# CEDAR VALLEY 99'ER USER GROUP
# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1988
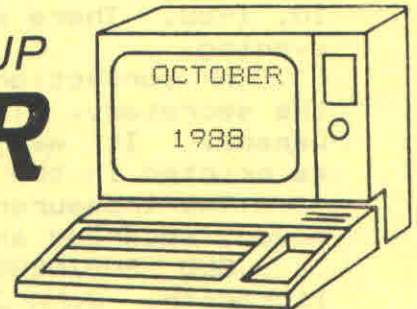
### CEDAR RAPIDS/MARION, IOWA

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### \*\*\*\*NEWSLETTER TOPICS\*\*\*\*

1.   Future Meeting Dates
2.   Next Meeting Notes
3.   Minutes from the Oct. Meeting
4.   The Story of Bittown

### \*\*\*\*FUTURE MEETING DATES\*\*\*\*

Please mark the following dates on
your calendar for future meetings:
NOVEMBER 14, DECEMBER 12, JANUARY 9.

### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*NEXT MEETING\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Don't forget the Chicago TI Faire
coming up November 12, followed by
a similar session in Milwaukee on
Sunday, November 13.  Contact Bruce
Winter if you want to join the car
pool, leaving early on the 12th.

This month's meeting will be held
on November 10 at West Music store,
in the Collins Road Square shopping
center.  Opening is at 6:30 PM.  This
is membership renewal night, and it's
important that you attend! We also
will have our annual buy & sell, so
come looking for bargains! Jim Reiss
will demo Telco and telecommunicating

# *  MINUTES  FROM  THE  OCTOBER  MEETING  *

Following the usual discussion period, the meeting was called to order by President Jerry Canady. It was held at WEST MUSIC on October 10, 1988. There were 14 members present during the course of the evening.

A correction to the minutes from the September meeting was noted by the secretary. The program of that evening was conducted by Jerry Canady. It was moved, seconded and passed that the minutes be accepted as printed in the last NEWSLETTER and as amended.

The treasurer's report was given by treasurer Bruce Winter. It was moved, seconded and passed that we accept the report as read.

OLD BUSINESS 1. The UG has received the services of a new librarian. John Johnson has volunteered to take over in addition to his Education duties. 2. John, wearing his mortar board, announced that he had "no takers" to restart the Assembly Language class at last meeting. He will still be willing to lead the class. It will be up to you as prospective students to contact John to get the class started. 3. The UG is still looking for a power stabilizing transformer for Sr. Pat. Two surfaced last week but they were the wrong size to be useful. 4. Bruce announced that more disks are now available. He is out of labels at this time.

NEW BUSINESS 1. The Chicago TI-FAIRE is Nov 12, 1988 from 9:00AM to 6:00PM. Several in attendance wanted to drive over for the day. Bruce offered the use of his van. At least six signed up with him to go to Chicago. 2. Gary announced that he had marked all of the UG's equipment. A hardware list needs to be made up for future reference. John will make up such a list this next month. The list will be submitted to the secretary. 4. The item that prompted this task was the discovery that the UG does not own an XBASIC module. John might have one to donate to the UG. Many thanks to Bruce who went home to get his for tonight.

DISCUSSION: 1. Printing of MAX-RLE pictures is possible. 2. TI CARES. Bob called for a copy of the TI WRITER Manual. He received it this week. Cost $3.00. 4. As mentioned before and as recommended by Sr. Pat, "The Writers" is available. For more information see her article in the July NEWSLETTER issue. PROGRAM REMINDERS: 1. The November meeting will be our annual membership renewel and swap meet. There also will be a demo of modem computing. 2. Jerry also announced that we will have a demo in December by West Music of their Midi System.

The meeting was adjourned.

Ed continued his demonstration of several disks of programs he recently received. They included a loader, three freeware Games by Terry Staph, and other assorted games.

Submitted by Bill Paeth, Secretary

In addtion to the above transformer, Sister Pat Taylor is looking for a complete computer system for the infirmary where she lives. She has shown the staff so many ways that the TI computer can be helpful that the staff decided to spend some of their funds on a computer for the activities area. This machine will be used by elderly residents who need stimulation. Donations would be welcome, as there are only a few dollars to be spent for a console, expansion box with disk drive, and a monitor. If you know where we can find pieces of a system cheap, please call me. How about some of you other user groups out there! Can anyone help Sister Pat to help her friends? jcg-editor

# THE STORY OF BITTOWN
## by Gary Bishop

1.  Bittown Description: This story is about Bittown, how it conducts
its day to day business, and identifies the major players in the life of
that town.  Most towns have a mayor, but our town is quite corrupt and is
ran by a tyrant I will call the Big Boss.  Bittown has only one street,
with Big Boss determining when and who can travel down it.  The various
business are situated along each side of this street.  The street is only
wide enough for one vehicle at a time, and only a very lightly loaded
vehicle at that.  It seems through poor planning, lack of judgement, or
ignorance, the town's only street can handle a vehicle with no more than
one bag of money.  Big Boss is situated at one end of the street with his
helper, a very dedicated but simple minded traffic controller.  This
traffic controller tells any vehicle on the street which way to go,
either out to a business, or in to the Big Boss.  Remember, the street
will only support one vehicle at a time, and the direction of traffic is
determined for this vehicle.

Well, to conduct his business, Big Boss needs to move his hush money
payments, bribes, and other extortion funds in and out of his businesses.
Being rather crafty, Big Boss doesn't keep much cash on hand, but rather
relies upon the bank he controls to handle most of his money
transactions.  Big Boss is rather suspicious, though, and insists that
all transactions must at least pass through his hands before going to the
bank.

2.  There are four main types of businesses along the street: the
bank, several warehouses, a couple of print shops, and a library.  The
bank holds all of its money in safe deposit boxes, and Big Boss can
simply deposit or withdraw money by telling what box he wants his money
in or out of, and the amount.  The amount cannot excede one full bag of
money, though.  Remember the transportation problem on the street? One of
the Boss' stooges actually handles the transaction, driving the vehicle,
and making sure he has the right deposit box.  The bank has a limited
number of storage boxes, but when Big Boss acquired the bank, he was sure
there were enough boxes available to handle all his transactions.  Now
Big Boss always admired the way the Swiss Banks worked, because the only
thing you needed to deposit and withdraw money was the account number.
He made sure when he acquired this bank, it was set up the same.  He had
all the safe deposit boxes on a wall that could be accessed directly from
the street.  He made sure each box had its number painted on it so you
could see the number from the street.

3.  The warehouses can store and retreive money, but the front door
on them is so small that only one bag of money can pass through it at a
time.  The warehouse can store all kinds of money, but can handle only
one bag of it at once.

4.  The print shops are the source of Big Boss' wealth.  They can
provide any quantity of money that Big Boss needs, but can only supply it
one bag at a time.  One print shop prints blue money, and for a change of
pace, the other one prints yellow money.  You can immediately tell which
shop printed any given dollar by simply looking at its color.  The print
shops only provide a bag of money when asked.  Any other time, they stand
silent, ready to crank up the presses at a moment's notice from Big Boss.

5.    The library is the only place in town that Big Boss doesn't have
under his grimey thumb.  The librarian is a stranger in this town,
occasionally going on trips to scour up something new and fresh for this
dismal excuse of a town.  The library materials are for reference only,
though.  The librarian doesn't trust any of the inhabitants, fearing that
they may be under Big Boss' control, and would not bring materials back,
or deface them to spite the librarian.

6.    Well, all the businesses have an street address so the stooges
can find their way around.  The stooges are only slightly more
intelligent than the traffic director.  At least the stooges get to drive
a vehicle, handle one bag of money at a time, and visit the various
business at the direction of ...you know who.

7.  The street addresses are arranged in the simplest order possible,
so the stooges can handle finding them.  Some businesses are on the north
side, and some are on the south side of the street.  In this case, the
two businesses have the same address, but with the addition of "north" or
"south" are distinguishable.  Mr. Big tells his stooges an address, and
whether it is on the north side of the street, or the sunny south side.
Now we can follow a small portion in the day of the life of the Boss.

8.    The sun pops up from over the eastern horizon, and quickly warms
up head honcho.  After a quick face wash, the next order of business is
to have a bunch of fresh new money printed up for him.  This particular
morning, blue money tickles the Boss' fancy.  He wants two bags of money,
and must inform the traffic director to do it.  The traffic director
beckons a stooge, only having just awakened from a sound sleep.  The
following ensues: director tells stooge that Boss guy wants a bag of blue
money.  Director tells stooge also that stooge may go one way down the
still empty early morning street to street address #1, and it is on the
north side of the street.  That's the address for the blue money print
shop.  Stooge's instructions are to go to the shop, ask for and wait for
a bag of money, and return it.  Stooge, with much haste, drives his
vehicle down the street to the blue print shop, and knocks on the door.
The print shop proprietor arouses, and complies with the order to print
one bag of blue money.  Stooge now has the bag of blue money in his
sweaty palms, and gives fleeting thoughts of skimming just a few measly
clams away from Big Boss for a rainy day.  A shout from the traffic
director disrupts the fantasy, and stooge now has permission to traverse
back up the narrow road.  He is carrying the limit that the poor excuse
of a road can carry, one bag of money.  Off stooge goes, still thinking
of what he could do with all that dough.  Stooge arrves back at the
traffic director, and gives him the bag of blue money.  Stooge is looking
forward to breakfast, but traffic director bluntly tells him, do it all
again! Grumbling all the way, traffic director tells stooge to go down
the pike to the blue print shop again, and obtain another bag of money.
After receiving permission from traffic director, he goes...back to the
blue money printing shop, stomache-a-growling.  That's nothing compared
to the growling the print shop owner makes when he is told he needs
another bag of money so early in the morning. Still, Big-fellow holds
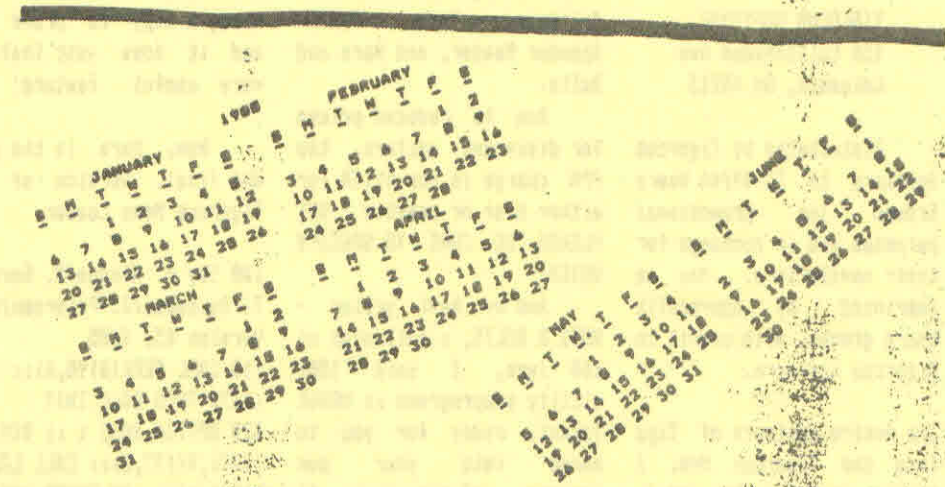the mortgage on this small establishment though, so he reluctantly
complies.

9.    Well, stooge has another bag of money in his slimey paws, and
figures a trip to Hawaii is at least 3 time this much,  so quickly puts

# Dates at a glance with TINY/CAL

Companies that produce calendars have one goal in mind: helping others keep track of days, weeks and months. It's a multi-million dollars business with a market that won't quit. Afterall, just about everyone has need for a calendar, every year.

Richard J. Bailey of Gonic, New Hampshire, is listing a number of programs as Freeware. Among them are several that produce and print calendars for any year from 1776 to 2099. These calendars are printed in a variety of sizes using Epson/TI type printers, including Gemini. The program listed here is called TINYCAL and produces, what else, a tiny calendar.

The program can probably be modified to operate using any dot-matrix printer that includes super/subscript characters. Although it is designed for RS232 operation, users may use parallel printers simply by changing the I/O characteristics in line 280. It is in line 280 that the super/subscript characters are accessed. This line may be used as the basis for "miniaturizing" printer output for many programs, including disk catalog programs.

The program requires Extended BASIC.

## TINYCAL

```
100 !********************
110 !*       TINY       *
120 !*EPSON/TI CALENDER*
130 !*        BY        *
140 !*RICHARD J. BAILEY*
150 !*68A CHURCH STREET*
160 !*GONIC, N.H. 03867*
170 !********************
180 DIM T(12),D(12),MO$(12):
: CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREEN(
2):: FOR I=0 TO 14 :: CALL C
OLOR(I,16,2):: NEXT I
190 FOR I=1 TO 12 :: READ T(
I),D(I),MO$(I):: NEXT I
200 DATA 7,31,JANUARY,30,28,
FEBRUARY,8,31,MARCH,32,30,AP
RIL,9,31,MAY,32,30,JUNE
210 DATA 9,31,JULY,31,31,AUG
UST,6,30,SEPTEMBER,30,31,OCT
OBER,7,30,NOVEMBER,30,31,DEC
EMBER
220 DISPLAY AT(5,14):"TINY":
"      EPSON/T.I. CALENDAR":
"":"":"**THIS PROGRAM WILL P
RINT A":"  CALENDAR FOR ANY
YEAR FROM":"  1776 TO 2099."
230 DISPLAY AT(13,1):"**SET
TOP OF FORM AND ENTER":"   TH
E YEAR AS A FOUR DIGIT":"  N
UMBER    (ex. 1985)   OR":"
JUST ENTER TO EXIT PROGRAM"
240 DISPLAY AT(19,1)BEEP:"**
ENTER CALENDAR YEAR" :: ACCE
PT AT(19,24)SIZE(4)VALIDATE(
DIGIT);Y$
250 IF Y$="" THEN CALL CLEAR
 :: END ELSE Y=VAL(Y$):: IF
Y<1776 OR Y>2099 THEN 240
260 IF INT(Y/4)*4=Y AND NOT(
INT(Y/100)*100=Y AND INT(Y/4
00)*400<>Y)THEN D(2)=29
270 DI=Y-1906+INT((Y-1901)/4
):: D(0)=DI+1-(INT(DI/7)*7)
280 M2=0 :: OPEN #1,"RS232.B
A=2400.DA=8" :: PRINT #1:CHR
$(27);"S";CHR$(1);CHR$(15);C
HR$(27);"3";CHR$(14);TAB(19)
;Y
290 FOR I=1 TO 12 STEP 2 ::
PRINT #1:TAB(T(I));MO$(I);TA
B(T(I+1));MO$(I+1)
300 J,K=1 :: A,M1=D(I-1)+M2
:: B,M2=M1+D(I)
310 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);"3";CH
R$(8);"S M T W T F S
   S M T W T F  S";CHR$(
27);"3";CHR$(14);"- - - - -
- -   - - - - - - -"
320 IF J>D(I)THEN 330 :: IF
A>7 THEN A=A-7 :: GOTO 320 E
LSE PRINT #1:TAB(A*3-2);STR$
(J):: IF A=7 THEN 330 ELSE
A=A+1 :: J=J+1 :: GOTO 320
330 IF K>D(I+1)THEN 340 :: I
F B>7 THEN B=B-7 :: GOTO 330
 ELSE PRINT #1:TAB(21+B*3);S
TR$(K):: IF B=7 THEN 340 EL
SE B=B+1 :: K=K+1 :: GOTO 33
0
340 IF J>D(I)AND K>D(I+1)THE
N 350 ELSE PRINT #1:"" :: A=
A+1 :: B=B+1 :: J=J+1 :: K=K
+1 :: GOTO 320
350 PRINT #1:"" :: NEXT I ::
PRINT #1:"";CHR$(27);"@" ::
CLOSE #1 :: RESTORE :: GOTO
190
```

occupied, take the money on the shelf, put it in the incinerator, dispose
of the old money, and put the new money back on the shelf. I check
serial numbers of all my money, and any money found skimmed from money to
be disposed can be traced!! I will make the life of anyone taking the
afore said monies very unpleasant!" Now stooge knew this could come
about, so he dutifully carried out the tasks. Once the burning and
shelving were complete, we went back outside and awaited Traffic
Director's permission to go back up the street. Alas, several other
vehicles were waiting to move about on the street, and this stooge had to
wait his turn. It seemed like an eternity, thinking if he really did the
right thing by burning the Boss' money. At last, stooge's turn came
around, and he went back to the Director.

15.    Stooge asked Director if what he did was correct, but Director
didn't know. All Director knew how to handle was the traffic, and the
street addresses to send the stooges to. Director said that the boss had
so much money, not to worry. Then the command from the King Pin was to
go and retreive that last bag of money from the warehouse. This seemed
like boss was checking up on the workers, so Director told stooge what to
do. Stooge received permission to go down the street, and did so.
Arriving at the warehouse, he went in, snagged the bag of money from the
shelf, and returned to the door, awaiting Director's permission. Again,
much traffic was backed up awaiting Director's permission. As he stood
there, stooge thought to himself, "What a waste of time, carrying only
one bag of money at a time, and only allowing one vehicle on the road,
and only allowing one direction on the road at a time!" Just as he
started to think about some suggestion to improve the situation, Director
granted permission to return with the bag of money. Off he went, hoping
he did the right thing. When Director delivered the bag of money to
Boss, Boss dutifully went about counting it, and stashing it away in a
dresser drawer in the bedroom. Since stooge didn't hear any loud cursing
or howling, he assumed all was well, and quickly high tailed for home,
lest he be chosen for another assignment.

16.    The day wears on. The sun is directly overhead now, with storm
clouds forming on the horizon. It had been very dry, and some rain would
be welcome. This part of the country is known for its violent weather,
though. A "little" rain would be unlikely. A monsoon or full blown
savage thunderstorm would be the norm. Boss grows weary of watching the
tube, and decides he would like some reading material. He has been
studying Spanish in his spare time, and has exhausted his supply of
magazines. He hollers at Traffic Director to go get a self-teaching
Spanish workbook at the library. Boss saw on TV that this material was
available at the library, and you can mark up the workbook to help in
learning the material.

17.    Director to next stooge: proceed immediately to library, street
address #2, north side, and retrieve a Spanish workbook. Stooge, well
aware of all the rules, waits for Director's permission, which is given
immediately. Down the street with his empty vehicle, while he wonders if
he should hit up the Boss for a raise, or at least mileage for his car.
Arriving at the library, he enters the ornate doors. The librarian likes
this particular stooge, but has great disgust for the Boss. The stooge
makes his request for the workbook, and the librarian must contain his
rage! "Boss will never be allowed to check out anything from this
library! I will not support his reign of crooked businesses and

domineering the town citizenry!" Stooge knows that if he returns empty handed, he could be de-ressed. (You TRON fans should know what that is.) Thinking fast, he pleads with librarian, hoping he can make a dash for the door before librarian can catch him. But alas, stooge plans far enough ahead to realize that once he makes to the street, he must await Director's permission. A last ditch brainstorm hits stooge! "How about if I make a copy of the workbook? That way, you can keep the original intact, and Boss fellow can have a copy to change as he pleases." Librarian thinks about this for a minute. He isn't real tickled to help Boss, he doesn't want to see his friend stooge get into hot water, and besides, librarian gets a cut from the copy machine. "Sounds good to me," the librarian begrudgingly admits. Stooge copies the workbook, and under the watchful eye of librarian, places the original back on the shelf. Copy in tow, stooge heads out the door, awaits at the street for permission, receives it, and heads directly to Traffic Director's quarters.

18. Stooge delivers the copy, Director hands it over to Boss, and Boss, not realizing he has a copy, is happy as a clam with his new workbook. He goes about making entries in his copy, changing things in it where he wants, and states for the world to hear: "Habla Espanol!"

19. Late afternoon, now. Sky is black; clouds-a-churning; storm is imminent. Boss is alarmed by how fast the clouds have approached. He decides to be prepared, he will send off to a fellow crime person in the next county for emergency pumps, water proof money bags, and life boats. These instructions are given to Director. Director is taken aback. He has never seen the address Boss has given him, and such a request was rarely made! However, being the loyal servant, he grabs a stooge, gives him the address, gives him permission to go down the road, and pushes him out the door. Stooge carefully checks all the addresses on the street, and none of the match the one he has in his hand. At the bottom of the address is a footnote in very small 4 point type. He reads it as best he can while driving down the road. It says: "If this order contains an address you can't find in Bittown, proceed out of town as far as the road goes. As you venture out, look at every address along the road, and compare it to this instruction. If it matches, proceed as usual. You must keep going forever until you find a match, regardless of how far you must travel." Mighty unsettling words, especially with the sky menacing. Stooge does as the instruction states, heads out of town, and is never heard from again.

20. No one really knows what happened to this stooge. The townsfolk speculated that he couldn't read the writing, for the address was actually in town somewhere. Others thought the road washed out before stooge found that street address, and was carried away in the torrent of rain that followed. Still others speculated that stooge made an escape to another town, maybe run by a real mayor and regular people instead of a Boss. Rumors ran rampant for a while. After some considerable time, the lost stooge was looked upon with almost folk hero status. But no one really knew for sure.

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