

CLEVELAND AREA TI-994/A USER GROUPS NEWSLETTER OCTOBER, 1991

OFFICERS	NORTHCOAST	TI-CHIPS	MEETING DATES
CO-PRESIDENT	BOB KAGY 1-255-2609	MATT ANDEL 676-9759	NORTHCOAST 1:30 P.M. TI-CHIPS 10 A.M.
CO-PRESIDENT		GLENN BERNASEK 238-6335	EUCLIDIAN ROOM N.ROYALTON LIBRARY
TREASURER	FRANK JENKINS 283-8526	LIN SHAW 235-3912	EUCLID SQUARE MALL STATE RD & RT 82
MEMBERSHIP	MARTIN SMOLEY 1-257-1661 6149 BRYSON MENTOR, OH 44060	JOHN PARKEN 331-2830 4172 W. 217TH ST. FAIRVIEW PARK, OH 44126	THIRD SATURDAY THIRD SATURDAY JUNE 15, 1991 JULY 20, 1991
SECRETARY	BERNIE ZUCKERMAN 381-4088	DENNIS LIKENS 842-9627	AUGUST 17, 1991
LIBRARY(DISK)	MARTIN SMOLEY 1-257-1661	HARRY HOFFMAN 631-2354	SEPTEMBER 21, 1991
(TAPE & MODS)	FRANK JENKINS 283-8526	JOHN PARKEN 331-2830	OCTOBER 19, 1991
(HARD COPY)	DICK ALDEN 1-352-9172		NOVEMBER 16, 1991

From the Editor's Desk:

For those of you who have been having problems finding a source for programs from JP Software, the September MICROpendium contains an announcement that Jerry Coffey will be distributing them. JP Software's more prominent programs are PC TRANSFER, MACFLIX, FIRSTBASE, GEN-TRI, and many more. Mr. Coffey will even try to fill back orders if he is provided with cancelled checks and other pertinent documentation. Contact him at 9119 Tetterton Ave., Vienna, VA 22182.

I have printed out part of the DEMO file from the latest version of Newsletter Printer which does an excellent job of showing off its features. Last month I mentioned that there was also an Assembly Language tutor on the disk. Since that time, I have printed out these files. They mean very little to me, but I would highly recommend them to those of you who are into Assembly even though you care nothing about graphics. I printed out these files, and they contain a wealth of information. There are memory maps, DSR error codes, pattern descriptors, VDP register explanations, etc. I don't know how much of this material is original or how much has been compiled from other sources. There are about 25 pages in condensed format that should be invaluable assistance to the Assembly programmer. Anyone out there want to review in depth for us?

I saw in the Pittsburgh newsletter today that ESD has the hard disk controller up and running, and the cost will be \$275.00 for controller and 40mg hard drive combination.

Last Friday's PD had an article in the Editorial section bemoaning the state of computer magazines. It stated that these magazines used to have articles telling

you how to write your own software, tricks for modifying or upgrading your machine (for the hardware hacker as opposed to the software hacker), etc. Now all they do is promote the hardware and software advertised in the magazine. In other words, all the fun has gone. The article also pointed out that the best source for programming and hardware information is the computer user group newsletter. As I look through those we receive on a monthly basis, we are one of the few groups in the TI world that still publishes such articles on a regular basis. I know I used to buy 2 or three computer magazines a month (even if they were for DOS), but I haven't seen any worthwhile articles to entice me for about six months. What a shame!

Speaking of the newsletter, I would really appreciate it if someone would take it off my hands next year. It has been 7 full years, and I mean it when I say I am burned out. As noted above, we are lucky to have regular contributors and can publish original articles about 90% of the time. Think about it, please.

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The September meeting got underway at 1015 after being called to order by President Matt Andel. 17 people were on hand to hear the reading of the minutes from August. Yours truly was back, thanks to Glen for filling in, so the minutes were approved.

TREASURY: Balance of over \$1000.

TAPE, MODULE AND MEMBERSHIPS: John was back and reported our membership stands at 40. He has had lots of people contacting him about the TICHIPS but so far no one has followed through with memberships. John also reported he received a letter from a gentleman in Oklahoma who has LOTS of stuff for the TI. This guy has items that we thought went to that great 99 vault in Texas. This guy used to work for TI so he may have items you're in need of. Contact John for further info.

DISK LIBRARY: Harry has been a busy bee. He has been updating our library with the new numbering scheme and adding new disks. He supplied 10 disks for the drawing that 8 of them have not made it to the library yet. Harry also stated he will keep his eye open for that new hard drive controller rumored to be in production and could show up at the Chicago fair.

DEMOS: Matt once again showed us the power of TI-SORT. A powerful utility that is for TI-BASE (DATA BASE PROGRAM). His demo was used to sort a song/record collection. This program will sort up to 32,000 records at 255 bits each. It has many features to sort your data with and makes a great tool to have if using TI-BASE.

XB: Les showed us with great detail how a XB program from MICROpendium by Mr Machonis called QOBANNER. Unlike most banner programs that uses the ASCII letter when printing out a banner, this little but power packed

program makes the letters solid. The demo worked great with the club's Panasonic printer.

HONORABLE MENTION: Glen wanted to express his appreciation for being a TICHIPS member and stressed one of the most important benefits that come with being a club member. While back, Glen purchased a RAM disk. No docs were available. He was having some problems with a routine to deal with ASCII coding in programs to take advantage of his new setup. He called John Parken and Mark McCauley who have been with TICHIPS for a VERY long time. Between the two, Glen rewrote the code he needed and all is fine with his new system.

MISC: Les Kee recommended that a letter be sent to the authors of FUNNELWEB that the program is mature and needs no further programming cause the more versions that come out, the more utilities are dropped. The latest does seem to favor 80 column people. So after some talk, those who find the system great as is (current version) to stay with that version. Those who find configuring FW easy can add/subtract what they want. The lesson learned here is that a newer version is not always better or easy to use. I found that out with Creative Filing System. So stick with what works best for your needs. The raffle was won by Glen Bernasek, Congrats.

Well, the next two meetings are going to be great. The Oct 19th meeting Oscar Predmetsky will demo a program that will translate English to Hungarian and print out the results or display on the screen (you IBM'ers should be so lucky). Speech? Maybe. So come and see. For you hardware buffs. We will be installing XB in a console during the Nov 16th meeting. We even plan to video tape the whole thing. So don't miss out.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Likens

NORTHCOAST NOTES

We had a good turnout for the September meeting. We have gotten down to almost a 'standard crowd' and with school and holidays over, just about everyone was there.

Harry Hoffman is still copying disks from the Lima meet to be integrated into the library. He will get the copies to Marty and then Bruce or Deanna will get the writeups ready. Copies of the latest Newsletter Printer and funnelweb 4.4 are in Marty's hands and available to members.

Deanna mentioned she had received a request from Dawn Gorsich, 7007 Avon Lake Road, Spencer, OH 44275 for any information we might have regarding hints for solving the INFOCOM adventure games. Matt Andel thought he had the books and would try to pass on the information. Dawn lives too far away to attend a user group and enjoys games. If anyone would like to correspond with her on adventure games, etc., she would welcome the opportunity. Her phone number is (216)667-2796.

Bernie Zuckerman moved us with his program to track his gas and electrical use throughout the year. He devised an "average" use for necessary maintenance and

then devised a formula to determine if the amount over or under was due to weather conditions (hot or cold) or whether he just "frittered" it away. This project may not appeal to all of us (you can't imagine all the statistics involved!), but what it did was give Bernie a real boost because he was able to create the project and solution and learned a lot about his computer and programming at the same time. We should have more of these types of Demos.

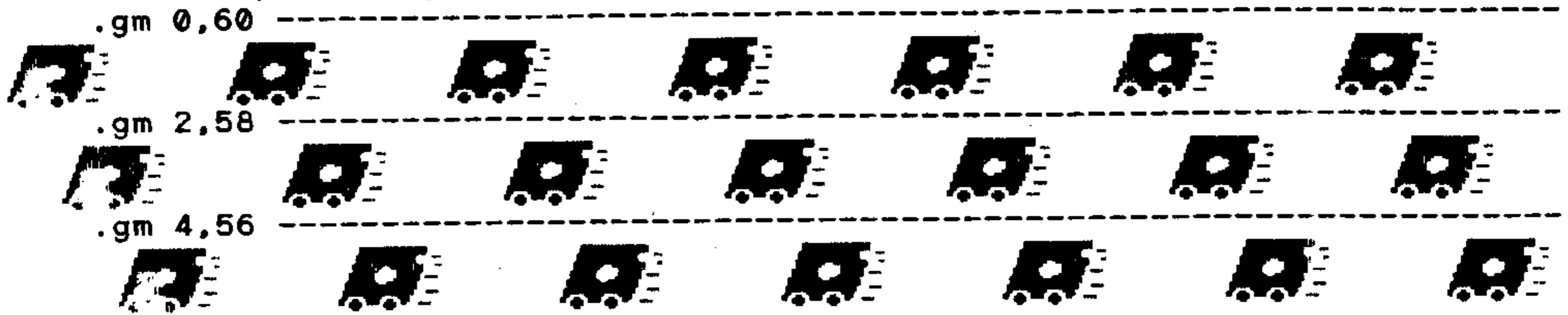
Wes Richardson will give a tutorial on Extended Basic programming next month. He has promised us a wide spectrum and lots of good hints.

Marty Smoley will help us review and/or get started on TI-Base in November. In connection with this, Walt Ryder has written a program to transfer data from TI-BASE to Multiplan and has tentatively promised a demo on that in December.

In January we normally have our annual election of officers. This club practically runs itself, so come on and volunteer and give some of those who have been plugging along for years a rest. Deanna has again expressed a desire to turn over the newsletter to someone else. It has been 7 years, and that is a long time.

FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF THE NEW FEATURES OF NEWSLETTER PRINTER

Graphic margins can be set as below:



This section is printed using .C1 28,40
as a sample of margin setting.

Here is a list of the changes from version 2.0 to version 2.1

.GM: Graphics Margin was added.

.P1, .P2, .C1, .C2: now allow text margin setting.

.LS: Line Spacing, such as .LS2 for double spaced printing.

.BS: BackSpace, to allow odd printing if desired.

.PW: Removed, now margins can be set.

Print filename returned to the editor.

Have fun and good editing and formatting!!!

Written by: Art Gibson
439 W. Rockwood St.
Rockwood, TN 37854
615-354-1931

A COUPLE OF "FOR SALES"

TI with PEB, 1 floppy, color monitor, joysticks, Parallax printer interface and Seikosha GP 550 printer. Contact Don Hunter 216-442-3173

TI with PEB 2 floppy drives, Epson printer with Dots Perfect upgrade, monochrome monitor, lots of software - disk and modules. Contact Dru Weyls 216-234-2115.



- By - Insebot, Inc.
P.O.Box 291610, Ft. Orange, FL 32129

Version 3.01 Tutorial 23.1.1 By *Martin A. Smoley*

NorthCoast 99'ers User Group - July 14, 1991

WHAT A MESS

My wife, who corrects my atrocious spelling and punctuation, said that the last Tutorial was by far the most confusing I had written to date. It's a good thing that the main point of that tutorial was to get you to read the original TI-Base Manual (I think). Because of my wife's comment I am going to attempt to change my approach to this tutorial. I hope it will help.

Once Again

If you need or want a Database (Db), you should start with some information you already have (Name + Address list, etc.) and a pencil and paper. Think about your new Db. Consider the information to be placed in it and what you will do with it afterwards. You don't have to be complete or specific, but just toss some ideas around and jot down notes. I do this for several days before I CREATE a Db. I will CREATE a membership list for the combined but separate clubs of the NorthCoast 99'ers and TI-Chips (sound familiar). The main use of this Db will be for the monthly mailing of the combined club newsletter. The second (important!) use will be to keep track of when each member's dues are due. I'd like to print all my data across one page so I keep in mind that I can print 132 columns in condensed print. Now I take the old list and visually scan it for the longest last name, first name, street address and city. I then add 2 or 3 spaces to the length of the longest item in each category. That will hopefully become the length of my FIELDS. In a DB each complete unit of Data would be a Record. In TI-Base (TIB) each Record can contain 17 FIELDS. So a FIELD might contain a persons last name, the next FIELD might contain that same persons first name, the next could be the street address, the city, etc. All these items (or FIELDS) together would make up one Record. In TIB each Record (REC) is given a number (REC 0001, 0027, etc.) do not confuse Record numbers with FIELD numbers (which you see below).

CLUB91 STRUCTURE

CREATED 07/08/91 CHANGED 07/10/91

FIELD	DESCRIPTOR	TYPE	WIDTH	DEC
1	NM	C	006	
2	LN	C	015	
3	FN	C	015	
4	MI	C	002	
5	NL	N	003	00
6	SA	C	025	
7	CT	C	020	
8	ST	C	002	
9	ZP	C	005	
10	PH	C	012	
11	XP	D	008	
12	GP	C	002	
13	LTS	N	002	00

Now that I've wet your appetite for the first Db, we're not going to do that yet. In the last Tutorial I hit the ground running with a bunch of stuff on Command Files, Printouts and a lot of confusing junk. You should be able to think about our first Db (CLUB91 or whatever) and jot down notes about it while I re-explain TIBs startup. When you put your COPY (not the original) of TIB in drive 1 and select Extended Basic (from the TI power up screen) TI-Base will automatically load and run. After you watch the little load bar crawl across the screen TIB will print MM/DD/YY on the screen and ask you for the date. Enter the date as Month/Day/Year, and don't leave out any zeros or slashes. For example July 10, 1991 would be entered as 07/10/91. The system will use this date and we will want to use it also, so enter it carefully each time you start up TIB. After you enter the date and TIB finishes loading you will be left with a period (the Dot prompt) with the cursor flashing next to it. "That's all!" You must enter all your direct Commands at the Dot prompt (Dp), so get used to it. If you type something at the Dp and press Enter (<E>), TIB will either accept or reject your Command, drop down one line and give you another Dp. The only Commands TIB will accept and act upon are those in the manual, under the conditions given in the manual. Enter a Command TIB doesn't recognize or break a rule and all you get is an error message. "Sounds like about as much fun as dropping a brick on your little toe." Any Command that can be typed and executed at the Dp can also be place together with other Commands in a Command File. A Command File (CF) can then be executed with the Command DO and all the Commands in that CF will be executed. "If you're trying to figure out what the heck I just said, glance through that manual again. The reason I dragged you through all this is because, if you made it to the Dp, TIB has already executed a CF. The CF I'm referring to is SETUP and it's quite important. It contains the information TIB needs to SET itself UP for your system. This means that SETUP can help or hinder you greatly with the use of TIB, so you must put the right information or Commands in the SETUP file.

Original TIB SETUP CF

```
*
*      Welcome to TI-BASE
*      QUIT will terminate TI-BASE
*
* PRINTER EPSON
SET CURSOR 2
DO DSK1.RESET
DISPLAY STATUS
*      FUNCTION (7) for help.
RETURN
```

The printout you see above is of the original SETUP file I received with TIB except for the line that reads DO DSK1.RESET. I added that line, as you will, later, but first we need to CREATE the CF named RESET. Note: If you managed to fight your way through the last Tutorial, with all of the Printout CF stuff, this should be familiar. Let's try to CREATE the RESET CF. But first, another confusing but necessary side track. We need to make some needed room on the TIB disk in drive 1 (or make another copy).

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What I did was copy LOAD, LOADTI, MAIN, MSGS, OVERLAY/P, PRINTER/D, PRINTER/S, SCRNL, SETUP/C, TIBASE and TIBASEB to a newly initialized disk. This is all you need to autoloading TIB and it should give you about 100 free sectors on the disk. You could erase all files other than the ones I just listed, but I feel it's always better to make another copy. Note: Whenever you initialize a disk for use with TIB always verify the sectors. A problem disk can give you big headaches later. While you're at it initialize a couple extra disks for drive 2. Name them something distinct like DAT01, DAT02, etc. and label the jackets so you can identify them. Then put TIB in drive 1 and load it again. If everything went well it's time to make a Command File (CF). At the Dp type MODIFY COMMAND DSK1.RESET and press enter. If later you do a directory of the disk, you will see /C after the RESET. You do not enter these characters. TIB will do that for you. After entering the command TIB will give you a blank screen (with no Dp) and wait for you to type in the command file (CF). "Once again TIB gives you no help." Just type in the file I have listed below as RESET. On the first line start with an asterisk, which signifies a comment line. "Do not type in my heading. The first line you type is the one with the asterisk (*). Type in all the lines as you see them, pressing enter (E), after each line, as in Funnelweb. You will not see a CR at the end of each line because TIB doesn't use CRs in the same way Funnelweb does. If your printer is serial, not parallel, enter RS232.CR.LF in place of the PIO.CR.LF, in my example. This is not the only chance you have to get this right, we can change RESET to do something else, later. After it is all typed in, press Fctn 8 to have TIB save the CF to disk.

MODIFY COMMAND DSK1.RESET <E>

RESET/Command File

```
*      07/11/91      RESET
CLOSE ALL
SET DATDISK=DSK2.
SET PRGDISK=DSK1.
SET PRINTER=PIO.CR.LF
SET PAGE=56
SET HEADING=ON
SET TALK=ON
SET SPACE=01
SET RECNUM=ON
SET LSPACE=256
CLEAR LOCALS
SET CURSOR=02
SET CRLF=ON
SET INVERSE=OFF
CLEAR
RETURN              (Fctn 8)
```

DO DSK1.RESET <E>

After completing all those tasks RESET should be ready to go, so let's see if it will run. At the Dp type DO DSK1.RESET (E). The CF should scroll up the screen and finish with a blank screen except for RETURN and the Dp at the bottom left, and hopefully no error messages. RESET should not do anything noticeable. It's main function is to SET or RESET TIB to your system. If it acts weird or you got an error message, you probably typed something incorrectly. Just go back to MODIFY COMMAND DSK1.RESET to correct your problems. This time through you will not be given a blank screen, but the original RESET will appear for re-editing. The keyboard overlay you received with TIB will be indispensable for CF creation and editing. After you get RESET to run with no apparent problems type DISPLAY STATUS at the Dp. This should cause the TIB current STATUS to scroll up the screen. It should be identical to the printout of RESET, with your changes of course. You can get a printout of the screen by typing SNAP (E) at the bottom of the STATUS screen. If all these things work, you are making good progress. Now type MODIFY COMMAND DSK1.SETUP and when the SETUP file is presented insert a line and add DO DSK1.RESET as you see in my previous printout. I also made three other changes to my SETUP CF. I added "Vr 3.01" after TI-BASE, I changed QUIT will terminate TI-Base to "Type QUIT to terminate" and I changed FUNCTION (7) for help to "(Fctn 7) help not available". "Why?" Because I like to know which version of TIB I am using, you type QUIT to quit, you never never use (Fctn =) or (Fctn QUIT) from the TI keyboard and last, I removed all my help files from disk 1, "That's why!" Now when you, or TIB, run the SETUP file RESET will run automatically. You can also run RESET at the end of other CFs to RESET the system. "OK!" Now that you are totally experienced at CFs let's CREATE that Database.

The Database

In order to CREATE the CLUB91 Db I described earlier, you type CREATE DSK2.CLUB91 (E). TIB will then give you the top two lines of the CLUB91 STRUCTURE printout, with nothing below that. It's your job to fill in the rest. The second line contains FIELD, DESCRIPTOR, TYPE, WIDTH and DEC. These are column headings. As you enter the FIELDS you want, TIB will number each of them in the FIELD column. DESCRIPTOR is where you will enter the name or title of a particular FIELD, for instance LASTNAME (LN) or FIRSTNAME (FN). The TYPE column is where you place one character to tell TIB what TYPE of data it will find in that FIELD. The only choices you have are C, N, D or X for this entry. C denotes (C)haracter and tells TIB that it might find almost anything in that FIELD. If you place an N in this spot TIB will expect (N)umerical data in this FIELD, meaning things it can perform math on (+-.0123456789). If you select D for (D)ate, TIB will expect you to supply a date in the form of MM/DD/YY as I described on startup. The WIDTH would be set at 8, and slashes are automatic (07/14/91). X TYPE FIELDS are for printer control codes and will be converted by TIB to Hexidecimal before transmission. If you don't know exactly what you're doing, DO NOT USE ANY Xs AS FIELD TYPES.

CREATE DSK2.CLUB91 <E>

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- By - **Insebot, Inc.**
P.O.Box 291610, Ft. Orange, FL 32129

Version 3.01 Tutorial 23.1.3 By **Martin A. Smoley**

NorthCoast 99'ers User Group - July 14, 1991

The WIDTH column is where you will tell TIB the maximum number of characters you will be putting in that particular FIELD. You will probably be doing math operations on your (N)umeric FIELDS so add one extra space to each of those TYPEs where TIB can keep track of the signs (+-). The DEC column is for decimal places. Here you enter the number of decimal places from the right (of the total) you want TIB to place the decimal point. This applies to (N)umeric FIELDS only. So type in all the stuff I have listed in the CLUB91 STRUCTURE printout. You will see that pressing enter moves the cursor from item to item. The arrow keys also work for moving back and forth. When the cursor has dropped to line (or FIELD) 14, pressing (Fctn 8) will cause TIB to complete and save the Db. You will then be asked if you would like to enter data now. You can enter (Y) for yes and start entering the information I supplied at the bottom of this page. Note: The CLUB91 printout may look a little off because I still had to chop a few spaces from the Db printout after I brought it into Funnelweb. It wouldn't fit across the page as it was. The names (DESCRIPTORS) I use are normally two characters long. This lets me guess what item I have stored in that FIELD and still remain short enough to type several FIELDnames on one line in a CF. The NM FIELD is a unique number. I created it from the Month that person joined, the persons first initial, the year they joined, their last initial and a number relating to the order in which people joined during that month. All of which is irrelevant, any number will do. Then I have Last Name, First Name, etc. NL is a (N)umeric FIELD which will hold the persons Name Length (NL), and LTS holds a record of the number of letters sent at renewal time to each person.

Data Entry or APPEND Screen

```

NM      _____
LN      _____
FN      _____
MI      _____
NL      _____          000
SA      _____          >
CT      _____
ST      _____
ZP      _____
PH      _____
XP      ___/___/___
GP      _____
LTS     _____          000

```

CLUB91

REC	NM	LN	FN	MI	NL	SA	CT	ST	ZP	PH	XP	GP	LTS
0000	4A83S1	Smithsonian	Arthur		0	1142 Lemon Drive Apt. 246	Los Angeles	CA	91234	303-221-8943	04/00/91	CH	0
0001	2G85A1	Aardvark	Grant	E.	0	9995 State Rt. 84	Geneva	OH	44014	1-465-9876	02/00/92	NC	0
0002	2M83S4	Smoley	Martin	A.	0	6149 Bryson Drive	Mentor	OH	44060	216-257-1661	02/00/92	NC	0
0003	4Q86J2	Jones	Quincy	W.	0	37285 Burgandy Lane	Mentor-on-the-Lake	OH	44060	257-1029	04/00/91	NC	0
0004	9R88W1	Whitman	Slim	A.	0	2574 East 254th St.	Eastlake	OH	44094	951-2345	09/00/91	CH	0
0005	8E84V1	Vivannovitch	Elexxie	I.	0	111 E. 98th St.	Cleveland	OH	49023	541-5415	08/00/91	NC	0

If you're working on your own Db, use any FIELDS you think you will need. You just have to remember to fill in the right names when you whip up the CFs. If you're new at this you should CREATE several Dbs with no purpose in mind, just for the practice. After that, try out the commands, PRINT ALL and DISPLAY ALL, to see how they work. Refer back to the manual frequently for guidance. The entries for DISPLAY are listed below.

```

USE DSK2.CLUB91 <E>
DISPLAY ALL <E>
CLOSE ALL <E>

```

If you have struggled along this far, try typing in the GETLEN CF, listed below. Its purpose is to check the number of non-blank characters in LN and FN. Then it looks to see if MI is blank. If it is blank, TIB adds one to the total for the blank space needed between names. If MI is not blank TIB will add MI's length plus two spaces to the total length which is stored in Name Length (NL). GETLEN will USE CLUB91 and perform this task on each RECORD as it MOVES through the Db. When it reaches the End Of File (EOF), it will DO RESET, which we created earlier to CLOSE ALL Dbs and reset all parameters. If GETLEN runs without any problems, type USE DSK2.CLUB91 <E> and EDIT <E> to check the results, or DISPLAY ALL LN NL <E>. If it didn't work, keep at it, don't give up until you figure out what went wrong. Read the manual!

MODIFY COMMAND DSK2,GETLEN <E>

```

*      07/14/91      GETLEN
CLOSE ALL
USE DSK2.CLUB91
WHILE .NOT. (EOF)
REPLACE NL WITH (LEN(LN)+LEN(FN))
  IF MI = " "
    REPLACE NL WITH NL + 1
  ELSE
    REPLACE NL WITH (NL + LEN(MI) + 2)
ENDIF
MOVE
ENDWHILE
DO DSK1.RESET
RETURN Copyright Martin Smoley 1991
(Fctn 8)

```

DO DSK2.GETLEN <E>

I'll try and continue next month. Good luck. Marty.

I'm REC 0002



Write Letters.



ASGARD NEWS
Asgard Expands

While surprising to some, Asgard has long been administered by one person - the owner. While our product line is the result of the efforts of many, many people, all aspects of management, manufacturing and distribution have over the years been the responsibility of Chris Bobbitt. While this system was fine for a company with a few dozen products, the crush of paperwork and labor needed to maintain over 140 currently available products has been too much. The result have been slow service, and frustration from customers and authors alike. The solution was obvious but required a leap of faith. The responsibility for running Asgard needed to be divided. After years of searching, however, a properly motivated, situated and educated prospect emerged. As of July 1, 1991, Asgard is now run by two people - Chris Bobbitt and Harry Brashear. Harry Brashear was previously a sometimes-controversial MICROpendium columnist, as well as the author of books (computer and otherwise), and several commercial and fairware programs. He has been involved in the TI community for many years as a User Group president and Newsletter Editor, and resident gadfly. His major qualification for the job, however, was the fact that he is the owner of a production oriented firm - a micrographics company based in Western New York. He has over 20 years experience in the economics of manufacturing, and the importance of quality, consistency and timeliness. As such, he was an ideal candidate to take over order fulfillment and manufacturing.

While it is still too early to see how the experiment will turn out, as of the middle of August the time it takes Asgard to fill an order has declined from 3-6 weeks to within a few days from when the order is received. Similarly, the time it takes to process update requests has declined from 8 weeks to 1-3, the time to service software and equipment has declined by the same amount, and the time to answer letters, investigate complaints, and fill catalog requests has declined from as much as 2-3 months to as little as 2-3 weeks.

We hope to maintain, and exceed this level of service in future. We hope that people will be as satisfied with our service as they have generally been with our products and our pricing.

New Hours

If you have a question and would like to reach Asgard Software, the following information is of interest. To place an order or to inquire about the price or availability of a product, please call Asgard at (703)255-3085 between the hours of a- p E.S.T., Monday through Saturday, and 12AM-6PM on Sunday, every day except Christmas and New Years.

If you have a technical question (difficulty with a specific product, etc.), or need specific information about product features, you can call Asgard between 7PM and 10PM on Monday through Friday, or 12AM-6PM on weekends, every day except Christmas and New Years, at

(703)255-3085. If you have a question about the status of an order, you can reach a responsible person by calling (716)778-9104 between the hours of 9AM and 5PM Monday through Friday, and ask for Harry Brashear.

Asgard On-Line?

Currently, Asgard Software maintains accounts on Comuserve (72561,3241), GEnie (C_BOBBITT) and on Delphi (C.BOBBITT). Each service is checked approximately once a week, where questions are answered and requests are read and acted on.

Additionally, Asgard Software maintains special access sections for registered users on both Comuserve's TI Forum and GEnie's TI Roundtable. We are in the process of negotiating for a similar situation on Delphi's TI Net.

At the moment we are exploring the possibility of opening our in-house bulletin-board system to the general public. While currently only for use by our staff and contractors, we would like to offer additional service for our customers - current and potential. Such a BBS would feature special sections for Page Pro 99 users and fairware and public domain add-on utilities, as well as a large general-interest area on graphics, games, etc. Users would also be able to check on orders, read information bulletins, place orders, ask questions, and get up-to-the-minute news and information about Asgard products. It is possible that registered users would even be able to download updates directly as they are made available! The only drawback to a bulletin board is, of course, long-distance access charges.

Before proceeding with our plan, however, we'd like to hear from our readers about whether they are interested in such a service or not. If you would like an Asgard specific BBS, drop us a note with your name, and the password you would like. If we get enough responses we'll make the necessary changes, and give you an account (as well as drop you a postcard to the effect). Send postcards to: Asgard Publishing, P.O. Box 10697, Rockville MD 20849. Thank you!

UPDATES

For an extended list of current versions of products, please refer to Reflections.

Asgard Mouse Software Enhanced!

Asgard Software is pleased to announce Version 2.0 of the Asgard Mouse. Featuring refinements to both the software and the hardware, the Asgard Mouse is more reliable and easier to use than ever before. The changes to the hardware are the most visible. The Asgard Mouse is an IBM compatible serial mouse that has been interfaced to the TI-99/4A and Myarc Geneve. As originally shipped, the mouse included an adaptor cable so that it could be attached to an RS232 card. The mouse we were using as a base has been completely re-styled, and the adaptor cable is now built into the mouse. For those that are interested in using the mouse on a PC as well, the Asgard

Mouse can also be purchased with a separate adaptor cable. The integrated adaptor cable, however, is more reliable - less prone to line breaks and poor connections - than the separate adaptor. The software changes in Version 2.0 are more subtle, but more profound. The software has been completely re-written from scratch, and designed to be friendlier to the user and the programmer. Long-time Asgard Mouse users will immediately notice the lack of a 'setup' utility. This piece of software, that was used to start the mouse when the computer was first powered up, was sometimes unreliable and a cause of confusion. Both the Extended BASIC and the TI-Artist drivers shipped with Version 2.0 automatically set themselves up. TI-Artist and Extended BASIC programs no longer need custom loaders, and the mouse routines can be integrated into programs easier. Additionally, the mouse movement in Extended BASIC and TI-Artist is much more responsive and fluid - the mouse does not require as much desk space to move the pointer from one side of the screen to another. All of the example programs included with version 1.0 have been revised for version 2.0. The complicated menuing system found in version 1.0 has also been scrapped for a more reliable alternative.

Finally, the manual has been fully re-written to reflect all of the changes.

Please note that all of the new software is compatible with both the 'old' and the 'new'-style Asgard Mouse. Also note that all programs designed to work with one will work with the other - current Asgard Mouse owners can update their software with no worries about upgrading hardware and be assured of compatibility.

Current Asgard Mouse owners can upgrade to version 2.0 of the software by returning their mouse disk plus \$7.50 to Asgard Software (shipping included

in the price). We will exchange the old-style Asgard Mouse for one with an integrated adaptor for \$15.00 plus \$3.00 for S&H if returned with the adaptor cable, and if the mouse is in serviceable condition. Note that both the software and the hardware have a lifetime warranty - and will be serviced free of charge if it fails within 90 days of purchase.

The Asgard Mouse includes drivers for use with TI-Artist, and for use in Extended BASIC, as well as all of the hardware needed to attach it to a TD

-99/4A or a Geneve. It requires an RS232 card (please note the kind you have when ordering - IE Corcomp, Myarc, etc.), and a disk system with expanded memory. The suggested retail price of the mouse system is \$49.95 plus \$5.00 S&H. It can be purchased together with our Y.A.P.P. drawing program for 80-

column card/Geneve owners for \$69.95 plus \$5.00 S&H - a \$10 savings over purchasing them separately.

The Asgard Mouse is currently compatible with approximately 6 other programs, but dozens more are under development by Asgard and other vendors. To order an update or a new mouse package, send a check or money order to: Asgard Peripherals, P.O. Box 10697, Rockville, MD 20849. Please allow 1-3 weeks for delivery.

NEW PRODUCTS

The following titles are slated for release in the month of August. For more information about any specific title, or for our many other fine products, send to Asgard Software, P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20849.

NEW GRAPHICS PRODUCTS

Thumbnails

This interesting graphics utility is the ultimate organizing, cataloging and conversion utility for MacPaint pictures.

Of Special interest to users of Page Pro 99, Y.A.P.P. and the Printers Apprentice, Thumbnails gives you access to the tens of thousands of MacPaint pictures available free for the taking on BBSs, networks and user group libraries - a virtually inexhaustible collection of clipart on every subject.

Thumbnails first catalogs your disks and finds all of the MacPaint pictures on them. It then allows you to view and print them singly or in batch, either at full-size or in 'thumbnail' format (reduced to fit in a box on the screen). When printing them in thumbnail format, they are printed 9 to a page, with a box around each and the filename underneath - perfect for creating a reference book for your artwork!

While viewing them either at full-size or in thumbnail form, the pictures can be clipped and saved in either Page Pro or TI-Artist format - great for importing into Page Pro 99 or Y.A.P.P. When viewing at full-size your screen acts as a window on the picture - simply use the arrow keys to move around the picture at whatever rate you choose. Finally, you can organize your MacPaint pics into a simply slideshow for rapid viewing.

Thumbnails is compatible with M-DOS 1.14 and 0.97H - and with the Myarc HFDC and RAM-disks. For printing you will need an Epson or compatible printer, though the printer can be fully customized otherwise. Thumbnails is an M-DOS-native program and only requires a Geneve 9640 and either version of M-DOS listed above.

The suggested retail price of this utility is \$12.95. To order, send a check or money order, plus \$3.00 S&H (Airmail - \$5.00), to Asgard Software, P.O. Box 10306, Rockville MD 20849. Now shipping.

Gofer

If you use Page Pro 99 you are probably familiar with the plethora of utilities and tools available for this program. At last count Asgard Software alone offers over 50 compatible software packages, and they are coming out faster and faster. It is getting harder to separate what you need from what you want.

Gofer is a utility designed to appeal to the 'power user' who uses Page Pro 99 frequently. If you fit into that category, the time saved alone with the utilities in this package will pay for it many times over. Even if you aren't, you may find Gofer to be more convenient and more flexible than the alternatives.

Simply put, Gofer is a collection of miscellaneous Page Pro 99 utilities by Dan Gazy. Written in compiled

c99, this package features complete re-writes of almost all the utilities included with Page Pro 99, plus many other additional little programs designed to let you get work done quicker and more efficiently.

Do you columnize text with the Page Pro Columnizer? The columnizer included with Gofer is around 50 times faster, gives you a much better idea of what kind of results you are going to get, and is loaded with new features. Need to convert art to and from TI-Artist? The conversion utilities allow you to move files between TI-Artist Instance and Page Pro 99 formats with ease - in both directions. Need to modify your Page Pro 99 page files (change picture filenames, for instance)? No problem with Gofer. Gofer also includes a PCX picture converter that will convert pictures created on a PC directly into Page Pro 99 format - while not as popular a format for graphics as MacPaint, there are still thousands of pictures available in PCX format.

Gofer requires Page Pro 99, and is compatible with hard disks and RAM-disks. The suggested retail price is \$12.95. To order send a check or money order, plus \$3.00 S&H (\$5.00 airmail) to Asgard Software, P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20849. Shipping 8/15/91

"ENTERTAINMENT" Starbase Raiders

Have you ever had the burning desire to save the Universe from space-faring nasties? Like avoiding asteroids, and laser fire? Do you enjoy a rousing arcade-style game based on a favorite old classic? Starbase Raiders, based on a game popular on the Atari 2600 (which itself was popular at a time when if you said "Nintendo", people would say "Bless you"), is just the game for you!

This exciting game finds you flitting around the universe at hyperspace, dropping into alien-infested sectors, and blasting away the baddies before they blast you. Re-fuel and repair at friendly space-stations and get back to war. Starbase Raiders is a great shoot-em-up that will get rid of the dust on your joystick in a hurry!

Written by Joe Delekto, Starbase Raiders requires 32K, Extended BASIC or Editor/Assembler, and a disk system. The suggested retail price is \$12.95. To order, send a check or money order, plus \$3.00 S&H (\$5.00 airmail) to Asgard Software, P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20849. Now shipping!

"UTILITIES FOR PROGRAMMERS AND USERS" Mouse Development Package

Finally, after a year of development, Asgard Software is pleased to announce the formal release of the Mouse Development Package! Perfect for the programmer that wants to add mouse support to his/her programs, the MDP contains extensively documented routines, with all source code, for Assembly, c99, Fortran 99/9640 and Extended BASIC programmers. All routines are fully documented in the accompanying manual. Copious examples are included both in the manual and on disk. All source code is highly

commented. High-level routines are included for some languages that make adding mouse support to your programs the matter of a single subroutine call.

As an additional bonus, support routines are provided for reading a 9938 mouse within programs on a TI-99/4A and/or a Geneve. Using the routines in this package, you can create device-independent programs that take advantage of both the Asgard Mouse and the Myarc Mouse, on both the TI-99/4A and the Geneve - true cross-platform compatibility! Finally (the best for last), all of the routines can be used within your own programs without licenses and with no royalties - a complete license is included with the package that allows you to use the software within your own programs at no additional cost to you regardless of how you wish to distribute the programs.

The Mouse Developers Package requires an Asgard Mouse, either Extended BASIC, the Editor/Assembler, or the Fortran 99/9640 or c99 compilers, and the appropriate hardware to run them. The suggested retail price is \$14.95. To order, send a check or money order, plus \$3.00 S&H (\$5.00 Airmail) to Asgard Software, P.O. Box 10306, Rockville MD 20849. Shipping 8/25/91.

LinEditor

Do you ever need to look at REALLY large text files? Do you download large ASCII files from BBSs, write really large programs, or are you working on the Great American Novel? Do you ever run into TI-Writer's infamous "Out of Memory - Please Save"? If you answer to any of these questions is "yes", then you need a program that will let you load and edit a text file larger than what you can fit into the computer's memory. You need LinEditor. Pronounced "Line Editor", LinEditor is the first text editor for the TI-99/4A or the Myarc Geneve 9640 that breaks the "what you can fit into memory" limit. This simple to use program makes viewing and changing big files a breeze. Simply load the file, tell it the filename you want to give the changed version (you never lose your original - perfect for programmers!), and start typing, editing and deleting as you normally would. LinEditor allows you to immediately modify what fits into memory, and automatically loads in the next batch of lines when you are done with the current batch - never losing its place in your text file. Make as many changes as you like - LinEditor will handle them. An all-assembly program, LinEditor is fast and flexible - load from TI-Writer, Editor/Assembler or even Extended BASIC. LinEditor even features a built-in help screen so you'll never forget a command. Finally, LinEditor uses many of the same keys as TI-Writer does for things, so working with both won't mean re-training your fingers.

LinEditor requires a TI-99/4A with expanded memory and a disk system. It is compatible with the HFDC (20Mb text files anyone?) and RAM-disks. By Edwin Hall. Suggested retail \$14.95.

To order send a check or money order, plus \$3.00 S&H (\$5.00 airmail), to Asgard Software, P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20849. Shipping 8/30/91.

"HOME/BUSINESS SOFTWARE"
Video Tracker

Do you tape movies? Does your video-tape collection rival your software collection for shelf-space? Video Tracker, then, is the program for you! This simple to use custom database makes keeping track of your videotapes a lot easier, if not a piece of cake. Enter information into the database about the tape (movies titles, starting counter positions, etc.), and you now have it on file.

Want to know where you stored your copy of "Citizen Kane"? Well, Video Tracker might tell you its on tape number 43. How do you know which tape is 43? Video Tracker produces an attractive label for video tapes with a tape identifier as well as show titles - either using Page Pro 99 compatible graphics or in regular text characters. Video Tracker is easy to use because its designed to only track video tapes - no command files to load, no overwhelming detail - simply load up the program and start typing in information, or press a key and get it out again. No muss, no fuss.

By Larry Tippet, Video Tracker requires expanded memory, Extended BASIC, and a disk system. A printer is recommended. Suggested retail is \$12.95, and it can be order by sending a check or money order plus \$3.00 S&H (\$5.00 Airmail) to Asgard Software, P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20849.

"HOW TO ORDER"

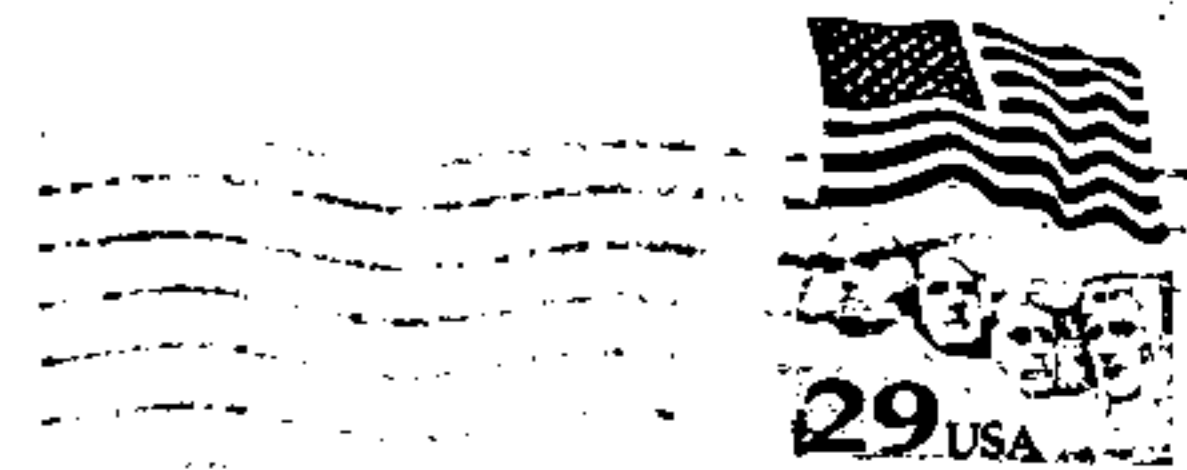
To place an order send a check or money order for the amount stated, plus \$3.00 per ORDER for shipping and handling (\$5.00 for overseas), to Asgard Software, P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20849.

CONCLUSION

If you have any questions or comments, please direct them to:

Asgard Publishing
P.O. Box 10697
Rockville, MD 20849

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