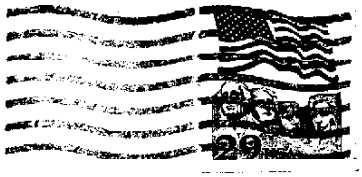
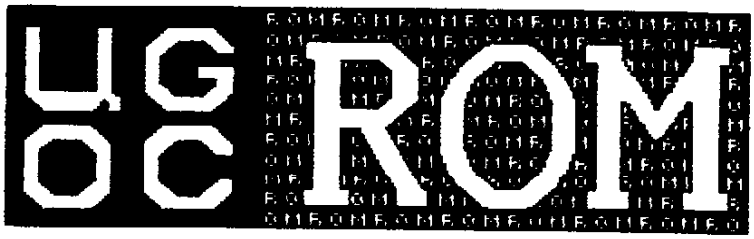
THE R O M NEWSLETTER
USERS GROUP OF ORANGE COUNTY
17161 EDWARDS STREET
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92647



DALLAS TI COMPUTER GROUP (DTICG)
PO Box 29063
Dallas
TI 75229



SEPTEMBER 1991

SERVING THE TI 99/4A HOME COMPUTER COMMUNITY

WE MEET AT FIDELITY FEDERAL

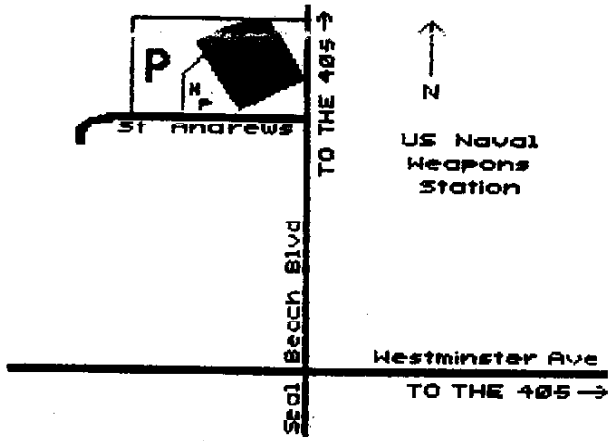
TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The SECOND Monday of each month at

Fidelity Federal Savings

7:30 PM

North of Westminster Ave. at the corner of Seal Beach Blvd and St. Andrews at 13820 Seal Beach Blvd. Parking is availabel west of the building off St. Andrews with additional parking assross the street. All are welcome.



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We solicit letters and articles of interest to the TI-99/4A user community. Material accepted may be edited for fit and format. No payment is offered nor intended (other than your byline).

TI CLUB ACTIVITIES

CLUB	ACTION	DATE	INFO
SUG	GENERAL MEETING	03 SEP	871-3405
UGOC	LIBRARY, FTNULY	03 SEP	842-0859
UGOC	GENERAL MEETING	09 SEP	662-2957
UGOC	LIBRARY, FTNULY	10 SEP	842-0859
UGOC	BOARD MEETING	16 SEP	897-2868
UGOC	LIBRARY, FTNULY	17 SEP	842-0859
UGOC	LIBRARY, FTNULY	24 SEP	842-0859
UGOC	NSLETTER LIBRARY	CALL	847-5875

IN THIS ISSUE

By Editor and Staff

We have been told that a good newsletter always has a Table of Contents, so we will have one from now on.

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TI and the CASSETTE

By Stan Corbin

With several of our members now starting out with TI consoles they have recently purchased, it is time to review some principles of cassette operation.

There is a "sweet spot" as far as loading from a cassette is concerned. If the output volume from the recorder is too low the message, ERROR - NO DATA FOUND, will be presented. If the output volume is too high, the message, "ERROR IN DATA DETECTED" will be displayed. Somewhere in between these messages lies the correct setting. Measured with a digital voltmeter it comes out about 0.7 volts. When I was using a cassette I made up a small voltmeter which had the correct setting at mid-range, and it worked very well. When I speak of output volume, I am speaking about the actual output at the earphone connector. The output from the speaker may be very loud, yet the output from the phone plug jack may not be adequate. This results from the manufacturer reducing the volume at the earphone through a small resistance-capacitance network. The reduction is to keep from blasting your ears off, when you are using earphones.

With some tape recorders, the speaker will be very loud but the output through the jack would be the bare minimum necessary to write to the computer. A slight drop in volume in the recording and the program couldn't be loaded. So if you are selecting a recorder for use with your TI, be sure that the output from the earphone jack is adequate.

There are differences also in the polarity of the start/stop control jack. [Ed Note: Labeled REM on my cassette.] If the computer does not shut the cassette recorder off (or allow it to run) at the appropriate times, then it is probable that the cassette recorder control jack is not of the proper polarity. This problem can be rectified with a simple attachment, which changes the polarity. You can however, leave the control plug out and run the starting and stopping manually.

Once you have found the "sweet spot" you can leave the recorder volume control set at that spot, or at least note where that is, if you use the recorder for other purposes. One more thing about recorders is the tone. Some recorders have a tone control while others do not. Set the control for the highest frequency. Some recorders have a "cut-off" frequency too low to operate with the TI. That necessitates shopping for another recorder.

If one doesn't have a suitable recorder, a thrift store is a good place to start shopping, the prices can be quite reasonable.

A nice feature to have on the recorder is a tape counter, this makes it easier to put several programs on one tape, by keeping track of where the program starts according to the counter. The TI does not have a title recognition capability on tape input. Some computers recognize the titles and will only load the title you have selected, much like disk drives.

When it comes to the tape, you can get by with the cheapest tapes without much problem. Use shorter tapes, no more than 60 minutes, there is less chance of tape breakage.

[Ed Note: It also discourages getting to many programs on one tape and hence make them harder to find.]

While there are many programs which can be run with just the console, a tape recorder and a monitor. I suggest that you get the EXTENDED BASIC cartridge as it expands your program operations capability.

[Ed Note If BASIC programs use character sets 15 and 16, they will not run in EXTENEDED BASIC].

If you are interested in word processing then you will need a printer. A dot matrix printer is much more versatile than the daisy wheel type. The daisy wheel type printer gives you full letter quality, if that is what you need. The dot matrix printers will allow you to do graphics, such as pictures. Some dot matrix printers will give you near letter quality, which is good enough for most text.

As you become more familiar with your TI99/4A, you will no doubt want to expand your set to have disk drive capabilities. When you have disk drives it opens up a whole new world of computing. There are many more programs available and they work faster.

Whatever you do with your TI, you'll know you have a very versatile, user friendly computer, which will do almost anything you could wish for it to do for home use. It is a real fun machine - so have a lot of fun.

AUBUST BOARD MEETING MINUTES
By Earl Raguse for Gene Saith

The meeting was held on August 26, 1991 at the home of our president, Siles Bazerman. Others present were, Bill Nelson, Erwin Metz, Earl Raguse, and Stan Corbin. The meeting was called to order at 7:25.

Secretary Gene Smith was singing his favorite song "Back Home In Indiana". His previous meeting minutes published in the ROM were accepted as printed. Earl Raguse acting as secretarty, took these notes on the meeting in Gene's stead.

Treasurer Erwin Metz reported that all club bills were currently paid as of that date and we are still solvent.

Stan Corbin, membership chair was reported that we had 51 members, with a couple of unlikely renewals who will be dropped.

Bill Nelson, VP and Hall of Fame chair reported that he had not yet mailed ROM, Certificate and check to our last HOF appointee, but soon. Also because of other commitments, he will be absent from meetings for a while. HOF will be postponed until he returns.

Earl Raguse, ROM Editor, reported that the ROM was nearly ready to put to bed, but that last minute articles would be accepted until midnight.

Earl Raguse, Paper librarian, reported that about 62 newsletters were still coming in every month. To save on postage, he has trimmed 7 UG's from our mailing list, because they have failed to respond to his letters, either with newsletters or letters of explanation.

In order to provide more time to get the minutes ready for printing in the current ROM, future Board Meetings will be held on 3rd Thursdays.

Siles will demo DM1000 at the next meeting, Earl will demo XDP a new XB enhancement from Australia in November. Stan will do Christmas cards with TIPS in December. Some library demo will be done every month. FW ver 4.4 is out and will be available at the Sept meeting.

The meeting was adjorned at 9:15 PM to feast on goodies served up by president Siles.

THE MEMBER SHIP
by Stan Corbin

What a pleasant surprise! Received a call from Gene Bohot, wanting to know how much the membership renewal dues were, and where to send them. This guy is really on the ball, he noticed by his mailing label on the ROM that his dues were about due. No grass grows under Gene's feet, he's sending his check for $20.00 immediately. We could use a million members like him. Gene helped immensely to make the Fest West last February, a great success. We're proud to have Gene as a member.

For those who don't know, the membership dues were raised to $20.00 last April. If anyone wishes to send in his or her dues, please send your check, (made out to UGOC, or Users Group of Orange County) to me, Stan Corbin, 13451 Springdale St. Westainster, CA 92683. Please don't all send them at once as I can only process about 25 or 50 renewals per day.

Ben Matheway our superb bulletin board sysop, and past president, and Jim Swedlow, our president of a couple of years ago, and Siles Bazerman, our present president, have all renewed their membership. Allen Quignon of Long Beach, whom I would like to meet personally, also renewed his membership.

Got a nice letter from Mike McCasline. Mike has been a member since 1986, he also belonged to the BUG group in Brea and to the now defunct ET group in El Toro, in which he held several board offices. Mike now lives in Beaverton, Oregon, and belongs to a Portland users group. Mike just recently had surgery and is presently convalescing, we wish him a speedy recovery and hope he has no more problems.

More surprises! Bob Harper called recently, haven't seen or heard from him in many months. Bob was president of UGOC about 4 years ago, and vice president before that. He called to give me his new address which is way down in Riverside. He has been very busy with a very successful business and so has not been able to get to any of our meetings for a long time. Bobs' heart is still with us and the TI, though his body is elsewhere. Hope you can make it up here for a meeting sometime, Bob.

I apologize for the problems and inconveniences caused, when I lost the key to the meeting room. When I opened the meeting room, the air conditioning was not working and it was hot. We are specifically forbidden from adjusting the unit, so I decided I would have to run home and get some fans. I hurried home without opening any of the other facilities. At home I located the fans and extension cords, but not without unlocking some doors. In my haste to get my door keys out, the meeting room key was, without my knowledge, dragged out also.

When I got back to the meeting room, some ingenious person had managed to get the air conditoning working. Later the key was needed, which started a frantic search, from the meeting room to the parking lot to home, without success. We couldn't lock the door for the night so we decided to wedge it shut. Early the next morning, with the light of day, I found the key in the grass between the shed and the garage. I returned to the bank to lock the door, expecting that no one at the bank would know. To my dismay, I encountered the vice president of the bank. He was very gracious, however, and not the least bit miffed, and told me it was alright.

I would like to thank those who accepted the inconvenience so stoically. I would also like to thank those who helped me look for the keys. I didn't realize until later that Bill Nelson was worrying along with me. Thanks for your concern Bill. Times like these, demonstrate the quality of our members.

Did you read MICHELLE VRANIZANS' column in the Register, Wednesday, August 21. Frank Aylstock wrote, to apprise her that there were more computers out there than the Commodore. It seems she had written a glorious article about the Commodore, which got Franks hackles up, so he went about setting her straight on TI99/4A's. She wrote a nice column about we TIers. Frank, who is a member of the Brea group as well as a UGOCer, gave her information on both groups. She called Bob August and discused the TI with him and he found her to be quite knowledgeable about computers. We would be happy to have her attend either of our meetings or even to see us at the Senior center in Orange on Friday mornings. I'm sure it would be enlightening to her, as outside of our little world, few people know we exist. Ms. Vranizans' article may change that.

Thanks Frank for getting in there and pitching for the good old TI, and a gracious thank you to Ms. Vranizan for her very fine article.

There are no Commodores on this ship. Time to drop the anchor bos'un, and make it fast.

JIM PETERSON, Mr TI

This article was taken from the newsletter BYTEMONGER of the BLUEGRASS UG. The Editor, Steve Burns, was kind enough to send me a disk version of the following article, and a few other goodies.

A Visit With the Tigercub
by Walter Ward
Bluegrass 99'ers

We are driving through a quiet residential street in the section of Columbus known as Whitehall. We see a small brick house with a large maple in the front for shade and a somewhat overgrown evergreen hedge.

The man who answers the door is about 6'2", medium build, medium complexion with a full head of hair which is mostly gray. His manner and everything about him suggests gentleman in the old fashioned sense. We are taken to his computer room which is small and dominated by an 8'x33" table which occupies almost a quarter of the room. Piled all over the table are disks in boxes and other computer paraphenalia. They are also piled under the table and on the floor. Shelves extend to the ceiling all around the room. They are filled with computer books, magazines and boxed newsletters, etc. Several filing cabinets are similiarily loaded. Sitting in the window sill are his wife's African violets which she has difficulty squeezing through to water due to the clutter.

Our brown eyed host and his charming Japanese wife make us welcome.

"My biography? Let's see. I was born in Minnesota in 1923. I wound up in the Army in World War II. I ended up in Japan in 1945 just after the surrender, in the 27th Army Division. I transferred to Gen. MacArthur's Honor Guard Company. I took my discharge in Japan in 1946 in order to go to work for the Army as a Civil Service employee. I married a Japanese girl in 1957. I returned to the U. S. with wife and baby daughter in 1959. My daughter is now married, a registered nurse and has two sons. I also have a son who graduated from The Ohio State University and who now works in insurance.

My hobbies? I like to fish and my annual fishing trip to Minnesota is coming up in July. It will also be the fiftieth reunion of my high school class. I like to garden but ailments are making that more and more difficult. I have a greenhouse full of cactus plants. I like country music. I used to collect military medals and decorations but that became too expensive. I used to play the harmonica.

When my son was sixteen he decided he wanted to be an engineer. He ended up with a degree in advertising and now works as an insurance adjustor. I decided if he was going to be an engineer he should know something about computers. Knowing absolutely nothing about computers; we went shopping. He picked the TI-99/4A because he liked the feel of the keyboard. I have never regretted that decision. It turned out that my son was too interested in sports and girls, cars and girls, and girls and girls, to take any interest in the computer but I became fascinated by it.

I taught myself to program by starting with the "blue book" and other books that came with the computer and by translating the Microsoft Basic in David H. Ahl's books of computer games to TI Basic. Within a year I had written about ninety programs. At that time the computer world seemed to be engaged in a conspiracy to ignore the TI-99/4A. I scanned every computer magazine on the newsstands and never found a mention of the TI or an advertisement for any TI product. Finally I did find one small ad and sent for the catalog. The company promptly went out of business! But their catalog had contained a small ad from the old International Users Group; which had started out as the first TI user group and had been converted by La Fara into a business, selling public domain programs for three dollars each. I began buying and swapping programs from the IUG.

About that time I made contact with a few local users and we started a user group in Columbus. This also brought me into contact with some wheeler-dealers who wanted me to go into partnership with my ninety programs and their one or two programs. It was mainly to get them off my back that I decided to start Tigercub Software on my own.

Since I thought my programs were no better than the best of the public domain being peddled by the IUG, I set my price at $3.00, others were charging three or four times as much, and at the time I didn't know how poor some of their programs were. At that price I couldn't afford the advertising rates of 99'er Magazine (I didn't know that most of their ads were run on credit, and the 99'er never got paid!) so I started mailing my Tips from the Tigercub to about two hundred user groups as a promotion idea.

Texas Instruments was being hurt, in the advertising wars, by allegations that few programs were available for their computer (because they had discouraged third-party competion). So they had published a deluxe quality catalog listing of every TI program they knew of (which was mostly everything in the IUG public domain library) and mailed it to every registered user.

Texas Instruments was also actively promoting user groups and had appointed a user group coordinator. I think his name was Ed Weiss (author's note: Ed Weist). He visited our user group, along with programmer John Phillips, and demonstrated the newest TI software - Hopper, and an unfinished FORTH. I cornered him after the meeting and asked if they intended to republish that software catalog. He said they were planning to, and definitely wanted to list all my programs. The next day, I mailed him a copy of my catalog and copies of all my programs. A week later the ax fell, Texas Instruments announced that they were abandoning the TI-99/4A! I had missed the chance to have my advertising mailed, at no cost, to a million users, at a time when programs were still scarce and I was offering ten times as many as anyone else, at by far the lowest price! "Such is life."

The above is taken practically verbatim from a personal letter from Jim Peterson

MORE Mr TI

The following was taken from the same article in the BYTEMONGER.

RANDOM QUESTIONS & QUOTES

Why Tigercub?

"TIger because I was writing for the TI and cub because I was writing small programs."

How many programs have you written?

"250 plus the Nuts 'n Bolts. I have never owned or written for any other computer except the TI. Pet peeves? Too many to mention. The biggest faults of the 99/4A? The twenty-eight colum screen. They could just as easily have given us forty and the fact that strings can only be stored in the 12K of console ram. This is a little known weakness but a big one!"

"My wife who is sixty-four years of age somehow does not look nearly that old. She speaks a language she sincerely believes is English. After thirty-five years I have learned to understand some of it."

"I like brain games and I think programming is fun! Hard work? Sure, but fun! I freely admit that I am a technoklutz."

Irwin Hott says that on several occasions he has been able to help Jim by changing disk drives and performing other maintenance chores. To appreciate this you must realize that Irwin is blind.

What is Jim Peterson's outstanding personality trait? Everyone seems to agree that he goes out of his way to help out. That he is a hard worker. Jim told Irwin Hott that he was going to take 1500 disks to Lima. That boggled Irwin's mind. Irwin said he could not conceive of the amount of work involved in copying 1500 disks to sell in two days.

CHECK YOUR COMPUTER WORD SAVVY
By Earl Raguse

I got this out of a 1982 issue of COMPUTER BASICS from INFORMATION SYSTEMS which had articles which explained or used all of the terminology below.

Being nine years old does not necessarily make it obsolete. Computers may change, but this kind of info does not change much. Try your best to match the best answers with the statements. The right answers are at the bottom of the page, shame on you for peeking.

1. __ Processes information in the form of discrete values.

2. __ Processes bits of information in a group rather than one at a time.

3. __ A number system based on ten digits.

4. __ Standard computer codes for representing alphabetic & numeric characters.

5. __ Consisting of distinct or non-continuous values.

6. __ The maximum number of bits that can be grouped together for processing in a single operation.

7. __ Processes information by directly measuring continuous physical quantities, such as electrical voltages.

8. __ A number system based on two digits, 0 and 1.

9. __ A group of bits (usually 8) operated upon as a unit.

10. __ A 0 or 1 added to character codes as a check agains errors.

Answers to choose from:

(a) Byte,
(b) Word Size,
(c) Parity Bit,
(d) Analog Computer,
(e) Decimal System,
(f) Discrete,
(g) Digital Computer,
(h) ASCII or EBCDIC,
(i) Binary System,
(j) Paralle processing.

Right Answers:

1-(g), 2-(j), 3-(e), 4-(h), 5-(f), 6-(b), 7-(d), 8-(i), 9-(a), 10-(c)

SOLUTION TO WHO OWNS THE ZEBRA

Well, how many of you figured the answer

1	2	3	4	5
NORWEG	UKRAN	ENGLISH	SPANIARD	JAPAN
YELLOW	BLUE	RED	IVORY	GREEN
HONDA	VW	MG	TOYOTA	DATSON
FOX	HORSE	SNAIL	DOG	ZEBRA
WATER	TEA	MILK	O J	COFFEE

WE HAVE A BIOGRAPHY
By Earl Raguse

Because I wrote to the Editor of the BYTEMONGER to get a copy of the neat biography of Jim Peterson they published in their newsletter, this month we have the bio of Mr TI, himself, Jim Peterson. You may not be a Mr TI, but we are sincerely interested in you. Tell us about yourself. Don't let Gene Smith be the only one do a little work. If you don't do it, you may soon find yourself in the minority. I have it on good authority that several of you are working on yours. I know of two more members who have done it and their bio will appear in the coming months. Please get with it.

MULTI-PLAN DISCOVERY
By Stan Corbin

Here is a little help for, embedding printer codes in Multiplan spreadsheets. This works with Ted Andersens' MPRNTSAX, (See below), and should work with other embedding programs. Normally you cannot have text and printer codes in the same cell. If you try to embed code in a cell that already has something in it, you will get an error "cannot copy to cell ".

To embed the code into a cell and also have text in it, first embed the code in the cell, in the normal fashion. This is all explained in Ted's docs. Next press "E" for edit, now using function 4 set the hi-liter over the last quote mark, then go ahead and type in your text and enter. The printer will now respond to your code, and print accordingly. This saves you from having to install a column ahead of your spread sheet to embed the printer codes into. You might think it would cause a space to be printed ahead. of your text but such is not the case, at least not for the "SI" (compressed) or "SO" (double wide) codes, which are most generally used.

Text may be printed either before or after the embedded code, provided it is between the quotes. Of course the text before the code will not be affected by the code. It isn't something one would be apt to want to do often, but the possibility is there. Be careful with "SO" (double wide) code as it can cause disruption of your text, or an extra line feed.

Disk MPRNTSA85N, which contains MPRNTSAX is obtainable from Ted Andersen of 5170 Caste Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15236, (412) 881-7416, for a nominal fee of $5 plus disk, mailing label and postage.

ARTICulations
By Matt Mullen

The following article was copied from the Will County U G newsletter. It matches my sentiments exactly. I think you should see it. Ed

So you have to write an article! Ain't that a kick in the teeth? Now you sit down in front of the computer, or typewriter, turn it on and make sure the printer is on or the paper is in the roller of the typewriter properly. And then you sit and stare.... What do you do next? What do you write about? What do I have to say that someone else might want to read? Will I make mistrakes? Will people laugh at me?

All these things will happen to you unless you are a professional writer. I have typed up just about evryone's biography for the newsletter and haven't found one yet. We all put our pants (or panties) on one leg at a time. We have all had some education, but still have trouble spellink. We all have our problems and we all have our ups and downs. Don't worry about it! We all have one thing in common. We all have a TI computer and we use it one way or the other. Write the article about how you use your computer. I have written you before about how I use mine. No one shot me! No one laughed at me (not to my face, anyway). No one stopped my paycheck.

Don't be afraid of making a mistake,. The Editor is real good at finding the errors and making it right. Don't take it for granted everyone uses the computer for the same reason. Don't feel that evryone knows how to use TI Writer, FunnelWebb or TI Artist. Heck, just by accident I found out a lot of people didn't know some of the tricks of the Artist program. That's when I offered classes in the use of the thing.

If you have too, write about the sex life of an Afghanistan Ant in Africa. Whatever you write about, have fun with it. Don't make it work. Don't feel it is a chore. Have a ball.!!

[Ed Note: Yeah, don't make Stan do all of the writing. He has the toughest job already, The Member Ship. Do your part today.]

ONLY IN AMERICA

"He drove his German car made of Swedish steel and interior of Argentine leather to a gasoline station, where he filled up with Arab oil shipped in a Liberian tanker and bought two French tires, composed of rubber from Sri Lanka.

"At home, he dropped his Moroccan briefcase, hung up his Scottish tweed wool coat, removed his Italian shoes and Egyptian cotton shirt, then donned a Hong Kong robe and matching slippers from Taiwan.

"More comfortable now, he poured a cup of hot Brazilian coffee into an English coffee mug, set a Mexican placemat on an Irish linen tablecloth atop a Danish table varnished with linseed oil from India. Then he filled his Austrian pipe with Turkish tobacco, lit it, and picked up a Japanese ballpoint pen with which he wrote a letter to his congressman demanding to know why the United States has an unfavorable balance of trade."

BOOTS

XBASIC MISCELANY #5
By Earl Raguse

PEEKING and POKING AROUND

A month or so ago I mentioned a small program I had written to satisfy my curiosity about CALL KEY. I don't know whether my curiostity ever got satisfied, but I didn't. There is a lot about this computer that I don't know. They say what you don't know, won't hurt you, well, maybe not, but it can sure bug you.

Anyway, I have listed the program below, that allows you look into (PEEK) or poke (LOAD) the computers memory at any place. It is short enough that it won't take you long to enter, and it could be educational. You can't hurt anything by PEEKING, and/or POKING the wrong number at the wrong address, it may cause your computer to lock up so that you have to turn it off and reboot, but you can't damage anthing. There are certain addresses that are in GROM, so you won't change them with LOAD, but you can PEEK all you want. The TI XB manual says you might lock up the computer by PEEKing in the wrong place, but I never have, but I have poked the wrong (right) thing in the wrong (right) place many times.

One thing should be made clear though, PEEK is byte oriented, (1 digit), but LOAD seems to be able to load (2 bytes). I do a double PEEK so I can see what happens to the word. The XB manual is rather skimpy in this area, even if you are an optomist (even an optometrist). It is as if they never figured anybody but programmers would use it anyway. I don't know how they thought programmers were supposed to learn about it though, maybe some other book TI planned to (or did) write.

For instance, I don't know where they tell you that the computer looks for and runs a program named LOAD in drive #1 on boot up. I don't even remember were I learned that. Some newsletter, no doubt. You really ought to spend more time reading the newsletters in our library. There is a wealth of information in those newsletters, especially the older ones.

You must merge in the subprograms that I have given you in the previous articles, as listed below the program listing. I have called that group PROGSET, and if you have gotten the disk from me you can merge them all with one MERGE "DSK1.PROGSET", and type in the new one called DEC to convert HEXadecimal numbers to Decimal. I have one for the inverse process and I will talk about both at a later date.

```
100 ! SAVE DSK1.PEEK/POKER
110 ! By Earl Raguse 3/90
120 ON ERROR 310 :: CALL SET
(5,16)
130 CALL CLPUT("MEMORY PEEKE
R/POKER",2):: CALL PUT("Sele
ct ",8):: CALL PUT("Load/Pee
k  Peek(only)  Quit",10)
:: PK=0
140 CALL GO("LPQ",K):: ON K
GOTO 150,160,170
150 GOTO 180
160 PK=1 :: GOTO 180
170 RUN "DSK1.DIR"
180 CALL CLPUT("Enter a Memo
ry Location",8):: CALL PUT("
-32766 to 32765",10):: CALL
PUT(" or >0 to >7FFF",11) ::
DISPLAY AT(13,13):ML$
190 CALL PUT("Preceed HEX Nu
mbers with >",20):: CALL PUT
("I will be convert to decim
al",21)
200 ACCEPT AT(13,13)SIZE(-6)
:ML$ :: IF SEG$(ML$,1,1)=">"
 THEN CALL DEC(ML$,ML)ELSE M
L=VAL(ML$)
205 ML1$=STR$(ML-1)
210 IF ML<-32766 OR ML>32765
 THEN 180 ELSE IF PK=1 THEN
260
220 CALL CLPUT("Enter a Numb
er to Poke in",10):: DISPLAY
 AT(12,13):VALU$ :: ACCEPT
AT(12,13)SIZE(-6):VALU$
230 CALL PUT("Preceed HEX Nu
mbers with >",20):: CALL PUT
("I will be convert to decim
al",21)
240 IF SEG$(VALU$,1,1)=">" T
HEN CALL DEC(VALU$,VALU)ELSE
 IF SEG$(VALU$,1,1)="-" THEN
VALU=-VAL(VALU$)ELSE VALU=VA
L(VALU$)
250 CALL LOAD(ML,VALU):: CAL
L CLPUT("Ok I have poked "&S
TR$(VALU),12):: CALL PUT
("Into Location "&ML$,14)::
CALL PAK
260 CALL PEEK(ML,RSLT,RSLU)
270 CALL CLPUT("I PEEKed int
o locations",10):: CALL PUT(
ML$&" & "&ML1$,12):: CAL
L PUT(" And Found "&STR$(RSL
T)&" & "&STR$(RSLU),14)
280 IF RSLT=VALU THEN CALL P
UT("Isn't that Nice?",16)::
GOTO 300
290 CALL PUT("How About That
?",16)
300 CALL PAK :: GOTO 1010
310 ON ERROR 310 :: CALL CLP
UT("Careful, remember the li
mits",12):: CALL PAK :: GOTO
130
1010 DISPLAY AT(12,1)ERASE A
LL:"Want to read some commen
ts?       Just press SPAC
E         Else press any othe
r key."
1020 CALL GKEY(0,24):: IF 0=
32 THEN 1040
1030 GOTO 110
1040 DISPLAY AT(1,1)ERASE AL
L:"I hope you have now learn
ed that PEEK tates only one
   byte per PEEK per variabl
e, and that a byte is 255 ma
x."
1050 DISPLAY AT(6,1):"It app
ears, that LOAD will take t
wo bytes, or 2 to the 15 th
power minus 1, or 32767maxim
um, If you doubt that,"
1060 DISPLAY AT(10,1):"try i
t. Also try putting in large
r, you will get gentle remin
der to remember the  limit
s."
1070 DISPLAY AT(15,1):"Notic
e that if you enter  32767
, you will PEEK 255.  Is th
at suspicious or what? "
1080 DISPLAY AT(19,1):"Well
the truth of the matteris th
at you are PEEKing the LSB
byte of 32767, remember num
bers are binary in store."
1090 CALL PAK
1100 DISPLAY AT(1,1)ERASE AL
L:"You will note that I have
   arranged to PEEK two plac
es,but depending on the addr
esssign, the second may be "
1110 DISPLAY AT(5,1):"greate
r or lesser. The evenaddres
s should be the MSB  (Most
Significant Byte). Ifyou po
ke to odd addresses, U"
1120 DISPLAY AT(9,1):"may ge
t odd results, by put-ting t
he number in the LSB  (Least
 Significant Byte).  Try ch
anging the sign of the"
1130 DISPLAY AT(13,1):"addre
sss, yes it remembers the o
ld one, note that the secon
d byte is not the same,becau
se you are not looking"
1140 DISPLAY AT(17,1):"in th
e same place, relative to th
e address poked.  That is be
cause I do not account for a
ddress sign you may do it if
you like."
1990 CALL AGAIN :: GOTO 130
2000 !
2010 !SUBPROGRAM AREA
2020 !
```

cont page 8

continued from page 7

You must merge PAK RKEY CLR GO CLPUT PUT AGAIN and SET. This is the group known as PROGSET. You also need DEC which is as follows.

DEC is new and converts HEX numbers to decimal.

```
8000 SUB DEC(H$,D):: H$=SEG$
(H$,2,LEN(H$)-1):: D=0
8010 FOR I=1 TO LEN(H$):: X$
=SEG$(H$,I,1):: X=POS("01234
56789ABCDEF",X$,1):: D=D*16+
X-1 :: NEXT I
8020 IF D>32767 THEN D=D-655
36
8030 SUBEND
```

DOUBLE TALK
By Earl Raguse

The following item was found in the May 90, newsletter of the Lehigh 99er Computer Group of Allentown PA. The author is A Nony Mous.

DdOoUuBbLlEe TtAaLlKk

One Hacker's Fantasy...Author unknown

Micro was a real-time operator and dedicated multi-user. His broadband protocol made it easy for him to interface with numerous input/output devices, even if it meant time-sharing.

One evening he arrived home as the sun was crashing and parked his Motorola 68000 in the main drive (he had missed the $100 bus that morning). Then he noticed an elegant piece of liveware admiring the daisy wheels in his garden. "She looks user friendly, I'll see if she'd like an update for tonight."

Mini was her name, and she was very delightfully engineered with eyes like COBOL, and she had a Prime mainframe architecture that set all of Micro's peripherals networking all over the place. He browsed over to her casually admiring the power of her twin 32-bit floating processors, and inquired "How are you Honeywell?". "Yes, I am well." she responded, batting her optical fibres engagingly and smoothing her console over her curvilinear functions.

Micro settled for a straight line approximation. "I am stand alone tonight". He said. "How about computing a vector to my base address? I'll output a byte to eat, and maybe we can get offset later on".

Mini ran a priority process for 2.0 milliseconds, then transmitted, "Ok, I've been dumped myself recently, and a new page is what I need to refresh my disks. I'll park my machine cycle in your background and meet you inside". She walked off leaving Micro admiring her solenoids and thinking, "Wow, what a global variable, I wonder if she'll like my firmware".

They sat down at the process table to a top of form feed of fiche, chips and a bucket of Baudot. Mini was in a conversational mood and expanded on ambiguous arguments while Micro gave occasional acknowledgements, although, in reality, he was analyzing the shortest and least critical path to her entry point. He finally settled on the old "Would you like to see my bench-mark routine?", but Mini was one step ahead.

Suddenly she was up and stripping off her parity bits to reveal the full functionality of her operating system software. "Lets get BASIC you RAM," she said. Micro was loaded by that stage, but his software polling module had a processor of it's own and was in danger of overflowing it's buffer, a hang-up that Micro had consulted his analyst about. "Core!" was all he could say.

Micro soon recovered, however, when she went down on the DEC and opened her device files to reveal her data set ready. He accessed his fully packed root device and about to start pushing it into her CPU stack, when she attempted an escape sequence. "No No!", she piped, "you're not shielded". "Reset", he replied. "I've been debugged". "But I haven't got my current loop enabled and I can't support child processes", she protested.

"Don't runaway", he said, "I'll generate an interrupt" "No, that's too error prone and I can't abort because of my design philosophy".

Micro was locked in by this stage though and could not be turned off. But she soon stopped his thrashing by introducing a voltage spike into his main supply whereupon he fell over with a head crash and went to sleep.

"Computers", she thought, as she compiled herself, "All they think about is Hex."

THE ZEBRA REVISITED
By Earl Raguse

Newt Armstrong is in the process of writing an article on how one solves puzzles like "WHO OWNS THE ZEBRA?". The solution to last month's puzzle is in this issue somewhere. Part of your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to find it. Its been published on the BBS for over a month. It's a lot easier to find the solution in the ROM than it is in real life. Newt's intention is to break down the thought processes to a logical sequence, so you can all do it. He reports, that it merely requires some deductive and inductive reasoning and a little NEGATIVE BOOLEAN LOGIC.

Actually, when I solved the puzzle, I found that I had to make good use of WHAT IF-THEN-MAYBE NOT type reasoning.

TI Writer/FW or MultiPlan are the best aids to making the Truth Tables required in arriving at the solution of this kind of puzzle. I await Newt's article with bated (baited) breath.

PREBIDENT MEBBAGE
By Biles Bazeman

I would like to extend congratulations to both Bob August and Frank Aylstock on the effort to obtain publicity for tht TI99/4a. They placed an excelent article in the August 21 issue of the Orange County Register promoting the "little orphan" and the BUG and UGOC. Well done, both of you.

The September UGOC meeting will feature a "swap and shop" session. Bring your White Elephants that will be someone else's treasure, your want list, and the medium of exchange. We will also hold a very brief business meeting. Also, our library will be functioning.

In October Jim Swedlow and I will be explaining floppy disk structure and the use of John Birdwell's DISKU program. Bring your questions about this along.

Please let me know what you want for future programming, programs you want demoed, area of use explained, etc. We can't help or answer questions if we don't know about them.

In the future we will try to have demos of the MIDI interface, and of picture digitizing. These are not scheduled as of yet due to time factors.

HELP WANTED HELP WANTED

The UGOC has two positions need to be filled at this time. They are vacant due to schedule problems by the present chairmen.

First, we need an Equipment Chairman to transport and store the club system. This is the one that is used at all our meetings and is mounted on a board with a 10 inch stand alone monitor. The only requirement is that it be at all our meetings on the second Monday of the month.

Second, we need a Club Librarian. This position is responsible for keeping, updating, and storing the UGOC disk library. The librarian also will run the library following the meetings, and is responsible for obtaining new fairware and public domain programs.

Please consider filling one of these positions as they are both vital to our continued successful operation.

See you all at the September meeting.

The DA thinks Humpty Dumpty may have been pushed

DIPS and CHIPS
By Biles Bazeman

This year has seen, and will continue to see, new advances in programming and hardware for our little orphan. Several exciting advances have come about recently which only make our computers more capable and versitile.

During this past year DIJIT left the market but was replaced by OPA's TIMY TIM (TI Image Maker). This is a console add on that uses the 9938 Video Processor chip for an 80 coluan display and also contains some Gram enhancements. As I understand it, Gary Bowser has both the source code and the licensing for the T.I. operating system. Expect more enhancements in the future.

Now in release from Horizon is the accelerator board, another console modification, that now runs at 12 Megahertz, and is capable of 25 Megahertz operation. It also is built with EEPROMs which are capable of reprogramming on the fly. Plans are to eventually have a choice of TI, Geneve, CPM, and true IBM DOS all selectable. Other capabilities are existing for future expansion, including the 16 bit bus and coprocessors.

Of course, RAVE continues to produce its expansion keyboard, and P-box speech adaptor board. THey are now producing an all new P.E. box with both an 8 and 16 bit bus, and capable of holding and using both the 4A and a Geneve at the same time..

Still no word about the release of a new HFDC, as promised almost a year ago, but Myarc is still making theirs. Also, information from the Chicago UG indicates that prior to his death, John Birdwell had a Streamer Tape Backup running with his Myarc HFDC. The group is trying to sort out all the notes and software, and we may soon find out how this was done.

The MIDI interface should be shipping by now, and Earl has one. As soon as he is comfortable with it, we will ask for a demo. Also our Graphics Guru Bill Nelson has been working an a digitizer for both the 4A and the Geneve with excellent results. He will show how this is done as soon as his schedule permits.

Ramdisks from Horizon, Rambo from OPA, memory cards from Rave and Gram emulation devices are allowing us to do things, and operate in ways that we never dreamed of a short while ago. Also by the end at this year we should be able to do away with the big bulky expansion box cable. Horizon will be releasing a new interface card with a small console plug in end. In fact, with the exception of the mother board in the console and the lack at a currently marketed RS232 we can now have a TI/4A system without a TI.

For the Geneve, not is much new in hardware. There is the Memex with up to 2 meg of memory, and the Genmod with increased speed and zero wait state using the Memex. Also mods can be made to the cart for 32k zero wait stake memory (this or Genmod, not both) and to increase VDP memory to a full 192k. MDOS 0.97H with all patches will allow the use of ONE controller card at CRU 1100. With these and Ben Hatheway's ROMPAGE and ROMPAGE2 will allow the running of virtually all TI programs on the Geneve. Also Ben has just modified MASSTRANSFER 4.3 to allow the use of pathnames for Hard Drives in file transfers. We hope he will produce a modification for the 80 coluan version soon.

If you are at all interested in graphics or art you should take a look at Y.A.P.P. from Alexander Hulpke (available from ASGARD). High resolution graphics in several modes, 256 colors, hard copy, and use of instances are all included.

Well, I had better wrap this up for now, and I will get back when I have more news.

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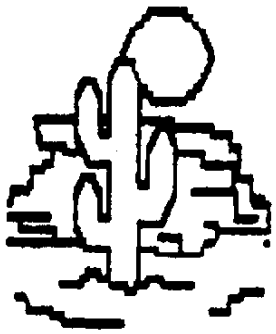

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