THE PUG PERIPHERAL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
PITTSBURGH USERS GROUP
APRIL, 1988

CLUB NEWS By Gary Taylor - President

We have begun a membership drive that will last for the next two months. We will be using the mailing lables that Texas Instruments provided us to identify potential new members. So tell your friends and neighbors who own TI computers and are not using them to get them out and join our club.

We have started a poster contest. All members are encouraged to make a sign or poster that promotes the club. This is not a novel idea as many of the clubs across the country are doing similar things to increase membership. The rules are simple. Your sign should promote the PUG as a haven for TI-99/4A users and be suitable to tack up at supermarket bulletin boards and the like. It might have one of those tear off strips so that the address and telephone number of one of the officers(me) can be torn off and taken home. I suspect that those who respond will have the basic console set up so you should highlight the benefits of the club to those individuals. Things such as the cartridge library and a casstte library should be mentioned. You should be prepared to submit or present your creation at the meeting on April 17 or May 15. The prize you ask? That's a surprise!

We have been sucessful in putting together a communication package that includes a TEII cartridge, an accoustically coupled modem, and a standalone RS232 interface that will be loaned out to any member that wants to try out telecommunications. Just to give you some idea as to how much it would cost to get into telecommunicating, the whole setup cost the club $95.00. Since the interface is a stand alone it can be used with a bare console. So it gives all our members a chance to try something that they might not have thought possible before. You can reserve it for the next month by giving me a call and getting on the waiting list.

If you haven't seen our cartridge library lately, it has really grown. Norm Rokke has done a super job of cataloging the library and keeping track of them all. THANKS NORM! Check it out at the next meeting.

The hardware class built Super Carts at the last meeting. My last count indicated that twelve members participated in this activity, although only six signed up originally. Fortunately, John was prepared and able to supply parts for everyone. John Willforth deserves all the credit for making this project a success. His untiring efforts on our behalf have been nothing less than outstanding. A BIG THANKS TO JOHN! John also donated several disks of public domain software to the library that uses the additional memory of the Super Cart. So, if you were one of those that built a cart and now wonder "what can I do with it?", see Susan at the next meeting for the available software

I will be bringing my GENEVE to the next meeting to demonstrate some of the features that are available from this product. Additionally, I am going to start writing a newsletter article about my adventures with the new machine. If there is enough space in this newletter, it will appear in this issue

We have been getting quite a few new members lately so I will be changing the demo class that I normally present from 3:00 to 4:30 to a beginners class of hints and tips. If there are any questions that you would like to have answered, this is the place to ask them. Questions on both hardware or software are welcome.

Our resident adventure game expert, Mickey Schmitt, has co-authored her own orginal adventure game called OLIVER'S TWIST. Co-authored with Lynn Gardner, Oliver's Twist will make its debut in April. It will be demonstrated at the next meeting and can be purchased through Asgard Software. Oliver's Twist requires the use of the adventure module or equivalent.

Have you ever sat at your TI-99/4A for an evening and noticed how quiet it got when you turned it off to leave? All that noise is coming from a small cooling fan in the expansion box. There is a replacement fan available that can reduce the noise to near zero. If there is enough interest we may be able to make a mass buy of these fans and have a hardware class to replace them. Any takers?

The results of the election last month can be seen by looking at the back page. All the officers were relected to serve another year. So, if you don't see any changes, it's because there were none.

Great news on the telecommunications scene for Pittsburgh. The Harvester of Pittsburgh has subscribed to the national TI-ECHO that was announced in the January issue of Micropendium. It was placed in service on April 1, 1988 and is at our disposal. You can reach the Harvester by dialing 412 344 1315. It supports 300/1200/2400 bps modems set at 8N1. We are anxious to see who else has joined the ECHO. For those who are unfamiliar with telecommunications, there is a grass roots communications network, called the FIDONET, that ties together private computer users across the country. These owners have agreed to certain standards that allow them to send messages between themselves. When a member of the network elects to participate in an ECHO, he will receive all the messages that are sent from all the other members and can then respond to those messages. The TI-ECHO is new so give it a try.

Rave 99 has introduced a new memory enhancement system. Three different sizes are available: 64k, 288k, and 544k. The first two sizes be upgradable to the 512k size at a later date. For more information call or write to RAVE 99 112 Rambling Road Vernon, Ct. 06066 203-871-7824.

FROM THE MAILBOX

"Questions & Answers"
by Bill Sponchia

From the Kankakee User Group...

Last month, I answered the question about whether it was possible to send printer command codes to the printer from Multiplan. I had stated that there was nothing in the manual about this but that I had heard that it could be done. Well, good news - I found out that this can be done. This information comes from Denis Deny, a former member (he has since deserted and gone "elsewhere").

The method involves using a disk sector editor and putting the information directly into the saved file. I know that it works, because I actually did it. The steps I used follow:

1. **It is best to work with a freshly initialized diskette so that there is not a lot of other junk on it to confuse matters.**
2. **Load Multiplan,then type 10 A's into cell R1C1. This will just make it easier to find later. Save this template onto the blank diskette.**
3. **Using a disk sector editor (I used Disk + Aid), locate where this cell is saved. When I did it, it was on sector 24.**
4. **Edit the sector by typing in the printer codes you wish in place of the A's. You must input the change in Hexcode and for each "A" not used, replace with >20.**
   For example, to set up condensed printing, you must input "0F"; double strike - 1B 47; etc.
5. **Rewrite this sector to the diskette, and you have your Multiplan file which sends printer command codes.**

From the Suncoast Beeper..

```
130 CALL CLEAR :: PRINT "LINPUT PUZZLE/BUG":"BY BARRY TRAVER"
140 PRINT "     can you figure out why your computer will not obey?"
150 PRINT "Why won't it stop when you  tell it to?":;:
160 LINPUT "Want me to Stop? (YES/NO)":M$
170 IF M$="YES" THEN STOP ELSE 160
```

Be sure and type this up EXACTLY as you see it listed, maintaining the same spacing, if you expect it to behave as it should.
Jean Wilcox from the Suncoast 99er's states she lost a lot of sleep over this one and promises to give us Barry's explanation next month.

MULTIPLAN

By Audrey Bucher
Part 6

This article will deal with the Name Command. This command assigns a name to a cell or an area of cells. The name may then be used to refer to that cell or area in a command or formula.

NAME:define name:
to refer to:
Enter name

This is the command line you will see when you select the Name command. The proposed response for the "define name" field is either blank or text. If the cell pointer is on a cell that contains text, MP proposes that text as the name to be defined. This makes it easy to convert a row or column title into a name. For instance in our checkbook example, if the cell pointer is on R3C4, MP would propose Food as the name. Text used as Titles and Names are very different and should not be confused. However, it will be easier to read your formulas if the names in them correspond to the visible titles on your worksheet. I must admit, I am always looking for ways to save keystrokes, so I would name my columns with the first letter of the title, such as F or R. To change the response, simply type the new response. Now tab over to the next field "to refer to". The proposed response here is either the active cell, or, if the last name defined was a vector (portion of a row or column), the same vector shifts to the active row or column. This feature makes defining parallel groups a simple task. If the name you enter is already defined, after you press Tab, the proposed response in the "to refer to" field will show the current definition.

For now, let's define the area for Food or F as R3:14C4. Using the arrow key, move the cell pointer to the next column, R3C5 (Rent). Notice, the "refer to" field already has R3:14C5 proposed, as the previous name defined was a vector. This really makes it easy. Now just go along and name the remaining columns. You may also want to name columns 1 and 2 as this will make it easier to get around the spreadsheet with the GoTo command.

Named cells are very easy to locate by using the GoTo command. Press G for GoTo and N or enter for Name. You may use the direction keys to step through the list of names. When the name you want appears, press enter and the cell pointer will go to the first cell in the named area....to the leftmost cell if the area is a row, to the uppermost cell if it is a column and to the left uppermost cell if it is a block of cells. Now here's a secret that I can't find in the manual. I learned this from the User Notes in the January 1987 issue of Micropendium. (Thanks to Dave Erickson of San Jose). Suppose you enter check number 1234 in column 1, right arrow and type Dug Light in the next column. Now you want the entry to go in the Utility column. Hit G for GoTo, Enter for name and type in Utilities, followed by a space and the letter R. The cell pointer will go the the Utility column in the same row instead of the uppermost cell. I would have named that column U so it is very simple to type U (sp) R and I'm exactly where I want to be. You may also use this technique with NAMEd rows replacing the R with a C. MP recognizes lowercase entries equally with upper case entries so it isn't necesary to use the shift or alpha lock keys in the name areas.

Names may be up to 31 characters long and must begin with a letter, but the rest of the characters may be any combination of letters, numbers, the period or the underscore. Illegal characters are ignored and underscores are substituted for blanks embedded in text strings. So if you left column 2 as Paid To, it will actually be Paid_To in the Name area.

To see the names that have been defined, select the name command and use the direction keys to display each defined name and it's definition in the command fields.

To change the definition of a name after viewing it, use the edit keys to alter the response in the "refer to" field and press enter.

Names may be deleted by making them refer to no area. Example...enter the name in the "define name" field, tab to the "refer to" field, delete the response and press Enter.

Names are also useful for building formulas but we'll save that for another time.

The last thing I would like you to do at this time is to name the area, R16C4:10, as January and next month, we'll see how we can use this with the External Copy command for another worksheet that we will call Expenses for 1988.

Don't forget to save your worksheet now.

CHECKS FOR JANUARY 1988

CHECK #	PAID TO	DEPOSIT	FOOD	RENT	UTILITIES	INSURANCE	CHARGES	MISC	RISC	BALANCE
	FORWARD									1000.00
1234	BUG LIGHT				65.00					935.00
1235	MELL BANK			400.00						535.00
	DEPOSIT	865.00								1400.00
1236	STATE FARM					130.00				1270.00
1237	U EABLE		63.25							1206.75
1238	MASTERCARD						89.72	11.00		1106.03
1239	AMOCO							28.11		1077.92
1240	BELL TEL				51.16					1026.76
1241	FOODLAND		55.30							971.46
	DEPOSIT	300.00								1271.46
	TOTALS	1165.00	118.55	400.00	116.16	130.00	89.72	39.11	0.00	

GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR CASSETTE SYSTEM
BY MICKEY SCHMITT
NUMBER 13
UNDERSTANDING - CREATING - AND USING - CASSETTE FILES

This month I am continuing with the topic of understanding - creating - and using - cassette files. More specifically, I will be concentrating on creating your own specific cassette files - in order to meet your own specific needs.

As I stated before in part I of this series... understanding - creating - and using - cassette files is an area in computer programming that I have not had very much experience with in the past. At least not enough experience with that I feel "comfortable" or "confident" enough to be writing this article... With the "hope and expectation" of passing along some of my computer knowledge, so that others may learn from my own experiences. Never-the-less, I am going to attempt to try and give this particular topic the attention it so rightfully deserves. All I ask is that you be patient with me... as I will be "learning" a lot of this information just prior to passing it along to you.

Before I begin... I would first like to mention that most of my "material" for this particular series will be taken directly from the Texas Instruments User's Reference Guide (better known as the "green" manual).

Since this particular manual was included in the "instruction packet" which you received when you purchased your computer... you should have no trouble finding a copy of this manual floating around somewhere. Once you have located this manual... you should turn to the section dealing with "file processing"... more specifically... pages II-118 through II-136. Please keep in mind that the User's Reference Manual discusses both disk files and cassette files at the same time, as it explains each part of the file processing procedure. It is very important that you follow the specific instructions that were designed for the cassette recorder... and not the disk drive!

The first thing that we must learn is "how to "open" up a cassette file". Believe it or not - it is not as difficult a process as it first seems to be... although I must admit... trying to read and understand the process for the very first time can be quite confusing. With this thought in mind... I have tried to keep my explanation as simple as possible!

The "open" statement prepares a basic program to use data files which are stored on accessory devices, such as the cassette recorder. The "open" statement does this by providing the necessary link between a "file-number" which you have used in your program and the particular accessory device, (in this case a cassette recorder), on which the file is located.

The "open" statement describes a file's characteristics to the computer so that your program can process it or create it. With some accessory devices the computer will check that the file or device characteristics match the information specified in the "open" statement for that file. If they don't match or the computer cannot find or create the file, the file will not be opened and an I/O (input/output) error message will be printed.

The "file-number" and "file-name" must be included in the "open" statement. The other information can be included in any order or can be omitted, as well. however, if you leave out any specification, the computer will assume certain standard "defaults" and those "defaults" may not be the correct specification for your particular file.

Next month I will continue with the topic of understanding - creating - and using - cassette files. More specifically I I l be continuing with "how to "open" up a cassette file"... since... as you can see by the size of this article already... I am now out of space in this month's newsletter! In the mean time... if you need any help or have any questions concerning your cassette system - just give me a call (412-335-0163) and I'll try to help.

T.I. WRITER (Part 4)
Stan Katzman

Well so far we can create a document, edit it, and save it to disk. Let us now get a document from disk into memory. This is called LoadF.

Go to the Command Mode and then press F for Files, then press LF for LoadF(ile). You will now be prompted for the file name with the header "LOAD FILE, enter filename:", at this point enter "DSK1.filename" (if you have a one disk system). (Before you do this you have to remove the program disk and put the file disk in the drive.) The file will then be put in the memory (Text buffer!) and the cursor will be at the beginning of the file. You can now look at and edit or print out this file.

Let us assume that you forgot what was on your disk. In order to find out what is on your disk you have to ShowDirectory. Let us discuss this process. Again go to the Command Mode and press F and this time press SD. Another line shows up now saying "SHOW DIRECTORY, enter disk number:" at this point just enter the drive number that your files disk is in (in a one disk system press 1 <enter>) and your disk directory is displayed. At the end of this routine on the bottom of the screen it will say "Press ENTER to continue" and you will be returned to the edit mode. While the directory of the disk is being displayed on the screen there is no effect on the material written in the Text Buffer or on the disk.

(continued next page)

T. I. Writer (cont)

If for some reason we want to get rid of a file on the disk we can "DeleteF" it. Let us go through this process. Enter Command Mode, press F (for Files) and then press DF (enter). You will now see "DELETE FILE, enter filename:" at this point (if we only have one disk drive) type DSK1.filename (enter). The file is now deleted, removed, gone, in never-never land. Once deleted it cannot be recovered, so be sure you want this removed before you use it.

We can also load only a part of a file, this is done the following way: At the LF command stage type the line number of the first line of the file part to be loaded, space, line number of last part to be loaded, space, DSK1.filename. Example 22 55 DSK1.TEST, this will load lines 22 to 55 inclusive from the file "TEST" in drive #1. We can also maerge files into memory. Here is how: load a file (or create one) then go to command mode press LF (enter) and now type the following, the line number of the line in the text buffer AFTER which the file is to be loaded, space, and then DSK1.TEST. Example 72 DSK1.TEST, what will happen here is the file TEST will be put in memory starting at line 72 in the buffer. This could be dicey because if the sum of the two files is greater than 23K you could "overfill" the buffer.

Well we have done enough this time. More next time.

"TIPS FOR BEGINNERS"

-BY FRANK N. ZIC-

Here we go together-No. 11. What I would like to cover in this article are some odd and end items that might recall some slightly forgotten facts or perhaps they will remind you of a project you might want to begin. At any rate, here they are:

#1- Awhile back I added something to my overall equipment and only now after some extensive usage, its true value comes into focus. This handy item is a small lever action cutting board. It is useful for square cutting the catalog listing of your disk after printing. Your Wife, too, will find it useful for cutting out the many food coupons that we all find so financially rewarding.

#2-How many times have you read or heard something, and noted in your mind that this is a good idea; only not to act on it even though you really wanted to. Well, here is an item that perhaps you should follow up on. The new cataloging disk by our own Martin Kroll Jr. It is fast(written in Assembly language), has a search mode and even has space to enter comments behind the filenames. I use this space to mark down how a program is loaded or to give a rating to the many games that I eventually get back to playing or want to set up for my Grandson on his, looked forward to, visits.

#3-Take advantage of any one of the many calender programs available to start a listing of events, such as Bowl or Super Bowl games etc.(sorry ladies), meetings, birthdays or even use it as a mini-diary.

#4-Several months ago at one of our club meetings I showed an example of a calling card I made up, on clear plastic, with the TI-Writer program. Think how nice it could be customized and how economical when using one of the many font programs available. Make it on stiff colored paper for a really distinctive look.

#5-Speaking of distinctive looks, why not make up your own return address labels and make them different, say with the enlarged first initial of your last name just ahead of your name and address. The large letter can be Arabic, Old English or any other type character that you like. The effect can be effective and eye catching. Should you perhaps want the particular party you are sending the letter to, to give you a call, you might include your phone number. For example:

Mr. Mrs. Frank N. Zic
818 Everglade Drive
McKeesport, Pa. 15135
(412) 751-6065

Until next time may the good 4's be with you.

$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$ FOR SALE $$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
Charley Brown has a P-Code (Pascal) card with documents and disks. Asking $100. Call him at 884-6520.

TI Joysticks are still available at the meetings for the low, low price of $5.00. See Frank Shoemaker.
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[] []
[] DUES $15 PER YEAR []
[] HAVE YOU PAID YOURS? []
[] []
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TIBERCUB

PRETTY PLEASE, PINCH MY DEAR AUNT SALLY RUBELY!

by Jim Peterson

My apologies to dear old Sal. That mnemonic device is usually given as just "My Dear Aunt Sally", but I expanded it a bit. It is intended to remind you of the sequence in which your computer solves an equation, which is -

(P)arentheses
(P)owers (exponentiation)
(P)refixes (plus and minus)
(M)ultiplication
(D)ivision
(A)ddition
(S)ubtraction
(R)elational operations

So what? Well, if one of your program lines isn't giving you the expected results, it may well be that you forgot to pinch Sally properly!

The computer goes through the line from left to right 5 times (I don't know if it really does, but that is the easiest way to explain it!) The first time through, it looks for a left hand parenthesis. If it finds one, it stops at the first right hand parenthesis. If it finds one but not the other, it CRASHES! When it finds a right parenthesis, it backs up leftward until it comes to the closest left hand parenthesis. It solves everything between those two parentheses, step by step in accordance with the following priorities, and then erases those two. Then it goes through the same routine again until it finds no more parentheses.

Need a "for instance"? OK -

```
X=(((10*2)-6)+(8/4)
X=((20)-6)+(8/4)
X=(20-6)+(8/4)
X=(14)+(8/4)
X=14+(8/4)
X=14+(2)
X=14+2
X=16
```

Next it goes through the equation looking for the caret sign. That is the little ^ that tells it to multiply the preceding number by itself as many times as the following number. Example -

4^2 means 4 times 4
6^3 means 6 times 6 times 6

Then, the prefixes. That just means that, for instance, if removing the parentheses from -(-6) has left you with --6, it becomes a +6, of course. I suppose that ABS and SGN are also worked here.

Now, multiplication and division. These are both done in one pass through because it doesn't make any difference which is done first. 10*2/4 is the same as 2/4.

Next, addition and subtraction, also in one pass because 10+4-2 is the same as 4-2+10.

Finally, the relational operations, which had best be the subject of a separate article. And finally finally the string concatenations, but let's keep old Sal out of those.

Note that everything between a pair of parentheses is worked as a separate equation, step by step in the above sequence, before the parentheses are erased.

So, why should you need to worry about all this? Well -

```
10*4-2=38
10*(4-2)=20
10*4^3=640
(10*4)^3=64000
((10*4)^3=....SYNTAX ERROR!
```

Makes a difference, doesn't it?

The important things to remember are -

If you want to add two numbers together before you multiply or divide their sum, put them in parentheses (2+3)*4.

If you want to subtract one number from another before you multiply or divide the result, put them in parentheses (10-4)/2.

If you want to add, subtract, multiply or divide numbers before you increase them by any power, put them in parentheses (10*4+8)^3.

If you keep Sally in mind, you will have fewer bugs in your programs!

$$$$WELCOME$$$WELCOME$$$WELCOME$$$$

The PUG would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members...Steve Rethage, Andy Arnold and Tim Goralski.
We would also like to convey our continued welcome to Bob Provins and Walter Niedziela who have recently renewed their memberships.

TIGERCUB

LET'S ROUND UP THE MAVERICKS! by Jim Peterson

A maverick, for the information of you tenderfeet, is a young Texas critter which has lost its mama. There are over a million of them hiding in the closets of America, and I think it's time for a roundup!

There are perhaps 200, possibly 300, TI user groups in the United States and elsewhere in the world. A few boast of several hundred members, but some have no more than a dozen, and I doubt that the average is more than 50 users actually paying dues and attending meetings. That computes to at most 15,000 members of the "organized" TI world. Of course, there are many others who keep in contact by subscribing to those magazines which support the TI, and still others who are kept up to date on new developments by the catalogs from the big mail order houses. Still, no matter how you compute it, there are certainly well over a million owners of the TI-99/4A who have no way of knowing that our computer is still alive and well.

These people have read that Texas Instruments abandoned the computer. They have seen the supplies of hardware and software disappear from the big retail stores. Many of them bought their computer during the final suicide sales, therefore never got on the mailing list for the Texas Instrument newsletter.

And yet, relatively few of the TI-99/4A are showing up in the classified ads and in the garage sales. A recent national survey found that the TI-99/4A was owned by more people than any computer except the Commodore.

True, many of these owners are only interested in plugging in a module and playing a game. But some have a deeper interest - and even five percent of a million is an awful lot of people!

When I bought my TI, in March of 1982, I searched in vain through the articles and ads of every magazine on the newsstand, for anything relating to my computer. It almost seemed that there was a conspiracy of silence. I had taught myself to program, and written dozens of programs, before I finally made contact with the TI world. I was once a maverick, and I can sympathize with those who are mavericks now.

Is your user group dwindling away, as some of your members move on to bigger but not necessarily better computers, while others become so polarized in their interests that they have little in common with each other? Are your givers tired of giving to your getters, and your doers tired of being used by your users? Do you miss the enthusiasm and excitement of your first meetings, when everyone was learning together? Does your group need a transfusion of fresh blood? The donors are out there and waiting, if you can find them!

Do you want to see new hardware, new software, new publications for your computer? The bigger the market, the more that will be produced to be marketed. And the market is there - it just doesn't know that it's there!

The user groups are the only ones who can round up the mavericks. You can do it by publicizing your meetings, by letting the TI owners in your community know what you can do for them. You can get newspaper publicity and television publicity. Some of you are already offering classes in programming or in computer use to the general public, to the schools, to libraries, to senior citizens, to foster children, to the handicapped. These are very fine endeavors in themselves, and they can also bring the publicity which will attract new members. And here and there among those new members will be an ingenious hardware hacker or programming genius who will make our computer better than ever.

*** TELCO TERMINAL EMULATOR ***

A new terminal emulator called TELCO TERMINAL EMULATOR has been released for the TI-99/4A and Geneve 9640. Written entirely in TMS 9900 assembly language to provide optimum performance, it contains features not found in other emulators for the TI. The program is completely menu driven from windows if you forget the key sequences necessary for a particular function, yet they are not required. You can perform most functions right from the keyboard without using the menus once you are accustomed to them.
Some of the more impressive features are:

1. The ability to emulate different terminals. ie. ANSI, D410, and ADM3A.

2. An automatic dialer with 99 entries that will redial upto 15 entries. The list of phone numbers is maintained directly from the window. Included in the questions asked for each entry is the bps (upto 9600), data, and stop bits. No more changing the configuration because you want to call a bbs at 300 or 2400 How many times have you called a BBS at the wrong bit rate and were charged for a wasted call by Ma Bell, just to call it again after you reconfigured everything correctly?

3. Xmodem and ASCII transfers that are simple to do. Did you ever try to strip out the cr and lf from a DV80 file before you uploaded it to a bbs. Well TELCO will do that for you if you select it!

4. Up to 26 progammable keys called macros that you can assign upto a 36 character string that will be sent to the remote system when the key is pressed. You can even link one macro to another.

5.And of course, things like device logging, print spooling, screen dumps, and buffer reviewing are available.

6. And the feature I like the best, a status line at the bottom of the screen that tells you at a glance the bit rate, data and stop bit configuration and an onscreen clock. Full or 1/2 duplex, logging, spooling, echo status is all right there on the screen.

There are so many features built into this program that I can't really describe them all in this small space. You can change screen colors, set the character pacing rate when sending ascii files to another system, set up a hang up string for your modem, review the buffer, catalog a disk and delete a file from it! or modify protection. It even has a screen setup menu to allow such thing as moving the entire image to the right or left on the screen as many characters as you want to correct problems with a TV or monitor. It also supports the GENEVE 9640 by allowing 80 col screen displays.

I could go on but you should really get this program to see for yourself. It will be in the Library this month. It is being distributed as User Supported software and as such the author is requesting $20.00 US for the program.
The disk contains a program called LOAD to load TELCO from Extended Basic, but it can be loaded form E/A option 5 or from the TI-Writer Module option 3. Since the program makes use of program overlays it will even use a Super cart and use the extra memory for storing up to 5 overlays at once. The normal is three. It comes with complete documentation written with TI-Writer, that is straight forward and easy to read and understand. You can order from the author.

CHARLES EARL
34 McLeod Street
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K2P 0Z5

NEW SOFTWARE RELEASE
CATALOGING LIBRARY COMPANION (CATCOM) by Marty Kroll Jr.

Overview of Cataloging Library Companion

Catcom is a specialized database, designed specifically for use in conjunction with the trialware disk cataloger program Cataloging Library(CATLIB). Catlib Companion greatly enhances the usefulness and versitility of Cataloging Library. In fact, these two trialware programs combined form a complete disk cataloging system, both for the individual, and for the User's group library.

Catlib Companion uses the files produced by Calaloging Library (diskdataxx and filedataxx). as the foundation for the database.

In addition to the essential information provided by the CATLIB files, you can now incorporate user inputted information into the CATCOM database; a total of 64 characters of descriptive information foe each file cataloged can be added!

Features of Cataloging Library Companion

1. For each file in your catalog, you can enter a 4-letter file extension, a 4-letter key word, a comment of 28 characters, and 28 characters of additional information. In all, you are able to enter 64 characters of descriptive information to help identify and operate the file.

2. This information can be added for each file, either file by file, or disk by disk.

3. You can search for full or partial file names or disk names, or search for a specific string in your inputted information, or you can select all listings in the catalog. Then, you can produce listings to either screen or printer.

4. If you update your CATLIB files, CATLIB COMPANION will automatically update your information files, keeping track of what user-inputted information goes with which file, and deleting information for deleted files. You can then enter commented information for the new files in your catalog.

5. CATLIB COMPANION also enables you to use your catalog to produce customized disk jackets, either for selected disks, or for the whole catalog. Yes, now, with assembly speed, you can make disk jackets for your whole library, with just a couple of keystrokes.

6. A detailed explanation is given on how to customize your CATCOM disk with a sector editor, personalizing it for your disk and printer setup.

7. A basic disk system is all that is required to run CATLIB COMPANION. A SSSD disk will hold all your additional comments for one CATCOM data file set.

This is a trialware disk which can be obtained directly from Marty at 218 Kaplan Ave. , Pittsburgh, Pa. 15227. The disk is also in our library. We are using CATCOM to catalog our library and it will be made available to the club members as soon as it is finished. We can use some additional help with this project, so if you would like to help out give Susan a call and she will set you up with the program and some library disks to catalog.

LET'S TALK RAM DISKS PART V

By John F. Willforth (April 1988)

The MEMORY PLUS card from CORCOMP appeared on the market almost two years ago, and to date I have not seen one. I therefore was hesitant to write this article. I had to depend on an article by Scott Darling as well as information provided by Willis Richardson and the technical support at CORCOMP. I hope that it will be complete and accurate enough to merrit your consideration. I have tried to be as objective as possible on all the Ram Disks reviewed.

The MEMORY PLUS comes in both a PEB unit and a stand alone unit. The stand alone unit is more flexable in that it can be used in conjunction with your 32K expansion memory, while the PEB version cannot. They both come in 256K as well as 512K sizes, again the stand alone can be configured with an added unit (two 512K units for example) and the PEB version cannot. Both units are supported by a 9V. power supply to the ram disk card to support memory when a system is powered down normally. If a total failure of the AC occurs, you will lose all files on the MEMORY PLUS. This is a common failure of any Dynamic Ram based RAM DISK.

The MEMORY PLUS comes with the Disk Manager resident on the card, this is good for two reasons, one is that you don't have to load it from a diskette, and two, it is the only one that gives you full use of the disk. The manager is called with "CALL RAMGR" for units with the newest PROM installed V. 3.1 or "CALL RMGR" with lower versions, a good way to tell what PROM you have in your MEMORY PLUS. The disk manager can initialize the disk, handle all disk and file functions as well as test the entire ram disk memory. The manager is very similar to the disk manager that comes with the Corcomp disk controller. It has some nice features, among them pressing a "T" when selecting to copy a file that is protected, will Temporarily unprotect that file until the file has been copied. The resident disk manager will also work with other disk units in the system. A total of 2048 sectors is the default for a 512K and 1920 will be the limit if you wish for the 32K expansion memory to reside in this unit (required on a PEB only set-up).

A major draw back with the ram disk is in the fact that the entire disk is called as one volume. In other words if you intend to use "TIMP" for Multi-Plan, that is the only name that can be used for that entire unit. You will have to take this into consideration if you are a user of software that is dependent on specific volume (disk) names. Many of the other ram disks do allow for multiple volume names within a single ram disk unit.

The MEMORY PLUS, according to Scott, is able to work in the system with a different ram disk present. This could be a saving grace to compensate for it not accepting more volume names. You will have to set up CRU addresses for your card, which by the way are >1000 and >1400 for the MEMORY PLUS.

The drive number can be set with the disk manager or under basic using a DELETE "SDx", where x is the drive # selected.

A lowercase with desenders is available for use by basic/xbasic simply by using a DELETE "LOWER".

There is a switch on the MEMORY PLUS which is of course located at the rear of the card (but has pins available for a remote connection) whose purpose is to assure an orderly power down of the PEB without glitching the ram disk and this switch should be used each time the PEB is powered down. A switch over of clock and flag settings will be done if this switch is pressed . I think this is a bothersome drawback.

I spoke of the Prom V. 3.1 which is available. Corcomp has corrected some problems such as a density identification problem in sector 0, and added the ability to catalog the disks to a serial, parallel port or to a disk.

The stand alone units are built by Corcomp as ordered, and any pricing should be checked with your CORCOMP dealer. CORCOMP has a good attitude of support for their products. Call them at (714) 630-2903 or write: CorComp Inc., 2211-G East Winston Road, Anaheim, CA 92807

By the way if you are still under a warranty CORCOMP will send you a new Prom and if your warranty has expired $15 will update your MEMORY PLUS. I have used all the space available this month, so check back next month for a review of the GRAND RAM. (Hopefully).

FROM THE LIBRAIAN. . .

Well, folks, some months are busier than others, and the end of February, beginning of March have been REALLY busy for me. All those people who ordered disks and asked for them to be mailed, well, you have my apologies, by the time you receive this newsletter I will have sent them! All those stories about school teachers who have too much free time are LIES!!!!! Anyway, here's the scoop on what's hot in the library

We hope you all enjoyed the unannounced LIBRARIAN'S SPECIAL of the new GRAPHIC LABELER program, a three disk SHAREWARE set for $3.00. Of course, you need to send the author his requested donation if you find the program useful. I personally LOVE this one! It is very easy to use, and the graphics are extremely good!

The GRAPHICS LABELER is an update of disk UTILFX6022 if you have that one at home. The new program is a three disk set packed full of new and old graphics, as well as ways to save your label information. A great new package!

Also new at the March meeting was a disk with two graphics programs from Frank Legler. They both draw a map of the U.S. in the bit map mode, delineate each state, and then fill in the states one by one with colors. It is a nice display of the graphics capabilities of the TI. Frank is interested in finding others who are using a paint routine to compare notes. If YOU are, let Frank know, and if you can, share the program with the library as well.

The catlib Companion committee met, and I trust the members are all busy calling in sick for work to stay home and update the catalog. Until the new catalog is available, the old catalog will be available on disk. Cost: $1.00 or trade in a blank disk. When the new catalog is available you'll read it first here! No, you'll see it first at a meeting, so come on down!!!!

New for April:

The February Disk of the Month, which included Barry Boone's new archiver, a piece of music by Bach, a source code cheater, a compresser, a game of Karate, a TE-2 program that lets you change the screen color of the other person's computer over the modem, and a VCR cataloger program.

TELCO-see Gary's article. It was demoed at the March meeting.

Calendar... in library for $1.00.

Two disks of programs, good only for SUPERCART owners. These were built at the March meeting by some members.

RECAP OF MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 1988

At the last meeting, nominations for officers were closed. Motion was made, seconded & passed that the nominees be elected by acclamation.

Treasurer Shoemaker gave a Report: Total in bank at end of Feb., 1988 = $665.03. Approx. Balance as of start of meeting after paying certain bills = $390.00. Sales at the March meeting approximated $250.00

Librarian Harper gave a Report. There is a new graphics labeling program in the Library which consists of 3 discs. There is 1 bugged disc in the Library which George Dick offered to try to de-bug. SYSOP Kelly reported that a new BBS program has been put into operation. Due to crashing problems, the games have been eliminated. PUG is looking at a new program for the BBS which will allow more remote control & promises to be very fast. A copy was purchased by the PUG for $25.00 for investigation purposes.

Newsletter Editor Bucher reported that we will not be able to mention the $1 raffle in the Newsletter anymore due to postal regulations. She requested help to index the many valuable articles which appear in other newsletters. PR Base will be used.

Pres. Taylor gave his Report: A Newsletter has been received from Ryte Data so possibly they will live up to their commitment . He asked for volunteers for cataloguing the Library using the new Catlib program. A description of each disc will be added to the index. Dave Silver, Charlie Brown, Geo. Dick & Mark Caparelli volunteered.

A Spread Sheet Program was added to the Cassette Library.

The Western New York 99ers have published a manual called "The Writers" which is a condensed version of the TI Writer Manual. It is available in quantities of 10 for $2.00 each. PUG will order 10 for those signing up.

A loaner program for communications work is available. Pug now has a modem, a TE-2 cartridge and an RS-232 stand alone unit available.

There will be a membership drive. PUG will make contact with list of owners we received from TI. Members Harper, Zic & Keppler volunteered to help. There will be a contest for an advertising poster to be used by the PUG in recruiting. Entries should be submitted for next month's meeting.

Matt Falce is the new Cassette Librarian.

Members gave a round of applause to John Willforth for conducting the supercart building program. 12 members participated.

By consensus it was agreed by the members that a blank disk be exhanged for any contribution to the Library.

Marty Kroll announced that he has a Diskzone available for sale for $6.00 as a sample.

Motion was made, seconded & passed that beginning at the next meeting, the winner of the $1 raffle must be present.

John Willforth reminded members that they should make payments to Fairware Authors when the programs are used.

The one-dollar raffle, A TI console complete with transformer was won by Audrey Bucher.

The following demonstrations were given:

Gary Taylor--A new TE program, Telco

Nora Rokke--program to change TI Artist files to DV-80 files so that they can be used with TI Writer.

Respectfully Submitted
Herbert H.Reich, Rec.Secy.

APRIL 1988						
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NEXT MEETING

MAY 1988						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

BBS 824-6779

CCAC

SOUTH CAMPUS

3PM

PUG OFFICERS

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Vice President:
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Frank Shoemaker 412-921-8702
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Herb Reich 412-531-9023
Librarian:
Susan Harper 412-464-0525
Correspondence and Newsletter Editor:
Audrey Bucher 412-881-5244

[][][][][][][][][][] SCHEDULE OF EVENTS][][][][][][][][][]

3-4:30 Beginner's Class, Hints & Tips
TI Writer Questions with Gary .....Rm. 401
4:30-6 Hardware Class with John Wilforth.....Rm. 475
Randisks
4:30-6 Multiplan & Questions on PRBase
with Audrey.....Rm. 401
6:00-? General Meeting

[][][][][][][][][][] SEE YOU THERE [][][][][][][][][][]

Pittsburgh User's Group
P.O. Box 8043
Pittsburgh, Pa 15216

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APRIL 14th