TI WORLD NEWS

Reviewed by Mike Marfisi

While skimming through some of the TI publications that cross my desk each month, I came across the following info that is of interest to all of us:

PRESS REPORT....

At press time, **"PRESS"**, the long awaited new word processor for the TI is still in a holding pattern. Explanation from *Asgard* is that they are still working out some bugs and refuse to release it until every known bug is gone.

How many times have we heard this one? But this time I tend to believe the folks at *Asgard*. The vast size of this program has presented problems that have never before been encountered in any TI program.

Asgard has never given us any reason to doubt them in the past and I am sure they are being square with us now.

If this program is all they say it is, I'll wait as long as necessary.

RUMOR CONTROL.....

From **"ASGARD NEWS"** who states these are only rumors...

Tenex may no longer be distributing TI products within the next year. This will be a major loss to the TI world. They are dropping TI to make room for "other" computer products.

You're input may help. Let them know how you feel. Write: *Tenex Computer Express*, P.O. Box 6578, South Bend, In. 46660-6578.

Triton will no longer carry *Corcomp* items. Another blow! It seems that *Corcomp* wants too much cash up front when filling an order and *Triton* won't go along. Also *Corcomp* is no longer doing any 99/4a product developement although they are still manufacturing their entire product line at this time.

Owners of **TI ARTIST** may be in for an upgrade soon. *Asgard* says nothing solid yet but look for more advanced drawing and font functions, and a larger than screen work area.

TI FEST WEST 90....

The Southwest 99ers in Tucson have announced that they will be the host club for the 1990 TI FEST WEST. The show that was held in San Diego this year will be just a short drive south next year. Maybe this would be a good opportunity to get together with our southern neighbors and help out. What do you think?

COMPUSERVE AND GENIE ANNOUNCE PRICE INCREASES

Both CompuServe and Genie have announced that effective next month it is going to cost you more to use these telecommunication services. At Compuserve, the increase will be in the form of a $1.50 "User Service Fee" added to your monthly bill. Over at Genie, the hourly rate is increasing in most cases. At 300 baud your non-prime time rate will stay at $5.00. For 1200 baud users, your rate will go from $5.00 to $6.00 per hour. But for those of you using 2400 baud your rate will **DECREASE** from $12.50 to $10.00.

THIS MONTH IN MICROpendium

This month, features include: Programs to print random math problems and a printer utility to make it easier for programmers to follow the flow of a program. These from REGENA.

The C99 section looks at two dimensional floating point arrays.

Continued Page 4 >

VAST USER GROUP INFORMATION

The VAST USERS GROUP is a support group for Home Computer users. We primarily support the TI-99/4A Home Computer and compatibles, but all computer users are welcome. We will be meeting at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center in Tempe on the 3rd Saturday of this month (April 15). In coming months, the meetings will be scattered between the second and third Saturdays. A two month calendar showing the meeting dates for May and June is included on the Editor's page so you will have some idea of when the next meetings will be. The meetings will start at 10:00 AM and continue until 11:00 AM with socializing starting at 9:00 AM. Please see the address page for additional meeting information. The yearly membership fee is $15.00 and now includes the newsletter mailed to your door!

All meetings are open and anyone may attend. Only dues paying members may vote in elections an obtain programs from the Users' Group Library.

****

CURRENT OFFICERS
President
Mike Grogan.........272-4315
Vice-President
Bill Wedmore........998-1821
Secretary
Mike Marfisi..........491-1552
Treasurer
Mike Marfisi..........491-1552
User Group Librarian
Earl Bonneau.........269-3802
Newsletter Editor/BBS SysOp
Jim Ely....................921-3375
****

The date that appears in the upper right hand corner of your mailing label is your membership expiration date. Address renewals to the return address on page 10. Newsletter O N L Y membership is available for $12.00/year, First Class Mail.

The User Group's BBS is in operation 24 hours a day. Contact it at (602) 437-4335. There are 3 message bases, a TI specific download section, and a lot of interesting conversation and information available here so why not give it a try.

Deadline for submission of articles or advertising for the Newsletter is the last Saturday of every month. Articles may be submitted in any form, however, the preferred method is by phone transfer directly to the Editor.

****
Advertising rates are as follows:

COMMERCIAL:
Full Page
$10.00
Half Page
$7.00
Quarter Page
$4.00

PERSONAL:
Four lines,
30 Characters/line
$1.00
$.20 per line over four.

All rates are for ONE issue only!
****

Programs are available from the USERS' GROUP LIBRARY at the following rates:

SS/SD Disk $2.00
DS/SD Disk $4.00

If copying of documentation is required, it will be at the rate of $.10 per page. If the User Group supplies the disk, please add $1.00 to the above charges. An exchange program for free programs is also in effect. Please contact the librarian for further information. A complete list of what is in the library is available on 2 disks free of charge if you supply the disks or for $1.00 per disk if the User Group supplies the disks.

DISCLAIMER: Information in this newsletter is gathered from other user group newsletters from around the world and original articles by members of our user group. The information is believed to be correct and accurate as published. Where possible, original sources and authors are stated. Errors should be brought to the attention of the editor of this newsletter. This user group is not responsible for programs and construction projects tried by its members. YOU try them at your own risk. Permission is hereby granted to other user groups to republish articles appearing in the *VAST Newsletter*.

The Secretary's Slate

Minutes of meeting.
Vast User Group.
March 18, 1989

Meeting called to order by President Nixon at 9:00 am.

It was decreed that both nominations and elections to office take place at this meeting in the interest of getting elections completed on time. There was discussion on combining the posts of secretary and treasurer but when it was pointed out that this was at variance with our constitution it was decided to simply elect the same guy to both jobs (clever huh?).

THANKS, BUT NO THANKS......

Several, totally qualified and popular candidates were lost to our consideration for various reasons:

¤ Burned-out ex-Prez Kennedy avers he is still not psychologically ready for the kind of abuse the office engenders and respectfully declines.

¤ Most deserving of popular acclaim, Walt Brown was withdrawn from contention as he is ill, was not present, and has a collective family health picture that is a temporary disaster area. We'll get you sooner or later Walt!

¤ Dan Shell was is serious contention for office when the Ball and Chain descended with a thud giving the impression that Mr. Shell was not to be a contender if he expected to walk normally in the future.

¤ Ms. Bannon, having heard rumors of sexual liberation and equality bringing her name to the fore pleaded an allergic reaction to the whole idea and did not even make the meeting out of fear of recognition.

AND BY POPULAR ACCLAIM...

The following indidviduals, due either to their inability to protest, their crying need for ego fullfillment or general dedication were proposed and railroaded into office by popular acclaim:

Mike Grogan...President
...Brings to the office a dedication to dear old TI and a genuine interest in the Group and a job well-done. Congratulations Mike.

Bill Wedmore... Vice President
....Erstwhile secretary who has kept the poor newletter publisher on the brink of sanity with his submission schedules has been demoted to the less sensitive position of emulating Dan Quail. Rumor has it that his acceptance had something to do with the word Vice appearing in the title.

Mike Marifisi... Secretary/Treasurer
....Accepted the double-whammy of dual office occupancy. Has experience in office (a slow learner), likes money, is probably our strongest TI support person. Thanks Mike, we'll try to appreciate you (not financially).

NEW BUSINESS... (LITERALLY)

Jim Ely, Newsletter publisher, BBS SysOp, announced that he has intention to enter the printing business in the Mesa area. I'm sure he will provide *ADEQUATE ANNOUNCEMENTS* of the progress of his venture in the newsletter so that we can all take advantage of his services when they are available. The potential name of this venture is ELY INK (inc.?) (has a nice ring to it).

The possibility of moving the meetings to facilities provided by the American Italian Club at 12th St. and Glendale were investigated by the Secretary. The cost was determined to be $48.02 per meeting. The members present decided to take a pass at these prices and remain where we are for the present. It was further proposed and decided to reserve the present room for the coming year (we can always cancel) so that we are protected irrespective of where we may end up. It was further decided that the second Saturday of the month is the preferred day but that we don't really care so long as all can be adequately informed via newsletter, etc.

Program Chairman Dan Shell has distributed a questionnaire regarding the interests and capabilities of the group as a whole to guide future program content. Please get your completed forms into him. The content of this month's program was not specified.

Jim Ely led a discussion of the use of library disk sales at the meeting, the so-called "disk-of-the-month" approach. The objective is, of course, to provide additional revenue and to stimulate general interest and awareness of the library's content. It was determined that the incoming executive staff should explore this item in detail and come up with a course of action.

Meeting adjourned about 10:00 am.

Bill Wedmore (ex-secretary)

"News" Continued from Page 1

Merle Vogt begins a 5 part series on loaders, modular programming, linkages and overlays. This month it's loaders.

For anyone interested in converting to 80 column, several RGB monitors are compared and reviewed.

For those with Hard Drives on you systems, there is an article on how to park your hard drive to protect data from possible loss.

Those who are in the market for a new printer will be interested in the review of the Star Micronics NX1000 printer.

This is just a brief overview of another excellent issue of MICROpendium. If you don't already subscribe, do so, or pick up a copy from Dan Shell at the meeting.

From the Editor's Desk

The more things change, the more things stay the same..... I'm sure you have heard that saying before. That holds true for this newsletter. What's in it is the same as it has always been. But, I have changed the appearance quite drastically, as you can see. I have started using an IBM AT clone and a pretty suffisticated Desktop Publishing program to improve the "look". Your comments about what I have done are always welcome.

IN THIS ISSUE...

Computer Tutor on page 5 is a slight departure from "The Elements of BASIC" articles I have been running. This month we take a look at one way to begin writing a BASIC program. Part 21 of "Elements" will return next month. Page 6 has an overview of some of the events that took place at the TICOFF Computer Faire that was held in New Jersey this past month. Sounds Abound this month takes a look at yet another way to make your computer talk. That is on page 7. Mike Marfisi bought a program at the TI FEST WEST in February called FORMSHOP. A review of the program is on page 9. And that is this issue...

NEW BUSINESS, continued...

As some of you who were at the last meeting know, I will shortly be starting a printing business. (Also see minutes on page 3.) Here is just a short update. I signed the lease papers on Friday, April 7. The location is in the Fry's Shopping center at the corner of 48th St. and Baseline Rd. This location is known as South Point Plaza. If all goes well and the lease is approved by the owners of the Plaza, I should be up and running by about June 15. Keep your fingers crossed.

VAST Constitution...

I have found the copy of the VAST Constitution that was on the old TI board before we switched to the clone BBS. I have put a copy of it in the bulletins section of the TI conference. I have also had copies made for distribution at the meeting so you can't say you didn't know it existed. Since we held are elections last month, I think you should all take a close look at the section on "ELECTIONS" in the constitution. See anything unusual with what we did?

Walt Brown Feeling Better...

Walt Brown gave me a call a few days after the last meeting to let me know that he was feeling a lot better. As those of you who attended the last meeting knew, Walt missed. He and Gerry Kennedy had a running thing going as to who would be the first to miss a meeting. As you see, neither, up to this point, had missed a meeting since the Group was formed way back when. Looks like Walt lost! However, his absence was a bit of concern for some of us who know him. Glad you are feeling better now, Walt. See you at the meeting.

Upcoming meetings...

For your convience, here is a 2 month calendar with the next meeting dates circled...

```
 MAY              1989
===================
SUN MON TUE WED THR FRI SAT
     1   2   3   4   5   6
 7   8   9  10  11  12  13
14  15  16  17  18  19 (20)
21  22  23  24  25  26  27
28  29  30  31

 JUNE             1989
===================
SUN MON TUE WED THR FRI SAT
                 1   2   3
 4   5   6   7   8   9  10
11  12  13  14  15  16 (17)
18  19  20  21  22  23  24
25  26  27  28  29  30
```

Upcoming TI Faires...

There are 2 Faires in Canada on the same day (*April 29*):

¤ The 4th annual TI-Fest of the Ottawa User Group being held in Nepean, Ontario, Canada; contact Jane Laflamme, 5480 Canotek Rd., Unit #10, Gloucester, Ontario, Canada K1J 9H6.

¤ Alberta TI-Orphan Reunion in Innisfail, Alberta, Canada; contact Fred Kessler, Box 20, Sundre, Alberta ,Canada TOM 1X0.

And in *May* on the *20th*:

¤ Multi User Group Conference in Lima, Ohio; contact Lima User Group, P.O. Box 647, Venedocia, OH 45894.

That's it! See you at the meeting.

COMPUTER TUTOR

BASIC BASICS

From the WNY 99er Newsletter, October, 1987
Not Credited

GETTING STARTED IN PROGRAMING

The Beginning Of A Program

Putting a program together is a job that varies from programmer to programmer. It may not always be the "right" way, but it's your way, and it brings YOU a lot of satisfaction.

First of all, you need an idea. That comes out of the blue when you find a "hole" that needs filling, or see a program on another computer that you like or get some little utility that someone threw together that has potential. Also included there is NEED.

The Usable Disk Cataloguer was the result of a NEED to know what I had in programs and where the heck they were. There was nothing at that time that suited me, so NEED was the all consuming factor.

Programming must bring SATISFACTION... right from the beginning. I know it rubs all the college students the wrong way, but I hate to write. Hence, I never sit down with pencil and paper and write down a program before typing it in. That's a waste of time for me, and besides, if God wanted me to do that he would have given me lead fingernails and not my TI computer.

The start of any program is the menu. It's like the first paragraph in the book, if it doesn't grab you, you probably won't read the book. I like to sit right down, CALL CLEAR, select a sexy screen color, design some frame characters, and maybe jazz up the character colors a bit, too. I spend a lot of time RUNning the program to see that everything is centered right, etc., because the menu has to look GREAT! Face it, the menus are all you ever see of the program. Whatever you are doing, the calculations, formulas, and file handling procedures are invisible to the user. He couldn't care less as long as it comes out to what he/she wants in the end. The only thing the user sees are the menus.

If I haven't made my point yet, let me say that **ANYBODY** can make a menu with only a little xbasic knowledge. The main commands you have to use are: **CALL SCREEN, CALL CHAR, CALL COLOR** and **DISPLAY AT**. I'll show you what I mean with a simple menu you can type in....

```
100 CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREE
N(13):: CALL COLOR(3,2,16,4,
2,16):: CALL CHAR(35,"000000
FFFF00FF"):: L$=RPT$("#",28)
110 DISPLAY AT(2,12):"MENU":
L$: :TAB(6);"1 DEFAULTS": :T
AB(6);"2 SET UP FILE": TAB(6
);"3 ADD A RECORD": :TAB(6);
"4 DELETE A RECORD"
120 DISPLAY AT(13,6):"5 TAKE
OUT TRASH!": :TAB(6);"6 END
THE PROGRAM": :L$: :": SELEC
T BY NUMBER PRESS :"
5000 GOTO 5000
```

See, that's a nice looking menu in only three lines. (5000 dosen't count!) Creating the menu first gives you the confidence and pride that is needed to continue the program. You can look at it and say, "WOW, that really looks neat!," and continue on into the invisible stuff. If the program LOOKS good you can show it off with pride, and if it crashes in the middle, so what! Everybody makes mistakes... that's the reason they make version numbers. The UDC wasn't finished until it hit Vrs. 3.4

(Editor's note: The Elements of BASIC series by Dave Howell will be back next month. I had trouble locating the next article in the series so, I thought, instead of jumping out of sequence I would just present something a little different this month. I have located the missing article and we will be right back on the ball with it next month.)

The TICOFF '89 - A Short Review of Events

by Al Beard
19-Mar-1989

(This file was downloaded from CompuServe for the newsletter by Mike Marfisi.)

The TICOFF 1989, held at Roselle Park High School by the Student Council of the Roselle Park High School, has come and gone once again. The day broke clear on Saturday, March 18, 1989, as I stumbled to my van at 7:00 am to make my way up I78 to New Jersey.

An air of excitement was present from the moment of my arrival. People were waiting to enter the show at 8:50 AM (remember, this was on a Saturday). I joined the crowd and entered the vendors area.

TI and GENEVE vendors were well represented, as follows

RAVE 99 — was present and selling their traditional offerings, the replacement keyboard for the TI-99 and an internal speech card replacement (fits in your PEB).

QUALITY 99 — Larry Hughes was present with his usual complement of quality TI-99 and GENEVE software.

GENIAL COMPUTERWARE — Barry Traver, with arm in sling, and J. Peter Hoddie were present, along with others.

DISK ONLY SOFTWARE — Was staffed by Jim Horn (Compuserve fame) and Dr. Jerry Coffey (Jumpboot fame). I was helping with demos at the DOS booth.

MYARC, INC. — Was staffed by none other than Lou Phillips (Mr. MYARC himself) and Walt Howe.

COMPUTER SHOPPER/ MICRO-PEN-DIUM — The vendor was well stocked with the latest issues of both Computer Shopper and MicroPendium. I took them up on the one year subscription for $17.00

According to the vendors I talked to, business was brisk all day long.

My unbiased picks for the "highlight" products at the fair were:

HYPERCOPY: Mike Dodd's superfast disk copier for the MYARC GENEVE. Optimizes your floppies for interlace and skew. Sold by Genial Computerware.

MYARC Hard/Floppy/Disk/Controller : Considering the price, the interest in this product was very high.

One product I picked up is *cShell99*, a new programming environment for the TI-99/4A. It is a window oriented DOS type program similar in appearance to "GEOS" for the Commodore 64. It was developed by Joe Ross, and was being sold for $25.00 at a local user group table. I saw this last year at the TICOFF, he wasn't ready to release it at that time, and I was glad to pick up a copy this year.

While observing Joe Ross's demo on *cShell99*, Eric Zeno handed me a sheet on a "hacker" project to create an "internal" board for the TI-99 console. This "internal" board contains 32k of memory expansion, a clock with battery backup, x-basic that can be turned on and off, and a speech synthesizer. The board looks like a really interesting development, and if you are interested in participating in it, then drop Eric a line at 414 Highland Road, PGH, PA 15235.

As I mentioned above, Barry Traver was wearing a very obvious sling on one shoulder. He told me that he suffered a shoulder injury returning from the San Diego Computer Show. His plane was late arriving at the Philadelphia airport, and he spent some time walking around the airport arranging ground transportation while carrying his luggage, which caused the injury. Get well soon, Barry! We need you out here! (note: Look for Barry Traver's and Jonathan Zittrain's article in the TI Forum area of Computer Shopper this month).

I had a chance to "kibitz" with Peter Hoddie, noted author and co-distributer for Genial Computerware. Peter is a very upstanding young college student, and is very involved with the Boston Computer User Society (BCUS). Peter has one more year of college before heading to the real "business" world, and in his words, is targeting for the "left-coast".

Eating lunch with Dr. Jerry Coffey, we had a chance to discuss various items in the TI community. One special discussion concerned Jim Horn's campaign to "get the TI-99's out of the closets, and into the hands of young students and teachers". If you have TI equipment you would like to donate to this cause, contact myself, Dr. Jerry Coffey, or Jim Horn directly.

Of course, Jerry is the author of Jumpboot, the amazing fast boot program for the MYARC GENEVE. Using high density disks and a MYARC controller, boot times under ten seconds are possible (he does this by magic on the disk, he changes interlace and skew depending on where the head is on the disk drive). Although business on Jumpboot

Sounds Abound

SPEECH

Part 3

The CALL SPGET statement

(Reprinted from HOCUS, the newsletter of the Milwaukee Area TI-99/4 User Group. Credited to the Amarillo 99/4A User Group Newsletter, author unknown)

The field of the CALL SAY statement is formatted with a series of "word" and "direct" string expressions, each separated by a comma. Further, the string expressions must be in specific positions in the field of the CALL SAY statement. Word strings must occupy the odd positions and direct strings must occupy the even positions. To illustrate, here is an example of the use of word strings:

```
10 A$="HELLO"
20 B$="HOW"
30 C$="ARE YOU"
40 CALL SAY(A$,"",B$,"",C$)
```

Note the placement of the word strings in the odd positions of the CALL SAY field.

Direct strings are defined by the CALL SPGET statement. When the CALL SPGET is used, the speech code for the word is read from the ROM in the Speech Synthesizer and stored in active memory as a string variable with the name as specified in the statement. For example:

```
10 A$="HELLO"
20 CALL SPGET("HOW",B$)
30 CALL SPGET("YOU",C$)
40 CALL SAY(A$,B$,"ARE",C$)
```

The speech code for "HOW" and "YOU" are stored in active memory and called B$ and C$ respectively.

The two previous examples show that the field of the CALL SAY statement must alternate between word-strings and direct strings. The format is:

CALL SAY(Word string,Direct string,Word string.....)

The CALL SPGET statement actually calls the code pattern for a word resident in the Speech Synthesizer and assigns it to a string variable. You can then apply this string variable in a variety of ways including using it in a CALL SAY in the same program, storing the speech data on a storage device, or viewing the actual speech data. If a word or phrase specified in the CALL SPGET is not found in the Speech Synthesizer resident vocabulary, the code pattern for UHOH is stored in the string variable.

If the word called does exist, the speech data is stored in the string variable and is preceded by three bytes (ASCII characters) of control information. The first byte is a command to the Speech Synthesizer. The next two bytes represent the number of bytes of speech information following. The maximum number of bytes of speech data is 252 and the total length of a direct string cannot exceed 255 bytes.

The usefulness of the CALL SPGET statement is that speech data can be put in the form of a string variable that can be added to other speech data, shortened, and/or stored on cassette or disk.

The following is a program to store speech data on cassette tape:

```
10 OPEN #1:"CS1",INTERNAL,OU
TPUT,FIXED 192
20 CALL SPGET("RED",B1$)
30 CALL SPGET("GREEN",B2$)
40 PRINT #1:B1$
50 PRINT #1:B2$
60 CLOSE #1
70 END
```

and the following is a program to read the speech data from tape:

```
100 OPEN #1:"CS1",INTERNAL,I
NPUT,FIXED 192
110 INPUT #1:B1$
120 INPUT #1:B2$
130 CALL SCREEN(7)
140 CALL SAY("THIS IS",B1$)
150 FOR I=1 TO 500 :: NEXT I
160 CALL SCREEN(13)
170 CALL SAY("THIS IS",B2$)
180 GOTO 180
```

The following is a program to display speech data on the screen:

```
100 REM HEX DUMP OF SPEECH D
ATA
110 CALL CLEAR
120 INPUT "TYPE WORD: ":WORD
$
130 CALL SAY(WORD$)
140 CALL SPGET(WORD$,R$)
150 HEX$="0123456789ABCDEF"
160 L=LEN(R$)
```

"Sounds Abound" Continued from page 7...

```
170 PRINT "LENGTH=";L;"BYTES
":
180 FOR I=1 TO L
190 DEC=ASC(SEG$(R$,I,1))
200 HIGH=INT(DEC/16)
210 LOW=DEC-16*HIGH
220 HIGH=HIGH+1
230 LOW=LOW+1
240 PRINT SEG$(HEX$,HIGH,1);
250 PRINT SEG$(HEX$,LOW,1);
260 IF I/10=INT(I/10)THEN 28
0
270 PRINT
280 NEXT I
290 PRINT : :
300 GOTO 120
```

Finally, in appendix M of the XBASIC manual is a description of how to add some suffixes onto speech words. This is a good description of how SPGET is used and how the speech data can be taylored and combined with other speech data.

The majority of the information presented in this discussion on speech was derived from the SPEECH EDITOR CM manual.

"TICOFF Faire Report" Continues from Page 6...

has slowed down somewhat by the new availability of hard drives, Jerry certainly has made a valuable contribution to the GENEVE community during a time when reboots were common.

Several "classroom" workshops were conducted, including one by myself on 9640 FORTRAN, and one by Lou Phillips on Advanced BASIC (which I am sorry I missed; things were very hectic about that time).

Art Byers (sysop on TI forum on DELPHI), one of the TICOFF traditional organizers, said that this years attendance was better than normal, over 800 gate tickets were sold. The TICOFF had some unexpected troubles that Art Byers spent the day smoothing out, including a malfunctioning PA system. Everyone was having so much fun at the fair that the troubles were scarcely noticed.

One very pleasent experience was meeting Walt Howe's brand new better half, Hope. Walt and Hope conducted a true "computer networking" courtship, and were married recently by none other than the telecommunications king Barry Traver! They are one of the most pleasant couples I have ever met, and are certainly in store for a long and happy marriage. Best wishes, Hope and Walt!

Exhausted at 4:30 pm, I carried my equipment to my van in the middle of a thunderstorm, and made my way back to the Garden State Parkway and I-78 back to Allentown. After a quick dinner with my wife and children, I fell asleep on the sofa and awoke twelve hours later.

Congratulations to the volunteers and the student council of Roselle Park High School for conducting such an exciting computer show. I talked to people at the show from Virginia, Penn State and Boston showing the drawing power of the TICOFF.

(Please note: the above report is not intended as a review of the TICOFF Faire. - a.b.)

Fun times...

MYSTERY PROGRAM #2

(Taken from The newsletter of the Omaha TI-99/4A Users' Group. Originally credited to the PUNN Newsletter.)

One word would describe the results of this program - WIERD!!

Well, you learn something all the time as this program has many sounds, and without any CALL SOUND statements, along with some random sprite movement resembling what looks like a Nebraska snow storm. Try it out!

```
100 ! MYSTERY PROGRAM #2
      BY CHRIS SCHRAM
110 ! REQUIRED XBASIC AND
      EXPANSION MEMORY
120 CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREE
N(1)
130 CALL INIT
140 FOR X=1 TO 28
150 RANDOMIZE
160 CALL PEEK(-31808,A,B)
170 CALL SPRITE(#X,46,16,A+1
,B+1,A-128,B-128):: CALL PEE
K(-31877,C):: IF C AND 32 TH
EN CALL SCREEN(10):: CALL SC
REEN(1)
180 CALL LOAD(-31744,A,"",-3
1744,B):: NEXT X
190 GOTO 140
200 END
```

VIEWS AND REVIEWS

FORMSHOP

From Comprodine

Reviewed by Mike Marfisi

This month I would like to tell you about a neat little program with a lot of power behind it. From a new company called Comprodine comes another gem from the mind of Roger Merritt called FORMSHOP. This is one of those programs for people with specific needs. It's not for everyone, but...if you ever have occasion to design charts, bar graphs, maps or business forms of any kind, this is the program for you.

FORMSHOP comes on one SSSD disk and is basically a TI Writer clone with a modified special character set. Sounds simple and it is. However, what it does is pretty nifty. Rodger has used the special character set from PR Base which is an adaptation of the IBM characters found in most printers. This allows you to form solid lines, diagonal lines, single line boxes and double line boxes. What this all adds up to is the ability to create custom forms, bills, charts etc., using only TI Writer.

Here is how it works. After booting the program from Extended BASIC you are presented with a neat title screen and then by hitting the space bar you get a menu asking if you want to create a form or print one you have already created.

Choosing option 1 gets you the already familiar TI Writer editor screen with a very big difference. The "end of file" line contains a series of groups of 3 letters and 3 symbols. The symbols are the components used to form the various shapes that will make up your form. The letters tell which keys to use to get these shapes on your screen. One of the greatest things about this program is that it is a "what you see is what you get" type thing. You see the form on screen as it takes shape exactly as it will appear on your printed page.

While creating your form, you use TI Writer just as you always have. When you want to add a shape or line to the form you enter the "special character" mode by hitting Control U. This changes the cursor to a small line. Now by typing the letters indicated on the prompt line you get, on screen, the symbol you need.

After completing your form and saving it to disk, you go to option 2 to print the form. This will work on any printer that is capable of printing IBM character

sets which includes printers that are Epson compatable like a Gemini 10X, NX10, NX1000, Panasonic 1091-I plus others. It will not work with Prowriter, Axion or Gemini 10. The best printer to use is the NX1000 or NX1000 Rainbow as it has the IBM character set built in and is software switchable.
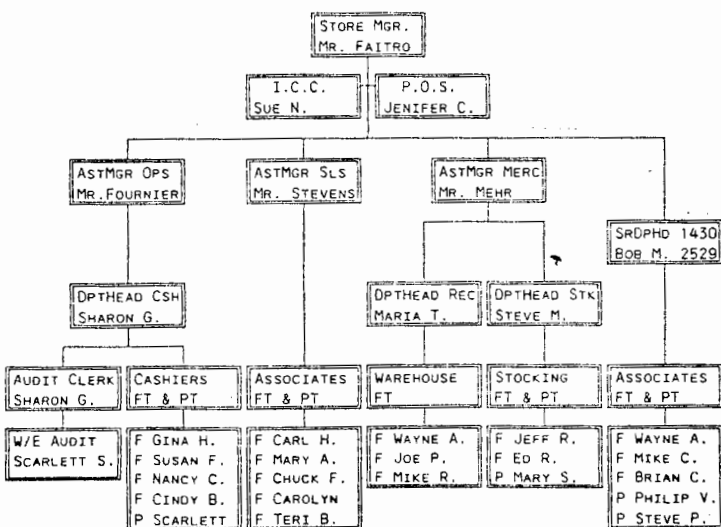
Overall this program is excellent for the purpose intended. It does the job well. There are a few problems. It will not work with a Myarc controller card but this can be overcome by using a TI Writer clone (BA Writer, Funnelwriter, etc.). Just copy the file called FSFONT to the clone and re-name it CHARA1. Then use the clone as the FORMSHOP program.

The docs tend to be a little light on explanation. This has always been my beef with programmers and Rodger seems to be one of the offenders. I may be a bit dense but it took me 2 weeks to figure out how to use the program with my Myarc system, even though it was covered in the docs. It just wasn't plain enough.

On the whole, I give the program an A-, with the loss of points being the docs. Try it you'll like it.

Next time, a look at two more of Rodger's programs. See you then.

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            STORE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART FOR
            BUILDERS EMPORIUM  #614 SIMI
            MODULE #1 ASSIGNMENT 7/12/88
            CREATED BY: STEVEN D. MEHR
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Here is an actual sample (reduced in size to fit) of the "what-you-see-is-what-you-get" results of the FORMSHOP program.

TO:

RALPH REES
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PHOENIX, AZ 85027

09/89

VAST USER GROUP NEWSLETTER
c/o 2120 S. Los Feliz Drive
Tempe, AZ 85282-2905

USA 25 Yosemite

MEETING NOTICE ! !

April 15, 1989

Pyle Adult Recreation Center

655 E. Southern Ave. – Tempe, Az

Open at 9:00 am – Meeting 10:00 am

All are WELCOME !