THE BOSTON COMPUTER SOCIETY
TI99/4A USER GROUP
PRESENTS
THE SEVENTH ANNUAL
NORTHEAST TI FAIR

SATURDAY APRIL 4, 1992
10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

SEE USER GROUPS FROM ALL OVER MASSACHUSETTS
AND OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY
DEMOS OF NEW HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE
EXHIBITS AND DEALER DISPLAYS
AND MANY GUEST SPEAKERS

FAIR IN THE CAFETERIA
WALTHAM CENTRAL MIDDLE
SCHOOL
55 SCHOOL STREET
WALTHAM, MA. 02154

DIRECTIONS:
FROM RT 128 (US 95) TAKE EXIT 26(RT 20) TO WALTHAM
CENTER, TAKE LEFT ON TO LEXINGTON STREET(CITY HALL ON
RIGHT) CROSS SCHOOL STREET, TURN RIGHT AT THE NEXT
STREET FOLLOW TO INTERSECTION THEN TURN A SHARP RIGHT
TO THE SCHOOL. CAFETERIA IN BACK OF SCHOOL.

FOR TABLE INFORMATION CONTACT:
RON WILLIAMS
14 EAST STREET
AVON, MA 02322-1913

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OLD TRICKS FOR NEW (and not so new) USERS
by Joseph Cohen
Lima Ohio User Group

Thou many of us tend to ignore most of the cartridge software for our computer, with the exception of TI Extended Basic and, possibly, Multiplan, Logo II, Editor/Assembler, and TE-2 (for speech), many of the cartridges are very enjoyable. In order to give you an excuse for searching your closets and basements looking for those hidden modules, I'd like to point out that many of them have undocumented features ranging from useful to interesting to amusing. Here are a few examples.

Many are probably familiar with "The Secret of Personal Record Keeping: Implementing DISPLAY AT and ACCEPT AT without Extended BASIC", published way back in 99'er magazine and reprinted in The Best of 99er, p. 76. Briefly, TI BASIC with the PRK module contains the commands CALL D() and CALL A() (similar to DISPLAY AT and ACCEPT AT). Presumably this also works with the Statistics module, but I do not have this one and could not verify it. I have been told that this is a result of the hybrid nature of certain modules, containing both GPL and BASIC coding. Perhaps someone knows or could discover additional undocumented features of this cartridge (I have extra PRK modules if anybody would like to experiment with it), and possible other cartridges which cvall console BASIC routines (E.G. Tax/Investment Record keeping).

Next, the TI Disk Manager cartridge offers a proprietary protection feature that does not allow the Disk Manager to copy a protected diskette. To use it, press the FCTN-X key ten times while on any menu screen. You will hear a beep (if your monitor has sound!) and >< will appear at the center top of the screen. Any diskettes initialized at theis point will be proprietary protected. Each time you address them using the Disk Manager cartridge (e.g., to catalog such a diskette), a low-tone beep will sound (not present for unprotected diskettes), informing you that the diskette is protected. The protection information is stored in sector 0 on the diskette. This type of protection is ineffective against the sector disk copiers and has been discussed in the past. I wonder of anybody knows more about it. The DM-1000 offers protection and un-protection of diskettes; is it the same kind as the TI Disk Mangager cartridge?

Now to a few game cartridges. Moonmine, Alpiner, Munchman, Munchmobile, and Hooper have a test mode, where you can select the starting level. So if you wanted to see what it is like to play at those levels you could never reach, here is a good reason to plug those cartirdges into your 99/4A! The test mode is obrained by pressing SHIFT/8 3 8 at the game title screen (SHIFT/8 only, for Hopper). and on Burgertime, pressing SHIFT/8 gives a message: "code modifications by John M. Phillips". Have you always played Parsec as a one player game? Here is something different, for a two player team. If the fire buttons on both joysticks are pressed simultaneously, Spaceship Parsec will not overheat. Horizontal lines will appear on the screen, but they do not disturb the game and would allow, in fact, one to see the Bynites when they turn invisible.

This is certainly not an exhaustive list. If anybody knows about othe "tricks", would they please let me know? [Ed note: Mr. Cohen can be reache at the newsletter address, P.O. Box 647, Venedocia OH 45894]. I am sur the Adventure and Tunnels of Doom modules contain undocumented features Please take a few moments to let others know, and enjoy your cartridges!

TIPS MANIPULATOR--A REVIEW
by Dick Beery

A month or so ago, Jim Peterson asked me if I would review this program which Patrick Powell, its creator, had sent to him. I said that I would, wondering why as I did so. It seemed obvious to me that all that was necessary in using TIPS pictures was to go to the appropriate file and pull out what was deemed appropriate. I was wrong ! As I began to use this program I discovered how many files of TIPS pictures there are, that they lack a common index, and that trying to find all the pictures on a given topic can be very time-consuming. I now recommend that a number of people make use of this program, create files on subjects that interest them, and then make these "homogeneous" files available to others. Two people at the C.O.N.N.I. meeting during which I demonstrated this program volunteered to do one special topic file apiece, and when mine is completed, we will place the results of all three in the C.O.N.N.I. disk library. Maybe we will also place them on our Clearinghouse BBS, so that others across the country can have access to them.

The program itself, Tips Manipulator version 2.1, comes with over seven pages of documentation, but it is quite easy to use. I suggest a careful reading of the docs before beginning to use the program, then the use of the Sequence of Events (Docs, page 7). Tips Manipulator is a modified version of Ed Johnson's TIPS2PP program (Jan. 1991) that has also been modified by Ed's co-author Bob Kaat. This latest version, 2.1, allows renaming of pictures, forcing of uppercase, and has been prescanned to increase speed of operation. It is written in Extended Basic, and comes with a modified version of Irwin Hott's Load program.

Once you have loaded the program, you will be permitted to change the screen background colors to your choice. Also, you then remove the program disk and insert your TIPS file disk. As I have two drives, I place the disk that is to receive my newly-created file in drive two. If you have only one drive, you will need to make sure your original TIPS file disk has enough room to receive the new file as well, as the program does not yet support the changing of disks. (Maybe a later version will!). The printer parameter menu permits you to change your printer designation to PIO, RS232 or whatever.

The main menu offers the following choices: manipulate files, sort file, print file, catalog a disk, rename pictures, reset color/printer, and exit.

I found, that since picture names do not always reveal the complete nature of the picture, that it worked best for me to skim the pages of pictures I have printed out and saved in a looseleaf notebook, jot the name of the file (e.g.GRCD.TXT) and the names of the pictures wanted and then move to the Tips Manipulator (hereafter referred to as TM) program. Since the operation of the TM requires that you use the picture's number within the file, I found it indispensable first to use the Print File option to print out each of the TIPS picture files I planned to use. This gives you a printout with the picture number and name but no graphic printout. You can thus circle the numbers you want and use these sheets as a guide when accessing the Manipulator function.

The Manipulator function offers the possibility of printing files, but since you have already done this, select "N". You will then be asked for the drivenumber and filename of the source file (e.g. GMAZ.TXT) and the same for the new file you are creating. While you can input up to seven characters for the source file, the program works well with a four-character input (e.g. GMAZ). You are limited to four characters in your output (new) file. Since my file deals with computer-related items, I named it COMP. The program adds the necessary .TXT and .XXX extenders.

Once you select picture numbers to be manipulated (transferred to the new file), you will be asked for the picture numbers they will have in the new file. The easiest way is to accept the default numbers at the bottom of the screen, and when you have your new file all or partially completed, use the Sort function to arrange them in alphabetical sequence, if this is desired. When your new file is complete, you may use it in the same ways you use your present TIPS picture files.

As soon as you have completed and sorted your new file, I suggest that you use the TM program to print the new file (numbers and names, remember?), and then move to one of your TIPS companion programs to print out the actual graphics, the same as for your other, heterogeneous, TIPS picture files.

When you print the file in the TM print function, you may find that not all picture names will print, the problem being that some came over from the other type of computer in lower case. The Rename Pictures function of TM will redo these in upper case, and you can then print out the entire file correctly.

I found the program to be very user-friendly and had only minor problems with it, and those I expect to eliminate when I have time to practice with it more in depth. I highly recommend it, and think that you will find a little time spent in organizing your TIPS pictures into homogeneous files will save you much time and frustration when you have a quick project to execute and little time in which to do it.

The program is released as Disk Ware, and the author states that " I do not grant any company or person other than Jim Peterson/Tigercub Software to charge any copying fee for this program..." In other words, you can give it away, but don't sell it! He also asks that those who use the program send a note, or a copy of the club's newsletter, or a disk from the club's library (or why not a disk from your personal collection?) to him.

Address: TI EXPRESS
C/O PATRICK R. POWELL
P.O. BOX 496
OCEAN PARK, ME
04063-0496

You may also contact him on Genie. Address: P.POWELL7

P.S. I give this an A-PLUS rating on both program and documentation. Hope you enjoy using it as much as I do!

Compiled by Jim Peterson

Since PC Transfer has long been unavailable, due to the failure of JP Software to fill orders or answer inquiries, it is welcome news that Bruce Harrison has released Smart Connect, a program to transfer files between TI and PC computers. It automatically splits large PC files into increments small enough to be loaded into TI-Writer. The program is available for $10, which includes shipping and handling, from Harrison Software, 5705 40th Place, Hyattsville MD 20781. Also, the price of their unique Word Processor has been reduced from $20 to $14, which includes PP&M.

Jerry Coffey has reached an agreement with J. Peter Hoddie to distribute JP Software programs. He will also work with buyers who have paid for but never received products from JP Software; in these cases he requests that the purchaser send him as much information as possible, including xerox copies of checks, statements, etc. His address is 9119 Tetterton Ave., Vienna VA 22182.

By request of the Southern Nevada Users' Group, the TI SYSOP of Delphi, Jerry Coffey, has agreed to set up a newsletter section where TI user groups can upload their newsletters. SNUG intends to upload their newsletter and to cease mailing hard copies to other user groups, which has become too expensive. They are urging other groups to do the same.

SNUG has also amended their constitution to include "PC and compatibles". This may mean that their newsletter will soon be of little interest to TI users. I have observed that when a TI group opens its doors to other computers - Sun Coast, Brevard, Broward, etc. - their newsletters soon drop any mention of the TI. Florida used to be a major center of TI activity, but only the Miami group seems to be very active these days. The Daytona group survives only as an informal get-together, and several others have been swallowed up by Big Blue.

Asgard Software has released Thumbnails, to organize, catalog and convert MacPaint pictures; Starbase Raiders, an arcade style game; and Gofer, a utility for user with Page Pro 99. The price of each is $12.95 plus $3 shipping and handling.

The Channel 99 User Group in Hamilton, Ontario will probably dissolve at the end of the year due to the unwillingness of anyone to serve as officer or editor. The numerous TI groups in Canada do not have much contact with the U.S. groups since the cost of mailing newsletters across the border became so high.

Don O'Neil's DIGI-PORT is a cable which plugs into the TI, CorComp or Myarc parallel port and allows you to play, through an external amplifier, 8-bit digitized sounds ported over from IBM, Macointosh, Amiga, Atari ST, Sound Blaster or whatever. The software which is supplied will also play the sounds through the TI-99/4A's own sound generator, but only at 5-bit accuracy. The TI with memory expansion alone can only play 10 seconds of digitized sound, but when augmented with additional memory it can play much longer, up to 10 minutes or more. Also supplied in the package are 10 disks in a choice of SS/SD containing short sounds for the TI-99/4A alone, DS/SD containing longer sounds for the 4A with 80-column card, DS/DD with still longer sounds for the MEMEX, RAMBO or Geneve, or DS/QD with even longer sounds. The price is $39.95 US, from OPA, 432 Jarvis St., Toronto ONT, Canada M4Y-2H3. OPA also apparently offers additional sound disks.

Asgard Software has announced a much improved Version 2.0 of the Asgard Mouse, and much improved software to go with it. There are no compatibility problems with programs written for the old Mouse. Current owners can obtain the new software by returning the mouse disk with $7.50, which includes postage. They can upgrade to the new Mouse by returning the old version, providing it is serviceable, together with the adapter cable and $15 plus $3 S&H. The Asgard Mouse, with software, can be purchased for $49.95 plus $5 S&H.

Asgard has also released the Mouse Development Package, which enables programmers to add mouse support to their programmers. The price is $14.95 plus $3 S&H.

Asgard's Reflections has resumed publication with Volume 2 No. 4, but new subscriptions are not being accepted and only two or three more issues are planned. Chris Bobbitt promises that all subscriptions will be satisfied one way or another.

Asgard Publishing has now began publication of Asgard Brief, a shorter publication devoted to news of upgrades and new products from Asgard Software. User groups can get a free copy by sending a postcard to Asgard Publishing, PO Box 10306, Rockville MD 20849, and copies can be purchased for 25 cents, but it is not available by subscription. The same information is available by download from Delphi and Genie. Asgard Publishing also publishes Page Pro Times for users of Page Pro. Issue 6 was released in October.

Asgard Software is retrenching somewhat, in order to give better service, and will deal primarily in software rather than hardware. Plans for the reintroduction of the Mechatronics 80-column card have been cancelled. Chris reports that since he took on Harry Brashear as a partner, orders are being filled in 3 or 4 days rather than 3 or 4 weeks, and products returned for repair are being completed in 2 to 4 weeks.

Asgard has released 4 new games (TI-Pei, Classic Checkers, Colors and Starbase Raiders), and has made arrangements to offer three Comprodine games (War Zone, Living Tomb and Boxsteine), one from Notung (TI Casino) and a never-before-released Infocom Adventure titles. The new Asgard Software 1991-1992 Entertainment Catalog is available free from Asgard Software, PO Box 10306, Rockville MD 20849.

Disk Only Software (PO Box 244, Lorton VA 22079) will soon be offering Tony Lewis's "Interface Standard and Design Guide", a compendium of some of the most important references on TI hardware design.

The following report on the Berlin TI Faire is condensed from a report by Jim Fetzner in Reflections and a letter from Alexander Hulpke published in the Lima newsletter. One of the features was a new P-System for the TI-99/4A and Geneve, not requiring the P-Code card. It was rewritten from scratch, supports 80-column cards and more disk drives, and runs 3 or 4 times faster. It is still in the process of final debugging and testing.

The Berlin User Group was selling, for about $60, a device to install a Speech Synthesizer in the P-Box. Unlike the Rave card, this device contains the ROMs from the TEII cartridge, thereby allowing unlimited text to speech in any programming language and without the memory limitations of the disk-based Text-to-Speech.

TI Club Leipzig was demonstrating a true video digitizer for the P-box which accepts a video input through standard ports and digitizes it in real time (on the fly!) into a My-Art/YAPP format picture suitable for display on an 80-column card. It uses very expensive new chips and therefore costs about $350. The same group demonstrated modified routines for disk access which allowed direct controller programming, avoiding the TI file system overhead, thereby achieving speed comparable to a hard drive. They also discussed an AT-Bus hard disk, but had not written a DSR for it.

Another group was demonstrating, and expects to have available soon for about $100, a TI Hex-Bus interface which allows the TI-99/4A to be used with the many peripherals which Texas Instruments released for the CC-40 hand-held computer.

Also displayed, and costing about $14, was a simple chip and motherboard for the Mechatronics 80-column card which expands the number of available colors from 256 to 256 out of 256,000. Alexander Hulpke suggests that it could be adapted for the DIJIT card or the Geneve if an unused 8-byte area could be found to decode.

Also released was XB3, a complete rewrite of TI Extended Basic which is 16k larger, offers dozens of new commands, is 100% compatible with existing XBasic programs and runs them an average of 2 to 4 times faster! However, it requires a

SPIRIT OF 99

GRAM device. It will soon be released on disk by Asgard Software, and wil
later be available as a module. I am not sure if this is the same as Winfrie
Winkler's new XBasic described by Alexander Hulpke, because Alexander says tha
the module consists of 3 ROM banks at >6000 and will therefore run only on th
Mechatronics GRAM card, not on the Geneve or Gram-Kracker or other simulator
with just two banks.

New software included a CAD program by Henrik Wedekind, described as very use
friendly, for the TI with 80-column device; CRASH by Peter Muys for the Geneve
a stock market program claimed to be equal to very expensive PC programs; and a
XBasic compiler for the TI, written in Basic (and not able to compile itsel
into assembly) which compiles everything but SUBs, DEFs and arrays, but take
hours to do so.

The Lima User Group has booked space at the Ohio University Lima Campus fo
the next totally free all TI/Geneve show from 4 PM Friday May 15 through 8 P
Saturday May 16 1992.

A couple of user group newsletters have mentioned that Baker Software, whic
formerly advertised game programs in Micropendium, has cashed checks withou
sending merchandise, and is not responding to inquiries. However, when I wrot
to them they replied promptly and said they were still actively in business.

Texaments (53 Center St., Patchoque NY 11772) has issued a new catalog whic
is free on request. Their products include TI-Artist PLUS! and supportin
programs including 13 Companions, 3 volumes of Starfleet Technical Drawings
Fonts Frames and Fun, Designer Labels, Guidelines, and Artoons; GIF Mania t
view GIF pictures on a TI; TI Base Version 3.0; 9 games for the Geneve; TI Sort
C.S.G.D. Graphics; The Missing Link; Sound F/X; Rapid Copy; XB Detective, an
Exec. They also offer the Geneve ($419.95) as well as the Myarc Hard Dis
Controller, Floppy Disk Controller and RS232 Card.

Bruce Harrison of Harrison Software has released two new programs. Scu
Buster is a unique assembly game based on Patriot missiles shooting down Scud
in the Gulf War. The joystick is used to set an aiming point on the screen, an
the fire button launches a missile toward that point to cross the trajectory o
the Scud and meet it. There are several degrees of difficulty.
Code Breaker is a cryptogram program in assembly, therefore lightning fast
It contains 380 puzzles and has a feature where you can make your own. Th
standard level is difficult, the advanced level is for experts only.

Beery Miller (PO Box 752465, Memphis TN 38175-2465) has received permissio
from Myarc to distribute the P-System for the Geneve, and will provide the disk
for $10. It requires a DS/DD system.

DELPHI has announced the establishment of Custom Forums. Any subscriber ca
open a Forum for a set-up fee of $39.95 and a monthly fee of $15, and then ha
complete control over who can post and read messages on his forum. DELPH
offers up to 20 hours per month of evening/weekend access via Tymnet for $20 pe
month.

For several years, Texas Instruments conducted a mail survey of TI user group
each year, and provided an address listing on request. I recently inquire
whether they had made such a survey in 1991. They did not reply to th
question, but sent me a copy of the listing they had distributed in 1990, whic
was out-of-date even then.
I have repeatedly urged user groups to register with FOG, so that they woul
be listed in Computer Shopper and Computer Monthly. Fewer and fewer have kep
up their registration. Now I hear that FOG is charging $25 for ne
registrations and $15 for renewals.

ATTENTION: <u>GREENHORNS!</u>

My friend was retyping the history of a scaled model of our community's original prairie home on my TI using Funnelweb. Imagine our shock when she received a message: Text Buffer Full.

When she asked me about it, what could I say? I didn't even know I had a text buffer! She had 3 1/2 paragraphs to go, the thought of her retyping was enough to get my adrenalin going up to 3rd. floor for the TI-WRITER manual.

The Index helped me find LoadF/Merge and Text Buffer Full, but the subsequent pages only impressed me with the fact she had already typed 23,000 characters and there was no room to merge! Horrors!

Next I called a local TIer who also was puzzled. Before I called another TIer long distance, I decided it was cheaper to experiment on 100 pieces or so of computer paper. My first idea was to break the file when it ended on a page, and thus have to type that part over and make an end file and print it independently. It wouldn't co-operate and end perfectly.

Back to the manual. Why not try this Include File stuff on page 109? So I broke the original into two files and saved one as Pat/E and one as Pat/F(oh, I was past numbers and earlier letters of the alphabet by now!). I tried the fancy part on file Pat/E and successfully merged the end in the beginning. Good, there is hope.

Next, I stripped the two files of all codes except the dot command to center the title .CE2. Then I put all the dot commands in a file I called PAT/EF. It looked like this:

```
.IF DSK1.C9
.IF LM12;RM73
.PL 62
.HE %
.IF DSK2.PAT/E
.IF DSK2.PAT/F
```

It worked! Only one thing remained, how to match it perfectly as I was one line off. I had left a line at the end of one file and at the beginning of the next. Once it was removed, it was perfectly merged and all the pages sequentially numbered as if it were truly one file. I had never used the .HE %, but while I was looking for answers came across it and decided I may as well learn all I can so the paper is not educationally wasted. It was neat to see every thing so cleanly merged and pages numbered sequentially, treating it all the same.

I thought there must be greenhorns like myself who would take courage in knowing we can produce work that looks like we know what we are doing.

Take heart, if I can, you can!

MUNCH OFFICERS AND NUMBERS (all in 508 area unless noted)

President	W.C. Wyman	865/9683		
Vice President	Bruce Willard	852/3250	MUNCH DUES	
Secretary	Jim Cox			
Treasurer	Jim Cox	869-2704	NEW MEMBERSHIP	$25.00
Acting Editor	Jim Cox		RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP	$15.00
Adv.Prog. Chair	Dan Rogers	248-5502	NEWSLETTER ONLY	
Library	OPEN		SUBSCRIPTION	$12.50
Disk Librarian	Lou Holmes	617 965/3584		
Tape Librarian	Walter Nowak	413 436/7675		
NEW-AGE/99	Jack Sughrue	476/7630		

FEBRUARY MEETING. There were 10 members at the February meeting. Jack did a demo of T.I.Chess. He also gave some insight from his perspective as a third grade teacher. It was "never let a kid or a computer beat you, cheat if you must". I always preferred the axiom "play to win". Jack won the raffle.

MARCH MEETING. This month's demo will be a surprise. The Sound F/X programs should be here for the meeting.
We have another group buy which you might be interested in, it is Ron Valtr's Secret Guide to Computers 15th Edition. The list price is $15.00 but groups which purchase four or more can get them for $9.00. Ron is from Somerville, Mass.

RAFFLE. Every month we have a raffle to help defer the rental cost of our meeting hall. A typical raffle will have game and utility programs T-Shirts, books, bumper stickers, blank discs and all sorts of odds and ends for the T.I.

LIBRARY NOTICE. Please return any items borrowed from our library. If you can not come to a meeting or give these items to someone who will be at the meeting.

REPRINTS. Reprints are permitted as long as credit is given to M.U.N.C.H.

ARTICLES. I am always looking for articles for this newsletter, anything which interests you will probably interest other members of the TI community, so please share your ideas and opinions with all of us.
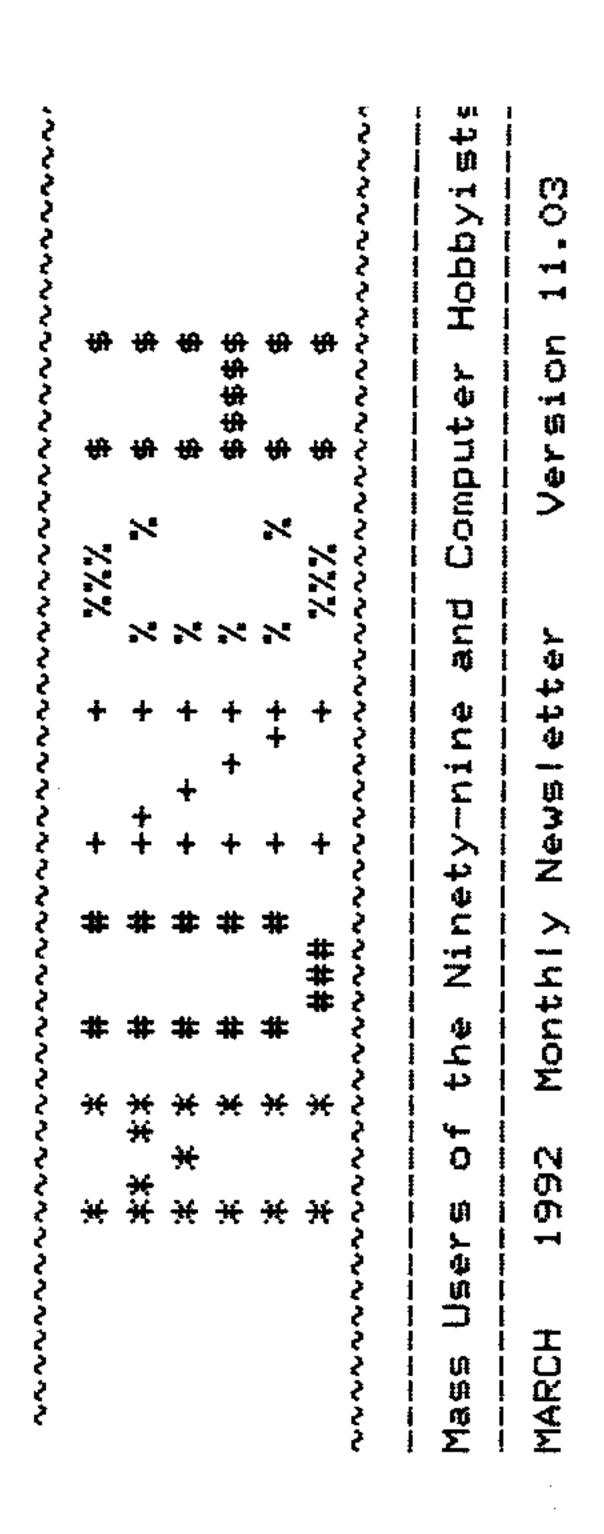
DISK LIBRARY. The disk library will be at the meetings from now on. We have copies of all disks in the library and they are available to members for just $1.50 each for single discs, $2.00 flippies, $3.00 double discs and $4.00 double flippie.

FOR SALE. The group has a TI Count Business Software package available for sale. If interested contact Jim Cox at the above numer or the club address.

DISK OF THE MONTH. This month's disk is #102 TI Games: Facemaker, Story Machine, Jaw Breaker, Slymoids and Crossfire.

The B.C.S. has announced the date for the 1992 T.I. Fayah, it will be on Saturday April 4th at the Waltham Junior High School. Let's start to make plans now for the Fayah.
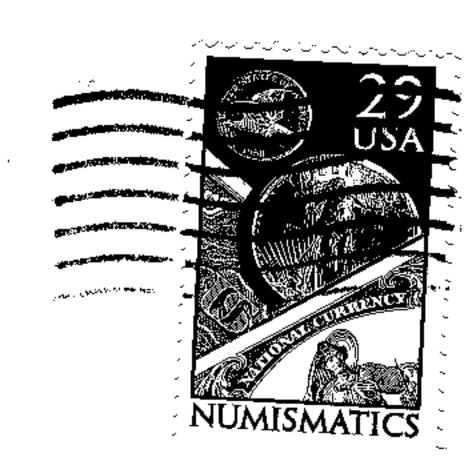
The MUNCH video is going to be done on Sat. March 21 at 1:00 PM at the former Milford Savings Bank building at the intersection of Rt. 109 and Beaver St. Milford. Directions will be available at the meeting or call Jim Cox

Come to the FAIR Sat. April 4th 10 AM to 4 PM

NEW ADDRESS:

M.U.N.C.H.
C/O J.W. COX
905 EDGEBROOK DR.
BOYLSTON, MA. 01505

WORCESTER, MA 016
PM
4 MAR

FIRST CLASS/002

29 USA
NUMISMATICS

Next Meeting MARCH   10th

POSTMASTER: Forwarding and Address Correction Requested.

* Time to Renew!