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THE TACOMA INFORMER

Published by The TACOMA 99ers USERS GROUP
P.O. BOX 42383 -- TACOMA, WA 98442

Volume 5 APRIL and MAY 1988 No. 4/5

From the Desk of the President. . .

There was a recruitment drive on Sat. Apr.23rd from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the computer room. We give away some freeware, coffee cookies, doughnuts, punch to make people aware of our club. It was a great success we had six systems set up to copy disks, 1 Geneve to demonstrate, 1 table for cassettes and for members to sell things. I would like to thank all the members who came out to help to make this such a success; CAL BARTHOLOMEW, BILL CASTEEL, ART DANIELS, LEE HUDSON, DON HUNDVEN, TOM KING, ALF MILLER, ROBERT MILLER, JOE NOLLAN, JEAN SCHMIDT, VERN SCHROTENBOER, and especially RON PREWITT and his family for going to get all of the refreshments and serving them all day...THANKS. We had about fifty people look in on us some from Auburn, Kent, Federal Way, Gig Harbor, Puyallup, Olympia and Tacoma. Most of them heard about it from the TNT paper some from Little Nickel, TV, Flyers and some from the sign we put on the street. All in all it was a great turnout and success. Again THANKS.

The next swap-meet will be on Sat May. 21st. We need people to go up with us and things to sell. Please Help! The annual 4-H Eastside fair will be on Sat. June 4th. we need to think about getting ready. For those who were not at the Apr. 7th meeting it was decided for the Equipment committee to get a complete backup system. Also, Tom King will take over activities committee while Jim Smith is in school.

Till Next Time, Happy Computing
Frank L Ashburn

SWAP MEET

MIDWAY DRIVE-IN
MAY 21. 1988

Call 474-7310 or 582-8886 for more Info

Bring your items to meeting on May 19th

Vice President Speaks

from Joe Nollan

It has come to my attention that all chips are not created equal. The chips I'm speaking of are the 6264 memory chips that are used in SUPERCARTS and also the HORIZON RAM-DISK. Previous to a week ago I felt that a memory chip was a memory chip, and that was it. Now, I know different. The differances with chips from different manufacturers, subtle as they may be, can cause disastrous effects. In specifics I'm speaking of HY6264LP-15 static RAM chips, made by HYUNDAI and imported from Korea. I purchased mine from JAMECO Electronics, and mention their name only to prevent others from getting these chips. JAMECO is a fine company, it is the chips, not the seller's fault. When I say subtle, I mean that when I tested each of the six chips, I found no defects! None of the memory testing programs would show a single error, and I would bet that in a different application the chips would work just fine. You can not imagine the headache I have had, trying to solve an intermitent memory loss problem. My best guess would be that the chips have a problem driving the TI data bus, and then, only during certain circumstances.

In summary, until JAMECO changes stock, I wouldn't buy any 6264's from them, and before getting any from anyone else, I would ask for the chip manufacturer's name. I have found that NEC and HITACHI chips work fine. Do not buy HYUNDAI chips. Now is a good time to put in a plug for Bud Mills Services, (419) 385-5946, who can provide good chips and is also marketing the HORIZON+ Ram Disk. Call for current prices, and I challenge you to find a better deal than Bud's. I use the chips myself to build SUPERCARTS. I have also put together a special SUPERCART with a socket for the RAM chip to allow me to test the chips before using them. Please pass this information along.

Slowing Down Time

By JOE NOLLAN I recently watched the American Four-man bobsled team loose the Bronze Medal by a single hundredth of a second. The commentator found it hard to imagine such a short time period but we computer users are aware of the many things that our computer can do in that short period of time. The fact is that often the computer must be slowed down to our pace to interface with us. It would be impossible for us to play a game against the computer running at full speed! So far I've been talking about short time periods but what about the other end of the spectrum. Long periods of time can be generated with the computer by slowing it down. A program can be slowed down by using a simple FOR-NEXT loop and selecting the variable to meet our purposes. I found that the value is approximately 266 per second or 16,000 for a one minute delay. This loop delay can be used for building an on-screen clock, or by using larger values, even longer delays can be generated. You may wonder why a longer delay would be needed, but consider for example that it is 7PM on Tuesday and you want to give an alarm "beep" before dinner at 5PM tomorrow, and you want a simple timer to do it. All that it takes is a FOR-NEXT loop with a value of 21,120,000 in the loop followed by a CALL SOUND statement. In the case of your dental appointment at 9AM Friday use a value of 59,520,000. To ensure the greatest accuracy you may have to fine tune these values a little. With a little more programming you could have a timer that would only need the present and future times and dates and it would calculate the value needed for you. Isn't it fun learning more uses for our "orphan" computer and a program like this can keep it busy for weeks. My question is how much time did it take to discover the relationship between the content of this article and the first day of this month.

From the Library Desk. . .

ART HAS BEEN GONE FOR A FEW WEEKS AND WE MISSED OUR LAST NEWS LETTER. IT SORT OF BRINGS UP THE POINT AGAIN ABOUT HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO GET CERTAIN JOBS TAKEN CARE OF WITHIN OUR CLUB. WITHOUT PEOPLE LIKE ART, AND THE REST OF THE WORKERS, OUR CLUB WOULD DIE OF ITS' OWN INERTIA. THINK ABOUT IT!

I REALLY DON'T HAVE A BUNCH TO TELL YOU ABOUT THIS TIME, HOWEVER WE ARE STILL GETTING SOME EXTREMELY GOOD PROGRAMS OFF OF GENIE. I'VE BEEN USING THEM FOR THE "DISK OF THE MONTH" DISKS AND THEY HAVE BEEN DOING QUITE WELL. I'M STILL CURIOUS. WE DON'T SEEM TO GET MANY ORDERS FOR PROGRAMS FROM THE CATALOG, BUT THE "D.O.M." GOES OVER VERY WELL. I AM STILL WAITING FOR THE FIRST PERSON TO TELL ME WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO GET!

PLEASE, I NEED YOUR HELP! I CAN'T SECOND-GUESS WHAT YOU WANT... AT LEAST GIVE ME SOME IDEAS TO WORK WITH. DO YOU LIKE GAMES, GRAPHICS, UTILITIES, PROGRAMMING, OR WHAT EVER ELSE YOU CAN THINK OF! I HAVE JUST ABOUT RUN OUT OF IDEAS. MY JOB AS LIBRARIAN, IS BEGINNING TO IRRITATE AS I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT OR HOW I CAN SATISFY YOUR WISHES.

AS I STATED AT THE LAST MEETING, I WILL BE LEAVING IN EARLY JUNE FOR A LONG TRIP. I'LL BE BACK ABOUT THE 10TH OF JULY. WE'LL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A SUBSTITUTE WHILE I'M GONE, BUT IF YOU WANT ANYTHING BEFORE THEN LET ME KNOW.

UP UNTIL NOW, I'VE ALWAYS SAID THAT YOU WERE ALWAYS WELCOME TO COME OVER AND PICK OUT YOUR PROGRAMS. I NOW HAVE, UNTIL JULY, A HOUSEFUL OF PEOPLE, INCLUDING TWO YOUNG GRANDCHILDREN. THEY WILL BE STAYING WITH US UNTIL THEIR HOME IS AVAILABLE. SO RIGHT NOW, MY PLACE IS A LITTLE HECTIC. FOR THIS REASON, PLEASE GIVE ME A LIST OF ANY PROGRAMS YOU WISH AT A MEETING OR PHONE YOUR LIST TO ME. I DO NEED AT LEAST THREE DAYS SO I CAN BE SURE TO GET THEM FOR YOU. YOU'RE STILL WELCOME TO PICK THEM UP HERE, BUT I CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT I'LL BE ABLE TO SPEND ANY AMOUNT OF TIME WITH YOU.

AS PER NORMAL, PLEASE RETURN THE CLUB LOANER DISKS AT THE NEXT MEETING. WE GET INTO SOME PRETTY INTERESTING SITUATIONS, TRYING TO ACCOUNT FOR THE CLUBS PROPERTY. IF YOU CAN'T RETURN A DISK ON TIME, CALL ME!

BOB HAUN, **584-3938**

MEETINGS - 1st and 3rd THURS. - 8 p. m.

South End Pool Building - 402 E. 56th Street - Tacoma, WA

For More Information Call 474-7310

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tacoma 99ers User's Group
1988 Activities Calendar

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
7th 8pm Meeting 21st 8pm Meeting	4th 8pm Meeting-Demonstration of the GENEVE by Barb Weiderhold 18th 8pm Meeting- TI ARTIST Demonstration	3rd 8pm Meeting-BBS demonstration by Cynthia Becker 17th 8pm Meeting	7th 8pm Meeting 21st 8pm Meeting Horizon Ram Demo by Joe Mollan 23rd SOFTWARE GIVE-AWAY
MAY	**JUNE**	**JULY**	**AUGUST**
5th 8pm Meeting 19th 8pm Meeting Demo of Desktop Publisher Cartridge by DataBiotics 21st MIDWAY DRIVE-IN SWAP-MEET	2nd 8pm Meeting 4th 4-H EASTSIDE FAIR 16th 8pm Meeting PC TRANSFER DEMO (IBM to TI Text or TI Text to IBM on your 99/4A	7th 8pm Meeting 21st 8pm Meeting 23rd MIDWAY DRIVE-IN SWAP-MEET	4th 8pm Meeting 18th 8pm Meeting
SEPTEMBER	**OCTOBER**	**NOVEMBER**	**DECEMBER**
1st 8pm Meeting 15th 8pm Meeting 17th MIDWAY DRIVE-IN SWAP-MEET 24th SEATTLE TI FAIRE	6th 8pm Meeting 20th 8pm Meeting	3rd 8pm Meeting 17th 8pm Meeting	1st 8pm Meeting 15th 8pm Meeting

REVISED: 04/28/88

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Free Giveaway Successful

Software Give-Away Day By Ron Prewitt Event Chairman I'm pleased to report that our Software Give-Away Day on Saturday, April 23, 1988, was a great success.

The purpose of this activity was to make contact with TI-99/4A owners whose computers were on the shelf in their closet or those still using their computer but were out of touch with what was happening with software, hardware and general support for their TI-99/4A; because they didn't belong to a user's group, of course. We advertised free copying of FAIRWARE software in local newspapers, public service spots on TV and flyers on bulletin boards in business establishments to get their attention. It worked!!

We began setting up around 7 a.m. This included the refreshment counter, six members' computer systems, a Welcome table and an Information table. Just as we put the sign out on 56th street at 9 a.m., our first of many visitors began to arrive Before we closed the doors at 4 p.m. we had welcomed over forty "closet" TI-99/4A owners plus a few non-owners that were just curious.

Our committee had selected twenty of the latest and best FAIRWARE programs. There were times when all systems and their operators were busy copying these programs for appreciative TI-99/4A owners. This included dubbing cassette programs. Bob Miller has some strange tunes going around in his head from listening to the sound of the numerous cassette programs he copied for our visitors.

Besides copying FAIRWARE programs, we provided information, help with software and hardware questions, free coffee and cookies and just fellowship with new friends with a common interest. It was a rewarding and enjoyable day for all of us.

Speaking of us, I want to thank the members that gave up their Saturday to help with this event and were the reason for it's success. My thanks to Frank Ashburn, Cal Bartholomew, Bill Casteel, Art Daniels, Lee Hudson, Don Hundven, Tom King, Alf Miller, Bob Miller, Joe Nollan, Jean Schmidt and Vern Schrotenboer. (Editor's Note: Also Thanks to Ron Prewitt's wife for manning the refreshment counter.)

I also want to thank my committee members, Frank Ashburn, Tom King, Alf Miller and Vern Schrotenboer for the excellant job they did in planning and doing all of the pre-event tasks that were required. Their efforts and anticipation of what was needed resulted in the smooth execution of our event. Also, a special thanks to Bob Haun, our Librarian, for making up the FAIRWARE program disks.

HAPPY COMPUTING, Ron Prewitt

- - FOR SALE - -

CONSOLE, Power Pak, Cassette, Manuals
Call Royall Clark, Graham, 206-847-4643

STAR Gemini 10 Printer, 100.00
Call Robert M. Miller, 206-474-6020

WANTED a RS232 Card and Printer Cable for Gemini 10. FOR SALE Axiom Printer, 75.00.
Call Don Hundven, 206-474-2259

TI-XPO 88 REVIEWED IN DEPTH

by Steve Mehr, UG Member

Well, TI-XPO-88 is only a memory now, but not a dim one by any means. So many good feelings between those who participated. Rekindling old friendships, creating new ones. *Finally putting* all those voices (thanks ma bell!) together with the faces.

First stop Friday morning, from Thousand Oaks, Southern California, was the San Fernando Valley to pick up the Sage of Sylmar, the Guru of Giving, none other than Raymond P. Kazmer. (I think the P stands for Poindexter.) Fighting off his killer attack K9 wasn't my way of starting off the morning. Ray blamed my early arrival caused him to forget to bring his freeway billboard. Oh well Ray, the shirt box was fine. K9 hair ball removal procedure completed, we sped off (55) to Fullerton (ugh) for our next stop (pick up.) Hiccup!

Early again! Rodger Merritt isn't home yet. Oh well, time for lunch Ray... you buy! After lunch we find that Ray sure can program, but a tailor he's not! Staples won't do, so off we went. Or should I say Ray's pants. Alterations while you wait? Why not! Into the dressing room Ray went. Can't publish the rest of this story, family newsletter you know! Back to Rodger's, let's load up the car, Ray's waiting for a flood, let's go!!! Hours (and three hundred pounds) later we're off (our rockers!) to Vegas.

Arriving in Las Vegas, Nevada around 9:30 P.M., we were greeted with a friendly welcome on the Palace Station marquee, "Welcome TI-XPO-88". Nice touch! After finding out where to park and unload the car, we were greeted again by John Martin and other members of SNUG ready with carts to help us unload. A few hours later, the booth was set up for Rodger which was sponsored by Tri-Valley 99er's and TI Club of Oxnard, both of So. Ca. Ray was nowhere to be found. I think he was testing his slot machine theory... ker plunk!

After we finished setting up Friday night, most of us got together for an early (1 or 2 A.M., I think) breakfast (49 cent!) in the hotel. Wow! Great value and good food too. There I met Bob Boone, President of the Ottawa User's Group in Canada. Peter Hoddie, Jim Lohmeyer, Rodger Merritt, Terrie Masters, Ray Kazmer, and a few others were there too. Thanks for the offer, Ray, but they won't let you pay the bill with just nickels! Actually, Jim picked up the bill (and they only have a breakfast special!)

With no sleep Friday night for Rodger and myself (remember Ray? ZZZzzzz!) we stumbled down for another 49 cent extravaganza. We had to drag Ray, that many nickels aren't light! When the XPO officially opened, it was nothing short of pure heaven, for there were so many "faces" to meet! What follows will hopefully be in some kind of order, as orderly as my brain is right now...

Barb Wiederhold of Queen Anne Computer Shoppe, 6102 Roosevelt Way N. E., Seattle, Wa. 98115, 206-622-9400 or 206-522-6558. They had their new P box alternative called the VFXS Expansion System up and running. Very impressive. Also, flyers were available introducing Videoflex for the 9640. This P box card and software package offers a new graphic environment including many previously unavailable features for the 9640. Both projects are produced by Miller Communications. Their info is 8815 18th Ave. S.W., Seattle, Wa. 98106, 206-762-7610. I believe Tom Wynne was also at the booth. My apologies for the lack of a formal introduction, Tom! I do remember meeting you at Fest-west in L.A.

Ken Hamai, member of BUG, the Brea User's Group, So. Ca., was representing DataBioTics, P.O. Box 1194, Palos Verdes Estates, Ca. 90274. I didn't see any diskette software available during the show, but their latest modules were there for sale. Ken also had the Grand RAM, DataBioTics entry into the RAMdisk market, and a presentation was made during the weekend. P.S. Ken, hope you didn't have any use for a mouse!

J. Peter Hoddie and Jim Lohmeyer occupied the Genial Computerware booth. The complete Genial Computerware software line was available. Printed handouts of the BCS software library were available also. Genial is at P.O. Box 183, Grafton, Ma. 01519. More on this dynamic duo later.

L.L. Conner Enterprise of 1521 Ferry St., Lafayette, In. 47904, 317-742-8146. They has several software packages available from Texaments, Asgard, Great Lakes, and a few others. Many types of assembled cables were also available.

Rave 99 was next at 112 Rambling Rd., Vernon, Ct. 06066, 203-871-7824. John McDevitt had keyboard enhancements and speech cards in plentiful supply. Also available was their new memory enhancement P box card. More on this later. P.S. Harley says hi!

Digit Systems of 4345 Hortensia St., San Diego, Ca. 92103, 619-295-3301. Tom Spillane was next showing their Dijit Systems RGB Conversion Kit, RGB monitor 80 and their new AVPC (Advanced Video Processor Card.) It is a P box card which gives the 4/A user many features never before available for video enhancement.

Franz Wagenbach of T.A.P.E. Ltd., 1439 Solano Pl., Ontario, Ca. 91764, 714-989-9906, was there with plenty of mice in his pockets, Mechatronics Extended Basic modules, Intern books, and showed plenty of fine graphics with Mechatronics 80 column card.

Espanore Ltd., 7270 Bellaire Ave., N. Hollywood, Ca. 91605, 818-765-0526, 800-247-6783 (USA), 800-225-8230 (Ca). Bill Poland had all of your printer needs covered

with computer paper, labels, tractor feed envelopes, etc.

Rocky Mountain User's Group in Denver Co. had a booth also. They were selling just about everything, hardware and software. I didn't quite catch the excitement on Sunday. Any clues?

Rodger Merritt, 1949 Evergreen Ave., Fullerton, Ca. 92635, 714-990-4577, was manning the Tri-Valley and TICO booth, with his software packages Print It and Picture It. Remember, Peter Hoddie described Print It as the Fairware alternative to Font Writer! I understand that both packages were quite a big hit at the XPO. (At least that's what Rodger told me!) P.S. Rodger, thanks for the gas.

I had the pleasure of meeting the two gentlemen behind Great Lakes Software, 804 E. Howell, Mi. 48843, Gene Chandler and Richard Paquette. They had all their software represented including Joy Paint '99, Joy Paint Pal, and Certificate '99 Companion. Their latest release of Certificate '99, V2.0, was there also! This is one company who listens to the T.I. community.

Terrie Masters, Tom Freeman, Gail Fair and the impeccable Fred Moore were found at the L.A. 99er Computer Group booth. P.O. Box 67A79, L.A., Ca. 90067-1079. The entire L.A. library was there along with software they support from Ryte Data, Genial Computerware, Bytemaster, MG, Inscebot, etc. Handouts were also available introducing McCann Software's newest project (not software) the Avanti-99 Forth Card! For info, McCann Software, P.O. Box 34160, Omaha, Ne. 68134.

Now for Regina! Ahh, the highlight of my vacation! She had for sale, her BASIC software collections. Cheryl Whitelaw, P.O. Box 1502, Cedar City, Utah, 84720, 801-586-0157. What a lady. (I got her autograph!) It was so nice to talk to her, really makes you glad you're part of this community (family!)

The one and only Ken Gilliland, author of the most unique and comprehensive MGS (music, graphics and speech) software packages available for the 4/A (that O.K. Ken?) spearheaded (ouch!) the Fairware booth hosted by SNUG. There was absolutely NO support for Fairware this year. What gives? The collected donation was to go directly back to the authors for their efforts in keeping the 4/A alive. Can the new phase be expensive hardware rather that more than reasonably priced software! Uh huh, right! Ken completly reworked Dick Altman's Fairware list and was selling copies there. A few of those did sell and were well worth the $3.00 Ken asked, which only covered the copy charges. Huge list! Ken Gilliland, 543 Riverdale Dr., #15, Glendale, Ca. 91204. Support the authors and (as Ken says) "save a starving programmer!"

SNUG (host group) had a booth with some interesting things going on. (Someone please tell me what they were. Didn't spend much time there, sorry!) I did meet Steve Buchanan, V.P. Super guy! SNUG, P.O. Box 26301, Las Vegas, Nv. 89126-0301. BBS 702-648-1247.

The registration booth was handled by some unsung heroes, again I'm failing to give proper recognition for their untiring efforts. Sorry guys. They were members of the Southwest Ninety-Niners User's Group which sponsored the booth. Nice badges!

B.J. and Jack Mathis represented the Southwest Ninety-Niners User's Group booth. P.O. Box 17831, Tucson, Az. 85730. They has several things to sell. A busy booth over the weekend.

Bud Mills, the new owner of Horizon. Bud Mills Services, 166 Dartmouth Dr., Toledo, Oh. 43614, 419-385-5946. What a pleasure to finally meet him. Another leader in this community. He had the new line of Horizon RAMdisks, the HRD+ built with 32k chips instead of 8k, and plenty of parts kits too. Also found at the booth was Edward A. Hallett, creator of the 256k mod for the Horizon RAMdisk. 5600 S. Countyclub #64, Tuscon, Az. 85706, 602-889-6930. P.S. Dennis, Ed said you did O.K.!

Les and Marie Merryman representing L and M Systems were there. 2330 E. Ave. J-8 #173, Lancaster, Ca. 93535, 805-948-1587. They of course had some 9640's to sell. Handouts were also available with prices of their product line. P.S. Marie, I enjoyed your company at brunch on Sunday.

Jack Riley represented Myarc. P.O. Box 140, Basking Ridge, N.J., 07920-1014, and showed the 9640 and a few things that I'm sure I missed, including the new hard disk controller card shown during one of the presentations. Sob, I would like to have seen that!

Finally we come to Ray Kazner, 13225 Azores Ave., Sylmar, Ca. 91342, 818-367-9340. (Oh, was that an unlisted phone number Ray? Sorry! Hee hee!) Ray was found all over the show floor this weekend (didn't really have a home) with a group of at least 10 to 15 people around him at all times. But seriously folks, (what Ray? Keep that part in?) he was quite a hit. Would you believe a member of his fan club (yes! fan club!) came all the way from San Diego California just to meet him? I didn't think you would, but it really did happen! P.S. No Ray, it really wasn't your snoring that kept Rodger and myself from sleeping... it was those little piles of nickels constantly toppling over all night! 5,10,15,20...!

Well, that's the show floor, as best as I can remember. There were also many presentations held throughout both days. On Saturday, I was able to attend presentations by both Peter Hoddie and Ray Kazner. Peter showed the new Rave memory enhancement card. It uses an operating system

similar to JJ's for the Horizon but modified by Peter for the Rave. One nice feature was the ability to program macros in the TI-Writer editor. Not just single macros, but multiple line macros. Wow! With so many RAMdisks available today, Peter said that for those in the market for one, Rave's product appears to have the best features of them all. Peter also showed Remind Me! by John A. Johnson, one of my favorites. Glad to have been helpful in providing the sample handout for your demo, Peter.

Ray Kazmer presented us with his new Infocom Rapid Loader V2.0. This new version will load your Infocom adventures in only 28 seconds! Also presented by Ray was the first actual true animation available for the 4/A. These were just demos, but very impressive. Several different sequences were shown, having been developed independently by two individual programmers. What was amazing was that both techniques created the same results. Smooth, single pixel animation! A presentation not to have been missed (or walked out on!) hee hee.

If anyone wants to know how I got the nickname of "Kamikaze Mehr" from Ray on Sunday morning, driving to Circus Circus for breakfast, you'll have to ask him (Rodger's still in shock!) Bonzai! Back at the XPO Sunday morning, we observed two very tired show participants, namely Jim Lohmeyer and Peter Hoddie. It appeared that on Saturday night (around 11:00 P.M., I think) they snuck past the guard and went to work on designing and writing a program to be released on Sunday. I believe it was completed by 5:30 A.M. Had Jim not been so tired, he might have thought of having Rodger Merritt print the disk labels. Oh well, the felt tip marker looked nice anyway. The program is called Encode-It and is (and I quote) "designed to allow encryption of a file or an entire disk...", "...will work on any file type and any format disk, including RAMdisk.", "The main purpose of encrypting, is to allow selected usage of a file or disk. Once encrypted, the file can only be decrypted correctly by using the exact code used to encrypt it." They are asking only $4.00 for Encode-It and that's quite a value. When asked why they wrote such a program, they simply said that "they were very tired!" Send your support to: J. Peter Hoddie, 12 Paul Revere Rd., Lexington, Ma. 02173 or Jim Lohmeyer, P.O. Box 122, Leroy, Il. 61752. P.S. Jim, I fell for Ray's cigarette butt prank too!

Later, on Sunday, I attended Peter's presentation again. He introduced FirstBase, a new era in database programs. Written in c99 by Warren Agee, this will surely be a winner. What Peter showed looked quite impressive. FirstBase includes batch processing, multiple keyword searches, macros, etc., and the largest data capacity available for the 4/A or 9640.

Well, I guess that's about it. With so many things to remember (forget) I hope I don't upset too many of my 4/A family in this report. A special note to Bill Gaskill. What a pleasure it was to meet you, Bill! But tell me, where did you run off to? I was hoping to spend more time with you on Sunday! Bill has some surprises in store for us 99er's shortly. Remember that name. Speaking of Colorado, (who said anything about Colorado?) where was Joe Nuvolini? Sure wasn't the same without him. Hi, Joe!

This report was compiled from handouts made available during TI-XPO-88 and from information retrieved from my tiny brain. I hope I haven't screwed up too much information. Sooooo much to remember! Please note that prices were intentionally left out of any mention of products for obvious reasons (typos.) Please contact the respective individuals for pricing information.

With so many people to thank during such an event, it's impossible to catch them all. So, for everyone who participated, for those I knew, and for those I just met, let me say THANK YOU, and I hope to see you all next year! Special thanks go to the Palace Station. As pleasant a stay as any I've had in Las Vegas. I highly recommend them!

Please feel free to reprint this report giving the original source to: Steven D. Mehr, Thousand Oaks, Ca. 805-379-2937. Thank you.

JOES EMPIRICAL PROGRAMMING
Part One

This programming tip has a number of applications. We are all aware that a program can load and run another, autoloaders are a good example of this. What is not generally known, is that all the graphics characters that were defined in the first program will continue unchanged in the second with both positive and negative results. A positive use for this would be to have the loader program set up the graphics and screen colors and perhaps give some instructions, then have it load the main program with a statement like RUN "DSK1.MAIN". Doing this keeps the size of the MAIN program down, because the character definitions and the pages of on-screen instructions are in the loader program. A negative result occurs when the loader changes alphabetic characters, and makes the printed instructions unreadable in the program loaded. This may also occur if the program loaded changes the character definitions and returns to the loader program.

(Continued on Back Page)

WHAT'S COOKING

I recently had a chance to repair a disk drive circuit board. It had been damaged by a mounting screw that was too long which had screwed through the mounting plate and into the edge of the board. The repair was simple, requiring a little work on a couple of foil traces. The moral of the story is, watch the screw length. I might add also to check the thread size because some use a metric thread. Now that I've gotten past the problem of the bad memory chips, I'm back to my latest project. I'm working on a single board for the P-box that will have the 32K memory, the 8K SUPERCART memory, 8K of DSR memory, and a 192K RAM disk. I would like to fit the SPEECH on it also but I'm running out of room. The project is being built on a PROTO-BOARD which is a dream come true for hardware hackers. The board is available from a couple of sources, one of them being, RYTE DATA, 210 Mountain Str., Haliburton, ONTARIO K0M 1S0. RYTE DATA also accepts subscriptions to a newsletter filled with the latest project information and articles. My project is just getting off the drawing board and I'm sure it will take a while to get it together. I should point out that for the money involved it is only for those who's desire for fancy hardware is matched by a total disregard for the value of a dollar. I won't say how much is involved because, I won't know for sure until it's done, and also to cover the odd chance of my wife reading a copy of this article. I guess that is about all for now. If you have any questions at all, please ask. I often wonder if anyone reads what I write. Some time back I made a comment that the refrigerator magnets with the TI logo were available (good to hold a disk to the side of the P-box) and +didn't get a single bite.

\+ Joe Nollan, 572-4680

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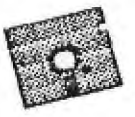
Third Annual TI-FEST

Sept. 24th

Seattle Center



DISKS FOR SALE

See Ron Prewitt

50 cents each

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This tip concerns loading a program with another but beware of the results mentioned above. As I have already said you can load a program with a statement like RUN "DSK1.PROGRAM" however, to everyone's disappointment, the RUN statement will NOT accept a string variable such as RUN A$, or RUN "DSK1."&A$. If you have a choice of running one of three programs, you could include three RUN statements, (one with each filename) and an ON X GOTO statement to branch to the desired line to load the program. If you want to be able to input the program name to be loaded while the loader is running there is a way that is used by autoloading programs. An autoloader scans your disk, displays the filenames and lets you RUN the one you select. These programs use a neat programming trick because part of the program will re-write another part of itself! Look at this program listing.

```
1000 A$="DSK1.PROGRAM"
1002 CALL INIT :: CALL PEEK(
-31952,A,B):: CALL PEEK(A*25
6+B-65534,A,B):: C=A*256+B-6
5534
1004 CALL LOAD(C,LEN(A$))::
FOR A=1 TO LEN(A$):: CALL LO
AD(C+A,ASC(SEG$(A$,A,1)))::
NEXT A
1006 CALL LOAD(C+A,0)
1008 STOP
1010 RUN "DSK1.0123456789"
```

Enter this short program and LIST it. RUN the program and it will STOP at line 1008, when you LIST it again you will see that the last line has been changed to RUN "DSK1.PROGRAM", which is the variable given in A$. The program works by PEEKING to find where the last line is in memory, then LOADING the new data there. If you change line 1000 to INPUT A$, or to an ACCEPT AT statement, and delete line 1008, you can use the program to load another X-Basic program. The best use of the routine would be as part of a larger (loader type) program, since by itself it doesn't do much. The line numbers can be changed to fit your program but note that the last line of the routine must be the last line of your program. That's enough for now.