

20A 20A COMPUTER GROUP



Volume 8, Number 12

December 9, 1998

his newsletter is the official publication of the DALLAS TI HOME OMPUTER GROUP, a non-profit organization serving member/users of the exas Instruments 99/4A HOME COMPUTER. For more information you are notited to attend our next meeting or send a SASE to:

DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP P.O. Box 29863 Dallas, Texas 75229

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, December 17, 1988 The Dallas INFOMART

99er Connection 885 24 Hours, 300/1200 baud 214-233-1750

*** Note *** 885 Phone Number CHARGE ***

---- December Highlights -----

Meeting Day:

Hardware SIG: Repairing Blown Disks Coming Events Main Meeting: Elections, Myarc 9640

Geneve Demonstration

Special SIG: TI Hardware Testing

DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS THERE WILL BE O MINI-SIG OR NEXT STEP THIS CONTH!!!

Inside the DALLAS 99 INTERFACE:

The Fat Cat's Tale Member Profile Multiplan Hints TI-Base Version 2 Preview Program Chairman's Report TIB-OITS Mini-Sig Report

Next-Step Workshop Report Nominating Committee Report Uncle Mikey's Furneyweb Farm

The Wishing Well Officers and Chairpersons

Unclassified Ads

CLASS

er 1988 Dallas 99 Interface

December 1988

* == DTIHCG COMING EVENTS == * ************************

December 1988

17 Saturday 9:00am SUPER SATURDAY INFOMART Meeting 9:01am SIG; Repairing Blown Diskettes 10:00am DTIHOG Main Meeting, Elections 10:40am PROGRAM; Myarc 9640 Geneve Demonstration 12:00pm Social Hour/Lunch/ Activity Signup 1:00pm SIG; TI Hardware Testing 24 Saturday Executive Committee, NOT HELD THIS MONTH Chairpersons Meeting, NDT HELD THIS MONTH 30 Friday 10:00pm Newsletter Deadline

NEXT-STEP. NOT HELD THIS MONTH

January 1989

7 Saturday
5:30am 1st Saturday Sidewalk
Sale
1:00pm ALL OFFICERS AND
CHAIRPERSONS 1st MEETING!
14 Saturday
9:00am SUPER SATURDAY INFOMART
Meeting
9:01am SIG Meeting
10:00am DTIHCG Business Neeting
10:40am Main Program Presentation
12:00pm Social Hour/Lunch/
Activity Signum

1:00pm Afternoon Novice Meeting

FAT CAT'S TALE by RIP DOWLING

Already? Is it really over already? Well, not quite, but almost it seems like just a couple of weeks ago I was writing my first FAT CAT'S TALES. So where did the year go? As the ancient somebodies used to say, Time flies when you are having fun." It has been fun. Lots of fun. And you great folks are the ones that made it fun. I said it before and I'll probably say it again, this is the nicest bunch of people I have ever had the pleasure of dealing with.

We all know the things that have happened during the year. We had some great gatherings for learning and for socializing. We experimented with some new products and software. We spent a little money on ourselves for new monitors and stands and such. We found some new friends to join the 99/4A community, and we experimented with a new facility that permitted some great hands on learning for a lot of folks at one time. And we stood side by side in what seemed an impossible battle and won at least some partial victories.

What is coming next year promises to be even bigger and better. There are new products coming, many of them home grown. We have a confirmation on the continued use of INFOMAT for our home base. And we have some new paths to explore and some old ones to retrace. It sounds to me like next year is going to pass as quickly as this one did. The December meeting will include the election of the new officers and the nominating committee has a great line up for us to consider. Many of the old familiar faces and some new ones to brighten up the bouquet. Come on down and voice your opinion and wish some holiday cheer to the rest of the crowd.

As for me, I'll be there under the big blue, hat that is, to say thanks for the great time. To any of you who can't join in, let me say now that it was a very enjoyable year for me, thanks to you

May the wind be always at your back, may the road rise up to meet you. May the rain fall gentle on your fields, and may the good Lord hold you close until we meet again.

MEMBER PROFILE - LINDA WAY

Linda Way is one of the group's newest members, having joined the Dallas TI Home Computer Group in April, 1988. Linda has been in the D/FW area for 1 1/2 years, and has lived in Dallas for the past two months. She is originally from Miami, Florida, and she now lives with her "immediate family", two Himalayan cats, Mitsu Khan and Crystal Princess.

Linda is a full-time student at Richland College, where she is majoring in Computer Science and photography. Linda uses her TI-99/4A with Wordwriter Plus to do her homework and to write research papers. Around the house, Linda uses her 99/4A to catalog her book and videotape collections, as well as to play games and write programs. Linda is one of the lucky numbers who won the opportunity to purchase one of the group's expanded systems, and she is spending much of her free time learning to use it.

Linda is one of many folks who purchased their first TI-99/4A right after Texas Instruments pulled the plug on their support, making the machine an orphan. She also works with IBMs at Richland for her PASCAL class.

Concerning the DTIHCG, Linda says that she likes having the opportunity to learn about new software and hardware that is being developed and how to use it. However, she enjoys most the contact with other people that are interested in the TI-99/4A because, according to Linda, "Most of my friends and family don't understand my fascination with computers."

Linda Way is also a member of the Richland Select Choir. Her hobbies include science fiction, photography, writing, foreign languages, and computer programming. Linda recently experienced the thrill of her first sale of one of her photographic achievements, a print from her Design assignment at school.

SUPERPLAN Multiplan Hints - Walter Pearson

At the recently concluded Multiplan mini-SIG, one of the demotemplates was a bare-bones payroll register. This register allowed you to input all the data from a paystub and have it total each line of credits and debits on a yearly basis.

One limitation was an inability to preset regular deductions, such as insurance, IRA's and stock purchases. If you always send \$10 to the credit union it would seem simple to enter it once and Copy Right to the other cells, so you would not have to enter it every pay period. But the register would sum this line and throw the yearly totals off, and on Jan. 7 would credit you all 52 weeks of saving.

Multiplan provides an answer in the IF function. Have each cell check for an entry which occurs every pay period, such as base salary, and if this entry is above zero then make the deduction. For this use, it is important that the cell chosen be used only for valid pay periods so that a Christmas bonus, for example, given in a separate check does not fool Multiplan into registering a false deposit into your credit union totals.

IF functions are covered on page 171 of the Multiplan manual. We will set our new formulas as such:

IF((R-4C)>0,10.,0)for C/U's

IF[(R-4C)>0,2500/52,0] for IRA's

IF[(R-4C)>0,(R-4C+R-3C+R-2C+R-1C)*3%,0] for 401K @ 3%

where Multiplan will examine the cell in this column, 4 rows above the current cell, compare it to zero, put 10. in the credit union cell if R-4C is greater than zero, and zero in the credit union cell if R-4C is zero. The IRA formula is essentially the same, putting the maximum IRA donation in the cell. The 4OlK formula will deduct 3% of earnings before taxes so this formula should be entered on the earnings half of the spreadsheet.

Thus, the general format of the IF function is:

IF (EXPRESSION, THEN, E_SE)

which gives Multiplan the power to solve problems with a mirimum of intervention from the user.

For the payroll register's purposes you need to enter the formula into the appropriate cell in column 2 (credit union, IRA, insurance, etc.) and COPY RIGHT to the column before the totals are figured. When you come to a "free" pay period where this deduction is not taken out, then you must be sure to ELANK the cell so Multiplan will not automatically enter it.

TI-BASE Version 2: a sneak preview. by Jon Hodges

TI-BASE, a database program from INSCEBOT, has been around now for several months, and has been mostly reviewed as a "potential winner," due to the combination of advanced features (to the TI world) and unfortunate omissions. Reviewers held their collective breath hoping that author Dennis Faherty would improve it with the next version. Columns sprang up in several User Group newsletters focusing on using the program, and some served to discourage folks from using TI-BASE due to its complexity and drawbacks. In other words, users also hoped that version 2 would be a big improvement.

Well I am here to tell you that it IS! For some strange reason (a fluke, I'm sure) I was chosen to test the Version 2 pre-release programs, and had an opportunity to have a say in what went into it.

Defore I get to improvements in the program, I need to mention an improvement in the documentation Our CENTERFOLD this month is a sample of the quick reference guide made for Vn. 2. This one has a code indicating "new for Vn. 2", and is a full-size sheet. The one that will come with Vn. 2 is typeset, and considerably smaller. It is also more accurate. In other words, this one is inaccurate on purpose. My goal is to encourage you to PURCHASE the upgrade and get the nifty guide included in it. Remove the centerfold quick reference guide now and follow along.

One drawback Vn. I had was the inability to redirect output from the screen to the printer, or from the printer to disk. The PRINTER keyword was modified to allow one to redirect output to a disk file. The LIST command was also added to allow printing of COMMAND files. COMMAND also now makes DV80 files. For existing IF40 COMMAND files, one can LIST them to a disk file. The SNAP command was added to allow dumping a screen to the printer device.

Another drawback of Vn. 1 had to do with printing control codes. It could be cone, you just could not see what you were doing as the control codes did not display on the screen. That made it tough to troubleshoot a printing problem. This was corrected in two ways. First, a HEX character type was created for CREATE and LOCAL, allowing what was imput to be shipped to the printer in HEX form (ie. NOT translated to ASCII). Now you could put a 18 OF in a HEX field, which, when PRINTed, would put your printer into COMPRESSED mode. However, there is little need to do that with Vn. 2, because a PRINTER DataBase was created that is accessed by the program and often used printer codes are available by putting the correct abbreviation in parentheses and PRINTing it. See the back page of the reference guide for the example PRINTER DataBase. To use the PRINTER DataBase codes for your printer, it is called up with PRINTER=EPSON (or whatever else your printer is, there is a separate record for several types). This works nicely in the SETUP file. Then FRINT your fields with the cooss imbedded in the line. If you want to change the available codes, you can modify the record that applies to your printer, or redo the entire DataBase to suit your needs, as long as it is named PRINTER. One casualty of this flexibility is the LINES keyword. It is not needed if you plan correctly, and add (CR) (LF) at the right places.

SORT can now sort up to eight levels of listed fields. The procedure before was to create several small databases sorted on a particular field, and sort them on a second field, create several more small databases sorted on that second field, etc. Messy stuff. This makes it much nicer, and the time for a multiple sort is not as had as one would suspect. Try it out!

DISPLAY, PRINT and REPLACE got an extra command modifier, called SCOPE. No, you won't find the word SCOPE in the reference guide. Instead, you will find the format, ; FOR (expression). This is how it works: Say you want to DISPLAY all of the records that have a "y" in the SOLD field. Your command would look like this:

DISPLAY ALL :FOR SOLD="V"

In one fell swoop Vn. 2 does what took several lines of valuable programming space in Vn. 1. And you can put away your calculator, too. Now there is a SUM command that will display the SUM of a specified field, and it too has a SCOPE command modifier!

Geneve owners will be happy to hear that there is a CURSOR keyword that will allow you to slow down the flash rate.

One can now enter text into a COMMAND file READ command without the need for those pesky quote marks .only it is now a READSTRING command.

The Date can be used in an equation now as .DATE.

For the budding COMMAND file programmer, there is the TRACE facility, which prints out the command line being executed on the printer. Now if the error seems to go by so fast you can't catch the command line number on the screen, just use TRACE ON and watch the printer.

MEMORY will display information on available memory, so you can see how much work space you have left.

DISPLAY STRUCTURE LOCAL will give you all the information you need on LOCALs currently in use.

CONVERT (you can jump up and down and shout for joy now) will allow you to input a DataBase from another program, and even expand an existing TI-BASE DataBase. A few words of caution though. It is NOT a cinch. Some work is required, and a thorough knowledge of sectorediting would be helpful. Also, one MUST know the details of the existing database fields. That means you cannot go to someone, hand them a disk, and have them convert it for you

You might think that all these added features are enough. Well, there is one more, and it's a real winner. The load speed for Vn. 1 was kindly called "slow." It took almost two minutes to load from disk, and 55 seconds to load from a Horizon RAMdisk. Well, now the disk load time is a respectable 50 seconds, and the HRD loads it in 6! Version 2 has been thoroughly tested from a HRD and a CorComp controller without difficulty.

Though there are still a few features to go before Ashton-Tate will start Patent infringement proceedings, TI-BASE Vn. 2 offers a good deal more than Vn. 1. And by the time you read this, it will be available to the general public. Upgrades are expected to cost \$7.95 (and after participating in the test process, I can say that's a bargain), and I am sure that the User Group will be making a mass buy, so keep your ears open

We just had a MiniSIG on using TI-BASE, but another one will be scheduled for those who missed the first one if there is enough interest.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you, my friends, for making the last three years in the OTIHCG an enjoyable experience. I have enjoyed putting on sideshows for the fun of it. I have basked in the warm "sunshine" of being a big fish in a little pond, sharing

my experience and knowledge with those who had need. I have been forced to learn things about the TI that I never thought possible, just to be one step ahead of those looking to me for answers. And I have enjoyed making so many good friends.

If this sounds like a going-away speech, it is. I have long been a proponent of keeping what works, rather than going after the biggest, most powerful, latest technology just because it's there. And for the last few years, I have lived that way. Now the time has come (it's been overdue for a long time) for me to move on to the world of MS-DOS. With it comes the move from instructor to student. I still believe in keeping what works. Only now, for me, what works is a PC. The TI-99/4A is still a good, viable computer, and for most of you it will be sufficient for years to come. I would like to encourage you to continue using it and enjoying it as long as you can. And may the Lord grant you a blessed Christmas.

From the Program Committee Jim Stewart

Jon Hodges will lead off our Dec. 17th INFOMART meeting presenting the TI TEST Programs Package TI sent to the User Groups. This is something we can all use. Our 11:00 meeting will feature Richard Roberts review of the 9640 Computer and how it compares and differs from our II-99/4m. It was decided to hold off for a while on the Hard Disk Controller Card review. until more hands on experience has been gained by our members. At 1:00 for those who understand and want to know more about Device Service Routines, Bdb Jones will give us his highly qualified insight and suggestions. Old St. Nick has not offered to speak, but I suspect Thierry Weber will have his Christmas music disk with him to help create a Happy Christmas spirit for us all!

TIB-DITS by Jim Stewart

Yesterday I tried an old disk in X-Basic, but when no menu appeared I was momenturily at a loss what to do Programmers have certainly made the user's life much easier through menu selections, so this entire TIB-DITS will stress Meru's I have plagiarized, pillaged, plundered from Jon Hodges, and in my modifications, I fear I have polluted them as well...but they all work!

Our December 4th TIB MiniSig was partially based upon an extraordinary Photographic collection by Roswell Whitmore's cataloging Texas Wild Flowers. Once TI BASE is loaded, and the DATE inserted, we begin by SELECT 1, followed in this example by USE FLORA ... and if using a Simple Disk Drive system this is the time the Data Disk is inserted before pressing ENTER. Also be sure you have a copy of the file OVRLAY/P on this second disk, allowing you to do anything except FORMAT a disk, without switching disks again. At this point you would normally type .DO MENU, but today we must create 5 different command files to go with the demonstration Cata Base named F_ORA.

Type . MODIFY COMMAND DSKm. MENU. like this on the blank screen. 1 *Command file MENU

- 2 SET TALK=OFF
- 3 SET HEADING=OFF
- SET RECNUM-OFF
- 5 LOCAL CHOICE N 2 O
- REPLACE CHOICE WITH O
- WHILE CHOICE <> 5
- READ 20 23 CHOICE
- 10 CLEAR
- 11 DOCASE
- 12

Use .CREATE DSKn FLORA to structure the demo data base used in FLORA.

#1 PIC# C 4 #2 COLOR C 4

#3 MN C 2 \$4 TECHNAME C 20

\$5 COMMINME C 15 #6 FAMILYNAME C 14

#7 PL# C 3

CASE CHOICE = 1

12 WRITE 12 2 "ENTER COMMON NAME:"

14 WRITE 14 2 "ENTER FAMILY NAME:"

13 READ 12 23 COMMNAME

15 READ 14 23 FAMILYNAME

TI-BASE Quick Reference Chart

[C] must be used in COMMAND file.

[P] must have program disk in drive.

[D] unless specified, uses default DATDISK to find file.

[5] operates on current slot only.

[n.5] unless specified, operates on current slot.

[2] This feature is new for Vn. 2.

[*] [SFACE] bar to pause, [S] to re-start, [FN][9] to escape (required entry) {optional entry}

APPEND [5]: appends new record to end of DataBase.

APPEND BLANK [5]: appends blank record at end.

BOTTOM [3]: goes to last record in DataBase.

BREAK [C]: terminates processing following CASE that is TRUE, until ENDCASE.

CASE (expression) [C]: if expression is TRUE, following statements executed until BREAK.

CATALOG DSK(n) [P]: catalogs disk.

CHANGE (address) (value) [P]: patch hex address with hex value.

CLEAR: clears display.

CLEAR LOCAL: clears all LOCAL variables.

CLOSE {ALL} [5]: updates and closes database(s).

COLOR (foreground) (background)[P]:changes colors

transparent dark-blue medium-red dark-green black light-blue light-red magenta

medium-green dark-red dark-yellow

gray

light-green CYAN light-yellow white

CONVERT (input file) (output file) (GO) [P] [2]: allows conversion or expansion of existing database files. QO bypasses prompts.

COPY (from: file) (to: file) (QO)[P] [D]: copies files. QO bypasses prompts.

CREATE (filename) [D] [S]: opens and creates database named (filename). type: C=character, X=Hex, N=numeric, D=date, DEC=# of decimal places.

DELETE DATABASE [P] [S]: deletes DataBase in current slot.

DELETE RECORD (n) [P] [8]: marks current (or [n]) record for deletion,

making it unavailable for normal processing. See RECALL, PACK, SORT. DELETE FILE (filename) [P] [D]: deletes the specified file.

DISPLAY STRUCTURE [S]: displays structure of DataBase.

DISPLAY STRUCTURE LOCAL [2]: displays structure of LOCALs in use.

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16 WRITE 16 2 "ENTER PLATE \$:" - 8 -

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DISPLAY STATUS: displays current system status. Use SET to change. DISPLAY ALL {{n.} a,b,...} [*] [n.S]: displays all (or {a,b, etc}) fields of DataBase. {n.} defines a different slot number.
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DISPLAY [*] [8]: displays all fields in the current record.

DISPLAY {{n.}a,b,...} ;FOR (expression) [*] [n.5] [2]: will search entire database for (expression) and display specified fields for each record where (expression) is true.

DISPLAY (n) [*] [8]: displays all fields in the next (n) records.

DO (filename) {LIST} [*] [D]: executes [or LISTs to screen) command file (filename). Can be nested 5 deep. TALK must be on to LIST.

DOCASE [C]: initiates CRSE processing. Followed by CASE, BREAK, and ENDCASE.

EDIT {n} [S]: edits current (or {n}) record in DataBase.

EJECT: sends "Top Of Form" code to printer.

ELSE [C]: follows IF command, statements are executed if IF is FALSE.

ENDCASE [C]: terminates DOCASE processing.

ENDIF [C]: terminates If processing.

ENDWRILE [C]: terminates WHILE processing.

FIND (expression) [n.3] finds (expression) in the sort field after SORTing. (expression) may be any literal or fieldname.

FORMAT [P]: initializes disketts, with prompts.

IF (expression) [C]: statements following are executed if TRUE. Nust be followed by ENDIF. Also see ELSE.

LIST (filename) [D] [2]: will list (filename) including extension to printer or device specified by PRINTER keyword.

LOCAL (fieldname) (type) (width){dec}{C}: defines a LOCAL variable (up to a maximum of 17).

type: C=character, X=Hex, N=numeric, D=date, dec=# of decimal places. "C" in last place makes LOCAL permanent until CLEAR LOCAL or re-boot.

MEMORY [2]: displays data on available memory.

MODIFY STRUCTURE: allows changes to current Database structure and fieldnames. DO NOT CHANGE RECORD SIZE or existing data will be destroyed. see CONVERT.

MODIFY COMMAND (filename) [D]: allows creation and editing of command files.

HOVE {+/- n} [S]: moves the Database one (or {n}) record(s).

PACK [P] [S]: permanently removes DELETEd records from DataGase.

PRINT [n.8]: see DISPLAY. Data will be sent to device specified by SET PRINTER keyword. Will not print status or structure.

PRINTER (printername) [P] [2]: will activate printer control codes for (printername).

QUIT: CLOSEs all DataBases and exits TI-BASE.

READ (1) (c) (yariable) [C]: positions cursor at line (1), column (c) and waits for input, which is assigned to variable, which may be LOCAL or fieldname. All numeric variables need space for sign.

Enclose all Character strings in quotes or use READSTRING instead.

READSTRING (1) (c) (variable)[C] [2]: reads in character strings without need for quotes. see READ.

RECALL (n) [S]: un-deletes current (or (n)) record previously DELETEd.

RECOVER [P]: rebuilds contaminated index; useless if data file is corrupted.

REPLACE ({n.}fieldname) WITH (expression) {;FOR (expression#2)} [2]:
similar to LET in BASIC. (expression) may use any LITERAL
("character string" with optional TRIM), fieldname, LOCAL, or math.
Use ({n.}a) if variable is in different DataBase mlot. optional
{;FOR (expression#2)} will replace only if (expression#2) is true.

RETURN [C]: returns from COMMAND file.

SCROLL (n1) (n2): moves lines n1-n2 up one line, or down if n1>n2.

SELECT (n): changes active Database slot to (n).

SET (keyword) {=} (value): modifies status table entries; DISPLAY STATUS to check.

SNAP [2]: dumps current ecreen display to printer or device specified by PRINTER keyword.

SORT ON (fieldname) [8]: morts PataBase on field (fieldname) in ascending order. UNDELETES records deleted since last PACK.

SORT ON (fieldname list) [8] [2]: sorts DataBase on fieldnames in listed order, to 8 levels.

SORT OFF [S]: Used to retrieve DataBase in order of entry. Also good for APPENDing records to a large database.

SUM (fieldname) {; FOR (expression)} [8] [2]: adds up numeric (fieldname) in all records, and displays result on next screen line. if {; FOR (expression)} is used, only those records where (expression) is true will be SUMmed.

TOP [S]: positions DataBase to first logical record.

TRACE (ON/OFF) [2]: when on, each executable COMMAND FILE line will be printed to printer or device specified by PRINTER keyword.

USE (filename) [0] [8]: activates DataBase (filename) in the current slot which must be empty.

WAIT (n) [*] [C]: suspends processing (n) seconds. [FN] 9 will skip remaining WAIT time.

WHILE (expression) [C]: if (expression) is TRUE, statements that follow will be executed. Must be followed by ENDWHILE.

WRITE (1), (c) (expression): writes (expression) at line (1), column (c). If (expression) is Character string, enclose in quotes.

MATH FUNCTIONS, ETC.

ARITHMETIC	BOOLEAN	STATUS keywords:
+ plus	< less than	DATDISK
- minus	> greater than	PRGDISK
* multiply	o not equal	PRINTER
/ divide	= equal	PAGE
** exponent	~ arithmetic	HEADING
SQR square root		TALK
LOG logarithm		SPACES
ALOG unti-log	LOGICAL	RECNUM
SIN sine		LSPACE
COS comine	.WOT. (expression)	DATE
TAN tangent	.AND.	CURSOR (0<= n =>99)
ATAN arc-tangent	.OR.	LINE (not Vn. 2)
(-n) unary or neg. #		
		PRINTER Control Codes
enclose operators in	DATE	
parentheses when		FF Form Food
using WORD functions.	.DATE.	LF Line Feed
	MONTH	CR Carriage Return
	DAY	DB DoubleStrike
	YEAR	UL UnderLine
•		EX Expanded
		CH Compressed
		IT ITalics
COMMAND LANGUAGE	CHARACTER	B Bold
		\$PS SuPerScript
* comment line	concantenation	888 SuBScript
; allows continuation	TRIM removes	HT Herizontal Tab
on next line	trailing blanks	ST SetTab
		NM NorMal
(during execution:)		
[SPACE] pause		
[S] continue		
[Fn][9] abort		8 8 1pi
		6 6 1pt
		NLQ Near Ltr Quality
		DR DRaft
12-88		RS ReSet
DTIHCG		ESC ESCape

17 READ 16 23 PL# 18 RETURN (Remember F8 & F9)

Dallas 99 Interface

Type .MODIFY COMMAND DSKn.PRINT to end.

1 * Command file PRINT

2 CLEAR

3 SET PAGE=0

4 SET RECNUM=ON (delete if not wanted)

5 TOP

6 WHILE .NOT. (EOF)

7 PRINT SO

8 EJECT

9 MOVE

10 ENDWHILE

11 CLOSE ALL

12 RETURN (Remember F8 & F9)

That all looks simple enough, doesn't it? Well, let's try it. You would normally begin with .SELECT 1 (enter) them .USE FLORA (enter) and now type .DO MENU. When this comes up you will see your Title and your 5 choices. You have completed the ADD and PRINT command files, so these work. Why don't you try your hand at creating the EDIT and SORT command files to complete this MENU?. It is a straightforward job to modify these template files to suit your own custom data base...which is what TI BASE and TIB-DITS is all about.

Have fun!

MINISIG REPORT - Tom Hall

The last MINISiG for 1988 was held at the home of Rip Dowling. Jon Hodges was the Sig Leader for TI BASE. If you missed this important Sig, don't fret. Jon has promised to lead another TI BASE MINISiG in 1989. Again, the attendance will be limited to 10 members.

In January we are going to try something new, and that is to hold a MINISiG at the INFOMART, in the afternoon, following the regular meeting. This will be the NOVICE MINISiG (or THE TI99/4A FOR NOVICES). I am going to need all the help I can get on this one, so I am asking everyone to stay following the regular meeting. I will have an outline, but recalling your problems, and how you solved them is important, too. If you have any tapes or cartridges you think are appropriate, by all means, bring them. Please participate in this MINISiG and share your experiences with us.

NEXT-STEP REPORT - Ton Hall

The last was the best! December 2, 1988 was the last NEXT-STEP for the year. WYATTS has been hospitable to us in 1998, and I am grateful. I know not everyone shares my enthusiasm for WYATTS, but let's give WYATTS credit. They let us use their facilities for a minimum guarantee that we will, collectively, spend a modest amount on food. We have met that minimum, with the exception of one meeting. If we rented a meeting room at a motel, the Club would be charged about what we spend on food. Comparing the cost this way, WYATTS is a bargain AMD we get to eat, too!

Jim Stewart who has been so dependable to assist with the NEXT-STEP arrangements, will be the NEXT-STEP CHAIRMAN for 1989. Jim has preformed muny duties for our Group, including the NEXT-STEP in 1985/86. Please support Jim next year. Jim will discuss his NEXT-STEP plans in the January NEWSLETTER.

NOMINATIONS

Most of the Committee positions have been filled, except for the MINISiG Chairmen. This staff position is really the Training Officer for the Group. MINISiGs must reflect the interests and needs of the Group, as well as new trends in what is available for our Computer. This Chairman works with the other Chairmen and Officers to coordinate the training with current presentations to the Group. This position requires the Chairman to arrange a host and Sig Leader for each MINISIG, attend MINISIG Meeting, attend the monthly EC/Chairmen Meetings, promote the coming MINISiG at the SUPER SATURDAY Meetings and write a monthly article for the NEWSLETTER. All this will only require from 10 to 12 hours of time each month. It takes a lot of quality volunteer labor to keep an active group like ours running about 250 to 300 hours each month. So if we don't have 20 to 25 quality people willing to contribute some of their time each mornth, the Group just won't run on its own momentum. If you feel that I have been talking to you and you are willing to take on this challenge as MINISiG Chairman - see me at the next Group Meeting. On the up side, I have topics and hosts for about half of the 1989 MINISiGs and this will get you started.

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Nominations are:

PRESIDENT

LOUIS GUION

VICE-PRESIDENT

DOUG GARRETSON

TREASURER

JACKIE GUION

SECRETARY

GREG JUSTICE

MEMBER AT LARGE

CHARLICE ALTHAR

Nominations may be made from "the floor" by members in good standing. We encourage such nominations. However, be sure you have the nominee's permission to submit their name for a Club office.

UNCLE HIKEY'S FUNNYWEB FARMS COLUMN

1988 is almost gone. Every breath it takes is a little more labored, has a sharper rasping quality about it. I'll miss it when it finally passes, kicking and screaming, from the scene. Here's hoping that 1989 is as kind and embracing.

L'chaim, 1988, and safe passage!

Things I wonder:

If you're convicted of a 'victimless crime' do you just have to PRETEND you're serving time?

Was there ever anyone known as 'Johnny Broccoli-seed'?

Do we travel in a constant flow of time, or are we just a series of specials?

Can you sue your stereo for infidelity?

Why can't you find 'the middle-of-nowhere' on a map?

If they had a telethon for apathy, would anyone care?

Do pigs ever 'pull a ham-string'?

'? - 10 - Dallas 99 Interface

Did the Trojan war have anything to do with safe sex?

Where are the rubber-baby-buggy-bumber-stickers?

Does the addiction to 'demon rum' begin with 'demon Kool-aid'?

Do young baseball players say they're leaving home to 'strike out on their own'?

Does a smolcering nun qualify as a 'smoking habit'?

Do monsters attack Japanese cities because they taste great or because they're less filling?

Why does my hair have better body than I do?

If you get lost in thought, does it help to bring a compass?

Why has my academic career turned out to be so academic?

I know they can teach mice to run mazes, but how long does it take to teach them to re-fold the map?

Do you have to wait fifteen minutes after eating before you can play in quicksand?

and:

Is the proper definition of a 7 rift valley, the distance between my brain and my mouth?

And speaking of bad jokes, here's this months Tinygram, all wrapped up and ready to go under the tree. And, in following with that grand old tradition I started last month, you'll find the very simple rules embedded in the program. Have a nice time and remember to share with your brothers and sisters or whatever brand of genetic variant you have traipsing through your living quarters.

(Somewhere in the distance we hear the tinkling of sleigh bells, the crack of a whip, a hearty cry of 'Ho Ho Ho!' and we know that the neighbors have been reading 'Penthouse Forum' again!)

MERRY CHRISTNAS Y'ALL!

```
+ 1 GOTO 10 !
    *************************
    * BY MIKE STANFILL
+ 2 CALL CLEAR :: CALL HCHAR(2 +
 + 3,1,33,32):: GOSUB 8
+ 3 CALL SPRITE(#1.86.2.INT(RN +
+ D*56)+50,1,0,5,42,43,2,80,80 +
+ ):: P=170 :: R=112
+ 4 CALL JOYST(1,Q,W):: CALL M +
+ OTION(#2,2*-W,2*Q,#1,INT(RND +
+ #8)~4,5):: CALL KEY(1,K,5) +
+ 5 Z=94+((Z=94)*-24): CALL P +
+ ATTERN(41,Z):: CALL POSITION +
+ (#2,L,M,#1,C,D):: IF D>220 T +
+ HEN 3 ELSE IF S=0 THEN 4
+ 6 CALL SPRITE(#4,46,2,P,R,(L +
+ -P)*.49,(M-R)*.49):: CALL 90 +
+ UND(475,~3,14)
+ 7 CALL SOUND(120,110,6):: CA +
+ LL DELSPRITE(#4):: CALL COIN +
+ C(#1,#2,8,G):: IF G THEN J=J +
+ +1 :: CALL MOTION(#1,20,5):: +
+ GOTO 2 ELSE A=A+1 :: GOSUB +
+ 8 :: GOTD 4
+ 8 RANDOMIZE :: DISPLAY AT(24 +
+ ,1):"DUCKS----HIT=";J;" MISSE +
+ D=";A :: RETURN
+ 10 CALL CLEAR :: PRINT "TINY +
+ DUCK IS AN EASY GAME TO": "PL +
+ AY. TYPE IT IN, RUN IT AND": +
+ "GRAB JOYSTICK ONE, YOU'RE": +
+ "THE HUNTER IN THE REEDS"
+ 11 PRINT "AT THE BOTTOM OF T +
+ HE SCREEN": "AND YOU USE YOUR +
+ JOYSTICK": "TO MANEUVER THE +
+ '+' SIGN TO": "AIN YOUR BULLE +
+ IS AT THE "
+ 12 PRINT "DUCKS FLYING OVERH +
+ EAD. ONCE": "YOU HAVE THE DUC +
+ K IN YOUR": "'SIGHTS' (LEAD A +
+ BIT TO THE": "LEFT!) JUST PR +
+ ESS THE FIRE"
+----
+ 13 PRINT "BUTTON AND IT'S ON +
+ E LESS": "DUCK, WHEREUPON YOU +
+ WILL": "GET A SCORE, THERE W +
+ ILL ALSO": "BE A RUNNING ACCO +
+ UNT OF YOUR"
+ 14 PRINT "MISSES HAPPY HUNT +
+ ING!":"" "PRESS ANY KEY TO B +
+ EGIN.":"(ALPHA LOCKS UP!)"
+ 15 CALL KEY(O,K,S):: IF S=0 +
```

+ THEN 15 ELSE 2

THE WISHING WELL by Jim Lesher

Have you ever wished you had a program that would _______ or maybe _______?

Well I have, many times. Wouldn't it be nice if we could organize a few good volunteer programmers who would be happy to write some small programs for some of us who are not so adept at this sort of thing or maybe modify some existing programs to do a specific job. For example, I never thought of asking someone to write that program called TIME by Louis Guion for the Triple Tech clock, it was just exactly what I wanted. And John Guion modified a program called Calendar so I could save it to disk and print it out in Ti Writer format all quickly and easily, also the calendar can be modified within Ti Writer's parameters, like printing it out in bold, pica, italics, double strike, nlq, etc. etc. I must have 100 calendar names already on disks, so now I don't have to wait several minutes for each calencar to format this and that before it finally prints out. John modified this program to print to disk and printer all at the same time and here is the good part, it saves each calendar under each name as a filename for that calendar. It is so neat.

So if you would like to have this service available to you as a member, let us know, the President, Vice president or any of the officers. This may spawn a whole new round of programs for our great computer.

At this point in time, I would like to have a program to save CERIFICATE to Ti writer format or maybe Ti Artist's Display Master format, or anything to get away from the time consuming procedure it takes to create one certificate. Although I can think of many more programs and program modifications, I will suggest only one more here. A program like T.A.S.S to view ALL of the Ti Artist instances and forms, not just the ones in 25 sector program format, but all the little 2, 3, and 4 sector ones and print them all out or page for reference.

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Volunteer Chairman		

These people are the club's officers and chairpersons. They all are invited to, and most attend, the two and a half hour Committee Chairmen's meeting (the officers meet for an hour and a half before that!) on the Saturday one week after the INFOMART meeting. In addition to just belonging, they serve themselves and you by giving freely of their time to make this a better club for us all. Thank then individually if you have the opportunity.

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