Gary Bowser

...of Oasis Pensive Abacutors...a Canadian TI'er we can all be proud of...

Gary hails from Toronto. His business is called Oasis Pensive Abacutors or **OPA**. **OPA** began five years ago. Gary has produced a quantity of software. The Phoenix 2001 series includes Tri-Artist-Slide-Show; Diskodex 2001; Recallit 2001 and others. However, his most important contributions have been in the hardware field.

In 1989, Gary, along with Bud Mills, created **RAMBO**. RAMBO is a hardware upgrade for the **HORIZON** ramdisk. Then, in 1990, came the **ROS 8**. This software increased the use of the RAMBO and HORIZON cards.

Most recently, Gary has come out with an 80-column card for the TI. No more windowing...a legitimate 80-column word pro. Think of it!

This card has a name: **TIM...TI-IMAGE-MAKER.** It's affectionately called Tiny Tim. Tiny Tim is an internal console expansion board designed for the TI. It is based on the new V9958 Video Display Processor chip. Believe it or not, this chip is compatible with TI's original TMS9918 chip. It's also compatible with the V9938 chip used in other third-party TI video upgrades.

Tiny Tim is in a 4-inch by 3-inch format. It has several goodies on it: the V9958; 192K of video ram; a special ASIC device; plus a 25-pin monitor/expansion port with RGB video driven circuitry. You replace the TMS9918 chip with this board. The only extras you need are two jumper wires.
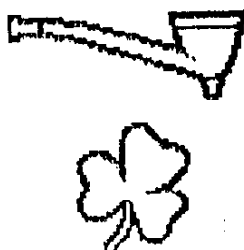
Tiny Tim has other things to offer. Some are...in addition to 80 columns...24 or 26.5 lines of text; 256 colours; and 32 sprites.

What's next??? Gary has a licensing agreement with TI. He can develop TI Basic...

For further information, and/or the **OPA News** (and OPA catalogue), you may want to contact Gary at:
432 Jarvis St., Suite 502
Toronto, ON, CAN M4Y 2H3

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PRESIDENT	PHIL TOWNSEND	705 745 3757
VICE PRESIDENT	GLEN DANIELS	705 742 9869
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR	JOHN BAAL	705 745 1438

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Meetings are held on the SECOND Wednesday of each month (Sept. to
June) at the PETERBOROUGH POLICE DEPT. meeting room, located at the
intersection of Water St. & McDonnel St. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

Membership fees are collected on an annual basis at the annual
meeting. Fees are $24.00 per annum. New members joining part way
through the year are charged the rate of $2.00 per month for the balance
of the club's fiscal year. The group's annual meeting is held on the
second Wednesday in March at which time elections for the group's
executive is held. Memberships can only be held in an adult's name.
Out of town members are most welcome.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and
not necessarily of the KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP.

Advertisements and contributing articles for this newsletter may be
given to the newsletter editor, sent to the group's mailing address or
uploaded to the S.S.F.C. bulletin board (TI section) at 705 749 5538, 24
hours a day (8N1).

The KAWARTHA 99ers would like to thank those groups who exchange
information and newsletters regarding the TEXAS INSTRUMENT HOME COMPUTER
with us. We endeavour to recognize and credit original authors and
sources of articles of information which we reprint or make available to
our membership.

The KAWARTHA 99ers USER GROUP is a non-profit group who welcomes any
individuals who have an interest in the TEXAS INSTRUMENT HOME COMPUTER.

Cont.

Phil Townsend

The result of all of this holiday season activity was that despite of such a fine program, it quickly became a personal challenge for Bob to see how he could reprogram Regena's masterpiece into X-Basic without losing any features! Bob fired up his trusty TI and went to work. A short time later, emerged a new X-Basic version which works great. Elsewhere in this issue we have included the changes which Bob made to the original program including the affected line numbers. Many thanks to Bob and Glen for sharing their work and to Regena for the original program. This kind of fun is what the TI was made for!

Don't
Forget

The next meeting of the Kawartha 99'ers will be during the March break, on Wednesday, March 13th at the meeting room of the Peterborough Police Department. Those members who have the components of the club system are reminded to have them at the meeting before the 7:00 p.m. start time so that we can begin on time. If John Baal would be kind enough to bring his printer, folks will be able to get a look at one of Panasonic's newer printers. We look forward to having some of our out of town members joining us at this meeting. Bob Tisdale has volunteered to demonstrate his new "MusicPro" program from Asgard. The program was written by Dave Caron, Mike Dunn's nephew from the Ottawa User Group. I'm sure that you will be amazed at the sound of the music and the many features of Dave's program. We will also be demonstrating some other new programs that we have received in the past few weeks.

Want Ads

For sale:
-black and silver TI consoles
-education and game modules c/w manuals ($4-6)
-console power supplies ($5)
-SS/SD disk drive ($10)
call Phil at 745-3757

For sale:
-Peripheral Expansion box
  -1 SS/SD internal drive, 1SS/SD external drive
  -console (black & silver)
  -TI - 32K card, TI disk controller card
  -TI - RS232 card
  -TI Logo, Extended Basic, Joystick adapter
call: Ron Brown (Oshawa) 416-432-3113

For sale:
  -DS/SD 5.25" disks... 10/box... $3.99
call Glen ... 742-9869
                (this is a group fund-raiser)

For Sale:
  -black & silver console ... working order
call Glen ... 742-9869

For sale:
  -Comprodine and Great Lakes Software
    -all titles in stock
    -immediate delivery
    -call Phil at 705-745-3757 or contact the
  the Kawartha 99'ers at their mailing address for
            price lists or orders.

If you have computer related items for sale or wish to purchase computer hardware/software you can advertise in this newsletter free of charge if you are a member of the Kawartha 99'ers.

▪▪ EVENTS ▪▪

The "COMPU$ALE" advertised in last month's newsletter has been cancelled.

PICKERING HAM RADIO AND COMPUTER FLEA MARKET ...
Pickering High School
Saturday; 9a.m.- 2 p.m. Apr. 13th
- Adm. $5.00

OTTAWA TI FEST/ 91
Merivale High School, Napanee, Ont.
Saturday; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Apr. 27th
(more details will be forthcoming re. motels, leaving times for the "KAWARTHA KOACH") etc.

LIMA MULTI-USER'S GROUP FEST
Lima, Ohio, U.S.A.
Friday & Saturday; May 17th-18th
(takes place on the long May weekend)

ONTARIO COMPUTER FAIRE
Bowmanville, Ont.
Sunday; 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. June 2nd
Admission - $5 - OSHTI will have $1.00 off coupons

That's it for now.
Keep on "CONSOLE-ING the ORPHAN", EH!

Phil

Bob Tisdale contributed the following letter. The program
is called "The Twelve Days of Christmas". I thought that
you would be interested in hearing what he did to Regina's
original program. If you are interested in trying the
entire program, contact Bob either at the March meeting or
at home.

DEAR REGENA

From the MICROpendium publication of November 1990,
Glen Daniels and I have had the pleasure of typing in your
program and running it. The program runs very well, the
characters are very distinctive. But I thought why can it
not run in Extended Basic so I played around with it, and
got it to run in XB without any major changes to your
program. The changes are listed as they occur in your
program by line #s.

```
line # from      to     and why,
570    delete           will not print to screen when running
1070   (18,6,147) (18,6,47) no CHAR sets past 143 in XB.
1080   (18,7,148) (18,7,48)
1230   (21,11,145) (21,11,45)
1250   (21,12,146) (21,12,46)
1260   (22,11,142) (22,11,42) is part of one of the CHAR sets
being moved so had to be moved also.
1500   (18,21,152) (18,21,49)
1510   (18,22,153) (18,22,50)
1530   (19,21,154) (19,21,51)
1540   (19,22,155) (19,22,52)
1560   (19,23,156) (19,23,53)
1570   (20,22,157) (20,22,54)
1590   (20,23,158) (20,23,55)
1600   (21,22,159,2) (21,22,48,2)
1790   (20,29,144) (20,29,44)
2140 (15,7,1) (14,7,1) group 15 and 16 do not exist in XB
2160 CALL CHAR(145, TO CALL CHAR(45,
2170 "       "(146, TO "       "(46,
2280 "       "(152, TO "       "(49,
2300 "       "(153, TO "       "(50,
2310 "       "(154, TO "       "(51,
2320 "       "(155, TO "       "(52,
2330 "       "(156, TO "       "(53,
2340 "       "(157, TO "       "(54,
2350 "       "(158, TO "       "(55,
2360 "       "(159, TO "       "(48.
2370 CALL COLOR(16,14,1) TO CALL COLOR(3,14,1) to reflect
CHAR location changes.
2630 CALL CHAR(144, TO CALL CHAR(44,
```

The above changes allow the program to run in Extended
Basic, with 32K expansion, but without using CALL files or
the NEW command.

We have included a print out of the program plus a disk
containing the program. The program is called up with
command RUN "DSK1.XB/TWELVE" hope you enjoy our changes. WE
have included a copy of this letter on the disk under.
XMASCHAGES.

                    Yours truly

                    Robert H. Tisdale
                        /

                 KEEP OUT THE BUGS

```
------------------------
V-AGE/99 * NEV-AGE/
99 * NEV-AGE/99 * N
EV-AGE/99 * NEV-AGE
/99 * NEV-AGE/99 *
------------------------
```

by JACK SUGHRUE, Box 459
East Douglas, MA 01516
#11
THE LADY FROM LOVER BURRELL

Mickey Schmitt, president of the West Penn 99ers, is a young lady with extraordinarily varied T.I. interests and talents. She is an ardent fairgoer, ranging along the eastern seaboard inland to Lima, Ohio, and north to Canada, visiting with her hundreds of TI friends and fans and oftentimes representing groups or companies who couldn't attend.

Mickey is an author, programmer, tutor, collector, and adventure aficionado whose great sense of humor shows through almost all her activities. For example, in a very clever adventure she wrote for the TI Adventure Module (OLIVER'S TWIST - cassette or disk, Asgard, $7.95), she requires the player to PUT BACK treasures in order to win the game. Her latest Asgard adventure, RATTLESNAKE BEND, is like John Wayne playing Viva Zapata. Wild, hilarious stuff. But hidden beneath the jocularity is a mean adventure guaranteed to please, pardner.

Adventuring seems to be in Mickey's blood. She is THE expert in the field. If there is an adventure for the TI she hasn't uncovered and played, it was probably written this morning.

A few years ago we had a chance to talk for awhile at one of the computer fairs, and she felt there was a real need to compile a listing of all the various adventures available for the TI so that users could have some kind of idea what is out there. I agreed but felt the task was formidable. Mickey didn't, fortunately for the TI community. She began collecting, sorting, doing, evaluating, and compiling every available adventure for the TI.

The result of this massive undertaking is THE ADVENTURE REFERENCE GUIDE, a 62-page, 8x11" commercially printed, easy to read book that not only gives a complete alphabetical listing of over 200 adventures but breaks them down into different sections by language (XB, E/A, etc.) and type (INFOCOM, Educational, Role-playing, etc.). There are astute reviews of selected adventures and sections on sources, utilities, and adventuring history. There is also a checklist for solving and comments. This is an indispensable guide for any adventuring TIer (from Asgard, Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20848; $9.95 / $2 S&H). (Last I heard, Mickey was continuing to test new and new-found adventures for updating this magnum opus.

If you own Scott Adams' ADVENTURE MODULE or the disk loader interpreter of this module available from user groups, I'd highly recommend investing in Mickey's two games.

Life is strange. At least the life that goes on inside my head. When I sat down to write this article I was planning a review of Mickey's newest book on cassette systems. But I pulled out THE ADVENTURE REFERENCE GUIDE from the Mickey Schmitt section of my TI library by mistake and couldn't resist rereading it. Then I couldn't resist playing SORCERER (an INFOCOM game reviewed in the book by Mickey which I had started but never finished). Then I couldn't resist eating lunch, still thinking of the spells and magic items I needed to get out of the SORCERER.) Finally, I put all that stuff behind (more from frustration than feeling the noble urge to return to task) and got back to doing this review. But I couldn't resist writing about this woman's profound adventuring influence first. Now, the "real" topic of this review: GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR CASSETTE SYSTEM.

GETTING is based on the series of articles by the same name that appears in newsletters throughout the world. This entirely rewritten work is a professionally published, 8x11", 52-page, loose-leaf package, containing all the original (though updated and revised) articles that first appeared in her group newsletter.

Not only is this book handy for what it does, but Mickey has provided a way for user groups to make a few kopeks on it. She is offering this project for $9.95 plus $2.50 S&H to any individual or user group. User groups need only purchase a single copy. She grants the rights for

the group to reproduce it entirely for members of the group free or as a fundraiser, providing no copies are given or sold to persons outside the group. Neat idea. Hope it catches on. The packages must be ordered directly from the author: Mickey Schmitt, 196 Broadway Avenue, Lower Burrell, PA 15068.

Now, what does GETTING get you?

First, a chance to rethink your group membership and future growth, because the cassette is still a powerful tool for a beginner or basic user. This book might just show your group new ways to attract new (or old) members into the fold.

Second, it opens one's eyes to lots of possibilities of cassetting previously unexplored. One of my TIs at school is cassetted, for example, and this book proved to be an immense help in ways I never dreamed of. More on this later.

Finally, this book made a multi-system user of me. I really only need one disk drive system to do all the tasks I do, but many times the system is tied up with heavy-duty printing or converting graphics or any number of long-time chores. Rather than sit and wait or go watch TV or clean my wallaby's teeth, I just move over to my OTHER TI SYSTEM! That's right. I have set my other console ($3 at a yard sale) onto a TV with a tape recorder hookup. Many nights I now just use the SILENT tape recorder system for some utility or recreational use. And I'm finding more and more uses, including lots of cartridge (MININEM, LOGO, etc.) activities I had forgotten were so exceptional, even with tape. I have a sidecar 32K, though many people are putting the chip right in or making that chip part of a Zenoboard package. Anyway, with 32K and Will McGovern's CASSTRANS I can load ASSEMBLY games and utilites into my computer from tape. I can AUTOMATICALLY!!! locate and RUN programs from my tape recorder with Joseph Bartle's CS1*FINDEX. I have my cassette boxes labeled and a catalog on each tape, thanks to Mickey's LABEL and CATALOG programs. All this stuff, by the way, is in the book in short, easy to type in, clever programs. (Will's program is Fairware and in all group libraries.) No more being restricted to BASIC and XB files. Now I can play FREDDY from my tape recorder. No more searching for programs. I don't even

need a tape recorder with a counter on it anymore. Now, like the Timex/Sinclair user, I can automatically run a program anywhere on a C-60 tape after locating it in the FAST FORWARD speed mode! In short, tape recorders have come of age. They can be powerful and fast and reasonably efficient and orderly.

Mickey's book is extremely non-technical. She explains everything about computer taping from the VERY beginnings to the state of the art. And it really might get you into that SECOND system.

(If you use NEW-AGE/99 please put me on your exchange list.)

Phil's Addendum: As Jack has mentioned, the cassette user has a very powerful tool to work with. All of the programs and print material that Jack has listed in his article re. use of a cassette system are in our group's libraries. Since about half our membership are cassette based users, I hope there will be lots of action in the cassette library in the near future. Reprints of Mickey's book are available to our members for the cost of reprinting.