VEWBLET EDITOR

ANTHONY WA WALLACE

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EXCHANGES ARTICLES

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ITIS OUR NOVEMBER 1992 ヘTIノ CHICAGO TIMES / : : \ FAIRE the ISSUE.

TO TRICK TIME YOURSELF OF TREAT 1992 THE CHICAGO'S FAIRE COMPUTER

NOW. IB THERE ********

, POSTAGE

60657 4 A COMPUTER USERS GROUP

CHOCAGOS

Home

Pearson

Whats in it? Oh MAR. I was hopeing you woun't ask.

Pg 3 Ballot

The Prez Sez Pg 4 Hal Shanafield Membership News & Views

Meeting Minuts Pg 9 than 24 = 4 Mounths

Victor Steerap

From old what his NAME. (The Editor)
Pg 34-35-36 Me, Tony Z.

From Jim Peterson
of Tiger Out Software
Pg 25 thru 62

. The Faire Flyer Pg 32-33

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All over the place. & Pg63



I WAS told that this is A MUST. by Lengal Beag

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 subscribers and advertisers. Subscriptions are free with membership to the Chicago T: 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 articles Comments and letters are welcome. We also accept submission of original articles and programs.

PRESIDENT:
1. DON WALDEN
2. NOMINEE
VICE-PRESIDENT:
1. GEORGE LEMPEOTIS
2. NOMINEE
SECRETARY:
L. VIC STEERUP
2. NOMINEE
FREASURER:
I. IRV LEVINSON
2. NOMINEE

Place an X next to a candidate's name, or write
n a name for an office and then place an X
NOTE PLEASE !
ALL THE BALLOTS THERE WILL BE COUNTED AT THE
DECEMBER 5,1992 MEETING .
edotors note: If you are not going to be at
THE DECEMBER MEETING, AND YOU MAKE A COPY OF THIS BALLOT. BE SURE THAT YOU ONLY MAKE ONE COFY.
(WE ALL KNOW THE CHICAGO WAY TO VOTE,
"VOTE EARLY , VOTE OFTEN !") WELL !
IT'S NOT TRUE. ONE VOTE pr MEMBER !
ALL VOTEING MUST BE A MEMBER. AND !
IF YOU ARE MAILING IN YOUR BALLOT.
BE SURE TO MARK YOUR MAIL That IT IS INSIDE A BALLOT. SIGN YOUR LETTER WITH YOUR NAME AND
TEMPERSHIP NUMBER AND NOT DICK YOUR DALLOT THE

ANY MAIL-INS VOTES CAN BE MAILED TO THE

EDITOR OR TO THE P.O. Box. THEY WILL BE OFENED

ONLY AT THE MEETING BY THE JUDGES.

, 1004 CEDARCTEST ,

*** NOT TO THE ----

SECRETARY, VIC STEERUP

mark it "BALLOT"

SCHAUMBURG, ILL.

PHILLUT FUR 1772 ELECTIVE OFFICES

THE PREZ SEZ...

Let me begin this month by apologizing for the lateness of last month's newsletter. It was due to several factors, but primarily it was the acquisition of equipment to allow us to produce the newsletter by ourselves, thereby saving the considerable printer's costs. The newsletter is the largest single item in our yearly budget, and we are now able to save approximately two-thirds of its cost. The largest single item now is the postage for the newsletter. There is no acceptable way to lessen that cost. We will continue to send it First Class, even though sometimes receive less than First Class treat int from the various post offices that handle our mail!

that we use for the newsletter. We have been using, and continue to use, 20-1b. paper. If pw has a slightly "slick" look and feel to it, that results solely from the process we now employ. It is a cold process, which utilize rollers which press the paper as it passes be them. We have begun to look for a paper which will not have that feel, however. For the present, we will just have to live with it.

At the October meeting of the Chicago TI Users Group nominations were received for all elective offices. Don Walden was nominated for President, George Lempeotis was nominated for ! President, Victor Steerup was nominated for Secretary, and Irv Levinson was nominated for Treasurer. A ballot will be printed somewhere in this newsletter. If you wish to write in a candidate you may do so. You may xerox the ballot if you do not wish to cut up your newsletter. All ballots should be marked BALLOT in the lower left-hand corner, and should be sent to our Secretary, Vic Steerup, 1004 Cedarcrest, Schaumburg, IL 60193. They will be opened and counted at the December meeting during the election. Write-in candidates must be members in good standing, of course.

Let's turn our attention to the event that we have been looking forward to for the last year: the 10th Chicago International World Faire! Once again it is Faire time, and it is going to be exciting. The theme of this year's Faire is "The Renaisance of the TI99-4A," and it will live up to its billing. The new hardware and software that will be debuting this year show that our computer is not only alive and well, but entering a phase that will see it become more powerful than anyone could have dreamed.

After what seems like a period of consolidation, an explosion of new products for the TI and the 9640 is igniting a re-sirth of interest in our community. The introduction of the new SCSI controller for hard-and floppydisks, the tape drive that functions as a back-up and a primary drive, the new version of a music program that allows keyboard creation of MIDI files, and the fax card that allows your TI to function as a fax machine are but some of the items that show that the programmers and technical wizards in this community are among the leaders in the world of computer innovation. We take a back seat to no one when it comes to the introduction exciting new products that make our favorite machine a powerful and productive tool. And all of this is at a reasonable cost. unlike some other computer systems, where costs skyrocket and sloppy programming are the norm.

While the selling floor will be a hub of activity, the seminar room will be the focus for the exchange of information that Chicago is justly famous for. Plan to attend at least some of the lectures and demonstrations, where authors of software, and manufacturers of hardware show off their products. Unlike the vendors' tables, where it can sometimes be difficult to get close enough to see and hear the products being explained, the seminars offer a more relaxed setting for questions and answers. There are more speakers this year than ever before, so be sure to check the schedule to avoid missing someone you really want to hear.

Although Saturday is the day of the actual Faire itself, don't forget that Friday is the day that everything really begins. The CTIUG sponsors a Hospitality Suite starting at noon and lasting all day. It is a great opportunity to meet and greet old friends and vendors alike. It is strictly informal, but demonstrations of new items are constantly occurring throughout the day.

Let's not forget about the Social Mixer, starting on Friday at 8 p.m. The cost is only five dollars, which covers admission and a wide selection of hors d'beuvres. A cash bar will also be available. Meet visitors who have just arrived and who have lots of new things to show and talk about.

And after you have bought a bagful of new toys, what better end to a successful day could there be than to join with your friends at our annual Faire Banquet? The Cocktail Hour will get everyone in the proper mood for the fun of a mini costume party. Come as your favorite piece of I hardware or software, or just come as you are but come! If you haven't already made your reservations, you may be disappointed, as so may were last year, so con't out it off. Call me (708) 864-8644 so you won't miss out on the fun. The Grant Schmalgemeier Award for service to the CTIUG will be presented at the Banquet, as will the John Birdwell Prize. This award is presented annually at the Banquet, by the Trustees of the John Birdwell Memorial Fund, and symbolizes the highest level of achievement in the world-wide Ti community.

That's about it for this month. A lot of hard work has gone into making this the best Faire we have ever had. Don't miss out on all the fun and excitement. See you at the Faire!

November 1992 issue ;

MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND VIEWS

BY JAMES BROOKS

Hello there all of you TI'ers and "Clones". I know that many of you work also with "IBM Clones" including myself. Many of our TI's are getting old beyound replacement "since TI stopped making them).

By the time you get this issue, the Faire will be underway for the 10th year. Since Beery Millier has bought out the M-DOS from the now defunct Myarc, things may start cetting better for the Geneve owners to continue to better their machines. I bought one in 1987 when it was a "New and insp:rational machine" to upgrace the old "TI99/4A. Myarc made many promises that never were fulfilled, even with the HFDCC (whose clock ticks off 10 minutes for every 40 seconds of actual time. That was not repaired for many, myself included. I ran my board without a clock because it would not work with the MPB or the . Triple Tech Clock. So I am looking foreward to the success of Beery Miller and Don Walden, who has agreed to repair Myarc products for a nomimal cost (repairs do cost unless you can do it yourself and aquire the necessary replacement parts).

Last month was the first Newsletter by our newest editor and most of the members got them on time. The deadline for the Newsletter articles is still the 10th of each month. We are looking for more articles and programs to fill the Newsletter each month being contributed by our members. There are still quite a few things on the drawing board for the TI and the GENEVE. The company in Milwaukee with Don Walden is taking over the GENEVE and Myarc repairs. Watch Micropendium for announcements.

There is an IBM library and a 9640 SIG "(Special Interest Group) started for the Geneve owners. On 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 them 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.

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

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

editors note: I just got to correct JIM,
THE DEADLINE TO GET ANY ARTICLES IN TO THE
NEWSLETTER IS ONE WEEK AFTER THE MEETING.;;
UNLESS IT'S FOR THE SUPER SUMMER ISSUE!
Tony.

Sorry! This is a must.

I got 4 Mounths of Meeting Minutes.

Has to go in Next.

MAY #1

The Executive Board Meeting of the Chicago T.I. User's Group started at 11:08 A.M. Saturday May 2nd. Present were Jim Deards, Irv Levinson, Vic Steerup, Dave Connery and Hal Shanafield.

MINUTES - Due to the early date of this month's meeting, the published minutes in the Newsletter were not available for review. They will be corrected and approved next month.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Irv Levinson

- A) BALANCE We have a good bank balance, all bills as of last month have been paid. Income from renewals and new members is still coming in.
- B) OUTLOOK It looks like we will have enough to hold the Picnic and, of course, the Faire.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Hal Shanafield

- A) FAIRE UPDATE Brochures and reservation cards were received from Claudette Conway, our liason with Holiday Inn of Elk Grove, the hotel we will be holding the Faire at. They are available from any Board member. Be sure to reserve your room early, as the Hotel is holding a Block of rooms for us.
- B) PICNIC A Picnic sign-up sheet is at the front table in the meeting hall, next to the meeting sign-in sheet. Please sign up, and list the number of guests that will attend, so enough food and crinks can be purchased. The Picnic will be held Sat. July 11, at the Lighthouse Park, a.k.a. the "Northeast Park" or the "Deering Estate Park", depending on what map you are looking at!
- C) MEETING DATE CHANGE There is a Wedding scheduled for the first Sat. of June, so the Meeting will be held the second Sat. of June, the 13th.

- D) NEWSLETTER We are having trouble with some Post Offices refusing to acknowledge that our Newsletter is First Class Mail. They have given us every excuse in the book for non-delivery, despite the Newsletter having "First Class Mail" printed above the postage. We may have to start using preprinted white envelopes to mail the Newsletter.
- E) SPECIAL NOTE John Bartels reports on the BBS that his wife Sandy, our past President and Faire Chairman, won 4 Blue ribbons at the Kendall County art show for her oil paintings.

Don Walden arrived at 11:25.

F) LIMA - We have several members who will be going to the Lima Faire, Sat. May 16th., and will be bringing back lots of goodies with them. A set of EOG's will be sent as a door prize. Contracts will also be sent for Vendors who will want to sign up for our November Faire.

COMITTEE REPORTS

- A) EVENTS Today's demo: The new Horizon Mouse by Mike Maksimik.
- B) AUCTION DONATIONS Several Modems and a monitor were donated the the Club for the Auction. Bring in your unused equipment to the next meeting

MEMBERSHIP - Jim Brooks

A) CHAIRMAN STATUS - Jim can't make it to the meetings, but has agreed to stay on as the Membership Chairman until someone takes over his position. This job involves tallying new members and renewals, and communicating with the newsletter editor, so the newsletters can be sent out. Someone give Jim a hand.

B) RENEWALS - We have three new members.
Preprinted post cards will be sent out to all
members who haven't renewed, asking why (forgot,
didn't know membership expired, etc.).

LIBRARY - Dave Connery

- A) TODAY'S SPECIAL: A new, improved MASS-TRANSFER, by Milwaukee Users Group Tim Tesh, with 40-80 col, ANSI graphics, X and Y batch modem. Will work with both the Chicago BBS and the Milwaukee BBS. One Dollar at the next two meetings.
- B) CATALOG Progress is continuing, with a target date of the Nov. Faire for availability. This is a big job. Give Dave a hand cataloging and running the disks in our Library.

NEWSLETTER - Bob Demeter -

- A) EDITOR STATUS: Bob would like someone to take over the job as Newsletter Editor. This is a big job. Someone give Bob a hand.
- B) ARTICLES: Any newsletter needs articles to publish! Send in any hints, tips, product reviews, or your own personal experiences using hardware/software. Jim Brooks has a BBS, too. Leave articles there, at 312-651-7252.
- C) Missing newsletters: Don Jones has had all missing newsletters reprinted, and will send them out to all members who are due them.

PROGRAMMING CONTEST - Tony Z. - Entries are arriving, still and will be judged during the summer break.

Mike Maksimik arrived at 12:25

C)IMPROVEMENTS: Jim moved, and Dave seconded the purchase of a modem that would automatically switch calls either to the BBS or an answering machine, so that the BBS and Hot Line could share the same phone line, lowering our expenses. It was approved by the poard.

George Lempeotis arrived at 12:40

FUBLICITY - Volume #3 of the Encyclopaedia of Graphics has been printed. Copies will be sent to Micropendium for review. A set of all three volumes will be on sale at the special rate of \$21 at the June meeting. Don moved, and Irv seconded, that we charge a new, lower rate from the vendors at the Lina Faire. It was passed by the Board.

The Board meeting adjourned at 12:46.

GENERAL MEETING -

The Officer's reports were given, and a copy of the April Minutes was available to members for viewing and corrections.

Brochures and regestration cards for the Nov. Faire were also available. Copies of Mass-Transfer were sold from the Library, and the DOS Library had a listing of shareware on CD-RON. The rate was \$2 on 5-1/4 and \$3 on 3-1/2 disk. with as many programs as would fit on them. Mike and Vic demo'ed three programs for the TIM-equipped TJ or Geneve. Y.A.P.P., the commercial high-resolution graphics program, using Mike's new Mouse driver which featured variable speed, accurate positioning and ease of use. They also showed the Roland Meier FRACTALS shareware program, which can create and view these unusal squiggly shapes in a dramatic range of colors, and the 80-col. version of FUNNELWEB, with its enhanced text editing and versitile Diskreview features. Mark Harms showed how to track down and change a defective SIMMS memory on a PC. and demo'ed VPIC, a GIF and PCX fileviewer and converter, which shows files on PC's as a slideshow, like TI-SLIDESHOW or T.A.S.S.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Victor Steerup, Secretary.

Time # June 1992 Peeting
The Executive Board Meeting of the Chicago T.I.
User's Group started at 1::18 A.M. Saturday June
13th. Present were Hal Shanafield, Tony
Zlotorzynski, Dave Connery, Irv Levinson, Jim

MINLTES - Jim moved, and Bob seconded accepting the Minutes of the April Neeting as published in the Newsletter. It was approved by the Board.

TREASURER'S REFORT - Irv Levinson

Deards, Vic Steerup, and Bob Knapik.

- A) BALANCE There is a good balance in the bank.
- B) OUTLOOK There is suffecient balance to pay the for printing the Newsletter, and the switching modem for the BBS-Hot Line.

PRESIDENT'S REFORT - Hal Shanafield

- A) FAIRE UPDATE Contracts have been sent out to all of last year's Vendors, and tables are available at a discount price until June 15th, after which they will be full price. Vendors who respond early will have their deposit checks held until September 15th.
- B) PICNIC A Picnic sign-up sheet is at the registration table. Only enough food will be purchased to cover the number of people who will be coming.
- C) MEETING DATE FOR SEPTEMBER Since the first Saturday of September is a holiday, Labor Day, the Meeting date will be held the second weekend, the 12th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS -

EVENTS

AUCTION - A number of items have already been donated, and members will be bringing more to today's meeting.

Tune#3

June #2

A) CHAIRMAN STATUS - Jim has agreed to stay on as the Membership Chairman until someone takes over his position. We are soliciting members to fill this spot.

B) RENEWALS - We had ten renewals last month, filling out our roster.

LIBRARY - Dave Connery - Today's Special: Gary Bowser's T.A.S.S. 2001, a true TI-Artist slideshow. with forward-

reverse, variable time viewing, and the ability to automatic-

ally scan different drives in any sequence for files. It also has a LINES-type intermission.

CATALOG - Progress is continuing, some members have sent in reviews of various disks. Give Dave a hand running the disks and sending in your review for the Library Catalog.

LIMA FAIR - Dave moved, and Vic seconded, the purchase of the videotapes of the meetings held at Lima, to be available from the Library. It was approved by the Board.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Tony I. will be our new editor, and asks for articles, hardware and software reviews for publishing. His phone is 708-755-0051 for voice and data. \bigstar

It was debated, with Dave moving, and Irv seconding, the CTIUG joining the Clearinghouse BBS for articles for the Newsletter. It was passed by the board.

George Lempeotis arrived at 12:01 Nick Tacovelli arrived at 12:02 Don Walden arrived at 12:08.

Note; X If I Am Not set-up For A B.B.S. there will be 110 data.

Tong

ADVERTISING RATES - The board determined the rate for ads placed in the Newsletter would be \$25 for a full page, and \$12.50 per half page. Persons. with a business or service they would like advertised should contact the Newsleter Editor. PROGRAMMING CONTEST - Tony Z. - Dave moved, and Tony seconded, the following as awards for best programs in the annual contest. First prize: \$20 cash, lyr. membership, all 5 manuals, copies of all entries. Second prize: 1 yr. membership, 3 of the 5 manuals, copies of all entries. Third prize: 1 yr. membership, any 2 of the 5 manuals, and copies of all entries. The manuals being: the three Encyclopaedias of Graphics, CTIUG Hardware manual, and the CTIUG TI-WRITER manual. It was approved by the Board.

Mike Maksimik arrived at 12:30.

BULLITEN BOARD - Mike Maksimik - The automatic modem switch is installed, and the BBS # is now the Hot Line, too.

PUBLICITY - The TI International World Faire signs are at the registration table, free to anyone to post.

The Board Meeting adjourned at 12:45.

GENERAL MEETING - The Auction was held, with much laughter and cheerfullness. Most of the donated equipment was sold, with some of the purchasers shaking their heads, wondering why they bought it. Comments such as "I need a spare _____ " cr "I'll see if I can figure some way to hook this up" were commonplace.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Victor Steerup, Secretary.

Sept #1

MINUTES 9-12-92

The Executive Board Meeting of the Chicago TI User's Group was called to order at 11:15 A.M. on Sept. 12th, 1992. Present were Hal Shanafield, Dave Connery, Jim Deards, Jim Brooks, and Vic Steerup. Printed copies of the Minutes of the May and June meetings were passed around and read at the start of the meeting, and approved by the Board.

TREASURER'S REFORT - Irv Levinson - We have deposit checks for the Faire in amount to cover our expenses. Irv is currently in the Orient on vacation and will handle this important task when he gets back.

OUTLOOK - We have to find some ways to cut expenses. One we eliminated was having the seperate BBS and Hot Lines, which were combined into one. A major expense is the printing of the Newsletter, which could be reduced if we printed it ourselves, with volunteer labor doing the collating, folding, stapling, etc. Another expense is the rental of our meeting room, which could possibly be reduced by finding another location that is either cheaper or free. Members attending meetings are currently asked for donations to defray this. We could try some sort of money-raising event. The Board doesn't want to raise dues, or decrease the frequency of the Newsletter publication. Call the BBS/Hot Line with your suggestions.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Hal Shanafield -

A) FAIRE UPDATE - We have had good, early response from most Vendors, and are actually ahead of schedule in registrations. Some new Vendors have signed up, and is should be interesting to see their wares. The Friday nite Mixer will be held either Poolside or in the Village Room, freeing up the main Meeting Hall for the Vendor's tables to be set up.

- B) VOLUNTEERS We need workers to man the admissions table, to help Vendors move in tefore the Faire and out afterwards, security, handle announcements, etc. There is a sign-up sheet at the registration table at regular Club meetings, or call into BBS/Hot Line if you can help. We also need systems to be donated for use by Vendors during the Faire.
- C)BANQUET Be sure to sign up early for the Banquet, as available talbles fill up early. Show up for only this event in costume, since it will be held on Halloween, as your favorite program or piece of TI equipment.
- D) GRANT B. SCHMALGEMEIER OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD Nominations are now being solicited for candidates who have shown outstanding service to the TI community.

 Wowski / He Spelled it Night!

Tony Zlotorzynski arrived at 11:40.

Jim Deards moved that the award be limited to being given only once per person, and annualy when possible, depending on suitable candidates' availability. It was seconded by Dave, and approved by the Board.

E) INSURANCE — Our Club's insurance policy is up for renewal, and must be paid to continue to provide coverage for Members and Guests during regular meetings, and the Faire. Jim Deards moved that we pay it, seconded by Tony Z. It was passed by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS - PURCHASING A COPIER TO PRINT THE NEWSLETTER -

Sept #3
Irv has found a good, used, reconditioned, plain paper, brand name copying machine with a 6 month service contract. We could save helf of our annual operating expenses by printing the Newsletter, Faire brouchers, EOGs, Library Catalog. advertising, etc., ourselves. This includes the cost of paper, toner, and staples. . The disadvantage is that we would need volunteers to do all the manual labor our printer is charging us for now. We can't saddle our Newsletter Editor (Tony Z.) with this job. The main advantage is the CTIUG would stay solvent, and viable in the future.

Mike Maksimik arrived at 12:00 noon.

It was debated if we could afford a copier at this point, although it would pay for itself in 2 months. It was also discussed where the machine would be located, who would run it and when the Newsletter would be printed.

Jim Baird arrived at 12:05.

George Lempeotis arrived at 12:10.

Mike volunteered his residence to loacate: the copier, and his time to run it. Vic also volunteered his time for printing the Newsletter.

Don Jones arrived at 12:20.

Vic moved that we solicit members for interest-free loans, for the express purpose of buying the copier, from our members. Jim Brooks seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Board.

EVENTS - The new DIGI-PORT sound file player hardware/software from Western Horizon will be demo'ed.

MEMBERSHIP - Jim Brooks - He announced that we have three new members, bringing our membership to 210. He expects more new members, and renewals, at the Faire.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Tony 7. - A round of applause went up to our new editor for a job well done for getting the last newsletter out. Tony announced that future issues will have a new look on the mailing label side. They will have to be printed sideways, like an envelope, to be treated by the Post Office's automated sorting machinery as first class mail. We have had trouble with it being treated as 3rd class mail, despite the words First Class Mail printed above the postage, when the label was printed vertically, with many members complaining of missing/late newsletters. Hopefully this will elilminate this problem. Another problem is that Tony needs articles to publish, having resorted to downloading BES commentary. If you have any comments, opinions. tales of TI trials and tribulations, send 'em in! Either mail copy to Tony, or upload to the BBS.

PROGRAMMING CONTEST - The winners have been chosen, and will be announced at the Oct. meeting, with demonstrations of the programs.

LIBRARY - Today's special: Four disks of programs downloaded from various BBS's, for \$4, at the meeting, or mail ordered postmarked before our next meeting.

BBS - Mike Maksimik - Two of the floppy drives used went down last month, but Tony I. came up with replacements. The software used will be changed, to a new program by Tim Tesh. It will feature: 1) Remote sysop operation, for the Newsletter Editor to download new files as soon as they are uploaded. 2) Multiple user levels, same as now. 3) Will work like the old software, with 40-80 col. 4) Will handle xmodem, ymodem, and batch files. You will now be able to upload-download a bunch of files at once, instead of waiting for one file to transfer, and typing in the next filename. 5) ANSI graphics, and 6) Custom menus. Anyone who purchased the new version of Mass-Transfer (that Tim upgraded) at the last meeting, will know what this will look _like.

MICROPENDIUM - The last four month's issues are for sale at the registration table. This publication is the only TI-only available, and has type-in programs, product reviews, and advertising for software and egpt. If you don't subscribe, stop by at meeings and pick them up.

sept#5 The Board adjourned at 12:55

GENERAL MEETING -

The President wished that everyone had a good summer, and made his and the Treasurer's report. He then told of our cash crunch, and the need to cut back on expenses if we are to survive as an orgianization. Loans, for the purchasing of the copier. were then solicited from the attending members, with quite a few responses. He announced that blank ballots, for the GBS Service Award, would be distributed at the next meeting, for members to fill in the name of the person who they feel has performed the most outstanding service for the Club. Nominations for Officers will be solicited at the next meeting, and Elections held in December.

The Editor asked members if they had received their Newsletters, (most had before the meeting) and thanked those who had submitted articles. He also and said that the programming contest winning programs that were announced in the newsletter, would be available next month.

The BBS Sysop announced the new software for the BBS, stating that the calling procedure would not change. The automatic mcdem/answering machine switch needs "44" after the dial string to get you onto the BBS.

DEMONSTRATION - Mike showed the DigiFort adapter, how easily it hooked up to the RS-232 parallel port. Running the software on a Geneve, it played some really large sound files, with more clarity than Sound-FX. Digifort will also run any TI. FC, Amiga or Mac sound file without having to convert it first, and could be used during a program for sound effects or recorded speech, without needing the speech synthesizer, or using the TI's sound chip. 20

Sept #6

DOOR PRIZES - At the end of the Meeting, two door prizes were given out.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Victor Steerup. Secretary. END of Sept: 1992

OCTOBER #1

MINUTES OF 10/5/92

The Executive Board Meeting started at 11:36 A.M. Present were Hal Shanafield, Jim Deerds, Dave Connery, and Vic Steerup.

MINUTES - The Minutes of the Sept. meeting were approved with the correct:on of "the copier will pay for itself in three months," not two as reported.

TREASURERS REPORT - Deposits were made to cover the expenses of the Newsletter publication. ourchase of the copier and Faire expenses. Our Insurance policy is up for renewal, and will be paid this month. The motion to accept the treasurers report was made by Vic. seconded by Hal, and approved by the Board. The Treasurer will be moving to a new address, and moved that, the Club account be changed from the bank downtown to one closer to where he will be living. The motion was seconded by Jim, and passed by the Board.

PRESIDENTS REPORT -

A) FAIRE UPDATE - We need volunteer workers at the Faire. They would help Vendors to unload and set up egpt. Rental forms are still coming in. and it looks like every available table will be used. The Membership table will be located next to the acmission table, so everyone who attends can easily join or renew their membership. Eqpt. donations are needed, which would be rented to the Vendors for the duration of the Faire.

Tony Z. arrived at 11:51.

B) COPIER - We have purchased the copier, and have printed the Oct. Newsletter on it. The machine uses a high-pressure method of transfering toner, not heat, squeezing the paper, with the result of a slick surface. This is not cheap fax paper, but the #20 paper that we always used. C) SCHMALGEMEIER AWARD - Nomination forms will be handed out at the General Meeting, to be filled in and returned by the attending Members.

D) ELECTIONS - Ballots for Officers are being sent out, and must be returned by the Dec. 5 meeting. or mailed the the Secretary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS -

EVENTS - Programming contest results and demor-

MEMBERSHIP - Welcome back, Jin! We had 5 more renewals last month. Attend a meeting and renew your membership! We have a lot of fun at these meetings, and you can pick up used eqpt. and software at bargain prices from Vendors who are there. LIBRARY - Today's special is the three disks that were reviewed in the Sept. Newsletter.

CATALOG - Disk reviews are coming in, and progress is being made.

EQUIPMENT - Some equipment has been donated for use at the Faire, but more is needed. This is not a permanent donation, but loaned to Vendors for use at the Faire, some of whom travel by air and cannot lug around a P-box and monitor. A "system" is considered to be a console, P-box with disk drive, controller, 32k, and a monitor. Call up the Librarian/Equipment Chairman Dave Connery at (708) 888-8120 with your donation. A system loaned is worth a year's free membership, and 7 disks from the Library!

George Lempeotis arrived at 12:08.

DOS LIBRARY - Sales at the last meeting were good, and the profits turned in to the Treasurer. NEWSLETTER -

- A) OCTOBER ISSUE Plenty of issues were available at the General Meeting, being printed at the Fresident's house the week before. Mailing labels were already on them, and attending members were able to pick out their issues, saving mailing. cost. The same members were also conned into licking and affixing stamps on the rest to be mailed. We saved \$200 by printing the Newsletter ourselves.
- B) BACK ISSUES AND EXCHANGES Now that we have the copier, any back issue can be quickly duplicated, and sent out to any member or other club who wants them.

C) ARTICLES AND DEADLINE - Tony Z. reminds everyone that he needs articles to put in the Newsletter! Articles on FORTH, 6, LOGO, Rave keyboards. SENEVE, etc. are welcome. Articles must be uploaded by midnight on the 10th for inclusion. in the next issue. His EBS # is (312)755-0051. PROGRAMMING CONTEST - Demos of the wining programs will be shown at the general meeting, and prizes given cut to the winners. BULLITEN BOARD - The BBS hard drive developed a bac sector, corrupting most files that were uploaded last month. This problem has since been

C16-1 "

fixed, but any files you may have uploaded, for the Newsletter, should be sent to the Newsletter Editor's BBS.

PUBLICITY - Included in the Oct. Newsletter is the flier advertising the Faire. Be sure to copy and post them at every Library, grocery store, etc. Ads will appear in Micropendium, and also on several TV and radio stations.

NEW BUSINESS - Dave moved, and Irv seconded that you must be a paid member to sell at general meetings, unless approved by the Board. Also. * that only paid members be admitted to Board meetings. It was passed by the Board.

George moved, and Jim seconded, that we move to a new meeting place, one that we could get for free, in a particular location. It was tabled until the next meeting. Irv moved, and Tony Z. seconded that several available locations be checked out or visited as a group. It was passed by the Board.

The Board adjourned at 1:01. Next Page Please /

X # # @ =) (

EDITORS NOTE ;; ANY MEMBER WHO MIGHT WISH TO BE BE PART OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING. CAN DO SO. ALSO . TO BECOME PART OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ALSO. YOU CAN DO SO TOO ... BY BEING THERE AT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING FOR (WAS IT 3 OR 4 ?) 4 IN A ROLL .

ASK AT THE NEXT MEETING ! YOU TO CAN BE A PART WHAT THIS COMPUTER USERS GROUP IS ALL ABOUT . TONY

Oct #4

GENERAL MEETINS - VVI
The President's and Treasurer's reports were made, being the same as the Board meeting. Volunteer workers for the Faire were solicited. Printed ballots for the nomination of candidates for the Grant B. Schmalgemeier Service Award were passed out to the attending members, and were collected by the Secretary at the end of the meeting.

Nominations from the floor for candidates for the club Offices were made, with Don Walden nominated for the position of President, George Lempeotis as Vice-President, Irv Levinson will stand in his position as Treasurer, and Vic Steerup will stand in his position as Secretary. Ballots will be printed in the November newsletter.

PROGRAMING CONTEST DEMO - Tony Z. showed how to change line 100 in disk "A" LOAD program so it would run properly. Charge it from "load DSK.DISKNAME.FILENAME" to "load DSK1.FILENAME."

Minutes respectfully submitted by Victor Steerup, Secretary. Oct. END Thanks Dear

16 PAGES!

7 9,000

Victor!

this is a must! TONY.

A while back I asked all of the readers for ARTICLES. DUE TO THE FACT THAT I DON'T HAVE ROOM FOR ALL OF THE GREAT STUFF THAT CAME ROLLING IN. I WILL NOT HAVE ROOM FOR ALL OF JIM FETERSONS GREAT VIEWS & COMMENTS. AND ALSO I DON'T REALY HAVE TIME TO RE-FORMATE IT ALL.

THANKS JIM ! I'LL GET IN ALL I CAN .
THE COMPLETE FILE OR NOTHING.
. & COME TO OUR FAIRE !

**XI Ratter; Myself. I have Never sent my each for any of his disks. But. After reviewing some of his articules to Programs. I think that I got a get some. He should have a handle of, a Mr. T. I. Wizzard." Jony

EDITORS NOTE:
THIS TOOK ME 2 HRS. TO
RE-FORMAT TO A DV/22.
SO THAT I COULD GET IT
ALL IN OUR NEWSLETTER.
IN DOING SO, I HAD TO
READ SOME OF IT!
YOU WOULD BE WISE
READ IT & TYPE IN THE
PROGRAMING STUFF.
HE (J.P.) SEEMS TO BE
A VERY SMART COOKIE!
TRY IT, YOU'LL LIKE
IT
TONY

TIPS FROM THE TIGERCUB
No. 68
Tigercub Software
156 Collingwood Ave.
Columbus, OH 43213

My three Nuts & Bolts disks, each containing 100 or more subprograms, have been reduced to \$5.00 each. I am out of printed document tation so it will be suptiled on disk.

My TI-FD library now has almost 600 disks of fair- ware (by author's permission only) and public domain, all arranged by category and as full as possible, provided with loaders by full program name rather than filename, Basic

programs converted to XBasic, etc. The price is just \$1.50 per disk(!), post paid if at least eight are ordered. TI-PD catalog #5 and the latest supplement is available for \$1 which is deductible from the first order.

When I have finished read- ing Barry
Traver's column in
Computer Monthly, I
like to take a look at whatever Dr. Michael
Ecker is up to in his
"Recreational
Computing" column,
although much of his math is beyond me and I can't always
translate his GW Basic into TI Basic.

In the February issue, he had a routine to play Fibonacci modular music. This is the TI version; it is not very musical, but the notes are in the chromatic scale. 100 A=0 :: B=1 :: M=51 110 C=A+B :: C=C-M*INT (C/M): : CALL SOUND(-100,110*2^(C/1 2),5):: A=B :: B=C :: GOTO 1 10

Dr. Ecker also had a challenge to swap two numbers without using a third vari- able or the SWAP command - which TI Basic doesn't have anyway. The

25 continue ->

practical way, of course, is to use the 3rd variable, T=A::
A=B:: B=T, but just for the fun of it, if we are dealing with one- digit numbers - 100 A=1:: B=2::
A=A+B/10::
B=INT(A)::
A=(A-INT(A))*10-::
FRINT A;B

But suppose we are dealing with numbers of any length — we can still do it with a one-liner, or a two-liner if we want to input the numbers from the keyboard — 100 INPUT A :: INPUT B

110 B=B/10^(LEN(STR\$
(B))):: A=A+B ::
B=INT(A):: A=A-INT(
A)::
A=A*10^(LEN(STR\$(A))-1)
:: PRINT A; B :: GOTO
110

So you got smart and tried a negative number or a deci- mal? OK, how about this -100 INPUT A\$:: INPUT 110 A\$=A\$&" '&B\$:: B\$=SEG\$(A\$,1,POS(A\$," ",1)-1):: A\$=S E5\$ (A\$,POS (A\$," ".1)+1.255): : PRINT As;" ":B\$:: GOTO 110 And another challenge was to alternately assign X the value of A and B, without using

IF...THEN or any outside help. That seems to re- quire a two-liner - 100 A,X=77 :: B=132

110 X=ABS(X=A) *B+ABS (X=B) *A :: PRINT X :: GOTO 110

The only honest way to compute interest on a loan is on the unpaid balance, although the banks and fin- ance companies have devised more complicated and profit- able ways. If you want to make an honest loan, here is how to do it -100 DISPLAY AT(3,1) ERASE ALL : "SIMPLE INTEREST CALCULATOR ":"":"For interest to be cal cu- lated monthly on unpai d balance." 110 DISPLAY AT(9,1): "Printer ? PIO" :: ACCEPT AT (9, 10) SIZE (-20):P\$120 DISPLAY AT(11.1): "Amount loaned? \$" :: ACCEPT AT(11, 17) VALIDATE (NUMERIC): A 130 DISPLAY AT(13,1): "Intere st rate? %" :: ACCEPT AT (13, 16) SIZE (4) VALIDATE (NUMER IC):X 140 IF X<1 THEN DISPLAY AT(12,1): "Enter as a percentage" :: 60TO 、 Continue 130

150 DISPLAY AT (15, 1): "Monthly payments of \$" :: ACCEPT A T(15, 22) VALIDATE (NUMERIC):P 160 DISPLAY AT(17,1) :"Beginn ing in month (1-12) of year" 170 ACCEPT AT(17,27) VALIDATE (DIGIT):M :: ACCEPT AT (18.9) VALIDATE (DIGIT): Y 180 DATA JAN, FEB, MAR, APR. MAY JUN, JUL, AUG, SEP, OCT ,NOV, DEC 190 X=X/100 :: DIM M\$(12):: FOR J=1 TO 12 :: READ M\$(J): : NEXT 200 OPEN #1:P\$. VARIABLE 254 :: PRINT #1:CHR\$(27)&"E"&CHR \$(27)&"6"&CHR\$(27)&"N" &CHR\$ (6) &CHR\$ (27) & 210 PRINT #1: "\$"; STR\$(A); " F INANCED AT ":STR\$(X*100);"% WITH MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF \$"; STR\$(P);" BEGINNING ": M\$ (M): Y: "" 220 I=A*X/12 ::TI=TI+I :: A = A + I - P230 PRINT #1:M\$(M):Y:" PAYME NT \$";STR\$(P);" OF ": 240 PRINT #1,USING "\$###.##" :I;:: PRINT #1: " INTEREST AN D ": 250 PRINT #1, USING "\$####.## ":P-I::: PRINT #1:" PRINCIPA L - BALANCE OF ": 260 PRINT #1.USING "\$#### "#A

270 M=M+1 :: IF M=13 THEN M= 1 :: Y=Y+1 280 IF A>=P THEN 220

290 PRINT #1,USING
"FINAL PA YMENT"
\$###.##":A :: PRINT #1
,USING "TOTAL INTEREST
PAYED \$####.##":TI

Thanks to Bruce Harrison, here is a neat subprogram to sort strings into sequence as they are entered -100 CALL CLEAR :: DIM W\$ (100) 110 FOR J=1 TO N :: W*(J) = "" :: NEXT J ::INPUT "N=? ":N 120 INPUT I\$:: IF I\$="" THE N 130 ELSE . CALL INSORT(W\$(). I\$,N):: GDTO 120 130 FOR J=1 TO N :: PRINT W\$ (J):: NEXT J :: GOTO 110 30020 SUB INSORT(W\$(). I\$,N\$) : : FOR T=1 TO N :: IF I\$>W\$(T)THEN 30030 ELSE 30040 30030 NEXT T :: 60TO 30050 30040 FOR J=N TO T STEP -1 : : W\$(J+1)=W\$(J):: NEXT J30050 W (T) = I ::N=N+1 :: SUBEND In the test routine in lines 100-130, give N the value of 0. input some words and then just press enter. To start a new array, use FOR J=1 TO N :: W*(J)="":NEXT J.then reset N to O.

C-NTINUE >

26

If you want to sort in reverse sequence, change the > to <. If you need to sort numbers, delete all the \$, change the "" in line 120 to 0, and input a 0 when you are when finished inputtion.

inputting. Someone sent me a program to figure days between dates but it would not count leap dates, so I decided to write one that would. 100 DISPLAY AT (2,5) ERASE ALL : "DAYS BETWEEN DATES":"":" including leap year. days" :: M\$(1) = "From" .:: M\$(2)="To " :: R=13 110 DATA 31,28,31,30. 31,30,31,31,30,31 . ,30,31 120 DIM L(12):: FOR J=1 TO 1 2 :: READ L(J):: NEXT J 130 FOR J=1 TO 2 :: DISPLAY AT(R-1.1): M\$(J):"year m onth day " :: ACCEPT AT(R,6) VALIDATE (DIGIT) SIZE (4) :Y (J) 140 ACCEPT AT(R, 17) VALIDATE (DIGIT)SIZE(2):M(J):: IF $M(J) \stackrel{?}{<} 1 \text{ OR } M(J) > 12$ THEN 140 150 ACCEPT AT(R, 24) VALIDATE (DIGIT)SIZE(2):D(J):: TF D(J) <1 OR D(J) >31 THEN 150 160 CALL LEAP (Y(J). X):: L(2) = L(2) - X ::IF D(J)>L(M(J))THEN

150

:: NEXT J :: R=13 :: IF Y(1)>Y(2)TH EN T=Y(1):: Y(1)=Y(2)::Y(2) = T :: T = M(1) ::M(1)=M(2): M(2)=T: T=D(1):: D(1)=D(2): :D(2)=T180 IF Y(1)=Y(2)AND M(1)>M(2) THEN T=M(1):: M(1)=M(2):: M(2)=T :: T=D(1)::D(1)=D(2): D(2)=T190 L(2)=28 :: IF Y(2)>Y(1)T HEN 220 200 IF M(1)=M(2) THEN B=ABS(D(2)-D(1))::GOT0 260 210 CALL LEAP(Y(1),X) :: FOR J=M(1)+1 TO M(2)-1 :: B=B+L(J)+X*(M(1)=2):NEXT J :: B= B+I(M(1))+X*(M(1)=2)-D(1)+D(2):: 50T0 250220 CALL LEAP(Y(1), X) :: B=L(M(1))-D(1)+ $X \times (M(1) = 2)$ 230 FOR J=M(1)+1 TO 12 :: B= B+L(J)+X*(J=2)::NEXT J 240 FOR J=Y(1)+1 TO Y(2)-1 : : CALLLEAP(J, X):: B=B+365-X :: NEXT J 250 FOR J=1 TO M(2)-1 :: CALL LEAP(Y(2), X):: B=B+L(J)+X*(J=2)::NEXT J :: B=B+D(2)260 DISPLAY AT(20,1):B ;"days between" :: B=O :: 60TO 130 270 SUB LEAP(Y,X):: X = (Y/400)=INT(Y/400)):: IF X=-1THEN SUBEXIT ELSE X = (Y/4 = INT(Y/4)) :: IFX=0 THEN SUBEXIT ELSE X = (Y/100 <> INT(Y/100))280 SUBEND CONTINUE .

A leap year is a year that is evenly divisible by 4 un-less it is evenly divisible by 100 but not evenly divi- sible by 400. The subprogram in lines 270-280 will give X a value of -1 if Y is a leap year.

Gene Hitz of Arcade Action Software reports another undocumented feature of TI Ex- tended Basic. The manual says that you can only enter a subprogram by a CALL and only leave it by a SUBEXIT or SUBEND, but the manual is wrong. You can GOSUB to a subroutine within a subpro- gram, providing it does not contain a SUEEXIT, and re- turn; and you can GOSUB from within a subprogram to a subroutine in the main pro- gram, and return. In this way, you can transfer varia- bles in and but of a subpro- gram without putting them in a parameter list. See for vourself -100 CALL CLEAR 110 INPUT M\$:: CALL SUB (M\$) :: FRINT M\$:: GOSUB 140 :: PRINT "M\$ IS": X: "CHARACTERS LONG" :: 60T0 110 120 M\$="SEE WHAT I TOLD YOU? " :: RETURN

130 SUB SLB(M*)::
GOSUB 120 :: GOSUB 140
:: SUBEXIT
140 X=LEN(M*):: RETURN

150 SUBEND

If you are among the lonely few who have purchased my TI-PD disks, you will know that most of them load from a menu by full program name, not those abbreviated file- names. Those menus are pre- pared quickly and easily by my Catwriter program which was published in Tips #47 and in MICROpendium and is available on TI-FD 1105.2.

I was asked if there was a way to dump those full program names to the printer. There is, but it requires a big program - like th:s -1 OPEN #1:"DSK2. TI-PD/CAT", A FFEND 2 DISPLAY AT(12,1) ERASE ALL: "TI-PD# ?" :: ACCEPT AT(12,1 0):N 14 FOR J=L TO X-1 :: READ X\$:: PRINT #1:X\$:TAB(30):N :: NEXT J :: CLOSE #1 :: STOR

Still, continue.

17 REM

Save that on an empty disk by SAVE DSK2.C.MERGE. Put your TI-FD disk in drive 1. boot its LOAD program, break it with FCTN 4 and enter MERGE DSK2.C. then RUN. Put in the next TI-PD disk and do the same. You will have a D/V80 file of all the pro- grams, followed by their TI-PD disk number. Run the file through Sort Experiment or TI-Sort or whatever, and you can print them out in alpha- betical sequence.

If you have only one drive just change that DSK2. to DSK1. and swap disks after breaking the LOAD program.

Of course, this won't work wth fairware disks which have the author's own loader or some other disks which do not have my Catwriter load for one reason or another. You'll have to type those into the file.

Another user asked me if there was anyway to key in the ASCII above 127 into TI-Writer's Editor. Many of those ASCII can be entered from the keyboard by using the CTRL and FCTN kevs try this -

100 INPUT N# :: PRINT ASC(N#):: 50TA 100 - but the Editor has been programmed to refuse them because so many of those FCTN and CTRL combinations are used as edit commands.

I had a bright idea - I thought. I wrote a little program to create 127 files. named 128 through 255, each containing just the ASCII of the same number. Now, I thought, when I want to put in such an ASCII I will just LF that file into the next line and CTR 2 to pop it in- to place. But the Editor refused to even load a file that began with an ASCII above 127!

I'll fool you, I thought. I created those files again, but with an asterisk before the high ASCII. Now they loaded alright - but each ASCII above 127 became an ASCII 128 numbers lower! It is too bad that the Editor does not have a command to add 127 to an ASCII. iust as CTRL U subtracts 64, but if you want those orachics characters in your text you will just have to transliterate them and print through the Formatter.

CONTINUE 7

Folks take it for aranted that my Nuts & Bolts disks are only useful for programmers, but they contain many routines so simple to use that anyone can use then to dress up their favorite program. For instance ~ 20083 SUB TITLE(S.T\$) :: CALL SCREEN(S):: L=LEN(Ts):: CALL MAGNIFY(2) 20084 FOR J=1 TO L :: CALL SPRITE(#J $_{\bullet}$ ASC(SEG\$ (T\$,J,1)),J +1-(J+1=S)+(J+1=S+13)+(3>14) *1, 3*170/L) ,10 +J*(200/L)):: NEXT J 20085 SUBEND

Key that in and save it by SAVE DSK1.TITLE, MERGE . Load your favorite program, Enter MER3E DSK1.TITLE . Make sure your program does not have a line 1 or 2 if so, RES it. Type in -1 CALL CLEAR :: CALL TITLE (5 , "MY PROGRAM") 2 FOR D=1 TO 1000 :: NEXT D :: CALL DELSERITE (ALL)

And try it. Instead of "MY PROGRAM", put the name of your program. Instead of 5, put the number of whatever screen color vou would like, from 2 to 16 - check your Basic manual. Change 1000 to whatever delay. you want - if you have selected a screen color that will leave text legible, use -2 DISPLAY AT(24,1): "PRESS ANY KEY" :: DISPLAY AT (24.1): " press any key" :: CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF S=0 THEN 2 ELSE CALL DELSPRITE(ALL)

You might also need. a CALL SCREEN(8) to restore normal screen color.

Dops! Memory full! -Jim Peterson ...

The End

note: ATT: JIM PETERSON ! I LOVE IT. IT POSSIABLE, FOR THE CHICAGO TI-TIMES . WOULD YOU PLEASE MAKE YOUR ARTICLES AN DV/22 or AN DV/ MAN, THIS EDITING STUFF IS A ROUGHT COOKIE TO CUT ! THANKS JIM.

TONY Z.

No, This is Not the Supper Supper Issue, Now, I gots to knock it off for the right.



presents the 10th ANNUAL



T I INTERNATIONAL WORLD FAIRE

Supporting the TI 99/4A Computer

at the

Holiday Inn Elk Grove

Exhibits and Seminars Saturday, 31 October, 1992

9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

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Write to Hal Shanafield Jr.

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From old whats his name '!!! THE EDITOR.)

First thirg that I should do is. Try to let all of the readers know who I is.

I'm a TI99/44 COMPUTER USER. THATS IT in a nut shell. Just the same as most of the other user's. I might be diffrent in some ways. Like being married for 18 years now.(THE POOR WOMAN!)
I still get caught looking at other woman. BUT.

I do the same with other computers too. I still love my TI99/4A computer, and my wife too.

Still with all of that, I still look. I am also a lover of life! I just can't get enought of so many diffrent things. Just can't say then all. (CENSORSHIP!) There is a LAZY SIDE TO ME, A hard working side of me, And most important side of me. A FUNNY SIDE. See, told you I was just like most everybody else.

There is only one other thing I have to say about myself...

I like to enjoy what I am doing. If it's FUN , then I love it.

For the last nine years I have loved playing with my "TOY-99". It's been fun in the past. It's fun now! Writing a program is fun too. Doing the programing in such a way that it drives other goffie is fun to me too. So is speling stuff the wogn way.. I just can't see doing everything by the book. NEVER COULD! Life is just to damm short to wast time correcting all of the funny goofy things that might bring a smile or a laught at just the right time! or the time that you might have left.

So, Now you might guess what kind of format you'll find in this newsletter while I'm the edtor. Or , Should I say it like this ?

In this and every NEWSELLIER. I WILL Cry to Dring to you the other TI99/4A & GENEVE/9640 USERS AND LOVERS.NEWS.INFORMATION, AND FUN.

Any comments! DROP A LINE TO THE EDITOR.

NO CUSS WORDS PLEASE! TRY NOT TO CUT-DOWN THE OTHER COMPUTERS.

REMEMBER, IT'S JUST LIKE WIFES. SOMEBODY LOVES THE OTHER ONES TOO. (I THINK.)

ANY PROGRAMS OR QUESTIONS ?? THEN, ASK THEM.

THANKS ALL, 1-708-755-0051 phone # YOUR EDITOR:

TONY ZLOTORZYNSKI
3607 WALLACE
STEGER, ILL. 60475
U.S. of A.

att: news editor & exchange

Al-right! The programing contest is over.

I'll get the kid to re-view them all for you.

And I'll tell you what all of the prizes are.

That will come later..

Who has what in the newsletter ? don't know yeat. We have stuff from the PREZ-SAYS .
Stuff from Jimmeyy BROOKS . DH, Whos that happy hippy from ELGIN? IS IT DAVE ? NO, ITS A BIRD.
NO! ITS A PLAIN. PLOOP! YEP, ITS A BIRD!!
AL-RIGHT! IT'S THE LIBRARY CORNER . WITH REVIEWS by WALTER WARD . He tells us whats new on the disks. What they subose to do. If he likes them.
And most of all.. What they cost. (WE HOPE.)
(Remember, I lost this for 1 or 2 months.)
It seems like THE LIBRARY CORNER is missing in this issue.

I got some info on the TI-YARD SALE. or is it the 1992 CHICAGOS TI99/4A WORLD FAIRE! or Is it a great big TI-FEST? WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT. IT'S GOING TO BE THE BEST ONE YET. HINTS! IN ROUND NUMBERS! ROUND OR ABOUT! DON'T QUOTE ME YOU WON'T BELEAVE IT UNTIL YOU SEE IT. 45 TABLES more or less: 23 VENDORS more or less: 6 USERS GROUPS more or less: give or take 50 or so. How much great stuff? There is no way to tell. I have heard that there aine no more tables. But, I also been told that we can get more tables. But THEN, I have been told that the moon in made from green cheese too. I BELEAVED MY

[&]quot; TO THING JUST LAST WEEK. I COUGHTENT SPELL TRUCK DRIVER. NOW I IS ONE ! "

THATS GOING TO BE THE NEW FORMAT .

I LOVE MY TOY-99 . IT'S A FUN MACHING .

I CAN EVEN DRIVE EVERYONE ELSE CRAZY TOO .

I'VE BEEN TO MANY TI-FAIRES. The only thing that I have found wrong with them is, : " I NEVER BRING ENOUGHT MONEY ." There always seem to be so much great stuff there. So cheap too! cheep cheep!
I WISH THEY HAD TWO A YEAR THAT I COULD GO TO.

IT'S LATE, AND I MUST GET UP IN 5 hrs.! WILL CONTINUE TOMARROW ,.,.,.,.

HA! ONE MONTH LATER I FIND THE THINE. WOULDN'T YA KNOW. I LOST THIS THING. It was going to be in the OCTOBER issue.!

My wife asked , "Whats so great about the darn computer?" I said, If it talks to much I can shut it off. It's always ready to play with me. It won't use the phone unless I tell it to .

**** SO, SIVE THE MAN HIS DUE! ****
While walking one day I came apond a man with his wife and two kids. Hardly noticed the guy. The kids looked healthy, neat, & clean. But, The wife! WOW! What a knock out! She had to be the best looking women that I seen all day. Oh man, What I could do with that.

THEN , IT HIT ME !

I'ev got one of them wives at home myself, and shes better looking then that one. The only difference is that I am used to her. She gave me a kid. Hes healthy, clean, and neet. Then why am I envious of what the other guy has ???

Now, How could this in any way connect with my TI9/4A HOME COMPUTER ?

LIKE THIS! I have got a great computer. It can do what I want it to do. It seems to connect to other things that I want it to connect to.

And it only talks when I want it to!

Don't wast what just might be one of the best tings that you got. Don't look at what the other guy has and think that you just have to get that thing. WELL, WHATEVER! I KNOW I'M KEEPING MINE. ???? The wife or the computer ????

I STILL LOVE THE WIFE AND MY TOY99. See you at the faire! see you at the faire!



I wonder if I should Try to snink the size of the Newsletten. WHY SHOULD YOU LEARN TO PROGRAM?

by Jim Peterson

Why should you learn to program? To make money? No way! If you could write a program to guarantee world peace, eliminate hunger and cure AIDS, you couldn't make money selling it to the TI world!

Why should you learn to program? To contribute something to the TI world? OK, but con't expect any thanks! Contributing a program to the TI public domain is like dropping a pebble into a bottomless dry well - you will never hear a insplash, not even a thud.

Why should you learn to program? Because no one has written the program you need? Well, now you have a good reason! Since there is neither money nor recognition in programming, the programmers, tend to write what they feel like writing, not what you want them to write.

Why should you learn to program? For one reason, because I know that you would like to make some changes in the programs that you use frequently. I know that, because the only feedback I ever get is from people who wish that I would change this or that! You really wouldn't have to learn very much to change colors, add or silence a beep or a burp, output to disk instead of printer, etc., etc. seyond that, unraveling someone else's code can be tricky and frustrating (and I pity anyone who tries to unravel my code! Often I find it easier to just rewrite the basic idea in my own way. If you do modify someone's program, please put a note on the title screen, or at least in a REM, that you did so - and unless you are very sure that you have not introduced a bug, don't distribute your version! Programmers do not like to be blamed for other people's mistakes, and the sales of good programs have been ruined by the bad reputation resulting from pirated, modified and bugged copies. CONTINUED Next Page

But, the real reason for learning to program it's fun, it's challenging, it's creative! There is something very satisfying about getting an idea to make the computer do something it has never done (as far as you know!) and then succeeding in making it do what you want. There is a thrill in pushing the limits of that obsolete tiny TI pea brain just a little bit farther.

There are those who prefer to exercise their creativity with the soldering iron, those who can plug in chips and soup up a Model I computer to run like a Ferrari. I regard them with awe and wonderment, and I'm glad they are around. Without them, I wouldn't have my RamDisk, and my equipment wouldn't get repaired.

Personally, I am the ultimate klutz. If I approach my car with a screwdriver, all four tires go flat. My one feeble attempt to repair my P-Box resulted in failure, expense and embarrassment. But, without having more than a faint idea what goes on beneath that keyboard, I have learned to punch the keys (two right fingers and a left thumb) and create hundreds of programs and routines which have given me a great deal of satisfaction.

It's been fun! You should try it sometime.

by Jim Peterson

The Home Computer /
Can you stand a few more words from the last surviving advocate of the HOME computer?

And what is a HOME computer? It is a computer designed to be used in the home, to do whatever someone might do in the home that can be done better with the aid of a computer.

AND - the HOME computer is designed to be used by a person who has no particular interest in computers, who regards them as just another electronic tool to be used to make life easier or more enjoyable. Also, that person is propably just a bit intimidated by computers.

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A person who is not interested in computers? Well, that eliminates everyone who is reading this, but read on anyway.

Now, what percentage of VCR owners have never learned to program their VCR? How many don't know what some of the buttons on their cable TV remote unit do? How many housewives are failing to take advantage of half the pushbuttons on their microwave, or their washing machine? I don't think anyone has the answer to those questions, but I am sure that the percentages are very large!

Many people who buy a new appliance NEVER read the manual. They learn some of its features by experimenting, and never use the rest. Most other people read the manual one time, file it away with the warranty or lose it, and operate the appliance based on what they remember from that one reading. Of course, there are an increasing number of people who are incapable of reading the manual at all, and very few people who are capable of writing a manual that anyone can understand! The average home computer buyer, knowing nothing about computers, can easily be convinced that he needs 640k a RAM, a hard drive, a mouse, and who knows what else. He needs all those things like he needs a hole in the read, and he is completely baffled by the technical jargon in the manuals that come with the machine.

His computer probably comes bundled with an assortment of "free" software that is alleged to be worth more than the machine itself. It is probably excellent software - but each program comes with a thick manual, hopefully written in intelligible English, which must be studied before the program car be used.

Big programs like that are fine for the workplace, where a worker becomes familiar with a program and remembers how to use it because he uses it every day. For the typical home computer user, they are totally impractical.

I like All of these Articals. But! I seem to miss the old days. When we had Lots of Programs in the Newsletters! So, what is a HOME computer? It is a computer with no more memory than is needed to do the job, practically automatic in operation (i.e., with built-in disk operating system!), with one disk drive, and with an adequate supply of short simple programs to do what needs to be done at the moment and no more, so simple that they can be operated by reading on-screen instructions and prompts.

I happen to own such a computer. It is called the Texas Instruments TI-99/4A HOME Computer.

VVVVVVVVVVVVVVV

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE FUN OF IT?

by Jim Peterson

Yes, whatever happened? Were you with us back in the early days, way back back in 1983? Do you remember the days before the BBS's and user group libraries could supply you with programs by the hundreds, when every program you could acquire was a prized possession to be run and used and marveled at, to be shared with your friends, (even though it might have a copyright notice on it!), when people actually keyed in programs from listings and brought them to meetings to get help in debugging them? Do you remember when almost everyone was trying to learn to program, and helping each other? The late Earl Dodd was writing music programs, in his unique barbershop quartet style, and bringing them to me to add graphics. Paul Powers, once our user group president, liked to program advanced math theorems and to reprogram more efficiently the programs written by others - it was he who suggested to me the use of mergeable subprograms, which led to the Nuts & Bolts series, the only profitable thing I have ever done. It was teenage Brian Beery who pointed out a ridiculous error that was driving me bonkers - Brian might have become another J. Peter Hoddie if he hadn't taken up the quitar. Next Page

No you remember when the 186 was the only source of public domain programs? I was fascinated by the broomam descriptions in the IUS catalog. I wanted to see every program, to see what some other programmer had been able to do. I swapped the IUG For every program I could, and bought as many more as I could afford. Often I was disappointed, but I never got over that curiosity. I still have it - I reac the descriptions of new library acquisitions in user group newsletters, and I get the itch to see the program. Often I write and ask for it. But, am I the only one left who has that curiosity? I scent hundreds of hours aleaning out the best from my library of several thousand PD procrams, arranging them by category, improving them, filled nearly 300 disks (now 400), published a 13-page catalog listing them all, offered them for a copying fee less than most user groups charge their own members, cheaper than downloading them from GENIE - and in 1989, only 175 people in all the TI world were curious enough to send me an order!

Of course, many users have large libraries of programs that they never get around to even looking at. And, the potential uses of the computer have become so varied that many users have specialized in one field and have little interest in anything else. Some are mainly interested in increasing the speed and memory capacity of their machine, and have little time to make use of that speed and memory by actually running programs. Many others nowadays are hooked on graphics. To each his own. Fersonally, if I want to decorate my walls with pictures of nudes, will buy a Playboy magazine and rip out pictures far better than any monitor screen will ever show or any dot matrix printer will ever produce!

Of course, even in the early days all was not sweetness and light. It seemed that everyone was out to make a buck, and those who made the buck were mostly those with questionable business ethics. When I first made contact with the rest of the TI world, I had already written about 90 programs, and I soon met people who wanted to form a business partnership with their one or two programs and my ninety.

It was mainly to get them off my back that I decided to go into business for myself - a decision that [have regretted a thousand times.

Charlie LaFara started the International Lser Group as a nonprofit exchange of public domain software, and converted it into a business for his own profit. An entrepreneur in California acquired his programs and copied his catalog, leading to a lawsuit. Later on, a TI business in Florida called itself a "group" and sold my public domain programs, which led me to announce that "Tigercub Software is a pne-man user group pretending to be a business, not a business pretending to be a user oroup!"

Of course, not everyone was a crook - most simply started out with unrealistic expectations, got in over their heads and faded away, leaving their creditors holding the bag. Emerald Publishing Co. extended credit to too many software advertisers who never paid up; then they got ridiculous and tried to publish a magazine with no advertising! Finally, they ripped off all their remaining subscribers, as did more than one other TI publication which never delivered or refunded subscriptions. There were exceptions, honest companies such as Random Access and another one-man operation in Texas whose name I wish I could remember.

I learned very early not to extend credit to anyone who decided to start up a software business. And I learned not to send an order to anyone for anything until I knew that someone else had actually received their order. There are not many TI old-timers who have not been ripped off at least once!

Tis A thousand times better to have Loved but once, Then Not to have Loved At All. Our TI99/4A Will Contine!

But, whatever happened to the fun of it? T remember demonstrating my programs at a local school, at a library, at computer fairs - the kids were fascinated! If only the Apple peddlers had not succeeded in brainwashing the educational system! Are Jack Sughrue and Eunice Spooner the only educators still using the TI in the classroom? In the days when I was exchanging my Tips From The Tigercub newsletter with nearly 200 user groups, I twice asked them to let me know of any schools in their area where the TI computer was being used - only two ever responded! If we had harnessed all that youthful energy and akenthusiasm, our user groups might now have replacements for all those who are abandoning us for Big Blue.

Whatever happened to the fun of it? Whatever happened to the HOME computer? (remember, that was what the TI-99/4A was called!). They tell me that the COCO is the only home computer left, because there is no way to make it anything more than sythat. I may just take a look at it - maybe that's where I'll find the fun that I'm missing!

THE CLEARING HOUSE BBS

by Jim Peterson

At the Lima Multi-User Group Conference in 1990, the problem of dissemination of TI information was discussed. It has always been the custom for user groups to exchange newsletters, and to reprint articles from each others newsletters. With decreasing membership, it was becoming too expensive for some groups to maintain this exchange. Others were mailing them in bulk every few months, which delayed receipt of new information.

It was therefore decided to establish a Clearing House BBS, to which text articles could be uploaded and downloaded for rapid circulation. Irwin Hott, SYSOP of the Spirit of 99 BBS of the Central Dhio 99'ers, agreed to be the SYSOP, and the Central Ohio 99'ers assumed respons ibility for establishing the BBS.

It was necessary to add a hard drive and other equipment to the existing BBS, in order to receive this large volume of files. To defray the cost, it was decided to charge participating user groups \$30 for initial membership, and a lesser fee to defray maintenance costs in future.

The following user groups and individuals contributed — Lima 99/4A Group, Twin TIers User Group, Elue Grass 99/4 Computer Society, Tigercub Software, Atlanta 99/4A Computer Users Group, Philadelphia Area TI Users Group, Sacramento TI Modem Users Group, E. L. Edwards, Great Lakes Computer Group Inc., NEWJUG 99ers Group, Boston Computer Society TI 99/4A User Group, L—Town 99/4A User Group, S. Jean Hall, Cedar Valley TI User Group, and C.O.N.N.I. Of these, the Lima User Group contributed \$200 and S. Jean Hall, C.O.N.N.I. and Tigercub Soft— ware each / contributed \$100.

Because of Myarc's unreliable support, we were reluctant to purchase their hard drive controller. The ESD corporation had announced a new hard drive controller to be soon available. We waited for it - and waited, and waited.

Finally in November of 1991 the Clearing House went into operation, with a MYARC HFDC loaned by Chuck Grimes. Irwin Hott, Chuck Grimes, Karl Romstedt, Ken Marshall and Dick Beery donated much time in getting the drive installed and operating, and in modifying Irwin's already highly modified TIBBS to work with a hard drive.

Unfortunately, there were still further delays in announcing and publicizing the opening of the Clearing House, and it has still not been well publicized.

However, a large number of articles have been uploaded and are available for downloading by those who have subscribed by becoming associate members of C.O.N.N.I.

The Lima Users Group alone has contributed about 125 files, including Charles Good's articles about many rare and unreleased peripherals and software, Andy Frueh's software reviews, etc.

continue Next Page The Bluegrass User Group has contributed about 15 articles by Mark Schafer, Steve Burns, and others, and recent articles from the C.O.N.N.I. newsletter are also on file.

I have uploaded all 67 of my Tips From The Tigercub, updated and edited and with obsolete advertising removed. I have also uploaded about 40 other articles I have written in Xbasic programing tutorials, product reviews, TI world news, commentary, etc.

Additionally, I have uploaded many excellent articles from foreign newsletters which have not been widely distributed in this country. These include 26 contributions from the Brisbane User Group in Australia, written by Col and Garry Christensen, many of which would be of great interest to assembly programmers; several articles by Jan Alexandersson, from the Swedish newsletter (but written in English!) on assembly programming and the hidden commands in the PRK and Statistics modules, etc.; and about 25 articles from the TI*MES of England, mostly by Stephen Shaw, on many subjects.

I have also uploaded numerous files from disks supplied to me in the past by the now-defunct Central Westchesters and by the K.C. 99ers, and another 37 files written by a prolific author, Jim Swedlow, for the User Group of Orange County newsletter.

And I have a stack of about 30 other disks full of articles which I will check, catalog, archive and upload if I see any evidence that the board is getting enough use to justify the considerable time that it will take me to do so.

All files in the Clearing House are archived to cut down on downloading time. Irwin is preparing a condensed catalog of file descriptions for each library, which will also be archived and can be quickly downloaded for reference, rather than wasting long distance time in browsing through file descriptions.

User groups which have not joined the Clearing House are urged to consider doing so. Any individual TI user who would like access to this great collection of information is also welcome to join, for the same \$30 fee.

Next Page

Well, Looks like I screwed up Agrin.
While editing this from A DV-40 to AN DV-50
I must have hit a Feta & 3. Not to Wonnie.
Jims Anticles are in the Sprit of 99 /4/50,

through the clearing House and see what we have to offer, although you will not be able to download if you have not joined us. Call the Spirit of 99 BBS at (614) 263-3412 and at the main menu enter O for other.

And finally, the board will gladly accept uploads of text files from anyone, and anyone who writes an article for a Tl newsletter is urged to upload a copy to us.

APPRECIATE YOUR PROGRAMMERS!

by Jim Peterson

I quote from a letter recently received from Alexander Hulpke, the German student who wrote the TI-99/4A assembly version of Tetris which most of you have played -

"Many thanks for your letter and the offering to distribute Tetris. I encourage everyone to do so, if they do so at reasonable rates, as you do. It is a bit strange to see TexComp sell disks with my Tetris for \$5 plus \$3 shipping, which is more than I ask for the program."

"I don't think of the fairware as a way to earn money, the asked donation is merely for postage, sending updated versions, etc. It would be also great, if everyone who uses my programs would write to me, just to see the work is appreciated but I think I don't have to tell you anything about this."

"Nevertheless, the response for Tetris was quite good, especially when thinking about the problems sending (money) to Europe. Most people sent personal checks (which my bank will charge approximately \$2.50 each when cashing several at once) as I found they did not trust the postal service to send cash, which is a bit easier."

Fead that again — the part about 'it would be great...: f everyone...would write". I have had correspondence with many TI programmers. Some of them actually expected to make money by releasing programs as fairware — and they have almost invariably been disappointed. But, most of them want more than anything to know that someone is actually using the program which they worked so many hours to create!

Many of the programs being writter nowadays for the TI-99/4A are extremely sophisticated. Those who have the skill and genius to write them could certainly better themselves if they abandoned us to write for computers which are still on the market and have an expanding user base (of users who are more accustomed to paying a decent price for software!).

So, you had better start appreciating what you are getting. If you find a program useful or enjoyable, whether it is fairware or public domain, if it has a programmer's name and address on it, spend five minutes of your time and a 25-cent stamp to tell him so! And if it is fairware, and you can possibly get a few grimy bills unstuck from your fingers, send them along.

If you want to send a conation to any author outside of the country, remember that bank Charges, etc. on a check will take most of what you send. The American dollar bill, as worthless as it has become in this country, is still easily spendable or convertible almost anywhere in the world.

Note; 1. Our NOW-A-day Programs

For the "Toygg" Are cheep. And they All

seem to be a vast improvement over the

good old days.

22 As gooty as this mishand writing might

seem. It is entching on in some of the

other Newslettens. Read your Nowslettens!

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VAPORWARE, SLOWWARE AND NO WARE AT ALL

by Jim Peterson

AAAA

When Texas Instruments was still selling the TI-99/4A, and producing rew peripherals and software, they tended to be extremely secretive about what they were working on — thus effectively discouraging any third party developers who would have faced firancial disaster if TI came out with the same product.

After Black Friday, all such restraints disappeared. Third party hardware, software and publications began to appear. Others were announced but never did appear — and thus the term "vaporware" was coined, although perhaps it did not originate in the TI world.

One of the foremost early examples of vaporwars was the fabled Phoenix computer announced by CorComp, which never did arise from the ashes as did its equally mythological namesake. And a more recent example was PRESS, the

And a more recent example was PRESS, the long-awaited program that would make the TI as good as the I-word computer.

Sometimes the vaporous mists did finally blow away to reveal a new and valuable product, such as Myarc's 9640, the Geneve — but then its promised support again became enveloped in the mist. And so the TI world became very wary of any announcements of new products. I have been contacted a few times by hardware hackers and programmers who envision some great new product and want to know what the market might be, or just want to talk about it. The advice that I give is —don't even tell your mother about it until you are ready to ship!

Almost all new hardware products are still being announced long before they are ready to sell, although nowadays most of them do eventually come on the market. There are many reasons, I am sure. Some developers want to test the market reaction before they commit time and money in the shrinking TI market. Some perhaps want to discourage competition, as Texas Instruments did. But most,

Wow, This one is London 4 BEAR!
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I believe, just can't wait to tell the world what they have accomplished, or expect to accomplish. I can't blame them - they are doing some fantastic things with this longobsolete computer.

Once the vaporware has become reality, and is actually on the market, all too often the vaporware becomes slowware - the customer sends his order, his check is cashed, and he waits - and waits - and waits - and waits - and waits in most cases working a full-time job or going

Again, there are probably many reasons. The person is in most cases working a full-time job or going to rollege, and marketing his product in his spare time. Perhaps he is swamped with orders - although, after 8 years of trying to sell to the

TI community, I find that unlikely!

More likely, he is being swamped with questions and complaints regarding the products he has already shipped. Some of the customers try to call collect, and those who write seldom give enough information. If it is software, some of the complaints are on the level of "it says to push; any key — my computer doesn't have an any key". If it is hardware, it probably requires some technical knowledge to install and any technoklutz like me — is bound to need some help. And, with so many independent hardware developers.

compatibility problems are enormous.

Also, maybe the fellow has become aware of a serious bug that needs fixing, or has almost completed a major improvement, and is trying to find time to take care of that before filling any more orders.

I can sympathize with all of these reasons, and others. Those who are still developing hardware and software for the TI are doing it largely as a labor of love, and their remarkable knowledge and ingenuity could probably be more profitably directed toward a computer which has an expanding rather than decreasing user base. We owe them our gratitude. HOWEVER! —

ANY VENDOR WHO CANNOT SHIP HIS PRODUCT WITHIN TWO MEEKS OWES HIS CUSTOMER A POSTCARD EXPLAINING THE REASON FOR THE DELAY AND THE ESTIMATED DATE OF SHIPMENT!

and another postcard, with offer of refund, if that date is not met! Postcards cost 19 cents, and ake a minute to write - no one is too busy to do hat.

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The same applies to items sent for repair - if they cannot be repaired in two weeks, or within whatever period is specified in advertising, the customer deserves a postcard! About this business of cashing checks before

shipping merchandise - on a very few occasions I have waited for a check to clear the bank before shipping an unusually large order to an unknown customer. Otherwise, I ship by the next working day, except for my annual 10-day fishing trip to Minnesota. In 8 years of business, I have had two bounced checks, and both of them were made good. If I was selling a product that cost a considerable amount and required a considerable investment in time and material to produce, I might wait for the check to clear before shipping. The bank can tell you within ten days if a check has cleared, so there is no reason to wait more than two weeks.

Among those who have currently been accused of slowness and/or lack of response to inquiries are Myarc, Eud Mils, Gary Bowser of OPA, Mike Maksimik of Crystal Software, and Pike Creek. Asgard Software was a notorious offender but Chris Bobbitt has now taken on a partner and claims to be giving prompt service.

In fact, this article was inspired by my experience with Crystal Software. I ordered Midi Master on 25 August, and my check was promptly cashed. I sent an inquiry on 29 September. I cave a friend a letter addressed to Mike, authorizing the friend to take delivery for me at the Chicago Faire on 2 November. Mike told him he had just shiped it to me. As of 15 November I have still not received it!

And finally, to the subject of no ware at all when chacks are cashed but no merchandise is received and inquiries are not answered. There have been quite a few incidents of such over the past several years, mostly involving software companies which went out of business without filling some of the orders for which they had received payment - and publishers going out of business without filling or refunding Continue subscriptions.

OK, Sothis is one year old.

The most recent examples involve JP Software. and. Hhere are many who are wondering whether the item they returned to Myanc for repair will turn out to the very very slowware or no ware at all. Now. J. Peter Hoddie is a fine young man and a programming genius whom I greatly admire. He contributed a great deal to the TI community. Later, he and Paul Charlton set up JP Software to: market a few of his products, and some fine broducts produced by others. Not long after, he secured employment with Apple, and it is reported that he was required to sign a contract which made it impossible for him to continue selling to the

MII world.

Somewhere along there, something went badly astray. There seems to be no doubt that checks were cashed, but software was never shipped. I am sure that Peter would never cheat anyone, but it wis equally certain that some users did not get what they had paid for. Fortunately, Jerry Coffey has been able to contact Peter and arrange to take ever distribution of at least some of his titles, including shipment of those which were purchased but never received. Beery Miller has made rrangements to distribute the Mike Dodd programs which were being offered through JP Software, but is not responsible for previous unfilled orders. More recently. I have read a complaint that Baker **S**oftware, which formerly advertised game programs n Micropendium, has cashed checks without shipping merchandise or responding to inquiries. However, I wrote to them and they assured me they were still in business.

of a vendor wants to go out of business. It would take only a few minutes to scribble a postcard to John Koloen, who would certainly publish it in Micropendium. If they are operating from a postaffice box. they need only close the box to have all further orders returned to the sender. If they are using a home address, as many are, they can mark the letters "no longer at this address" and drop them in a mailbox.

Scotch (Good Tape)

If a programmer has written and marketed a useful applications or utility program unlike any other, thereby discouraging anyone else from writing a similar program, and no longer wishes to sell it, I do think that he has a moral, although not legal, obligation to license it to another vendor or to release it as fairware (why bother!) or public domain. I have been the TI world's most outspoken opponent of piracy, but I would find it hard to criticize anyone who copies, or allows to be copied, such a program which has been left in limbo.

In fact, if I find myself in need of a program marketed by someone who is notoriously slow and unreliable, I may just obtain a copy from someone and then mail the author his asking price, thereby saving him the cost of a disk and postage and saving myself a great deal of frustration.

editors note: Thanks for your views JIM . Good stuff hard to get for the newsletter. THANKS,

TONY Z.

P.S. I think I KNOW Why They CAll him, "The Tiger Cub. " HEAVY!

SIMPLE PROGRAMS

by Jim Peterson

I like SIMPLE programs that do exactly what I need to do when I need do it, and nothing more without the bells and whistles and fancy title screens; without going through a series of menus to get to what I want.

I have been asked, what is the best checkbook program? I have two disks full in my TI-PD library, but I don't know which one is test, because I have never used any of them. I have my own little checkbook program. It is so little that I don't even bother to save it - I just key it in whenever I need to do any adding or subtracting. It goes like this -

🖁 1 INPUT A :: T=T+A :: PRINT ,T :: EDTO 1

hen 1 receive a bank statement. I open my heckbook, check off all the debits and credits ecorded on the statement, then run that little rogram. I enter the bank's ending balance, then inter each outstanding check or other outstanding bit in the checkbook as a negative value (i.e.. with a minus sign in front) and every deposit not et recorded by the bank as a positive value. I **should** end up with my checkbook's ending balance. I don't. I next enter my checkbook ending alance as a negative value (presuming it is not iready negative!) to see how much the discrepancy s. and scan the checkbook and statement for an ntry of that amount which may explain the error. not, I hit FCTN 4, run the program again, enter y checkbook balance the last time I reconciled **it**, enter each succeeding debit as negative and ach credit as postive, and see if I can spot an; error in my calculations. If not, I give up - and den't think that any checkbook program could help me go any farther.

s. I know that some of those programs will give e a printout of all my transactions, after I have Reyed in a lot of data - tut why do I need a hard **copy** of something that is already recorded in my eneckbook.

and I know that some programs will give me a record of bills paid in various categories. I on't need that - at the end of the year I run a simple little program I wrote, Adder-Upper, and in 5 minutes with one pass through the checkbook I can total expenses in as many categories as I want. CONTINUE Next Page

Jim. It Looks just great. Now, CAN you teach my wife not to FEAR my TI 99-44 Computer?

Then I'll Let her try that one liner.

I have also been asked for a good mailing list program. I have lots of those too, but I haven't tried them. My own mailing list program isn't even a program — it's a D/V80 file created with Funlweb. Just type in the name, address, etc. in 3 or 4 lines, as you want it to appear on the label; hit Enter 2 or 3 more times to make a total total of 6 lines; and start the next name, etc. when you are finished, make sure that the first blank line above the first line of the last address has a line number evenly divisible by 6; otherwise, you didn't space your address 6 lines apart somewhere. Line up your strip labels in the printer; print the file out of Funlweb editor, and that's all there is to it.

It would be a good idea to set up that file in sequence by persons' last name, so that you can quickly find them for the purpose of changing or deleting - all done with Funlweb editing commands faster than any computer program could do it. To add a name, just FCTN 4 down to the right spot in sequence, FCTN 8 to open lines, and type it in.

You want scmething a little more than that? You want to selectively print or skip names? OK, you've got two blank lines after each record, so use the 6th line to code your special requirements — for instance, a D for Christmas cards, BU for business mailing, B11 for birthday cards in November — just don't use B alone for one code and in combination with something else for another code.

Note;

IN the last Newsletter, I asked.

"If you know of any other TI-users

Groups that are not on the List. Let us know,"

It might be the only way to Let them

All know that we are still Playing the TIPPYYA.

100 DISPLAY AT(12,1)ERASE AL L:"Filename? DBK" :: ACCEPT AT(12.14)BEEF: F\$:: OPEN #1: ®"DSK"&F\$,[NPUT :: OPEN #2:"P \$110 DISPLAY AT(14,1): "Frint addresses with code -":"":"(to print all addresses. wist press Enter)" \$120 ACCEPT AT(15.1) BEEP: X4 \$130 LINPUT #1:A\$:: LINPUT # 🚉:B\$:: LINPUT #1:Cs :: LINP LINPUT # : F \$ 140 IF POS(F\$.X\$.1)(>0 OF X\$ ##"" THEN PRINT #2:As:Bs:Cs:D S . 1111 . 11 11 \$150 IF EOF(1)<>1 THEN 130 EL SE CLOSE #1

For a one-time selective mailing, load your file, go down through it with FCTN X, type an asterisk in the 6th line of each record you want to print, save the file to another disk, run the above program and enter the asterisk as the special code to select on.

You need a home record-keeping system? Do you really really really need to sort your home records by various fields, print them out, etc.? If so, you need a data base program. But, if you just need to file some info in a way that you can find it again, I have the perfect system for you. I use it often. Technically, it is called the File Box Full Of Ruled 3x5 Index Cards. Unlike a data base program, this system offers fields of unlimited length, records of unlimited length (if the front of the card is full, flip it over and write on the back; if that is full, stick a second card behind the first), quick manual alphabetic sequencing (probably faster than the computer Could do it), quick manual updating and editing—

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with eraser, quick deletions into the wastebasket. and optional cross referencing (if you're not sure by which of several key words you might try to find something, put in a card in alphabetic sequence for each keyword, with a note on it referring to the card containing the data). Still think you need a computerized record keeping system? OK, how about the Funlweb Index Card Simulation. Just boot up Funlweb, use (T)ab to put an R at 39, type in whatever you want to keep track of, and save it to disk using a keyword as the filename. They will be automatically sorted into alphabetic sequence. Funlweb's SD will catalog them for you, put whatever you want on the screen, dump it to a printer if you want. You have all the great editing features of Funlweb to update, delete, etc., and you can cross reference keywords with dummy files. You might want to use DM 1000 periodically to protect your files so that you don't accidentally use the same keyword filename over again and overwrite a record. Of course, you can only get 127 records on a disk. But a deck of 100 index cards costs me \$.59 at the drug store, and generic disks cost \$.25 or less! For \$7 you can set up a filing system with a disk for each letter of the alphabet.

Just one more example of the power of the Funlweb filing system. Before I bought a disk system, I had already acquired or written over a thousand programs, and I had recorded each one on a 3x5 index card, filed by program name, with the author's name and comments. I promptly transferred all those programs to disk, ran the disks through one of those disk catalogers, and was greatly dissatisfied with the results. I DO NOT LIKE DISK FILENAMES! It is much too hard to remember what I was trying to abbreviate when I saved a file as BRFLTZK. Note: this was in the days before the good catalog programs allowed you to add comments.

Note; What Good Catalog Program Will Allow Commets?

didn't like listings of file names on disk abels either, and I have never used them. I don't want to paw through boxes of full of disks, trying to decipher filenames written in tiny subscript. bylously, my index card system was better than that, but I wanted a printed catalog, in plain inglish, in actual program name alphabetic equence, and with as much other information as ossible.

y old Gemini would print 136 characters on a line h condensed print, so I wanted each record to be p to that long. Furlweb (or TI-Writer back then) imited me to 30 characters, but no problem; I'll ust use two lines to key them in, and write a ittle program to combine them into one line for rinter output. I set the TI-Writer tabs to give e 25 spaces for full program name, 16 spaces for uthor's name, 4 spaces for disk number (I number y disks consecutively as I fill them, and file hem numerically), 10 spaces for coded language nd system requirements, 11 spaces for a 1 to 10 tar rating, and the remaining 14 spaces to begin brief program description which could continue for 56 spaces on the next line.

rogram name, so I keyed in their contents in that equence. As I acquired more programs, I continued to record them on index cards. Every once in a while I loaded my catalog file into Funlweb, FCTN of to the proper place in alphabetic sequence, pened a line there with FCTN 8, and typed in the ew record. The file soon became too large to load, but it was very easy to use Funlweb's features to split it into two files, then into many files, finally into five disks full of files. ach disk is labeled with the beginning and ending letters of each file, so they can be quickly found.

What?

I got go back And read this Again when

I have more time.

The last time I updated my catalog and printed it out (I have obtained hundreds of programs since) ${ ilde t}$ contained 4041 records on 50 pages at 80 lines per page, nearly half a million bytes of data. I doubt that anyone else in the TI world has anything like it. If I'm figuring correctly, it would take about 500k of RAM to read all that into memory. Since the FC's seem to be so incredibly wasteful of memory, I wonder if a 640k computer could update that file? If so, could they do it any faster than I can do it with Funlweb? Bút, you say, you can't SORT that file! Well, why should I want to? And could that 640k computer do it? Besides, if I wanted to, I CAN DO IT! I tried it, just for the heck of it. The only worthwhile field to sort on would be the disk number. So, I did a CALL FILES(9) and ran a little 10-line program which opened one file for input and eight for output, read a disk directory, opened each file in sequence, read the records and, if the disk number was less than 9, wrote the record to the file of the same number. When I was through swapping disks, I had separate files for disks 1 through 8, still in alphabetical sequence. It would take many hours sort out over 500 disks 8 at a time, but I could cram all those files onto two DS disks and my ramdisk, modify the program a bit, and all I would have to do is thange backup disks when they were full. Or to be more sensible. I could extract records in batches of 10 or more. whatever would be small enough to cram into TI-Sort for a further sort.

The point is - some jobs can be done better without a computer, and many others can be done with a very simple little program! Thanks Jim!

Note; Man, That just blew my mind.

Maby, or whatever. Them 3 nuts of bolts:

disks might be worth it!

CAN ANYONE SEND in A review on Jims

Nuts of Bolts Disks? 58

You don't MAVE to have it all'

by Jim Peterson

To the conversations at your user group meeting sound like a coffee break in Silicon Valley? Are you confused by talk of GROMs and GRAMs, puzzled by references to HFDCs, intimidated by discussions of megabytes and frightened by talk of burning appROMs? Well, join the crowd, buddy - so am I!

here are basically three types of people nterested in computers. First, there are those ho use a computer to run programs, to accomplish omething useful or just to have fun. I believe hat those people are still in the great majority, Ithough we don't hear much from them. Then, there are those who get their kicks out of ricing programs, of creating software for others to use. There aren't too many of those left in the TI world.

nd finally, there are those who like to tinker ith the computer, soup it up, plug in doohinkies nd thingama-jigs, and talk in that strange is anguage I mentioned above. I don't know how many if those folks there are, but they are certainly the most knowledgeable, active, and interested, and they tend to dominate the conversations and the printed material in the TI world nowadays.

presume that those fellows also do actually run rograms on their souped up systems. And, some of hem must be skilled programmers, because many of heir hybrid hardware creations would be useless ithout specialized software. I'm very glad that those people are around. Once in a while they invent something that I actually find useful, and they are a lifesaver when my equipment breaks down.

But, don't be intimidated by all that hightech talk, and don't think that the computer world is passing you by. There are so many things to do with a computer that no one could possibly find lime to do them all. Do your own thing and don't worry about the rest.

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I have operated a TI software company for seven years, and I also spend a lot of time writing programs, using the computer as a word processor, etc. I probably spend more time on my TI than 90% of the users. So, what does my equipment consist of?

I have a console with the Extended Basic module plugged in, attached to a P-box which contains a TI disk controller, two double-sided drives, the 32k dard, RS232 card, and a Horizon Ramdisk. Also plugged into the RS232 card is an old Gemini 10% printer and an Avatex 1200 baud modem. I also have a Speech Synthesizer, a pair of TI

I also have a Speech Synthesizer, a pair of TI joysticks, a TEII module and an Editor Assembler module, all of which I plug in occasionally when I need them; also, a cassette recorder and cable which hasn't been used in a long time.

I use Triton's Super Extended Basic module because it has some editing features which are useful when programming. It also has some limited plotting capability which I have never used - and have never heard of anyone who has. If you don't program, it would hardly pay to switch from the old TI Extended Basic. I also have the Mechatronics module but never got around to trying it. I had a Gram Kracker but soon sold it and bought a Ramdisk instead. The Gram Kracker has fantastic capabilities if you have the skill and knowledge to take advantage of them, but most users don't seem to have done much beyond personalizing the title screen.

I had a widget, and I guess it is still collecting dust around here some place. It was a nuisance, and since I use XBasic 99% of the time I didn't need it. There are now widgets or "module expanders" that allow you to access more than one module from within a program. That is, if you have the skill to write such a program. I don't know, that anyone has released such programs to the public domain, and I can't think of any practical use except to access TEII speech from XBasic — but you can do that with the Text-To-Speech disk.

More ___

he ram disk is the one tool that I would not be thout. In order to assemble my TI-FD catalog, I reened over 4000 programs, debugged and dified, merged in help files, con- versions to **Masic** and loaders, and assembled over 400 disks programs. It took me hundreds of hours of work without a ram disk it would have taken thousands hours and I would not even have attempted it. 🗽 ram disk enables me to switch from one program another almost instantly, and with John hnson's Boot program I can just as quickly stalog a disk or view a file. Mine has 256k of mory. I could get one with much more memory but see no reason to do so: I have every program on that I am apt to use even once a month. and it only half full. That leaves plenty of room for paporary storage and downloading. wever, if you only use your computer to play mes, do a little word processing and a bit of mord keeping, a ram disk would be an expensive invenience rather than a necessity. nce my ram disk is only half full, I would **I**nsider a hard drive to be about as useful as the mmalian appendages on a swine of the masculine rsuasion. If I was running a BBS, sure - or if I doing a lot of work with those memory-gobbling Caphics and needed everything quickly accessible. old Gemini printer has been a faithful rkhorse, although the hood over one sprocket eel has lost its soring and is being held down a loop of elastic cord. I will have to give :t soon, because the Gemini printer codes are coming obsolete and I need to be able to write ed test Epson codes. But, I hate to give up these -cent typewriter ribbons and start getting **bo**ped off on \$2.50 cartridges! for a color ribbon, the temperature will have oo way down, down under, before I pay for one those. ace in a while, when someone sends me a Buble-density diskfull of stuff, I wish I had a orComp disk controller. Otherwise, with iskettes selling for a quarter or less, it buldn't pay to change.