SAN DIEGO COMPUTER SOCIETY

TI-SIG

SEPTEMBER 1987 NEWSLETTER

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month, at 7 P.M., in the Game Room of the North Park Recreation Center, 4044 Idaho St., San Diego

TI-SIG OFFICERS 1987/88

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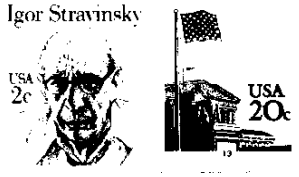

TI-SIG
San Diego Computer Society
P.O. Box 83821
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DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP
P.O. BOX 29863
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A c99 PROGRAM FROM THE AUG, 87 CIN-DAY NEWS:

```
/* Label printer rewritten           */
/* by Jim Susco, July 28, 1987       */
/* slash asterisks contain comments  */
#include "DSK1.STDIO"                 /* Standard I/O header (source file)  */
#define LENGTH 31                     /* Define string macro                */
char b,c,label[5][31],                /* Declare idenfifiers (variables)    */
     ans,opt;
int i,j,k,numb,printer;               /* Line statement only ends at ;      */
main()                                /* Integer identifiers                */
  {                                   /* Identifies main procedure (subprgm)*/
   printer = fopen("PIO","w");        /* Marks beginning of procedure block */
   opt = "R";                         /* Unit = file open (name, mode)      */
   while(opt != 'S')  {               /* Initial value for R                */
     putchar(12);                     /* Beginning of conditional block     */
     puts("Print labels to printer\n");/* Clear screen/write one char to scrn*/
     puts("                       \n");/* To file/screen default            */
     i = 0;                           /* \n -line feed after                */
     while(i < 5)     {               /* Initial value of loop counter/index*/
        puts("   ");                  /* Label input by lines               */
        putchar(i+1+48);              /* Put ascii char on screen, start w/0*/
        puts("==>");                 /* I added one to start counting at 1 */
        gets(&label[i][0]);           /* Get string and put in 1st address  */
        ++i;                          /* Post increment loop counter/index  */
        }                             /* End while loop                     */
     puts("Print (Y/N) ?");
     gets(&ans);                      /* Char (input) from screen           */
     if(ans == 'Y')   {               /* Begin if block for opt = Y         */
        numb = 0;                     /* Global val's start at 0 but this   */
        puts("Number of labels ?");   /* loops.                             */
        gets(&b);                     /* Read a string value                */
        numb = atoi(&b);              /* Convert a string value to integer  */
        j = 1;                        /* Screen message for print           */
        while(j <= numb) {            /* Value of numb                      */
          putchar(12);                /* Print newpage (clear scrn) single  */
          puts("Printing Label");     /* char.                              */
          putchar(j+48);              /* Put ascii char to screen - start   */
          puts(")");                  /* at one.                            */
          k = 0;                      /* Begin actual printing of label     */
          while(k < 5)  {
            fputs(&label[k][0],printer);/* File print to printer            */
            ++k;                      /* Post increment k (line counter)    */
            }                         /* End of while k <= 5 (print label)  */
          fputs(" ",printer);         /* Print blank line-space next to     */
          ++j;                        /* label.                             */
          }                           /* End of while j <=numb block (# of  */
        }                             /* labels.)                           */
   putchar(12);                       /* Single char print                  */
   puts("(S)top, (R)edo : ");
   gets(&opt);                        /* Input choice of stop/redo          */
   }                                  /* End of while block with while opt  */
   fclose(printer);                   /* File close (printer/device)        */
  }                                   /* End of main procedure              */
atoi(s) char *s;
  { int sign,n;
    while(*s==' ')++s;
    sign=1;
    if(*s=='-') { sign=-1; ++s; }
    if(*s=='+') ++s;
    n=0;
    while((*s>='0')&(*s<='9')) n=10 * n
       + *(S++) - '0';
    return(sign*n);
  }
```

MORE NEW TI HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE:

ITEM: A "Proto Board" for the PE Box by John Willforth. This can be used to do such things as putting speech, the 32K memory expansion or Super Cart memory in the peripheral expansion box. No price yet. Write:

John Willforth
R.D. #1Box 73A
Jeannette, PA 15644

ITEM: From Not-Polyoptics, an improved version of the SPAD XIII Flight Simulator. It is going for a reduced price of about $7 to those who are registered owners. Improvements include better graphics, speedier flight algorithms and an "OPTIONAL RED BARON FOKKER TRIPLANE" which "aggressively seeks and attacks you." Also: instantaneous choice of flying locale: the Eiffel Tower, the trenches, the German Airfield, etc!

Not-Polyoptics
P.O. Box 4443
Woodbridge, VA 22194

ITEM: HOME CONTROL 99. This is software which makes it possible to use the 99/4A console to program the BSR (and, now, Radio Shack, 110 V.A.C. outlet control modules. Two newsletter writers, Tom Steffen, writing in the August, 1987 LA TOPICS and Thomas LeMay, in the July, '87 West Jax 99'ers, tell how the disk based software put out by Lake Software for $10 can be used to program the X-10 Power House controller. LeMay said the IBM interface cable, which comes separately for $19, can be adapted for use with the 99/4A. With the software put out by Lake Software are some instructions on how to rewire the IBM cable. It connects the TI RS232 with the X-10 Powerhouse controller. Besides the firms listed below, other suppliers are the TENEX and TEXCOMP mail order houses.

Another source for the controller and outlet plug modules is:

DAK Industries
8200 Remmet Ave.
Canoga Park, CA 91304
1-800-DAK-0800

and

X-10(USA), INC.
105A Le Grand AVE.
Northvale, NJ 07647
1-201-784-9700

And the software:

Eagle Software
1269 E. 348th St.
Eastlake, OH 44094

From all indications, this does not tie up your computer but allows it to be used to program the controller which in turn works as a master timer turning on lights, etc.

COMING TO US all the way from Australia was a disk full of games by a member of the Sydney, Australia users group, Tony Imbruglia. This disk is now in the SIG library. Besides the games, it also includes a multiple disk catalog which will hold up to 500 names. The game programs include the following programs:

Haunted House... you gather up gold bags
TI Targets..... you shoot arrows at a moving target
Torpedo Attack.. that's what it does
Who Dunit..... a murder mystery with a houseplan, clues and a cast of characters

---

WOODY'S BEGINNER'S BASIC CORNER

THE PROGRAM THAT FOLLOWS was adapted from a program on Page 246 of "Introduction to TI BASIC" by Don Inman, Ramon Zamora, and Bob Albrecht. Unfortunately, that program had several serious errors, but the concept is what I have used. Unlike the program in the book, this one will test two strings of any length and tell which of the two is alphabetically first.

```
100 CALL CLEAR
110 INPUT "FIRST WORD? ":A$
120 INPUT "SECOND WORD? ":B$
130 IF LEN(A$)>LEN(B$)THEN 140 ELSE 160
140 N=LEN(B$)
150 GOTO 170
160 N=LEN(A$)
170 FOR X=1 TO N
180 A=ASC(SEG$(A$,X,1))
190 B=ASC(SEG$(B$,X,1))
200 IF A<>B THEN 270
210 NEXT X
220 PRINT :;:;:;:;:
230 IF LEN(A$)<LEN(B$)THEN 290 ELSE 240
240 IF  LEN(A$)>LEN(B$)THEN 330
250 PRINT "THE WORDS ARE EQUAL"
260 GOTO 340
270 IF A>B THEN 320
280 PRINT :;:;:;:;:
290 PRINT A$;" COMES BEFORE ";B$
300 PRINT :;:;:;:;:
310 GOTO 340
320 PRINT :;:;:;:;:
330 PRINT B$;" COMES BEFORE ";A$
340 PRINT :;:;:
350 PRINT "PRESS ANY KEY"
360 CALL KEY(0,K,S)
370 IF S=0 THEN 360
380 GOTO 100
```

NOTE: Need an explanation of how it works? Send a SASE to the SIG for it.

SAT-SIG

SEPTEMBER 1 9 8 7 E D I T I O N

ANOTHER RAM CARD has hit the market. Announcing availability of their new 64K expandable to 512K ram card last month in MICROpendium was Databiotics. It is being billed by the Palos Verdes, Cal. firm as a $129.95 bombshell which they have named "Grand Ram." That's the price of the 64K model. Other features include a clock (just under $20), a disk manager and the 4A/TALK terminal program and compatibility with the ram cards of other brands.

SOME SIG MEMBERS with long memories quickly pointed out this card has been a long time coming: something like two years since it was announced. However, that sure is a competitive price and allows for easy upgrading.

LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER photocopying and postage cost was paid with a donation made to the group by Don McDonald, a new member. After Woody Wilson resurrected some otherwise lost data from one of his disks, Don wanted to do something nice for the group. The donation was $20 and that tells you something about how much of a production this little journal is.

IGNORANCE IS BLISS: How many of us know that you can dump out to a disk drive a specified number of lines from a TIW file? In an unsigned article in the Greensboro, NO. CAR. 99 Lines newsletter a writer tells how he had written all afternoon and dutifully dumped his prose out to disk. However, he had unwittingly left the line listing command in, before he began writing so all afternoon, he kept dumping the first 15 lines of the file to disk. He used the SaveFile (SF) command with his file thusly:

"1 15 DSK1.MYFILE"

Now that you also know it, try to forget it --- or only use it on very special occasions.

YOUR'S TRULY (the SIG editor) did something similiar when experimenting with a Pilot program from an Aussie news letter the other day. Somehow, he mistook the directions for booting in the Pilot operating program and booted in his Forth disk instead. No problem? Except he managed to somehow, and he's still trying to figure out how, he invoked one of those magical Forth commands, and overwrote a whole disk full of treasured "c99" programs. Fortunately, DM-1000's "recover file" utility came to the rescue.

GETTING GOOD MARKS from Woody Wilson is Monty Schmidt's COMMAND DOS (disk operarating system) program. (MICROpendium reviewed this program as "4A DOS" with an "A" rating in June 1987.) Coincidentally, disk operating systems are getting a lot of attention from not only our own TI community but in the advanced IBM 386 market as well. In the TI world, Myarc's MDOS is still just about to be released, and, without it, the 9640's owners are dead in the water trying to get their machines operating. But they should not feel bad, literally the same thing has occurred in the case of IBM's new 32-bit 386 (which apparently takes its name from Intel's 80386 chip.) In IBM's case, the new hardware is out but its full power cannot be addressed without the new DOS that Microsoft designed for it: OS/2. Byte Magazine states it is due for release early next year.

IN THAT SAME VEIN, two prominent TI'ers have come up with a new wrinkle for putting not only 32K inside our 99/4A's console, but are making it expandable to 64K total. They are John Clulow and Mike Ballman. Clulow wrote an article which was carried in the July, 1987 edition of the West Penn 99er's newsletter in which he tells how to make the hardware mods. He also states Ballman is working on 64K of memory. The mod yields a program execution speed increase of about 50%. But, John adds that with the full 64K on line: "This will open up a whole new area of software, including such possibilities as a real DOS which could be loaded into RAM from disk on power-up."

SDCS NEWS: Demoing the Pilot 99 learning language was Julie Flanagan. She showed how she adapted an old Home Computer Mag program for making crossword puzzles and Word Search puzzles to run out of the Pilot 99 system. She uses Pilot to give her children home instruction and also for Sunday school classes. Julie uses four TI's and one Apple to teach her brood at home. (And they take the state tests each year and pass with flying colors!)

SHE ALSO DEMOED AN INTERACTIVE program written in Pilot by a youngster which asks the learner questions about the circulatory system. Julie got this program out the magazine "Teaching and Computers."

IN COMPARING PILOT to LOGO, Julie says it is not as powerful (as LOGO) but much easier.