11/25/91

Texas Instrument 99/4A and Myarc 9640 Computers

Thanksgiving
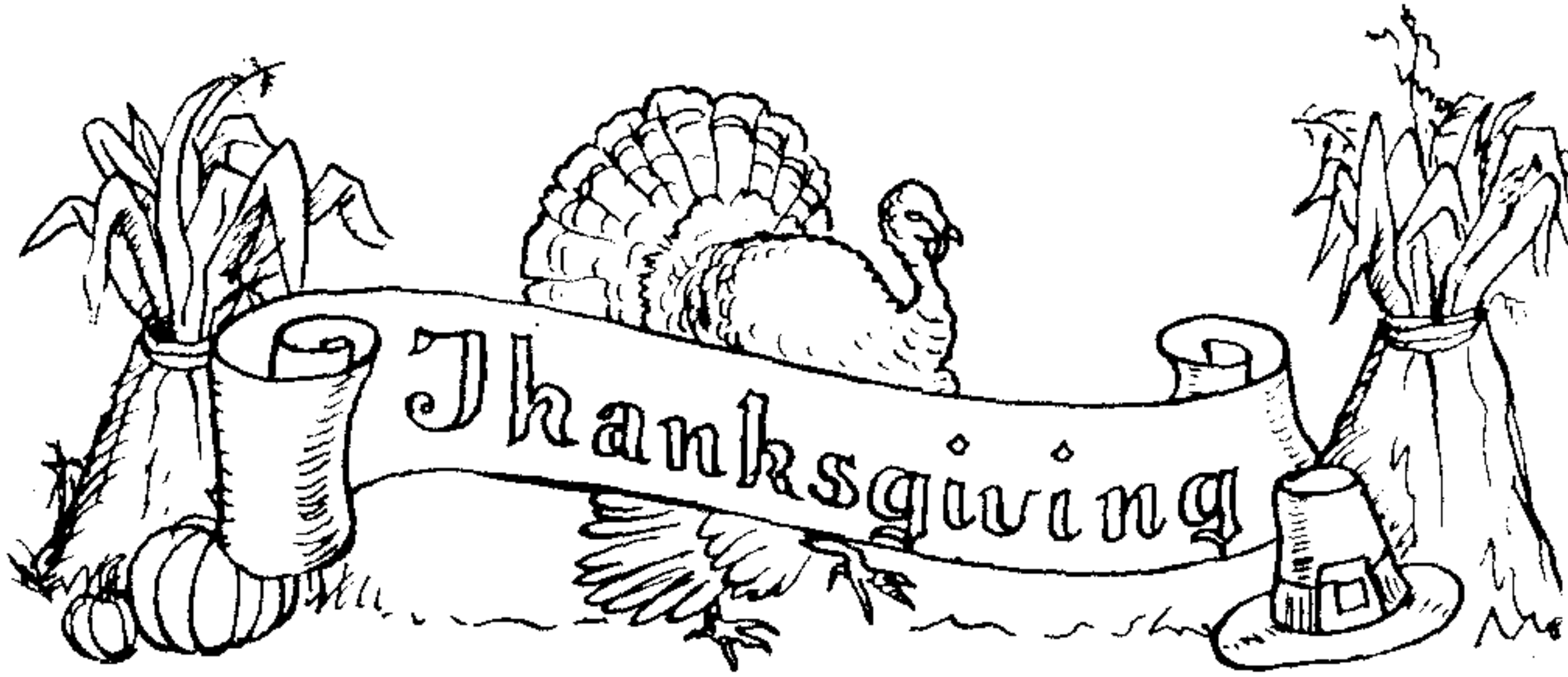
Spirit of 99

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CENTRAL OHIO NINETY NINERS

CENTRAL OHIO

NINETY NINERS INC

Editorial, advertising and subscription address is:
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Central Ohio Ninety Niners Inc. is a non profit organization comprised of MEMBERS who own or use the TI99/4A computer and it's related pro -ducts and have paid a yearly membership fee of $28.00 and whose main objective is the exchange of Educational and Scientific information for the purpose of computer literacy.

C.O.N.N.I. meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of each month at Chemical Abstracts, 2540 Olentangy River Road Columbus, OH. Meeting time is 8:30 AM til 2:30PM. Meetings are open to the public. Membership dues ($28.00) are payable yearly to C.O.N.N.I. and cover the immediate family of the member. (An application has been placed in this newsletter for your convenience) Please address it to:
Robert DeVilbiss
2000 Atterbury Ave
COLUMBUS, OH 43229

** INDEX **

NEW MEMBER
John Greenackle1

DUES ANNOUNCEMENT

Dues are usually paid at or before the March meeting, and are $28 per year for full membership, library and voting privileges, plus the newsletter. You may also pay your dues in two installments if desired: $14 in March and $14 in September. If only the newsletter is desired, then payment is $15 per year. Those who join during other months of the year pay a lesser, pro-rated amount:

```
MAR---28.00   APR---25.75   MAY---23.50   JUN---21.00   JUL---18.75
AUG---16.50   SEP---14.00   OCT---11.25   NOV----9.50   DEC----7.00
JAN----4.75   FEB----2.50
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A DEAL

YOU CAN'T

PASS UP!
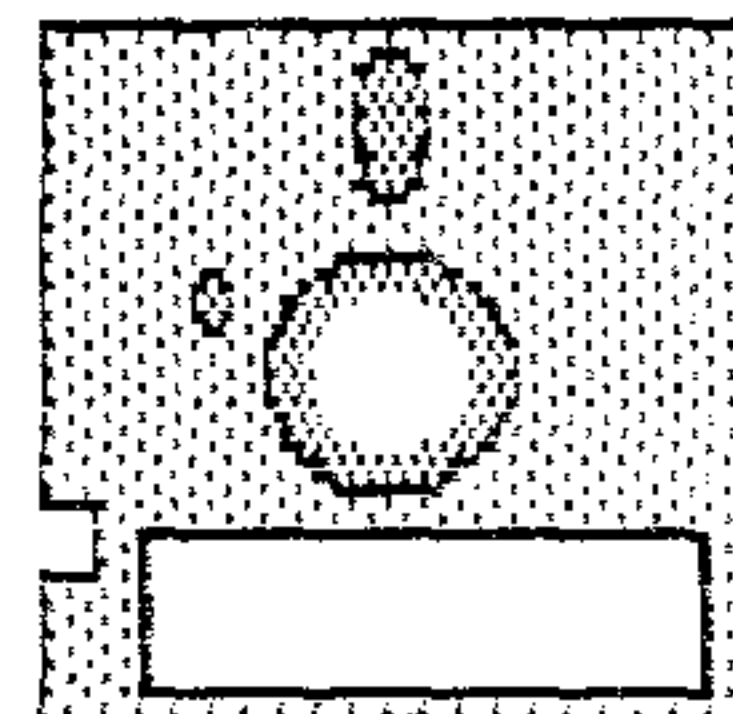
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Now you can have the best of both worlds--
Keep up to date on the latest news from
the TI-99/4A world with a subscription to
the Spirit of 99 Newsletter AND get an
up-to-date collection of new public domain
and shareware programs with the Disk of
the Month--both brought to you by the
Central Ohio Ninety-Niners, Inc.

SUBCRIPTION RATES

Newsletter only----$15/yr.(Continental U.S.)
                   $25/yr.(Outside Continental U.S.)
Newsletter PLUS----$30/yr.(Continental U.S. EXCEPT
  DISK of the MONTH   Delaware, Fairfiled, Franklin,
                           Licking, Madison, Pickaway
                           and Union Counties, Ohio)
                   $40/yr.(Outside Continental U.S.)
CONNI Club $28/yr (see above information)
  membership

CONTACT

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Central Ohio Ninety-Niners, Inc
4178 Chandler Dr, Whitehall, OH 43213
(614) 231-1497

C.O.N.N.I. MINUTES

Saturday, October 19, 1991.

The membership started gathering a little before 9:00 A.M. Coffee was provided, and blank disks and Micropendiums, together with the October D.O.M., were offered for sale. A visitor provided both hardware and software for sale. His original T.I. monitor generated much interest and sold quickly, as did the speech synthesizer. Chuck Grimes had some books and cartridges for sale, as well as some (books) that he gave to whoever wanted them. Jean Hall gave another excellent demo on using T.I. Writer: how to manipulate the formatter into failing to skip the pesky blank lines at the top of the page. The business meeting began shortly after 10 A.M. and included the Treasurer's report, a description of the contents of the October D.O.M.,acceptance of earlier minutes as printed in the newsletter, and an announcement that Dick Beery is the new disk librarian. Dick spoke briefly and indicated several worthwhile programs in the library, at least two of which will be the subject of future demos: Mass Transfer and Neatlist. Jim Peterson was absent but Pres. Grimes asked that he make available a flier to take to Chicago concerning the C.O.N.N.I. D.O.M./newsletter offer. Pres. Grimes and Dick explained that our "reservations" for use of Chemical Abstracts have been renewed for 1992, but that, owing to a recent change of policy by CAS, outside groups will not be permitted to use the facility on OSU home football game Saturdays. Since our October and November 1992 dates are involved, it was suggested that we contact the Martin Janis Center concerning the possibility of our moving back to that location for those two meetings. Chuck commented at length on the list of exhibitors and activities available at this year's Chicago Fair. It appears that very few of our members will be attending this year. Chuck announced that he would be unable to attend our Oct 23rd meeting and asked V.Pres. Bill Sheppard to conduct the meeting. Irwin Hott will have the D.O.M. available at that meeting. Dave Truesdale reported on an interesting article in the most recent MicroCenter flier on printers. Chuck announced that Chuck's BBS will be taken down at the end of October. He offered to help anyone who has the time and equipment to continue its operation. Time pressures were cited as reasons for the move. Our Spirit of '99 BBS now has a Myarc HFDC and hard drive, and the Clearing House is expected to open very soon. Jean Hall read excerpts from a letter from Joy Werner, our recent visitor from California. The business meeting was adjourned at approx. 10:45 A.M. Dick Beery demoed Midi99 again, this time with a professional keyboard. He then did a demo of Patrick Powell's Tips Manipulator program. (See review elsewhere in this issue). The day ended with an Assembly S.I.G. conducted by Mike Ballman. By 1:30 P.M. everyone had left.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Beery for Jim Peterson.

WEDNESDAY EVENING MEETING 23 OCT. 1991

Twelve members were present. The meeting was conducted by vice-president Bill Shepherd. Treasurer Everett Wade gave the treasurer's report. We have gained one more out-of-town member.
SYSOP Irwin Hott reported on the status of the Clearinghouse BBS. The hard drive and controller have been installed and are operating, but the XMODEM routine is not yet ready.
Bill Shepherd announced details of the Chicago Faire, and the contents of the Disk of the Month. A motion was made and passed that we skip the December Wednesday evening meeting, which would be on Christmas day.
Mike Ballman and Harold Timmons gave a demonstration of configuring Funnelweb Version 4.4.

Respectfully submited,

Jim Peterson for Dick Beery

"SUCESS IN MARRIAGE IS MUCH MORE THAN FINDING THE RIGHT PERSON; IT IS A MATTER OF BEING THE RIGHT PERSON."

November 1991

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20		22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

```
            SATURDAY MEETING 16 NOV 1991
        Chemical Abstracts Building -- Columbus

8:30AM Setup, coffee, and doughnuts

9:00AM Disk of Month,      11:15AM Demos:
       Micropendium,            John Parkins
       Beginners help,          NEATLIST
       Libraries open

9:45am TI-Artist class     12:15 Lunch
                                 Question and
                                 Answer Period

10:30 Business             1:15PM Assembly class
      Meeting
                           2:30PM Departure
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        WEDNESDAY MEETING -- 27 NOV 1991
   McDONALD'S -- Cleveland and Main -- Westerville

7:30PM Demos To Be Announced.
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COMPARING HEALTH INSURANCE

by Jim Peterson

For many of us nowadays, our biggest worry is the outrageous cost of health care; our second biggest worry is the rapidly rising cost of health insurance, and the third worry may be the flood of health insurance advertisements in our mail.

I thought it would be useful to write a program that would compare the cost effectiveness of these policies, so I sent off for a number of their offers. I soon realized that such a program would be impossible. You can't compare apples and oranges. There is no common ground for comparison. Some policies offer a fixed amount per day, others offer a fixed percentage of expenses per day. Some pay high benefits for short periods, others pay lower benefits for longer periods. All have their own particular exceptions, deductibles, etc. In order to determine which policy might be best for you, you must make several blind guesses as to what your future might bring.

However, you should certainly do whatever you can to pick the best policy, because they obviously are not all equal. I found that when a company offers two levels of protection, the higher level tends to be a ripoff that pays little more in benefits in relation to its much higher premiums. I also found that some policies being endorsed, promoted and advertised through senior citizen organizations, veterans societies, etc., are ripoffs.

Although I cannot offer you a general purpose program to make comparisons, you might be able to write your own quite simple program to make the comparisons you are interested in. The following is an example, which I wrote for my own use. It prints out a table showing what my out-of-pocket expenses would be, under each of five options, per each thousand dollars of medical bills between $2000 and $56000 in a year, for myself and wife.

```
100 CALL CLEAR
110 OPEN #1:"PIO",VARIABLE 1
60
120 PRINT #1:CHR$(15)
130 PRINT #1:"ANNUAL";TAB(20
);"BLUE CROSS";TAB(40);"BLUE
CROSS";TAB(60);"BLUE CROSS"
;TAB(80);"BLUE CROSS";TAB(10
0);"MEDICARE B"
140 PRINT #1:"EXPENSE";TAB(2
0);"HIGH OPTION";TAB(40);"ST
ANDARD";TAB(60);"HIGH OPTION
";TAB(80);"STANDARD";TAB(100
);"ONLY"
150 PRINT #1:TAB(20);"AND ME
DICARE B";TAB(40);"AND MEDIC
ARE B";TAB(60);"ONLY";TAB(80
);"ONLY"
160 PRINT #1:"";""
170 DRUGS=1000
180 MEDCOST=820
190 MEDDED=200
200 BC1COST=925
210 BC1DED=500
220 BC2COST=5198
230 BC2DED=400
240 FOR ANNUAL=2000 TO 56000
  STEP 1000
250 PRINT #1:ANNUAL;
260 MEDICARE=(ANNUAL-DRUGS-M
EDDED)*.8
270 REMAIN=ANNUAL-MEDICARE
280 HIGH=(REMAIN-BC2DED)*.2
290 HIGH=MIN(HIGH+BC2DED,150
0)+MEDCOST+BC2COST
300 PRINT #1:TAB(20);HIGH;
310 STANDARD=(REMAIN-BC1DED)
*.25
320 STANDARD=MIN(STANDARD+BC
1DED,2500)+MEDCOST+BC1COST
330 PRINT #1:TAB(40);STANDAR
D;
340 HIGHCOST=(ANNUAL-BC2DED)
*.2
350 HIGHCOST=MIN(HIGHCOST+BC
2DED,1500)+BC2COST
360 PRINT #1:TAB(60);HIGHCOS
T;
370 STANCOST=(ANNUAL-BC1DED)
*.25
380 STANCOST=MIN(STANCOST+BC
1DED,2500)+BC1COST
390 PRINT #1:TAB(80);STANCOS
T;
400 MED=(ANNUAL-DRUGS-MEDDED
)*.2+DRUGS+MEDDED+MEDCOST
410 PRINT #1:TAB(100);MED
420 NEXT ANNUAL
```

In this case, as a retired federal employee I am entitled to Blue Cross insurance in either a high or low option. Being over 65, we are both entitled to Medicare Part B.

Medicare does not pay for prescriptions, but Blue Cross does, so I must

first make an estimate, in line 170, that these will cost us $1000. Our cost for Medicare premiums, in line 180, is $820 (there is a late penalty involved). In line 190, Medicare does not pay the first $100 for each person and I can safely estimate that both of us will reach that limit.

In lines 200-210, Blue Cross standard option would cost $925 in premiums, and does not pay the first $250 per person. High option costs $5198 in premiums (that's right!) and does not pay the first $200 per person.

Medicare is the primary payer; it pays first and any other policy picks up what is left over. So, in line 260 I calculate that Medicare will pay 80% of annual bills not including medicine and not including that $200 deductible. NOTE! If you want to add or subtract figures before multiplying or dividing them, you MUST put them in parentheses!

In line 270, the remainder to be submitted to Blue Cross is the annual expense minus what Medicare pays.

The high option pays 80% of expenses other than the $400 deductible, so in line 280 my expense would be 20%. However, when my out-of-pocket expense, including the deductible, reach $1500 it pays 100%. That MIN in line 290 picks whichever is lesser, $1500 or my 20% of the bills plus the deductible. To this must be added the cost of the Medicare premiums and the cost of the high option premiums.

Lines 310-320 perform the same calculations for standard option, which pays 75% after the deductible, and 100% of everything over $2500.

If I do not have Medicare, Blue Cross is stuck with the whole bill. Lines 340-350 and 360-370 calculate my share of the expense in the same way.

And if I have Medicare only, line 400 calculates that my expense will be 20% of the annual bills, not including medicine and the deductible, plus the cost of medicine and the deductible and the premiums.

This is not the whole picture, of course. Blue Cross also pays hospital expenses and so does Medicare Part A, neither of which are considered here.

However, if you want to key in that example and run it, you will see that if my total annual expenses are less than $6000, my out-of-pocket expense would be the least if I carried Blue Cross standard option alone; if my expenses were between $6000 and 21,000 it would pay me to have both Blue Cross standard option and Medicare; and if they were over $21,000 it would again pay me to carry Blue Cross standard option alone. Under any circumstances, Blue Cross high option is a complete ripoff - yet many people, unable to analyze all these variables, are paying for that outrageously overpriced insurance.

Page 8 is a printout showing the cost comparison.

TI-WRITER REPLACING STRING
by Jim Lesher

Replace String is a very versatile time saving function of TI-Writer. For example: if you know you are going to use a certain word several times, rather than typing it out all those times, use a standalone letter like Q or X or Z, then use replace string. Lets use the word "periodical". We could use Z in place of that word and then when your article is finished, select RS from Editor and it would look something like this: / Z / periodical /. Notice there is a space on either side of the Z so that if you had Zebra in your article it would not replace it. Now if you don't have a Z standing alone in your text you can press ALL at the prompt. If you do have a Z, then you can press Y or N for yes or no, if you do or don't want that letter reassigned. The TI-Writer will re-adjust everything to make the new words fit. By now many of you are way ahead of me. Yes, you can even use whole phrases. For example, you were extolling the virtues of ths TI 99/4A EXPANSION BOX, and you were going to use the phrase several times, again use any character, J would be good, it is under your right forefinger, / J / TI 99/4A PERIPHERAL EXPANSION BOX /. Or suppose you had your text littered with underlined words and you decided you would rather have them double struck, same principal applies, even for the special characters on page 146 of your TIW manual.

ANNUAL EXPENSE	BLUE CROSS HIGH OPTION AND MEDICARE B	BLUE CROSS STANDARD AND MEDICARE B	BLUE CROSS HIGH OPTION ONLY	BLUE CROSS STANDARD ONLY	MEDICARE B ONLY
2000	6610	2460	5918	1800	2180
3000	6650	2510	6118	2050	2380
4000	6690	2560	6318	2300	2580
5000	6730	2610	6518	2550	2780
6000	6770	2660	6698	2800	2980
7000	6810	2710	6698	3050	3180
8000	6850	2760	6698	3300	3380
9000	6890	2810	6698	3425	3580
10000	6930	2860	6698	3425	3780
11000	6970	2910	6698	3425	3980
12000	7010	2960	6698	3425	4180
13000	7050	3010	6698	3425	4380
14000	7090	3060	6698	3425	4580
15000	7130	3110	6698	3425	4780
16000	7170	3160	6698	3425	4980
17000	7210	3210	6698	3425	5180
18000	7250	3260	6698	3425	5380
19000	7290	3310	6698	3425	5580
20000	7330	3360	6698	3425	5780
21000	7370	3410	6698	3425	5980
22000	7410	3460	6698	3425	6180
23000	7450	3510	6698	3425	6380
24000	7490	3560	6698	3425	6580
25000	7518	3610	6698	3425	6780
26000	7518	3660	6698	3425	6980
27000	7518	3710	6698	3425	7180
28000	7518	3760	6698	3425	7380
29000	7518	3810	6698	3425	7580
30000	7518	3860	6698	3425	7780
31000	7518	3910	6698	3425	7980
32000	7518	3960	6698	3425	8180
33000	7518	4010	6698	3425	8380
34000	7518	4060	6698	3425	8580
35000	7518	4110	6698	3425	8780
36000	7518	4160	6698	3425	8980
37000	7518	4210	6698	3425	9180
38000	7518	4245	6698	3425	9380
39000	7518	4245	6698	3425	9580
40000	7518	4245	6698	3425	9780
41000	7518	4245	6698	3425	9980
42000	7518	4245	6698	3425	10180
43000	7518	4245	6698	3425	10380
44000	7518	4245	6698	3425	10580
45000	7518	4245	6698	3425	10780
46000	7518	4245	6698	3425	10980
47000	7518	4245	6698	3425	11180
48000	7518	4245	6698	3425	11380
49000	7518	4245	6698	3425	11580
50000	7518	4245	6698	3425	11780
51000	7518	4245	6698	3425	11980
52000	7518	4245	6698	3425	12180
53000	7518	4245	6698	3425	12380
54000	7518	4245	6698	3425	12580
55000	7518	4245	6698	3425	12780
56000	7518	4245	6698	3425	12980

TIPS MANIPULATOR--A REVIEW
by Dick Beery

A month or so ago, Jim Peterson asked me if I would review this program which Patrick Powell, its creator, had sent to him. I said that I would, wondering why as I did so. It seemed obvious to me that all that was necessary in using TIPS pictures was to go to the appropriate file and pull out what was deemed appropriate. I was wrong ! As I began to use this program I discovered how many files of TIPS pictures there are, that they lack a common index, and that trying to find all the pictures on a given topic can be very time-consuming. I now recommend that a number of people make use of this program, create files on subjects that interest them, and then make these "homogeneous" files available to others. Two people at the C.O.N.N.I. meeting during which I demonstrated this program volunteered to do one special topic file apiece, and when mine is completed, we will place the results of all three in the C.O.N.N.I. disk library. Maybe we will also place them on our Clearinghouse BBS, so that others across the country can have access to them.

The program itself, Tips Manipulator version 2.1, comes with over seven pages of documentation, but it is quite easy to use. I suggest a careful reading of the docs before beginning to use the program, then the use of the Sequence of Events (Docs, page 7). Tips Manipulator is a modified version of Ed Johnson's TIPS2PP program (Jan. 1991) that has also been modified by Ed's co-author Bob Kaat. This latest version, 2.1, allows renaming of pictures, forcing of uppercase, and has been prescanned to increase speed of operation. It is written in Extended Basic, and comes with a modified version of Irwin Hott's Load program.

Once you have loaded the program, you will be permitted to change the screen background colors to your choice. Also, you then remove the program disk and insert your TIPS file disk. As I have two drives, I place the disk that is to receive my newly-created file in drive two. If you have only one drive, you will need to make sure your original TIPS file disk has enough room to receive the new file as well, as the program does not yet support the changing of disks. (Maybe a later version will!). The printer parameter menu permits you to change your printer designation to PIO, RS232 or whatever.

The main menu offers the following choices: manipulate files, sort file, print file, catalog a disk, rename pictures, reset color/printer, and exit.

I found, that since picture names do not always reveal the complete nature of the picture, that it worked best for me to skim the pages of pictures I have printed out and saved in a looseleaf notebook, jot the name of the file (e.g.GRCD.TXT) and the names of the pictures wanted and then move to the Tips Manipulator (hereafter referred to as TM) program. Since the operation of the TM requires that you use the picture's number within the file, I found it indispensable first to use the Print File option to print out each of the TIPS picture files I planned to use. This gives you a printout with the picture number and name but no graphic printout. You can thus circle the numbers you want and use these sheets as a guide when accessing the Manipulator function.

The Manipulator function offers the possibility of printing files, but since you have already done this, select "N". You will then be asked for the drivenumber and filename of the source file (e.g. GMAZ.TXT) and the same for the new file you are creating. While you can input up to seven characters for the source file, the program works well with a four-character input (e.g. GMAZ). You are limited to four characters in your output (new) file. Since my file deals with computer-related items, I named it COMP. The program adds the necessary .TXT and .XXX extenders.

Once you select picture numbers to be manipulated (transferred to the new file), you will be asked for the picture numbers they will have in the new file. The easiest way is to accept the default numbers at the bottom of the screen, and when you have your new file all or partially completed, use the Sort function to arrange them in alphabetical sequence, if this is desired. When your new file is complete, you may use it in the same ways you use your present TIPS picture files.

As soon as you have completed and sorted your new file, I suggest that you use the TM program to print the new file (numbers and names, remember?), and then move to one of your TIPS companion programs to print out the actual graphics, the same as for your other, heterogeneous, TIPS picture files.

When you print the file in the TM print function, you may find that not all picture names will print, the problem being that some came over from the other type of computer in lower case. The Rename Pictures function of TM will redo these in upper case, and you can then print out the entire file correctly.

I found the program to be very user-friendly and had only minor problems with it, and those I expect to eliminate when I have time to practice with it more in depth. I highly recommend it, and think that you will find a little time spent in organizing your TIPS pictures into homogeneous files will save you much time and frustration when you have a quick project to execute and little time in which to do it.

The program is released as Disk Ware, and the author states that " I do not grant any company or person other than Jim Peterson/Tigercub Software to charge any copying fee for this program..." In other words, you can give it away, but don't sell it! He also asks that those who use the program send a note, or a copy of the club's newsletter, or a disk from the club's library (or why not a disk from your personal collection?) to him.

Address: TI EXPRESS
C/O PATRICK R. POWELL
P.O. BOX 496
OCEAN PARK, ME
04063-0496

You may also contact him on Genie. Address: P.POWELL7

P.S. I give this an A-PLUS rating on both program and documentation. Hope you enjoy using it as much as I do!

TAKING CONTROL OF FORMATTER

--- --by John Owens

June 1990   JUG 99'er NEWS

OR HOW TO AVOID TI—WRITER
"FF" (FORMATTER FRUSTRATION)

The TI—Writer Formatter automatically "wastes" 5 lines at the top of a page and 3 lines at the bottom. There is no "automatic" way to change this that I know of. If you want to control the blank space at the top and bottom of your pages, use DEFINE PROMPT (.DP) to start and stop your printer using the following steps:

    a.   Prepare text in EDITOR in any FORMAT
    b.   Print to DISK in the desired FORMAT
    c.   Change CURSOR to FIXED MODE (CTRL-O)
    d.   Remove LINE FEED'S from formatted file (Use REPLACE STRING)
    e.   Delete (FCTN-3) 6 blank lines and 1 PAGE BREAK for each page
    f.   Add PAGE LENGTH (.PL) formatter code
    g.   Add DEFINE PROMPT (.DP) and SPACE (.SP) formatter codes
    h.   Save to DISK and print out through the FORMATTER

This technique gives you ABSOLUTE CONTROL over where your printer STARTS printing and HALTS printing and waits for you to let it continue. NO more "wasted"blank lines and sheets of paper. Try the following:

    1.   PREPARE TEXT IN EDITOR
    I use a 40 column screen to avoid windowing and then print the text to DISK via the Formatter to expand the text to 80 column format. I use the following FORMATTER COMMANDS to PRINT to DISK.

    (.FI;LM8;RM76;IN +5 CR)

    Now load the new DISK file to EDITOR, place the cursor in FIXED FORMAT (CTRL-O) and use REPLACE STRING (RS) to quickly remove all "LINE FEEDS"" (LF) that are in the new file. To put the LINE FEED symbol on the screen: Hit CTRL-U, SHIFT-J, CTRL-U. ie: /CTRL-U,SHIFT-J,CTRL-U// Delete 6 blank lines and "BEGIN PAGE" codee from each page in text (on screen).

    2.   SET PLAGE LENGTH (.PL)
    Add a LARGE page length code as follows: (.PL nnn) Where "nnn" is about 20 lines higher than the last line of your file. This prevents the FORMATTER from automatically "breaking the page" until you print the complete file.

    3.   ADD DEFINE PROMPTS
    ON the two line just before the text type in the following without the ( ).
    (.DP 1:"SETPAPER"
    (NUMBER 1 SURROUNDED BY ASTERISK)

    To print a page with two blank lines at the top and bottom of each page, use the following:
    After EACH sixty two lines of text add the following dot command on the next line without the ( ).
    (.SP 4)
    After the last line of text, add the following define prompt on

the next two lines without the ( ).
     (.DP 2:"EXIT" CR)
     (NUMBER 2 SURROUNDED BY ASTERISK)
     Save file to DISK

     4.   PRINT TEXT VIA THE FORMATTER
     The printer will start, skip 5 lines and STOP. The Formatter
screen will prompt you to "SET PAPER". Roll your paper to place the
print head 2 lines from the top of the paper and HIT ENTER. The
printer will print all pages and STOP. You will be prompted to
"EXIT". *Note (from editor): My Gemini10X advances 5 spaces as
indicated, but only after the prompt "SET PAPER". In order to obtain
proper paper alignment, I modified the DP commands (.DP 1:"ENTER" AND
.DP 2:"SET PAPER")*
     To EXIT, Hit FCTN -4, ENTER and you will Exit Formatter and
return to the TI WRITER menu.
     Note: This ARTICLE was printed using this procedure. Note that
there are only two (2) blank lines at the top and bottom of the first
page and two blank lines at the top of the second page. (Isn't GREAT
to be able to be in CONTROL of the FORMATTER!!!)

     5.   The above procedure will let you print several SHORT FILES
(less than a page) without "wasted" space between files. The use of
DEFINE PROMPTS before the first line of text and after the last line
of text files lets you determine exactly where your printer will
START and STOP for each SHORT FILE! This technique is very good for
RECEIPE FILES and can be used to print postcards and to address
envelopes. You will be prompted to "SET PAPER" before each new SHORT
FILE starts printing. For SHORT FILES, you only need to do steps
(a), (f), (g) and (h) as shown in the first paragraph of this
article. Add FORMATTER codes in STEP (a).

     6.   EXAMPLES
     Examples of FORMATTING CODES used to print this article are
shown below. Steps (a) through (h) only take about five minutes
after you do it once or twice. It is easy!!!
     -donot key in the ( )
     (.CO FILE#1)
     (.PL 140)
     (.DP 1:"SET PAPER"
     (NUMBER 1 SURROUNDED BY ASTERISK)
     THIS IS THE FIRST LINE OF TEXT (do not include Formatter codes)

     THIS IS LINE 62 OF TEXT
     (.SP 4)
     THIS FIRST LINE OF PAGE 2

     THIS IS THE LAST LINE OF MY TEXT ON PAGE 2
     (.DP 2:"EXIT"
     (NUMBER 2 SURROUNDED BY ASTERISK)

     7.   Have FUN and enjoy that feeling of having the FORMATTER
under your CONTROL!!!! No more "runaway" printers and wasted paper!!!
Avoid TI-WRITER "FF" (FORMATTER FRUSTRATION)

TI WORLD NEWS, NOVEMBER 1991
Compiled by Jim Peterson

Since PC Transfer has long been unavailable, due to the failure of JP Software to fill orders or answer inquiries, It is welcome news that Bruce Harrison has released Smart Connect, a program to transfer files between TI and PC computers. It automatically splits large PC files into increments small enough to be loaded into TI-Writer. The program is available for $10, which includes shipping and handling, from Harrison Software, 5705 40th Place, Hyattsville MD 20781. Also, the price of their unique Word Processor has been reduced from $20 to $14, which includes PP&M.

Jerry Coffey has reached an agreement with J. Peter Hoddie to distribute JP Software programs. He will also work with buyers who have paid for but never received products from JP Software; in these cases he requests that the purchaser send him as much information as possible, including xerox copies of checks, statements, etc. His address is 9119 Tetterton Ave., Vienna VA 22182.

By request of the Southern Nevada Users' Group, the TI SYSOP of Delphi, Jerry Coffey, has agreed to set up a newsletter section where TI user groups can upload their newsletters. SNUG intends to upload their newsletter and to cease mailing hard copies to other user groups, which has become too expensive. They are urging other groups to do the same.

SNUG has also amended their constitution to include "PC and compatibles". This may mean that their newsletter will soon be of little interest to TI users. I have observed that when a TI group opens its doors to other computers - Sun Coast, Brevard, Broward, etc. - their newsletters soon drop any mention of the TI. Florida used to be a major center of TI activity, but only the Miami group seems to be very active these days. The Daytona group survives only as an informal get-together, and several others have been swallowed up by Big Blue.

Asgard Software has released Thumbnails, to organize, catalog and convert MacPaint pictures; Starbase Raiders, an arcade style game; and Gofer, a utility for user with Page Pro 99. The price of each is $12.95 plus $3 shipping and handling.

The Channel 99 User Group in Hamilton, Ontario will probably dissolve at the end of the year due to the unwillingness of anyone to serve as officer or editor. The numerous TI groups in Canada do not have much contact with the U.S. groups since the cost of mailing newsletters across the border became so high.

Don O'Neil's DIGI-PORT is a cable which plugs into the TI, CorComp or Myarc parallel port and allows you to play, through an external amplifier, 8-bit digitized sounds ported over from IBM, Macointosh, Amiga, Atari ST, Sound Blaster or whatever. The software which is supplied will also play the sounds through the TI-99/4A's own sound generator, but only at 5-bit accuracy. The TI with memory expansion alone can only play 10 seconds of digitized sound, but when augmented with additional memory it can play much longer, up to 10 minutes or more. Also supplied in the package are 10 disks in a choice of SS/SD containing short sounds for the TI-99/4A alone, DS/SD containing longer sounds for the 4A with 80-column card, DS/DD with still longer sounds for the MEMEX, RAMBO or Geneve, or DS/QD with even longer sounds. The price is $39.95 US, from OPA, 432 Jarvis St., Toronto ONT, Canada M4Y-2H3. OPA also apparently offers additional sound disks.

Asgard Software has announced a much improved Version 2.0 of the Asgard Mouse, and much improved software to go with it. There are no compatibility problems with programs written for the old Mouse. Current owners can obtain the new software by returning the mouse disk with $7.50, which includes postage. They can upgrade to the new Mouse by returning the old version, providing it is serviceable, together with the adapter cable and $15 plus $3 S&H. The Asgard Mouse, with software, can be purchased for $49.95 plus $5 S&H.

Asgard has also released the Mouse Development Package, which enables programmers to add mouse support to their programmers. The price is $14.95 plus $3 S&H.

WHAT'S HOTT?
by Irwin Hott

This month I'll report on the progress of the Clearinghouse project.

I am pleased to report that as of noon on the 5th of November the Clearinghouse is up and running. By the time you read this article, those who have contributed financially to the clearinghouse, should have received a letter detailing the proceedures we have set up to make the Clearinghouse project the best we can. As always, suggestions are welcome.

The Clearinghouse is a separate section of the SPIRIT of 99 BBS. You can access it in two ways. First you can log on directly to the Clearinghouse by using your Spirit of 99 user number plus 500. The password is the same as on the Spirit part of the bbs. Once you log on you may change your password. The second way to get to the Clearinghouse is to use the "O" command from the main menu of the Spirit of 99. In that case you will be transferred directly to the Clearinghouse. You will be able to use the "O" command to move back to the Spirit of 99 if you desire.

The Clearinghouse has separate bulletin, message base, user list and upload/download sections. At the present moment there are 3 download areas. The number of libraries will expand quickly as we receive more material. Any Clearinghouse user has an access level on that section permitting unlimited downloads. The first section is for C.O.N.N.I. NEWS, the second is for Tips from the Tigercub, and the third is for other miscelaneous articles from Jim Peterson.

With a few exceptions each article is separately archived so that you can download only the articles you want. There may be some articles which comprise a series, or are closely related which will be archived together.

I would appreciate uploads in the following manner. When uploading material it is not necessary to send the articles separately. The most efficient way to upload material is to archive each individual article and then "PACK" the resulting collection. That way you are uploading one file. The individual file descriptions should be included in the packed file as a !README file. This will make it as easy as possible for me to find the descriptions so that they may be incorporated into the appropriate download section.

As to the individual file descriptions in the !README file, there is a format I use on the BBS. Please follow this format as closely as possible. When uploading individual files to the BBS, the program takes care of the formatting of the description. When posting descriptions from outside I add the necessary numbers and names so that the program will know the name of the file number of sectors etc. The description file may be created in TI-Writer, or in any word-processor that creates a DISPLAY VARIABLE 80 file. The text is written in 40 columns. Here are a few examples of file descriptions. Afterwords I will explain what each line represents.

```
17
0
FORMAT/\
85
     FORMAT/\   85  sectors  INT/FIX  128
     From  JIM  PETERSON   on   11/04/91
Formatting,  by Jim Peterson, a detailed
article    on    reformatting    text    to
```

different line lengths. 40-column format, 530 lines. Contains XBasic code listings so reformat with caution. Do not print through Funlweb Formatter unless you replace and transliterate the _*. Archived file also contains the utility routines described in the article. Also contains Jim Peterson's new Reformatter+ Version 1.2 which does many things the Funlweb Formatter cannot do. Also see file REFORM for a description of this program.

6
0
TEACH ∧
22

TEACH∧ 22 sectors INT/FIX 128
From JIM PETERSON on 11/04/91 The Teaching Computer, by Jim Peterson, regarding the use of the computer in education. 40-column format, 238 lines.

12
0
MUSICTUTR ∧
65

MUSICTUTR∧ 65 sectors INT/FIX 128
From JIM PETERSON on 11/04/91 A 3-part series, part 4 not yet written) "Programming Music the Easy Way" by Jim Peterson. In 40-column format, contains program listings and so should not be reformatted, nor printed through the Formatter unless the _*. are replaced and transliterated. Part 1 is 231 lines, Part 2 337 lines, Part 3 360 lines.

6
0
UBASIC ∧
18

UBASIC∧ 18 sectors INT/FIX 128
From JIM PETERSON on 11/04/91 Unlimited Basic, by Jim Peterson, in defense of Extended Basic. 80-column format, 121 lines.

BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS

HATS OFF

A JOB WELL DONE

The first number in the description shows the number of lines of text which will be displayed to the user. The "17" in the first description includes the blank line at the end of the description as well as the file name/number of sectors line and the uploader line. The second line "0" has 3 possibilities. "1" indicates a text file which may be read on line, "2" indicates a RLE picture which may be viewed on line and "0" is left for anything else including archived files. The third line is the file name. It must be in uppercase exactly as the file appears on disk. Note the ∧ notes an archived file. The forth line contains the number of sectors in the file. This is used to compute the download time. The fifth line starts the part of the description which is
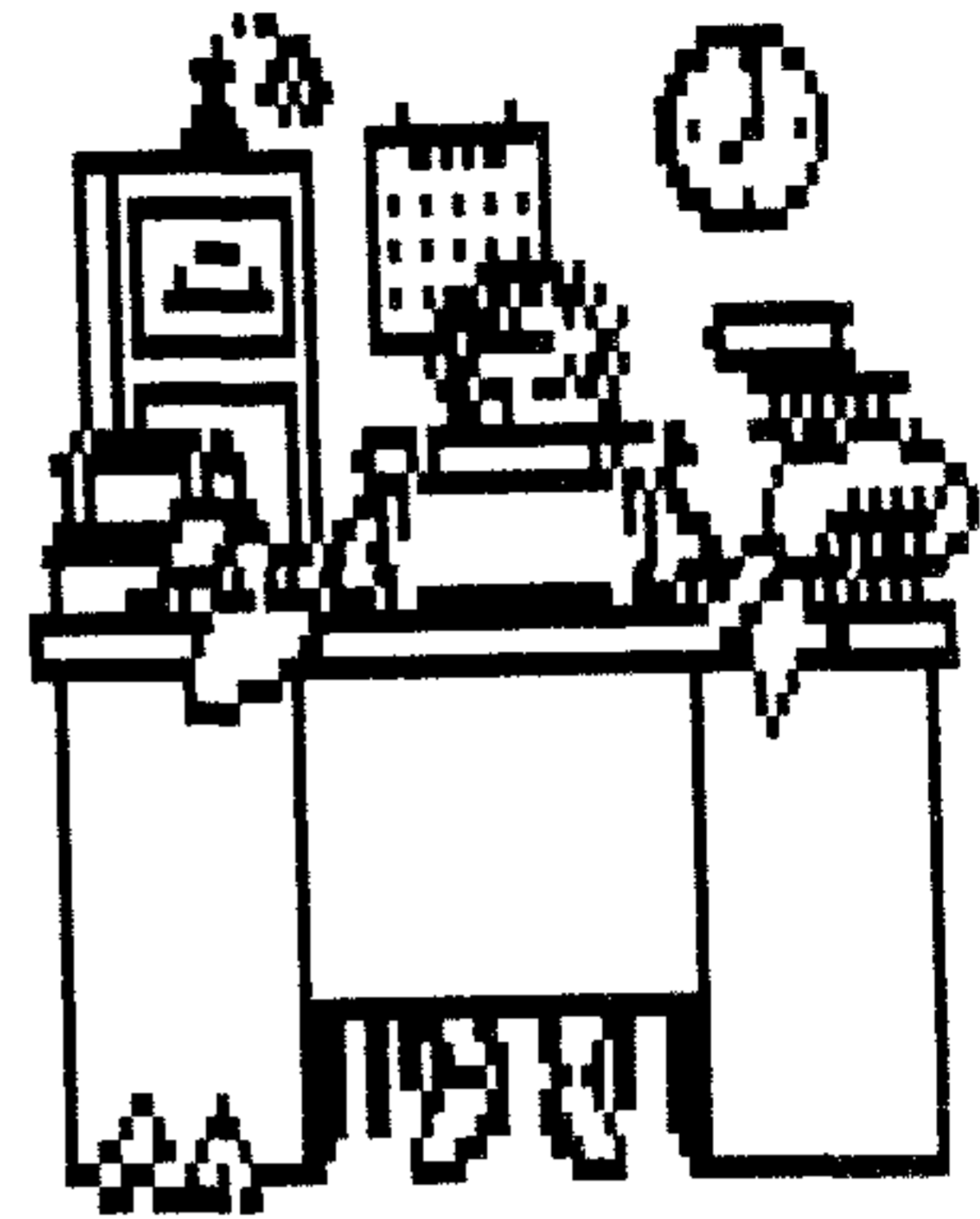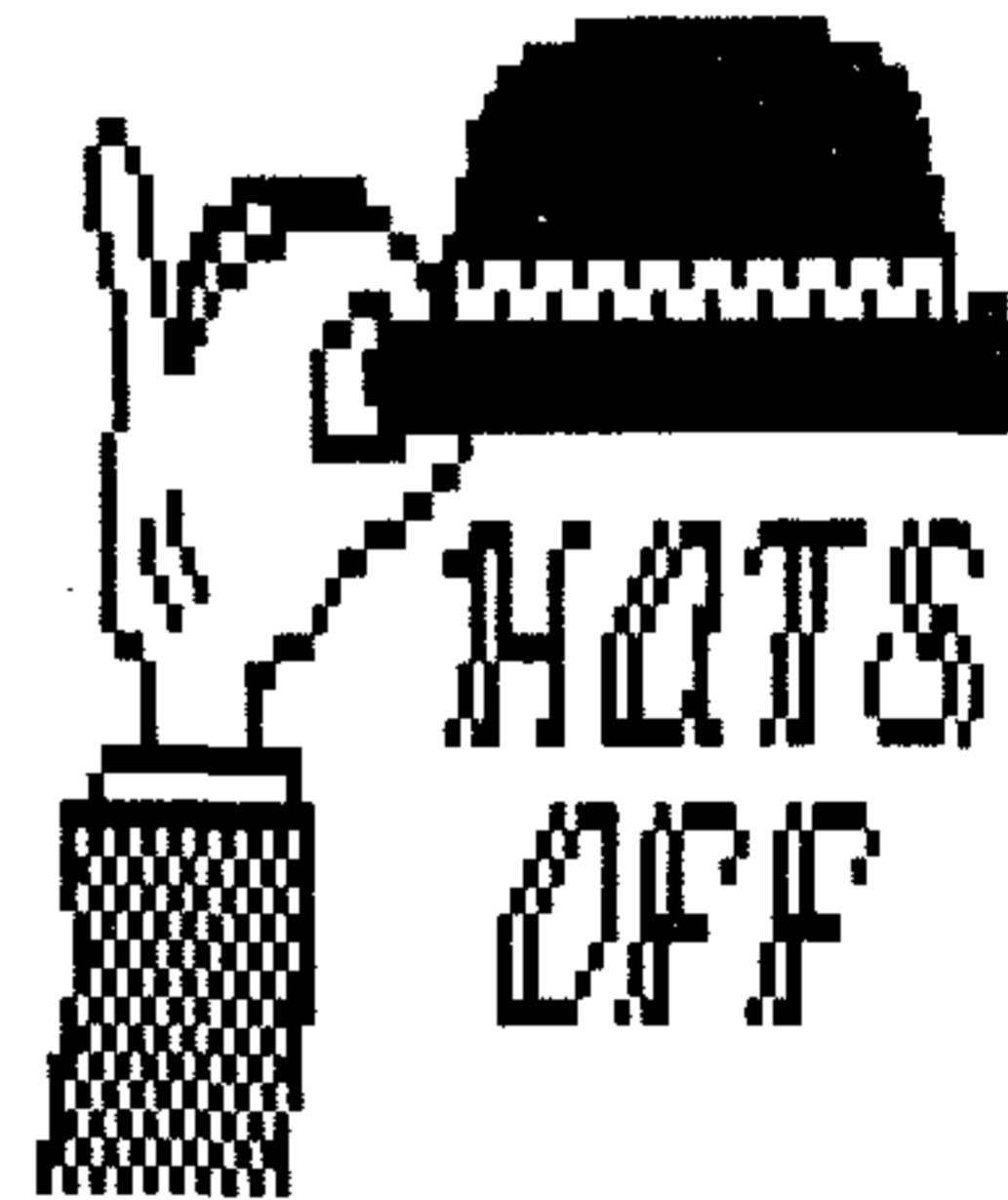
NEXT PAGE

viewed by the user. Lines 3 and 4 could have been derived from this line, but I decided it would take too much code in the BBS program to do so. Line 5 starts in column 6. It contains the file name, a space, the number of sectors, another space and the type of file. This could be PROGRAM, INT/FIX 128, or DIS/VAR 80 for example.

     The next line also starts in column 6. It contains the uploader and the date that the file is posted. You could complete this line through the word "on". The next lines are the actual file description in 40 columns. There is actually no limit to the length of the description. When uploading directly to the BBS the limit is 24 lines as that is the number of lines in a message, and I am using that routine for the file descriptions. As mentioned earlier there is a blank line between each file description. When composing the file descriptions, please save the file with the "PRINT FILE" command if you are using TI-Writer or its like. The "SAVE FILE" option puts garbage at the end of the file which must be deleted. Line-feeds are also not necessary as the BBS automatically adds those. If you don't want to take the time to upload files to the BBS you may mail any files for the Clearinghouse to me at the following address:

IRWIN HOTT
1540 NORTHRIDGE ROAD
COLUMBUS OH 43224

     Any significant deviation from this description format will probably cause a delay in posting the files. As an example I add the new descriptions to the beginning of an existing file in my Braille 'n Speak. That part is extremely easy.   The Braille 'n Speak, however, does not have an easy way to count lines of text so I must do that manually. I have written an XB program to compare the file name and number of sectors of each file on the disk to those listed in the file descriptions. I will try to redo that adding screen instructions, and post it in the Clearinghouse section.

     We have not set up any guidelines for graphics with articles yet. For now if your article contains graphics on disk, please include them in the archive, and be sure to mention in the description what program is necessary to reproduce them.

     In closing just some general notes. The BBS is now completely running on the MYARC HFDC and a 20-meg hard drive. Thanks to Chuck Grimes, Kenneth Marshall, Mike Ballman, Dick Berry and Karl Romstedt for their considerable help.

     If you have any questions or concerning the Clearinghouse project please get in touch with me at the above address or give the BBS a call. I'm sorry it has taken so long to get the Clearinghouse up and running, but I believe with your help it will be a worthwhile project.

WOMEN AND COMPUTING

by Jan Knapp

A few of our club members have asked how to get their spouse interested in and learning about the computer, and have asked for some advice as to how to go about approaching the issue without causing severe domestic turmoil. One member said that the last time he tried to get his wife to use the computer she almost attacked him with the keyboard. This is not to say that the man did not deserve the attack as his idea was to introduce her with a checkbook manager, and the Household Budget module from Texas Instruments. That was a real NO NO! Before I continue to give the low down on the proper way to introduce your spouse to the computer I would like to make this disclaimer: This information is general and in no way can be guaranteed for 100% results as the first rule in dealing with women is that we can change our mind at any time for any reason.

Women like to think of themselves as reasonable, if not logical people. Most of the women I have talked to look on the computer as a tool. Something like a typewriter, but as intimidating as trying to program the VCR, and after having disaster happen the last time they tried to program the VCR, are terrified of the possibility of doing irreparable damage to HIS computer. Keeping this in mind, here are a few suggestions. Note: Many of these ideas require a printer. As I said before a typewriter is the closest tool she has worked with that relates to the computer.

#1. RESEARCH - This will take a little work on your part. Explore her hobbies and see if there is anything that the computer could help her with. Data Bases, Word Processors, and Graphic programs that print cards and banners are worth looking into. TI-Writer, with the help of St. Louis 99ers "Teach Yourself TI-Writer", can let her use the computer as a typewriter, and more. Once she has learned word processing she will never want to go back to that typewriter again.

#2. TIME - Introduce the computer as a time SAVER not a time MAKER. A rule of thumb would be that if it takes less time to calculate with paper and calculator, DON'T suggest that she do the task on computer. That is why checkbook balancing and budget programs are usually a NO NO. There are many programs for the TI-99/4A that can be referred to as time savers. A good alternative to the Budget module is Home Financial Decisions. This will let her calculate loan payments, and explore financial options BEFORE she approaches you or the bank.

#3. KISS - Keep it simple. Don't expect her to do everything right away. Start with a simple mailing program or other simple program that is as close to WYSIWYG as the TI-99/4A can get. Don't bombard her with programs that have massive documentation. That is why I suggested the "Teach Yourself TI-Writer", it takes the massive documentation of TI-Writer and condenses it to only 12 pages and has a disk of hand on learning files that emulates class instruction. When this type of instruction is not available, hands on tutoring is the best thing. I would like to suggest that the tutoring be done by someone other than spouse if domestic tranquility is to be maintained. If this is not possible, remember PATIENCE is the rule.

In closing I would like to suggest the following programs for beginning use: Simple data bases such as mailing programs, for customized data processing start with something simple like Personal Record Keeping; Word Processors - I think everyone would agree the Funnelweb is the answer here as it emulates TI-Writer with additional functions and teach her a working knowledge of DM1000 disk manager that is included on the disk; Graphic programs that let her be artistic such as banner and card making programs are often of interest. If you want to get her hooked on a game try something that challenges her logic and reasoning such as Mastermind, Tetris, and the Adventure module. Mickey Schmidt got so hooked on the later that she wrote a book about it. Here's hoping for domestic tranquility.

```
                        *                              *
                        *  PROJECTS  IN  THE  WORKS  *
                        *                              *
                        ********************************
```

Projects listed here are being worked on at OPA. They will be completed
& ready for sale before '92. Release date depends on inquiry demand, financial
backing and current work-load. Project specs are subject to change. Contact us
for updated status or to express interest.

SPEECH DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE

TI's SPEECH SYNTHESIZER has been the most unexplored and unused device
available for the TI; but now that OPA has completed almost two years of
background research, we've begun work on a complete speech development package
for TIers who want to hear their TI more often and for programmers who would
like to add speech into any ASSEMBLY, GPL, or BASIC program. This package will
contain four sections with:-
>A 900+ library of new high-quality recorded words & improved Text-to-Speech
 utilities.
>SPEECH PROCESSOR with direct LPCoding editing on a frame by frame basis
 allowing you to split a phrase or word into syllables, change pitch, slope, &
 other settings; load/save/print edited speech into different formats for use
 in condensed storage, ASSEMBLY, or BASIC; correct recording errors.
>Graphic display and control of LPCoding makes it easy to do complex changes.
 It does to speech what "word processors" do to writing.
>Extensive documentation on the theory of speech synthesization & use of
 LPcoding detailing the five different types of frames with charts on the
 effect and proper use of pitch, slope & other settings to control the type of
 speech out-putted.
>Full documentation on the powerful TMS-5200 line of 24-bit speech chips used
 in TI's SPEECH SYNTHESIZER, with detailed & correct programming guidelines for
 the TI.
>Documentation on future hardware expansion for digital sound output & a 256K
 library module.

RAMBO DEVELOPER's PACKAGE

When OPA released RAMBO and ROS_8 a whole new dimension was added to the
TI world; the ability to run programs larger than 32K. Even tho others
tried, OPA, with a lot of research, mapped out a three-step plan to correctly
reach the goal. RAMBO was the first step, the hardware; ROS_8, the second step,
the software support. With newly released information from TEXAS INSTRUMENTS
we are working on the final step, a developer's package for RAMBO. This will
enable writing up to a FOUR GIGABYTE program using the standard 99/4A ASSEMBLER
with OPS's linker/loader program to convert the DX/10 object code into RAMBO
format. The key to unlocking the unknown power of your 99/4A ASSEMBLER is
80+pages of new documentation by OPA.

V9938/58 DEVELOPER's PACKAGE

With the release of OPA's TIM & AIM, it is time for a V9938/58 programming
guide with examples & utilities. We at OPA decided to rewrite that YAMAHA V9938
manual which was translated into English from Japanese by someone who didn't
know either language. The new 150+ page manual will be easily understood by any
ASSEMBLY or BASIC programmer. It will have three sections, GENERIC, TI and
ADAM, with the TI section sub-divided to cover the five different systems using
V9938/58 chips.

That's enough to keep us busy, more in the next issue of OPAnews.

LETTER HEADER
by Dave Swartz

At the recent Rocky Mountain 99'ers Jamboree I was discussing word processing with a new member (yes, we do have new members) and the point was brought up about using word processor files to hold routine information used frequently, i.e. letterheads and return addresses that are printed on almost every letter we write. My friend said he had never heard of the procedure, but thought it would be a good idea. With his remarks in mind and not knowing how many others there may be who do not know of the procedure, this article has been written to help spread the word. The procedure works equally well with TI Writer or FunnelWeb Writer.

The address data as well as control codes can be encoded so you can set up your format and printer one time and have it available with a few key presses.

Usually, I type documents Emphasized (E) and Double Strike (G) so as to get nice black copy for the copy machine. I use the CTRL U, FCTN R, CTRL U codes to set this up. Another CTRL U code is used to set up 12 characters per inch (M), as I feel this makes a better looking document. I use an Epson LQ-850 printer, so use standard Epson codes.

The first line looks like this on the monitor:

0001 'bE'bG'bMᶜᵣ

Next I set up the format of the letterhead or return address I am going to use. The rest of the set up looks like this on the monitor:

```
0002    .AD;FI;LM 8;RM 88;PL 64ᶜᵣ
0003    .CE 4ᶜᵣ
0004    ROCKY MOUNTAIN 99'ERSᶜᵣ
0005    P.O. Box 31846ᶜᵣ
0006    Aurora, CO 80041ᶜᵣ
0007    U.S.A.ᶜᵣ
0008    ᶜᵣ
0009    .IN +56ᶜᵣ
0010    xx Nov 1990ᶜᵣ
0011    ᶜᵣ
```

```
0012    .IN +0ᶜᵣ
0013    (Type in address for business
        letter. May be several lines.)ᶜᵣ
0014    ᶜᵣ
0015    Dear xxxxᶜᵣ
0016    ᶜᵣ
0017    .IN +5 (Normal paragraph indent.)ᶜᵣ
0018    (Text)ᶜᵣ
```

This file is saved as DSKx.HEADING on the disk on which I compose and save my letters.

For personal letters where I want my return address on the right side of the paper, I make changes as shown below:

```
0001    'bE'bG'bMᶜᵣ
0002    .AD;FI;LM 8;RM 86;PL 64ᶜᵣ
0003    .IN +56ᶜᵣ
0004    (Street address)ᶜᵣ
0005    (City, state and zip)ᶜᵣ
0006    xx Nov 1990ᶜᵣ
0007    ᶜᵣ
0008    .IN +0ᶜᵣ
0009    Dear xxxxᶜᵣ
0010    ᶜᵣ
0011    .IN +5ᶜᵣ
0012    (Text)ᶜᵣ
```

I have used parameters for 12 characters per inch instead of 10 per inch. If your printer does not have a 12 CPI capability, you should modify the commands for Right Margin and Indent to reflect your printer's capabilities.

With this system, all you have to do is load your D/V 80 "HEADING" file, put in the date and addressee, and start your letter. It saves much time and typing and eliminates errors in addition to formatting your letters.

In lines 0001 of the above programs, the symbol "'b" represents the ESCAPE code. Key in CTRL U, FCTN R, CTRL U, to generate the escape code. Then use the character shown in the printer handbook for the function you wish to employ. The symbol "ᶜᵣ" indicates the CARRIAGE RETURN (ENTER) key should be pressed.

My thanks to Jack Sughrue and his "PLUS!" program which facilitated the printing of the printer control symbols.

MEETING DATES FOR 1991-1992

3RD SATURDAY
16 NOV 1991
21 DEC 1991
18 JAN 1992
15 FEB 1992
21 MAR 1992
18 APR 1992
16 MAY 1992
20 JUN 1992
18 JUL 1992
15 AUG 1992
19 SEP 1992

4TH WEDNESDAY
27 NOV 1991
----25 DEC 1991--- NO MEETING
22 JAN 1992
26 FEB 1992
25 MAR 1992

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C.O.N.N.I.
181 HEISCHMAN AVE
WORTHINGTON, OH 43085

Spirit of 99

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
POSTMASTER - PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY