

# MAD HUG

MINNESOTA AND DAKOTA  
HOME USER GROUP

GRAND FORKS, ND

MEETING  
AT THE G.  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

## Jan. 1988

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Minnesota And Dakota Home Users Group meets every second Tuesday in the upstairs meeting rooms and every fourth Tuesday in the Electronic Room of the Grand Forks Public Library. Yearly dues are \$12.00. Members can use the group's hardware and software by presenting the library reference librarian with your membership card and asking for the keys to the MADHUG files. Anyone interested in the TI-99/4A is welcome to attend.

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GENEALOGY  
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by DICK BEERY

*From Jan. 1988  
Spirit of 99*

In earlier articles on this subject, I have indicated that the genealogy programs for the T.I., at least the ones of which I am aware, failed to fill the basic needs of the genealogist or even the beginning family tracer.

Ken Barber's Pedigree Chart while it does a good job of accepting worthwhile data and prints an excellent 4-generation chart, does not provide in any manner for the output of Family Group sheets, blank or otherwise. I very much like the fact that his program holds 127 files and chains easily from one file to the next.

The Cattin's Genealogy Work shop, retailing for between forty and fifty dollars, and currently being advertised, makes wonderful Family Group Sheets, but the user needs to type the data in manually, and no provision is made for 4-generation or any other kind of ancestor charts. I find the instructions difficult to follow, also.

These two rise above the others I have commented upon in earlier articles in quality, but still leave the user wanting more.

Recently I purchased Walt Davies' program Gene-III. I find it to be easy to work with and dependable. It gives the user a Family Group Sheet that can be run to the printer either blank or completely filled in. It also prints a 4-generation Ancestor Chart that lists the names of 15 individuals, together with their

birth, marriage, and death dates. This program accepts many fields of data: birth, christening, death, marriage and burial dates and places, space for two spouses and fourteen children, together with the birth, death and marriage information for both sets, as well as the names of parents of both husband and wife. The printouts are attractively laid out and easy to follow. Brief notes, 28 in number, accompany each Family Group Sheet, and these add much flexibility.

One inclusion in the Cattin program, cited above, that I would like to see provided in future revisions of Gene-III, is the ability to sort, compare and print out persons having common birthdates and places, and deathdates/places, as this feature can greatly aid the researcher during visits to remotely-located libraries and other data repositories.

The purchaser of Gene-III is advised to read carefully and follow closely the documentation provided with the program. Once the user has complied with this advice, he/she should find the program very user-friendly.

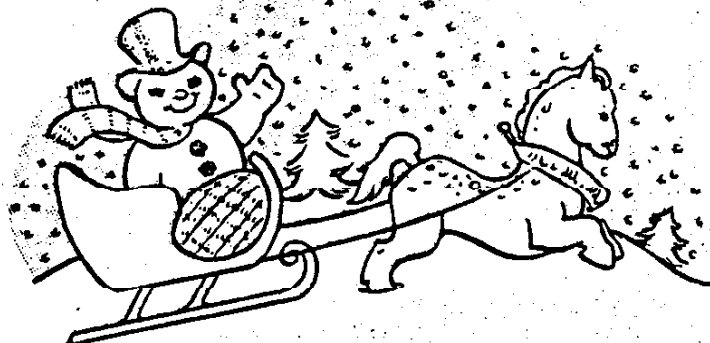
The 4-generation chart provides the customary information: "Person No. 1 on this chart is the same as Person No. \_\_\_ on Chart \_\_\_."

Both charts provide the name of the compiler and the date the information was first entered. The 4-generation chart includes the compiler's address, so that others researching the same line can make contact.

While the charts may be printed out using tractor-feed paper, the intent is for single sheets to be used. When the program has printed the Family Group Sheet, it pauses to allow the user to turn over the sheet, then a key-press puts the notes on the back of the page. While I seldom use single sheets for other applications, I find this to be a most efficient way of handling data plus notes.

I can highly recommend this program as being the best in the field at this time, at least among the programs with which I am familiar. The price of ten dollars (originally fifteen) is very modest. The program can be obtained directly from the programmer, whose products are marketed under the name of GATOR SOFTWARE. Write to:

WALTER R. DAVIES  
17718 ORCHARD LANE  
SALINAS, CA, 93907.



MYARC RAMDISK  
and MICROSOFT MULTIPLAN  
by Rick Alston

I have been using Microsoft Multiplan a little thanks to Dr. Evans outstanding assistance. He allowed me to try his cartridge and disk when I discovered I could not access the Help file, or construct a SUMming formula. I thought I had a very unusual 99/4A when his didnt work on my system EITHER!, just like my disk and cartridge didnt work. I have a MYARC Ramdisk 128K installed, so I thought I would try the program with a stock I.I. 32K card... IT WORKED! Well I use the Ram Disk alot! so this didnt make me happy. I reinstalled the Ram Disk after constructing the formula since the system worked fine with preconstructed formulas. I didnt partition the Ram Disk after reinstalling it since I was in somewhat of a hurry. Interestingly enough the Multiplan worked flawlessly? I was able to access the Help file etc. Well now I was curious, so I partitioned the Ram Disk and reloaded Multiplan, and guess what? It wouldnt work! So if you are having difficulties similar to mine try turning your Ram Disk off to dump it before using Multiplan. It works for me, and I didnt lose (Entirely) the use of the Ram Disk. If this is old news Bear With Me, Im just learning about Multiplan, Again thanks to Dr. Evans. By the way have any of you tried the new QS-SIDEWAYS program from Quality 99 copyright 1987? Well you should, It is slightly involved to operate but it is nice to be able to print Multiplan spread sheets sideways. They say it will even print T.I. Writer text files sideways when set up properly. I dont care much for their attitude on backup copies, but it is a nice (uncopyable) utility. It would be nice if the modified default files could be written to the same disk the program is on???????

MADHUG

## MINUTES, DECEMBER 12, 1987

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Alston. Minutes of November meeting were approved as printed in the Newsletter. Fourteen members were in attendance.

President, as promised at the last meeting, proposed an alignment with another Users's Group. Such an association should prove valuable to both groups. Information, public domain programs, etc., could be shared. Rich Jurgens, seconded by Lee Thomas, moved that the Secretary write to the Pueblo Group and inquire about their interest in such an association with MAD HUG. Motion carried.

President presented a long letter from Danial Kruschel concerning his many recent misfortunes. Danial also requested that we send him any programs that seem appropriate.

Ken Roed donated two boxes of hardware and software to the Group. Jurgens, seconded by Ken Johnson, moved that these items be used as raffle prizes or sold directly to the members. Motion was carried. The treasury certainly needed this transfusion.

Loren Quern demonstrated his braided extender cable and catalogs for TI mouse and software. These advertisements will be filed in the catalog section of our Library.

Ken Roed won the raffle. He selected a brand new Futaba keyboard.

At 7:30 meeting adjourned to the Electronics Room. There TIGERCUB Demo Disks (Nuts and Bolts #1, 2, and 3) were reviewed. The Group also has an up-to-date TIGERCUB catalog. Meeting further adjourned to Perkins at 9:00. HWE

SIG MEETING, DECEMBER 22, 1987

Pre-Christmas meeting was attended by 4 interested and eager-to-learn 99ers. First hour was devoted to Microsoft Multiplan. Templates and cell entries had been demonstrated at previous SIG meetings. This time development of formulas was demonstrated. These formulas were limited to one cell, related many cells one to the other, added (or subtracted) many contiguous rows or columns, etc. Brief reference was made, as demonstrated at the previous meeting, to copying data from one spreadsheet to another.

Second hour was spent trying to copy a protected disk. The various manipulations, using a disassembler, were intriguing. Many different tacts, although instructive, were unsuccessful. Maybe next time. Obviously, we are gradually learning more and more about our TI-99/4A. HWE

Barry Traver of Genial TRAVELER fame has been barred from computer and reading activities due to retinal surgery so that will put his Disk based magazine a little behind schedule. I'm sure if anyone has seen his magazine, the wait will be worth it as it is an excellent publication, and I wish Barry a speedy recovery as I am sure the whole TI community does.

**FUNNELWEB 4.0 - AN OVERVIEW**  
by Tom Nellis - NORTH COAST 99ERS

The newest version of Funnelweb has been released by Tony and Will McGovern. This father and son team has continually updated this fareware product to include something for everyone.

The two big changes that the new version supports are:

**CONFIG PROGRAM**

This program allows you to set up the main menu with your favorite program titles.

The config program is an option that can be found on the main menu. This program allows the user to set-up the main menu, printer default and number of drives. As before any type of program can be executed from this menu, whether it be IB, memory image or Dis-Fix 80(Load and Run). The McGoverns strongly suggest that you "DO NOT" modify the load program directly, you must use the config program to change the Main Menu Defaults. What I did to configure mine was to list the load program from VER 3.4 to the printer. All the information needed to configure 4.0 can be found in the old load program.

**TI-WRITER**

The TI Writer now has several new features that Texas Instruments should have included when it was first released.

The older version always had an "end of file" line after the last line of text. The new version has replaced this line with column numbers. You now know exactly what column you are in by a simple glance. The word-wrap routine has been speeded up so you will no longer lose characters when a word is moved to a new line while typing. I have never experienced this problem before because I cannot type that fast. A chime now sounds when you are five characters from the right margin. The "SD" command could be defined as a poor man's Disk Manager. It has several features not found in TI Writer. The one I like best is, just page through your files, select the number next to the file you want, press enter, and you will return to the Editor. Type "LF" and Voila, the name of the file is already typed in for you, just press enter and the file will be loaded.

I perceive Funnelweb as an operating environment that you should never have to leave. Almost all programs that run on the 99 4/A can be executed from inside Funnelweb. Remember this is a fareware program. If you use it, "PLEASE", send a donation to the McGoverns. In Cleveland, we started a collection involving both groups. Most users won't take the time to send the authors the money they deserve, but if the group collects the money, everyone's 1,2,3,5 or 10 dollar donation will add up very quickly and the author gets his just reward, "9999".

**WHEN IS IT TIME TO UPGRADE?**

By Ron Albright - LA TOPICS - 11/87

There is a great deal of debate these days about which upgrade path users of the 99/4A computer should take. That is, of course, assuming these users have reached a point in their computer needs that upgrading is necessary. I think that is the key point in the whole issue. Have you come to that juncture? If TI-Writer is all you need for your word processing, and Multiplan, PRbase (or Total Filer), and Fast-Tera fill your spreadsheet, database, and communication

requirements, why upgrade? For those whose computer uses are related to home budget, education or learning programming, or short correspondence with friends, the 99/4A can, quite probably, still fill all those functions admirably. For all but those with unlimited resources (i.e. "money to burn"), the argument to change computers for the sake of using the "fastest and the latest" is fallacious. A home user does not need an 80286 IBM-AT or clone running at 16 MHz. Period. Their need for DBase III+ or Lotus 1-2-3 or all the features of Crosstalk XVI is equally questionable. Change for the sake of change is a luxury few of us can indulge in.

But there are times when one does need to upgrade to new technology. For someone who is using the latest spreadsheets or relational databases at work and needs to be able to carry some of that work home, then it may be time to think about buying a new computer. If one undertakes starting a home business and needs software to manage the books, or a complicated mailing list, or extensive graphics needs, there may be software available that might do these jobs better than what is available for the TI99/4A. For writers who plan the "Great American Novel", a word processor that can handle several hundred pages, or a thesaurus, or a 100,000 word spelling checker, or an out-line program, or an indexing software may be essential. The point of all this is a simple one. Before you buy anything, assess your needs. Then, look around for the software to fill those needs. Only at that point should you consider the hardware - a new computer. Find the best software available to fill your requirements, then pick the computer that will run it. Not the other way around.

Let me make one other point here. Look very closely at what is available to the TI before you decide it no longer fills the need. Get a catalog from Triton, Tenex, or Tex-Comp. Read Micropendium (P.O. Box 1343, Round Rock, TX 78688) or Smart Programmer (Bytemaster Computer Services, 171 Mustang St., Sulphur, LA 70663-6724) and, of course, BBS's, information services such as GENie or CompuServe, or magazines such as Computer Shopper for advertisements and reviews. Check in with a local user group and find out what they know about software availability. Write JZ and me (and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope) stating your requirements and we will tell you if we know of similar software for the TI. If, after checking all these sources, you are absolutely sure the software is not available for the 99/4A and equally sure that you absolutely need the capability, then (and only then) are you ready to upgrade. The process of making the decision is time-consuming and a lot of work. But that is how it should be.

**INTRODUCING THE GENIAL TRAVeLER**  
A Magazine-on-Disk for the TI-994A!

If you have a TI-994A with a disk system, you'll be interested in the Genial TRAVeLER, an exciting magazine-on-disk which provides over 700 sectors of programs and articles in each issue.

TRAVeLER is edited by Barry Traver, whose programs have been published in various TI magazines, including 99'er Home Computer Magazine, Craig Miller's Smart Programmer, Rich Mitchell's Super 99 Monthly, and MICROpendium. He is also the author of ARCHIVER, the standard file archiving procedure used on CompuServe, Delphi, GENie, and the Source. He was the founder and first President of the Philadelphia Area TI Users Group. He is now a Sysop on both CompuServe and GENie.

We keeps in touch with the TI community in other ways as well, such as attending TI Faires in San Francisco, Chicago, Milwaukee, New Jersey, Boston, Providence (R.I.), Los Angeles, Ottawa, Seattle, and Washington, D.C.

The "diskazine" is actually priced less than some "freeware": you get a six-issue subscription for only \$36 (that's over 4000 sectors, so that you are paying less than a penny per sector!).

Authors whose programs and/or articles have already appeared in TRAVELER include Ron Albright, John Shenke, Barry Boone, Paul Charlton, Mike Dodd, Tom Freeman, Herman Geschwind, J. Peter Hoddie, Todd Kaplan, Jia Peterson, Wayne Stith, Mike Wright, Jonathan Zittrain, and others, including Barry Traver, whose ARCHIVER first appeared in TRAVELER.

The "diskazine" is being published on commercially-made SS/SD "flippies," so that the same format will work on everyone's disk system. It is assumed that subscribers will have at least a 32K memory card, Extended BASIC, and Editor/Assembler. (Warning: the publishing schedule can be somewhat erratic: it took about two years to complete Volume 1!)

#### TRAVELER SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Check one: Volume One @ \$36.00 (6 issues plus bonus disks)  
Volume Two @ \$36.00 (six issues)  
Volume One and Volume Two @ \$65.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to Barry Traver, and send it - along with this form - to Barry Traver, editor, Genial TRAVELER, 835 Green Valley Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19128. Thank you.

(ED Note: I subscribed to the first set and thought it quite technical for the "average user". Mr. Traver has promised more for people like me in this next volume. Just the other day I went through all the disks and pulled out what I could use and what I could contribute to the club's library that was public domain or freeware. The first issue of Volume 2 was to have been mailed in October. I have changed my mind and am going to renew my subscription. Hope you do too!)

#### CLYDE COLLEDGE'S HIGH-SPEED CASSETTE LOADER

(The following information is excerpted from Mickey Schmitt's articles in the PUG Peripheral (Pittsburgh US) from October and November, 1987. If you only have a bare console, you can install 32K memory "inside" the machine for under \$30. For an additional \$5, you can run many assembly language programs and increase the use and versatility of your system)

The assembly language routines that do the "saving" and "loading" of programs are loaded very easily from cassette tape and reside in an area of memory not usually used by Extended Basic programs. The high-speed cassette utility will allow the "saving" and "loading" of programs up to 24K of bytes in length.

In addition to increased program size, the same size program can be "saved" or "loaded" in approximately half the

amount of time that the original routines required. The increase in speed is due to removing duplication of data sent to the cassette recorder. While this decreases reliability slightly, few errors have been encountered in use and error checking is still recommended. The size limitation was increased by writing directly to the memory expansion rather than to the console memory which the program was sent to the original cassette routines.

While loading Clyde's program is not a difficult process in itself...understanding the procedure for the very first time can be a little confusing. With that thought in mind, I have tried to keep the "load" instructions as simple as possible.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR LOADING CLYDE'S LOADER:

1. Insert the XB module into the computer.
2. Select Option 2 - Extended Basic
3. Type : OLD CSI
4. Then : Press Enter
5. Follow the directions as they appear on your monitor or TV screen:
  - 5.1 : REMIND CASSETTE TAPE CSI  
THEN PRESS ENTER
  - 5.2 : PRESS CASSETTE PLAY CSI  
THEN PRESS ENTER
  - 5.3 COMPUTER DISPLAYS MESSAGE:  
: READING
  - 5.4 COMPUTER DISPLAYS MESSAGE:  
: DATA OK
  - 5.5 : PRESS CASSETTE STOP CSI  
THEN PRESS ENTER
6. Wait for the flashing cursor to appear in the lower left-hand corner of your monitor or TV screen
7. Type: RUN
8. THEN: PRESS ENTER
9. The computer will then return to the XB screen with the message: : READY : and the cursor will once again be flashing in the lower left-hand corner of your monitor or TV screen. Clyde Colledge's High-Speed Cassette Loader is now loaded.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING CLYDE'S LOADER:

1. After you have loaded Clyde's loader,  
TYPE: CALL LINK("OLD")
2. THEN: PRESS ENTER
3. You can now load in any program which you have on cassette in half the amount of time it would have normally taken.
4. Just follow the directions as they appear on your monitor or TV screen. That's all there is to it!

Clyde's Loader has two very special features that should not go without mention. First of all...the high-speed cassette routines are exactly the same as Texas Instruments cassette routines - making this program very user friendly. Secondly...once the load program has been placed in the 32K memory, it will stay in memory, even if you accidentally hit "Function Quit". Just retype "CALL LINK("OLD") and you are ready to go. You can't lose the "LOAD PROGRAM" unless you turn off the console!

If you wish to purchase this program, please send \$5.00 to: Pittsburgh User Group, P.O. Box 8043, Pittsburgh, PA 15214, ATT: PUG Librarian.

## Letter from McGovern

Dear MadHug,  
We just found another possibly fatal BUG in the editor. If you use RS (actually do a replace) the Eof line is mostly wiped out. Worse if you then try to look at TAB settings it will lock up after that.

Easily fixed.  
Sector >0E in ED file (e.g. if ED starts at >C1 then look on >0F)  
Word at >2A should be >09FA instead of >006E

I have done some cosmetic changes on the QD file, Made it so that it doesn't show mark <num> when this isn't active, and put "Exit" where intended - somehow "Enter" got there. Not worth sending another disk though.  
This change can't be patched (apart from 'Exit'), but isn't essentially important.

Don't know what other changes are in the wind. I intend only to fix bugs and to respond to external changes (eg the 3.8 DM-1000 when the source arrives from Ottawa). Other than that any new ideas will wait for Vol. 4.1 if that ever is warranted. One idea for that is to have a CONFIG;SYS file that stores your configuration setup.

Keep in touch  
Tony McG

P.S. Please don't hesitate to warn of the problem and pass on the fix for anyone who might need it.



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