

KAWARTHA KRONICLE

PETERBOROUGH, ONT.



The monthly newsletter of
The KAWARTHA 99'ers

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P.O. Box 373
K9J 6Z3

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CANADA

APRIL, 1990

WILL TI OUTSELL APPLE ?



Byte magazine recently reported that TI has moved up to fourth place in the number of units in use in the

U.S. First is the VIC 20 with 700'000 units followed by Apple and Timex with 600'000. TI is reported to be at 575'000. Not too bad considering at one time they were considered to be almost out of the race. Byte also noted that the other three were outselling Apple by about 3 to 1. Price probably enters into that.

Does this surprise you???

Well, it should. Unless you read the Kawartha 99'er Users' Group newsletter of May, 1983 (Vol. 1, No. 3). Remember, last month I mentioned the archives...well this-here is it.

How about this: *TI has formally announced the introduction of a new micro to be available the second quarter of 1983. The*

T199/2 will compete with the Sinclair/Timex computer. It will have a 4.2K RAM, membrane-like keyboard and utilize plug in Command Modules. It is believed to be the first 16-bit micro-computer for less than US\$100.

The big news is the rumoured introduction of the T199/8 in the fourth quarter of 1983. This machine will support 80K RAM, expandable to 512K. Mass disc storage, in the multi-megabite range, extended basic, RS232, voice synthesis and a new keyboard styling are included at a rumoured price of US\$495.

How did it all go wrong? More about the TI in future editions.

John Baal.....Editor

KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP

FOR USERS OF THE TEXAS INSTRUMENT 99/4A HOME COMPUTER

P.O. BOX 373
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NEWSLETTER LIBRARIANS KEN/DIANNE POST 705 654 3597

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Meetings are held on the SECOND Wednesday of each month (Sept. to June) at the PETERBOROUGH POLICE DEPT. meeting room, located at the intersection of Water St. & McDonnell St. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

Membership fees are collected on an annual basis of \$18.00 per annum (individual) or a portion thereof at the rate of \$1.50 per month for the balance of the year. Family memberships are available for \$24.00 per annum or pro-rated at a rate of \$2.00 per month for the balance of the year. The group's annual meeting is held on the second Wednesday in March at which time elections for the group's executive is held. Memberships can only be held in an adult's name.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily of the KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP.

Advertisements and contributing articles for this newsletter may be given to the newsletter editor or mailed to the group's P.O. box.

The KAWARTHA 99ers would like to thank those groups who exchange information and newsletters regarding the TEXAS INSTRUMENT HOME COMPUTER with us. We endeavour to recognize and credit original authors and sources of articles of information which we reprint or make available to our membership.

The KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP is a non-profit group who welcomes any individuals who have an interest in the TEXAS INSTRUMENT HOME COMPUTER.

THE NEWS

by Phil Townsend



SPRING

Spring is finally in the air! The birds are chirping, days are getting longer and the TI keyboard is getting a greater workout than ever. Later this month many of us will be making our annual trek to Canada's capital so that we can enjoy the company of many TI compatriots and find out all that is new within the TI community. It will be a time to renew acquaintances and make new ones.

If you have previously denied yourself the opportunity to take a first hand look at a TI Fest then why not change that situation later this month. All of our members would find many interesting items, people and activities dealing with their favourite "Orphan". It isn't too late to make plans to join us in Ottawa, just let us know that you wish to come along.

On to other things. Last meeting our turn out was less than fantastic, perhaps being in the middle of March Break had something to do with it. Anyway, we couldn't hold the elections due to the fact that we didn't have a quorum of paid up members. Elections will be held at the April meeting (hopefully). So far the following members have agreed to let their names stand for election;

Glen Daniels...vice-president

Karen Wilson...secretary

Phil Townsend...president

John Baal...newsletter editor

If you would like to help YOUR group in some way you still have time to put your name forward. Let Glen Daniels know which position you would like to run for (742-9869). New ideas and styles are needed to keep our club active and responsive to the needs of it's members. The only requirement needed is to have a willingness to give some of your time. There are lots of people around who will help you along until you are comfortable enough to solo. Please seriously consider your services so that we don't "burn out" the existing volunteers. (End of commercial).

Next point... DUES ARE NOW OVERDUE! (if you haven't already paid for 1990/91). This will be the LAST NEWSLETTER

mailed to you if you haven't renewed your membership. If you can't get to the next meeting Canada Post will be glad to forward your cheque, use the group address on our masthead and I will be sure that the treasurer gets your fees. Thank!

Bob Boone was unable to make it to our last meeting as planned. Hopefully he will see his way clear to make it to the land of the Kawarthas soon.

Just as I was writing this article Bob Boone of Computer Download in North Bay called. We made arrangements for him to come to the next meeting, April 11th. He will be bringing many TI goodies with him so dust off your wallets and purses, especially if you are not able to get to the TI Faires!

Tom Jakabfy came to March's meeting. In fact Tom arrived at my home mid-afternoon and we spent several hours copying software and talking TI. While at the meeting he demonstrated his work on the Zenoboard which he has built and installed inside his console. I can't remember all of the features that he has included, some of them are; a clock, extended basic, extra memory and several other modules. He has more LED lights on the top than a Christmas tree! With the use of one rotary switch he can change from module to another. He hopes to put the speech synthesizer on this board soon. Tom has offered to help any of our members build one of these nifty upgrades. He estimates his cost around fifty dollars which includes the cost of the board. Of course the cost will increase as you build in greater numbers of features. This upgrade is useful if you have a console only or if you have the expansion system. Thanks for coming up to Peterborough and tearing your TI apart at the meeting Tom. You have certainly become a good friend both personally and to the TI community. If you wish to contact Tom his phone number is (416) 725-7298 and his address is 660 Given Rd., Oshawa Ont. L1G 8L7.

Last month we received a new newsletter mailing from the NET99er user group in Hurst, Texas. I believe that this is the group which John Morton, our fair weather member belongs to when he spends the winter months in a sunnier clime. Nice to hear from you in real TI country, we hope you enjoy our attempts at journalism.

Many thanks go out to Charlie Good of the Lima, Ohio group. Charlie has sent us the two video tapes that we ordered. One concerns the configuring of Funnelweb v.4.21 and the second demonstrates unreleased TI cartridge software developed but never marketed by the Disney organization. We happen to have copies of the software on disk, however non of us in the group have the necessary hardware to run the

"CONSOLE-ING THE ORPHAN"

programs! Charlie sent the tapes to us some time ago, however the tape of the Disney software arrived blank. I'm not sure but I suspect Canada Post was the cause of the problem since the package arrived looking as if it had had a head on collision with a moose! I sent a letter thanking Charlie and explaining what had happened and asking if he could have a replacement tape ready for Glen and I when we head to the Lima TI Faire in May. Well to-day a replacement tape arrived by mail, this time in working condition. Thanks very much Charlie, we'll try to return the favour when we get to Lima. If any member wishes to borrow either of the videos let us know at the next meeting or call me ahead of time.

Our club has been receiving "Micropendium" for the last few months. This is a monthly newsmagazine dedicated solely to the TI994/A and the Geneve computers. It has well written articles, reviews and lots of interesting Tidbits for the Orphan. They are yours to borrow anytime, just ask the newsletter librarian.

If you haven't been borrowing the newsletters then you have really been missing out on a fabulous source of information. One of the greatest benefits our club can pass along to its members is the current information about our computer and its development. This service is included in your membership fee, so get the most for your money!

Our club has just taken another step forward in its software distribution for Comprodine. We will be attending both the Ottawa and Lima, Ohio TI Faires and representing Comprodine Software. Now if we can just get the Lima group to spell the name of our group correctly! (grin)

Just recently we received the TIPS (TI Print Shop) collection of graphics from Charles Good of the Lima U.G. This set contains several THOUSANDS of graphics and programs to print them in banners, signs, and letterheads. Also included were several conversion programs so that the graphics can be used in TI Artist, Artist Print Shop (by Comprodine Software) and Page Pro '99. Several of these conversion programs did not have XBASIC loader programs so we set them into a specially modified version of Pannelweb v4.21 so that they could be loaded from XBASIC. Many thanks to the McGovern's for this fine fairware program. Once in TI Artist format the files can be re-converted into CSGD format with Peter Hoddle's Graphic Expander or into Joypaint format using Joypaint's Pal. For a more comprehensive listing of how all of these graphics programs fit together, see the chart elsewhere in this issue. Ed McNish is the author of the chart, but unfortunately I do not know which user group first published the diagram. Many thanks to Ed for starting this listing, I have added a few items myself, soon it will

need two pages!

With so many things going on at the next meeting I hope you will all be present. Our comrades from the other central Ontario groups are also invited to visit, after all we are only a little over an hour away from Toronto and even less from Oshawa. Don't fret Mike, as soon as you get the affiliate branch going up in Kincardine, Bob B. will come to see you as well, EH? (grin).

Just a word here about Glen Daniels. Glen has spent probably hundreds of hours organizing and updating the disk library. He is beginning to wonder if his efforts are in vain, though. If you have a disk system check the library out, there are probably dozens of programs that you could make use of!

So you think TI Writer is tough to learn? My grade 5 and 6 students, some of whom are learning disabled, are currently using our favourite wordpro and Page Pro '99 to put together a class newsletter. I'll keep you informed and perhaps include a sample page of their finished work in a later edition of the Kronicle. Now, what's holding you back?

Now a word for another fine product...Bob Tisdale, a Kawartha member, computer nut, and chef extraordinaire has produced a TI-Writer file of the most favourite and delicious recipes this side of Little Lake. The file prints out into a recipe book, if you so wish using the formatter in TI-Writer. If you would like a copy of Bob's work it is available from our group library. It is freeware, though Bob reserves the copyrite for the files. Other groups wishing a copy just need to forward \$2.00 to cover our costs. Make cheques payable to the Kawartha 99'ers and ask for the "Kawartha Kitchen" recipe book.

That's about all of the news for now, Keep on CONSOLE-ING the ORPHAN!

Phil Townsend

APR 1990

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

VIEWS AND REVIEWS

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W-AGE/99 \* NEW-AGE/  
99 \* NEW-AGE/99 \* N  
EW-AGE/99 \* NEW-AGE  
/99 \* NEW-AGE/99 \*  
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* by JACK SUGHRUE, Box 459, East Douglas, MA 01516 *

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Why NEW-AGE/99? Well, it's been almost a year since my long-running IMPACT/99 columns were rudely interrupted by a car accident which kept me from my beloved ♥ little computing machine.

So why NEW-AGE/99? After my brush with death last spring I initially felt I had been given another shot at Life (definitely with a capital "L") and wanted to reflect this New Age even with my computer. Secondly, "impact" sounded too much like a crash. Thirdly, I think my view from the TI sidelines for so long gave me the distinct perspective of seeing a New Age arrive for us. And, finally, the sharing and caring that was shown to me during my repair time by 99ers worldwide made me realize that my commitment wasn't to the little computer (that kept me occupied in thousands of wee hours) but to the people.

Even now, so long after The Event (always capitalized in my family), I continue to get cards and letters and disks and TI-related thingies from all over the world. This past week I got cards from England, Belgium, and Australia. And a few more from this country and Canada. To all those well-wishers everywhere who were so supportive during my long recovery, I can only say, "Thank you." You were all very instrumental in my rapid comeback. Even the doctors were amazed.

Regarding my operations, the most oft-asked question was, "Will all those metal plates in your head set off alarms in airports?" I have no idea. I haven't flown since. I had the stainless steel one and one of the titanium ones removed in a recent operation, but I still have seven left. Permanently.

And I am back to work on a slightly limited basis. And I DO drive. A new car. My other two-month-old new car was totally demolished when I hit the tree. And - YES! - I was VERY scared the first time I got back behind the wheel once I could see okay again. It had been so long. I'm still cautious, but I'm no longer frightened.

I had also been drifting toward large blimphood, but I lost lots of weight after the accident and have been able to keep it off. Crash diet. So there's another positive.

I really have a thousand TI people to thank, but I must particularly single out Charlie Good, John Willforth, Chris Bobbitt, Timothy Dermody, Tony McGovern, Jim Peterson, Jim Cox, Sister Pat Taylor, and so many patient newsletter editors for support above and beyond the call of duty. Having inadequately given such little thanks when so much more was due, I'll now move right into N-A #1.

Each month I plan to explore in these two pages some TI fairware and some commercialware and a bit of the goings-on.

The first going-on is Bill Gaskell's. I am sorry to learn of his FOUR-A/TALK swan song. For the year he wrote it, it was the most interesting column around. The variety and the history and the enthusiasm and the good writing made FOUR-A/TALK the boost we all needed. It was a very sustaining column that each month also introduced us to all the new goodies available to us (and there are many). The TI World Community will sorely miss your writings, Bill. Hurry up with the

VIEWS AND REVIEWS

skiing and golfing and get back to your computer.

In Bill's last article he talked about John Johnson's most recent BOOT program as of October 1989, good for Hard Drives, etc. For those with the "normal" system of a drive or two but not the techie wizardry, you can still benefit from the BOOT. It may not be the ONLY way to go, but it sure is one of the very best. Someone sent it to me during the time I wasn't able to compute, but when I got back to the keyboard recently I popped it in and had my flabber gasted. First it says, "MUG BOOT LOADING." That's the Miami Users Group (6755 Tamiami Canal Road, Miami, FL 33126).

Then comes the menu: 1 SHOW DIRECTORY; 2 DISPLAY A FILE; 3 RUN A PROGRAM; 4-9 Options 1-6; C TI XB.

#1 shows a directory of any disk (including RAMs) and permits marking of files for viewing, running, deleting. Marking auto-sets files when you return to Main Menu. A text file appears when #2 (DISPLAY) is pressed. An XB or E/A file runs automatically if #3 (RUN) is pressed.

When you press the spacebar another menu (with Options 7-15 and TI XB) is displayed. Press again and a third menu (with 16-24 and TI XB) is shown. This means you can type in anything on the options to VIEW or RUN including LOAD itself, which is handy if you have a bunch of LOAD programs (such as FUNNELWEB) that you want to operate off ANY drive. If you have a DSDD and two drives, for example, you could load onto this MUG BOOT disk all your favorite programs AND another whole disk of favorites on Drive 2. (And a zillion more.) Then you can put your top 24 on this menu and your other top 20 onto your FUNNELWEB menus and on and on.

With this program you could build the perfect environment for yourself, but that's only scratching the surface of this February '89 version I have.

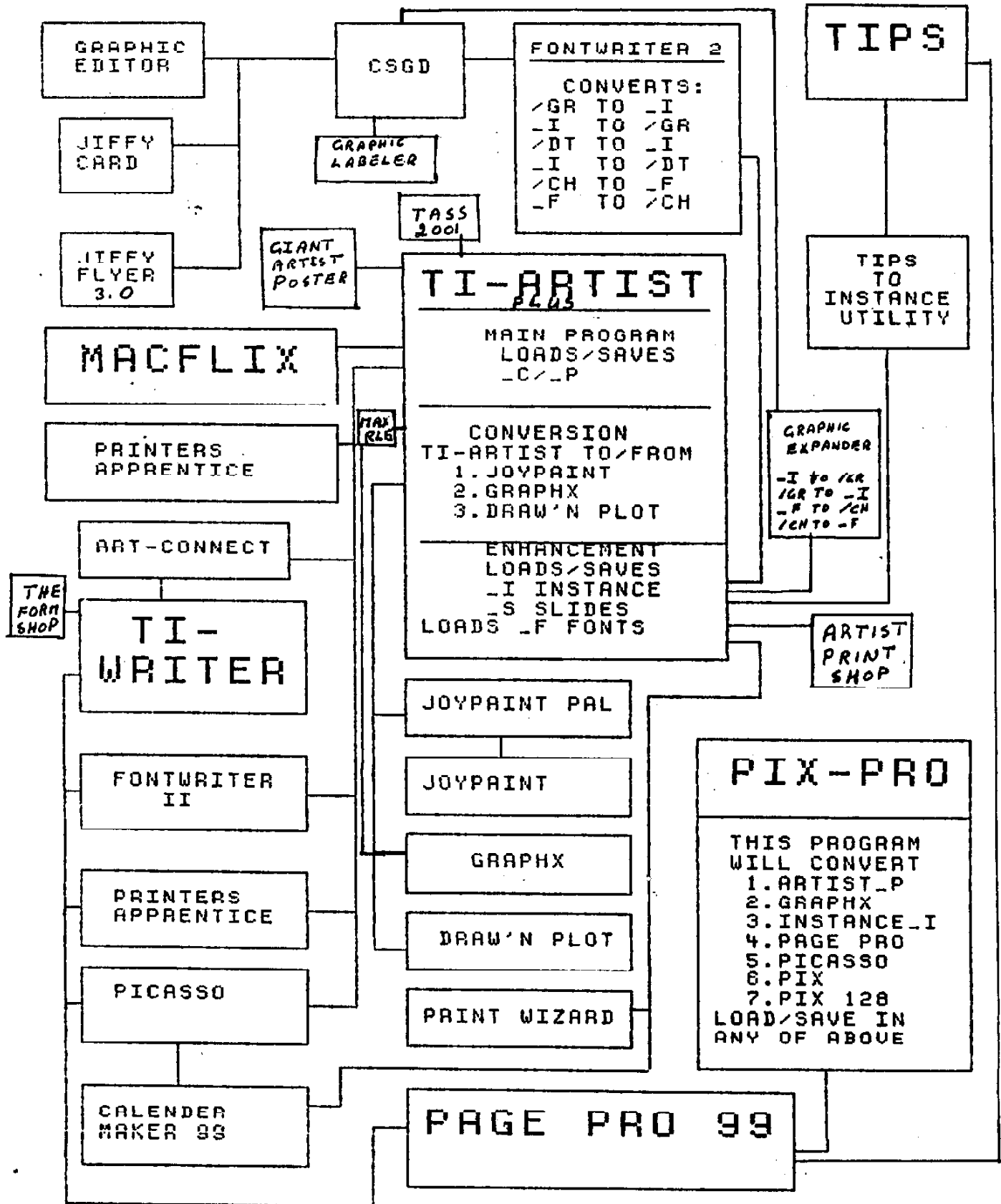
Here are just a few of the single keypress things this will do for your minimum XB disk system: turn screen off; load disk directory; print directory; view text file; print text file; run XB or EA program; EASILY configure up to 24 (actually, unending number) files for autoloading; run gram/grom modules; delete files; cycle through and mark groms; toggle XB color interrupt routines off and on; do a CALL routine; change print device; get and display ROM header at >6000 (whatever that means); configure BOOT tracking; display version # and author; toggle instantly between all options; save all configurations; use additional active keypresses in sub menus; and so on.

Could you have dreamed that something so wonderful and so simple to operate could ever exist for our TI? Get the latest version from your user-group library or write to Miami. Don't forget a decent fairware donation.

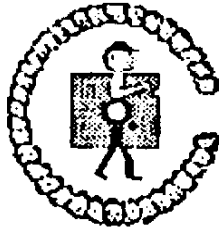
In his final column Bill Gaskell was surprised by the ingenious FUNNELWEB built-in to change upper to lower case by holding CONTROL/period and running the cursor over the characters (words, sentences, etc.) to be speedily converted. I don't think he realized that Tony McGovern also did a reverse - lower to upper - by holding CONTROL/semi-colon. Tony told me he added this because he was not a good touch typist and found retyping from one case to the other too time consuming. The day after I got this version (4.0 and up), I was typing along without looking at the screen. When I looked up I had 20 lines or so of upper case. Zip. With the cursor and Tony's ingenious keypress changer I was back to typing in seconds. Try it the next time you use FWB (speaking of which, have you tried the new 4.2? It's got some great LARGE changes.) NEW-AGE/99 will detail it all soon.

[If you use NEW-AGE/99 please put me on your exchange list.]

 "LIBRARY CORNER"



by ED MCNISH
 created with PAGE PRO



KAWARTHA 99'ers

PROUDLY PRESENTS

NEW SOFTWARE

- \$ 29 ARTIST PRINT SHOP.....
- \$29 COLOR CARD.....
- \$24 COLOR FLYER.....
- \$ 14 CARD/FLYER GRAPHICS..
- \$ 14 CARDS FOR ALL OCCASIONS.
- \$ 19 LIVING TOMB.....
- \$ 14 WAR ZONE.....

OLDIE GOLDIES

- \$ 19 FORM SHOP.....
- \$ 19 JIFFY CARD.....
- \$ 14 JIFFY FLYER 3.0.....
- \$ 19 GIANT ARTIST POSTERS.
- \$ 14 PICTURE IT.....
- \$ 17 PRINT IT and PLUS.....
- \$ 7 BINGO.....

ARTIST PRINTSHOP the perfect partner to TI-ARTIST(tm). This assembly language program provides a fast, easy method of making Signs, Flyers, Banners and Letterheads using all Fonts and Instances without conversion. The program handles all layout, magnification, mirroring and output density with great flexibility.

COLOR CARD/FLYER provides 5 color output for Epson/Star color printer owners. 5 color in Double Density prints in less than 4 minutes on Star XR-1000. You may select the colors on screen, otherwise same as JIFFY CARD/FLYER.

New Borders and fonts to be entered or Merged into JIFFY/COLOR CARD program showing the creative possibilities.

13 beautiful All Occasion Cards for the JIFFY/COLOR CARD program showing the creative possibilities.

New 10 100% Assembly Adventure Game with Great Graphics. Speech and Animation. Joystick controlled and saves scores.

New 100% Assembly Arcade game with different screens and increasing difficulty. Saves scores and has Demo.

FORM SHOP the easiest and fastest Form maker, utilizing the TI-WRITER environment. Prints in Epson Graphic mode or IBM character mode. MICRO 6/89, 3/89

JIFFY CARD/FLYER 3.0 makes 4-fold WYSIWYG cards or flyers using CSGD/GR graphics. 45 borders 2 large and 7 small fonts are in the program and can be cycled and seen in seconds. Text and graphics may be placed anywhere, shifted, deleted or overlaid. Results may be saved to disk. MICRO 3/89

GAP makes posters in 9 sizes from 10" by 14" to 5' by 7'. Prints full screen Instances in 2 styles. fast no cutting. MICRO 3/89

PICTURE IT converts Instances to XB, banners or TI-WRITER. Makes great letterheads that print with your TI-WRITER file. MICRO 2/89

PRINT IT prints catalogs, labels, titles and TI-WRITER files with Instances. Great sprite designer program.

BINGO play 2 boards on screen or print boards for all. It has speech music and great graphics. Prints fast.

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SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER
\$/H 1.50 PER ITEM
MAX 3.00 PER ORDER
ADD 2.00 OVERSEAS