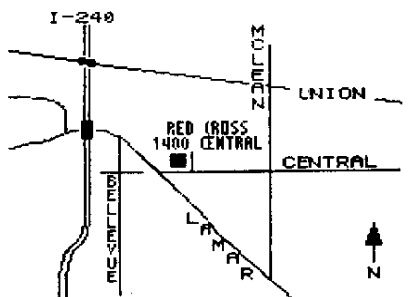## NOTICES

MEETING
7:00 P.M.
Thursday, SEP 19 th
Red Cross Building
1400 Central Ave.

WORKSHOP

To Be Announced
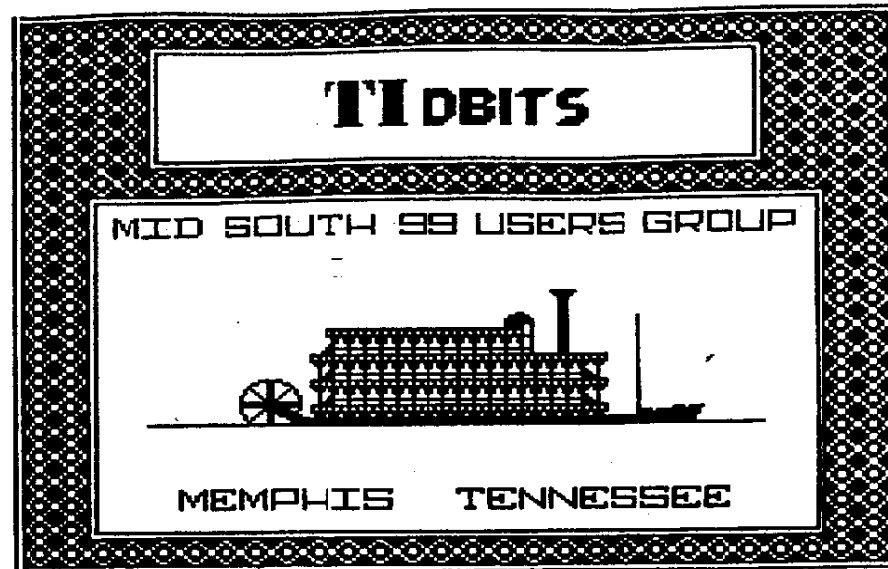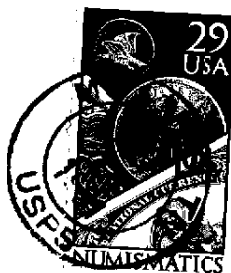

Mid-South 99 Users Group
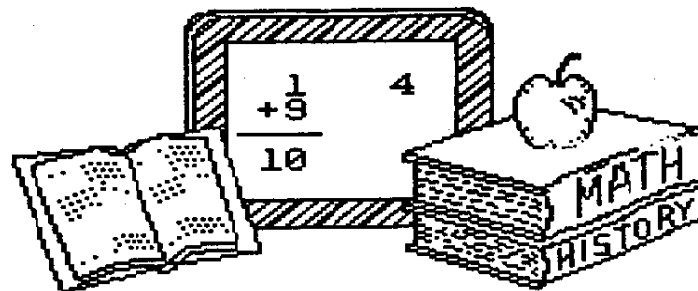P. O. Box 38522
Germantown, TN 38183-0522

UG 2/86
DALLAS TI USER GROUP
P.O. BOX 29863
DALLAS, TX 75229

FIRST CLASS MAIL

TIDBITS

MID SOUTH 99 USERS GROUP

MEMPHIS   TENNESSEE

1991

SEPTEMBER

Newsletter of the MID-SOUTH 99 USERS GROUP-Vol 9, #9-SEP 1991

TIDBITS

OFFICERS

Gary Cox	PRESIDENT	901-358-0667
Richard Miller	VICE-PRESIDENT	901-794-9945
Beery Miller	SECRETARY	901-368-1169
Bob Jones	TREASURER	901-363-9213
Jim Saemenes	Technical Support	901-476-7011
Jim Saemenes	Disk Librarian	901-476-7011
Pierre Lamontagne	CO-Librarian	901-386-1513
Gary Cox	Program Chairman	901-358-0667
Mac Swope	Chairman - Equipment	901-363-3880
Marshal Ellis	Editor - TIDBITS Newsletter	901-327-2506
Marshal Ellis	Editor-Technical Interface	901-327-2506
Beery Miller	9640 NEWS BBS Sysop	901-368-0112

SEPTEMBER 1991 INDEX

PRESIDENTS BIT
--- by Gary W. Cox

The BIG computer fair is rapidly approaching! The computer fair is set for September 28th from 10am until 5pm in the Fulton Building at State Tech. In the past month we have had the addition of the Unix users group join in the fair so we now have scheduled to appear: Home Computer Users Group (HUG), Memphis PC Users Group Inc., Atari Systems Hobbyists, POSSM, Mid-South TI99/4a Users Group, Memphis Amiga Users Group, Memphis Commodore Users Group, Apple Core of Memphis, Memphis Color Computer Users Group and the Unix computer users group.

The way the event is set up the various user groups will be set up in the different rooms in the Fulton building carrying on demonstrations through out the day while scheduled demonstrations will be held in the Fulton Auditorium. A massive advertising campaign will soon begin as well as a variety of prizes and free handouts to be given away at the fair. It will certainly be an event that you will not want to miss!

Our TI user group will be located in room 118 'in the Fulton Building with is on the right side of the building as you walk in. The Fulton Building itself is located about half way down the parking lot. We will be needing people to help out at the fair, at the very least just someone to watch the equipment and greet people as they come in. We will also need people to bring equipment, just whatever they can. If you can help out by bringing equipment or just to help out by being there please see me at the meeting, leave me a message on the 9640 news BBS or call me.

Beery Miller of 9640 News is expected to be there setup with a Geneve and we should have many other TI systems setup and possibly a MIDI interface setup and running on the TI... Furthermore, we should have catalogs and flyers from various TI suppliers to give out. The fair will also serve as our Saturday TI workshop so if you have any broken equipment that needs repair bring it to the fair as well as bring any questions that you may have.

If you come to the fair please be sure to sign the membership roster as there may be something special for those who show up....

All those interested in Beery Millers monthly assembly language programming class should arrive at the meeting by 6:30pm, the assembly language programming class will be held in the cafeteria before the main meeting.

The Chicago TI Faire is close at hand scheduled for November 1st and 2nd in Chicago Illinois. It is expected that Beery Miller, Mac Swope, Jim Saemenes, Richard Miller and myself will be attending. If you are thinking of attending please let me know at this months meeting so I can include you in trip plans...

C ya at the fair!

IN THE NEWS

-- By Gary W. Cox

The Chicago TI International Worlds Faire is scheduled for November 1st and 2nd in Elke Grove Holiday Inn in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. For further information contact the Chicago TI Users Group at P.O. Box 578341, Chicago, IL 60657.

Edited from the August 1991 Micropendium:

Barry Boone has a pair of programs that produce incredible sound on the TI99/4a and Geneve. One program is used to convert digitized sound from PC format to a TI/Geneve format. The second program plays the sound on the TI and Geneve. The Geneve will handle files up to 2 megabytes long with a Memex card. Using high-resolution playback, a file this long will last about five minutes.

The sounds that come through the TI are incredibly realistic, whether the sound be music or voice. Barry said that the sounds are better on the TI and Geneve than on PC's. Texaments will be handling the program which is tentatively prices at $14.95. It is expected to be available in mid October.

How does it work? The program loads the sound chip in the TI and Geneve with one frequency and then modulates the volume (this is not what TI recommended when using its sound chip, but it works). The results are realistic and compelling. He used digitizing equipment from a PC to generate rad digitized files and then translated the files for use with the TI and Geneve. the program, called Sound F/X, will come with the playback software and a collection of sounds.

The Hunter Valley 99ers Users Group of New South Wales, disbanded June 25, 1991. Reasons given for disbanding include lack of members willing to participate on committees, absence of contributions to the groups newsletter and the lack of programs available locally for the TI.

A group of 20 TI users in France has prepared its fifth newsletter on disk. According to Pierre Delfort of the group, the newsletter contains announcements, idea exchanges and programs in Extended BASIC or Editor/Assembler. "We have a fabulous assembler programmer," Delfort comments. He says the group works with English, Belgian and German users groups. To receive the disk news, send one double-sided or two single-sided disks with postage (buy international reply coupons at the post office) to Delfort at 7 allee de la pinede, 30200 Bagnols/ceze, France.

That's the news for this month....

FROM THE TEACHER'S DESK

--- by Dave Howell
Erie 99er User Group , Erie, Pa. , May 1991

Over the years, you've read much about the virtues of computers in schools - much of it in this Newsletter. Therefore, it is only fair to view the other side of the coin. To do this, I've selected comments found in a recent issue of SCHOOL TECH NEWS entitled:

"WHAT THE CRITICS ARE SAYING ABOUT COMPUTERS IN EDUCATION"
Are we spending too much money on computers in school? Sometimes we are, says Michael Wessells, Professor of Psychology at Randolph MAcon in Ashland, Va.
Wessells thinks computers are used too often for "electronic page-turning" - presenting lengthy texts that could be handled just as well in book form - and for displaying "electronic flashcards" in learning languages. He thinks the money spent on such seemingly misguided use of computers in the classroom might be used more wisely by allocating costly computer time for 'richer, more satisfying, more interactive activities that use the power of the computer" to better advantages. Wessells says he is neither skeptical nor "starry-eyed" where computers are concerned. He sees his job as "encouraging people to ask hard questions" about computers, especially computers in school.
Computers have a significant place in education and a great contribution to make there, Wessells says. But as with other technologies, such as educational television, "naive idealism" tends to make some people "see computers as the salvation of education," he points out. "I don't think they are."
Setting priorities for computer education is important in this age of fast-evolving technologies, Wessells says. What goals should schools aim for to make every student capable of using a state-of-the-art computer? Programming is less important in the curriculum now, but schools still struggle with the issue of what to teach about computers, he adds.
Another aspect of computer education that concerns Wessells is "the social context of computers in education," as he puts it. Consider gender inequities, for example. At early ages (up to third grade or so), boys and girls use computers about equally. Then a divergence appears: boys start using computers more, while girls use computers less. This divergence reflects the emphasis and expectation of a culture that treats computers as a masculine domain, Wessells says.
Class inequities are a problem too, Wessells goes on. Using sixth-graders as a case in point, Wessells says that computer use at school is porportional to computer use at home - so that children from middle-class and upper-class households enter the computing environment at school with an advantage over low-class children who have less opportunity to use computers at home.
Schools in areas where lower-class children predominate, find that students use computers less frequently and in less productive ways than in schools serving more affluent communities. This is some way computers "can be used to reinforce the dominate social order," Wessell says.

This last observation of Wessells is precisely why I load computers to my computer students whose families cannot afford their own. I credit the ERIE 99'ers User Group for making this possible.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
--------------------------------by Richard Lumpkin
Houston User Group   August, 1990

The following article is compiled from source : # 3. Fred and Amy Mackey, Pittsburg U/G, Feb 87, series. Note: Editors comments/additions/changes are in [.....]

Fred and Amy Macky : part two: a guide to buying
MODEMS AND HOW TO HOOK THEM UP:
-------------------------------------- by Fred & Amy Mackey

When buying a modem there are five basic features you should look for, which are as follows: 1. DIRECT CONNECT ** - which means it plugs directly into a modular telephone jack, eliminating all outside noise. The other type is the acoustic modem, the only advantage to it being that it can be used with any standard phone headset, even if a modular jack is not used on that phone hookup [as it often is NOT in motels, real old homes, etc.] (Note* - if your home does not have modular jacks, you can purchase an adapter to make the conversion for about $5.00).

2. BAUD (speed) RATING - This is how fast the m,odem can send and recieve data. A 1200 BPS modem is four times quicker than a 300 BPS modem, but costs about [4] times as much. (Note * - although you can recieve information four times faster, Compuserve and most "databases" charge extra at this speed.)

(Ed. NOTE: Note also, that ALL higher speed modems can be used at the lower speeds, and most either have a "speed switch" or the case or can be commanded to the desired speed by software Commands. Many will switch automatically to match the "answering modem" speed, and the 2400 and higher modems will usually also automatically switch to a lower speed if line conditions do not support the high speed transmission. This is because 2400 BPS and 4800 BPS modems actually exceed the limitations of noise and jitter for many phone lines. This is also why all 4800 BPS and above modems (and some 2400 BPS units include "error checking/correction" circuitry, which senses when the line will not support those speeds. Note also when the modems for 1200 BPS are ALL for Bell Standard 212A, as are the ones for 2400 BPS, sort of. (Bell Standard 212A does not recognize the possibility of 2400 BPS operations!) But at 4800 BPS there are several, non-matching standards, as there are at 9600 and 19200 BPS, therefore at those speeds the modem often must be connected to another modem from the same manufacturer in order to work. I tend to digress -- sorry. Ed)]

Prices currently (Oct. '88) are running : 300 Baud - $25 (used only, no longer being made); 1200 BPS - $75 to $150 for good, "Hayes Compatible" direct-connects; 2400 BPS modems are about $150 up; and 4800 BPS units are $300 to $750. Ed]

3. AUTO ORIGINATE (Dial) ** - This feature causes the modem to dial the number you have entered from the computer keyboard, as opposed to you dialing the phone yourself. (Note * - The real advantage to this is that the modem will also have

the ability to keep trying the number if it is busy, which frees you up from dialing over and over.)

4. AUTO ANSWER ** - THis feature is necessary if you want to have the ability to recieve calls via your computer. (Note * - If you want to set up your own BBS, then this feature is a must.)

[Ed. NOTE - All modems can be used to 'originate' calls; MANY can be set to 'answer' manually or automatically and so act as a 'host' terminal -- so long as one modem is in the 'answer' mode and the other is in the 'originate' mode on the same speed, they can make the connection, MODEM TO MODEM.]

5. FULL DUPLEX ** - This is the ability to send and recieve signals at the same time. Simply put, the database computer is constantly asking your computer if it is readym and your machine is constantly responding "yes". Without full duplex, there would be a line turnaround delay between each question and answer. (Note * - Full Duplex can be compared to having a conversation on a telephone , as opposed to Half Duplex which can be compared to having a conversation on a CB radio).

[Ed. NOTE: the items above marked ** are art of the standard features of the "Hayes (tm) Compatible" modems, along with the standard set of :"Hayes Commands" used by the computer to direct the activities of the modem, and the standard hookup connections ocnfiguration. A;most ALL 1200 BPS modems claim Hayes compatibility -- and they ARE, to the extent needed by any TI applications. Some if the more exotic features and command are only of use with highly specialized software (usually fir hte IBM) and for special installations such as amateur radio repeatr hook-ups, and these features are sometimes MISSING in some of the "Hayes compatible" units. Also and obviously, some modems just plain WORK better than others, given equal line noise, etc. Best advice is to find somone who can give an actual 'I used it' summary or review of the unit before you buy.Please note that all the newer 1988 models of 1200 BPS modems are substantially BETTER in performance and features that the ones of just a year or so ago, and a lot CHEAPER, due top technology advances, but prices probably won't go down much more since chips are going UP.]

Any modem [Well, almost any EXTERNAL modems] can be used with any communicating computer. However, serial cards (and software packages) are designed for specific computers. To hook up the modem, you need to have a serial card [port]. THe job of the srial card, simply put, is to take the internal language of your computer, which is spoken in 8 bit "words" [bytes] and send the "words" out of the ocmputer to the modem ONE BIT AT A TIME, instead of 8 at a time ("serial" for transmitting bits individually in a series, and "parallel" for trnasmitting bits in parallel, 8 bits at a time).

[Ed. NOTE: serial ports are pretty universally 8-bit data, regardless of the internal "size" of the processor. Another form of "dedicated" modem is the "internal" unit, designed to plug directly into the "bus" of a particular type of computer, such as the IBM clones or Apples].

There will be a "port" or plug on the serial card, and a port on the modem. Now, just because yuou bought a modem, that doesn't it comes with a cable to connect it to the serial card in your computer! [Or that the cable it came with will WORK, or

even PLUG INTO the port!. In fact, the 99/4A is cable incompatible with stadnard RS-232 cables for modems. HOWEVER, a standard DB-25 male to male "Null Modem" cable usually makes a perfect ":modem cable" to hook up the TI RS-232 to a Hayes nodem. Ed.]
[end Mackey excerpts]

RAMBLES
---------------------------------------by Stephen Shaw
East Anglia 99   August, 1990

Welcome to another Rambles, which includes bits and pieces for all owners. Even a bit that at first sight you may feel is not appropriate to you is still worth a quick scan.....

Mark Wills in interested in hearing from all our members to find out WHY they still use such a vintage computer. Me first:

Way, way back, when I first thought of buying a computer, I had a very good think about what I wanted one for, what I might need one for, and so on, prioritising everything. There was only one choice then available- the TI-99/4, which at that time had not yet besen released in a UK version! I waited for the UK version, and bought a fully expanded system - one of my prime uses was for data, and I saw no future in trying to use a cassette for data!

Many years later, looking back to my original requirement, I still find the TI-99/4A (now with an A) to be the best suited to my requirements -

* A friendly operating system.
* Good educational software.
* Very rugged construction.
* Good choice of languages to learn and use.
* Capable of everything I want! In games and utilities.

The competition is actually very thin on the ground in 1990 - Atari ST, Amiga and PC seems to be about if. The PC in many ways would be a retrograde step, and the ST and Amiga require a dedicated monitor for worthwhile results, and are no means so friendly or easy to program as the TI.

I really do not fancy trying to write a 500k program, or prepare 256 colors graphics! And a slow machine with limited RAM makes you learn to program effectively, to do in 16k what other people might take 200k for!

I have a stack of things still to do with this vintage computer, books to read, programs to convert or write, languages to learn and experiment with, many commercial utilities to come to grips with. About another twenty years worth I guess...

Why move on to fresh pastures when this one still has so much to offer!

TERMINOLOGY AT THE HEARTBEAT
-- by Chip Chapman
Nittany 99
April, 1990

During the last month or so, I have been spending my time in the nation's capital (the nation's 'kinder and gentler' Heartbeat) and, while some things are exactly as you would expect, some things are just that little bit different. When I ran across some computer terminology definitions in a U. S. Government publication, I just knew that they were going to clear up any old confusions that might have crept into our non-official lingo over the years. I was just a teensy bit worried that the definitions might not relate to the TI, it being an orphan an' all, but shucks, it all fit in just as fine as frog hair. Them Gub'nent folks has really got it together. Why, I'll even be able to join in when my friends with IBM's talk about using those AUTOEXEC.BATs. Anyhow, here's some of the latest definitions makng the rounds in the DC area.

Advanced User : A person who has managed to remove a computer from it's packing materials.

Power User : A person who has mastered the brightness and contrast controls on any computer's monitor.

American-Made : Assembled in America from parts made abroad.

Alpha Test Version : Too buggy to be released to the paying public.

Beta Test Version : Still too buggy to be released.

Release Version : An alternate pronounciation of "Beta test version".

Sales Manager : Last week's new sales associate.

Consultant : A former sales associate who has mastered at least one-tenth of the dBase III manual.

Systems Integrator : A former consultant who understands the term AUTOEXEC.BAT.

AUTOEXEC.BAT : A sturdy aluminum or wooden shaft used to coax AT hard disks into performing.

Backup: The duplicate copy of crucial data that no one bothered to make; used only in an absract sense.

Clone : One of the many advanced-technology computers IBM is beginning to wish it had built.

Convertable : Transformable from a second-rate computer to a first-rate doorstop or paperweight. [Lexical note: replaces the term "junior."]

Copy Protection : A clever method of preventing incompetent pirates from stealing software and legitimate customers from using it.

Database Manager : A program that allows users to manipulate data in every conceivable way except the absolutey essential way they conceive of the day after entering 20M of raw information.

EMS :Emergency Medical Service : often summoned in cases of apoplexy induced by attempts to understand extended, expanded or enhanced memory specifications.

Encryption : A powerful algorithmic encoding technique employed in the creation of computer models.

FCC-Certified: Guaranteed not to interfere with radio or television reception untill you add the cable that is required to make it work.

Hard disk : A device that alows users to delete vast quantities of data with simple mnemonic commands.

Integrated Software : A single product that deftly performs hundreds of functions the user never needs and awkwardly performs the half-dozen he uses constantly.

Laptop : Smaller and lighter than the average breadbox.

Multitasking : A clever method of simultaneously slowing down the multitude of computer programs that insisted on running too fast.

Network: An electronic means of allowing more than one person at a time to corrupt, tash or otherwise cause permanent damage to useful information.

Portable : Smaller and lighter than the average refrigerator.

Support : The mailing of advertising literature to customers who have returned a registration card.

Transportable : Neither chained to a wall nor attached to an alarm system.

Printer : An electromechanical paper-shredding device.

Spreadsheet : A program that gives the user quick and easy access to a wide variety of highly detailed reports based on highly inaccurate assumptions.

Thought Processor : An electronic version of the intended outline procedure that thinking people instantly abandon upon graduation from high school.

Upgraded : Didn't work the first time.

User Friendly : Supplied with a full-color manual.

Very User Friendly : Supplied with a disk an audiotape so the user need not bother with the full-color manual.

Version 1.0 : Buggier than Maine in June; eats data.

Version 1.1 : Eats data only occassionally; upgrade is free, to avoid litigation by disgruntled users of Version 1.0.

Version 2.0 : The version originally planned as the first release, except for a couple of data-eating bugs that just won't seem to go away; no free upgrades or the company would go bankrupt.

Version 3.0 : The revision in the works when the company goes bankrupt.

Videotext : A moribund electronic service offering people the privelege of paying to read the weather on thier television screens instead of having Willard Scott read it to them free while they brush their teeth.

Warranty : Disclaimer.

Workstation : A computer or terminal slavishly linked to a mainframe that does not offer game programs.

That's all folks. This came from MICROCOMPUTING, government computer news, who credited the WIC Connection, the newsletter of the EPA's Washington Information Center. The WIC obtained it from an EPA employee who picked up a copy in New Hampshire. And guess what - the author or authors are unknown.

A "CALL KEY" SCREEN SAVER

-- by Glenn Bernasek

TI-CHIPS, Cleveland, Ohio, December, 1989

The TI-99/4A has a screen saving ROM sub-program that will shut down signals to the CRT in the event that a screen display has become stationary for an extended period of time (10 minutes). This situation is usually brought on through a BREAK, STOP, END, INPUT, LINPUT or ACCEPT AT statements which will suspend program operations. The purpose of this routine is to prevent image burn-in on the CRT, resulting in the faint ghost like images that seem to bleed through active displays on older TV's and monitors.

However the TI, as well as other PC's, do not have screen protection against extended image display times resulting from waiting for un-suspended keyboard input to a CALL KEY statement. In this case, the image will remain active on the CRT so long as a key is not pressed. This can result in "Image Burn-In" just as easily as the suspended program.

With this in mind, I wrote the following Extended Basic routine called S/SAVER. This is a mergeable subroutine that is saved as: DSKn.S/SAVER, MERGE.

Just load your old program, and then type in: MERGE DSKn. S/SAVER. All that's left to do is to (insert the CALL KEY line modification) as described below, replace 'aaa, bbb and ccc' with the appropriate line numbers, and you're in business! (NOTE: the "n" in DSKn is the disk drive number.)

```
20000 FOR ROW=2 TO 17 STEP 5 :: CALL CLEAR [::
      RANDOMIZE::SCN=INT(RND)+3::CALL SCREEN(SCN)]
      [[This is an OPTIONAL color routine] Don't
      type in the [] or the remarks.
20010 DISPLAY AT(ROW,6): "#####(18 #'s)#####"::
      DISPLAY AT (ROW+1,6):"#   (16 spaces)   #"::
      DISPLAY AT(ROW+2,6) :"#   SCREEN SAVER  #"
20020 DISPLAY AT(ROW+3,6):"# PRESS: <ENTER> #"::
      DISPLAY AT (ROW+4,6):"#   (16 spaces)   #"::
      DISPLAY AT (ROW+5,6):"#####(18 #'s)#####"
20030 FOR WAIT=1 TO 250 :: CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF
      S=0 AND K<>13 THEN 20040 ELSE COUNT=0 ::
      CALL CLEAR :: RETURN
      !Adjust WAIT (FOR-NEXT) to desired time limit
      (250 = approximately 10 seconds).  Don't type
      in these remarks.
20040 NEXT WAIT :: NEXT ROW :: GOTO 20000
```

(Tidbits Editor's Note: the above listing has been updated from the author's notes and re-tested.)

The following is a "generalized" example to show how the CALL KEY (line insertion) is accomplished.

aaa ![FIRST line of the program's screen display routine.]
    :
    :
    :
    :
bbb CALL KEY(0,K,S)::[COUNT=COUNT+1 :: IF COUNT>

5øøø THEN GOSUB 2øøøø :: GOTO aaa ELSE] IF S=ø
THEN bbb [ELSE COUNT=ø]
](Insert into line.) Adjust COUNT limit to
desired time (5øøø = approximately 4 minutes.)
Don't type in the [ ] or the remarks.
ccc](Continue on with the program operation.)

NOTE: "aaa, bbb, and ccc" represent program line numbers.
Would you like to try a quick test? Then run the following 3-
liner, go to supper (or what ever), and leave the TI running.

1øø CALL CLEAR :: CALL HCHAR(2,3,42,5øø)
11ø CALL KEY(ø,K,S):: IF S=ø THEN 11ø
12ø END

Now install the SCREEN SAVER modification, run it again and
see what happens. How about that!

CHATTERBOX - VI
-- by Bob Buehler
----
from the pages of K-Town 99er newsletter, August, 1991

On 6/29/91 I again telephoned Jack Sughrue, on weekend
rates, of course. I was curious about his health and future
plans. The news was good. There's only one more operation
left, believed to be a minor one. Now he is preparing for a job
change: A different school and third grade instead of fifth.
It's been a long, tough 2+ years since his May 8, 1989
aaccident. Cheers to Jack from PLUS! ers like me, and I'm sure,
many others!
Jack plans continued integration of the computer into the
class room, and hear this: Some of my old Kinder Korner stuff
will be put to use. If you remember, I aimed the earliest KK
columns to grade school level. This was for computer beginners
in K-Town 99ers who complained that our Newsletters and
demonstrations were beyond their understanding.
Kinder Korner came too late in K-Town. The exodus of
newcomers was already too strong. Now, by golly, it may find a
useful place in primary education, way up in Massachusets.
Hail!!!
Would that Chatter Box may do as well.

SOME GOODIES I PROMISED FROM PLUS! V2
Jack packed a bundle into PLUS! Some he programmed, some
he's passing on, and much of the latter are with his
improvement. Either and any way he deserves my thanks for
putting together so much that's so handy.

3/CAT
First in Cataloged order is "3/COL". Granted it's "just" a
DSK Cataloger. But it's different from the usual in ways I
like. 1) It's sized to fit the face of a DSK jacket. This
compaction comes from listing in three columns, using sub- or
superscript, and with close line spacing. Gee, I can read this
with suprising ease even with my failing eyes. I'll likely use
"3/COL" for selected, "permanent" DSKS, either as jacket paste-
on or, prjented on the page to cut and file to make the jacket

itself. 2) "3/COL" names me as the guy who owns the DSK and the
date I orinted the catalog. Big thing here is the date. Too
often I've wondered; not about the chicken- egg hierarchy, but
more simply which computed egg hatched in what order. 3) Of
course "3/COL" gives sector size of each program or file, if
protected, and total sectors and total sectors free. 4) When
you first use "3/COL" enter line 13ø to supply your name and
once a year to supply the current year date. You date also in
line 22ø.

BANNER
Next in PLUS! cataloged order is "Banner", probably little
different from others available. It does print in four sizes on
command, ranging from less than 1" to over 6" high. In nearly
eight years I've needed and printed only two banners, but now I
have a handy program for the next one.

CARD-DOC AND MORE
Now, on PLUS! V2 comes a pitch by Anne Dhein to personalize
your letters with graphics. Graphics would be TI- Artist
INSTANCES converted to TI-Wrtier format. PLUS! includes the
convrt program. Directions are so elabprate and detailed that
even I could likely folow them; and to the point of a
personalized folded greeting card. I didn't try, though. It's
been too many years since I operated TI-Artist and I only
skimmed it's surface then. This greeting card thing rings a
bell. Bill Sheridan demoed one long ago, in color yt. I must
ask Bill if he did it with the earlier version of PLUS!.

"CAT"
PLUS! V2 has yet another DSK cataloger listed simply as
"CAT", operating on drives limited to NOs 1, 2, 3, and 4. It's
unique. By alphabetized lines "CAT" lists programs in a leat
column and files ina right column, and their sector sizes. A
scrolling command line at the bottom offers choices. Type
Letter, Quit, Again, Delete, and Print, PIO. Type Letters run
the program on the letter Line entered. Delete stops the
command scroll and asks if Frogram File is to be deleted, and
then on which letter line it is located. Print reproduces the
screen display in hard copy, including the name Sughrue (untill
you change it to Buehler in Lire 46ø). I'm not sure where and
how I'll use this novelty, but it's sure worth tucking into any
remaining active brain cells; simply to nourish these cells and
keep them alive if for no other reason.

CHARAn
Finally for this issue of Chattter Box, PLUS! V2 has
CHARA3, CHARA4, CHARA5, CHARA6, and CHARA7 choices with
instructions on how to substitute one of them for whatever you
are using in your version of TI-Writer or Funnelweb. (Or Art's
NS/PRINTER). I've not tried these, but Jack Sughrue says he
likes CHARA7 ".... becuase the letters are large and clear and
the carriage returns are invisible."

TAKING CONTROL OF FORMATTER
--- by John Owen
JUG 99'er NEWS

June 1990

OR HOW TO AVOID TI-WRITER
"FF" (Formatter Frustration)

The TI-Writer Formatter automatically "wastes" 5 lines at the top of a page and 3 lines at the bottom. There is no "automatic"way to change this that I know of. If you want to control the blank space at the top and bottom of your pages, use DEFINE PROMPT (.DP) to start and stop your printer using the following steps:

    a. Prepare text in EDITOR In any FORMAT.
    b. Print to DISK in the desired FORMAT.
    c. Change CURSOR to FIXED MODE (CTRL-0). d. Remove LINE FEEDs from formatted file (use Replace String).
    e. Delete (FCTN-3) 6 blank lines and 1 PAGE BREAK for each page.
    f. Add PAGE LENGTH (.PL) formatter code.
    g. Add DEFINE PROMPT (.DP) and SPACE (.SP) formatter codes.
    h. Save to DISK and print it out through the FORMATTER.

This technique gives you ABSOLUTE CONTROL over where you printer STARTS printing and HALTS printing and waits for you to let it continue. NO more "wasted" blank lines and sheets of paper. Try the following:

1. PREPARE TEXT IN EDITOR
I use a 40 column screen to avoid windowing and then print the text to DISK via the Formatter to expand the text to 80 column format. I use the following FORMATTER COMMANDS to PRINT to DISK.

    .FI;LM 8;RM 76

Now load the new DISK file to EDITOR, place the CURSOR in FIXED FORMAT (CTRL-0) and use REPLACE STRING (RS) to quickly remove all "LINES FEEDS" (LF) that are in the new file. T put the LINE FEED symbol in the screen: Hit CTRL-U, SHIFT-J, CTRL-U. Delete 6 blank lines and "BEGIN PAGE" code from each page in text (on screen).

2. SET PAGE LENGTH (.PL)
Add a LARGE page length code as follows: (.PL nnn)
Where "nnn" is about 20 characters higher that the last line of your file. This prevents the FORMATTER from automatically "breaking the page" untill you print the complete file.

3. ADD DEFINE PROMPTS

Before the first line of text add: .DP 1:"SET PAPER"
                      1

To print a page with two blank lines at top and bottom of each page, use the following:

After EACH sixty two lines of text add: .LS 4
After the last line of text, add: .DP 2:"EXIT"
                            2

Save file to DISK

4. PRINT TEXT VIA FORMATTER
The printer will start, skip 5 lines and STOP. The Formatter screen will prompt you to "SET PAPER".
Roll your paper to place the print head 2 lines from the top of the page and HIT ENTER.
The printer will print all pages and STOP. You will be prompted to "EXIT".
To EXIT, Hit FCTN-4, ENTER and you will to EXIT Formatter and return to the TI WRITER MENU.
NOTE: This ARTICLE was printed using this procedure. Note that there are only TWO (2) blank lines at the top and bottom of the first page and two blank lines at the top of the second page. (Isn't it GREAT to be in CONTROL of the FORMATTER!!!)

5. The above procedure will let you print several SHORT FILES (less that a page) without "wasted" space between files. The use of DEFINE PROMPTS before the forst line of text and after the last line of text files lets you determine exactly where your printer will START and STOP for each SHORT FILE! This technique is very good for RECIPE FILES and can be used to print postcards and to address envelopes. You will be prompted to "SET PAPER" before each new SHORT FILE starts printing. For SHORT FILES, you only need to do STEPS (a), (f), (g) and (h) as shown in the first paragraph of this article. Add FORMATTER codes in STEP (a).

6. EXAMPLES
Examples of FORMATTER CODES used to print this article are shown below. STEPS (a) through (h) only take about five minutes after you do it once or twice. It is EASY!!!

    .CO FILE #L
    .PL 140
    .DP 1: SET PAPER *1*
        THIS IS THE FIRST LINE OF TEXT

        THIS IS LINE 62 OF TEXT
    .SP 4
        THIS IS THE FIRST LINE OF PAGE 2

        THIS IS THE LAST LINE OF MY TEXT ON PAGE 2 .DP:EXIT
    2

7. Have FUN and enjoy that feeling of having the FORMATTER under your CONTROL!!! No more "runaway" printers and wasted paper!!! Avoid TI-WRITER "FF" (Formatter Frustration).

TO PRINT OR NOT -
July, 1991 ----------------------- by Marshal H. Ellis
The Multi-Mode Panasonic 1180

Over the years my Gemini 10-X printer began/to show its age. So after five and a half long years, I purchased a new printer. Other reasons were the occasion of my son was needing papers printed for college and my working on the computer club newsletter.

I purchased a KX-P1180 by Panasonic. This is billed as a multi-mode printer, and is a very affordable nine pin printer. The unit's command codes are Epson FX-86e / FX-800 compatible and can be IBM Proprinter II compatible. There are very few code differences to be found from the Gemini type printers. It does italics as well as 13 international character sets and can load new ones.

The printer uses a nine pin printer head and a ribbon cartridge with an inking roller. In Draft Mode the character pattern is 9x9 dot matrix. In Near Letter Qualtiy Mode the dot matrix is 18x18 for COURIER, PRESTIGE and BOLD PS; SANS SERIF is 18x9.

The KX-P1180 includes touch button front panel printer controls. This is to select the most commonly used features and functions. Four particular font styles are available: DRAFT, COURIER, PRESTIGE (Epson Roman) and BOLD PRESTIGE. Four, of the six available, pitches are : Pica (10 cps), Elite (12 cps), Compressed(17 cpi), and Porportional Spacing. Four page lengths are chosen 11", 12", 14", and 8.5". Also the Quiet printing mode is available here. And this is just the front panel control. Of course, the default is Draft, 10 cpi, on an 11" page.

For an under $180 machine, the speed is amazing. Printing in Draft Mode - Elite (12 cpi) the printing is 192 char. per second. In Draft Mode - Pica (10 cpi) the speed is 160 cps. Whenever the near letter quality fonts are called upon the print speed has to cut down for the double strike. The control of the print head is fully logic controlled.

The paper handling is really neat. The printer has Memo Load to park the tractor paper and to print on a cut sheet, then return; Perforation Cut to advance the paper to be torn off, then return ; and Micro Line Feed for fine location of the print head (full software control also). Also on the front of the printer; the On-Line control and the Line Feed and Page Feed controls. The printer handles push or pull tractor fed paper as well as continuous or cut sheet paper, accepting it also from the bottom.

The few changes in my print control commands have been no trouble. The manual is very hlpful, and the many possible commands, which range beyond typical character handling to include margins and word wrap, have caused no problems.

The Panasonic KX-P1180 printer is a very powerful machine in its price bracket and has exceptional print quality. The manual has been very helpful in modifying some of my less common character control codes. Most of the normally used codes get no change, allowing you to print out a documentation sheet as is. The graphics printing mode doesn't need any change at all. This printer, with many features, is easy to live with.

Editor's Bit
------------------------------------- by Marshal Ellis

Mid-South 99er User Group, August, 1991

* "A Brief History of the World: Certifiably Genuine Student Bloopers" written on essay questions and collected by teachers throughout the United States, from eighth grade through college level, 1987. Compiled by Richard Lederer.
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Bach was the most famous composer in the world, and so was Handel. Handel was half German, half Italian and half English. He was very large. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him. Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.

France was in a very serious state. The French Revolution was accomplished before it happened. The Marseillaise was the theme song of the French revolution, and it catapulted into Napoleon. During the Napoleonic Wars, the crowned heads of Europe were trembling in their shoes. Then the Spanish gorillas came down from the hills and nipped at Napoleon's flanks. Napoleon became ill with bladder problems and was very tense and unrestrained. He wanted an heir to inherit his power, but since Josephene was a baroness, she couldn't bear children.

The sun never set on the English Empire because the British Empire is in the East and the sun sets in the West. Queen Victoria was the longest queen. She sat on a thorn for sixty-three years. Her reclining years and finally the end of her life were exemplatory of a great personality. Her death was the final event which ended her reign.

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PROGRAM BIT
SEPT 1991 --

6:30 pm - Assembly Language programming class, meet in Cafeteria.

7:00 pm - Main meeting begins, general discussion, fair plans.

7:20 pm - Demonstration of various products by Jim Saemenes.

9:00 pm - Meeting ends.

9:30 pm - Late dinner at Shoneys on Union Ave.

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NOTICE

GROUP INFO

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 label is a code. A 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 members. Library list is $1. Mail order disk library access is $2 for the first disk and $1 for each additional 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 correspondence to group address.

CALENDAR

MEETINGS: SEP 19, OCT 17, (3rd Thursday!)
WORKSHOPS: TO BE ANNOUNCED

24HR TI BULLETIN BOARD

The 9640 NEWS BBS 300/1200/2400 Hayes. 901-368-0112

The Full Moon BBS 300/1200/2400/9600/14400 HST 901-386-1760

GROUP MAILING ADDRESS

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

LIBRARY ADDRESS

Jim Saemenes
46 Higgins Road
Brighton, Tn., 38011

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ |_| $15.00 FAMILY
ADDRESS_____ |_| $10.00 JUNIOR (under 15)
CITY_____ST____ZIP_____
PHONE(____)____-_____:INTERESTS_____

EQUIPMENT,ETC._____

Detach and mail with check payable to: Mid-South 99 Users Group, P.O. Box 38522, Germantown, Tn, 38183-0522.

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