K-TOWN 99'ER
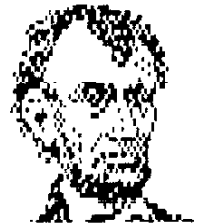
NEWSLETTER OF THE K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP
AND THE ATHENS COMPUTER CLUB

FEBRUARY 1992

THE K-TOWN 99'ER IS A JOINT PUBLICATION OF THE K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP AND THE ATHENS COMPUTER CLUB. EACH ARE NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS. ORGANIZED FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF GATHERING AND DISSEMINATING INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THE USE AND OPERATION OF THE TEXAS INSTRUMENTS' TI-99/4A HOME COMPUTER. WE ARE IN NO WAY AFFILIATED WITH TEXAS INSTRUMENTS OR ANY OTHER COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATION.

COMMENT

The K-Town 99er is published monthly for the benefit of the K-Town 99/4A Users Group membership specifically and the TI Community in general. The Articles in this mewsletter to the best of our knowledge are factual but neverless the views expressed are the views of the author and are not necesarily the views of the K-Town Users Group. Any article, unless stated otherwise, may be copied by other users groups and published in their newsletter providing credit is given to the author and the K-Town 99er.

K-TOWN FEBRUARY MEETING

The K-TOWN 99/4A Users Group will meet at the home of E. M. Smith. We will continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. FEBRUARY 13th is our next meeting date. BILL SHERIDAN will be in command of the program for this meeting. Bill will demonstrate some of the features of TIPS. TIPS is a multifaceted graphics program which uses graphics of many different enviroments including graphics imported from the IBM enviroment. Come to the February meeting and learn more about this multifaceted program.

DUES / MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the K-Town 99/4A Users Group is open to any owner or user of the TI-99/4A Home Computer. Dues are TEN DOLLARS per year and subject to our fiscal year which begins April 1 and ends March 31 or each year. Dues are clasified as family memberships. New memberships are prorated at the rate of ONE dollar per month if less than a full year, except for the last three months of our fiscal year. There is a minimum fee of five dollars. Memberships are not prorated for current or former members. We welcome visitors.

⚞ ⚞ PRESIDENT'S FORUM ⚞ ⚞

It is good to be out and going again after a couple of months of painful and sometimes scary seclusion. I recommend bypass surgery in cases of absolute necessity only. It is no fun at all. Thank you for all the support - it truly helped.

Bill and E. M. work hard and are faithful beyond all our deserts in getting out our Newsletter. Last month we really threw them a curve. Everybody got so involved in Christmas or something that nobody - yes, nobody - got any material to them in time for the January deadline. This includes your pres as the chief of sinners. They were kind enough to give us a few more days and finally got some good stuff in from Bob and Joe. El Presidente still didn't make it. Bill was kind enough to blame it on the mail man. Let us all remember: they need stuff for the Newsletter by the morning of the last Thursday each month. Bill and E. M., we'll try to do better.

See you at 3506 Garden Drive at 7 o'clock on Thursday, February 14. Who knows what gems of programming and technical skill we will find there!

John H. Bull

1992 DUES ARE DUE IN MARCH. PLAN TO PAY YOUR DUES AT THE FEBRUARY OR MARCH MEETINGS.

ECONOMY MODEL

Recently, when I fired up my TI after a couple of months lay-off I found that it gave strange error messages where none was warranted and some old reliable programs wouldn't run. The trouble, after some cussing, was traced to the contacts where my X/B module plugs into the console. No problem! I have an extra brand new console. Plug it in and everything run smooth as silk. Some day I'll get around to spending the time and effort to take the old console apart and clean the contacts.

The reason I had an extra console on hand is that it cost only fifty dollars - just like a spare part. There is no other computer that would allow me to keep a spare on hand. We TI users get a wonderful bargain in every respect; such a bargain that it allows some of us, me in particular, to stay in computing as an inexpensive hobby.

John H. Bull

CHATTERBOX - XII
BY BOB BUEHLER

CHATTER BOX-12: That means I've been writing under this column title for 12 months. How did it happen? What started it all?

SO I'LL TELL!

When I joined K-Towners in early 1984 it was about 80 members strong. Often several systems were brought to monthly meetings, set up, and unique programs demonstrated by knowledgeable members. Amazing capabilities of the TI-99/4A were obvious and inviting! K-Towners was the place to be, for me! And for a bunch of others who expected to be helped in learning to use their own TIs!

The leaders in the group were expert and the Newsletters they produced were excellent, especially in the exchange system with other groups. But all this was way, way over the heads of many of us. I know because I commiserated with many of them. As a result of this dichotomy dissapointed neophytes were leaving the group in dangerous numbers

So, bizarre Buehler plunged to the rescue. Heck fire, in TVA I'd programmed (in Fortran) water surface profile computations, and in BASIC I'd done the same with only a cassette tape for my new TI-99/4A. So I'd write a column for the K-Town 99'er's Newsletter. I'd call it KINDER KORNER, a play on words meaning pre-elementary, like Kinder-garten. I'd be cleverly sly starting with an acquaintance list program, unsorted, so simple that any dumbell would understand and thank me for the teaching! But, still slyly clever, I'd increase the difficulty of programs so gradually as not to be detected in my cunning effort to educate. Sort of a subliminal teaching procedure.

I was surely happy with my product! It forced me to learn a bunch. Not by any means the likes of John Bull's capability. But how about the many other neophytes in K-Town 99ers? They kept right on leaving the group. I wasn't so cleverly cunning as I had expected to be.

All this took about three years. The Kinder Korner title and its purpose were no longer appropriate. But by this time something in its place seemed needed for the Newsletter. Why not make it Chatter Box. That left a wide open field for anything.

So that's how it all happened.

HAVING BEEN THERE

Without doubt a touch of pepper, a bay leaf, a pinch of sugar may add zest in preparing cooked food. So does HAVING BEEN THERE often add zest to television viewing. The recent TV coverage of the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, staged on the Arizona Memorial, is a vivid example. I spent much of that 1991 day watching. No, I wasn't present during the bombing. But I visited the Memorial 28 years later enroute to a Hydraulic Engineering meeting in Japan. "Having Been There" made my 1991 viewing more meaningfull! At time of visit there was that bitter flavor of treachery contrasting with Hawaii's many natural beauties and its sweet tastes of fresh pineaple, bananas, and mauhi mauhi. (This latter is the delicious flesh of dolphin, and I've spent hours and hours in futile search of it's correct spelling. I've seen it at the Sea Food counter of Krogers. Guess I'll phone tomorrow to learn the spelling.) What a good idea! Kroger spelling is aahi aahi but is not in any of my dictionaries!

The Punch Bowl military cemetery, with its impresive overlook of Pearl Harbor and Honolulu too and Diamond Head also, was a HAVE BEEN place in the recent aniversary coverage. It's a beautiful spot with appropriate chimes: As fine a final resting place as could be found!

Japan was a pleasant surprise. A quarter century of bitterness over Pearl Harbor bombing evaporated fast! No where have we found more pleasant folk. Clean, industrious, efficient, intelligent. And friendly and accomodating. And skilled and able in many ways. We were seeing a transformed Japan. Conquered, occupied, and 'reorganized.' The feudal system of "Lords (especially the War Lords) and Vassals" was gone. Ordinary folk could own land enough to survive happily. Douglas McArthur, who administered the welcome social change, was a hero and USA people like us were welcomed as advocates of the system he installed. I mean by merchants; craftsmen; taxi drivers, whose radios were playing Lennon Sisters music; and by youths who stopped their HONDA at curbside to offer a ride to our Kyoto hotel when empty taxis failed to heed our raised finger flag. These enjoyable youngsters wouldn't accept a thing for the five mile trip. (Our tour guide told us later why the taxis didn't stop. We should have raised two fingers, or three fingers, in our flagging. That meant we'd pay double or triple for the service.)

The 50th anniversary TV coverage also showed the carnage in USA retribution at Hiroshima. The city had been rebuilt when I visited during a post conferenc tour, except a shattered but distinct dome shaped structure which marks the atomic bomb's epicenter. Nearby are a huge peacee bell, which I rang, and a peace message written in English. Also near are the mass graves of thousands of unidentifieable dead, a symbolic arch and eternal flame; and a photographic museum showing the horrors of that unique miltary action. All this built for public display as a deterrent to repetition in the future toward international peace.!

On tours we saw moving belt assembly line manufacture of Sony tape recorders, one a minute, by workers wearing white gloves; morning outdoor excercising preceeding opening of schools and factories too; noon-time meetings of labor and management in cooperative not combatent effort; night club entertainment rivaling anything at Los Vegas; moving a mountain to make industrial land by filling in the adjacent sea; and three in line deep draft ocean going ship construction. There was also efficient travel to enjoy, especially by rail. I concluded that we had more to learn from Japan than Japan had to learn from us!

HAVING BEEN THERE has added zest to my TV viewing dozens of times and places. I'm thankful every time!

About PLUS! V2

No word from my letter asking Jack Sughue for help on Smallification. He has plenty of more important things to think about. But maybe some day.

AGAIN NO SWAPPABLES

SAGE THOUGHTS

If you like sausage and politics don't watch either one being made!

Tell the truth and you wont have so much to remember.

Honesty is almost the best policy.

If written correctly, legalese is perfectly incomprehensible.

Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach.

Smile. It makes people wonder what you're thinking.

If "pro" is the opposite of "con," then Progress" is the opposite of "Congress."

RECIPES

Remember, last month I promised "Original Cinncinnati Chili, Internationally famous!" This differs from most chili recipes in several ways. It contains some chocolate and some vinegar. Also nothing gets browned. Not the beef, the garlic, or the onion. Further it contains 17 ingredients. Small wonder it's so famous. Here follows the recipe and the procedure.

Cincinnati Chili

1 quart water	1/2 oz bitter chocolate
2 pounds grnd beef	4 cloves garlic
2 med onions, cut fine	2 Tbls vinegar
15 oz can tomato sauce	1 large bay leaf
5 whole allspice	5 whole cloves
1/2 tsp red pepper	2 tsps Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp grnd cumin seed	1 1/2 tsps salt
4 Tbls chili powder	1 tsp cinnamon
2 cans red kidney beans	

Stir ground beef into the water in 4 quart pot until beef separates to a fine texture. Boil slowly for 1/2 hour. Add all other ingredients except beans. Stir, simmer uncovered for 2 hours. Add beans. Simmer for one more hour. Refrigerate over night. Lift off fat before reheating. May be frozen.

EDITORIAL

Snowflakes are one of natures most fragile creations, but just look what they can do when they stick together!

BB 1/5/92 so far

Monotony we don't have in K-Town99er's. Well, the most frequent five were present: Blevins, Buehler, Bull, Sheridan, and Smith; and the less frequent three of the Elite Eight had plausible reasons for absences. Breaking with this monotony was two visitors. Jim McNellie, from Oliver Springs paid his dues for the rest of this year and the next year too! He has a diskette system with a printer and is plum serious about putting these to work. Barbara Lamm, with a Fountain City area phone number, and with a console and cassette recorder, isn't too sure yet, but has read to page 34 "In The Book" and will be back. So you see our Jan 9 meeting didn't reek of monotony.

Oh yes, those three. Hatmaker is building his own large double car garage with workshop area, plus, by gosh, an upstairs room for computer and electronic things. As noted in Joe Simmon's STUMBLINGS (January Newsletter) Joe and Art Gibson had an all-day computer meeting in Art's town, Rockford,on a prior Saturday. Guess they figured

Bob Buehler, Sec'y - Treas.

that was meeting enough for the month!

K-Town has lost Mike Probst of the local Weather Service. So he's selling off all TI stuff. A list was passed at the Jan 9 meeting. A couple of PE boxes, 3 Or 4 Consoles, a Printer, and a bunch of books, cartridges, and diskettes. I supose he's going IBM. Other K-Towners have made the same mistake. Often it's because their kids have been exposed to the virus in school, and it rubs off at home. There should be an anti-biotic!

Paul Blevins certainly made good on his promise to have the lapel mike up and running. He set it up to record on video tape EM showing and explaining his Ramdisk screen Menu, and some TI Artist tricks. Playback proved it worked. Here's hoping that this lapel mike and amplifier will result in good conference video recordings at the LIMA MUG conference in May this year! I'm going to send three tapes in hope!

STUMBLINGS
BY
JOE SIMMONS

Have you ever stumbled on to a new technique either at the computer or in another club's newsletter? If so, this column is for you. The geniuses will be so deep in thought that they will never know that they missed these stumbles! Enough gibberish.

This past weekend (January 11th) the Athens Club had its monthly meeting at Joe's home. While Joe had plans to cover the new tricks he had been experimenting in TI Base, we were over whelmed by Art's new catalog for his up coming editor for ASGARD.

Upon entry, the user is greeted with a prompt to enter the drive number after which a press of the enter key is required. Like other disk managers (catalogers), the top of the display includes the diskname, sectors used, sectors available, and the # of files on the diskette. Below this heading, from left to right the display shows the file names, sectors used, type, size, # of records within the file and whether or not the file is protected or not are shown. This ability to know from the disk manager how many records are within file is unique attribute for disk managers. At the bottom of the display are shown the options available.

Another feature is that either function 9 or the "Q" quit key from the options menu will return you to where ever you were when the catalog was originally initiated. Thus, the catalog can be placed where ever you choose.

Such as on the funnelweb diskette, newsletter editor, on your hard-drive or ramdisk, or within another program diskette. I replaced Irving Crowley's disk directory with this catalog and it (the catalog) returns to Crowley's menu screen without being told!

The up and down arrow keys allow one to scroll through the files on the diskette. When his catalog cursor reaches mid screen it hovers until the end of the file is reached at which time it scrolls on to either the bottom or the top of the listing. Using the right arrow key one can rename a file, using the left arrow key one can add comments to the contents of the file. Like other disk managers, one can protect and unprotect files, rename and delete files,and print the directory of the diskette to the printer. Unlike other catalogs, one can add a short comment to the disk itself. Also one can mark a file which one wants to access later within either funnelweb or his newsletter editor.

Art noted that the comments to the files are lost if the files are altered; so, one should not add comments

until one is satisfied the file is in its final form such as is the case with files on the Newsletter Editor, TI-Artist, TI-Base, Funnelweb, System III Checkbook Manager, etc.

As with anything which Art does, this catalog and the editor for ASGARD will be first class. Art, you deserve at least on ATTA-Boy!

MULTIPLAN

This weekend while setting up a template to handle credit card charges with an external sheet to summarize the unpaid (yes, unpaid, we are not all rich)credit balances, I stumbled onto the ability to scroll through the external sheets which support the summarization sheet. The key strokes are X,C,(*)enter the name of the external file from which you are copying or press the right or left arrow keys to scroll through the sheets which have been previously entered. As Oliver North would say this is real neat!

The other item I relearned is the advantage and speed which naming regions on a template provides. In a previous stumble I extrolled the advantages of the utility of naming!

On these templates, I have two types. One is call CHARG(n) and the other is called CHARSUM. On the CHARG1, I have four charges per template. The header for one charge looks like the following:

```
VISA
Date   Item   Amt    Balance  Fin.Char
11/15  shoes  56.24  $ 56.24  $0.00
12/15  gas    19.67    75.91   8.44
12/15  fin.    8.44    84.35
12/31  payment 75.00    9.35

Summation:             9.35     8.44
```

The balance of $9.35 I named "VISA" and the summation of the finance charges I named "FVISA". By naming these items and then saving the template before loading CHARSUM, I can copy these values into the CHARSUM through the mechanism of Xternal Copy.

And the CHARSUM looks like the following:

```
ACCT     BALANCE    FIN.CHARGE
Visa     xter copy  xter copy
Shell      232.45
Penny's  8,600.00   180.00
Sears    1,417.55    24.80
```

Etc.

Total $10,240.00 $204.80

CHARSUM presently has three files to support it (CHARG1,CHARG2,CHARG3).

BANK ACCOUNT CLOSING

About three months ago the City and County Bank began to charge us $1.00 per month service charge. Since we seldom write more than one or two checks a year and since the membership has declined to our present four members and our bank balance was down to $6.80 and in six months would be down to $.80, I have closed out our account. What do we want to do with the $6.80?

Mail Bag

Art: In your catalog program when entering comments to the files it would be nice if one could move the cursor to the right. Also, can you insert the option for different size print when printing the disk directory?

Bob: I have written both John Willforth and Bud Mills asking for advice on the problems I continue to have with the 512K Myarc ramdisk. Perhaps they can determine the problem. Right now, Art has it and is trying to see if he can access its memory to determine the source of the problem.

Marty Booley: I was sorry to learn that you have decided to no longer lead us on our TI Base journeys. Reading over your tutorials since 1988, you have done an extremely good job and I continue to learn from them. Although you probably will never see these words I do wish you were more readily available as I would like to have answers to some of my TI Base questions which I stumble into from time to time.

Donna Sheridan: Congratulations! You have brought the TI community through its trying years with a good editorial newsletter with good content. Although some of us only see the results of your efforts and not you, we do appreciate you and your efforts.

Enough stumblings this 20th day of January, 1992 at 5:20 hours. You guessed it, I just could not sleep knowing that E.M. wanted this newsletter article in his hands this week! Gee, I just realized that this month it is not due for another whole week. I need another cup of coffee! !!/joe

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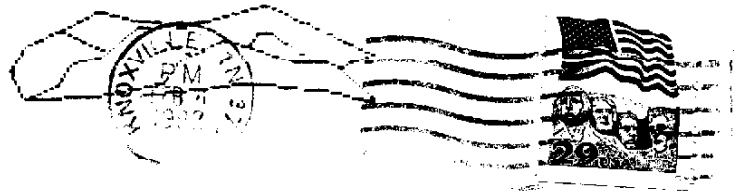
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SMOKY MOUNTAINS

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HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!
HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY!
HAIL TO WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN!