Southwest Ninety-Niners Newsletter

contributed by
- Tom Wills -
compliments of

GENEVE 9640

TI99ers On-Line User Group

www.ti99ers.org

DECEMBER 1987

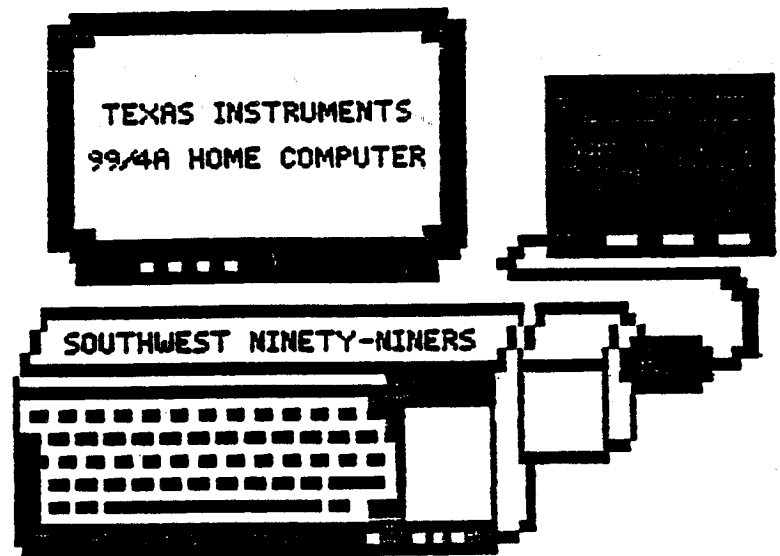P.O. Box 17831 Tucson, AZ 85730

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Ed Hallett - Vice President
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Al Armstrong - Treasurer

Newsletter
BJ & Jack Mathis - Editors

Library
BJ & Jack Mathis - Co-Chairmen
Joe Lenox - Fairware Librarian
Ida McCargar - Lending Librarian

ATTENTION MEMBERS

Next Meeting: December 1, 1987 at 7:30pm. Location-Tucson Fire Department Training Center on Ajo Way just west of Park.

Geneve Users Workshop: Second Tuesday of each month (December 8th) at 7:30pm. Ed Hallett's home 5600 S Country Club #64 - 889-5525.

PRBASE Workshop: December 14th at 7:30pm. If you would like to learn more about this excellent database, this special workshop is for you. Those going to the Fest West '88 shsould try to attend so they will be able to help with registration. Mathis Home - 5941 E 26th - 747-5046

TI Users Workshop: Canceled for December.

Advanced Languages Workshop: 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm (December 22nd). Includes: FORTH, A/L, etc. Rod Stallard's Home - 7575 E Logan - 745-6071

ELECTIONS UPCOMING

The annual meeting of the Southwest Ninety Niners is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5th, 1988 at the Tucson Fire Department Training Center on Ajo just east of Park at 7:30pm. In accordance with our constitution election of officers will be held at that time. A nominating committee has been appointed to select nominees for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. In accordance with the constitution the committee is surveying the membership and requests members to submit their nominations on the printed form in this newsletter by mailing it to the club PO Box or by handing it to a committee member. Nominations from the floor are also permitted on the date of the election.

We're looking forward to seeing all of you at the December meeting/party. We invite
you to bring your spouses and some holiday goodies to share. It will be a nice way
to bring the year to a close and move us on toward 1988. Enjoy the holiday season
and drive safely.

Several members are donating various items for Door Prizes this month. This meeting
will mainly be a social gathering and we hope you will bring your spouses an a treat
to share with the group. Many "computer widow(er)s" may find they have a lot in
common and form new friendships. Please join us, you may take home the "prize(s)".

There will be a special workshop for PRBASE on December 14th.   If you are using
PRBASE or are interested in learning to use it, please plan to attend. Those who are
going to Fest West '88 should plan to attend so they can help with registration at
the Fest.

The TI Users Workshop will not be held this month, due to the approaching holidays.

The Tyvek sleeves for the disks are finally in. If you bought disks from the group
with paper jackets, please bring back the paper jackets in exchange for the Tyvek
sleeves.

I have a list of Users Groups in Tucson for other computers. If you have a friend
that is using another computer or you have another computer as well as the TI, check
with me to get an address or phone number for other groups. If you are moving or
traveling you may want to contact one or more of the TI Users Groups around the
world, check with me for those address/phone numbers, also.

The Fest West Committee is asking for donations of modules, books, magazines,
etc. for the group to sell at Fest West '88, if you have any you would be willing to
donate for this purpose let me know. If the item is not available from the Lending
Library it will be put there first, if appropriate.

I am preparing a new phone list for members of the Southwest Ninety-Niners to be
available at the January meeting.   If you do not want your phone number listed,
please let me know. The phone lists will be included in members' January
newsletters.

BJ Mathis - 747-5046

THEY'RE NEW!!
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Downloaded from GENIE

Genial Computerware is pleased to announce the release of five new programs.
*Included are new programs by John Johnson, Mike Dodd, and J. Peter Hodie, as well as
two new astonishing sets of fonts.*

Remind Me! is a program designed to help manage a monthly schedule.
Traditionally, the problem with calendar style programs was they were slow and
cumbersome to use. Because Remind Me! is written entirely in assembly language it is
extremely fast, while maintaining a very user friendly interface.   John Johnson,
creator of Remind Me!, is the author of the extrememly popular Menu program for the
Horizon RAM disk.

The program presents a graphic view of a calendar where you can load in one month at a time to work with. By using the arrow keys you can select a particular date and open its window. Each day's window may contain up to 12 lines of text which is entered and updated with a scaled down TI-Writer style editor. All dates that contain reminders are highlighted to make checking your calendar easy. Furthermore, a fast search feature is included which ignores the case of letters and allows for multiple searches.

Remind Me! has two different print options. At any time you can print out the contents of a given day with a single key stroke. Using the Print function, you can print out a two column calendar for the entire month. You can even print to disk and then load your calendar into a Writer!

Remind Me! may be customized for your own particular system configuration. You can choose screen colors, printer codes, printer device, and more. All of the configuration data is saved with the program so that it is automatically available each time you load Remind Me!, avoiding the hassle of keeping a separate default file on disk.

If you have CorComp Clock Peripheral, a CorComp Triple Tech Card, a MBP Clock Card, the John Clulow Clock board, or a MYARC 9640, Remind Me! will display the current time while you are working. It will also provide the current month as the default when you're beginning a session. A clock is NOT required to use Remind Me!. A version of Remind Me! that runs out of Super Space Cartridge is included so you can have the program as an option on your main TI menu.

Remind Me! runs on a TI-99/4A or the MYARC 9640, and requires Editor/Assembler, TI-Writer, a Super Cart, or Extended Basic. Retail price $15.

PC-Transfer by Mike Dodd is the fastest and most convenient method available to transfer data between a TI-99/4A or MYARC 9640, and MS-DOS based machine. Simply place an MS-DOS disk in one disk drive and a TI disk in another and PC-Transfer goes to work.

PC-Transfer allows you to catalog the MS-DOS disk and select the files you wish to copy to the TI disk. You can even search for files in sub-directories. All file selection is performed with a Disk Manager 1000 style screen, so you can look through all the file names before making your choices. You then enter a TI filename for each of the files, and PC-Transfer converts all selected MS-DOS text files into Display Variable 80 files that can be used in Writer or MY-Word! Similarly, PC-Transfer also allows you to catalog a TI disk, select files, and write them out as text files on the MS-DOS disk.

Because you might not have an initialized MS-DOS disk, when you need it, PC-Transfer provides an initialize function, supporting four MS-DOS disk formats. And PC-Transfer is prepared for the future, a special loader feature allows for new conversion routines to be added - conversions that could allow transfer of graphics, spreadsheets, and more. Mike Dodd, author of PC-Transfer, made siginificant contributions to Triton's Super Extended BASIC and is the monthly 9640 columnist in MICROpendium.

PC-Transfer will run on both the TI-99/4A and MYARC 9640 computers. It requires either a CorComp or MYARC disk controller, two disk drives, and either an Extended BASIC, TI-Writer, or Editor Assembler cartridge. Retail price is $25.

<u>Genial Computerware's Font Packs</u> are collections of 10 different fonts stored in TI-Artist format. These fonts are of very high quality, and most include complete upper and lower case letters along with numbers and symbols. These fonts cover a variety of sizes ranging from tiny to large. Perhaps most importantly, these fonts are designed to be exceptionally readable. All fonts have been tested with Font Writer II. Because some of the fonts are too large to load into TI-Artist, a special program has been included on disk that will alow you to load in a TI-Artist or GRAPHX picture along with any TI-Artist font and type on the picture in any color. The picture may then be saved for use in TI-Artist or GRAPHX. All of these fonts may be converted to CSGD format using either Genial Computerware's Graphic Expander, or Font Writer II, also by J. Peter Hodie (available through Asgard). Each Font Pack comes with a manual which includes complete printouts of each font for easy reference. Each Genial Font Pack retails for $10.

Contents of Genial Font Pack 1: Alice, Andover, Berlin, Bubbles, Cartoon, Cream, Hanford, LED, Mars, MGX, Old English, Park Avenue, Poughkeepsie, Schematic, Spokane, Tile, Tiny, Tucson, and Western.

Contents of Genial Font Pack 2: Akashi, Apple, ASCII, Callisto, Canterbury, Chicago, Gothic, Electronic, Eon, Franklin, Gangster, Genoa, Hood River, Ivy League, Long Island, Lilliput, Los Angles, Moseisly, Pleasant Plain, and Saturn.

<u>Graphics Expander</u> is also by J. Peter Hodie. If you use grapihcs programs, have you ever found just the font you wanted to use, but it was too small for your need? Have you ever wanted to print a vertical banner? Have you ever wanted to use letters that were rotated 90 degrees so a line of text can run up or down the page? Have you ever wished you had an upside down text? If you wanted any of these special applications in the past, you had to create a whole new font to do the job. With Graphics Expander, you can quickly and easily enlarge a font, rotate the characters, create mirror images, or invert them, no drawing is required. You can also perform the same operations on small graphic instances. This program will save you hours of work and give you many more possibilities for your graphics and artwork.

Graphics Expander is written entirely in assembly language for speed and is compatible with fonts and graphics from both TI Artist and CSGD. You can also use Graphics Expander to convert fonts and graphics back and forth between CSGD and TI Artist formats. All graphics are displayed on the screen. Images and fonts may be scaled horizontally and/or vertically by factors from 1 to 9. For your convenience a full catalog routine is included as well as the ability to delete files. Complete documentation by Walt Howe is included.

Graphics Expander runs on the TI-99/4A and MYARC 9640 computers. Extended BASIC, TI-Writer, or Editor/Assembler is required along with 32K of memory. Retail price is $10.

<u>Ordering information:</u> All of these programs may be ordered by sending a check or money order to Genial Computerware, PO Box 183, Grafton, MA 01519. Please include $1 for shipping and handling. For a complete Genial Computerware catalog send a self addressed stamped envelope to the above address.

A GUIDE TO BUYING MODEMS AND HOW TO HOOK THEM UP

by Fred and Amy Mackey - Pittsburgh Users Group, PA - Feb '87

Before you can transfer data between computers you need the software or "telecommunications program" designed especially for your computer. This program directs your computer how to use the modem and how to transfer information between the two computers. For the TI-99/4A most telecommunications programs will require 32K memory and either the Editor Assembler or Extended Basic cartridge.

Any two computers using compatible programs can communicate. Compatibility occurs by setting the "configuration parameters" of your telecommunications program to match that of the computer you are calling, or the "host" computer. When you run your telecommunications program, it will ask you to set most or all of the following. (Some programs will automatically set them for you - called "default" - and you will be given the option to change them according to your needs.)

1. BAUD RATE - 110, 300, 600, 1200 - is the number of bits per second that can be sent or received. It is set according to what your modem and the modem you are communicating with can handle, the most common being 300 BAUD.

2. PARITY - Odd, Even, None - is the means for detecting errors which might occur during data transmission. The computer checks to see if the total number of binary 1s (or 0s) for each character is odd or even. This number must be set the same as the host computer. *If the screen displays nothing, try changing the parity.*

3. SERIAL PORT of MODEM - 1 or 2 - specifies which "port" or plug of the RS232 the modem is connected to.

4. DATA BITS - 7 or 8 - is the number of data bits you are going to send for each character. This is set the same as the host computer. (XModem file transfers use 8 data bits and TE-II uses 7.) *If you can read most of what is being sent, but it is not on the correct lines, try changing the number of data bits.*

5. PRINTER DEVICE NAME - PIO or RS232 - is the peripheral device name of the printer you are using. (You do not need a printer to run a telecommunications package.)

6. SCREEN WIDTH - 40 or 80 - used with the TI is 40. However, some software packages will let you use a lesser number to compensate for a monitor or television that "loses" the picture on the left and right margins.

7. DUPLEX - Full or Half - controls how characters you type will appear on your screen, and is set according to the host computer. A Full duplex setting causes anything you type to be sent to the host computer, but not to your monitor. The host simultaneously sends it back to your screen. Half duplex causes whatever you type in to be sent to the host computer, but also displays it on your monitor. *If you see the host's input, but nothing happens when you type, your duplex is wrong.*

LET'S TALK!!! Now that your program is running, set your modem to originate mode, since the host computer will be set on answer mode. Next, dial the number. Some modems require you to turn them on at this point. When the host computer answers, you will hear a high pitched noise. If you are using an acoustic modem, place the telephone receiver into the modem coupler. Depending on the host computer, you may need to press <ENTER> or <CTRL C>, or perhaps do nothing at all to receive the data transmission from the host computer. If you're not talking, or have a problem, like garbage on the screen, more than likely you set the wrong configuration parameters in your telecommunications program.

JOYPAINT AND JOYPAINT PAL REVIEWED

by Jerry Steinberg - Topics LA 99ers, CA

Let me begin this review by telling you I own just about every graphics that has come out for the 99/4A, and I have come to a very interesting conclusion. I have been asked many times, "which graphic program do you think I should buy?"... I have arrived at the perfect answer... You should buy all of them... I have yet to see a graphics program that does not have some facility the others lack... If however somebody said to me, "I can only afford to buy three or four programs, then I would have to say, "Buy TI-Artist, Graphx, and Joypaint 99 and Pal."

One big reason for my choice of these four is that the files from one can easily be used with the others, thereby giving you a flexibility not available from any single one. If money is not lacking I would also recommend Dave Rose's CSGD Program... But now to get down to the review of Joypaint in particular... In my estimation this one is just about the best.. If has most of the features all the others have with some added ones that are breathtakingly original.. Speaking broadly before I get into details let me say this; Joypaint is the easiest to use of all the others and has many features none of the rest have.. For example, you have an assortment of pull down windows that enable you to easily select with your joystick a myriad of functions, some of which are entirely new to graphic program users.

First of all.. How many times have you had to save a picture to disk so that when you add the next lines you can recall the old picture in case you make a mistake?.. You don't have to do that with Joypaint... If you make an error all you need do is use the undo function provided, and the last thing you did will be undone.. This of course is a miraculous time saver... But this is only one of the miracles this program affords.. Another is the "Smart Fill".. A fill that works better than any I have seen... A little ball skirts the perimeter of the area you wish to fill, and then proceeds to do so.. It wanders about and looks for unfilled areas so it can fill them... Also the fill target is not a cross that is so big you can't fit it into what you want to fill, but a sign that says "fill" with a dot below it one pixel large, so that you can fill the tiniest of areas.. no doubt about it.. This is the best fill I've seen.

Now let's talk about textures.. You have your choice of twenty-six available and if you say that's not enough..OK. There are provisions for you to make your own in any quantity and save them to disk.. So much for textures.. But the real miracle of this program is the function called Spray Can, this is another of the great choices which are made by choosing an icon just like in TI-Artist. The spray can allows you to take any texture and spray paint with it... The leaves in the accompaying graphic were made using the Spray Can, as was the foliage.. Everything in this graphic with the exception of the girl was made with Joypaint 99.. This girl was borrowed from another graphics program. If you wanted for example to make a brick wall.. you would first make the wall with the boxmaker, and then use the fill using the brick texture and you would have it.. Simple as that.

When I give examples of what can be done, I am talking about both Joypaint 99 and the Joypaint Pal, since these two work hand in glove to perform many of these unheard of functions... Now to go on.. There are eight different brush shapes which can be used in your drawing.. This also gives you great facility in erasing small or large areas. We also have a directory feature which allows you to see the files on any disk without leaving the graphics program... You can also draw on an area larger than the screen you are viewing.. There is a function for moving the whole screen sideways and up and down. There is also a feature which allows you to magnify or reduce any chosen area of your picture.. Also, when you save a graphic it doesn't

use much disk space because it only saves the picture information and not the blank areas.   It will   also do all the things the others will do such as Invert, Rotate, Flip, Copy, Move, Store on a clipboard, Circles, Ovals, Boxes, Etc.

Printout is available in two sizes, and two densities. It works like a dream, and, there is a delightful thing called Fatpixels, which is a zoom option which allows single pixel editing. Price for Joypaint 99 is $39.95 and $9.95 for Joy paint Pal.... Worth it?... A bargain, as far as I am concerned..   Right now, it is necessary to have a Gemini 10X, 15X, TI Impact, or an Epson compatible. If you, also have Pal it will work with Axiom GP100. Other printers are being worked on now...

Steinberg

MULTIPLAN

Audrey Bucher - PUG Peripheral, Pittsburgh, PA - Nov'87

I would like to start a series of articles about my favorite piece of software, Multiplan. I have found many many uses for this program & haven't even begun to scratch the surface of what it is capable of doing. I'm still a novice user, but I would like to share with you some of the uses I have found for this great program.

My most frequently used file is a combination budget sheet and checkbook balancer. About once a week, I enter all the checks I have written in various budget categories that I have make my deposit entries to. At a glance I can tell if my checkbook balances and just how much money is in the account for various items like insurance, utilities, etc.

I also have a file for income tax purposes. I keep a monthly file of all income, (wages, dividends, interest, etc), taxes paid, and all items that qualify for tax deductions. (The number of these has significantly

decreased this year). Along with these files, I keep a yearly file that uses the xcopy routine to enter a summary of each month's file. So at any time, I can tell exactly how much income I've had, how much I've paid in taxes (ouch) and how much I am able to claim on deduct- ions. No surprises in Jan.

Another file is medical insurance records. I have medical coverage at work and am also covered by my husbands insurance. This is great but can be confusing as to who has paid what. MP keeps these records for me better than the insurance companies seem to be able to do.

My job is a part time position and I accrue vac. and sick leave accordng to the number of hours that I actually work. I no longer need to rely on personnel to tell me how much leave I am entitled to...MP calculates it for me on a weekly basis. A few months ago, the figures I got from personnel did not

agree with mine. Can you guess who was right? MP of course! Another interesting file is the utilities. This keeps track of the cost and usage our utility bills each year. What is so interesting is that even though the usage goes down, the cost goes up.

While I spend my free time at the computer, my husband spends his on the golf course with a few of his buddies. MP keeps a record of their scores, figures their averages, handicaps and gives them a nice printout of the bad news.

In addition to the mathematical capabilities of MP, there are great sorting abilities. I use this in the golf file in order to find a low average to figure the handicap. However, it's great for another file I have...my address list. This gives me a clear concise printout of name, address, city, state, zip, phone, and category (friend, relative, neighbor). I can sort by any field and

print out only what I choose. The file that brings a laugh to my friends is my grocery list. I type it in MP and sort it by aisle (our supermarket recently remodeled and gave out maps which I keep by the computer). They may laugh, but I zip throuh that store lickety split.

And last but not least, I tried somthing new today. I used MP as a word processor to write this article. I'm not exactly thrilled with particular use but I read about it in another newsletter and just had to try it. It was really fascinating how it all came together. I will reprint the article in a future news- letter.

That's all for now folks. Perhaps next time, I'll give some specific examples and also some hints I've picked up in various articles. I would really be interested in hearing of some of the uses to which you put Multiplan. Submit an article if you like. We can learn from each other.