

KAWARTHA KRONICLE

PETERBOROUGH, ONT.



The monthly newsletter of
The KAWARTHA 99'ers

✱ WELCOME BACK! ✱

224 Woodward Ave Vol. 8 No. 04
K9L 1J7 CANADA

SEPT, 1990

FALL NEWS

SUMMER IS OVER

It is September. Summer is over. It is back to school for the kids. Take out rakes. Store the boat. A few more trips to the cottage. Have the rad on the family transportation flushed. That's the bad news.

THE GOOD NEWS

The good news is that it is back to computers again. Take the cover off that machine in the rec. room. Dust off the last piece of work that you left in the spring. Get out the new software that you bought over the summer and didn't have time to look at. Phone up friends and talk about upgrades on the TI.

ADDING DISK DRIVES

I had good intentions. Late last spring, I bought a PE box for my TI. A few of us bought some half height drives. I got two of them. They're still in their packages. I really did mean to get at it during the summer. I even thought that I'd put them in and borrow some software from the library and take the whole thing up to the cottage for the summer. My intention was

to set it all up in the cottage and try out the software so that this winter I would be proficient in some of the new stuff that we were bombarded with during last winter. [For an orphan, there sure is a lot of new stuff being created by folks out there!!!] Well...

You see, my excuse is that the cottage is not finished. So I spent the summer working on it. Have you ever installed a new septic system? I hadn't. Now I know everything there is to know about drains and all that stuff. I don't know much more about TI software. Oh, well...that's why they invented winter.

John Baal.....Editor



KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP

FOR USERS OF THE TEXAS INSTRUMENT 99/4A HOME COMPUTER
224 WOODWARD AVE.
PETERBOROUGH, ONT.
CANADA
K9L 1J7

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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. Out of town members are most welcome.

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, sent to the group's mailing address or uploaded to the S.S.F.C. bulletin board (TI section) at 705 749 5538, 24 hours a day (8N1).

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.

"CONSOLE-ING THE ORPHAN"

AND NOW THE NEWS...

by Phil Townsend

So many things are occurring at the moment it is difficult to know where to begin!

Hardware is always an important aspect of computing and in the TI world new developments are critical if our favourite computer is to survive. There are new developments in several areas:

A new controller card which plugs into the peripheral expansion box has been developed by Electronic Systems Development Corporation which is owned and operated by Chris Pratt of the West Penn 99'ers group. (we exchange newsletters with them) This new card is used to control up to four hard drives (80 megabytes each) and four floppy drives (either 3.5" disks up to 1.44 Meg density or 5.25" designs up to 720K density). This new card is built on a "Proto Board" and uses surface mount technology. The brains which control this card is found in an EEPROM which can quickly and easily be changed by the user when updates and improvements are made. At the moment the card will support floppy disk densities used by TI, Corcomp and Myarc controllers and it will have a 2793 floppy disk controller. The hard disk controller chip set being used is from Western Digital (WD1019A) which is commonly used with IBM/clone systems. The price for this new controller should run about \$225 U.S. and hopefully will be available in early fall of 1990.

There are several ways to get your screen to display 80 characters instead of the 32 which TI originally has built in. In order to fully utilize this feature though, you must spend extra money on an upper end monitor. The cost of higher end monitors is reasonable if you just want monochrome for wordprocessing, but does get quite pricey if you want full colour. In order to get the 80 characters on the screen you will also need to purchase one of several interfaces currently on the market. Most of these cards run between \$200 and \$250 U.S. Your choices at present are: the AVPC Digit card, the Myarc 80 column card, the Foundation 80 column card and the Mechatronics 80 column card. These cards all work very well and use the Yamaha 9938 video chip which replaces the TI 9918 chip found in the console. The newest method of squeezing more characters onto the screen comes from Gary Bowser, our TI buddy from the Toronto 99'ers and owner of O.P.A. His device known as the TI Image Maker is small enough to fit into the console. It uses the 9958 chip and comes with its own software.

For those of you with a musical bent comes the new MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) which allows the TI computer to control electronic instruments which have a standard MIDI port. Software is included which will allow you to convert files written for IBM/clones.

If you are interested in adding more usable memory to your expansion box, then you may be interested in the Horizon 3000 ram disk currently selling for \$140 Can. plus memory chips. This latest version uses 128K memory chips which allow you to go up to 4.5 Megabytes on a single card. Each chip runs around \$80 Canadian. Gary Bowser's "RAMBO" device can be installed on this ramdisk which allows a programmer to write programs which can utilize program space greater than 32K at one time.

The size of the program is only determined by the amount of memory which is on the Horizon card. Gary has worked closely with Bud Mills, owner and distributor of Horizon ramdisks so that the two products work seamlessly. Gary also wrote the software which sets up the Horizon card. Both products are available from Computer Download (Bob Boone) in North Bay at 705 495 3681.

If you are in the mood for travel come February 1991, then you may like to coincide a trip to Disneyland in Anaheim, California with a visit to the TI Fest West being held at the Ramada Malnqate Hotel across the road from Disneyland. The date of Fest West '91 are Feb. 16th and 17th. Rooms at the Ramada Hotel are \$55 per night based on single or double occupancy. The Fest is being co-sponsored by the Orange County Computer User Group and the Pomona Valley 99er Computer Users Group. Added support is coming from the Brea User Group. This Fest will mark the 10th anniversary of the introduction of the TI99/4A computer.

New software developments...

Spell It from Asgard Software is a fast and easy to use spellchecker. Peter Humphrey and Bob Tisdale of our group are currently using the program and hopefully will provide us with some detailed info about the program in the near future. To use this software you need 32K of memory, at least one single sided-single density disk drive. There is a hard drive version available as well as a SS/SD and DS/DD versions. The program will check files created by most of the current wordprocessors which create the files in DV/80 format. This includes Page Pro (also from Asgard).

HERE AND THERE...

North Bay really does exist! On August the 8th my family (2 kids, wife minus the dog) visited Bob Boone and family at their home in North Bay. For those who have never read our newsletter, Bob is the owner/ operator of Computer Download Unlimited which supplies software, hardware and service to TI'ers all across Canada. Bob is also the Sysop for the Razor's Edge II BBS (705 476 3043).

Upon our arrival Bob and Carol hadn't returned from a visit to Ottawa where Bob had received treatment following a hand operation. (that's another story in itself). Bob is recovering well and now concerns himself with lumps of putty and weight-training much of the day.

After some supper at a local eatery, we met up with Bob, Carol & family at their home and caught up on the latest gossip. Bob & Carol are opening a new retail computer business geared to the home user. The Northern Family Computer Company is scheduled to open August 23rd in North Bay. As you can imagine this is a very hectic time for the Boone family what with regular day jobs, planning and organizing the opening of a new store and then having out of town guests on top of it all.

Bob had arranged an impromptu dinner meeting of several North Bay 99'ers where much telling of tales, sharing of software and knowledge went on. Thanks very much to Bob Boone, Carol Kingdom, Pat Graham, Steve Andrew and Fred Skinner for the lively conversation and TI education. Some of the items I learned about were; logging on to Delphi, Picasso drawing program, the incompatibility of Myarc disk controllers with several software products, GIF, Multiplan and setting up an Horizon ramdisk. I find it amazing how little I really know about the TI despite my interest and efforts! Again thank you for the Northern hospitality the fine meal and the fellowship.

Keep on Console-ing the Orphan!

BITS & PIECES

KOOKY FORTUNES

BY ED MACHONIS

QB-99'ers, BAYSIDE, NY



One of the highlights of any visit to a Chinese Restaurant is opening the Fortune Cookie at the end of a meal and comparing fortunes with your fellow diners. A recent visit to New York City's Chinatown resulted in a family member toting home Fortune Cookies by the pound.

After munching my way through a couple of dozen, (Hey, never stop when you're on a winning streak!), I was struck by the one-size-fits-all generic blandness of the fortunes. Any one would be pleased and flattered with the fortunes I was getting. Even if they didn't fit a person at all, that person would like to think they did. Another thing that struck me was the lack of duplication. I recalled reading a newspaper article years ago about a printer of these fortune slips and how difficult it was to constantly keep coming up with new "fortunes". (Nearly as tough as constantly coming up with new computer newsletter articles.)

Next thing I know, a little devil is whispering in my ear, "Why not print up some look-alikes bearing fortunes that are decidedly different in tone and concept and substitute them for the ones you are extracting from the Fortune Cookies?" No sooner whispered, than done! The look-alikes required compressed pitch and fore and aft sailey faces.

The accompanying Tiny Gram will let you get into the act. I had a ball until the family got wise. If your primary accomplishments include the ability to bake Fortune Cookies, here's a great way to perk up those "China Nights". (And to keep a starving author alive by sending him some!)

The program will let you input either one line or two line bons mots. For one liners, just press enter in response to the second prompt, Tex will know what to do. Print codes are for an Epson RX-80 printer.

Specialization? Tell me about it! Could any one have ever foreseen such an application for a Home Computer????

```
1 ! **** KOOKY FORTUNES ****
  *   A Tiny Gram   *
  *   By Ed Machonis *
  *QB-99'ers, Bayside, NY*
  *****
```

```
2 ! This program will print
    those words of wisdom,
    and other wise remarks,
    found in Fortune Cookies
```



```
3 OPEN #1:"PIO" ;; PRINT #1:
  CHR$(27)&"@"&CHR$(15);; K$=C
  HR$(27)&"L"&CHR$(12)&CHR$(0)
```

```
4 B$=K$&CHR$(60)&CHR$(66)&CH
  R$(66)&CHR$(137)&CHR$(165)&C
  HR$(133)&CHR$(133)&CHR$(165)
  &CHR$(137)&CHR$(66)&CHR$(66)
  &CHR$(60)&" "
```

```
5 CALL CLEAR ;; FOR J=1 TO 2
  ;; PRINT "INPUT TEXT FOR L
  INE";J ;; INPUT T$(J);; NEXT
  J ;; INPUT "HOW MANY?" ;Q
```

```
6 FOR I=1 TO Q ;; IF T$(2)="
  " THEN 7 ELSE PRINT #1:B$&T$
  (1);; PRINT #1:T$(2)&" "&B$
  ;; GOTO B
```

```
7 PRINT #1:B$&T$(1)&" "&B$
```

```
8 PRINT #1 ;; NEXT I ;; GOTO
  5
```

Has anyone seen the cat?

It is considered very unwise to pick up the check.

HELP! I am a prisoner in a fortune cookie factory!

Don't tip the waiter He owns the joint.

A journey of a thousand miles begins with the release of a hand brake.

IT IS HARD TO SOAR WITH THE EAGLES WHEN YOU HAVE TO WORK WITH TURKEYS.

I hope you liked your Filled Lice - you Pli

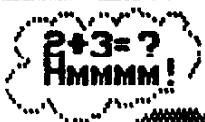
A fool and his money are some party!

Condemned man order last meal Get Stir Fry.

Notice from the Board of Health: You're lucky if you can still read this.

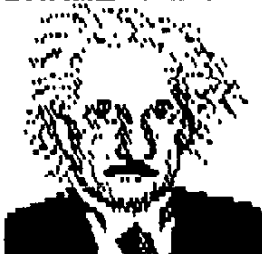
He who goes forth with a fifth on the fourth May not go forth on the fifth!

Fortune Cookie eaters are 'OR' unwise if they don't put on an extra 6 pounds. If at first you don't succeed Try another Fortune Cookie.



DESKTOP PUBLISHING FINALLY ARRIVED FOR OUR 99. THERE ARE MATURE COMMERCIAL AND FAIRWARE AND PUBLIC DOMAIN GOODIES ALL OVER THE PLACE. THERE ARE SO MANY, IN FACT, THAT IT IS QUITE IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP UP WITH THEM.

BESIDES TI-ARTIST-PLUS, WHICH WILL BE REVIEWED SOME OTHER TIME, THERE ARE FILES OF INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS FROM COMPRODINE WHICH I'VE READ AND HEARD ABOUT BUT HAVE NOT YET EXPERIENCED. THERE ARE CSGD'S GREAT PROGRAMS AND NUMEROUS PUBLIC DOMAIN AND FAIRWARE PROGRAMS FOR BANNERS, LETTERHEADS, LABELS, AND SO ON.



YOU HAVE TO BE

TO FIGURE OUT SOME OF THESE PROGRAMS.

MANY OF THEM ARE SEVERELY LIMITED (THOUGH SOME LIKE GRAPHIC LABELER DO EXACTLY WHAT THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO IN A FANTASTIC WAY).



NOW THERE ARE A PAIR OF WONDERFUL TREASURES FOR ALL 99ERS WITH DISKDRIVES AND PRINTERS:

TIPS

(TI PRINT SHOP - PUBLIC DOMAIN PROGRAMS WITH A HUGE COLLECTION OF PIX)

& PAGEPRO

(FROM RSGARD, THE BEST PAGE MAKER AVAILABLE FOR THE 99 AND GENEVE)

RON WOLCOTT, WITH ABLE HELP FROM BARRY TRAVER AND OTHERS, HAS GIVEN TIPS TO THE TI WORLD FREE OF CHARGE (SEE YOUR USER GROUP OR CONTACT JIM PETERSON FOR THIS AND OTHER PD AND FAIRWARE GRAPHICS PROGRAMS). TIPS LETS YOU MAKE BANNERS, LETTERHEADS, LABELS, GREETING CARDS, AND MORE. WRITTEN IN XB, TIPS TENDS TO BE SLOW AND A BIT CUMBERSOME. YOU MUST PRINT OUT THE DOCS AND FOLLOW THEM CLOSELY TO USE THE PROGRAMS SUCCESSFULLY!



BUT IT TAKES A LITTLE TIME TO MASTER AND TO PRINT.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF TIPS IS ITS COLLECTION OF GRAPHIC ART FROM THE BIG BLUE WORLD. THERE ARE ABOUT 5,000 PIX NOW A PART OF THIS PACKAGE, WHICH INCLUDES PROGRAMS TO CONVERT TO TI-ARTIST AND PAGEPRO, AMONG OTHER ITEMS.

THIS REVIEW USES ALL TIPS PICTURES WITHIN THE SUPERB FRAMEWORK OF PAGEPRO.

WHICH, OF COURSE, BRINGS ME BACK TO THE TOPIC OF THIS REVIEW. THE DAY I GOT THE ORIGINAL PAGEPRO I WAS UP TO THE VERY WEE HOURS PLAYING WITH IT IN ALL KINDS OF INGENIOUS WAYS. WITH PP YOU CAN PUT ANY GRAPHICS (OVER 5,000 IF YOU HAVE TIPS) ANYPLACE ON YOUR PAGE. YOU CAN TYPE OVER OR INTO THESE PIX (AS IN THE TOP AND MOON PIX). THE ORIGINAL PERMITTED 28 PIX PER PAGE. VERSION 1.5 ALLOWS UNLIMITED GRAPHICS BY SAVING PAGES FULL AT A TIME, ALONG WITH ALL TEXT.



Because of this saving method, PAGEPRO also permits an unlimited number of fonts per page:

Gothic 2 Sample, Script 1 Sample, TULO SAMPLE, etc.

If you've written your text on FUNNELWEB or any DV/80 textfile maker, you can easily import that text into your PAGEPRO pages, though personally, I find it just as easy to type right onto my pages and place the graphics (TIPS) and borders and fonts (PAGEPRO) just where I want as I'm going along.

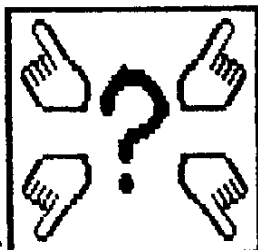
PAGEPRO is extremely user friendly. Of all the various pagemakers and semi-pagemakers I've used for the TI (and for some other computers), I've found PAGEPRO by far the easiest to use. The commands are mostly single keypress and FAST! If you have any kind of RAM capacity, the whole activity is almost instantaneous.

It's not one of those programs where you'll stop often for tea breaks while the program churns and mopes along.

The latest PAGEPRO also has some great improvements, such as cataloging from any cursor. For me, this was a... **LARGE**

The columnizer that is part of PAGEPRO has been improved to auto indent and auto page number; two nice features.

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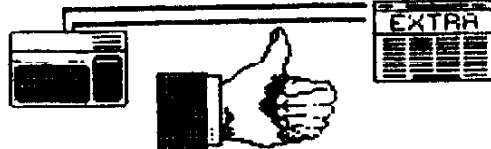


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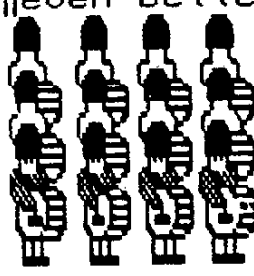
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A+
RATING

Typing in any direction let's you make quick borders, boxes, whatever, as well as puzzles and text patterns.

There are other neat changes in 1.5 regarding importing/exporting text, printing a page, and so on. But, basically, a great program was made even better.



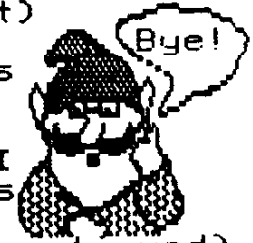
So while the band's playing let me add that PAGEPRO does not stand alone.

Asgard also has PAGEPRO PICS of all kinds of pictures done in neat, thematic packages.

There is also PIXPRO which converts GRAPHX, TI ARTIST PIX & INSTANCES, RLE, PICASSO, MACPAINT, & PAGEPRO into most of the above formats. This is great even if you don't own PAGEPRO.

Also available are PP FONTS (a few of the 50 are shown on these two pages); PP TITLES (which are works of art unto themselves); PP UTILITIES (which allow some extraordinary manipulations of the graphics for all kinds of on-screen pasteups & designs.

PAGEPRO is a WYSIWYG ("wizzywig": What You See Is What You Get) program that more than lives up to its promise. It's the standard for TI as TI-ARTIST is for drawing.



(to be continued)



NEW-AGE 99

#7 PAGEPRO pt 2

Last time our wee leprechaun wished us a hoppy goodbye after exploring a few PAGEPRO delights. This exciting installment will uncover & show more ways to desktop publish via PP.

In limiting these explorations to 2-page segments some of the intricate niceties of PP have to be left to your imaginations and time.

We'll show an example of the neat TITLES on the next page but will leave the greeting-card making up to you. Exploring such a program on your own is 9/10ths of the fun!



Okay. What do you need to make PAGEPRO the dream graphics/text program of the TI world?

Not much, really. Last time we suggested getting TIPS from your local user group or Jim Peterson of TIGERCUB for the thousands of graphics that come with it. That'll give you a big picture collection.

PAGEPRO will give you the state-of-the-art tools you'll need:

PAGE PRO 99 v 1.5 by Ed Johnson (& Chris Bobbitt) is the complete page-making software for 4A or Geneve. It includes all you need to make letter-heads, newsletters, pages of all descriptions, text conversions, etc. \$24.95.

PP FONTS by artist Paul Scheidemantle comes on 2 disks. There are 50 of

by Jack Sughrue, Box 459
E Douglas MA 01516

of them (small & large); PP PICS are 7 volumes of excellent thematic pictures; PP TITLES (see next page) are pretty dramatic eye-catchers; PP UTILITIES are extraordinary graphic manipulation tools essential for quick layout (cards), design, inversions, rotations, etc.; and PIX PRO, the single converter you'll need for converting to and from PAGEPRO, TI-ARTIST (pix & instances, ideal for CSGO & GRAPHIC LABEL users, too), RLE, PICASSO and even MACPIX. Yes, PAGEPRO does print full-page graphics!

A NEWSLETTER
EDITOR'S
DREAM COME
TRUE!



As a matter of fact, PAGEPRO even lets you save any part of a page or THE ENTIRE PAGE as a single picture, thus giving you endless clipping and overlaying possibilities and greater reprint abilities than ever before imagined.

[This article, for example could be saved as two pictures on disk and sent to an editor elsewhere who has PAGEPRO. That person would simply load the program and load a picture (not a page) & what you see printed before you, including all the graphics and borders are exactly what the editor would get fresh on his or her printer. Neat package, no?