TI - D - BITS

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PHILADELPHIA AREA TI-99/4A USER GROUP

July/August 1993

QuikAccess

By Bill Gaskill

Have you ever wished for an easy way to keep track of all the hardware and software you've purchased for your computer over the years? Well don't dispair, because you can create such a system in TI-Writer or any of its clones without much work. Then, using the Extended Basic program that followes this article, you'll be able to access the data in your inventory without ever loading it. Here's how.

Set up a table in the TI-Writer editor like the one shown below, paying VERY, VERY close attention to the column positioning of the ITEM, NUMBER, DATE, RETAIL, PAID and VENDOR fields. The numbers in the very first row of the first table shown below are included only for this illustration, as a column guide during setup. You should not include them in the file that you eventually save to disk.

The underline characters after ADVENTURE HINT BOOK must be part of the file because the Extended Basic program uses them as an end-of-file marker. All entries you make in the file MUST also be in between the dashes at the top of the file and the underline characters at the end of the file just as the five records are in the illustration. In other words, the underlines must always occupy the last record in the file.

When you are done setting the file up in your TI-Writer editor, set the tabs so you'll be able to move quickley from field-to-field during data entry. Each tab would of course be set to the left-most charactor in the field. For example, the tab for NUMBER would be set at column 36, the tab for DATE would be set at column 45 and so on.

If it does, then save the file to a disk in DSK1 using INVENTORY as the file name. That way you'll still have them for the next time you enter data.

When you do begin data entry, make sure to put zeros in the RETAIL and PAID fields where you don't have a RETAIL price or an amount that you PAID for the item. If you leave any entry blank in RETAIL or PAID the Extended Basic program will error out and fail to produce the desired results.

Sorting data in your INVENTORY file will have to be done with TI-Sort or J. Peter Hoddie's Sort Experiment, or your favorite sort utility. Modifying and deleting records is of course done quickly and easily right in the TI-Writer editor.

The Extended Basic program, which I have named QuikAccess, will let you total and display the RETAIL costs and purchase (PAID) costs in the entire file. You can also selectively search for and print records from the file using Product Name (ITEM data in other words), purchase DATE or VENDOR name fields. Likewise, you print the entire contents of the file by selecting Product Name search, and then

A-MAZE	-70	PEM 3030	06/92	39.95	1 05	TRXCOMP
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	OF ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE		,		0.00	TRXCOMP
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	FULW ANALYSIS FRE HINT BOOK	PHT 6044	02/92	3.95 .95	3.95 .95	TH DIRECT TRICOMP
	are done with the f:					2002 20100.
ITEM		NUMBER	DATE	RETAIL	PAID	VENDOR

without typing in any data to look for.

All three search options (menu choices 3,4 and 5) include a "Purchase total" at the end of the printout if you don't have a printer you can erase the printer name in the Set up Printer option and QuikAccess will print everything to the screen.

Lastly, the default Esc and Eject codes under Set up Printer are the codes for Epson and Epson compatible printers. If you don't have a printer you can erase the printer name in the Set up Printer option and QuikAcess will print everything to the screen.

Lastly, the default Esc and Page Eject codes under Set up Printer are the codes for Epson and Epson compatible printers. If they don't work for you, then simply substitute the ones that do for your brand of printer.

If you want to avoid keying in this program check with our club's librarian. I sent the actual program along with this article and the listing. If you have to key it in, omit the carets (the / \ symbols) when doing the keying. They only exist in this listing to show how many spaces exist between words.

The Program listing:

1 !OuikAccess 100 IMAGE #####.## 110 CALL SCREEN(5):: FOR C=0 TO 14 :: CALL COLOR(C, 16,5): : NEXT C 120 A-2 .. LN-1 .: EC-27 .: PE=12 :: PR\$="PIO" :: CALL C HAR(126, "FFFF") 130 ON WARNING NEXT :: ON BR **EAK NEXT:: ON ERROR 480** 140 DISPLAY AT(1.10) ERASE AL L:"QuikAccess": :RT\$("~",28) 150 DISPLAY AT(4,1):"1 - Ret ail price total": : "2 - Purc hase price total" 160 DISPLAY AT(8,1):"3 - Pro duct name search". ."4 - Pur chase date search" 170 DISPLAY AT(12,1):"5 - Ve ndor name search": :"Fctn 7 - Set up printer": :RPT\$("~"

,28): :RPT\$("~",28) 180 CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF K=1 THEN 270 ELSE IF K=15 THEN E ND ELSE IF K<49 OR K>53 THEN 180 190 OPEN #1: "DSK1.INVENTORY" ,INPUT ,DISPLAY ,VARIABLE 200 IF PR\$="" THEN 210 ELSE OPEN #A:PR\$,OUTPUT 210 ON K-48 GOTO 220,230,240 ,250,260,270 220 X=52 :: Y=6 :: GOSUB 300 :: DISPLAY AT(17,1):"Total r etail^^^^\$" :: DISPLAY AT(1 7,18):USING 100:D :: CLOSE # 1:: GOTO 470 230 X=59 :: Y=6 :: GOSUB 300 :: DISPLAY AT(17,1): "Total p urchase \$" :: DISPLAY AT(1 7,18):USING 100:D :: CLOSE # 1 :: GOTO 470 240 C\$="" :: X=6 :: Y=30 :: GOSUB 360 :: CLOSE #1 :: GOT O 470 250 C\$="" :: X=46 :: Y=5 :: GOSUB 360 :: CLOSE #1 :: GOT O 470 260 C\$="" :: X=66 :: Y=11 :: GOSUB 360 :: CLOSE #1 :: GOT O 470 270 DISPLAY AT(20,1):"Esc Co de:";EC; Page Eject:":PE: :P R\$:: ACCEPT AT(20,11)SIZE(-2)VALIDATE(NUMERIC):EC 280 ACCEPT AT(20,26)SIZE(-2) VALIDATE(NUMERIC):PE :: ACCE PT AT(22,1)SIZE(-28):PR\$ 290 IF PR\$="" THEN A=0 :: GO TO 140 ELSE GOTO 140 300 C,D,R=0 310 LINPUT #1:A\$:: B\$=SEG\$(A\$,X,Y):: IF SEG\$(B\$,1,1)="P" OR SEG\$(B\$,1,1)="-" OR SEG \$(B\$,1,1)="_" THEN 330 320 C=VAL(B\$): : D=D+C :: R=R +1 :: DISPLAY AT(22,1): "Reco rd:";R 330 CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF K=1

THEN 350 340 IF SEG\$(B\$,1,1)=" "THEN 350 ELSE 310 350 RETURN 360 DISPLAY AT(22,1): "Enter data to find:" :: ACCEPT AT(24,1):C\$:: DISPLAY AT(17,5) :"Press Fctn 9 to abort" 370 DISPLAY AT(22,1): "Correc t? (Y/N)" :: CALL KEY(0.K.S) :: IF K=89 THEN 380 ELSE IF K=78 THEN 360 ELSE IF K=15 T HEN 480 ELSE 370 380 GOSUB 490 390 LINPUT #1:A\$:: B\$=SEG\$(A\$,X,Y):: IF SEG\$(A\$,6,1)="" THEN 440 400 IF SEG\$(A\$,59,1)="P" OR SEG\$(A\$,59,1)="-" OR SEG\$(A\$,59,1)=" "THEN 430 410 IF C\$=SEG\$(B\$,1,LEN(C\$)) THEN PRINT #A:A\$:: D\$=SEG\$ (A\$,59,6):: C=VAL(D\$):: D=D+ C :: LN=LN+1 420 IF LN>58 THEN PRINT #A.C. HR\$(EC)&CHR\$(PE):: LN=1 :: G **OSUB 490** 430 CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF K=1 5 THEN 450 440 IF SEG\$(A\$,6,1)=" "THEN 450 ELSE 390 450 PRINT #A:"^^^^Purchase total is \$",D :: IF A>0 THEN CLOSE #A 460 RETURN 470 DISPLAY AT(24,1)." PRESS <ENTER> TO CONTINUE." :: CA LL KEY(0,K,S):: IF K > 13 THE N 470 :: GOTO 140 480 RUN 490 PRINT #A:"^^^^ITEM^^^^ ^^^^NUMBER ^^^DATE^^RETAIL^^PAID^^^VEND 500 PRINT #A: "^^^^-----

-^---" :: RETURN

END OF PROGRAM LISTING

CaDD Release PC99 Emulator

From MICROpendiou April 1993

CaDD Electronics has PC99 stage 1, according to Mark van Coppenolle of the company.

PC99 is a TI99/4A emulator which runs on the IBM PC (or compatible). According to Van Coppenolle, stage 1 includes the emulation of the TI99/4A console, 32K memory expansion, the TI RS232 card (PIO and both RS232s) and the TI floppy disk controller card (three double-sided, double-density disks).

He says all emulation is done at the chip level and will work with programs that "talk" directly to the hardware (e.g., disk sectors editors, terminal emulators).

According to Van Coppenolle, PC99 stage 1 includes:

- 1.. Extensive docs on disk in Word Perfect and ASCII format.
- 2. Many urilities for bringing TI modules and disk software over to the PC99"disks." These disks are actually DOS files, which internally are identical to TI floppies.
- 3. Extended BASIC and Tombstone City modules in PC99 format. PC99 format is DOS files which contain the GRAM Kracker file structure. CaDD now has an agreement with Texas Instruments to distribute all TI PHM modules, as well as the 99/4A ROMs and GROMs according to Van Coppenolle, and TI royalty is included in the price of PC99.

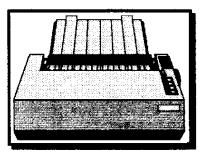
He says limitations of PC99 stage 1 include:

- 1. No sprites displayed. Programs with sprites run, but sprites are not visible. The company plans to correct this in stage 2.
- 2. No sound emulation. Single channel sound may be in stage 2. Stage 3 is set for Sound Blaster support.

Price for stage 0 owners to upgrade is \$40. For persons who sent \$1 before March 1,1993, but do not own stage 0, the price is \$80. Price to new pruchasers is \$98.

For information, contact CaDD Electronics, 81 Prescott Rd., Raymond, NH 03077, (603) 895-0119.

KEEP THOSE PRINT



HEADS CLEAN

By Chuck Reinhard of the Long Island TI99 User Group.

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

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

The guide for the fine printer wires gradually gets clogged with a mixture of lint, ink, and oils from the ribbon. As this dirt builds up and dries out, the pin wires drag in the guide. The result is you get light, low-contrast print even from a new ribbon. The following is a procedure for cleaning the print head that is quick, simple, and does not require removal of the head.

Obtain an aerosol can of Color TV Cleaner (Radio Shack 164-2320) or equivalent. Make sure the label states that it contains silicone, that it will not harm plastic and that it has a plastic tube to plug into the spray nozzle.

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

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

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

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

Turn on the printer and send a page of print to the printer (self-test can be used). Now, move the cloth a little to one side so that you have a clean spot. It may be necessary to give the cloth another shop of fluid and print out another page.

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

Finally, install the ribbon and enjoy the improved print. It works great.

TRANSFERRING FILES TI to PC

By Philip Harris Ottawa U.G.

In case you're not sure how I passed TI Writer files to the PC, then let me explain. You will need the following hard/software: a null modem connector (approx. \$8.00 at most computer stores), a female/female gender changer (\$8.00), one or two modem cables, a modem program for both the PC and TI, TI Writer (Funnelweb), and the DF128/DV80 program.

Firstly, I download all the newsletter contributions from our BBS. After de-archiving any archived files, I then load up TI Writer.

Next, I select the first file for the Newsletter and load the file as normal into TI Writer. Then merge in the next file by typing LF for Load File, and then type E DSK1. filename. This loads the file called "filename" from DSK1 and places it in the current document after the last line.

After all files are merged in, I can then do a rough deletion of unwanted formatting codes, then PF (Print File) to a file instead of a printer from the command line. The commands are: PF <ENTER>, C DSK1.Document <ENTER>. The "C" tells TI Writer to print the file stripping it of any TI Writer format characters and storing it in a "plain text" format.

The next step is to exit TI Writer and run the program DF128/DV80 and convert the DSK1.Document from a DV80 file to a DF128 file (ASCII standard)

Once the file conversion is complete, hook the two computers' serial ports together using the above equiptment. Actually, you could do it DURING or even before the conversion.

Lastly, run a modem program on each computer, enter terminal mode and set the baud rate at 9600. You should now be connected! You can test this by typing a few letters on the TI, and they should appear on the PC's screen. To transfer the files, simply select "up-load" on the TI, Xmodem protocol, and type in the name of the file to send (e.g. in Telco: Before DSK1.DOCUMENT). pressing <ENTER> on the TI to send, select "download" on the PC, Xmodem, plus the file name (including path if needed) and press <ENTER> on both machines. The files should "scream" between machines. After the transfer, load your PC's word processing package (e.g. WordPerfect) and load in the ASCII text file. It's that simple!

ADDENDUM by Mark Schafer: I have successfully transported files between a TI and a PC, and the only connectors I used were a TI modem cable and a null modem cable (as opposed to a null modem connector). I didn't use a gender changer. Maybe you only need one if you don't have a null modem cable. I have no idea how easy a null modem cable is to come by.

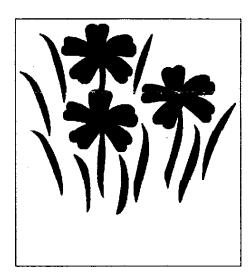
If you think his second step reads a little awkwardly, it's because I changed it. He was going throught a little more trouble than he

needed to, so I simplifed it: I couldn't say "I then merge..." because it isn't the way the auther said he did it.

And speaking of unneeded trouble, I may be off the mark since I don't know a whole lot about telecommunications, but isn't it true that in some cases it would be easier just to download the file to a PC in the first place?

Also, I believe the above steps could be reversed if you want to go the other way. If the program DF128/DV80 that he referred to cannot convert the other way, there are programs that can. The conversion could also be done at the PC before sending.

HAVE A NICE SUMMER!!



(Continued from Page 8)

Cedar Knolls West, Ceder City, UT 84720

~~~~ TI-101 ~~~~

OUR 4/A UNIVERSITY

by Jack Sughrue
Box 459
E.Douglas MA 01516

#3 DOCENTS

To Whom One Turns

You people up back, let's have your attention up here!

Save your questions until the end, as I'll probably answer them along the way, anyway.

First, make sure you have your notebooks open and pens at the ready. There are lots of important names and addresses I'll be giving out. Only once. So, if you miss them the first time, it's as the French say, "Zee tough cookie."

Second, in my hand I have a SOFTWARE EXCITEMENT Catalog. These \$2 catalogs are for the IBM compatibles, Amigas, Macs, Commodores, and Apples. They are typical of the user-supported shareware-type catalogs for those machines, most of which contain the same items no matter who publishes them. Let's look at what they have to offer for \$4 per PROGRAM! If you buy a dozen programs they go for \$3 each. 20 brings the price down to \$2.50. When you order more than 50 of these programs the price gets down to \$2 each. Plus shipping charges and a \$3 handling and packing fee. But there are only 30 educational programs total, pre-school through college, anyway, so you couldn't even order 50 educational programs if you wanted to. But one has to be careful, even you have a dozen children from ages 3 to 23. AMEMCMP (a memory game), for example, requires 640K (YES! 640!), a VGA or EGA monitor, AND a hard drive. Whew! Sure makes our little, very inexpensive, 32K TIs with single/single drives look puny, doesn't it? Or does it? What does this program do? You match up hidden pairs. It's a fancy variation of Concentration.

There is also a program called WORD GALLERY which helps children associate the printed word with the object it describes. (Doesn't that sound a bit like a few cartridges TI made about a decade ago?) There are also math programs that teach counting, addition, and subtraction through endless patience and some graphics and games. (More cartridge deja vu?) There's also French and Spanish tutorials. And so on.

Anyway, if you have a use for any such fanciness or even ALL of these 30 programs, they will cost you about \$70.

Now, we'll begin with THE important educational resources of today's American TI Community.

As I'm not reading from my full notes today, Class, I'm afraid I'll be leaving out a few important resources unintentionally. Consider checking this out and locating the missing sources as part of your assignment for next time.

Meanwhile, let me start with some comparisons to this \$2 shareware catalog in my hand. There's a wonderful programmer and writer in Columbus by the name of Jim Peterson. He has a one-man company which has no equal for any other computer in the country. It's called

TIGERCUB SOFTWARE (156 Collingwood Ave., Whitehall, OH 43213) and offers disks at \$1.50 each (postpaid for 8 or more). Disks! Not programs. he has over 550 different disks! Jam-packed full of the best authors the TI World, arranged by category and auto-loaded from a super menu. We're talking THOUSANDS of Public Domain and Shareware programs. look under education, for example, where, along with the games sections, you can find not 30 but THOUSANDS of programs, various Concentrations just being a smidgeon of these. For example, there are three disks full of programs just for Vocabulary & Reading and 15 DISKS! just for math (to name a couple). Here are the programs from just ONE of these Vocabulary & Reading disks: Adjective to Adverb, Noun to Adjective, Learning to 'ing' It, Plural Endings, Animal Multitudes, Doctor Who, Vocabulary, Vocabulary Quiz, Syllables, Reading Practice, Speed Reading, Tense Time, Synonyms & Antonyms, Read-Fast, and Vocabulary II. 15 educational programs for \$1.50! Or, in this case, just 10 CENTS A PROGRAM! (Or, put another way, about 30 programs for \$3, instead of \$70, as is the case with the "other" computer.) In addition to some neat these programs have real speech! All for a dime. graphics, some of Nothing's been a dime since Nixon took us off the gold standard: not a pack of gum, not a comic book, not a candy bar. But now, thanks to Jim Peterson and TIGERCUB, the dimey has returned to those fortunate enough to own a TI-99/4A. Top quality for wonderful prices. To get his catalog (\$1 deductible on first order) is like rolling Chanukah. Kwanzaa, Christmas, Druidic Solstice, and 55 Birthdays all into one computing event.

I tell you, Class, it'll make your mouth water. But where was I?

Oh, yes, TI resources for educational goodies. Er, tools. Educational tools and materials.

Obviously, if you own a disk drive, TIGERCUB is an enormous resource. The next best resource is an active user group. Makes no difference if you live in East Douglas or Venedocia (if there really are such places), you can make the connection by joining by mail. I belong to a few user groups. In addition to monthly newsletters, which keep me very informed and up to date on TI matters of importance, I am also afforded the opportunity of participating in the treasure chests called Club Libraries. I'll use the Lima, Ohio, group as an example. (Lima UG, P.O. Box 647, Venedocia, Ohio, 45894). For my \$15 dollars a year receive a MONTHLY newsletter of original articles, reviews, advice, programs, you-name-its. Also I automatically receive important updates FUNNELWEB, the most used piece of software in the TI disk world. I have access to a zillion world-wide newsletters and other pieces of textware, not to mention the expertise of a truly sharing collection of hard-working, friendly 99ers. I am also entitled to the free library of cassettes and disks put together by this small, dedicated contingent of TI goodfellas (and gals). This means that I can look over the immense catalog at my home in Massachusetts and send cassettes and postage or disks and postage and get ANYTHING I want for nada, zilch, zero, cribbage 19. nothing. Beat that one, Kiddos!

Oops! As I was saying, we must look into our educational resources. There are many other user groups, too, Class. My local M.U.N.C.H. (560 Lincoln Street, P.O. Box 7193, Worcester, MA 01605) is probably my best personal resource, as I attend our monthly meetings and fairs and so on. We do lots of demos and hands-on type things and help each other whenever possible. Anyway, Class, if you can find a local group you can go to for meetings, that's another great resource, but at least join one by mail if there are no locals.

And attend at least one TI Faire somewhere once a year, even if (as I

do) you have to travel over 800 miles. It's worth it for all the...

If you'd hold the talking down back there, it would be greatly appreciated. We're running out of time, and I did want to...

Okay, Mr. Shakespeare, what is the question? I suppose that's the only

way I can get you to stop waving your hand.

Listen up, Class! Listen up! Mr. Shakespeare over by the window wants to know about some of the educational software. He says he has a nephew in junior high who is having trouble reading and two granddaughters who are 8 and 4, respectively, and wants to know what the TI can do for him. Yes, yes, Ms. Bronte, I'm AM going to tell you about educational software for people our age, too, but we won't be able to get into too much of that for a few sessions.

Right now, though, I'd just like to tell you about a few people who

had some visions. It might help.

Terrie Masters, who used to be president of the Los Angeles group, spoke to me a few years ago about doing some educational networking with educators. I've also discussed that same thing more than once with Charlie Good (Lima UG). And Sister Pat Taylor (1050 Carmel #456, Dubuque, Iowa, 52001). And John Willforth (RFD #1, Box 73A, Jeannette, PA 15644). And Janet Ryan and her daughter Jennifer Jolly Road, Ellington, CT 06029). And Mickey Schmitt (196 Broadway Ave., Lower Burrell, PA 15068). And Mike Wright (45 Centerville Drive, Salem, NH 03079). And Jim Horn [EXTENSIVELY] (P.O. Box 244, Lorton, VA 22079). And Rodger Merritt (1949 Evergreen Ave., Fullerton, CA 92635). And fellow elementary teacher Phil Townsend (c.o. Kawartha 99ers, 224 Woodward Ave., Peterborough. Ontario. Canada. K9L 1J7). And Eunice (Webb Rd., Box 3720, Waterville, ME 04901). And Barry Traver (835 Green Valley Dr., Philadelphia, PA 19128). And OFTEN with Jim Peterson. And, once with educational programmer Don Shorock (P.O.Box 501, Great Bend, KS 67530). And very often with Chris Bobbitt even before he founded ASGARD (P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20850). piles of teachers and interested parents and grandparents.

An educational network has been a hot topic for many years in our community. As a matter of fact, Terrie mentioned a teacher by the name of Joy Warner (Box 518, Mt.Baldy, CA 91759, whose daughter is a pilot and was in the recent winter olympics as a "lugist," one of those incredible sledders) who was bent on getting a network going. This past year Joy flew all over America trying to help Terrie's dream come true by meeting with as many Tlers as she could meet during her whirlwind tour.

She discovered, as I did, that there is already much of that network in place and ready to connect. Jim Peterson has his TIGERCUB marvel. Charlie has been testing (with his own wonderful tykes) all kinds of marvelous and rare TI educational programs from Milliken, Scholastic, Mike and Charlie, along with Gary Taylor from Disney, and so on. Pittsburgh have been competing for ownership of the ulitimate TI Collection (in fable known as the TI Grail). Eunice Spooner not only runs the only all-kids TI user group in America but has the best LOGO video and disk program money (\$10) can buy. Bill Gaskill and Ron Albright have been (to our 99 history) the best thing to happen to us. still is. Dick Altman's wonderful Fairware List is now in the capable hands of Ida McCargar of the Southwest 99ers (P.O.Box 17831, Tucson, AZ 85730).

Oh, sorry, Ms. Bronte, I didn't notice the time. Anyway, keep this list. It's important when it comes time for the final. Guaranteed this material will be on it.

Did I mention NOTUNG? Or Tex-Comp? Or COMPRODINE? Or MICROpendium?

Or Regena? I didn't mention Regena? Quick. Write down REGENA, 918

The Philadelphia Area TI-99/4A Users' Group meets once a month. On the first saturday of the month at the Church of the ATONEMENT, 6200 Greene St. Germantown (Corner of Greene St. and Walnut Lane) at 10 AM. We invite anyone that is interested in the TI-99/4A or Geneve to visit us. Stop in and see what is available to you for your TI and how membership can benefit you!

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Ralph Field215-362-2534

EDUCATION

Barry Traver

EQUIPTMENT

Allan Silversteen

PROGRAM

(OPEN)

REMEMBER to be considerate when calling any of the above people. Limit your calls to early evening hours. (6pm to 9pm)

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