West Penn 99'ers
Supporting the TI-99/4A Home Computer

Established 1985

ISSUE 71

FROM THE EDITOR

Well we are still here after the storm and I promise that the April 20 meeting will not be cancelled due to snow. Check last month's activity schedule as it will probably apply to this month. But maybe there will be too many daffodils for you to wade thur from your house to your car. Paul Brock made it from his house to the post office and Lynn and Mickey aren't snowed in either. The note passed on to me by Lynn was from New York concerning the lack of an address to send renewals to. So if you still need to renew your membership or newsletter subscription here is where to send it.

LYNN GARDNER
642 LOIS DRIVE
PITTSBURGH PA 15236-2436

If the issue number seems to be wrong it is because we missed publishing at the end of the year. Seems odd to be on the front page instead of Frank Zic but may his good 4's be with you.

APRIL 1993

CLUB INFORMATION

MEETING LOCATION
PENNS WOODS
CIVIC ASSOCIATION
JUST OFF ROUTE 30
NORTH HUNTINGDON
7:00 PM

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NORM   614-264-6442
LYNN   412-825-4304
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PAUL   412-478-2754
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TI—BASE - From INSCEBOT
TUTORIAL By Martin Smoley
NorthCoast 99'ers — July 25, 1988
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The last article I wrote on TI-Base was a review in the July/Aug. newsletter. In that article I told of many problems I had with the PRINT command and other functions of TI-Base. I also said that I thought these problems would be corrected, and many improvements would be made. I'd like to say that the second of those two statements is now the most important. I received (Via Deanna Sheridan) a copy of TI-Base Version 1.02 and a four page letter from Dennis O. Faherty it's author. In the letter he related to 10 previous errors that had been corrected (one of which was the PRINT error) and to a multitude of improvements and refinements he wanted to make on TI-Base. This information has made me ecstatically happy. I feel that TI-Base will become as popular as TI-Artist and at some point will be so popular that you will be able to get COMMAND FILE routines from your club library just as you can now get Multiplan Screens or Extended Basic programs. TI-Base is a great enhancement to the 99/4A.

And now the TUTORIAL folks. First some housekeeping. The letters TIB will refer to TI-Base. MT: will signify the beginning of some text which should be considered Marty's Theory. Marty's Theory should not be taken as fact, but as my interpretation of an item. FYI: designates text that is For Your Information. FE will stand for For Example. DP will stand for Dot Prompt. (E) means press ENTER. (FEL) means Further Explanation Later, and last for now is ')', the greater than sign. I will use ')' when program segments are displayed at the left of every line. The position immediately to the right of the ')' will be column one. Take the example)12345. You should think of the number 1 as column one. The) does not exist. It is for reference only, the same as when you type in an XBasic program, at the head of each line you see) but it is not part of the program.

Let's get started. The first thing you do is make backups or copies of the original TIB disks and put the originals away in a safe place. If the originals arrived without the write protect slots on the disks being covered, do that first, then make your copies. The program will read and write to all of the disks used in the database process so you cannot writeprotect them. This means that you shouldn't use original disks and you should make copies of everything at the end of every work session. Backing up doesn't matter a lot at this point, but if you lose a data base with three or four hundred names in it, and you don't have another copy, you're in for some agonizing re-appraisal.

Having stashed the originals put your copy of the TIB system disk in Drive 1 and a newly initialized SS/SD disk in Drive 2. Then select Extended Basic and TI-Base will auto load. It takes a couple of minutes so be patient. After loading, TIB will ask for the date. This will be MM/DD/YY or Month, Day, Year. Enter the date, and use zeros, it's good procedure. FE, July 9, 1988 would be 07/09/88. TIB will then save the date and DO the program called SETUP. FYI: In this system DO replaces the XBasic RUN (more or less). When SETUP is executed you will be left with a bunch of junk on the screen and a dot ' . ' at the bottom left corner of the screen with the cursor flashing next to it (see SCREEN ONE). FYI: I will at least partially explain any new item we encounter as they occur. I will also try to proceed 'Top-Down' in programming and explanation.

```
>001 *          Welcome to TI-BASE
>002 *     QUIT will terminate TI_BASE
>003 *
>004 SET DATSISK=DSK2.
>005 DISPLAY STATUS
>-------------------------------------------------
>DATDISK = DSK2.        Database files on DSK2.
>PRGDISK = DSK1.        TIB System Disk = DSK1.
>PRINTER = PIO.         Printer port PIO/RS232 etc.
>LINE    = 080          Printer page width (Columns)
>PAGE    = 056          Printer page length (Lines)
>HEADING = ON           Print all headings
>TALK    = ON           Echo commands to the screen
>SPACE   = 01           Space between fields
>RECNUM  = ON           Show record numbers
>LSPACE  = 0256         Space available for LOCALS
>DATE    = 07/09/88     This is the Date you Entered
>-------------------------------------------------
>006 *     FUNCTION (7) for help.
>007 RETURN
>.              [.SCREEN ONE ]
```

All of the lines with line numbers (001-007) are part of the command file called SETUP. The lines without numbers are part of the STATUS display. Lines 1, 2, 3, and 6 are comment lines and are made comment lines by placing an asterisk '*' in column one of any line. IMPORTANT: Line 2 could be misleading. QUIT does not refer to Fctn (Quit) in any form. You must never force the machine to quit or reset before you leave TIB by the proper procedure. Line 2 means type QUIT at the dot prompt and press enter. TIB will then take care of it's housekeeping (close all files, etc.) and exit to the TI system. Lines 4 and 5 are actual commands which can be included in a command file or typed in at the DP. FE type the following exactly at the DP   You'll notice that the

```
>SET DATDISK=DSK1. <E>   word CLEAR, cleared the
>CLEAR <E>               screen and DISPLAY STATUS
>DISPLAY STATUS <E>      brought back the stuff
```
                                         between the dashed lines.
You should also see that DATDISK now equals DSK1 (if all went well). If it didn't work, type it in again and be careful of spaces etc. When you have made it that far type the following.
                                           This should reproduce
```
>DO SETUP <E>            the original SCREEN ONE.
```

The RETURN in line 7 returns the system to the level prior to this program section. You typed DO SETUP from the DP so when the RETURN is encountered we are recurned to the DP. If we executed SETUP from another command file, when we hit the RETURN the program would have gone back to the file that called it (FEL). Let's do some housekeeping. Type in the following.

>COPY DSK1.SETUP/C DSK2.SETUP/C <E>

When you see the message "ready devices, press ENTER", just press enter. The command you have just entered will then go to drive one and run a subprogram of TIB to preform the COPY function. That subprogram will then COPY the command file named SETUP/C from drive 1 to drive 2. The first DSKx designates "FROM" and the second DSKx designates "TO" a drive number. The first name "SETUP/C" is the complete name of the setup command file and must be used in this instance. You recall that when a DO SETUP/C from drive 1 to drive 2, the first DSKx designates "FROM" and the second DSKx designates "TO" a drive number. The command is issued (DO SETUP) the /C is not included in the name (FEL). The second name, or the name you're copying to, can be any name you wish (up to 10 letters)(FEL). FYI: We have copied setup to drive 2 because if you type DO SETUP at any time TIB will look for it there (try it and see). You should get a feel for what's on which disk as we go along. "OK, let's CREATE a database." Type in the command lines as you see them to the left.

>CLEAR <E>   When you type CREATE TNAMES and
>CREATE TNAMES <E>   press enter, you will
                immediately see [SCREEN TWO].

arrows to move, enter to advance

FIELD	DESCRIPTOR	TYPE	WIDTH	DEC
1	———————	—	——	—

[SCREEN TWO]

This is the screen in which you tell TIB the size and shape of the database you would like it to create for you. This is actually called the STRUCTURE of the database, and that is why the command DISPLAY STRUCTURE will give you a screen like this one, but with all the pertenent information filled in. NOTE: A database must be in use at the time. The DESCRIPTOR is the name you will call a particular item, such as Last-Name, First-Name, Middle-Initial, etc. NT: If you can keep these names short, like LN for Last-Name, or MI for Middle-Initial, later on when you are using those names to preform different tasks you will not have as much typing, and you'll be able to get more on each line, plus (memory space is tight) (FEL). The TYPE is a one character entry, either N, C, or D. N stands for Numerical, C is Character, and D means Date. NT: Make all your fields C for Character unless you plan on performing a mathematical function on it. For example, the zipcode is all numbers but it should still be designated C for Character. The date designation is used when you want the computer to enter a date for you, or when you are going to enter a date in the form MM/DD/YY. I do not want to go into this theory so early in the tutorial. Instead let's get going on TNAMES.

I have created a database call TNAMES using the information displayed in [SCREEN THREE]. Type in the data exactly as you see it so we can move along.

arrows to move, enter to advance

FIELD	DESCRIPTOR	TYPE	WIDTH	DEC
1	LN	C	15	
2	FN	C	15	
3	MI	C	2	
4	SA	C	25	
5	CT	C	20	
6	ST	C	2	
7	ZP	C	5	
8	PH	C	12	
9	XP	C	5	
10	GP	C	5	
11	ID	N	7	0

[SCREEN THREE]

When you are entering information these keys are active.

FCTN 1 = Del. Char.	Delete one character
FCTN 2 = Ins. Char.	Insert one character
FCTN 3 = Del. Line	Delete complete line
FCTN 4 = Ins. Line	Insert a complete line
FCTN 5 Not Used	
FCTN 6 Not Used	
FCTN 7 = AID	Brings up the help screens
FCTN 8 = Save/End	Saves the STRUCTURE
FCTN 9 = Escape	Discards the STRUCTURE
ENTER = Next Col.	Moves to the next column
Arrow Up Active	Moves to previous line
Arrow Left Active	Moves (= one Char./Column
Arrow Right Active	Moves =) one character only
Arrow Down Active	Moves down one line

If you are apprehensive, type CREATE IP (E). When the screen comes up type in all kinds of junk. Arrow up, down and backwards. When you see how it works press FCTN 9. All your garbage will be thrown away and you can start in on TNAMES. While you are entering the information for TNAMES as in screen three the only place there may be a question might be in field 11. When you get to the TYPE column, enter N and press enter. At that point the cursor will jump to the WIDTH column and the DEC or DECIMAL column will be highlighted. This only happens when you designate N for numbers. You then type 7 in the width column and when you press enter the cursor will jump to the DEC column. You now enter the number of decimal places you desire. If you were planning on dollars and cents, you might use 2 as the number of places. We are using a whole number so enter a 0 for no decimal places. When you have entered field 11 press FCTN 8 and TIB will create TNAMES for you and ask if you would like to enter some data at this time. If you answer N for no, you will be kicked back to the OP. If you have the stamina at this point, answer Y for yes and enter the data from my printout [SCREEN FOUR] at the top of page three of this tutorial. I have entered four ficticias names, and my own, in TNAMES. I will use this data in future tutorials.

REC	LN	FN	MI	SA	CT	ST	ZP	PH	XP	GP	ID	
0001	Aardvark	Grant	E.	9993 State Rt. 84	Geneva	OH	44014	1-465-9876	02-88	NOCO	0717851	ith
0004	Seeley	Martin	A.	6149 Bryson Drive	Mentor	OH	44060	257-1661	02-89	NOCO	0713831	ith
0003	Jones	Quincy	N.	37205 Burgandy Laine	Mentor-on-the-Lake	OH	44060	257-1029	08-88	NOCO	0820871	ith
0002	Whitman	Raymond (Slim)	A.	2574 East 254th.	Eastlake	OH	44094	951-2345	09-88	NOCO	0921861	ith
0000	Vivannovitch	Elexxie	I.	111 E. 98th. St.	Cleveland	OH	91023	541-5415	05-88	NOCO	0712881	ith

[SREEN FOUR]

TI—BASE Tutorial Page 3

Having entered Y/es to enter data after the last screen, you should be in the APPEND mode, and you should see [SCREEN FIVE].

APPEND

```
LN      _____    OOO
FN      _____
MI      __
SA      _____  .  ____>
CT      _____
ST      __
ZP      ____
PH      _____
XP      _____
GP      _____
ID      _____
```

[SCREEN FIVE]

While entering data the previously described key functions are in effect. When you finish typing in the Last-Name (LN) pressing Enter will move you to the next field. You will notice that the numbers that run up at the far-right of each line are actually keeping track of your character position. The ">" at the end of line SA is telling you that there are more spaces for characters past the highlighted area. "In this case only one space." As you enter data and reach the end of the ID field, when you press Enter a new blank screen will come up. At that point the cursor will once again be in the first position to start entering another last name. If you are on the last data to be entered and at the end of the last field, do not press Enter. At that point you should press FCTN (8) to SAVE/QUIT. This does save, but it doesn't really quit, and you'll have to press FCTN(9) to get back to the DP. If you were
worn out back when the question of entering data originally came up, you answered no and got out of the system. You can now get back in by typing the lines to the left. The CLEAR is not really necessary in this case but helps me see any new screen messages without the extra clutter. NOTE: The EDIT is only usable when you already have data in the data base. I hope I have not been to confusing and you have been able to create the database and enter the data in screen four. If not, re-read this tutorial and consult your TIB manual. I'd like you to have a small database and be able to do something with it by the end of this tutorial.

```
>CLEAR <E>
>USE TNAMES <E>
>APPEND <E>
----------------------------
>CLEAR <E>
>USE TNAMES <E>
>EDIT <E>
```

Something I have not covered adequately up to this point is the phrase CLOSE ALL, and what's happening at the bottom of your screen in the highlighted area. I previously stressed the point that you must type the word QUIT at the DP in order to leave TIB. Doing so would cause TIB to look for and close any open databases before it quits to the TI system. When you are working with one database, and you would like to use another database you type CLOSE <E> at the DP. If you are working with several databases and wish to do something else, you type CLOSE ALL <E>. The highlighted area at the bottom of the screen will give you information on files that are open. This is particularly helpful when your screen is blank and the cursor is sitting at the DP. This information will consist of the name of a database which is currently open, and SELECTED (FEL), the record number which TIB is currently pointing at, and it will flash current system operations in the far right hand corner (FEL). My point is that if you see a name and some record numbers at the bottom of the screen, you should type CLOSE ALL <E>, before starting any new major tasks. Assuming that you have managed to create the database named TNAMES and have typed in the information shown in screen four, I'd like to run through a couple things that should be enlightening. Type in the items at the left as usual. The

```
>CLEAR <E>              system will give you messages as
>CLOSE ALL <E>          the data is being sorted,
>USE TNAMES <E>         etc. Read the messages
>SORT ON FN <E>         and observe the printout.
>PRINT ALL FN,MI,LN     I am attempting to show
----------------------------  the unbelievable flexibility
>SORT ON LN <E>         of this program. Merely by
>PRINT ALL LN,FN,MI     typing in a few lines of
----------------------------  text at the DP you can sort
>SORT ON ZP <E>         the data on a different field,
>PRINT ALL FN,MI,LN,ZP  and print out only the
----------------------------  fields you want, in the order
>SORT OFF <E>           you want. At this point you
>PRINT ALL FN,MI,LN,ZP  probably get confused
----------------------------  by the different nature of
>SORT ON XP <E>         this programming language.
>PRINT ALL FN,MI,LN,XP  When you have used it
>CLOSE ALL <E>          for a while you'll think
```
it's the greatest record keeping system to come out for the TI, bar none. With the use of the APPEND mode you can add as many new records as you wish, and with the EDIT mode you can correct or change any information in the database. FYI: Before moving on I want to fill you in on SCREEN FOUR. In order to get that printout, I previously set my printer to condensed print. I then entered SET LINE=134 at the DP; 134 was the only length that worked properly (I tried several). Then I typed USE TNAMES <E> and PRINT ALL <E>. I don't know where the end characters in each line came from.

Continued Next Page.

Now it gets interesting. We are going to create a small program, or create a COMMAND FILE. However, create is not the right terminology. The phrase is MODIFY COMMAND (filename) <E>. Filename is any name you would like to call the command file. It should be eight characters or less in length, and do not add any of the identifiers you may have picked up along the way (/C). Just type everything to the left exactly as you see it. Take your time typing and allow time for the computer to do its job each time you press enter.

```
>CLEAR <E>
>CLOSE ALL <E>
>MODIFY COMMAND LBLS1 <E>
```

```
>* Command file LBLS1    "LABEL Prog."
>*
>SET TALK OFF
>SET RECNUM OFF
>SET HEADING OFF
>SET LINE=80
>CLEAR
>LOCAL TEMP C 40
>LOCAL BLNK C 1
>USE TNAMES
>SORT ON ZP
>TOP
> WHILE .NOT. (EOF)
>    REPLACE TEMP WITH "            ";
>       ! " Exp. Date " ! XP
>       PRINT TEMP
>       PRINT BLNK
>    REPLACE TEMP WITH TRIM(FN) ! " ";
>                ! MI ! " " ! LN
>       PRINT TEMP
>       PRINT SA
>    REPLACE TEMP WITH TRIM(CT) ! ", ";
>                ! ST ! "  " ! ZP
>       PRINT TEMP
>       PRINT BLNK
>    MOVE
> ENDWHILE
>CLOSE ALL
>SET TALK ON
>SET RECNUM ON
>SET HEADING ON
>RETURN
```

```
>FCTN (8)            This will save the command file.
>DO LBLS1  <E>       This will run the file.
```

The information starting with CLEAR and ending with DO LBLS1 is everything you must type in to create and run a small program that will produce mailing labels from the database named TNAMES. It is that easy, and yet it is quite complicated. I will take the last half page of this article to give you some idea what's going on. The rest must wait until next month. I hope that what you have done so far has run successfully and your mind hasn't turned to mush.

The line MODIFY COMMAND LBLS1 <E> is the line that invokes TIB's Editor. This establishes that a command file is being created and will (if successful) be save to the DATDISK under the name LBLS1. At the time the file is saved the identifier /C will be attached to the name LBLS1 to produce LBLS1/C. This is why you cannot use 10 characters in the file name. Once you are in the editor the previously described keys are active (F1,F2,F3, Arrows, etc.). Lines that start with an asterisk "*" are comment lines. FYI: Don't use more than a couple comments, they eat up memory (FEL). All of the lines that SET something OFF are housekeeping. LOCAL TEMP C 40 initializes the variable named TEMP. TEMP will hold up to 40 characters (C). The variable BLNK can hold 1 character (C). At this point both variables are initialized blank or empty. We will refill and/or use them later. In the next three lines we are telling TIB to USE TNAMES and SORT that database ON the zipcode field (ZP). When it is done we want it to go to the TOP, or beginning of the database. The next part of the program is a chunk. The chunk I refer to is everything from WHILE to ENDWHILE inclusive. This is the part of our program that does most of the work. When our program executes the word WHILE it does the whole line. This actually says to TIB, WHILE you do and ENDWHILE. If you do encounter the (EOF), or in this case the end of the database, then go to the next line after the ENDWHILE. The next line inside the loop will REPLACE the empty space in the variable TEMP with a bunch of blank spaces, the phrase " Exp. Date " and the club members Expiration Date (XP). The vertical lines "!" mean concatenate or stick together, the same as "&" in Extended Basic. So all three of those items are put into TEMP. Those items are then printed with the line PRINT TEMP. PRINT BLNK is the equivalent of "print a blank line". The next REPLACE takes FN (First Name), TRIMs off all the trailing blank spaces, sticks one space back (" "), attaches MI and another space (" "), puts LN (Last Name) on the end of that and sticks the whole mess into our variable TEMP. Now you see why TEMP had to hold up to 40 characters. The semicolon ";" at the end of these long lines is telling TIB that I couldn't get it all on 1 line and it should look for more on the next line down. TEMP is then printed as before. SA or Street Address is printed directly with no fancy stuff and the process is repeated for CT, ST and ZP. The blanks are thrown in for proper spacing to the next label. MOVE, moves the database to the next record and ENDWHILE sends you back to the WHILE statement to start over with the next name and address. The rest of the program is rather boring. When you finally run out of records the program jumps past all this to the CLOSE ALL. TNAMES is closed, everything you turned OFF is turned ON again, and the program is over. IMPORTANT, next month I will work with larger programs, using the FunnelWeb Editor/Assembler Editor. The program on this page (LBLS1) is about the best you can write using the Modify Command Editor. I will also get into the use of printer control codes. Control codes can be imbedded in the program with the FWEB Editor, but not with the TIB Editor. I will cover some of the (FEL)s, Further Explanation Later and I will probably go over everything many times. In TIB there are several ways you can write a program to accomplish the same task. When I encounter that situation I will compare the previous program. This should give you more contact with TIB logical procedures.

PAUL 'S PAGE
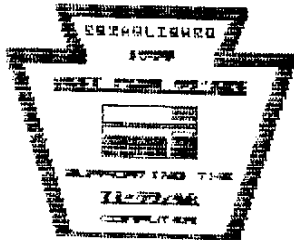
WEST PENN 99 ===

Happy Easter everyonne.   After missing two meetings I am in the dark as to what is going on in the TI world. I am searching for items that I had found in previous newsletters. I have some of the NL. articals in my Personal Record Keeping. But there is always ONE that is in the back of my mind that I can't find.

After shoveling my car out, I had problems moving. The road was not plowed, and then the plow came along and covered the back again. It was better to just wait for the thaw. I hope that everyone else made it O.K..

I have worked on some Page Pro Sideways Picture Printer this month, and decided to put a page of my COVER PAGE, and PAGE PRO SHORT STORIES. I do these pages to put on the front of my newsletter.   I thought that I would share my pages with those that attend the meetings.   I   have   had   some experence with the spelling and trying to write a small story on one page.   The   Short   story

included in the example page was CUT and saved with Page Pro. This took away some of the space, so all the page couldnot be printed. That is, if I Rewrote the whole page.   Any one using Sideways Picture Printer knows what I am talking about.   I will continue making my Cover Page as long as there is an interest. One has to come to the meeting To get a Cover Page.

Frank Zic wrote articals for the newsletter called Tips for the Beginner. One of the articals was TIP #4 in our NL, April 1987. This particular tip was for TI-ARTIST. I mention this for those that are just beginning TI-ARTIST. I found something that I didn't know after reading the artical.

I miss the old friends that came to the mcetings, but have missed a lot. I could use their in-put. I have some problems that I would like to discuss about with them. There is room for everyone.
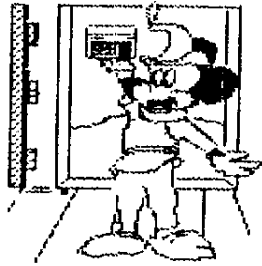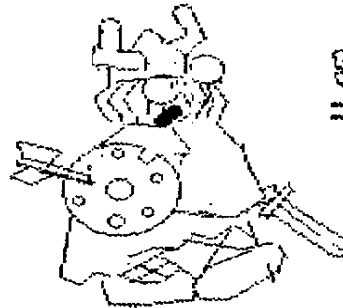
MADE IN U.S.A.

WEST PENN 99'ERS

TRICK

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 86 OCTOBER 1992

NOMINATIONS
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1993
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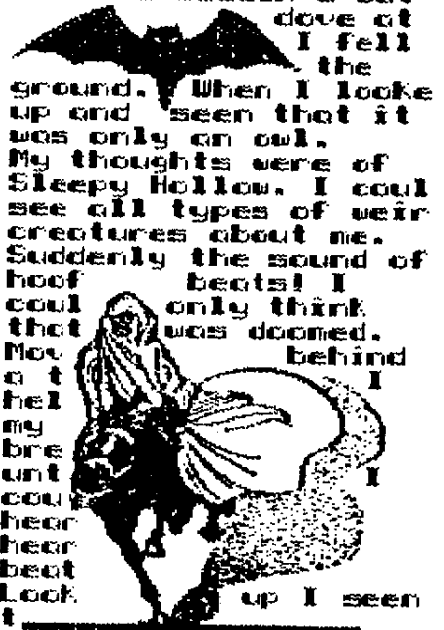
PRESIDENT
To visit Chicago

PARTY TIME

TRICK OR TREAT

PEPSI

CONTENTS FOR OCT.

I dedicate this coverpage to the memory of JUDY MUIR who passed away this year. May we always remember her.

PAGE TWO
SHORT STORIES
it happend on halloween
by P. BRUCK

The school bell rang, indicating the end of school. Closing the story of Ledgend of Sleepy Hollow, my thoughts were of days gone by. I was on my way home, when suddenly my two buddies stoped me at the door. We all decided to go to Rosy's icecream pallor. The next thing I knew, it was getting dark. My two buddies Tom and Jack, lived close to my dad's form. As we were hurring to get home, the other kids were teasing us about the ghosts that might get us.
The night was closin in on us. The birds was makeing their last sounds before roosting. The weired noises were as though bats were swooping down on us. Tom kept saying "Lets hurry". Jack with his eyes searching be-

They started to run in a frenzy, leaving me alone to face the night As I continued on. I could see the trees dancing in the breeze. All of a sudden a bat dove at I fell the ground. When I looke up and seen that it was only an owl. My thoughts were of Sleepy Hollow. I coul see all types of weir creatures about me. Suddenly the sound of hoof beats! I coul only think that was doomed. Mov behind a t I hel my bre unt cou hear hear beat Look up I seen flashlights of Tom an Jack clomping their w towards me. The reuni

THINK SPRING
TNX Sine of the Times

Think Spring.   It's time to
start   planing   that garden.
Improving your computer club
is like planting a garden.
Consider...
First plant four rows of peas:
   Perseverance
     Promptness
        Politeness
          Programs
Next plant   three   rows of
squash:
   Squash indifference
     Squash criticism
        Squash gossip
Next   plant   four   rows of
lettuce:
   Let us be contributors
     Let us be unselfish
        Let us be thankful
          Let us be truthful

And a must for a garden is
turnips:
   Turn up with determination
     Turn up for volunteer work
        Turn up for meetings.
Let's all get to work on our
garden.

Lifted from a ham radio NL.

Articles will be accepted as
hard copy or ASCII text files
on the PUG BBS member ID #32.
Deadline is the Sunday after
the meeting. TI disks can not
be read at the present time.
Any articles typed   in or
downloaded from the BBS are
being done on a MS-DOS system.
PAGE PRO articles like PAUL'S
PAGE will have to be photo
ready. MS-DOS disks for WORD
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WEST PENN 99'ERS

% Mike Sealy
RD #1 BOX 184
Toronto, OH 43964-971

Address Correction Requested
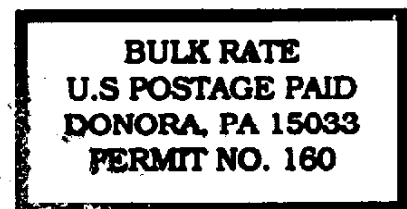
NEXT MEETING

APRIL 20, 1993

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