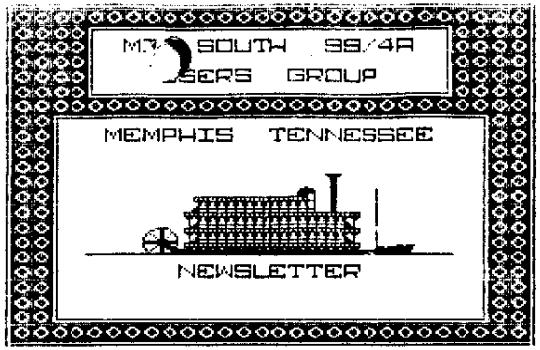

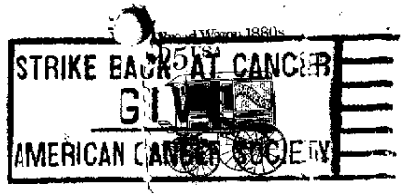

P.O. BOX 38522, GERMANTOWN, TN 38183-0522

TIDBITS

JUNE 1986 INDEX

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FLOYD J. PEMBERTON, JR.
481 SPRUCE
LEWISVILLE, TX 75067

Last ONE

Newsletter for the MID-SOUTH 99 USERS GROUP Vol 6, #6 JUNE. 1988

T I D B I T S

NEWS

Some of the the following is edited from Micropendium.

According to an article in Micropendium Texas Instruments is not planning on making another computer compatible with the 99/4A and is not dropping service on the 99/4a equipment. This is what Jeffrey Crump, supervisor of TI's technical assistance group told attendees at the first Texas TI Faire in Richardson Texas. He did say that TI is working on advanced calculators and on voice recognition products for education. He noted a few phone numbers for TI. The dealer parts phone number is (806) 741-2265 where you can order parts for your TI99/4A, For consumer relations (806) 747-1982 and for technical assistance is (806) 741-2663. He noted that consumer relations receives 30,000 to 50,000 a month and 40 to 50 percent are technical assistance calls for the 4A. He also noted that TI may discontinue their 800 number for economic reasons. thus you will have to call TI using a toll number such as one of the ones listed above.

A limited number of FORTI music synthesizer cards developed in 1984 are still available and specifications have been published whereby users can make their own. Used with "surround sound" quadriphonic stereo, 12 sounds plus four tones in total are available with the card. The card will also enhance the sound of music disks from user group libraries, although they will not have the true quadriphonic sound of music produced on the FORTI sofware. A limited number of FORTI kits are available from Bob Lawson, 1344 Boston Ave., Bayshore, NY 11706. Steve Tuorto of Baysore, who says he promotes the kits for Lawson, says the kits sell for $65 plus $5 shipping. Turoto says Lawson also has specialized parts for persons wishing to build the cards from the specifications published in the manual for the PEB Prototyping Board available from the Computer Bug, 5C75 Clairton Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15236, (412) 882-3374. Chips for the FORTI card are available from the TI Parts Department, he said. For further information contact Turoto at (516) 242-1378.

TI BASE, a new database manager has been released by Texaments. It can handle up to 16,129 records consisting of up to 17 fields with up to 255 characters per field... The program even comes with a tutorial disk. TI BASE resembles dBASE II from Ashton-Tate for IBM compatibles. We have a copy of the program for review and will have it reviewed in the newsletter and demonstrated at a meeting soon.

Shipment for the Gramulator (Gram Kracker similar device) was scheduled to be shipped last month. It sells for $180 and for further information write to CaDD Electronics, 52 Audobon Rd. Haverhill, MA 01830 or (617) 372-0336.

According to rumor the Hard Disk controller card from Myarc now is working on the TI99/4A but is still not operational on the Geneve 9640. The hard disk controller was scheduled to be released last month...

Shipments of DataBioTics Grand-RAM is scheduled to start soon. DataBioTics has indicated that they will honor all orders for the Grand-Ram that they have received including those from Innovative Programming.

Asgard Publishing (Asgard Software) of P.O. Box 10697, Rockville, MD 20850 has mailed their first issue of their new Asgard News newsletter. The newsletter is published quarterly by Asgard Software and is being offered for a limited time at $6 for 4 issues. The first issue contained 16 pages worth of material...

What's happening with Ryte Data? Who knows? It seems people are still complaining of very slow service to unfilled orders. One of the main complaints are by those who ordered the new PEB's, had the checks cashed but never received the PEB's. However, word is Ryte Data is trying to get back on it's feet. I would advice caution in dealing with Ryte Data. At any rate I would suggest ordering first, have them invoice you after delievery and pay later.

What's happening with the CHICAGO TI USERS GROUP? A once respected organization by me seems to have deteriorated! After mailing in my personal membership renewal in January it wasn't until April that I started receiving my newsletter again despite repeated calls and letters that I sent! We are STILL waiting for the video tape of the November 7th 1987 Chicago TI Faire of which our group paid for in advance while attending the fair! I realize they are a volunteer organzation like us with few people doing the work but I think 7 months is plenty of time to send a tape after already having paid for it. I have probably spent more than $10 in phone calls and letters to them trying to get someone to get all this straightened out. However, except for chatting in chat mode with the sysop of their BBS I haven't received a letter or anything from them telling me anything! Maybe someone can tell me what is going on?...

Coming in the next few months a review of TI-BASE database system, Print Wizard and the Star NX-1000 multi font printer and more...Gary Cox

MACC FAIR REPORT

The MACC computer fair June 4th at State Tech went very well.. A massive amount of advertising went out including numerous spots on TV, Radio, Paper and other media. The Commercial Appeal listed the event as the "Best Bet" for the weekend! The most exciting part of the advertising for me was the LIVE interview on TV5's Wakeup Call with Ken Akins (Chairman of MACC) and myself (Secretary of MACC) being interviewed LIVE on TV! The interview lasted about 5 minutes and was the first time on TV for Ken and myself. By the way I have it on tape!

The turnout at the Fair was only about half of what was expected with about 2,000 people attending. The good weather and vacations probably contributed to the lower turnout.

All the groups made it to the fair including PC's (IBM compatibles), Commodore, Osborne, Kaypro, Atari, Amiga, Adam Radio Shack Color, Apple and of course TI99/4A among others. Fifty seven door prizes were donated ard given out. Only one person in our group won a prize and that was Al Doss who won a T-SHIRT. Some very interesting demonstrations took place at the fair including computer generated music which was like nothing I had ever seen. On an Atari system was connected an elaborate music system which sounded exactly like an orchestra! On a PC system a very strange 30 MEG hard drive was setup. At the press of a button the system ejected the hard drive in which case you carry it over to another computer with the same hard drive setup and insert the hard drive unit. This was the first time this system was shown in Memphis having first appeared at Comdex. What was really interesting about the removable hard drive was it could be handled roughly. The person demonstrating it even threw it up in the air and caught it! This fair was certainly the place to see the most interesting and elaborate equipment.

Our TI99/4A users group had 7 complete systems setup including a Geneve 9640. We had automatic demonstrations running on some systems while we demonstrated requested software on others. The most interesting aspect most people commented about was on the Geneve 9640 and it's increadible graphics capabilities. Plus we gave out many catalogs, sent to us from companies who support the TI99/4A, as well as information on our group and complemen ry copies of our newsletter. Many people were amazed at what the TI99/4A could do and that even a TI99/4A user group existed! We had quite a few people interested in our group and many signed up to receive a few sample issues of our newsletter while they decide if they wish to join.

Another interesting aspect of the fair was that someone donated to our club a PEB, 32K memory card and SS/SD drive! Plus we purchased another console from someone for $25 to use with the PEB. That brings the total systems owned by the club up to 3!

For those of you who signed up on the list to receive sample issues of our newsletter, (no obligation to join), you will receive 3 issues while you decide if you wish to join. That gives you time to look the group over and decide if it is for you. We carry on numerous functions, such as producing a monthly newsletter, operating a 24 hour electronic bulletin board, containing the latest news and shareware and Public Domain programs, demonsrtations of new new software and hardware, programming classes and more. Our main library is on disk but we do have a limited amount of programs for people with cassette tape. Plus we have programs on cassette tape to teach you programming in BASIC and Extended BASIC... If you have any questions just give one of the officers a call. We are here to support TI99/4A owners.

I would like to thank all those who helped to make this fair possible. In particular, Ken Akins (Chairman of MACC), Paul Russell (Vice-Chairman of MACC), Bill Dewitt (Advertising), Don

Helyer (speakers...) and Les Owen of Owen Printing to name a few... Also thanks for those in our group who brought equipment such as Mac Swope, Baery Miller (Geneve), Lynn Crow and David Ferguson. Thanks to those who assisted in operations such as Scott Chapman, James Bennington, Al Doss, Ed Walton, Robert Bruce, Richard Mann Jr., volunteers from the other user groups and I know I am leaving out many others. I know I am completely exhausted after this fair as I spent the last 2 months up past 12am almost every night planning this fair plus sacrificing my entire summer vacation as well! With the efforts of these people and many others this fair ran very smoothly! Thanks guys! Also thanks for those who took the time to come out to the fair and show your support. Attendance from our group was not very good, I know some people had to go out of town, so I appreciate those who made the effort to get out to the fair! Especially thanks to Bill Clark who flew in from Wakerfield, MA!

More news on the fair next month...Gary Cox

EZ-KEYS CORRECTION

The following a reprint of a letter from Bill Gaskill in regards to a correction in his review of EZ-KEYS in our April newsletter.

I am writing to correct an error that appeared in my review of EZ-KEYS which appeared in the newsletter. In my review I stated that the custom character set provided with EZ-KEYS has a couple of the lower case letters out of line. I have since discovered that this is not true. After receiving a letter from EZ-KEYS author Harry Wilhelm questioning this point I went back and double checked my tests. I discovered that the program I had chosen to RUN EZ-KEYS has itself redefined that lower case letters back to their default definitions, causing the misalignment. So EZ-KEYS was not at fault but rather the program being RUN by EZ-KEYS. I wish to offer my apologies to Mr. Wilhelm and hope letter reaches any reader who read my review of this fine product...Bill Gaskill

PROGRAM BIT

6:15pm - Doors open.
6:30pm - Library and newsletter table open.
7:00pm - 7:15pm General discussion.
7:15pm - 7:45pm GBS sector editor written by Guy Boudreaux. Demonstation by Lynn Crow.
7:45pm - 8:00pm Demonstration of the Star NX-1000 multi-font printer. Demonstration by Gary Cox.
8:00pm - 8:30pm John Birdwell's Disk Utilities demonsration by Ed Wesman.
8:30pm - 9:30pm Computer systems available for everyone's use.
10:00pm - 12:00am Meeting and Eating at Perkins Restaurant located at Poplar and Highland.

CERTIFICATE 99 V2

Review by Gary W. Cox

Several months back I reviewed Certificate 99. Just recent)a new version of the program came out called Certificate 99 V2. Many good improvements have been made to the program without loosing existing features.

For those who are not familiar with Certificate 99, it is program which allows the user to create certificates, awards, diplomas, licenses, signs and advertisements... The advantage of using Certificate 99 to create such items over using some drawing program such as Joypaint or TI-Artist is that with Certificate the above mentioned items can be created much easier and quicker. In fact, using something besides Certificate 99 to create some of the above items could result in quite a lengthy session.

Whatever is created using Certificate 99, as I mentioned, can then be printed to any Epson compatible printer. The picture then takes up the entire 8 1/2 by 11 sheet of paper.

After loading the program a title screen will appear followed by a option to load the companion disk. The companion disk is yet another addition for Certificate 99. The companion disk contains six more text fonts, twelve more borders and thirty six)re graphics in addition to the six fonts, twelve borders and t.)ty four graphics included with the purchase of Certificate 99.

The next option is one of the additions added to Certificate 99 which was not available in the first version. This option allows the user to load previously saved certificates or if the current session is to create a new certificate you can then create a new one. The certificates are referenced by file names chosen by the user.

Following the above option is the font selection screen. Depending on if you do or do not have the companion disk six to twelve fonts are available. These fonts are the character styles which will be used when printing text on your certificate. Only one font may be chosen as they can not be mixed.

Next is the border selection portion. The border is the design surrounding the certificate itself. However, you may choose not to use a border at all if you wish. An addition added to this option is now the ability to reference different border files by file name. Each border file can contain six borders. A total of twelve borders are available with the Certificate 99 diskett" (two border files). The companion diskette contains twenty fo)more border styles to fit many different occasions such as Christmas, a birthday party etc...

Next the graphic picture selection is made. This is just a small picture which can be added to your creation. The graphics can be

referenced by file name and this is another additional feature as in the previous version graphic files could not easily be accessed. Each graphic file can contain up to twelve graphics. Twenty four graphics are available with Certificate 99 (two files) while with the companion diskette a total of sixty graphics are available. Graphics range from a no smoking symbol to Garfield.)ace loading a graphic picture file you pace through the different)aphics by pressing the SPACE bar. In turn you can choose not to use a graphic picture or you may choose to load another graphic file and continue pacing through your choices.

Next the user will be asked if he wishes to magnify the graphic. This decision just depends on your preference but larger graphics draw more attention. Once this decision is made you must choose the posisition on the screen that you wish the graphic to appear. You are limited to posisitions the computer displays. Six posisitions are available for a magnified graphic and nine posisitions are available for a small graphic. The choices cover the entire printing area. Only one graphic may be used for each certificate. Since this program is primarily built for text useages rather than printing a bunch of graphic images this limitation provides little problem.

Now the signature selection screen appears. This screen provides the user with the option to use several famous signatures. The user can choose from such people as Ronald Reagan and Kadaffi.... These signatures are built into the program but you can create additional signatures of your own. However, a blank signature)ne can be used to place a signature onto the paper yourself and)blank signature line can be used in combination with one of these built in signatures. Either the bottom left or bottom right of the paper can be used for the signature. Occasionally a conflict in position between the graphic and signature may occur in which case Certificate 99 will automatically choose the signature position.

The next option is the enter text option. With this option two boxes are displayed on the screen. The top box represents the amount of space available for large text. The box at the bottom of the screen represent alloted space for small text. Each box represents the entire page. For example, you could make a sign using only large text or a sign using only small text or a combination of both. Highlighted areas in the top and bottom box represent the graphic and signature that you chose earlier if you chose one. Plus as text is typed into the large text box highlighted areas appear in the small text box representing areas taken up by the large text. Then when text is typed into the small text box highlighted areas appear in the top box representing areas already taken up.

Af)r typing in all the text next it is time to print the c)ficate. The user can then select the print device name and if you wish the picture to be printed in single or double density. Double density simply means the picture will be printed darker by the printer simular to double strike.

The entire process takes around 5 minutes to select the options and print the certificate. The program comes on one disk and

loads through either Extended BASIC, Editor/Assembler or TI-Writer. An Epson compatible printer is required such as Gemini 10x, SG-10, NX-10, NX-1000 etc...and of course 32K memory. The entire program is written in 100% Assembly Language.

I am very pleased with the program. I especially like the additional features added to the program plus the companion disk really adds to the program. I really can not think of anyt[illegible] else that I would need added to the program except maybe [illegible]e ability to catalog a disk from the program. I found no problems in operating ,the program. In fact, the program is so simple to use the instructions are really not needed after running through the program once or twice. For those who never read instructions first you still should not have any trouble operating the program. The program comes with some special official looking paper for use for official documents plus foil seals are included to make it even more official.

Furthermore, the program allows the user to add his own graphics, create his own borders and character fonts. This can be done by loading any of the graphics files, character forts or border files into JoyPaint Pal version 2.0 (available from Great Lakes Software). Next simply follow the layout that they used to create the graphics so as to create your own files. The only program that I found that would load the files was JoyPaint Pal version 2.0 (latest version, earlier versions will not work). Great Lakes Software is now using a new graphics compacting feature which explains why the main program is now on just one disk instead of two and also explains why I was unable to load the files with any other graphics program besides JoyPaint Pal version 2.0 which [illegible]s the new compact graphic operations. Note though that [illegible]h JoyPaint Pal version 2.0 I can save my graphics back out to disk in another format and in turn load it into another drawing program such as JoyPaint 99 or TI-Artist. I can then do my modifications, save the file, reload it with Joypaint Pal and save it back to the format needed by the Certificate 99 program.

The documentation receives a grade of an A as it is is quite adaquate although a little vague on adding your own graphic files... Ease of use receives an A+ as it is very easy to use. Overall usefulness receives an A as this is a useful program. In fact, I used it to print up signs for the computer fair. Certificate 99 V2 receives an overall grade of an A for a job well done...

The program sells for $19.35 plus $1 shipping. The companion disk sells for $9.94 plus $1 shipping.

Current owners of Certificate 99 may receive the new version by sending in their original disks and $9.95. The package comes complete with the updated documentation and more gold foil seals and parchment paper. For those updating their version (fro[illegible]1.0 to 2.0) and would like to get the companion disk disk [illegible]o a special offer for both is $14.95 plus $1 shipping. Great Lakes Software's address is 804 E. Grand River Avenue, Howell, Michigan 48843...Gary Cox

GENEVE NOTES

By Beery W. Miller

[illegible]at is new within the Geneve community? Clint Pulley has released [illegible] MDOS file that patches and loads the normal assembler into MDOS for assembling files. What does this mean to those who do not need to assemble files? It means that now the source code has been released for the patch that soon an all purpose patch could be developed to load GPL enviroment files directly within MDOS. This should also mean that development time for other programs will be shortened as going between the GPL enviroment and MDOS can be eliminated as we now have the Quick and Dirty Editor (QDE), Quick and Dirty Loader (QDL) and now the Quick and Dirty Assembler (QDA). I am glad to see people are releasing the source code and are developing the programmers utilities that the Geneve so desperately needs to survive. As it stands now, the programmers package that Myarc had planned to sell that would have included an editor, assembler, and loader appears to already be outdated. If Myarc would release the full specs and more info on the operating system, this machine could still flourish.

What is new about the hard drive controller card from Myarc? Well, it seems everything is pretty quiet on the homefront. Latest word has it that there was a bug in the eprom and it should be fixed by the next day. This was a week ago and seems to be following the [illegible]me old Myarc saga... Hopefully, if Jack Riley is still employed [illegible]ith Myarc after my last month's article, he took the hint from the article and will be more responsible with his comments about delivery of Myarc's products. If you read Micropendium last month, everyone should be pleased with the HDCC when it is released. If you were concerned about changing programs from DSK1. to WDS1., etc, don't fret!!! The softwars developers took this into account and all disk searches will look at a directory on the hard drive called DSK1. for the files you want to run before checking the floppy drive. The only problems that may be encountered would be with programs not permitting over 10 characters for a filename if their was a long filename.

I just recently got for my system a Thompson 4120 monitor and must say it is fabulous on the Geneve. For a low priced RGB analog monitor, at approximately $225, this is a bargain for Geneve owners. At the moment, it is 4:35 am as I finish this article and I can not think of anything else to add, so I will just say, 'auf wiederschreiben'...Beery Miller

MONITORS

By Member Jonathan Leslie of Olathe, KS

RGB...Composite...Analog...Digital...40/80 column...Dot pitch...Monochrome..... Have you been bombarded with these terms in articles you've read? Or have you had friends bounce them off

of you in a conversation as though they had a Ph.D. in Electronics? Are you afraid to ask what they mean because you think you might get laughed out of your user group? Or do you just want to understand how your TV or monitor works and why you can't hook up just any monitor to your com- puter? Well let's try to share a little knowledge so you can "throw" those terms right back at your friends.

Just as you have to match the right size tires for your car's wheels or shoes for your feet, so you have to match your computer and what you use for a monitor in order for things to work right. Or work at all! To do this, you have to know what the "size" or specifications of the video output of your computer are and what the specifications of the video input of the monitor/TV are that you want to use. Most "home computers" produce a color composite video output. It is called composite because several of the electrical signals generated by the computer are transmitted together rather than being completely separate. The video modulator used with the TI-99/4A takes this composite signal and piggy- backs it onto a high-frequency signal that simulates a broadcast TV signal so that your TV can pick it up and display the picture. If you used a composite monitor, the modulator is not necessary since it is not set up to receive TV signals and can accept the few separate signals put out by the 99/4A. Digit Systems has an RGB adaptor that will allow the 99/4A to be used with a digital RGB monitor. More on digital later. The Myarc 9640 can put out a signal that is either composite or RGB analog which is why it can be used with a TV, or a composite or RGB analog monitor. More about analog later, too. Enough about the computers output, let's talk about the input of TVs and monitors.

As I stated earlier, TVs are set up to receive a broadcast signal through their antenna. And this is why a computers output must be modulated so that the TV can understand and display that output. That's basically it for TVs. Monitors on the other hand, come with a variety of input requirements and output or dis- play formats. A monitor can either accept a monochrome, composite, digital, or analog signal. Some are setup to accept more than one type of signal. The out- put or display will either be monochrome or color.

Monitors consist of: (1) a glass tube, (2) one or three electron guns, (3) a phosphor-coated screen on the inside of the glass tube, and (4) a yoke that directs the electron beam at the screen. Monochrome monitors have only one gun since they only display one color. This color is usually green or amber on a black background, although black on white monitors do exist. Color monitors have three guns which respond to either one signal giving a composite display, or separate signals to each gun which gives an RGB display. An RGB picture is much sharper and clearer although the circuitry needed makes an RGB monitor more expensive than a composite monitor. By the way, RGB stands for Red-Green-Blue.

The difference between digital and analog RGB signals can be simply, though not completely, explained. "Picture" a digital signal as a set of stairs. Each step is a separate color. Each color is a certain wavelength separated by a distance on the color scale. So out of the visible spectrum, only a certain number of

colors are visible. There are, of course, many colors inbetween each "step", but we cannot display them. Analog on the other hand, can be viewed as a ramp with just a steady slope with no individual, separate steps. So rather than having to take measured, separated steps, we can move along the ramp in whatever increments we want. This is how an analog system works. Practically the whole visible color spectrum can be displayed. This is why IBM PCs and compatibles, and the 99/4A display 16 colors while the Atari ST, Commodore Amiga, and the Myarc Geneve can display from 256 up to 4096 colors on the screen at one time. There are more factors that enter into it, but I'm trying to keep this within the realm of my knowledge!

The amount of text displayable on the screen is usually either 40 or 80 charac- ters across by 24 lines down. This is not so much a capability of the monitor as the computer. Whether you display 40 or 80 columns, the clarity of the picture is also affected by the resolution. Resolution is determined by the number of pixels or dots that the screen is divided up into. The comuter also puts out a certain resolution. The 99/4A puts out a resolution of 256 x 192. The 9640 puts out a resolution of up 512 x 424. But back to monitors. Generally, a low resolution monitor would have 300 x 260 pixels, and a high resolution one would have 720 x 420 pixels. This is why TVs make a poor monitor with their low reso- lution. Although high resolution is necessary for good graphics, text is also easier to read with a higher resolution.

Whether it be a monochrome or color monitor, color is produced by the computer turning on and off each of the colored phosphor dots, which in a group, make up each pixel. Another factor that determines the quality of the picture is the persistence of the phosphor in the dots. If the phosphor is of short persis- tence, then the display will appear to flicker as the dots start to fade inbe- tween refreshes by the electron gun(s). A longer persistence produces less flicker. However, if the images on the screen change quickly, there will be an overlapping of images since the prior images fade slowly. So long persistence is desired with text work, and a medium persistence is desired with graphics or animation.

One last factor that determines the sharpness or clarity of the images displayed is the dot pitch. On color monitors, a sheet of metal called the shadow mask, is between the electron gun(s) and the screen. The shadow mask is perforated with tiny holes that the beams from the electron gun(s) pass through to strike the screen. The distance between these holes is the dot pitch. The dot pitch determines the number of pixels and therefore the resolution of the display. A dot pitch of 0.31 millimeters or less is usually considered necessary to produce a high-resolution image. This is why a monitor like mine, the Thomson 4120, having a dot pitch of 0.51mm and horizontal resolution of 560 pixels will not have quite as sharp a display as a Magnavox 8563 with a dot pitch of 0.31mm and horizontal resolution of 600 pixels. However I am most happy with the Thomsons picture with my 9640, and with a price of about $100 less than the Magnavox, I have considered it a very good buy.

Well, there you have it. Now for all of you electronic geniuses,

REMEMBER that I did NOT claim to be an expert on this topic. I've just had some experience with it and have done some research. I do hope that this article has been of help for the rest of you though. There are a couple of other items that have an effect on your TV or monitors display, such as bandwidth, but the items I've covered here are the most commonly used ones when trying to understand or choose a particular monitor for your computer. Hopefully, I've done more good than harm and you will be better prepared for your next purchase of a monitor.

TI TIPS AND TRICKS

By Member Bill Gaskill - Grand Junction, CO.

Have you ever accidently erased a program line in an XB program you were editing? If it does happen to you, you can recover the entire line by simply forcing a syntax error before moving from the line that was erased. For example, after I realize that I have hit Function 3 (ERASE) accidently, or did it intentionally but on the wrong line of code, I simply put in a single quote mark (Function P) and then press <ENTER>. The single quote causes a SYNTAX ERROR message to be displayed and the accidently erased line reappears because the changes made to it were not syntactically correct, thus not acceptable by the XB line editor.

Ever want to have some arrows included in you Basic or XBasic program? Try these;

```
Right arrow: CALL CHAR(###,"080C0EFFFF0E0C08")
Left arrow : CALL CHAR(###,"10307OFFFF703010")
Up arrow : CALL CHAR(###,"183C7EFF181818:8")
Down arrow : CALL CHAR(###,"18181818FF7E3C18")
Back arrow : CALL CHAR(###,"02022262FEFE6020")
```

or how about a new copyright symbol?

```
Copyright : CALL CHAR(###,"7E81BDA1A1BD81:7E")
```

If you are an owner of the Triton/MG Super Extended Basic module you will probably appreciate knowing that SXB has a marvelous feature in it called CALL RUNPROG. The instructions on it are tucked away on page 14 of the SXB appendix to the manual that comes with the module. The information is only a single paragraph long and it gives you the format for using the statement; CALL RUNPROG(device name, program name). What it does not tell you is that CALL RUNPROG will also RUN variables.

For example, if you designed a short program to define names for a menu the names could be saved in an array, NAME$() for instance. The CALL RUNPROG command could be used to RUN NAME$(1) or whatever as long as the variables in NAME$() translate to DSK#.PROGRAM, where the pound sign is the number of the disk drive to access and PROGRAM is the name of the program you want to RUN.

Did you ever get frustrated with the pre-set budget categories in

TI's Household Budget Management module? It's not bad enough that the program limits you to only 34 accounts, too often the ones they have don't fit your situation. Well, there's some hope. If you have GramKracker and 32K memory you can use the memory editor to change the categories to say anything that you want.

While you are still limited to the number of spaces that each existing account description contains, you can pick out any of them or all of them for editing. Then when you boot up the program in GK you get the accounts that YOU want, instead of having to settle for what TI gave you. Here's how it's done.

1. Load your HBM program into into GK and then select 1 for GramKracker.

2. When the menu appears press 5 to Edit Memory.

3. When the memory editor window appears press Fctn 1 to go to the Grom/Gram window.

4. Press Fctn zero for to enable basic bias or you will not be able to see the text for the category descriptions.

5. Type the numbers 8FAA so the address changes to g8FFA. The beginning of the category text will appear.

6. Flip the Write/Protect switch to Bank 1 or 2.

7. Press Fctn 9 to enter the edit window and then use the arrow to move to the categories you want to change.

8. Make the desired changes by simply typing over the names that are there. Make sure that you retain the original number of spaces used by the orininal description.

9. When you are done with the changes press Fctn 9 to exit the memory edit window and then Control = to exit the memory editor.

10. When the GK menu returns press 2 to save the module with the changes made. That's it!... Bill Gaskill

PRINTHEAD CLEANING

From the LONG ISLAND T I 99er USER GROUP, JAN. 1988
by Chuch Reinhart

It takes only three things to get good, dark, crisp print from your printer.

1. A properly adjusted printer.
2. A good ribbon.
3. A clean print head.

The guide for the fine print wires gradually gets clogged with a mixture of lint, ink and oils from the ribbon. As this dirt

builds up and dries out, the pin wires drag in the guide. The result is you get light, low- contrast print even from a new ribbon. The following is a procedure for clearing the print head that is quick, simple and does not require removal of the print head.

Obtain an aerosol can of Color TV Tuner Cleaner (Radio Shack # 64-2320 or equivalent). Make sure that the label states that it contains silicone, that it will not harm plastic and that it has a plastic tube to plug into the spray nozzle.

Power off the printer. Leave paper in the printer, but remove the ribbon. Gently move the print head to the middle of the carriage.

Cut a two inch square from a lint- free cotton handkerchief. Fold the cut cloth over on top of itself a few times until it is about the width of your printer ribbon and is about four layers.

Insert the cloth into the print head exactly where the ribbon was, between the pin guide and the ribbon shield. The cloth should not fit too tight.

Insert the tube into the aerosol spray cap. Put the end of the tube in contact with the cloth next to the pin guide of the print head and give a short quick press to wet the cloth.

Turn on the printer and send a page of print to the printer (self test can be used). Now move the cloth a little to the side so that you have a clean spot. If necessary give the cloth another shot of fluid and print another page.

Remove the cloth from the print head and print a page (without the ribbon). If you see any printing on the paper, put the cloth back into the print head and repeat the whole process untill the page prints clean.

Finally, install the ribbon and enjoy the improved print.

PICTURE- IT

Article taken from Topics - L. A. 99ers Jan., 1988

Software Review by Steve Mehr.

What? You've never heard of ITSOFT? Maker of some of the finest software for the TI? I simply can't picture it (Sorry Rodger). Well, does the name Rodger Merritt strike a familiar note? (I can list that program in three tokens)! Enough foolishness! In an article highlighting the events of the 99'Fest-West '87 held last May in Los Angeles, Peter Hoddie described Print-It, Rodgers first in his "IT" software line, as the Fairware alter- native to Font Writer.

Picture-It companions Print-It beautifully with a wealth of features designed for use with TI Artist instances. Picture-It contains these features: BANNERS; converts TI Artist instances to

be included in your banners, converts TI Artist fonts to be used in your banners as text! Much more! VIEW INSTANCES; converts TI Artist instances to view on screen in either character or sprite mode. Character mode allows saving instance in merge format to create an XB program! Sprite mode allows saving an instance inmerge format to allow use of CALL LOAD's included with Picture-It, to move entire instance at once! Create that 112 character space ship and slooly move it across the screen! (How's that Orsen Wells)? Much more! TI-WRITER; this is where Picture-It really excells inperFormance and usefull- ness! Converts instances so they can be output through the TI- Writer formatter! The possibilities are endless! Create that graphic letterhead, use the include file option of the formatter to include your document, etc. Much more! CATALOG; Several catalog options including a catalog sorted by file types created and used by Picture-It. Similar to the catalog option of TI- Artist. The title screen of Picture-It is a fine example of what a creative mind can do with the program. With MAX-RLE (not included, but available in the public domain) you can tap the wealth of graphic art from many other sources and convert it for use with Picture-It. Now for the best part. (The best part? Ithought all THAT was the best part! Shhh! I think he's gonna' tell us how much it costs). This complete graphics package can be yours for only $10.00! That's right. To recieve your copy right from the author (the only way to get it) send $10.00 to Rodger at his address below. You'll be glad you did!

Rodger Merritt
1949 Evergreen Ave.
Fullerton, Ca., 92635
(714)-990-4577

NEAT PROGRAMS

From the SMAUG/99 NEWSLETTER, MOBILE , ALABAMA ; APRIL 1988

SPICE UP YOUR CALL KEY ROUTINES
by Ollie Herbert

How about a bouncing question mark for a prompt? As listed below, this mini- program will demonstrate the idea with only a little typing on your part. If you like it, incorporate the procedure into your own programs. For those of you who are really lazy, get a copy of QUESTION/P QUESTION/Q ard QUESTION/R from George Smith. Tell him to look for them on the April newsletter disk. Extended Basic is required. The subroutine at 10000 must be setup with statement 150.

```
150 DISPLAY ERASE ALL::CALL CHARPAT(63,C$)::CALL
CHAR(64,SEG$(C$,3,14))

300 DISPLAY AT(4,3):"SELECT FROM THESE ITEMS:"::FOR I=1 TO 4::
DISPLAY AT(I*2+7,8):CHR$(I+64);": PROCESS #";CHR$(I+48)::NEXT I

310 DISPLAY AT(17,8)BEEP:"E: QUIT": : : :" YOUR CHOICE (A-E) ?"
::GOSUB 10000::ON X-64 GOTO 1000,2000,3000,4000,5000
```

```
1000 PRINT X-64::GOTO 5000

2000 PRINT X-64::GOTO 5000

3000 PRINT X-64::GOTO 5000

4000 PRINT X-64::GOTO 5000

5000 END

10000 Z=64+(Z=64)::DISPLAY AT(21,24):CHR$(Z)::CALL KEY(3,X,Y)::IF
Y=0 THEN 10000

10010 IF X<65 OR X>69 THEN CALL SOUND(200,220,0)::GOTO 10000 ELSE
CALL SOUND(200,1400,0)::DISPLAY AT(21,24):CHR$(X)::RETURN
```

How about alternating the color of the question mark? Only two of the above statements need to be changed:

In line 150, change the CALL CHAR to CALL COLOR(14,12,1)::CALL CHAR(143,C$)

In 10000, change the Z= to Z=143+80*(Z=143) fuses char 143 vice char 64).

Let's try both bounce and color. Use the second version, and: In 150, change the CALL CHAR to CALL CHAR(143,SEG$(C$,3,14))

Personally, I don't care for this one -- it is shown merely for completeness. To me, the first version gives the most pleasing effect.

Here is another neat program.

LEHIGH 99'ER , MARCH 1988

From Chick DeMarti : LA 99'er : TOPICS column
From several User Group Newsletters .

```
100 CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREEN(5)

110  !the next line is the heart of the routine and is all that is
needed.

120 FOR I=65 TO 98 :: CALL CHARPAT(I,A$):: CALL CHAR(I+32,A$)::
    NEXT I

130 FOR I=1 TO 8 :: CALL COLOR(I,16,5):: NEXT I

140 FOR I=9 TO 12 :: CALL COLOR(I,5,16):: NEXT I

150 A$="INVERSE VIDEO"

160 B$="inverse video"

170 DISPLAY AT(11,7):A$ :: FOR I=1 TO 50 :: NEXT I :: DISPLAY AT
    (11,7):B$ :: FOR I=1 TO 50 :: NEXT I :: GOTO 170
```


Here is yet another neat program.

From the LEHIGH 99'ER : MARCH 1988

From Chick DeMarti : LA 99'er : TOPICS column
From several User Group Newsletters .

For the Pudget Sound 99'er, this routine will create an interesting title by pulling text from all directions.

```
100 REM
110 REM ** YOUR PROGRAM HERE**
120 REM
130 CALL CLEAR
140 CALL FLC"FIRST LINE OF TEXT",5)
150 CALL FLC"SECOND LINE",7)
160 CALL FLC"THIRD LINE OF TEXT",9)
170 REM
180 REM
190 REM
2000 SUB FLC(A$,L):: W=15-INT(LEN(A$)/2):: RANDOMIZE
2010 FOR N=1 TO LEN(A$):: F=1500
2020 G=ASC(SEG$(A$,N,1)):: IF G=32 THEN 2130
2030 IF N/2<>INT(N/2)THEN 2060
2040 C=INT(32*RND):: IF R>1 THEN R=INT(RND*2)ELSE R=INT(24*RND)
2050 GOTO 2070
2060 R=INT(24*RND):: IF R>1 THEN C=INT(RND*2)ELSE C=INT(32*RND)
2070 IF R=0 THEN R=24
2080 IF C=0 THEN C=32
2090 CALL SPRITE(#1,G,2,1+(R-1)*8,1+(C-1)*8,(L-R)*4,(W+N-C)*4)
2100 CALL COINC(#1,(L-1)*8+1,(W+N-1)*8,48,0)
2110 CALL SOUND(-100,F,10):: F=F-125 :: IF D=0 THEN 2100
2120 CALL DELSPRITE(#1):: CALL HCHAR(L,W+N,G)
2130 NEXT N :: SUBEND
```

Thanks to Marshall Ellis for typing in the above programs for the newsletter. The programs are very interesting so I would suggest typing them in for some very interesting results! The programs run in Extended BASIC.

GBS UTILITY

GBS is a sector editor utility. It will enable one to do things such as view the contents of a "PRBASE" file that can only be read and copied by the copier program that is on the diskette on which it comes. I have been working on a Bible search database using PRBASE for the past few weeks and I discovered that GBS could be used to insert spaces into the file created by PRBASE, remove any blank screens and also copy the PREASE file to another disk.

To insert a record:
01: Select sector operations.
02: Locate screen before which the new record is to be inserted.
03: Note beginning and ending sector numbers.
04: Write them down.
05: Return to menu.

06: Enter beginnirg and ending sector numbers for source disk.
07: Increment beginning sector number by one.
08: Enter beginning for target disk.
09: Press F6 (PROCEED).
10: Follow the prompts.
11: Press F9 (BACK) when finished.

To remove a record:
01: Select sector operations option
02: Locate sector to be removed
03: Note the beginning and ending sector numbers
04: Write the sector numbers down
05: Return to menu
06: Select copier
07: Decrement beginning and ending sector numbers by one.
08: Enter beginning and ending sector numbers for source disk.
09: Enter beginning sector number for target disk.
10: Press F6 (PROCEED) and follow the prompt instructions.
11: Follow the prompts.
12: Press F9 (BACK) when finished.

To copy a disk:
01: Select copier option from menu.
02: Enter beginning and ending sector numbers.
03: Press F6 (PROCEED) and follow the prompt instructions.
04: Follow the prompts.
05: Press F9 (BACK) when finished.

GBS will be demonsrated at this months meeting...Lynn Crow

DISK UTILITIES

Disk Utilities by John Birdwell is a program I have used frequently since I got it. I have found it saves a lot of time because you can move files to another disk without having to copy and go back and delete the file(s) etc... Also you can give the target file a different name when you copy or move.

Another good quality of Disk Utilities is date stamping. This enables the user to determine when they obtained or copies some software if they are in doubt. Of course, there are many other features and utilities in the Disk Utilities package. I would urge one to obtain Disk Utilities from the library if they haven't done so already. It will be a welcome addition to your software library. This utilities package will be demonstated at this months meeting... Ed Walton.

NOTICE

Information contained in TidBits is accurate and true to best of our knowledge. Viewpoints and opinions expressed in TidBits are not necessarily that of the Mid-South 99'ers. We welcome any opinions/corrections from our readers. Articles may be reprinted elsewhere as long as credit is given to the author and newsletter.

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Visitors and potential members may receive 3 free issues of TiDbits while they decide if they wish to join (no obligation). On the top of your lable is a code. An Y means you are a member, N means 3 free list, UG means user group and S means a business. Beside the Y is a date, one year from that date your dues are due. A dollar sign ($) on the label will indicate that your dues are due. The library is open only to FULL ($15) members. Library list is $1. Mail order disk library access is $2 per disk max of 5 disks per month order by disk number only. At meetings library access is FREE if you exchange your disk for ours or $1 per disk for our disks. Send all mail order library requests to librarian's address! Send dues and correspondance to group address.

CALENDAR

MEETINGS: June 16, July 21, August 18 (3rd Thursday!)
WORKSHOPS: June 25, July 23, August 27 (4th Saturday!)
c99 CLASS: Every Thursday except meeting night, location TBA.

OFFICERS

Mac Swope	PRESIDENT	901-363-3880
Richard Miller	VICE-PRESIDENT	901-794-9945
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GROUP MAILING ADDRESS

Mid-South 99 Users Group
P.O. Box 38522
Germantown, Tn. 38183-0522

LIBRARY ADDRESS

David Ferguson
3377 Creighton Ave.
Memphis, TN 38118