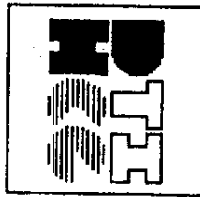# DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

This newsletter is the official publication of the DALLAS HOME
COMPUTER USERS GROUP, a non-profit organization serving
the member/users of the Texas Instruments 99/4A HOME
COMPUTER. For more information, you are cordially invited to
attend our next meeting, or send a S.A.S. envelope to:

DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP
P.O. BOX 29863
DALLAS, TEXAS 75229

NEXT MEETING
SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1989
AT THE DALLAS INFOMART

INSIDE THE INTERFACE:

The Oval Officer · Graphics Mini-Sig
The Disk Dabbler - Graphics by Creviston
Missing Tom Hall · The Library Corner
Daffynitions - For Sale

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*********************************
*   DTIHCG'S JUNE/JULY CALENDAR   *
*********************************
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June 1989
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* 10 Saturday
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     9ish - Bill Pry on the TI Lubbock
            Repair facility
     9:30 - DTIHCG Business Meeting
    10:10 - Terry Notley on Graphics
    11:30 - Social Hour/Lunch/etc.....
     1:00 - Graphics "Hands-On" demos
            of several programs.
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We may possibly have the *NEW* 80 column
card available for demonstration.

We may also have a NX-1000 Rainbow color
printer on hand for demonstration.

* 12 Monday
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     7:00pm CCD Meeting
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* 17 Saturday
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     1:00pm Executive Committee, at
     the Guion's Home
     2:30pm ALL Committee
     Chairpersons at the Guion's
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* 23 Friday
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     5:15pm NEXT-STEP Hardware/
     Software/Social Meeting
     10:00pm Newsletter Deadline
     10:00pm Room request due
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* 25 Sunday
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     2:00pm Graphics Mini-Sig at
     Charlice Althar's.
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July 1989
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* 8 Saturday
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     9:00am SUPER SATURDAY INFOMART
     Meeting
     9:00am Informal pre-meeting
     gathering
     9:30am DTIHCG Business Meeting
     10:10am Main Program Presentation
     11:30am Social Hour/Lunch/ and
     Activity Signup
     1:00pm SIG Meeting
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June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 *
11	12 *	13	14	15	16	17 *
18	19	20	21	22	23 *	24
25 *	26	27	28	29	30	

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 *
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	LOUIS GUION	(214)-239-6829
VICE-PRESIDENT	----------	----------------
TREASURER	JACKIE GUION	(214)-239-6829
SECRETARY	GREG JUSTICE	(214)-240-6647
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	CHARLICE ALTHAR	(214)-337-4840
SOFTWARE LIBRARIAN	CHARLICE ALTHAR	(214)-337-4840
HARDWARE CHAIRMAN/		
MERCHANDISE SALES CHAIRMAN	JOHN CREVISTON	(214)-594-0721
DOM CHAIRMAN	RIP DOWLING (METRO)	(817)-467-0369
PROGRAM CHAIRMAN	EARL BULLOCK	(214)-934-0013
CCD ALTERNATE	JACKIE GUION	(214)-239-6829
BBS SYSOP	JOHN GUION	(214)-239-6829
RECRUITMENT CHAIRMAN	TOM HALL (METRO)	(817)-267-5987
MINISIG CHAIRMAN	RAYMOND ROE	(214)-462-0475
DISKETTE PURCHASES	GREG JUSTICE	(214)-240-6647
SOCIAL CHAIRMAN	JOYCE JUSTICE	(214)-240-6647
CARTRIDGE AND CASSETTE		
TAPE LIBRARIAN CHAIRMAN	BILLY MONROE	(214)-285-5397
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN	WALTER PEARSON	(214)-943-2439
HISTORIAN/9640 CHAIRMAN	RICHARD ROBERTS	(214)-579-7822
PITTSBURGH SOFTWARE CHAIRMAN	CHRIS SLENKER	(214)-340-2463
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ADVENTURE LIBRARIAN	CHARLES BROCK	(214)-276-3822
DISKETTE SALES CHAIRMAN	THIERRY WEBER	(214)-686-1714
NEXT-STEP CHAIRMAN	ROSS WHITMORE	(214)-352-3889
B-E-S-T BOOK CHAIRMAN	SHARON REDDICK	(214)-373-0229

These people are the Club's officers and chairpersons. They all are invited to, and most attend, the three hour Committee Chairmen's meeting (the officers meet for an hour and a half before that!) on the Saturday one week after the INFOMART meeting. In addition to just belonging, they serve themselves and you by giving freely of their time to make this a better club for us all. Thank them individually, if you have the opportunity.

FOR SALE

COMPLETE T.I. HOME COMPUTER

WITH MANY EXTRAS

99/4A COMPUTER w/12" color monitor
Peripheral Expansion Box System PHP 1200
Flex Cable Interface (Peripheral Expansion Card)
RS232 Interface PAA 1220
32< x 8 Memory Expansion PHA 1260
Disk Controller PHF 1240
Disk Memory Drive FHP 1250

TI 99/4A Printer PFP 2500
Speech Synthesizer, Cartridge Expander
TI Phone Modem 300 baud

Modules: Disk Mgr., TI-Writer Word Processor,
Terminal Emulator II, TI Extended Basic. All with Manuals.

Games: Tombstone City, The Attack and Flight Simulator.
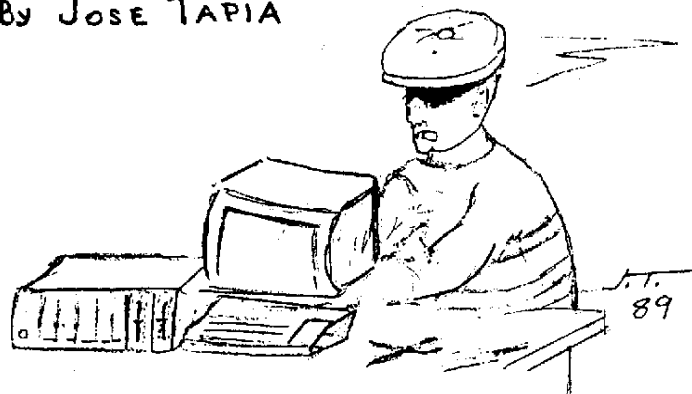(These never used)

Set of TI Joy Sticks PHP1100

Several Cables.

All manuals for the above included, plus Reference Guide
and various handbooks.

All of the above, plus!............$1200.00 Cash

Call BILL PORTER (214)250-0877 in Dallas, Texas.

By JOSE TAPIA

@!*?! ..... and SOMEBODY SAID
THERE WAS MONEY IN COMPUTERS!

FROM THE OVAL OFFICER
By
Louis Guion

Where were all you guys on May 20th? We had a super meeting at INFOMART on Super Saturday, May 20th, and it was a replay of the old question, "We gave a party. Nobody came. Where were you?" I'm really not trying to get on anyone's case, as I've discovered that makes most folks balky. I just wonder where some seventy of you good members managed to spend your Saturday when the club was presenting one of the best programs to come down the pike in a long time. Just a few more than thirty of the members managed to make the meeting, and I am concerned about it.

Have you failed to tell us what programs will interest you? Have you failed to participate in what is being offered? Have you failed to offer your two-cent's worth at the meetings? Or is it me? Or is it the Executive Committee? Please let us know what it will take to get YOU to attend and participate in group activities.

For our May meeting, John Creviston presented an excellent program covering one of the TI-99/4A's strong points--graphics. He handed out a disk and a presentation folder with graphics, text, and program ordering information. The roster was used to keep track of the handouts so that we can insure that each person in attendance gets an individual copy, but also to insure that we don't duplicate the packages. A point to make here is that you should bring your folder to INFOMART at the June 10th meeting. We won't be able to issue another one to you!

Lately I've been using a program, Magic FM, or Magic File Manipulator. Ben Hatheway, of Costa Mesa, California, wrote this program which makes it possible to transfer files from the host TI-99/4A to or from a clone computer using X-Modem protocol. Each of the computers, which are connected directly between their respective serial ports by cable, displays the same information on the screen. This makes it possible to control the transfer of files from either system. If you are transferring a DF/128 file, you are asked if you wish to include a TI header with the file. A nice touch.

Transfers are supposed to be able to take place at 19200 baud, but I have kept the program plugging along at 4800 baud. That is plenty for me since most files are not really THAT long. A nice file management section allows me to delete, protect, unprotect, and rename files from either machine. The program issues accurate warning messages when you attempt to perform tasks that are not allowed or which would be in error if completed.

Magic FM runs from Extended BASIC. The cable is easy to make, and instructions are included. It supports four floppy drives as well as RAMdisks. Best of all, the author doesn't expect payment for the program. Yes, a program that works well to accomplish its mission and which is also free.

As you might guess, my machines are tied together on a permanent basis to facilitate easy transfers which result because I have found some file in the TI world which I wish to send to the clone world. And the reverse is certainly true, too. I can download a file using either machine, secure in the knowledge that I can get it over to the other machine with a minimum of inconvenience. For those of you that exist in the twilight zone, please consider this program. It sure made my life easier. Get version 2, which is current as of this writing. It is probably in the group's diskette library by now. Ask Charlice Altiar.

The club has received some ads offering systems for sale in the past few months. Several have come from people outside the group, and have both offered systems at very high prices as well as very low prices. While it is certainly true that the best sale is one in which both the buyer and the seller are satisfied that they each "got a good deal", it can be said that some folks buy without the slightest idea of how much to pay. I'd like to remind you that the club's BBS has a file listing some prices that have been paid/asked for our systems. Look in the (N)ews section. I'll try to update the file soon, but for now it does still give a better idea than most folks have of current prices.

It is amazing that the /4A market has held up so well over the years. You can still usually sell a system or components in a reasonably short time, and for a fair price. The club facilitates this activity by offering free ad space in this newsletter and by making the B.E.S.T. book available at most group gatherings. Sharon Reddick, who is in charge of the (B)uy, (E)xchange, (S)ell or (T)rade book, has gone to a lot of trouble for us in creating and maintaining this book. Please get your ads to her and to Lynn Nidiffer, the newsletter editor, if you have anything to sell. She can be reached in person at most gatherings and can be contacted by mail at the club's post office address. Either way, get your information to Sharon. Then, ask to see the B.E.S.T. book at the meetings! Lynn is available on the 99'er Connection BBS, on STARTEXT and through the club post office box.

I hereby invite all Committee Chairmen to the upcoming June meeting at 2:30 on Saturday, June 17th, at my house. This is one week after the June 10th Super Saturday meeting. As this is the halfway point in the year it is important that we all re-dedicate ourselves to our jobs, and I feel that by all of you attending this particular meeting we may, perhaps, revitalize our efforts. Please be there. Oh, yes, consider this the formal "invitation", the one that I said was needed when YOU, particularly, were needed! Thanks.

As I announced at the last meeting, the main meeting will begin at 9:30 am, at INFOMART. This will allow us to finish a half-hour earlier which should let us make a better dash for the cafeteria or the vendor area at the close of the main program. Please don't sleep in and waste the extra 30 minutes, however.

see page 2 for a revised 9:00 program schedule!

2j

KILO - What you could have spent your money on if you hadn't bought a computer.

LANGUAGE - A system of organizing and defining syntax errors.

MATH CHIP - A piece of a broken abacus.

MEMORY MAP - A sheet of paper showing the location of a computer store.

Mhz - Acronym for Megahurtz, meaning "A million Pains."

MICROFICHE - Sardines

NANOSECOND - Mork's stunt man.

NEWDOS - Acronym for "Not Exactly What the Dealer Offers to Sell."

PASCAL - Computer language used for college football player known in full as "PAss CALvin or else!"

PASSWORD- Nonsense word taped to monitor

"CORE STORAGE" - A receptacle for the center section of apples.

FLOATING CONTROL - A characteristic exhibited when you have to go to the restroom, but can't leave the computer.

FLOATING POINT - The absolute limit before floating control is lost.

FLOW CHART - A graphic representation of the fastest route to the restroom.

ARITHMETIC SHIFT - The preferred dress of female mathematicians.

MATHEMATICAL MODEL - 36-24-36

NUMERIC LITERAL - see mathematical model

SPECIAL-NAMES - What a programmer has for his boss.

FIXED LENGTH WORD - Four-letter words used by programmers in a state of confusion.

RESERVED WORDS - see special-names.

NEW MEMBER: A new member is.....no, no, I can't tell that.... Seriously, now, (just think of Mikey) , and give a big welcome to our new members, STEVE ERICKSON and THERESA OVERALL. Please get acquainted, and inform them what a MIKEY and "BIG BLUE" really is!

Thanks to NICHOLLE for making the banner for our kicsk at INFOMART!

In the near future, we hope to see articles from JIM LESHER, member profiles from DOUG GARRETSON, and from whiz-kid JOHN "I can solder in my sleep" GUION. LYNN NIDIFFER, EDITOR

Try to show at 9:00 and participate in the lively discussions that can take place before the meeting starts. This can be some of the highest quality time spent with the group since it is irformal and is on a one-to-one basis, making it much easier to solicit and receive advice on a myriad of topics. Remember, the main business meeting will start one half hour earlier than in the past, at 9:30 am. You can't say I didn't tell you!

GRAPHICS MINI-SIG
BY
IMOGENE OSBORN

There will be a Graphics Mini Sig at Charlice Althar's house on Sunday, June 25th. Please check the schedule in this Newsletter for the correct time.

Some of the the programs that were sold and ordered at InfoMart will be demo'd and discussed.

JIFFY FLYER.......Full page prints in
        4.5 minutes.

JIFFY CARD........4 fold prints in
        2.5 minutes.

WYSIWYG place graphics anywhere, shift, insert, delete text/ lines, 45 borders,

IMOGENE OSBORNE

69 CSGD graphics, save/load 1-99 copies, and much more.

FORM SHOP, GIANT ARTIST POSTERS AND PRINT IT, are possibilities. For those of you who were not lucky enough to see John Creviston's presentation on Graphics, these products are created by Roger Merritt of Comprodine in California. The appealing way he has of programming-is that he has great prompts on screen and they are very clear and easy to follow. This is without reading and referring to pages of docs.

Also, for those that have color printers (Epson/Star) he has two programs: COLOR CARD AND COLOR FLYER. We will have a color printer at this Mini Sig.

Please look for the sign-up sheet at InfoMart!

THE DISK DABBLER

BY

THIERRY WEBER

Gosh, That was a short month if I've seen one.   Seems it was only. yesterday that I went thru that mob scene at Infomart with everyone trying to get their litle greedy hands on one of the packages of colored diskettes I was offering for sale. Actually, I'm exaggerating just a tiny litle bit.   Although, the response WAS positive, it was not overwhelming.   But, enough of the negative stuff here.

After what seems to be a century long month and a half, I have finally put my faithfull TI in line again. If you tuned in to the 99er you might have heard that several of my peripheral cards got "Zaped" by some lightning. Thanks to DTIHCG in general, and the generosity of Louis Guion in particular, I was able to get a "loaner" PE box while mine is being looked at by the club's guru (John). Now THAT'S what I call club support, and to pick up on a theme that emerged at Infomart, that's one of the many things we are at risk of losing if we don't wake up and do something. Starting with next month we will return to an idea that emerged last year and was abandoned due to some technical difficulty. We, (that's I), will tape the main Infomart meetings and they will available for all to see. I want to dedicate that "first" taping (actually the one we did last year war a "pilot"), to Tom Hall who, will probably not be able to attend.

That's all I got this month. Be on the lookout for a surprise coming from France in the near future.............

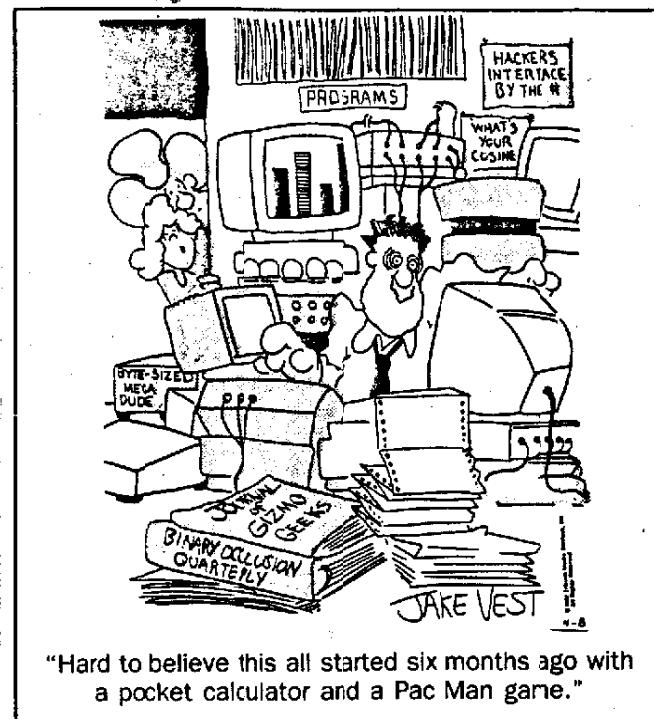
SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY.....

June 1988: We were learning about VCR Hook-ups and using Terminal
            Emulators.
            Doc Graves recuperating from a stoke.

June 1987: Jon Hodges shows us how to install surge and noise
            suppresssion in our power strips.

June 1985: Prez Richard Roberts reports that V.P. Dan Johnsen had
            been side-tracked for serious leg surgery. Dan was
            creating programs, supporting TIBBS, and teaching us
            Assembly language!

June 1984: Bulk disks purchase proposed at $1.00 each.
            Dan Johnsen presents a Graphics program.

June 1983: The last TI Store at Prestonwood closes.

June 1982: Prestigious Hockady School opens a computer camp with
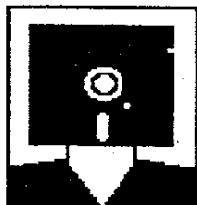   50 99/4A's and Perihiperal boxes.

If you have a request for a particular meeting presentation topic be sure to mention it to one of the committee members. Suggestions are always welcome, almost as much as people willing to put on a program.

The handouts from the May meeting should be brought to the June meeting. There will be some additional pages and perhaps you have a question or suggestion for the manual. I hope that you took notes and have found the information useful. If you missed the May meeting, there will be a limited number of handouts and maybe a few more copies of the disk for June, but wouldn't bet the farm on getting a disk..... I will ask Charlice to add it to the Library.

Till the tenth..

jcc

THAT'S JAKE

"Hard to believe this all started six months ago with a pocket calculator and a Pac Man game."

Graphics

JOHN CREVISTON

Here we are, in the beginning of the summer months. The attendance of most groups seems to be less during these times before picking up again when school starts. Vacations and yard work along with trips to the lake all take their toll on attendance.

We had a pretty good crowd at the graphics demonstration. The show went overtime and yet much less than half of the material was presented. In June Terry Notley plans to continue the program. If you are interested in having a hands-on mini-sig at Infomart or somewhere else you should tell the people in charge of scheduling these events. We could have the programs that create graphics, convert graphics, and use (including printint) graphics for the members to work with.

There are so many ready-made pictures and fonts (typestyles) available for bargain prices that you don't have to make all your own 'from scratch'. Our Library has several disks that can be ordered from Charlice. Order GRAFPX3006 thru 3010 to get the files that will work with the programs used in the May and June programs. Please bring a sample of your work that you made on the 4/A with the Comprodine programs to the next meeting.

~~We are still looking for~~ the DIGIT 80 column card ~~to arrive~~. *has arrived!!!* A demo ~~will be~~ scheduled ~~as soon as it can be~~. Other hardware demos planned include the Myarc harddisk. *for July.* *has been*

The sales of the programs from Comprodine went so well that all of the copies were sold and more had to be ordered. If you bought some of the ones Charlice had then you have an increased collection of graphics utilities to use to make banners, posters, flyers, and greeting cards with.

PagePro 99 from Asgard came in the mail this week. I spent the first 2 hours reading the manual and changing the XB utilities to allow the WDS1 name in addition to the DSKx. After converting some TI-Artist Instances and fonts I tried to make a page. The program is very easy to use and it worked the first time! PagePro will allow mixing of text and graphics and you can have 2 fonts and line graphics plus up to 28 instances in the page. It can import TI-Writer files for the text or you can type it in. There is a routine to columnize text so you can make it look like newspaper printing. There are a host of features and someone needs to volunteer to learn and demo it soon. The main program is all assembly language and it works very fast.

CHARLICE ALTHAR

THE LIBRARY CORNER
By
Charlice Althar

Remember all those Graphics disks you got copies of at our Libary Swap last winter? Have you been using them? Are you aware that many of them can be used with some of the programs demonstrated so well by John Creviston at our May meeting?

For instance, we've had RLE-MAX in our library for some time. It does a great job of printing pictures which are largely public domain in nature. There are literally hundreds of these out there in the world--in fact, our library has 34 disks full of the pictures! Not being much of a graphics person (until the May meeting!), my personal experience with this is quite limited, but a local authority on the subject has informed me that RLE-MAX can convert its own pictures, plus some of those from other graphics programs, to a TI-ARTIST format picture. Then, TI-ARTIST can be used to change them to INSTANCES, which can be used by GIANT ARTIST POSTERS, PRINTIT, and PICTURE IT from Comprodine, as well as other programs.

We also have a number of disks with TI-ARTIST INSTANCES on them. In order to use these with GAP, they must first be expanded to full-screen size; this can be done with GRAPHICS EXPANDER, also demo'ed by John in May.

Graphics is an area that has seen a virtual explosion of new programs for the 4/A in recent months. With many of these, it's finally possible to be extremely "creative" in the USE of graphics, without having to be an artist and "create" the artwork itself. Our library has quite an assortment of this ready-to-use artwork, you probably have a few disks of it lying around. Look through our Catalog and check 'em out--if you don't already have them, we're only a phone call away from making the copies for you.

As always, library disks are available to DTIHCG members only; the charge is $2 per disk if you supply a blank disk; $3 per disk if we supply the disk. My machine is always connected, so give me a call to place your order. Leave me your name, address, phone, the name of the disks you want, and how/when you wish to pay for them and get them. I can bring them to the next meeting, or you can mail a check and I'll mail the disks! Graphics can be a lot of fun--give it a try!

GROUP PURCHASE

OF

GRAPHIC PROGRAMS

By CHARLICE ALTHAR

As part of our current emphasis on Graphics on the TI-99/4A, we have been very fortunate in making connections with Rodger Merritt of Comprodine, in Fullerton, California. They offer a number of very fine programs, impressive for their ease of use, with many on-screen prompts, making it possible for even a confirmed "non-tecnie" like me able to very quickly load these programs and print out some fantastic results! Several samples printed by various Comprodine programs were displayed at INFOMART on May 20.

Here's a very brief run-down on some of his programs:

1) PRINTIT with PRINTIT+--allows you to do some "desktop publishing", including Titles, Labels, and Banners. Has a Graphic/Font designer, and uses TI-ARTIST Instances.

2) PICTURE IT--converts Instances for use in Banners, XB programs, and TI-WRITER. Create Letterheads.

3) JIFFY FLYER 3.0--makes full page flyers; WYSIWYG (what you see is what you get) lets you see the graphics, borders, multiple large and small fonts on screen. Easy!

4) JIFFY CARD--prints the outside and inside of a folded greeting card all in one step; WYSIWYG. Fast and easy!

5) FORM SHOP--create/print forms in TI-WRITER; WYSIWYG with horizontal/vertical single/double lines. Fantastic! Rated 4 stars in March 1989 MICROpendium.

6) G.A.P.--Giant Artist Posters prints full-screen TI-ARTIST Instances in 9 sizes from 10x14" to 5x16'! Create a mural! Received 4 stars in May 1989 MICROpendium.

7) PERSONAL AUDITOR--excellent, well-documented auditor program.

Rodger Merritt helped us by sending us 41 of these programs in time for our May meeting. Our members grabbed every one of them--and we now have an order in for an additional supply. He made a special price to DTIHCC, so this has been a mutually beneficial arrangement. Thanks, Rodger!

If you purchased one of these, please help us in preparing for our June meeting, which will be a continuation on the Graphics theme: as you try out these programs, save your print-outs, and if you don't send them to Tom Hall at Arlington Memorial Hospital, bring them to INFOMART or June 10! We'd like to have another display of what can be accomplished with our orphan!

MISSING---TOM HALL   FROM CHARLICE ALTHAR

Everyone missed one of our most valuable members at our May INFOMART meeting. Tom Hall wasn't there.

The night before the meeting, an 18-wheeler struck him broadside, on the driver's side, while he was in Denton to visit his Mother. Although his injuries are quite severe, he is extremely fortunate, because they could have been much worse. Several fractured ribs, a fractured leg, and multiple lacerations and bruises are his primary injuries.

On Friday, May 26, surgery was done on his leg, placing a steel plate and screws. He hopes for a lighter-weight cast to be applied the first of the week.

Tom says to tell everyone 'I'm OK". We hope he will be soon, 'cause we really miss him. In the meantime, he'd appreciate any contact with Club members. Current address is:

Arlington Memorial Hospital

800 W. Randol Mill Rd.

Arlington, TX. 76012

(metro) 871-265-5581 Room 2305

TOM HALL