

FEB 1977



# HUG

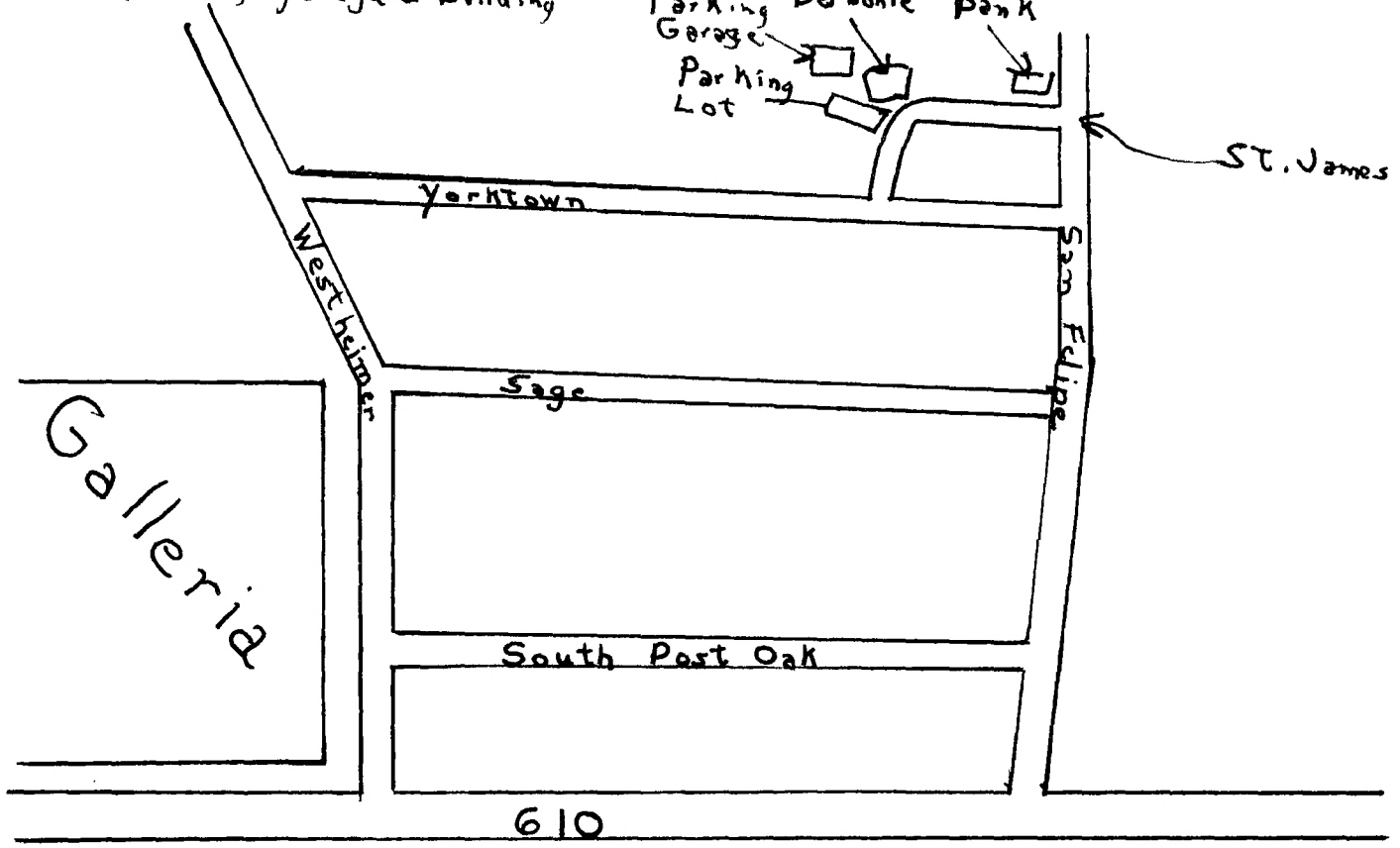
HOUSTON USERS GROUP

FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
2PM  
NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY,

Enter building using  
Entrance between  
parking garage & Building

Parking Garage  
Parking Lot  
Delmonte Bank

ST. James



TEXAS INSTRUMENTS COMES ROARING BACK

The above heading was the title of an article in the February 14, 1983 issue of "Business Week" magazine. It covered the company in general but concentrated its emphasis on computer sales, and specifically on the 99/4A. The article was very positive in its editorial approach and described some of the things TI is doing to regain leadership in the computer industry.

It stated that sales of the 99/4A has captured 35 percent of the market for microcomputers selling for less than \$1000, finishing 1982 with 700,000 99/4A's in use. It said that TI's consumer group is "awash in orders for the home computer, which is selling at a red-hot 30,000 units a week".

Another thing mentioned was the recent introduction of the 99/2 in competition with the Timex (Sinclair) computer. It mentioned that the new TI computer has more features than the Timex but still lists for \$99.95.

The new TI Professional Computer, code named Pegasus and the one that was demonstrated at our last meeting, was also reviewed in a very good light. This made a complete upbeat article about TI and its commitment to supporting its various new computers

Articles such as this one continue to appear. They make more people aware of the power of the 99/4A and most certainly will influence much additional software for it. It lets us, as users of the 99/4A know that TI is really standing behind us and that we have a lot to look forward to.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The first two meetings of 1983 have come and gone already. I think we got a lot of good information from these meetings, and I want to thank the speakers for their help and enthusiasm. We look forward, however to some improvements in the future that should improve our meetings overall and specifically help each member in attendance to get more information in which he or she is primarily interested.

One of the most visible improvements will be the use of a new basic computersystem purchased by the users' group. This is being financed by a one-time assessment of ten dollars per member for 1983. This plus our regular annual membership dues will mean a total cost per member of twenty dollars for this year. This is really a very modest amount for the benefits that we can expect to get from the new equipment and the expanded programs being planned for each skill level within our group.

I urge you to plan to attend our next meeting on March 6. We are continuing to plan for more informative, timely and better meetings. We need your help, suggestions and support. Please let me know your thoughts on our efforts to make changes and improvements.

See you on March 6. (And please make a real effort to pay your annual dues and the one-time assessment by the next meeting.)

Wayne Wright

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PROBLEMS AROUND THE CLUB

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RUMORS, RUMORS, RUMORS

There are a lot of rumors flying around about a lot of things. Hopefully at the meeting a BIG one will be clarified.

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Through the assessment the club has been able to purchase the console, expansion box, Extended Basic, disk, and disk controller. We still need to get the monitor and extended memory.

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For those of you with only the basic setup, next month we will begin to list peripherals for sale by club members.

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>> THIS MEETING <<

At this meeting we will have two programs, hopefully there will be something for everyone! Paul Kent will present a demonstration of his version of FORTH for the 99/4(A). Also we will have a panel to answer questions from members. The panel will consist of Paul, Curt Garcia, Luis Hernandez, John Sewell, and Jane McAshan. They will try to answer any questions you like on the 99/4, programming, problems, etc. So come prepared -- of course if you don't have any questions, maybe you can help with some of the answers!

<< FUTURE MEETINGS >>

APRIL 10, 1983 - NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE!!! - SECOND SUNDAY!!! Ed Wiase, the Users Group Coordinator for Texas Instruments will be our guest. Ed has not said exactly what he'll be bringing, but he has asked for a big-screen TV and 4 speakers to demonstrate something! Be sure to note this one on the calendar, as it is sure to be very interesting.

MAY 1, 1983 - We will have a very short business meeting, followed by which we will split into groups for more specialized workshops. We will need to know what kinds of workshops you would like, for example, one on Logo, another on Beginning Programming, etc. Please let Jane McAshan (783-2135) know what you'd like, and we'll try to arrange it. We will also need leaders for the workshops, and equipment, call Jane to volunteer!

Ideas for programs at the meeting are always welcomed warmly! You can call Jane, or send them to her (probably the safest way).

# HUG MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 6, 1983

## HUG'S GETTING IT'S OWN COMPUTER

THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN DONATED TO HUG: DISK CONTROLLER (ON LOAN)--BILL DEVALLE, CASSETTE CABLE--BILL HUNT, AND SPEECH SYNTHESIZER--CHARLES EHNINGER. LEVI NORMAN REPORTED THAT HE CAN PURCHASE FROM THE TI EMPLOYEE STORE A CONSOLE (TI-99/4A) DISK DRIVE AND MONITOR AND MONITOR CABLE FOR \$857.85. IT WAS DISCUSSED ABOUT PURCHASING A TV SET VERSUS A 10" MONITOR FOR ABOUT \$25 LESS. ONE WOULD SACRIFICE RESOLUTION WITH A TV SET. A 10" MONITOR WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR ALL TO SEE. BILL DEVALLE COULD POSSIBLY HOOK UP TO TV SETS OR MONITORS FROM THE MODULATOR. DON THORPE WILL INVESTIGATE INTO TI POSSIBLY DONATING SOME EQUIPMENT TO THE USERS GROUP.

A \$10 ONE-TIME ASSESSMENT WILL BE MADE TO EACH MEMBER TO HELP PAY FOR THE COST OF THE CLUB'S COMPUTER EQUIPMENT. UPON PAYMENT, THE MEMBER WILL RECEIVE A \$10 CREDIT TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF SOFTWARE PROGRAMS FROM THE LIBRARY. EACH MEMBER WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPLYING HIS OR HER OWN CASSETTE TAPE OR DISK TO RECORD THE PROGRAMS ON.

A COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED BY WAYNE WRIGHT (PRESIDENT) TO BUY THE BASIC EQUIPMENT WITHIN THE CONFINES OF MONEY GATHERED ON THE \$10 ASSESSMENT AND SOME MONEY SUPPLIED BY THE CLUB'S TREASURY. (THE TREASURER REPORTED A BANK BALANCE OF \$853.55.) THEREFORE, A MOTION WAS MADE AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY TO PURCHASE THE BASIC EQUIPMENT BY NEXT MEETING WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: 99/4A, EXPANSION BOX, DISK CONTROLLER CARD AND EXPANSION BOX DISK DRIVE. (\$730)

## THIRD PARTY COMMAND MODULES

JANE HERSHEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CLUB ABOUT TI'S APPARENT POLICY TOWARDS THIRD PARTY COMMAND MODULES. IT WAS NOTED THAT TI WANTS TO HAVE ABSOLUTE CONTROL OVER PRODUCTION OF COMMAND MODULES. THE CLUB MEMBERS WERE ASKED TO WRITE A POLITE, BUSINESS-LIKE LETTER TO TI'S PRESIDENT, FRED BUCY. THE MEMBERS SHALL TELL MR. BUCY HOW MUCH THEY ENJOY THEIR TI-99/4A AND WOULD LIKE TO SPEND MORE MONEY ON ENTERTAINMENT AND EDUCATIONAL MODULES. HOWEVER, THE MODULES ARE NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO THE CONSUMER QUICK ENOUGH LIKE TI'S COMPETITOR - ATARI WITH ALL THEIR GAME CARTRIDGES. THEY SHOULD ASK TI TO REVERSE THEIR POLICY AND ALLOW PRODUCTION OF THIRD PARTY COMMAND MODULES BUT ONLY AFTER THE MODULE HAS A STAMP OF APPROVAL FROM TI AND THE THIRD PARTY COMMAND MODULE PRODUCER AGREES TO PAY TI A SMALL FEE OR ROYALTY ON THE SALES.

FRED BUCY, PRESIDENT OF TI, TEXAS INSTRUMENTS  
P.O. BOX 225214, DALLAS, TEXAS 75265

## TREASURER'S REPORT

JANE ROWLAND REPORTED \$800.55 IN THE TREASURY.

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

BILL DEVALLE WILL TAKE OVER AS NEWSLETTER EDITOR FROM TOM DASENBROCK. IT WAS ENCOURAGED THAT MEMBERS WRITE COLUMNS FOR THE NEWSLETTER. MONTHLY COLUMNS WILL APPEAR FROM THE CLUB'S OFFICERS. ALL NEWSLETTER INFORMATION TO BE FORWARDED TO BILL DEVALLE.

## DISK MANAGER II

THE NEW "DISK MANAGER II" (DOUBLE-SIDED DISK MANAGER MODULE) IS AVAILABLE FROM TI. TI SAYS IT WILL COST YOU \$9.95. BILL DEVALLE SAID TO TELL TI THAT AT THE TIME YOU PURCHASED YOUR DISK CONTROLLER CARD YOU WERE INFORMED THAT YOU WOULD RECEIVE A NEW DISK MANAGER II. YOU MUST TELL TI YOU BOUGHT IT BEFORE OCT. 1, 1982. HOWEVER, TI HAS CHANGED THEIR POLICY AND YOU MUST PAY 9.95 AND SUBMIT TO THEM A COPY OF A RECEIPT OF PURCHASE OF YOUR DISK CONTROLLER CARD. MAIL IT TO: TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, ATTN: ACCESSORIES DEPARTMENT, P.O. BOX 53, LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79408. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR PROOF OF PURCHASE, IT WILL COST YOU THE FULL RETAIL PRICE OF \$39.95

## DEMO OF NEW SOFTWARE

JANE MCASHEN DEMOED TWO NEW COMMAND MODULES FOR THE 99/4A: ALPINE (TI) AND HENHOUSE BY FLINWARE, A THIRD PARTY COMMAND MODULE PRODUCER.

## THE TI-99/4A GETS A FACELIFT

THE TI-99/4A IS GETTING A FACELIFT - EXTERNAL AS WELL AS INTERNAL. JANE MCASHEN ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: THE CASE WILL CHANGE FROM BLACK/SILVER TO SILVER/SILVER. THE GRAPHICS CHIP WAS REPLACED WITH A BETTER ONE TO MAKE IMAGES SHARPER. THE OLD GRAPHICS CHIP PRODUCED AN IRIS EFFECT AROUND LETTERS AND SYMBOLS ON THE SCREEN. A CHANGE OF INTERNAL CIRCUITRY - 8 CHIPS WERE REPLACED WITH 3 CHIPS. JANE NOTED THAT THESE CHANGES WERE MADE ON ALL MODELS PRODUCED AFTER JAN. 1, 1983.

## THIRD PARTY SOFTWARE REVIEW

CHARLIE VADOVIC HANDED OUT THIRD PARTY SOFTWARE REVIEW SHEETS AND ENCOURAGED MEMBERS TO FILL THEM OUT ON ALL THIRD PARTY SOFTWARE THEY PURCHASE. THE REVIEWS WILL BE TABULATED AS THEY ARE RECEIVED AND THE RESULTS PERIODICALLY REVEALED AT THE MEETINGS AND IN THE NEWSLETTER.

## 99/2 AND CC-40 DEMONSTRATION

WAYNE WRIGHT (PRESIDENT) HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ED WEISE, TI'S USERS GROUP COORDINATOR, ABOUT HAVING THE TI-99/2 AND THE CC-40 COMPACT COMPUTER DEMONSTRATED TO OUR USERS GROUP. IT WAS NOTED THAT IT WOULD TAKE ABOUT 3 TO 4 MONTHS LEAD TIME TO SET IT UP AND MR. WEISE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO GIVE A JOINT OR SEPARATE DEMONSTRATION TO THE JSC USERS GROUP. (CURRENTLY, WAYNE WRIGHT IS SETTING UP APRIL 10 FOR MR. WEISE TO COME.)

## GUEST SPEAKER

TOM DASENBROCK, HUG MEMBER, WAS ON THE PROJECT DESIGN TEAM TO DEVELOP TI'S NEW PROFESSIONAL COMPUTER CALLED "PEGASUS". TOM DEMONSTRATED THE PROTOTYPE UNIT WHICH WAS EQUIPPED WITH A 10 MEGABYTE WINCHESTER DISK DRIVE AND 5 1/4" DOUBLE-SIDED DOUBLE DENSITY FLOPPY DISK DRIVE. THE COMPUTER IS EXPANDABLE TO 256K. THE COLOR MONITOR DEMONSTRATION WITH THE COMPUTER HAD A 700 X 300 LINE DOT RESOLUTION. THE COLOR MONITOR IS BEING MANUFACTURED BY PANASONIC. THE BUSINESS COMPUTER WILL SUPPORT A BLACK AND WHITE OR COLOR MONITOR. TI IS WORKING ON A VOICE COMMAND UNIT FOR THE PROFESSIONAL COMPUTER WHICH SHOULD BE READY IN THE 3RD-4TH QTR. 1983. THE BASIC SYSTEM WITH 64K RAM MEMORY, 320K DOUBLE-SIDED, DOUBLE DENSITY DISK DRIVE, KEYBOARD + 12" MONOCHROME MONITOR RETAILS AT \$2595.

# FLASH FLASH FLASH

TI announced on Feb. 9, 1983 that the price of the 99/4A was being reduced by \$50. This with the already \$100 rebate makes the 99/4A an even better buy.

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## JOYSTICKS

Did you know that TI will exchange your broken joysticks for new ones free for 90 days then there is a \$11.50 service charge. Which again gives you 90 days guaranteed. What this means is that you can keep yourself in new joysticks forever. (cour. MY-TI)

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## PROGRAMMING HINTS

BY

Tom Dasenbrock

Lets talk about some simple commands this time for all the beginners who just are learning to program.

When you have a Basic program in memory and it is not running, you can see what the program is made of by typing 'list', and the program itself will scroll up the screen. To get the listing to stop you simply press the FUNCTION(FCTN) CLEAR(4) key. To continue the listing from where you stopped you must type 'LIST 300-', assuming that line 300 was the last line displayed before you stopped the listing. This means that the listing will start at line 300 and continue up to the end of the program. If you were to put another line number after the '-', the listing would stop after that line was displayed.

**LINE NUMBERS:** for those who do not understand, are numbers at the beginning of each command you give the computer in a pro-

gram. The computer will do each command in numeric sequence unless told to do otherwise by one of the commands. (The computer will number the lines **AUTOMATICALLY** by simply typing in the command ' NUM ', then ENTER.)

**VARIABLES:** they are an alphabetic (sometimes mixed with numbers) representation of a number value that can change or vary. For example: X=100, X is the Variable who's value is set to equal 100. If the next statement was: X=X+1 then the value of X is equal to 101 after the computer completed(EXECUTED) this statement.

**CONSTANTS:** these also are alpha-numeric replacements for numbers, but their value remains the same or constant. One is because it is often easier to remember a name than a complex value. As an example if you write one line that says: PI=3.14159, then it is easier to say in a later command: CIRCUM=PI\*DIAM. CIRCUM is a variable that represents the circumference of a circle and DIAM is a variable representing the diameter of that circle (you could have used DOG or CAT or anything else if you had wanted to but it is best to use something that helps you remember what the value is representing). Basically what a statement is saying is that the circumference of a circle is = to the given diameter of the circle times 3.14159 which is an expression you should know. The second reason for using constants is that if you use the same number a lot it saves space in memory. Each space in memory is called a BYTE. Each character you see on the screen uses one BYTE or space in memory. A number no matter how large or small it is, is saved in the memory using 9 BYTES. When you first give a CONSTANT a value it also uses 9 BYTES up, but each time you use it, only 2 BYTES are used to store a POINTER to the place in memory where the computer saves the 9BYTES value to be used. So if you use a number a lot in a program it is a nice practice to use CONSTANTS to represent them.

SAMPLE

```
100 CALL CLEAR
110 PI=3.14159
120 PRINT "THIS PROGRAM PRINTS"
125 PRINT "THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF A CIRCLE."
130 PRINT
140 PRINT "WHAT IS THE DIAMETER:"
150 INPUT DIAM
160 CIRCUM=PI*DIAM
170 PRINT "THE CIRCUMFERENCE IS":CIRCUM
180 GOTO 130
```

To exit the program just press the FCTN CLEAR(4). The line numbers are from 100 to 180. The only constant is PI. The two variables are CIRCUM and DIAM. The other commands will now be discussed. CALL CLEAR will erase everything from the screen. Print will put whatever you put between the quotes(") up on the screen as you have written it. The semicolon(;) after the second print statement lets the next thing to be put on the screen be placed after what has just been displayed, otherwise the next thing printed to the screen would be the on the next line. The INPUT statement takes whatever you type in on the keyboard and assigns it to the VARIABLE name after the word INPUT (in this case DIAM). GOTO just means that. The computer should go to the LINE NUMBER after the word GOTO (here it is 130) and do the command there instead of going on to the next LINE NUMBER.

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