
REPLACE TEMP WITH TRIM(INIT_FN) ! " " ! TRIM(AUTHOR_SN) ! " " ! TITLE
PRINT TEMP
READ 2.20,IN
MOVE
ENDWHILE
WRITE 2.2,"END OF FILE"
CLOSE ALL
RETURN
```

and the resultant printout is:

```
0003 ROBERT HEINLEIN DOOR INTO SUMMER, THE
0002 ROBERT A HEINLEIN MENACE FROM EARTH, THE
```

```
0001 ROBERT HEINLEIN MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS
0000 ROBERT HEINLEIN PUPPET MASTERS,THE
0004 ROBERT HEINLEIN STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND
```

To illustrate the use of two databases at once, the following two examples show how, like basic, you can do lots of weird things, and still get the same result. Both examples below will produce exactly the same output as the first command file.

We are using a second database, called TEMP, which has a single field in each record, called TEMP. Yes, you can use databases, variables, and fields, all with the same name, and this program can sort them all out!

For these command files to work, we have previously CREATEd the second database, and APPENDed a BLANK record to it for us to use.

To save a little space, the line ▮****▮ below has been used instead of that long line REPLACE TEMP WITH... from the above command file, but the actual command file would have to have the full original line!

```
*COMMAND TEST FILE A/C * COMMAND TEST FILE B/C SET TALK OFF SET TALK OFF
SET HEADING=OFF SET HEADING=OFF
USE BOOKLIST USE BOOKLIST
SORT ON TITLE SORT ON TITLE
SELECT 2 SELECT 2
USE TEMP USE TEMP
SELECT 1 SELECT 1
CLEAR CLEAR
LOCAL TEMP C 55 LOCAL PUB C 55
TOP TOP
WHILE .NOT. (EOF) WHILE .NOT. (EOF)
▮****▮ ▮****▮ REPLACE 2.TEMP WITH 0.TEMP SELECT 2 PRINT 2.TEMP REPLACE TEMP WITH PUB + print field temp in slot 2 * first look for local TEMP, none, so MOVE * looks for field in current database ENDWHILE PRINT TEMP WRITE 2,2,"END OF FILE" SELECT 1
CLOSE ALL MOVE RETURN ENDWHILE CLOSE ALL RETURN
```

When told to use TEMP, the program first looks for a local variable with that name - we can use 0.TEMP if we want it to look no farther!

If there is no local variable called TEMP, and we have not specified 0.TEMP then it will look for a field called TEMP in the CURRENT database. We can also use a field in any data base that is in use by indicating which of the five slots it is in, without having to SELECT that slot, by modifying the name as follows: 2.TEMP etc.

We have to SELECT the database that we wish to MOVE on a record though. MOVE will only work on the current database - that is, the slot now in use.

This is but a brief discussion. If enough members purchase the program, and ASK ME, then more articles can follow, as this program is a beaut. Particular questions are also welcome.

Note the price- only US$25, a mere $5 more than the almost lamentable TOTAL FILER reviewed elsewhere. This program is a bargain. BUY a copy- don't pirate it. Let's keep goodies like this one coming in!

VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for almost any database user.

Stephen Shaw. Sept 1988.

MEMBER SERVICE: The advertised price for overseas orders is US$25 plus airmail postage US$8, total US$33. For members who prefer to order in sterling, and who dont mind waiting a little while for orders to build up, I am prepared to accept your orders, at a cost of £0 only, including UK postage to you.

Orders should be placed, with cheque payable to S Shaw, within one month of receiving this issue. If less than five orders are received, funds will be refunded. A disk drive and 32k are required! Note that no UK stock is held- the database will be ordered from the USA especially for you.

TIW/INTRO2

By: Jack Sughrue

Creating a document with the Text Editor of the TI-WRITER Word Processor is made easier with the Word Wrap feature that automatically moves words that exceed the right margin down to a new, automatically inserted blank line. This means you do not have to press a key at the end of each line as you would if you were using a typewriter. With Word Wrap, you simply type, and the Text Editor keeps your margins for you. Now, you don't have to keep looking back and forth from your text to the screen to see if you are running over the right margin. You can immediately see the benefits of having Word Wrap once you have used it. Letter writing is made easy. Your school age children can use TI-WRITER Word Processor to prepare reports and themes for school work. A thousand uses will become apparent to you as you learn what the TI-WRITER Word Processor Word Processor can do for YOU!

Create, save, and print your documents with the Text Editor, or insert format commands into your document and print it using the powerful Text Formatter.. With the Text Formatter, such operations as overstriking and underlining, and right margin justification are made available, as well as setting margins and paragraph indentation, inserting blank lines, centering, and automatically numbering pages consecutively. The most powerful FORMATting tools, as far as I'm concerned, are the IF command and the Transliteration Key. But for our purposes of this second part of the intro to the processor we'll leave that area of exploration up to you. (Maybe discovering a wordpro freak in your user group might be the ideal thing once you have some of the self-discovery under your belt.)

The TI-WRITER Word Processor Word Processor has many of the features of the larger word processors and lots of features many of them do not have. At school, for example, we use Apples, Commodores, Timex/Sinclairs, and TIs. TIW is, unquestionably, the most profound of all the word processors I've used with all these computers over the past five or six years.

What kinds of documents can you create with the Text EDITor without FORMATting? Using the Word Wrap Mode, you can create reports, themes, theses, recopy recipes and print copies for your relatives and friends. In short, any type of document in paragraph form can be created using Word Wrap. Suppose your document needs a diagram, or a chart or table. Those too can be created using the Fixed Mode of the Text Editor. In Fixed Mode, the Word Wrap feature is not activated so that inserting and deleting text will not cause Reformat to "readjust" the rest of your document!

Included in the TI-WRITER Word Processor Manual are special tutorial sections on using the Text Editor and the Text Formatter. These two sections take you step by step through the creation, editing, and printing of a document, insertion of format commands and printing through the Text Formatter. The Manual also takes each option and fully explains the operations, functions, and commands for using that option. At the end of the manual is a Quick Reference section that lists the Function and Control Key Combinations, the Command Mode Commands, and Text Formatter Commands, as well as a Glossary section and an Index.

If all this sounds confusing, it isn't for one simple reason: you only do one thing at a time. When you are typing, you type. When you correct mistakes, you correct (mostly by using your arrows to direct your cursor over the mistake and make the corrections or by using your 1, 2, 3 keys to DELete a CHARacter; INSert a CHARacter (which may be paragraphs long - pressing CTRL/R will REFORMAT after you have INS CHAR; and DELete LINE) easily and directly. When you do the other commands (see Quick Reference Card and the Strip above the numbers), you will do the other commands. And they are done instantly!

TI's own upgrade of the disk and the numerous versions which are available (consult your user group) are really worth examining. The newer versions (such as FUNLWRITER/FUNLPLUS!, TK WRITER, and BA WRITER) give you some remarkable additional to this remarkable word processor.

Patience!

And on that note of patience, just a little comment. I've heard lots of comments about the TI WRITER and its grandchildren. Among those comments are often questions about How do you do this? or How do you do that? to processes which are very basic. Inevitably, I will ask, Did you read the manual, yet? The answer is ALWAYS negative. My suggestion again is to play with and experiment with the processor. Print out things. Use the strip and reference card to try things out. After you are able to use the processor in a reasonable way in the EDIT Mode, then start the manual and, with your processor on in front of you, go step by step through the entire book, even if it takes you two or three months. (It took me six weeks to get through it all.) After that initiation, you'll own your processor. For life.