Southwest Ninety-Niners Newsletter

contributed by
- Tom Wills -

SW99ers User Group President of Record

compliments of

GENEVE 9640

TI99ers On-Line User Group

www.ti99ers.org

SOUTHWEST NINETY-NINERS

JULY 1989

P.O. Box 17831 Tucson, AZ 85730

OFFICERS
BJ Mathis - President
David Ormand - Vice President
Ed McCullough - Secretary
Les Neff - Treasurer

NEWSLETTER
BJ Mathis - Editor

LIBRARY
BJ & Jack Mathis - Co-Chairmen
Ida McCargar - Fairware/Lending Librarian

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ATTENTION MEMBERS!!
Next meeting, Thursday, July 6th at Devon Gables Health Care Center in the Executive Dining Room at 6150 E Grant across from the Price Club at 7pm. Mark O'Dwyer is planning a demonstration for us this month.

FESTWEST '90 PLANNING COMMITTEE
Saturday, July 8th, 1pm - Mathis' home - 5941 E 26th -
747-5046.

GENEVE USERS WORKSHOP
Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm (July 11th). David Ormand's home - 2227 E Drachman - 795-2005.

GENERAL USERS WORKSHOP
Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm (July 18th). Mathis' home - 5941 E 26th - 747-5046.

ADVANCED LANGUAGES WORKSHOP
Fourth Tuesday of each month (July 25th) at 7:30pm - Rod Stallard's home - 7575 E Logan Dr - 745-6071.

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  ( ) THE SOUTHWEST 99ERS USER GROUP
  ( )            PRESENTS
  ( )        THE CACTUS PATCH BBS
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( ) ( ) ( )   PARADIGM BBS VERS 2.0
( ) ( ) ( )      (C)COPYRIGHT 1988
 ( ) ( ) ( )           BY
  ( )( ) ( )       MIKE KIMBLE
   (_( )( )            &
    ( )_/        TRAVIS WATFORD
    ( )
    ( )     300/1200 BAUD - PARITY 8N1
    ( )     24 HOURS A DAY, EVERY DAY
    ( )
()  ( )   ()   SYSOP: DAVE ORMAND   ()
 () ( )   ()   CO-SYSOP: TOM WILLS   ()
()() ( ) ()()       (602)795-1953     ()()
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DISK-OF-THE-MONTH, JULY 1989

This disk contains a text adventure game by Ken Woodcock of the Tidewater User Group--The Dragons of HongKong. It is set in the Orient and what happens depends on you! It is in Extended Basic and you can load it with either OLD DSK1.STORY or RUN "DSK1.STORY". The disk must be named DRAGON. (You could change the Load line in the program "Story", if you want to change the disk name). You will play an active part in this adventure; at the prompt, enter your response. If you are lucky, you will win the beautiful girl.

The LOAD program on the disk loads a patriotic anthem and graphics for July.

The third program is another musical selection, PUPPYTOWN3 by Sam Moore, enhanced by Ray Kazmer.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bill Gaskill joined the SouthWest 99ers shortly after FestWest '89 and has been sending articles to us for inclusion in our newsletter. It is wonderful to have another contributing member in our group. Due to lack of space I cannot include everything Bill sends in the newsletters. Bill always includes some history for each month and some trivia, if you are interested in seeing the entire article several other newsletters include it in its entirety. Ida can steer you in the right direction for that information. Bill sent his usual Four-A/Talk article this month as well as an overview of Genial Traveler, hopefully I will be able to include both of the articles in this newsletter.

I am delighted with the contributions we have been receiving for our newsletter in the last several months. Both Tom Wills and Ida McCargar have been supplying me with articles, news items, etc., it has made assembling the newsletter far less of a chore. It has also meant fewer reprints from other newsletters. It is wonderful to be able to fill the newsletter with articles from our group members, however, it is more important than ever to check out newsletters to keep up with the latest in the TI community. Nearly every newsletter I read, has something new in it and I've been reading approximately 60 newsletters per month for several years.

The CACTUS PATCH BBS has been down most of the month of June. David Ormand married and went on a honeymoon. The BBS immediately decided to start hiccupping and Tom Wills has been unable to fix the problem as a remote SysOp. David and Jerri are due to be home soon and the board will probably be back on-line by the time this newsletter reaches you. We hope only the best for David and Jerri as they start their life together.

BJ Mathis - 747-5046

LET'S GET ACQUAINTED!

by Tom Wills

This month's guest personality is one of our user group officers, Ed McCullough.

Ed and his wife, Connie, live at 10241 East Speedway Blvd, on Tucson's eastern edge. They are also the parents of three children, all grown and on their own. Ed may be reached by calling 296-5183.

Ed, who is now 68, is retired from the Air Force, and the American Bowling Congress. Ed entered the U.S. Army as a Private, became a Flying Sargent, was later commissioned and retired as a Lt. Colonel from the U.S. Air Force after 20 years. Ed then returned to his home town, Tucson, where he attended the University of Arizona. He earned his Teaching Certificate, and became an instructor in the Department of Continuing Education at the U of A. He worked for three years in civil defense training, then became the director of the Peace Corps training program for the U of A for the country of Venezuela. After the first year the program became a half-time job, so Ed went looking for something else to do. This time Ed got a job with the American Bowling Congress in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. For 18 years Ed served ABC wearing many hats, and traveling around the country. As you can probably guess, bowling is one of Ed's outside activities. Ed says he was an avid bowler before going to work for ABC, and now he is into golfing, as well. I know he is a avid golfer, because when I asked him about golfing at high-noon here in Tucson, he said it doesn't bother him at all.

After this tenure with ABC, Ed really decided to retire. So, back to Tucson came Ed and Connie in December of 1986. By February of 1987, Ed was attending meetings here with the SouthWest 99ers. He is currently serving his second year as our group Secretary (definitely not an easy post to fill, but Ed does a SUPER job at it!!). He has attended the Fest West's at Las Vegas and San Diego.

Ed has your "basic" fully expanded TI system. It includes the console, a fully stocked P.E. Box (with 32K, RS232, Myarc disk controller, and a 1 megabyte Horizon RAM disk he built himself), 2 half-height disk drives, an Expert 1200 baud modem, and a NX-10 printer. Ed also says that he has "...gobs" of modules and diskettes.

Ed uses his system for word processing, PRBase, Multiplan, genealogy, doing his income tax, and "...a few games, logic ones, like Adventure games". Ed also uses his word processing skills to communicate with his daughter and her family in Japan.

Ed's "leisurely retirement", now includes caring for both his mother and Connie's mother, maintaining a rental house, active support of his church, remodeling and maintenance of his home, along with computing, golfing, bowling and active support of the SouthWest 99ers.

Next month, our guest celebrity will be a bit of a surprise, because it just may be YOU!! Be prepared with your answers when I come asking, because we all want to "Get Aquainted!".

FOUR-A/TALK - RANDOM RAMBLINGS ABOUT THINGS TI

by Bill Gaskill

JUNE 1989 - AAARRRGGGHHH!!!

Once again I come to you on bended knees, begging your forgiveness for not keeping my promise (sort of) on the Genial Traveler Diskazines, and borrowing a title for this edition of Four-A/Talk from best friend Steve Mehr to express my frustration at having to admit the error of my ways once more. When I "really" got into the GT disks I discovered so much wonderful material that I realized each disk could easily fill an entire Four-A/Talk article, which would leave room for nothing else. Since your newsletter editor likes to spice up each edition with a variety of articles, by different authors, they would have had to cut the Four-A/Talk information down to a portion of what it should be. So, I have decided to do the GT reviews as separate articles. If room permits, you will find my overview of GT Volume 1 numbers 1 and 2 in this newsletter. If not, perhaps it will appear in a future edition.

WHAT'S HOT:

- TI-SORT from Inscebot Inc., Art Green's TI-Writer (re-write) V4.3 (no it's not a typo, V.2 was covered last month), Jim Peterson's Public Domain Catalog, TimeLine99, Marty Kroll's CATLIB V1.5 and CATCOM companion to CATLIB, Randy Moore's Sector Editor for hard or floppy disks and Page Pro 99 from Asgard.

DISCOVERIES:

-The wizards from Florida, Inscebot Inc., namely Dennis and Chris Faherty, have done it again! They have created an assembly language sort program that is without equal in the TI Community. The version that I beta-tested sorts TI-Base files, fixed length files from any program, delimited files from any program and data files created from Basic (and Xbasic) programs.

I was purposely given the file without any documentation and still managed to figure the program out in less than five minutes. It uses many of the familar TI-Base interface routines, so it wasn't too difficult. A nice touch.

From what I can tell, TI-SORT is limited to 99,999 records in a file. No, that is not a typo. TI-SORT can order a data base that is one record short of one hundred thousand records. It uses a disk-caching method to sort large files, where blocks of data in 180 record increments are sorted (which takes 3-5 seconds per block!) and then a temporary file is written to disk for each block of data. When all records have been sorted the temporary files are used to reference the correct order of the records for the

write to disk of the sorted file. This does make the program disk intensive, but 99,999 on 24K of RAM? Come on! I'm not going to complain, are you?

I performed a few benchmarks to give you an idea of the speed of the program. I sorted a 2990 (999 sector) record file on my hard disk by a single field (you can sort by up to 8 fields). It took 13:49. The actual sorting of data took about 6:28. The remaining time was consumed in writing the sorted file back to disk. That might seem like a lot of time, but 3000 records is a pretty hefty data base by 99/4A standards.

I then took a TI-Base file that was 800 records long (268 sectors) and sorted it on a floppy disk. It took 13:03 to get the job done. The exact same file sorted by the exact same field on may hard disk took 3:03. So as you can see, the type of disk drive you use makes a substantial difference in sort speed. Using the hard disk saved a full ten minutes. A ram disk would be slightly faster than the hard drive.

TI-SORT works off of a floppy, ram disk or hard drive. As you can see from the benchmarks, it also sorts data that resides on any of the same media. The commercial release of TI-SORT is scheduled for the end of June. The price tag will be $14.95 plus $2.50 to cover shipping and handling. If you are interested in this jewel of a utility, write to;

> Inscebot Inc.
> Box 291610
> Port Orange, FL 32029
>   Or phone (904)767-3922.

-Art Green's Macro Assembler is now in Version 7, with continued performance improvements. The TI-99/4A Object Code Linker is now in Version 3.

-Dick Altman's Fairware List, now managed by Steve Mehr, hasn't been updated since 1987. Steve is in need of some honest help from us in bringing the list up to snuff. If you have a program that you would like on the list, or if you know (from your own experience) that a particular piece of software that used to be fairware, is no longer fairware, or if you know that a fairware author's address has changed, PLEASE contact Steve with the information. The address again is;

> Steve Mehr
> 633 Hollyburne Lane
> Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

As an aside, you might be interested in knowing that I have put a little pizzaz into the Fairware List's organization. If Steve decides to go with it, folks who send for it may get the version that provides a menu of choices to browse through the list with, rather that the three TI-Writer files of the past.

NEWS:

-FEST-WEST '90 will be held in Tucson, Arizona February 17th-18th, 9am-5pm and 9am-3pm respectively. The Days Inn on Broadway in downtown Tucson has been chosen as the site. More on this in future columns. Thanks SouthWest 99ers!!!

-Art Green has released version 4.3 of his marvelous TI-Writer clone. The upgrade fixes a small bug in the indent routine that exists in V4.2 where you would save a file and the margins were not recalled when the file was reloaed.

-Inscebot's Dennis Faherty has begun work on a "fully" hard disk compatible version of TI-Base. He hopes to have it out by mid-summer or earlier if all goes well. Also in the works is a stand-alone report generator for TI-Base. For those who have wondered, among the other features planned for TI-Base V3.0 are a repeat key to speed up data entry and to save you from having to type in a command each time you want to perform a similar function from the dot prompt, and a new directive that will support string searches anywhere within a string.

-Inscebot's Chris Faherty is hard at work on TI-Artist Plus!, reported to be "much more" than just an upgrade to TI-Artist. No release date announced yet.

-I've also heard that Martin Smolley of the NorthCoast 99ers has come up with some neat TI-Base routines to print graphic labels by manipulating the codes in the PRINTER driver file. What an innovative user he is. I'll bet he could write a book on all of the things that can make

TI-Base do, if he could just find the time to write it.

-Assembly language wizard Marty Kroll is considering a hard disk version of his CATLIB disk library utility. More on this in a future Four-A/Talk hopefully.

-I just received a copy of Page Pro 99 from Asgard and will feature it in the next Four-A/Talk, or perhaps MICROpendium if John and Laura are interested. I can tell you already, from about 30 minutes of using it, that it is FUN!!!! The program is destined to be a hit in the TI Community, guaranteed. The price is $24.95 plus $.75 shipping and handling. If you are interested, Asgard may be contacted at;

    Asgard Software
    Box 10306
    Rockville, MD 20850

HARD DISK USER TIPS:

-Much to my delight, I have discovered that Myarc's MDM5, V1.28, the disk manager for my 20mb hard drive, may be accessed from FunnelWeb V4.10 that is being run off of the Horizon Ram Disk. Probably because of the way I have the HFDC configured (I use it only for the hard disk), I always had a problem getting MDM5 to perform properly when booted from the E/A5 loader in JJ's Menu on my Horizon Ram Disk. The program would load, but disk management functions would not work correctly. To get MDM5 to work properly I had to insert the Editor/Assembler module in my console and load MDM5 from it, after shutting the auto-boot feature of JJ's Menu off. Now, I just load FunnelWeb, access the E/A loaders, select loader three (3) and type in the correct directory and file name (WDS1.UTIL.MDM5 in my case). Program performance is flawless and the access to it is ram/hard disk fast. I believe that I would never have truly been able to equate power computing with the 99/4A had I not purchased Myarc's HFDC and a hard disk. What a marvelous addition to my hardware!

GENIAL TRAVELER - DISKAZINES - VOL. 1 NO. 1 & 2

Overview by Bill Gaskill

The idea of a diskazine or magazine on disk is not a new one and it didn't start with the Genial Traveler issues. Apple owners had the heralded MICROzine product 2-3 years before the GT issues ever came to life. Nonetheless, Barry Traver can certainly be credited with bringing the concept to the 4A community, and with style.

Genial Traveler first appeared on the scene in September of 1985 with advance notice to the TI Community being published in a variety of locations including MICROpendium, Tiger Cub Software flyers and more.

Currently, there are nine Genial Traveler flippies available, at a cost of $36 per year. If you are not a GT subscriber, you REALLY should be. Some of the best information and public domain or fairware programs appear first in Genial Traveler. Contact;

    GENIAL COMPUTERWARE
    835 Green Valley Drive
    Philadelphia, PA 19128
    (215)483-1379

After wrestling with a variety of ways to present the information, I have decided to do a disk at a time, with commentary on each of the files or programs contained on the disk being discussed. I hope that you find the information of use. Perhaps you will discover something truly useful that you didn't realize even existed, I did.

TRAVELER11-side one of the GT Volume 1 Number 1 flippy diskette.

2FONTS/S1 - assembly language source code files for 2FONTS/O program
2FONTS/S2 - found on back side of GT Volume 1 diskette.

ARTICLES - an XB program that loads the ARTICLES/O file, and then reads the DV/80 file called MENU which contains the items listed on screen for you to select from. The ARTICLES program is a neat example of how extended basic and assembly language can be used together. There are CALL LOADS to change from the 28 column graphics mode to the 40 column text mode, display text in 40 column mode, routines that show how arrays created in extended basic can pass or retrieve data from assembly and more.

ARTSTGRPHX - article by Ron Albright on the plusses and minuses of TI-Artist and Graphx and how each can be used in conjunction with the other to benefit the user. A nice idea I suppose, but how many users own both programs?

DOUBLETEXT - article by Tom Freeman on how to print text files in double column.

DSRLNK/S - the source code for a Device Service Routine link for extended basic. This meansthat an extended basic program can gain access to the device polling routine inside the computer that controls input/output devices such as the RS232, your disk drives and the like. The file is the work of Texas Instruments and John Clulow.

FRIEND - a short note from Barry Traver asking subscribers not to pirate the GT disks for friends.

GENIAL - a text file authored by Barry Traver explaining the name GENIAL for the GT diskazines.

GOOD/GUYS - a list of popular TI vendors including Barry's favorite Pilgrim's Pride, which has since closed its store front operation and gone to mail order only.

LOAD - XB loader that boots the WELCOME/O file and then the ARTICLES/O file for menu display.

MENU - the menu system for access to the programs and files on side 1 of the disk. I puts the screen in 40 column (text) mode and also contains a new CALL LOAD that emulates the NEW command.

RAW/S - source code for Barry Travers Read And Write A/L utility.

RS232/AL- source code file for the tutorials found in RS232/TXT1 and RS232/TXT2. Authored by Mack McCormick, former technical editor for MICROpendium.

RS232/TXT1 & RS232/TXT2 - assembly language tutorial explaining how to by-pass the RS232 ROM by programming at the chip level.

SIDEWYSTXT - documentation for SIDEWYS/CH and SIDEWYS/SC files on flip side of GT disk. Authored by Tom Freeman.

TIMESAVING - tips for saving money when using CompuServe.

WELCOME/O - uncompressed object code file that is booted by the LOAD program on the GT disk. Displays the smiley faces and erases them when sprite collision occurs.

WELCOME/S - source code for the WELCOME/O file above that explains its origin in Peter Lottrup's Mini-Mem assembly book. It is the file used to set up the LOAD screen that erases the smiley faces. Good assembly language tutorial for sprite use.

XBALT/DIR - directions for using Todd Kaplan's XBALT/O file that is found on Traveler12 (the flip side of this disk.

TRAVELER12

2DRIVECOPY - an extended basic utility that copies the entire contents of a SS/SD diskette in one disk drive to a pre-formatted diskette in another drive.

2FONTS/O - a machine code program that allows the XB programmer to switch between the standard TI character set and a true lower case set that appears on screen just like the first TI-Writer true lower case upgrade in the CHARA1 file. Ugly but functional.

2FONTSDEMO - XB demo program for 2FONTS/O. CALL LINK("NEWSET") displays the true lower case letters, CALL LINK("OLDSET") restores the standard character set.

CATALOG - another neat XB utility that provides disk cataloging to screen or printer or filename. Written by assembly language wizard Todd Kaplan.

CHAR/O - an assembly language object code file that redefines the upper case character set so that upper case letters are instantly redefined as larger letters like those that appear in the Home Financial Decisions module. The assembly language programming was done by John Bohos. The file is accessed via a CALL LINK from any XB program. Very attractive and nicely done.

CHARDEMO - the XB demo program for CHAR/O.

CHGE/TO/O - an XB program containing a CALL LOAD statement that will change the first line number in your program to zero. Changes only one line of Basic or XB code, not the entire program.

DEFTABLE - Basic program to PEEK into memory and display or print the first and last addresses of the code that is currently in low memory. Reads E/A, Mini-Mem and XB module addresses. If you run the program from GT's menu you will see that the CHARA1 file and Barry's CHAR routine are in low memory from the CALL LOADs that occur when the GT LOAD program is booted.

DOUBLEPRNT - the actual Tom Freeman program to print two column text.

FIREBUTTON - a Barry Traver "Micro Tutorial" on how to detect which firebutton, on which joystick has been pressed. Presented as an XB program.

HIDESECTOR - an XB program that allows you to place information from another disk or that you enter from the keyboard, into an unused sector on another disk. Makes use of the RAW utility, calculates the bit map of the target disk. Excellent example of how TI Disk Controller formatted disks are read, written to etc. Program contains typical example of Barry Traver humor along with CALL LOAD examples.

HOLEYMOLEY - an XB game by John Behnke of the Chicago TI Users Group. It pits you as the farmer against a mole who is trying to eat all of your carrots. I recall seeing an Atari 2600 game of a similar vein years back. Good graphics and support for speech. Requires a joystick to play it. We don't see much from John these days, since he joined Chicago's finest. Probably stuck on the graveyard shift.

LOAD - an interesting program that emulates the GPL coded color bar screen that appears each time you turn your computer on. But for the fact that it tries to fake you out by telling you that "all circuits are busy", you couldn't tell the difference between it and the real thing. You would probably think that something has gone wrong with your console when you tried to load GT and had it return to the color bar screen. Cute program. Originally authored by John Hoge in 1980, modified by Barry Traver in 1984.

LOCKITUP - an XB/AL utility to make your floppy disks unreadable to others. Actually, I think it moves the contents of the File Allocation Table in sector 1 so that there are zeros in the first 3-4 bytes, thus preventing the disk from being cataloged, but still allowing you access to the files/programs because you know the names of them. Same type of thing can be

done with a sector editor, but with a great deal more effort, or with Advanced Diagnostics with less effort. AD just takes longer to load than LOCKITUP does.

MAKE/DATA - a utility to create the ASCII bit coding for sideways characters that are used by your printer. Companion program for Tom Freeman's SIDEWYS programs on the flip side of the GT1 disk.

MENU - XB program that lists/runs the contents of GT side two.

MULTIPLIB1 - one of the MOST interesting programs on the disk. It demonstrates a method of multiplying large numbers that I have never seen before (so-called Russian Multiplication?). The multiplication is actually done by division and addition. The method works with small numbers too, but would not be needed. Of course if you use a calculator you don't need to learn this method either. But if you are interested in mental gymnastics involving numbers you will want to look at this program.

PENNEYTOSS - a game program that must be rigged! I played the computer and lost EVERY time. Fun to play though. No graphics, just text with minimal color. Written in TI Basic by Barry Traver.

PROTECTOR - XB/AL utility to write-protect all files on a disk.

RAW - an XB/AL utility that allows you to Read And Write to a single disk sector at a time. Authored by Barry Traver with credit for assistance in the development given to; Michael Riccio, Todd Kaplan, Paul Charlton, Chris Faherty and a couple of the other assembly language wizards that the TI Community has been blessed with.

RAW/MENU - XB program that loads all of the RAW-based utilities on the GT1 disk.

RAW/O - an assembly language object file that provides Read And Write capabilities to from and to a floppy or ram disk. Written by Barry Traver himself. The file is used throughout GT Volume 1 in many of the other programs. It was also used by John Johnson when he created the utilities for Bill Warren's PR-Base V1.0. A very useful utility for the extended basic programmer.

SEARCHMAZE - one of the best TI Basic games you will ever see, second only to Worm of Beemer I think. It has great graphics and is fun to play. You must search for and destroy a host of X's that are placed at various locations within a maze, all within 5 minutes. Written by Barry Traver from an idea in Craig Miller's Smart Programmer's Guide To Sprites book. It obviously doesn't use sprites though.

SIDEWYS/SC - XB program that prints a text file sideways using small capital letters for the lower case set.

SWEEP/DISK - an extended basic utility that makes use of Barry's RAW (Read And Write) assembly routine to re-write the file alocation table on the disk so that it appears the disk is empty. Save you the time and bother of initializing the disk.

XBALT/O - an assembly language utility to merge A/L code in with an XB program so that both are saved as an XB program., thus reducing disk space needed to store the program and load time since you don't have to CALL LOAD a DF/80 file. Although XBALT/O is the first of the two out of the gate, Barry Boone's SYSTEX is easier to use.

SECTORZERO - simply the best program available to explain the use of sector zero on a floppy or ram disk. Runs out of extended basic and even allows you to analyze your own disk, down to the byte level. Neat, informative and very useful.

SHOW/DV80 - an XB/AL program that invokes the 40-column text mode and then provides the ability to display text files of up to 30 sectors in length. Line feeds and carriage returns should be removed from the text file first.

SIDEWYS/CH - XB program that prints a text file sideways with true lower case letters based upon the CHARA1 file coding used in TI-Writer.

SWAN'S POND

by Ida McCargar

The following programs for Geneve owners are now available from SouthWest 99ers disk library.

MDOS-INFOCOM - John Johnson - allows you to run your infocom games from the mdos prompt. It gives you 80 columns. To use it, follow this example: Copy GAME1 and GAME2 from your infocom disk over to your hard drive or whatever. Rename GAME1 and GAME2 to whatever you like, for instance ZORK-II and ZORK-IJ. Then, to run your game, just type INF [d:]ZORK-II or whatever you named it. This is a REAL beauty!

CHAOS2 - R. G. Walters - Neat little Fortran Graphics demo (for fun). It contains 9640 FORTRAN source code with (some) comments. This and the last were inspired by the book "CHAOS" by James Gleick...just some fun I had while reading this fascinating account of "the birth of a new science". PS...again, you don't need Fortran to RUN this! Runs from MDOS(CHAOS-III), press any key to stop.

MYART PICTURE VIEWER - Barry Boone - will work on either the 9640 or a 99/4A with 80 col. card. It will load and display Myart format files VERY quickly. File loads with E/A opt 5 or image file loader.

9640 ABASIC - 4/6/89 - GENIAL.AL - Here's Myarc Advanced BASIC 4/06/89 Beta Test for the 9640. There are a couple of new CALLS, i.e. CALL MYART("DSKX.FILENAME") as well as INVERT and BLINK (with CALL BCOLOR(F,B)) for DISPLAY AT (though reportedly the strange screen you see with BLINKing is due to a bug in MDOS). Presumably there are some bug fixes as well, but those you'll have to discover on your own _____

LIBRARY NEWS

by Ida McCargar

New Fairware now available from the SouthWest 99ers disk library.

79. MS-ADVENTURES from John Taylor. Three all text adventures; solutions are included, if you want to "cheat".

144. GAMES OF WIT by Chris Lang. Five EX-Basic educational word games for ages 6 and up. Docs on disk. 3 disks.

182. SUPERSAVE by Erik Olson. E/A program to convert relocatable object code files into memory image files.

418. ASSEMBLER HACK by J. Peter Hoddie. Adds new features to TI Assembler. Whether you are learning Assembly or an expert programmer, this is a useful tool for A/L development on the TI or in GPL mode on the 9640.

448. TI-Writer v.4.2, with upgrades to the formatter, by R. A. Green. This was reviewed in April Micropendium.

444. SECTOR ONE, a sector editor by Randy Moore; works with hard or floppy disks. See review in May Micropendium.

449. ANIMATOR by Mike McCann.

452. BRIDGE--the game of Bridge, programmed by John H. Bull, a retired minister in Knoxville, TN. On the same disk is a D/V80 file listing a bridge game programmed for the IBM, if you would like to try your hand at converting the program for the TI or Geneve.

JUNE SW99ERS' MINUTES

Thursday June 1, 1989

1. V. Pres David Ormand conducted the Question & Answer period.

   Q. I hear a clicking noise when my disk drive is operating. Is that a normal situation?

   A. If the red light is on while the disk drive is supposed to be in operation, then it is perfectly normal.

   Q. Is there a better way of locating a line number than going to TI-Writer, using FIND-STRING, then back into the program?

   A. None that we know of.

2. Those who are interested in keeping up with the messages on the Bulletin Board (Cactus Patch) will have to read them at least twice a week. Because of our limited storage space and the number of messages that are uploaded, the older messages drop off very rapidly. We are working on increasing the storage capacity for the message base.

3. The FestWest Committee asks any of you who people with a TI Console in their closet, give their names to the committee so that an invitation to FestWest may be sent to them, or, if they are no longer interested, we might obtain the console(s) for someone else.

4. We were supposed to have a demonstration of Rodger Merritt's Form Shop at this meeting, however, none of us have gotten it to work properly as yet. Maybe at the July meeting we can present it.

5. Mark O'Dwyer presented the latest in his progress in working with the color printer.

   Ed McCullough, Secretary

BUYER'S GUIDE

The following information is provided as a service to our members. The items listed are for sale by the individuals indicated and are subject to prior sale. The group assumes no responsibility for items listed and makes no claims as to their condition or interface capability with the TI-99/4A computer. Only computer related items will be accepted for publication in this newsletter.

TI Extended Basic $25; Editor Assembler (new) $10; Logo II $5; Alligator Mix $6; Early Reading $5; Hunt the Wumpus, Jaw Breaker $4; Personal Real Estate, Personal Record Keeping, Household Budget Management, TI Invaders, Munchman, Parsec $2ea. Books: Programs for the TI Home Computer, Games TIs Play $3ea.; Computer Playground, The Best Texas Instruments Software, The Best of TI 99/4A Cartridge $2ea. Call Jack or BJ 747-5046.

TI-99/4A Console, Expansion Box w/CorComp RS232, TI 32K, TI Disk Controller, SSSD Disk Drive, TI Extended Basic, Editor Assembler, Multiplan, Writer, Personal Real Estate, $380. Optionally 2 DSDD half height drives. Call Dick Paschal 790-4779.

Parsec $4, Donkey Kong $8, Big Foot $8. Call Dick Paschal 790-4779.

Smith-Corona Fastext 80 printer w/manual, and Printerf (instructional software especially for this printer from McWare). This printer is mostly Epson compatible for text. Contact Pam Elliott (816)534-7790 or BJ 747-5046 for address.

TI-99/4A Console, Speech Synthesizer, TI Joysticks, 7 modules, 24 basic programs on cassette, make offer. Call Sue McLaughlin 297-9804.

FROM SOUTHWEST NINETY-NINERS: Speech Synthesizer $25; Mini-Memory $10; Adventure w/disk $3; Tunnels of Doom $4; Tax Investment/Record Keeping, Home Budget Management, Parsec $2ea. Printer Ribbons: Star Micronics NX-10 $4.50, NX-1000 $3, Gemini 10X $1. Tractor feed 1-across mailing labels 500/$1; Cassette Cables $3. Books: Starting Forth $10; Thinking Forth $10; The Writers by Harry Brashear $3, Home Publishing by Harry Brashear w/disk $15; "Best" Newsletter $5; Using & Programming the TI-99/4A $4; Smart Programmers Guide to Sprites, Programming BASIC with the TI Computer, COMPUTE!'s Programmer's Reference Guide to the TI-99/4A, COMPUTE!'s TI-99/4A Sound and Graphics, Creating Arcade Games on the TI-99/4A, Fundamentals of TI-99/4A Assembly Language (Morley), COMPUTE!'s TI Collection Vol One, Art & Graphics with your TI-99/4A, Hidden Powers of Disk Fixer, 99(/4A) Tips, Introduction to Assembly Language for the TI Home Computer (Molesworth), The Innermost Secrets of the TI-99/4A, Software Development (Texas Instruments), $3ea. Call BJ or Jack 747-5046.