

# CLEVELAND AREA TI-994/A USER GROUPS NEWSLETTER OCTOBER, 1990

OFFICERS	NORTHCOAST	TI-CHIPS	MEETING DATES
CO-PRESIDENT	STEVE BAGSTED 1-933-5977	MATT ANDEL 676-9759	NORTHCOAST 1:30 P.M. TI-CHIPS 10 A.M.
CO-PRESIDENT	BOB KAGY 1-255-2609	GLENN BERNASEK 238-6335	EUCLIDIAN ROOM N.ROYALTON LIBRARY
TREASURER	FRANK JENKINS 283-8526	LIN SHAW 235-3912	EUCLID SQUARE MALL STATE RD & RT 82
MEMBERSHIP	CHUCK POULIN 731-6473 361 E. 280TH ST. EUCLID, OH 44132	JOHN PARKEN 331-2830 4172 W. 217TH ST. FAIRVIEW PARK, OH 44126	THIRD SATURDAY THIRD SATURDAY OCTOBER 20, 1990 NOVEMBER 20, 1990 DECEMBER 15, 1990 JANUARY 19, 1991 FEBRUARY 16, 1991 MARCH 16, 1991
SECRETARY	CHUCK POULIN 731-6473	DENNIS LIKENS 842-9627	
LIBRARY(DISK)	MARTIN SMOLEY 1-257-1661	HARRY HOFFMAN 631-2354	
(TAPE & MODS)	FRANK JENKINS 283-8526	JOHN PARKEN 331-2830	
(HARD COPY)	DICK ALDEN 1-352-9172		

First, A big thanks to Martha and Ernie Petti who have volunteered to by our sysops on the FREE-NET. PLEASE drop them a line to tell them what you would like to see. Also, leave a message now and then to let them know you are around. We have enough Tiers in this area to make this an interesting SIG. I know it doesn't have uploads and downloads, but there's more to life than downloading programs.

This is the first issue in two years that we have not had a TI-BASE tutorial from Marty Smoley. Except for Jim Peterson's TIPS TO THE TIGERCUB, this must have set some type of record. As a new TI-BASE user, I know a lot of us would never have understood the concept or the power of this package without Marty's help. He hasn't signed off completely, but time constraints with his job mean that we won't be able to depend on an article every month.

There were another 28 disks added to the libraries this month. This makes a total of close to 100 the past three months. If you haven't been at a meeting to get a listing, check with Marty Smoley or Harry Hoffman to get your updates.

At the August meeting, someone inquired about any CAD-type programs for the (Computer Aided Design). I suggested The Geometer's Apprentice by McCann Software was unable to find the address or cost. Just ran onto it and it can be ordered from McCann Software, P.O. Box 34160, Omaha, NE 68134. Cost is \$39.95. It is described as a 3-D CAD modeling program. There are versions for the 99/4A and MDOS. The 99/4A version creates pictures in bit map mode of 3-d objects. A special Slide Creation Language allows "movies" of 3-D objects to be created and shown. The Geneve version uses the large memory and color graphics of the Geneve to be used in modeling complex collections of 3-D objects. Objects can be rotated, translated and scaled in 3 dimensional coordinates using as many objects as will fit in your available Geneve memory.

At the September meeting, questions were asked about the new hard disk controller. Hopefully it will be available for purchase at the Harrisburg fair in October. Cost is \$225. The flyer states the following points: A new design using surface mount parts; controls up to 4 hard drives and 4 floppies; formats 90K 5 1/4" drives to 1.44MB 3 1/2" drives; features an EPROM which allows future BSR

upgrades to be loaded by disk; uses Western Digital drive controller chip sets; two separate floppy drive connectors, one for internal drives and one for external drives for easy installation; unique design eliminates heat problems; set-up information stored in the EPROM eliminates dip switches on the board; basic CALL routines add an extra dimension to TI BASIC. The two members in our group who have the NYARC cards have NOT had a good experience. Let's hope that Chris' board lives up to its billing.

From Tidbits of the Mid South 99 Users Group, comes an announcement for you Chess enthusiasts, the Texas Instruments Club of Oxnard (TICO) has released Chess Traps, a monthly series of traps programmed and ready to load into the TI chess module. According to the group, Chess Traps is designed for experienced chess players to provide practice in recognizing traps and improve strategy. Skill levels in the series range from novice to Grand Master. Each volume of Chess Traps is planned to contain at least 20 traps, with most volumes containing 30-50 traps. More than 300 traps are planned for the series. Chess Traps, on disk, require the Chess module, a widget and Asgard Software's beyond Video Chess. Each volume is \$5 plus \$1.50 shipping. Purchasers will be advised monthly of future volumes. Orders should be sent and checks made payable to TICO's treasurer, Charles McDonald, 2204 Calle Bellota, Camarillo, CA 93010-2348.

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EXECUTIVE NOTES - TI-CHIPS

By Glenn Bernasek

The August meeting was rather sparsely attended, but I guess this was to be expected. (As you probably have already noted, I'm filling in for Dennis Likens again this month.) However, those who were able to attend were in for a special treat. The official business portion of the meeting went very quickly in that the reading of July's minutes were waived, our Treasurer, Lin Shaw, reported that the CHIPS was well in the black, and John Parken, our Membership/Lending Library chairman, reported that our membership is at a healthy 52 and that there are ten (10) membership renewals due in September (CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL).

Our Disk Librarian, Harry Hoffman, distributed a print-out of the new titles added to the CHIPS' library while at Lima this last May. Harry also advised us that he would no longer bring the club's disk library to the meetings. If you would like to obtain a copy of any disk in the library, give Harry a call, and he will bring your copy to the next meeting.

At this point, Ron Markus strongly advised the CHIPS that NOT ALL titles on 'freebee' disks have been released to Public Domain, and are still commercial products. Therefore copyright laws still apply in these cases. A word to the wise, 'Investigate before you take.'

Yours truly brought in some additional copies of an excellent article on Fractals. These were, and will be, available to any one for the asking. Curtis Gadd brought in his personal copy of FUNNELWEB (4.3) (with tutorial), and made it available to the CHIPS' Lending Library. Thank you Curt for your thoughtfulness. Dinsmore Stockdale advised the CHIPS that Virgil Thomason's wife had recently undergone major surgery. We all wish Mrs. Thomason a speedy and complete recovery.

Matt Andel provided that 'special treat' in the form of an astounding demonstration of his 1 meg RAM DISK. For those of us who were unfamiliar with the operation of a RAM DISK, this demonstration was indeed amazing. We all have heard about the quickness of the RAM DISK, but I don't think we were prepared for anything this fast! Not only was Matt's RAM DISK super fast, but (as Matt demonstrated) surprisingly easy and straight forward to configure. This demonstration made a RAM DISK a very tempting upgrade for our TI! Thanks Matt for a super demo!

Les Kee demonstrated a very useful utility program he wrote to send special commands to his printer such as line spacings, pitch, fonts, double strike and left margins. This flexible routine has the capability to configure a printer to do just about everything except lay eggs! This demo by Les is but just another example of Les' that shows the potential and power of programing in Extended Basic.

Ron Markus and his wife graciously invited the CHIPS, and their families, to a get together picnic at the Markus home on August 25th.. As Ron's wife put it, 'This is your chance to see Ron's computer room!' I know that everyone who

was able to attend had a wonderful time!

The winner of the 'disks full of games' raffle was Curt Gadd. Congratulations Curt.

We'll see you at the COLORFULL September meeting! THATS IT

TI-CHIPS (15 SEP 1990)

The September Chips meeting got underway at 10:40am due to some Late arrivals. But once underway, the August notes were read by yours truly, amended and then approved. Sorry for not having them in time for the last news letter. Missed the dead line by a few days.

Treasurer Lin Shaw reported no bill received for the August news letter so our balance as of the 15th meeting was 1000.00+. Lin also gave out a couple of tickets for the Berea Hamfest where deals on radio equipment or computer stuff could be had.

MEMBERSHIP: JOHN reports that 15 memberships are to expire by Jan 1991. A few have let memberships expire. If you just forgot about it, call John and give him your intentions. Let us know if you do not wish to renew and please let us know why. John reported the tape and cart library still holding it's own.

Harry passed the July and August updates to the clubs library. Got some really useful items listed. Notify harry for these updates. Remember, Harry has a helper (machine) answering his phone so before calling, write down your request on paper so it can be recorded in the event Harry's out. Don't forget to tell him what format your sys is, (dssd, dsdd etc..)

Matt Andel demo'd Mac Flix Pro. This update to Mac Flix has some new features that's useful. MFP loads with XB or E/A. The 'Supercart' no longer needed for those mega pics. It just saves them to disk as you go along. Tools have been updated also. You now can adjust the margin rather than let the MFP print in center of the paper like before. You also have a feature to shrink the picture. A nice touch is you can convert MacPaint pics to TI-ARTIST(+) or TIA to McPAINT. It would be a nice pro to have for those hard core graphic's kind of persons.

Harry demo'd a disk from the library called XBGC written by J.P. HoddIE. This program converts Graphx type pics to hex code and can be included in an XB program. From the demonstration, it would make a nice addition to that utility disk in your graphics disk.

that number crunching guru Les Kee gave his CPU a rest this month so for those XB hackers, 'SORRY'.

Glen demo'd a updated version of his 2 liner pro disk.

It's called 2LINER PLUS3. He added some 3 liner programs to this disk and is a real handy utility to have around. On this disk are programs like tinycat and textcopy, a small spreadsheet, some disk utilities and file management type programs can be found here. Matt's going to demo PC-Transfer next month. This pro will take IBM disks, read

then from a TI drive, xfer them over to a TI disk (ASCII type files) so they can be used. Will XFER them back and even format a disk to IBM format. Who said you can't bring your work home?

The raffle this month was for whoever won, a choice of any disk's from the groups library, and the winner was Mary Phillips

Congrats to Mary. Next meeting on 20 OCTOBER.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dennis Likens

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EXECUTIVE NOTES - NORTHCOAST  
9/20/90

The September. 15 meeting was attended by about 21 people. Items of interest included:

-we used a sign up sheet for the first time in a while, so we will hopefully know who is coming to meetings. Perhaps this will help with planning subjects, and to find out why people that don't often come are not seen much. I'd really like us to get name again- perhaps my project of the month, as I think they are a help to those of us with memory problems (software?). -treasury report was favorable, gaining about \$130 with about 12 new or renewed memberships.

-we discussed a "groupware" purchase of the "PLUS" utilities and word processing aids; however, since a number of people have already purchased the latest version 2.0, we decided to leave people to upgrade or order on their own. It's a pretty slick package in its earlier version that I've used, so feel free to send your \$10 to Jack Sughrue, Box 459, East Douglas, MA 01516 (author says works on both TI and Geneve). -frank had a new Group membership list dated July 3, which totaled 99 members- guess that's appropriate!! For interest, we had 67 members on a roster I have from July '88, including 2 people from out of state. Our complexion has changed quite a bit, as the current 99 includes 40 non-Ohioans: 1 Belgian; 6 NY; 4 PA; 3 each FL, NJ, MI, MA; and 11 other states represented. I hope all those who don't come to meetings (or can't sensibly) are taking advantage of our group library for its extensive depth of software; if not, please drop the Club a line! Also feel free to write if you have any other requests or comments. THANKS for your support!

-displayed a copy of "The Bozo Chronicles" by a Garth Potts, address 12513 Hickory Hollow Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73142, which is a really nice booklet jammed with non-technical TI information. I'm not sure how one can get it, but if ANY subject has you a bit confused, you may get some help. I thought it was great! Includes sections on Files, Hardware, Games, "Bozomultiplan", Funnelweb, Checkbook, Archiver, Telco, Word Processing, Database, Publications, and Desktop Publishing; also a number of templates, etc. to help with commands of various programs. HIGHLY recommended if you can find one.

-other User Group newsletter summaries included that Corcomp is now called International Diversified Technologies in CA (714) 635-1815; TIPS (TI Print Shop) vers. 1.5 (note our library now has a 1.6!); Menu80 vers. 2.5, Geneve version of Johnson's Boot/HRD menu program (I haven't seen this yet!); mention of the RAG Software Multiplan update; and a note from Charles Good of the Lima, OH user's group of an excellent wood disk storage cabinet, high quality \$25 total, for 300 5.25" disks.

-an update sheet was passed out for the group software library, including 27 disks mostly from the Lima user group.

-the latest MicroPendium disks were available from Frank.

-Ernie Petti may take on the occasional checkups of the Free-Met BBS in Cleveland; thank you!

-between our Group and Chips, we need a NEWSLETTER EDITOR within the next few months. Please talk to Deanna! This letter is vital to both our groups.

-finally, Ron Markus generously demo'd a few fairware programs with no notice: a disk with Dizzy Fingers and Weird Music, rather entertaining; and a few games, Super Yahtzee and Wheel of Fortune (a different version than one I'd seen). It was well received. I will be calling members about future subjects.

-finally, on the hardware front, I got my ramdisk functioning- as a more inexpensive alternative to a hard disk, it's a great addition to my Geneve. I love it already, and have only used it for about a week now! On an even less expensive note, if you have a need for joystick(s), Ramcharged has what looks like a pretty good deal you may want to consider.

See you on October 20th! Steve

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THREE MORE 2-LINERS AND A LOAD HINT  
By Glenn Bernasak  
TI-CHIPS CLEVELAND, OHIO

It's been quite a while since I've written an article. This was because I wasn't quite sure just how a program I submitted within an article would come out in print. Well 99'ers, I do want to share some of the recent work I've done on my TI with you. So here goes!

Just one word of caution. My 2-LINERS are fully operational only because they incorporate "extended line" programming techniques, in that each line is well beyond the four (4) screen line programming default. If you are unfamiliar with the various techniques of extending a program line beyond four (4) screen lines, then either ask a fellow member how to do this or ask your disk Librarian to get you a copy of 2LINERS+3 from the CLEVELAND AREA TI-99/4A USER GROUP library.

The reason I wrote my utility 2-LINERS was that I thought it would be much quicker (and simpler) to have a utility routine available from a "LOAD" menu rather than within a full blown utility program where multiple menu choices and

key strokes must be performed to do a "sometimes" simple and straight forward job. The first 2-LINER is called TINYCAT. This is a quick little routine that will list the disk's name, how many sectors are left on the disk and the names of ALL files on the disk. It won't tell you the type of file, but all you wanted to know was what was on the disk anyway. If you need to know more, let the big boys, like DM1000, provide that information.

```
100 CALL CLEAR :: INPUT "DRIVE
NAME?(DSKn):" :D$ :: INPUT
"<0>-SCREEN OR <1>-PRINTER?" :D
:: OPEN #1:"P10" :: CALL CLEAR
:: OPEN #2:D$&"." ,INPUT,
RELATIVE,INTERNAL :: INPUT #2:
P$,W,X,Y :: PRINT #D:P$;" ("
;STR$(Y);" SECT.LEFT)": :
```

```
110 INPUT #2:P$,Z,Z,Z :: IF P$=""
THEN PRINT #D :: CLOSE #1 ::
CLOSE #2 :: END :: ELSE PRINT
#D:P$,:: PRINT #D;:: GOTO 110
::!TINYCAT (C)1990 G.W.BERNASEK
```

Just answer the screen questions, and TINYCAT will do the rest.

The next routine will help you organize the monster of a disk library you've collected over the years. TINYD/LIB will read a disk catalog (disk name, sectors formatted, sectors left and file names), and transfer it to a formatted disk under an APPENDED D/V 80 text file called D/LIB. The reason I decided on a D/V 80 file format was that this type of file can be easily edited with a word processor. This give you the best of both worlds: A disk file cataloger and an editable file that can grow as your library grows.

(Please be forewarned, TINYD/LIB requires two (2) drives.)

```
100 CALL CLEAR :: INPUT "PUT MASTER
IN #1 AND D/LIB IN #2; THEN
PRESS <ENTER>." :A$ :: OPEN #1:
"DSK1." ,INPUT ,RELATIVE,
INTERNAL::OPEN #2:"DSK2.D/LIB",
APPEND,VARIABLE ::INPUT
#1:P$,W,X,Y :: PRINT #2:P$,X,Y:
. .
```

```
110 INPUT #1:P$,Z,Z,Z :: IF P$=""
THEN PRINT #2:" " " " " " ::
CLOSE #1 :: CLOSE #2 :: INPUT
"<FCTN/4>&" "RUN" FOR MORE OR
<ENTER> TO QUIT." :A$ :: END ::
```

```
ELSE PRINT #2:P$,::GOTO 110
::!TINYD/LIB (C)1990 G.W.B.
```

Once again, do as the screen instructions say, and TINYD/LIB will do the rest. If you have more disks to catalog, then just press <FCTN/4> and enter "RUN", or just press <ENTER> to quit.

The last 2-LINER is a handy routine which will copy any D/V 80 text file from one disk to another, USING TWO (2) DRIVES. Once again, TEXT/COPY was created to provide me with a simple and handy means of making a back-up of text files created on a word processor. This program is especially useful when you are about to run ASGARD's SPELL IT! on a document you've just completed. (Remember, ALWAYS back-up your documents if you intend to manipulate them in anyway.) This is what TEXT/COPY is intended to do.

```
100 CALL CLEAR :: INPUT "PUT MASTER
IN #1 AND COPY IN #2; THEN
PRESS <ENTER>." :A$ :: INPUT
"ENTER FILE NAME:" :D$ :: OPEN
#1:"DSK1."&D$,INPUT,VARIABLE ::
OPEN #2:"DSK2."&D$, OUTPUT,
VARIABLE :: LINPUT #1:P$ ::
PRINT #2:P$
```

```
110 LINPUT #1:P$ :: IF EOF(1)THEN
CLOSE #1 :: CLOSE #2 :: CALL
CLEAR :: INPUT "<FCTN/4>&" "RUN"
FOR MORE OR <ENTER> TO
QUIT." :A$ :: END :: ELSE PRINT
#2:P$ :: GOTO 110 ::!TEXT/COPY
(C)1990 G.W.BERNASEK
```

As with TINYD/LIB, just follow the screen instructions, make sure you have a formatted disk in drive #2 and sit back and watch the blinking lights.

The "load hint" I have for you is for the five (5) sector LOAD routine we all have used from time to time. This routine can be easily modified to list and load any program regardless of size. All you have to do is look at LINE NUMBER 5, and look for "AND C>52". Change this to read "AND C>47", and the LOAD program will list and load ALL routines that are classified as INTERNAL/VARIABLE 254. The trick is that large programs, classified as I/V 254, begin this classification at 48 sectors rather than after 52 sectors as listed in the LOAD routine. So just change the "52" to a "47" and you'll be in business.

For those who are so inclined, a revised Ohio Lottery game and file program, for the new "53" number game, is now available. Just ask your librarian for OHLOTTO/53. It comes complete with a preformatted 53 number Lotto file.

**KOOKY FORTUNES**  
 Ed Nachonis, Q8-99ers, Bayside NY  
 Via Nutmeg 99ers, September, 1990

One of the highlights of any visit to a Chinese Restaurant is opening the Fortune Cookie at the end of a meal and comparing fortunes with your fellow diners. A recent visit to New York City's Chinatown resulted in a family member totting home Fortune Cookies by the pound.

After munching my way through a couple of dozen, (Hey, never stop when you're on a winning streak!), I was struck by the one-size-fits-all generic blandness of the fortunes. Any one would be pleased and flattered with the fortunes I was getting. Even if they didn't fit a person at all, that person would like to think they did. Another thing that struck me was the lack of duplication. I recalled reading a newspaper article years ago about a printer of these fortune slips and how difficult it was to constantly keep coming up with new "fortunes". (Nearly as tough as constantly coming up with new computer newsletter articles.)

Next thing I know, a little devil is whispering in my ear, "Why not print up some look-alikes bearing fortunes that are decidedly different in tone and concept and substitute them for the ones you are extracting from the Fortune Cookies?" No sooner whispered, than done! The look-alikes required compressed pitch and fore and aft smiley faces.

The accompanying Tiny Gram will let you get into the act. I had a ball until the family got wise. If your culinary accomplishments include the ability to bank Fortune Cookies, here's a great way to perk up those "China Nights". (Any to keep a starving author alive by sending him some!)

The program will let you input either one line or two line bons mots. For one liners, just press enter in response to the second prompt, Tex will know what to do. Print codes are for an Epson RX-80 printer.

Specialization? Tell me about it! Could anyone have ever foreseen such an application for a Home Computer????

```

1 ! **** KOOKY FORTUNES ****
  *   A Tiny Gram   *
  *   By Ed Nachonis *
  * "Q8-99'ers, Bayside, NY"
  * *****
2 ! This program will print
  those words of wisdom,
  and other wise remarks,
  found in Fortune Cookies
3 OPEN #1:"PIO" :: PRINT #1:
  CHR$(27)&"@" &CHR$(15):: K$=C
  HR$(27)&"L"&CHR$(12)&CHR$(0)
4 B$=K$&CHR$(60)&CHR$(66)&CHR$(66)&CHR$(137)&CHR$(165)&CHR$(133)&CHR$(133)&CHR$(165)
  &CHR$(137)&CHR$(66)&CHR$(66)
  &CHR$(60)&" "
5 CALL CLEAR :: FOR J=1 TO 2
  :: PRINT "INPUT TEXT FOR L
  INE";J :: INPUT T$(J):: NEXT
  J :: INPUT "HOW MANY? ":Q
6 FOR I=1 TO Q :: IF T$(2)="
  " THEN 7 ELSE PRINT #1:B$&T$(
  1):: PRINT #1:T$(2)&" "&B$
  :: GOTO 8
7 PRINT #1:B$&T$(1)&" "&B$
  
```

8 PRINT #1 :: NEXT I :: GOTO 5

If you can't think of some clever sayings for your cookies, here's some suggestions from ED!

HELP! I am a prisoner  
 in a fortune cookie factory!  
 A journey of a thousand miles  
 begins with the release of a hand brake  
 It is hard to soar with eagles  
 when you have to work with turkeys  
 A fool and his money  
 are some party!  
 Condemned man order last meal  
 Get stir fry.  
 Notice from the Board of Health:  
 You're lucky if you can still read this.  
 He who goes forth with a fifth on the fourth  
 may not go forth on the fifth!  
 It is considered very unlucky  
 to pickup the check.

-----  
**KOOKY FORTUNES CHINESE FORTUNE COOKIES**  
 by Janet Ryan, NUTMEG TI-99ERS - September, 1990

Thanks to Ed Nachonis for his program to print the fortunes. This recipe for baking the cookies was one I had on file. When my daughter was a Brownie scout, her troop made these. It was a simple recipe from a foreign country that they had a lot of pleasure doing together. The fortunes were fun.

Perhaps you and your family will find these fun to do too. Most especially, ED NACHONIS. I just wish I had the program back then.

**CHINESE FORTUNE COOKIES**  
 Makes about 2 dozen

1/3 cup all purpose flour  
 1/8 teaspoon salt  
 1 T cornstarch  
 6 T sugar  
 4 T vegetable oil  
 1 egg white  
 5 T water

1. Sift flour and and measure into small bowl. Mix in salt, cornstarch and sugar.
2. Mix oil with egg white and water until blended. Stir into dry ingredients; beat until smooth (about like heavy cream).
3. Heat electric griddle or frypan to 300 degrees. Brush surface of griddle with oil. Spoon 1 tablespoon of cookie mixture onto heated griddle. 4. Bake until golden - about 5 minutes; turn over and bake 1 minute longer. Remove cookies from griddle one at a time. While still hot and pliable, place FORTUNE in center. Fold cookie in half; then fold into fortune cookie shape by pulling points together & creasing center. (It helps to fold cookie against edge of a table). Place folded cookies in custard cups or muffin cups to hold shape while they cool.

**THE CHANGING MARKET FOR 80 COLUMN CARDS**  
by Charles Good, Lima, W6 - October, 1990

I firmly believe that unless you have vision problems, an 80-column device is one of the most important peripherals one can add to a 99/4A system after a second disk drive. 80 columns makes our machines truly modern, and comparable to the 80-column word processors many of us use at work. For those of us who want to stick with our familiar and reliable 99/4A systems instead of purchasing a Geneve to get 80-columns, the available 80-column options have changed considerably in recent months.

As reported in Barry Traver's September, 1990, VULCAN'S COMPUTER MONTHLY column, DIJIT systems will no longer be making an AVPC cards. I talked with Tom Spillane of DIJIT about this. He said that the TI market just isn't big enough to continue production of his products. A quick survey of TI dealers indicates that none of these has any AVPC cards left to sell.

The NEW ASGARD version of the Mechantronic 80-column peripheral (it isn't a PE box card, so I call it a peripheral) is still not in production. In a phone call to Chris Bobbitt of Asgard, a member of the Lima W6 was told that production has been delayed until at least November, and that the price will probably increase at that time for those who do not have prepaid orders. Chris is asking \$220 in advance for these prepaid preproduction orders.

The OLD Mechantronic peripheral is still available from some dealers. Both the original Mechantronic distributor T.A.P.E. (phone 714-989-9906) and L.L. Conner Enterprises (phone 317-742-8146) have a few of these devices in stock according to a recent (August) telephone survey.

THE BIG NEWS ABOUT 80-COLUMN DEVICES is that Gary Bowser (doing business as O.P.A.) will soon be making a RAMBO-like small 80 column board based on the 9958 (not the 9938 or 9918) video chip for installation directly in the console. In a recent (late August) phone conversation with Gary, I was told that installation requires the soldering of only one wire. This device has, according to Gary, been tested successfully with all the software that works with the AVPC, including 80-column Funnelweb with no problems. The very same device will also bring 80-column capability to the COLECO ADAM computer, so Gary feels this double market will make the product financially successful. THE PRICE WILL BE ONLY \$150 US. GARY says production versions will probably be available in September, and that it is very likely that he will beat Asgard in the date of production startup. O.P.A.'s phone is 416-960-0925, 9AM-11PM most days, including weekends.

IN THE SPIRIT OF TI  
By CHRISTOPHER PRATT

Via the West Penn 99ers from the PWG Peripheral, 7/90

I have recently found a gold mine of TI treasures for the "do-it-yourselfer". In the Spring 1990 "All Electronics Corp." catalog, aside from their enormous supply of electronics and surplus components, they list brand new

original TI items! The most common of these TI parts are the TI-994/A Power Supply, Transformer, and Keyboard, which all sell for \$3.50 ea or 10 for \$30.00.

The Power Supply and Transformer are also available as a set for \$5.00 a pair. More exciting finds include the original MBX Microphone Headset for the Milton Bradley Voice Recognition Expansion System; the original PE/Box push-on/push-off switch, the 3' power cord with the built-in fuse which runs from the transformer to the wall, the TI R/F Modulator, battery holders for the 3 volt lithium cells used in Mini-memory and Super\*Cart Modules, and heat sinks that will fit with a standard size board (ie., Hyarc, Geneve). These parts come in handy, especially for those of you who frequent TI shows and hamfests. Parts and part number breakdown:

Item	Cat #	Price
8-volt lamp transformer	ACTX-1885	\$3.50 ea 10 for \$30.00
TI switching power supply	PS-30	\$3.50 ea 10 for \$30.00
Special power supply and transformer set	PS-TX	\$5.00/set 10 sets for \$45.00
Electret Mike w/Headband (MBX Headset)	MMK	\$1.40 ea
48-key assembly (TI Keyboard)	KP-48S	\$3.50 ea 10 for \$30.00
R/F Modulator	AVMOD	\$5.00 ea
Heat sinks (Fit TI cards)	HS-222	3 for \$1.00
5-pin DIN to Dual RCA (monitor cable)	DIN-RCA	\$1.50 ea 10 for \$13.00 100 for \$100.00
16-pin cable connector (for TI parallel)	RCSC-16	\$1.00 ea
Single station D.P.D.T. (push/on power switch for P-Box)	NISW-1	2 for \$1.00
Holder for lithium battery (1" dia.)	HLBAT	\$1.00 ea

All of the above and more are available from:

ALL ELECTRONICS CORP

P.O. BOX 567  
VAN NUYS, CA 91408  
800-826-5432

T.I. MULTIPLAN V4.0  
By Audrey Bucher - PUG PERIPHERAL  
Via Spirit of 99, September, 1990

I just received in the mail this week (May, 1990), the new Fairware enhancement of the TI Multiplan Package by R. A. Green of RAG Software. The updates have been made to the Multiplan version released by Texas Instruments to all User Groups.

The disk is a floppy and contains the standard version for those who use the MP cartridge. The flip side is for Gram devices (PGRAM or GRAM KRACKER).

Features include:

1. Almost a 50% reduction in run time.
2. Patches documented for default filenames.
3. Slight change in entering default disk, so as to accommodate Hard Disk Users.
4. An MP Startup Loader for RAM Disk or Hard Disk users.
5. Patch documented for setting screen colors.

I compared the recalculation of a large spreadsheet, using the old version and RAG's new one and did indeed find the new one to be much faster.

Simply copy the files MPBASE, MPCHAR, MPDATA, MPINTR, and Overlay to your old MPlan disk, and you are ready to go. In an article I wrote in MPlan in the December 1987 issue of the Peripheral, I mentioned that the time it takes to initialize MPlan and the response time when it is working with the overlay file is affected by the location of the files on the disk. I don't know if this holds true for version 4.0; however, I did copy my files one at a time in the following order: Overlay, MPHLP, MPCHAR, MPDATA, MPINTR, and the MPBASE.

I really dislike white characters on a dark blue screen and always hit the space bar 11 times before loading the MPlan disk, so that I have black characters on cyan. Imagine my surprise, when after doing this MPlan v4.0 loaded with white characters on dark blue. I wasn't pleased with that.

However, included with Mplan V4.0 is a public domain program called Ragpatch that will lay assembly patches into your program.

In his review in the March MICROpendium, Harry Brashear mentioned that he had read the docs for RAGPATCH, and couldn't understand a single word of them. Needless to say, when I read the docs, I didn't understand them either.

But since the desire to change my screen colors was so great, I decided to brave it and use the patch included on the disk. I loaded SETUP/STD into Funnelweb and proceeded to change the screen color from F4 to 17. While I was at it, I also edited the Default drive to DSK2. I saved the

file and then loaded RAGPATCH through the option 5 loaded (Program file).

Presto, in a matter of seconds, the patch was made. Now I no longer need to use the space bar to obtain the colors I want and no need to use a sector editor to permanently change the default drive.

I'm sure I will never write a patch (which is what the docs for RAGPATCH are explaining) since I don't understand assembly language. However, I was happy to have a patch available to edit and use. Also included is a patch for setting up Hard Disks and RAM disks.

If you use MPlan, I'm sure you will appreciate 4.0. The cost is \$10.00 and it is available from

RAG SOFTWARE R. A. Green  
1302 Chantenay Drive  
Cloucester, ONT, CANADA K1C 2K9

DIVIDING ONE DATABASE INTO FIVE IN TI-BASE  
By Lynn Gardner, Pittsburg, September, 1990

When my TI-BASE mailing list reached 700 records, I realized it had gotten completely unwieldy. Sorting it with TI-SORT helped, reducing sorting time from 1-1/2 hours to 12 minutes. But I still had the problem of sluggishness when editing or appending records.

I decided to break it down alphabetically into five databases: AC, DH, IM, NR and SZ (the first letter of each lastname). I first copied the structure file five times, naming each file for the desired section of the alphabet. I then used the following command files to move the records from the original (MLIST to each new database. This had to be done five times, changing the name of the new database and the letters I wanted in it each time.

```
*MOVED1 *Move data from MLIST to AC
*REN to change new database name
CLEAR
CLOSE ALL
SET RECNUM OFF
SELECT 2
USE AC
TOP SELECT 1
USE MLIST
DO MOVED2
SET RECNUM ON
SET HEADING ON
RETURN
```

```
*MOVED2
*REN to change letters in database
WHILE .NOT. (EOF)
IF (LN="A") .OR. (LN="B");
SELECT2
APPEND BLANK
REPLACE 2.LN WITH 1.LN
REPLACE 2.FN WITH 1.FN
REPLACE 2 AD WITH 1.AD
```

```

REPLACE 2.CITY WITH 1.CITY
REPLACE 2.ST WITH 1.ST
REPLACE 2.ZIP WITH 1.ZIP
ENDIF
SELECT 1
MOVE
ENDWHILE
CLOSE ALL RETURN

```

The following command files will print out one complete alphabetical listing of records in all five databases:

```

*LIST1
* Makes one list of 5 databases
CLEAR
CLOSE ALL
SELECT 5
USE AZ
TOP
SELECT 4
USE NR
TOP
SELECT 3
USE IM
TOP
SELECT 2
USE DH
TOP
SELECT 1
USE AC
TOP
DO LIST2
SET HEADING ON
RETURN

```

```

*LIST2
PRINT ALL LN FN AD CITY ST ZIP
SET HEADING OFF
SELECT 2
PRINT ALL LN FN AD CITY ST ZIP
SELECT 3
PRINT ALL LN FN AD CITY ST ZIP
SELECT 4
PRINT ALL LN FN AD CITY ST ZIP
SELECT 5
PRINT ALL LN FN AD CITY ST ZIP
CLOSE ALL
RETURN

```

The following command files will print labels for all records in these five databases:

```

*LABEL1
* Prints label from 5 databases
SET RECNUM OFF

```

```

SET HEADING OFF
SET PAGE=0
CLEAR
CLOSE ALL
SELECT 5
USE AZ
TOP
SELECT 4
USE NR
TOP
SELECT 3
USE IM
TOP
SELECT 2
USE DH
TOP
SELECT 1
USE AC
TOP
LOCAL TEMP C 40
LOCAL BLNK C1
DO LABEL2
SET RECNUM ON
SET HEADING ON
CLOSE ALL RETURN

```

```

*LABEL2
SELECT 1
DO LABEL3
SELECT 2
DO LABEL3
SELECT 3
DO LABEL3
SELECT 4
DO LABEL3
SELECT 5
DO LABEL3
RETURN

```

```

*LABEL3
WHILE .NOT. (EOF)
REPLACE TEMP WITH TRIM(FN);
; " " ; LN
PRINT TEMP
PRINT AD
REPLACE TEMP WITH TRIM(CITY);
; " " ; ST ; " " ; ZIP
PRINT TEMP
PRINT BLNK
PRINT BLNK
PRINT LNK
ENDIF
MOVE
ENDWHILE
RETURN

```



THIS PROGRAM WAS PUBLISHED SEVERAL YEARS AGO, BUT IT IS STILL A PROGRAM I USE FREQUENTLY, ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE TO MAIL DISKETTES. IT WAS WRITTEN BY OUR OWN MARTY SMOLEY - NORTHCOAST 99ERS - CLEVELAND, OHIO.

CUT 2 CARD BOARDS SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN THE SIZE OF YOUR DISKETTE, TAPE, THEN PRINT THIS PROGRAM, INSERTING YOUR NAME AND RETURN ADDRESS AS DIRECTED. YOU HAVE AN INEXPENSIVE HANDY DANDY MAILER.

00

10 ! ENTER YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS IN LINES 60,65,& 70\*\*\*\*

50 TO\$="TO:" ! \*\*\* N  
OT FOR LIBRARY USE ETC. \*\*\*\*

55 FR\$="FROM:"

60 MNAME\$="Deanna Sheridan"

65 MSTRT\$="20311 Lake Road"

70 NCTSTZP\$="Rocky River O  
H 44116"

75 DB\$=" ; " DO NO  
T BEND " ; "

77 XR\$=" " DO NOT  
X-RAY " "

80 FC\$=" FIRST-CL  
ASS MAIL " "

82 CD\$=" COMPUTER  
SOFTWARE " "

90 XL\$=" ; "

95 SLINES\$=" ; "

100 OPEN #9:"PIO"

110 PRINT #9:CHR\$(27);"O";!  
Skip ever paper cancel

120 PRINT #9:CHR\$(27);"W";CH  
R\$(1);! START ENLARGED

130 ! PRINT #9:CHR\$(27);"G"  
! START DOUBLE STRIKE MODE

200 INPUT " ENTER PERSONS  
NAME \*\*\*\*\*"  
:PNAME\$

205 PRINT :: PRINT

210 INPUT "ENTER PERSONS STR  
EET ADDRESS\*\*\*\*\*"  
:PSTRT\$

215 PRINT :: PRINT

220 INPUT " ENTER (No Co  
mas ) CITY STAT  
E ZIP \*\*\*\*\*"  
:CTSTZP\$

225 PRINT :: PRINT

500 GOSUB 900

550 PRINT #9 :: PRINT #9 ::  
PRINT #9

600 PRINT #9:TAB(8);

610 PRINT #9:FR\$

620 PRINT #9:CHR\$(15)! SET  
CONDENSED MODE.

630 PRINT #9:TAB(14);

640 PRINT #9:MNAME\$

650 PRINT #9:TAB(14);

660 PRINT #9:MSTRT\$

670 PRINT #9:TAB(14);

680 PRINT #9:NCTSTZP\$

700 PRINT #9:CHR\$(18)! CONDE  
NSED MODE OFF

704 FOR I=1 TO 7 :: PRINT #9  
:: NEXT I

706 PRINT #9:" " DO "

708 PRINT #9:" " NOT  
"

710 PRINT #9:" " X-RA  
Y "

730 PRINT #9 :: PRINT #9 ::  
PRINT #9

750 PRINT #9:TAB(18);

760 PRINT #9:TO\$

770 PRINT #9:CHR\$(15)! SET  
CONDENSED MODE

780 PRINT #9:TAB(32);

790 PRINT #9:PNAME\$

800 PRINT #9:TAB(32);

810 PRINT #9:PSTRT\$

820 PRINT #9:TAB(32);

830 PRINT #9:CTSTZP\$

840 PRINT #9:CHR\$(18)! CONDE  
NSED MODE OFF

850 FOR I=1 TO 7

860 IF I=6 THEN PRINT #9:FC\$  
ELSE PRINT #9

870 NEXT I

875 GOSUB 900

880 GOTO 985

900 PRINT #9:SLINES\$

905 FOR I=1 TO 2

910 IF I=2 THEN PRINT #9:DB\$

915 IF I=2 THEN PRINT #9:XL\$

920 IF I=2 THEN PRINT #9:XR\$

930 PRINT #9 :: PRINT #9 ::  
PRINT #9

935 PRINT #9:FC\$

940 PRINT #9:XL\$

950 PRINT #9:CD\$

960 PRINT #9 :: PRINT #9 ::  
PRINT #9

965 NEXT I

970 PRINT #9:SLINES\$

980 RETURN

985 ! PRINT #9:CHR\$(12)

1000 INPUT " DO YOU WANT ANO  
THER (YN) ":Y\$

1010 IF Y\$="Y" OR Y\$="y" THE  
N CALL CLEAR :: GOTO 200

1050 PRINT #9:CHR\$(27);"W";C  
HR\$(0);

1100 CLOSE #9

1500 ! \*\*\*\*\* MS/MAILER \*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

2000 END

## LATE FLASH RE NORTHCOAST:

HOWARD WINKLER WILL DEMONSTRATE THE WONDERS OF A RAM DISK AT THE OCTOBER MEETING. IF YOU HAVE EVER USED ONE OF THESE, YOU CAN'T DO WITHOUT. DON'T MISS THIS MEETING IF YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN ONE IN ACTION!



# Trick or Treat!

**MISSION DESTRICT**  
A Deceptively Simple Looking Game turns into QUITE A  
CHALLENGE

Review by Stephen S. Bagstad

**REPORT CARD:**

Performance: B  
Ease of Use: A  
Documentation: C  
Value: A  
Final Grade: A-

Cost: \$9.95 from Asgard Software.  
Requires: XBasic, Disk system.

A simple looking, mindless shoot-em-up just like a hundred others, right? That was my first impression of this game that seems to have become a bit addictive despite a few minor problems. The program gets off to a bad start with a very plain title screen announcing its title as "MISSION DISTRICT(sic)"! and then launching into the instructions including "WEPONS(sic) FIRE:". Other misspellings noted include gravite for gravity, coming for coming, and enemy for enemy, but maybe these are here for added humor?

Anyway, the game is divided into three phases I'd call shootup, passage, and tunnel. The idea, I think, is that you must penetrate to the inside of a moon to blast its power reactor. So naturally, you begin by having to defeat the outer defense ships.

You begin in the middle of the screen and the defenders enter from the top. Your ship can move but not rotate, and you can only fire down; thus you must first get to the top of the screen to shoot the bad guys. They do maneuver in groups, so watching their "follow the leader" pattern, you can eventually handle them pretty well but

don't get too cocky!

Once the six waves of 9 ships each are blasted, you must next descend through a moon passage that zig-zags along your screen. No one shoots at you, but contact with the jagged walls or numerous mines(which you can destroy with bombs) is instantly fatal. I felt that with practice, this was the easiest of the three sections.

Next comes the real toughie: the tunnel. You must fly down a tunnel with hordes of defenders all intent on crashing into you. Be glad you get four ships at the start-you'll need some of them here! "All" you have to do is maneuver and blast, but...then just when you think all is peachy, up comes a final contest that compared to what you've just been through is a piece of cake. The reactor that we've been fighting to get to has its own last line of defense, a forcefield that shoots back! This one is handily defeated by maneuvering to avoid its fireballs while shooting to weaken and eventually destroy the reactor.

Provided you make it this far, you get a bonus ship and start again with the outer defenses, but there are more and faster defenders; so far I have been unable to destroy a second reactor in a single game. The graphics, except for the title screen, are excellent. Response is also excellent.

Other than the spelling mistakes, I experienced one fairly serious problem with the game; it didn't seem to like my joystick FIRE button, so I had to play with the keyboard of my Geneve, which worked fine. It would have been nice to have some method of levels of difficulty. I felt a non-"games pro" might find it a bit too difficult, particularly the tunnel part; but then, we do want challenge in our games, don't we?

Overall, MISSION DESTRICT is full of variety and challenge at a reasonable price. If you try it on a Geneve, I recommend using GPL speed 1, as the others are TOO DARN FAST! I have thoroughly enjoyed it and think you might too.

CLEVELAND AREA 99/4A USERS GROUPS  
C/O DEANNA SHERIDAN  
20311 LAKE ROAD  
ROCKY RIVER, OH 44116



CHECK YOUR EXPIRATION DATE.  
THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST ISSUE!

Exp Date: 91/07

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS