HAPPY HOLIDAYS

THE NORTHCOAST AND TI-CHIPS
CLEVELAND AREA TI USER GROUPS

DECEMBER, 1988

OPPICERS	NORTHCOAST	TI-CHIPS	MEETING DATES	
PRESIDENT	MARTIN SMOLEY 1-257-1661	GLENN BERNASEK 238-6335	NORTHCOAST 1:30 P.M.	TI-CHIPS 10:00 A.M.
VICE PRESIDENT	ERNIE MALNAR 289-7742	RUSS SHIMANDLE 1-887-5330	EUCLIDIAN ROOM	NORTH ROYALTON LIBRARY
TREASURER	JIM NEKEEL 286-3179	LIN SHAW 235-3912	EUCLID SQUARE MALL	STATE ROAD & RT 82
MEMBERSHIP	CHUCK POULIN 731-6473	JOHN PARKEN 331-2830	THIRD SATURDAY	THIRD SATURDAY
	361 E. 280TH ST	4172 W.217TH ST.		
	EUCLID, OH 44132	Fairview Park, OH 44126	DECEMBER 17, 1988	
SECRETARY	CHUCK POULIN 731-6473	MARY PHILLIPS 582-4009	JANUARY 21, 1989	
LIBRARY(DISK)	MARTIN SMOLEY 1-257-1661	MARK McCAULEY 235-8888	FEBRUARY 18, 1989	
(TAPE & MODULES)	TOM NELLIS 475-4067	JOHN PARKEN 331-2830	MARCH 18, 1989	
(HARD COPY)	DICK ALDEN 1-352-9172		APRIL 15, 1989	

First, a couple of apologies. Last month on the front page I called Genial Computerware, Pilgrims Pride. Then to compound it, I quoted the incorrect price for MAXFLIX. It is $15, not $10. Hope I didn't cause any of our members or Genial Computerware any problmes.

Also, Dan Davenport had asked me to put a FOR SALE in for his PCODE card with documentation. He is asking $100. If interested contact him at 451-9061.

In the past couple of years, we have had quite a turnover of members and sometimes forget that we still have people who are "starters". With that in mind, in the next few issues you are going to see more articles on TI-WRITER/ FUNNELWEB and basic and Xbasic programming. We find that there is a great need among our people for these items. Also, almost every month, we have an article by C.T. TIBS which trys to help you with very basic items. C.T. is for real and would love to hear from you if you are having problems of any kind. If he doesn't know the answer, he will find someone within the club who does. Please use this service. No, your question is not so dumb you are ashamed to ask it. Send it anonimously then.

We are coming to the close of another year and at least here in Cleveland we have a strong base to carry us through another year. Other clubs in the country are not so lucky. It is also getting time to elect officers both at NorthCoast and Chips. Most of the positions only take up an hour or two a month of your time outside of the actual meetings. So if you are asked to fill in a position, please consider in the affirmative. If you think there is a position you would like, please don't be bashful. Talk to one of the present officers and your offer will be most welcome. If a person holds a position for too long, they become burnt out and in some clubs in order to get out, they get out altogether. We don 't want that to happen here. Besides elected officers, there are other committee positions for publicity, membership, program, library, etc. that could use help. It is a good way to get better acquainted and to learn new uses for your machine. Let's continue to keep the Cleveland groups strong. Let's try to get some more SIGS going for TI-BASE, Multiplan, TI-WRITER, programming, etc. If you find it inconvenient because of distance and time to meet during the month, plan to come early or stay late. I believe that CHIPS has the library for most of the day, and NC has their room from noon to 5 p.m. Plenty of time to sharpen your skills on your favorite subject.

I think we are putting out one of most informative newsletters in the country at the moment. Many thanks to all our regular and sometimes contributors. For several months now, we have had 90 to 100 percent locally written material with some teeth in it! Also, we musn't forget our behind-the-scenes helpers..Frank Jenkins for maintainging the mailing list, and getting the printing done, and Tom Nellis and Bruce Young for stapeling, stamping and mailing. The recent erractic delivery of your newsletter has nothing to do with your newsletter staff. We are on a set schedule and get the letters in the mail the same time each month. The problems are with your local postman who has the option of letter your newsletter sit for up to 10 days before he delivers it. We have looked into other methods and this, with all its imperfections, is still the cheapest and best for the amount of letters we send out.

If you didn't get to go to the Chicago TI FAIRE, start planning TODAY to go to the next Multi-User Conference in Lima next May 20. Last year we threw together a couple of systems at the last minute and make the trip. This year, we should do some preplanning and really make a splash. Lima is booking some biggies for this one...Chris Bobbitt of ASGARD, Barry Traver of GENIAL COMPUTERWARE and now writing the Computer Shopper monthly column, Jim Horn, sysop on COMPUSERVE are already on board for presentations. Again, this will fall on our regular meeting dates, so if we want to go, we will have to do some preplanning.

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE NOTES - TI-CHIPS
Mary Phillips, Secretary

Close to 30 people attended the November Chips meeting. News and reviews were shared.

First, the news..several months ago, Ken Lewis donated several cartridges which have becomes the base collection for our new module-lending library. His latest addition is a complete TI-LOGO kit. Thank you, Ken!

A recent article in The Plain Dealer reported that the Cleveland Public Library is offering computer services through the use of modems. The number to call for this service is 623-0623.

If you're looking for something different for a friend or family member, TI-Chips is offering Gift Memberships for $12. This membership pays for the newsletter. Contact John Parken. Of course, this is for new members only!

Volunteers were solicited for the disk library to be in charge of reviewing utilities and home/finance programs. Work by several people is essential to keep our library current and keep the workload off one person. If you volunteered, Thank You.

New the reviews...Mary Phillips presented a disk program she had reviewed for the library about a year ago. One of four programs on tow disks, the program played "Siegfried's Funeral Music" with colorful graphics, one of "Richie Wagner's Greatest Hits."

Les Kee demonstrated another routine in Extended Basic. Les is always willing to share his experiments in this programming language.

Harry Hoffman showcased "Picasso, V2.0. He found that this program is versatile in its ability to use formats from TI Artist and GraphX.

Ken Lewis was the lucky winner of the monthly raffle. The December meeting will feature Christmas goodies, so please bring your favorite cookies and treats!

ASK C.T.
By C.T. Tibs
Cleveland, Ohio

What does the RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR do, and just how does it do it? I'm glad you asked! Actually 99er's, nobody asked, but I'm going to tell you anyway. It's a very interesting subject, and the following information just might be of some value to you some day.

The Random Generator consists of four programable parts and two built-in sub-routines. One sub-routine takes a pre-selected "seed" and creates a pseudo-random decimal number while the other (the "Randomizer") creates a pseudo-random "seed" which in turn creates a pseudo-random decimal value.

You'll notice I use the term "pseudo-" quite often when I'm talking about computer generated random numbers. This is because a "true" random number series is one which is generated without pattern or repetition. (All "true" random numbers have an equal chance to be drawn.) However, the computer mathematically generates its random numbers, and because the numbers are mathematically generated, the randomness is therefore considered "pseudo-" or not "true" random numbers. This is because, sooner or later, the computer will return to its initially generated "seed" to start the process over again. This repetition fails the "true" randomness generation test.

Enough of the "C.T. Theory" of Random Number Generation. Let's get on with the "meat-and-potatoes" of this subject. Getting back to the four parts of the Random Number command:

1: The command RND which tells the 99/4A to generate a decimal value, between ZERO and ONE, from an internal "seed" value.

2: The RANGE value which defines the range, from ZERO to the limit value minus one, within which the "random" numbers will fall.

3: The Range EXTENDER which will satisfy the "real" Range of numbers desired by the user (say one (1) thru ten (10) instead of zero (0) thru nine (9).)

4: The RANDOMIZE command which tells the 99/4A to pick a DIFFERENT "seed" to start the process each time the routine is run.

The following is a progression of SMALL routines which will demonstrate what I've been attempting to get across. Give them a try as you go along, and you will soon find that you understand how the RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR operates in the TI-99/4A. If you're ready - here we go!

Type in and run the following:

1.
```
100 FOR J=1 TO 10 (Let's do it ten times.)
110 LET X=RND (Let X equal the Random decimal
                number.)
120 PRINT X (Print the number on the screen.)
130 NEXT J (Do it again until I pass ten.)
140 END (That's enough! Stop! )
```

Every time you RUN this routine, the SAME list of decimal numbers will appear.

Now change line 110 to read:

```
110 LET X=INT(RND*10)  (Let's multiply decimal
                        RND by TEN and use the
                        INTEGER only )
```

The new routine will read:

2.
```
100 FOR J=1 TO 10
110 LET X=INT(RND*10)
120 PRINT X
130 NEXT J
140 END
```

Every time you RUN routine number 2., the SAME list of WHOLE numbers will appear on the screen. Not only that, but the numbers drawn will go from ZERO thru NINE. We wanted numbers from ONE thru TEN. Therefore we change line 110 to read:

```
110 LET X=INT(RND*10)+1 (Now the Range 10, from
                         ONE thru TEN, has been
                         satisfied by adding a
                         Range EXTENDER one (1)
                         to the Integer.)
```

The new routine will read:

3.
```
100 FOR J=1 TO 10
110 LET X=INT(RND*10)+1
120 PRINT X
130 NEXT J
140 END
```

But we still have the same problem of a repeating series every time the routine is RUN. To correct this problem, we add a new line AHEAD of the routine as follows:

```
90 RANDOMIZE (OK TI, pick a NEW "seed" every
              time this routine is RUN!)
```

The final routine will look like this:

4.
```
90 RANDOMIZE
100 FOR J=1 TO 10
110 LET X=INT(RND*10)+1
120 PRINT X
130 NEXT J
140 END
```

If you want to see what happens to the RND decimal number, take routine #1 and add line 90 to it. You will see that RANDOMIZE affects the RND decimal, which in turn affects the pseudo-random number generated.

I hope I've been successful in clearing up some of the mystery of the RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR.

If you have comments or questions relating to TI-BASIC, PLEASE let me know by writing to:

C.T. TIBS
13246 HARPER ROAD
STRONGSVILLE, OHIO 44136

```
I   I   BBBB     # 1 to 4
 I I    B   B
  I     BBBB     By
 I I    B   B    Jim
I   I   BBBB     Swedlow
```

(This article is a summary of four XB columns that originally appeared in the User Group of Orange County, California ROM)

IF THEN

The incompatibility between FOR NEXT and IF THEN statements can cause your program to be awkard. The MAX and MIN statements will often work. For example, instead of this:

```
IF A<6 THEN A=6
```

Try:

```
A=MAX(A,6)
```

TOO MANY GO TO's

I was looking at a text only adventure game and found the following code:

```
370 FOR B=1 TO 58 ::
    IF A(B)=L THEN C=C+1 ::
    GOTO 372
371 NEXT B ::
    GOTO 374
372 IF C=1 then PRINT "You See:"
373 PRINT A$(B) ::
    GOTO 371
374 ! Program Continues
```

Note that in line 370 the program leaves the loop to print the message and then returns. Then it skips over the print instructions to continue.

This is simpler:

```
370 FOR B=1 TO 58 ::
    IF A(B)=L THEN C=C+1 ::
    IF C=1 THEN PRINT "You See:":A$(B)
    ELSE PRINT A$(B)
371 NEXT B ! Program Continues
```

This saves 25 bytes of memory

MORE IF THEN

Suppose that C$ can be only "Y" or "N" and that you want to write a routine to change C$ without knowing its current value.

You might do this:

```
100 IF C$="Y" THEN C$="N" ELSE C$="Y"
```

You don't need to use IF THEN:

```
100 C$=CHR$(167-ASC(C$))
```

Enjoy.

EXECUTIVE NOTES - NorthCoast 99er's 11/19/88

The meeting was wonderful. We had a large crowd in comparison to the last meeting. There were a lot of people, there was a lot of activity, we took care of a lot of club business and everyone seemed to have a good time. The demonstration by Tom Nellis, on FunnelWeb Version 4.11/12 was both informative and extensive. Unfortunately, I only retained about ten percent of the information. The configuration program is a magnificent tool, but it will still take me a couple hours of trial and error (with the tutorial in hand) to figure out how to make it work. The financial report by Jim Mekeel was encouraging. We have plenty of money in the treasury to maintain the newsletter and other club services through next summer, provided we remain frugal in our spending habits. I am quite releaved about this because we are starting to receive memberships on a national basis, and the newsletter is our main communication link to members who live outside the Cleveland area.

NORTHCOAST DISK LIBRARY

We are reshuffling the sub-librarians again. Some of the people we had for sub-librarians couldn't handle the job for one reason or another, so we are shifting those positions to new volunteers. This is not a problem because there is very little library activity at this time. "We have one of the biggest and best libraries in the country, but people only seem to be interested in the latest issue of freeware. Look through the catalog some time. There's some very interesting stuff in there."

ONE ITEM OF INTEREST

The general consensus of our members is that we need more basic information in the newsletter and at the meetings. They have requested tutorial or educational type material on items such as TI-Writer/FunnelWeb, Extended Basic Programming and other widely used utilities. Our new plan is this. We will place tutorial type material in the newsletter on a monthly basis. This material should be helpful to our readers on its own, but it will also be discussed at the meeting one month after the newsletter date. In other words, any articles in the December issue will be descussed at the January meeting. This is because some members receive their newsletters after the meeting. Note: Because this will be in the form of a discussion and not a demo, I believe this will be in addition to our normal demo.

THE NEXT NORTHCOAST MEETING

At the next meeting the demonstration will be by Deanna Sheridan. Deanna said this will be a potpourri of music and graphics programs available to us from the library and commercially. Part of the demo will cover Mack Flicks and Jiffy Flyer. The Graphics capability of the TI is excellent and this should be an interesting demonstration. Once again we have more people involved, with a considerable amount of activity in many areas, so try to make it to the meetings and participate. You'll have a great time.

See you all at the next meeting. **Marty**

TI—BASE - INSCEBOT Inc.

P. O. Box 291610
Pt. Orange, FL 32029

IMPORTANT TIPS

NorthCoast 99'ers — Nov. 18, 1988

Late information By Martin A. Smoley

In Tutorial 3, I presented an Extended Basic program to convert TIB CFs (which are I/F40) to D/V80 files. I had to change some things because "&" doesn't go through the TIW Formatter as it is. In doing so, I knocked off the N in the second IN$, in line 250. The line should read.

```
250 IF LEN(IN$)>12 THEN OUT$=SEG$(IN$,1,12)&"$DV"
```

Originally I said I didn't like the fact that the help screens on the disk were the same as the manual. After I realized how much I disliked reading the print in the manual, I used this program and FunnelWeb to print out all the stuff on the disk in Emphasized, Doublestrike mode. It took some effort, but I'm happy with the full sized, dark print copy I have now.

This is very important. The commands LOAD and SAVE are in the manual. These commands are there for Assembly Language Program additions to TI-Base. This is for TI-Base development only. You should never type LOAD or SAVE at the dot prompt. Typing either of these commands alone or with the name of a Command File or Database, will probably cause the system to lock up and any open files to be lost or damaged. You should be working with CREATE, USE and CLOSE for Databases, and Modify Command, DO and FCTN 8 for CFs. Read your manual.

"This makes me happy." I received a great letter and so software from Jerry Keisler, 2221 College Dr. Paris, TX 75460. He has written a program to convert DV/80 files to TI-Base. The system he uses to do the job is relatively complex and people with limited skills in XBasic or File transfer will have to put some extra effort into the project, but I think the program is incredible. Jerry's program was published in the Nov. issue of the Paris 99'er News. If your group exchanges newsletters with them, keep your eye open for Jerry's articles on TI-Base.

One last thing. I am presently using TI-Base Ver. 2.0. There are still some problems with the Horizon Ramdisk, as of 11/18/88, but aside from that I can't believe this program is real. Database files can be stored on the Ramdisk. Most, if not all, of the old bugs are gone. It loads faster from a regular disk drive. It has new printer control code capability and you can set your print designation to "DSKn.filename" to append to a D/V80 file. It has new features like READSTRING, which puts in the "quotes" for you, and SUM which will total up a complete field for you. TIB now has filters which Dennis calls (scope). This means if you had a massive book inventory Db, you could use (PRINT ALL TITLE,PRICE ;FOR AUTHOR = "HEMINGWAY"). Under the proper conditions this would give you the Title and Price of only the books you have that were Authored by Hemingway. There's more than this, and Dennis says there will be a new manual. "AND", I haven't even mention CONVERT, a new function of TIB that converts external files to TIB Database Files. You're not going to believe this stuff.

Good Luck. Marty.

TI-BASE - From INSCEBOT
TUTORIAL 4 By Martin Smoley
NorthCoast 99'ers - Nov. 8, 1988


```
* Command File MOVED1      10/27/88
* Save as MOVED1/C
*  Move Data from TNAMES to NEWNAMES
*
CLEAR
CLOSE ALL
* SET TALK OFF
SET RECNUM OFF
SET HEADING OFF
SELECT 2
USE NEWNAMES
TOP
SELECT 1
USE TNAMES
TOP
CAL NUMT N 4 0
REPLACE NUMT WITH 1
  DO DSK2.MOVED2
SET RECNUM ON
SET HEADING ON
SET TALK ON
RETURN
```

```
* Command File MOVED2      10/27/88
* Save as MOVED2/C
*
WHILE .NOT. (EOF)
 SELECT 2
 APPEND BLANK
  REPLACE 2.NM WITH NUMT
  REPLACE 2.LN WITH 1.LN
  REPLACE 2.FN WITH 1.FN
  REPLACE 2.MI WITH 1.MI
  REPLACE 2.SA WITH 1.SA
  REPLACE 2.CT WITH 1.CT
  REPLACE 2.ST WITH 1.ST
  REPLACE 2.ZP WITH 1.ZP
  REPLACE 2.PH WITH 1.PH
  REPLACE 2.XP WITH 1.XP
  REPLACE 2.GP WITH 1.GP
  REPLACE 2.ID WITH 1.ID
 REPLACE NUMT WITH NUMT + 1
 SELECT 1
 MOVE
ENDWHILE
CLOSE ALL
RETURN
```

Here we are again TI-Base users. In this months tutorial I intend to back track, back paddle, and change my mind on a lot of things. Last month I said I almost had the manual wrapped up and I could stop writing large tutorials. I will attempt to cut the tutorial size, but I am discovering things that people either don't understand or don't even realize that TIB can do. I will attempt to remember that every item we cover is probably brand new to you, the reader. I started to fall into that trap where the writer (me), thinks that what he is saying should be completely clear to everyone. So, I'll slow down and try to explain things more clearly.

The Command Files (CFs) on this page answers a question I received and cover some new points in the manual. The question was, "I completely set up a data base and typed in 100 names and addresses. I then realized I needed one more field and one field that was C)haracter should have been N)umeric." I will attempt to cover this problem and a multitude of other things at the same time, because they all work together. So please try to bear with me for a while. Let's work with TNAMES because we already have it typed in. Next, I'm going to switch the wrong field problem to, "a N)umeric field that should have been C)haracter" (FEL). So, let's say you just typed in TNAMES and you have entered 100 names. We only have 5 names in TNAMES but the CFs (MOVED1 and MOVED2) won't care if there are 5, 100 or 999 names in the database. "Now!", when you CREATEd TNAMES you typed in the information listed below. As you can see the first 10 items are C)haracter type fields and the last item is a N)umeric type field. "Look it over."

arrows to move, enter to advance

FIELD	DESCRIPTOR	TYPE	WIDTH	DEC
1	LN	C	15	
2	FN	C	15	
3	MI	C	2	
4	SA	C	25	
5	CT	C	20	
6	ST	C	2	
7	ZP	C	5	
8	PH	C	12	
9	XP	C	5	
10	GP	C	5	
11	ID	N	7	0

[TNAMES STRUCTURE]

Now, after entering all those names I decided that I should have put in another field. The field I want should be before the first field in this DB (before LN). I want it to be a number or N)umeric field, and hold a number up to 999 with no decimal places. Since this is a number for each name and address record, I'd like the first record to start with 1 instead of TIBs setup which is zero (0), and I'd like the computer to put the numbers in for me. Next I decided I wanted the last field to be a C)haracter field instead of a N)umeric field, as it is now. If you use MODIFY STRUCTURE as described in the manual, adding a field will destroy the data and the names will be lost. So we'll do it another way. Remember, this is a tutorial and this demonstrates programming techniques. The idea of adding a field or changing another doesn't have to be logical.

Continued Next Page.

Here's one quick reminder. "I keep several copies of my databases on different disks. If one of these new CFs I'm testing wipes out the database, I want to have a backup." "So!" with all this in mind, I decided to CREATE a new database, leave it empty and transfer what I wanted from the old DB (TNAMES), into the new one. I typed CREATE NEWNAMES. When TIB gave me the structure entry screen, I typed in everything you see below.

arrows to move, enter to advance

FIELD	DESCRIPTOR	TYPE	WIDTH	DEC
1	NM	N	4	0
2	LN	C	15	
3	FN	C	15	
4	MI	C	2	
5	SA	C	25	
6	CT	C	20	
7	ST	C	2	
8	ZP	C	5	
9	PH	C	12	
10	XP	C	5	
11	GP	C	5	
12	ID	C	7	

[NEWNAMES STRUCTURE]

Compare NEWNAMES structure to TNAMES structure. You will see that there are now 12 fields instead of 11. Notice that the first field is now NM, a N)umeric field, the size is 4 and 0 decimal places. The rest of the fields match TNAMES except ID which I have changed to a C)haracter field with a length of 7. When I entered all the information above and I was on the last 7 in ID, I pressed FCTN 8 to save and end the creation screen. When TIB asked if I wanted to enter data now, I answered N)o. At that point I had created NEWNAMES and it was completely empty. NEWNAMES is the DB I really need, so all I have to do is move all the data from TNAMES over to it and I'll be happy.

I whipped up MOVED which I later turned into MOVED1 and MOVED2 (FEL). I still prefer FunnelWeb to produce my CFs, but the TIB way is to type MODIFY COMMAND MOVED1 <E>. TIB will then start the procedure of producing the CF named MOVED1 and place you in the EDITOR screen. Type in all the lines you see down to and including the first RETURN. At that point press FCTN 8 to SAVE/END and TIB will finish making MOVED1 for you. You may have to press FCTN 9 to break out of the editor at this point. When you get back to the DP start over, and with MODIFY COMMAND MOVED2 <E>, type the second CF as you see it. I'll start with MOVED1 and go through it. Remember that * in the first column means comment line and TIB will not execute that line when it reads the *. So you are probably looking at * SET TALK OFF and scratching your head. Normally I set talk off to keep the screen clear. In this case it made me nervous because I new that TIB was doing some real thrashing on two databases and it concerned me. Seeing all the lines go by on the screen doesn't give you much more control, but at least you don't feel so left out, and you can see certain problems if you watch which lines execute. You can remove the * and turn off the screen junk any time you wish. SELECT 2 is where the good stuff starts. I'm going through this again. I hope I don't bore the people who already understand the aspect of SELECT. TIB has 5 areas. A different DB can be opened in each area. These DBs will remain open and you can work on all of them, but not all at once. Lets say that each area is a cardboard box. You have 5 boxes. You must do any major work on only one box at a time, however, you can do minor work on the other 4 by reaching over into those boxes and picking items out. If you use the command SELECT, you can change the box that you wish to do major work on. If you are unsure of yourself, you should not only SELECT the important work area, you should also tell TIB exactly where things can be found by using the (x.) directive, where x is one of the area numbers (1-5) (FEL). Therefore, SELECT 2 means take box number 2 in your hands. USE NEWNAMES means place all the stuff called NEWNAMES into whatever box you are holding. In this case it is box 2. TOP means make sure that when we look into this box later the first thing we see is the first record in NEWNAMES. With NEWNAMES this is not important because it is empty, but with TNAMES it could be important. NOTE: TIB does not associate the name NEWNAMES with box 2. You must remember what you have placed in which box. SELECT 1 means put box 2 down and pick up box number 1. USE TNAMES and TOP is the same as above but using TNAMES this time. LOCAL NUMT 4 0, is the variable I will use to feed numbers into the field named NM. REPLACE NUMT WITH 1, puts the number 1 into NUMT. I previously said I would like to start numbering with 1. The next line is DO DSK2.MOVED2. This line runs the CF named MOVED2 which is similar to a sub-progr and is located on drive 2. I mention drive 2 because you coul change the 2 to any drive you wish. If you have this CF on drive 3, make it DSK3. etc. When this line is executed TIB runs MOVED2 and begins to do all the real work. When TIB hits the statement WHILE .NOT. (EOF) we are working with box number 1. That is because it was selected last and therefore is still the current selection. It is also the box where we are keeping TNAMES. If we selected 2, where NEWNAMES is, the file is empty, so we would get an EOF signal and the WHILE would not execute. In our case it does execute, so we go through all the statements between WHILE and ENDWHILE. I immediately SELECT 2. This is necessary because I want to APPEND BLANK. To TIB this means, append one complete record (which in this case is all 12 fields) onto the end of the DB which is in box 2 (which in this case is NEWNAMES). Since there is now some real space in NEWNAMES that we can fill with data, we will do so. REPLACE 2.NM WITH NUMT, takes the 1 which we previously placed in the variable NUMT and copies it into the field named NM in box 2. The 2. is to tell TIB box 2. It is not really necessary because we are in box 2 from the previous SELECTion. However, it helps me understand what is going on when I read over old CFs a few weeks after I'm done with them and I can't remember what they were for in the first place. REPLACE 2.LN WITH 1.LN tells TIB to copy the last name from box 1 into the last name field in box 2. TIB works only with the box numbers, but for our understanding, we are saying take the last name we have TNAMES and copy it into the blank last name field we have created in the new DB NEWNAMES. Notice I use the term COPY and not MOVE.

Continued Next Page.

The next 10 REPLACE commands are the same as the one I just scribed. There is however, a difference in what is happening the field in REPLACE 2.ID WITH 1.ID. Take a look at ID on the structure screens on the previous pages. You should notice that ID in TNAMES is a N)umeric field and it is a C)haracter field in NEWNAMES. This is one way we can change a field type. This change is not important at this time, but I received a question on the matter so I thought others might be having this problem. You can also convert C)haracter fields to N)umeric fields in the same manner. If that is the case, you must remove all characters from every field first. In other words the field may contain numbers only, at the time of conversion. You can also leave a particular field blank and use EDIT to type in data at a later time. "OK, the last REPLACE." REPLACE NUMT WITH NUMT + 1 is an accumulator (remember from last month?). We are telling TIB to take whatever number is in the variable NUMT, add 1 to it, and place the new total back into NUMT. So the next time we REPLACE 2.NM WITH NUMT the result will be 2, 3, 4 and so on. The next line (SELECT 1) is important. We must reSELECT number 1 (TNAMES) before the MOVE directive which is in the following line. In NEWNAMES we are at the EOF and have no place to move to. Also, when we hit the ENDWHILE and loop back to the WHILE .NOT. (EOF) statement we must already be in the full database for the same reason. We will continue to jump back and forth, add new space to NEWNAMES and move data from TNAMES to NEWNAMES until we hit the End Of File (EOF) in box number 1 (which is TNAMES). "Sounds easy ht? Well it is for the CF." At the EOF TIB jumps out of the oop CLOSEs ALL the open DBs and RETURNs to the CF named MOVED1. In MOVED1 it simply turns ON all the stuff we turned OFF previously and RETURNs you to the DP. FYI: First, I am covering the business of SELECTing a slot over again because if you wish to really use TI-BASE you must fully understand the basics. If TIB can handle 17 fields in a database and it can open 5 databases at the same time (slots 1-5), then you have the potential of actively working with 85 fields at the same time. We have just worked with 23 fields at the same time. Think of how complicated a situation it could be with 85. This is why you must take the time to fully understand the basics of this language. Next, I still prefer to use FunnelWeb to write and edit my CFs. I realized that this will not be convenient for you under certain conditions, for example, if you have TIB running and you would like to change the name of the DB you will use in slot number 1. If the CF is to big to load with MODIFY COMMAND, you must leave TIB, load FunnelWeb, make the correction and then reload TIB. So, from now on I will try to keep the CF segments small enough to be modified without leaving TIB. I still recommend that you use some means to produce D/V 80 type CFs. Last for now, I have changed my mind about creating large menu-type systems at this time. You may recall my mentioning this idea last month. I will stay with smaller and I hope more easily understood utility type CFs for a while. Several people have told me that they are already st. So I'll slow down a little and try to accommodate everyone, if possible.

"OK, back to work." While working on this tutorial and writing MOVED1 and MOVED2 I definitely did not get things right the first time. This created a related problem that covers some new items in that old manual. When I ran MOVED1 it filled NEWNAMES with junk, I literally mean junk. Since APPEND means stick more stuff on the end, the second time there was twice as much junk in NEWNAMES. What I needed was another CF that would clean out NEWNAMES. So I whipped up the CF named CLEARD.

```
*                              10/28/88
* Command File CLEARD
* Save as CLEARD/C
*    Clear Data from NEWNAMES
CLEAR
CLOSE ALL
* SET TALK OFF
SET RECNUM OFF
SET HEADING OFF
USE NEWNAMES
SORT OFF
TOP
WHILE .NOT. (EOF)
 DELETE RECORD
 MOVE
ENDWHILE
 PACK
* Second time through.
TOP
WHILE .NOT. (EOF)
 DELETE RECORD
 MOVE
ENDWHILE
 PACK
* That should do it.
CLOSE ALL
SET RECNUM ON
SET HEADING ON
SET TALK ON
RETURN
```

```
+--------------------------+
| A SPECIAL NOTE FROM MARTY |
|                          |
|  I am presently testing  |
|   TI-Base Version 2.0.   |
|                          |
|  The improvements look   |
|  very very impressive.   |
+--------------------------+
```

This CF opens or USEs NEWNAMES, unSORTs the DB and starts at the TOP or first record. The WHILE loop loops until it hits the EOF, and while it is looping, TIB is DELETEing records. In this application DELETE RECORD actually means mark the record TIB is presently looking at for later removal. This is for 1 record only. Therefore, we MOVE to each record, one at a time, and mark them all. When we hit the EOF, the WHILE kicks out and we execute PACK. PACK is a program segment of TIB and it resides on the TIB program disk. It permanently removes the records which have been marked for deletion. For some reason, unknown to me, I kept winding up with a record still left in NEWNAMES. Not always the same record but a record. The easiest way to handle this was to rerun the loop. This brings NEWNAMES up empty every time. You can check this by typing USE NEWNAMES at the DP and then DISPLAY ALL. You will get a database empty message. Well, I'm going to break off here. I still have enough material for hundreds of tutorials, unfortunately it's all in my head. Remember that I have a tutorial disk available and you can join the NorthCoast Users Group, see tutolial 3 for details. And send those questions to me, I need to know what you need to know. Good luck. Marty.

Continued Next Month.

```
2230 REM   **SAVE DATA FILE**
2240 GOSUB 2440
2250 OPEN #1:L$,INTERNAL,OUTPUT,FIXED 150
2260 PRINT #1:N
2270 FOR I=1 TO N
2280 PRINT #1:LN$(I),NA$(I),CH$(I),AD$(I),CP$(I),PC$(I),TP$(I),XP$(I)
2290 NEXT I
2300 CLOSE #1
2310 RETURN
```

```
Number of Records =  6
Smoley#1#Martin A.#2#Martin J. Andrew Diedre#3#6149 Bryson Drive#4#Mentor#5#44060#6#216-257-1661#7#02-89
Whitman#1#Raymond (Slim)#2##3#2574 East 254th.#4#Eastlake OH.#5#44094#6#951-2345#7#09-88
Aardvark#1#Grant E.#2#Willard   John#3#9995 State Rt. 84#4#Geneva#5#44014#6#1-465-9876#7#02-88
Aardvark#1#Willard#2##3#No Newsletter#4##5##6#1-465-7689#7#09-88
Vivannovitch#1#Elexxie#2##3#111 E. 98th. St.#4#Cleveland#5#91023#6#541-5415#7#05-88
JONES#1#QUINCY W.#2#JIM SALLY#3#37285 BURGANDY LAINE#4#Mentor-on-the-Lake OH#5#44060#6#257-1029#7#08-88
```

```
100 ! ###### PRNOCOTEST
105 ! (C) 1988 Martin A. Smoley
110 !
500 OPEN #1:"DSK6.NOCOTEST",INTERNAL,FIXED 150,INPUT
700 OPEN #9:"PIO",VARIABLE 136 :: PRINT #9:CHR$(15)
900 INPUT #1:NM :: PRINT #9:"Number of Records = ";NM
1000 IF EOF(1)THEN CLOSE #1 :: CLOSE #9 :: STOP
1100 INPUT #1:LN$,FN$,CH$,SA$,CT$,ZP$,PH$,XP$
1200 PRINT #9:LN$;"#1#";FN$;"#2#";CH$;"#3#";SA$;"#4#";CT$;"#5#";ZP$;"#6#";PH$;"#
7#";XP$
1300 GOTO 1000
5000 CLOSE #1 :: CLOSE #9
5010 ! ###### PRNOCOTEST
5050 END
```

TI-Base - TUTORIAL

Extended Basic Background 1.1

NortCoast 99'ers

Copyright 1988 By Martin A. Smoley

When I found out about TI-Base several months ago, the first thing that came to mind was an Extended Basic mailing list program I was using at the time. My thoughts were of all the time I had spent typing in the names and addresses, and how terrible it was going to be typing them all in again. I thought this because most new Database programs are out for months before utilities come along to import data from your old mailing lists. This was also true of TI-Base. TI-Base has been out for several months and I have spent so much time writing these tutorials that I never got around to retyping all those names into TIB. Well, I'm working with Ver. 2.0 of TIB now and it has a function called CONVERT which will allow you to import files which were not created by TIB. It's a little complicated and the results can be a little strange if you are baffled by the file storage habits of the 99/4A. I'm not very good at this stuff so I figured others out there would appreciate some ideas on the subject. I am breaking this tutorial portion into segments to be used as newsletter fill. My reasoning is this. This section is big, it lends itself well to sectioning, much of the XBasic stuff may be interesting to non-TI-Base users, and last, as I write this section TI-Base Ver. 2.0 has not been released. So I can fill in our newsletter when we don't have any local articles and you can get some interesting information before the program comes out. **See Next Page.**

```
100 ! ###### PRNOCOTST2
105 ! (C) 1988 Martin A. Smoley
110 !
500 OPEN #1:"DSK6.NOCOTEST",INTERNAL,FIXED 150,INPUT
700 OPEN #9:"PIO",VARIABLE 136 :: PRINT #9:CHR$(15)
900 INPUT #1:NM :: PRINT #9:"Number of Records = ";NM
925 A=15 :: B=15 :: C=25 :: D=21 :: E=21 :: F=6 :: G=13
950 PRINT #9:TAB(0);A;TAB(A);B;TAB(A+B);C;TAB(A+B+C);D;TAB(A+B+C+D);E;TAB(A+B+C+
D+E);F;TAB(A+B+C+D+E+F);G;TAB(A+B+C+D+E+F+G);"5"
1000 IF EOF(1)THEN CLOSE #1 :: CLOSE #9 :: STOP
1100 INPUT #1:LN$,FN$,CH$,SA$,CT$,ZP$,PH$,XP$
1200 PRINT #9:TAB(0);LN$;TAB(A);FN$;TAB(A+B);CH$;TAB(A+B+C);SA$;TAB(A+B+C+D);CT$
;TAB(A+B+C+D+E);ZP$;TAB(A+B+C+D+E+F);PH$;
1250 PRINT #9:TAB(A+B+C+D+E+F+G);XP$
1300 GOTO 1000
5000 CLOSE #1 :: CLOSE #9
5010 ! ###### PRNOCOTST2
5050 END
```

Number of Records = 6

15	15	25	21	21	6	13	5
Smoley	Martin A.	Martin J. Andrew Diedre	6149 Bryson Drive	Mentor	44060	216-257-1661	02-89
Whitman	Raymond (Slim)		2574 East 254th.	Eastlake OH.	44094	951-2345	09-88
Aardvark	Grant E.	Willard John	9995 State Rt. 84	Geneva	44014	1-465-9876	02-88
Aardvark	Willard		No Newsletter			1-465-7689	09-88
Vivannovitch	Elexxie		111 E. 98th. St.	Cleveland	91023	541-5415	05-88
JONES	QUINCY W.	JIM SALLY	37285 BURGANDY LAINE	Mentor-on-the-Lake OH	44060	257-1029	08-88

TI-Base — TUTORIAL
Extended Basic Background 1.2
NorthCoast 99'ers
Copyright 1988 By Martin A. Smoley

This is going to be a wordy explanation. If you already understand this stuff, don't waste your time. Also, I will make reference to TI-Base's CONVERT function. This may be confusing now, but it will be explained in depth in the future.

At the top of the preceding page I have copied a very small part of an old mailing list program named MAIL/TI. Back around 1985 this was a popular program for keeping club membership rosters. It kept a member's Last Name, First Name, Children, Street Address, City, Zip Code, Phone and Expiration Date. It had many quirks, but I don't want to get into any of that, or even the program itself. That doesn't matter. The part that matters is the part I have listed for you. It is a subprogram within MAIL/TI and its job is to save all the data the program has in memory. MAIL/TI held everything in memory in a single dimensional array while you worked on the file and then, on command, would save it all at once. Line #2240 goes to another subprogram which allows you to enter "L$". L$ is your disk number and filename such as, DSK1.NOCOTEST. Line #2250 then OPENs your existing data file, to edit it. It doesn't write anything yet, it just OPENs the file. The file is OPENed in (INTERNAL,FIXED 150) format for OUTPUT. So, the I/F 150 means we can't look at it with FunnekWeb, and OUTPUT means we are only going to write to the file at this time. Line #2260 PRINTs, or writes, the first piece of information to our file. It PRINTs N, which is the total number of records it is holding. It saves this total to disk and reads it again the next time you load the names into this program. Notice that (#1) is the only reference the TI needs to process data into NOCOTEST on DSK1. Line #2270 is a FOR NEXT loop which runs until it reaches the total number of records (N). In our case it is six. Line #2280 PRINTs one complete group, or record, to #1, "our file". It PRINTs the record in one solid line, but it puts in its own markers so it can break it up again the next time you want it to load the data to work on it. Line #2290 loops back to line #2270 so the process can repeat until the maximum number of N is reached. When N is reached, line #2300 CLOSEs #1 and the program RETURNs to where ever it came from in the rest of MAIL/TI. I am going through this because if you can find this part in whatever program you may be using, with a bunch of extra effort you may be able to extract the files and CONVERT them to TI-Base files. It was necessary for me to go through all this junk to convert my files. FYI: For the purpose of these tutorials I type our TIB file TNAMES into MAIL/TI and saved it as NOCOTEST.

I set some things up so I could use them to demonstrate points later. After saving the file I printed it out, as you see just below 2310 RETURN. I did this with the program named PRNOCOTEST which is listed just below that. In line #500 I opened PRNOCOTEST which I have on DSK6. in INTERNAL,FIXED 150 format, but INPUT this time. Try to use this analogy. The program is IN memory, and the file is OUT on the disk. If you want to bring data or records in from the disk, you INPUT. If you want to PRINT data out to the disk, you OUTPUT. Line #700 OPENs my parallel port to the printer and also prints CHR$(15), which tells the printer Condensed, or 136 Characters per line. Line #900 gets the number of records from the file and prints it as you see above our list. We must read or INPUT this number to get it out of the way. If we start with a line like #1100, and try to start reading names and addresses, the system will run (unexpectedly) into the number and get confused. I am going to build my own loop and at the beginning of each loop pass I want to check for the End Of File marker. When it reaches the EOF marker in file #1, I want to close everything and stop the program. That's what line #1000 does. Line #1100 INPUTs one complete line of data exactly as we OUTPUT it in line #2280 of the old program. You must bring the data IN exactly as it was originally sent OUT or you'll have problems. Line #1200 sends all the data to the printer. I have "however", placed a #1#,#2#,#3#,etc. between each item, so you can see where Last Name ends, and First Name begins, etc. Line #1300 is the bottom end of my home made loop. It sends the program back to line 1000 over and over, until we finally hit the EOF marker. This program printed out all the names in the list, but it wasn't what I wanted. I wanted something more like you see at the bottom of that page. I needed spacing power and flexability. So, I added a bunch of lines, changed the the name to PRNOCOTST2 and I had it. Line #925 sets up the variables A, B, C, D, E and F, and gives them numeric values. Line #950 prints A and TABs A, prints B and TABs A+B, etc. etc. Line #1200 prints LN$ and TABs A, prints FN$ and TABs A+B, etc. etc. All of it would not go on one line, so line #1250 finishes the job. This means if you want to vary the spacing, just change the value of the column you want to move in line #925 and all the corresponding data will be adjusted accordingly. "Neat Huh!" I'll bet that some of you didn't know you could use variables and do math in a TAB command. I hope this XBasic stuff is interesting to some of you. I'll explain what's going on. TI-Base Ver. 2.0 CONVERT function is powerful, but quite blind. It sucks in everything from the file name you give it. This includes all the hidden file length markers, and anything else the program that saved the file might have put in for its future use. CONVERT doesn't recognize these marks, so it puts them into the data fields. Anything that changes the length of the data fields will shift everything back and forth, causing parts of the first name to show up in the last name field, and the street address to show up in the first name field etc. What I did was convert my old file to a D/V 80 file so I could do some editing using FunnelWeb along the way. I then converted it back to an INTERNAL,FIXED 150 file, but with the spacing you see at the bottom of the page built into the disk file. This route gave me the least amount of junk in the final TI-Base Database. My Extended Basic Background Tutorials will show you how I did it and I hope will give you some very interesting ideas for file handling in XBasic.

Next Month.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF PRINT WIZARD

By Deanna Sheridan - Northcoast 99ers - Cleveland, Ohio

Print Wizard was introduced by Trio+ Software last year at the Chicago Faire. It has gotten some nice reviews lately in the various newsletters on our exchange list.

If you have ever seen or used Print Master for the MSDOS machines, you will recognized that Print Wizard is patterned very closely after this package (within the limits of the TI's memory space). As with most long XBASIC programs, it takes a long time to load and get ready to run. In scanning the code, I cannot determine if it has utilized any Pre-Scan operations and it seems to take forever to start running.

As with Print Master, Print Wizard offers you a choice, of greeting cards, signs, or letterhead. The manual is one of the best I have come across in a long time and guides you through each step. You are allowed a border, text and graphic at the same time. The card does print in all the right places to fold for a standard greeting card.

You have a choice of 3 sizes for your graphic and depending on that choice, a variety of ways to place that graphic on your screen. There is a small box on the screen which shows you how many of your graphics can go on a side and where you can choose to place them. If you also want text, it sometimes becomes tricky not to intermingle them.

You get all of the above with Print Master also, except that with the additional memory available, you can actually see what the finished product will look like before it is printed. There are now many libraries of graphics available for Print Master, but I have yet to see any new fonts or borders. This is where our slow-poke Print Wizard has the advantage. You can convert your TI-Artist fonts and graphics (in fact all the graphics and fonts on Print Wizard come from a companion disk for TI-Artist produced by Trio+ Software) and convert them to Print Wizard format. Although I have not tried it, there are instructions so that you can create your own borders.

This makes Print Wizard a very versatile program.

But, if it wasn't so slow, you say. It takes up to 45 minutes to create and print just one card. There is no way to save your cards, or is there? There is an advertisement currently running for a discount department store where the woman chants with a one-purpose thought, "paper towels, paper towels". Computer users should always be thinking, "print to disk, print to disk". This will make Print Wizard a completely new program for you.

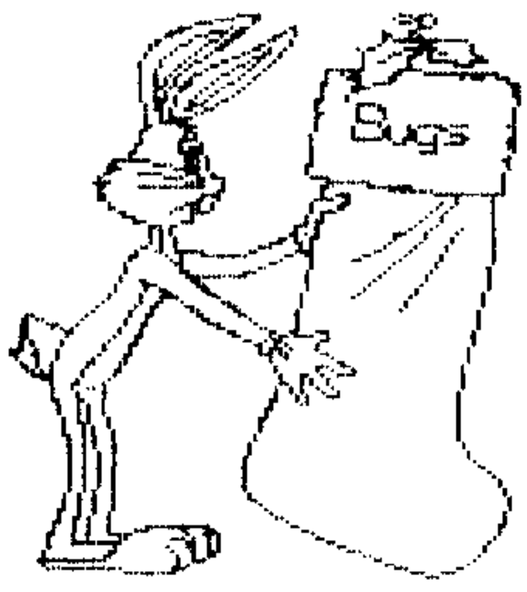
At the menu screen, where you are asked to configure your printer, use DSK1.FILENAME (whatever you want to call it) and when it comes time to print the card, it will print it to disk. The time will be the same as when printing to the printer, but if you want multiple copies, they are printed in a fraction of the original printing time.

The idea for this came from Tom Wynne of the Tacoma 99ers last fall. He said most of the graphic programs could be printed to disk and then run through an IBASIC program for multiple copies and speed (since the printer commands are already converted). In the case of Print Wizard, it saves in a D/V128 format. I use a little program similar to:

```
100 OPEN #1:DSK1.FILENAME,INPUT,VARIABLE 128
110 OPEN #2:"PIO.CR",OUTPUT
120 IF EOF(1) THEN 140
130 LINPUT #1:A$ :: PRINT #2:A$ :: GOTO 120
140 END
```

With this in mind, I have geared up to use Print Wizard in the following manner. I have printed out all of the borders and given them the same names as in the manual. I am planning to take my favorite graphics for special occasions such as Christmas, Easter, Valentine, Birthday, etc. and make up a disk. Then as I run onto some favorite sayings or poems, I will create a disk with the various fonts provided or convert some others. THEN, when I need a card for that special occasion, I can print it out in about 5 minutes or less. If you return your paper to the starting position after printing, the border, or graphic, or text, it will be perfectly placed on the paper just as though it had been printed all at once. Also, using this method, I can mix and match border, graphics, etc. and can also print in a variety of colors and can even use more than one graphic on a page. It has made using Print Wizard a pleasure instead of frustrating. The little program above could be enclosed in an array so that multiple copies could be made without resetting. A person with a set of templates and the above little program would not even need Print Wizard to create cards.

I have spent most of my time on Print Wizard doing cards as it seems to have more potential than others we have for doing that. The sign program is also nice, but there are much better programs available for Letterheads, and I don't plan to use that feature at all. For $19.95 and the above suggestions, you could do some very creative Christmas cards this year!



TI-WRITER
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS
By Tom Kennedy

TI-WRITER is an extremely powerful Word Processor, and much of this power is attributed to the many commands and features available only a keystroke away. The problem many find though, when learning to use this software, is "Which Keystroke?"

Everyone has had one particular problem that stumped them for hours, only to find a simple answer, and wonder: "Why didn't I see that?". In this section, we will attempt to cover some of these questions, perhaps the very ones you have on your mind. Also included are some little known tips to aid in using the TI-WRITER word processor.

****

Q: How do I backspace beyond the left margin?

A: The keystroke CTRL-Y will temporarily disable the left margin. NOTE: there is no right margin release.

Q: How do I stop the printer from printing a blank page when printing through the formatter?

A: The "quirk" of the unwanted blank page printed when using the Formatter has been eliminated in the new revised version of the FORMA1 and FORMA2 files, recently released to the public domain by TI. Another way is to select the single page option in the formatter menu, and reset the paper before printing.

Q: When using the .HE command to print a "Header" and page number, how do you suppress the page number until a later page?

A: The value of the page number in a Header or Footer is incremented on each page, and can be reset to start over at any number. To have NO value printed, (such as for the introduction of a book) use the .PA format command, with a value of zero. The page numbering will begin on the following page., and a ".PA" at the end of each page will delay the numbering further.

Q: Can TI-WRITER save a file in any format besides D/V80?

A: Yes, if you use the PF command to print a file, you can insert an "F" in front of the filename, as in: F DSK1.MYFILE. The F will cause the file to print in Display/Fixed 80 format. The use of a "C" in front of the filename strips any control characters from the file as it is sent.

Q: How do you reformat a table created in Fixed mode, without drawing the whole table into one paragraph?

A: Unfortunately, this is not a convenient task. The only way is to insert a Carriage Return symbol after each line, and reformat each.

Q: How do you use the Text Formatter, and what are Format Commands.?

A: To start off with, the Formatter is a utility program that reads in a file, and interprets designated characters, or groups of characters, and performs certain functions on the text of the file. To use the formatter, you install these groups of characters, called Format Commands, into your text where needed. Most of these commands follow the rule of starting with a period (.) and starting at the beginning of a line. Numerical values are usually required, and must also follow in order. There are some format commands that consist of only one character, such as the ampersand (&), which underlines the following text. A complete list of the format commands, and their meanings, is in the Forum Data Library-0, under the name FMTCMD.HLP

Q: How do the Transliterate commands work?

A: The Transliterate command is special type of Format command that redefines any ASCII key value to equate to a string of character values. This is used to send specific code values to a printer in order to activate special functions. The format is ".TL xxx:aa,bb,cc..." where xxx is the key to be redefined, and aa, bb, etc are the subsequent code values being sent. You will have to check your printer manual to see which codes do what.

D/L from CompuServe by Mel Gary NEW JUG

NORTHCOAST 99'ers, Cleveland, Ohio

Office of Treasurer
James Mekeel
11596 Forest View Drive
Chardon, Ohio 44024

September 14, 1988

Mr. William Warren 2373 Ironton Street
Aurora, CO. 80010

Dear Bill:

The membership of the Northcoast 99'ers appreciate your efforts and the service that you have provided the TI community. Your PRBase data base has been used by several of us and we think that it is one of the best available for our machine.

Our appreciation can be expressed in more that just words. Please find enclosed, a check for the amount of $35.00 which we are glad to send to you.

I understand that you are not supporting the TI any longer and we will miss you. Thanks again for the great program.

Sincerely,

James Mekeel
Treasurer
NORTHCOAST 99'ers

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REPORT ON THE CHICAGO TI FAIRE
NOV 12 1988 By Art Byers

NOTE: DUE TO SPACE LIMITATIONS, THIS IS AN ABBREVIATED REPORT ON THE FAIRE

FACTS AND FIGURES: Chicago had 32 Vendors filling some 53 tables and a paid attendance of 525 persons. This was down from the approximately 700 reported for 1987, but to be expected with the attrition to the TI community. I consider it to be a very good number. Well over 100 people attended the preshow "Social Mixer" and at least 120 the after show dinner banquet. Eight different TI oriented seminars were offered and well attended. The longest distance travellers were three people from Europe: one couple from Holland and one man from Germany. Attendees came from California, Florida, New York, as well as the neighboring states.

(1) Obviously, Myarc has SUCCESS on their hands with the Hard Floppy Disk Controller Card. Every vendor who had some at the faire was sold out almost immediately. It is apparent to all of us that the HFDCC will outsell the Geneve/9640 by a large margin. This is good news for Geneve owners as it means Myarc will have a viable healthy business for some time to come and be in position to offer support to those who do purchase the 9640. Incidently, as best my staff of intelligence operatives could gather, MYARC is now into the the second run of 1000 Geneves. My personal estimate is that they have manufactured something around 1250 plus. I doubt if it has reached 1500.Myarc is very tight-lipped about production figures and if I want to be able to continue to give you fairly good information, I must not reveal where I got the info, so please don't ask me!!

(2) The much awaited PRESS (Word Perfect look alike) word processor out of Asgard by the fabulous Charles Earl is still that, MUCH AWAITED. I understand a LOT OF ORDERS were taken for it. I placed an order myself with Disk On Software and will do a review as soon as I receive it. It will come in a very professional vinyl binder with protective jacket, full documentation and tutorial. The price at $60 is so far under the cost of Word Perfect as to be a sensational bargain.

Alas, the skyrocketing price of both Static RAM and DRAM chips has meant substantial increases the the prices of RAM disks and other RAM dependent accessories. Bud Mills and others were offering their kits sans RAM chips..But don't let the low price fool you, even IF you manage to find the correct chips, you probably won't save any money over buying the complete kit or finished board from the manufacturer.

It was a great faire, lots of fun. There were plenty of TI Vendors as well as "Generic" vendors selling disks, stands, power supplies, surge protectors, switching boxes, etc. I was amazed at the large supply of original TI modules, cassettes and disks being offered by the like of Hunter Electronics and Competition Software - most of it Brand New.!

The seminars were excellently paced. Some were only half an hour, others ran over a full hour. Those of you who have never attended Chicago - well you sure should plan on going next year!!

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