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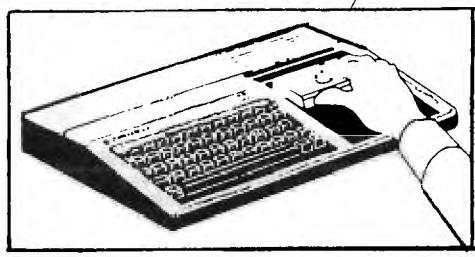
MILWAUKEE Home Computer MICRO REPORT



NOVEMBER 1984 EDITION

A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE MILWAUKEE AREA 99/4A USERS GROUP (FORMERLY HOCUS)

EDITORS' MESSAGE TO THE MEMBERSHIP

As you have surely noticed already, the appearance of your newsletter has changed this month (hopefully, for the better). A great deal of hard work (and alot of time) has gone into the redesign of the newsletter and the plans for content of this publication.

First of all, as your new editors, we hope that you thoroughly enjoy this newsletter and its contents---after all, its for you anyway!! We have spent many hours and telephone calls researching what it is you want in a newsletter, and we plan to deliver.....

There will be some "radical" format changes, such as using a smaller print whenever possible, so that we can give as much content as possible without turning out a 20 page novel. Beginning with the November '84 issue we will also change to a bi-monthly format, which will allow us to get you a bigger and better newsletter every two months for less cost to your already depleated treasury. Other changes in article - submission policies, program dumps, and programming information will be forthcomming.

We encourage all of you to PARTICIPATE in this publication, and hope that those of you who receive it appreciate the efforts put into this kind of "project". All your "literary" contributions will certainly be appreciated by your fellow User Group members.

P.S. As you also have noticed...we changed the name.

HAPPY COMPUTING,

THE EDITORS

****
* JUST A REMINDER *
*
* There will NOT be a December Users Group Meeting. Because of the holidays, as well changing the meetings to the SECOND SATURDAY of each month (Beginning 1/85), our NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON JANUARY 12, 1985. NEW OFFICERS WILL HAVE TO BE ELECTED AT THE JANUARY MEETING. *
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MILWAUKEE HOME COMPUTER MICRO REPORT

Milwaukee Home Computer MICRO REPORT is published bi-monthly by the Milwaukee Area 99/4A Users Group, located at 2007 N 71ST Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53213. The Milwaukee Area 99/4A Users Group is an association of individuals with the same interest in using, prgramming, and enjoying their Texas Instruments 99/4A Home Computers. This Users Group is not affiliated with Texas Intruments, nor any other commercial companies or organizations.

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership to the Milwaukee Area 99/4A Users Group is open to anyone who is interested in using and/or programming the Texas Instruments 99/4A Home Computer, and is willing to share his/her fellowship with other members. Annual dues for Individuals - $8.00 , Family membership - $12.00 . This fee helps to defray the expense of the publication of this newsletter and provide a library to members for their enjoyment.

MEETING INFORMATION

Meetings of the Milwaukee Area 99/4A Users Group are held on the SECOND SATURDAY each month in the lower level of Wauwatosa Savings and Loan, located at 7500 W. State Street in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Meeting times are from about 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, depending on the content of the meeting for each particular month. Users are encouraged to bring their computers and/or related hardware and software to any of the meetings to assist members in utilizing their own equipment.

USER GROUP OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT - Jim Vincent (782-9353)

VICE-PRESIDENT - Milton Giessen (251-2864)

TREASURER - Jerome Trinkl (327-0170)

CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY - Gene Hitz (453-0499)

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USER GROUP LIBRARIAN - Steve Sanders (546-1821)

NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS - Peter Radike (282-2159)
Gary Pichler (355-2051)

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR - George Kasica (321-7558)

FIGURE 1

MENU
Any key to abort

(R)etrieve messages
(A)lter TI screen and text colors
(B)ulletins
(C)hat with DAN
(E)nter messages
(G)oodbye
(H)ot Specials
(K)ill Messages
(L)ocal BBS Systems
(M)essage count/System Status
(N)ewsletter
(O)ther TIBBS(tm) Systems
(P)rice List for Comp 'U' Serv
(S)earch/Scan Messages
(X)pert User Mode on/off
(?)=This List
Command (A,B,C,E,G,H,K,L,M,N,O,P,R,S,X or ? FOR MENU)>

BULLETIN BOARD CORNER

ALL ABOARD: TIBBS(TI BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM)

By George Kasica

In this column I will deal with the many computer Bulletin Board Systems(BBS) that are in the Milwaukee area. In each installment, I will discuss how to get on a certain BBS, and also a little of how to find your way around it.

This installment will deal with the TIBBS board. TIBBS stands for TI Bulletin Board System. This is a system that is run on a TI with 48K, and 2 double-sided double-density disk drives. You can most easily connect to it at 300 baud. The set-up of your terminal is a fairly easy process. I will describe the protocols to use with the Terminal Emulator-II cartridge. You must select 300 baud, no parity, full duplex, the appropriate RS232 port(1 or 2) and then press the space bar and ENTER. To get on the board dial 649-8326. When the board is ready you will hear a high pitched tone. Now you should turn on or connect your modem. It will take a few seconds to respond, so be patient. Then it will display a welcome message and ask you to press enter, after you do this, it will continue with more welcoming messages. After this it will ask for your user # or type NEW if you have not been on before. You should type NEW. Then press ENTER, and it will ask you for some user information, as well as the password you want to use for security purposes. After all this information is entered you go to the main menu. This is a list that includes altering your screen & text colors, chatting with the operator of the board, leaving and reading messages to other people on the BBS, and many other items (LISTED IN FIGURE 1). You then type the letter of the selection you wish to use and it will give you the selection. If you have any problems, there are numerous help areas for most any feature of the BBS. These will give you a more detailed explanation of how to use the features of the BBS.

Once on TIBBS, you can leave messages to other users, and receive replies to the messages you left. As far as the type of messages left on TIBBS, they range from simple chatting between friends, to items that are sought after or for sale! TIBBS also lists a price list for a local retail computer store.

Overall, TIBBS is a very good BBS system. It combines a wide variety of messages with a very simple to use format. The rating I would give to TIBBS on a scale of 1 to 10 is about an 8. It could be improved by the operator not constantly changing some items, and also by keeping the information in the NOTICES area a little more current. By and large though, it is a very fine BBS system, and I'm sure you will find it very enjoyable to use.

Have fun and happy telecommunicating!

NEXT: WFFM-RADIO FREE MILWAUKEE

ASK THE PROGRAMMER

Q. I recently was working with the Disk Manager-II module, and I accidentaly deleted my only copy of a program. I know that the program is not really gone, just the header is gone from the disk sector 001. How can I get it back there so I can recover the program?(George Kasica)

A. Well George, you can use a program available from some of the Users Groups called DISKO, but you need the Editor/Assembler package to use it. Assuming you have or can get it, the procedure is relatively simple to do. First, you must use the option to locate a file. Just type in the name of the lost file, and it will tell you the place it begins, the length of the file in hexadecimal code, and also where the file header is located. The only thing we're really interested in for this is the location of the file header. The next thing you do is to go to option 1 in DISKO. Select sector 001 to read, and then move the cursor to the point just after the last file location number. Then type in the sector number of the header that was given to you from your check with the file locator. Usually this will be in the form of a 2 place hexadecimal number, just type in the location after the last given one, and you should be finished. Then you select the write sector option. This will write the changed sector on the disk. The same basic procedure can be followed with the DISK FIXER program, with just a change of the keys pressed for the options. Well, now that you have tried to put the file back, put your Disk Manager-II(or I if you have the older version) into the console, and you should see the file back on the disk. The best thing to do now is to copy it to another disk, and then copy it back onto the first disk. This way, the sectors available will be correct. Well, that sounds pretty complicated, but the best way to learn it is to take an old disk, put a short little program out there and try to recover it, that way you will be sure how it is done, in case you ever have to use it. Well good luck and happy programming!

HINTS...

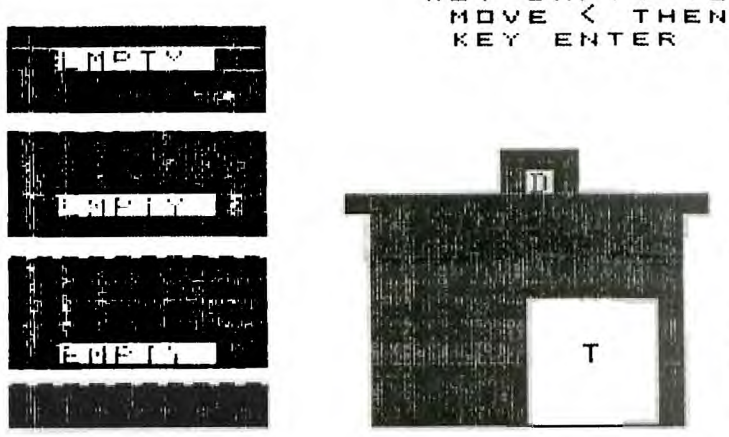
For those of you TI users/owners who have busy schedules and do NOT have the time to read 200 manuals on how computers work, there is hope. The beginner and intermediate level TI "student" has a variety of resources available to him/her via high-quality TV tutorals. Many are on public television.

In the Milwaukee viewing area, there are a several computer shows which show you everything from what's new in the world of hardware/software to how to write a program. Several of these shows are available to everyone, while others can be viewed only by Cable-TV subscribers. I have listed a current schedule of programs below, including the station number that broadcasts it and if it is for a beginner (B) or intermediate (I) level computer owner. I recommend that you use this valuable resource as a tool to develop your skills on the TI.

(Please consult your TV or Cable Guide for the actual viewing times in your location. Some shows are re-broadcast twice or more each week.)

Name of Program	Channel	Level
New Tech Times	10 + 36	B
The New Literacy	36 + WHA(Madison)	I
Making the Most of the Micro	WHA(Mad)	B
The Personal Computer Show	SPN(Satellite Program Network)	B-I
Family Computing	Lifetime Cable Network	B
Bits and Bytes	10 + 36	B
Computer Chronicles	36	I
Educational Computing	36	I

SOFTWARE REVIEW



A REVIEW BY GARY PICHLER

Upon seeing the advertisement for this program, I was skeptical. I did not think anybody had written a program that promised so much and really delivered. When I was offered the chance to review E-FILES, I was not too optimistic, but I was very suprised to find out that it is a very good program for both home and office.

E-FILES is a cardfile database system that allows you to set up your own files to the size you need. With a maximum of 10 fields per card and 200 cards per file, a disk will hold a total of 3 different files. Each field can hold twenty-two characters of information.

Upon loading the program (EXTENDED BASIC REQUIRED),I was amazed to find a very nice picture screen that you uses a < pointer. Simply point to the file or activity that you would like to do--It's very easy to use. From there, you go to submenus that are just as easy to use. This program comes with documentation that is really not needed. On the main screen, the options are: 1) open one of the 3 files , 2) Place a file in the trash (delete) , 3) or go to a new disk for additional files (and names). The trash function is nice if you want to dump one file, and not the others. Other sub-menu options are as follows: SEARCH, SORT, DELETE RECORD, PRINT RECORDS. You can print all the records or by the search option. E-FILES is able to print mailing labels if you set up a file in a label format.

This is a super program and well worth the cost. It is easy to use, and lets you customize the files the way you see fit.

E-FILES/99 IS AVAILABLE FROM:
VMC SOFTWARE
P.O. BOX 326
CAMBRIA HEIGHTS, N.Y. 11411

PRICE OF THE PROGRAM IS $20.95 (DISK ONLY)

PROGRAM LISTING

The following is a listing of a mailing list program for the TI. It is set up for 99 records, (can be modified in DIM statements shown in line 5) depending on whether you have the 32K memory expansion or just the 16K console memory. Because of the nature of this program, you will also need a cassette recorder or disk drive system and a printer.

MAKE SURE YOU TYPE AN Ø AND NOT AN O (Ø HAS LINE IN IT) , AND TYPE IN ALL COMMAS AND SEMI-COLONS EXACTLY AS SHOWN.

```
1 !  TI MAILING LIST
2 !  REQUIRES EXT. BASIC
3 !  STORAGE DEVICE,PRINTER
4 !
5 DIM A$(99),B$(99),C$(99),D$(99),E$(99),F$(99),G$(99):: CALL
 CLEAR :: DISPLAY A
T(2,7):"TI MAILING LIST" :: FOR DELAY=1 TO 500 :: NEXT DELAY
:: CALL CLEAR
6 PRINT "     WHAT IS THE NAME OF":"    YOUR PRINTING DEVICE?
": :"  (EXAMPLE: RS
232.BA=4800.":: : : : : : : : : : : :: INPUT I$
7 J$="       PLEASE WAIT...       WHILE THE PRINTER IS WORKIN
G"
8 CALL CLEAR :: PRINT "        MAIN INDEX": : : : :: PRINT "P
RESS   TO": : : ::
PRINT "  1 = LIST OF NAMES  ":"  2 = SEARCH FOR A NAME";"  3
= ADD NAMES":"  4 =
 CHANGE NAMES"
9 PRINT "  5 = DELETE NAMES":"  6 = ALPHABETIZE LIST":"  7 =
SAVE DATA FILE":"
8 = LOAD DATA FILE" :: PRINT "  9 = PRINT LABELS/LIST":" 10 =
 FINISH SESSION": :
 : :
10 INPUT A :: IF A>10 THEN 10
11 IF A<1 THEN 10
12 CALL CLEAR :: ON A GOSUB 14,19,27,35,54,60,76,77,80,88
13 GOTO 8
14 B=0 :: FOR C=1 TO D :: B=B+1 :: PRINT B$(C),A$(C);C$(C);D$
(C);E$(C);F$(C);"(P
)-";G$(C): : : :: IF B<2 THEN 17
15 PRINT " $PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE$";" $""R"",ENTER FOR MAIN
 INDEX$" :: INPUT H
$ :: IF H$="R" THEN 18
16 B=0
17 NEXT C :: INPUT "       $END OF FILE$         $PRESS ENTER
 TO CONTINUE$":H$
18 RETURN
19 INPUT "LAST NAME? ":K$ :: FOR C=1 TO D :: IF A$(C)<>K$ THE
N 25
20 PRINT : : :"  IS THE PERSON:": :"  ";B$(C);"  ";A$(C): : :
: INPUT "  (Y/N)?";
H$ :: IF H$="N" THEN 25
21 PRINT : : :B$(C),A$(C);C$(C);D$(C);E$(C);F$(C);"(P)-";G$(C
): : : :: INPUT "
 DO YOU WISH TO PRINT      A MAILING LABEL?  (Y/N)":L$ :: IF
L$<>"Y" THEN 23
22 GOSUB 65
23 INPUT "SEARCH MORE NAMES?  (Y/N)":H$ :: IF H$="Y" THEN 19
24 GOTO 26
25 NEXT C :: PRINT : : :"  THE ";K$;"  YOU ARE SEARCHING FOR"
;"  IS NOT IN THIS
FILE.": : : :: GOTO 23
26 RETURN
27 E=D+1 :: FOR C=E TO 45 :: CALL CLEAR :: PRINT : : : :"ENTE
R DATA: ";"#";C;"
(MAX:45)": : : :: PRINT "  $LAST NAME:" :: INPUT A$(C):: PRIN
T :"  $FIRST NAME(S
):" :: INPUT B$(C)
28 PRINT :"  $CHILDREN:";"   NOTE--DO NOT USE COMMAS!" :: INP
UT C$(C):: PRINT :"
  $STREET ADDRESS:" :: INPUT D$(C):: PRINT :"  $CITY/STATE:";
"   NOTE--DO NOT US
E COMMAS" :: INPUT E$(C):: PRINT :"  $ZIP CODE:"
29 INPUT F$(C):: PRINT :"  $PHONE:" :: INPUT G$(C):: F=C :: C
ALL CLEAR :: PRINT
"ENTERED";"#";F: : : :: PRINT "YOU ENTERED:": :"  ";A$(F);", ";
B$(F);"  ";C$(F);"
  ";D$(F);"  ";E$(F)
30 PRINT "  ";F$(F);"  PHONE: ";G$(F): : : : : : : :: INPUT "
CHANGE ANYTHING? (Y
/N)";H$ :: IF H$<>"Y" THEN 32
31 G=D+1 :: CALL CLEAR :: GOSUB 37
32 INPUT "ADD MORE NAMES?  (Y/N)":H$ :: D=D+1 :: IF H$="N" TH
EN 34
33 NEXT C :: INPUT "    $DATA FILE IS FULL$      $PRESS ENTER
 TO CONTINUE$":H$
34 RETURN
35 PRINT " LAST NAME OF THE PERSON    WHOSE DATA IS TO BE CHA
NGED:": : : : :: IN
PUT M$ :: CALL CLEAR :: FOR G=1 TO D+1 :: IF A$(G)=M$ THEN 36
 ELSE 46
36 PRINT "IS THE PERSON:":"  ";B$(G);"  ";A$(G): : :: INPUT "
  (Y/N)?";H$ :: IF
H$="Y" THEN 37 ELSE 46
37 PRINT : : : : : : :"PRESS   TO CHANGE": : :: PRINT "  1 =
LAST NAME";"  2 = F
IRST NAME(S)";"  3 = CHILDREN":"  4 =STREET ADDRESS" :: H=6 :
: N$="  $ENTER THE
NEW DATA:"
38 PRINT "  5 = CITY/STATE";"  6 = ZIP CODE";"  7 = PHONE";"
 8 = NO CHANGE": :
: : : :
39 INPUT A :: CALL CLEAR :: IF A<1 THEN 39
40 IF A>8 THEN 39
41 IF A=8 THEN 44
42 ON A GOSUB 47,48,49,50,51,52,53
43 PRINT : :"MORE CHANGES FOR:";"  ";B$(H);"  ";A$(H): : :: I
NPUT "  (Y/N)?";K$
:: IF K$<>"N" THEN 37
44 PRINT : : :"CHANGE DATA FOR OTHER NAMES?": : : :: INPUT "
 (Y/N)":L$ :: CALL
CLEAR :: IF L$<>"N" THEN 35
45 RETURN
46 NEXT G :: RETURN
47 PRINT "LAST NAME WAS:": :A$(H): : :N$ :: INPUT A$(H):: RET
URN
48 PRINT "FIRST NAME(S) WERE:": :B$(H): : :N$ :: INPUT B$(H):
: RETURN
49 PRINT "CHILDREN WERE:": :C$(H): : :N$ :: INPUT C$(H):: RET
URN
```

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

PROGRAM HELPERS

Here is a short Extended Basic Demo program that gives a TI-programmer the capability to duplicate reverse video characters on your screen (white/black). Apple and Atari computer owners have this function built in their units. You can even bring up a flashing "Apple" type cursor (Line 170). THIS ONLY IS A DEMO, and your exact character numbers would have to be modified according to the text you use.

```
100 !  REVERSE FLASH DEMO
101 !  PROGRAM FOR THE TI
102 !  EXT BASIC ONLY
103 !
104 !
110 CALL SCREEN(2)
120 FOR I=65 TO 90 :: CALL CHARPAT(I,A$):: CALL C
HAR(I+32,A$):: NEXT I
130 CALL CLEAR
140 FOR I=9 TO 12 :: CALL COLOR(I,2,16):: NEXT I
:: FOR I=5 TO 8 :: CALL COLOR(I
,16,2):: NEXT I
150 A$="INVERSE"
160 B$="inverse"
170 DISPLAY AT(11,11):A$ :: FOR I=1 TO 50 :: NEXT
 I :: DISPLAY AT(11,11):B$ :: F
OR I=1 TO 50 :: NEXT I :: GOTO 170
180 END
```

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

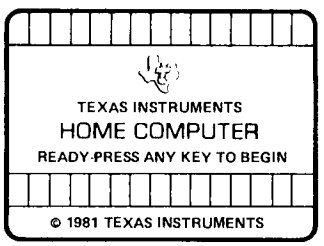
```
50 PRINT "ADDRESS WAS:": :D$(H): : :N$ :: INPUT D$(H):: RETUR
N
51 PRINT "CITY/STATE WAS:": :I(H): : :N$ :: INPUT E$(H):: RET
URN
52 PRINT "ZIP CODE WAS:": :F$(H): : :N$ :: INPUT F$(H):: RETU
RN
53 PRINT "PHONE NUMBER WAS:": :G$(H): : :N$ :: INPUT G$(H)::
RETURN
54 INPUT "LAST NAME? ":H$ :: FOR C=1 TO D :: IF A$(C)<>H$ THE
N 57
55 PRINT : : :"IS THE PERSON:"  ";B$(C);"  ";A$(C): : :: IN
PUT "  (Y/N)?":K$ :
: IF K$<>"Y" THEN 57
56 E=C :: FOR J=E TO D :: A$(J)=A$(J+1):: B$(J)=B$(J+1):: C$(
J)=C$(J+1):: D$(J)=
D$(J+1):: E$(J)=E$(J+1):: F$(J)=F$(J+1):: G$(J)=G$(J+1):: NEX
T J :: D=D-1 :: GOT
O 58
57 NEXT C
58 INPUT "MORE DELETIONS? (Y/N)":H$ :: IF H$="Y" THEN 54
59 RETURN
60 PRINT "       PLEASE WAIT...": : :" THE LIST IS BEING ARRA
NGED": : : : : : :
: : : :: K=1
61 K=2*K :: IF K<=D THEN 61
62 K=INT(K/2):: IF K=0 THEN 70
63 FOR L=1 TO D-K :: M=L
64 C=M+1 :: IF A$(M)=A$(C)THEN 68
65 IF A$(M)<A$(C)THEN 69
66 GOSUB 74 :: M=M-K :: IF M>0 THEN 64
67 GOTO 69
68 GOSUB 71
69 NEXT L :: GOTO 62
70 RETURN
71 IF B$(M)<B$(C)THEN 73
72 GOSUB 74
73 RETURN
74 O$=A$(M):: A$(M)=A$(C):: A$(C)=O$ :: O$=B$(M):: B$(M)=B$(C
):: B$(C)=O$ :: O$=
C$(M):: C$(M)=C$(C):: C$(C)=O$ :: O$=D$(M):: D$(M)=D$(C):: D$
(C)=O$ :: O$=E$(M):
: E$(M)=E$(C):: E$(C)=O$ :: O$=F$(M)
75 F$(M)=F$(C):: F$(C)=O$ :: O$=G$(M):: G$(M)=G$(C):: G$(C)=O
$ :: RETURN
76 GOSUB 79 :: OPEN #1:P$,INTERNAL,OUTPUT,FIXED 150 :: PRINT
#1:D :: FOR C=1 TO
D :: PRINT #1:A$(C),B$(C),C$(C),D$(C),E$(C),F$(C),G$(C):: NEX
T C :: CLOSE #1 ::
RETURN
77 GOSUB 79 :: OPEN #1:P$,INTERNAL,INPUT ,FIXED 150 :: INPUT
#1:D :: FOR C=1 TO
D :: INPUT #1:A$(C),B$(C),C$(C),D$(C),E$(C),F$(C),G$(C):: NEX
T C :: CLOSE #1 ::
CALL CLEAR
78 PRINT "  "&P$: :"  THIS FILE HAS";D;"ENTRIES.": :"  $45 EN
TRIES IS MAXIMUM$":
 : : : : : : : : : :: INPUT " $PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE$":H$
 :: RETURN
79 PRINT "     WHAT IS THE NAME OF":"    YOUR STORAGE DEVICE?
": :"(EXAMPLE:CS1 O
R DSK1.FILE)": : : : : : : : : : : : :: INPUT P$ :: RETURN
80 PRINT "PRESS  TO PRINT": : :"  1     MAILING LABELS": :"
  2     MAILING LIST
": : : : : : : : :
81 INPUT A :: IF A<1 THEN 81
82 IF A>2 THEN 81
83 PRINT : : : : : : : : : : : :J$: : : : : : : : : : :: IF A
<>1 THEN 86
84 FOR C=1 TO D :: GOSUB 85 :: NEXT C :: RETURN
85 OPEN #2:I$ :: PRINT #2:TAB(5);B$(C);" ";A$(C):TAB(5);D$(C)
:TAB(5);E$(C);" ";F
$(C): : : : :: CLOSE #2 :: RETURN
86 FOR C=1 TO D :: GOSUB 87 :: NEXT C :: RETURN
87 OPEN #2:I$ :: PRINT #2:TAB(5);A$(C);", ";B$(C);"      ";C$
(C):TAB(5);D$(C);"
  ";E$(C);" ";F$(C):: PRINT #2:TAB(60);"(P)--";G$(C): : :: CL
OSE #2 :: RETURN
88 INPUT "       DO YOU WISH TO          TERMINATE THIS SESSI
ON?     (Y/N)":H$ :
: CALL CLEAR :: IF H$<>"Y" THEN 8
89 PRINT "     PROGRAM COMPLETED": : : : : : : : : : :: STOP
```

TI BYTES

What exactly is that THING and how did it get here ? Have you any questions concerning just what exactly he or she is doing on that thing ? If not, don't feel bad, we don't care, either. Since the happy event-the arrival of our baby, affectionately known as TI, our household hasn't been the same. There is always pin-feed to change and a keyboard to burp. Then there are cartridges to buy when the others get to be to small. As they get older they start to digest floppy disks and in their later years, they're fed hard copy. In the early years, friends and relatives stop by, to see him do his basics. After a few years, he graduated to extended basic, in which he slowly learned how to be an editor assembler. By this time, he finished and he could talk with his synthesizer and could write using his printer. But he couldn't learn to write without having his third arm, known only as his modem. As you see, our baby has made it out of infancy and made it to the terrible two's! Read about baby TI's continued growth in the next newsletter.

--ALICE AND TRIXIE--

WHERE YOU FIND TI



Hardware

Software

Peripherals

The following information can be used as a guide for the purchase of hardware and or software in the Milwaukee TI 99/4A User Group Area. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD THIS BE CONSIDERED AN ENDORSEMENT OR ADVERTISEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE MERCHANTS MENTIONED, BUT RATHER, THESE LISTINGS ARE ONLY FOR THE CONVENIENCE AND TIME-SAVING BENEFIT OF THE MILWAUKEE AREA 99/4A USERS GROUP MEMBERS.

T.I. Hardware (Consoles,Expansion Systems,Printers,Etc.)----

Competition Computers - 2629 W. National Ave., Milwaukee
(414-672-4010)

Abacus Micro - 7511 W. Oklahoma Ave., Milwaukee
(414-543-1910)

T.I. Cartridge (Module) Software -- Regularly Available-----

Competition Computers - Listed Above

Abacus Micro - Listed Above

Toys R Us - All Three Locations in the Milwaukee Area

Prange Dept. Stores - Sheboygan, Fond Du Lac, Lake Geneva

Third Party Software (Cassette, Disk, and Cartridge)--------

Abacus Micro - listed Above

Competition Computer - Listed Above

USER GROUP NEWS

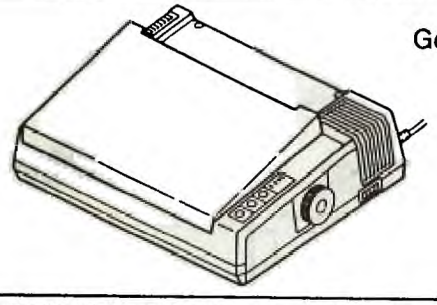
There are currently 141 Milwaukee Area 99/4A Users Group members that have paid 1984 dues. The 1985 dues prices will go up to $10.00 per individual and $15.00 for the family membership. ONLY PAID DUES MEMBERS can receive the newsletter of the User Group - the Milwaukee Home Computer Micro Report, as well as borrow tapes or disks from the Group Library.

Currently, there are 344 programs in the Library for the use of members. These program tapes and disks may be obtained at User Group meetings by means of presentation of a membership card and a small deposit (refundable upon return of the program).

The Milwaukee Area 99/4A User Group dues are maintained in the treasury for printing a newsletter and library upkeep.

As of this newsletter publication date, the treasurer is reporting an account balance of $610.00. The treasury is replenished by annual dues payment and renewals. All paid members receive an annual membership card.

OTHER INFO



The Gemini-10X accommodates paper up to 10 inches wide.

GEMINI 10X - A GREAT TI COMPANION

by Peter Radike

What once seemed a luxury, quickly becomes a necessity. Sound familiar?

A printer can play a very important role in getting true value out of all your TI software. Like it or not,the printed word is still the law of the land.

Record sales and profits by companies such as Epson,Okidata, and Star Micronics indicate that even the computer revolution relies on printed text, reports, etc.

In TI's case, many serial and parallel type printers are available and compatible. This wide selection can actually be a major problem for the TI owner - Which one do you buy?

The answer to that question depends on these factors:

1) How much money can you spend?

2) Do you want letter-quality print, or is dot-matrix speed your priority?

3) Do you need optional capabilities,such as graphics or foreign characters?

4) Can you get reasonably-priced service and repairs on your printer?

After considering these options (and a few minor ones as well), I decided to purchase a Star Micronics Gemini 10X. This is actually a modification of an earlier product from this leading printer-manufacturing company. Rather than give a lengthy explanation, I have included the basic printer specifications below:

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Printer:	Serial impact dot matrix
Print head:	9 wire (user replaceable)
Print speed:	120 CPS (at 10 CPI) bidirectional logic seeking. Graphics mode: unidirectional
Print buffer:	816 bytes (expandable up to 4K or 8K)
Character matrix:	9 x 9 standard with true descenders 18 x 9 emphasized 18 x 18 double strike 6 x 6 block graphics 60 x 72 low-resolution bit-image graphics 120 x 144 high-resolution bit-image graphics 240 x 144 ultra-high-resolution bit-image graphics
Character sets:	96 standard ASCII characters 96 italic characters 64 special characters 32 block graphic characters 96 Downloadable characters (programmable) 88 International characters (selectable)
Character fonts:	Normal (10 CPI) Elite (12 CPI) Condensed (17 CPI) Emphasized Double strike Enlarged (5, 6, 8.5 CPI) Super/subscripts Italic
Special features:	Self-Test Continuous underline Backspace Vertical, horizontal programmable tabs Left and right margin set 7 or 8-bit selectable interface Bit image column scan Perforation skip Downloadable characters (programmable)

In addition, you can get a serial or parallel version of the 10X, with the serial version offering a 4K or 8K buffer for an moderate additional cost.

As you can plainly see, you are getting a great value in this printer (for the retail selling price of $289.00). You get a reliable, well constructed product, with a great capacity to "flex" with your needs (and software). You can even set up your own character and/or graphic sets.

The primary "joys" of owning my Gemini 10X are simple operation and inexpensive upkeep. As an example of the 2nd point, You can get quality replacement ribbons at numerous office supply and computer stores locally for $2.75 or so. As a comparison, an Epson or Panasonic printer "cartridge" ribbon replacement runs about $8.50. If you total the difference up over 5 years, that alone can save you enough to pay for a year's supply of paper. A replacement print head costs only about $40.00, and can be installed in about two minutes.

As a final bonus, our User Group Library contains a menu based program called "PrinterXB" which easily sets up many of the Gemini 10X's printer protocols. This fine program was written my Mike Milde, a member of our Milwaukee Area 99/4A User Group. I use this software with my 10X on a daily basis, INCLUDING FOR THIS NEWSLETTER.