

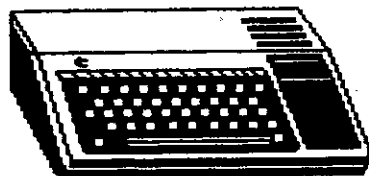
THE FRONT RANGER

- Volume 7 Number 6; March 1990 -

Supporting The TI-99 4/a

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Next Meeting **THURSDAY**
MARCH
- V 4.21 DEMONSTRATION
- PAGE PRO DEMONSTRATION
- EYE WITNESS, FEST WEST - 15 -
at the Rustic Hills Mall

The Newsletter of the
Front Range 99er's
Computer Club

Random thoughts about TI Fest West
By Steve Funkhouser

My thoughts find me in downtown Tucson Arizona. A convention of Texas Instruments 99 4/a computer users has just ended. I have invested much time in this hobby (or is it an addiction) for seven years now. I suppose this speaks of me as well as any thumbnail sketch of me can. I purchased my system after it was announced that they were to be discontinued, and I refuse to give up on it while my talents still have room to develop to this computer's capacity. There is still much to learn.

The convention was a success for me. I take back with me pamphlets, two 1/2 height disk drives (Panasonics for \$49.95 each), J. Peter Hodies program to utilize MacPaint art, many gems of new knowledge, and warm memories of this time and place. I offer the following verbal snapshots from the Fest West Faire.

- * One k (thousand) of memory requires four sectors of space on a floppy disk. That is why my 720 sector DSSD disks hold 160 K of memory.
- * When attending a convention, buy early for the best selections. Many of the best buys were to be had during the first few hours of the Fair.
- * Parsec, the cartridge, is an excellent diagnostic tool for your console. It uses most of the console memory, speech, keyboard scans and joysticks. If parsec works in your console, it is probably functioning at 100 %.
- * Regena (Cherly Whitelaw) represents the quintessential TI user. She is highlighted in each issue of MICROpendium with tips on programing in Basic (not X-Basic mind you). Armed only with basic, she continues to amaze, charm, and challenge the TI world with her programing skills. Regena, may you grace the TI world for many years to come.
- * The Geneve is alive and well. The software support long promised is popping out from every corner and it's impressive. The Geneve is a viable contender for an upgrade into the 90's and beyond. I'm giving it some long hard consideration and so should you.

I had the pleasure of meeting Bill and Suzy Web at Fest West. It's ironic that I was able to acquaint myself with these two strong TI supporters from Denver while 900 miles away in Tucson.

They own and operate "the Orphanage", suppliers for TI 99/4a (both new and used) from their home in Littleton, CO. They had a 99/5 on display (sorry, it's not for sale) as well as a varied and in depth inventory of TI hard and software products. Add these folks to your list of TI resources. We need each other.

A final thought for you. As we left the fair on Saturday, Kevin, Cliff and I were pumped up with the enthusiasm of the day. We stopped at a convenience store to fill the car. The clerk had noticed our badges from the fair, and since he was studying computers, we were a curiosity to him to say the least. We spoke of the 99/4a, telling him of both virtues and limitations when he suddenly exclaimed "32k of memory, my clone has 640K and I'm screaming for more!".

We were somewhat deflated as we walked away, but then something occurred to me. This fellow's solution to his computing problem was to ever expand the hardware of his machine. This kind of thinking is like our governments deficit spending program. When do we stop spending and start using the resources we have. The TI community may not have the fastest, latest, technology. What we do have is a collection of some of the most creative minds I have ever seen. This brain trust is assembled with a common goal of making the 99/4a the best it can be. Bravo TI Community. I am proud to be in your numbers.

For Your Consideration announcements items for sale ect.



TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FEB 1 THRU FEB 28

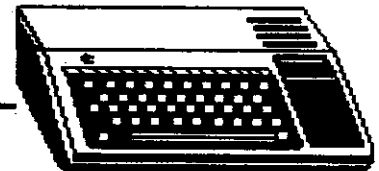
CASH ON HAND, BEGIN	\$2,043.55
CASH RECEIPTS	00.00
CASH AVAILABLE	2,043.55
CASH DISBURSED	(36.30)
CASH ON HAND, END	\$2,007.25

SUBMITTED: KEVIN E. KAPUS, TREASURER

SYSTEM FOR SALE

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32K, DISK DRIVE, MODEM, PIO & RS232
XB, EA, ECT PLUS DISK OF SOFTWARE
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HENRY RUTHER



ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!

WE ARE PLANNING TO ATTENT NEXT MEETING OF THE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN 99ERS IN DENVER ON APRIL 9TH.
THOSE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT:

STEVE FUNKHOUSER
531-0419



Encyclopedia Returns On Library Modem

Taken with permission from:

Colorado Springs Northern Light

Jan 26, 1990

Local children into high-tech will see a helping hand return February 1, 1990. An on-line encyclopedia will return to the Pikes Peak Library District home computer modem system February 1st, after having been removed in August.

The 20-volume Grolier American On-Line Encyclopedia had been a favorite of children, some adults, and many teachers for several years. Students can type in a subject and almost instantly find an encyclopedia reference on their computer screen.

The popular service was removed by Grolier's when company officials discovered about 41 members of the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries (CARL) were using the system under a contract that applied to only the six charter libraries forming CARL.

The company offered to lease the system to the Pikes Peak Library District for \$50,000, plus use fees that could have tacked on another \$50,000 to \$100,000 yearly.

Library district officials have repeatedly said they don't have the capability to monitor usage, nor did they even want to. Officials maintained a steady opposition to charging library patrons for the service.

Negotiations have produced an agreement in which the district will pay \$7,900 a year for the service, with no use charges. To comply with the company's requirement that only registered library users be allowed to access the system, a new "log on" procedure will be required.

When accessing the encyclopedia on the library's "Maggie's Place" computer hookup from anywhere except local libraries, patrons will be asked to type in their ID numbers on the back of their library card.

Then, they will be asked to type in their names. When the computer finds the ID number and name match, then the patrons will be allowed to access the encyclopedia.

Library Systems Officer Tom Mihalic emphasized the new procedures are "strictly a validation process to meet the contract. We're not monitoring how people are using the encyclopedia or who's using it."

"We simply have to require that users are library patrons."

The new contract will allow patrons access to more than 30,000 items in the encyclopedia, which will be updated quarterly.

Mihalic said the encyclopedia available as of February 1st, will be 1.5 years more current than the version being used by patrons until last August.

Now library officials' attention can be directed to a new major project, "Electronic City Hall."

Mihalic said officials are hoping to put many of the basic items involving city hall on the libraries computer modem. Those items would include meeting minutes, agendas, and press releases, he said.

Currently, Colorado Springs city officials offer a modem service to the public that shows press releases.

Mihalic said many officials would like to expand a library city hall service to eventually include city budgets to be perused by the public sitting at their home computers.

EXPANDING YOUR SYSTEM

Adding a disk drive, what to expect and
what to look for.

by John Koloen

I think it is safe to say that anyone who is serious about using his computer should seriously consider acquiring a disk drive.

A disk drive and controller are more important than memory expansions, RAM disks, printers or color monitors. The only piece of equipment that might be more important than a disk controller/disk drive system is a Peripheral Expansion Box, though you can have a disk drive system without a PEB by using a CorComp Micro Expansion System or stand-alone sidecar disk controller.

For the purposes of this article, we'll look at three system variations: a PEB with controller and disk drive; and briefly a MES with a disk drive. The last of these is not recommended, but it is better than relying on a cassette recorder for data storage.

ENTRY LEVEL CASSETTE SYSTEM

Cassette storage of data is an entry level system that allows buyers of the TI console to save and load relatively short BASIC and Extended BASIC programs. It was not designed to utilize memory expansions, assembly language programs or other powerful tools. This isn't a bad arrangement as long as you are satisfied with using cartridge based software. However the best software isn't available on cartridges. In fact, there are devices, which we'll get into in a subsequent installment, that allow you to dump the contents of most cartridges to disk and load and run them without the cartridge.

Anyone who has upgraded from a cassette to a disk system probably remembers the first time he used the disk drive. I know I do. The first time I accessed the drive I knew I was into something completely different and wonderful. It was akin to the feeling I had the first night I took the TI console out of the box and plugged it into a black and white TV on the kitchen table. It was like Christmas to a nine-year-old. Only I wasn't nine. With the addition of a disk system, you are catapulted into a new realm of computing. Suddenly you are able to load and run programs in seconds, operations which took minutes with a cassette recorder. You can load and save these programs by name, too, instead of keeping track of their locations on a tape counter. No longer are you limited to viewing computer operations in a sequential manner. Yes, owning a disk drive system can change your computing life. Now to the details.

DISK CONTROLLERS

Selecting a disk controller is relatively straightforward. If you have a PEB, you'll need a disk controller card. The card fits into the PEB. Disk controller cards have been

manufactured by a number of companies, including Texas Instruments, Myarc Inc. and CorComp Inc.

Disk controllers are used to communicate between the computer CPU and the disk drive. The controller makes it possible to format disks--prepare them to hold data--and to copy, delete, protect or unprotect files and programs. These functions are done through disk manager software which is provided with the disk controller. Each of the three above mentioned controller cards has unique characteristics. Examine the chart below:

DISK CONTROLLER CAPABILITIES

Disk format	CorComp	Myarc	TI
single-sided	Y	Y	Y
double-sided	Y	Y	Y
single-density	Y	Y	Y
double-density	Y	Y	N
quad-density	N	Y*	N
*requires special EPROM			

Density as used here refers to the compactness of the information stored on a disk. A double-density disk holds twice as much data as a single-density disk. Similarly, a double-sided disk holds twice as much data a single-sided disk. See the chart below:

CAPACITY OF DIFFERENT FORMATS

Disk format	Capacity
SSSD	90 kilobytes
DSSD	180 kilobytes
SSDD	180 kilobytes
DSDD	360 kilobytes

You should notice that a double-sided, double-density drive lets you store four times the data as a single-sided, single-density drive. All other things being equal, you'd be better off with a DSDD drive than a SSDD drive.

CONTROLLER DETERMINES FORMAT

However, even if you have a DSDD drive, you may not be able to format DSDD disks. This depends on the capabilities of the disk controller. The TI disk controller, for example, doesn't support double-density formats. Incidentally, although manufacturers label their diskettes as being suitable for double-sided, double density use, they are equally suitable for use as single-sided, single-density formatting.

Both the CorComp and Myarc floppy disk controllers (including the Myarc Hard and Floppy Disk Controller) support single-sided single density through double-sided double-density. Here is a chart showing the formatting

characteristics of the three controllers:

NUMBER OF SECTORS PER FORMAT			
Format	CorComp	Myarc	TI
SSSD	360	360	360
SSDD	720	640	N/A
DSSD	720	640	720
DSDD	1440	1280	N/A

A sector as used here refers to the subsections of a track that holds the stored data. It is the smallest addressable space on disk media. A track consists of a collection of sectors. In the case of the SSSD diskette, there are nine sectors per track and forty tracks for 720 sectors. A DSDD disk would have 18 sectors multiplied by forty tracks for each of its two sides to equal 1440 sectors.

The Myarc controller uses nine sectors for SSSD and eight sectors for another format. It uses eight-sector tracks because Myarc regards eight sectors to be a better format than nine.

The upshot of this is that beyond SSSD, disks formatted on these controllers are not compatible with each other. In other words, a disk formatted using eight sectors per track cannot be read by a controller that looks for nine sectors per track. This is one reason why the bulk of TI software is distributed on SSSD disks to maintain compatibility with all controllers.

Which is better: 8 or 9 sectors per track? I don't think it matters to the majority of users. Some people like CorComp products, others like Myarc, and the rest don't care one way or the other. Both are more flexible than the TI controller. Incidentally, both the CorComp and Myarc floppy controllers will handle up to four floppy disk drives, and the TI will handle up to three.

Once you've decided on a controller, the next step is to obtain a disk drive. This is the easy part. Virtually any 5.25-inch floppy drive that will work on a PC will work on a TI. This means that disk drives meant for Commodore 64 or Atari or Apple computers won't work. But those that are installed in PC clones will. They are available from a variety of sources, including advertisers in this magazine.

Assuming you've got a PEB, you will be installing a drive in the PEB itself. Since the PEB has its own power supply all you will need is the drive. But should you get a full-height drive or should you get a half-height drive?

A full-height drive is twice the width of a half-height drive. The PEB drive slot is designed to accept a full-height drive. However, it will also hold two half-height drives. And two drives are better than one. But, if you try to install two half height drives in the PEB you have to modify the power connector. If you aren't handy around electrical devices, you may want to purchase a kit designed to make this project simple. Tex-Comp sells an installation kit for two half-height drives for \$29.95. Those who are more adventurous or knowledgeable can proceed on their own.

Let's say for now that you want to install a single drive in the PEB. I recommend that whatever you get that it be capable of handling DSDD disks. These drives are available virtually every where since these are the drives that are used in PCs. Even if you use a TI controller card, which can't format DSDD, it can still use the drive for DSDD SSSD. Generally, the DSDD drives are better built than the older DSDD drives.

MAKE SURE YOU'VE GOT CABLES

Once you've got a drive, you'll need to have cables. In most cases, your disk controller card should come with a short ribbon cable to connect a drive to the PEB, a second longer ribbon cable to connect the controller to external drives, and a small wafer board adapter used to connect external drives. (If you buy a used controller, make certain that it includes the two cables, the adapter board and a complete manual. If it doesn't include the cables you will definitely be inconvenienced in obtaining what you need, especially if you don't live in a relatively large city with large electronic supply businesses.)

The short cable is used to connect the internal PEB drive to the disk controller. One end plugs into the disk drive and the other plugs into the controller. A four-pin molex connector is used for connecting the disk drive to the PEB power supply. Once the cables are connected, you seat the drive in its slot and fasten it with machine screws.

External floppy drives (drives that aren't installed in the PEB) require a power supply and disk drive enclosure. You will also need to set some dual inline pins (DIP) according to the manufacturer's instructions. You'll also need the cable and adapter board that comes with the controller card.

The manuals that come with any of the above mentioned controllers are quite thorough about installation procedures, and I won't try to duplicate them here. The MES comes with the CorComp disk controller installed. You plug a cable from the MES to the drive and off you go. However, the drive must have its own enclosure and power supply since the MES doesn't have a power supply. Like the card version of the CorComp controller, the MES version also handles up to four floppies.

DISK DRIVE WITH A SIDECAR CONTROLLER

With a sidecar controller, you are pretty much on your own. TI manufactured these devices prior to developing the PEB. The controller plugs into the right side of the console and disk drive is plugged into the sidecar controller. Like the MES, the drive you use must have its own enclosure and power supply. The TI controller supported only SSSD drives.

Several manufactures produced these types of devices but none has been produced for several years. If you find one, it will probably be used. It is unlikely that you will ever find anyone to support these third-party controllers. I do not recommend them since they could easily prove to be more trouble than they are worth, especially for novices. Those who currently use these devices more than likely purchased them when they were still being produced and could obtain

support from the manufacturer or vendor.

WHAT'S IT GOING TO COST?

You can figure on spending about \$150 for a new floppy disk controller (including cables and manual). Cost of floppy drive without power supply for installation in the PEB will vary depending on whether you go full-height or half-height. For a new full-height, expect to pay \$60 or less, and for a new half-height drive expect to pay \$80 or less.

For external drives, the cost of a full or half-height drive with enclosure and power supply should set you back about \$120.

If I were going to install two drives, I'd give serious considerations to obtaining two half-height drives and an installation kit for the PEB since this would avoid the additional cost to purchase and external enclosure and power supply.

Avoid the temptation of buying the cheapest drive you can find. In most cases, you won't actually be able to examine the drive before purchasing it so either select a well-known brand or buy from a vendor that you are familiar with or who has been in business for years. Established business get established because they satisfy their customers. Prices of used equipment vary considerably. Good places to look for used equipment are classified ads in MICROpendium, local newspapers and other computer publications. However, most other magazines charge so much for classified ads that only commercial dealers can afford them. Also, check out pawn shops, Goodwill stores, flea markets, computer fairs and other places that deal in second hand goods.

The main word of advice I have on purchasing used equipment is to make sure that it works before you pay for it. A used disk drive for \$30 may look like a great bargain. But if it needs to be realigned - a common problem with older drives - it could easily cost you another \$50 to get it to work. Suddenly your \$30 drive costs more than a new one.

You may have noticed that the main article didn't have much to say about Myarc's Hard and Floppy Disk Controller card. That's because this device is in a class by itself, both in terms of price and capabilities.

The device costs about \$250-\$300 and allows you to control up to four floppies and three hard drives on a 99/4a. With the additions of an 80-track EPROM, it can also use quad-density, 3.5-inch drives. Disks formatted on these drives hold up to 720 Kilobytes of data, twice what a DSDD 5.25-inch disk will hold.

I recommend the HFDC to anyone who eventually wants to upgrade to a hard disk system. It is the only hard disk controller available for the TI, other than the Myarc's old Winchester hard disk (reviewed in the March 1985 issue of MICROpendium).

The HFDC was reviewed in the September 1988 issue of MICROpendium.

FOUR-A/TALK

Random ramblings
about things TI.

by Bill Gaskill

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1990

HERE'S TO BOB, JIM AND JACK

WHAT'S HOT:

THE MISSING LINK, MMODEXB, MEMBERSHIP MANAGER, FOUR-A/TALK BACK ISSUES, ROCK RUNNER, MULTI-COLUMN PLUS, PAGE PRO EDITOR/FORMATTER, DAREWARE and EDU-PACK

SO WHAT'S THE DEAL?:

-Right now there are no doubt a few of you scratching your heads, wondering why another Four-A/Talk Column has shown up in your User Group's newsletter, especially after the "farewell" I gave in the December 1989 column. Well, here's why. There hasn't been much feedback one way or the other on the demise of Four-A/Talk, but the feedback that I did get from three very important people has spurred me to sit down (at least one more time) to say thanks to them for their caring and compliments. Bob Demeter, the newsletter editor for the Chicago Times, Jim Peterson of TigerCub Software and Jack Sughrue, of Impact 99/New Age 99 fame are those three people. It is for them and because of them that you are reading this.

DISCOVERIES:

-Remember Steve Karasek, the author of the SuperBasic utilities for Extended Basic programmers that John Koloen reviewed in the February 1989 MICROpendium? Well, Steve, who is or was a member of the St. Louis 99ers, is now writing Federal Income Tax software for Atari, Apple, IBM and Commodore 64/128 machines. I ran into his ad in the February issue of Compute! Magazine on page 127. There was an outfit named SofTech out of Missouri that used to offer Federal Income Tax software for the 99/4A about 5-years ago. Wonder if Steve was part of that deal? Oh well, hope he makes a success of his new (if it is new) venture.

-Bill Warren, who we all know for his PR-Base contribution to the TI community, also wrote an assembly language gem to search a disk for any string of text in a DV/80 file. I don't know how long this program has been around, but I only found out about it 2-weeks ago. Just as many similar applications now exist for the IBM community, the TI community can boast of the same utility. It only works on floppy disks, and only physical drives at that, because I couldn't get it to recognize my Horizon Ram Disk that is configured as DSK3, but does seem to do a pretty credible job.

The program is called TI-Writer Global Disk Search and it runs out of the Editor/Assembler Load and Run (option 3) routine. It will print

out the results of a search for any string of up to 20 characters. It automatically catalogs the desired floppy for only the DV/80 files and then it whizzes through them in search of your text string. Not a bad utility to have around. I got the program from the Texaments BBS at 516-475-6463. If your User Group receives Four-A/Talk from me directly, you will find a copy in the library. The library name is SEARCHTIW.

-Another little PR-Base "goodie" has shown up on GENie (from program author Terrance Murphy's CIS upload), that will convert a PR-Base file to Display/Fixed format so that it can be used in TI-Base. The file is #3667 and is called PRB-DF2/ARK. I heard about it some time ago but had never tried it since I don't use PR-Base. But the information I had, which came compliments of Harry Brashear and Steve Lamberti, related that it did a nice job and would work on PRB files that were up to the 246 byte limit PR-Base imposes. Certainly alot better than my conversion method of printing the PRB file as a compressed print report. Jonathan Leslie, the uploader of the the GENie file, says that it won't work on a Geneve, so 9640 users take note. Since I don't have a Geneve yet, I can't say one way or the other. I do know that Terrance Murphy wrote the program in c99 with some assembly support, and it does run on the 99/4A. Both PRB V2.0 and the Mike Dodd V2.1 modification are supported. If your User Group receives Four-A/Talk from me directly, you will have a copy in your club's library. The library name is PRB2DF.

NEWS:

-TigerCub Software has released a package of 127 assembly language screen fonts that are all useable from Extended Basic. The 471 sectors of code has been dubbed a "DAREWARE" offering, 'cause Jim is daring us to pay for it I guess. As many as 12 different sets of characters can be merged into an XB program. For more information contact the TigerCub at;

TigerCub Software
156 Collingwood Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43213

-As always seems to be the case, a lot is going on in the 99/4A and 9640 community. A look at GENie uploads shows a great deal of Geneve activity going on with Beery Miller announcing 9640 Windows, menuing systems, digitized IFF files and such for the 9640 appearing. On the 4A front, Asgard has released an elementary education module called Edu-Pack by David Bishop. It contains a program to teach the alphabet to smaller children, a keyboard familiarity program similar to the Touch Typing Tutor that TI released, though without any of the statistics on how well you type, and a program called Giving, that is designed to teach kids about cooperation and teamwork.

-Ken Gilliland has released a disk full of TI-Artist P files that print out beer labels. The Fairware offering is called THE BABA BREWERY BEER LABELS and requires either 1 DS/SD disk or 2 SS/SD disks. The labels are suitable for copying or just cutting out and pasting to your own home brewed beer. It includes a set of recipes and brewing instructions. If you are interested you may download GENie file # 3713 or write to Ken directly at;

KEN GILLILAND
7647 MCGROARTY ST.
TUJUNGA, CA. 91042

-Asgard Peripherals, a subsidiary of Asgard Software, has apparently located a source that is still producing the Mechatronics GmbH 80 column display card. According to Chris Bobbitt, the new company has made some substantial improvements to the product and the manual that comes with it, making it not only more efficient and easier to install, but less expensive to produce. Asgard will be selling the card for \$210, which includes shipping. They must have a minimum order to get that price though, so Chris is asking that you send a post card announcing your intentions to purchase one, or send Asgard a post-dated check or credit card number with expiration date.

ASGARD PERIPHERALS
P.O. BOX 10697
ROCKVILLE, MD. 20849
703-255-3085

-On a related topic, it seems that 80-column capability is the new "front" for 99/4A hardware and software creators. Tom Bentley had the foresight to create PR-Editor with the capabilities of 80-column display back in 1988, but not too much else happened until Tony and Will McGovern created an 80-column version of FunnelWeb for the DIJIT AVDP unit and Barry Boone built an EPROM for the Mechatronics card. Those two occurrences seemed to add some credibility to the concept and now it looks as if the idea is really taking off.

-A new all assembly BBS software package has been released by Lloyd Galenzoski, called SmallTalk. It is available on GENie also, file #3646. The program supports Xmodem via Paul Charleton's code work and offers only a single message base. None-the-less, it is one of the easiest BBS packages to use that I have seen to date. Compact and no nonsense. The program is public domain, so I doubt if you would get much support from the author on it, but you could always try. If you wish to write to Lloyd, he may be contacted at;

LLOYD GALENZOSKI
1409 BOURCIER DRIVE
ORLEANS, ONTARIO
CANADA K1E 3K9

-Speaking of telecommunications software, whatever happened to Travis Watford's Omega terminal emulation program? It started out like gang-busters with a host of innovative features and then just sort of disappeared. Too bad. Perhaps we just didn't show Mr. Watford enough support?

-And speaking of Travis Watford? Did you know that he has created a memory resident disk management program called Tshell that allows the Extended Basic user to perform copy, format, rename etcetera functions from the READY prompt? The program is public domain and probably has found its way into most User Group libraries by now. Check it out. If you are an XB user 90% of the time like me, it will prove handy. If you can't find it, try Barry Traver's Genial Traveler. It's on Volume 2, Number 5.

-Canadian programmer Jean Marleau has created a new screen handling utility for XB programmers named Multimode Extended Basic (MMODEXB) that looks interesting. While I have only read a GENie upload on it, the package appears to allow access to the 40 Column text mode and the Multicolor mode that displays 48 rows by 64 columns of color boxes. The program apparently sports some really powerful ACCEPT features and allows access to the character table from 160-256 amongst its many features. The price is \$40.00 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling. You may order a copy from Jeff Guide's Disk Only Software at;

Disk Only Software
P.O. Box 244
Lorton, Va. 22079
800-376-4951

-Bill Harms, of the Pomona Valley User Group in southern California, and author of Class for the Triton/MG SEB module, as well as Fast-Tran, the personal finance tracking program, has created a new way of producing multiple column text for newsletters and the like. It's called Multi-Column Plus. It runs out of an XB and 32K environment and it will produce from 1-9 columns for any application. Bill is asking \$6.50 for this Fairware program. Interested? Contact him by writing to;

BILL HARMS
6527 HAYES CT.
CHINO, CA. 91710

THE MISSING LINK:

-Every time I get the feeling that the TI community is stagnating and people are loosing interest in the old war horse, along comes something that slaps me out of that groggy state of mind and opens my eyes to some new area of interest. Most recently, TI-Base has been that "something" for me, with its powerful features and marvelous custom application generation capabilities. But, while many may feel that they have yet to learn how to use TI-Base in its current version, I am of the opinion that it is sorely in need of an upgrade. The command file programming language needs to be enhanced to keep up with the demands of the programmers who are making it do things and who want to be able to make it do more. But my intent is not to editorialize on TI-Base, rather, it is to tell about the new "something" that has vaulted into the limelight of this new decade, THE MISSING LINK!

The Missing Link is a bit-mapped graphics programming environment for Extended Basic programmers. When I first heard of it, I thought that it would be another 40-Column utilities type package for XB, but was I ever wrong! Harry Wilhelm, the Upstate New York businessman and 99/4A hobbyist who gave us EZ-KEYS and EZ-KEYS PLUS, is the author of this innovative new product. He has had the courage, foresight and assembly language programming expertise to explore uncharted territory in order to produce a product that lets anyone with 32K memory, Extended Basic and a disk drive produce UNBELIEVEABLE programs. Texaments, who markets The Missing Link, offers a demo disk that "shows off" some of the potential of the program. It costs a very reasonable \$3.00 and is a must for anyone who is skeptical about the value of this product. For those who are convinced already, you may purchase The Missing Link for \$24.95 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling from;

TEXAMENTS
53 CENTER ST.
PATCHOGUE, NY. 11772
516-475-3480

Do yourself a favor and pick up the demo at least. The thing is startling. There are some 30 assembly language CALL LINKS that allow an XB program to do things I didn't know an assembly language program could do. Lastly, I read where Dan Eicher of Illinois experienced lock up problems on the Demo using the Triton SEB module. I tried mine and had absolutely NO PROBLEMS. The demo and The Missing Link program itself were 100% compatible with my Triton SEB Extended Basic.

MEMBERSHIP MANAGER:

-Guess I'm going to toot my own horn a little on this one, but here goes anyway. I have created a TI-Base application designed specifically for the guy or gal who gets to maintain the membership roster for those 500 or so User Groups out there in 99er Land. It is called Membership Manager. The program is generic enough to have application for Bridge Clubs, Bowling Leagues, Hobby Clubs and the like too, but again, it was written for computer User Groups. It is a truly relational data base application that creates dual records for each group member from a single input screen. It provides editing capabilities for both files from a single query, it will automatically scan the data base for membership expirations based upon the date entered when TI-Base was first loaded, it will print mailing labels for everyone in the group, a single name or only those folks whose memberships are going to expire. It will allow you to print three different reports and even provides an Index Card report that puts all of a member's info on a 3 X 5 index card. It displays both demographic and detail data on any member from both files, with only one query and much more. The entire package contains fifteen help screens, a ten page manual, on screen prompts and instructions and it is totally menu driven. There is NOTHING that must be done from the dot prompt once you type in DO MENU to boot the program. Because of the limited market potential, I am not going to offer this product through Texaments. If you or your club officers are interested, Membership Manager may be purchased from me, for \$25. A little pricey for the TI community, but it sure takes care of the business of taking care of business for your User Group. Enough said. Membership Manager may be ordered from;

BILL GASKILL
BOX 2642
GRAND JUNCTION, CO. 81502

TI-Base V2.0 or higher is required.

FOUR-A/TALK BACK ISSUES:

-I have put together all of the 1989 Four-A/Talk articles, sans the "This Month In TI History" portions (to keep costs down), in a Page Pro 99 prepared book. It is 66 pages long and spiral bound as it comes from the printer. I only had six of them made, but if enough interest in them is generated I will have more made. The downside is that they cost about \$8.00 to produce and thus would have to sell for about

\$14.00 for me to make \$4.00 on one by the time I paid for the mailer and postage. So that's what I will have to offer them at. If you would like a copy, send me \$14.00 and I will get one off to you within a week to ten days from receipt of your check. Unfortunately, I can't afford to have a 100 or so printed ahead of time. They are just too expensive to print. My mailing address is listed in the paragraph above.

ROCK RUNNER:

-Eric LaFortune, a Belgian teenager, has created a 99/4A version of Boulder Dash, a favorite on Commodore computers, and maybe other computers too. It runs out of the Editor/Assembler module only right now and provides an excellent emulation of the Boulder Dash program. Both of my kids gave it a thumbs up, for whatever that's worth, although they complained about having to go back to the start of the program when they got zonked by the rocks. Looks like a neat piece of software, that apparently takes advantage of some here-to-fore unused area of the TMS9918A's graphics capabilities. Chris Bobbitt calls it the "half-bitmap" mode. The program is available for \$12.95 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling from;

ASGARD SOFTWARE
P.O. BOX 10306
ROCKVILLE, MD. 20849
703-255-3085

PAGE PRO TIPS:

-Have you ever loaded an existing Page Pro 99 page to edit the layout and found that the cursor won't line up with your existing text? This seems especially frequent when dealing with the large fonts. Well I have, and I have discovered the fix for it. I don't understand why this works, but it does. Simply take the cursor past the nearest edge of the page so that it wraps to the opposite side, then bring it back to the font to be edited and you will discover that it is on target. If the cursor matches up with the existing text as far as column alignment, but it ends up a row or so high or low, move it past the top or bottom edges of the page. Not just the current window, but clear off the page. If it aligns properly by row, but not by column, then take it clear off of the left or right side of the page. It has worked every time for me. I'll bet it does for you too.

PAGE PRO 99 EDITOR/FORMATTER:

-Here's another Bill Gaskill creation that you might enjoy using if you are a Page Pro 99 owner. A couple of weeks back I was in the process of creating a program called the Generic Newsletter Editor and Formatter, using Brad Snyder's 40-Column Utilities package. My program allows the user to create a two-column page of printed text for newsletters, complete with double-wide page headers, boldfaced paragraph titles, right justification and it possesses full word processing-like editing capabilities for insert, delete and the like. Well, when it was done, the idea came to mind that it would be a nice tool to do layouts for my Page Pro stuff. So, I went about creating a scaled down version for use with Page Pro.

Page Pro Editor/Formatter creates two 28-character columns for a single page in Page Pro 99. The same insert, delete and justification options exist in it as are found in The Generic Newsletter Editor and Formatter, but without the double-wide and boldface print capabilities. I have uploaded the file to GENie and have also given Chris Bobbitt permission to use it in Page Pro Times. If you can't get a copy, and your User Group receives Four-A/Talk from me directly, it will be in your library under the file name PAGE99FORM.

TRIVIA:

-Remember the fanfare with which Bill and Kathy Hunter (Foundation Computing) introduced their CP/M card for the TI? And how about the hype and anticipation surrounding Morning Star Software's CP/M offering. Both are pretty familiar to most long-time 99ers and both carved themselves a place in our history, despite the lack of acceptance that we greeted them with. But how about the Paradise Convertible? Ever hear of that CP/M unit for the 99/4A? I hadn't until I ran into Norman Spector of Powell, Tennessee. He owns one, and it works!

The Paradise Systems Inc. Convertible pre-dates the Foundation and Morning Star units by about two years, having been commercially available in 1982. While it was not manufactured specifically for the TI-99/4 or 4A, it is fundamentally the same as the units that were. The differences are slight. The TI-specific units were mounted in the PE Box, whereas the Paradise Convertible, which was about the size of a large book (7.25 X 3.75 X 13.5 inches), was cabled to the PE Box. Both communicated via the RS232 port though. The TI-specific units used the PE Box disk drives while the Paradise unit had a built in disk drive and a ram disk that was called a "Virtual Disk" (a term familiar to most anyone who owns an MS-DOS machine). The advantage to the Paradise disk drive(s) was that they didn't have the reading and formatting problems that the TI-specific units had, which required special translations.

One humongous advantage that the Paradise system had over the TI-specific units was the range of CP/M formats that were supported. While the Foundation/Morning Star units were tied to Osborne I/Kaypro, the Paradise Convertible came with the ability to use programs written for the Morrow MicroDecision computer (which was the default format), the Osborne, IBM PC using CP/M-86 disks, and the KayPro.

Internally, the unit had 64K of RAM and 16K of ROM. A 192K 5.25 inch floppy drive was standard, along with the 192K Ram Disk. The ability to add two more mechanical drives as standalones was also built in to the machine.

I have no idea what the Paradise Convertible sold for back then, but I'll bet it would be hard to find one today. Again, thanks to Norman Spector for all of the information.

NORMAN SPECTOR
7729 WIDDLECOMB RD.
POWELL, TENNESSEE 37849

Neat!

THIS MONTH IN TI HISTORY:

-Folks? This issue of Four-A/Talk is SO large that I had to put the TI History stuff in another article. That article is as large as this one is unfortunately. The newsletter editors are going to just hate me! If they don't though, you might see the TI History article in the same newsletter as this issue of Four-A/Talk, or if not, perhaps a future issue of your newsletter. At any rate, I didn't forget the history.

TI FEST WEST TUSCON 1990 by Cliff Swank

The trip to Tuscon was a quickie, over 800 miles down there from here in Colorado Springs. Kevin Kapus, Steve Funkhouser, and I left on Friday night around 6:15 PM. Kevin drove almost all the way down and Steve relieved him for a short while. We made few pit stops and had a fairly uneventful trip. We pulled into Tuscon in time to eat a bite of breakfast and then on to the show. We arrived just after the doors opened and registered in.

I guess I should mention that this was my first Fest West ever. First thing I dropped in my raffle tickets in hopes of winning one of the many prizes which included a Myarc HDFS disk controller card, a color Magnavox monitor, a 1200 baud modem, subscriptions to Micropendium and Asgard news. Guess I wasn't so lucky because I didn't win.

I could try to list all of the VIPs that were in attendance but I am sure I would leave out somebody. I guess what impressed me most was the number of them that were there. It really felt great to see the TI community being able to put on a festival and attract these people from so far away.

The fest was well planned and well supported. I wouldn't guess there were 500 people there but it was busy all day Saturday. There were a few vendors that could not stay both days. I had plenty of time to make it to all the booths.

I was surprised to see Bill and Suzy Webb there from Littleton, they run the Orphanage up in Denver and specialize in TI supplies. They were wheeling and dealing. If you ever need a piece of hardware, they either have it or can get it. Their phone number is (303) 973-6390. They had some items I had never even seen before, like a TI 99/5!

I set in on most of the lectures that were held on Saturday. I was most interested in seeing what Bud Mills might have up his sleeve for new hardware. Not too much new but I did purchase a new ROS version 8.0 for my Horizon ramdisk. It has a lot of new features. Can't wait to get it loaded up and configured. Actually he only had available ver. 7.8 and will send me the new disk and manual. I will keep you posted on it.

The three of us Front Rangers made some new ties with the Rocky Mountain 99ers and hope to get something going with them. Who knows, we might try our hand at a joint venture TI fair one day. Denver would be a good central location for a lot of people.

The fest was well worth the trip and I would do it again. Wish we could have stayed the whole weekend and socialized more. It was great!

McCann Software proudly announces: The Printer's Apprentice

(MDOS Version 1.3)

The Printer's Apprentice for MDOS is a whole new version of TPA especially created to take advantage of the exciting features of the Geneve 9640 by Myarc. TPA for MDOS runs right from MDOS. Version 1.3 includes support for Myarc's HFDC hard and floppy disk controller and Myarc's mouse for the Geneve. The original of this page was created by Richard Hurlbut president of the Omaha 99/4A UG using TPA for MDOS. The whole page is contained in Geneve's memory and the speed of Geneve's 9938 VDP lets you window around and view the whole page in memory. Not only does TPA for MDOS have text capabilities but many many drawing features to illustrate and highlight your pages.

Text

- Easy columnization.
- Easy to move text around.
- Easy to center or justify.
- Easy to correct errors.

Vflip D
A1J1b ACROSS
Hflip|qil1H W
N

Output

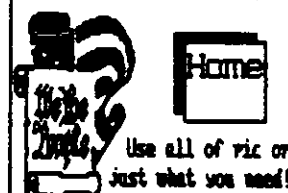
Use Epson or Gemini-10x
Single, Double, or Quad Bins.
Print to Printer or External
Print all or part of page
Print normally or extra dark
Portrait or Landscape option
Kins Size or Regular Size
Modify pixel shape, too!
BIG PAGE=2 PAGES QUAD BINS!

Fonts

5 Fonts included on disk:
Standard - entloads
Chara+ - +=patterns!
Courier - Great!
Typer - BOLDER!
Bauhaus!
Compatible non-TPA fonts are:
TI-Artist and CHROM files

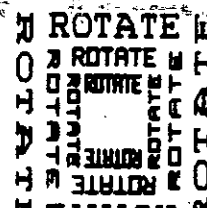
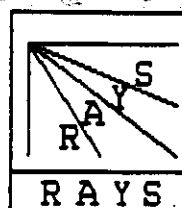
Clipart

Use TPA or TI-Artist Pics
TI-Artist Instances too!

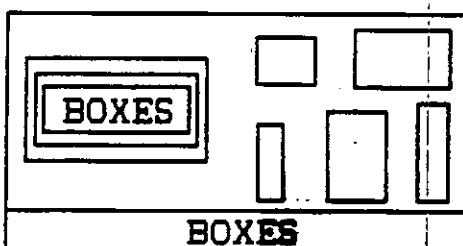
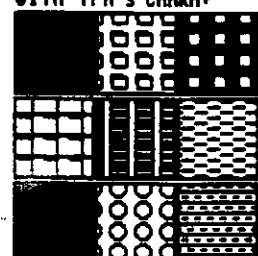


Other:

Proven 100% memory resident!
WYSIWYG
Jotter- Built-in Text Editor
Easy
Just type TPA from MDOS and so
FUN!
If it's not fun, why do it?

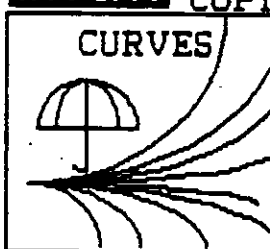


THESE ARE SOME
THE 64 FILL PATTERNS
THAT ARE AVAILABLE
WITH TPA'S CHARA+



IDENTIFY
for
line
label
lines
such as
intricate
outlines.

Page
creation
software
takes a
whole new
turn with
McCann
Software's
introduction
of The
Printer's
Apprentice
for MDOS on
the Geneve
by Myarc.



This page was produced in its entirety using The Printer's Apprentice!
Required: Geneve 9640, MDOS 1.14, Epson or Gemini-10X Dot Matrix Printer

Ordering Information

Available Now!
To order, please
send \$22.50 to:

McCann Software
P.O. Box 34160
Omaha, NE 68134

McCann Software Products

TI-Forth for MDOS	\$15.00
The Geometer's Apprentice (TGA)	\$39.95
The Printer's Apprentice (TPA)	\$22.50
TPA Toolbox	\$22.50
TPA Fonts Disk I	\$11.50
TPA Fonts Disk II	\$11.50
Business Graphs 99	\$15.95

tpa

Shipped upon receipt of your check or money order.

~~~~~  
W-AGE/99 \* NEW-AGE/  
99 \* NEW-AGE/99 \* N  
EW-AGE/99 \* NEW-AGE  
/99 \* NEW-AGE/99 \*  
~~~~~

* by JACK SUGHRUE, Box 459, East Douglas, MA-01516 *

#2

There's a new (I think) company making software for the TI: Arcade Action, Program Innovators, 4122 Glenway, Wawatosa, WI 53222

They have a nice version of TETRIS. They also have the usual space shoot 'ems. They have a program called Snowmobile which is yet another version of the Regena-style skiing/river-travel maneuvering. And they have a bunch of other stuff, all of which is detailed in their free catalog.

But what they have that is WONDERFUL and a true first for the TI Community is a superb cribbage game!

It's perfect in the sense that it is completely playable. It is reasonably fast. It is intelligent and colorful and extremely well designed and in Extended Basic for people who like to add their own little touches, though you won't need to add little touches to this game at all. The unknown author even offers simple suggestions for reducing 11 of its 60 sectors.

There have never been any good, playable TI cribbage games, but this game, called CUTTHROAT CRIBBAGE, is something else entirely. This game not only lets you play against an intelligent computer but allows some interesting inputs. During the game, for example, if you wish to question the computer's judgment (or would like to test out some odd card combos) you simply type "C" for Count Check at the end of a hand (instead of the default "P" for continuing Play). You may then set up a hand, including play card. The computer will score it, explaining each detail. For example, you must type each card with the pip value first and the suit (S,H,D,C) second. A Five of Hearts would be 5H; a Queen of Clubs, QC; an Ace of Diamonds, AD. You get the picture. So take a hand like 5H, JD, 5S, 5C, with the play card the 5D. Any cribbage players recognize the Grand Hand when they see it and know it equals 29, the highest score in cribbage. The computer will tell you this when you type in that hand. It will also break down all of the patterns by individual scores (15s, Quadruplets, His Nobs) to show you exactly how the hand is scored. You can create any legitimate hand you'd like for detailed analysis by the computer. This is a superb help feature, particularly for the novice. The pro will have a good time with this game, too.

On-screen graphics are equal to the best I've seen for ANY card game. The board on the right side runs hand totals to their new mark before filling in the peg area up to that point. There are three rows of 40 instead of the up-down 30/30 of normal cribbage boards; more like the continuous steeplechase boards which are becoming popular.

But what kind of game does it play? It is a very good opponent that knows the rules perfectly. And you better not make an error in scoring or it will call "Muggins" on you and take the points; thus, the name "Cutthroat".

The only cheating I was able to do (and get away with) was to call a Go after a 23 when I had a three left in my hand. I got a point for last card at 23. The computer called Go. I returned Go, though I could

have played. It played a four; I played my three and got another point I certainly did not deserve. But I assume the author did not anticipate sneaky little buggers like myself trying to sleaze through a game instead of playing properly.

Except for the ability to cheat at the Go and the inability (on the computer's part) to note a Skunk or Lurch, this is a fantastic game in every way. **NEW-AGE/99** rates this an A+! It is user-friendly; it is fast (though giving you time to make your crib-throw decisions); it is nice to look at; it is cheap (\$7 gets you this and a couple other programs thrown in; \$10 gets you twice as many games, including AA's TETRIS). The playing field is great. Your six cards are dealt at the bottom of the screen nearest you; the computer's opposite near the top. As you discard by pressing C,D,E,F,G, or H (letters assigned to your cards), the crib will be placed near your cards if you dealt or near the computer's if it dealt. You always know whose crib it is. The play is done card by card in the area between you and your opponent. Just like the real thing. Play scores (15, Run, Go, 31, Pairs, etc.) are all announced and scored during play. In addition to the multi-colored pegging "board" on the right, individual totals are kept in boxes next to each player. There is never a moment of confusion in this game.

At the conclusion of play, the hands and crib are spread out for analysis before scoring. Bear in mind that the computer's scoring is never wrong. All combos are sitting quietly in data statements just waiting for you to score incorrectly. If you do, you get zapped. You can never perform "Muggins" on the machine, but sometimes its play isn't as sharp as your own under some odd play moments. It isn't as wise as some of the best cribbage players I've ever played. (My father, for instance, or my daughter Sue. Or an old Army buddy, Emil, from my day in Germany.) On the whole, though, Cutthroat is a worthy opponent, and as cribbage cannot be played over the phone or by mail the way chess can, this is the next best thing to a human opponent. In some ways, better. It is 3:30 AM right now. I woke and danced The Insomniac's Waltz before settling at my computer. I popped on cribbage. Won two games. Felt good. Decided to write this column, which had been back-burnered for a couple weeks. Who else could I have gotten to play cribbage after 3 AM? And accept defeat so graciously?

Hey! Wait a minute! What if you don't play cribbage? Well, for one thing, you must have had a deprived childhood (and continually deprived adulthood) as cribbage is such fun! It's one of the few card games whose origins are known. It was created by the English gambler, soldier, poet (Why so pale and wan, fair lover? Prithee, why so pale?) Sir John Suckling (1609-1642). It's come down to us across the centuries virtually unchanged. The English still play the 5-card version, the Americans play the 6 (a variation of this century that caught on permanently in spite of considerable criticism by purists).

Anyway, if you don't play, get someone to teach you or get a Hoyle's and, with Cutthroat in front of you, teach yourself. This game makes it easy, particularly with the option of creating any hands you want to learn to score.

My fifth-grade students play it constantly and are even beginning to beat it almost as often as it beats them. Great learning tool.

Finally, at game's end, there is no gloating. The screen fills with "YOUR VICTORY" or "MY VICTORY" without the obnoxious toots, plunks, and burps that usually accompany such announcements. Very professional.

Now for those times when the urge of the cribbage addict comes upon you and no one is around to play, just pop a Foster's, turn on your friendly II, and go to it.

(If you use NEW-AGE/99 please put so on your exchange list.)

TI-BASE - From INSCEBOT
TUTORIAL 10.1.2 By Martin Smoley
NorthCoast 99'ers - June 17, 1989
Copyright 1989 By Martin A. Smoley

After you become familiar with their basic functions you do some interesting things with Date type fields, but you must be careful to remember what you have put in a field and what its position is. For example, REPLACE DATE WITH "Ma/r/t/in" will place the character string Ma/r/t/in into DATE. You could store Ma/r/t/in in a DB and retrieve it later. However, TIB will recognize these as Characters and will not allow you to do anything with them. If you could multiply Ma by 2.2, I can't imagine what the result might be. But on the other hand, TIB seems to be able to recognize numbers which have been entered as characters and then place them into a date type field. I have attempted to show the different aspects of this theory in TDT5 and TDT6. Notice that DATEC is a character variable (006). I then placed "12345.78" into DATEC as a character string (012). The reason I did it in this manner was to make sure that TIB considered 12345.78 to be characters at this point, even though it looks like a number. I then transferred DATEC to DATE (013). DATE is a D or Date type field (005). I was then able to do any Date type function involving DATE, including multiplication of its parts (019), or multiplication by a constant, or LITERAL, (020). Then I went through the same steps using a numeric (N) type field. Notice in line # 24 that TMP (004) is a numeric field and that 77.77 has no quotes around it. I am attempting to guarantee that 77.77 is a number. Then I placed TMP into DATE (026) and performed the Date type functions on 77.77. Reason I added the zeros was to demonstrate what I said previously, that you need to remember the exact position of the data in a field if you expect to use it in this manner. TMP has a width of 8 (004). This means it would fit right into a Date type field. When I added the "00", I moved the spacing to put "7." in the year portion of DATE. Check the " / / " spacing to see where the slashes are located. This means, when YR is multiplied by 100 (032), TIB is multiplying 7 by 100. If you work with this idea, understand it and are very careful, you could use the date type field to extract specific parts of a number. A very simple demonstration of this would be to place a dollar and cents type number into a date field with the cents portion in the year segment of the date field. You could then use REPLACE CENTS WITH YR(DATE) to extract the cents, if that's what you need. Then REPLACE dollars WITH dollars - CENTS would give you the whole dollar amount. I realize that in most cases this idea is too cumbersome to use, but if there is an instance when no other procedure will work, this idea just might do the trick.

SORT BY INSCEBOT

I don't know if SORT is the name that will be used, but sort is what it does. I am currently testing this new sort program from those TI-Base guys and it looks great. It will sort TI-Base files, Fix file, Var files and hopefully soon Basic display files. I've tried it on TIB files and it's real fast and easy to use. It should be available soon as a separate disk for under \$15.00 (I think). The fact that it works on many different file types will make it a very useful program.

001 CLEAR
 002 CLOSE ALL
 003 CLEAR LOCAL
 004 LOCAL TMP N 8 2
 005 LOCAL DATE D 8
 006 LOCAL DATEC C 8
 007 LOCAL MO N 3
 008 LOCAL DY N 3
 009 LOCAL YR N 3
 010 LOCAL TEST N 12 2
 011 *****
 012 REPLACE DATEC WITH "12345.78"
 013 REPLACE DATE WITH DATEC
 014 DISPLAY DATE,TMP,DATEC

REC	DATE	TMP	DATEC
0000	12345.78		12345.78

015 REPLACE MO WITH MONTH(DATE)
 016 REPLACE DY WITH DAY(DATE)
 017 REPLACE YR WITH YEAR(DATE)
 018 DISPLAY DATE,MO,DY,YR,TEST

REC	DATE	MO	DY	YR	TEST
0000	12345.78	12	45	78	

019 REPLACE TEST WITH DY * YR
 020 REPLACE TMP WITH YR * 2.2
 021 DISPLAY DATE,TMP,TEST

REC	DATE	TMP	TEST
0000	12345.78	171.60	3510.00

022 * TDT5/C
 023 *****
 024 REPLACE TMP WITH 77.77
 025 DISPLAY DATE,TMP,TEST

REC	DATE	TMP	TEST
0000	12345.78	77.77	3510.00

026 REPLACE DATE WITH "00" ! TMP
 027 REPLACE MO WITH MONTH(DATE)
 028 REPLACE DY WITH DAY(DATE)
 029 REPLACE YR WITH YEAR(DATE)
 030 DISPLAY DATE,MO,DY,YR,TMP

REC	DATE	MO	DY	YR	TMP
0000	00 77.	0	0	7	77.7

>>==>> / / <<==<< Note Spacing

031 *
 032 REPLACE TEST WITH YR * 100
 033 DISPLAY DATE,YR,TEST

REC	DATE	YR	TEST
0000	00 77.	7	700.00

034 RETURN Copyright Martin A. Smoley
 035 * 1989
 036 * TDT6/C



FR99CCPL123

FR99CC PROGRAM LIBRARY
DISK OF THE MONTH



Program Review by **BRUCE M. ALMEIDA**

MY RATING SYSTEM (1) NO GOOD - (10) EXCELLENT

REMEMBER YOU PAY A COPY COST OF \$2.00 PER DISK (& \$.45 Postage if necessary) This does not pay **AUTHORS**, Only our cost..

Program Explanations

Disk #1 (FR99CCPL123)

THIS PROGRAM WAS DEMOED BY CLIFF SWANK AT LAST MONTHS MEETING

THE MISSING LINK (A LIVE DEMONSTRATION) (MY RATING (10))

FREWARE DEMONSTRATION FOR A COMMERCIALWARE PROGRAM (THE MISSING LINK)

"They said it couldn't be done. We did it. For the first time ever users can now exploit the full power of bit-mapped graphics from TI Extended Basic without any additional hardware. Impossible? Not anymore.... Introducing *The Missing Link*. There is no better way to explain the incredible capabilities of *The Missing Link* than to show you exactly what it can do. So lets do it! To run *The Missing Link* live demonstration you will need an ordinary TI-99/4a computer with 32K, one floppy disk drive, and TI Extended Basic. That's all. No special memory card or module is required to run the demonstration or *The Missing Link* itself. The demonstration will automatically load and run from TI Extended Basic. You can order THE MISSING LINK (COMMERCIALWARE PROGRAM) directly from Texaments for only \$24.95 plus \$250 shipping. It comes complete with the PaperSaver application example and an extensive 32 page manual." Texaments, 53 Center Street, Patchogue, New York 11772

Take it from me. If you have a TI you need to see this demo.

Disk #2 (SPECIAL DISK) (2 disk set) cost \$4.00

FUNNELWEB VER. 4.21 (MY RATING (10)) FAIRWARE

You may have read of a new version of Funnelweb 4.2 in last months N/L (JACK SUGHRUE'S column), well we just got ver. 4.2(1). This update is a two disk set we will have available as of the March meeting. This ver is supposed to have large changes. Also the LIMA User Group has a 110 minute VHS tape on how to configure Funnelweb 4.21 and the new features. We have purchased this tape from them. When we get the tape, we would probably be able to run it in segments to fit it in to the agenda of our monthly meetings or offer a special meeting to show it to those interested and also offer it for check out after the group demos or sessions. Whatever the officers decide. We have been told that if you use funnelweb a lot or if you have not updated in sometime that this is a MUST update.



FRONT RANGER



FRONT FANGE 99'ers COMPUTER CLUB



FR99CCPL123

FR99CC PROGRAM LIBRARY
DISK OF THE MONTH



FR99CC PROGRAM LIBRARY

No.	Program Name	Type	Lng	Filename	Dsk	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS
1002	MISSING demo	DEMO	X/B	MISSING*	123	(SELFLOAD)

* ARCHIVED USING ARCHIVED III Ver. 3.02 DATED 8/16/88

MAD DISK OF THE MONTH

ALSO ASK ABOUT BRUCE'S "MAD" DISK OF OLD LIBRARY PROGRAMS THIS MONTH
FEATURING SOME GOOD "ART" PROGRAMS.

NOTES

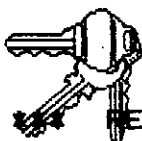
NOTE #1: T.I.P.S. Remember to I have copies of TIPS for sale also if you got TIPS I got many more disk of graphics.

NOTE #2 (PLUS! v.2.0) Feb. N/L page 14 Some people have shown interest in a groupware deal for this software. If you will not be at the Mar. meeting but are interested, please let one of the officers know.

NOTE #3: Remember that Villa-TI (BBS 719-574-2567) has all the program library pages for you to download. Also it has some of our older D.O.M. that you can download FREE.

NOTE #4:

Some T.I.P.S. graphics (WE GOT THEM)



REMEMBER TO PAY AUTHORS FOR "FAIRWARE" PROGRAMS ***
*** IT'S THE "FAIR" THING TO DO ***



FRONT RANGER



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