Chicago TI User's Group P.O. Box 578341 Chicago, II. 60657

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#068
Dallas TI Homa Computer Grp.
P.O. Box 29863
Dallas, TX 75229

### Editor's Notes...

Hmmm, I think I set a new personal record this month. The whole newsletter done in 1 day? I'm going to the printer 2 days early. No April Foolin'.

I want to thank all the contributors again this month. I was a little worried at first. March 11th rolled around and there was nothing to download. I had about 5 articles on hand. Then, late, very late, Sunday might, Mike cleared the download section and validated about 7 files. Bright and early Mon. I was hard at work. Whew!! What a NICE surprise to get a package from Bill Gaskill. Thanks a million, Bill. I always enjoy getting articles from you. How's the skiing? No broken bones I hope.

Now for 1 more surprise this year. I really enjoy doing this newsletter. And, I think I'm getting better at it. Now, I want to add some professionalism to it. I've been doing some deep checking into articles. We have many grammatical mistakes. We're not all pros. But, with the help of a program I found, we can clean things up. Get rid of those windy sentences and badgrammar. This is nothing against the authors. You write the articles and I'll do the editing. That's my job. Together we'll make this the BEST DARN NEWSLETTER AROUND.

One thing you can do for me though Please set your margins for a 63 character line. The printer and I have found that that is perfect for the print we use. Otherwise I have to re-format everyone's articles. Thanks in advance for your help.

By the way, Everybody knows I was just April Foolin' ya with the front cover. An, I'm a clown and the world is my stage. Give me a chance to goof off and I will. See ya all next month.

One more thing. I've been informed that we can park in the lot across from the church. The school has given Grant permission for us to park there.

# CHICAGO TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO JI-9974A USERS GROUP

NEWS FLASH Myarc sells out to Japanese firm. Don Jones sells 9640 and goes IBM Tony buys Egghead franchise.

Dateline Chicago. The Chicago TIUG was overthrown by a gang of IBM terrorists last week.

Ernie and Don were last seen at a mission in Lubbock, Texas.

April Fool Issue 1990 Editor: Bob Demeter



The April Meeting...
The April 1990 meeting will be Sat. the 7th. at our new location.
This is the St. Nicolai Church 1002 N. Kedzie Ave. Chicago, III.
Please bring MS-DOS disks. Terrorism SIGs to follow.



The filing cabinet isone of the mostpowerful tools used today to store and organze information. Although computers are also used for this surpose, they are generally much more difficult to use thanthe good old filing cabinet. Not anymore.

The Organizer is a complete information management system that stores and organizes information electronically... and it works just like a standard filing cabinet does. Each electronic cabinet consists of four drawers that can store up to 16,129 folders such (Ilmited by actual disk sze). Each folder contains a subject line to idnitity the folder by and six text lines for storage of virtually any kind of data.

The folders storedin each drawer may be be searched for, displayed, changed, printed, deleted and sorted by subject. The drawers can even be tabelet anything you wish. All operations are fully menu driven, which makes The Organizert as easy of use as an ordinary filing cabinet.

Only \$14.95

## Publication Index

Fd: TI Base

Did you larget where youread something? Can't remember what magazine lissue contained the article you're looking kr? Not sure who whole a paricular book? I'so, Publications Index is to you!

With the Publications Index system, aryone, a novice or expert, can develop, oganize, and naintain their own personal index of publication references in a single entailized database. Indexes can be created for any type of publication, including magazines, newspapers, books, and newsletters. Publication references can be entered into the database and later searched for, displayed, changed and printed... all with very title effort.

Publications index can even help you better understand the powers of TI Base; all of the command files included with Publications index can be veiwed using the TI Base editor and altered to suf your own needs.

Only \$14.95

# Mailing List Manager

Keeping track of names, addresses, and telephore numbers can be a real bore. Most people use address boots for this... and most people how all about the horrors associated with them. They're never around when you need them, always a mess, and difficult to maintain. Enter Mailing Lis Manager.

With the MLM system, any use, a novice or expert, can easily add, change, display address entries in their own personal address detabase. MIM supports two forms of address entry, sinple editing functions, multiple address reports and prints mailing labels. Jenious maintesance functions are also supported, such as file sorting and disk cataloging. MLM will even autodial your telephone (A Hayes compatible moden is required to autodialing testures).

Malling List Manager is written in TI Base for TI Base; all of the command files included with MLM can be velwed using the TI Base editor and altered to suit your own needs.

Only \$14.95

A utility every Geneve owner should have...



How do you run TI-99/4a Option 5 Editor/Assembler programs? Most peope load up GPL, then some option 5 loader and then tinally their program. With Exect you can now run most EA Option 5 programs directly from MDOS using one simple command! A dream come rue.



Included with Exec are GETKEY and GETSTR, two short external MDOS butch file commards. With these two poverful commards you can create interactive batch files. GETKEY captures lingle key (nout, while GETSTR hardles bitting input.

But that's not all... also included is Archiver III, the standard for lile packing and compression. Archiver III saves disk space, and moden transfer time - and its used by all the rajor telecommunications networks!

All Four Programs - Only \$17.95



### LAKE COMPUTER DEPOT



COMPUTERS & ACCESSORIES
TI & IBM COMPATIBLES

BOB DEMETER (219) 659-5628 2139 LAKE AVENUE WHITING, IN 46394

### Where it's at this month..

Presidential Dialogue	Ernie Pergrem	Page 2
Memorable Minutes	Laura Heiberger	Page 2
Membership News and Vievs	James Brooks	Page 4
1990 Programming Contest	Tony Zlotorzynski	Page 5
TIUG Decal Contest	Hal Shanafield	Page 6
Tradin' Times	For Sale Section	Page 1
Help	Tier's needs	Page 3
Four-A/Talk	Bill Gaskill	Page 3
Geneve Support Article	Don Jones	Page 17
This Month in History	Bill Gaskill	Page 23
Type-in program	Tory Zlotorzynski	Page 28
Did You Know????	Chick De Marti	Page 31
Notes from the Editor	Bob Demeter	Back Cover

Group's BBS # 708 862-0182

Group's Hot Line 708 869-4304

Meeting Dates ...

This month's meeting will be Saturday April 7th.

ST. NICOLAI CHURCH 3002 NORTH KEDZIE CHICAGO, ILL.

Corner of KEDZIE and WELLINGTON

The Chicago TImes is published 10 TImes a year from Sept to June. Chicago TImes is in no way affiliated with Texas Instruments. We are supported solely by our membership and advertisers. Subscriptions are free with membership to the Chicago TI 99/4A User's Group. The Chicago TImes is also distributed free to any User's Group that wishes to reciprocate. Articles within these pages may be re-printed by other User's Group Publications provided credit is given the Chicago Times as the original source of the article. Comments and letters are always velcomed. We also accept submissions of original articles and programs.





Hey Tony. I did it! Got my entry into the programming contest. Now what about the rest of you? April 1 is/was the cut-off. Judging will take place this month. Demonstrations, of the winning programs, are

scheduled for May. Maybe we'll also be fortunate enough to have diskettes of the winning entries for sale at the meeting.

Starting with the March issue of MICROpendium, the group will be running membership ads. As a result of the new memberships, that we have the possibility of acquiring through this endeavor, a change in our membership policy was approved at the March meeting. In the past our term of membership has been January to December, regardless of the date that dues were initially paid. The change to the bylaws establishes memberships on an "anniversary date" basis instead. This means that if an individual joins in March their term of membership will expire 12 months later or February of the next year.

I would like to pass some words of thanks on to Laura Heiberger, our group secretary. It was she who donated the copy of The Printer's Apprentice and Toolkit that was given as a door prize at the March meeting. Also included in her donation were Terminal Emulator II and Car Wars. While I haven't ordered next month's selection yet, I will assure you that it will be a valuable addition to your software library. Also we still have a few more Triton College donated modules to give away.

Regrettably I am ending this month's column on a down note. On the morning of March 1st, Hank Ellermann, SysOp of "The Chicago Connection, made the decision to pull the plug on his BBS. The decision to do so was influenced, in part, by a series of calls from some "hackers" who decided to improve their computer skills at the expense of Hank. Most boards experience problems with "hackers" from time to time. Fortunately, due to the design of the TI Operating System most of us will never run into any real problems. Still, if you're a SysOp attempting to run a decent board, it can get pretty expensive verifying false long distance phone numbers. The "hackers" could care less. Now that Hank's board is off-line, they'll simply find another one to harass. The real loss is to the legitimate callers who frequented "The Chicago Connection". Perhaps they'll also find another board. Unfortunately it's going to be tough to find another SysOp like Hank, unless he changes his mind and reboots his board.

Till April...Ernie





Executive Board Meeting of March 3, 1990.

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 A.M. There were no additions to the agenda and last months minutes were approved.

OLD	BUSINESS.	*************	
$\sigma$	BUSINESS.	7.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1	

All back issues of the newsletter have been sent out. A motion was made to have new members signed up using an Anniversary Date. This would eliminate the need to send back issues out and would have no bearing on old members whose Anniversary date would continue to be January. Jim Brooks said he could forsee no major problems using the new data base. It was decided to bring the idea up at the general meeting.

NEW BUSINESS.....

Texaments has a disk based advertisement that looks interesting. A copy will be put in the library and possibly we could demonstrate it at the general meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS....

TREASURER'S REPORT(Oscar Bretana) No Report.

LIBRARY REPORT(Lionel Bordelon)

The library will begin to offer disk software packages at approximately \$10.00. Each package will be available for about 45 days. The deadline will include any orders postmarked by the deadline.

Looking for individual members to review programs they have used from our library and enjoyed. The Board approved the purchase of a new supply of blank disks for the Library.

BULLETIN BOARD(Mike Maksimik) No Report.

NEWSLETTER (Bob Demeter) No Report.

PUBLICITY(Marcy Erun) There is a full page ad in the February Micropendium. There will be half page ads in March and April Editions. Other ideas are still being pursued. If you have any ideas ....get them to Marcy or the Board.

EVENTS CHAIRMAN(Don Jones) Todays meeting will have a video tape on Electonics and the Weather. Also Jan Janowski will demonstrate putting 32K into the TI console. We're always open to anyone who would like to demonstrate their TI expertise with the group.

EQUIPMENT(Dave Connery) No Report.

1990 TI FAIRE(Hal Shanfield & Committee)

Still open to anyone interested in helping to Chair the Fair. Letters were sent out to last years vendors to obtain any complaints or suggestions to improve this years fair. Special advance notice can be given for people on special diets at the fair.

Temporary Committees:

PROGRAMMING CONTEST(Tony Zloterzynski) Have received over 30 programs already. Hope to receive lots more by the April meeting

deadline.

DECAL CONTEST(Hal Shanfield) All entries are due by April Meeting. Winning design will be used to make a decal for our cars.

At the general meeting the Tape on Electronics and Weather was informative. One amazing point was how static electricity could cause serious danage to circuits that could only be seen through an electron microscope. This damage could cause components to work one time and not work another.

A number of cartridges and programs were given away as door prizes. SIGs met around 2 p.m.

Submitted by: Laura Heiberger

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND VIEWS by James Brooks

Tis said, "All things are renewed and blossom out in the spring." Well the spring is upon us and the deadline for the Programming Contest is past. By now all of the contestants (you did enter didn't you?) have sent in their entries and the Judgement is under way. The winners will be announced at the meeting and in this area next month

The new meeting place in the St.Nicoli Church is really a fine place for our meetings. It is the most accessible meeting place that we have had since "Triton College" (and more so because you don't have to put up with a lot of CITY DRIVING). You only have to drive 2 blocks after you get off of the expressway. By the way, the area around the Church on the North and South running streets are for Zone parkers who have a sticker. If you park in that area, come in a get a sticker from the sign-in table to put in your window so as not to get a ticket (Tickets take away your Hardware and Software money and the sticker is free for that day only).

Our Chicago Times Editor is trying out new covers in color and they are great (a little hard to read on some colors but he is doing a great job, along with his many other tasks)! Good work Bob.

Well since the end of February, the old "Chicago Connection BBS" has shut down it's lines. The Chicago Connection was a popular local board which boasted world wide callers and a huge list of downloadable files. There will never be another board (I don't think) to come up to Hank's level. We'll miss you Hank. That brings to a total of 3 area boards that have shut down in the last year. The CTIUG BBS is at (708)862-0182 run by Mike Maksimik. There are 2 other area boards run by CTIUG members as supporters of the CTIUG. They are WESTDALE at (708)455-3256, Alan Izzo; sysop, and Chicago's TI South at (312)651-7252, Jim Brooks; sysop.

Hoping to see you all at the meeting April 7,1990.

### GREETINGS!

NOW IS THAT THE WAY TO START A LETTER?

IT CAN BRING FEAR TO THE LARGEST OF MEN. (the army is going to get ya.)

SO MUCH FOR THE APRIL FOOLS JOKE. NOW TO THE PROGRAMING CONTEST.

FIRST THINGS IS, THANKS TO ALL THAT GOT SOMETHING IN TO THE PROGRAMING CONTEST. THANKS!

THE 1990 TI99/4% & GENEVE/9640 PROGRAMING CONTEST ENDS ON APRIL, 1, 1990.

I AM NOT SURE WHEN YOU WILL BE READING THIS. IF IT IS AFTER 4/1/90, THEN IT IS OVER FOR THIS YEAR. (I NEED ANOTHER COFFEE!) GOOD COFFEE! REAL GOOD COFFEE.

MY PERSONAL THANKS GO OUT TO: JAMES W WIEGAND, J.A.HARPER, ROBERT KNIPIK, C.E.KIRKWOOD, H.HOYT, H.M.MULLEN, W.E.ERANDON Jr., DONNA KUDLA, NIKKI BOHN, AMBER MICHEL, KERRI ULMER, SUSAN HARPER, EUD WRIGHT, C.G.SCHWERIN, J.J.JANOWSKI, W.T.REEVES, and my wife for putting up with all of my mess.

IF I MISSED ANY NAMES, DO NOT WORRY. IF I GCT THEM NOW, THEN THEY'RE IN THE CONTEST. IF YOUR READING THIS AND GOT ONE THAT IS NOT LISTED. TRY TO REMEMBER WHEN THIS IS. (NOW, SATURDAY, 3/10/90)

I AM STILL HOPING FOR MORE GREAT PROGRAMS TO COME IN BEFORE APRIL 1,1990

AND, IF I DON'T GET MINE IN SOON. THEN I WILL HAVE TO BE ONE OF THE JUDGES!

### WINNERS AND LOSERS!

ALL THAT HAVE ENTERED ARE THE REAL WINNERS. YOU'RE THE ONES WHO ARE KEEPING YOUR COMPUTER ALIVE. YOU'RE THE HACKERS. THE TI-NUTS. YOU'RE THE ONES THAT WILL KEEP PLAYING AND LEARNING AND PROGRAMING WITH YOUR COMPUTER. YOU'RE ALSO A REBEL, A DIE HARD, A FERSON WITH A TOY THAT YOU STILL LOVE.

OR, YOUR IN IT FOR THE MONEY. (\$100.00)

KNOWING ALL TO WELL THAT EVERYONE WHO HAS A TI99/4A HAS ALL THE PROGRAMS THAT THEY COULD EVER WANT, OR USE.

### SO, THE CONTEST IS OVER.

THE JUDGES WILL BE GIVEN ALL OF THE ENTRIES AT THE NEXT MEETING. (4-7-90)

THEN, ON MAY-5-90 AT THE MEETING, THEY WILL LET ALL OF US KNOW WHAT PROGRAMS ARE THE WINNERS. THE WINNERS WILL ALSO BE LISTED IN THE JUNE, 1990 NEWSLETTER. ALL THE MONEY OR PROGRAMS SHOULD BE IN THE WINNERS HANDS BEFORE THEN.

THE PROGRAMS FOR THE CONTEST SHOULD BE IN THE LIBRARY BY THE JUNE

AND THEN, WE CAN ALL START THINKING ABOUT THE 1990 TI99/4A & GENEVE/9640 COMPUTER FAIRE!

IF YOU DID NOT ENTER AND WIN, YOU CAN GET SOME OR ALL OF THE PROGRAMS OF THE CONTEST FROM OUR LIBRARY.

I'M OUT OF TIME TO DO ANY REVIEWING OF THE LATEST ENTRIES.
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: I DID GET ANOTHER 3 to 5 DISKS OF PROGRAMS
IN WITHIN THE LAST WEEK. MORE WILL COME IN. AND, JAMES I
CORRECTED THAT PROGRAM LIKE YOU WANTED ME TO. (WORKS GREAT)

THANKS ALL, TONY

TONY ZLOTORZYNSKI 3607 WALLACE STEGER, ILLINOIS 60475 U.S.A. ATT: PROGRAMING CONTEST

P.S. I HAD BETTER LEAVE MY MODEM PHONE NUMBER. JUST IN CASE THERE IS STILL FIME! 1-708-755-0051 (VOICE FIRST) 1200 bauc MAX.

### DECAL DESIGN CONTEST DEADLINE

The Chicago T199/4A Users Group decal design contest is (if you'll pardon the expression) drawing to a conclusion. But, if you hurry you still get your entry in before the deadline. The contest officially closes at the end of the meeting on April 7, 1990. Entries mailed in should be postmarked by April 1. That is only to ensure that I receive them before the judging begins. Entries can be handed to me at the meeting, or can be uploaded to the UGBBS. I don't want anyone to miss the opportunity of getting in this exciting contest. Any type of drawing program can be used, but it would help a lot if you would let me know what format you are using. Just write the information on a large denomination piece of legal tender and slip in the package when you, or your tall, blonde representative gives it to me. I will pass a very small portion of the proceeds to the poor folks who actually have to make the decisions. They will be selected scientifically for their artistic ability, good taste, and their inability to run away when asked to serve. Anyone (other than the contestants themselves, of course) who wishes to volunteer to help judge the contest will be gleefully accepted.

At the present time everyone who has taken the time to create an entry vill win one of our luxurious prizes. First prize will be a week at Tony's house. Second prize is two weeks. There will be ten prizes awarded. In the case where Tony wins, we vill send him to Don ("No Respect") Jones' house for a week. I vill send all the tall blondes to MY house.

So, now, while the creative juices are flowing, drop this newsletter, fire up your computer or quill, and blast one entry for this contest. We expect that you will treat this serious matter with all the pomp and solemnity that is deserves, as I always do. Don't let your supposed lack of artistic keep you from enjoying the chance to have your handiwork decorate a thousand windshields around the world.

### --Hal Stanafield

P.S. If anyone feels they simply MUST have all the boring rules and other information, I recommend last month's issue of the newsletter, where all that stuff is spelled out in tedious detail.

### TRADIN' TIMES

Randy Davenport has a system for sale. It includes the following:
a.) TI-99/4A console, b.) speech synthesizer, c.) P.E.B., 1 full
height SS/SD disk drive, d.) 1 TI FDC, e.) 1 TI 32K memory card,
f.) numerous cartridges with original manuals. He will take the
>BEST OFFER<. He prefers to sell as a complete package, but he
will separate parts if necessary. His address is 1823 Fast Calver
Street, South Bend, Indiana 46613. His phone number is
(219)232-1873. Call this man and make him an offer!!!

Ted Thomas has a system for sale, and he is willing to negotiate the price. His system contains two 4A consoles, a P.E.B., 2 SS/SD disk drives, a TI FDC, a TI 32K memory expansion card, a CorComp RS232, a speech synthesizer, a tape cassette player a modem, Extended BASIC, and various pieces of software. If you are interested, you can reach him at home at (312)453-4318 or at work at (312)987-4750. Call him and make him an offer!!

If you would like to purchase a new Segate ST225 hard drive, for \$150.00, call George Bowman at (708)362-9034.

Gary J. McConkey has a system which he would like to sell. It consists of a console, a P.E.B., a TI 32K card, a TI FDCC a CorComp RS232 card, speech, and a Navarrone "Widgit." He also has numerous pieces of software and literature. He would like to sell the system as a package deal, but he will consider selling some items separately. If you would like to make him an offer, he may be reached evenings at (309)692-5728. He can also be written to at 6806 North Wilshire Court, in Peoria, Illinois 61514.

Howard Ellegant also has a system to sell. It consists of 2 consoles [1 black, one beige], P.E.B., 32K, SS/SD FDC, RS232, 1 TI stand-alone SS/SD drive in a case with a power supply, speech, 1 Dltra Comp stand alone RS232 with transformer power supply, 1 Wico BOSS joystick with TI cable, 1 Amdek composite color monitor, 1 Gemini-15 wide carriage printer with TI cable, and assorted software with the original documentation. You may call him at (708)491-0115 or write him at 310 Wesley Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60202. If you are interested, give him a call and make him an offer.

Ernest Cheslow has a system for sale. It includes a console, a P.E.B., a RS232, 32K memory, TI FDC, one TI SS/SD drive, an Erson RX-80 printer, a Sears 10 inch black/white t.v., a Volksmodem, and a few publications and pieces of software. He is located at 1154 Carol Lane, Glencoe, Illirois 60022. Contact him, and make him an offer. (He said that he will also consider the donation of his system to some worthy organization.)

Hank Jacoby has a system for sale. It consists of 2 TI-99/4A consoles, a Navarrone "Widget", a P.E.B., 2 disk drives, a Comrex monochrome monitor, a Hayes 300 baud modem, and lot of software with documentation. (Though he did not mention it, I am confident that his system contains a TI RS232, a TI 32E memory, and a TI FDC.) He says that his system is 5 years old and in excellent working condition. He is asking for \$450.00 for the complete system, but he said that he will consider any reasonable offer. If you are interested, the system can be seen in his home in Wauconda, Illinois. You can call him at (708)526-2447.

If you want to buy or sell something, please drop a line to our newsletter. Your needs will be printed here. We only request that after you have disposed of your system, please have the courtesy to inform us of this fact, at our post office box number or on our "hot-line" answering machine. You can also leave a message for either Ernie Pergrem or Don Jones on our bbs. (The "dead line" for all articles in this newsletter is the 10 day of each month, the summer months excluded.)

Also, if you are considering disposing of a system or any TI-99/4A hardware or software, you may want to discuss with your tax accountant the possibility of donating your system to a school, church, rehabilitation center a home for the elderly, or some other tax exempt, not-for-profit entity. You may be able to receive a tax credit equivalent to what you paid for your system. We do have some information on this. This information is part of our program, "Free Computers to Teachers." Either write us or leave a message on our "hot-line" answering machine if you would like a copy of this information. You can also find it on our bulletin board system as an archived download file...

# HELP!!!

You may remember that we had received a call for help from a user by the name of Richard A. Stokesbury of Iake Park, Florida (member number 582). Richard has purchased a pair of 5.25 inch DS/DD Toshiba disk drives, and he did not get any documentation with these drives. We asked if anyone out there had these drives or the documentation for them or the knowledge of how to configure them. No one came forward with this information, but Terry Blovas, a Chicago area member left a message on our "hot-line" giving us a technical support number for Toshiba products. That number is 1(800)221-0314. We are printing it here in case anyone cut there has any Toshiba products for which you may need any sort of technical assistance. Thanks for the info, Terry.

A member of our group, in Germany, has written to inform us that Mechatronics no longer produces any hardware for the TI-99/4A. The entire stock, all licenses, and all rights have been purchased by a Mr. Wolfgang Deile (Hauptsr. 65, 2000 STAPELFELD, West Germany). If you are in need of any Mechatronic products, support, information, or help, please feel free to contact this man.

New software for the CorComp FDCC, with documentation, can be found in our library. This software is based on an E-PROM that is on the CorComp board. (All library orders should be sent to the following post office address: Chicago TI Users' Group's Library, P.O. Box 641083, Chicago, Illinois 60664-1083.)

We are attempting to get information on how to kick the speed of a 4A up to 16 MHz. As soon as we receive this information, it will be shared here with our entire community. Please be aware that the Chicago TI Users' Group is definitely not asleep at the helm.

If you have either a problem or a tip which you would like to share by means of our newsletter, just drop us a line at our post office box.

# FOUR~A/TALK

Random ramblings about things TI.

by Bill Gaskill

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1990

HERE'S TO BOB, JIM AND JACK

### WHAT'S HOT:

THE MISSING LINK MMODEXB, MEMBERSHIP MANAGER, FOUR-A/TALK BACK ISSUES, ROCK RUNNEE, MULTI-COLUMN PLUS, PAGE PRO EDITOR/FORMATTER DAREWARE and EDU-PACK

### SO WHAT'S THE DEAL?:

-Right new there are no doubt a few of you scratching your heads, wondering why another Pour-A/Talk Column has shown up in your User Group's newsletter, especially after the "farewell" I gave in the December 1989 Column. Well, here's why. There hasn't been much feedback one way or the other on the demise of Four-A/Talk, but the feedback that I did get from three very important people has spurred me to sit down (at least one more time) to say thanks to them for their caring and compliments. Bob Demeter, the newsletter editor for the Chicago TImes, Jim Peterson of TigerCub Software and Jack Sughrue, of Impact 99/New Age 99 fame are those three people. It is for them and because

of them that you are reading this.

### DISCOVERIES:

-Remember Steve Karasek, the author of the SuperBasic utilities for Extended Basic programmers that John Koloen reviewed in the February 1989 MICROpendium? Well, Steve, who is or was a member of the St. Louis 99ers, is now writing Federal Income Tax software for Atari, Apple, IBM and Commodore 64/128 nachines. I ran into his ad in the February issue of Compute! Magazine on page 127. There was an outfit named SofTech out of Missouri that used to offer Federal Income Tax software for the 99/4A about 5-years ago. Wonder if Steve was part of that deal? Oh well, hope he makes a success of his new (if it is new) venture.

-Bill Warren, who we all know for his PR-Base contribution to the TI community, also wrote an assembly language gem to search a disk for any string of text in a DV/80 file. I don't know how long this program has been around, but I only found out about it 2-weeks ago. Just as many similar applications now exist for the IBN community, the TI community can boast of the same utility. It only works on floppy lisks, and only physical drives at that, because I couldn't get it to recognize my Horizon Ran Disk that is configured as DSK3, but does seem to do a pretty credible job.

The program is called TI-Writer Global Disk Search and it runs out of the Editor/Assembler Load and Run (option 3) routine. It will print out the results of a search for any string of up to 20 characters. It automatically catalogs the desired floppy for only the DV/80 files and then it whizzes through then in search of your text string. Not a bad utility to have around. I got the program from the Texaments BBS at 516-475-6463. If your User Group receives Four-A/Talk from me directly, you will find a copy in the library. The library name is SEARCHTIW.

-Another little PR-Base "goodie" has shown up on GEnie (from program author Terrance Murphy's CIS upload), that will convert a PR-Base file to Display/Fixed format so that it can be used in TI-Base. The file is #3667 and is called PRB-DF2/ARK. I heard about it some time ago but had never tried it since I don't use PR-Base. But the information I had, which came compliments of Harry Brashear and Steve Lamberti, related that it did a nice job and would work on PRB files that were up to the 246 byte limit PR-Base imposes. Certainly a lot better than my conversion method of printing the PRB file as a compressed print report. Jonathan Leslie, the uploader of the GEnie file, says that it won't work on a Geneve, so 9640 users take note. Since I don't have a Geneve yet, I can't say one way or the other. I do know that Terrance Murphy wrote the program in c99 with some assembly support, and it does run on the 99/4A. Both PRB V2.0 and the Mike Dodd V2.1 modification are supported. If your User Group receives Four-A/Talk from me directly, you will have a copy in your club's library. The library name is PRB2DF.

### NEWS:

-TigerCut Software has released a package of 127 assembly language screen fonts that are all useable from Extended Basic.

The 471 sectors of code has been dubbed a "DAREWARE" offering, 'cause Jim is daring us to pay for it I guess. As many as 12 different sets of characters can be merged into an XB program. For more information contact the TigerCub at;

TigerCub Software 156 Collingwood Ave. Columbus, Ohio 43213

-As always seems to be the case, a lot is going on in the 99/4A and 9640 community. A look at GEnie uploads shows a great deal of Geneve activity going on with Beery Miller announcing 9640 Windows, menuing systems, digitized IFF files and such for the 9640 appearing. On the 4A front, Asgard has released an elementary education module called Edu-Pack by David Bishop. It contains a program to teach the alphabet to smaller children a keyboard familiarity program similar to the Touch Typing Tutor that TI released though without any of the statistics on how well you type, and a program called Giving, that is designed to teach kids about cooperation and teamwork.

-Ken Gilliland has released a disk full of TI-Artist\_P files that print out beer labels. The Fairvare offering is called THE BABA BREWERY BEER LABELS and requires either 1 DS/SD disk or 2 SS/SD disks. The labels are suitable for copying or just cutting out and pasting to your own home brewed beer. It includes a set of recipes and brewing instructions. If you are interested you may download GEnie file # 3713 or write to Ken directly at;

KEN GILLILAND 7647 MCGROARTY ST. TUJUNGA, CA. 91042

-Asgard Peripherals, a subsidiary of Asgard Software, has apparently located a source that is still producing the Mechatronics GmbH 80 column display card. According to Chris Bobbitt, the new company has made some substantial improvements to the product and the manual that comes with it, making it not only more efficient and easier to install, but less expensive to produce. Asgard will be selling the card for \$210, which includes shipping. They must have a minimum order to get that price though, so Chris is asking that you send a post card announcing your intentions to purchase one, or send Asgard a post-dated check or credit card number with expiration date.

ASGARD PERIPHERALS P.O. BOX 10697 ROCKVILLE, MD. 20849 703-255-3085

-On a related topic, it seems that 80-column capability is the new "front" for 99/4A hardware and software creators. Tom Bentley had the foresight to create PR-Editor with the capabilities of 80-column display back in 1988, but not too much else happened until Tony and Will McGovern created an 80-column version of FunnelWeb for the DIJIT AVDP unit and Barry Boone built an EPROM for the Mechatronics card. Those two occurrences seemed to add some credibility to the concept and now it looks as if the idea is really taking off.

application that creates dual records for each group member from a single input screen. It provides editing capabilities for both files from a single query, it will automatically scan the data base for membership expirations based upon the date entered when TI-Base was first loaded, it will print mailing labels for everyone in the group, a single name or only those folks whose memberships are going to expire. It will allow you to print three different reports and even provides an Index Card report that puts all of a member's info on a 3 X 5 index card. It displays both demographic and detail data on any member from both files, with only one query and much more. The entire package contains fifteen help screens, a ten page manual, on screen prompts and instructions and it is totally nenu driven. There is NOTHING that must be done from the dot prompt once you type in DO MENU to boot the program. Because of the limited market potential, I am not going to offer this product through Texaments. If you or your club officers are interested, Membership Manager may be purchased from me, for \$25. A little pricey for the TI community, but it sure takes care of the business of taking care of business for your User Group. Enough said. Nembership Manager may be ordered from:

> BILL GASKILL BOX 2642 GRAND JUNCTION, CO. 81502

TI-Base V2.0 or higher is required.

### FOUR-A/TALK BACK ISSUES:

-I have put together all of the 1989 Four-A/Talk articles, and the "This Month In TI History" portions (to keep costs down), in a Page Pro 99 prepared book. It is 66 pages long and spiral bound as it comes from the printer. I only had six of then made, but if enough interest in them is generated I will have more made. The downside is that they cost about \$8.00 to produce and thus would have to sell for about \$14.00 for me to make \$4.00 on one by the time I paid for the mailer and postage. So that's what I will have to cffer them at. If you would like a copy, send me \$14.00 and I will get one off to you within a week to ten days from receipt of your check. Unfortunately, I can't afford to have a 100 or so printed ahead of time. They are just too expensive to print. My mailing address is listed in the paragraph above.

### ROCK RUNNER:

-Eric LaFortune, a Belgian teerager, has created a 99/4A version of Boulder Dash, a favorite on Commodore computers and maybe other computers too. It runs out of the Editor/Assembler module only right now and provides an excellent emulation of the Boulder Dash program. Both of my kids gave it a thumbs up, for whatever that's worth, although they complained about having to go back to the start of the program when they got zonked by the rocks. Looks like a neat piece of software, that apparently takes advantage of some here-to-fore unused area of the TMS9913A's graphics capabilities. Chris Bobbitt calls it the "half-bitmap" mode. The program is available for \$12.95 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling from;

ASGARD SOFTWARE P.O. BOX 10306 ROCKVILLE, MD. 20849 703-255-3085

### PAGE PRO TIPS:

-Have you ever loaded an existing Page Pro 99 page to edit the layout and found that the cursor won't line up with your existing text? This seems especially frequent when dealing with the large fonts. Well I have, and I have discovered the fix for it. I don't understand why this works, but it does. Simply take the cursor past the nearest edge of the page so that it wraps to the opposite side, then bring it back to the font to be edited and you will discover that it is on target. If the cursor matches up with the existing text as far as column alignment, but it ends up a row or so high or low, move it past the top or bottom edges of the page. Not just the current window, but clear off the page. If it aligns properly by row, but not by column, then take it clear off of the left or right side of the page. It has worked every time for me. I'll bet it does for you too.

### PAGE PRO 99 EDITOR/FORMATTER:

-Here's another Fill Gaskill creation that you might enjoy using if you are a Page Pro 99 owner. A couple of weeks back I was in the process of creating a program called the Generic Newsletter Editor and Formatter, using Brad Snyder's 40-Column Utilities package. My program allows the user to create a two-column page of printed text for newsletters, complete with double-wide page headers, boldfaced paragraph titles, right justification and it possesses full word processing-like editing capabilities for insert, delete and the like. Well, when it was done, the idea came to mind that it would be a nice tool to do layouts for my Page Pro stuff. So, I went about creating a scaled down version for use with Page Pro.

Page Pro Editor/Formatter creates two 28-character columns for a single page in Page Pro 99. The same insert, delete and justification options exist in it as are found in The Generic Newsletter Editor and Formatter, but without the double-wide and boldface print capabilities. I have uploaded the file to GEnie and have also given Chris Bobbitt permission to use it in Page Pro Times. If you can't get a copy, and your User Group receives Four-A/Talk from me directly, it will be in your library under the file name PAGE99FORM.

### TRIVIA:

-Remember the Eanfare with which Bill and Kathy Hunter (Foundation Computing) introduced their CP/M card for the TI? And how about the hype and anticipation surrounding Morning Star Software's CP/M offering. Both are pretty familiar to most long-time 99ers and both carved themselves a place in our history, despite the lack of acceptance that we greeted them with. But how about the Paradise Convertible? Ever hear of that CP/M unit for the 99/4A? I hadn't until I ran into Nornan Spector of Powell, Tennessee. He owns one, and it works!

The Paradise Systems Inc. Convertible pre-dates the Foundation and Morning Star units by about two years, having been commercially available in 1982. While it was not manufactured specifically for the TI-99/4 or 4A, it is fundamentally the same as the units that were. The differences are slight. The TI-specific units were mounted in the PE Box, whereas the Paradise Convertible, which was about the size of a large book (7.25 X 3.75 X 13.5 inches), was cabled to the PE Box. Both communicated via the RS232 port though. The TI-specific units used the PE Box disk drives while the Paradise unit had a built in disk drive and a ram disk that was called a "Virtual Disk" (a term familiar to most anyone who owns an MS-DOS machine). The advantage to the Paradise disk drive(s) was that they didn't have the reading and formatting problems that the TI-specific units had, which required special translations.

One humongous advantage that the Paradise system had over the TI-specific units was the range of CP/M formats that were supported. While the Foundation/Morning Star units were tied to Osborne I/Kaypro, the Paradise Convertible came with the ability to use programs writter for the Morrow MicroDecision computer (which was the default format), the Osborne, IBM PC using CP/M-86 disks, and the KayPro.

Internally, the unit had 64K of RAM and 16K of ROM.  $\lambda$  192K 5.25 inch floppy drive was standard, along with the 192K Ram Disk. The ability to add two more mechanical drives as standalones was also built in to the machine.

I have no idea what the Paradise Convertible sold for back then, but I'll bet it would be hard to find one today. Again, thanks to Norman Spector for all of the information.

NORMAN SPECTOR 7729 WIDDLECOMB RD. POWELL, TENNESSEE 37849

### Neati

### THIS MONTH IN TI HISTORY:

-Folks? This issue of Four-A/Talk is SO large that I had to put the TI History stuff in another article. That article is as large as this one is unfortunately. The newsletter editors are going to just hate me! If they don't though, you might see the TI History article in the same newsletter as this issue of Four-A/Talk, or if not, perhaps a future issue of your newsletter. At any rate, I didn't forget the history.

### GENEVE SUPPORT ARTICLE...

Howdy doody there, sports fan!!! Are you ready for another "shining" article from Krome Dome, all full of a lot of STUFF??? Well, this month, I am very ready to get started. In fact, this article was started as soon as the last one was completed! I hope to maintain a better continuity this way.

### WARNING!!! THIS PROGRAM IS DANGEROUS TO YOUR MENTAL WELL-BEING!!!

Did I get your attention, sports fans??? Well, I surely wanted to You are probably wondering exactly what program I happen to be talking about. In this case I am talking about the program from Asgard named <u>TRIS</u>. I purchased this program at the last Chicago Faire, and I mentioned it last month because it is an example of a program that was released in two separate versions. Obviously, the version which I purchased is the M-DOS version. This program runs directly out of M-DOS and is not designed to load into the GFL memory space. Boy, it sure is nice to see programs coming out that are <u>really</u> intended to be used on a Genny acting like a Genny instead of her older brother. Now, for a short word about this program:

### THIS PROGRAM IS VERY DANGEROUS!!!

This program is dangerous because it is <u>addictive</u>. Once I start playing it, it is hard for me to get off into something else. Therefore, the only times that I want to deal with it is when I have come home from work and I am <u>already</u> in a catatonic state. In such a condition, a game such as this can actually help me to relax and adjust. Otherwise, I could spend a lot of valuable time trying to play what I call "The Perfect Game." I am not going to describe the game as you can easily find a review of it in <u>MICROpendium Magazine</u>. I just want to say that it works just fine on a Genny, and I really do recommend it.

### KROME DOME'S AUTOEXEC FILE CONTINUES

Well, I promised to try to tie up the ends of my short AUTOEXEC creation tutorial. Let's start by taking a look at what we have so far:

TI MODE RAMDISK 240 SPOOL 160 MODE F2 MODE B11 LASTDRIVE = L ASSIGN E=DSK5: ASSIGN F=DSK6: ASSIGN G=hdS1: VER TIME DATE PROMPT SDSBSTS SNSG F:REMINDERS F: PAUSE F:REMINDERS F:/s

If you have been following the trash that I have been writing here, you should understand what each and every single line in this file should do for you. Now to add something nev:

ASSIGN G=DSK7: ASSIGN H=hdS1: ECHO OFF VER PROMPT \$L\$B\$T\$\_\$N\$G F:REMINDERS F: PAUSE F:REMINDERS F:/s

Now, I am going to ask you to pretend that you have a second Horizon RAM disk in your "full metal (P.E.) box." If this is the case, it is going to sit at CRU address 1600; this is the next "unassigned" CRU that we have available to us. I am therefore assigning it the device designation of "G" in M-DOS, and this will be, according to my ASSIGN command, equivalent to DSK7. I am now giving my hard drive the device designation of "H". I like this because "H" is a good mnenonic for my hard disk.

In case you didn't catch it, I am throwing in another plug for using the HRD. I am still convinced that this is one of the finest storage devices that we have available to us in the TI community. I am now using a second one in my system. I am slowly purchasing chips to get it up to its maximum memory of 800K. I use it as a "work space' or a "working disk," if you will. It is very convenient, as I place whatever project or program that I happen to be working on at the time. Because of the speed of loading a program or file, it facilitates the use of any program that I place there. It is also reliable and steady as a rock. I have yet to have it crash on me. I am really happy with it, and I recommend that every 9640 system have at least one and preferably two of these sweet babies in their P.E.B.'s.

The ECHO OFF command will keep the following AUTOEXEC commands from being printed to the monitor as they are being implemented. My VER and PROMPT commands are exactly the same as in my last installment. The REMINDERS commands were also introduced in my previous installment. Now for an alteration and some more new STUFF:

### PAUSE

CLS

ECHO Hello, Krome Dome, you shiny, sexy dog, you!!! How are you today?

ECHO My name is Geneve, and I am happy to be working together with you

ECHO again. For your convenience, here is my current time, military

ECHO standard, as MT is obviously a superior format:

Time

ECHO Krone Dome, this is today's date:

Date

ECHO Rejoice, Krome Dome, for a wonderful thing has just happened, and  ${\tt I}$ 

ECHO will be with you today and FOREVER!!! Krome Dome, I hope that you

ECHO will have a peaceful, restful, and a pleasant day. And, PLEASE,

ECHO don't turn me off. I ONLY want to serve YOU and always be your

ECHO friend. (Call me Genny for short!) And by the way, BALD IS ECHO BEAUTIFUL, YOU SLICK DEVIL. YOU!!

ECHO Please load your disks into the floppy drives now...

By now you're asking, "What is all this trash that Krome Dome is throwing on me?" Well, Bunky, you think it's trash only because you have not been thinking! By now, you know that the PAUSE command will cause your AUTOEX2C or batch file to temporarily stop its execution and vait for a keypress. The command CLS is a command to clear the screen. After that, I have provided a great service to all Genny owners. I have written a little message for Genny to give to me each day, when I turn her on. You see, when I turn her on, I want her to turn me on too! Just think, sports fans. Suppose you are presently having a hard time with your lady, and not even your cat wants to be around you at this point in time. That's enough to really bring a guy down. Well, all you need to do is to turn on Genny, and BINGO! Genny turns you on, in return!!! (Old English proverb: "One good tirn deserves another." This saying should therefore be placed on all door knobs. Also the smoothness and shininess of the knob will help to remind you of your friend, Krome Dome.) You don't have to use MY words. Instead, just think of what you would like for your lady to say to you, and then you can have Genny say it instead. It helps to make you more independent of the ladies! (You may consider this hint my public service contribution of the month.) Just remember that when you write your message, you mist start every line out with the ECHO command, or else it will NOT be printed on the screen.

You will also notice that I have moved my TIME and DATE commands, so that they will fit into the text of message. Now, let's make this AUTOEXEC file do even more for us:

PAUSE
CLS
DIR /W
PAUSE
CHKDSK A:\*
PAUSE
CLS
DIR B: /W
PAUSE
CHKDSK B:\*
PAUSE
CHKDSK B:\*

The new commands begin with another PAUSE and CLS command. The DIR /W will cause Genny to do a wide mode directory of the device that is indicated by the prompt that we are presently working under. Since we haven't altered the prompt from "A", the command will do a directory of floppy disk drive "A" (or ESK1). This command is followed by a PAUSE, and the PAUSE is followed by a CFKDSK A:\* command. This is a "check disk" command. It will do a check of drive device "A" (DSK1), and it will tell you how many urused sectors you have remaining and whether or not you have any fragmented files on that disk. If you do, it lists exactly which files are fragmented. The procedure is then repeated for your second disk drive. (I am writing this based on the assumption that you have a maximum of two floppy disk drives. If you have more than two, you can repeat the command in your AUTOEXEC file, but be sure to use "C" for DSK3 and "D" for DSK4. This command also works fine for your Horizon RAM disk(s) and your built in RAM disk (DSK5), if you have included a RAMDISK command so that Genny will create one for you.)

DIR E: PAUSE CLS DIR F: /W PAUSE CHKDSK F:\* PAUSE CLS

The preceding commands assume that you have partitioned your memory so as to allow for a built in RAM disk and that you have a HRD sitting at CRU address 1400. It is therefore DSK6 or device designation "F".

DIR H: /W PAUSE

This command is for a directory of my hard drive. It will ONLY do a directory of the root directory of my hard disk.

CLS PROMPT SG ECHO ON MODE 40 REM REM REM / ? \ REM REM REM REM REM REM REM REM REM (D. J. 8/88) ECHO OFF **ECHO** ECHO I just LOVE my GENEVE! How about you??? PAUSE Press any key to continue... PROMPT \$D\$B\$T\$ \$N\$G CLS F: AUTO

The PROMPT \$G command does a temporary alteration of my prompt. Instead of all of the sexy things that I have customized it to above, all that it will do is to give me a "greater than" sign for a prompt. This then allows me do enter the little graphic picture that I have drawn below it. The ECHO ON is so that whatever I have vritten in my AUTOEXEC file will be displayed on my monitor. The MODE 40 command takes me down to the 40 column instead of the 80 column mode, which is the default node of the current DOS. When I am finished with my sophomoric graphic display, I turn my ECHO command off with ECHO OFF. An ECHO command on a line that is followed by nothing will give you only blank lines. You will need to add a few in order to adjust the

position of your graphic. Also, a line with a REM command, that is followed by nothing will also give you a blank line. The command "F:" changes my prompt device designation to "F". The last command line, "AUTO", will execute the batch file named AUTO.

I am going to stop our study of our AJTOEXEC for this installment. In fact, I am finished with my AUTOEXEC file. I only now need to give you some useful batch files. Here, I must give credit to Mr. Edward hallett, as he is the source of my initial ideas for this AUTOEXEC file and the batch files, which I shall share with you at a later time.

### THE TI COMMUNITY IS SPOILED!!!

I say this because of how easy it was for me to deal with my beloved 4A. I now find that that same ease of use is quickly becoming available to my Genny. And as working with Genny is becoming a less and less unfamiliar task, I feel very strongly that it is time for Genny lovers (and 99er's) to become more scphisticated relative to the software which we are using. Those people who own "klones" and have never owned a 4A have very probably never experienced a machine that was as easy to load as a 4A; what could be easier to load than a command module? (John Jchnson's ROS for the HRD is a device that both increases that 4A's power but retains the EASE OF USE FACTOR!) This is why I can't help but feeling that we have been spoiled. I say spoiled because of the way that the 4A was designed. It has its DOS on a chip, and its original software was mostly command module based. As a result, most improvements and upgrades of the 4A have successfully attempted to retain that same user friendliness and ease which we first experienced when Texas Instruments was still with us. (Just look at the way in which a HRD using John Johnson's ROS functions. You turn on the system, and you are up and ready to go with a menu screen. I am confident that no other computer could be either more accessible or easier to use.) O.K., what is the point of all this? I am only saying that it is time for the members of our community to tackle programs such as William Warren's PR Base and Mike McCann's fine program. The Printer's Apprentice. I am confident that the rewards will be well worth the expenditure of time, money, and effort. (Old American saying: "No pain, no GAIN!")

### BACK TO TPA!!!

The first thing that I want to mention is that version 1.3 of this fine program is now available. The cost is the same as the earlier version, \$22.50, but if you are the registered owner of the earlier version, just send back your original disk with a check for \$4.00, and you will receive the updated version by mail. (Here, I would like to say that with the price so low, PLEASE do not pirate this fine program. It must have been the result of many hours of work. The price of this program is very modest, but it has a great deal to offer. It is copyrighted, commercial software, so please give the author the little money which he is asking for it.) "The newer version allows FASTER text formatting, "page level" erase, and lines/boxes under Cpixel command control. It also offers external printer drivers. (Drivers for Epson 9 pin and Okidata 92 printers, with source

code, are included, so custom drivers can be written by assembly language programmers." I might also mention that earlier this week, I received a corrected copy of version 1.3. It seems that in his haste to get this version out, Mike accidentally left in a few nasty bugs. The "fixed" version is supposed to deal with those bugs. (I might also mention that McCann Software appears, to me, to be the software company in the 4A community that is the fastest, of all of the companies that I have dealt with, with getting corrected copies of its software out when any significant bugs appear. This may sound silly, but, to me, it's good business to be responsive to your customers.)

I had planned to write a lot more about <u>TPA</u> at this time, but I was ill on my last off day, and I just simply didn't feel like sitting down at a computer on that day. I also am delaying my next comments due to the fact that version 1.3 of this fine program uses new commands to such an extent that McCann Software has come out with a new version of its documentation manual. I therefore want to make sure that I am reviewing the nost recent features and commands when I write about this exceptional software. I have therefore decided to hold off with my next comments. I want to give this program as fair an evaluation as possible. But, before I stop, I would like to say a few general things about this program:

First, when I saw the smoothness and speed of execution, it was clear to me that this is the most powerful program of ANY sort in our community, for either the 4A or the Genny. Second, it is obviously the most sophisticated desk top publisher in our entire community. Third, only an exceptional programmer could have created a program of this magnitude. This is software that makes us truly competitive with the Mac's the Apple's and the mere "klones." Fourth, it is already my feeling that this software deserves our support. Fifth, the documentation seems to assume that you are in Mike McCann's head, but it is possible to get beyond this minor problem. Sixth, even though the documentation says that due to the excessive memory requirements, you must use, with this program, an AUTOEXEC file that is very simple, and it cannot have in either a print spooler command or a RAM disk memory partitioning command. The way that this problem can be solved is by getting a modified Myarc 512K card or Bud Mill's Enterprises fine new 9640 memory card, MEMEX. As I am using a modified Myarc card, I am able to keep my print spooler and my built-in RAM disk space without incurring any problem when I use this program.

I hope that all of this helps to keep your interest in this fine software. I will devote some time and space to it in my next couple of articles. (If you are interested in acquiring it and your 4A dealer doesn't have it in stock, you can order it directly from McCann Software, P.O. Box 34160, Omaha, Nebraska 68134.) I will definitely be back with some more information regarding it.

I also hope to do a couple of articles dealing with graphics, in general, on the 9640. BTW, I never thought that I would ever get so deeply involved in graphics work. Not only is it fun, I now find a real need for this particular capability.

Well, it's time for Krome Dome to mosey on along. I hope that you all have a great month of April, and that's no foolin'!!! So, until next month,

### THIS MONTH IN TI HISTORY

### Bill Gaskill

### <JANUARY 1981>

Prototype models of Extended Basic and 32K memory expansion are released in U.S.

- -European PAL model of 99/4 released in Holland. Interrupts operate 50 times a second instead of 60 times a second as in the U.S. version.
- -Extended Basic and a new 32K Ram unit are announced for the 99/4.

### <FEBRUARY 1981>

First issue of TIHOME TIdings released in England. Magazine is sent free to 14 users by Paul Dicks, representing start of the first TI Users Group in the UK.

- -VAT Accounting module is announced in England, but never appears. Eventually surfaces in 1988 as a disk program.
- -Pewterware announces the release of DECATHEION and CHALLENGE POKER.
- -IUG claims 1500 members.
- -TI releases a re-worked version of its Mailing List program after the IUG puts the kibosh on it in an earlier review.
- -TI introduces a new 10" color monitor for the 99/4. The rew monitor is made by Panasonic and will replace the 13" model previously sold for the 99/4.

### <JANUARY 1982>

The Peripheral Expansion Box and the P-Code and 32K memory expansion cards to go in the PEB debut at the Winter Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada on January 7th.

- -Mini Memory, TI Invaders, Car Wars, Tombstone City, Blasto, The Attack and Munchman also make their official debut.
- -The Los  $\lambda$ ngeles-South Bay 99er Users Group forms in Torrance, Cal. with Bob Saunders as president.

### (FEBRUARY 1982)

The "new" keyboard for the 99/4A is demonstrated at the Los Angeles-South Bay Users Group meeting.

- -Introduction to TI Basic by Zamora and Albrecht is released.
- -TI introduces the first VALUE PACKS.
- -The "MUNCHMAN FLAN" is introduced. It is an ill-fated marketing scheme that requires 99ers to buy any four existing modules or any one VALUE PACK software library in order to get MUNCHMAN. Users are issued a proof of purchase card by retailers and must then send it to TI to get a free MUNCHMAN by mail.

### <JANUARY 1983>

TI produces a little known 220 page catalog listing virtually every piece of software available for the 99/4A to that date, from both TI and other sources. The publication, which is authored by a team of seven TI employees, gives detailed descriptions of each program and the required hardware. The very same catalog was the source of information for the much valued and excellently presented Unisource Encyclopedia/Catalog. Varbatim descriptions from the TI catalog can be seen throughout the Unisource publication.

- -TI announces the CC-40 (compact computer 40) on January 6, 1983.
- -COMPUTE magazine begins coverage of the TI-99/4A with a single article that is written by C. Regena. It covers the hardware, software and miscellaneous resources of our computer.
- -PARSEC released in England.
- -TI announces July release of TI-99/2 in England.

### <FEBRUARY 1983>

The TI-99/2 computer is introduced to the world. Photographs of it and it's per pherals can be found in the February and March issues of 99er Home Computer Magazine.

- -TI introduces a new compact cassette program recorder for the 99/4A.
- -TI halts shipment of the 99/4A line due to an apparent defect in the power transformers shipped with the computers.
- -Ad in Compute! magazine lists TI-99/4A as a computer that will have ZAXXON for it by April.
- -DataSoft advertises for TI programmers in Compute! magazine to write games for the  $99/4\lambda$  line.
- -C. Regena's "Programmer's Reference Guide..." book released by the Compute! Bocks Company.
- -99er Magazine changes its name to 99er Home Computer Magazine.

- -Southern California Computer Group is formed. TI reports that this brings the number of recognized Users Groups up to 50.
- -Thorn EMI announces proposed release of Submarine Commander and River Rescue modules sometime in the spring.
- -Los Angeles-South Bay 99ers change the group's name to the LA 99er Computer Group.
- -TI lowers the price on the 4A by \$48 to retailers, which makes the cost of the computer \$152 after TI's rebate.
- -Voice recognition system for the 99/4A is announced by Milton Bradley. Product is to be available in April.

### <JANUARY 1984>

TI reaches agreements with IMAGIC, Sierra On-Line and Disney to produce at least five new cartridges for the 99/4A line.

- -Hopper, Slymoids, Return To Pirate's Isle, Treasure Island and the Burgertime game modules are all released by TI.
- -Competition Pro 300 joystick debuts.
- -TI's Ron Wolfson releases the figures of 2.5 million 99/4A consoles sold with about 250,000 having expansion boxes.
- -CorComp announces February 1st release of their ES/DD disk controller card.
- -Beyond Parsec game is announced, but not by Texas Instruments. It will debut commercially in module form released by DataBiotics, fours years later in 1988.

### <FEBRUARY 1984>

- J.C. Penney department stores, once a major retailer for the 99/4A, discontinue the line after "dumping" as much of their 4A inventory during the '83 Christmas season.
- -Home Computer Compendium (later renamed MICROpendium) begins publication from Round Rock, Texas.
- -99er Magazine resurfaces as Home Computer Magazine, in a format that is designed to appeal to owners of Apple, Commodore, IBM and TI-99/4A computers.
- -Craig Miller begins publishing "The Smart Programmer" from San Dimas, California.
- -InfoCom, a Massachusetts firm that manufactures adventure games for various computers including the 99/4A, announces that it is leaving the TI market.
- -T1 sends letter to registered LG's to inform their members that it will no longer be selling 4A products.

-Terrance Castle releases a new TI book entitled "Basic Tips by Amlist".

-AtariSoft advertises Stargate, Super Storm and Robotron: 2084 for the 99/4A. The games were never produced for the TI. Ad appeared in Byte Magazine p.115.

-George Bowman introduces the 'Missing Link" joyport-based word processor and printer interface at the Chicago TI-UG meeting.

### JANUARY 1985

E-FILES 99, the first index-card based filing system for the 4A, is released by VMC Software.

-Barry Traver begins writing for Super 99 Monthly.

### FEBRUARY 1985

In an article about sprites and graphic chips, TJ Beyers uses the same picture of layered graphics displays for TI's TMS9918 video chip as appeared in 99er Magazine almost two years earlier.

### JANUARY 1986

Early 99/4A hardware products pioneer Foundation Computing, of Tiburon, California leaves the TI market.—Mechatronics GmbH, announces plans to produce an 80 column display card for the 99/4A.

### FEBRUARY 1986

Beginning of the end of Compute support for the 99/4A. With only one exception, the REGENA article is all the coverage left each month.

### <JANUARY 1987>

Tony and Will McGovern change the name of FunnelWriter to FunnelWeb when version 3.4 is released.

-80 column display card for the 99/4A is released by Mechatronics GmbH out of Hamburg, Germany.

-McCann Software, P.O. Box 34160, Omaha Nebraska 68134, announces version 2 of The Printer's Apprentice.

-MG releases a message to the TI world of an upcoming product that will put IBM compatibility at the finger tips of 99/4A owners. The product turns out to be a bridge-box that allows the 99/4A keyboard to be used with a PC Clone. No real "compatibility" exists.

### <FEBRUARY 1987>

MICROpendium changes banner to include Myarc 9640 in advertised coverage.

-First realistic flight simulator for the 99/4A is released by

Not Polyoptics, written by David Harter 416 High St. Chestertown, Md. 21620, who is a partner in the Not Polyoptics firm. The program took about eight months to write.

-Ryte Data 210 Mountain St. Haliburton, Ontario, Canada, announces a 99AT type expansion box that will accept the 9640 computer on a card, 99/41 PEB cards and up to four disk drives.

### <JANUARY 1988>

Miller Communications, Seattle, Wash., announces the development of an IBM-AT style expansion box for the TI99/4A and Myarc Geneve computers. The box is said to have a 220 watt power supply and it will have seven card slots. Millers own VideoFlex and Frame Grabber cards will fit in it as well as two R\$232 cards. A box may be purchased through the Queene Anne Computer Shop, 6102 Rocsevelt Way, N.E. Seattle, Wash. 98114 206-522-9400.

-Myarc announces software development plans for Geneve for 1988. Included are a GPL interpreter, MDOS v1.1, the GEME graphical interface, a runtime version of Pascal, Advanced Basic and computer aided design software.

### (FEBRUARY 1988)

Charles Earl releases TELCO V1.0.

-Bud Mills purchases rights to Horizon Ram Disk from Ron Gries and David Romer.

-Myarc announces that it will protect some Geneve software.

-Bill Moseid, of CataBiotics, announces that 4A/TALK, the popular 99/4A telecom program, will be written to the Geneve.

### <JANUARY 1989>

MICROpendium begins accepting orders by creditcard.

-Jerry Stern begins as MICROpendium's Extended Basic columnist.

-George Steffen Memorial is setup up in a Simi Valley, California hospital. Two computers are donated by Tex-Comp.

-FunnelWeb is released in an 80 column version to run with the AVPC by DIJIT.

-Bud Mills releases the HRD 3000, a new board for the Horizon Ram Disk that can support up to 800k on the Geneve or 512 k on the 99/4A.

### <FEBRUARY 1989>

Asgard Software and Myarc Inc. announce that they will no longer give release dates on new products due.

-Mike Dodd quits as Geneve columnist at MICROpendium.

-Tex-Comp begins selling 99/4A t-shirts and sweatshirts.

-Asgard Software announces Typewriter99 and Cassete Labeler.

-Fest-West '89 takes place on February 18-19 at the Clarion Hotel, San Diego.

-The Game of Wit, formerly marketed by Texware Associates of Illinois, is put into the public domain.

-Milton Eradley releases Honey Hunt, ar MBX game, into the public domain.

-Ray Kazmer releases "NAZE OF GROG", a sequel of sorts to his 1987 "WOODSTOCK" Christmas card that was a smash hit in the 4A community.

-Art Green, author of MACRO ASSEMBLER, releases V4.2 of his TI-Writer rewrite.

### just goofing around !!

TYPE IT IF YOU WANT. EXTENDED BASIC, WITH PRINTER & 2 DISKS DRIVES.

100 CALL CLEAR

110 PRINT "FOR PRINTER USE WITH A DISK WILL LET YOU PUT IN PRINTER COMMANDS ."

120 PRINT "ON MY STAR SG-10 PRINTER SOME OF THE SHORT-CUTS ARE ; ctrl & . = OPEN TO PRINTER W: = LARGE S1=VERY SMALL"

130 PRINT " PLAY WITH IT, ": "LEARN ABOUT YOUR PRINTER !":

140 INPUT "NAME YOU WANT TO CALL YOUR FILE :":N\$

150 OPEN #1: "PIC" .OUTPUT

160 OPEN #2: "DSK2. "&N\$, OUTPUT

170 LINPUT ":":AS

180 PRINT #1:AS

190 PRINT #2:AS

200 IF A\$="END" THEN 223

210 GOTO 170

220 CLOSE #2 :: CLOSE #1

230 END

That's the first way.

Now for the other ways !

### 100 CALL CLEAR

11C PRINT "CHANGING THIS TO CHANGE A DV/80 FILE, JUST IN CASE I WISH TO PUT IN SOME ": "PRINTER COMMANDS ."

126 PRINT "FOR PRINTER USE WITH A DISK WILL LET YOU PUT IN PRINTER COMMANDS ."

13( PRINT "ON MY STAR SG-10 PRINTER SOME OF THE SHORT-CUTS ARE ; ctrl & = OPEN TO PRINTER W1 = LARGE": "S1=VERY SMALL": "ctrl &@=REDO"

140 PRINT " PLAY WITH IT, ": "LEARN ABOUT YOUR PRINTER | ":

150 INPUT "NAME YOU WANT TO CALL YOUR OUTPUT FILE : ':N\$

160 INPUT "NAME OF YOUR DV/80 FILE YOU WANT TO CHANGE. : ":NN\$

170 IF N\$=NN\$ THEN 160

180 OPEN #1:"PIO", OUTPUT

190 OPEN #2: "DSK2. "&N\$, OUTPUT

200 OPEN #3: "DSK2. "&NN\$, INPUT

210 LINPUT #3:NNN\$

220 IF EOF(3) THEN 340

230 PRINT NNN\$: :

24) PRINT "enter=OK next": "Z=change it"

25) CALL KEY(5,K,S):: IF S=0 THEN 250

260 IF K=13 THEN 300

270 IF K=90 THEN 290

280 GOTO 250

290 LINPUT "CHANGE IT NOW

:":NNNS

300 PRINT #1:NNNs

310 PRINT #2:NNNS

320 IF NNNS="END" THEN 340

330 GOTO 210

340 CLOSE #3 :: CLOSE #2 :: CLOSE #1

350 END

HERE IS A FILE THAT I RAN THRU THE PROGRAM. IT IS GOOFY, TRY IT!

I AM USING THIS TO GET IT READY FOR THE NEWSLETTER. NO CONTROL

CODES WILL BE IN IT. IT WORKS JUST GREAT! (FOR ME)

100 CALL CLEAR

110 PRINT "CHANCING THIS TO CHANGE A DV/80 FILE, JUST IN CASE I WISH TO PUT IN SOME ": "PRINTER COMMANDS ."

120 PRINT "FOR PRINTER USE WITH A DISK WILL LET YOU PUT IN PRINTER COMMANDS ."

130 PRINT "ON MY STAR SG-10 PRINTER SOME OF THE SHORT-CUTS ARE ; ctrl & . = OPEN TO PRINTER W1 = LARGE": "S1=VERY SMALL": "ctrl &@=REDO"

140 PRINT " PLAY WITH IT, ": "LEARN ABOUT YOUR PRINTER !":

150 INPUT "NAME YOU WANT TO CALL YOUR OUTPUT FILE :":N\$

160 INPUT "NAME OF YOUR DV/80 FILE YOU WANT TO CHANGE. : ": IN\$

170 IF NS=NNS THEN 160

180 OPEN #1: "PIC", OUTPUT

190 OPEN #2: "DSK2. "&N\$, OUTPUT

200 OPEN #3: "DSK2. "&NN\$, INPUT

210 LINPUT #3:NNNS

220 IF EOF(3)THEN 340

230 PRINT NNNS: :

240 PRINT "enter=OK next": "Z=change it"

250 CALL KEY(5,K,S):: IF S=0 THEN 250

260 IF K=13 THEN 300

270 IF K=90 THEN 290

280 GOTO 250

290 LINPUT "CHANGE IT NOW : ":NNNS

300 PRINT #1:NNNS

310 PRINT #2:NNNS

320 IF NNN\$="END" THEN 340

330 GOTO 210

340 CLOSE #3 :: CLOSE #2 :: CLOSE #1

THANKS ALL, TYPE IN A PROGRAM SOMETIMES! TONY

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?????? DEC 1988 Chick De Marti

LOADING PROGRAMS

Type SIZE

PROG 33 May be E/A option 5

D/V80 n Text (use TI-Writer or READ-IT)

D/V163 n Merged File

PROG 48 (or larger) BASIC or Extended Basic

D/F128 or probably archived

D/I128

NOTE: Some D/V, I/V, or I/F could be DATA files.

E/A #5 LOADER for 33 Sec files by Fred Layton (S.F.T.I.)

1 SAVE DSK.1 EA5/LOADER

10 ON ERROR 40

15 DISPLAY AT(10,1) ERASE ALL : "FOR E/A #5 LOAD & RUN PGMS" :: ... "Which drive (1/2/R) 2" :: ACCEPT AT (12,21) BEEP (VALIDATE ("I2R")SIZE(-1)):DR\$

20 DISPLAY AT (14.1): "What E/A Pgml -> ":: ACCEPT AT (14.18) BEEP SIZE(10):PROG\$

25 DISPLAY AT (10,8) ERASE ALL: 'NOW LOADING: ": : :TAB(8); PROG\$ 30 CALL INIT :: CALL LOAE(8196,251,214)

35 CALL LINK ("OPT5", "DSK"&DR\$&". "&PROG\$

40 PRINT "NOT FOULD - TRY AGAIN? .. " :: FOR DX=1 TO 1000 :: NEXT

DX :: GOTO 10

GEMINI USERS A hint from ASGARD News

Do you get ugly white horizontal lines on your screen dumps of GRAPHIX or TI-Writer? If so, type in this short program save it, and run it BEFORE loading your Artist programs

10 INPUT "Turn on printer and press ENTER...": A\$

20 OPEN #1: "P10", OUTPUT

30 PRINT #2:CHR\$(27); "A"; CHR\$(6)

40 CLOSE #1

I don't own a Gemini but I believe you can enter lines 20 and 30 (without line numbers) in the immediate mode with the same results... lines 10 and 20 would not be needed therefore, CD)

This next item has been in many of the newsletters and might be considered 'old news' by now, but many of our readers don't get to read the other newsletters, so I'd like to pass it on for their benefit.

TI has now dropped it's TI-CARES phone number. Numbers now:

806-747-1882 General Information 806-747-2662 Technical Assistance 806-747-2265 Dealer Parts 2208 "

### SLASHED ZEROS

In TI-Writer a convenient way to print slashed zeros (if your printer doesn't already do it) is: .TL 48:48,8,47

The first 40 (after the colon) prints a zero, the 8 back spaces one character and the 47 prints a / (slash) over the zero. Bill suggests adding this .TI command to your heading file.

Thanx Bill Berendts

### FORTH DEBUG

This just surfaced from Ottawa and is passed on without testing. Change a COPY of your Master Disk.

Screen 58 change line 10 to read VDPMDE @4 IF SMTN 80 0 VFILL 300 'SATR | ENDIF

Screens 53,54,55 line 1 should end SETVDP2

And finally on Screen 59 line 9 change 00FF to 00FE

### PR-BASE HINT

Sorting and so on are based on an ASCII string and everything works according to the ASCII values of the characters. Thus, while 4 comes after 2,22 will come before 4. Use leading zeros on numbers you are sorting by, then you will correctly find the sort as 02,04,22. Also... Selective Indexing search works on your input UP TO the first space, so that "good day" will only work on "good". To use the whole thing, you must insert question mark, thus: "good?day"

### MINI MEMORY PROBLEMS?

As the battery wears out, the voltage drops, and in the end, the dead battery actually stops the module work ing. It will not retain data even inserted in the console, even though the battery is only for "back up". A quick solution is to open the module and snip one of the battery wires; the module will now work in the console. The last two hints are courtesy of the 9T9 newsletter. Thanx guys.

### USING THE SCREEN AS A FILE From TIBUG. (Australia)

Quite often, when working on a prog. that stores data to a file, during the testing, it is necessary to actually write data to one of these files and that data is often formatted in some way special to the program being developed. This method can be quite time and for paper consuming if the data or its format are not being saved exactly the way it is wanted. In Tl-Basics, we can have several files opened at one time, each numbered different. We normally start with file #1, then #2, etc. Exam. :

OPEN #1: "PIO":: OPEN #2: "DSK2. DATAIIST", OUTPUT (etc.)

The Extended Basic manual states that you can number files from (zero) 0 to 255 and on page 147 relating to the PRINT statement, if the file number after the PRINT statement is omitted or is 0 (zero, then output goes to the screen. NOTE: the file to the screen (#0) is always OPEN and does not require an OPEN #0 directive. Here then is the ansver to our needs. At the beginning of the program use a variable for the number of the file being written to. e.g. 10 @=0. When you open the file, do it in the normal way such as OPEN #1: "DSK2.DATALIST" ,etc. but every time, you would normally print to the file, use the PRINT #9:A\$ as the directive. Even though the file to Disk will be opened all info will be printed to the screen. When the program is working just as you want it to, then you can change line 10 to @=1, or whatever file number you opened the file as, and that file will be written to. This system will work perfectly if the information being stored is of the DISPLAY kind. If the file uses the INTERNAL format, only those bytes in the ASCII character range will be seen on the screen.

Well I am out of coffee. See you next month. Chick

