```
 *    *   #    #   @       @    %%%     $    $
**  **   #    #   @@      @    %   %    $    $
*  *  *  #    #   @ @     @    %         $    $
 *    *   #    #   @   @ @   %        $$$$$
 *    *   #    #   @     @@   %   %      $    $
 *    *   ###    @       @    %%%     $    $
```

Mass Users of the Ninety nine and Computer Hobbyists

SEPT. 1984   Monthly Newsletter   Version 3.9

MUNCH OFFICERS AND NUMBERS (all in 617 area)

President............Steve Neaz................
Vice Presidents.....Ota Jiroutek.....852-0835
                    John Doon........852-4295
Secretary...........Dave Lee.........832-3156
Treasurer...........Jim Cox..........869-2704
Editor..............Pete Blackford...892-4946
Hardware Chair......Ron Nicholas.....839-9055
Programs Chair......Pete Rauktis.....799-6035
Adv. Prog. Chair....Dan Rogers.......248-5502
Mail & Messages.....Video Connection 852-8213
Club Reviewer.......Jack Sughrue.....476-7630
Library.............Al&Lisa Cecchini........

The Newsletter Staff wishes to thank our new contributers this month!!! In an effort to include all of this material things seem to have gotten alittle crowded even with added pages. PLEASE continue to submit material and we will work on the crowding.. THANKS !!! ED.

Business Meeting

At 7:30 PM Vice President John Doon called the
meeting to order.
The Minutes of the last meeting were not read and
in the absence of the treasurer no report was made.
John Doon spoke about the three disks that were
available for copying at the Video Connection that
will be available as of 8/27/84.
Peter Blackford reported on the Newsletter and
requested that members submit articles to the
newsletter by Sept.5th. Pat Anderson will be
coordinating the advertisements for the newsletter.

Software Commettee

Jack Sughrue discussed the necessity to continue
corresponding to the companies and urge them to
continue developing programs for the T.I. Two
programs he spoke of were Howard W. Sam's pro-
grams and Toni Fabbri's animation, sound and
graphics for the T.I.
Al cecchini (library Chairman) did not bring the
materials into the meeting because of the low
attendance at the last meeting. He requested that
the members bring in literature or programs to
share with the group.
A motion was made and seconded to allocate sixty
dollars to purchase books for the library. It
was suggested that Jack and Al coordinate the
selection and purchase of this material.

New Business

No consoles were available for the meeting so
Norman Abare volunteered to take over as coordin-
ator for consoles. His telephone number is
1-297-2100.
The business meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Brian O'Brian demonstrated the Super sketch.
Anyone intersted in purchasing this program can
get in touch with Brian. It is possible to get
it at a reduced rate if twelve are ordered.
(If Brian is successful there will be some avail-
able at the Sept. Meeting. There is a big demand
for this item so let's wish him luck . ed.note.)

Activities for the evening included general dis-
cussion about disks and drives and programs.

Respectfully submitted, V.Foster-Erlandson

AGENDA for September 18, 1984

7:00 - 7:30 Open Demonstrations
           New Member Registration
           Software Exchange (members only)

7:30 - 8:00 Business Meeting:
           Approval of Minutes
           Treasurers Report
           Committee Reports
           Old Business
           New Business
           Announcements
8:00 - 9:00 Special Interest Group Meetings
           and Open Demonstrations and Discussion

*How about bringing something to our September
Meeting ! Cartoons, short articals, programs
or comments whould all be welcome additions to
OUR Newsletter ! Typed copy 5 inches wide or
less would be welcome or we will type it if
necessary... Thanks ed. Please give anything
for the Newsletter to any of the staff or drop
it off at the Video Connection before the deadline.*

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COLOR MONITOR REVIEW

By Bruce Willard

If you are like a lot of people, you started out with a black and white television set attached to your computer console. As time passed, the black and white TV either quit working or you decided to upgrade your monitor. Let's assume for a minute that you wanted to go to a color set. Why? Well, maybe you are into programming with color graphics, or maybe you just like color better. Whatever the reason, you now must decide which monitor or color TV to buy.

If you choose a color television, your graphics won't be as clear. The reason for this is that the signal from the computer must be transformed into a usable signal for the television. That is what that little box (video modulator) does that comes with the console.

The way to get better, more defined graphics is to purchase a color "monitor". This will receive the computer's signal without transforming it with that "little box".

Now, which one do you buy? There are basically two types of color monitors. One will work with any personal computer that outputs a "standard composite signal" (like the TI 99/4A) and the other works on personal computers which output an RGB signal. Just remember that with the TI 99/4A you need a monitor that accepts the composite signal.

What about the different brands? What about the different size screens? Don't worry. I have done comparison shopping. I found that the TI and the AMDEK color monitors were the most reasonable. I think the TI monitors would be scarce. However, the AMDEK monitors are in abundance.

The TI had a 10 inch screen. The AMDEK has a 13 inch. The 10 inch is a little more difficult to read because of the small print. The 13 inch is easier to read, but you must sit a little farther away from the screen to appreciate it. The resolution (the number of horizontal and vertical lines on the screen) on the TI is 192 by 256. Electronically the AMDEK is better, 260 by 300. One might think that the AMDEK display would be better. It isn't. Looking at the two of them side by side I could see no difference. The reason is the 13 inch screen of the AMDEK. Having a larger screen means having larger spaces between scanning lines. So the larger screen and the higher resolution seems to cancel out.

Personnally, I feel that the AMDEK color monitor is better than the TI for both operation and cost. How it will fare under a lot of use I don't know. Only time will tell.

RAMBLINGS
by
JIM COX

TI has given the group four disks which are now available to the membership. They are: Fourth Source Code Parts A&B, enhancements for TI Writer and Multiplan, and the Advanced Assembley Language Debugger. These and all group disks, are available for copying at the Video Connection. The hours for copying are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 2:00P.M. to 8:00 P.M., and Saturday from 2:00 to 6:30P.M.

Club member Roy Balfour has a stand alone RS232 for sale for $100. If you are interested see me at the Video Connection.

I would like to remind members who have dues due this month to either bring their renewals to the September meeting or mail them to the group address. Please use the coupon at the back of this newsletter.

Nonmembers are reminded that subscriptions to this newsletter are available at $12.00 for a 1 year subscription. Please use the coupon at the back when sending an order.

ADVERTISING RATES:

DOUBLE-PAGE (10.5" by 8") $50.00 per insertion
FULL PAGE   (5" by 8") $25.00 per insertion
HALF PAGE   (5" by 4") $15.00 per insertion
QUARTER PAGE (5" by 2" OR 2.5" by 4") $10.00 "   "

Classified (non-commercial) ADs are FREE for MUNCH members.
$$$

LIBRARY NOTICE

Please return all borrowed materials to the MUNCH library at each meeting. This will give other members a chance to enjoy our collection of "text-ware" as much as you have !!   THANK YOU !!

LEARNING TO COUNT

by Tony Falco

From time to time M.U.N.C.H. members have expressed an interest in educational uses for the computer. This is the first in a series of programs whose purpose is to "give a pre-school child a head start."

The color, speech, sound, and graphics capabilities of the 99/4A can serve as a motivational device for developing learning experiences for very young children. Children as young as eighteen months and as old as six years can profit from a program like this one.

At this age parents should be careful not to "push." Educational programs for the very young should be viewed as electronic toys. One would not force a two year old to play with blocks. So why force him into counting or reading.

This Extended Basic program is an off-shoot of the prototype for my "NUMBER NIBBLER" program which was in the October, 1983 issue of 99'er HMC. Unlike that program this one is short and can be typed quite quickly. It can easily be translated into console BASIC, and speech, though helpful, is optional.

If you have no young children, make a copy and give it to a friend or relative who does. Who knows ? You might give some child the "head start" needed to develop a healthy attitude toward learning.

```
90 !****LEARNING TO COUNT***
********by Tony Falco********
100 CALL CLEAR :: A$="COUNT
FROM 1 TO ?" :: P$=" ENTER (
1 TO 9)->"
110 DISPLAY AT(10,2):A$; :B$
: : : :" HOW MANY TIMES?": :
 : :" SPEECH ? Y"
120 ACCEPT AT(12,19)VALIDATE
(DIGIT):N :: ACCEPT AT(16,19
)VALIDATE(DIGIT):T
130 ACCEPT AT(20,11)SIZE(-1)
VALIDATE("YN"):SP$ :: RANDOM
IZE :: CALL SCREEN(16)
140 M=2^(1/12):: FOR W=1 TO
T :: J=INT(N*RND)+1 :: S=17-
J :: CALL CLEAR
150 FOR R=1 TO J :: CALL COL
OR(14,R+2,R+2):: CALL VCHAR(
11,S,136,3):: S=S+2
160 CALL SOUND(-100,440*M^R,
0,888*M^R,0,330*M^R,9):: NEX
T R
170 CALL KEY(0,X,Y):: IF Y=0
 THEN 170
180 IF X=J+48 THEN 190 ELSE
CALL SOUND(250,131,2):: GOTO
 170
190 FOR I=1 TO 6 :: READ D,V
,U :: CALL SOUND(150*D,V,2,U
+2,2):: NEXT I
200 DATA 1,262,262,1,349,349
,1,440,440,1,523,523,5,349,4
40,9,523,440
210 S=17-J :: FOR R=1 TO J :
: CALL VCHAR(14,S,R+48):: S=
S+2
220 CALL SOUND(-200,349*M^(2
*R),0,700*M^(2*R),0,523*M^R,
2)
230 IF SP$="Y" THEN CALL SAY
(STR$(R))
240 NEXT R :: CALL CLEAR ::
DISPLAY AT(12,7):"THAT'S RIG
HT!!!!"
250 FOR D=1 TO 300 :: NEXT D
 :: RESTORE :: NEXT W :: END
```

MORE ON PRO-MOD

A powerful seven-in-one menu driven utility program for programmers.
Saves immense amounts of time. "Progmod" permits:
1. Insert multiple commands, lines, blanks, remarks, etc.
2. Delete remarks, commands, lines, etc.
3. Change variable names, text.
4. Extract routines, text, commands from large programs for
   use in creating other programs.
5. Locate variable names, key text words.
6. Dissect an extended basic program using multiple statement in
   one line - convert to single line basic format.
7. Eliminate that occasional "zero" line number without changing
   or resequencing program.

The regular price for this powerful program will
be $49.00 but for the next two weeks Technologies
Support Group of Spencer will offer the program
to MUNCH members for $39.00. See their add in the
centerfold of this newsletter. Other programs
available are described below....................

MULTI-FILE

A general purpose data base program which reates dual cross
communicating files, i.e., a main index case file crossed to multiple
records/transaction type file. Three levels of access security.
                        Depending on requirements, base price $74.00

CHARTIT

A high resolution base graph generator accenting up to 25 numeric
values. Displays in one to four colors, scales and labeled with
screen dump to graphics printer command routine.

MULTI-SORT   Enhanced Version 3.0

Sorts numerics, miscellaneous data items, mail list entry with se-
lected mail list output. Sort by zip, ref. #, name, strip top and/or
bottom line, will handle any combination of 2-5 lines of address and/or
data, type direct and use like typewriter. Review, delete, edit,
"OPPS!" feature, - menu driven.

AUTO-TYPE   Enhanced Version 4.0

Permitting a full string of input data up to 225 characters without
stopping. Stop printer - one of three ways to change, edit text
prior to next print line, cancel, insert, delete, move text, reformat,
disk file management, duplicate lines, delete groups of text, disk
files, full control code output to peripheral devices, parallel or
serial output menu with over 40 directives and error messages. Past
users of TI writer give it twice the rating.

SKETCHIT   Version 3.0

Additional routine permitting user defined graphic symbols, save to
disk file, and command routine permitting the use of an optional
screen dump. This is a very popular program for all ages and pro-
fessions. See original catalog description.

Additional programs soon to be released!

* Lottery analysis - in development for three years. Based on hys-
  terisis effect - unveils what statistical analysis fails to do.
* Memory dump - in Hex, ASCII, address contents, character value, etc.
  A programmer's aide.

11

12

superb reference guides, but this is the first to attempt an
encyclopedic concept (and succeed!). The 300+ pages of the Sams'
guide are filled solid with every conceivable BASIC programming item
for the TI. Want to know about constants. Bam! Index. Page 17.
CONSTANTS. Defines it. Examples it. Expands on the original
definition with a short (concise, succinct, careful) explanation.

How about something as mundane as LIST? Well, there is LIST
(line number) and LIST (device) and LIST (start-end) and LIST (with
device values) and so on. And what you can and can't do with LIST
and what specifically you are doing wrong when the computer tells you
BAD LINE NUMBER or CAN'T DO THAT or INCORRECT STATEMENT or BAD
ARGUMENT or whatever. This book tells you what error messages mean
specifically for the particular command or statement that is creating
the error message. And why it is creating it. And how to correct
it. Then it will give you mini programs or subprograms showing the
correct process at work. This is an invaluable tool (a profound tool
kit!) for beginner or expert at BASIC programming. It is unlike any
other reference guide I own or have read. It is complete. It is
very easy to access. (The index is excellent.) It is lucid. It is
intelligent. Carol Ann Casciato and Donald J. Horsfall, the authors,
have done an immense service to us 99 freaks.

This book is to our wonderful TIs what cookbooks are to cooks.
The hundreds (literally) of tiny program examples help to make sense
out of an irrational world.

Isn't this better than wine, woman, and song? (Or at least one
of the above?)

                              **

. NO-NO OF THE MONTH -------> If you should suddenly discover
yourself confronted by (with & at) THE BEST OF TI99/4A CARTRIDGES by
Thomas Blackadar (SYBEX Inc., 2344 Sixth Street, Berkely, CA 94710 -
$9.95) quickly slip your ten-dollar bill back into your pocket and
look around for the Sams' books.

If you belong to a user group (as all of you dear readers do) or
subscribe to HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE or have owned and operated your
great little machine for over six months or have even talked to other
owners, this book isn't worth a dime to you. It purports to rate the
best of the cartridges (Some of the best aren't even listed though
the book was published in 1984 and the cartridges I have in mind were
out last year.) but the descriptions and ratings of the cartridges
are, at best, poor; at worst, horribly inacurate, vague, or
incomplete.

It rates the graphics on TI INVADERS (which are not nearly as
good as the original arcade game) as Very Good, while rating Munch
Man's graphics (which are at least a hundred times better than Pac
Man's) as Fair. (It also rated Video Chess's graphics (which are
perfect) as Good and rated the game itself as weak, though it was and
is still the best computer chess game out. (Have you tried the
Atari?) Even the graphics created by the Extended Basic cartridge
(to which only two pages are devoted) are rated as only Very Good
(not Excellent).

My feeling is that the author is one of those Apple/Atari/TRS80
people who condescended to write a TI book for his company. He
certainly doen't seem to know an awful lot about either the TI or the
cartridges he rates.

Don't waste your money.

                         ****

The COMPUTER SENSE CENTER is looking for part time help
to work flexible hours...Call Nancy at 366-4644.......

THE NEW (EXPANSION SYSTEM) FROM CORCOMP INC.
****

The EXPANSION SYSTEM has provisions for installing 2 slimline disk drives
or 1 full height drive and it contains the powerfull SYSTEM motherboard.
The following items that expand the power and versatility of your 99/4A
computer are included on the motherboard.
   1. 32K of Expansion RAM memory which will allow you to run TI Writer, TI
LOGO or LOGO II, TI MultiPlan, TI FOrth and Assembly language programs as
well as larger and more powerful Extended Basic programs.
   2. A Double Sided - Double Density disk controller. This controller will
control up to 4 disk drives and they can be acessed as either DSK or dsk
(upper or lower case). With 2 slimline Double Sided Double Density disk
drives mounted in the box you will have 720K of on line rapid access disk
storage. The tests show that this new disk drive controller loads programs
2 - 4 times faster than the TI disk controller. The DSR ROM will contain
the necessary support for loading "Load to Run" type Assembly language
programs without the Editor / Assembler command module. This same ROM will
also add CALL POKEV and CALL PEEKV for accessing VDP RAM and they can be
used as commands or program statements.
   3. An RS232 interface with 2 serial outputs and 1 parallel output. The
serial outputs are TI compatible and the parallel is a true Centronics
output. This allows you to hook up printers, potters and modems to your
computer.
   4. Specially designed power supply that will power 2 slimline disk drives
and the SYSTEM motherboard.
   5. The FLEX cable interface for hooking all this pwer up to your computer
The cable is a small flexible round one (not a fire hose) that plugs into
the side of your comuter via a small L type connector. this connector di-
rects the cable toward the back of the computer instead of straight out to
the side.

   The EXPANSION SYSTEM, which is about half the size of TI's box, has
some illuminated graphics and the power switch on the front panel. The
graphics return information on the Flex cable interface, 32K RAM, RS232,
Disk controller, disk side 1, disk side 2, the disk Index mark and the Op-
tion slots.
   The disk controller will control just about any 5 1/4 inch disk drive
from full height single sided - single density to double sided -double de-
sity slimlines. Their are provisions in the disk controller section of the
motherboard to set up the head seeking time (track to track) to match some
of the faster (more expensive) disk drives out there. The disk manager pro
gram is supplied on disk with the box. This is a completely new program
with some very nice enhancements added to it!

BY
DON MASON

10

by Jack Sughrue

This month's two reviews are a bit different from reviews I've
done in the past in that both the Software and Textware Reviews begin
with exactly the same two sentences. They are both about the same
company: Howard W. Sams & Co., Inc.(4300 W. 62nd ST., P.O. Box 7092,
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206).

Sams is one of the three publishers who've continued to put out
extraordinary books for the T.I. (The other two are Datatmost and
Compute!)

Some of you may have recalled the high praise I showered on
ENTERTAINMENT GAMES IN TI BASIC AND EXTENDED BASIC in a past review
and TI-99/4A: 24 BASIC PROGRAMS in yet an earlier column. Both of
these exceptional Sams' books have caused a lot of comment by members
who've purchased them as a result of the reviews. All the comments
have been unusually positive. Both those books were purchased with
the taped versions of the programs (see this month's SOFTWARE REVIEW)
and immediately became well-used, valuable editions to the TI system.

Well, Sams now has a couple welcome additions to these editions:
THE TOOL KIT SERIES:TI-99/4A EDITION and the extraordinary TI-99/4A
BASIC REFERENCE MANUAL. The TOOL KIT is $8.95; REFERENCE is $17.95.
Dave Dusthimer and Ted Buchholz are the authors of TOOL KIT.
The series has been out some time for other computers, and I've had
some opportunities to work with them. And liked them.

So, when the TI version came out I was first in line with
inflated U.S. currency. A well-spent $8.95.

Loaded with programs and subprograms that are usable, fun, and
very easy to understand, TOOL KIT is the ideal book for someone who
really wants to learn to use the TI but is wary of the technical and
mathematical. After all, you don't have to have an engineering
degree to enjoy the electronic wizardry of a television set or a
stereo, so why can't one just enjoy the computer with the same
uninhibited flair of enjoying an electric typewriter? Why not,
indeed!

This book swings wide that portal; lets you enter the magic
world of computering armed with your own wit and wisdom, your own
desires and dreams, your own secrets and strategies. In short, the
TOOL KIT is just that: a kit that lets you manipulate, experiment,
learn, grow, enhance. And have fun while doing it (not to mention
adding some fine things to your personal program library).

The book is well-written and illustrated and has an extremely
easy-to-read, attractive layout. The authors (and illustrator) show
the humorous and serious sides of their work in every one of the
logical, building-block chapters (which include Color, Sound,
Graphic, Animation, and Calculating Subroutines; Educational
Programs; Game Programs (traditional & arcade); and some fine
reference sections (which I feel should be a part of all
computer-specific books).

A definite Yes-Yes! (As opposed to a No-No: that comes at the
end of this review.)

**

Bang! Zap! Xwıxltlb! gSmqqfc! Fireworks and flash are the main
ingredients in most computer-specific books in the marketplace this
morning. Fortunately, by this afternoon there was TI-99/4A BASIC
REFERENCE MANUAL (which is $17.95, if you recall). Compute!'s
REFERENCE GUIDE by Regena and Datamosts ELEMENTARY TI are both

DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER NEWSLETTER IS SEPTEMBER 26TH

FORTH ASSEMBLER SOURCE CODE

These two disks contain the portion of TI Forth written in assembler. The disk contents is as follows:

Part 1 (ASMSRC) is the dictionary entry for the 250 or so primitives that are present when Forth is booted. This is loaded into memory at >A000.

Part 2 (DRIVER) is the code for the I/O system and support for Forth. It contains the disk and screen I/O, the allocation of user variable space, the stacks etc. Because it is more efficient to rearrange memory from the way that it defaults in the Editor/Assembler, this section also includes (in the UTIL* files) those portions of the E/A utilities that Forth requires and assembles them to different addresses. A small portion of code is also placed into the console RAM at >8300 for speed reasons.

Also on part 2 is a program called BOOT. After Forth is loaded using ASMSRC and DRIVER, Forth can (after loading the file words) save an image of itself to the VDP RAM and write this image to disk as a program file. BOOT Is used to read this image and to reconstruct the forth system from the image. When booting the Forth system in the normal manner, the file FORTH is the object code of BOOT and the file FORTHSAVE is the memory image of the system. Note that if the size of the system changes, BOOT will have to have some addresses modified to work correctly.

S O F T W A R E   R E V I E W # 7

by Jack Sughrue

This month's two reviews are a bit different from reviews I've done in the past in that both the Software and Textware Reviews begin with exactly the same two sentences. They are both about the same company: Howard W. Sams & Co., Inc.(4300 W. 62nd ST., P.O. Box 7092, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206).

Sams puts out some super programs in book form and in book/tape form and in tape form. If you want any of their products you can usually get it in any these formats (except, of course, their REFERENCE GUIDE and their TOOL KIT.) (See Textware Review in this issue of MUNCH to learn about these two fine books.) The Sams' book/tape packs are rather interesting. Nobody else is doing anything quite like it for the TI or (as far as I know) any of the lesser machines. A laminated binder that looks very much like a book cover surrounds the book/tape combo. Once the tape is taken out of its protectively-sealed pocket it can be placed in a hard inner slot for perfect carrying and protection. The book slips out of a little cover sleeve for easy reading. This packet is an excellent way to store these marvelous combinations. They stand out on any bookshelf (as Sams' black-on-white format for all their texts do).

If this company just reproduced trouble-free tapes of the exact programs printed in the books, that would be more than most companies do. But Sams goes further. The price of their taped programs is less than any other company. ANY OTHER COMPANY! But the quality is also better than most. And And And And — get this. The tapes contain a secret ingredient: Enhancements!

(EXAMPLE: The book/tape combo in question today is
ENTERTAINMENT GAMES IN TI BASIC AND EXTENDED BASIC [$15.95 for book
and tape and vinyl binder] which contains 9 BASIC and 11 Extended
programs on Side 1.) These are reproductions of the book programs
(which, by the way, are not all games - so the title is a little
misleading) and are excellent follow-alongs, as the book is a superb
section-by-section, line-by-line tutorial. Even still, it is not a
beginning beginner's book. Most of the programs are so complex the
reader would have to have some knowledge of BASIC to understand the
tutorials (but none at all to enjoy the programs on tape).
    Anyway, that's Side 1 and it contains all 20 programs: S*A*M
(Surface-to-Air-Missiles)(a shoot-em-up), Gold Bag (you try to get
more bags of gold than a friend does), Arrow Zap (a very-similar-to
Zero Zap program), Cosmic Guns (just that), Typing Skill (horrible
title for an excellent, fast-paced, learn-while-you-enjoy type game),
Spelling Test (yes), Address Inventory (a very professional, useful
program in two parts), Word Search (another two-parter that searches
out the answers to hidden-word puzzles), and Skeet Shoot (shoot down
the clay pigeons). Those are the BASIC programs, all extremely
well-designed. But, as the old giveaway shows on 50's TV used to
claim, "The best is yet to come."
    The extended programs (although most of the programs above can
be run in extended) include some spectaculars: Biorhythm (you'll
throw away all your other biorhythm programs after you use this one /
you can even keep your family charts permanently on the program),
Destroyer Phoenix (space adventure / nice graphics), Gunner (similar
to the arcade cross-cannons game), Space Battle (two-person fastie),
Auto Sprite Definition (a superb utility for you programmers out
there), Killer Crab Attack (I have to practice this underwater
activity a little bit / it's awfully fast), Home Bound (why did the
chicken, the frog, the rabbit, etc. cross the road? / another answer
/ well done), Dungeon (an all-text dungeon adventure that is
philosophically meaningful [meaning get out while the getting's good
but always pick on some pitiful monster half your size / I found this
fun), Help (imagine what this is like), Black Tunnel (without a doubt
the fastest get-your-vehicle-through-the-narrow I have ever enjoyed
failing at / don't give up), Meteor Rescue (I'm not so hot at this
one either / people depend on you to be saved / but getting there!).
    That series of programs should satisfy the most jaded palate.
Thre's something for everyone.
    But!
    Yes, there is more. Following each one of the programs in the
book there are recommendations for enhancements or improvements in
the program. You guessed it. Side 2 of this wonderful tape contains
all these enhancements for the 20 programs! (This is the main reason
why I would recommend the purchase of the book with the tape, so that
you can screen-list or print out the listings and see the changes and
learn how they were done AND still enjoy both versions by having them
already done on the tape.)
    I'll be regularly reviewing the upcoming SAMS combo packs (and
books) as they are released. Up to this point I'd highly recommend
any or all of the ones I have already purchased and used from Sams:
TOOL KIT SERIES, REFERENCE GUIDE (books), 24 BASIC PROGRAMS and
ENTERTAINMENT GAMES (combo packs). You'll be glad you spent the
money. (At local bookstores or from Sams directly...)
                                **   *
    NO-NO OF THE MONTH - T.I.'s cartridge THE ATTACK. It's still
available from mail-orders and now-and-then in stores. And it has
now gone down as low as $10.00. Wait'll it goes down to a quarter.
Then buy it and take it apart to see how those funny-little
cartridges are made. THE ATTACK is slow and B-O-R-I-N-G (with all
letters capitalized). I bought it a while back, sight unseen of
course, and was "playing" it the other night. I fell asleep during
the first screen and woke up on the next level.
    I'd rather go to sleep on an ant hill.

                                **

Next load in -BSAVE and -EDITOR or -64SUPPORT, you have now loaded most of Forth's vocabulary so you can easily become familiar with it. After you learn more about Forth you may want to be more selective on what is auto-booted in.

Now what we are going to do is to set up Forth to automatically boot in all of the menu options that you would like in a binary fast loading fashion. Type in

' TASK 51 BSAVE
(NOTE: ' is an apostrophe - FCTN 0)
and press enter. This will save everything between HERE and TASK in the dictionary as a binary image on the disk, starting with screen 51. Odds are that it will write over screens 51 through 64 or more but it won't matter because they are saved in the binary image. If you load the entire vocabulary except -TRACE there will be approximately 3900 bytes free for your use.

Now that you have executed BSAVE you will need to modify SCREEN 3, the auto-boot SCREEN. Since you already have the editor loaded you can just type in EMPTY-BUFFERS and then type in 3 EDIT. When we saved the vocabulary with BSAVE we eliminated the need for much of what is on SCREEN 3. After you have modified your SCREEN 3 to match the one listed below press FCTN 9 (BACK) and then type in FLUSH. You have just completed setting up Forth to rapidly load your menu selections and to match your printer output. To test it out just type in COLD and press ENTER and Forth will rapidly boot the vocabulary that you BSAVEd.

NOTE: To set up for your disk drive types just delete the (from the beginning of the line(s) that describe your drive(s). If you have a single sided and double sided drive they will have to be configured as single sided. If look at APPENDIX F in your Forth manual you will notice that many of the selections we loaded also loaded other selections. On SCREEN 3 we also added 2 new words to Forth, FREE returns the available memory for your program and PAGE clears the screen and homes the cursor to the upper left hand corner.

```
0 ( WELCOME SCREEN ) BASE->R HEX 10 SYSTEM   ( Clears Screen )
1 0 0 GOTOXY ." Loading.. TI Forth " CR   10 83C2 C! ( QUIT off )
2 DECIMAL 51 BLOAD 16 SYSTEM   MENU
3
4 ) VDPMODE '            ( Tells Forth you're in TEXT Mode )
5 0 DISK_LO '            ( Allows EDIT/COPY on all SCREENS )
6
7 ( 180 DISK_HI '        ( Set up for 2 Single Sided Drives )
8
9 ( 180 DISK_SIZE _      ( Set up for Double Sided Drive(s) )
10 ( 360 DISK_HI !       ( Set up for 2 Double Sided Drives )
11
12 : FREE SP@ HERE - . ;   ( Displays amount of free memory )
13 : PAGE 0 0 GOTOXY CLS ; ( Clears Screen & Homes Cursor )
14
15 R->BASE
```

If you have a hard time reading the white letters on the blue background you can change them to the Extended Basic colors by including the following commands on any of the blank lines on SCREEN 3.
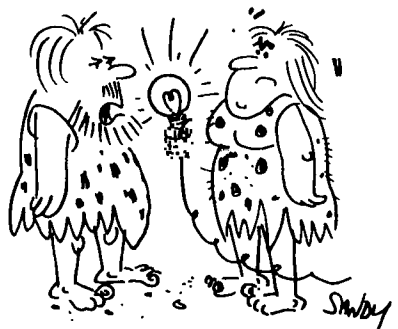23 7 VWTR
and the screen will change to cyan with black letters. Next month we will start looking at programming in Forth. Until then have fun and read the manual and "Starting Forth" by Leo Brodie.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE !

In response to requests from many people who live outside the Worcester area, we now offer subscriptions to this newsletter. The rate will be $12.00 for twelve issues. If you order a subscription before 9-30-84, you will recieve all available back issues at no charge.

To subscribe, use the order form on the back page for membership renewals and write NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION on the bottom,

"Big deal. Fire gives light and heat."

TEXAS
INSTRUMENTS

Dear 99er Users Group:

Many groups have requested the source code to TI-FORTH. Here it is! It's on two diskettes, and the attached instruction sheet should provide you with the instructions you will need.

I have also enclosed a diskette with some enhancements that were made to TI-WRITER and Multiplan. Multiplan has been speeded-up a little, plus you will now have auto-repeat when moving the curser around the screen. Simply replace these files on your Multiplan System diskette with these files on the enclosed diskette:

> MPBASE
> MPCHAR
> MPDATA
> MPINTR
> OVERLAY

TI-WRITER has been enhanced to provide true lower case letters, eliminate the form feed while using the Formatter, and provide for a printer default while using the Formatter. You will need to add the CHARA1 file to your system diskette and replace the EDITA1 and EDITA2 files with those on the diskette. For the printer defaults in the Formatter, to get "RS232.BA=1200.LF" replace the FORMA1 and FORMA2 files. The other default is "RS232.BA=4800.LF" and replace the FORMA1 and FORMA2 files with the FORMA4800A and FORMA4800B file, while keeping the file names FORMA1 and FORMA2 respectively.
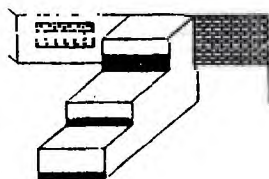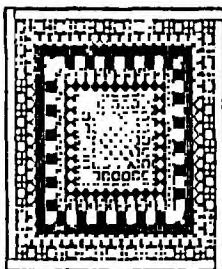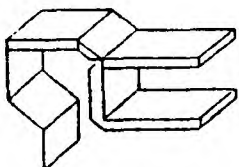
This will be the last letter you will be receiving from me, for next month I will be transferred to Dallas to begin working for TI's Information Systems and Services Group. I have enjoyed your newsletter, personal letters and phone calls. I wish you all continued happiness working with your TI-99/4A.

Very truly yours,
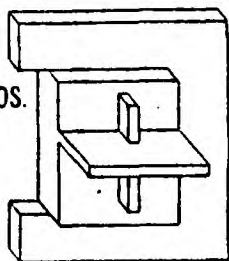
William H. Barniea
Manager Home Computer Software

WHB/pr

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* MULTI-FILE: A GENERAL PURPOSE MINI DATA BASE.
* MORSE CODE: FOR THE HAM. LEARN CODE WITH PLEASURE NOT PAIN.
* MATH II: SOLVE, DISPLAY, STORE, & PRINT. OVER 40 FUNCTIONS.
* CHART-IT: BAR GRAPH UP TO 25 ITEMS. DISPLAY & SCREEN DUMP.
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5ᵀᴴ 1— =FORTH

CONFIGURING TI FORTH TO YOUR SYSTEM

Now that TI Forth has arrived at the User's Groups lets get started by configuring it to match your own system. I strongly recommend that you read through the ENTIRE Forth manual before you start, it could keep you out of trouble later on. TI Forth is originally configured for 1 single sided disk drive and the printer is set up as RS232.BA=9600 and it has a syntax error on the printer output screen, 72.

I am probably already too late but, BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING WITH TI FORTH MAKE A BACKUP COPY OF THE DISK !!!! The Disk Manager can be used to backup the TI Forth system diskette (only use single sided). There are a few commands that could be detrimental to your Forth diskette if you are not careful such as CLEAR, UPDATE, FLUSH, ED@ and EDIT. Forth has a 5 screen buffer, 5K, which resides at >2010 through >3423. When this buffer is full and one of the screens in the buffer has been marked as updated Forth will automatically write out to the disk, which could write over something you wanted to keep. So ALWAYS keep the write protect sticker on your original diskette and only use it to make copies of for your use.

Now that you have a backup copy lets configure it to your system. First lets load Forth by following the instructions in chapter 1 of the Forth manual. By now you should have read chapter 3 on the EDITOR so lets put it to use. After Forth boots in you will have a menu of additional vocabulary blocks listed on the screen and the cursor will be below the line that reads TI FORTH. To invoke the EDITOR you must first load the vocabulary for it. This is done by typing in -EDITOR and pressing ENTER. Forth will then go out to drive 1 and load and compile the appropriate SCREENs into memory.

After the cursor comes back you can then EDIT the various SCREENs on your BACKUP DISK.!!!.!11 To edit a SCREEN just type in the : FF:N number followed by a space and the word EDIT and then press enter. The editor will take over from there and display the SCREEN.

So now lets modify the printer section of Forth and fix the syntax error. Type in EMPTY-BUFFERS DECIMAL and press ENTER. This will clear out the buffer and set the number base for decimal numbers. Now type 72 EDIT and press ENTER. The 72nd SCREEN has the RS232 information for your printer. For a parallel printer replace RS232 and RS232.BA=9600 as indicated by the under lined PIO's in the listing below. If your printer is serial but at a different baud rate or uses .LF or .EC etc just insert or delete the appropriate characters as needed on line 4 after " RS232. The syntax error is on line 5. To fix it change PAB_ADDR @ VDP to PAB-ADDR @ VDP. This applies to the 01NOV82 disk name version only, the TI-FORTH disk name version is OK.

```
0 ( ALTERNATE I/O SUPPORT FOR  PIO  PNTR 12JUL82 LCT)
1 0 CLOAD INDEX     BASE->R DECIMAL 68 R->BASE CLOAD STAT
2   0 0 0 FILE >PIO    BASE->R HEX
3 : SWCH >PIO  PABS @ 10 + DUP PAB-ADDR ' 1- PAB-VBUF '
4   SET-PAB OUTPT F-D" PIO"                      OPN 3
5   PAB-ADDR @ VSBW 1 PAB-ADDR @ 5 + VSBW  PAB-ADDR @ ALTOUT ' ;
6 : UNSWCH 0 ALTOUT ! CLSE ;
7 : ?ASCII ( BLOCK# --- FLAG )
8        BLOCK 0 SWAP DUP 400 + SWAP
9       DO I C@ 20 > + I C@ DUP 70 < SWAP 7F > OR
10          IF DROP 0 LEAVE ENDIF LOOP  ;
11 : TRIAD 0 SWAP SWCH 3 / 3 * DUP 3 + SWAP
12   DO I ?ASCII IF I+ I LIST CR ENDIF LOOP
13   -DUP IF 3 SWAP - 14 + 0 DO CR LOOP
14   OF MESSAGE 0C EMIT  ENDIF UNSWCH  ;
15 R->BASE   -->
```

After you have made the proper changes press FCTN 9 (BACK) and you will be out of the edit mode. Then type in FLUSH and press ENTER and the changes will be written out to the disk. Now type in MENU and the original menu will come on the screen next type in : XXX ; and press ENTER. To load the printer vocabulary type in -PRINT and press ENTER.

To check your printer turn it on and then type in SWCH 72 LIST UNSWCH and press ENTER. When you do this you should get a printout of the revised SCREEN 72. SWCH tells Forth to change from screen output to printer output, 72 LIST lists out SCREEN 72 and UNSWCH changes from printer output to screen output. If it didn't work right then type in FORGET XXX and press ENTER. This erases the printer vocabulary out of memory so you can reload the new one after you reedit SCREEN 72.

After you have the printer working right type in COLD and press ENTER. This will re-BOOT Forth and start it up with just the standard vocabulary. WARNING what we are about to do will write over part of the standard screens, you might want to make a backup copy of your disk with the new printer selection first. Before we go too far here may I suggest that you load -64SUPPORT and edit SCREEN 72 to see the difference between the 64 column editor and the standard one. You will need to decide which editor you like better since you can only have one in memory and we will be setting it up to auto-boot. Now type in COLD and press ENTER. Next you will need to decide which of the menu selections you will be using the most so we can load them into memory. I might suggest that you load the following selections for use during your introduction to TI Forth. Type in the following line and press ENTER.

-GRAPH -DUMP -VDPMODES -COPY

If you are going to use the ASSEMBLER portion of Forth type in -ASSEMBLER and -CRU and press ENTER. Now type in : yourname ; and press ENTER. This will load your name in the dictionary below the print and edit vocabulary so you can easily FORGET these words to open up memory space before you load your programs. If your programs will be using the printer or the floating point routines then load in -PRINT and/or -FLOAT before you enter your name.

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You can do all of the above and more with just three buttons and a pencil on a sketch pad. Moreover, you don't need any more computer equipment than your TI Console.

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? This is all done with a device called "SUPER SKETCH" made by Personal Peripherals Inc. of Irving, Texas. Some of you saw the one I had at the August meeting. (Due to lack of consoles I couldn't demonstrate it). It consists of a clip board with a movable arm and stylus. This clip board is connected by a cable to a TI plug in module. THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.

There are three active buttons on the clip board, "MENU", "SELECT", and "LIFT". Push the "MENU" button and a menu appears on the left side of the screen with a flashing arrow. Position the arrow with the stylus opposite the color or command you want, push "SELECT", and go to the sketch pad with the "LIFT" button and do your thing. The "LIFT" button also picks up your "pencil" so you can move it without leaving a mark. If you goof there is an erase mode that erases pixel by pixel.

I plan to have one for demonstration at the September meeting, and since there was considerable interest in them at the August meeting I hope to have several available at the September meeting for those who want them at the dozen price of $36.00 plus transportation, whatever that comes to.

Brian O'Brien, Jr.

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THE REPLACEMENT PARTS BLUES

by Mike Gelbwasser

Did you ever try to get a replacement part for the T.I. in Worcester? Well, don't! You'll go nuts, just as I did when I tried to replace my Video Modulator. Here is a tale of my exploits:

First, I called the TI CARES hotline, 1-800-TI-CARES. They suggested department stores in the area...Sounds easy enough, I thought. So I tried Toys-R-Us, Caldors, and just about every other computer carrying store in Worcester. All that they had was the Commodore/Atari compatible adapter. "Sorry", they said. Finally I tried Video Connection and Advanced Electronics, both recommended to T.I. users. Video Connection had it, but it was out of stock and wouldn't be in until the new T.I. shipment came in. ETA (estimated time of arrival) unknown.....Nearly the same with Advanced Electronics. Normally, I'd wait, but my computer had been down for 2-3 months already, and I was tired of waiting. Eventually, I bought my replacement from a company in Waltham, through their mail service, and for more than I had expected to pay.

So, I'm backing Steve, Jack, Jim and the rest of the head honchos at MUNCH on this one! We've got to write and plead with these companies to sell T.I. Merchandise. The second most owned computer in the U.S.A. shouldn't have to take a lifetime to find, especially in this area. I'm not a "MUNCHER" yet, but when I get the dough, I'm going to be!

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 (come to the VISITORS entrance and follow the signs for MUNCH...)