TI SLAVES
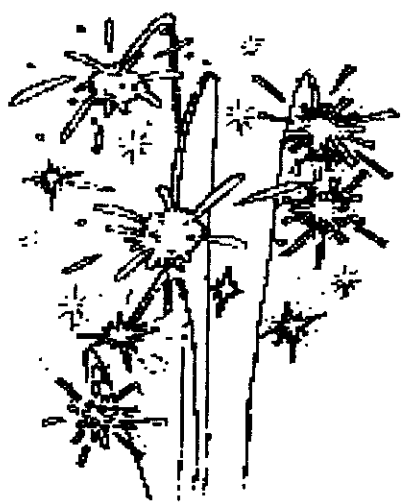
OGDEN TI USERS GROUPS
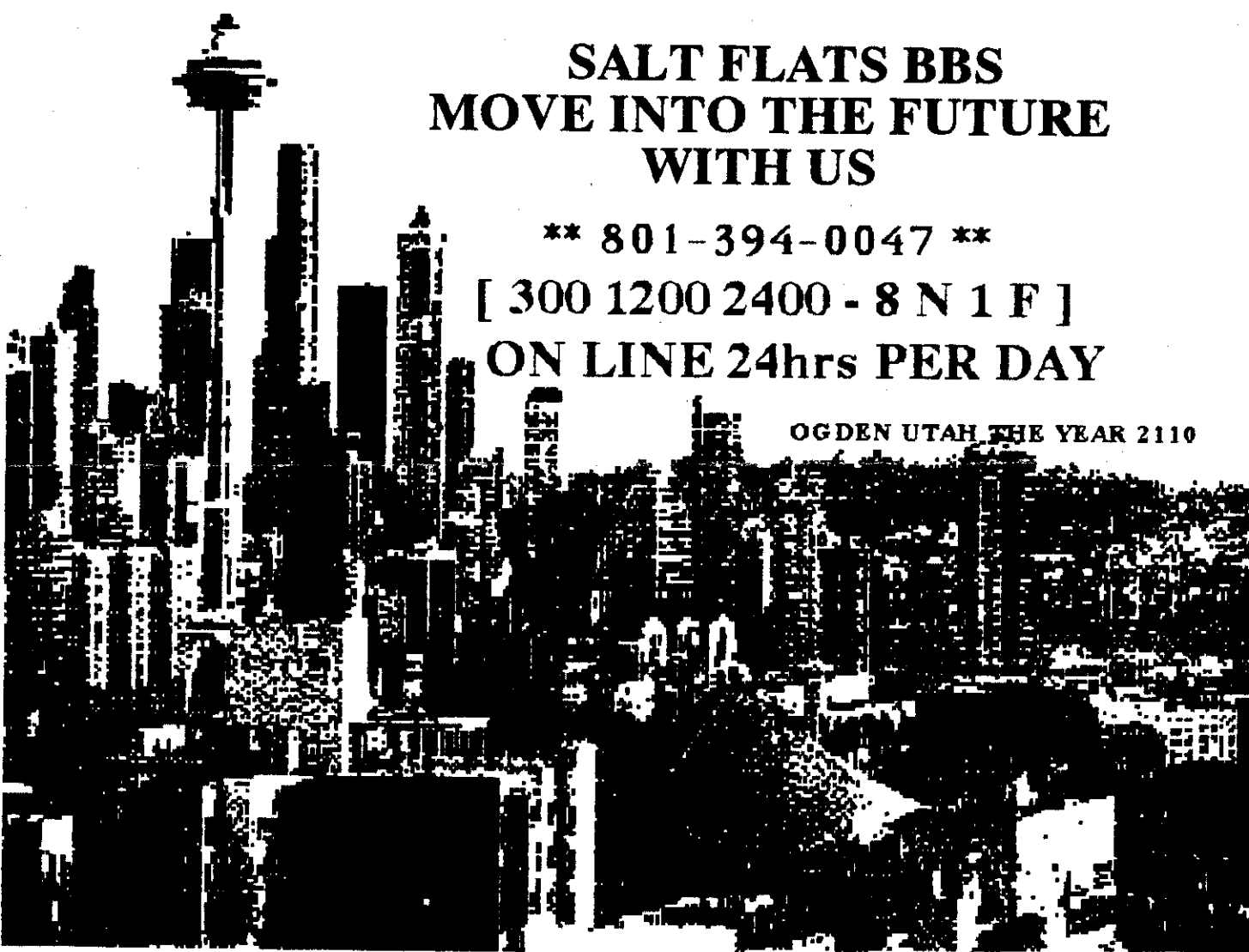
AND THE 1991 NEWSLETTER

Hey everyone!

The Ogden Group
is having a Picnic
everyone is Invited.
It is pot luck.
July 27th Saturday
Time: 3:00 till 9:00

Place: WASHINGTON MOBILE EST
1450 N WASHINGTON BLVD

Bring your famlies and
have fun.
Bring your own meat
to cook.
Swimming is
available.

Happy Fourth of July

SALT FLATS BBS
MOVE INTO THE FUTURE
WITH US

** 801-394-0047 **
[300 1200 2400 - 8 N 1 F]
ON LINE 24hrs PER DAY

OGDEN UTAH THE YEAR 2110

THE SALT FLATS BBS

Earlier in the month of June, we moved the Salt Flats BBS to its new home at the Ogden airport. It is now located in the same building where the Ogden TI Users Group meets. In its old location, we were limited on the hours of operation, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 AM Monday though Friday and then 24 hours on weekends and holidays. While the BBS was located at its old location, we did have the advantage of not having to pay for the phone bill since we utilized an exsisting phone line that was only used for FAX demos during the business day.

Well, now we have the ability of being able to call the BBS 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. But, now we have a phone bill to pay for. The advantages of the move outway the disadvantages hand over hand. I believe that the phone bill is just a minor problem when you look at the picture as a whole. To have a 24 hour BBS that's ran completely on a TI-99/4a home computer tells our IBM/Clone community the the TI is still alive and is capable of doing the things that the IBM world said it never could. Sometimes all it takes is a challenge to spark the TI owners to prove the capability of our machine. Look at the Salt Flats BBS, here we have a BBS that fills the everlasting needs to support the TI community. Here is a way that we, as TI owners, can communicate, share programs and files, schedule events and even stay on top of the world with a computer and phone line.

Are we growing? I should say so. Look back a year or so and ask yourselves where we were. Where did we want to go? I remember when the thoughts of us having our own BBS were just a dream. I remember all the long disgussions that were held and most everyone thought that having a BBS was just "Dave's dream" and nobody was sure that it was even possible. Now look where we're at.... The BBS is now a reality. Are we growing? Just look around. There were many sacrifices that had to be made, but each and everyone of them was more than worth it. It takes alot of time to maintain a BBS, especially when it's located at a remote site. All the hours that are spent out at the building, updating the program, updating the files, uploading programs for your use. In general, just maintaining the system. To me, it's all worth it. I'm just thankful that the BBS is getting such good usage. And the usage is growing. I can only imagine what the usage will be like when I get the Hard Drive installed on the system. Ten years ago, who ever heard of a TI with that much mass storage. That wasn't even thought of then. Just a plain machine with a 32K memory expansion. Now look at it. We have RamDisks, DS/DD floppy capability, Hard Drives (where size is only a limitation of the manufacturer and our pocket book). I think that indeed we are growing. The participation in our own users group shows that.

But where do we take the BBS from here? I don't have the answer. Once we get the Hard Disk hooked up, I don't know where we want to take it. A 20 meg Hard

Drive will take us a little bit of time to fully utilize its storage capacity since our programs and files are so short. But none the less, it will be there for your usage. I will remove the CorComp RamDisk since I'm convienved that it is the cause of all our upload failures. I will remove it just after I receive the Myarc Hard/Floppy Disk Controller Card. With the card, I will convert all our floppy drives from DS/SD to DS/DD. I'll even add another floppy drive if I need to. That would give us four floppy drives, each capable of 1.44 megs of storage, or 5.76 meg sectors total to run the program and to provide program and file storage for our users until I can get the Hard Drive installed. Again, who ever heard of a TI with that much storage?

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
    Civil Air

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THE SFBBS
by Harold Hilburn

I have been privileged over the past two weeks, late June, to watch as the Salt Flats Bulletin Board System (SFBBS), was relocated from a location where it was only a night and weekend operation, to a permanent home with its own dedicated, full time phone line. That number is 394-0047 on the Ogden, Utah exchange. In addition to the relocation, several improvements have been added to this system and there are several others to be installed as soon as additional hardware and operating software are received.

This system is the brainchild of David DeHeer

and assembled out of his personal equipment along with a tremendous amount of time that he really enjoyed expending. Two others of similar "experimenter" natures jumped right in and have helped him with the resolution of the inevitable hardware and software bugs, glitches and frustrations of anything new in computers, as you all know. These strong computer "nuts" are David Mischler and Mel Bragg. They are now the CoSystem Operators with DeHeer in this system.

But that isn't the purpose of this article. Rather, this was triggered by an old article in the December 1987 Home Computing magazine that I recently reviewed. The title was "TELECOMPUTING — CONNECT". It got me thinking that not only am I associated with the Ogden Ti Users' Group, I am also a member of the

Patrol, where the SFBBS has just been given a permanent home. Then I became aware that the Salt Lake City TI Users' Group (SLAVES) also has a great number of TIs and probably other computers. All these people can find very practical and also enjoyable use of this SFBBS.

Let me expand on this thought! First, several of the Ogden TIers have been using the SFBBS since it first came on line and in the intervening three months, several more (me and my wife included) have borrowed, rented from the Club or purchased Modems so we too could join in the fun. In fact, if you don't check in at least once a week, earlier messages will probably be overwritten due to the currently limited

memory of the message storage area.
(Wait until the new card and large hard drive arrives and memory will be vastly increased).

Second, the majority of the SFBBS users are not even TI owners. A review of the users list, indicates 18 TI users, 4 Tandy, 29 IBMs and Clones, 9 Commodores, 1 Atarie and 1 other. Now isn't that interesting??? You don't even need to have a TI to utilize TELECOMMUNICATIONS. Most all computers use the standard ASCII coding for the various characters we humans use to communicate. All that is needed is a telephone line, a MODEM to connect the computer to the phone line and a little piece of software programming to get it all to work. The software is usually available at very little, or in the case of computer club members, no cost.

Third, We found that the majority of our Civil Air Patrol active members already have home computers and in some instances business computers. So the SFBBS has added a (N)ewsletter section for the Ogden Squadron, CAP. To access this after you log on by the simple act of dialing 394-0047 and getting the Main Menu screen, you Key in "N" for the (N)ewsletter section, and then that Menu comes up to show (J) Civil Air Patrol. Push the "J" and all announcements come up. This way a current and up to date schedule of events is readily available, not only to CAP members, but anyone else that may be interested in that information or messages.

Fourth, since the CAP needed and got their special area of permanent information, the Ogden TI Users' Group also had a similar section added with the call up code of "K" in the (N)ewsletter area. In fact, this morning I noticed that the next three months of scheduled meetings for both the Ogden and Salt Lake TI meetings are available to any caller. And there is plenty of room for others to have their organizational information included.

Fifth, there are dozens of similar Bulletin Boards in each local telephone calling area. I have a list of more than thirty here in the Ogden area. And all these boards are available to all users. Several have special information that they handle for all callers. So if you have a computer, borrow or rent a Modem, (and I've seen several for sale as low as $10 for 300 baud units on the various BBSs), and give this telecommunication a try. You will find that it truly will be "Try it, You'll like it!!".

Sixth, many of you probably Know that many commercial BBSs exist where unbelievably large programs, information, data and source files are available to the individual user. One the wife and I use, and it's completely free, is DUATS, the Direct User Access Terminal System. This commercial system charges each of our calls to the FAA for each use we make to check the National Weather System and to file FAA flight plans. It costs the FAA a lot less for us to use our computer to get information, decide our options and then file,

than for us to tie up their phones and Flight Service Specialists on a direct phone call.
There are so many uses that are already available and more coming down the road for this rapid, cheap, fun, practical, etc., telecommunicating.

Seventh, this publication that 'ol Mel Bragg puts out, goes to a lot of people, not only in Utah but in exchange to the many other Newsletters throughout the country. Therefore, these words should reach a great number of computer owners, and I hope, users. Most, up to this time and based on our club membership, tend to use them for only a specialized purpose. Games for the kids and/or grandkids, word processing, banner making, desk top publishing, home and/or business accounting, a few data base applications and so on. I believe there are a lot of you out there that still should look into what more the computer can do to help you.

Now, what more is needed? Well, they have a procedure called "Echo". With this

you can cause messages and information from one BBS to be transferred to another, so that more users can acquire information, programs and data. What we need at the SFBBS is someone in the Bountiful area to serve in this capacity. It can be made completely automatic and the computers at a specific time, like 12:00 midnight, would call each other and transfer data. The reason for a Bountiful location is that our Ogden phone number can reach there toll free. Then Salt Lake numbers could interlock and we will have more than doubled our

area of coverage. Let the SFBBS (394-0047) know that someone has the equipment to fill this need. Maybe there is a BBS in that area that could serve as this communication link. It would help both service areas greatly.

So there you have it. Regardless of where you are, what computer you use, or what information you might need; give telecommunications a try. It can really open your eyes and mind to more information and fun than you ever believed possible. The more that join into this, the larger information bases that will be available. And by the Echo technique our areas of contact toll free are increased. I am advised that several other BBSs in the Ogden area have Echo and can work from coast to coast over a period of a few minutes to two days, depending on the direction of message travel. If you have any questions, connect with the SFBBS and leave a message with the SysOp, user number 1, and he'll get someone to help you.

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A STUDY IN CALL SOUND
by Harold Hilburn

Several of you students of the BASIC Language may be interested in the following routine that I found in Family Home Computing, August 1987. The little article was called "Three Voice Sound Effect", written by Joey Latimer. What he had done is call for "detuned" tones by playing a random note and at a slightly lower volume, also plays additional tones slightly higher and slightly lower.

First, let's type in a program similar to his original, but with an explanation of each line indented. We'll also add a few features that you may not have considered for use with this little program.

NUM (Enter)
This will automatically assign program line numbers starting with 100 and incrementing each line by 10

REM --RANDOMIZE MELODIES-- (Enter)
This input will follow the line number 100 and a space that the computer provides for your use. This is a remarks (REM) statement and the computer will not use it in the RUN mode. It is used so that you or another at a later date can better understand the logic of the program

RANDOMIZE (Enter)
This follows the line number 110 and instructs the computer to select true random numbers when the later instruction RND (Random Number) is encountered.

REM --SET NUMBER OF NOTES AND CALL SOUND ROUTINE-- (Enter)
This is another Remarks statement, to explain the program. Its form and content are really not important. It's like anything in a PRINT statement between quote marks.

NN=40 (Enter)
This line 130 names and gives a value to the variable for the number of notes to be played. You could call it whatever you want, such as NOTES=40.

REM --SOUND ROUTINE-- (Enter)
This follows the line

number 140 and is just another REMARKS statement.

FOR X=1 TO NN (Enter)
This in program line 150 starts a FOR - NEXT loop to play 40 random notes.

F=INT(RND×1000)+120 (Enter)
This line number 160 statement says "set the frequency F equal to the integer (INT) of a random number times 1000 plus 120 cycles."
Note: A computer generated random number is anything between 0.000000 to 0.999999. The plus 120 is to be sure that the lowest frequency will be at least 120 cycles. So this says that the frequency can be from 120, if the RND is 0.00000; to an upper limit of 1120 -1 or 1119 cycles if the RND is 0.99999.

CALL SOUND(130,F,0,F-4,2,F+4,2) (Enter)
This line 170 tells the computer to produce a sound with a short duration (130) with a frequency of F and maximum loud (0) and also produce a sound at the same time of 4 cycles lower tone and 4 cycles higher tone at a slightly less loudness (2). This is what Joey Latimer calls "detuning sound" and it makes the tone sound fuller.

NEXT X (Enter)
This line returns the computer to the start of the FOR - NEXT loop in line number 150 and increments the value of NN by 1 to create and play the next random note.

END (Enter)
This command isn't needed by the TI 99/4A, but it is nice to add it as some computer systems do need an END statement to prevent a "lock-up" or program failure.

You'll have line number 200 displayed and to remove it from the program, just press the (Enter). This gives line 200 a value of zero so the computer then ignores that line number.

So now you should have a program that looks like the following. To prove it type in the Immediate command LIST, and Enter and the program will be displayed as it exists in your computer.
```
100    REM--RANDOMIZE
MELODIES--
110 RANDOMIZE
120    REM  --SET NUMBER  OF
NOTES    AND    CALL    SOUND
ROUTINE--
130 NN=40
140 REM   --SOUND ROUTINE--
150 FOR X=1 TO NN
160 F=INT(RND*1 00)+120

170 CALL SOUND(130,F,0,F-4,2,
F+4,2)
180 NEXT X
190 END
```

As you RUN this program, you'll find the notes are rather rapid. How can you change this? If you don't know, study the explanation for line number 170. To easily change a value or correct an error, remember the shortcut of line correction of typing the line number followed by the Up or Down arrow Keys. Then use the Left and Right arrow Keys to get to the area you want to change. The corrected line will go into computer memory the instance you press Enter from any location in the line.

Can you simplify this program? You should be able to get exactly the same results with a 5 line program. Think about it. What isn't needed? What can be changed and not effect the program run? Hey, you'll have to tell me on

this!!!! Have fun with it. Experiment with different tone offset values, duration and even higher frequencies.

Remember the TI 99/4-A can only produce sounds with frequencies of between 110 and 44733 cycles per second or Hertz; with durations of between 1 and 4250, approximately milliseconds; and with volumes of 0, the loudest, to 30, the quietest. The format for this is -- CALL SOUND(Duration,frequency 1, volume 1, frequency 2, volume 2, frequency 3, volume 3). See your Blue Beginner's BASIC Book and the TI User's Reference Guide for further explanations.

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MASS   STORAGE

A single CD ROM Disc can store up to 680

Megabytes of data. That means that......

ONE CD ROM Disk is = to:

[1800] 360K 5 1/4"
          Floppy Disk"

[17] 40 Megabyte Hard
          Disk Drives

[300.00] Pages of typewritten documentation whish is = to a 3 stories tall building.

Submitted by:
    David Mischler
    Ogden TI-99/4A
    Users Group INC.

An Exciting Opportunity

For

Every Computer Enthusiast . . .

If you have access to a computer, The Johns Hopkins University wants you to consider using it to come up with ideas, inventions, and applications to help enhance and perhaps completely transform the lives of many people with disabilities.

Amateurs, computer professionals and students are invited to compete for hundreds of prizes and awards including a **$10,000 Grand Prize**. "Inventors" and innovators may consider any area of disability, e.g. blindness, deafness, learning disabilities, mental retardation, or more generic needs such as reading-comprehension, getting around in the community, communicating, or operating more effectively at work or home.

With federal government estimates that the lifetime cost of an unemployed disabled person to the country would be more than $1 million and the annual value of employing that person being about $65,000 in both taxes and reduced social services costs, the need for this adaptive technology is immense.

As an innovative computer user you are encouraged to enter the competition, which offers many financial and professional rewards. In addition, you will have the satisfaction of applying technology and your personal creativity in extending the reach and opportunities for possibly thousands of people with disabilities.

The competition deadline is **August 23, 1991**. For your entry flier and information, write to:

> **CAPD**
> **P.O. Box 1200**
> **Laurel, Maryland 20723**

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JULY 1991 NEWSLETTER

TI SLAVES

OUR NEXT MEETING IS JULY 20th 1991 AT 9:00 am. WE MEET IN THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS HALL AT 273 E. 800 S. PLEASE BE THERE PROMPTLY.!!

OGDEN TI USERS GROUP

OUR NEXT MEETING IS JULY 6 AT 9:00am. AND(JULY13th BASIC CLASS 9:00am)AND JULY 16th 7:00 pm AND(JULY 20th 9:00am BASIC CLASS) WE MEET AT THE OGDEN MUNICIPAL AIRPORT IN THE FIRST BUILDING JUST EAST OF THE NEW TOWER.

Slaves & Otiug
1396 Lincoln APT B
Ogden, Utah 84404