SouthWest Ninety-Niners

September 1993

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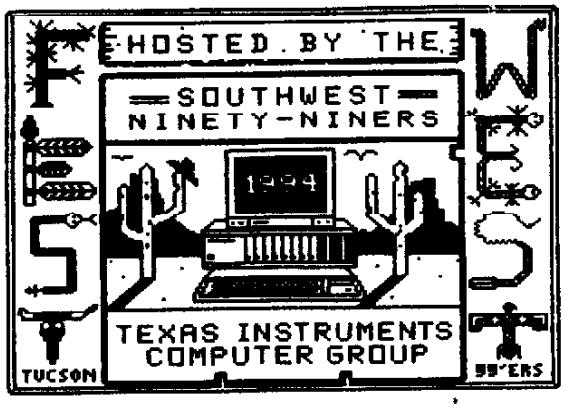


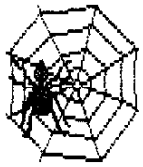
Pres - BJ Mathis VP - Rod Stallard Sec - Ed McCullough Tres - Mike Doane

Newsletter Editor/Library Chmn - BJ Mathis Cactus Patch SysOp - Tom Wills

Newsletter Librarian - Leonard Taffs Disk Librarian - Richard Baron

Lending Librarians - Tom Wills & Matt Matthews

Disk of the Month September 1993

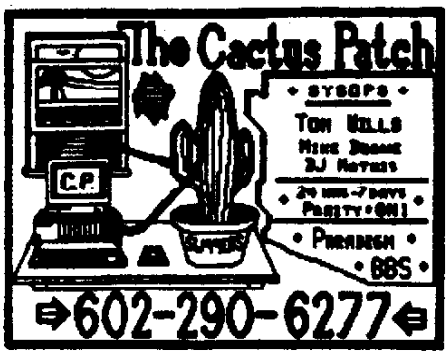


by Mike Doane

This month's DOM is brought to you by Tony McGovern from Australia by way of Charles Good. Tony is best known for his work developing and perfecting the excellent FunnelWeb Farm program. This is yet another example of his outstanding work.

This is version 5.0, and it corrects some small bugs which were found in version 4.40. The program comes in two versions. There is a 40 column version and an 80 column version. The 40 column version (used by anyone with a "standard" T.I. system) comes in an "archived" version on a SS/SD disk (360 sectors). The 80 column version (for use with the Geneve and T.I.s equipped with an 80 column device) comes on a DS/SD disk. The 80 column version will not "archive" to fit a SS/SD disk.

This program best explains why we still use our T.I. The author, Tony McGovern, has spent much time and effort in updating this program. He loves to correspond with the user's of it and will make corrections to the program as needed. He sends updates when they are made. Charles Good (of Lima fame) passes along these updates to the T.I. community. What was the last unsolicited update you ever heard of from IBM or Apple?



Use Barry Travers' "Archiver 3.03" to "un-arc" this disk. You must have 2 SS/SD disks handy (or a DS/SD) as the files are 708 sectors long. Not all of these files need to be installed on your FunnelWeb disk but they had to be made available.

This program IS ****FAIRWARE****. If you use it, PLEASE send Tony his payment. The cost is low for the talent you support.

DOMs are available FREE to SW99ers attending the membership meeting each month. If you are unable to attend the meeting, members may buy DOMs for $1, either at a later meeting or by mail (no extra cost by mail). Non-members should send $2 for each DOM requested.

August SW99ers' Minutes

Tuesday August 3, 1993

1. President BJ Mathis is traveling to pick-up son, Tim, in California.
2. A Birthday card is being made up on a TI by Matt Matthews. A Sign-In sheet is being passed around for all present to sign and add a birthday wish for Jack Mathis. This list will be made a part of the card.
3. Of the one hundred Fest West packets mailed to vendors, user groups, and individuals, eight were returned and have been re-sent.
4. We have already received several positive responses from vendors for Fest West '94.
5. Les Neff was planning to demonstrate Multiplan, but postponed it, because the eye doctor had dilated his eyes.
6. Ed McCullough demo'ed a golf handicap program he had put together using Multiplan.

Ed McCullough, Secretary

Sep'93 Treasurer's Report

by Mike Doane

This month's Treasurer's report is beginning to show the costs of FESTWEST '94. We will see a slow drain on the balance of our account until we begin receiving booth reservations and raffle ticket purchases. We have purchased three of the prizes we intend to "give" away. They are, a MYARC HFDC with a 20 megabyte Seagate hard-drive in a stand alone case, an "over/under" disk drive which contains a 3 1/2"drive AND a 5 1/4" drive in a "half-height" case, and a "pocket" modem which sends data at 2400 bps and can be carried in a shirt pocket. We will be purchasing more items as the requests for raffle tickets come in. We hope to have a 512K ramdisk from Bud Mills and an 128K AMS memory card from ASGARD. We will of course have numerous "door" prizes also, but those will be either donated or purchased upon the spot.

Now, let's see what the damages are!

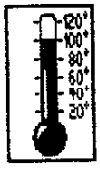
Balance 07/26/93		$810.03
Income:		
WHOOPS! Due to an oversight of your feeble minded treasurer, I do not have any income to show from the August meeting!		
Interest (checking)	$1.78	
SUBTOTAL		$811.81
Expenses:		
Newsletter/postage	$95.20	
Purchase of Prizes	$128.00	
CP Support	$40.00	
SUBTOTAL of expenses		$263.20
Working Bal. 08/29/93		$548.61

The savings account statement is:

Balance 07/26/93 :	$50.36
Interest	$ .12
(This includes May's interest)	
Balance 08/29/93 :	$50.48

I will include the proceeds from the August meeting in my next month's Treasurer's Report. I will put it in a different column in order to show it. I am sorry for this. I have been extremely busy and I overlooked it. Any questions or complaints regarding this matter can be addressed directly to me either at the September meeting (where I WILL have the correct totals) or if desired by mail at:

Mike Doane
80 (as in "oh-oh")No. Braincells
Too(much)sun,Confusion(state of)
sectors



Feedforth - Sept '93

by W. Leonard Tabbs

The Sander's book program's information intended for this month has been delayed. Check with future columns.

DV/80 FILES REVIEW. Previous Feedforth columns have referred to you creating your own Display Variable/80 file (commonly abbreviated to DV/80). This type is used for files created by most Word Processor (TI-Writer-type, etc.) utility programs. The numeral 80 designates 80 characters or columns. To review what must be done: It is necessary to open a file to make one; an OPENing statement line specifies (1) a number for the file to be opened, (2) destination disk drive number to which file is to be sent, (3) a file name, and (4) the parameters for what type of file is being created. A typical file-opening statement is: OPEN #X:"DSKn.FNS", OUTPUT,DISPLAY,VARIABLE 80 where "X" is the file number, "n" is the Disk Drive #, and FNS is your filename (which cannot exceed 10 characters in length). OUTPUT directs the computer to send the file OUT in the Display Variable/80 format. For the rest of this article, the term "characters" will be abbreviated as "chars". The 80 does not indicate file lines are limited to 80 chars in length. The TI computer can output up to a maximum of 255 chars per line, being equivalent to more than 3 80-column lines (255/80).

INPUT. How to create your own DV/80 file? First, INPUT your information:

```
100 INPUT "Enter Data:":A$
110 IF A$="END" THEN 190
120 PRINT A$
170 GOTO 100
190 STOP
```

This will display up to 255 chars per entry to your screen but the INPUT is not stored. INPUT will not accept simple quotation marks or commas. (They will give you an ERROR warning). If you have EXTENDED BASIC, substitute LINPUT (not accepted by TI BASIC, unfortunately!) for INPUT (line 100). Now you can enter commas and quotation marks! Another Extended Basic Option is the use of ACCEPT AT. However, this option restricts entries to only 28 chars per entry. The inimitable Jim Peterson has beat this limitation with his "ACCEPTER" (the original file spelling). ACCEPTER will "ACCEPT" 255 chars! If you own Extended Basic, adding the NUTS & BOLTS disk set is a must! (Jim Peterson, Tigercub Software).

OUTPUT. Unless using TI BASIC, change Line 100 back to LINPUT "ENTER DATA ":A$. Add these lines to send your INPUT or LINPUT to your printer:

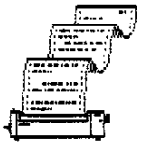
```
130 OPEN #1:"PIO"
140 PRINT #1:A$
150 CLOSE #1
```

For permanent storage of your data, add these lines to SAVE to Disk: (CASSETTE users, call/write me if you don't know program lines needed for saving to Cassette)

```
50 INPUT "CAUTION! OPENS FILE":K$
80 OPEN #2:"DSKn.FILEname",OUTPUT
,DISPLAY,VARIABLE 80 ! WARNING, W
ARNING, WARNING!!! CHANGE THIS FI
LENAME EACH TIME YOU RUN THIS!
110 IF A$="END" THEN 180
160 PRINT #2:A$
180 CLOSE #2
190 STOP
```

Putting it all together you should have:

```
1 REM [DV80FILMAK] for FeedF
orth 8-16-93 by W.Leonard Ta
ffs, SW99ers, TUCSON,Az.
2 REM FOR EXTENDED BASIC
50 INPUT "CAUTION! OPENS FIL
E":K$
80 OPEN #2:"DSKn.Younameit",
OUTPUT,DISPLAY ,VARIABLE 80
100 LINPUT "Enter Data: ":A$
!(<--TI BASIC users: Use INP
UT)
110 IF A$="END" THEN 180
120 PRINT A$
130 REM OPEN #1:"PIO"
140 REM PRINT #1:A$
150 REM CLOSE #1
160 PRINT #2:A$
170 GOTO 100
180 CLOSE #2
190 STOP
```



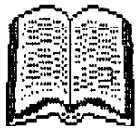
Line 50 is a precautionary line to let you know a file is about to be opened. Just Press <ENTER> to continue if you are ready to proceed. BE VERY CAREFUL to check your copying accuracy! If program crashes at any time, IMMEDIATELY enter (in COMMAND MODE--not as a program line): CLOSE #2. If this OUTPUT file is not closed properly by line 180, you will lose any data you may have output. Worse yet, if the computer does not get an End-of-File (EOF) marker provided automatically by the CLOSE statement, your disk directory could be messed up.

Entering "END" terminates your program and closes your new file. You can UN-REMark lines 130-150 (delete the REM's) if you wish to Print Out at the same time as making your file. If you wish an "escape", in case you make errors, add to the above:

```
115 INPUT "Is this Entry Correct?
 Y/N :":K$,
118 IF ASC(K$)<>89 THEN 100
```

READING YOUR FILE. Need a file-reading program to read your file? Use this:

```
500 REM ** FILE READER **
510 OPEN #3:"DSKn.Younameit"  (n=
your Disk DR #),INPUT
520 LINPUT #3:A$!(Basic users: Us
e INPUT)
530 PRINT A$
540 IF EOF(3) THEN 560
550 GOTO 520
560 PRINT "END OF FILE."
```



Use of LINPUT in the File Reader displays full line entries. If you substitute INPUT #3:A$ for line 520, you will find that records (entries you made) that contain commas will be only partially displayed--they will end where first comma is encountered. IF YOU PUT FILEREADER AND DV/80 FILE MAKER ON SAME PROGRAM, WATCH OUT! YOU MIGHT RUN THE WRONG LINE NUMBER AND RUIN A GOOD FILE YOU HAD ALREADY MADE!!

CONTROLLING DISPLAY. If lines scroll too rapidly to read, you have 4 options: 1) Slow it down, 2) Print one line at a time, 3) Use a CALL KEY routine (to pause at your wish), 4) Display a specified number of lines to screen.

To do these:

1)
```
545 FOR X=1 TO 200
546 NEXT X
```

2)
```
545 INPUT "":K$
```

3) For EXT.BAS users:
```
530 PRINT A$
532 CT=CT+1
535 IF CT=10 THEN INPUT "":K$ ELS
E 540
538 CT=0
```

3) For TI BASIC users:
```
530 PRINT A$
532 CT=CT+1
535 IF CT=10 THEN 537
536 GOTO 540
537 INPUT "":K$
538 CT=0
```

4)
```
543 CALL KEY(0,K,S)
544 IF S=0 THEN 550
545 CALL(0,K,S)
547 IF S<>1 THEN 545
```

In option 1, change 200 to higher or lower number to adjust speed. In option 3, change CT in line 535 to put desired amount on screen. In option 4 you can stop and continue with a key-press. Option 2 also does this but displays only one line at a time.

LIMITATIONS. This DV80FILMAK program is adequate for those who do not need a neater looking file result. It will accept lines of any length up to maximum (255 chars) allowed by your computer. The lines will appear in your file in varying length according to what you entered. For many uses, this is no problem. However, if the data being entered in the file is material you want to alphabetize or manipulate in some way, because of the uneven lengths of lines you may create, (unless you tediously counted out the total of chars for each entry to maintain same-length lines), you could have a difficult time trying to manipulate the accumulated information in your file.

80 line-length DV/80 FILE MAKER. The program below is more elaborate. For those who can use its features, it is well worth the time to type it in. The MAXIMUM number of chars allowed is 80 per line. It produces lines of uniform length, and is compatible with any TI-WRITER type utility program with Program Editing capability such as FUNNELWEB) or, you can add program lines to last month's "COPYFILE" program to manipulate the data on your own. Program additions for this will be included in next month's column.

In this program, you are provided a 3-line "grid" to show the length of an 80 column line and how your INPUT data compares in length. Your entries are viewable before they are sent out to printer or disk file. If you exceed 80 chars per length you are so warned (and have an option of seeing how much you exceeded allowable length). You can see exactly what will be saved in each entry. The main program lines required to do the work of this program are not many: what makes the program longer are the lines required to program your screen-grid display due to TI's 28 char-per-line screen display limitation.

```
1 REM [DV80FILMKR] EXT.BASIC
80 ST=[
100 CALL CLEAR
110 DISPLAY AT(7,7):"DV80 FI
LE MAKER": :"By W.Leonard Ta
ffs, SW99ers"
115 DISPLAY AT(18,1):"WARNIN
G!!! THIS OPENS OUTPUT": :"
FILE IN LINE 140"
120 INPUT "":K$
130 CALL CLEAR
140 ! OPEN #1:"DSK6.*TESTFIL
2",OUTPUT,DISPLAY ,VARIABLE
80
150 INPUT "FILE HAS NOW BEEN
 OPENED    ENTER TIME DELAY
":TM
160 CALL CLEAR
170 GOSUB 420
180 ST=0
185 LINPUT "Enter /// to End
        ENTER DATA (MAX
 80 CHRS!)   ":A$
190 CALL CLEAR
200 IF A$="///" THEN CLOSE #
1
210 IF A$="///" THEN STOP
220 A1$=SEG$(A$,1,28)
230 A2$=SEG$(A$,29,28)
240 A3$=SEG$(A$,57,24)

250 A4$=SEG$(A$,81,19)
270 A=LEN(A$)
275 IF A>80 THEN INPUT "TOO
MANY CHARACTERS!        PRES
S 'S' TO SEE ":K$
280 IF A>80 THEN IF K$="" TH
EN 180 ELSE IF ASC(K$)=83 TH
EN GOSUB 400 ELSE 290
290 CALL CLEAR
300 DISPLAY AT(18,1):A1$;A2$
;A3$
310 GOSUB 420
320 IF A>80 THEN DISPLAY AT(
18,1):A1$;A2$;A3$
330 DISPLAY AT(22,1):"SAVE T
HIS AS IS? NUL TO SAVEOR N T
O RE-ENTER"
340 INPUT Y$
350 CALL CLEAR
360 IF Y$="" THEN GOSUB 700
ELSE IF ASC(Y$)=78 THEN GOSU
B 400 ELSE 290
370 GOTO 170
400 REM ** DISPLAY ENTRY AGA
INST GRID **
410 CALL CLEAR
420 IF A>THEN DISPLAY AT(2,1
):"OVERFLOW DISPLAY"
430 DISPLAY AT(4,1):"1...5..
..0....5....2....5..8"
440 DISPLAY AT(5,1):A1$
450 DISPLAY AT(7,1):"93....5
....4....5....5...56"
460 DISPLAY AT(8,1):A2$
470 DISPLAY AT(10,1):"7..6..
..5....7....5....8"

480 DISPLAY AT(11,1):A3$
490 IF A>80 THEN DLAY AT(
 13,7):"-> OVERFLOW! <-":A
500 IF A>80 THEN DISPLAY AT(
14,1):"[...5...9...5....0...
.5....["
510 IF K$="R" THEN 560
520 IF A>80 THEN DISPLAY AT(
15,1):A4$
530 IF ST THEN 180 ELSE INPU
T "Enter S to Save or R to R
e-Enter ":K$
540 IF A>80 THEN Y=[3
550 IF K$="S" THEN 320 ELSE
IF K$="R" THEN GOTO 160
560 RETURN
700 REM ** SAVE ENTRY **
710 A$=SEG$(A$,1,80)
720 B=LEN(A$)
730 IF SEG$(A$,B,B-1)=CHR$(3
4)THEN A$=SEG$(A$,1,B-1)
740 PRINT A$: :"ENTRY BEING
SAVED"
750 FOR X=1 TO TM
760 NEXT X
770 A=80
780 ! PRINT #1:A$
790 CALL CLEAR
800 RETURN
```

Multiple statements were not used to make it easier to follow what is happening. Lines 400-560 comprise a GOSUB for screen display purposes and lines 700-800 constitute the SAVE to disk GOSUB. Note that the OUTPUT lines (line 140 and 780) have been remarked (with exclamation points). Leave these in the program until you see that the program functions properly and that you have made no copying errors. Once these lines are un-REMarked, it is possible to mess up your file (or disk) as mentioned earlier. If your copy still has an undetected error. Once all seems to function O.K., then remove the exclamation points. Line 200 is purposely not REMarked. When you are testing the program, this line should result in a file/error message when you enter "///" to end the program. Getting this error message confirms that your "END" function is working properly. Use a spare blank disk to experiment with this at first--to play it safe! Start with very short files of 2 or 3 entries at first, then check your directory to see if it "took". CHECK THE SIZE of your file! If it shows 1 DIS/VAR 80, the file is NO GOOD--DELETE IT at once! A good file will show a minimum size of 2. Don't forget to change filenames each time you run the program!

LOOKING AHEAD...File line samples that could be made with this program (with additional program lines to be supplied next month) are:

```
SONGS OF ISRAEL VOL. II (SEASON PSALMS FOR CH YR) (BK) 267 PELOQUI
N, ALEXANDER
TITLE                                                    CODE AUTHOR
|...5....0....5....2....5....3....5....4....5....5....|....|
```

The dotted line serves as a grid line to follow as you make your INPUT entries enabling you to produce INPUT with identical spacing for your file lines. Another example to illustrate a check-data program type file line:

```
1...5 7..0.. .5....2.... ....3....5 ...4....5...5....5....6....5.
...7....5....8
|CK#  |DATE  |PAYEE      |AMOUNT    |EXP
```

Tom's Observations

by Tom Wills

Only 5-1/2 months to go until Fest West '94! Boy, time sure flies when you're having fun. Another mailing will be going out soon to continue to remind people of the Best Fest in The West Again! We will start working on some additional publicity for the event in an attempt to bring in more visitors.

To date we have two raffle prizes. One is a Myarc Hard and Floppy Disk Controller Card along with a Seagate ST225 20 megabyte hard disk drive, and a 2400 baud modem complete with a TI ready cable. We are handling the raffle tickets the same as during the 1990 Fest West, which was $1 per ticket, or eleven tickets for $10 and one free admission to Fest West '94.

As the tickets are sold, and funds become available, we will be purchasing more prizes. Hopefully we can get some prizes donated to the cause, or at least get some substantial discounts on the cost of prizes.

As I have stated in every newsletter since Fest West '94 was announced, mark President's Day weekend on you calendar and plan on attending Fest West '94. For those who are coming in from out of state, or even from other parts of Arizona, make Fest West part of a grander vacation plan. Normally our February is beautiful with shirt sleeve weather during the day and sweater or light jacket weather at night.

During February, the average high temperature is 67.0 degrees and the average low temperature is 39.9 degrees. The lows have been as low as the mid-20s and as high as the upper 90s. During February we normally receive .6" of precipitation. Normally the precipitation is in the form of rain, but snow in February is not unknown either. The last time it snowed in Tucson was in 1990 and considering it snows in Tucson on the average of once every five years, we should be plenty safe for Fest West '94. However, if you do like snow and want to go skiing, you can do that also. Bring your skis and go to Mount Lemmon, which is the southern most ski hill in the country. Or how about a picnic in February? You can do that also. Come to Tucson and enjoy a great Fest West and a vacation at the same time.

BBS Workshop

On Saturday, August 21st, a BBS Workshop was held at the home of Les Neff. There were six in attendance, including myself. The BBS Workshop was a success as much was covered during the time it was in session. Navigating Cactus Patch and the use of Telco.

Unfortunately the workshop was cut a little short due to an intense thunderstorm which knocked The Cactus Patch BBS off line. We were just ready to attempt a download of a file from when we got a "NO CARRIER" message on the screen. It turned out that there had been a drop in the the electricity at my home and we lost the BBS. The strange part of it was that it was fairly nice at Les' home. We heard a little distant thunder, but that was it.

This bring up a good point. In the event of a thunderstorm, always unplug your modem. No, not just the power, but from the telephone line as well. More computers are lost to surges/spikes through the telephone line than through the household wiring.

Cactus Patch Update

Things have been very slow on the Cactus Patch BBS as of late. This is due to several reasons - vacations, normal summer slowdown, winter visitors are gone, and the fact that non-TIers still are being excluded from the BBS. Hopefully things will be picking up again very soon.

On Saturday, August 20th, the Cactus Patch was upgraded to version 4.11. The only real change was the Chat mode is now working again. This is thanks to Brad Snyder of Walnutport, Pennsylvania. Brad is also the SysOp for the First Floor PBBS. What this means is that I can now "chat" with callers who are having problems or who have questions.

OPA Update

I know, here he goes again! Can't Tom ever stop knocking Gary Bowser and Oasis Pensive Abacutors. Not while there are still people who aren't aware of OPA's non-delivery of their products.

I've been taken, and so have others. I've recently learned that apparently a major software/hardware house was also taken to the cleaners by OPA. I know this information is accurate, but have been asked not to use their name. For the remainder of this subject, I will refer to them as the XYZ Company. I am relaying this information to you so you may be further aware that OPA/Gary Bowser is not to be trusted.

It seems that Gary Bowser was doing some hardware work for the XYZ Company. What exactly happened, I don't know, except a fair amount of money was involved. And the worst part of this is that Gary did a really good jobs on the hardware being produced by him. In fact, it was very professionally done. OPA completed some of the project, but then reneiged on completing the project. This may cause XYZ Company problems in both cash flow and image, thus the reason for not mentioning their name.

The moral here is that OPA is to be avoided. Gary Bowser, AKA Oasis Pensive Abacutors, apparently doesn't care who gets ripped off. If the North American Free trade Agreement, NAFTA, is ratified, I just hope there is a mechanism in it to deal with the likes of Gary Bowser. In the meantime, don't become another on OPA's list of suckers.

Repetitive Strain Injury

I'm sure everyone has heard of the Repetitive Strain Injury syndrome, better known as RSI. The most common injury is the problem known as Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, a wrist injury. Another problem is one of the elbow, known as either Tennis elbow, if you are into sports, or Executive's Elbow.

Carpal Tunnel is by far the most common ailment. The elbow problem can best be described like hitting your "funny bone" and not having it go away. I am currently having problems with Executive's Elbow (doesn't that sound like an impressive type of injury?).

Not many people think TIers can fall victim to RSI, but that is not the case. In fact, TIers can be more prone to such an injury, especially the Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. The reason for this is in the very design of our faithful computer console. Most people rest the palms of their hands on the desk in front of the console and type from that position. This is very bad for the wrists.

There are wrist rests for sale for as little as $1.50 each. However, those wrist rests are designed for use with the IBM style keyboard similar to those used by Geneve owners. Needless to say, one will not work properly with the TI-99/4A console. Therefore I recommend getting two wrist rest and stacking them. This will relieve the pressure on the wrist and also make typing easier.

As for the Executive's Elbow, its cause is totally different. How many are sitting in a chair with arms? Quite a few I imagine. The problem lies in the fact that while sitting in such a chair, a person naturally tends to put their elbows on the arms of the chair and lean on them. After enough time, the nerve, which we commonly refer to as the Funny Bone, gets inflamed and causes a tingly numbness in the hand similar to when you hit you "funny bone."

The best way to cure yourself of leaning on the arms of your chair is to get a chair WITHOUT arms. This is especially important for persons, such as myself, who work in an office where you sit all day at a desk in a chair with arms.

There is no easy way to "cure" this problem. Sometimes wearing a splint or taking deflamatory drugs will alleviate the problem. More often than not, however, the problem can be only "cured" by surgery. The surgery, especially for the elbow problem, leaves big ugly scars. There is no guarantee that the surgery will clear up the problem. Nor is successful surgery any guarantee the Carpal Tunnel Syndrome will not come back.

I am bringing this up in an effort to inform TIers of a serious problem. Hopefully I can, through this article, inform someone who is on the verge of such a problem of their potential problem and thus avoid it. That will make this effort to inform worth it.

Fireside Chat 04: On Re-Definition

by Jim Walter Krych

Director of Research and Development, Asgard Peripherals (new and final title)

Let us examine, for a moment, what we may consider items in our lives that are defined for us. Items which have limits and we have accepted.

Taxes, of course. Speed, not over a certain amount. Life and Death, through which Life through Christ.

Now, we all are familiar with these. We all probably have our own share of defined limits and restrictions.

Now let's talk about memory. More exactly, the memory of our computer-the TI 99/4A home computer. We know that physically, we cannot change the machine, the CPU, to handle more memory. So we have the 32k cards.

But if one is to look real close at the machine we notice that far more than 64k is on the machine. But how can this be-the 4A can only address 64k(or 32kwords) bytes. If one is to count up the memory on a 32k TI the amount would be 128k. So how was it done?

VDP- a separate but important part of the 4A.

GPL- Graphics Programming Language is the language of the 4A.(not discounting 9900 code). It allows the 4A to access the GROM's(Graphic Read Only Memory). These chips work in parallel-so more memory is possible for the OS.

And only when the proper chip is selected. That is why CALL is so nice-it makes the computer search through the GROM libraries for the selected function.

Which is all real nice but for programs which need CPU memory-oh boy. And we have the 32k card.

Doubtless, other methods have been tried to remedy this. None have succeeded. A scary track record for ANYBODY.

So over the years the limit was defined for us, not for a lack of trying. Or a certain way of adding memory, such as a supercart. But that only added so much.

And let's face it. 32k has been a pretty big wall.

Has anyone ever done something and while in the process of doing it looked back at what had been done? What had changed and what was redefined?

I must readily admit that. It is like grabbing a tiger by the tail. Hang on and have the ride of your life.

Let's look at what more, easily used, expanded memory means to us. Bigger programs, of course. But what else does it mean?

The computer can do more, much MORE.

We, the Asgard Peripherals team responsible for the AEMS, have redefined a machine that a large multi-billion dollar corporation tried and failed. The 4A is in the big leagues now.

Large programs, new languages. Large sound and MIDI files. Our own TSR's. Multitasking.

As if we had taken the Atari VCS and made it run a LOTUS 123 clone. But in this case, it was much more practical.

And to the critics, who will of course be saying what they want. Remember that a software company is designing this. With probably the best assembler programmer and an upcoming master. Plus a renowned hardware engineer. We are dead serious about this.

And here, take it as a warning shot, this AEMS, is only the first step.....

More about MEMORY

by Mike Doane

I found this article/commentary in the "round-table" portion of the Genie upload which David Ormand is kind enough to download from Genie and then upload it to the Cactus Patch B.B.S (602-298-6277). This and many other articles and files are on the Cactus Patch for YOUR use!

The Southwest 99'ers group do not endorse any product or company. I want to make this plain to all of our readers. We may individually recommend the use or purchase of any item but the group as an entity does not.

I make this statement so you do not think the User's group is either for or against any product.

There has been a "flap" over memory cards/systems. I presented an article by Chris Bobbitt from Asgard and we are running a series of features from Jim Krych also of Asgard. This newsletter is to serve and inform you of all available views and information related to the T.I. 99/4A.

I am sold on the Asgard Memory System card but there are many sides to an issue. Here is one from Jeff White. I hope to hear more from other people regarding our options towards the goal of more programmable memory. I believe this problem to be the one which presents the biggest challenge to the further developement of our beloved computer.

Jeff White 09JUN93

I think I should respond to the Chris Bobbitt's editorial on memory systems and Beery Miller's commentary posted in a message (on GEnie).

First, as Delphi TI Net's official conference coordinator, I know there has only been one conference specifically related to NCTIS. This official Delphi conference was advertised on TI Net, and only questions and answers and suggestions regarding what had been discussed at the Fest West 1992 meeting were discussed during the conference.

NCTIS was formed after the first day of Fest West 1992. The creation of NCTIS was not on the agenda Don O'Neil had planned for the meeting that resulted in the creation of NCTIS and its proposals. The formation of NCTIS was the result of the meeting which was billed as a way for vendors to address the need to better serve the users of the TI community.

Mike Maksimik of Crystal Software and Chris Taylor of ttc were the two most vocal persons during this meeting. It is their contributions to the discussions which ultimately led to the formation of NCTIS. Don O'Neil of WHT, Beery Miller of 9640 News, Ken Gilliland of Notung Software, Shane Truffer of ESD, and others participated to lesser extents.

I, Jeff White, attended the meeting at Fest West 1992, but I contributed nothing to the discussion. I simply witnessed what was happenning.

Chris Bobbitt and Asgard were never excluded from any NCTIS discussion. There simply was no Asgard representative at the Fest West 1992 meeting. This meeting was announced in the the December 1991 issue of MICROpendium, p25:

"A 'Vendors' Forum,' an open meeting for software and hardware developers, will be conducted by Don O'Neil Saturday evening."

Whether Asgard chose to ignore this invitation or simply missed it, I do not know. However, the "Vendor's Forum" that resulted in workable proposals for TI "standards" was not a clandestine effort by anyone to force a non-existing product (4A Memex) as THE memory system for the 99/4A.

In the March 1992 issue of MICROpendium, p14, Asgard was invited to voice their criticisms of the NCTIS proposals:

"A vendors' forum at Fest West in Phoenix, Arizona, Feb. 15, hosted by Don O'Neil of Western Horizon Technologies, generated a National Committee for TI Standards, which has created a proposal for guidelines for guidelines for standards for manufacturers of TI-related hardware and software to follow. The standards will be decided at the Lima Multi Users Group in Lima, Ohio, this May, according to O'Neil.

"...O'Neil says users should forward their ideas on these standards to their local user group before the Lima fair. He may be contacted c/o South Bay TI Users Group, PO Box 110037, Campbell CA 95011-0037."

All proposals were based on existing products -- products that both Chris Taylor and Mike Maksimik have supported with their software. The RAMBO memory system developed by Gary Bowser/OPA and Bud Mills/BMS (both in attendance at Fest West 1992) was the only memory system available at that time which fit best with the original NCTIS proposals. The other available memory systems were not excluded from the proposed "standards," but they were not as tractable to software development as RAMBO.

OPA's anticipated release of the RAMBO Development Package (a now discontinued product never released) would have made RAMBO the wise choice given the options available for memory systems in early 1992. In 1991, WHT, BMS, and OPA had been working jointly on the 99000 accelerator. This relationship among the three hardware developers is what propagated the original 4A Memex design. BMS and OPA own the Horizon/RAMBO designs more or less, and Don O'Neil (WHT) made both business partners aware of his intentions for RAMBO- compatibility in the 4A Memex design. (The Chicago/Milwaukee RAMdisks that Mike Ballman, co-author of Horizon ROS 7.x with John Johnson, sold, cloud this picture very slightly. This commentary is not meant to resolve any issues of rights. I do not have complete information on such matters.)

The relationship between OPA and its two partners BMS and WHT became estranged. This much is common knowledge, and to say more than this could make me persona non grata with more than one company in the TI community.

As a result of the dissolution, or de-emphasis, of OPA's partnerships with WHT and BMS, the 4A Memex and other WHT-initiated projects became property of WHT. With the absence of OPA, WHT and BMS were left with no one to develop the software in conjunction with the hardware.

My relationship with Don O'Neil existed before WHT and Don's business relations with OPA or BMS. Though I cannot finish things as quickly as I would like, I was chosen in spite of this to take OPA's place in what some might call "the three-ring circus."

The 4A Memex has been re-designed several times because of my involvement. The basic design as implemented in the non-working wirewrap prototype shown at Fest West 1992 is different than the design OPA saw during development before I got involved. The most obvious thing retained in all designs of 4A Memex is the RAMBO-compatibility. However, the limitations of the original design have been dramatically removed because of my input in design decisions.

The designers of 4A Memex understand that normal DSR access is slow compared to direct access of peripherals. This issue has been addressed from both hardware and software viewpoints with the full understanding that being RAMBO- compatible sets certain insurmountable limits. The hardware MUST appear RAMBO- compatible at both hardware and software levels, so the additional features of 4A Memex must encapsulate RAMBO-functionality. This does add layers of complexity to the hardware and software which can only be done in custom hardware to have any chance at fitting in the peripheral box.

Asgard Peripherals has produced, in conjunction with OPA, the best available memory system for the 99/4A. The AMS (and "unannounced" AEMS) memory cards should not be ignored by the TI community. The potential competition when the WHT 4A Memex becomes available should prove interesting.

When 4A Memex does become available, I think it will supplant AMS and preclude AEMS memory systems from being best. Asgard is welcome to have a different opinion, obviously. Asgard has the benefit of becoming available first with a program memory card. WHT has the benefit of knowing what must be topped to be the best.

I should back up a bit to mention what NCTIS proposed during the first official NCTIS meeting at Lima in 1992. NCTIS proposed that a "universal DSR" -- in actuality a library of simply linked routines -- be written to support using any available memory card, be it Corcomp, Foundation, MYARC, RAVE, Horizon, RAMBO, etc. Exclusion of Asgard AMS was only because it had not been announced and was not known about by NCTIS participants. WHT 4A Memex was included only in that routines written for RAMBO would be compatible. 4A Memex would have a much better and distinctive way of handling memory.

Now over a year later, Asgard AMS is available with linkable routines to access large amounts of memory. This is not so different than what NCTIS had proposed for the less cooperative memory cards.

I will add that Alexander Hulpke proposed in a letter received by Charles Good in early February 1991 that memory management routines be implemented in the DSR's of the then available memory cards. It is therefore not a new idea to do memory management with DSR routines, as Alexander proposed and Horizon ROS 8.xx used to some extent for RAMBO in 1990.

The AA Memex design was not started until the latter part of 1991. The Asgard AMS was announced and became available in October 1992.

Things are now in historical perspective in regards to the memory system debate. Because of the length of this message, I think it best that I make a direct response to Chris Bobbitt's editorial separately.

-- Jeff White

The TI-99 Home Computer Timeline

by Bill Gaskill

part 1 (continued)

1978 - In March, Texas Instruments begins trying to recruit personal computer specialists by running full page ads entitled "Your Experience with personal computers is going to open an unlimited career at TI." in trade publications. The ads seek qualified applicants for Personal Computer Product Marketing Managers, Systems Programmers, Digital Design Engineers, Product Design Engineers, Application Software Specialists and Marketing Support Engineers. The recruitment efforts are largely unsuccessful when potential applicants discover the job is in Lubbock, Texas rather than close to the center of the microcomputer industry; which is northern California's Silicon Valley, situated only an hour's drive from San Francisco.

- In April, Texas Instruments releases a recreational Solid State Software Leisure Library module for the TI58 and 59 programmable calculators, coining and trademarking the term Solid State Software.

- Intel introduces the 8086 microprocessor.

- In August MICROpro releases Seymour Rubenstein's Word-Master word processor, which is the predecessor to WordStar.

- Illinois residents Ward Christensen and Randy Suess create the first microcomputer bulletin board system, conceived, designed, built, programmed, tested and installed in the 30 day period between January 16th and February 16th 1978.

- The $895 Exidy Sorcerer is released in October by Exidy Computers of Sunnyvale, California. The machine sports 8K RAM, a 64 column by 30 row screen and the ability to use plug-in modules which are the size of 8-track tapes. The Sorcerer appears to be the first "Home Computer" to support ROM cartridge use.

- In December Axiom Corporation introduces the EX-801 printer and EX-820 printer/plotter for $495 and $795 respectively. Both have available interfaces for the Apple II, TRS-80, PET and Exidy personal computers.

- Epson introduces the MX-80 dot matrix printer, shocking the industry with its low price and high performance.

- Over 14 million microprocessors are manufactured by year's end, with the 8-bit 6502 chip and TI's 4-bit TMS 1000 chip leading the pack.

JAN 1979: Double sided disk drives are announced but few are available as manufacturers run into difficulty gearing up for production.

FEB 1979: Rumors begin to fly about TI's new personal computer, despite the fact that it has not been formally announced. The rumors say the computer will have 40K of ROM, it will generate 20 lines of 40 characters on a standard television, have provisions for accommodating video disk players and video tape recorders, and it will have support for sophisticated sound production.

- Atari enters the personal computer market in February by announcing the 400 and 800 models. The 400 is a non-expandable 8K computer with a membrane keyboard, a single cartridge slot and a cassette port. It will sell for $500. The 800 is an 8K computer expandable to 48K. It comes with a cassette recorder, a full keyboard, 8K BASIC built in and high resolution graphics capabilities. It will sell for $1000. Neither machine appears until August, and then only in limited quantities.

MAR 1979: The FCC begins regulating microcomputers that employ radio frequency modulators. Their action is spurred by the rash of previous complaints received when Citizen Band radios created havoc for TV viewers.

- Texas Instruments releases the new Speak and Spell learning aid for children. It is based on the TMS 1000 chip and two 128K DRAM chips, each with the ability to store over 100 seconds of speech.

APR 1979: McGraw-Hill buys Byte and onComputing magazines.

- Tandy begins selling their TRS line of personal computers through their own stores. Several other makers of personal computers withdraw their products from department store shelves after meeting with poor sales and low product acceptance.

- Despite early failure by U.S. department stores to move personal computers, department stores in Europe begin to surface as the major source of sales for Commodore's PET and Radio Shack's TRS-80.

- The CompuServe on-line information service is founded.

MAY 1979: Dan Bricklin and Bob Frankston release their new Visicalc spreadsheet, written for the Apple II computer.

JUN 1979: Texas Instruments announces the TI-99/4 Home Computer at the Consumer Electronics Show in June at a retail price of $1150 with a 13" color monitor. It will not appear in any quantity until almost a year later however, and then it will prove to be a flop in the market place.

Software titles announced as being available for the new Home Computer include: Beginning Grammar, Demonstration, Diagnostic, Early Learning Fun, Early Reading, Football, Home Financial Decisions, Household Budget Management, Investment Analysis, Number Magic, Personal Record Keeping, Physical Fitness, Speech Construction, Tax/Investment Record Keeping, Video Chess, and Video Graphs.

Wise Buys

The following information is provided as a service to our members. The items listed are for sale by the individuals indicated and are subject to prior sale. The group assumes no responsibility for items listed and makes no claims as to their condition or interface compatibility with the TI-99/4A computer. Only computer related items will be accepted for publication in this newsletter.

TI Console w/RF Modulator
Extended Basic, Speech Synthesizer
Terminal Emulator II, Tombstone City,
The Attack, Car Wars, Parsec, Blasto
with manuals
All for $50

Danny Stern (602)297-3839

$200 Complete TI System
Includes: Expansion Box w/SSSD Drive
TI Disk Controller, Memory & RS232
Plus: C.Itoh Printer, Console, Speech,
ExBasic, Multiplan & TI Writer

Norma McCargar (602)889-8401

$150 Complete TI System
Includes: Expansion Box w/SSSD Drive
TI Disk Controller, Memory & RS232
Plus: Beige Console w/dust cover,
ExBasic, Tax Investment Record Keeping,
Home Financial Decisions, & TI Writer

Larry Newman (602)299-2092 or $10 on CP

Double-Sided 1/2 height
TEAC Disk Drive - $20

First Base by Warren Agee - $10

Entec external power supply box. Has enough power for a hard disk and two full power floppies. Light toggle switches on front to control 3 outlets on the back of the box. Asking $50.

"I  My TI" White Hats
Black Letters
Red Heart
$5 Mesh Style
$6 Golf Style
plus $1 shipping

Tom Wills (602)886-2460 or $1 on CP

TI-99/4A Console
$20 o.b.o
J. J. Horton (602)882-2330

MICROpendiums
May, July, August 1985
February, October, December 1986
January thru October 1986 (10 total)
February, May 1988

$1 each including postage

Call or write: Ralph Jones
2820 Juniper Ave
Morro Bay, CA 93442
(805)772-2947

P-Code Card w/documentation
$60 o.b.o.

$100 Expansion Box w/SSSD Drive
TI Disk Controller, Memory & RS232

$15 TI 99-4/A Console
$15 Speech Synthesizer
$4 Replacement Console Power Supplies
$5 TI to Atari Joystick Adapter(single)
$5 TI to Atari Joystick Adapter(dual)
$10 Cassette Player/Recorder
$2 Replacement Keyboard

$5 24-Cassette or Module Drawers
$7 36-Cassette or Module Drawers
$3 Flip N File for Diskettes

50/$1 Disk Labels
500/$1 Mailing Labels
Tractor feed 1-across

TI Keyboard Overlays $3ea or 5/$10
Modem Cables 6'=$8 (Telco ready)
$3 Cassette Cable

Diskettes
25/$7 (SW99ers only)

BJ Mathis(602)747-5046 $3 on CP

Printer Ribbons
$3 NX-10 $4 NX-2400
$2 Epson MX-80 $3.50 NX-1000

Cassette Programs
$1 Teach Yourself Basic

Disk Programs
$2 Airline
$15 Artist Card Shop (Comprodine)
$10 Backsteine
$10 Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
$3 Touchdown

Modules
$2 Blackjack & Poker
$2 Chisolm Trail
$2 Early Learning Fun
$1 Household Budget Management
$2 Hunt the Wumpus
$1 Munchman
$1 Personal Record Keeping
$1 Tax Investment Record Keeping
$1 Terminal Emulator II
$1 TI-Invaders
$10 TI-Logo II
$2 Yahtzee

Books
$1 Basic Computer Games
$3 Basic Programs for the Home
$3 Beginner's BASIC (Blue Book)
$2 Computer Playground
$3 Executive Computing - How to
Get It Done on Your Own
$10.50 Home Publishing on the TI-99/4A
Supplement $3 w/disk
$3 Practical Basic Programs
$2 Programs for the TI Home Computer
$3 Programming Basic w/the TI Computer
$1 Sams TI-99/4A Basic Programs
$3 The Word Processing Book
$3 The Writers by Harry Brashear
$3.25 User's Reference Guide
$2 Using & Programming the TI-99/4A

BJ Mathis(602)747-5046 $3 on CP

Membership Report

Fifteen SW99ers signed in at the August meeting. Ron Vaughn became our newest member, his zip code is 85711, his phone number is 790-6627. Norma McCargar renewed her membership this month. We lost a couple members, so we now have 55 members in SW99ers. We will send out 55 exchange newsletters this month. I will also send membership information to two people who have requested it.

Members Meet

First Tuesday, September 7th Devon Gables Health Care Center (Exec Dining Rm.) at 6150 E. Grant across from the Price Club at 7:15pm. Mike Doane plans to bring his system to show us this month. Mike has an Asgard Memory Card and a Horizon (newest & largest version) RAM Disk in his system.

TI-Base Workshop

Canceled for September.

Exec Meeting

Monday, September 27th 6:30pm. Perkins Restaurant at Grant & Swan, NE corner. All SW99ers are invited to help plan for our Users Group and Fest West '94.

General Users

Third Tuesday, September 21st, 7:30pm. Mathis' home 5941 E 26th St - 747-5046.

Advanced Languages

Canceled. Anyone interested in hosting Advanced SIG, please contact an Executive Committee member.

Contents

Who Do Ya' Call?

Richard Baron - Disk Librarian	885-4812
Mike Doane - Treas/DOM Prep/Tech Asst	298-3835
BJ Mathis - Pres/Editor/Library Chmn	747-5046
Matt Matthews - Lending Librarian	602-428-6910
Ed McCullough - Secretary	296-5183
Rod Stallard - Vice Pres	745-6071
W. Leonard Taffs - Newsletter Lib	795-4148
Tom Wills - BBS SysOp/Lending Lib	886-2460
Cactus Patch BBS	290-6277

(Area code 602 for all phone numbers above)

October Newsletter Deadline ››› September 24th, 1993 ‹‹‹

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Dallas 99 Interface
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