

TICO TOPICS

NEWSLETTER OF THE OXNARD AREA TI U. G.

APRIL- MAY 1989

Editor's Comments

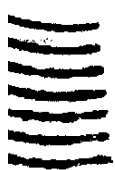
I have been so busy with track this month I almost forgot to do the newsletter... OOPS! I guess that will explain why it is so late, but last meeting several members said they didn't like to receive the newsletter so early, so this will work out better for most. Since I didn't have much time to put into the newsletter, it will be kind of thin. As usual I welcome articles from members, but I won't push you guys for them.

Our sympathies go to President Bob Martyn, whose mother passed away recently.

Our last meeting, for lack of a President, Vice President, and a system was a short one. Not much was accomplished but I did receive an updated memberlist and found that there is a little twist to the situation. I will explain this with the treasurer's help at the meeting. We were also entertained by Joe Larocca who told us the latest in phone technologies. Can anyone imagine a block of glass 20 miles thick without any glitches in it? This is the same material that is being used for the new Fiber Optics phone lines these days!

As to Tri Valley, I am afraid that something that was foreshadowed a long time ago has come to be. The treasury is at \$.00. Since there has been quite a lack of interest in this group, I believe this would be the time to close it up. Most people are members of both groups anyway, but if you are (or were) a member of Tri Valley and wish to keep receiving the newsletter please send a check for \$12 (made out to T.I.C.O.) to the address on the back of the newsletter. No future meetings for Tri Valley are planned.

That is about it for this month. I hope to see all at the meeting this month, and please try and make it to dinner if possible. For those who don't understand the situation, we get free use of the Red Baron's meeting room as long as several people eat dinner downstairs. Last month I got a dirty look from the manager and I knew that none of the 8 members that attended last month had eaten earlier in the dining room (including myself as we were late). So you see, we need more members to Treat themselves to dinner on the meeting night so we can continue to get free use of the room. The meeting is this wednesday by the way..



The Librarian's Corner

A review of "Home Publishing On The TI-99/4a by Harry I. Brashear.

Well, I can't say that I have done much with my TI the last few weeks. I have been rather busy with catching up on some of those more mundane things of our times, such as my Income Tax Returns. Now that it has come and gone I can now return to more of the nicer endeavors of mine.

While at the '99 Fest-West '89 in San Diego earlier this year, one of my purchases happened to be a book put out by Harry Brashear entitled "Home Publishing on the 99/4a". Included with the book is a disk which I will refer to later.

It starts out with a review of the four main graphics programs: TI-Artist, Graphx, Joy Paint and Picasso. Examples of what these programs can do are shown in the book.

Next is a discussion on fonts used for the most part by CS&D and TI-Artist. Also discussed is Artist Enlarger.

Other programs that are mentioned in the book are: Fontwriter II, Calendar Maker 99, Display Master, TASS 2001, MAX-RLE and Artist Boarders.

While this book is not a step by step instruction on how to do a newsletter or paper, it does give some excellent hints on some various techniques that will expand and enhance any type of printing that you could want.

Now for the disk, on it you will find some interesting programs. One is a utility that will take a picture file (_P) from TI-Artist and print it out in any of three different sizes, all in perfect proportion. The second program will place a TI-Writer text file of 55 lines or less in a neat box. Next is a Font-Character program to let you know what characters and symbols are available in the TI-Artist fonts that you have. There is another utility to print out a proportional, black, enlargement of any TI-Artist instance. And last is a column program whose docs are included in the book. There are some other nice features on the disk that I feel are quite interesting.

As stated in the the last few sentences in the book, there are to be supplemental issues of Home Publishing of which I have recieved the first already.

I have enjoyed reading this manual and would recommend it if you dabble at all into graphics on the TI.

Gabriel Asenas,
Librarian



Did you know that...?

By Chick De Marti

1988



TI-Writer TIP

FROM THE BBSs

Ever want to make an entire line or paragraph bold or underlined? Get tired of dozens of @'s to boldface a sentence? Here's what to do; type in the line with normal spaces. Put the cursor at the beginning of the sentence. Then go to the Replace String (RS) command and type in the following: / /@/ When the prompt (All, Yes, No, Stop) appears, select "Yes". The @ will be placed before each word.

A Telecommunication Tip

(Found in a recent (grates) issue of PC today)

If you are novice on BBS's, or a newcomer to CompuDerve, consider logging in initially at slow as 300 baud as you will be doing a lot of reading and most people cannot read a stream of words whizing by at 240 characters per sec. (1200 baud). Save that speed for downloading software.

~~~~~

?????

CALL LOAD(-32187) will get you 0 line number

Can anyone tell me what it can be used for?

This next one I've used...

```
100 CALL INIT
110 CALL LOAD(_31879,0)
120 CALL PEEK(-31879,T)
130 PRINT T/60
140 ! T = approx. a second
```

Use as a timer!

Thanx HUNTER 99er and Joe Wright. (from an "old TI TIMES newsletter).

Message #2131  
From:ED50  
Sub:DF80 FILE NAMES  
To:all

THIS IS JUST A NOTE TO ANYONE WHO HAS EVER LOADED UP A DF80 FILE AND DIDN'T KNOW THE NAME TO MAKE IT RUN!

If you load up TI Basic from either E/A or MiniMemory, you can do the following 4 steps to find the name:

- 1) CALL INIT
- 2) CALL LOAD("DSKx.filename")
- 3) CALL PEEK(16176,A,B,C,D,E,F)
- 4) PRINT CHR\$(A)&CHR\$(B)&CHR\$(C)&CHR\$(D)&CHR\$(E)&CHR\$(F)

The name will be printed & if you want CALL LINK("name")

~~~~~

FLAG LOVERS CAN GET REVENGE

People who were outraged over an art exhibit that features a U.S. flag on the floor now can get some measure of revenge. They can walk on the likeness of the artist at another exhibit.

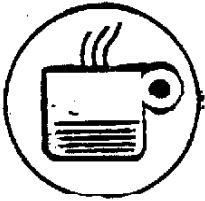
The new piece was put together by a junior high school art teacher who was angered by the original by student "Dread" Scott Tyler of the school of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The protest exhibit feature a life-size sketch of Tyler drawn on cloth in the manner of a police outline of a homicide victim. The cloth is on the floor and a U.S. flags hangs above it.

Viewers are encouraged to step on the sketch of Tyler's face while they write comments on "How to Display "Dread" Scott Tyler"

Thanx Daily Breeze newspaper.

--> HELP NEEDED TO BUILD A <--
--> NEWS-LETTER LIBRARY <--



(Did You Know ... cont.)

WHAT'S NEW IN THE COMPUTER WORLD?

(*) How about a computer that recognizes your voice and responds to, "PRINT", "SAVE", or "READ THAT LAST PARAGRAPH TO ME"?

(*) How would you like your typewriter to take voice dictation as well as type the letter for you?

(*) A speech module (commodore and Apple are working on one), that can speak, **MIMICING YOUR VOICE!**

(*) A program called "CALM" (for IBM) can help lower your blood pressure by using bio-feedback and a device strapped to your wrist and a pinky monitor. It also helps you to lose weight by using relaxing therapy and subliminal messages.

(*) And of course **ROBOTS...** they are here already!

-- RECYCLE PAPER --

(by Mike Inel, Indiana FamilyCompute)

How many times has your printer fed through an extra sheet of blank (or almost blank) fanfold paper that you must throw away? Rather than discard this costly perforated paper save it for reuse as printing scrap. Leave the feed holes attached and store. When your ready to use it, tape the pages into a single continuous sheet. They are still usable for testing printer effects or for listing of programs.

OFFICE IN A LIMO

If money is no object, you can travel in style with Donald Trump. the real-estate tycoon has lent his name to a new line of stretches by Cadillac. The Trump Limousine Golden Series costs \$80,000 and is the ultimate highpowered, movable office the businessman who must travel from one meeting to another. It features:

(Limo continued...)

Italian Leather seat,
Rosewood veneer cabinets and desk top,
A cellular phone with two hand sets...
(one for his secretary!)

An intercom-system,
A FAX machine, outlets for a Computer,
a Stereo, television, and VCR
(all remote controlled),
A hidden safe, and YES, Mr North,
(a paper shredder!)

Made on order only, 38 were sold in '88.
That number is expected to double in 89.
P.S. Mr. Trump got the first one.

Remember my "CLOSE ENOUGH" program?
Here's a "Probability formula" for long term decisions.

The problem: How many of each of these cars shall I buy for sale in 1989?

Volvo . . .sells best during a bullish economy.
Toyota. . .sells best during a weak economy.
Chevie. . .sells best during a stable economy.

A matrix might be set up thus:

| A | B | C | D | E | |
|----|-----------------------|--------|--------|---------|-----|
| 1 | Estimated Unit Sales: | | | | |
| 2 | Weak | Stable | Strong | Project | |
| 3 | <hr/> | | | | |
| 4 | Volvo | 500 | 800 | 1200 | 790 |
| 5 | Toyota | 850 | 900 | 800 | 865 |
| 6 | Chevie | 100 | 1000 | 450 | 620 |
| 7 | <hr/> | | | | |
| 8 | Economic Forecast | | | | |
| 9 | <hr/> | | | | |
| 10 | Weak | 30% | | | |
| 11 | Stable | 50% | | | |
| 12 | Strong | 20% | | | |

The formula for each would be:

$$B4 * B10 + C4 * B11 + D4 * B12$$

I'm out of coffee,
see you next month

-- - C H I C K - --

PAGE PRO 99

Asgard Software and Ed Johnson are pleased to announce the release of Page Pro 99.

A project whose development spans the last two years, Page Pro 99 is an extremely powerful but very easy to use page-making program for the TI-99/4A and Myarc Geneve 9640. Ideal for dozens of different applications - from making letterheads, signs, charts, maps and graphs to business forms, and even short documents and newsletters. The program is written on the principal of "what-you-see-is-what-you-get" - the printed page will literally look exactly like what is on the screen, so you know exactly what you will get at all times. Page Pro 99 is the only page-making software for the TI-99/4A or Geneve that has this feature.

Written entirely from scratch in assembly language, Page Pro 99 will allow you to create an entire 8 1/2" by 11" page - 66 lines - at once. You can place up to 20 pictures at one time, of any size, anywhere on the page. Page Pro 99 permits you to type in either of two fonts at once - a small 8x12 pixel font for regular text and a large 16x24 font for titles. The program will also allow you to draw lines anywhere on the page with any of two linestyles at the same time.

Page Pro 99 contains many features to help making your page easier. It includes a full-complement of text editing features for inserting and deleting characters and lines. It will also let you import text files from TI-Writer or other word processing programs - so you can use your favorite text editor to create text. The standard TI-Writer windowing keys are also supported for quickly and easily getting around the page. Page Pro 99 will allow you to type in any direction (up, down, left or right) for easily making vertical titles. It will also let you delete pictures at will, as well as load pictures at any time at the cursor location. You can also load in new fonts and line styles at any time (though you can only have 2 fonts and two linestyles in memory at once). Finally, you can quickly save and load your page for later use.

After you've created your page, you can print it

out in any of three dot-densities on your Epson or compatible printer - single-density "rough draft" up to "reproduction-quality" quad-density.

If this wasn't enough, we've also included utilities for converting TI-Artist (tm) fonts and instances easily into Page Pro 99 format, and a utility which turns a text file into two-column text for Page Pro 99 - so you can easily create two-column newsletters. We've also included many example pictures illustrating various points of the program, and an art disk full of pictures and fonts you can use in Page Pro 99 right out of the box.

The program includes an extensive manual which describes the various functions of the program, includes a tutorial, and even an advanced section for programmers interested in making Page Pro 99 compatible utilities.

Page Pro 99 includes a version optimized for the Geneve 9640 and one for the 99/4A - an 80-column version of each as well as a Prowriter version are planned in the not-too-far future. It requires either a TI-99/4A with 32K, disk and either Extended BASIC or Editor/Assembler, or a Myarc Geneve 9640 with a single disk drive. Multiple disk drives, all RAM-disks and even the Myarc Hard Floppy Disk Controller are supported (full path-names allowed).

Finally, this remarkable program has a remarkable price - only \$24.95 for one of the most capable, and by far the easiest to use, Page making program for the 99/4A and Geneve.

For more information about Page Pro 99, or to order, send to:

Asgard Software
P.O. Box 10306
Rockville, MD 20850

Payment by check or money order, Credit card (Mastercard/Visa) and COD orders accepted. Please add \$0.75 for shipping and handling within the U.S., and \$3.00 for airmail elsewhere. Credit card orders please add \$1.25 bank processing fee (their charge - not ours).

NOW Available!

PAGE P R O P I C S

Asgard Software is pleased to announce the release of 5 companion packages to our Page Pro 99 page making program: the Page Pro Pics series.

This series consists of hundreds of high-quality, large and detailed pictures for use with Page Pro 99. A vast collection of original artwork - these disks are crammed full of excellent pictures. Because Page Pro 99 pictures are 1/3 as big on the disk as the same picture in TI-Artist font - each Page Pro Pic disk is comparable to almost 3 disks full of TI-Artist pictures!

The Five volumes that are available are as follows:

Volume #1 - Animals: A collection of many beautiful animal pictures for illustrating your wild projects

Volume #2 - Holidays: A large collection of artwork for celebrating all the special days of the year. Useful for making holiday greeting cards, signs and announcements

Volume #3 - Computer: One of the most comprehensive collections of computer and peripheral pictures and artwork.

Volume #4 - Home/Misc.: A collection of pictures of garden implements, plants, tools for around the house, and many miscellaneous items useful for spicing up your Page Pro 99 pages.

Volume #5 - People: A large collection of famous and not so famous people for use in signs, letterheads and much more!

Each volume carries a suggested retail price of \$6.95. All require Page Pro 99, a disk system and 32K. A printer highly recommended.

To order, or for more information, send to:

Asgard Software
P.O. Box 10306
Rockville, MD 20850
(703)255-3085

Check, money order, credit card (Mastercard/Visa) and COD orders accepted. Please add \$.75/item shipping and handling. Canadian customers please add \$.75 extra per order (any number of items per order). Overseas please add \$3.00 for Airmail delivery on top of per-item charge. More volumes in this series will be announced soon. Page Pro 99 includes utilities for converting over TI-Artist artwork - these volumes are comparable to our Artist Instances series. Future volumes will contain new artwork not in that series.

ANNOUNCING:

MUSIC P R O 99

Music Pro is very much a word-processor for music (or, a MUSICAL PROCessor). Music Pro has a full-featured editor that will allow you to create music by typing notes on a staff - even directly off of standard piano sheet music. You can easily move your cursor around to delete and insert notes and phrases, and even transform blocks of music to different durations or frequencies.

Very fast and friendly, Music Pro will let the professional as well as the novice musician, or even just a music buff, quickly and easily enter large pieces without having to learn any special notation particular to the program. Unlike some music programs for the 99/4A, you don't have to make all the notes the same length within a measure - Music Pro will automatically take care of different voices with different durations playing simultaneously.

After entering in the music, you can compile the music into assembly language data for rapid playing. Or, you can save or load in pieces for editing at any time.

Finally, Music Pro is the only music program for the 99/4A that will allow you to print out your work in sheet music form (one voice at a time) on your Epson or

compatible printer!

Music Pro includes a detailed, well-written manual by Lucie Dorais, and includes many sample songs and a keyboard overlay strip and keyboard note map in TI-Writer format. It requires a TI-99/4A with 32K, disk and Extended BASIC (*Note* will NOT function with the Geneve 9640 due to differences in the key-scanning routines). It is available for a suggested retail price of \$17.95.

For more information, or to order send to:

ASGARD SOFTWARE
P.O. BOX 10306
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850
(703)255-3085

Payment by check or money order in U.S. funds, credit card (Mastercard/Visa) and COD accepted. Please add \$.75 shipping and handling within the U.S. or Canada, or \$3.00 for Airmail shipping else. Credit card orders please add \$1.00 bank processing fee (their charge - not ours). Distributed in Canada by LaFlamme Vrigley Wholesale.

Program by David Caron in conjunction with Lucie Dorais. Copyrighted to the Ottawa TI-99/4A Users Group. All rights reserved.

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*****
* CS1#INDEX: AN AUTOMATIC CASSETTE TAPE *
* PROGRAM LOCATION SYSTEM *
* Review by Charles Good, Lima, OH UG *
*****

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This one is for cassette tape users and for those interested in unusual programming techniques. Have you ever wondered if it was possible to mark with software the position of a specific program on a cassette tape full of many programs and then have the computer search the tape from the beginning until the specific desired program is found? TI did once develop such a system for its 99/8 computer, but TI's WAFERTAPE drive was never released. Coleco ADAM computers successfully use such a system. Not so for the TI99/4A, according to many well respected commentators. I have read again and again in our exchange newsletters expert comment to the effect that with the TI there is no way to automatically, under software control, advance a long cassette tape to the exact physical location where a program starts. Well..... way back as early as 1983 Joseph E. Bartle of Parish NY wrote a TI BASIC program that does this for the TI. I recently acquired a copy 1985 update of Joe's CS1#INDEX program (still entirely in TI BASIC with no assembly routines) and after removing a few bugs I am quite impressed with capability of this software.

CS1#INDEX will do its stuff even if you don't have a printed list of which programs are on a program tape, even if you are using a tape recorder that does not have a numerical tape counter, and even if you are using a tape recorder that is not automatically controlled on/off by the 99/4A. CS1#INDEX finds semiautomatically the exact location of a program on a long tape. The manual tape recorder operations required of the user are all prompted from the screen. If you are using a TI compatible recorder, CS1#INDEX will advance the tape to your program's location after you press fast forward, and then automatically stop the tape. If you are using a tape recorder that the TI cannot automatically turn on and off, CS1#INDEX will turn the screen from green to yellow and finally to red to indicate when you should manually press cassette STOP once the location of your program has been reached. Neat!

With CS1#INDEX you can create a catalog of up to 10 programs you want to put on one side of a C60 tape and put this catalog at the beginning of the tape. The catalog includes program name (up to 12 characters with spaces anywhere), and there is also provision for catalog to display a 12 character comment for each of the 10 programs. You can then put your up to 10 programs onto the tape, with CS1#INDEX advancing the tape recorder to the correct tape location where you should SAVE CS1 each program. It is necessary to reload CS1#INDEX for each of the programs you put on the tape. Thus, users with only a console/cassette system will appreciate the fact that CS1#INDEX is designed to be small enough to load into the MINIMEM module with SAVE MINIMEM. Then each time you need to load CS1#INDEX, all you do is type OLD MINIMEM, and CS1#INDEX boots in a few seconds. Otherwise it takes about 30 seconds to load CS1#INDEX from tape.

Later, when you want to use the tape you load CS1#INDEX into the computer and then load the tape's catalog from CS1#INDEX. From the catalog display you select the number of the desired program on the tape. You are then instructed to rewind the tape to the beginning and press FAST FORWARD. CS1#INDEX then advances the tape to the program's location, automatically stops the tape if you are using a TI compatible recorder, displays the name of your program on the screen, and informs you this program has been located. Then CS1#INDEX BREAKS to command mode and allows you to load your program in the normal way by typing OLD CS1 and following all the usual screen instructions, except that you DO NOT again "rewind

cassette tape". CS1#INDEX can easily be modified in extended basic to load the located tape program into the computer from within CS1#INDEX rather than from command mode. Change line 1770 to read RUN "CS1".

If you already have a printed list of each program on the tape and in which order the programs occur, you can bypass the catalog loading procedure. When you RUN CS1#INDEX your first option is "LOCATION SEARCH (Y/N)". From here you can use CS1#INDEX to locate the first or second or third, etc, program on the tape without using time to boot the catalog.

What's the secret? How does CS1#INDEX using only TI BASIC with no assembly routines do what all the experts say can't be done? Have you ever noticed how the tape recorder behaves when you read or write tape serial FILES (as opposed to PROGRAMS)? The recorder starts, reads in or writes what I presume to be a file header, then stops. Then the recorder starts again and reads or writes the first record and then stops. Then the recorder starts again and reads or writes the second record and then stops, etc, etc. The total number of start/stop cycles equals the number of records plus one. The computer controls the turning on and off of the tape recorder motor and IT DOESN'T MATTER TO THE COMPUTER IF THE RECORDER IS SET FOR PLAY OR FOR FAST FORWARD. When searching for a program, CS1#INDEX writes a false file to the tape, turning the tape recorder motor on and off several times as this file is written. The tape recorder is set for FAST FORWARD rather than for RECORD as this file is written, so the tape never receives any data. The computer cannot directly sense that the tape is not getting any data, so the computer continues to turn the recorder motor on and off as it writes its fake file to the tape. When turned on, the tape advances very rapidly because the recorder is set for FAST FORWARD. A tape file designed to write up to 10 records with a record length of 192 will go through up to 11 start/stop sequences on a C60 tape before the tape is completely wound up on the take up reel. This is how CS1#INDEX locates physical blocks of tape space in which to insert programs, and can later find a specific program located at any one of these physical blocks of tape space. The first block (corresponding to the false file's header) is where the catalog is stored, and the next 10 blocks (each corresponding to a false file record) are where the programs are stored. Enough space is included in each of the program storage blocks to store the largest possible tape PROGRAM.

LIMITATIONS: 1--You can't use CS1#INDEX with already existing program filled tapes. The spacing of the programs on the tape won't be right. You need to load programs onto your program storage cassette tapes using CS1#INDEX. 2--Problems may occur if different tape recorders are used to store and later play programs. If the FAST FORWARD speed of the two recorders differs very much CS1#INDEX will not correctly find the location of the desired program. 3--There is only room for a short program in the last (10th) program block before the tape runs out.

The author of CS1#INDEX has written some rather wordy documentation files to explain the use of CS1#INDEX. These files are in PROGRAM format so that they can be loaded from tape and read by console/cassette-only users. In general most users can play around with the program and figure out how to use it without these docs. A sample tape program finding catalog is printed below. The author, Joseph E. Bartle, has released it to the TI community as FAIRWARE. If you like it, send whatever you think it is worth to: 16 S & E Trailer Ct., Parish, NY 13131. Joe has other fairware offerings. Write or call him for details. User may obtain a copy of CS1#INDEX and the above mentioned doc files by sending a disk and paid return mailer to sending a disk and paid return mailer to the Lima User the LIMA User Group, P.O. Box 647, Venedocia, OH 45894.

MEETING IS THIS WEDNESDAY AT THE
RED BARON RESTAURANT ON 5TH STREET
IN OXNARD. WE MEET UPSTAIRS.

TICO TOPICS
326 GLEN WAY
FILLMORE, CA 93015

FIRST CLASS