NET 99er
HOME COMPUTER USERS GROUP
PO BOX 534
HURST,TX 76053

Hello there! Fellow 99ers

NOTICE

Next meeting is the **13th of OCTOBER**
 at 9:00 AM at the Hurst Public
Library. Hope to see you there.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

First I would like to make a humble
apology to the group for the slowness
of the bulk mail thus far. Since the
last meeting the club has made at
least two contacts with two post
offices. We have learned some things
which should speed up the mail. We
were urged to give it another try.
We will try harder and try to get the
newsletter out earlier this time. I
hope we make it.

Just a little blurb to let you know
our plans for the rest of the year.
Of course, the October meeting on Oct
13 will feature Ron Cook with a
program on PASCAL. It promises to be
very interesting. The Hurst Library
has other plans for the meeting room
on the second Saturday of November.
We decided to tentatively set aside
November 3 and December 8 as the last
two meeting dates of the year. This
way we can wrap up our meetings for
the year plenty before Christmas.
Please note that these latter two
dates are only our plans--the library
has the last word. While on the
subject of meeting dates and the
library, it is time to publically
thank member Bill Duncan for passing
the check to the library for our
rental and deposit and picking up the
key prior to meetings. Bill is doing
a great job for us. THANKS.

Hear ye! Hear ye! The NET 99er

programming contest is offically
under way. In case you missed the
last meeting, the deal is thus: You
are encouraged to write a program
which would make nice showing to
friends at Christmas time (see, you
can beat the stores to Christmas).
This program may be written in any
language and can take advantage of
any or all of the 99s capabilities.
If there are sufficient entries we
will select winners in several
categories. These programs should be
brought to the November meeting for
judging. With that deadline, there
will be sufficient time for all
interested parties to get copies
prior to the holiday season. If you
want to be a judge or have an idea
for a prize donation, please let
LeRoy Thompson know.

I hope the new lending library system
is working well for all of you
members. In case you missed the last
meeting or didn't read the last
newsletter, our new system is a
lending-only library operated by
three librarians. They are Robert
Scarborough (West) 244-0369, Gerry
Myers (Central) 834-6138, and Mike
Maier (East) 264-7762. These folks
will be glad to get you on the
schedule to check out the programs of
your choice. There may be a waiting
list. Hurrying will help each other.
If you have any complaints or
problems, please let me know.
Otherwise I will think that
everything is running smoothly.

An interesting idea was presented to
me by Fulton Cook recently. He
suggested that someone who is
artistically inclined might prepare a
coloring book on tape using the Super
Sketch. This would enable some of us
who are less talented to be able to
color in the outlines as we liked
without having to try our shaky hands
at drawing first. Please let us know
if you are a willing artist.

On the subject of Super Sketch, I
noticed a problem getting exactly the
desired response from it after long
useage. The problem was solved
simply by using a Widget to let the

cartridge portion stay cooler. If you have the problem, a solution might be a small cooling fan.

Also on the subject of Super Sketch, I talked to Steve Roubik recently. He IS working on the full-system enhancements for SS. He is in the process of writing code now and will begin testing the programs soon. He told me that they had recently written screen dumps for SS for another computer which supports 25 different printers. That is quite an accomplishment. We will look forward to the time when the enhanced version will be available to us.

The Assembly Language SIG met recently. Several miscellaneous subjects were discussed. It was decided that the attendees should take turns providing refreshments for the meetings. Source code dealing with disk read and write by sector instead of by file was discussed. Perhaps something interesting will come of it. The next meeting (ALSIG) will be October 16 at the First Baptist Church on north 620 at 7. You are welcome--there is plenty of room.

I feel that this is a good time and place to mention that MICROpendium has become the only dependable monthly publication for us 99ers. It is such a bargain that it is difficult to turn down. If you are interested, the rate is $12 per year mailed to PO Box 1343, Round Rock, TX 78680. There is no intention of slighting THE SMART PROGRAMMER. It is understood that Craig Miller has finished up his very intense work schedule at CorComp and can once again devote his time to publishing this very good monthly. I'll bet he can tell us some really good things about our 99 now--if he just will.

Last month Charlie reviewed the CorComp double density disk controller. He indicated that someone else would evaluate the assembly language linkages and capabilities of it. He didn't know who that was and I didn't either at

the time. What follows is partially from a review written by Coe Case of the Northern Alabama 99 Computer Users Group and partly contributed by me.

The MOVE MEMORY instructions which execute from either BASIC or X-BASIC allow you to move ANY readable memory to ANY writeable memory. of course if in the process you crash your system, YOU didn't read the manual. It gives you the areas of memory which are likely to be in use by the system. The manual also gives a brief (all too) description of how to move blocks of data to the screen. FAST! For the dedicated, POKEs and PEEKs allow you to write machine language programs into memory and the EXECUTE instruction allows you to do just that. immediately. Don't forget to provide for returning to your program!

It will not teach your children to count to ten, start your car, turn out the lights, or kick the dog. Otherwise. . .

In summary, I feel that had TI given this quality of product, at a reasonable cost, things would have been much different in the home computer market today. One glitch that I have noticed in a month and a half of trouble-free use is when using the AL Load and Run option of File Utilities. Programs which allow you to return to E/A, never get there--they just go to never never land--a place that all AL programmers are very familiar with.

As of late September, the response to the $152 CorComp DDC deal has been almost non existant. Since there is a 30 person minimum, it looks like this buy won't happen. If you feel otherwise, gather up 29 or so people (with money) and let me know.

LeRoy Thompson

NET 99'ER USER'S GROUP MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 1984

President LeRoy Thompson called the meeting to order and welcomed new members and guests.

He discussed the problems of using bulk mail for the newsletter: many members were receiving their newsletters late or not at all. Thompson said if the bulk mailing continues to be late, then the club may need to opt for higher postage rates.

Thompson also noted that the company that made the Super Sketch apparently has moved from Irving to Longview. Anyone having problems with their SuperSketch can call the company (Personal Peripherals, Inc.) at 214-758-8674.

Mike Bowen announced that the Multiplan SIG group has copies of the enhanced program that was mailed to the user's group from TI.

There also were SIG (Special Interest Groups) reports from the Assembly and Extended Basic groups.

Thompson also announced a programming contest for the group, based on a Christmas theme. There will be no prizes, but just the recognition for winning.

The programs should be submitted at the November meeting. Thompson said if there are enough entries, the programs will be divided into languages.

The president also announced that the new library system is into effect. There now are three libraries — one based on the west side, the other in Haltom and the other in Grand Prairie. They are lending libraries and a $4 deposit will be required for each diskette. The deposit will be refunded upon return of the diskette(s) within four days.

Thompson explained that the libraries were reduced by one because of the cost of supporting more than three.

There followed much discussion about the library and some users, who have the complete library, volunteered to let other users copy theirs.

Thompson also announced that CompuServe has an on-line demo, showing the feature of its database. The Fort Worth number is 870-2461 and the Dallas numbers are 761-0599 and 761-9040. Procedures after connection should be a Control C and typing 77770,101 at the User ID prompt. The password is Free-Demo.

Following a swap, sell and buy session, Thompson gave a demonstration of how to restore lost files on a disk with the Disko program. Following the demo, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Clines, secretary

Charlie's Chatter

Here it is another month and I'm finding it harder and harder to find things to comment about. Well, that's probably be cause I haven't had much time to explore new things for the TI. So let's see if we can scare up something new about something old.

Last month I did a review of CorComp's (CC) new Disk Controller Card. Since I and a few other members have had some time to try it out, in uses other than disk controlling, we've discovered a few Tid-Bits of interesting information that, for want of better words, I'll call "CorComp Quirks".

Apparently there is something about the CC's disk controller card and its use with TI Basic and TI's speech synthesizer that is not totally compatible.

Some of our library's Basic Game programs have the option of speech included in them. For example, one of them, titled "CRAP/GAME2" on library disk U/GBG1, **allows speech when the TI Terminal Emulator II (TEII) cartridge is used and the game is loaded in console Basic. Well, that was the normal case until the CC disk controller card was installed. Now it seems that if you try to load that game in Basic, selected from the CC main menu, you can load the game all right, but when you try to RUN the game you get "I/O ERROR 06 in**

45". If you look up I/O ERROR 06 in the TI Basic Reference Manual it equates to OPEN and DEVICE ERROR (device not found). If you look at (LIST 45) of the program it says 45 OPEN 1:"SPEECH",OUTPUT. The error message means that the program, for some reason, can't find the speech synthesizer. After trying repeatedly to reload and run the program without results, one of our members, Gery Myers, realized that the only thing that was now different with his system was that he now had the CC disk controller card installed. Could it be that this fine product was mucking up the works when you try to access the TE II with console Basic? Well, It looks like that's it, but, to confirm this "QUIRK", Gery shut off the PEB and loaded the program from tape, without using the disk drives or the CC disk controller card. Sure enough, everything worked like a charm. Now, what to do about it? We certainly can't go around exchanging disk controller cards or loading all Basic speech programs from tape. Well, there is an answer and a simple one at that.

When you first turn on your computer with the CC disk controller card installed in the PEB and the TE II in the cartridge port, the CC title screen gives you the options of 1 DISK CONTROLLER, 2 TI BASIC and 3 TE II and it also gives you the COLOR BAR option. If you go to the Color Bar you then must either press FCTN BEGIN to go back to the CC title screen or you can PRESS ANY KEY which will then go on to give you two options: 1 TI BASIC or 2 TE II. Gery tried getting into TI Basic using the latter option, loaded the program from disk and the program ran properly.

For some unknown reason, when trying to access the speech synthesizer from TI Basic, using the TE II and with the CC disk controller card installed, you must use the second menu to get into TI Basic. So try this if you're having difficulty: When the CC title screen appears, press the SPACE BAR for the Color Bar, then press ANY KEY for the second menu and THEN press key 1 for TI Basic and you can properly access the speech synthesizer's vocabulary with TE II.

Well, that was QUIRK 1, then came QUIRK 2. Actually, I'm not sure wether this is a QUIRK with the CC card or just something unusual that I had never heard of before when using double sided and/or double density disks.

When I found AUTO SPELL-CHECK by DRAGONSLAYER at the right price, I couldn't resist getting it since I use TI-WRITER extensively in my work and had been long awaiting a spelling checker program. After using it a few times, I was so impressed with it that I deceided to add this fine program to my TI-WRITER disk.

Having the Double Sided/Double Density (DS/DD) capability with the CC disk controller, it was no problem to merely add the AUTO SPELL-CHECK files to my TI-WRITER disk. The enclosed documentation said it could be done, so I did it. Then I egarly put my TI-WRITER disk in drive 1 and my disk of TI-WRITER files in drive 2 and started to check one of the files. The UTIL1 program loaded fine using option 3 (UTILITY) of TI-WRITER. I then loaded the text file I wanted to check. Everything worked fine. Then, To the prompt of PUT DISK A in drive 1 (the disk with Dictionary 1 on it) and PRESS ENTER TO GO ON, I merely pressed ENTER since Dictionary 1 was alredy on the TI-WRITER disk in drive 1. WRONG . . . All I got on the screen was ERROR '07. Now, that's one for the books!! Whatever that error is, I surely don't know. So, I removed the TI-WRITER disk with Dictionary 1 file on it and inserted DISK A (The original DRAGONSLAER disk) in drive 1 and tried again. Everything worked fine. Well, I tried it my way again, with my TI-WRITER disk with the AUTO SPEL-CHECK files on it and again, ERROR '07.

I recopied the AUTO SPELL-CHECK files

to my TI-WRITER disk in case I had had a glitch during file copying. No help, ERROR °o7. What did that error message mean? If it had been ERROR 007, I would have known James Bond had something to do with it. But, ERROR °o7 ??? I called Leroy . . . He knows everything. Strange?, he didn't know this one. WELL, time to experiment. I took a new diskette, initialized it DS/DD, named it DRAGONSLAY and copied my entire TI-WRITER disk (with the AUTO SPELL-CHECK files on it) to the new disk on the outside chance that the UTIL1 program was calling the Dictionary 1 file from a disk named DRAGONSLAY. I tried again. ERROR °o7 !!!! Finally, I initialized another diskette, DS/DD, (I wasn't going to give up), named the disk TI-WRITER and, this time, I copied the just the AUTO SPELL-CHECK files to the disk to see if the problem was in using DS/DD format. I tried again, using the new disk in DS/DD format and it worked fine. Well, I knew it wasn't the format, so what else could it be? I got brave. If the AUTO SPELL-CHECK files wouldn't work when placed on a disk with the TI-WRITER files, then maybe, just MAYBE the TI-WRITER files wouldn't work if they were put on a disk with the AUTO SPELL-CHECK files. WRONG AGAIN, Mr. Negative Thinker; everything worked just fine.

WELL, now there's one to take to the Assembly Language SIG. Who, out there has an answer to this one? The only thing that I can think of is that there is something in the UTIL1 program that tells it to look for the Dictionary 1 file at a certain disk sector location or address and unless the AUTO SPELL-CHECK Dictionary 1 file is copied to that sector location (by the AUTO SPELL-CHECK files being copied to the disk first) the program won't run.

Having discussed this last problem with a few folks, it appears that there are some limitations on converting some of our SS/SD programs and files to DS/DD. Exactly what these limitations are or what

precautions or protocols must be observed would certainly be useful for us to know. I certainly would like to see an article in the newsletter from someone In-The-Know. Any volunteers??????

Well, enough of the irrelevant stuff. A hearty welcome to all our new members, listed below.

Mrs. Helen T. Cook
1019 Woodland Ave.
Fort Worth, Texas 76110
724-6532

David Dobbins
2509 Summit
Irving, Texas 75062
(214) 257-1277

Richard Gardner
9112 Fine Lake Drive
Louisville, Kentucky 40220
(502) 499-9779

Joseph F. and Mike Grazer
512 Quail Crest
Bedford, Texas 76021
485-9102

Jack Johnson
440 Fieldwood
Richardson, Texas 75081
(214) 238-8471

Ms. Vicki M. Muller
1987 Colorado Blvd., Apt. A
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J. E. and Kimberly Ragsdale
Box 131, 312 Lloyd Circle
Colleyville, Texas 76034

Bill Staley
3151 Whirlaway
Dallas, Texas 75229
(214) 352-6119

Harry O. Tabell
10828 Villa Haven Drive
Dallas, Texas 75238
(214) 341-1191

Ross Williams
3502 Faulkner Meadows, 209
Garland, Texas 75043

(214) 840-3474

Well, that's it for this month. Happy
Computing.

Charlie B.

LETTERS FROM THE EDITOR

DEAR EDITOR

I have read, with interest, the NET
99er Newsletter each month, but at
times I have been overwhelemed with
the depth of the articles. My
problem is I do not understant some
,er most, of the articles. Is there
anyway that maybe somehow there could
be sections to the newsletter with
interest for all.

A. Reader

EDITOR: Dear A. I think that you
have a very,very good and valid
thought. In regards to this I would
like to propose the following:
1.   Seperate sections in the
newsletter for different levels of
understanding and equipment.
2.   Seperate sections for games and
reviews of games.
3.   I suggest that tese sections
would be as follows:

BEGINNER-He/She has a keyboard,
tv/momitor and cassette recorder.-
Programs, stories and things written
by and used by this category.

ADVANCED-Beginner equipment plus
extended basic,memory expansion and
disc   drive,(but   not
required).-Programs, stories and
things written by and used by this
category.

EXPERT-Has all the extra equipment
including a modem and printer, but is
not completely ready for everything.
Again programs,stories and things
written by and used by this category.

EXPERT ADVANCED-Has all the extra
equipment plus anything else made for
the   99   and   speaks   assembly

occasionally.-Programs, stories and
things written by and used by this
category.

GAMES   AND   REVIEW   OF   GAMES
SECTION.-Expert or not expert review
of any game that someone would like
to comment about.

There are the usual things that must
appear in each newsletter and will
appear, meeting notice, new members,
library update and minutes of last
meeting. Occasionally we will have
special notes from the president and
as always the final out for anything
not covered so far will come under
the editors notes.

All of the above is recommendations
or suggestions from the the editor
for for making the newsletter more
interesting to all cross sections of
our membership.

The biggest problem of the whole
thing is that if nobody in each
section submits anything for the
newsletter, it will appear as a
heading only with no text. Think
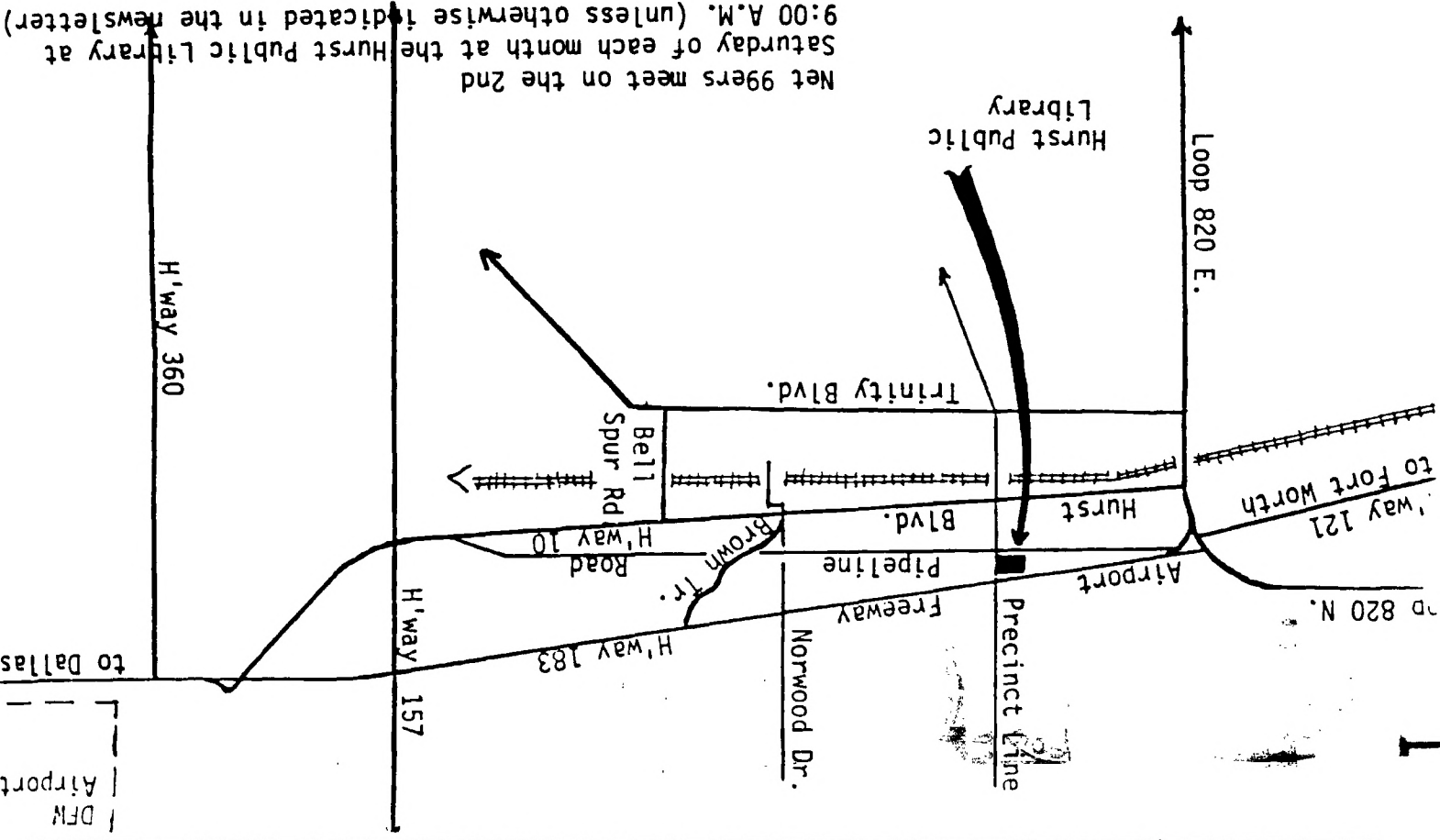about it is that fun to read or learn
from.

I accept anything, in any form and
will do the editing. Preferences for
receiving material are modem, disc,
star text (mc 54659), typewritten
copy, or verbal, or any other way.

P.S. Printers for sale

GEMINI 10X $270.00
GEMINI 15X 425.00
DELTA 10 410.00
DELTA 15 590.00
RADIX 10 620.00
RADIX 15 714.00

C SYSTEMS
PHONE 625 7602

WILL ALSO MEET ANY GOOD OFFER THRU
END OF OCT.
WAYNE COURTNEY

Net 99ers meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Hurst Public Library at 9:00 A.M. (unless otherwise indicated in the newsletter)

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