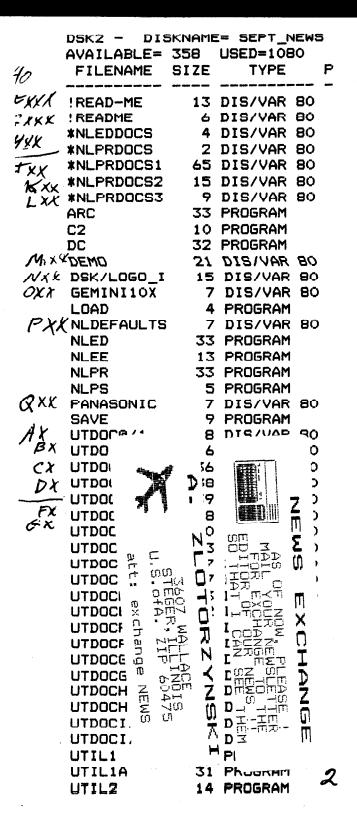
Sept. 1992

CHICAGO TIMES

Newsletter of the Chicago TI-99/4A Users Group

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editors NOTES !

OK, BEING NEW AT THIS. IF IT'S WRONG. SORRY! We got lots of goodies from all over.

MY THANKS GO OUT TO ALL WHO GOT ANYTHING IN THIS NEWSLETTER. AND TO ALL WHO GOT INTO THE 1992 PROGRAMING CONTEST.

AS FOR ME, I ENJOY MY T199/4A & THE CHANCE TO BUCTHER THE ENGLISH STUFF !

IT MIGHT JUST HAPPEND THAT I COULD DO EVERYTHING THE CORRECT WAY. FAT CHANCE! In this issue, We got . MAN, I DON'T KNOW. I do know that we will have a center fold. It will be "THE PREZ SEZE".

WE ALSO HAVE SOMETHING FROM JAMES BROOKS, WALTER WARD and the BLUEGRASS 99'ers, ART GIBSON of ROCKWOOD TN., AND ALSO. We got a sample of our great C.U.G.B.B.S.! WOW! ALMOST FORGOT!! IF I FORGET THIS, I'M DEAD. GOT THE PROGRAMING CONTEST ALL DONE. THE WINNERS AND THE REVIEW OF THE ENTRYS WILL BE IN THIS.

FLUS === A SMALL PROGRAMS.

I CAN'T TELL YOU WHERE IT ALL IS IN THIS .
YOU'LL HAVE TO READ IT TO KNOW.
AND THE THING FROM THE LIBARY, PROGRAMS REVIEW, &
HOT SALES.

If you want to get anything from your USERS GROUP in to this newsletter. Then send it in. news letter editor: TONY ZLOTORZYNSKI

3607 WALLACE STEGER, ILLINOIS 60475

HAY ART . SORRY ART GIBSON . of THE K TOWN 99ers . i will not have room for all of the docs. BUT ANYBODY CAN CALL OR WRITE YOU IF THEY WANT THE PROGRAM ON DISK ?????

WITHOUT HELP FROM MANY PEOPLE, I WOULDN'T GOTTON THIS FAR . THANKS ! TONY The CTIUG Library Corner. September 1992 Disk Reviews by: WALTER WARD Jr.

All disks are \$2.00 per disk unless otherwise noted. Shipping and handling: U.S.A. add \$0.30 per disk. Others add \$0.60 per disk.

Make check or money order payable in U.S. funds to: CHICHAGO TI USERS GROUP

Mail to: CTIUG LIBRARIAN DAVID A. CONNERY 420 FRANKLIN BLVD ELGIN IL 60120-4439

Please allow 2-4 weeks for deleviery.

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THESE REVIEWS ARE THOSE OF THE REVIEWERS AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE CTIUS

MAIL ORDERS POSTMARKED BY 2 OCT 92 ONLY!!!
ALL THREE DISKS \$4.00 INCLUDES SHIPPING/HANDLING

* SPECIAL SPEC

Filename Size Type P Comments

10P6JOURNL 13 Pgm N This is your personal ten page journal for 1982. With a few hours work or a half hour or so depending on your programming skills it could be adapted for 1993 and beyond. You would need the dates and you would need to change CS1 to DSKn. Of course you would need to change the OPEN statement which refers to CS1 instead of DSKn. Otherwise this is an excellent program.

A/L-SORT-I & D/V 80 N This file gives complete instructions on how to load and use A/L-SORT-O. You must sort on an array. An array, in case you have forgotten is practically any DIM statement. Extended Basic allows up to ten string stements without a DIM statement. It also allows up to a seven dimension statement if parentheses are used. For example:DIM X\$(A,B,C,D,E,F,6). From here it is all standard stuff. If your array is ready to be sorted do a CALL INIT::CALL LOAD("DSKn.A/L-SORT-O")::CALL LINK ("SORT", "ARRAYNAME\$(),N"); where N is the number of items to be sorted.

A/L-SORT-O 9 D/F 80 N This is the object code which is loaded by your CALL LOAD above and which does the actual sorting. It is very fast. It can also be used in any XB program but remember the sorting must be done on arrays. It will not work otherwise.

ADD/SUBTRA 19 Pgm N This program is a great grade school tutorial on addition and subtraction. The only thing I would change is

leave it solely to them. Buy the disk for this one!

PIE/SQUAD 2 Pgm N For the kid in all of us. A man is standing against a stone wall. You must hit him with a pie before the gorilla can hit you with a banana. If the gorilla hits you with the banana you are dead. You start the game with ten lives and you can gain others as you play. WARNING. This could very easily get to he very addictive! There is only one feature I would like to see added. It should give your total score when you quit the game. I say quit because in theory the game could go on forever.

P ISD-DEMO 14 Pgm N This is supposed to be an E/A Option 5 program. It won't load from EA 5 on my cartridge. It gives a green screen and locks up. I tried EA 3, MUG boot and Funnelweb. Same result.

P SENTENCE 8 Pgm N Another EA 5 program. Same results.

STING-SONG 22 Pgm N This program uses XB CALL SOUND. It plays "The Entertainer" by Scott Joplin. I like Scott Joplin's music and this is a very good rendition of his mork as used in the movie. One extra little touch I especially like is that it plays the music as in the movie; then stops and asks if you want a replay.

STOCK/INFO 39 Pgm N This program will not run because it is missing a file. There should be a file called STK/SAMPLE on the same disk.

Diskname: MISC#2 Available: 3 Used: 357

Filename Size Type P Comments

2X2HEX S Pgm N This program asks you for screen, foreground, background and text colors. You then enter four hex numbers to define the character. It works without any flaw as far as I can tell. If you have not memorized the color table values in decimal you are going to get some weird combinations. (Grin)

CALENDAR 11 Pgm N This calendar program will print any month from 1600 through 2399. Want to know what day of the week Pearl Harbor occured on or your birthday? Just input the date and read your answer. Pearl Harbor occured on a Sunday and I was born on a Wednesday.

CAT 6 Pgm N XB catalogger.

CONNVERSIO 23 Pgm N This is one socko boffo program. It will do factorials to 69, logs to any base and even convert temperatures! Forget about Barrons for that college physics, chemistry or math major. Get her or him a TI and this program. Is there anything it cannot do? Yes! It will not let you do impossible things such as use ten decimals when you are only allowed one for example.

CURRENCY 5 Pgm N This program will convert dollars to francs, marks, lira or whatever you desire so long as you know the ratio of the two currencies. Very useful for those ordering from abroad or planning a trip to Europe. I am sorry but I cannot recommend this program for its stated purpose. Today we have pocket calculators which can do the whole thing much faster. But if I were a betting man I would bet dollars to doughnuts that someone out there could take this program

and put to a use none of us had ever dreamed of.
PS. Obviously the saying dollars to doughnuts originated before it was an even bet!

DECOMPRESS . 9 Pgm N This program calculates decompression times for divers based on the Workman model. You input the dephth and bottom time and give the program five minutes or more to do its calculations. Not being a diver I cannot youch for the accuracy of the figures but I can certainly youch for their inaccuracy! Maybe we should have "Froggy" check this one out. Especially since I input a depth of 200 feet and a bottom time of fifteen minutes and the program left the diver stuck at 8290 feet!

DISKINDEX 10 Pgm N This program is a disk catalog with some extras. It will list all files, search for a program, search by categories or list open space left on disks. It will list at least ten disks. As far as I can tell there is no provision for loading. Do not confuse this program with the Mike de Frank program with the same name.

ELECTION 23 Pgm N Enter the results as they are announced for each state. Then the program will project a winner. The more states entered the more accurate the projection. States marked with an asterisk show potential upsets.

GRAPHICCAT 6 Pgm N This program not only lists files and sizes plus used and left (free) sectors but it draws a bar graph showing the relative sizes of the programs.

HEXDUMP 10 Pgm N This program first prints the binary code on screen and prints the hex code equivalent on screen and dumps it to a printer. It will do this for any starting and ending addresses you select. ONE GREAT BIG BUG! It will not stop at the stop address at least on my TI. It will keep on printing forever or until you run out of paper whichever occurs first. (Grin) You must use FCTN 4 to stop it.

HOROSCOPE 25 Pgm N You must ignore Venus if you use this program. How you can have a "correct" horoscope without Venus I wouldn't know. From what little I know about the subject I seem to remember that Venus is very important. Also you must have a table of houses and cusps, whatever that is, so that you can enter the correct data to use the program. Given all this I think that I would look for another horoscope program if I believed in any of that stuff enough to bother. Of course I realize that a lot of intelligent people believe in this stuff. It just so happens I don't. And I have always regarded that as one of America's greatest strengths is that people of all faiths and beliefs can not only live in the same country but respect each others beliefs or non beliefs as the case may be.

I-CHING 7 Pgm N I know NOTHING and I do mean nothing about the the I-CHING but the program seems to work.

JOURNAL 10 Pgm N This is an another ten page journal-this time for 1981. The same remarks apply about fixing for 1993 and beyond. Since the programs are otherwise identical I would keep one or the other but not both.

LOAD 5 Pgm N XB loader runner.

MAIL/PREP 24 Pgm N A mail preperation program for the source which has not been in existence for several years now. I suppose

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it could be adapted for use on other boards.

MORSECODE 27 Pgm N This is a very good Morse code tutor program. It had no obvious bugs that I could find. It will give the Morse dits and dahs as you press each letter or number. For anyone wanting to learn Morse this is an excellent program.

MOTION 6 Pgm N This is the same program as 2X2HEX.

ORBIT 9 Pgm N First change the printer name in the open statement to "PIO" and this program will print hard copy for all orbits for 1982. WARNING. You must stop the program with FCTN 4 or you could very easily find all your paper being used. Otherwise this is a very good program. Given the physics involved I don't think an orbit program could be updated as easily as a journal or diary program.

ROCKET 31 Pgm N Enter all the parameters asked for by this program and it will calculate the center of pressure. I am not into model rockets myself but I have a friend who is and he assures me that the center of pressure is very important.

SMOKER 20 Pgm N This program asks various questions about your smoking habits, calculates a score and offers one or two vague suggestions about quitting. In fact this resembles very closely the pamphlets they keep for handouts in doctors' offices and hospitals.

SPRITER 18 Pgm N This program uses the arrow keys to draw characters, pictures or whatever you wish. If you wish you may even save the drawing to tape. I imagine this could be modified for disk. This is a great program for us non-artists. I never knew I could draw until I used this program.

TAPE/FILE 17 Pgm N Somewhere out there is a person who has a cassette drive and has no disk. This program is for them. We all started out that way didn't we? This program requires two recorders and will tell you all you need to know about tape files. One little question. If all you have is tape drives how are you supposed to use this tutorial/program?

Ask a friend with disk drives to transfer this to tape!!

TEIILOGON 13 Pgm N This program is supposed to generate a log on file for the TE II cartridge. Does anyone know of a board still using the TE II protocol? I wonder if this could be modified to a more general log on file which could be booted by Telco say and then I could log onto the group board again? Dave? Tony? Of course they had to go set it up backwards in the first place. I mean I can enter 44 on a voice call but on a modem with a fourteen character limit on the dial string it becomes hard if not impossible to do.

TITLE 16 Pgm N This program will let you enter colors for border, background, text and foreground. It will then center the title automatically once you tell it what the title is. One nice touch is that it keeps the color table and the decimal equivalents on view the whole time you are choosing colors. This program would spiff up any documate especially if you had a color printer.

WEATHER 19 Pgm N This program will draw all those little symbols you see on official weather maps. You must provide the proper inputs in the form of cloud type, cloud cover, dewpoint, visibility, wind speed and direction, temperature in degrees Fahrenheit, etc.

8

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Diskname: MISC#03

Available: 4 Used: 356

Filename Size Type P Comments

APHORISMS 6 Pgm N I assume most of you are familiar with these types of programs. They generate nonsense aphorisms such as: Virtue is the mother of vice. Necessity is the cause of avarice; and similiar such observations. What good could such a program possibly be? I don't know what others use theirs for but since cryptography is more or less a hobby of mine I find that these "old sayings" make great source material for programs which encrypt and decrypt plain text. Plain text is text which has not been encoded.

BANNER2 14 Pgm N This is the same as CALENDAR on MISC#2.

BANNERS 13 Pgm N This program prints excellent banners. It has one serious flaw. Your message must be eight letters or less. Other than that it is as good as some commercial programs I have seen. This could be fairly easily fixed I believe. Since this is an XB program you should be able to DIM 6(30) say then change the line which reads 6(X) to read 6(10), 6(11), 6(12) and so on to 6(30).

BASIC/I 45 Pgm N This is a good basic tutorial marred by a lot of irritating misstatements and others which are just plain wrong. For example NEW does not clear the program from memory. It just changes the pointers. There are programs which can un-NEW provided you have not written anything else after NEW. An example of the just plain wrong variety is: INCHES = CENTIMETERS \$ 2.54. WRONG! INCHES = CENTIMETERS/2.54.

BASIC/II 35 Pgm N This is a much better basic tutorial than the other. At least I didn't find any errors in the statements. Since these are obviously by the same author I am unable to account for the difference unless the first had been "improved" by someone. The change in screen color each time the subject is changed is a nice touch. The program also makes good use of sound.

BASIC/III 6 Pgm N Program compactor NOT BASIC/III. This program will only work on files saved in MERGE format; DV 163. It will take such a program and supposedly compact it so it uses less disk space. I say supposedly because the only file I tried it on catalogged the same before and after. Remember that one test is not definitive. It could have been a defective file.

BAUDOT 5 Pgm N Baudot code is holes punched in paper tape. It was widely used in Europe at one time as an aid to the blind. I think it has been replaced everywhere by Braille. This program will show you the pattern of cross shaped holes and punched out circles for each capital letter pressed. Spacing is important too. With all of that to remember I am not surprised that everyone switched to Braille. A nice program; superbly done.

CAT 6 Pgm N XB catalogger.

CONVERTION 38 Pgm N Despite the spelling this is an excellent conversion program. It converts length, mass, volume and area from English to metric and vice versa. What is more it does it correctly. Nary a bug that I could find but my tests were far from

exhaustive. It also does temperature conversions, number base and geometric areas and volumes. Of course if you wish you can get a pocket calculator which will do all of this a whole lot faster for about \$7.00.

CROSS/REF 11 Pgm N This program will only work on merge format files. It will cross reference lines, variables and search for a single variable. A very handy tool if you don't program but just mess around like I do.

CRYPTGRAPH 7 Pgm N This is another of those programs which will encode a message or help you solve one which has been encoded. Some newspapers still carry these and I remember when I figured out how to solve them, the great feeling I had. But after I knew how it wasn't fun anymore.

ENIGMA 9 Pgm N Another code breaker program. This one will also encrypt or decrypt. I prefer it to the program because it is easier to work with. Meanwhile why don't we all join the ACA? The American Cryptogrophy Association. They send the letters with instructions on how to get to their annual banquet in code and claim they have yet to lose a member. I mean have a member get lost and be unable to find the location of the banquet. And to think most of us can get lost without any help at all!

FD 2 I/F160 N This is a file used by one of the other programs on this disk.

FOG/INDEX 11 Pgm N Type in a sample from a book or magazine. Give it five minutes or more to "think" about it and this program will determine a grade level for the text. This type of program has been used for years by educators; especially on books used to teach reading. Ham. I wonder if that could be why Jane or Johnny can't read?

INKBLOT 14 Pgm N This program will print an "inkblot" to your printer. In my opinion it is a waste of paper, time and money. Besides it bombs out with FOR NEXT nesting in 160.

INKBLOT2 19 Pgm N This one is another waste of time. What is it with all of these BIORYTHM programs? This one is probably the best of the lot with nicely colored screens and a printout is available if you want one. I just can't figure out why anyone would want biorhythm, astrology, the Tarot, the I-CHING or any of that stuff.

INVENTORY 10 Pgm N This program lets you key in an inventory of all of your software and hardware. WARNING. It is very easy to enter a number in the wrong column. Do that and you will wind up with \$81,000.00 for number of hardware items; total cost zero.

IRA 10 Pgm N Great program! Input the amount you plan to put in an IRA and the number of years and this program calculates the tax if non-IRA, the tax if IRA and the grand totals for principal if IRA, if non-IRA and the differences. It shows that it definitely pays to set up an IRA for yourself if you can.

LINEEDITOR 8 Pgm N Ho hum. Another merge file editor. How many does this make? Three? I have lost count. So far I have seen nothing in either of these programs that would cause me to recommend one over the other. They are all about equal in my opinion.

MILEAGE 11 Pgm N This program loads and displays a great title screen. According to this I am getting 3166.67 MPG! The cost per mile is \$0.00. The cumulative cost per mile is \$0.00. The cost per gallon is \$1.375. The last item is the only thing it got right. I would fix this or lose it. It is embarrassing.

PEEPER 3 Pgm N This program takes you byte by byte through a program. It will list the beginning byte as byte 1 and the end byte as 71265 say. If I remember correctly that is the number of instructions needed for CALL SCREEN(7) in TI Basic command mode. Most programs I have seen always start counting at zero. I suppose this was put in for the benefit of us non programmers.

PRIORITIES 6 Pgm N This program has you enter a list of up to twenty items. Then for a half hour or so it runs through every possible combination of items asking which you would prefer. DAVE, I think a better name for this would be PREFER. As far as priorities go if I am not old enough and mature enough to know that for me the number one priority is getting the mortgage paid off then I don't think this program would help. Still it is sort of fun to play with.

REM/OUT 5 Pgm N Something different about this remark out program. AH, you gessed! It only works on merge files. Since I do a lot of debugging for other people I prefer to keep the remarks in programs I am working on. Sometimes the variables get merged into the prescan or wind up in tail remarks or whatever.

SORTED 6 Pgm N This program will use either the bubble or shell sort to sort a list of words which you enter.

YR/RECORD 49 Pgm N This one should load and run but it won't.

Thanks Walter Ward!

The next meeting of the Chicago TI users group will be September 12, 1992, at St. Nicolai Church, Wellington and kedzie, one block south of I-90/94 and belmont exit.

The Hotline is HERE! Please remember to change your auto-dialer to dial the number for this BBS to "7088620182,,,44" 2-4 commas may be sufficient. Add 7 4444444 Remind all members who don't frequent this b bs of the change. If you wish to have an announcement put on the hotline, leave #611 a message.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND VIEWS BY JAMES BROOKS

Hello there all of you TI'ers. Here it is September already and still no one wants to take on my job. Don't you think you could do it better? Surely someone out there can do as well a job as membership chairman. I have enjoyed the job now for four years this October. My health is forcing me to abandon coming to the meetings where there are so many smokers (they can smoke but my system will not tolerate any smokey atmosphere as of late). Oh well!!!

This past summer at this date has been very strange (and cold too). The newscaster stated that there had only been 7 hours (at this date 8/08/92) of temperature above 90 degrees this summer (and many low 50's). Since I have not been attending the meetings, I cannot keep up with the happenings. I hear there is an IBM library and a 9640 SIG (Special Interest Group) started for the Geneve owners. Also, that Don Walden, a member of the group, has formed a company that will do repairs for Myarc Hardware. Good Luck Don and your co-workers.

Oh have you called the Group BBS lately? and couldn't get on? well the Hot line number and the BBS number are now the same, thanks to Mike Maksimik, our sysop. You will have to make an adjustment to your dialers. In order to get a connection to the board, set your dialer like this > If you need a "1" to dial out of your area set your dialer up this way: 1 708 862 0182,,,44 (spaces are just here for clarity but the coma's are a necessary part as they give the phone time to ring once and then add the 44. If you do not add the ,,,44, the voice section of the modem will answer instead because it is the New Hotline Number also.

So until the next meeting, I will say so long for awhile.

Oh, BTW, any member who has renewed and I do not have you recorded as "up to date". please bring it to my attention.ince I was not at the last couple of meetings, I may have missed a few that signed up there that I am not aware of.

Have you called the Group BBS lately? is now the Hot Line Number if you don't use the ,,,44 in your dial string) for all of the latest news of the group's activities!!!!!

HEY EVERYBODY! I just discovered that TELCO will not call the group BBS because the string is to long. I do not know if FAST-TERM will do it because I no longer use it so I have to use my PC to dial such a long string. I now understand why some of the members had called my board to complain that they were unable to get through to the Groups BBS. TELCO needs to be upgraded so it can accomadate the long strings of 12 characters.

- 1 REM WITH A SMALL CHANGE TO THIS PROGRAM, YOU CAN HAVE A SCREEN DUMP IN IT TOO ! ON G
- 2 REM DELETE THE NEXT FIVE LINES IF YOU DO NOT WANT THE SCREEN DUMP IN IT ... B UT! YOU HAVE TO HAVE ONE OF THE ENTRYS TO THE 1992 PROGRAMING CONTEST! 3 CALL INIT
- 4 CALL LOAD("DSK1.XBDUMP20")
- 5 REM THIS WILL GIVE YOU A GREAT SCREEN DUM P. WHEN YOU USE ctrl & 1 AS

THE DISK IS CATALOGING .

6 REM ADD THIS "261 CALL LINK("DUMP") :: GOT 0 220" & THIS "220 CALL KEY(5,K,S):: IF K=177 THEN 261::IF S=-1 THEN 240"

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10 FOR X=1 TO 6 :: READ TYP$(X):: NEXT X
20 DATA Disfix, Disvar, Intfix, Intvar, Program,
Geneve
21 FOR F=1 TO 14 :: CALL COLOR(F,16,6):: NEX
TF
22 CALL SAY("WORKING")
30 DIM PP$(250):: DIM V$(250):: Q=0 :: K=0 :
: I=0 :: C=0 :: XX=1 :: P=1 :: CALL
31 FOR P=1 TO 4 :: DISPLAY AT(P,P):"
                                         SPEE
CH PLEASE " :: NEXT P :: CALL CLEAR
40 DISPLAY AT(12,2): "Any time space-bar or K
EY": : "WHAT DISK DRIVE ?"
50 CALL KEY(5,K,S):: DISPLAY AT(2,2):"DON'T
WAST TIME " :: IF S=0 THEN 50
60 IF K=76 THEN 284 :: IF K=13 THEN 280 :: I
F K=70 THEN 285
70 IF K<49 THEN 40 :: IF K>53 THEN 40 :: I$=
CHR$(K)
75 CALL SAY("DISKETTE, NUMBER, "&I$)
80 DS$="DSK"&I$&"." :: CALL INIT :: DISPLAY
AT(23,22):DS$
90 REM
99 ON ERROR 265
100 OPEN #1:DS$, INPUT , RELATIVE, INTERNAL ::
INPUT #1:N$,A,C,D
110 PRINT :" ";N$%" USED ";STR$(C-D);" FREE
 ";STR$(D):
                                      P":"-
                                TYPE
                         SIZe
 120 PRINT "#
                 NAME
 130 V$(XX)=P$ :: FP$(XX)=P$
 140 A=0
 150 INPUT #1:P$,A,B,E :: IF LEN(P$)=0 THEN 2
 40 ELSE 160
 160 IF A<-5 THEN 180
 170 GOTO 200
 180 IF A=-7060 THEN A=-3
 190 IF A=7060 THEN A=3
 200 DISPLAY AT(XX+1,1):CHR$(XX+48);" ";P$ ::
  DISPLAY AT(XX+1,13):B;:: DISPLAY AT
 (XX+1,18):TYP$(AB5(A))&" "&SEG$(STR$(E),1,E)
 210 DISPLAY AT(XX+1,28):SEG$("YN",SGN(A)+2,1
 220 CALL KEY(5,K,S):: IF S=-1 THEN 240
 230 V$(XX)=P$ :: XX=XX+1 :: GOTO 130
 240 DISPLAY AT(24,1):" CHOSE ONE "
                                            14
```

250 CALL KEY(5,K,S):: IF K=177 THEN 284 :: D ISPLAY AT(24,1):" " :: IF S=0 THEN 2 40 :: IF K=32 THEN 265 :: K=K-48 :: Q=K :: P RINT Q.CHR\$(K+48) 260 GOTO 290 265 FOR PL=1 TO 11 270 CALL SOUND(-25,1221/PL,0) 272 NEXT PL :: CALL SAY("COME,ON"):: RUN 280 RUN "DSK.COPY.1X" 284 RUN "DSK1.LOAD*" 285 RUN "DSK1.F" 290 IF K<1 OR K>=XX THEN 250 :: CLOSE #1 300 D\$=DS\$&PP\$(XX-XX+1+Q):: PRINT : : : : :D \$:D\$ 310 CALL PEEK(-31952, A, B):: CALL PEEK(A*256+ B-65534,A,B):: C=A*256+B-65534 :: CA LL LOAD(C, LEN(D\$)) 320 FOR I=1 TO LEN(D\$):: CALL LOAD(C+I,ASC(S EG\$(D\$,I,1))):: NEXT I :: CALL LOAD(C+I,0)330 RUN "DSK3.BB" Thanks DAN I like it.

THE VIEW FROM TWO MILE HOLLER

WELL JIM HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER INSTALLMENT OF "THE VIEW FROM TWO MILE HOLLER". CORNY TITLE RIGHT?SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING FROM THE PEN OF JESSE STUART?PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT.WE MIGHT AS WELL GO BACK TO WALTER'S CORNER. THE FILE T/T/T WAS INTENDED FOR THAT CORNER.T/T/T STANDS FROM TIPS TRICKS AND TUTORIALS BY VARIOUS AND SUNDRY AUTHORS FROM VARIOUS AND SUNDRY SOURCES. HAY. JUST BECAUSE THE OTHER FELLOW THOUGHT OF IT FIRST IS NO REASON NOT TO USE A GOOD IDEA AS LONG AS THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR GETS CREDIT AND THE ORIGINAL SOURCE.SPEAKING OF WHICH: THE NAME OF THE GROUP IS: THE BLUEGRASS 99 COMPUTER SOCIETY, INC. THE NAME OF THE NEWSLETTER IS "BYTEMONGER".

> RAG SOFTWARE by Walter Ward Bluegrass 99'ers

how to describe RAG Software? The easiest way may be to describe his version of TI Writer which is currently 4.3.

I am going to assume that practically all of you have at least a nodding acquaintance with this program. What improvements has Art Green made that you should buy his version? Well for one thing the editor and formatter have different colored screens. Only those of you who have used TI Writer for any length of time may appreciate this but believe me it sometimes comes in very handy.

The most useful feature from my own point of view is that the formatter stays loaded until you have finished printing. Only someone who has gone through the experience of loading the formatter and typing in the filename can really appreciate this feature especially for those programs and files which don't have a "FRINTDOC" file. Yes I know we are supposed to write our own if the program doesn't have one. But some of us aren't very good programmers and don't want to be. We just want our computers to work for us.

What other features does RAG TI Writer have?It auto loads and auto runs from Extended Basic.No more changing cartridges ever time you want to write someone a letter or review.This is being written using RAG TI Writer 4.3.

By now I can hear someone out there asking why did this guy call his outfit RAG Software? RAG is Robert Arthur Green,a professional programmer and a member of the Ottowa User's Group. Yes your vague suspicions are right. This the same group that brought us DM 1000.

What else has Art Green done? It might be easier to answer if we ask what hasn't he done? He has issued an improvement to Multiplan which is claimed to reduce the recalc speed by at least forty per cent. I personally measured sixty per cent but i wasn't using many numbers and was trying to work the program and the stopwatch at the same time. My guess, and it's just a guess, is fifty per cent would be a good average considering spreadsheets and I don't get along that well.

Art has also issued his own version of the assembler which comes in three parts instead of two. How does this make it faster and better?Isuspect this is something only Art Green and his close associates know. He calls his assembler the Macro Assembler. Just as it's name implies this assembler allows you to assemble macros. I am sure you have all used macros at one time or another though you may not have called them by that name. A macro is usually a group of linked strings though in the assembler's case, of course, it is a group of linked commands. Having just discovered this I am personally going to have fun this winter seeing what I can do with macros.

So what has RAG Software done for us ordinary folks besides the RAG Linker to link assembly routines to Extended Basic and the RAG Macro Library? The RAG Disk Initializer.It initializes SSSD disks and works only too well. It asks which is going to be the master disk and proceeds to initialize that disk. It's embarrasing to admit but despite playing with my TI since about '83 ,I initialized the disk I had just booted it from. And of course I hadn't had the good sense to make a backup.BE VERY CAREFUL WHEN USING THE RAG INITIALIZER!!!

The RAG Terminal Emulator program. This program turns your TI into a dumb terminal with two baud rates, 300 and 1200. The message at the bottom of your screen should read: "WAITING FOR DATA SET READY".

The RAG Disk
Catalogger.This actually a library
catalogger which will keep a complete
list of the files on all your disks or
give you a disk by disk listing. There
may be one but I haven't seen the disk
by disk feature on any other library
catalogger.

By now I can hear you saying, "Are you trying to tell us we should buy this junk when we have much better programs?"No I'm not.With the exception of RAG TI Writer and the RAG Multiplan and the RAG Assembler the rest of these programs are just demos. If you want the full featured program is worth (\$15.00) suggested to:RAG Software; 1032 Chantenay

Drive;Gloucester;Ontario;Canada.K1C 2K9
ENDIT ENDIT ENDIT ENDIT

WOW! Thanks PAGS / WOW! Thanks PAGS

Dream Disk Utility
INITIALIZER

Fersonal note: Steve had suggested I review copiers but that has already been done and even though i was a science teacher for about thirty years i still find neat little tables comparing Copier A to Copier B and so on ad infinitum verrry borrring. Perhaps that is why I find it boring.

Bluegnass 99 ens & W. WARd.

I think that my dream disk utility should have some of the following qualities.

All number entries should be in decimal. I can do HEX in my head but it is not my favorite form of recreation; besides computers were supposed to make things easierRight?

Should be able to ARC and SQUEEZE files. And of course do the opposite: de-ARC and un-SQUEEZE.

Should have a programmable initializer.Just what is a programmable initializer? I'm glad you asked.To me it means that only the tracks and sectors you input at the prompt would be initialized.Use assembly or some scheme to write protect what you have just initialized so that the next program it encounters will not overwrite it.Let this utility use assembly or some other scheme to more tracks and more sectors.VOILA.Logical disks.I have been asking everybody for about a year now why we can't partition DSDD disks into three or four logical disks.Finally a programmer of the status of Bud Wright says he thinks it could be done.

Next I would like to see a four or five times increase in the speed of initialization.

Sector Editor

My dream sector editor would be able to read and write any sector or sectors even the "funny" numbered ones to or from any drive.

The capability of physically erasing any sector or sectors. I don't mean delete which only changes sectors 0,1 and FDR or FAT. I mean physically erase it that the sector is blank not all 1's or all 0's or E5E5....

The capability of doing a sector dump to printer a lar "DISKFIXER" only better

Of course the capability of editing sectors in ASCII or HEX and writing back to the same or different sectors; even different drives

DISK CATALOG

Do the usual:Filenames; Number of sectors per file; File type: DF, DV, IF, IV, and FGM; Number of bytes per file; Type of loader ordinarily required.

WRITE A NEW LOADER WHICH WILL: Load basic/Extended Basic including IV 254 and DV 163.

Load text:DV 80,DF 80 or DF 128.

Load E/A 5 or E/A 3

Dump to printer if Y from

Y/N?

DISK LIBRARY

Do two printouts if requeested.

Une identicle to disk catalog to dump to printer if wished.

The other more conventional except for the extra information on the disk catlog.

FINALLY AND MOST
IMPORTANT.WRITE A PROGRAM WHICH WILL
AUTOMATICALLY HANDLE IDENTICLE FILE
NAMES.I know any of you who has ever
tried to use a catalogging program has
had the same frustation I have.What if
there are say a dozen identicle file
names?Then you will wind up with one
file with that name; the last one
entered.Someone needs to write a short
program which will record them as
FILE1,FILE2,FILE3.... and so on.
If such a program already exists I
would like to hear about it.I might
even buy a copy.

TRACK EDITOR

The capability to write or read any track to or from any drive.

The capability of editing the track in HEX or ASCII.

Approximately eight or ten track tutorials a la' Will McGovern's "DISKHACKER" in XB.

FILE COPIERS

Yes I know there are file copiers galore but next to initializers they are the slowest thing on the TI.If we can have a bit map sector copier why not a bit map or some other assembly file copier? I know this won't fit on one SSSD disk. I was thinking of five or maybe six DSSD's.

APPENDIX

I know that I already have all these utilities but they on separate disks in different disk holders.Stopping everything for a half hour while you for a particular one gets to be such a pain that you finally give up.And I still wouldn't have the increase in speed for initialization and file copying. I will probably never see this utility.I am not that good an assembly programmer and those who are all seem to be programming for clones.And no I can't solve the problem by copying everything to one disk.A lot of these utilities have to reside on separate disks. This sounds like it would make a good project for the McGoverns.I was going to be fancy if I ever had anything to do with such a program and call it THE SKONK WORKS or THE DISC WURKS.But we are all grown up now so I would just call it THE DISK WORKS.

Thanks! Doit. I Like it

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22

Time does not move in a linear fashion: it is winter for several years, and summer lasts about fifteen minutes. Or so it seems. Here we are in September already, and most of the things I planned to do in July are still undone. Like most of you, I tried to take a small vacation from the computer during the months when it is supposed to be too nice to stay indoors, but every time I decided to go sailing or biking it always seemed to be some season other than summer! At the time I am writing this, Chicago is down several hundred degree days compared with the same time span for the past several years.

Ah well, if Labor Day is here, can the Faire be far behind? More about that a little later, but first a quick recap of the summer for the Chicago TI Users Group. If you are reading this it means that our new Editor, Tony Zlotorsynski, has risen to the challenge of creating the &Chicago &TImes, our fine newsletter. This is in addition to his other duties for the Group. He will have to have the assistance and cooperation of the membership in order to turn out the quality newsletter that we all expect.

Summer had hardly begun when our Programming Contest closed. Tony is also our Programming Contest Chairman, and I don't want to restate all that I know that he is going to mention in the article that will be found elsewhere in the newsletter, so I will just apologize for not having gotten my entry in this year. But, hey, somewhere in our Library there MUST already be a program that will scroll your name down the screen, right?...

For our annual picnic, the weather cooperated to produce a perfect day at the lakeside, which lacked only a few more people to swell the ranks of those who came out and enjoyed themselves. Only about half of the people who signed up showed up, and that was a disappointment. It would have been better to have had more folks, but those that did turn up brought healthy appetites. After eight hours of picnic, I got to go home and have six more hours of our annual block party. I have not eaten another hot dog since that day!

One change that did not take place this summer was the naming of a new Membership Chairman. Jim Brooks, who has been ill for some time now, has reluctantly asked to be relieved of his duties, but as of this writing, no one has volunteered to take over for him. While Jim has performed above and beyond the call of duty, he feels that it is time to take a little rest, and we have to honor his request. This is a volunteer group, and in order to survive each of us has to be willing to shoulder some of the burden of running the organization. If you would like to donate a little time to keep this group on track, please get in touch with Jim, or with me. We will furnish you with everything you need to know about the job.

Now that it is September, it is time to think about who you will nominate for our annual service award, named in honor of Grant Schmalgemeier, who passed away last February. During the past several years a number of people have been selected by the membership to be recognized for their contributions to the CTIUG. This is not a measure of just the past year's participation, but rather a long-term achievement award. There is no set number of awards given out in a single year, but the past couple of years have seen three plaques presented. The awards are presented each year at the Faire Banquet.

Tryon Edwards once said, "If you would thoroughly know anything, teach it to others." It must be true, because I have learned a lot about TI-Writer through having spent most of the summer teaching my 87 year-old father how to use the program.

25

2

Like many of us, I had grown used to using one side of the keyboard, exclusively, such as FCTN-9 to reach the Command Line. My father lost his right arm a few years ago, and the use of the FCTN key for all but the shortest reaches is difficult, if not impossible for him. I had to relearn all of the commands that duplicate the FCTN commands using the CTRL key. In addition, his probing questions about the workings of the program led me to re-read the manual, and to seek other sources. All of this has resulted in a better understanding of the power of our best-known word processing program. And seeing it all anew through his eyes has reawakened my awe of, and respect for something that I had begun to take for granted. Thanks, Dad!

Speaking of someone who knows about teaching with the TI, Sr. Pat Taylor, BVM, has not yet received an offer for her daisy-wheel printer. If someone needs a printer for just word processing, not graphics, you can drop me a line. Sr. Pat would even be willing to swap the printer for some software that she doesn't already have. I will be glad to furnish the details to anyone who is interested, or you could write Sr. Pat herself.

And now on to the Faire! The 10th edition of the Chicago TI International World Faire will be less than two months away by the time you read this. Freparations have been going on since the end of the last Faire, and things are falling into place just as they should. If there are any major problems at this point, they are along the line of finding space for the extra tables that several vendors have requested. Several new vendors have expressed interest in coming to our show, and several former vendors are returning to the TI marketplace. Our reputation as &THE TI show stands us in good stead in these times of pressure from other machines and economic anxiety. The ability of our community to constantly come up with new hard- and software still astounds me. As long as there are people who are able to stretch the power, and therefore the lifespan of "Ol' Faithful," there will still be those of us willing to be loyal to it.

But all of this isn't going to happen by chance. Every year at this time we make an appeal for volunteers to work at the Faire, in every capacity, from move-in helpers, to ticket takers, to membership personnel, to library assistants, and all the stops in between. This year is no exception. Each year dedicated people step forward to help, and I hope that this year will be no exception, here, either.

What will be different this year will be the Faire Banquet. For the first time we are going to celebrate the successful conclusion of the Chicago TI International World Faire with a little costume party. Don't be put off by that title, it doesn't have to be an elaborate costume, just a creative one! Come as your favorite piece of software or hardware. A fancy hat should suffice, if you do a good job on it. Even if you don't want to play around, the Banquet will still be a great place to unwind at the end of the day. We will begin taking reservations and checks (for \$15 per person) at the September meeting. We sold out early last year, so please don't wait until the last moment to sign up.

Well, that's about the story of 'what I did on my summer vacation(?),' and I'm looking forward to seeing you all and hearing about your summers. Don't forget that the September meeting date was changed to the 12th, to avoid Labor Day. See you at the meeting! ^^^^^^^-Hal Shanafield

Public Message #1695 From:MICHAEL611 Sub:9600 baud To:All Date:08/23/92 Time:11:52:24am

Here is some information regarding 9600 baud modems and the TI/geneve use... you can use a 9600 baud modem with the TI and geneve. It will connect to all types of modems (and even some fax machines if using the rockwell modem chipset). more expensive modems are known as v.32 bis modems...that is. the CCITT's recommendation for async/sync communication at 9600 baud. of these modems support data compression pro tocols too. That means thatwhen con nected asynchronously to other v.32 bis/v.42 modems, they can apply a crunching algurithm with built in CRC codes and the recieving modem-can decode this at a fast rate, giving better throughput. his technique canboost speed up to 4 times the DTE speed (38,000 BPS) when the conneciton rate is actually only 9600 baud. The compression works best when interchanging text and repetitive data: it is useless for transferring binary files, esp. 8 bit files such as archived data. Most archived or ZIP'd data is already compressed, and the modem can't do much more to speed up the transfer, or compress it further...more...

(R)eply (N)ext (Q)uit Choice>N Public Message #1696 From:MICHAEL611 Sub:9600 cont To:All Date:08/23/92 Time:11:57:46am

There are some 2400 baud modems with the error correction supported, but only with a companion software program: The error correction in these modems is not done using the modem's firmware. The program does the compressin g and decompressing as the data is sent. Usually for most efficiency, this is done on a packet-send basis: only when 128 bytes of data at a continualspeed is sen t can the compression work it magic. And then, it is usually durin g and XMODEM transfer, where extra CRC characters in the data stream or flow control characters (like X-on and x-off) often get misinterpreted as data, or those characters appearing in the transfer stream can accidentally get misinterpreted a s flow control characters. The Best deal is to get a HARDWARE based error corre ction modem, which does the transfer, flow contol, and error correction transparently to the host and remote The new 9400 baud modems, system. and most of the new 2400 /9600 fax modems do this. Don't buy an MNP modem unless it is in the HARDWARE, and does not need any support or translation from the host computer.Otherwise , a 9600 baud modem may seem like an extravagance, but I will tell you this: for file transfers, and instant screens, it will be the nex tmajor peripheral decision I will make within a year or so..if it is a good winter, then spring will 28 get a new modem for me.

Public Message #1618
From:Don168
Sub:Letter
To:MICHAEL611
Date:08/03/92 Time:11:46:59pm

Mike, in one of my previous messages, I said that I would share a small part of a letter which I received from Sr. Fat Taylor. I want to share this part only because it is so relevant to what we have been talking about: "...One of the things that I love about TI is that I think it and the User Groups have a valid comment to offer the world, however To me the combination small we are. says that one can use a tool that is not the latest or most expensive or even the most efficient technology and make it work because people are willing to give of themselves and their time to work together for the common good nation- ally and internationally. It disclaims the myth that bigger is always better, that name brands and the "in thing" are essential to achieve goals. I think the TI/Geneve community has a special gift, that on a small level, speaks of what could be if more people were willing to work world wide for the common good of the whole world. To me the TI speaks of hope. It is interesting to hear people who have abandoned it speak of User Groups for other computers as they feel the loss of people willing to help each other to make Money cannot buy the friendships f it work. ormed in this common effort. I thin k it is to ev-eryone's benefit to accent wha is shared rather than maximize the differences. By and large, the TIers do that. I always feel sad when someone gives up theirs simply because of the status of the name brand, the "in" thing, what— ever... rather than because of a need to do something it cannot do." <cont.>

(R)eply (N)ext (Q)uit Choice>N

Public Message #1619 From:Don168 Sub:Cont. To:MICHAEL611 Date:08/03/92 Time:11:57:11pm

Interesting observations, eh Dr.
Froglegs??? kdj

(R)eply (N)ext (Q)uit Choice>N

Public Message #1620 From:Don168 Sub:Tone Generator To:All Date:08/03/92 Time:11:58:08pm

Dave Connery has made me aware of a man who may still have a tone generator for sale. It is used, but the price is definitely right. If the sounds which it creates were compatible with what I am currently using, I would havepopped for it. If you are interested in getting something cheap, this is something that you may want to consider: Roland MT - 32 Sound Module.

\$150.00. Randy Swanson - (708)742-8511It may still be available... kdj

(R)eply (N)ext (Q)uit

Date: 07/29/92 Time: 11:24:18pm

Special thanks to John Johnson (#200) for recent TI uploads...Thanks a million. .the new files are in the TI section. Some files deserve more clarification.. the new TELCO YMODEM is a replacement for the T>YMODEM file on your Telco disk.This is an improved version of the YMODEM transfer, and I believe it will also work on a 9640. Although it isn't used on this BBS, it will in the near future. Please get it as soon as you can, as more and more BBS's are adopting this standard of transfer. While it won't replace the 128-byte XMODEM protocol, the 1024-byte YMODEM protocol allows more efficient use of phone lines, especially in packet-switched networks such as Starlink and FC-Pursuit, SprintNet and Tymnet. The XBTRK program allows "Boot tracking" in your extended BASIC programs. Have you wondered why most programs can only run from drive #1 without modifica A program which uses various sub-programs, modules, and files on disk must find where the files are located. In the past, the volume method (e.g. "DSK.VOL.") had to be used, such as the way Multiplan gets it's help files. Doot Trackingallows a program to find out what drive it is in without searching the system for a catalog in each drive, or using the volume approach to file searches. It allows you to run the main program from any disk drive, and the main programthen calls a subroutine which finds out which disk it is in by looking into the video RAM peripheral Access Block filename parameter.

Public Message #1654 From: MICHAEL611 Sub:tasks (Reply to #1647) To: Don 168 Date: 08/14/92 Time: 01:09:28am

M-DOS can run on a 4/a provided:there is suf ficient memory for it.

I would say at least 120k in some sort of memory device (like RAMBO ramdisk or 4a/memex) to accomodate the memory management routines, the XOP vectors and the command. line interpreter. MDOS depends heavily upon the XOP vectors for execution of much of the internal disk, video and memory functions, as well as keyboard and joystick access. XOP's are located anywhere in memory, but their VECTORS must be located in the low ROM memory (from the RESET interrupt all the way up to >03FF). Also, a memory scheme allowing the programs to load at different address (most MDOS programs load at >0400 and in the 99/4A that is ROM not RAM) If it were me, I would put a switch in the console, labeled "99/4A" mode, and "99/5" mode, or similar. in "99/5" mode. the console ROM, video, sound, GROM would all get mapped out of main memory, and RAM would get mapped in. The RAM would of course be pre-loaded at system power up with all of the nec essary start-up code to load a DOS into memory and run it. After that, it is only a matter of installing a 9938 video chip and a RAVE keyboard interfa ce...the old CRU keyboard scan should be kept, as it will make all 99/4a programs compatible.

Changing the mapping in the console is a big task..that is why the new 4a motherboard by bud mills is

NO CARRIER /- 708 ATDT8620182,,,4444444444

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Written by: Art Gibson

439 W. Rockwood St. Rockwood, TN 37854 615-354-1931

1...Minimum system requrements:

TI99/4A console 32k RAM 1 SSSD disk drive Printer The Letter News LOTTOR

2...First things first:

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, read all the documentation.

Make a backup of the original disk so if you change something by mistake it can be restored.

Change the file named NLDEFAULTS to suit your requirements. This file is automaticly loaded from the boot drive when the program is executed.

Create a text file to print using the Newsletter Editor, TI-Mriter or the Funnelweb editor.

Run the Newsletter Printer, select 1 (Print) and enter the correct filename.

3...To load and run:

From Extended Basic - DSK1.LOAD
From Editor/Assembler - DSK1.UTIL1
From TI-Writer - DSK1.UTIL1

4...About the program:

This program will print a newsletter or document in one or two columns either in pica and/or condensed print. The printer format is:
80 characters maximum per line for 1 column pica.
40 characters maximum per line for 2 column pica.
136 characters maximum per line for 1 column condensed.
68 characters maximum per line for 2 column condensed.

Graphics can be included in the printout provided the file to print is a TI-Artist instance file. Graphics are printed as one column only. One, two, or three graphics can be printed across the page (see .61, .62, .63, .6R commands). The program checks the graphics files for width and will issue an error if they are too wide to print across the page. Maximum width is 60. To determine if the graphics will fit you can run the program and use VIEW or load the instance file into an editor and add the first value on the first line of each file.

When the first character on a line is a period, the formatter considers it to be a command line. Only one command can be on a line. The print defaults are pica one column and fill. The commands may be given in upper and/or lower case. If the program does not recognize a dot command then it is

ignored and the program considers it to be a comment line.

The footer and header text is always printed in pica one column with margins 4,72. Bold or other effects can be specified if desired. The page number symbol if defined by .PS is replaced with the current page number.

Line spacing (.LS) has been provided so the program can be used to also print letters, essays, reports, and other documents. The value following the command is one less than the number of blank lines to be printed. When printing in two columns, you must see that the print will be alligned correctly.

If anyone needs help using this software or finds a problem don't hesitate to call or write.

FAIRWERE!

Art Gibson 439 W. Rockwood St. Rockwood, TN 37854 615-354-1931

KTOWN 99 ens

PRINTING NOTES:

The manual is printed with the: itext formatter in FUNNELWEB. It is: printed on 8 1/2 × 11 paper ini condensed print on both sides. To! do this you must print the "/1"! ifile on one side, then remove the: spaper from the printer, turn it: lover and reinsert it to print !"/2" file of that section. Be sure! ito leave an extra sheet on both: lends for use by the printer. will give you a nice book type: Imanual for use as you program. The manual may also be printed by:

The manual may also be printed by printing all of one side first then print all of the other side.

Good luck, Art

Wish I had more Roam

A Visit with the Tigercub

Walter Ward

We are driving through a quiet residential street in the section of Columbus known as Whitehall. We see a small brick house with a large maple in the front for shade and a somewhat overgrown evergreen hedge.

The man who answers the door is about 6'2'', medium build, medium complexion with a full head of hair which is mostly gray. His manner and everything about him suggest gentleman in the old fashioned sense. We are taken to his computer room which is small and dominated by an 8×33 table which occupies almost a quarter of the room.Piled all over the table are disks in boxes and other computer paraphenalia.They are also piled under the table and on the floor.Shelves extend to the ceiling all around the room. They are filled with computer books, magazines and boxed newsletters, etc. Several filing cabinets are similiarily loaded. Sitting in the window sill are his wife's African violets which she has difficulty squeezing through to water due to the clutter.

Our brown eyed host and his charming Japanese wife make us welcome.

"My biography? Let's see.I was born in Minnesota in 1923.I wound up in the Army in World War II.I ended up in Japan in 1945 just after the surrender in the 27th Army Division.I transferred to Gen. MacArthurOs Honor Guard Company.I took my discharge in Japan in 1946 in order to go to work for the Army as a Civil Service employee.I married a Japanese girl in 1957.I returned to the U.S. with wife and baby daughter in 1959.My daughter is now married, a registered nurse and has two sons.I also have a son who graduated from The Ohio State University and who now works in insurance.

My hobbies? I like to fish and my annual fishing trip to Minnesota is coming up in July. It will also be the fiftieth reunion of my high school class. I like to garden but ailments are making that more and more difficult. I have a greenhouse full of cactus plants. I like country music. I used to collect military medals and decorations but that became too expensive. I used to play the harmonica.

When my son was sixteen he decided he wanted to be an engineer. He ended up with a degree in advertising and now works as an insurance adjustor.I decided if he was going to be an engineer he should know something about computers.Knowing absolutely nothing about computers; we went shopping. He picked the TI-99/4A because he liked the feel of the keyboard. I have never regretted that decision.It turned out that my son was too interested in sports and girls, cars and girls, and girls and girls to take any interest in the computer but I became fascinated by it.

I taught myself to program by starting with the "blue book" and other books that came with the computer and by translating the Microsoft Basic in David H. Ahl's books of computer games to TI Basic.Within a year I had written about ninety programs. At that time the computer world seemed to be engaged in a conspiracy to ignore the TI-99/4A.I scanned every computer magazine on the newsstands and never found a mention of the TI or an advertisement for any TI product. Finally I did find one small ad and sent for the catalog. The company promptly went out of business!But their catalog had contained asmall ad from the old International Users Group_which had started out as the first TI user group and had been converted by La Fara into a business, selling public domain programs for three dollars each. I began buying and swapping programs from the IUG.

About that time I made contact with a few local users and we started a user group in Columbus. This also brought me into contact with some wheeler-dealers who wanted me to go into parntnership with my ninety programs and their one or two programs. It was mainly to get them off my back that I decided to start Tigercub Software on my own.

Since I thought my programs were no better than the best of the public domain being peddled by the IUG, I set my price at \$3.00_others were charging three or four times as much, and at the time I didn't know how poor some of their programs were. At that price I couldn't afford the advertising rates of 97'er Magazine (I didn't know that most of their ads were run on credit, and the 99'er never got paid!) so I started mailing my Tips from the Tigercub to about two hundred user groups as a promation idea.

Texas Instruments was being hurt, in the advertising wars, by allegations that few programs were available for their computer (because they had discouraged third-party competion). So they had published a deluxe quality catalog listing of every TI program they knew of (which was mostly everything in the IUG public domain library) and mailed it to every registered user.

Texas Instruments was also actively promoting user groups and had appointed a user group coordinator_I think his name was Ed Weiss(author's note_Ed Weist_source_Ron Albright and others) He visited our user group, along with programmer John Phillips, and demonstrated the newest TI software-Hopper and an unfinished FORTH.I cornered him after the meeting and asked if they intended to republish that software catalog. He said they were planning to, and definitely wanted to list all my programs. The next day, I mailed him a copy of my catalogand copies of all my programs. A week later the ax fell_Texas Instruments announced that they were abandoning the TI-99/4A!I had missed the chance to have my advertising mailed, at no cost, to a million users_at a time when programs were still scarce and I was offering ten times as many as anyone else, at be far the lowest price!

Such is life."

The above is taken practically verbatum from a personal letter from Jim Peterson to the author.

RANDOM QUOTES

Why Tigercub? TIger because i was writing for the TI and cub because I was writing small programs.

How many programs have you written? 250 plus the Nuts 'n Bolts. I have never owned or written for any other computer except the TI.Pet peeves? Too many to mention. The biggest faults of the 99/4A? The twenty-eight column screen. They could just as easily have given us forty and the fact that strings can only be stored in the 12K of console ram. This is a little known weakness but a big one!

My wife who is sixty-four years of age somehow does not look nearly that old. She speaks a language she sincerely believes is English. Ater thirty-five years I have learned to understand some of it.

I like brain games and I think programming is fun!Hard work? Sure but fun!I freely admit that I am a technoklutz.Irwin Hott says that on several occasions he has been able to help Jim by changing disk drives and performing other maintenance chores.To appreciate this you must realize that Irwin is blind.

What is Jim Peterson's outstanding personality trait? Everyone seems to agree that he goes out of his way to help out. That he is a hard worker. Jim told Irwin Hott that he was going to take 1500 disks to Lima. That boggled Irwin's mind. Irwin said he could not conceive of the amount of work involved in copying 1500 disks to sell in two days.

MY TOOLBOX

To a dedicated BBS hopper one of his most important tools is his terminal emulator program. I have used Telco 2.3 for so long that I find myself hitting the wrong keys on the new improved MASS TRANSFER Version 4.5C.I will need to learn MASS TRANSFER all over again plus the changes in to fully test and customize a new BBS program I bought for a friend of mine. While not absolutely necessary in all cases more than one disk drive is a good idea and essential for some programs. Another necessity for dedicated downloaders is a good supply of initialized disks so that you don't run out in the middle of a session.

OK we have downloaded some files so now what?Well chances are that are archived or archived and squeezed both. What does this mean in plain English?An archived file is several files combined into one which occupies less disk space. On the TI they are usually DF128 files.If a file is arced and squeezed it occupies still less disk space and has probably saved all of us buard hoppers many many bucks from (Ma Bell). Sorry Steve! Now that we have our arced and/or squeezed files we need a utility to de-arc and unsqueeze them. Barry Traver wrote a very early version but Barry Boone did such a brillant job of implementing the Lempol-Ziv-Welch algorithm that everyone who is serious about this business of getting free software over the telophone lines uses Boone's version.This alone should earn him his twenty bucks!An editorial aside if I

may. It seems that almost every time I read a newsletter or log on a board everyone is urging us to pay our fairware authors. It seems to me that if fairware authors want to get paid they should furnish current addresses. I, for one, am getting tired of having letters returned with not known at this address or similiar wording. End of editorial.Next person in line can have the stump.Back to our review.Don't write to me about the spelling of these characters names. I can go through several books and get several different spellings. In cases like this I try to find the spelling used most often and use it.how does this work you ask?Basically it works by assigning several files to one filename. FileA for example might have File1 File2 File3 File4 and File5 all under one heading.Archiver 3.03!I don't think any of us could do what we do without it.There are also versions for the Geneve and there is a hard disk version. An attitude that is almost essential to this pursuit is a willingness to share. Not copyrighted commercial programs but fairware whose authors usually ask that if you cannot use the program to please pass it around. Maybe someone else in your group can.

OTHER TOOLS

There are of course other tools in a computer fanatic's tool box. Most of us probably take favorite disk manager for granted. I have been using DM1000GK3 for a number of years now. Of course there are other managers I could use even the new DM1000V5. But DM1000GK3 is an old friend. I am comfortable with it.

As for word processors there are so many clones of TI Writer that you can almost have your choice. Funnel Web seems to be a very popular one.Personally I use Art Green's TI Writer Version 4.2.It can loaded through Extended Basic and has different colored screens for the editor and formatter. A simple but very helpful idea. Somebody else may have thought of this first but Art Green actually did it.

SECTOR EDITORS

Again there are so many of these aroun that you can have your pick. I find myself booting Advanced Diagnostics as often as not. I like its find file feature.Others like Disk Utilities; others DISK+AID and on and on. I am coming to the end of my alloted space and each of these topics is worthy of a full article.

If you would like to see some topics covered in more detail write to me Walter Ward Jr.;c/o Bluegrass 99 Computer Society; P.O.Box 1237; Lexington, KY 40590.

Programing Contest Re-View.

XB MISCELANY #15 By Earl Raguse

CONVERSION AND OTHER FILE FUN

wondered what would happen if I used my previously mentioned (Feb 92 ROM) program to convert a Display CONVERT Variable 80 (DV80) file to an Internal Fixed 20 (IF20) file. I deliberately wrote a DV80 file with quite a bunch of long words and a lot of short words. I wanted to see what happened when the file was manipulated by the CONVERT pgm. 44 I first made the file with an 80 column width, then 40 columns. That file is included here as TESTFILE. Have you ever tried to write sensible statements using only 1, 2 or 3 letter words. You can't even say "See Spot run". Its a lot easier when you use longer words, at least for me it is.

What I intended to do was to convert the DV80 file to a IF20 file, but, since one can't look at a IF20 file with TIW/FW, I then intended to convert it back to DV80 to see what havor I had wreaked.

Ok, so what happened when I tried to convert the file? Well, for one thing, I found out, the hard way, that you can not use XB's LINPUT statement to read Internal files, its just plain not allowed, I don't know why, but that is what the manual says, and its right, you can't.

Well Ι couldn't make the latter conversion. That's when reading and found out about the LINPUT limitation. So I changed LINFUT to INPUT instead and used an IF40 file, that seemed to work, sort of, trouble now was that parts of original 40 column file were lost when it got back to DV80.

That turned out to be because I had put commas in the original DV80 file. INPUT sees the comma it stops reading, because a comma is used as a record separator. So why did it not then read the part after the comma on the next read, like in a DATA statement. I don't know, but it read the next record. DV and DF files, each line is a record. If a sentence is longer than one line, it is a multiple record. If you want to read two variables in one statement, you must provide two variables to put them in. That is impractical here, one never because how many common them a minht he in

the next file. Also what would happen if there are no commas? The best solution is to get rid of the commas, or stick to Display type files and use LINFUT.

What happens to the record length? will remember that with fixed length records the controller will pad out the record if it is not of max length. what happens if the input file record length is longer than the output file I thought it would just record length. truncate the record, but no, it does not, if it is a Display type file, just writes the overflow as another A word record, nothing is lost. divided whenever the specified record length is reached, just like XBASIC program listing on the screen. However, if it is an Internal type file. and the record is too long, it crashes.

I originally did not think this would happen, so I tried to avoid a problem by writing into the program a test for input records longer than the output record length. If found, the record was broken into parts of output length, without regard as to whether it was breaking up words. Then these were written to the output file as Well this did not seem to work records. too well, probably because, I was trying to outwit the disk controller. In the end I did nothing, and just let the controller worry about it, except you must use common sense with Internal

Sorry that I am out of Room, oh, oh, Forgot to say what All of the Prizes are,

1992 TI99/4A & GENEVE PROGRAMING CONTEST .

CHICAGO STILE !

FIRST PLACE WINNER is GENE HITZ .

MILWAUKEE.WI.

program name : CONVERTO

#2 is

WALTER WARD

WILLAMSPORT KY.

program name: DUMP

#3 is

EARL RAGUSE

HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA.

program name is : LOAD, CONVERT, MULTIPRINT .

#4 is

NOSNHOL NHOL

CEDAR RAFIDS, IOWA

program name is : MARSGAME

#5 is

VIC STEERUP

SCHAUMBURE, IL.

programs names is LOAD, DSK_LABELR

#6 is

ROBERT PETTER

UNIVERSITY PK., ILL.

program name is : MUD

All of the entrys will get a copy of it all. The top will get \$ 20.00 and more ! CAN'T FIND MY PAPERS ON WHAT PRIZES ARE . (THERE NOT BAD.)

ONE MORE ITEM. THERE WAS ONE WINNER OF THE 1991
PROGRAMING CONTEST THAT DID NOT GET THE DISKS.
HE WILL RECIEVE A COPY OF THIS YEARS AND LAST YEARS
AND THE 1990 ENTRYS TOO. THINGS WILL GET BETTER!

IN CLOSING; THERE WILL BE HAND NUMBERING OF THE PAGES. AND WRITEING ALL OVER THE PLACE. IF YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS NEWS LETTER IS ALL ABOUT. THEN YOUR A BETTER MAN THEN I.

HAVE FUN WITH YOUR COMPUTER! ENJOY THE NEWS.

ANY LETTERS & OR WHATEVER ARE WELCOME .
THIS IS YOUR SEPTEMBER 1992 NEWSLETTER

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

First Class Mail

Address Correction Requested





Our group meets monthly from Sept. Sept. Saturday of the month. Meeting times are from 1 to 3 pm. Meetings are held at the St. Nicolai Church 3002 N. Kedzie Chicago, II.

Annual Dues is \$21.00. Overseas members please add \$3.00