CHRISTMAS IN JUNE??????

IT SURE LOOKED A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS AT THE JUNE MEETING OF THE WIREGRASS 99/4 USER GROUP MEETING!!!!!   OUR HARD-WORKING LIBRARIAN, ED HAYES, OPENED HIS BAG OF GOODIES AND BROUGHT OUT PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS, AND MORE PROGRAMS!!!!!!!!!! AND WOULD YOU BELIEVE -- THESE PROGRAMS WERE COMPLETELY FREE TO MEMBERS OF OUR USER GROUP. ANY MEMBER WHO SUBMITS ONE PROGRAM TO THE LIBRARY FOR DUPLICATION IS AUTOMATICALLY ENTITLED TO WITHDRAW FIVE PROGRAMS OF HIS/HER CHOICE ON A LIBRARY LOAN BASIS. THIS GIVES US A CHANCE TO TRY OUT COPYRIGHTED PROGRAMS BEFORE BUYING THEM AND TO DUPLICATE THOSE THAT ARE NOT PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT. WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF OUR PERSONAL LIBRARIES,, AND AT SUCH A SAVINGS!! THE SAVINGS ON ONE PROGRAM ALONE MORE THAN MAKES UP THE COST OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE USER GROUP.

WE HOPE TO SEE OUR MEMBERSHIP CONTINUE TO INCREASE IN NUMBER! AFTER ALL, THE MORE MEMBERS WE HAVE CONTRIBUTING AND BORROWING PROGRAMS FROM THE LIBRARY, THE MORE PROGRAMS WE WILL HAVE AVAILABLE. THE SKY'S THE LIMIT. SO, IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE INTERESTED IN THE TI-99 COMPUTER, ENCOURAGE THEM TO COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING AND SEE WHAT OUR USER GROUP HAS TO OFFER. WE'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE NEXT MEETING.

                                        JOYCE RUDD, PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

ROGER B. CRAMPTON
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ACCESSORIES

IF YOU'RE LIKE ME, YOUR DESK HAS ABOUT RUN OUT OF SPACE TO STACK UP YOUR COMPUTER STUFF. A PRINTER, ITS SUPPLY OF PAPER, A MONITOR, AND A BUNCH OF MISCELLANEOUS JUNK WILL QUICKLY CONSUME A TABLE TOP. ONE OF OUR MEMBERS, ERNIE HOWELL, HAS FOUND THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM--HE HAS CONSTRUCTED A CUSTOM DESIGNED DESK AND EQUIPMENT RACK TO STORE HIS TI-99 AND ALL THE PERIPHERALS THAT GO ALONG WITH IT. ERNIE SAID THAT HE IS WILLING TO SHARE HIS PLANS WITH ANYONE INTERESTED IN BUILDING A CUSTOMIZED COMPUTER WORK STATION.

                                        BY: ROGER CRAMPTON

HARDWARE

If you want to know anything about installing half-size disk drives in your Peripheral Expansion Box, our local expert is ERNIE HOWELL. Just a few days ago, he received his second half-sized disk, this time a double sided drive. He now has installed one single-side and one double-side drive in his Peripheral Box. That's a lot of capability: the equivalent of three disk drives in the same space that most of us have only one! The only problem is that he can't initialize both sides of his diskettes because he doesn't have the upgraded Disk Manager II Module from TI. In order to use the newer drives, you have to get a new Disk Manager Command Module which Texas Instruments will send you for about ten dollars. A word of caution -- when you buy anything to put inside your Peripheral Expansion Box, be sure to write down the serial number of the item first. I neglected to do that when I installed my Disk Controller Card. To get the new Disk Manager Module, I had to furnish the serial number of my Controller Card, and guess where the serial number is located on the card? Right, it's on the bottom! So I had to dismantle the whole thing to get to it. It's really a mess to unplug the disk drive and remove the card. The instruction manual makes it sound easy, but apparently they used a twelve-year old genius to do it when they wrote the manual. It took me some real juggling to balance the drive in one hand while I reached back into the box to reattach the drive ribbon cable. Also took a few choice words....which helped a lot more than the manual.

I had the chance to try out the COMPANION WORD PROCESSOR a few days ago, a Canadian import. The Companion is an assembly language text processor that really is a workhorse. Your text appears as white letters on a blue background, very readable, and to my surprise, there were 40 columns on the screen instead of the usual 32! With just a few manipulations of the printer specifications, the test letter that I wrote came chugging out on my antique Heathkit H-14 printer. While I didn't have time to try out all of its features, the parts that I did try worked splendidly and impressed me very much. The manual was written using the Companion program and an MX-80 printer and provides plenty of examples and clearly written instructions. If you're interested, the address is INTELPRO, 5825 Baillargeon Street, Brossard, Quebec J4Z 1T1. The cost is $64.95.

A new TEXAS INSTRUMENTS DEALER has opened in Montgomery and soon we'll have a factory approved service center for our computers just a short drive up the four-lane. Mrs. Cindy Taft, the manager of The Computer Station, tells me that she expects TI approval as a service center within the next couple of weeks. They'll also be stocking the full TI line, peripherals and all. And, best of all, they are offering us a 7% discount on everything in the store. Just tell Cindy that you're a member of the User Group and you'll save a bundle. To find The Computer Station, turn left onto the Southern ByPass as you enter Montgomery; drive about a half-mile and watch for the Governor's House Motel on your right and Ezzell's Catfish Cabin on your left. The Computer Station is right between the catfish place and a Taco Bell, on the left side across the four-lane.

For those of you who are waiting for Texas Instruments to start shipping the new HEXBUS PERIPHERALS, there is some more good news. TI has announced that they now have a modem that plugs into the HexBus system, thereby alleviating the need for the Peripheral Expansion Box. You'll be able to plug into The Source, Texnet, and Dow-Jones just by using the HexBus Adapter and RS-232. That'll save a bunch of money that you can spend on software. ————

BY: ROGER CRAMPTO

SOFTWARE

BY: ROGER CRAMPTON

PROGRAM LIBRARY NEWS -- TURN IN ONE, CHECK OUT FIVE!
WHERE ELSE CAN YOU GET SUCH A GOOD DEAL??

OUR PROGRAM LIBRARY IS GROWING EVERY DAY. ED SAYS THAT HE OFTEN DISCOVERS
CASSETTE TAPES IN HIS MAILBOX WHEN HE RETURNS FROM WORK OR SCHOOL. PROBABLY
OUR SHORTEST AREA IS IN BUSINESS PROGRAMS, SO WE'VE PURCHASED A BOOK OF
BUSINESS PROGRAMS FOR OUR LIBRARY. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE TALENTED AT
ADAPTING PROGRAMS, THE BOOK PROVIDES MANY PROGRAMS READY TO BE KEYED IN OR
MODIFIED TO SUIT YOUR PARTICULAR NEEDS. CHECK WITH ED HAYES, OUR ALL-KNOWING
LIBRARIAN, IF YOU'D LIKE TO CHECK THE BOOK OUT OF THE LIBRARY.

HAVE YOU BEEN WONDERING WHAT PROGRAMS YOU CAN DONATE TO THE PROGRAM LIBRARY
TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR FIVE-FOR-ONE EXCHANGE?? OUR ILLUSTRIOUS LIBRARIAN,
ED HAYES, CAN OFFER SOME SUGGESTIONS---HE HAS SEVERAL CATALOGS AND ADVERTISE-
MENTS FOR INEXPENSIVE PROGRAMS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE RECENTLY RECEIVED AN AD FOR
SEVERAL BIBLE STUDY PROGRAMS THAT WILL RUN ON THE TI-99/4 COMPUTER. NONE OF
THESE PROGRAMS ARE CURRENTLY IN THE LIBRARY.

REMEMBER, THE PROGRAMS THAT YOU SUBMIT CAN BE ORIGINAL (WRITTEN BY YOU), COPIED
FROM A MAGAZINE, OR PURCHASED; BUT THEY MUST BE NEW PROGRAMS -- NOT LISTED IN
OUR MOST RECENT CATALOG. CONTACT ED BEFORE YOU BUY TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT HE
DOESN'T ALREADY HAVE THE PROGRAM OR THAT SOMEONE ELSE IS BUYING IT OR KEYING
IT IN.

THE TEXAS INSTRUMENTS USERS GROUP COORDINATOR IN LUBBOCK HAS SENT US ANOTHER
DISKETTE WITH SEVEN EXTENDED BASIC PROGRAMS; THREE OF THEM ARE USED TO KEEP
STATISTICS FOR BASKETBALL COACHES. PERHAPS SOME OF OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE
LITTLE LEAGUE TEAMS COULD MODIFY THE THREE PROGRAMS FOR SOFTBALL OR FOOTBALL,
OR AT LEAST GET SOME GOOD PROGRAMMING IDEAS. THERE ARE ALSO THREE GOOD GAMES
AND A GRAPHING PROGRAM ON THE DISKETTE. THE SEVEN NEW PROGRAMS ARE NOW IN OUR
EXCHANGE LIBRARY AND AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS ON EITHER TAPE OR DISK. YOU'LL NEED
THE EXTENDED BASIC MODULE PLUGGED INTO YOUR CONSOLE IN ORDER TO RUN THESE
PROGRAMS.

TEXWARE ASSOCIATES (350 FIRST NORTH STREET, WELLINGTON, ILLINOIS 60973) HAS
GENEROUSLY SENT US A SAMPLE PROGRAM TO ADD TO OUR PROGRAM LIBRARY. CALLED
Z-BURT, THE GAME INVOLVES MOVING YOUR HERO TO EVERY ELEMENT OF A PYRAMID,
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO WATCH OUT FOR THE BAD GUYS, WHO GET MEANER AT EACH LEVEL
YOU GET TO. THEY'LL EAT YOU UP IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL. THE GAME IS ON CASSETTE
TAPE AND REQUIRES THE EXTENDED BASIC MODULE AND JOYSTICKS. IF YOU HAVE A
SPEECH SYNTHESIZER, THE PROGRAM WILL GIVE YOU VOICE WARNINGS WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT
TO BE "EATEN ALIVE." CHECK WITH ED HAYES, OUR ENERGETIC LIBRARIAN, IF YOU'D
LIKE TO PREVIEW Z-BURT. ED ALSO HAS A LIST OF OTHER PROGRAMS FOR THE TI-99/4
FROM TEXWARE.

TI HAS ANNOUNCED A NEW WORD PROCESSING PROGRAM; THIS TIME ITS ON
CASSETTE AND COSTS AN INCREDIBLE $19.95! UNBELIEVABLE ISN'T IT?? THE NEW
WORD PROCESSOR IS SUPPOSED TO BE RELEASED IN THE FALL.

THE PROGRAMS LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE LIBRARY SINCE VOLUME 3 WAS
PUBLISHED. POSTING THESE ADDITIONS WILL UPDATE YOUR CATALOG TO VOLUME 4.

LIBRARIAN, ED HAYES

226 SPELL SCORE, Xbasic. Make up your own words. Make them
    as long as possible. Move the pointer using the right
    arrow. Press enter. When the word is complete, press
    0. Y or N for a good/bad word. Score points against an
    opponent.

227 PRESIDENTS, basic. A fun game to learn the presidents.
    The computer gives clues and you have three guesses.

455 TITAN, Xbasic. A good game. Try to land your invisible
    ship by controlling horizontal + vertical.

456 JUMPING JACK, basic. Make Jack jump across the holes
    using the space bar. Different levels of play. A cute
    TI game.

457 SUB-HUNT, Xbasic. Excellent graphics. Planes fly
    overhead while bombing subs. Two can play.

458 LOST RUINS, basic. You are a robot that has to find
    enough evidence to say that man was born there. Good
    graphics. Joysticks not required

459 DEEP SPACE, basic/Xbasic. A tactical simulation game of
    ship to ship combat in deep space. No graphics.

460 ALIEN 3, Xbasic. You must save Washington D.C. by
    destroying six alien spacecraft. Their weapons are
    invisible. Four skill levels. A great game.

461 Z-BURT, Xbasic. A great pyramid game. The program can
    only be recorded by sound. Two tape recorders are
    required to do so.

462 KALEIDESCOPE, basic. A fun way to see the colors of the
    TI. You set the time and plug in the colors. Very pretty.

613 AMERICA, Xbasic. The song.

812 ACCOUNT FILES, basic/Xbasic. An excellent file program
    that uses disks only.

1012 TRIP PLANNER, basic. A great help in planning travel
     expenses.

In the first issue of the newsletter, we looked at
the first part of building a Math Helper Program for our children.
Listed here is the main part of the program which is to follow
the menu.

Before listing the program itself, it might be helpful
to tell a little bit about what the program actually does, and
describe some of the variables and techniques used to get the
job done. If you will recall, the menu gave the user a CHoice
of doing addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, or
quitting. We defined the string varaible CH$ (for choice) to
indicate what you had chosen to do.

From that point, we go on to run the program to help the
child check his or her math. At the beginning, I decided to fix
the program in such a way that the computer would not tell the child
what the right answer was, but only to tell whether or not the child's
answer was correct. That would eliminate the possibility of using
the computer to do the homework, rather than using it to help check
what the child had done. For this purpose, the computer asks the
student to enter the first number (N1) and the second number (N2)
and then asks for the answer that the child computed (N3). At that
point the computer calculates the correct answer (N4) and compares
it to N3 (the answer the student found). If N3=N4 (if the child's
answer is correct), then the program praises the student and asks
if there is another problem to check, or if the student wants
to return to the menu. If the answer is not correct, then the
computer asks for the correct answer until the student finds the
correct answer.

There is a fairly long section in the program (lines 370-
500) which uses character strings to convert the numbers (N1 and N2),
the operation codes OP$(+,-,*,/), and the string of characters
EQ$ (" = ?") into a string made in line 510 called MSG$(for message).
It might be helpful to review the function STR$ in your TI Basic
manual. There is also a way to line up a series of strings end-
to-end using the instruction "&". It is called CONCATENATION and
can be found in the index of your manual. The command INPUT allows
an input prompt ("What is your choice?") and we use the string
variable MSG$ to accomplish that in line 520 (5 + 5 = ?, for example).

Starting in line 530, there are a number of comparison
statements which compute N4 after deciding what kind of math
you are doing (i.e.,WHAT IS CH$). You may want to review the
IF....THEN....ELSE statement in your manual. The program then
checks to see if the answer is right and lets you go on, or sends
you back if the answer is not correct. Last it asks you what you
want to do next and stores your answer in Q$ (for a "cue"). If your
answer is "M", the program sends you back to the menu, if you simply
press "ENTER", or if you press anything else, you go on to the
next problem.

I thought about putting in a lot of REM statements to
lead you through the program, but instead I will put the comments
in this text enclosed by {....}. YOU DO NOT NEED TO ENTER THESE.
The program segment enclosed needs to be added to the first part

of the program produced in newsletter #1. As quickly as I can,
I will get this program, and a much fancier one in extended basic
into the library.

```
330 IF CH$ = "5" THEN 720 {IF YOU SPECIFIED QUIT ON THE MENU}
340 CALL CLEAR
350 INPUT "FIRST NUMBER? ": N1
360 INPUT "SECOND NUMBER? ": N2
{HERE WE GO MAKING A STRING LIKE 5+5=?}
370 N1$ = STR$(N1)   {LOOK UP THE FUNCTION STR$}
380 N2$ = STR$(N2)
390 EQ$ = " = ? "   {BUILD EQUALS SIGN AND QUESTION MARK STRING}
{NOW WE START A NUMBER OF COMPARISONS TO SEE WHAT OPERATION YOU ARE
   DOING--REMEMBER CH$ IS YOUR CHOICE FROM THE MENU}
400 IF CH$ = "1" THEN 410 ELSE 430
410 OP$ = " + "
420 GOTO 510 {IF THIS WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE, THEN STOP COMPARING}
430 IF CH$ = "2" THEN 440 ELSE 460
440 OP$ = " - "
450 GOTO 510
460 IF CH$ = "3" THEN 470 ELSE 490
470 OP$ = " X "
480 GOTO 510
490 IF CH$ = "4" THEN 500 ELSE 510
500 OP$ = " / "
510 MSG$ = N1$&OP$&N2$&EQ$   {MAKE ONE LONG STRING CALLED MSG$}
520 INPUT MSG$ : N3   {ASKS FOR STUDENT'S ANSWER}
   {NOW WE COMPUTE THE CORRECT ANSWER}
530 IF CH$ = "1" THEN 540 ELSE 550
540 N4 = N1 + N2
550 IF CH$ = "2" THEN 560 ELSE 570
560 N4 = N1 - N2
570 IF CH$ = "3" THEN 580 ELSE 590
580 N4 = N1 * N2
590 IF CH$ = "4" THEN 600 ELSE 610
600 N4 = N1/N2
   {COMPARE STUDENT'S ANSWER TO CORRECT ANSWER}
610 IF N3=N4 THEN 650 ELSE 620
620 620 CALL SOUND(250,880,2)
630 PRINT "INCORRECT...TRY AGAIN!"
640 GOTO 510 {ASK AGAIN}
650 CALL SOUND (250,440,2)
660 PRINT "VERY GOOD!"
670 PRINT   {JUST SKIPS A LINE}
680 PRINT "TO CONTINUE PRESS ""ENTER"" "  {NOTE QUOTES WITHIN QUOTES}
690 PRINT "TO RETURN TO MENU, PRESS"
700 INPUT """M"" AND ""ENTER"" ":Q$
   {USING GREATER THAN & LESS THAN TOGETHER MEANS "NOT EQUAL"}
710 IF Q$ <> "M" THEN 340 ELSE 120
720 END
```