CEDAR VALLEY 99er UG   OCTOBER 1991

CV99 UG IOWA

CEDAR RAPIDS/MARION

NEXT MEETING: 6:30 PM OCT. 8,1991

WEST MUSIC, COLLINS ROAD SQUARE

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

Our meeting got under way right at 6:30 since we had to give up the room at 8:00 this evening. There were eight members in attendance. The treasurer's report was the same as last month, as Bruce did not receive a bank statement in time for the meeting. The minutes for August were approved as written in the last newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. Discussion was on the genealogy program Bob Heiderstadt had last month. 2. Gary Bishop filled us in on his method for quickly printing out our newsletter front page.

NEW BUSINESS: 1. We discussed the plans for a meeting at Sister Pat's in Dubuque. We need to pick a meeting time, probably sometime in November on a Sunday afternoon from 1-3. {Editor's note: see announcement on the back of this newsletter.} 2. John Johnson has the MDOS (disk of summer) finished and it was available at the Sept. meeting and a few copies are still available. 3. The Clearing House is not up and running yet. 4. Gary Bishop has the Nuts Bolts #1 disk for sale. 5. The file cataloger program that prints disk labels and lists type of files is available from the library. 6. John Johnson mentioned the possibility of making up shirts with our TI club logo, with either a heat transfer ribbon or some type of silk screening method.

PROGRAM: The evening program was helping Bob Heiderstadt with his copy of the XB BOOT TRACKING program that was printed in our last newsletter.

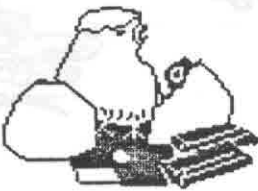Submitted by Bob Wahlstrom, Secretary

SYNOPSIS OF RECENTLY RECEIVED NEWSLETTERS:

Chicago Times, Sept 1991, Prez Sez, Chicago TI Faire comming, Their BBS died- They need files uploaded, Midi Master is addictive (If you can get your hands on one), One year free membership if you rent them your system for Faire, Help sect terminated- See CTIUG, Geneve Article - Legends II, Typwriter , Panasonic KX-P1128 printer, TPA4MDOS, HQSTACKS all good, Don is quitting these articles, Replace PEB power supply transformer.

SNUGLETTER, Southern Nevada Users Group, Aug 91, rcvd 9/27: BBS report of activity, breakdowns, and new files listed, Librarian's report about the future of their club, and changing to a combined TI/PC club, updates on JPH Software.

" Sept 91, rcvd 9/27: president's message about their club's direction and notifying former members that they now support PCs along with the TI, BBS report that new users were hung up on, and that is now fixed, Geneve software updates available, new uploads avail on the BBS, they will discontinue exchanging their newsletter and post it as a file on Delphi instead. {Ed. note: this method of exchange works when your newsletter exists in a form that can be uploaded. Ours is a cut and paste affair, with graphics, drawings on occasion, and schematics. This cannot be easily uploaded. By going to a Delphi-only distribution, you are automatically excluding the newsletters of groups such as ours, and also those that have no members that subscribe to Delphi. Instead of completely eliminating exhanges, I suggest you pare down your list of 70 user groups to a core of 20-30 that you consistently find interesting, and still upload your letter to Delphi.} 9640/PC column about possible subjects and content for the column, secretary's report about amendments to their constitution to include unspecified computers, not just identifying PCs for support, ROS 8.14 ramdisk comments, rewritten history, announcement for TI convention Feb. 15/16, 1992 in Phoenix.

Topics, LA 99ers Sept. 91, rcvd 9/24: President's request for more participation and newsletter articles, RND random number function, Epson is using a 900 number for customer assistance, Mail Merge usage, XBASIC miscellany #3 on tokens, TI supplier listing and support publications, program controlling the CS1 remote from XB.
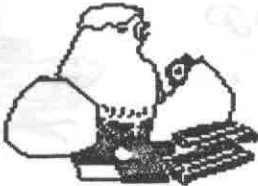
Stationey Maker allows one to print personalized stationey with any instance or font. My experience here is just now developing. I am having fun using it for clever captions for some materials I made for our Sisters that teaches them more about the TI. I like it also to give my Christmas letters a seasonal touch with a personalized greeting. My TI is so busy printing out house materials or residents are using it to learn, I write most letters by hand and do not utilize it in the ordinary way. It prints one line of text in any size font, 3 lines of text follow in any 1 inch size font. It allows placement of graphics to the left, right or both sides of text, ability to print letterhead on top or bottom, have a line or no line to offset it, choice of single or double density, option of printing copies from 1 to 99, and again data is in memory so it does not require the disks remain in the drives.

Signmaker is so exciting. To me, it redefines the meaning of professional. I have liked and enjoyed all kinds of programs, but to able to be use this and turn out quality even though I am not a programmer makes me feel like I have some skill...even though I know it is the programmer's skill and not mine. It too is, of course, written in C99. It can use a large font (any size) and a small one (1-character high), but you can use either of them single or double size which is a real plus in a sign. You may also use 5 graphics and use them in single or double size as well. The double size is important because you want signs to be seen and to catch the eye. There are a dozen lovely borders and a blank. I use the blank border when I want to do two small signs on a single file. The Scan/Delete option is a dream. At any time you can check to see what is on a given line, delete it if necessary and know where you can place the next item. The 5 options for line layout are:

        Graphic only
        Text only
        Graphic(left)/text
        Text/graphic(right)
        Graphic/text/graphic

One has the option to use double size as long as there is room. Again, it does the figuring for you with regard to whether you have enough space. The limitation in this sophisticated program is that we TIers often face, memory, but it neatly manages with two separate programs, PAGE BUILDER and PAGE PRINTER. You build your page, save a sign file to disk, then go to the printer program. There are practical ways to make all this even easier. I put my favorite fonts on the program disk of my back-up as I deleted sample files I no longer need etc. Then I put all my graphics for certain types of

signs on a single disk by category. It eliminates disk swapping since you do not need the font in the drive once it has been loaded in memory, and you need the graphics for the drive to acccess during printing. If I had only one drive, I would arrange it even differently, and as a matter of fact, I have one SIGNMAKER configured for a single drive for the times one drive malfunctions. It remembers the disk drive it was originally in so if you have two drives putting favorite fonts on the program disk allows you to merely hit the space bar to load and you can have many graphics on disk two. The Page Builder part has a neat option called "Restart" which gives options to do that in part or whole. It saves reloading graphics or fonts you may use for another sign. Most of my sign files only take up 9-11 sectors and I have five DS/SD disks of them so I have a lot of experience in usage. It is probably not possible for a non-programmer to describe adequately this great program. It delights me that I can use it so easily.

As if all this were not enough, there is yet another part of the program that is most useful. It is the Utilities section. In that you can determine height of fonts, print out single graphics and font samples. I use the Artist Catalog and keep all my instances and fonts within easy reference, but even so I often want to check out a new graphic I have added, and I indicate the heights of fonts by putting the number in front of the filename. That gives me a better idea of the space involved.

Another practical aspect of all three programs in this package is the fact there are so many graphics available that can be utilized. I mix commercial, non-commercial, Shareware, and public domain. For the types of signs and banners we use here with all the disabilities esp in sight, I find the larger instances in TI-Artist Companions, the MacPaint/MacFlix tradition, and the TI-Slaves' and TIPS public domain all very attractive. We can not only think big, we can print big. The TI world gets bigger and better.

AN UPDATE ON EDIT COMPATABILITY AS WELL AS FORMATTING WITH TI WRITER.

In the January 1991 NEWSLETTER, I discussed being able to EDIT other word processor programs as well as FORMAT them with the TI WRITER. Another accidental discovery has uncovered the fact that my original method was more complicated than need be.

Again by accident, I discovered that the process I outlined, allowing you to EDIT a program that was compatible with the TI WRITER FORMATTER, can be simplified as follows:

When you call up the FILENAME of the program to be EDITED, just add an E before the DSKx.FILENAME command. (E DSKx.FILENAME). TI WRITER will put the program on the screen even tho it isn't a TI WRITER generated file.

What can be simplier than that?

                                    Bob Heiderstadt

                        FOR SALE/WANTED

I have a huge quantity of items for sale. The list is so large, that it would take several pages to list. I will hand out a complete list of items at the next meeting. Also, I will hand out some extra comments/news as gathered by Jim Peterson. -Gary Bishop

                ANNUAL OFFSITE MEETING AT DUBUQUE
PRESENTED BY SISTER PAT TAYLOR
OCT. 19, 1991 10AM-NOON AT MARIAN HALL, 1050 CARMEL DR.

Sister Pat has put together a very interesting program for the meeting in Dubuque. Mike Miksimik will demonstrate his MIDI Master system. He will bring some systems for sale, if you are interested. He will be accompanied by Don Jones, Vice President and Coordinator for the Chicago User Group. Rumor has it that their president, Hal Shanafield, might be able to attend. Our group needs to present a strong presence at this meeting. Car pools are being arranged; contact an officer if you can't attend our next regular meeting to make arrangements. We need to provide Sister Pat a head count. Fall colors should be beautiful at this time, so a sightseeing trip up or down the Mississippi would be a fine reason to take a Saturday drive.

Sorry for the short newsletter this month. Personal conflicts and home remodeling project has caused chaos to reign here this month. Editor.

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE:
OCTOBER 19, 1991, 10AM–NOON
MARIAN HALL, 1050 CARMEL DR.
DUBUQUE, IOWA

MIDI MASTER DEMONSTRATION BY
MIKE MAKSIMIK, CHICAGO UG.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: TUESDAY

OCTOBER 8, 1991 6:30 PM

WEST MUSIC COMPANY
COLLINS RD. SQUARE, MARION
NORTH OF LINDALE MALL

Cedar Valley 99'er Users Group
377 Cambridge Dr. NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

FIRST CLASS

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