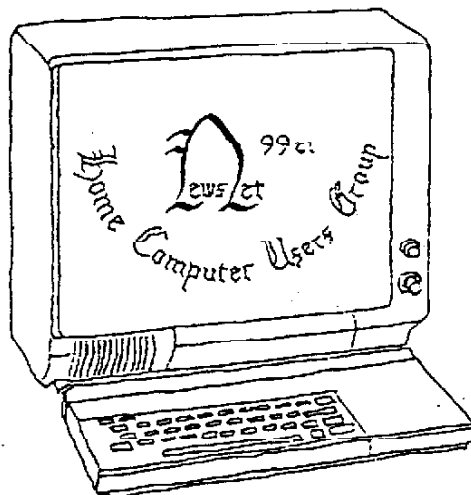


President  
Jo Laabert  
Vice-President  
Vacant  
Secretary  
Charles Clines  
Treasurer  
Charles Bathman



Editor  
Gary Fuquay  
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Sam Heller  
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VOLUME 3 NUMBER 2

February 1985

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### President's Page

"WOW!", after all the bad weather in January, I was glad to have our Saturday in February free from ice. A good day for a surprise election, but sorry Larry Williams needed to resign the office of President. It is with the encouragement of Charles Bathman, and others that I accepted this office.

With all the expressions of confidence and offers of help, I hope to continue the productive leadership that we have had in the past. If the desire to be a good president can overcome my inexperience, the club will not fail to grow in the coming year. My thanks to all of you for the opportunity to grow in my own experience. Please feel free to call if you know of something we could do to further the knowledge of our club.

Before the next meeting John and I hope to be connected to Startext. This may help to facilitate our movement of information to others, including the Editor, Gary Fuquay. A thanks to Doug Klingman for the modem he is loaning us.

I felt so excited about my being elected president, I came home from the meeting and with John's help, I rearranged our computer area to make it easier to accommodate and facilitate the work I hope to do for the club.

If you will bear with me, I will try to make use of the suggestions presented to me. I hope everyone will continue to support the club in the manner to which we have grown accustomed. I hear it said, "the Net 99er club is an outstanding computer club." This is due to the outstanding people we have had leading and supporting our club. May it continue to be so.

The Southside Optomist Club is sponsoring a Computer/Camera Show, April 6 & 7, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. At the Will Rogers Coliseum. There will be a \$3.00 admission.

There is a correction and an addition to the list of librarians in last month's newsletter. Jim Yingst replaces Mike Maier. His phone is 478-1998. Also, Craig Voss is the new tape librarian, his phone is 451-1410.

Remember that March 9 is our next meeting.

Thank you,

Jo Lambert

#### HOME COMPUTER USERS GROUP

Minutes, Feb. 9, 1985

Vice president Jo Lambert opened the meeting, and treasurer Charles Bathman announced that Larry Williams, who was elected president last month, has said he could not serve.

A motion was made to accept his resignation and to elect Jo Lambert as president. The motion was carried.

The minutes of last meeting were accepted.

A treasurer's report by Bathman showed a net of \$475.45 in the group's bank account.

Former president Leroy Thompson displayed a remote keyboard made from the console keyboards that are now being sold.

There followed a discussion of problems that some members in certain zip codes were having in getting their newsletters delivered on time. There were several in the 76180 zip code who did not get their newsletters by the time of last month's meeting.

Jim Stewart showed a one-minute demo of a Logo game.

There also was a rumor that Myarc, a company that makes peripherals for the 4A, is coming out with the 99/8, maybe by Christmas.

Editor Gary Fuquay is requesting any articles and/or reviews for the newsletter, and said they should be sent to him by the 15th of the month. If anyone subscribes to StarText, they can send him info to his Mail Code, 75814.

Head librarian Bill Duncan is looking for a good deal on a big diskette container for the library's ever-growing programs.

Member Doug Klingman gave a tax program he is using with Multiplan. The meeting adjourned following his program.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Clines, sect.

REVIEW OF DISK + AID Version 2.0  
Program by Donald M. Thomson, III  
Review by LeRoy Thompson

Irregardless of what it looks like at first glance, there is no relation between us. I became acquainted with Don Thomson thru a mutual friend. This program is the flagship of M T Utilityware. And a good flagship it is!

DISK + AID is reported to be everything that DISKO and DISK FIXER are and more. It has proved itself with me. It does all of the above plus read/alter any memory location (CPU, VDP, GRAM, GROM). It will also search for a string in any sector(s) of any disks and in any memory. When you find something you want to preserve, you can dump it to the printer with a simple 'D' command. I think that a list of the command menu will tell a lot about this very capable program.

A - alter sector	Q - quit
B - back sector	R - read sector
C - view CPU memory	S - search string
D - screen dump	T - toggle ASCII/hex on screen
E - compare sectors	U - update screen
F - forward sector	V - view VDP memory
G - view GROM memory	~ - write sector (FUNC W)
H - change memory addr	' - current CPU address (FUNC Q)
I - display buffer	} - current GROM address (FUNC G)
M - move sector	\ - current VDP address (FUNC Z)
N - input sector number	] - toggle status line (FUNC T)
O - output device	? - help * MAIN MENU * (FUNC I)
P - print sectors	" - map disk sectors (FUNC P)
1,2,3,4-disk drive number	
FUNC ? - memory back page	

You are advised to first input an output device so that you don't lose anything when you are ready to print. At that point you are able to begin studying your diskette. The status line all ready displays sector 0000 so you can press 1 to select drive one and then R to read the sector 0. By pressing T you have your choice of ASCII or hex presentation. The presentation is neatly formatted in pairs of hex digits with the beginning address of each row noted. As you sit there wondering what all the information on the screen means, you need only to press FUNC P to get the map of sector 0. This tells you everything about sector 0. You don't need to worry about what is where unless you want to change it.

If you press F, the sector address on the status line will increment with each press. If you need to advance many sectors at once, you can press N which lets you directly input the sector to read/write. If you advance to one of the "header" sectors, then use of FUNC P will display ALL the information about the respective file. If you wish to preserve this information for later use simply press D and get a printout. D is useful even to copy the menu so you don't have to keep using ?.

If you want to alter a sector, press A and move the cursor to the

location where you wish to make a change. After you have made the change in the buffer, then you have an option to write it back to the disk. You should note that this takes a "two finger" command so you are less apt to make an inadvertant error. You press FUNC W to write the sector back to the disk.

If you press C, you are prompted for what addresses in CPU memory you want to display. You may chose any legal address and it will scroll between the two limits that you have set. Once again you can dump the screen to the printer. Pressing H will allow a change of address for the memory view. Bky using the appropriate commands, you can do the same with any type of memory. Pressing S will allow a search in either memory or disk sector (depending on current mode).

During all operations, a status line runs across the top of the screen. It displays the type memory last accessed, the address or sector most recently selected and the mode most recently used.

This program represents good value to me at its price of \$20 (+ 1.75 S&H). For an optional \$7, you can also get commented source code. The program is available from:

M T Utilityware  
3507 Murl  
Muskegon MI 49442  
616-773-4504

Don has told me that he is going to evaluate sales for a while (M T) is relatively new). If he feels that he is losing too many sales due to piracy, he will quit publishing software for the 4A. He said that he will continue to write software, but he will only give it away to his friends. I think he has created a very good utility and his company deserves support from us. He also said that he has been asked to adapt DISK + AID for the /9. We may try to offer a mass order from the club or maybe we will work thru Bob Wallace. Let me know if you are interested in buying this program (429-2039). Minor quantity discounts are available.

TAPS  
(or Rumors Laid to Rest)

The following information comes to us courtesy of Chuck Mansfield, one of our members. It is taken from a telephone call that he made to Lou Phillips, the owner of MYARC. It is very encouraging news indeed, however, we must remember that it reflects only the plans of MYARC. Nothing is cast in concrete at this point, however, it should lay to rest once and for all, the rumors concerning the 99/8.

Conversation with Lou Phillips, Owner of MYARC

MYARC does not have the rights to the /8. They have never attempted to obtain the rights nor do they desire to have the rights.

If Phillips wife had not had an emergency operation last week, he would be in Dallas today to buy the license for the GPL and a 'few other things which we might need'.

MYARC is designing a machine that is far superior to the /8. He does have several /8's because he was developing a WINCHESTER hard disk for the machine.

They are working 'like crazy' on the replacement for the 4A.

They are not ready to announce it to user groups because the mfg finance is not tied down. However, they are 99% sure they have the money. If he wasn't sure, they wouldn't be working on the machine.

The only thing they are lacking is the GPL interpreter. They are going to try to make a deal with TI to get it for nothing since they are buying so many semi-cond including the 9995. If they cannot get the rights, they will write their own.

Lou Phillips worked at the TI expressway site.

They will show it at the CES show this summer. They will be in mfg stage before the show.

It will have 128K because that's what everybody else has. It is expandable to at least one meg.

Fully compatible with the expansion box.

Fully compatible with all 4A progs now out. May not be compatible with a few cartridges.

He will make a trip to Houston to make sure that the advanced video chip will come to production. It will have all the features of the 4A VDP chip with 80 cols, better bit mapped graphics, res 512 x 210.

They also want to have as an add-on feature the capability to plug in the IBM PC and run MSDOS.

In the future, maybe an A card and modem but not now.

Marketing will be handled by C R Distributing. They will be the third(?) Corporation and will be doing the production and distributing of the machine. C R is TI's largest distributor. MYARC is shipping 2000 disk controller and 32K cards per month to C R.

My phone call interrupted a meeting with the fellow who was writing the GPL.

He appreciates the telephone call and would be pleased to get more.

If he doesn't get the GPL interpreter from TI, MYARC will write one.

The machine will have a super XB - much more than the /8.

They are talking about a spreadsheet and word processor included in the machine. They will go to MICROSOFT to talk about W/P and spread-sheet.

END OF CONVERSATION

#### TRADERS PAGE

#### For Sale:

Four Tandon TM 100-1 SS/DD disk drives.  
\$100 ea.

Samuel Lee  
2501 W. Sublett Rd. #824  
Arlington, TX. 76017  
465-2939

## Charlie's Chatter

WELL, I BLEW IT!!!! I really did. This year I made a New Year's resolution to get things done on time, more promptly and not wait for the last minute.

So!! What did I do? Well, I was finally so late with my column that it missed the January Newsletter and it will have to go in February's.

Oh Well, Maybe next year.

ANYWAY, that means that the first part of this month's column is actually last month's column. So, lest you get confused, I'll just put this month's column at the end of last month's column. That will place this month's column as the later part of both this month's and last month's column.

SO, if you notice something in last month's part of this month's column that says that something will be said in next month's column, remember that it will be said in this month's column which can be found at the end of last month's column which is the first part of this month's column.

Who was it that said "GARBAGE IN .....GARBAGE OUT?"

The new year brings new thoughts and ideas to mind. Along with those go new responsibilities.

When Texas Instruments announced its withdrawal from the home computer field slightly over a year ago, few if any of us realized the true importance of User Groups like ours.

In that same year, the NET 99ers doubled its membership, increased its software library tremendously and has become a very real and reliable source of information and help for owners of the TI 99/4A.

For those achievements we must most certainly pay tribute where tribute is due, to the officers, staff and members who worked both diligently and tirelessly to insure continued success and advancement of our group.

However, as is my prerogative, (since I'm writing this), I want to take a moment to throw a few roses and perhaps a few lemons of my own.

First and foremost, A Rose to Leroy Thompson for his truly outstanding leadership and dedication as President during 1984. Without his strong and dynamic leadership, the NET 99ers would not have continued to grow into a true Computer Users organization nor advanced to the level of esteem in which it is held by both member and outsider alike.

My second rose to Gerry Myers for his unequalled perseverance in

making the NET 99ers Software library the envy of every other users group around. Our library, is the shining product of a time honored and proven philosophy, "If you want something done right, do it yourself". I have never seen more dedication in getting the job "done right" than Gerry has displayed.

A rose to Dick Hatton for his tireless efforts in a thankless job as Newsletter Editor. He never got enough articles and those that he did get were never on time. The printers either cost too much for our group to bear or the copy machine would wait until the last minute to act up. And then, the Bulk Rate postal paragon would let things lay for a week or more just so Dick could catch hell from everyone who hadn't contributed anything. Thank you Dick, we're going to miss your biting wit, and, Good Luck in your new job.

To Frank Schnell and Charles Clines for their able assistance as VP and Secretary, our regional librarians and volunteer librarians, all those who provided demonstrations, led special interest groups, taught Basic classes and did all those myriad things that had to be done, a Rose for each of you and Thank You very much.

And finally, A Rose to each of who did that special little thing that helped when it was most needed.

Lest I get teary-eyed, . . . , a few Lemmons:

Rather than get nasty and name names, I'll just tell you what I won't do this year that I shouldn't have done last year.

I won't renew my subscription to IDENTITY CRISIS magazine, also known as HOME COMPUTER magazine because I've already been ripped off by about six issues that were never published in 1984 and I'm not sure that I'm that much of a masochist that I would enjoy taking it in the pocketbook again this year.

I also won't renew my subscription and membership in the INTERNATIONAL USERS GROUP since I don't respect an organization that overprices its products, cries "poor mouth" when the going gets tough and attempts legal action against those who are its strongest supporters, users groups. Talk about biting the hand that feeds you!

NEXT MONTH I'll tell you what I will do in 1985.

The raffle of LOGO II at our last meeting was a welcome success and I wish to thank all who made contributions to the NET 99ers so that it could be held. Since it met with such success, we are planing to do it more often and have purchased a TI MULTIPLAN for the next meeting.

The raffle rules will be the same as last time with members wishing to donate, doing so in a small envelope mailed to the the groups post office box prior to the next meeting or at the meeting itself.

One of our members, Helena Wood, is now working at the INFO MART



in Dallas. The INFO MART is to the computer industry what the Aparell Mart is to the Clothing Industry. Helena works at the TEXAS INSTRUMENTS permanent show area (office) and is trying to arrange a few things for us. You can call Helena during work hours there at (214) 746-3700. There are two other numbers that are of interest. You can call 1-800-237-7100 and get the schedule of computer related shows and exhibitions and call 1-800-367-7100 to request that you be put on the Info Mart's mailing list.

WRITER'S NOTE: This starts the last part of this month's column which is this month's column because it comes after last month's column which was the start of this month's column.

To put that in words everyone will easily understand:

100 J\$ = JANUARY COLUMN

110 F\$ = FEBRUARY COLUMN

120 FOR MESS\$ = 1 TO J\$+F\$

130 PRINT MESS\$

140 NEXT MESS\$

150 GOTO 100\$

One of the things I will do this year is continue my subscriptions to MICROPENDIUN and the SMART PROGRAMMER. These are both essential peripherals to any serious TI Computer Type and both can be had for the same price as one of the previously mentioned scandal sheets.

HELP WANTED: Mature individual to send out Interest Letters to prospective members. No selling, we supply all leads, names, addresses, postage, envelopes (return addressed) and all materials for stuffing. You write address on envelope, stuff, lick and mail. Any warm body will do. Phone 284-5147 after 6 PM and before 9 PM for details.

Seriously folks, we do need some help in a few areas. One is mentioned above. We also need an individual to maintain the Newsletter (from other groups) Library. Again we'll supply everything you need. You supply a little bit of labor each month and you get to read all the other Users Groups Newsletters.

One of nice things about STARTEXT, and there are many, many nice things, is that there is always something new that when you see it, it's just the thing you need. One of those things is someone to work on printers.

There's a fellow by the name of Wallace Harrison who runs A-Z Printer Parts at 910 North Irving Heights in Irving, Texas (214) 438-5383) who is supposed to know Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About A Gemini Printer. I haven't had a chance to check out Mr. Harrison's work personally, but if anyone out there has tried their service or in the future does try them out, we'd like

to have a user's report.

As many of you know by now, Larry Williams, our recently elected president, had to resign that position due to the pressing demands of his job. At our February meeting, our Vice President, Jo Lambert was elevated to the group's presidency by popular vote. We welcome Jo and I'm confident that you will all join me in assuring her of our help and support in the difficult yet rewarding task of the NET 99er's Presidency. And, Thank you Jo, for being there when we needed you.

A warm welcome to the following new NET 99er members since our January meetings:

Thomas D. Atkins  
2714 Monterray Street  
Arlington, Texas 76015  
265-4934

John J. Flowers  
830 Cherlyne Drive  
Cedar Hill, Texas 75104  
(214) 291-7384

Bill Beekman and Karen Stump  
Apartment 203 X  
200 Booth Calloway  
Hurst, Texas 76053  
595-2763

Bill Germany  
808 Chaparral Court  
Bedford, Texas 76022  
267-5509

Philip and Blaine Cantrell  
P.O. Box 403  
Gunter, Texas 75058  
(214) 433-3885

David E. Holt  
1303 NE. 23rd Street  
Mineral Wells, Texas 76067  
(817) 325-7206

Mildred Carr  
Route 3, Box 52  
Burleson, Texas 76028  
293-1479

Jim R. Mullens  
820 Ridge Drive  
Bedford, Texas 76021  
498-0838

James H. Clay  
1213 Roman Road  
Grand Prairie, Texas 75050  
(214) 262-8110

Dean Powell  
2412 Blackberry  
Richardson, Texas 75081  
(214) 234-2295

Dorothy L. Crouch  
1208 Valley View Court  
Hurst, Texas 76053  
269-2336

Stewart Reeder  
6941 Sandstone Court  
Fort Worth, Texas 76112  
451-9458

Dan Diamond  
1207 Shady Creek  
Euless, Texas 76040  
267-4154

John B. Rizo  
216 Heights Lane, Apt. D  
Fort Worth, Texas 76112  
496-6106

D.A. and Dorothy Dougherty  
3452 Blueberry Lane  
Grapevine, Texas 76051  
481-1134

Robert L. Wessler  
4300 Frazier  
Fort Worth, Texas 76115  
926-9869

Franklin M. Fest  
3715 Charles Street  
Fort Worth, Texas 76118  
589-2704

I'd also like to recognize the following members for their outstanding perception and foresight in renewing their memberships:

Scott Bailey

Gerry Myers

James Crosson

Jack Van Hauen

Ken Dominiec

Gary Watts

Al Martin

Ed Wolfram

John McCann

Helena Wood

Well, until our next meeting on the 9th of March, here's hoping you have a better time getting things done than I did. Incidentally, this is the latter part of the end of last month's and this month's column.

#### Editor's Comment

I want to take this opportunity to say \*THANK YOU\* to everyone who has contributed to the newsletter since I have been editor. It makes my job easier, and makes the newsletter much more interesting. It also indicates that \*you\* are interested in making the club just a little bit closer to the ideal for which it was established, namely, to offer help and support to it's members.

May it continue.....

Gary

## TIMELESS TECHNICAL TIPS

Who would have thought a year ago that the surplus market would have been flooded with all the 99/4A parts that we have seen lately. There are several mail order firms that offer parts and Sabet Electronics of Richardson has a good selection, and even Radio Shack has been known to have keyboards and power supplies. The available parts include console power supply boards, keyboards, video modulators, transformers, and cassette cables. I have accumulated enough to last me for a while.

Unless you really need a spare part or you like to collect paperweights, then you may be wondering what to do with your new-found collection. What follows is my first project using the spare parts.

I had always wanted a keyboard on a cord (just like the PC's). There is some practicality to this arrangement as well as convenience. This means that the kids can move the keyboard without disconnecting the P-box, etc. Then, also, I can lean back in my chair, place my feet on the desk, and type this article with the keyboard in my lap.

Technically speaking, this is a very simple modification. You have a main and remote set of normally open switches which can be connected in parallel and both still function properly. This is what you have to achieve. The use of connectors and boxes just adds to the task. You should start by purchasing a slope front box (like RS 270-266). Then completely disassemble your console so that you have the bare top half of the shell. Trace a pattern of the keyboard opening thru the shell of the console. Transfer this pattern to the correct side of your slope front panel. There's a hard way and there's an easy way to cut the multi-cornered opening for the keyboard. I can't explain the easy way. The hard way is to drill MANY small holes outlining the shape and cut between the holes. Next you file to get a smooth hole. It worked for me. I next mounted the keyboard on stand-offs.

You must have at least 15 conductors between keyboards. For convenience I used DB-25 connectors (RS 276-1548). I mounted one each in the console and remote keyboard box. These connectors were wired to their respective keyboards by CAREFULLY soldering small wire onto the existing connections at the printed circuit boards. This CAN be done in a non-damaging manner. I installed the connector in the back of the console. It is difficult to install the connector in the grill-type area in a neat manner, but I tried anyway. The console and the remote keyboard now need to be connected by a cable of your choice. The length that I chose was approximately 3 feet. If you want longer, try it--it might work. For sake of convenience, I used the following connectors for my cable: RS 276-1559. The connectors were joined using 25-conductor ribbon cable.

The result is an enjoyable gadget which works well. The only problem I have had is remembering to put the necessary ID strips

onto the remote unit.

A suggestion which I haven't tried yet is to set the console back further on the desk/table and have the movable keyboard be the only thing near the edge with the option of lap use.

I will be happy to offer advice and counsel to anyone else who tries to make this mod. I probably will not do this again for myself or anyone else, but advice is cheap and easy. GOOD LUCK.

LeRoy Thompson

### PRINTER INTERFACES

I just joined the 99er HCUG and I have enjoyed the last two meetings. This club has a lot going for it with people that are software and hardware experienced. The officers past and present seem to have a lot of vitality in making this group work where others have failed. Well so much for the horn blowing here is what I promised you in the title, I hope it will be of some use to you.

SIGNAL NAME	PID	TI 850	GEMINI	EPSON
DATA STROBE	1	1	1	1
DATA (LSB)	2	2	2	2
DATA	3	3	3	3
DATA	4	4	4	4
DATA	5	5	5	5
DATA	6	6	6	6
DATA	7	7	7	7
DATA	8	8	8	8
DATA (MSB)	9	9	9	9
BUSY	10	11	11	11
SELECT	13	13	13	13
GND (LOGIC)	16	16	16	16

--> NOTES <--

1. TI-850 PRINTER - If you receive a printer cable with it you can buy just a "D" connector and save from buying a long ribbon cable. If you do you will have to wire pin 16 inside "D" shell and printer plug ( There are spare wires inside cable )

--> PARTS LIST <--

PID PLUG - 3M 3452-6600 ( Norvell Electronics is one source  
AMP 499576 )  
PRINTER - AMP 57-30360

Centronics plug, 25 Pin "D" connector and shell can be found at Radio Shack.

Curtis Fredeck