Centre Area Commodore Computer Club

APRIL 1990 MEETING

Commodore owners attending for the first time this month were Dean Sarra and Terry Carey. They and eleven regulars heard a presentation by the three speakers mentioned below.

Three guests from Accounting Information Systems spoke about their software development activities for MS-DOS and Commodore systems. They were John and Karen Urbanik, and Adam Stokes. The firm was established about 18 months ago, and is still 'young.' (Company headquarters is R.D. 2 Box 534, Port Matilida, PA 16870. Telephone 814 692-4711)

In servicing small and first-time businesses, the three have found 'a lot of closet 64 and 128 owners' who wanted to use the Commodore in their business operations. One of those machines now is running a 3,000-plus-item inventory for a convenience store near Clearfield. Modem access was mentioned as a business information interest. A long-time C-64 owner, Adam spoke of some programming he has done for other firms and that Basic is nice for that purpose on the Commodore. Speed seldom is a problem except in sorting. Basic is easy for programmers to modify for changing needs, and he has found it straight forward for most Commodore uses and less-so for some MS-DOS applications; the latter would ordinarily be done in other languages. Adam also works in CMOL for the C-64 and is willing to exchange information with other programmers.

Questions during the meeting focused on hard drives for the 64 and 128, drivers and methods of using ram expansion units, speed enhancers, programming interrupts into code, converting files to other machine systems, and support resources.

Ellen Copper would like to move some word processor files to a clone. Could anyone loan her a 1571 or 1581 disk if she would obtain Big Blue Reader for the C-64? Neil has her unlisted phone number.

Summer meetings will be held in 301B Ag Admin Bldg on the Third thursdays except during August, then continue into the fall except for December. Time will be 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

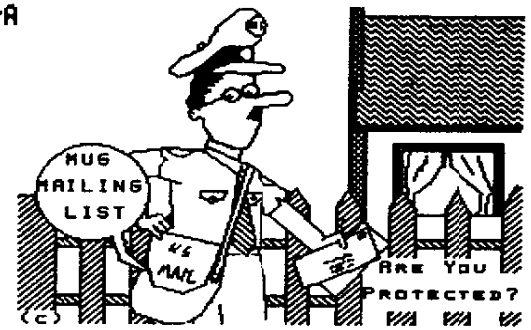
John Roth demonstrated our March disk of the month at the Huntingdon County Hackers meeting, and Travis Prebble did the same at the Lewistown meeting of Blue Juniata Commodore. In addition, Brian Lowery has most of the electronic bulletin board up and running for the Lewistown based group.

N U T I N E W S

* N I T T A N Y U S E R S O F T E X A S I N S T R U M E N T S *

L. Chapin, Pres. MAY 1990 M. Villano, Ed.

Send Exchange Newsletter to NUTI 625 Wiltshire Dr. State College, Pa. 16803 (Do NOT send to the MUG! Materials may be copied. Cite author & NUTI NEWS.



ARTICLES BEING FEATURED THIS ISSUE:

MUG DATA BASES BEING PURGED: If you wonder about those warnings posted on the recent covers of the Newsletter, we gave MUG the names and addresses of almost 60 members, and user groups with whom we exchange newsletters. To remain on this "protected" NUTI list, members should attend meetings *at least once* on an annual basis. For exchange groups, we tend to favor those who: (1) mail on a *regular* basis, and send *all* issues; (2) have *fair* amount of original material; and (3) cover the *Geneve*, and new peripherals for *upgrading the 99/4A*.

'WARES' FOR FUTURE REVIEWS: Two of our NUTI members have ordered RAVE 99 Expansion Chassis (PE/2); ETA is mid-May. Beery Miller's WINDOWS just arrived; watch for comments in next Issue.

NEXT MEETING: At *Maurice*'s home, Tues., May 15th, at 7 pm.

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ITEMS OF NOTE

By Chip Chapin

In passing, we should perhaps bid a regretful farewell to COMPUTER SHOPPER, that venerable magazine for the "direct buyer" which unfortunately has "evo'ved" beyond the needs of the average TIer. And the average C64 user, the average ATARI, SANYO, ADAM, and all of the other 'Classic Computer' users. What a shame! I first bought 'Shopper' back in 1984 and was really enthused with it. It had a news-stand price of $1.95 and a subscription price of $15.00. It had articles galore, and abounded with Classified Ads. It truly served my needs - and many others who were also looking for used peripherials or better deals on new equipment. But one of the things I was most pleased with was the information it contained. All those articles which attempted to educate us computer novices were a gold mine. Many times I found articles of general interest not directed to specific computers which really helped me understand my own computer. And of course there were the listings of User Groups and BBS systems. What a thrill it was to see your own group listed among those others, and to know that you were a part of something that was happening all over the nation; that there were kindred spirits out there that you could get in touch with Just by turning to the 'Shopper' and getting their number.

Well, that 'Shopper' hasn't been around for a while now. In fairness, some of what happened to 'Shopper' is a result of evolution within the computer industry - magazines must provide support where the advertising dollars are. Other aspects, of course, resulted from deliberate policies which, apparently, did not include concepts such as loyalty to a readership which they had taken pains to establish over a number of years. Most of us would probably prefer not to lay that blame on Stan Viet, the longtime Editor of 'Shopper', or even on Glen Petch, the founder/owner/publisher. That only leaves the current group, Ziff-Davis Publishing.

What 'Shopper' still offers us TIers is a broad selection of all that generic equipment we can make use of. For myself, that isn't enough use for me to subscribe to it. Once or twice a year I will probably pick up a copy on the newsstand, if I am really interested in new equipment. If I owned an MSDOS machine I might even continue my subscription. But what a shame - what was once a magazine I was proud to subscribe to is now Just something to use. And then throw away.

* * * * * *

'BUYER'S GUIDE' DEBUTS TI SCENE:

DEAR CLASSIC COMPUTER ENTHUSIAST:
We understand that the last dominion for classic computer information has been discontinued. It is our intention to pick up coverage for this well represented segment of the market, effective immediately.
COMPUTER BUYER'S GUIDE will provide monthly columns dedicated to the specific issues and products of classic computer owners. Because this announcement affects so many User Group members and Bulletin Board Users, we thought it appropriate to contact you through your organization.
As you already know, we have continually supported these groups through our monthly publishing of FOG International's listings. We fully intend to provide coverage equal to the interest developed from this undertaking.

The above are excerpts from the recent letter of *Vulcan's Computer Buyer's Guide* serving a notice to the owners of orphaned and 8-bit machines that *CBG*, henceforth, would fill the void in the hobbyist and home computer world, created by Computer Shopper's dropping of the *"Classic Computers"* (recall, TI was the *first* to be "dumped"). Publication of User Group lists were reduced to every other month. I trust the Adam, Atari (8-bit), Commodore 64/128, Sanyo, TRS-80 & Timex/Sirclair user groups have also received these letters, and I believe complimentary club copies of *Computer Buyer's Guide* (short version is *CBG*) are available if requested. Thus far, comments in newsletters about this "new-kid-on-the-block" have been favorable.

CBG is a magazine of *Vulcan Publications, Inc.*, 2 Riverside Office Plaza, Birmingham, AL 35244, but their billing address is P.O. Box 7062, Atlanta, GA 30357 (CBG mailed from Dallas, TX- figure that). In February I subscribed for a year of *CBG* (personal, but at group discount) for only $8.95 or 62-percent less than news stand price! Be wary, this might be an introductory offer only, so act NOW. On letterhead stationery, mail it to *CBG*, P.O. Box 55886, Birmingham, AL 35255 (Yet another address? Can't believe it! I am confused).

Just last week, my first issue (April) arrived. A comparison with *Computer Chopper* (oops *Shopper*), or *CS* (May Issue), is inevitable. Externally, both are oversized, slick magazines, with even similar logos and mastheads, and their covers abound with high-tech icons. Today's *CBG* reminds me of earlier *CS*'s (find *Chip Chapin*'s article on "old" *CS*) with only 200 pages, and costing $1.95 at news stand. *CS* now has 800 (some with yucky foldout pages), selling for $2.95. *CS* has 380 display advertisers; *CBG* has 127, but 58 also appear in the *CS*. In contrast, classified ads are not a particularly strong suit for either: *CS* had 250 classifieds on seven pages (1.55/word) for software and used gear only; *CBG* had 89 such ads on four pages (.75/word), no restrictions. *CS* also had 63 budget *Show Case* ads. Enough bean-counting here; let us see how they otherwise stack up.

'BUYER'S GUIDE' DEBUTS . . . (Contd)

CBG EDITORIAL: "WHERE WE'RE HEADED"
We also provide coverage for those offices and applications found in the home, primarily education and entertainment...Because there's a large installed base of non-IBM compatibles and non-Macintosh PCs, we feature several monthly columns covering the specific interests and concerns of this large group. Adam, Commodore, Timex-Sinclair, Atari, Texas Instruments, Sanyo and others are represented monthly by notable columnists...We will continue to support this well represented group, with monthly columns and product updates as they develop.

These excerpts taker from *CBG*'s April editorial (by Editor-in Chief *Doug Kilarski*) are not taken out-of-context. They are rather lofty objectives the critical reader is sure to hold *CBG* accountable for. So far, there is little to be disappointed about. *Barry Traver*, of *Genial Trave-ler*, could not be a better choice for the *TI* columnist to present monthly features. In his maiden article with *CBG*, *Barry* does us proud with his *"99'ers in the 90's"*, proclaiming to readers *here* we are, we are *still* alive, and *this is what we are all about!* He portrays *MYARC's HFDC*, as a most significant development for the *99/4A* and *Geneve*, and details the software that is making increased use of hard drives (this is *not* intended as review of his article). As promised by *CBG*, *User Group* listings were also in evidence which is a *plus*; rather puzzling, the *Bulletin Board* listing was missing. It was great seeing ex-TIer *Ron Albright* in print again (*Gaming and Education*). A piece on 24-pin dot-matrix printers was informative.

While the immediate future for the *TIs* relationship with *CBG* augurs well, I have some longer-range concern. Can we (here I include all *classic computers*) reciprocate that support we're about to receive? Would our tens-of-thousands of users translate into a similar-sized *CBG* subscription base? *TIers*, at least, are not known very liberal with their purse strings (witness the shareware fiascoes or how our TI software developers are ripped-off by the very users they serve. Best cool it or I'll become a *Robert Novak* of the *TI* editor corps).

What amount support can *CBG* expect from the *Tex-Comps*, the *Asgards*, the *Texamentses*, the *MYARCs*, the *Rave 99s*, or a few others, who put their advertising bucks almost exclusively into *MICROpendium*. There are two *TI* ads I have seen elsewhere: *Braatzs Computer Services* and *Competition Computer* who list under classifieds in both *CS* and *CBG*. Do buyers prefer viewing products in a *CS Goliath* over a *CBG David*? May there be a time *CBG*'s service to the *classic computer* community will conflict with the *"botton-line"*? It has happened before (*CS*)! I'm adopting a wait-and-see attitude and will enjoy *CBG* for a year-or time left on my current subscription to CS to run out (Jan '91).

• • • • • •

TIPS FROM THE TIGERCUB

#56

Tigercub Software
156 Collingwood Ave.
Columbus OH 43213

I am still offering over 120 original and unique entertainment, educational and utility programs at just $1.00 each or on collection disks at $5.00 per disk.

The contents of the first 52 issues of this newsletter are available as ready-to-run programs on 5 Tips Disks at $10 each.

And my three Nuts & Bolts Disks, $15 each, each contain over 100 subprograms for you to merge into your own programs to do all kinds of wonderful things.

My catalog is available for $1, deductable from your first order (specify TIGERCUB catalog).

TI-PD LIBRARY

I have selected public domain programs, by category, to fill over 200 disks, as full as possible if I had enough programs of the category, with all the Basic-only programs converted to XBasic, with an E/A loader provided for assembly programs if possible, instructions added and any obvious bugs corrected, and with an autoloader by full program name on each disk. These are available as a copying service for just $1.50 postpaid in U.S. and Canada. No fairware will be offered without the author's permission. Send SASE for list or $1, refundable, for 9-page catalog listing all titles and authors. Be sure to specify TI-PD catalog.

In Tips #55, I showed you some quick & easy ways to create new character sets. Since folks nowadays don't like to key in long programs, let's continue with "tinygram" programming, and at the same time show you how to manipulate strings, and teach you the value of using MERGE format.

First, let's make a screen to display our new characters. Some of them will have to be double-spaced horizontally or vertically, so -

```
100 CALL CLEAR :: X=1 :: FOR CH=48 TO 159 :: PRINT CHR$(CH)&" ";:: X=X+2 :: IF X<29 THEN 110 ELSE PRINT "":"":""
::: X=1
110 NEXT CH
```

Save it- SAVE DSK1.100,MERGE

Now, you might like to move the common punctuation marks into the same character sets as the characters, so that you will not have to reidentify so many sets, also so you can color them easier.

```
120 DATA 32,33,34,44,46
130 FOR J=1 TO 5 :: READ
:: CALL CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: CA
LL CHAR(J+90,CH$):: CALL CHA
R(J+122,CH$)
140 NEXT J :: CALL CHARPAT(6
3,CH$):: CALL CHAR(64,CH$)::
:: CALL CHAR(96,CH$)
```

If you want to program in Basic, or use BXB with characters all the way up to ASCII 159, add CALL CHAR(J+154,CH$) to the end of line 130 and CALL CHAR(128,CH$) to the end of line 140.

Save by SAVE DSK1.120,MERGE

If you are using that transliteration, you must remember that with upper case characters the ? is a space is [, ! is \, " is], comma is , period is _. With the lower case they are FCTN keys (, F, A, G, W and Y and for the 3d set (ASCII 129 to 159) they are CTRL comma, period,;,=,* and (.

You can transfer upper case to lower by -
CALL CHARPAT(CH,CH$) and then CALL CHAR(CH+32,CH$) or the opposite by CH-32 and if you have BXB merged in you can create a 3rd set by CH+64.

The following are all incompatible with each other, so give them all line number 150 and save them in merge format as 150A, 150B, etc.

The numerals and the upper case letters all have the topmost pixel row blank to provide spacing between lines of text. We can make taller letters by deleting the top row and doubling the 7th row -

```
150 FOR CH=48 TO 126 :: CALL
 CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: CALL CHAR
(CH,SEG$(CH$,3,12)&SEG$(CH$,
13,4)):: NEXT CH
151 REM
```

Or, you can double the 3rd row -

```
150 FOR CH=48 TO 95 :: CALL
CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: CALL CHAR(
CH,SEG$(CH$,3,4)&SEG$(CH$,5,
12)):: NEXT CH
151 REM
```

The lower case letters are really small upper case with the upper 3 rows blank. All their vertical bars are in the 4th, 6th and 8th rows, so let's drop the first 3 rows and quadruple the 7th.

```
150 FOR CH=97 TO 127 :: CALL
 CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: CALL CHAR
(CH,SEG$(CH$,7,6)&RPT$(SEG$(
CH$,13,2),4)&SEG$(CH$,15,2))
:: NEXT CH
151 REM
```

Or, for topheavy letters, quadruple the 5th row -

```
150 FOR CH=97 TO 127 :: CALL
 CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: CALL CHAR
(CH,SEG$(CH$,7,2)&RPT$(SEG$
(CH$,9,2),4)&SEG$(CH$,11,6)
):: NEXT CH
151 REM
```

Or, for line spacing -

```
150 FOR CH=97 TO 122 :: CALL
 CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: CH$=SEG$(
CH$,5,8)&RPT$(SEG$(CH$,13,2)
,3)&SEG$(CH$,15,2):: CALL CH
AR(CH,CH$):: NEXT CH
151 REM
```

Or, for something silly -

```
150 FOR CH=48 TO 90 :: CALL
CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: CALL CHAR(
CH,SEG$(CH$,3,2)&RPT$(SEG$(C
H$,5,2),4)&SEG$(CH$,9,4)&SEG
$(CH$,15,2)):: NEXT CH
151 REM
```

For some good blocky characters -

```
150 FOR CH=48 TO 90 :: CALL
CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: CALL CHAR(
CH,RPT$(SEG$(CH$,3,2),2)&SEG
$(CH$,5,8)&RPT$(SEG$(CH$,15,
2),2)):: NEXT CH
151 REM
```

Or, if you prefer shorter for single-line spacing -

```
150 FOR CH=48 TO 90 :: CALL
CHARPAT(CH,CH$)::CALL CHAR
(CH,"00"&RPT$(SEG$(CH$,5,2),
2)&SEG$(CH$,7,6)&RPT$(SEG$(C
H$,15,2),2)):: NEXT CH
151 REM
```

If you would like numerals the same size as lower case,

```
150 FOR CH=48 TO 57 :: CALL
CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: CALL CHAR(
CH,"0000"&SEG$(CH$,1,6)&SEG$
(CH$,9,4)&SEG$(CH$,15,2))::
NEXT CH
151 REM
```

You can shrink lower case to only 4 rows high, altho some letters not legible -

```
150 FOR CH=97 TO 122 :: CALL
 CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: CALL CHAR
(CH,SEG$(CH$,1,6)&SEG$(CH$,5
,4)&SEG$(CH$,11,6)):: NEXT CH
151 REM
```

Something modernistic -

```
150 A$="00" :: FOR CH=48 TO
```

```
30 :: CALL CHARPAT(CH,CH$) :
 CALL CHAR(CH,SEG$(CH$,1,4)&
A&SEG$(CH,7,6)&A&A&SEG$(CLS
,15,2)):: NEXT CH
151 REM

  Or perhaps even better -
150 A$="00" :: FOR CH=48 TO
90 :: CALL CHARPAT(CH,CH$)::
CH$=SEG$(CH$,5,10)&RPT$(SEG$
(CH$,15,2),2)&SEG$(CH$,15,2
151 CALL CHAR(CH,SEG$(CH$,1,
4)&A&A&SEG$(CH$,7,2)&A&A&SEG$
CH$,11,2)&A&SEG$(CH$,15,2))
:: NEXT CH

  I call this one "Spooky".
150 FOR CH=48 TO 122 :: CALL
 CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: CH$=SEG$(
CH$,5,14)&SEG$(CH$,1,2):: X$
=SEG$(CH$,8,1)&"0"
151 FOR J=3 TO 15 STEP 2 ::
X$=X$&SEG$(CH$,J,1)&SEG$(CH$
,J-1,1):: NEXT J :: CALL CHA
R(CH,X$):: CH$="" :: NEXT CH

  And "Spooky" backward -
150 FOR CH=48 TO 122 :: CALL
 CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: FOR J=1 T
O 15 STEP 2 :: CH2$=CH2$&SEG
$(CH$,J,1)&SEG$(CH$,J+1,1)::
 NEXT J :: CALL CHAR(CH,CH2$
):: CH2$="" :: NEXT CH
151 REM

  Now, clear the memory with
NEW, then -
MERGE DSK1.100
MERGE DSK1.120
Add a line 500 GOTO 500
  And start MERGEing in your
series of "50" routines and
running them to see what you
have created.
  Then, save these next
routines in MERGE format as
150A, 160B, etc.
  All normal characters have
the leftmost column of
pixels and the two right-
most columns blank, for
spacing between letters. We
can widen the character into
the left column -

160 FOR CH=48 TO 122 :: CALL
 CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: FOR J=1 T
O 15 STEP 2
161 CH2$=CH2$&SEG$("014589CD
",POS("01234567",SEG$(CH$,J
,1),1),1)&SEG$("02BA",POS("04
8C",SEG$(CH$,J+1,1),1),1)
162 NEXT J :: CALL CHAR(CH,C
H2$):: CH2$="" :: NEXT CH
163 REM

  Or even a full 8 columns
wide by just changing the
"02BA" in line 161 to "0129"

  For darker characters, we
shade them into 7th column -
160 FOR CH=48 TO 122 :: CALL
 CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: FOR J=2 T
O 16 STEP 2 :: IF SEG$(CH$,J
-1,1)="0" THEN CH2$=CH2$&"18
" :: GOTO 161
161 IF CH=67 OR CH=71 OR CH=
99 OR CH=103 THEN 162 :: IF
SEG$(CH$,J-1,1)="8" AND SEG$
(CH$,J,1)="0" THEN CH2$=CH2$
&"50" :: GOTO 163
162 CH2$=CH2$&SEG$(CH$,J-1,1
)&SEG$("0367CBEF",POS("02468
ACE",SEG$(CH$,J,1),1),1)
163 NEXT J :: CALL CHAR(CH,C
H2$):: CH2$="" :: NEXT CH

  Or shade them both left
and right -
160 FOR CH=48 TO 122 :: CALL
 CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: FOR J=1 T
O 15 STEP 2 :: A$=SEG$(CH$,J
,1):: P=POS("0123456789ABCDE
F",A$,1)
161 A$=SEG$("3567CDEF89ABCDE
F",P,1):: B$=SEG$(CH$,J+1,1)
:: P=POS("0246BACE",B$,1)::
B$=SEG$("0367CBEF",P,1):: CH
2$=CH2$&A$&B$
162 NEXT J :: CALL CHAR(CH,C
H2$):: CH2$="" :: NEXT CH
163 CALL CHAR 74,"000C0C0C0C
0C4C38"):: CALL CHAR(106,"00
00000C0C0C4C34")

  Or shaded into both of the
rightmost columns -
160 FOR CH=48 TO 122 :: CALL
 CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: FOR J=2 T
O 16 STEP 2 :: CALL CHAR(CH,
CH2$&SEG$(CH$,J,1)&"00")
161 REM
162 REM
163 REM

  Or into all 8 columns -
160 FOR CH=48 TO 122 :: CALL
 CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: FOR J=1 T
O 15 STEP 2 :: P=POS("012345
6789ABCDEF",SEG$(CH$,J,1),1)
161 A$=SEG$("0367CDEF89ABCDE
F",P,1):: P=POS("0246BACE",S
EG$(CH$,J+1,1),1):: B$=SEG$(
"0367CBEF",P,1):: CH2$=CH2$&
A$&B$
162 NEXT J :: CALL CHAR(CH,C
H2$):: CH2$="" :: NEXT CH
163 REM

  More neatly, shaded inward
at right -
160 FOR CH=48 TO 122 :: CALL
 CHARPAT(CH,CH$)
161 FOR J=1 TO 15 STEP 2 ::
CH2$=CH2$&SEG$(CH$,J,1)&SEG$
("0C8C",POS("248C",SEG$(CH$,
J+1,1),1),1):: NEXT J
162 CALL CHAR(CH,CH2$):: CH2
$="" :: NEXT CH
163 REM

  Or inward at right, out-
ward at left
160 FOR CH=48 TO 122 :: CALL
 CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: FOR J=1 T
O 15 STEP 2
161 CH2$=CH2$&SEG$("0367CBEF
",POS("01234567",SEG$(CH$,J,
1),1),1)&SEG$("0C8C",POS("04
8C",SEG$(CH$,J+1,1),1),1)
162 CALL CHAR(CH,CH2$):: CH2
$="" :: NEXT CH
163 REM

  Here's a weirdo -
160 FOR CH=48 TO 122 :: CALL
 CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: FOR J=9 T
O 15 STEP 2
161 CH2$=CH2$&SEG$("014589CD
",POS("01234567",SEG$(CH$,J,
1),1),1)&SEG$("028A",POS("04
8C",SEG$(CH$,J+1,1),1),1)
162 NEXT J :: CALL CHAR(CH,5
EG$(CH$,1,8)&CH2$):: CH2$=""
 :: NEXT CH
163 REM

  Try changing that to FOR J
=1 TO 7 and CALL CHAR(CH,CH2
$&SEG$(CH$,9,3))

  And one more -
160 FOR CH=48 TO 122 :: CALL
 CHARPAT(CH,CH$):: FOR J=1 T
O 7 STEP 2
161 A$=SEG$("2468ACE",POS("
01234567",SEG$(CH$,J,1),1),1
):: B$=SEG$("48C8",POS("048C
",SEG$(CH$,J+1,1),1),1):: CH
2$=CH2$&A$&B$ :: NEXT J
162 CALL CHAR(CH,CH2$&SEG$(C
H$,9,8)):: CH$="" ::NEXT CH
163 REM

  Now, clear the memory,
MERGE in 100 and 120, put in
a holding line 500 GOTO 500
and start MERGEing in all of
the different combinations
of the 150 and 160 lines and
see how many different char-
acter sets you can make!

        Memory full,

        Jim Peterson

**********
    END
**********
```

```
 ,-------FOR SALE-------.
 |                       |
 | TI-99/4A COMPUTER W/ ALL |
 | MANUALS, PS & RF MOD.  |
 | PERIPHERAL EXPANSION BOX |
 | SS/SD DRIVE & II CARDS; |
 | PED. 32K, RS232 AND DC. |
 | HEATHKIT SER. PRINTER W/ |
 | CABLE (NEED MINOR WORK); |
 | WILL INCLUDE DM2, MPLAN, |
 | FINANCIAL MODULES, AND |
 | OTHERS.  ALL DOCS INCL. |
 | $150. (SHIPPING EXTRA) |
 | 814-238-0596 (DAYS, EVE) |
 `-----------------------'
```


STUMBLING BLOCKS

By Chip Chapin

This article deals with Pieces of Programs rather than my usual 6 to 8 pages of program statements which are mostly comments to explain the few real statements anyway. In my latest efforts at Fortran 9640, I encountered some things which I found to be interesting/frustrating/mystifing but in some cases I finally sorted things out. I decided an article on several small items might be of interest 'Just this once', so without further ado...

What is wrong with this?

```
120  CALL KEY(0,K,S)

     IF ( S .EQ. 0 ) GOTO 120

     IF ( S .GT. 0 ) GOTO 10
```

Well, using this resulted in a compilation error - one of those really puzzling ones, because the only indication that there is an error is the error status at the end of compilation. With no explanation, the status read ERRORS 0001. Not a nice thing to have happen, especially when you have just done several things which could have a large impact on the program. Naturally, I tried different ways to do several things before I commented out the second IF in the CALL KEY statement. Don't ask me why I got the error, all I know is that the compiler did [not] like two Ifs dealing with the Status element. It took me about four hours to find that little problem! And then of course I couldn't dupe the problem in a test program. AAARRRGGGHH!

Ever wonder what would happen if you disobeyed the rule about leaving the last line of your program blank? Well, at the end of compilation you get a msg like I/O ERROR/FILE ERROR DSK1.TEST. Yes, we are told not to leave the first or last line blank, but not what the visible signs of it are. That was another error which took me awhile to find. Its the sort of thing that happens when you start to add another line to the source code but don't for some reason or other. I tested the deletion of commands using F3, Cntl D, and Cntl R. In no case did QQE leave an empty line at the bottom of the file.

Here's a neat item - the N format specification. This is the format which allows you to replace various parts of a format statement with 'N', and gets the value of N from extra variables you have placed in the 'variable list'. Consider:

```
     WRITE (6,10) INUM,RNUM

10   FORMAT('+',MI0.15,I4,'   ',F8.2)
```

In a program, these two lines would move the cursor to row 10, column 15, and print the value of INUM in integer 4 format, move two spaces along, then print the value of RNUM in fixed real number format, with up to 8 digits, with the rightmost two preceded by a decimal point. All well and good, but suppose you wanted to do that same sort of thing in a loop [but] you wanted the data to be printed to the screen, not on the same row and column, but on the row imediately beneath the previous one? Try this method:

```
     WRITE (6,10) ROW,CLM,INUM,RNUM

10   FORMAT('+',MN,N,I4,'  ',F8.2)
```

Two variables, ROW and CLM, have been added to the WRITE statement, and the two screen coordinates have been replaced with the letter N. When data is being sent to the screen, the value of the first variable in the list (ROW) is used by the first N in the Format statement. The second N uses the value of the variable CLM. The coordinates have now been provided and the rest of the format statement is carried out as before. Being in a loop, you will want to increment ROW and CLM as appropriate, so that your data is properly displayed.

The sands of time are down to the last few grains, so thats all for this article. I might have a small program next month, if all goes well.

PC NEWS

Notes on IBM PC and Compatible Machines and Activities of the Central Pennsylvania IBM Personal Computer Association, Inc., Box 197, State College, PA 16801.

NEWS FROM THE TBAWL SYSOP

I've started to add Fidonet and Usenet conferences to TBAWL. These conferences will start at Conf 30 and grow upwards. Not too much there so far, but I'll add stuff as soon as possible. If you are going to follow some of the larger conferences, you should probably get to know QwikMail door to make it much easier on you.

I've just added the QwikMail door to TBAWL. This door in conjunction with QMAIL allows you to capture and download all mesiages on the various message bases automatically. The door then downloads this packet to you which you can feed into QMAIL to read and reply to messages OFFLINE. You then enter your replies and the QwikMail door then uploads your replies on your next call and adds them to the appropriate message bases. The door also sends you new bulletins and file listings.

Two QwikMail readers are available - QMAIL201.ZIP is the reader developed by the QwikMail door author. EZ126.ZIP was developed as another reader which has gotten good reviews. Try one or both and see which you prefer.

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TBAWL is a member of the UGX on BIX, the on-line service for computer-using professionals. For information, call 800-227-2983

CPIPC MEETING MINUTES -- April 5, 1990

Our monthly meeting was held in 189 Materials Research Lab on the Penn State campus. From 6:30 PM onward the usual CPIPC group purchase items were for sale.

Ken Schroyer held the Beginners' Corner session on the CONFIG.SYS file starting shortly after 6:30. Ken first discussed methods of input for creating the file; a word processor which will save ASCII files can be used, as can the copy command (COPY CON: CONFIG.SYS to begin input, control-Z to end; TYPE CONFIG.SYS to verify your entries).

Various entries in the CONFIG.SYS file were then discussed. BREAK=ON allows the Control-Break function to work at all times, not only during I/O, which is the default. BUFFERS=20 is a recommended starting point for the number of buffers created in memory to hold information from disk. Since memory is at least an order of magnitude faster than disk access, substituting memory for disk use will