

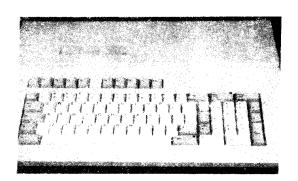
PRESENTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO AREA TI-99/4A USERS GROUP

MURES FAIRE ISSUE

NOV. 30, 1985 EDITOR: Carole Goldstein

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THE DEC MEETING

will be held on Saturday Dec. event column for more information.

7, 1985 from 1:00 to 3:00 in the Fireside Lounge at Triton College. During the meeting there will be a demonstration of C-99, the newest programming language. See the main

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BULLETINS:

For those who have been waiting for so long: A PASCAL Sig will be starting at 12:00 at the December Meeting. Please come and lets make this SIG work. There are aloft of you out there with P-CODE cards and working together you should be able to maximize your enjoyment of this peripheral.

Elections will be held at this meeting.

THE MAIN EVENT: Jon Bartels

My thanks to John Behnke, our new head librarian, for showing some of the useful and fun programs available in the group's library at our October meeting. Since that meeting the library has been expanding so rapidly that John can hardly keep up with all the new software being traded between our group and others across the world.

For the December 7th meeting Mr. Geary Dodendorf of C and G Drives has consented to reveal some of the more mysterious aspects of a disk drive's inner workings. There will also be our group's annual swap meet at the December meeting. Bring your used software and hardware to the meeting and see if you can trade for something new and different, or try to wheel and deal your way to computer nirvahna. Good deals can always be had at the December swap meet, and being right before Christmas is no accident either.

THE DISASSEMBLY: Dave Wakely

- I think it was some time on the following Tuesday that I began to recover from the 3rd Annual Chicago TI Faire, and I am left with a number of conclusions as a result of it, some of which I already knew, some of which were reinfurced, and some of which were reinfurced, and some of which were revelations:
- 1) TI users are fanatics about their computer, and buy things for it like crazy. Ask any vendor (or their bankers). I tried on several occasions early in the day to get near the vendor tables, any vendor table, and was thwarted by a stack of users three or four deep. Later in the day (when the stacks had been popped?) I was finally able to make the rounds of the tables and check out the variety of software available. In the meantime I found myself carrying on a casual conversation with a II user from Puget Sound, Washington, and another who claimed he had not slept in three days. I would not care to be a passenger in the car for the return trip.
- 2) TI users are hungry for information and/or rumors about their computer. Ask any speaker. Hourly mass exits from the vending floor could be observed when a presentation approached. It was true last year when we did tutorials, and true this year when we had "expert" guest speakers.
- 3) The long—and eagerly—awaited "new machine" achieved the distinction of both debuting and not debuting at the same time. Ask anyone in the Fireside Lounge at the end of Lou Phillips' 1.5 hour talk. It all depends on how you look at it. The initial flashbulb popping excitement over a very good looking keyboard dimmed somewhat when the realization dawned on the crowd that a selectric key layout alone does not a TI compatible computer make. On the other hand, Myarc has a reputation for taking their time with hardware, but getting it right. Ask anyone with a CorComp disk controller. Where there's someone talking TI compatible, there's hope. And \$499.95 is an attractive price for what Myarc claims the "Noah" ("Knowa"?) will do.
- 4) If we all knew as much about the TI-99/4A as Craig Miller, we could build our own compatibles. Ask anyone who owns a Gram Kracker. What this thing doesn't do, you don't really need anyway. It's an understatement to call this the II product of the year when you consider that last year one of the candidates was that aforementioned disk controller with the suicidal tendencies, and another was the OSCAR har code reader. \$174.95? Consider that when they were new, the Extended BASIC and Multiplan cartridges, for example, together would have cost slightly more.
- 5) Putting on a TI Faire is one heck of a lot of work. Ask Sandy Bartels. If you want to know the name of the one person without whom the Faire would not have happened, I can tell you that it was Sandy. From the initial letters to putential vendors to last minute phone calls to guest speakers, Sandy stayed right on top of every detail. Yes, the Usual Crew made their contributions, but Sandy was this year's designated Faire coordinator. and it has never been done better. Enough said.
- 6) I suspect that this group is getting a reputation as a result of our annual Faire. Ask any of the dozen or so "tamous" Π people who showed up. It seemed that every time I turned around there was someone else I

had heard about through the various sources of TI folklore. Besides our speakers (Craig Miller, Rich Mitchell, Lou Phillips, John Clulow) I also ran into Canadian Terry Atkinson, well known for his public domain support and general assistance to TI users on The Source, as well as highly recognizable Bob Boone. If you can't place the face, Bob is the guy with the 10 yallon hat which looks like it belongs to someone from Texas rather than Ottawa. Also seen briefly were John Koloen, editor of MICROpendium, and John Dow, who tells me that the Assembly language version of his famous Flight Simulator is nearly finished and will be out soon. I was able to chat for all of 30 seconds with Mack McCormick, one of the small army of TI Sysops of the TI Forum on Compuserve. Speaking of armies, I learned that both McCormick and Ron Albright, who couldn't be at the Faire, are career military men. Is the Pentagon now running Compuserve?

- 7) Every Faire we do makes it easier to do the next one, since the vendors now know us and the type of users the Faire attracts. Ask any of the vendors who have already asked us about reserving tables at next year's Faire.
- 8) I have nothing profound left to conclude about the "TI phenomenon" in the wake of the Faire. I think I have used up my quota of profundity for this year. It is no longer news that TI owners have remained loyal to their machines, nor any risk in stating that it is likely they will continue to do so.

It is probably in this issue somewhere, but the upcoming meeting is also our annual TI flea market. This is your chance to sell off those unused modules or equipment, or to get a hargain. It is relatively easy these days to pick up a used modem or printer from someone upgrading to newer equipment. Also, if you bring software, bring it in original form only, no copies, please! There will be several tables at the back of the room for you to display your stuff. Flease obey the vendor rules during the meeting.

Another item which needs to be handled at this meeting is the election of officers for 1986. At this point there is one announced candidate for President, Butch Goldstein, who has informed me he considers himself and Carole "co-candidates", who, if elected, would presumably become "Lo-Fresidents". Other officers have been recruited or have volunteered to help out with various group functions, and most of them will be returning. Sandy has agreed to stay on as group Secretary, and Don Jones as Membership Chairman. Of course, Grant Schmalgemeier has previously been named group mascot-for-life. Regardless of the election result, Carole is prohibited by unanimous decree from leaving her post as newsletter editor. If you are interested in the Presidency of the group, make your intentions known to one of the officers before the meeting and have someone place your name in nomination at the appropriate time during the proceedings. Be prepared to say a few words about your "platform" for the group. Maybe this year we will pass out ballots rather than do a "show of hands" vote, especially if there are several candidates.

Congratulations are in order for Robert Prater of Waukegan. He holds the winning ticket in the monochrome monitor raffle held at the Faire. I don't know young Robert's exact age, but his father informed me he was asleep when I called at 9PM a few days after the Faire. The presentation of the monitor will be made at the upcoming meeting.

If you didn't win the monitor but still want one, you can get one from Howard Medical Computers. 1690 N. Elston, Chicago (312)270 1440. These are Zenith factory "repacks". That is, these units were returned unsold by dealers, and Zenith opened, inspected, and tested them, then repacked them with full factory warranty (one year). The price: \$07.00. They are 12" composite monochrome (green-screen), and will run directly from the TI video port with a TI monitor cable. Two weeks before the Faire they had 200 of them, minus the one I bought. Drawback: no speaker, hence no sound. A separate speaker is fairly easily wired into the mini-phone plug on the cable. You might also check with Hunter Electronics. Just before the Faire their flyer announced limited availability of an N.A.P. monochrome amber monitor, also for \$59.00. I do not know if these have speakers, and people either love or really hate amber screens. In either case, these type of monitors usually retail for around \$150.00.

Well, that's about it. I don't have any dramatic ending for the column this month; maybe I'm still recovering from the Faire after all.

THANKS: Sandy Bartels

All the work and worry for this year's Faire is over, and we can all sit back and pat ourselves on the back for a job extremely well done. At this year's Faire we had 28 vendors, and nearly 2,000 in attendance. The Faire had visitors from all over the United States and Canada. This year's Faire was a tremendous success, and I want to thank everyone that worked with me this year. All the Executive Committee members were there when I needed help, and all the mombers that came forward to help the day of the Faire. I especially want to thank my husband who worked hand and hand with me to make things run smoothly. Also I want to thank him for never complaining about all the missed dinners, while I was working on II Faire business.

There are other people I need to thank. Dave Wakely for all the encouragement, advice, and help is high on my list of thank you's. Thank you Butch and Carole Goldstein, John Behnke, Grant Schmalgemeier, Hank Ellerman, Ken Czerwinski, Don Jones, Pat and Ed Krantz, Chuck Hoff, and all the members who gave up their time to set up, and run the faire. A special thanks goes to Hunter Electronics. Roy Hunter went out of his way to help me get some of the equipment that was needed for the Faire.

Thank you Mike Booth, Ed Svizerro, and Bob Lee for all the work you did getting the extra equipment I needed for the guest speakers, and vendors. I don't know what I would have done without you. A special thanks goes to Len and Laurie Rovner who worked at the entrance door almost all day.

Believe it or not plans are being started for next year's Faire. With your help I know next year's Faire will keep the TI-99/4A out of the orphanage, and in the homes of thousands of Chicago-Area user's.

TRADING TImes:

Mark Symons of Wilmette, Illinois has the following for sale: Ti-99/4A computer, Expansion Box, Speech Synthesizer, Joysticks, Video Modulator, A/C 9500 Adapter, plus Personal Record Keeping(cassette) Teach Yourself Basic (cassette), Munchman, Parsec, TI Invaders, Eary Learning Fun. He is asking \$250 for the entire package.

Our own Sam Pincus has a number of items for sale. You can buy his spare console and loaded PE Box for \$425. In addition he has a DS drive without power supply for \$75, TI Writer \$35, Multiplan \$30, Mini Memory \$30, a Signalman Mar III modem for \$40, TEII \$15, Personal Record Keeping \$15. You can reach Sam days at 322-2079. He is offering the whole system as a package deal for \$600.

Lloyd Wilkes is offering his system up for sale. It consists of a TI 99/4A (tan) in original box, like new, speech synthesizer, like new, a computer desk, joysticks, and the following software: Parsec, Personal Record Keeping, Home Financial Decisions, Securities Analysis, Tombstone City and TI Invaders. You can reach him at (312) 359-8333, but hurry, he is moving to Seattle Washington.

Also, Carter Wright Jr. of 4847 South Leclaire in Chicago has a Super Sketch with Sketch Mate that he'd like to sell for only \$50 or best offer. You can reach him at 735-2153.

BASICALLY YOURS: Rich Klein

How 'bout dat Faire, huh? This was our group's third, and best, TI Faire. More people than ever attended, arriving from more distant locations, to see more vendors and speakers than previously. And they said the TI Home Computer was dead. Well if this is dead, then maybe dying isn't as bad as people make it out to be.

One of the main attractions at the Faire was the promise of a NEW TI compatible computer. As you can see from the pics elsewhere in this issue, it was shown. It sure LOOKed nice, console and motherboard. MYARU even boasted some fantastic features for the machine. More addressable memory, more sophisticated graphics, more expandability than ANY micro available for the home. And they targeted the new computer in the (hopefully) #422 range. Nice.

BUT, did any of us see it work? Not me. I don't mean to be sceptical, but I'll believe it when I see it on a dealer's shelf. This promises to be be a great shot in the arm for TI Users, but we've been stuck elsewhere in the past. I'll look forward to seeing a marketed version, but I'm not holding my breath.

This month, I thought that I'd write about disk sorting, but time is short. At the faire I acquired a couple of super programs from Miller's Graphics, and have been trying them out for the last couple of weeks. Even micro-journalists need to play now and then. So, in the limited time left, we'll discuss defining graphics characters on the II.

In TI Basic, the characters with ASCII values between 32 and 159 can be

defined or redefined. The characters with codes between 30 and 127 have definitions assigned when the computer is "Powered Up". These characters, with the exception of 30 and 31, can be redefined. Characters 128 through 159 are not initially defined, but can be. It should be noted, however, that Extended Basic will allow definition of characters only up to 143. This is because of the way memory is allocated for each language.

All the characters and shapes that you may see on a given screen all have patterns and codes assigned. This includes text (A-Z, 0-9, etc.). The character "A", for example, has an ASCII code of 65, and the character code assigned to that is "003844447C444444". The first number, 65, is the standard by which computers refer to the letter "A". The second is a series of HEXADECIMAL digits used by TI to assign a pattern to correspond to how we're used to seeing the letter "A". If it had any other pattern code, then it may not be quite like, or even, at all like the "A" we are used to seeing. If we assigned ASCII code 65 the pattern code: "0078242438242478", then our letter "A" would look like our letter "B". Try this short program:

100 PRINT CHR\$ (65); "A"

110 CALL CHAR(65, "0078242438242478")

120 PRINT CHR\$(65);"A"

130 GOTO 130

Explanation:

100 Prints the ASCII code 65 and the letter "A" to show that they are the same.

110 By CALLing the CHAR subprogram, the ASCII code 65 is redefined to the pattern indicated.

120 Frints the ASCII code 65 again and also the "letter "A"" again after redefinition. When you RUN the program, you will see the letter "B" displayed instead of the letter "A", even though you know that you displayed the CODE for "A". Notice also the letters "A" that were displayed previously were also turned into "B"'s. This is because all the codes for the characters displayed on the screen are stored in the Screen Image Table in the consoles memory. The codes here are displayed according to their pattern in the Pattern Descriptor Table also stored in console memory. If the pattern changes, then any reference to its code in the Screen Image Table causes the new pattern to be displayed in its place on the screen. This might be a little confusing, so suffice it to say that if you change the pattern code of a character, then its appearance will change accordingly.

This line causes the computer to enter a state of "limbo", executing line 130 over and over again until FCTN 4 is pressed. This is so you can view the change before the program ends. When the program ends all characters below 127 revert to previous definitions. If this line wasn't included, then the characters would take on their new appearances briefly and then revert to their normal patterns almost faster than a blink of an eye.

This small example gives the faintest hint of the power of the graphics capability of the TI. Let's examine how a pattern is established:

First, it must be understed that the pattern for a character must be in HEXADECIMAL code. This is BASE 16 numbering. We're used to counting in DECIMAL, or BASE 10. Base 16 isn't much different than Base 10. In

Base 10, or Decimal, the number of digits, or places, a number has, is determined as a multiple of TEN. Single digit decimal numbers indicate a quantity of zero to nine. Two digit decimal numbers indicate a quantity of tens and units from zero units to nine tens and 9 units. This explanation is rather redundant, but necessary to explain how Hoxadocimal math works to those of you who are unfamiliar with it.

In hexadedimal numbering, a single digit would indicate a quantity of zero to fifteen. A two digit figure would indicate a quantity of from zero units to fifteen units and fifteen sixteens (255). How are the digits above nine displayed in a single digit? In HEXadecimal the numbers 0-9 and A-F are used as digits. Here's a chart to show relative values for HEX digits:

HEX	DEC:	HEX	DEC
Q	0:	10	16
1	1 :	11	17
2 3 4	2:	12	18
3	3:	13	19
4	4 :	14	20
5 6	5:	15	21
6	6:	16	22
フ	7 :	17	23
8	8:	18	24
9	9:	19	25
Α	10:	1A	26
В	11:	1B	27
C	12:	1 C	28
D	13:	1 D	29
E	14:	1 L	JΟ
F	15:	1F	31
	:	20	32

This is a small table illustrating the differences between decimal and hexadecimal numbers. Note that the word, Hexadecimal is a compound word roughly meaning six and ten (hex; six, decimal; ten). The reason computers use hexadecimal numbers is that hexadecimal shares a unique relationship with binary (Base 2) numbers that computers process. Hexadecimal is easier for humans to use, so humans use hexadecimal to communicate to the computer in binary!

When defining characters, it is helpful to know that the screen you see is a binary representation of the patterns of the 760 characters used to make up what you see. When defining a character, four terms must be known.

- 1) Character Code
- 2) Pixel
- Binary Digits (bits)
- 4) Hex digit

The first, Character Code, will be the ASCII code of the character to be defined. All characters are assigned a code, whether defined or not. This code MUST be used to refer to a character or the computer won't know what you want.

Pixel is the smallest thing that can be displayed on the screen. A character is eight pixels wide by eight pixels tall for a total of

sixty-four pixels per character. The entire screen has 256 times 192 pixels or 49,152 pixels!

Every one of these pixels can be accessed, but only in groups of sixty-four at a time. You must redefine an entire character in order to change one pixel. When defining a character, the hexadecimal pattern identifier indicates which pixels are turned "on", or the foreground of a character. The background of a character consists of the pixels which are turned "off".

A pattern identifier consists of up to 16 hexadecimal characters, each of which determines the status of four pixels horizontally. Two hex digits indicate the pattern for one of eight rows of eight pixels. The first hex digit indicates the pattern for the top row, four left pixels. The second digit determines the right four pixels in the top row. So the pattern goes top left, top right, 2nd left, 2nd right, 3rd left, 3rd right, and so on.

If a pattern is considered as: h1,h2,h3,h4,h5,h6,h7,h8,h9,h10,h11,h12,h13,h14,h15,h16 then a character pattern might look like this:

			_
:	h1	: h2	:
•	hЗ	h4	:
:	h5	h6	:
:	h7	h8 :	:
:	h9	h10	:
:	h11	h12	:
:	h13	h14	
:	h15 :	h16	

Consider the pattern above. Notice there are eight rows in the character with two hex digits in each row. As mentioned before, each row has eight pixels in it. So each hex digit must represent four pixels. Each pixel can be either "on" or "off". Since binary (Base 2) digits are either 1 (on) or 0 (off) and one hex digit equals four binary digits, then hex would seem to be a natural way to express a character pattern. All that is necessary now is to figure out how to convert hex to binary. Perhaps the following table will help:

HEX DIGIT	BINARY CODE
0	0000
1	0001
2	0010
3	0011
4	0100
5	0101
6	0110
7	0111

8	1000
9	1001
Α	1010
B	1011
C	1100
D	1101
E.	1110
F	1111

If you think of each binary "one" as being part of the foreground then by putting these binary "ones" together in different orders, we create unique characters. Consider the pattern identifier for the letter "A"; "00384444/C44444". If we develop a binary pattern for this hex code eight "bits" in a row (each BInary digiT is called a "bit"), and eight rows down, we might get:

```
0 00000000 0

3 00111000 8

4 01000100 4

4 01000100 4

7 01111100 C

4 01000100 4

4 01000100 4

4 01000100 4
```

You can see that the pattern the ones leave forms the letter "A" that we would see on the screen when the pattern for ASCII code 65 is displayed. The digits off to either side of the binary pattern were placed there to make it easier to see how the her pattern is laid out create the final pattern. Hex is used to identify the pattern because after a little use, it is much easier to lay out a string of sixteen hex digits than a string of sixty-four ones and zeros.

What's left to do is learn how to assign a pattern identifier to an ASCII code. This is done with the CHAR subprogram described in the short program above. The Syntax for the CHAR subprogram in a program line is as follows:

nnn CALL CHAR(ASCII code,pattern identifier)

The "nnn" would be the line number the statement would appear on. The ASCII code would be any valid ASCII code from 32 to 159 (143 for Extended Basic). The pattern identifier would be a hexadecimal string enclosed in quotes or a string variable which contains the hexadecimal string. If the pattern identifier contains anything other than hex digits, then an error message will be displayed and execution halts. this holds true for invalid ASCII codes as well.

If you would like to make a list of pattern id's and assign them at one time, or several here and there, they can be placed into DATA statements and then read from a loop of some kind into a string variable and assigned accordingly. This can save a lot of tedium and repetitive programming.

If you have Extended Basic, Editor Assembler or Minimem, you can use another subprogram CALLed CHARPAT to see the pattern for any valid character, including the ones you've defined. When using Extended Basic, you must be in E.B. to utilize CALL CHARPAT. When using E/A or

M.M., you must be in Basic to use it.

I'm running out of space for this issue, so if you'd like to see more on this let me know, and I'll go into more depth in a later issue.

FULL DUPLEX: Irwin Goldstein

This month's BBS list of improvements has been pretty much overshadowed by our extremely successful THIRD ANNUAL T.I. FAIRE of Nov 2. The main focus of everyone's attention went into the seemingly endless preparations for what has to be billed as the most impressive gathering of T.I. USERS and VENDORS to be found anywhere.

However, even with all the work that went into the Faire, time and effort was still found to do some work on our ever expanding RBS. We have added some convienence factors for those board users who are not yet members of the group.

For example, in the Open Section, File # 13 has the official application form used for joining the Users Group. Rather than mailing away for the application, it can now be sent directly to your printer via PBS.

Also located in the Open Sub-Board, File # 16, is where a prospective new club member may read all about our group and what we stand for. This information would be helpful in answering the most often asked questions pertaining to new membership.

Again, within the Upen Section under file # 11, is located a great review of the Faire as seen through the eyes of Dave Wakely. If you were not able to attend that great event, but would like to get a detailed account of what went on, then this file is a must.

In "Notes From the Sysop" section, you can learn how to acquire a much desired and asked for video tape of the Faire. This is a three hour record of the event, including the talks from Millers Graphics, John Kudlow, and Myarc with the new computer; unveiled in public for the first time anywhere. Read the "N" section for further information.

Some statistical data: We are currently on caller #35383 (Bradley Long, Newport News, Va.). Message # is now 6483. We receive approximately 45 to 50 cals per 24 hour period and on the average receive 15 messages during that same time frame. As the weather gets colder, the board get hotter. Best time to call-6pm to 10pm (Prime time TV)

Rumor has it that there has been some progress made on the new 1200 baud BBS. This does not mean that 300 haud users cannot access the board. This simply means that we will be fully compatible with both 300 and 1200 baud modems.

Remember to keep those password requests coming. We are up to 280 members to he Board. Would like to see 300 before years end. In case you forgot, our photonumber is 312.926.2342. Open 24 hrs. 7 days, we never give up.

Thanks for reading SYSOP

REAL SYSOPS DON'T EAT QUICHE

The following excerpts are reprinted from the newsletter of the NORTHEAST IONA HOME COMPUTER USERS GROUP, 2105 Crescent Apt #3, Cedar Falls, Iowa 506/3. Thank you IOWA.

Hardware

Real Sysops don't say they're getting a hard drive. They already have one. Real Sysops have 1200 baud. There are a few exceptions. Real Sysops have a fan on their computer at all times. Real Sysops turn off their monitor as often as possible. Real Sysops have their own phone line without "call waiting". Real Sysops don't need a Ramdisk.

User's

Real Sysops don't care if you say that you are putting up a board next summer. Real Sysops avoid "Chat Mode" as often as possible. Real Sysops know that it is the users that make a BBS great.

Posting/Other BBS's

Real Sysops don't take their board down every five minutes to call a board. Real Sysops don't leave mail to users asking them to post messages. Real Sysops don't post their numbers on every known BBS.

Attitudes/Relations

Real Sysops get angry if their boards are crashed. Fortunately, real boards are rarely crashed and Real jSysops make back-ups, anyway. Real Sysops know what the backdoor is. Real sysops don't care about "improper signoffs". Real Sysops don't think they are GOD and are better than everyone else. Real Sysops try to help the new users; not cut them down. Real Sysops know the difference between a new user and a loser. Real Sysops don't procrastinate. Real Sysops aren't hypocrites. Real Sysops couldn't care less about what some user posts about them on another board. Real Sysops put up a BBS as a service; not a catalyst. Real Sysops take pride in their BBS. Real Sysops don't care if users leave some obnoxious message 100 times in feedback. Real Sysops know that it is their decision whether or not to sit in front of the computer all day. They don't care what some idiot says.

Doard Modifications

Real Sysops know how to spell. Real Sysops don't have a "Pin The Tail On The Donkey" game on-line. Real Sysops make sure that "G" is for good-bye, and "C" is for chat. Real Sysops don't have a command for every key on the keyboard. Real Sysops know that a disclaimer is useles, but they keep it for nostalgic reasons. Real boards don't need constant new versions and REAL SYSOPS DON'T EAT GUICHE!

The Library Shelf: John Behnke

Well our 3rd haire is over and I'd like to thank some people who gave me a big hand in keeping the crowd under control at the library table at the Faire. The first person I'd like to express my thanks to is Nate Johnson. He asked if I needed any help with the Library. He ended up running the Library almost himself, taking orders, keeping track of the overflowing cash box, and answering the numerous questions that were asked. He also dragged his complete system to the faire. I quess I should tell him that he just became one of a growing list of assistant librarians. I'd also like to thank Alan Izzo who brought his complete system and helped with the set up of the library table. Nick lacovelli popped in and out to lend a hand and my brother Mike manned one of the library tables and filled orders. These members should be given a round of applause for their hard work. It should be noted that the library took in a record number of orders. All proceeds were placed in the group treasury.

While the Faire was in progress, some members of the Iowa Users Group were hard at work in the back room swapping libraries with us. Not only did they copy our programs but also made us copies of theirs. I can now report that our library has grown from about 1000 programs to well over 2000! Many thanks to the Iowa Users Group! These programs will be slowly added to our library as I get a chance to go over them.

I'm sorry to report that we have not received Pilot/99 as of yet. I've talked to the Author and it seems he has a lung condition. He'll send it to us when he's in better health. I do have some good news, however. The new language "C" is now in the library. C is very simular to Basic but it's compiled to assembly source code, which in turn is assembled into machine language. I've used it and can say that it's GREAT! It will be demonstrated at the December meeting.

Here are some new rules to speed up the processing of your libray orders:

- Only initialized diskettes will be accepted for copying.
- Program Paks will still be available but you will have to select the Pak you want from a list and it will be copied with a Mass-Copy program that takes only 30 seconds.
- Programs that take an entire disk will have to be ordered and picked up at the next meeting or mailed.
- Large orders (10+) will be mailed at no expense to you.

The reason for these new rules is directly related to the size that the library has grown to. We have went from 250 program to over 2000 in only 6 months and I'm getting another 1000 within a month. It seems that we have sold just about all of the library lists. There are some available. In only one month, the list is out of date. I will run off another list as soon as I get the time. I hope you are satisfied with the new library and find it to suit your needs. Here's a list of the assistant librarians:

- Nick Iacovelli
- Nate Johnson
- Mike Behnke

Membership Chairman Speaks: Don Jones

To begin, I would like to extend my gratitude to Ken Knapp and Gerhard Kugel. Without their help, I would still be at the table trying to sort out the mess. They paid heavy sacrifices by beloing me man the membership table for, virtually the whole day, including the times of some very interesting presentations. I am indebted to both of these men.

I would also like to thank all of present members who complied with my request to bring checks already made out and with their membership numbers on them. This one thing really facilitated my work during the faire.

Please check the mailing label of this newsletter. If the second line does not have your membership number followed by a slash and the number 86, you must renew your membership by January, 1986 in order to remain a member in good standing. During the Faire, seventy-five present members renewed their memberships. There were tifty-one new registrations.

Please remember that December is the last month for you to renew at the \$12.00 rate. As of January 1, the price goes up to \$15.00. If you are unable to come to the December meeting, or if it is inconvenient for you to pay at this time, please feel free to send your renewal checks to our post office box address. We will honor all renewals that are postmarked before January 1.

All new and renewed members should be finding their 1786 membership cards enclosed within this newsletter. I had so many, I felt that it would be a big help to have them already distributed by the time of the meeting. If I have misspelled your name or recorded your address incorrectly, please have a note with your name, your membership number, the nature of the problem, and the correct information. I will correct your card accordingly and have the new card one meeting hence. When it is inconvenient for you to pick up your card at the meeting, I will be happy to send it out to you by mail.

It seems that my first and last article was ambiguous in one regard: I do not have the new cards made up at the time of your renewal. I print up the mailing label only for those people who have renewed. I will therefore have the cards for cards for renewals and new members by the time of the next meeting. If you register or renew by mail at least two weeks before a meeting, I may be able to have your new card by that time.

Once again, please continue to use checks whenever it is convenient. Thanks for all of your help and cooperation.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING!!!



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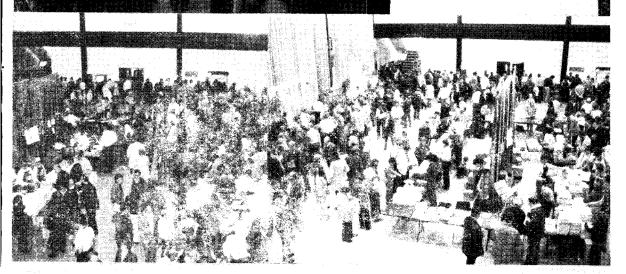
TEXAS
INSTRUMENTS
HOME COMPUTER
FAIR
NOV2 10 AM-4PM



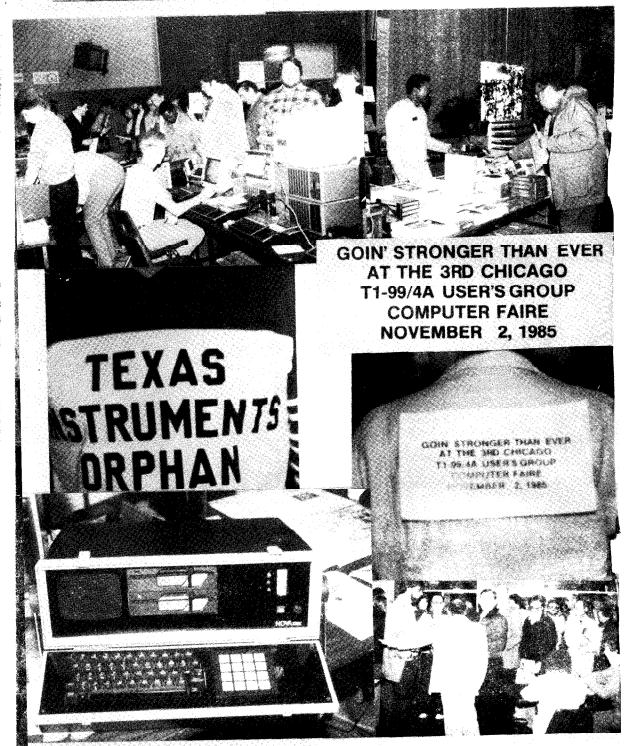
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
10 A.M. DOORS OPEN
10 30 TO 12 30
FIRST GAME CONTEST
11 00 A.M. DOOR PRIZE
12 30 TO 2 30
MORE GAME CONTEST
200 MONITOR RAFFLE
& DOOR PRIZE

400 DOOR PRIZE

500 DOORS CLOSE







SOFTWARE REVIEWS: Jack Lopham

MASS TRANSFER

MASS-TRANSFER from our own Stu Olson has been released as FREEWARE or HONORWARE as I prefer to call it. That means if you use it and don't pay for it, you are a thief and a bum. These assembly programs take a lot of hard work and these nice guys let you TRY their programs BEFORE you buy. Please do not rip them off. Stu has released V3.5 for BBS download at a price of \$10 or send him \$11 for a disk with all the files.

Why sould you want to spend \$10 for MASS-TRANSFER? Because here is program that is totally new to the TI world. It allows you to send by XMODEM either a file or a complete disk automatically. MASS TRANSFER now uses a new MXT routine that supports both the SMART CAT and the HAYES modems. MXT or MULTIPLE XMODEM TRANSFER allows the computer to batch process any number of files from your disk drive. The user just selects the files to be sent from a screen catalog of disk files. At the receiver side MXT places the files on the designated drive with the file names as sent! Goodby FCTN "N", and FCTN · SHIFT "X".

M-T is full featured with a user managed telephone directory. Each of the 20 listings can contain up to 50 characters in support of modem requirements. System defaults at boot can be changed temporarily or permently.

M-T allows either parly to be the originator and the other the receiver. If desired the line can be put back on hook (hung up) at the end of the transfer. File transfers use the XMODEM protocol with the option of CRC or CHECKSUM error detection. Transfer of DV-80 ASCII files can be sent with a utility that supports Xon/Xoff if desired vs a line by line transfer.

An 11.6K buffer can be used as a LOG file and dumped to DISK, PRINTER, Etc. When full the file will automatically dump to the designated device and then continue to fill. If the LOG file is open, M-T will ask you if you want it closed before Quiting! A very nice touch. The buffer can be viewed at any time and can be toggled on/off at will. The log file is scrolled and can be stopped and screen dumped as well.

I have tried to give you enough to get you interested and to try the program. Stu has included a file of 8 pages of instruction that are clear and concise. If you don't agree M-T is worth the \$10, erase the disk or pass it to a friend. Stu has included all the wonderful features of his TERM-TEN program so that unless you want to download from a "TE2 only" BBS you can meet all your Telecommunication needs with this one program. An A+ program almost for the asking.

STUART OLSON 25322 W. WAYSIDE PL. LAKE VILLA, IL. 60046

DISK/FILE LIDRARIES

I purchased MASTER DISK FILE from ESC in Cincinnati about two years ago and it has remained the best featured Library system that I have been exposed to until now. My only wish for MASTER DISK FILE is that it had been written in assembler. Loading and running the various utilities and manipulating the data base is slow in XBASIC!. I currenly maintain two data bases of some 20 disks each for a total of some 1000 files.

M/D/F does it all even if slowly. Any disk or file can be found even if mis-spelled. The print out utility is versatile, allowing three columns on the 8" page. Disks can be added or deleted so that keeping my Library current is a snap. One draw back is that M/D/F requires a separate disk for each Library. I divide my disks into two: PROGRAMS and UTILITIES, so I need two disks. For two years this has been my Library system.

Enter CATALOGING LIBRARY into my life. I downloaded this program off TI NORTH where it was described as one of those "perfect programs". Indeed it almost is. A++ at least. Written in assembler, C/L is fast. A disk of files is added as fast as your disk will catalog it. I tried 20 DISKS with a total of 335 FILES and was amazed at the speed. SORT/SAVE took less than a minute. SEARCH for a disk or file is instantaneous.

No instructions were needed as the MAIN MENU says it all. Loading requires E/A Load/Run and is fast. Up to 100 Library files can be created on one disk if you have disk capacity. 1000 files on 20 disks used 110 sectors. The program uses another 101 sectors. I don't expect to have a capacity problem as you can see

MENU options include:
 ADD DISKS
 DELETE DISKS
LIST DISK SUMMARY
LIST ALL PROGRAMS
SEARCH/LIST DISK
SEARCH/LIST PROGRAM
PRINT DISK SUMMARY
PRINT ALL PROGRAMS
SEARCH/PRINT DISK
SORT/SAVE
CHANGE SCREEN COLORS
PRINTER OPTIONS

Another time saver for me is that the program dumps the print file to my buffer right now so I can get onto something else. Yes, the program allows use of multiple drives. My only complaint is that unlike my old MASTER DISK FILE program, this one makes me spell the disk or file name correctly. I got spoiled I guess. \$10 FREEWARE. Use it=pay for it. Let's not starve these geniuses.

MARTIN KROLL, JR 218 KAPLIN AVE PITTSBURG, PA. 15227

HOME BUDGET MANAGEMENT module from TI is a slick and easy way to create and maintain a household budget. One problem is getting a hard copy of the analyzed data. I sort of solved the problem with the DFX-PRINT

Chicago TImes

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program 1 wrote about last month. This allows screen dumps using the now famous LOAD INTERRUPT switch. Screen by screen you can get all the data you need. A bit tiresome but it works.

Now comes along HBMPRINT by BOB LAWSON which generates full printouts of your choice by reading the saved HBM file. Seven formats are resident but if you must have something different you can make your own! Just print to DISK in D/V 80 and have at it with the TI-WRITER or EDITOR/ASSEMBLER. That's a class act that TI should have offered. Now you can show family members how well they are meeting the budget. Just don't let them see the blown hobby budget thanks to all this new neat software that's available.

\$10 to 16223 Mill Point Dr., Houston Texas 77059 does the trick.

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Practical Programming Practices

"XB Screen Color"

Corrected Version

Save program on disk under the name "LOAD". Screen will change to desired colors.

Instructions: Change Line 110 to your desired display colors.

B = Background Color F = Forgraound Color

100 CALL CIFAR
110 B=2 :: F=16
120 C=16*(F-1)+(B-1)
130 CALL INIT :: CALL LDAD(9
984,C,C,C,C,C,C,C,C,C,0,7,15
+B,4,32,32)
140 CALL LDAD(9999,48,2,0,8,0,2,1,39,0,2,2,0,0,4,32,32,36,2,0,8,8,4)
150 CALL LDAD(10021,32,32,36,2,0,8,16,4,32,32,36,2,0,8,2
4,4,32,32,36,4,91)
160 CALL LDAD(-31804,39,8)
170 CALL LDAD(-31952,255,231,255,231)

"Basic Color Show"

100 RANDOMIZE 110 CALL CLEAR 120 FOR A=1 TO 16 130 CALL COLOR(A, INT(16*RND) +1, INT(16*RND+1)) 140 NEXT A 130 CALL SCREEN(15*RND+1) 160 FOR A=1 TO INT(15*RND+1) 170 X=INT(19*RND+1) 180 Y=INT(19*RND+1) 190 W=INT(500*RND+1)*(RND+1) 200 FOR B=1 TO INT(10*RND+1) 210 Z=INT(136*RND+24) 220 CALL VCHAR(Y+INT(6*RND), X+INT(14*RND),Z,W) 230 W=INT(W*RND+1) 240 CALL HCHAR(X+INT(6*RND), Y+INT(14*RND), Z, W) 250 NEXT B 260 NEXT A 270 GOTO 120

"XB Wee Bomber"

100 CALL CLEAR::CALL HCHAR(2 3,2,30,30)::CALL COLOR(9,4,4)::CALL HCHAR(24,1,96,32)::C ALL SPRITE(#1,43,2,35,256,0, ~10) 110 CALL KEY(O,K,S)::CALL SO UND (-1000, -3, 0, 200, 10) :: IF S =O THEN 110::CALL POSITION(# 1, X, Y):: A=X:: CALL SPRITE (#2, 46,2,X,Y) 120 A=A+4::CALL LOCATE(#2,A, Y)::IF A>=21*8 THEN CALL SOU ND(100,-7.0)::CALL POSITION(#2,R,S)::CALL HCHAR(23,S/8+1 ,32)::A=0::CALL DELSPRITE(#2)::60T0 110 130 CALL SOUND(-100,-3,0,200 0-(4*A),10)::50T0 120

"Program Peeker" By G Mineo

This routine should be saved as a merge file. Merge this into an X-Basic program and type "RUN 30000". You will be able to analize the memory. S = Forward, other key = Back

30000 BISPLAY AT(24,1):"Star (First≈-1)" t Byte>-1 30010 ACCEPT AT (24,12) BEEP S IZE(-4):SBYTE 30020 DISPLAY AT(24,1): "High Byte> -2000" 30030 IMAGE BYTE###### INST> #### ASCII # 30040 FOR I=SBYTE TO HBYTE S TEP ~1 30050 CALL PEEK(I,INST) 30060 DISPLAY AT(24,1):USING 30030:I,INST,CHR\$(INST) 30060 IF INST>128 THEN CALL HCHAR (24, 19, 42) 30070 CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IS S =0 THEN 30070 30080 IF K=83 THEN I=I+1 :: **6010** 30050 30090 NEXT I 30100 END

The following is a correction to the Video Title Screen Program that was published in the last issue of the newsletter. Please add Lie following two lines:

370 CALL VCHAR(1,32,30,24) 380 GOTO 380

```
****************
     "X-Basic Sideways Screen Scroll"
       Donated to the Chicago Times
      By John Behnke and Todd Kaplan
      Use CALL LINK("LEFT", FROW, LROW)
      And CALL LINK("RIGHT", FROW, LROW)
      FROW = First row to scroll.
      LRUW = Last row to scroll.
 * This program is for use with X-Basic *
* and to assemble, use the "R" option. *
 **************
       DEF
           LEFT, RIGHT
GPLWS EQU
            >83E0
STATUS EQU
            >837C
 VMDW
       EQU
            >2024
VMBR
       EQU
            >2020
FAC
       EQU
            >834A
XMLLNK EQU
            >2018
NUMREF EQU
            >200€
CFI
       EQU
            >1288
FROW
       BSS
LROW
       BSS
            2
RBUF
       BSS
            32
MYRE6
       BSS
            32
SAVRTN BSS
            2
       EVEN
LEFT
       MOV R11.@SAVRTN
       LWPI MYREG
       ΒL
            @GETNUM
       MOV
           @FROW, RO
       DEC
           RO
       SLA
           RO,5
       YOM
           @LROW, R3
      SLA
           R3,5
      LI
           R1,RBUF
                    * Address in low mem to save the current row.
L00P1
      LI
           R2,32
                    * We want to read 32 columns
      BLWP @VMBR
                    * Read the row in
      DEC R2
      INC R1
                    * Add 1 to where the row is stored. This will
                      truncate 1 char from the left side.
      BLWP @VMBW
                    * Scroll row left
      DEC R1
                    * Move pointer to first char
```

```
* Read in 1 char
       1 T
            R2,1
       ΑI
            RO,31
                     * Place char at end of row
       BLWP @VMBW
                     * Write 1st char in last row (wrap the row)
       INC RO
                     * Set screen pointer to next row
       С
            RO,R3
       JLT
            LOOP1
       JMP
            DONE
                     * Else end routine
RIGHT
      MOV
            R11.@SAVRTN
       LWPI MYREG
       BL
            @GETNUM
       MOV
            @FROW, RO
       DEC
       SLA
            RO. 5
       MUA
            @LROW, R3
       SLA
            R3,5
L00P2
            R1,RBUF
       1 T
                     * Address in low mem to save the current row.
       LI
            R2,32
                     * We want to read in 32 columns
       BLWP @VMBR
                     * Read the row in
       DEC R1
                      * Subtract 1 from where the row is stored. This
                       will truncate 1 from the right side.
       BLWP @VMBW
                      * Scroll row right
       ΑI
            R1,32
                     * Move pointer to last letter
       LI
            R2,1
                     * Read in 1 char
       BLWP @VMBW
                     * Write last char to first row (wrap the row)
       ΑI
            RO,32
                     * Set screen pointer to next row
            RO,R3
                     * Rows to scroll. Use: ROWS-1
       JLT
                     * Loop if not done
           L00P2
DONE
       CLR RO
       MUVE RO, WSTATUS
                         Return control to X-Basic
       LWPI GPLWS
       MOV @SAVRTN.R11
       RT
GETNUM CLR RO
       LI R1,1
BLWP @NUMREF
                       Get the first parameter
       BLWP @XMLLNK
       DATA CFI
                        Change it to an integer value
       MOV @FAC,@FROW
       LI
            R1,2
                        Get the second parameter
       BLWP @NUMREF
       BLWP @XMLLNK
       DATA CFI
                        Change it to an integer value
       MOV @FAC,@LROW
       END
```

The following listings will allow a little more versatility to your printouts. Ever see a spreadsheet, or table printed sideways on the paper and wish you could do it with your machine? Well the following two programs along with the instructions will allow you to do just that on a Gemini or Epson compatible printer. These programs were taken from The LA 99ers Computer Group Newsletter of June 1985.

Type in the first listing and run it. It will create a merge file called "DATAMERGE" that contains the control codes to redefine the characters for the

pinter. This will all be running in extended basic.

```
100 OPEN #1:"DSK1.DATAMERGE", VARIABLE 163
110 FOR X=1 TO 19 :: PRINT #1:CHR$(0); CHR$(X*5); CHR$(147);
120 FOR Y=1 TO 5 :: CALL CHARPAT(X*5+Y+26,C$) :: GOSUB 170 :: D$="""
130 FOR Z=8 IU 1 STEP -1 :: D$=D$&CHR$(D(Z)):: NEXT Z
140 PRINT #1:CHR$(199); CHR$(8); D$;
150 IF Y=5 THEN PRINT #1:CHR$(0) ELSE PRINT #1:CHR$(179);
160 NEXT Y :: NEXT X :: PRINT #1:CHR$(255) &CHR$(255) :: CLOSE #1 :: STOP
170 FOR Z=1 TO 8 :: E1$=SEG$(C$,2*Z-1,1) :: E2$=SEG$(C$,2*Z,1)
180 F1=ASC(E1$)-48+7*(ASC(E1$)>60)
190 F2=ASC(E2$)-48+7*(ASC(E2$)>AO)
200 D(Z)=F1*16+F2 :: NEXT Z :: RETURN
```

Now, type in the second program listing.

```
100 DIM D$(126),A$(60):: FOR X=32 TD 126 :: READ D$(X):: NEXT X
110 ESC$=CHR$(27):: DPEN #2:"PIO.CR" :: FRINT #Z:ESC$&"A"&CHR$(7);ESC$;"C";CHR
0);CHR$(11);
120 FLAG=0 :: INPUT "TEXT FILE: DSK":F$ :: OPEN #1:"DSK"&F$
130 FOR X=1 TD 60 :: LINPUT #1:A$(X):: IF EOF(1) THEN 150
140 NEXT X :: BUTD 170
150 FLAG=1 :: CLOSE #1 :: IF X=61 THEN 170
160 FOR X=X+1 TO 60 :: A$(X)=RPT$(" ",B0):: NEXT X
170 FOR X=1 TO 60 :: A$(X)=RPT$(" ",B0):: NEXT X
170 FOR X=1 TO 60 :: A$(X)=A$(X)&RPT$(" ",B0-LEN(A$(X))):: NEXT X :: FOR X=1 TO
80 :: PRINT #2:ESC$&"K"&CHR$(224)&CHR$(1)
180 FOR Y=60 TD 1 STEP -1 :: B$=SEG$(A$(Y),X,1)
190 PRINT #2:D$(ASC(B$)):
200 NEXT Y :: PRINT #2:CHR$(13)&CHR$(10):: NEXT X :: PRINT #2:CHR$(12):: IF FLA
=0 THEN 130
210 INPUT "DO ANOTHER(Y/N)":AN$ :: IF AN$="Y" THEN 120 ELSE CLOSE #2
```

Note that in line 110 are the codes for 7/72 inch linefeeds, and a formfeed of 1 inches. Check your printer codes to make sure they are the same. Now. merge in the first file by typing MERGE DSK1.DATAMERGE. This adds a number of lines to the beginning of the progam that will look strange if you list them. Leave them as they are. Save the finished program and then run it. It will allow you to print any DV/80 file on its side as long as the file only contains ASCII codes between 32 and 126.

To use this on a spreadsheet that you have created with Multiplan, first print the spreadsheet to disk by listing DSK1 name as your printer option. Then you give it a margin of 80 or less.

Again, our thanks to the people of the LA 99ers Users Group.

A New Language -- C-99: John Behnke

I've just got a copy of a new computer language for the TI-99/4A - C. C was developed in Bell laboratoriesin 1969 and was an extention of the language B. I know that means nothing to you but the point is that C is a mojor computer language that is usually only available on large mini-computers and main-frames. Now C is available for our computer. A great programer, Clint Pulley, has made this language available for us on our little 4A. This is a MAJOR feat as I know of no other microcomputer in the lower price range that has C. Note that the author has made C available under the FREEWARE agreement and is asking for a \$20 donation for his hard work. This has to be one of the BEST bargains I have ever heard of for the TI. I paid \$40 for TI-Forth!

Most people have never heard of C. This is very understandable as most people do not use a main-frame computer. I'll now go over some of the pros and cons of the C-99 language and explain why I'm so excited about it.

First off, C is a compiled language. That means that it is almost as fast as assembly language. In fact, C generates Assembly source code and you must then use the E/A module and Assemble it. The reason that C is not as fast as compared to if you wrote the Assemble source code yourself is that a machine (with limited memory such as the 4A has) cannot write code as efficiently as you could in Assembly. As C is 10 times easiler to learn that Assembly, I'm sure you will not mind. C is very close to Basic is format. Here's some equates:

Basic	C-99
CALL CLEAR	putchar (12);
REM This is a REMark	/* This is a REMark */
PRINT	Not currently available
DISPLAY AT(1,1):"Hello"	locate(1,1); puts("Hello");
ACCEPT AT(1,1):A	locate(1,1); gets(A);
CALL KEY(0,K,S)	poll(k);
FOR I=1 TO 10	i=0; while(++i<11)
IF A=0 THEN A=2	IF (A==0) { A=2; }

This is not all but just an example. C-99 has some serious limitations at this time. You can only access VAR/80 files and many of the nice features of C are left out. This is understandable due to memory features of C are left out. This is understandable due to memory limitations. The most important aspect that is left out are the VDP routines such as CALL COLOR, CALL SCREEN, ect... It should be noted that these problems are currently being worked on and should be corrected very soon. The author has made it very easy to interface straight Assembly code with the C text so once these routines are written, you can save then in a library to be used as needed. I have made some functions such as HCHAR, VCHAR, WAll, and CLEAR that do the equivalent of there Basic counterparts. WAIT is just a delay that is often needed to slow down a C program. WHAT? Slow a program down! Well just take a look at the speed of C in the table below and see why you may need to slow a C program. The example program is designed to put the letters of the alphabet on the screen one character position at a time. The second Basic program uses the auto repeat method of HCHAR that C does not have so the fair comparison is with the first Basic program.

TI Basic or X-Basic I ; C-99	; <i>f</i>	Assembly	;
1 FOR I=65 TO 90	START LOOP1 LOOP2 LOOP2	DEF START REF VSBW	0 ::

Basic II : 0:24 even see what's happening. C is well X-Basic II : 0:23 worth the \$20 and you may pick up a	Times:	X-Basic I : 7:57 Basic II : 0:24 X-Basic II : 0:23 C-99 : 0:14	worth the \$20 and you may pick up a copy from the library. The authory page
---	--------	---	--

TEXINCIA SPEAKS: Texincia Lubbock

Howdy doody there ya'll!!! Did you miss me? I'm sure that you did. Well, here I am again' Did you see me at the faire? Did you look for poor, petite, little ol'e moi! I was there in my micro mini, my pink frosted wig-hat, and my famous open toed football shoes with the retractable cleats. Five foot two, eyes of blue, weighing two hundred and forty-two!!! Oh, Dallas Cowboys, the things that I can DO!!!!!

Well, enough of me describing my charms. It's time to get down to **BUSINESS!!!**

I was really impressed with this year's Faire. I thought that it was truly super. It's the only thing like it anywhere in the world. Contrary to rumors of its demise, the TI-99/4A is alive and well and kicking. What other so called "dead" computer enjoys the third party vendor support that we do? Can the Adam, the Feanut or the Osborne say the same? I doubt it. What other computer whose name has been put on the industry's obituary list has even had the mere rumor of a compatible computer arising? We have a computer that refuses to die. (The new computer should have been named the PROENIX. This is the white bird that rises out of ashes of destruction. It symbolizes hope.) A good machine will never die because the knowledgable users just simply won't allow it to happen. The TI-99/4A is blessed with not only knowledgable users but organized knowledgable users and that

Talk about kicking: If and when Myarc releases its TI compatible computer, (and I, for one, believe that they will), a whole lot of butt is going to get kicked in the computer world. I was more than just a

little disappointed that Myarc didn't have the new computer ready to demonstrate but I am now even more excited with the prospects of what 1% yet to come. Just think of it: A computer that is running at 12 MHz while the fastest thing available on the home computer market is running at about 7.8! We will blow those other suckers out of the water! With the fact that we will be expandable to mega-memory, all that will be left of the Apple will be the bloody core! "Right on!" to the vendors who had the bumper stickers that said, "We eat Apples for lunch." Not only will be eating Apples for lunch, but for breakfast, dinner, and in-between snacks too. I have always enjoyed apple-sauce!

I really predict that our new machine will probably send some ripples throughout the home computer industry. The bozos and bozettes that were laughing at us because of our loyalty to what they called a "dead machine" will be laughing out of the other sides of their mouths when Gur baby hits market. It will show those industry nerds what a dedicated and organized group of men and ladies (like me) can accomplish. It will show that so-called biggies like TI are not the real and final determinants of the success of a machine. Still. we do owe those people, in that town which bears my same name, a debt of gratitude. Just think of it: 1.) In spite of all its short comings the TI-99/4A machine was a damn good machine relative to everything else that hit the market at about the same time. Its potential has always been quite considerable. (The new machine will correct the errors that TI built into the machine and takes advantage of that untapped potential.) 2.) It was built and constructed very reliably. My poor little ol'e PE box is built like a ceramic defacatorium! There are no cheap-jack imitation plastic materials in that piece of equipment and we will probably never see the likes of such well, though overbuilt, equipment again. 3.) In spite of TI's myopic view of life in the real and business world, their poor marketing abilities which led to "Black Friday" really worked in our favor. Consider the following: a.) They were forced to lower their prices so drastically that virtually anyone could afford a TI machine. As a result of this, the TI computer still enjoys the fact that it has the largest user base of any computer in the world. b.) By making the close-out prices so low, everyone could afford to up-grade their systems and most people did just that! c.) When they no longer manufactured the machine, they finally opened up the insides of the machines to the program designers and allowed many United party manufacturers to tap some of that trememdous potential that the machine has. I can see it now: While our new baby is out kicking a lot of solid state butt, the guys back in Lubbock will probably be trying to do a Plastic Man routine so that they can kick themselves in their own butts!

Sometimes, when I retire to my beauty rest, I dream of the future when my dearly beloved machine will be able to run all of its present programs at two to three times their present speed and when I will no longer be plagued with that malodorous message on my CRT that says, "Ruffer Full. Gave or Purge." I also dream of a time when I can go into a software salon and see software on the shelf for a machine that I own on the shelf again. I dream of the day when I can go over to Elek-Tek and no longer have those cute salesmen look down their rute noses when they find out that I have a TI computer. But, of all the things that send the shivers down my back to the ends of my tippy toes is the prospect of having a card that will allow me to use certain IBM software. Now, that will be a sexy machine! Not only will I be able to run my familiar TI programs but I will also have a whole new world of

software open to me. I feel that we will have available to us the best of both worlds!

I really had a good time at the Faire but I don't think that everyone else there did. I saw a vendor there who got "rammed" by his own RAM disk! (He reminded me of a Russian farmer who was a potential defector but he was betrayed by his own tractor!) It's too bad because the idea really was a good one. Maybe he will get it together and return next year.

Speaking about next year: I don't think that the users' group will have to beg any vendors to return next year. I have even heard, through my infamous grapevine that the group was turning away vendors at the rate of two to three a day during the last week before the Faire and that among them was Navarrone. Well, fellas, it's first come and first served (that's the way that I've always done it with my men!) and the big "N" got here with too little too late! Better luck next time chumps!

Speaking of men, I have never seen so many cute hunks as I did at the Faire! There was a man from the executive board, wearing glasses, who handled the door with such professionalism and authority that I almost cried! Peuple walking in gave him the respect that only the Hulk could have earned in that position. Also, that new librarian is so cute! Boy, is he smooth, knowledgable, and efficient! I was really tempted to go up to him and give him a great big SLOP-ULINCHER on his cute face but my lady-like instincts got the best of me. The people who were wearing badges were doing a great job without exception and at considerable sacrifice to themselves. I really apprecitate what they did because without their work, there would have been no Faire. Still I have one small question: Who was that bald headed weird sucker, with the beard, at the door who was trying to convince everybody to either join or renew their memberships? Well, I do declare, I guess that it takes all kinds to make a Faire!

Well fellas, I guess that it's time for me to mosey off into the sunset. I hope that I will be able to be around more often now. You can find me at the next meeting. I'll be in back, sitting on the floor with a White Owl in my pretty gold teeth. For the purpose of identification, I think that I will be wearing my ten gallon hat with the optional Mickey Mouse ears, my solid state hot pants, with the sequined fringe, and my red alligator Dale Evans (The Queen of the West) cow-girl boots. I just love to interface with other II users; especially the old cow pokes. Why don't some of you boys stop up and see me some time?

CONTINUED FROM BACK COVER

Some of the more interesting aspects of the FAIRE will be covered within these pages with elaborate articles on the GRAM CRACKER and MYARC'S NEW COMPUTER. But there were a lot of other interesting things out on the floor that I sure hope you all got to see. One that attracted a good deal of interest was a 99/4A built into a casing similar to what you would find with a Kaypro or Compac Desk Pro. It was hard to believe that a TI was actually working out of there until I actually put it to use, running a program in TI FORTH.

I came home from the Faire with my share of goodies, too. I was measurized by the latest version of TI Artist which is able to convert my pictures from GRAPHX, GRAPHX COMPANION, and GRAPHX COMPANION 2. I also found Stu Olsen's MASS TRANSFER program could immediately be put to good use. You have seen many of the Fonts and Graphics from Graphx Companion 1 & 2 from ASGARD on the pages of this newsletter.

Not to change the subject, but remember those letters that TI sent early in the year offering Users broup members a TI Professional at what they claimed were super prices? Well, if you know anyone who took them up on their offer you might be interested in the following group. I met a man last week who, alas, gave up his 99/4A for one of these machines and has gone on to become active in a computer club supporting this machine. If anyone is interested there is support through Illinois Rix c/o Dearborn Valve & Fitting Company, 1243 Rand Road, Des Plaines, Il 60016. Address letters to the attention of Mr. Roger Lansing.

We have just received the dates for the meetings next year. They will be on the dates following except for the May meeting. Mark your calendar: Dec. 7, Jan 4, Feb 1, March 1, April 5, May ?, June 7, Sept 6, Oct 4, Nov 1 (FOURTH ANNUAL TI FAIRE), Dec 6. Looks like we"re back to the first Saturday of every month.

Since the Faire brought us so many new members I feel justified in once again making my "more articles please" plea. This is your newsletter and it is only as good as you make it. Please send any contributions of articles, programs, tips, etc to be at the Users Group Mailbox.

\$7.00

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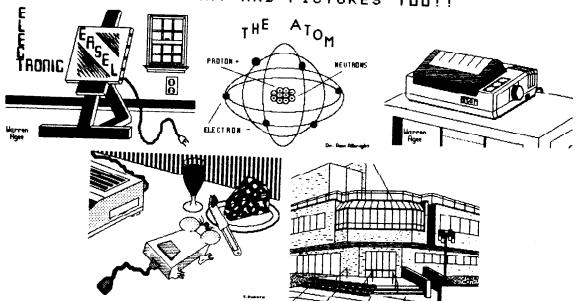
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REMarks: Carole Goldstein

Well looks like the Chicago Users Group really knows how to throw a party! What can you say when six months of planning lead you to a Faire that even surpasses your wildest expectations. Thanks are in order for all the marshalls, vendors, attendees and everyone else who worked so hard to make it the biggest thing in modern 99/4A history.

The center pages of this issue reflect some of the activity apparent on November 2. Most of you saw me there snapping away but I also wish to thank Rich Klein for contributing some of the pictures I used.

The Faire brought us 99/4A enthusiasts from all over. I talked to people from as far away at Washington State and Washington D.C., and from even outside the country from Nova Scotia and Ottowa Canada. The Faire brought us many new members with new ideas to contribute to our knowledge. It also brought back some of our favorite people, not heard from for some time. One of the most colorful returnees appears to again in this issue and hopefully future issues. We welcomed that the vou back.

Congratulations are also in order. The following is a partial list of those individuals who were lucky enough to have their name called in the various drawings that were held during that day. Congratulations to: Stan Chytla of Mount Prospect III., Bob Bills of Mattopn, Il., Bruce Brecheisen of Lake Villa, II., Mike McCann of Omaha Nebraska, Sheila Baumann of Chicago. Gregory Larson of Indianapolis and Whosever names I have left out. Prizes ranged from game cartridges to TI Writer and Multiplan and more.

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