



GOOD OLD DAYS ARE COMING BACK!

Remember those good old days of 1982-84 when there were loads of books and magazines for us Tiers? When we could buy text materials for our computer faster than we could read and use them?

Methinks these days may be returning. At least a little.

At recent fairs and meetings I've attended there has been lots of talk about the disappearing textware in the TI World Community. No more books. No more magazines. No more...

Actually, there is more good, intelligent, useful TI stuff being written for textware today than there was four or five years ago. It's just that most of it is being written by users in user groups, not by some writer in an ivory tower somewhere. Most of these new writings are free (in newsletters with membership or in exchanges with other groups) and readily available.

Someday, I'd love to publish a list of my favorite dozen newsletters worldwide, but then the IMPACT column may be reduced to only 12 publications.

So much for that idea.

Joining a user group, even by mail if there aren't any nearby, may be the most sensible investment a 99er could make.

However, there are still lots of other sources for textware in our fellowship.

COMPUTER SHOPPER (\$21 for 12 monthly issues) P.O. Box 1419, Titusville, FL 32781-9988. This 10 X 14 500-plus page giant is probably the best single source for inexpensive disks, drives, cables, monitors, printers, what-have-you. It also has a listing of user groups (Check to see if yours is there.) and a TI classified section. But the reason most of us subscribe is the TI FORUM written by Ron Albright and John Zittrain. These two guys have a folksy approach to the realm of TI computing. Their monthly articles are full of wit and information and lots of heady reviews and predictions.

MICROpendium (\$20 for 12 monthly issues) P.O. Box 1343, Round Rock, TX 78680. This is the best magazine source for all TI owners, from super techie all the way down the ladder to people like myself. This 10-page newsprint periodical is totally devoted to the TI world and is as up-to-date as one can get. If you can only

Reprinted via the:

afford one TI magazine, this is probably the one. (John Zittrain, Ron Albright, Barry Traver, Chris Bobbitt, and Bruce Forbes are probably going to kill me for saying that.)

ASGARD NEWS (\$6 for 4 quarterly issues) P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20850. Though this magazine is fairly new, the editor - Chris Bobbitt - has been programming and writing steadily for the TI community since his teenage years. So it's a natural step up to see a full-fledged magazine come out. Most of the first issue was devoted to previews of coming attractions and reviews of many of Asgard's products. Each issue, though, has an extended article (the 9640 vs the 99/8, for example) and editorials and regular columns and corners. Lots of small, helpful hints and comments are given on a variety of TI subjects.

Genial **TRAVELER** (\$36 for a one-year, six-disk subscription; \$65 for a two-year subscription. These subscriptions also have bonuses.) 835 Green Valley Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19128. In a way Barry Traver's diskazines are not strictly a hardcopy magazine, but the DV/80 files dumped will give you the equivalent of a novel. To be a 99er with a disk drive and not have this service is to live a deprived life. These are packed! Really packed disks of an incredible variety of things for the TI: music, utilities, games, wordprocessing, everything else. Far less than a penny a sector, these disks may be ordered as Volume One (the set already complete), Volume Two (still some to come), or both. I would recommend Volume One first.

All of the above you may already own or at least know about. But there is another text/disk setup out there that is really worth discovering. It's been around since September of '87, and it is another large value for we 99ers, though it just hasn't gotten the attention many other TI efforts have gotten.

Tid Bits is a bimonthly magazine for only \$8 (6 issues) for hardcopy or \$12 (6 issues) for disk (SSSD floppy). The disk contains lots of additional PD and Firmware stuff to extend to two sides. The magazine contains photos and graphics.

Mail to Bruce Forbes, editor; Route 2, Box 412; Sumnerduck, VA 22742.

It may be hard to make a decision about which version to get - disk or text. Although the disk contains the exact text of the hardcopy (and a lot of other surprise goodies besides), I personally am partial to the hardcopy for a number of reasons.

Tid Bits pilot issue contained some screen photos, graphics of an envelope cataloguer, and a screen graphic to go along with a program printed out.

The next issues, however, contained some of the best photographs I have ever seen of the internal structure of our computer. The text talks about chip replacements and

THE NEW FEATURES OF FUNNELWEB v4.1
by Charles Good
Cima Ohio User Group

FUNNELWEB is probably the most significant software ever for the 99/4a. After booting FUNNELWEB v4.1 from XBASIC (you can boot FWB from any assembly language loader, but the XBASIC module is the best way) you can do all of the following without changing modules:

1. With a single keypress you can load from a selection of user created menus almost any software ever written for the 99/4A. If the software you want to load isn't configured into one of your user created software menus, you can call up a disk directory anywhere within FWB, mark the file name of software seen in the directory, and then load that software.

2. Do work processing with a much improved version of TI-Writer.

3. Create assembly source code and then assemble it as you would with the E/A module.

4. Manage disks with a modified version of DM1000 which is supplied with the FWB package. Pre-configured menu entry points for other common disk managers are also provided.

5. View and edit disk sectors with a modified version of DISK PATCH, also sometimes known as DISKO.

This review will describe the changes and additions in v4.1 as compared to v4.0. Although this description is based on the May 30, 1988 release which says "Memorial Day" on the XBASIC title screen, the review should be valid for all subsequent releases of v4.1.

Enhanced CENTRAL MENU capabilities.

Each central menu now has 8 items, and items 4-7 are completely configurable to load any kind of assembly language file. This includes autostarting D/FBO source code and assembly PROGRAM files. In previous versions of FWB the central menus could only load PROGRAM files and only a limited number of central menu slots were configurable.

The TI-Writer menu reads as follows:

- 1 EDITOR
- 2 FORMATTER
- 3 DISK UTILITIES
- 4 MODEM
- 5 DATA BASE
- 6 DM1000
- 7 DSKU
- 8 USER LIST

As noted above, items 4-7 can be configured to suit the user. MODEM is an entry point for terminal emulation software such as FAST TERM or

TELCO. DSKU refers to John Birdwell's "DISK UTILITIES." This fairware disk manager/sector editor is so good that some former users of DM1000, myself included, have switched to DSKU for most disk management uses. DSKU is not provided as part of the FWB package, but can be obtained directly from John Birdwell or from most user group libraries.

Item 3 in the above TIW central menu leads to a specially created user list menu in which disk management software is grouped together. The DISK UTILITIES menu reads as follows:

- 1 DM1000
- 2 DSKU
- 3 MYARC DM
- 4 DPATCH
- 5 SCREAMER
- 6 TRACKER
- 7 ARCHIVER
- 8 CONFIGURE
- 9 (CTR ROM)

DPATCH is the modified sector editor DISKO which is provided as part of the FWB package. SCREAMER is a good entry point for an ultra fast whole disk copier such as REDISKIT or TURBO COPY. TRACKER can be used to load one of the various "copies anything including protected disks" track copiers. Will McGovern, one of the FWB authors, has written a fairware track copier called TRACKER that is one of the few (maybe the only) that works with a Myarc disk controller. Send him a few bucks in Australia and he will send it to you, or look in your user group library. ARCHIVER will load the latest version of Barry Boone's archiving/compressing program. This archiving software is not part of the FWB package. CONFIGURE boots the FWB configuration files CF/CG. Items 1-8 in the above DISK UTILITIES user list menu can be altered with CF/CG to boot any assembly D/FBO (autostarting or not) or PROGRAM files.

The Edit/Asse central looks this way as configured on the FWB distribution disks:

- 1 EDITOR
- 2 ASSEMBLER
- 3 LOADERS

```

5 DISK PATCH
6 LINEHUNTER
7 ..
8 MESET

```

Item 4 loads the latest v4 release of c99. LOADERS, unchanged from FMB v4.0, leads to a menu for loading assembly D/F80 or PROGRAM files that aren't already configured into one of the FMB user lists. LINEHUNTER is new to v4.1. It is an assembly programming utility that prints on the screen any specified line of assembly D/V80 source code. You can also type the name of a label, and LINEHUNTER will display lines that have that label.

THE CONFIGURATION PROGRAM, FILES CF/CG:

This has been totally redone for v4.1 and MUST be used to do any configuring of the various user lists. It is no longer possible to directly edit FMB's XBASIC LOAD program to alter the XBASIC user list because there is very little XBASIC code in LOAD. There are only a few XBASIC line numbers in LOAD and the rest of LOAD is all in assembly.

CONFIGURE is much easier to use in v4.1 than it was in v4.0. CF/CG has a tree structure which allows you to quickly get to any part of the configuration without redoing the entire configuration process. The configuration program is very professional looking with sound effects, overlapping menu windows that pop into view, and help screens that are available at various points in the configuration process by pressing "?". Obviously much effort went into the preparation of the new v4.1 configuration files. The authors note that CF/CG was condensed from over 500 sectors of source code.

Basically what you do is load a configuration data file, alter the configuration, resave the altered data file to disk, and then while it is still in memory install the new configuration data into the FMB LOAD and UTIL1 files. If you later obtain a more recent release of FMB v4.1 you can configure the more recent release simply by loading your old configuration data file and installing this data into the newer LOAD and UTIL1 files. This is REALLY EASY! I had access to a pre-release beta testing edition of FMB v4.1 and was able to use the beta testing edition's configuration data file to configure my "Memorial Day" v4.1 in about 30 seconds. Hopefully the FMB authors will maintain this configuration data file system in all future upgrades of FMB and allow this easy transfer of v4.1 configuration information into all future FMB updates. Unfortunately, configuration information from v4.0 cannot be transferred

directly to v4.1.

The important universal keys to remember in the configuration routine are <ENTER> to advance to the next window, and BACK to return to the previous part of the program (often the previous window). AID will get you a disk directory from most places in the program, and "?" brings up the help screens. When a window is displayed, you press the first letter of the text line in the window to perform the function indicated. If the window says

```

!Load!
!Edit!
!Save!

```

then you press "L", "E", or "S". Sometimes "N" and "B" are used to move the cursor up and down within a window when the functions "Next" and "Back" are displayed in the previous window. When more than one window is visible at the same time, the active window is indicated by a fat (2 pixel wide) border. The borders of the windows get alternately fat and skinny depending upon which is the currently active window.

The early windows in the configuration process are as follows:

```

-----
! Sysinfo      Quit      Install      !
      FIRST
      WINDOW
-----
!Load! !Loading! !Boot Tracking OFF!
!Edit! !Devices! !TI-Writer side 1 ! LOADING
!Save! !Colors ! !Edit/Assn side 1 ! WINDOW
SECOND !Menu ! !Working Drive 2 !
WINDOW !B List!
      !UL List!
      THIRD
      WINDOW
      !Edtr Printer!
      !Fotr Printer! DEVICES
      !Object File ! WINDOW
      !Work File !
      !Program !
-----
!Edit!
!Next! COLOR
!Back! WINDOW
!Chng!
!Redo!
!View!
-----
!TI-Writer side
! MENU
!Edit/Assn side

```

1 WINDOW

You start out by pressing **S** (sysinfo) to display the second window, and then press **L** (load) to load the configuration data file, following the prompts for loading. The name of this file on the FWB distribution disk is **SYSCON**, but you can use any name. You can create different FWB configurations on different configuration data files each with a different file name. After loading the configuration file, you press **E** (edit) change the configuration data and display the third window. From here you bring up fourth series of windows where much of the configuration actually occurs.

LOADING WINDOW: Boot Tracking toggles between **ON** and **OFF** by pressing **B**. Usually it is left **ON** unless FWB is installed on a hardisk. In that case, the authors suggest it is sometimes best to leave boot tracking **OFF**. If the files loaded by FWB's central menus are in different drives (or hardisks) these drive numbers are specified next to "II-Writer side" and "Edit/Assm side". The "Working Drive" is the default drive number that appears after **"DSK"** if the mailbox workfile name is empty when you **LF** from the editor or use the formatter.

DEVICES WINDOW: Printer names are self explanatory. "Object File" name is the default that appears on the screen next to **DSKx**. when you select **LOADERS** from the Edit/Assm central menu and try to load a **D/FBO** assembly file. I have "Object File" name configured as **"DF/BOFILE"** to remind me that only this type of file can be loaded from certain parts of **LOADERS**. "Work File" is the default file name used the first time you **LF**. It is best to leave this blank as it is on the distribution disk. If "Work File" is left blank, you can exit FWB, go through the title screen and do something in **BASIC** without turning off the **PE** box, return to FWB and find the previous workfile name still there when you **LF**. "Program" is the default displayed on the screen when you use the **LOADERS** menu to load assembly **PROGRAM** files. The ability to set "Object File" and "Program" defaults is a feature new to FWB v4.1.

COLOR WINDOW: Here you can edit and view your choice of 10 co or combinations. You can alternate between two sets of such combinations. The one listed at the top of the list is the combination that appears first when you boot FWB.

MENU WINDOW: This choice allows you to configure items 4-7 in each of the central menus.

you can configure autostarting **D/FBO** assembly files or assembly **PROGRAM** files. Each file name is limited to two characters and should either be on the boot disk in the either one of the two central menu drive numbers specified above in the **LOADING MENU**. Press **BACK** to exit this part of the configuration process.

XB LIST AND UL LIST CONFIGURATION: These are both done in a similar manner. First **F** (Fetch) the list by pressing **"F"**. Then press **N** (Next) or **B** (Back) to select the item to be configured and press **E** (edit) to change that item. Press **(ENTER)** to go from menu to menu in the editing process. When asked for the "Secondary" this refers to the drive number specified in the devices window for the **E/A** central menu files. If you ask for a "Reminder", FWB will display the message **INSERT UTILITY DISK** when you attempt to boot the configured program from a FWB menu. When **XB List** or **UL List** configuration is finished (and **S** (save) in the case of **UL List**), press **BACK** to return to the third window.

THE FINAL CONFIGURATION STEPS: Press **BACK** several times to return to the second window and then press **S** (save) to save the modified **SYSCON** configuration data file back to disk for later use. Then press **BACK**, and from the first window press **I** (install) to install the configuration data into the **LOAD** and **UTIL1** files. Follow the prompts. An alternate name for the **UTIL1** file is **FW** and you can use this name if you want. The alternate name used to be **RELOAD** in earlier versions of FWB, but this name is too long to use with current **Horizon Hardisk Menu** software. It is necessary to save the configuration data to **BOTH** the **LOAD** and the **FW/UTIL1** files, so cycle through the installation process twice. Then press **BACK** a couple of times to return to the first window and press **B** (quit) to return to FWB. If you exit configuration with **B** (quit) you will not immediately see your new configurations. It is necessary to reboot FWB from the beginning for the new configurations to appear on screen.

UL LIST SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Immediately after configuring a **USER LIST** and before pressing **BACK** to return to the third window it is necessary to **S** (save) the configuration to the **USER LIST**, since this user list data is **NOT** saved as part of the configuration data file. When you return to the third window your **USER LIST** data may be lost. You may create as many **USER LISTS** as you want, each under different names. These lists can be loaded from the **USER LIST**, or they can be loaded from the

central menus. DISK UTILITIES from the TI-writer central menu is a special user list file named DS, and can be configured from the "UL List" option of the third configuration window. If you come across a more recent release of FMB v4.1 you can use your previously configured user lists (files UL, DS, and any of your own user list files) unmodified with the more recent release. You don't have to configure your user lists all over again. I hope it will be possible to use unmodified v4.1 user lists in future versions of FMB (v4.2 etc) as well. Unfortunately the FMB authors state that v4.0 and earlier user lists are not guaranteed to be compatible with v4.1.

NEW FEATURES IN QUICK DIRECTORY:

You can now mark ANY file in QUICK DIRECTORY, invoked by AID from most places in FMB. If the marked file reads PROGRAM, then its name will appear on screen as the default when you load an assembly language PROGRAM file from items 1-3 of the LOADERS menu. If the marked file is D/FBO, then it will show up on screen as the default when you load assembly object code from items 4-7 of the LOADERS menu. The ability to mark files from QUICK DIRECTORY for the LOADERS menu is new to v4.1. Any file may be marked for deletion, and after deletion the sector count and file name list displayed on screen by QUICK DIRECTORY are immediately updated. The ability to delete from QD and immediate updating in both QD and SD (from the editor) are new to v4.1. I consider all the new features described in this paragraph to be very useful.

Other changes in QD include the ability to unmark a workfile name as Q(id) and revert back to the previous workfile name. In v4.0 you could only do this by using SD from the editor. The N(next) and B(ack) keys are now used to page through the alphabetical list of file names in QD rather than SHIFT/CTRL as in v4.0. This change makes QD consistent with other sections of FMB v4.1 since "N" and "B" are commonly used to move forward or backward, particularly in configuration.

DM1000 CHANGES:

The FMB authors include their own modifications of DM1000 v3.5 as part of the FMB package. (PLEASE NOTE: DM1000 is fairware, and if you use FMB you should not only send a fairware donation to the FMB authors, you should ALSO send a fairware donation to the Ottawa User Group for the use of DM1000.) V3.5 is the last source code sent directly to the FMB authors by the Ottawa UG and this is why the FMB authors have

modifications on this rather than a later version. FMB co-author Tony McGovern writes me that he believes his modified v3.5 will do everything that DM1000 v4.0 will do except line by line scrolling with V(iew). Tony has given DM1000 the squeeze job, and the result is that FMB's modified v3.5 files are smaller than the original v3.5 and much smaller than DM1000 v4.0.

The most important feature of FMB's DM1000 is that it formats disks at 18 sectors per track in DD mode with a Myarc disk controller. Bugs in T(ype), P(rint), and C(opy) have been fixed, and you can now use 3 digit printer entry codes. Horizon Hardisks at high CRU addresses are fully supported except for initialization during Disk Copy.

OTHER FEATURES NEW TO FMB v4.1:

The formatter may now have 4 disk files open at the same time. From the assembler the object file name is passed back to the object file parts of the LOADERS menu and appears as the on screen default for immediate loading.

The keyboard control of DISK PATCH has been augmented to make it consistent with John Birdwell's DISK UTILITIES. The DISK PATCH title screen tells you that you can use the "original" keys (this means the keys that worked with FMB v4.0, which aren't quite the original DISK keys) and an alternate set of key presses that corresponds to the keys used to control DISK UTILITIES (Ctrl/H for Hex display, Ctrl/N for next sector, Ctrl/W for write to sector, etc). If you are familiar with the keyboard controls of DISK UTILITIES you will have no trouble using FMB's DISK PATCH.

FINAL CONCLUSIONS:

In my opinion everyone who does serious disk based work with the 99/4A should be using FMB. If you don't have it, check your user group's library. User groups, not individuals, may obtain FUNNELWEB mailer to the Lima User Group, P.O. Box 647, Venedocia OH 45894.

HUG LIBRARY CATALOG ADDENDUM
September 1988

0254 SEGREGATIONIB**

A great game by Chris Lang. Donation is requested. The object of the game is to put all of the puzzle pieces back together as quickly as possible. 119 sectors

0255 ROBOT RAMPAGEEA/5 Joysticks reqd.**

A cute "Fairware" game by Jim Beck written in C99. 81 sectors

0256 PHETAEA/5 Joysticks reqd.**

A "Fairware" program by Jeff Bunting. Try to make your way through the maze. 106 sectors

0257 DOTSIB**

A cute connect-the-dots game by Tom Moran. 19 sectors

1332 MYART PICTURESGENEVE**

Several pictures to be used with MYART for the Geneve. 192 sectors

1333 LINESGENEVE**

A greatly enhanced version of the LINES program supplied on the Mini Memory cartridge. "Fairware" by Michael Riccio. 28 sectors

1334 MOUSEIB**

A program by J. Peter Hoddie that will allow you to use your mouse in IB. 36 sectors

1335 GIPEIRGENEVE**

A program by Paul Charlton similar to MAX-RLE for the Geneve. Comes complete with pictures and docs. Over 3000 sectors for complete set.

4050 ORPHANED COMPUTERIB**

A cute disk made for the TI 99/4A that will keep you laughing. 104 sectors

6036 NY-WORD LOADERSGENEVE**

A pair of loaders that will simplify working with NY-WORD. 22 sectors

6037 MOREGENEVE**

A file typing utility that will display a file whose name is passed on the command line. The file will be displayed in 22 line segments. Written by Dave Ramsey. 87 sectors

7062 RAM TO DISKIB**

A "Freeware" program by James Schroder that works on systems with Corcomp Controllers. This program copies the data on Ramdisk at CRU>1000 to disk one and disk two non-stop. 66 sectors

7063 DIRECTORY LISTERGENEVE**

A nice directory lister made for the Geneve. 42 sectors

7064 DISK LIBRARY PLUS V 2.0 Printer required

A utility program to be used with Creative Filing System that will help you catalog your disk library. Donation requested. 43 sectors

7065 CATALOG PRINTERIB Printer required**

A nice catalog printer with many features. 43 sectors

7066 D.C.L.P.IB Printer required**
A "Fairware" catalog and printer program from Canada. Prints catalogs and disk labels. An excellent program by Archie D. Fritz. Comes with complete documentation. 183 sectors

7067 FUN FOLDER V 2.0IB Printer required**
A great program by Chris Lang that prints its own disk envelopes. 351 sectors

7068 QUAD LISTER V 4.1IB Printer required**
A "Fairware" program by Herman Niewendaal that will catalog and print up to 4 disk catalogs side by side. 185 sectors

9030 NOT MY TERMGENEVE**
A terminal program for the Geneve. 47 sectors

9039 FAST-TERM AUTO DIALER V 2.3IB**
The new version of Auto Dialer from John Birdwell. Will work on TI or Geneve. Has many added features. 50 sectors

10096 RANDISK 800GENEVE**
A program by James Schroder that will allow you to get 800K from the 1 MEG Horizon Ram Disk. Comes with complete documentation. Donation requested. 34 sectors

10097 HRD NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTSGENEVE**
A program modified for use with the Horizon Ram Disk. This program will run a series of tests on your Ram Disk. 126 sectors

10098 MDOS EQUATESGENEVE**
A set of equate files for MDOS. They are an aid for programming in assembly language. Program from Al Beard. 86 sectors

10099 LOAD HARD DRIVE RAM OPERATING SYSTEMGENEVE**
This program will allow the user to load an operating system on the HRD from MDOS mode of the Geneve. It will also move the System/Sys file to your Ram Disk. 465 sectors

10100 DEMOSGENEVE**
A debugger that can be used under MDOS. Program from Al Beard. 16 sectors

10101 GENEVE FILESGENEVE**
Several files by Clint Pulley to restore color on a composite monitor and an EA/3 loader. 81 sectors

10102 DISK UTILITY PROGRAMSIB**
A set of programs from Rag Software that will do many things including transferring a disk to a cassette without stopping. 176 sectors

10103 SUPER SPACE MENU LOADERSUPER SPACE CARTRIDGE**
A menu loader to be used with Super Space. 264 sectors

10104 SUPER CPLGENEVE**
A modified GPL system for the Geneve by Edward Hallett. 708 sectors

11016 SUPER MAILIB Printer required**
A good mailing list program by Henry J. Beck. Has many useful features. 85 sectors

11017 U N D B DEMOPR BASE Printer required**
A data base from JUG to be used with PR Base (included) for indexing newspaper articles.
REQUIRES 7 SSSD DISKS

TI-BASE
review continued
by Jerry Keisler

COMMANDS

--STATUS--

DATDISK, PRGDISK, PRINTER, LINE,
PAGE, HEADING, TALK, SPACES, RECNUM,
LSPACE, DATE

--DOT PROMPT--

APPEND, APPEND BLANK, BOTTOM, CLEAR,
CLOSE, CREATE, DISPLAY, DISPLAY STATUS,
DISPLAY STRUCTURE, DO, EDIT, EJECT,
FIND, LOCAL, MODIFY, MODIFY STRUCTURE,
MOVE, PACK, PRINT, QUIT, READ, RECALL,
REPLACE, SCROLL, SELECT, SET, SORT, TOP,
USE, WRITE

--USE ONLY IN COMMAND FILE--

BREAK, CASE, DOCASE, ELSE, ENDCASE,
ENDIF, ENDMORE, IF, RETURN, WAIT, WHILE

--REQUIRES PROGRAM DISK--

CATALOG, CHANGE, COLOR, COPY, DELETE,
FORMAT, RECOVER

--OTHER INFORMATION--

+ * / * SQR LOG ALOG SIN COS TAN
ATAM < > <> = ^ .NOT. .AND. .OR. ;
TRIM

To build a data base you must first
CREATE it. In creating it you specify
field names, field sizes and field
types. Then you input information using
APPEND. Once the initial information is
secure in the data base, you use the USE
command to open the data base. APPEND,
EDIT and READ are used to update and
correct the data base. DISPLAY, WRITE
and PRINT are used to retrieve
information from the data base.

The other commands allows you to work
with the data base and perform disk
fuctions.

There are four types of data base
files. A suffix identifies each file.
/C indicates a COMMAND file. /D
indicates a data base. /S indicates a
structure file for a data base. No
suffix are the TI-BASE program files.

Let's create the data base NAMES/C.

If you have a one drive system put a
formatted disk in drive one after
TI-BASE is loaded. Type SET DATDISK
DSK1. to tell TI-BASE to look in drive
one for all data files and command
files.

Before building a data base you must

know the number of fields, type of
fields (numeric, character or date) and
size of each field. If you build a data
base and later change the above known as
STRUCTURE you can lose the data. To
start a data base called NAMES type at
the dot prompt CREATE NAMES. The first
field appears. Let's call it FIRST and
make it a character (C) field with (15)
spaces.

The second field is LAST (C) with
(15) spaces. The third field is NR (N)
with (3) spaces and (0) places after the
decimal. This is all that will be
entered in the NAMES data base so press
EXECUTE which is FCTN/8. You are then
asked if you want to input data at this
time. Answer (Y).

You then fill in the fields using all
upper case (This is important when
FINDing things in data bases as they are
case sensitive). The first few fields
are:

REC	LAST	FIRST	NR
0000	KEISLER	JERRY	001
0001	SKIDMORE	ROBERT	002
0002	BARACKMAN	STEPHEN	003
0003	TRIBBEY	BILL	004
0004	BOWMAN	THOMAS	005

FCTN/9 will terminate data entry. To
add more data, type APPEND. The same
data entry screen will appear and you
can add data. If you want to edit data
type EDIT. If you know the record you
want to edit, type EDIT (n) where n is
the record number to be edited. When
you are thru with the data base type
CLOSE. To leave the program type QUIT.
It is important to use CLOSE and QUIT or
you may lose a data base. This is the
same with the similar DBASE used on IBM.

We now have a small data base called
NAMES. The disk will have two files on
it. NAMES/D contains the data and
NAMES/S contains the data base
structure. To use the data base type
USE NAMES at the dot prompt. You will
see NAMES and 000/005 on the status line
at the bottom of the screen. To scroll
the file on screen type DISPLAY ALL.
Pressing the space bar will stop any
computer processing. Pressing the
letter "S" will resume processing. To
display one record type DISPLAY (n)
where n is the record number. You do
not have to display all the fields. You
can display any fields in any order.

DISPLAY ALL LAST, FIRST will display all
records showing only last and first name
in that order. Display by itself will
show the current record. If you want to
sent the output to the printer use PRINT
in place of DISPLAY. If you want to see
the data base structure type DISPLAY
STRUCTURE. When you are thru remember
to type CLOSE, then type QUIT.

The NR field is a unique number that
can relate the NAMES data base with
other data bases that contain
information about the name such as
address and phone number.

As you are only allowed 15 fields per
data base, you may have to relate two or
more data bases to increase the number
of fields. Next month we will learn how
to relate data bases and write command
files. Command files allow you to
output the data anyway you want.

TI-BASE TIPS

by Jerry Keisler

Complete records are stored to a
sector until another complete record
will not fit. The next record is stored
to the next sector. To put more records
on a disk divide the total record size
into 256. The whole number is the
number of records per sector. The
remainder is the wasted space. Example:
The NAMES data base has a record size of
33. That's FIRST=15 LAST=15 NR=3 for a
total of 33. $256/33=7r25$. So 7 records
are stored per sector and 25 bytes are
wasted per sector.

TEXTMENTS SETS TI-BASE AID

MICROpendium July 1988

Steve Lamberti, President of
Textaments, says there will be addon
companion products for TI-BASE. An
immediate need exists for predefined
command files to allow novice users to
use TI-BASE without having to learn the
program language. Steve says users are
encouraged to submit original templates
to Textaments for inclusion in future
companion products. Only submissions on
disks will be accepted. None will be
used without the author's express
consent. A bi-monthly TI-BASE
newsletter is also being considered.

Printed from the Paris, Texas 99ers N/L, Aug 88

Short 'starter' list of 4A Re-prints articles, available via
HUB Re-prints c/o K. Lumpkin

10910 High Knob Dr; Houston TX 77065

please send a SASE +\$.50 or just three stamps, for each 5 pages:

- 1) 32k IN THE CONSOLE (Willforth) 5 pages
- 2) 32k ON THE 16-bit BUS (Clulow/Ballman) 4pp.
- 3) 32k SINGLE-CHIP IN CONSOLE (Joe Spiegel) 2pp.
- 4) X-Basic INSIDE CONSOLE (Willforth) 1p.
- 5) PEB BOX DUAL DISK POWER SUPPLY (Bill Keller) 4 pp.
- 6) LIST OF BOOKS ON 99/4A (Traver/Boston Comp. Soc) 6 pp
- 7) SPEECH SYNTHESIZER into CONSOLE AND INTO PEB
(Speigel/Willforth) 3pp.
- 8) Clock-Calendar for Proto Board / for PEB (Willforth) 3pp

More to be added next month on a revised/expanded list. tks

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Your Used Computer Store

Good Old Days for 4A Info, by Jack Sughrue

gives some very precise, easy-to-follow photographs and enlargements that make the process very logical, very clear, and - even to a non-techie like myself - very unfrighteningly practical.

It's one thing to see drawings (which are also in the magazine), but it's quite another to have step-by-step photographs of the entire process.

These magazines are jam-packed with all kinds of stuff that you don't find in MICROpendium, ASGARD NEWS, or - because of the nature of the zine - Genial TRAVELER.

Bruce supplies the reader with all kinds of inside information on a large variety of things for us 99ers. Lots of prices of things. Lots of addresses. Lots of reviews. Lots of programs.

It's a one-man operation at this point, and each issue gets better and better.

Bruce has promised to continue this magazine through at least one year's subscription. And hardcopies of all past issues will be available through 1988 with each subscription. The disk versions will continue to be available, I assume, for a long time to come. Newsletter editors may be interested in getting this version for an excellent source of some interesting material.

Bruce says of his excellent efforts, "A lot of thought went into the pricing of Tid Bits. We were keeping in mind that the TI community has been shafted too many times. Therefore, we set a break-even factor projected to December 1988. If we should pick up a sponsor or advertiser throughout the year, those funds would be used to lure a TI Brain to produce unique articles for us." [I'm available, Bruce.]

"We are committed to 1988 and are cautiously optimistically looking to 1989. If the world doesn't end or the TI community completely collapse we project some kind of survival into 1989 and beyond."

HUB NEWSLETTER

c/o Richard Lumpkin
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