NEWSLETTER OF THE K-TOWN 9974A USERS GROUP AND THE HIHENS COMPUTER CLUB

#### MARCH 1992.

THE K-TOWN 99'ER IS A JOINT PUBLICATION OF THE K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP AND THE ATHENS COMPUTER CLUB. EACH ARE NOW PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS. ORGANIZED FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF GATHERING AND DISSEMINATING INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THE USE AND OPERATION OF THE TEXAS INSTRUMENTS' TI-99/4A HOME COMPUTER. WE ARE IN NO WAY AFFILIATED WITH TEXAS INSTRUMENTS OR ANY OTHER COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATION.

#### COMMENT

The K-Town 99er is published monthly for the benefit of the K-Town 99/4A Users Group membership specifically and the TI Community in general. The Articles in this mewsletter to the best of our knowledge are factual but neverless the views expressed are the views of the author and

are not necessarily the views of the n-Town Users Group. Any article, unless stated otherwise, may be copied by other users groups and published in their newsletter providing credit is given to the author and the K-Town 99er.

#### K-TOHN MARCH MEETING

The K-TOWN 99/4A Users Group meet at the will home o f E. M. Smith. We will continue to meet on the second Thursday of mach month at 7:00 PM. MARCH 12th is our next meeting date. Joe Simmons will travel in from Etowah. TN and demonstrate an updated version of TI-BASE. This

has been modified by Dennis Faherty. Paul Dievins will drive in from Rugby, TN to Video Tape the demonstration. Will it all happen? You will have to be there to know for sure. AND REMEMBER THAT IT IS DUES PAYING TIME. PAY UP OR WE FOLD UP!

#### DUES / MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the K-Town 99/4A Users Group is open to any owner or user of the TI-99/4A Home Computer. Dues are TEN DOLLARS per year and subject to our fiscal year which begins April 1 and ends March 31 or each year. Dues are clasified as family memberships. New memberships are prorated at

the rate of ONE dollar per month if less than a full vear, except for the last three months of our fiscal year. There, is a minimum fee of five dollars. Memberships are not prorated for current or former members. We welcome visitors.



# PRESIDENT'S FORUM

It is about that time of the year for DUES and ELECTION of officers. Our dues are a great bargain at \$10. Our assistant treasurer is E. M. Smith and he or Bob Buehler, our treasurer, will take and record your payment.

At the March meeting the floor will be open for nominations and balloting will be at the April meeting. As far as I know, the present officers are all willing to continue to serve. This includes me but I feel that some fresh blood in the office of President might make for the better operation of the club. In any case, I'll be fully on board

no matter how this notive contested election turns out.

We have such a plethora of talent and interests that arranging programs has not been much of a problem. I don't think that I have had anyone turn down a request for a presentation. Thanks, fellow TI users!

The meeting at 7:00 on March S at 3506 Garden Drive promises to be interesting. Joe Simmons will be getting into a field that is pretty new to most of us. See you there.

John H. Bull

# POCPOURRI

**NOTE:** The following article was written to be included in the February issue of the E-TOWN 99'er UG. However, due to space limitations it was deleted. Even though I demonstrated the program at the last meeting, I hope you will find the article informative.

#### TIPS

In the September 1991 issue of our newsletter, I copied an article from the LA 99ers Topics about a program called TIPS. more I thought about it, the more I wanted it. So, my wife said that if I would order it, would give it to me as a X-mas present (she was out of ideas on what to get me). Needless to say. I didn't waste time getting on the phone and ordering the complete TIPS package (12 disks) and the companion package (7 disks). ordered them on December 9th. yes, they arrived before the 25th. Total cost was \$69.93.

All of the disks are SSSD. 18 of them are floppies. 3 disks contain programs and DOCS (one of which is not a floppy). The remaining 15 disks contain images (graphics) varying from 31 to 126

per side for a total of 3479 images!!!

I started printing ...printing ...and more printing. The DOCS used 25 pages, listing the names of the images used 15 pages (1 for each disk), and used 110 pages to print the images. The resulting manual is about 3/4" thick.

One of the first things I did after all the above printing was to start converting the images to TI-Artist Instances. That didn't last long. Even saving the instances on DSSD disks, I could only save 49 instances per disk. It didn't take me long to realize that not only would it take a long, long time, but I would use about 71 disks to convert all the

images to Instances.

From what I can gleam from reading the DOCS and usage, the programs are; 1) convert image TI-Artist Instance: 2) print a card using image(s) and text if desired; 3) print labels (text and image if desired); 4) print poster (enlarged image); 5) print banner (enlarged image). So far, I have 3 programs only tried the first and really don't know much about **the** last two at this time. Converting images to TI-Artist Instances and printing labels are reasonably fast, but printing a card is very slow. Main hold~up is loading the program and a font for text. So fan it takem **about** 25-30 minutes to print After a little practice card. this should speed up some what. Printing more then one card should also be faster since loading the program and a font won't be necessary.

One of the program disks (TIFS UPDATE 1.8), remains a mystery to me. I have read the DOCS several times, but can't find out how to get past the first menu

that shows on the screen. I have tried pressing most every key but to no avail. Need help!! (Note: At the February meeting, with the help of the club members, we solved the myster, on how to get the program to run.)

If you decide to purchase the TIPS package(s), be sure to check all sides of all disks immediately upon arrival. In checking disks with DM-1000 for file mames. sides displayed the message "DISK NOT INITIALIZED" or "DEVICE ERROR". In all cases except one, it was side I that I received error message. Dist ? gave error message on both sides. 1 wrote TEX COMP explaining the problem. Received replacement disks in about two weeks. said however, that my disk drive might slightly bе out co f alignment. I checked the disks on my 2 drives and had E.M. Smith check them on his 3 drives. error message on all 5 drives. Copied files on replacement on to the original disks. drive reads the files OK DOM. Enough said about this.

## CHRITERBOX - XIII

BY BOB BUEHLER

#### MY WÖNDROUS HORIZON RAM DISK

This hunk of hardware for the TI-99/4A, last year's main Christmas gift, has doubled doubled my happiness! And this is the third time. A Myarc RAM Disk had done the same, a second time, a couple of years earlier. My. first double double happiness came with a 1983 Christmas ribbon on a box measuring 21 1/2" x 11 5/8" x 4 5/8". It's end label said "Texas Instruments Home Computer." Double double three times is 8 times happier. Moreover I was computer happy even before that, having a Radio Shack nocket computer, several better and better shirt pocket calculators, and having programmed successively bigger computers in TVA. So I'm ending up with a great big bunch of computer happiness.

This surge of joy really is to veil and console sadness! With Horizon runing I got a lock-up, probably my own fault from improper turn-off of the system. Bsk Contoller Manual says: POMER-ON --- 1) External Drives; 2) PE Box; 3) Monitor: and 4) Console. POMER-OFF --- Opposite POMER-UP. Don't know if I did it wrong. EM

Smith turns everything on and off with a master wall switch. After watching him, I'm been doing the same except that my master switch is in the knee hole of my computer desk.

In a lock-up, a Console power-off followed by a power-on will usual effectuate an un-lock. But not this time. No nice Horizon Menu on screen; no X-Basic; not even Basic; no anything. I'm dead in the water.

As you can plainly see, I'm running again. And I'll tell you how. Also I'll tell when the lock-up happened, but I'm not absolutely sure how and why.

One happy day I had a few leisure moments so was cataloging and printing DSK labels. It was with a TINYBRAM by Ed Machonis. (His Tinygrams are nice.) This allows five lines, prints the specified number of copies, and returns to type in a new five lines. This return is a handy thing, because the prior five lines are still in memory. Not only are you ready to type in a second label,

tike I was doing, if you had gooded a line you can correct easily. Simply print 0 (zero) copies. That will return you to the beginning. Pressing ENTER brings up the first line, permitting acceptance or correction. Another ENTER and up comes old line number two for acceptance or correction. Got it?

I was making just one copy of each lable and was having a great time. Could hardly wait to stick them, on. I'm quite sure that's why I had the trouble. I bet I turned off the system, using a single main switch, with the label program still in running condition in the Console. I SHOULD HAVE first cleared the program from Console memory.

Among the few times when the Horizon MENU wouldn't show but I still had X-Basic, I could load F'Web and call on Dsk Manager to learn that all files were still happily in RAM with it's battery back-up. With this welcome news I'd then simply reload ROS (Ram Operating System) from a capy of the DSK provided.

This sad time, I couldn't shake the lock-up simply by POWAR OFF, then POWER ON.

Next I poened the PE box, turned off the Horizon Ram and a P-Gram card with their own on-board switchs, plugged in an X-Basic cartridge and tried again to shake lock-up without success. Finally I exchanged Consoles, plugged in the X-Basic cartridge and got X-Easic to run. Only them did I turn the Horizon Ram back on. And then I could reload ROS, had the MENU again, and I was back in business. Now I've gone back to the original Console.

Like I said, my main switch is on the side of the knee hole in my computer desk. I'm going to continue using it to ON-OFF, but I'll first wipe out any program in the Consolett Unless I forget.

Anyone have any ideas about all this?

#### REFEREES AND UMPIRES

I mean the kind in football who wear black and white stripped shirts, white knickers, black and white knee length sox, and white (some times black) caps. They also carry yellow handkerchiefs; those guys who manage to dash rapidly about over an acre of turf, the better accurrately to eyeball infringement of game rules and invoke appropriate penalties. Did the receiver catch the low thrown pass or did be field a grounder? Was there pass interferrance, and by which one? Was a particular roughness unnecessary? Did the ball carrier step out of bounds while streaking down the sideline? Was at least one foot in bounds when a pass was caught, or both feet in pro-ball?

I don't know the Referee from the Umpire or these from the other officials, but I think they do one whale of a job. And they are in themselves a special kind of athelete.

Sure, there have to be referee errors in football, but these are few. Accuracy these days is verfified so, so often by close-up TV camera shots. My compliments to these guys. Unsung heros they are in a game which facinates millions and millions of spectator atheletex! Good Golly. I've watched the day long on many a New Years 11

How I've tried to watch the stripped shirt guys instead of the football. Just can't do it. I just must watch the ball. Of course the TV cameras also follow the ball, which reduces my chanes still more. But I think I'll try harder next time.

#### POLITICS PARTLY

People in groups tend to agree on a course of action which, as individuals, they know is stupid!

The first law of an officeholder: Get reelected. Fo find a policeman FAST: double park.

-Best your child once a day. If you don't know why he dos.

The cheapest way to get your family tree traced and recorded on television, is to run for public office.

Forget your mistakes, but remember what they taught

#### BWAP SHOP

Even though it was a good idea, I've not had a single taker. So I'm dogging off. Wont even mention it again unless someone insists. Fat chance. Goodbye SWAp SHOP.

#### RECIPES

Before continuing with the third and final CHILI recipe, I just must remind how good is that Sauerkraut Salad. This time making it was due to a Toaster Sandwich maker like you all saw advertised before Christmas. Sure. I got one. Well I wanted to make Rubin Sandwiches. So I opened a handy quart of sauerkraut for that job and had most of it left. I bought a green pepper and made the Salad. It is even better than I resembered. Thought you should know.

### POLLY BERGEN'S CHILI

I copied this from PARADE magazine for 4/2/72. Polly acknowedged that her Dad taught her a lot about cooking, this is one of his recipes, and she uses it often when entertaining, without compaints.

3 Garlic cloves, minced

2 This Veg Oil

4 10s Ground round steak

2 Large onlons

4 breen peppers

J lbs Canned tomatoes

4 lbs canned red hidney beans 12 úz lomato paste

1/4 Cup Chili powder 1 tsp White vinegar

3 dashes cayenne pepper 3 whole cloves

1 Bay Leaf, heck, stick in 2 Salt and Pepper to taste

Cook garlic in oil "til golden. Crumble in beef and cook 10 minutes. Pour off some drippings into skillet to cook sliced onions and green peppers 'till tender. Return to browned beef, etc., and add all other ingredients. Cook over low heat for 1 hour, covered. If too dry add tomatoes. If too liquid remove cover and simmer longer.

Serves 12. Golly, if you don't have 12, freeze what's left for another day, or two.

#### EDITORIAL

Join the Republican party if you can't abide Democrats. You probably loath Republicans just as much, but there are fewer of them.

1/18/92

74W#Y ...

*₽*₽₩₽₩ ...

PARTY ...

PERCENT.

POWER.

/5W3V ..

#### MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 1992

Surprises were the feature this fine time! JIM MCNEILIE. who joined last month and seemed enthusiastic, didn't show. Non did Norma Lame, who almost came a week early except for an enquiring phone call. Ron Hatmaker, after Many misses during garage construction, walked in carrying Bill Sheridan's console in which he found no operating fault. For Bill, the console will operate everything except Art Gibson's NL/PRINTER.. Maybe Bill should plug it into someone elses system. I'll volunteer mine.

Another -surprise, Paul Blevins lapel mic hookup for Videa recording monitor<sup>id</sup> screen the worked fine last month, but didn't this time. He blamed had low battery in the amplifier circuit and had no spare along. Another try next month, could be a video recording of Art Gibson's newest program, the ULTIMATE EDITOR. which he is writing for Asgard. I hope it all works because all this is getting geared up to take to LIMA in May to help improve recording the MUG Conference there.

It was no surprise that Sheridan's demo of TIPS work first off. His demo's are always first class. He showed the manual many, many paages that aets printed and told of the many DSKS of "pictures" that could generated. Bill printed greeting cards personalised messages and for each one present, a dozen address labels bearing an eagle crest the left margin. For the real details see Bill's write up Newslatter. SAY. didiu notice the extra swell news letter for February? Washington, Lincoln, the Ground Hog, Valentine's Day. and the Smoky Mountains were all featured!!

Adjournment was again to McDonalds.

Dob Duehler, Secy-Treas.



We regret that Joe's STUMBLINGS was not received in time to be included in this months newsletter.