THE SNUGLETTER
FROM THE SOUTHERN NEVADA USERS' GROUP

Volume 8- No.7 July,1990

Next Meeting
7:00 pm, Monday, July 9, 1990
Nevada Power Meeting Room
6226 West Sahara Avenue

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Rudy Johnson

Well, I had a good vacation while I missed the June meeting. I am told that it went pretty well but not at the adverised location due to the strike at Nevada Power. The members who were at the meeting need to thank Cindy for hosting the meeting at her home as a last minute switch. I understand that the meeting followed pretty much the same course that the officers' meetings do - mostly talk and not much hands-on computer stuff. At times that gives everyone a chance to bring up topics that don't seem to fit the run of the typical meetings. And that gives a welcome change of pace. And once again Cindy is on for her demo of IDENTIFILE. (Wonder how many times she has been on the schedule for that?) Also John M. has agreed to do a demo on sector editing. John has had a lot of experience with the topic recently with all the problems he has had with the BBS drives. He also suggested that anyone with bad disks should bring the disk(s) to the meeting. John will try to make them usable again through Disk Craft - that Ol' Black Magic. So bring in those bad disks.

I will report that the BBS is back up and running on 2 hard drives. Each is a 10-meg unit with one being used as a backup so John doesn't have to pull his hair out if the first becomes corrupted. I expect that John will have a report on the BBS somewhere else in this issue.

I learned that the topic of elections was brought up at the meeting. It seems that my lackadaisical presidential style hasn't dimmed my luster in your eyes. No one seems to want a change of leadership for the 1990-1991 SNUG President. Well, as long as my possible nonattendence at future meetings doesn't bother anyone, I am willing to continue on if nominated and elected. (What ever happened to elections with opposition?) As far as I know the other officers (except for Bob B. for Treasurer) are also willing to continue in their present positions. Do we have a member interested in serving as Treasurer? I do know that George T. is interested in being relieved (at least occasionally) at the helm of the newsletter. From personal experience I know what he goes through every month in getting it together. George deserves a big round of applause from each of us for a job well done this past year. "Thanks, George!" Now back to the elections. We should be having elections provided that we meet the requirements for attendence of the members.

In the world of TI there is a item by John Willforth of the West Penn 99'ers that a member of his group has developed with a friend a hard and floppy controller for the TI99/4A. (No mention of Geneve compatibility.) The controller was built on a proto board and will be custom built on a card with the latest surface mount technology. The card is said to support all the common 5.25" densities and the 3.5" densities also. The price as of the announcement was $225. The developers are seting up a company with the name of Electronic Systems Developaent Corporation to produce the controller. Watch for future announcements.

Another item that needs to be mentioned is the other library items that SNUG maintains for the use of members. Lance Wilson spends some of his time in maintaining the newsletters that SNUG receives in the newsletter exchange program. Virtually all the newsletters that SNUG has received since the group's inception are maintained in envelopes. These go back for 7 years. There is a LOT of information and help in these on just about any topic you care to bring up. The biggest draw back is a lack of index so information needs to be culled out as you find it. The other items that SNUG has started to acquire in the past couple of years are video tapes of presentation at other meetings. These also contain a large amount of help. I haven't looked at any of them other than what has been shown at a meeting. Perhaps an index can be developed for these tapes by those who look at them. As something of note is located the veiwer could note it on an accompanying index page. Subsequent viewers could find any of these items more quickly if they didn't want to view the entire tape. These tapes should be at the next meeting so keep them in mind and ask about them if you are interested.

Well, I have run out of time and George likes to get this before the very last minute so I'll end here. See you at the meeting (I better add, I hope!) --- Rudy

I had hoped to have a two megabyte, zero wait state MEMEX system up and running by now but, as luck would have it, I will not receive the modification until this Saturday.

According to Bud Mills, there will be a small external box which plugs into the Geneve card with toggle switches to choose between zero and one wait state and MDOS or TI modes. The modification is designed in such a way that if the MEMEX should become disabled, it can be unplugged from the 9640 card and the Geneve will function as it did before the modification. If there is a problem, the ability to disconnect will be a godsend to troubleshooting.

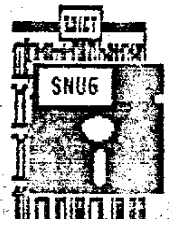
Although the MEMEX mod just plugs onto the gate array of the Geneve, it is far from a simple project. If memory serves, there are three traces to cut and six jumper wires to attach on the 9640 card alone. My CorComp floppy controller and both Horizon ramdisks need to be modified with different chips and jumpers, and then we get to the MEMEX card itself, which needs to be populated and modified. This promises to be quite an experience! Probably not a good one... Thank goodness our local electronics expert, John Martin, will be helping with (doing?) the project.

According to Bud I will have to go back to the old dual AUTOEXEC setup. One will initialize TIMODE and the other will not. This isn't as bad as it may seem since I used to run dual AUTOEXEC's before I bought the MEMEX. It seems odd that the 2 meg upgrade to MEMEX should complicate my system whereas the original 512K MEMEX simplified it by allowing TIMODE to be called all the time. I hope to have a glowing report of the advantages of the upgrade by next month's deadline. I just hope the glow isn't from my brain frying from frequent frustrations...

There is talk about competition for the Myarc HFDC card from a company called EDI, ESDI, (some such). I had all the specifics about it in a log file from DELPHI but due to a ramdisk crash I lost the information. I believe the card will format disks from 90K to 1.44MEG with a compatible drive along with taking care of support for four hard drives. Look for prices to be in the low to mid two hundreds and availability in July. (Hope I got that right)

PRESS has been SQUASHED. Chris Bobbitt, president of Asgard Software announce that press is officially on "hold" although he expressed doubt as to Charles Earl ever completing the project. He stated that the project was too complicated for any one programmer to finish. Delphi has seen messages from Geneve owners prodding Asgard to complete a 9640 version of the program, but it doesn't look like memory constraints are the problem. Asgard is urging anyone who has paid for PRESS and who has not yet received a refund to contact them.

-Bob-



LIBRARIAN'S COLUMN

by GEORGE CAMPBELL

EVERY SO OFTEN COMPUTER OWNERS ARRIVE AT A SORT OF CROSSROADS WITH THE MACHINE. OR PERHAPS A PLATEAU THAT POSES THE QUESTION "WHAT NEXT?".

YOU HAVE SPENT SOME TIME (HOURS,WEEKS, OR MONTHS) GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH ONE OF THE MANY FIELDS THAT CAN BE DONE WITH COMPUTER, HARDWARE, AND SOFTWARE AVAILABLE NOW. AND THERE ARE MANY OTHER WAYS TO ENJOY COMPUTING. THE GENEVE, OR A HARD DRIVE,RAMDISK, OR A (BETTER?) PRINTER? NEW AND IMPROVED SOFTWARE IS COMING OUT FASTER THAN WE CAN KEEP UP WITH IT. BUT WHICH WAY NEXT?

WE HAVE MEMBERS RANGING FROM BEGINNERS TO EXPERT,AND THEY HAVE HARDWARE STARTING WITH THE BARE CONSOLE ALL THE WAY TO THE LATEST ON THE MARKET. WHATEVER YOUR PRESENT STATUS=SNUG HAS A MEMBER SOMEWHERE IN YOUR VICINITY.

SO I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE BEST ANSWER TO THE QUESTION COMES FROM PARTICIPATING IN SOUTHERN NEVADA USERS GROUP. THERE IS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME AND EFFORT INVOLVED IN KEEPING THE GROUP GOING AND THE MORE THAT SUPPORT THAT ENDEAVOR, THE BETTER THE BENEFITS. WE WOULDN'T HAVE A SNUG TODAY,EXCEPT FOR THE WORK OF A FEW PERSONS THAT KEPT IT GOING IN HARD TIMES. WE HAVE ALL BENEFITED FROM THEIR DEDICATION,AND I FOR ONE APPRECIATE THEIR EFFORTS. BUT THEY DO NEED HELP IF WE ARE TO KEEP SNUG ACTIVE FOR THE NEXT YEAR.

THERE IS SATISFACTION IN DOING THESE DIFFERENT OFFICES, AND THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE HELD THEM CAN LOOK BACK AND SAY "IT WAS WORTH THE EFFORT. IF IT GETS TOO MUCH THERE IS ALWAYS BIEBER, OR LEONARD TO JUMP IN AND SET THINGS STRAIGHT AGAIN (BLESS THEM). BESIDES- THOSE OFFICERS MEETINGS ARE THE PLACE TO PICK UP THE LATEST IN THE TI AND GENEVE WORLD.

SO---- IF YOU ENJOY YOUR TI, SUPPORT S.N.U.G.

AS FOR THE LIBRARY - WELL I AM GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES RIGHT NOW. BIEBER HAD IT WELL CATALOGED AND ARCHIVED DOWN TO ABOUT SIXTY DISKS WHICH FIT INTO ONE BOX, BUT IN THE LAST 18 MONTHS THE LIBRARY HAS GROWN AND IS LARGER THAN SAID BOX. THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE GENEVE FILES AND A RIVER OF GRAPHICS THAT ARE AVAILABLE NOW. SINCE I DONT HAVE A GENEVE (RIGHT NOW), WE NEED SOMEONE WITH THE GENEVE TO SET UP AND MAINTAIN A SEPARATE LIBRARY FOR THAT PURPOSE. AS FOR GRAPHICS, THERE ARE DOZENS OF PROGRAMS THAT MAKE OR USE THEM NOW, AND THOUSANDS OF GRAPHICS IN TEN OR MORE DIFFERENT FORMATS. I GUESS THE SOLUTION IS TO SET UP A SEPARATE BOX FOR GRAPHICS ONLY.

WELL - THIS LOOKS MORE LIKE A LECTURE , THAN A LIBRARY REPORT. SO I WILL QUIT HERE AND TRY HARDER NEXT MONTH

GEORGE CAMPBELL, LIBRARIAN

SNUG TREASURER'S REPORT - 30 JUNE 1990
(in lieu of 30 June 1990 bank statement)
Item added, changed or adjusted
Robert J. Bieber - Acting Treasurer

FIXED ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

SNUGLETter (estimated cost per 100)	
Publication Costs ($10/mo x 12)	120.00
Postage ($25/mo x 12)	300.00
P. O. Box Rental ($28 annually)	28.00
Bank Account Service Charge ($8/mo x 12)	96.00
SNUG B/Board Phone Line ($11/mo x 12)	132.00
Long Distance Phone Calls (estimated)	44.00
Miscellaneous Expenditures (estimated)	90.00
TOTAL ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS (estimated)	- 810.00
Annual Dues Collection (estimated)	+ 300.00
ANNUAL DEFICIT (Estimated)	- 510.00

# BANK STATEMENT BALANCE (as of 30 MARCH 1990) (includes 7.84 March 90 service charge)	+ 773.51 #
# OUTSTANDING (uncashed) SNUG checks	- 252.95 #
# ACTUAL CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE > > > > > >	+ 520.56 #

COLLECTIONS - April thru June 1990

Membership - Regular (3 x $18) (Apr&June)	54.00
Membership - Senior (2 x $12) (Apr&June)	24.00
Disk of the Month	.00
Library programs	.00
Miscellaneous TI Equipment raffle	.00
Miscellaneous TI Equipment sale (May)	10.00
Garage Sale proceeds donated to SNUG (May) Many Thanks goto the Martins & Sherburnes	120.00
(sub-total)	+ 208.00

EXPENDITURES - April thru June 1990

Bank Account Service Charges (April & May)	14.66
Sherburne - 1 ea 10 Meg Hard Drive SNUG-BBS	125.00
G. Tilley - 1 ea 10 Meg Hard Drive SNUG-BBS	73.14
G. Tilley - SNUGLETter Supplies	15.00
G. Tilley - LIMA-UG Tutorial video tapes	10.00
(sub-total)	- 237.80

FUNDS MANAGEMENT (as of 31 May 1990)

Adjusted Checking Account Balance	+ 490.76
Petty-Cash (undeposited funds)	.00
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE > > >	+ 490.76

Secretary's Report

MINUTES for Monday June 11,1990....

This month due to a strike at the Power Company the meeting was moved to my home. We had a surprisingly good turnout.

Since John has been having problems with the new disk drive on the BBS, the meeting consisted of an informal discussion on whether to purchase a new or rebuilt drive, a 20mg or two 10 mgs using one as a backup drive.
There was also a discussion on various hard/floppy disk controllers. If you are thinking of upgrading to a hard dive you should have attended this meeting.

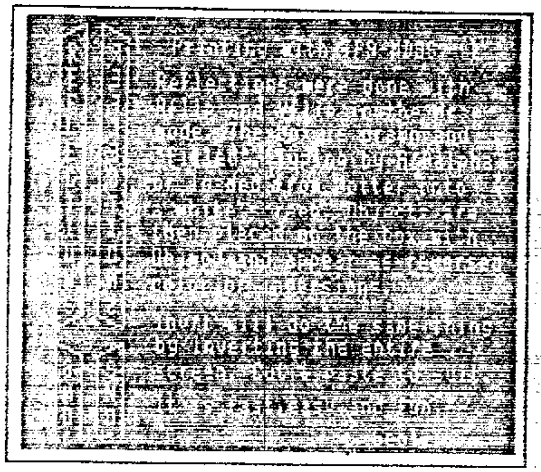
The time went by so quickly it was time to adjourn the meeting so my demo of Identifile was postponed till the July meeting.

At the Officers meeting June 25th John informed us that George Tilly found a 10 mg hard drive at a local store and that Bob Sherburne purchased another 10mg drive, so John and the BBS are in good shape.

At the July meeting I will finally demonstrate Identifile. John Martin will describe how to use a sector editor. This is one demo you should not miss. If you have a disk with a problem bring it to the meeting and possibly John can correct it.

July is election month for President, Vice President, Tresurer and Secretary. If you would like to run for an office or nominate someone you "HAVE TO ATTEND THE MEETING".

Cindy Mitchell
SECRETARY
SNUG USERS GROUP



At the last SNUG meeting, the members voted to replace our 20-MEG hard drive which had quit working. After much discussion, we came to the conclusion that 2 TEN-MEG drives would probably be better than 1 20-MEG drive. The logic of this was that:

1. We had only used up approximately 1 to 2 MEGs of our capacity on the 20-MEG drive during the 9 months we had it on line.

2. There was no substantial difference in price between 2 10-MEG and 1 20-MEG drive.

3. It would be much easier to keep up-to-date backups of the BBS using the second 10-MEG drive rather than a large group of floppies.

(This is actually the most important reason.)

The day following the meeting, I left a message on the BBS to Bob Sherburne. I told him that the club had authorized me to get 2 new 10-MEG hard drives for the BBS. I also told him that I didn't have time to do it with my work schedule and asked him to look into it for me.

The next day, Bob left me a note on the BBS saying he had ordered a 10-MEG drive and that it should be here within a week.

On the following day, I got a call from George Tilley. George had found an ad in a computer magazine describing 10-MEG Seagate drives for about $69.00. This was a good price, but what was unique about the ad was that the phone number was from Boulder City. I asked George to check into it for me. He made the drive out to BC and found that they had sold all of the Seagate drives, but they did have another brand (I don't remember the name) for the same price. He bought one for us and brought it over here for me. By the end of the day, I had it formatted and loaded up with all of the BBS files that I could recover from the old backup disks and the ones that I had been running during the down time.

Last weekend, Bob brought the drive that he had ordered (a TEAC SD510) over. After a few frustrating hours chasing that most elusive of "bugs", Operator Error, I finally figured out what I had done wrong. Once the program and drive were no longer hampered by my ineptness, the drive formatted perfectly and is now the official backup hard drive. I plan to alternate drives every once in a while to keep wear to a minimum on both drives. I will only have 1 drive at a time connected to the system except during backups. This should protect me from accidental erasures, and prolong the life of the backup drive.

This past week, a fairly simple question about RAMDISKS has sparked a debate of the relative merits of Ramdisks vs Hard Drives. If you have been considering either, you might want to look at the message bases to see some of the comments. This is the kind of thing that our BBS is here for. If you have any questions or comments about the club or hardware/software (or anything else for that matter) just leave a message in one of the message bases. There are very few topics that won't get some kind of response from our users.

I am going to start a new feature in this column. I will list the new uploads in the various sections (excluding the newsletter section). Listings will be in reverse order from. New in the TI section this month:

PIXCONVERT.....version 1.3 of Jim Reiss' Pix viewer/converter
LOCAL-BBS.....a list of local BBS numbers from Software City BBS.
PRESS.....Announcement form Chris Bobbitt & Asgard Software concerning the shelving of "PRESS"
BO-JANGLES.....Mr. Bo Jangles. An XB musical salute to Sammy Davis Jr. MAGICFM3/1.....Magic File Manipulator 3.1. Transfers files between the TI/GENEVE on which it is run to another directly connected computer. All functions performed on connected computer. Also has some file management features. Runs ukp to 19200 baud.

New in the Geneve section this month:

TRI-AD.....Wayne Stith talks about the triad program. DV80
MATHPAD20.....Calculator program from Paul A. Dan which runs from MDOS mode.
TRIART.....Advanced Basic demo using triangles. See listing for key presses.
FATCAT.....Advanced Basic catalog program.
BOUNCE3?... BOUNCE 2... BOUNCE...: modes of the 9640. Just for fun!
JEFFCON.....Delphi conference with Jeff White, Ron Walters and others regarding the future of 9640 hard and software.
WINDOWCON.....Transcript of Delphi conference with Beery Miller regarding 9640 WINDOWS
CABLEV6A.....Article from the Toronto 99 UG newsletter explaining how to connect multi-sync monitors to Geneve and 80 column cards using 9938 video chip.
JOHNSBATS.....A group of Batch files that Bob uploaded because I lost mine when my Ramdisk failed. (Bob is my backup since I can't keep my disks organized)
NOISIER.....\ A couple of Advanced Basic programs that explore some of MESURNOISE...../ the sound and graphics capabilities of the 9640. Just for fun!

New in the Computer Graphics section this month:

TIPS03-ARK through TIPS09-ARK:
because they got "lost" when the old hard drive crashed. Thanks Bob!
BART.....A GIF format picture of Bart Simpson

As you can see, our BBS has a lot to offer. Why not give us a call? The number is (702) 648-1247. We are "open" 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (except during user group meetings, BBS failures, and updates). We support 300, 1200, and 2400 baud. We are building up the various sections now that disk space is no longer a severe limit to what we can do. Expect to see many changes during the next few months.

See ya at the meeting.

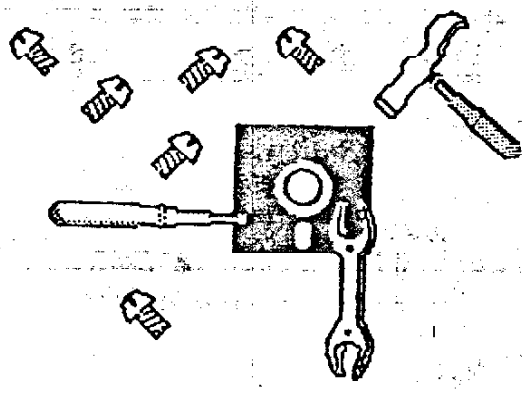
-John-

The backup hard-drive is a refurbished full-height, 10mb MCI . The cost was $69.00 plus $4.14 tax. Purchased from Nevada Computer Corp (has the same address and phone numbers as Mead Computer) , 1000 Nevada Highway #101, Boulder City, NV. They are mostly mail-order. Almost no displays. Best to call (800) 654-7762 or(702) 294-0204. Neither number is listed.

Selected as a companion piece for John Martins's demo. (if you haven't blown a disk lately,try harder and bring one to the meeting.)

Disk Fix

by WESLEY R. RICHARDSON
BLUEGRASS 99 COMPUTER SOCIETY, INC.



When you have a disk with several files that you have been working on and you do a catalog and it comes up DISKETTE IS BLANK, or DISK NOT INITIALIZED, it can be very frustrating. There are times when the sectors used and available get changed to values like 2389 free and 7887 used, but you know you have a single sided, single density (SSSD) disk drive, with a maximum of 360 sectors. It is also possible to have a disk which will not catalog, yet when Extended BASIC is selected, the disk will run the LOAD program and continue without a problem. These have happened to me and I am sure it has happened to others, so I thought I would document a way which may recover your disk for you.

The items which you will need are your blown disk, two blank disks, Disk Manager 1000 v3.5, Disko or Disk Patch, and a sector or track copier program, or the equivalent of any of the above. I will use the Funnelweb v4.10 DISK-PATCH for the sector editor.

1) The first step is to initialize a disk in the format which you believe the blown disk was, for example SSSD. For the disk name, use the name that you want on the blown disk after it is restored.

2) Using the sector copier or track copier, make a copy of the blown disk. If you get a read error in sector 0, just tell the program to ignore the error. If you are unable to copy the disk with the copier programs which you have available, you may still continue the following steps with the original disk, but be advised that you may lose everything on the disk.

3) Load DISK-PATCH or DISKO and then insert the back-up copy of the blown disk in drive 1. Select option 1 for disk sector editor. Then disk 1, and sector 0. The screen should come up with the data from sector 0. Pressing FCTN 2 will change the screen to ASCII and pressing FCTN 1 will change it to HEX. In ASCII, the first ten characters will be the disk name. In HEX, at byte 12h (h=HEXADECIMAL) will be 01 for single sided and 02 for double sided. At byte 13h, will be 01 for single density and 02 for double density.

4) Press FCTN 4 to go to sector 001h. You should find groups of four digits of HEX numbers such as 0002 0003 0009 0015 and so on. These indicate where the file names and file maps may be found. Write down each of these numbers in the order which they are found when read from left to right and top to bottom on the screen. Note also if the first number is 0000, then the disk will catalog as being blank and no file names will appear.

5) Press FCTN 4 to go to sector 002h. In the first ten ASCII characters you will find a file name. Write this down next to the appropriate four digit number you had in step 4). Do this for each of the numbers from step 4). If there were several files on the disk, you may need to press FCTN 9 and then option 1 again to go directly to the location. While in sector edit mode, pressing FCTN 6 will take you to the next lower numbered sector.

6) You now should have a table similar to the one below with the file name and location of each file on the disk.

0000	A-SECTOR2	000D	PACMAO
0003	CENTIPEDE	0005	PINBALL
0009	DEFENDER	0006	PINBALM
000A	KONG	0007	POLE/POS
0008	KONM	0008	POLE/POT
0004	LOAD	000E	TI/INVADER
000C	PACMAN	000F	TI/INVADES

7) Note in the case that we did find a 0000 but a file was there, as in this case file A-SECTOR2 directory was located at sector 002h, then use the sector editor to view sector 001h. Move the cursor to the first 0000 in HEX and change it to read 0002. Then press CTRL W to write the sector back to the disk, and answer Y to the question RE-WRITE SECTOR?

...DISK FIX

8) Remove the copy of the blown disk and insert the formatted blank disk in drive 1. Select the sector editor, giving drive 1 and sector 0. After the sector comes up, remove the blank disk and insert the blown disk copy in drive 1. Press CTRL W to rewrite the sector.

9) Load Disk Manager 1000 version 3.5 (DM1000), and then put the blown copy disk back in drive 1. Select option 1, File Utilities. Then select option 2 for Recover file. Give the drive as 1. Enter the first file name on you list and press enter. The program will say SEARCHING DISK, then RE-BUILDING LOST FILE, then FILE RECOVERED. Press enter and then 2 for Recover file. Repeat these steps until all of the files are recovered.

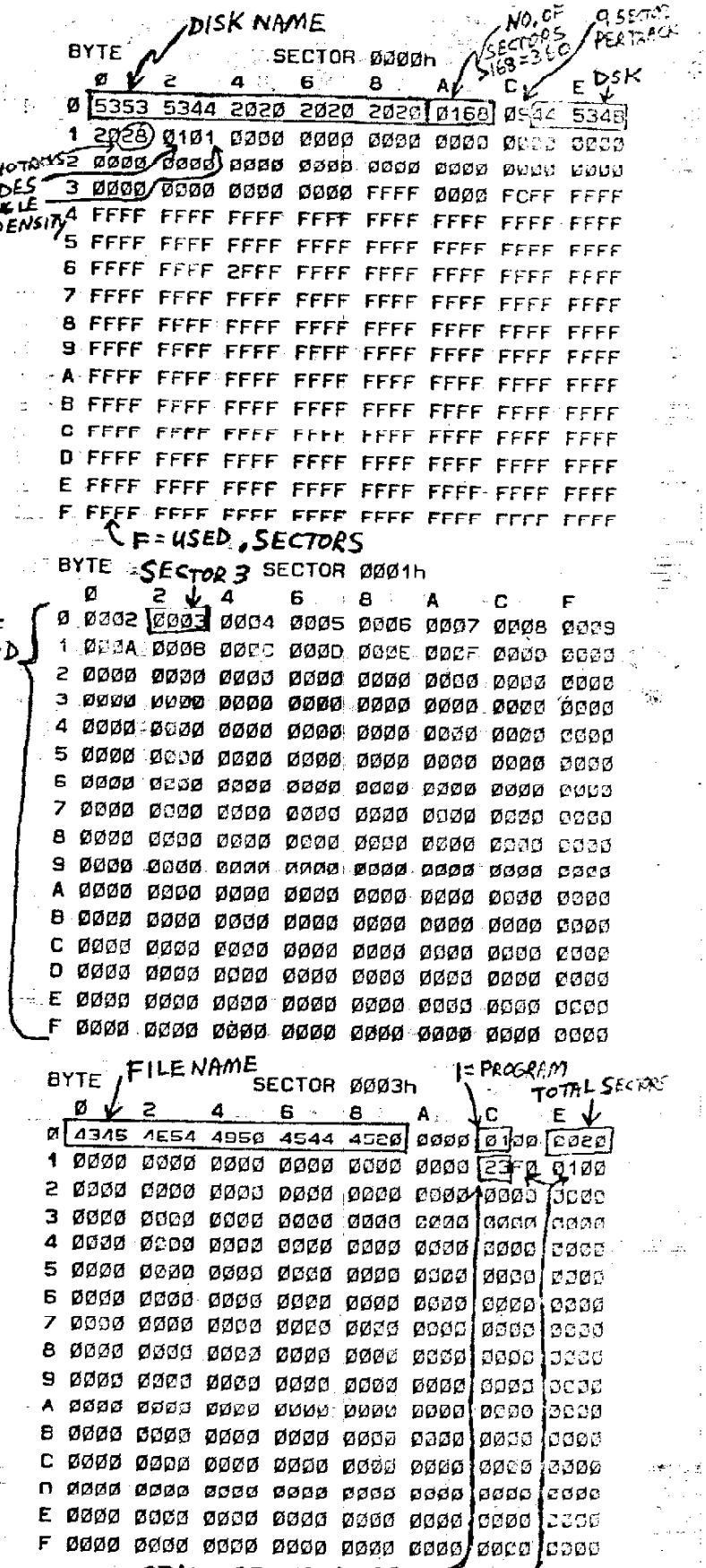
10) Press 1 for Copy/Move/Delete... and give the disk number as 1. Your disk files should now be restored. If the disk free and used does not match up with the sum of the file sizes plus 2 sectors, then go to step 11), otherwise you are done.

11) Do this step only if the disk free is not correct. Place a D in the left column to delete all of the files and a U in the right column to unprotect all of the files. DM1000 will unprotect and then delete all of the files. At this point a catalog should show free 358, used 2 for a SSSD disk. Go back to the recover file section of step 9) and recover each file again.

One other piece of advise, if you have a disk with a bad directory, do not write any files to the disk until you have a chance to fix the directory. If you write a new file, then you are taking the chance that part of another file will be over-written. This can happen because sector 0 may show that a location is free, when in fact it has part of a file in it.

The other advise is to always keep a back-up copy of anything which you do not want to lose. It is a good idea to keep a write protect tab on your master disk and keep it away from your work disk. On documents or programs, save your work to disk every 15 minutes so if the power goes off or your computer locks up, you only lose 15 minutes worth of work. Alternate saving to two disks when you have a large and important program or file.

If you always keep back-ups, I hope you will not need to use DISK-FIX, but if that time comes when the disk is blown, now you have something to try.



FEST WEST 91 FEST WEST 91 FEST WEST 91

Come Help Us Celebrate The

TI-99/4A's 10th Year

Anniversary

UGOC in association with the Pomona Valley UG are hosting

FEST WEST 91

THE HAPPIEST FEST ON EARTH

Across the street from Disneyland PLUS many more attractions in the area for the wife/husband and kids to enjoy while you meet internationally renowned TI entrepreneurs, enthusiasts, and innovators.

PLAN YOUR THREE DAY WEEKEND NOW

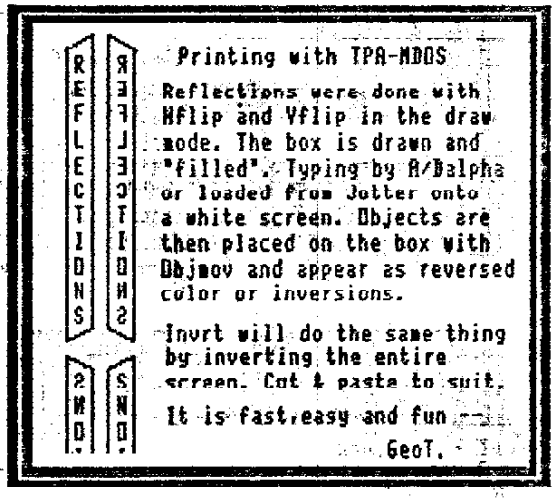
Fest dates are FEB 16 & 17, 1991

The Fest will be held at the Ramada Main Gate, Anaheim
Toll Free 1-800-447-4048
Special rate to fest goers ($55.00 per night)
Only 50 rooms available at this rate. Make Reservations early.

Travel arrangements may be made by contacting Travel Concepts
Ruth Dickey
(714) 778-5459

Stay tuned for future announcements on:
the UGOC BBS (714) 751-4332
or write to:
Fest West 91 Committee
C/O Bill Nelson
11692 Puryear Lane
Garden Grove, CA 92640

FEST WEST 91 FEST WEST 91 FEST WEST 91



INVERTED and CROPPED (from p3)

The p3 original is difficult to read and there isn't time to redo when John starts the run-- so, here's the inverse.

One of the interesting features of TPA is the ability to toggle Invrt, Hflip, and Vflip. It looks great on the screen but fine lines/characters don't printout exactly like the screen, especially in quad-density. I used the procedure described above to invert the 9640 Corner logo in this issue but the BBS logo has too much detail to invert. You can check the pixel-width with the Magnify command. Single pixel widths will probably be a problem.

The July '90 issue of PC magazine's cover story is on Graphical Word Processors (GPUs, of course). They call their feature article "Tomorrow's Word Processors Today- the graphical advantage". The five programs they cover list for from $195 to $595 with a multitude of fancy features like hyphenation and multi-level indexing. It takes 2.5 pages to cover them all but the truly suprising thing is the number of features covered that Mike McCann has included in his $22.50 TPA-MDOS.

I've read a dozen reports from the last three large TI-Fairs (Fest,Faire,Fayre) and Mike's really great program was totally ignored except for a one short paragraph in Barry Miller's(9640 News) review. He ends with "The Printer's Apprntice will probably be the leading page making program for the 9640. I highly recommend it." My sentiments exactly, Barry.

Now the equalizer - I've never run TPA on my 99-4A, just on the 9640 and John Martin tells me there is a world of difference. I've run Page Pro on both machines and it is a great program on either, but TPA is phenomenal on the Geneve.

-GeoT-

Time to start planning for FEST WEST 91

Reprinted from:
The PUNN Newsletter - Portland, OR - April 1990 -

Fog Index

(NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: We have published programs from Walter Blood in the past. Your Editor thought this program was not only a good program, but a really good explanation of how to program. Walter Blood can be contacted at 2032 N. 32nd. St., Kansas City, KS 66104. Phone (913) 371-1092.)

The Gunning-Mueller Clear Writing Institute developed a "Fog-Index" as a measure of clarity in writing. The Fog Index is roughly equal to the years of schooling required to read a piece of writing.

It is simply the average sentence length plus the percentage of words having three or more syllables, all multiplied by 4/10.

A Mr. Nottingham tackled the problem of programming the Fog Index. His efforts were published by Creative Computing and it was reprinted in a book called "The Creative TRS" published in 1983. Here is his approach.

Now how do you count the number of syllables in a word? Let us say that a syllable alwas has a vowel. The number of syllables equals the number of vowels. But wait a minute, how about the word pear? All right, we will not count double vowels; that is, two vowels in succession. Fine. How about the word piece? O.K. so we won't count final "e's." Then consider "syllable". If we don't count the final "e", it would only have only two syllables. So we make an exception for "le", if it is the final "le".

We now arrive at the following theorem: Any word having three or more vowels (a,e,i,o,u,y) has three or more syllables if: Double vowels are counted as one and a final "e" and a final "ed" are not counted except in the case of "ded", "ted", and "le". Now this theorem is not completely correct. It does't cope with double "ee" as in Whoopee! However, it is close enough for practical purposes.

The short program presented is liberally sprinkled with remarks, but at the risk of redundancy, an explanation is shown.

Line 220 begins input while line 280 puts it on the screen. Line 290 builds the characters into a string.

Line 330 detects the ASCII for "space" to count words. Line 350 similarly counts sentences. Now the fun of counting syllables begins. Line 380 detects vowels and tentatively counts vowels. V is incremented to detect double vowels. Line 460 decrements the syllable count for two consecutive vowels. Line 480 detects "ded" or "ted" and by jumping to line 510 by-passes 490 which rejects "ed". Note that the sub-strings must include a space since we are only concerned here with word endings. Line 510 similarly by-passes 520 to keep "le" from being rejected under the final "e" rule.

Now things get easier. Line 550 detects word endings via the ASCII for "space", tests for three or more syllables in the word and if found, increments the "long word" count. Line 580 resets the syllable count for the next word. Line 600 tests for 100 or more words (minimum size for an adequate sample) and stops at the end of the sentence.

Line 610 detects the ASCII for "ENTER" and makes it possible to break off the testing before 100 words so that you may test the program or satisfy your curiosity. Line 620 goes back for the next letter. You will note that many things are happening between one character and the next. If you are a speed typist, you will have to slow down your pace. One note: Where a sentence has a clearly independant clause, it should be treated as a separate sentence. Use periods to break it into two sentences.

--Walter H. Blood

```
100 REM *** FOG INDEX ***
110 REM BY W.H. NOTTINGHAM,
LIGHTHOUSE POINT, FLORIDA
120 REM TRANSLATED FOR TRS I
I-99/4A BY WALTER H. BLOOD
130 REM K=ASCII OF LAST LETT
ER, B=LETTERS, S=SYLLABLES,
L=WORD LENGTH, NS=NUMBER OF
SENTENCES.
140 REM N=NUMBER OF WORDS, L
N=NUMBER OF LONG WORDS.
150 CALL CLEAR
160 PRINT TAB(5);"**********
*********";TAB(5);"*** FOG IN
DEX ***";TAB(5);"**********
*********"
170 PRINT :" This program
calculates the FOG INDEX of
text. This is equal to the
grade level"
180 PRINT "of the reader for
which it is suitable.";;"
In typing text, use only
one space after a period and
"
190 PRINT "ignore other punc
tuation. If you make an er
ror, do not backspace to corr
ect it. It"
200 PRINT "will make little
difference in the score. The
 program will stop when yo
u have a 100-word sample.
 Type slow-"
210 PRINT "ly as the program
 is utilizing CALL KEY for
input."
230 CALL KEY(3,K,S)
240 IF S=0 THEN 230
250 PRINT ::"BEGIN TYPING":
::
260 CALL KEY(3,K,S)
270 IF S=0 THEN 260
280 PRINT CHR$(K);
290 B$=B$&CHR$(K)
300 IF LEN(B$)<4 THEN 330
310 B$=SEG$(B$,2,4)
320 REM SPACE = END OF WORD,
N = NUMBER OF WORDS
330 IF K<>32 THEN 350
340 N=N+1
350 IF K<>46 THEN 380
360 REM PERIOD = END OF SENT
ENCE, NS=NUMBER OF SENTENCES
370 NS=NS+1
380 IF (K=65)+(K=69)+(K=73)+
(K=85)+(K=89)THEN 420
390 V=0
400 GOTO 480
410 REM COUNTS VOWELS CONSID
ERED EQUAL TO SYLLABLES
420 S=S+1
430 V=V+1
440 REM ELIMINATES DOUBLE VO
WELS
450 IF V<>2 THEN 480
460 S=S-1
470 V=0
480 IF (B$="DED ")+(B$="TED
")THEN 510
490 IF SEG$(B$,2,3)<>"ED " T
HEN 510
500 S=S-1
510 IF SEG$(B$,2,3)="LE " TH
EN 550
520 IF SEG$(B$,3,2)<>"E " TH
EN 550
530 S=S-1
540 REM COUNTS LONG WORDS 3
OR MORE SYLLABLES
550 IF (K=32)*(S>2)THEN 560
ELSE 570
560 LN=LN+1
570 IF K<>32 THEN 600
580 S=0
590 REM STOPS AT END OF SENT
ENCE WITH 100 OR MORE WORDS
600 IF (N>=100)*(K=46)THEN 6
30
610 IF K=13 THEN 630
620 GOTO 260
630 PRINT ::::::::"Number o
f sentences =";NS:"Number of
words =";N:"Words per senten
ce =";N/NS
640 PRINT "Number of long wo
rds =";LN
650 F=INT((N/NS+100*LN/N)*.4
+.5)
660 PRINT :"FOG INDEX =";F
670 END
```

Inside every small problem is a
larger problem struggling to get out!

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TEXAMENTS

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SOUTHERN NEVADA USERS' GROUP
The SNUGLETter is published monthly by the Southern Nevada Users' Group (SNUG). SNUG is a non-profit organization of individuals with an interest in all aspects of Texas Instruments' 99xx & 99xxx based computers including hardware and software by third party vendors. The GROUP meets 7:00 PM on the second Monday of the month - currently in the Nevada Power Company, Wengert Community Meeting Room., 6226 West Sahara Avenue. Visitors and guests are welcome to attend the meetings. Information on membership is available at the meeting. Articles may be copied from the SNUGLETter provided credit is given to both the author and the original source and that the article not be used for profit. (For-profit organizations wishing to use any articles from the SNUGLETter will need to make prior arrangements with the Executive of the Southern Nevada Users' Group.)

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Newsletter submissions can be sent to P.O. Box 26301, Las Vegas, NV 89126. Articles using TI-Writer on disk are ideal. They may also be phoned with a modem. also a preferred method.

Currently SNUG supports Texas Instrument's 99/4 and 99/4A computers, and Myarc's Geneve 9640 computer.

Southern Nevada Users' Group (SNUG)
P.O. Box 26301
Las Vegas, NV 89126-0301

TO:

TREASURER's SPECIAL NOTICE - 30 JUNE 90

SNUG records show the following memberships will become due within the next 90 days or are already expired. PLEASE send your Membership Renewal or SNUGLETter Subscription payments to SNUG's P.O. Box or make payments at the monthly meetings.

NOTE: Regular=$18 Senior Citizen=$12 SNUGLETter only=$10
SNUG has discontinued the UnLimited Library Fee of $25.00 per year. The complete library soon will be available on SNUG's BBS to all paid up members in the very near future. Hopefully by the end of July 90.

SNUG members name	Membership expires on:	
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