



U-G-dings



from New-UG/North

August 1988

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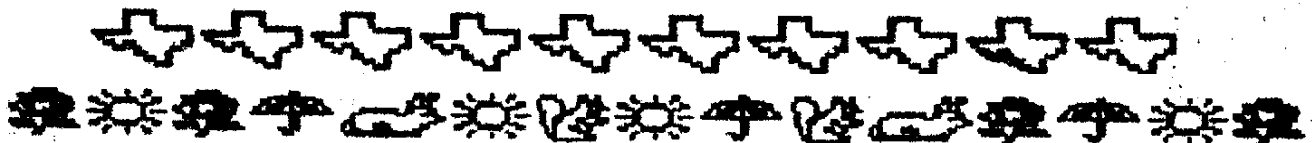
Secretary...Jim Ott..... 790-6052

Editor...Henry Hein...607-988-7789

Librarian.Andy Westner..967-9154

NEXT MEETING: August 16th, Bergenfield Public Library 7-8:45 P.M.

Motto: We are a family enjoying the unspeakable peace and freedom of being orphans. (Paraphrased from George Bernard Shaw)



The heat is on!

Beware of Greeks bearing gifts!



New Jersey UG/North
P.O. Box 84
Dumont, NJ 07628

Dallas II Computer UG*
PO. Box 29863
Dallas, TX 75229

User Groups: Please Reciprocate!

TI-dings from NewJUS/North
P.O. Box 84
Bumont, NJ 07628
August, 1988

EDITOR: Henry Mein
RD 81 Box 343 A
Otisco, NY 13825
607-988-7709

Meeting Notes:
via Phone w/Jim Ott
edited by Henry

The last meeting was attended by ten members, probably because of the heat and/or vacations taken by some. Even the treasurer was away cooling it on Cape Cod. Discussions on the new FBMWEB versions were held along with a presentation of TELCOM and computer communications. The next meeting will feature discussions/demos on PICAGO! and the use of SPELLCHECK with TIM. Hope all's well with these demos. Remember that we are limited in time in these summer meetings at the Bergenfield library so try to be prompt. Wish I could join you, EB.

Jim passed along to me the schedule of meetings during the next academic year. They will be held at the Bumont High School Faculty lounge on the following dates:

September 20
October 18
November 15
December 20
January 17
February 18
March 21 (That's near TICOFF time!)
April 25
May 16

Please mark your calendars! I may forget to insert the dates from time to time. The meetings will, or should be, at the same time as usual. I hope we, as a club, will survive the year and blues, stay active, and continue flying merrily into the future! Could some of us reach out to former members and show them what the increased capabilities of our humble beastie due to the cooperation of support from far and near?

We could use more membership and show that our beastie is alive and well.

RANblings
by Henry

This and following newsletters I will attempt to include a few tutorials on the use of TIM in any version you may own. I'll try to make step by step instructions taking you through writing simple letters, essays, or almost any kind of document you wish. If you have questions please write via disk. If you

have a particular question let everyone know by doing this. If personal, let me suggest some formatting techniques and commands to use.

Despite the heat and drought this month has been quite grueling for me. The corn in the garden is knee high and already tassled. For some strange reason my tomatoes are gigantic and ripe. My leafy greens are fantastic. Wonders never cease!

I'm not running a motel here and I think I could, if I wanted to, rival the local Holiday Inn with the visitors that come. Yep, they're only friends and relatives from my old stamping grounds in Jersey. I do invite anyone in the club to drop in on an overnighter. Just bring a bundle of disks to be filled with goodies and treat me to a dinner in return. No hassle. We got beds. Just make an appointment. If possible, AVDIB weekends!

Currently there is a county fair I'm involved with. Nearby (about 30 miles) there is the baseball Hall of Fame museum and famed Farmer's Museum, Howe Caverns, and the Oneonta International Soccer Hall of Fame just 12 miles away. Lot's of 'sites' to see. Lot's of campsites, too, for the hardy.

Surprisingly our county fair does not feature computers. Farm machinery, satellite dish systems, animals of all sorts, crafts, and arts are significantly displayed, along with many entertainment features. If you think of only yoke! stuff, you're in for surprises. It's really country charm interspersed with sophisticated tech. One thing I don't want to see disappear is the exhibits of the many kinds of farm animals. Though the horse is almost a vanishing breed on farms some equestrians hold on to heritages of their fine draft steeds by displaying them at the fairs yearly, and demonstrating their abilities employed many years ago. It is a sight to see.

It is leatherstocking country, the same romanticized by author James Fenimore Cooper. Even the native Americans of these parts, well integrated here, show off their pride in fair exhibits and occasional powwows.

Enough for this travelog. Come and see!

On September 18 there will be a computer fair in Albany's Thruway House Motel. Here's where I get software and supplies for my doings. Well, not necessarily for my TI, but for satisfying my curiosity about the latest in other computers' technologies. Other shows are too far for me to venture. I hate driving! This ML may not get to you in time to mention the Rockland County Computer fair at Suffern's Holiday Inn on August 14th.

That's an almost 3 hour trip for me. Meanwhile, I'm tinkering with a borrowed TI PRO Portable with some of my library of IBM programs. Only a few work but it seems to copy every disk well. If anyone interested in my IBM library let me know. I wrote about some of the programs in recent MLs. How about you John B. and Jim L?

A TI Writer Tutorial
by Henry

It's August! It's awesome! It's magnificent! It's fun! It's tooling up this beastie again with some helpful tools for TI Writer.

In the last ML I expressed some hint of a future tutorial on this magnificent WP. Here is my try.

For the uninitiated and novice a good foundation of typing skills is a basic requirement. There are many programs available to help one become an expert in a matter of a few hours or days of periodic practice. You can even borrow a book from the public library. The most important section of typing skills books is on learning the 'home-position.' Once you learned that, and it IS easy, you've got it made for the rest of the way. Use the exercises with TIM and plod!

For this tutorial the F/n C/n refer to the FUNCTION KEYS and CONTROL KEYS followed by SIMULTANEOUS number or character. DON'T use the SLASH for anything! It's just an abbreviation I'm making up! If there's NO slash, you just type the character indicated. Other simultaneous conditions could be in getting the CAPITALS or symbols, if any, for special character commands.

Now, how could you set up your TIM text screen so you don't jump from window to window? Easy, just go to the command line by hitting F19 (that's Function 9 for short.) Hit the arrow key F10 until you hit the marker 30 and press F for your right margin. Hit Enter and type your entry way. After your practice session you can save what you did or just forget about it and shut down.

This little exercise of tactile skill can help take you on a road to typing success in less time; it could take you to learn all the tricks one can use in learning the TIM. By the way, you just learned one, that is, eliminating the bothersome windowing. With this overcome you can easily go on to the next step of writing a letter or document.

Let's try a letter.

First, keep in mind the size of the letter. If it is short you'd like to stretch the text to fill the page as much as possible. Your printer, daisy wheel or DH type, has several type faces which can be used. Usually PICA, or 10

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characters per inch, would be used. You have 80 characters per line to print out but you DO want margins. So, start off by setting a left and right margin to your liking. It can be changed again and again to your liking after each printing or before you go to print. It's just a simple matter of eaking up your mind.

Let's set up margins, and formatting codes for the printer. On the first blank line on the screen start off with:
.LN 5;RM 74;F1;AD

Remember! The first formatting command on each line must be preceded by a period, while the rest by a semicolon. Your left margin is now set 5 spaces in and right margin also. This gives you 70 characters per line of printout. The F1 and AD commands are to box all your text in to be squared off uniformly without jagged lines that are normal for typewriter use. You want the text filled and right margin Adjusted for each line.

Next, set your letterhead by centering it. This can be done easily by starting the next line with .CE 5 and hitting Enter.

Your name
Your address
Your city/zip
Your phone #
The date

Now, don't type and try to center these yourself! Your computer will tell the printer to do it for you. The CE 5 tells the printer to center the five characters typed. On the next line type .LB 2;in v

If the letter is short you may want to double space each line after the letterhead. To stretch it out, and maybe reform margins to get a 40 character line. The numbers to use in the LN and RM have to be changed to do this and can be done anytime before printing. Cut the LB 2 (line space 2) should be inserted BEFORE the Dear Sir, or Dear Mary (salutational) line. After doing that, type in your calculations. If a business letter, type in the name, address, etc., before the .LS 2;in 7

This is to ensure that you register the text in the computer disk in case you lose the address, state you're copying the address from.

Now type at your pleasure!

At the closing use carets across the line 50 times (just keep the key pressed to run over into the next line about five spaces in and type Yours Truly, or whatever. Hit enter twice for a four space signature feed, and do the same caret trick followed by typing your name. Now you should have a professional looking letter, especially if you have a MLD setting on your printer set. If you don't have MLD you

can, to some degree, compensate for a double strike command which can be accessed by most Epson compatible printers by inserting this command before your first formatting commands: Hit the Control and U keys simultaneously, Function R simultaneously, Control U again, and just the letter S (capital), and Enter. You can do the insertion by going up to the beginning of line 1, hit function 2, and type the control codes. You can do the same by going to the beginning of line 1, and hit control B or function B instead and type the control codes for doublestriking.

Our May and June ML listed a lot of control codes for Epson/Star compatible printers used with TIM. There are lots of tricks here, and we can thank the Pittsburgh CG for listing them for everyone.

Suppose your letter is long. If so, and you'd like to confine your text to one or two pages, you can opt for core characters/line by using 'elite' type, which enables 12 cpi, thus more words per line. Keeping double spacing is a good idea but not necessary. Separating paragraphs with a blank line is another option. To use elite type you should change margins since they can produce a 46 character line. For a one inch left margin add one-half inch by changing the .LN 5 to .LN 6; and RM 90; for the right margin with other formatting commands intact. To access the elite print capability of your printer, assuming it is an Epson type, change your first line printing control characters to C/U F/R C/U B C/U Shift B F/R C/U 6 and Enter. Check your printer manual if you have another printer for the B and 6 settings. The others should remain the same. We can indent paragraphs a little further by choosing a +8. These hints may squeeze or stretch text on a single page and still look professionally done.

Some printers may produce MLD by changing the dip switch or from a code accessible by a address panel. In some cases your printer may not accept the downloaded formatting commands in MLD mode, and others will. Try it out. Go for my new M2 1000 will but the old 55-10 won't. In neither case will a daisy wheel printer accept them except for double striking. You must set your margins on the daisy wheel printer manually before you print anything out.

Oh, so you are in a 40 column screen mode when you typed in your text! You CAN judge the length of your letter on a printed page. It's not easy but a good guess is better than none. Your text will be printed out in 50 lines per page including blank ones. Check the line numbers on the screen, divide by 1.75 in 80 column code printouts, and 2.15 in 96

column printouts. These are not constant, there are a number of other factors involved and a good guess is in this range. With the abundance of cheap calculators it should be easy to make a rough calculation.

Printing documents, such as essays, term papers, letters to editors, etc., require other protocols in formatting which I'll go into next month should you like me to continue tutoring. Also, special characters such as italics, super and subscripts, expanded, bold, etc., will be featured. You've all seen many .TL (transliterate) command listings and they may be further explained in future tutorials. It's strange that all these features of TIM are not found in almost all other word processors made for non-TI computers. They really enhance word processing to the fullest. It's just a shame that the memory bank of this computer is limited. But that does not diminish its output capacity with the help of another command we have at our fingertips. That is the .IF (include file) command. Should you run out of memory while typing a text (the computer will tell you) just erase the last line and type .IF filename, Enter, and save your text immediately, giving it a name like TEXT1, and start a new file immediately with the filename TEXT2 or whatever. Happy writing!

dBase II for TI?

Computer Shopper announced a new data base for our humble TI/II called TI-2056. Released by TEXAMENTS, 53 Center Street, Patchogue NY, 11772. Phone 516-475-3400. The reviewers, Ron Albright and Jonathan Zittrain, say it that "TI users have a full-featured dBase act-alike." It comes with both tutorial and program disks, an overlay strip, 36-page manual, and M2 copy protected. It allows for up to 17 fields of data on each file, can do number crunching, to keep track of accounts, etc., and uses 49 commands similar to dBase II users for other computers. The reviewer praises the programmer, whoever it is, for being able to squeeze every byte available in our TI 99/4a. A job like this is hard to come by considering the huge program dBase II is for IBM and its clones. Also, 5 data banks can be opened at once for a simulated "relational" interchange of data from one bank to another. Only \$24.95 plus \$2.50 for S/H. Sounds good, but can reports be formatted for D/V 80 Word Processing Files? Will await mention of it in other reviews. This, I feel, is very important, and express this concern. Why? Read my column of a few months back on the voracity of DV 80.

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MULTIPLAN

By Audrey Bucher
Part 6

This article will deal with the Name Command. This command assigns a name to a cell or an area of cells. The name may then be used to refer to that cell or area in a command or formula.

NAME:define names
to refer to:

Enter name

This is the command line you will use when you select the Name command. The proposed response for the "define name" field is either blank or text. If the cell pointer is on a cell that contains text, MP proposes that text as the name to be defined. This makes it easy to convert a row or column title into a name. For instance in our checkbook example, if the cell pointer is on R3C4, MP would propose Food as the name. Text used as Titles and Names are very different and should not be confused. However, it will be easier to read your formulas if the names in them correspond to the visible titles on your worksheet. I must admit, I am always looking for ways to save keystrokes, so I would name my columns with the first letter of the title, such as F or R. To change the response, simply type the new response. Now tab over to the next field "to refer to". The proposed response here is either the active cell, or, if the last name defined was a vector (portion of a row or column), the name vector shifts to the active row or column. This feature makes defining parallel groups a simple task. If the name you enter is already defined, after you press Tab, the proposed response in the "to refer to" field will show the current definition.

For now, let's define the area for Food or F as R3:R4C4. Using the arrow key, move the cell pointer to the next column, R3C5 (Rent). Notice, the "refer to" field already has R3:R4C5 proposed, as the previous name defined was a vector. This really makes it easy. Now just go along and name the remaining columns. You may also want to name columns 1 and 2 as this will make it easier to get around the spreadsheet with the GoTo command.

Named cells are very easy to locate by using the GoTo command. Press G for GoTo and N or enter for Name. You may use the direction keys to step through the list

of names. When the name you want appears, press enter and the cell pointer will go to the first cell in the names area...to the leftmost cell if the area is a row, to the uppermost cell if it is a column and to the left uppermost cell if it is a block of cells. Now here's a secret that I can't find in the manual. I learned this from the User Notes in the January 1987 issue of Micropendium. (Thanks to Dave Erickson of San Jose). Suppose you enter check number 1234 in column 1, right arrow and type Duq Light in the next column. Now you want the entry to go in the Utility column. Hit G for GoTo, Enter for name and type in Utilities, followed by a space and the letter R. The cell pointer will go to the Utility column in the same row instead of the uppermost cell. I would have named that column U so it is very simple to type U (sp) R and I'm exactly where I want to be. You may also use this technique with NAMEd rows replacing the R with a C. MP recognizes lowercase entries equally with upper case entries so it isn't necessary to use the shift or alpha lock keys in the name areas.

Names may be up to 31 characters long and must begin with a letter, but the rest of the characters may be any combination of letters, numbers, the period or the underscore. Illegal characters are ignored and underscores are substituted for blanks embedded in text strings. So if you left column 2 as Paid To, it will actually be Paid_To in the Name area.

To see the names that have been defined, select the name command and use the direction keys to display each defined name and it's definition in the command fields.

To change the definition of a name after viewing it, use the edit keys to alter the response in the "refer to" field and press enter.

Names may be deleted by making them refer to no area. Example...enter the name in the "define name" field, tab to the "refer to" field, delete the response and press Enter.

Names are also useful for building formulas but we'll save that for another time.

The last thing I would like you to do at this time is to name the area, R16C4:16, as January and next month, we'll see how we can use this with the External Copy command for another worksheet that we will call Expenses for 1988.

Don't forget to save your worksheet now.

CHECKS FOR JANUARY 1988

CHECK #	PAID TO	DEPOSIT	FERS	RENT	UTILITIES	INSURANCE	CHARGES	AUTO	MISC	BALANCE
	FORWARD									1000.00
1234	AUG LIGHT				45.00					955.00
1235	NELL BANK		400.00							555.00
	DEPOSIT	245.00								800.00
1236	STATE FARM					130.00				670.00
1237	B TABLE		63.25							606.75
1238	HISTERGARD						87.72	11.00		519.03
1239	MANCO							20.11		498.92
1240	BELL TEL				51.16					447.76
1241	FOODLINE		35.70							412.06
	DEPOSIT	380.00								792.06
TOTAL:		625.00	435.70	400.00	116.16	130.00	87.72	29.11	0.00	

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*** TELCO TERMINAL EMULATOR ***

A new terminal emulator called TELCO TERMINAL EMULATOR has been released for the TI-99/4A and Geneve 9640. Written entirely in TMS 9900 assembly language to provide optimum performance, it contains features not found in other emulators for the TI. The program is completely menu driven from windows if you forget the key sequences necessary for a particular function, yet they are not required. You can perform most functions right from the keyboard without using the menus once you are accustomed to them. Some of the more impressive features are:

1. The ability to emulate different terminals, ie. ANSI, D410, and ADM3A.
2. An automatic dialer with 99 entries that will redial upto 15 entries. The list of phone numbers is maintained directly from the window. Included in the questions asked for each entry is the bps (upto 9600), data, and stop bits. No more changing the configuration because you want to call a bbs at 300 or 2400 How many times have you called a BBS at the wrong bit rate and were charged for a wasted call by Ma Bell, just to call it again after you reconfigured everything correctly?
3. Xmodem and ASCII transfers that are simple to do. Did you ever try to strip out the cr and lf from a DV80 file before you uploaded it to a bbs. Well TELCO will do that for you if you select it!
4. Up to 26 programmable keys called macros that you can assign upto a 36 character string that will be sent to the remote system when the key is pressed. You can even link one macro to another.
5. And of course, things like device logging, print spooling, screen dumps, and buffer reviewing are available.
6. And the feature I like the best, a status line at the bottom of the screen that tells you at a glance the bit rate, data and stop bit configuration and an onscreen clock. Full or 1/2 duplex, logging, spooling, echo status is all right there on the screen.

There are so many features built into this program that I can't really describe them all in this small space. You can change screen colors, set the character pacing rate when sending ascii files to another system, set up a hang up string for your modem, review the buffer, catalog a disk and delete a file from it! or modify protection. It even has a screen setup menu to allow such thing as moving the entire image to the right or left on the screen as many characters as you want to correct problems with a TV or monitor. It also supports the GENEVE 9640 by allowing 80 col screen displays.

I could go on but you should really get this program to see for yourself. It will be in the Library this month. It is being distributed as User Supported software and as such the author is requesting \$20.00 US for the program.

The disk contains a program called LOAD to load TELCO from Extended Basic, but it can be loaded from E/A option 5 or from the TI-Writer Module option 3. Since the program makes use of program overlays it will even use a Super cart and use the extra memory for storing up to 5 overlays at once. The normal is three. It comes with complete documentation written with TI-Writer, that is straight forward and easy to read and understand. You can order from the author.

CHARLES EARL
34 McLeod Street
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K2P 0Z5

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ARTIST FUNCTIONS

SYMBOL	FUNCTION	TYPE	USE OF ENTER/FIRE	COMMENTS
D	Draw	cmd	start/stop	
P	Point	cmd	place	hold fire down
L	Line	cmd	begin/end	
K	K-Line	cmd	begin/intermediate	
R	Rays	cmd	center/start/stop	D to exit
F	Fill	cmd	do	D to exit
V	Frame	cmd	1st corner, opp. corner	SPACE to abort
X	Box	cmd	1st corner, opp. corner	
O	Circle	cmd	center/edge	fills w/ pattern
Q	Disk	cmd	center/edge	
CTRL-A	Clear Image	cmd		fills w/ pattern
H	Hor/ Vert	cmd	begin/end	leaves color, pattern
N	Swap	cmd	new color/old color	
I	Invert	mode		
E	AlphaNumeric	cmd	Begin lower left/stop	negative image does not use fonts use CTRL x for width, FCTN x for height leaves pattern
CTRL-B	Clear Color	cmd		load/save/index pictur move with cursor cmds & reflections
S	Store	menu		
Z	Zoom	mode	select window	
M	Mirror	mode		
C	Hard Copy	menu		
FCTN--	Plot/Erase	mode		
FCTN--	Foregnd Color	cmd	change to next color	
FCTN--	Cursor Speed	mode		fast/slow toggle switch
F icon	Foreground/ Background	mode		color chosen will be foreground or backgroun
P icon	Pattern in use	mode	display next pattern	only P is solid
- icon	Color Cursor	mode		use P to clean up color borders

ENHANCEMENT FUNCTIONS

M	Move w/o Color		select top left/bottom right/place	T to check
N	Move w/ Color		select top left/bottom right/place	T to check
C	Copy w/o Color		select top left/bottom right/place	T to check
D	Copy w/ Color		select top left/bottom right/place	T to check
A	AlphaNumeric	menu	enter text/place text	SPACE to exit, T to check
S	Use a Slide		select/place	SPACE to exit
	Slides	menu		
	Define		pick box/define slide	SPACE to exit
	Erase		pick slide	SPACE to exit
	Rotate		pick slide	SPACE to exit
	Load Slide file			_S added to filename
	Save Slide file			_S added to filename
	Load Instance		enter name/place instance	T to check
	Save Instance		enter name/select top left/ bottom right	_I added to filename

keyboard cursor movement:
Horizontal/vertical--S/E/D/X
Diagonal--W/R/C/Z

From L.A. Times
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MULTIPLAN

By Audrey Bucher
Part 7

This article deals with the EXTERNAL COPY command. We are going to build a new worksheet to track your expenses for the year 1988. Following are the steps needed to build the template.

1. Turn Calc off (Q then N)
2. Change default column width to 10, using the FORMAT DEFAULT WIDTH command, as we did on the previous worksheet.
3. Change the default cell format to Fixed and the Decimal places to 2 using the FORMAT DEFAULT CELLS command.
4. Fill in the title for the worksheet. At R1C2 enter EXPENSES and at R1C3 enter FDR 1988, using the Alpha command. (You may choose to format R1C2 as continuous and enter the entire title there.)
5. Fill in the headings for the seven categories we are tracking, using the Alpha command, beginning at R3C2 (Food, Rent, Utilities, Insurance, Charges, Auto and Misc.)
6. Put a line of dashes across R4 by filling in R4C1 with 10 dashes, using the Alpha command, and then Copying Right for 7 cells.
7. Enter the months of the year, using the Alpha command in Column 1 beginning at Row 5.
8. Put a line of dashes across Row 17. (See 64)
9. Enter the word TOTALS in R18C1, using the Alpha command.
10. Enter formulas on Row 18....There are two ways to enter formulas. You may choose to use the same method as we did for the January Worksheet, eg in R18C2, type =, enter SUM (then up arrow to R3C2, type : and then use the up arrow for the last item R14C2. Finish the formula by typing). Your formula should read SUM(R1:R13)C1:R14C2. You may now copy this formula right for 4 cells. In last month's article, I mentioned that NAMES are useful for building formulas. If you choose to name each column (ex.-name R5:R6C2 as FOOD), then you may simply enter the formula SUM(FOOD) in R18C2. To do this you will need to name each column and then enter each formula separately. For this particular worksheet, I would not take the time to do this, but I wanted to give you an example of how names are used in formulas.

Now for the fun part.

Place the cell pointer at R3C2 and hit X for external. You will be presented with another menu..COPY LIST USE.

Select C for copy and you will see the following menu:
EXTERNAL COPY from sheet:

```
name:          to:R3C2
linked{Yes}No
```

This command will copy values from a group of cells on an external worksheet to the active sheet. The proposed response for the "from sheet" is the most recent supporting sheet, if you have used the command

previously. Ours will be blank. Type here the name you gave to your original worksheet. I used JAN88. Now tab over to the Name field. Remember last month I had you name the group of cells in R14C4:10 as January so you merely need to type in January here. The "to:" field is used to specify the destination of the copy on the active sheet. The proposed response is the active field (where the cell pointer is). If a single cell is specified in this field, the source group will be copied starting at that cell. If you specify a group of cells in the "to:" field, the shape of the group must correspond to the shape of the source group cell by cell, otherwise an error message will be displayed and the copy is aborted. The active sheet is then checked to see that all destination cells are blank, as an attempt to copy into a nonblank cell also results in an error message.

For now, we'll accept the default here and in "linked" so just press ENTER.

SHAZAM!! You will see a message at the bottom of your screen showing the name of the supporting sheet and the defined name of the cells copied and like magic, the values will appear in row 3. WP now records a dependency on the source sheet..Jan88, and this same sequence will occur everytime you load EXPENSE88.

If you had selected No in the "linked" field, the command merely copies the values and does not record any dependency. If the values on the source sheet are not expected to change, this would be the most convenient. As I move along in the year, I usually only link the current month.

Hopefully by now, you have made worksheets for each month. In order to track your expenses just make sure you have named the area R14C4:10 with the respective months name. Then you merely need to repeat the above procedure for each month and you will be able to see where your money goes. Very depressing at times, but fun to do.

You may want to look at the External List command now. You will see a display of the names of worksheets supporting the active sheet and those dependent on the active sheet.

The Use command merely allows the interchangeability of supporting sheets as long as the supporting sheets are arranged identically.

One final word on the External Copy command. It will not copy formulas, only the values derived from them.

Finally, you may be wondering why I left R1C1 empty. I mentioned in Part 3 that I use the TWP PRINT program, by J&B Mathis to set printer codes in order to print my worksheets in condensed print. This is where I use the External Copy command to insert that code. I then usually insert a code at the end of my worksheet to turn off the condensed print. A copy of this program is available from our library and comes complete with documentation for many kinds of printers.

Next month, we'll talk about Windows. If you have any questions feel free to call.

Don't forget to save your worksheet, EXPENSE88.

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LET'S TALK RAM DISKS PART V

By John F. Willforth (April 1988)

The MEMORY PLUS card from CORCOMP appeared on the market almost two years ago, and to date I have not seen one. I therefore was hesitant to write this article. I had to depend on an article by Scott Darling as well as information provided by Willis Richardson and the technical support at CORCOMP. I hope that it will be complete and accurate enough to merit your consideration. I have tried to be as objective as possible on all the Ram Disks reviewed.

The MEMORY PLUS comes in both a PEB unit and a stand alone unit. The stand alone unit is more flexible in that it can be used in conjunction with your 32K expansion memory, while the PEB version cannot. They both come in 256K as well as 512K sizes, again the stand alone can be configured with an added unit (two 512K units for example) and the PEB version cannot. Both units are supported by a 9V. power supply to the ram disk card to support memory when a system is powered down normally. If a total failure of the AC occurs, you will lose all files on the MEMORY PLUS. This is a common failure of any Dynamic Ram based RAM DISK.

The MEMORY PLUS comes with the Disk Manager resident on the card, this is good for two reasons, one is that you don't have to load it from a diskette, and two, it is the only one that gives you full use of the disk. The manager is called with "CALL RAMGR" for units with the newest PROM installed V. 3.1 or "CALL RMGR" with lower versions, a good way to tell what PROM you have in your MEMORY PLUS. The disk manager can initialize the disk, handle all disk and file functions as well as test the entire ram disk memory. The manager is very similar to the disk manager that comes with the Corcomp disk controller. It has some nice features, among them pressing a "T" when selecting to copy a file that is protected, will temporarily unprotect that file until the file has been copied. The resident disk manager will also work with other disk units in the system. A total of 2048 sectors is the default for a 512K and 1920 will be the limit if you wish for the 32K expansion memory to reside in this unit (required on a PEB only set-up).

A major draw back with the ram disk

is in the fact that the entire disk is called as one volume. In other words if you intend to use "TIMP" for Multi-Plan, that is the only name that can be used for that entire unit. You will have to take this into consideration if you are a user of software that is dependent on specific volume (disk) names. Many of the other ram disks do allow for multiple volume names within a single ram disk unit.

The MEMORY PLUS, according to Scott, is able to work in the system with a different ram disk present. This could be a saving grace to compensate for it not accepting more volume names. You will have to set up CRU addresses for your card, which by the way are >1000 and >1400 for the MEMORY PLUS.

The drive number can be set with the disk manager or under basic using a DELETE "SDx", where x is the drive # selected.

A lowercase with desenders is available for use by basic/xbasic simply by using a DELETE "LOWER".

There is a switch on the MEMORY PLUS which is of course located at the rear of the card (but has pins available for a remote connection) whose purpose is to assure an orderly power down of the PEB without glitching the ram disk and this switch should be used each time the PEB is powered down. A switch over of clock and flag settings will be done if this switch is pressed. I think this is a bothersome drawback.

I spoke of the Prom V. 3.1 which is available. Corcomp has corrected some problems such as a density identification problem in sector 0, and added the ability to catalog the disks to a serial, parallel port or to a disk.

The stand alone units are built by Corcomp as ordered, and any pricing should be checked with your CORCOMP dealer. CORCOMP has a good attitude of support for their products. Call them at (714) 630-2903 or write: CorComp Inc., 2211-G East Winston Road, Anaheim, CA 92807

By the way if you are still under a warranty CORCOMP will send you a new Prom and if your warranty has expired \$15 will update your MEMORY PLUS. I have used all the space available this month, so check back next month for a review of the GRAND RAM. (Hopefully).

TIGERCUB

PRETTY PLEASE, PINCH MY BEAR

AUNT SALLY RUDELY!

by Jim Peterson

My apologies to dear old Sal. That mnemonic device is usually given as just "My Dear Aunt Sally", but I expanded it a bit. It is intended to remind you of the sequence in which your computer solves an equation, which is -

- (P)arentheses
- (P)owers (exponentiation)
- (P)refixes (plus and minus)
- (M)ultiplication
- (D)ivision
- (A)ddition
- (S)ubtraction
- (R)elational operations

So what? Well, if one of your program lines isn't giving you the expected results, it may well be that you forgot to pinch Sally properly!

The computer goes through the line from left to right 5 times (I don't know if it really does, but that is the easiest way to explain it!) The first time through, it looks for a left hand parenthesis. If it finds one, it stops at the first right hand parenthesis. If it finds one but not the other, it CRASHES! When it finds a right parenthesis, it backs up leftward until it comes to the closest left hand parenthesis. It solves everything between those two parentheses, step by step in

accordance with the following priorities, and then erases those two. Then it goes through the same routine again until it finds no more parentheses.

Need a "for instance"?
OK -

```

X=(10*2)-6)+(8/4)
X=((20)-6)+(8/4)
X=(20-6)+(8/4)
X=(14)+(8/4)
X=14+(8/4)
X=14+(2)
X=14+2
X=16

```

Next it goes through the equation looking for the caret sign. That is the little ^ that tells it to multiply the preceding number by itself as many times as the following number. Example -

```

4^2 means 4 times 4
4^3 means 4 times 4 times 4

```

Then, the prefixes. That just means that, for instance, if removing the parentheses from $-(-6)$ has left you with -6 , it becomes a $+6$, of course. I suppose that ABS and BSN are also worked here.

Now, multiplication and division. These are both done in one pass through because it doesn't make any difference which is done first. $10*2/4$ is the same as $2/4$.

Next, addition and subtraction, also in one pass because $10+4-2$ is the same as $4-2+10$.

Finally, the relational operations, which had best be the subject of a separate article. And finally finally the string concatenations, but let's keep old Sal out of those.

Note that everything between a pair of parentheses is worked as a separate equation, step by step in the above sequence, before the parentheses are erased.

So, why should you need to worry about all this? Well -

```

10*4-2=38
10*(4-2)=20
10*4^3=640
(10*4)^3=64000
((10*4)^3)=....SYNTAX

```

ERROR!

Makes a difference, doesn't it?

The important things to remember are -

If you want to add two numbers together before you multiply or divide their sum, put them in parentheses $(2+3)*4$.

If you want to subtract one number from another before you multiply or divide the result, put them in parentheses $(10-4)/2$.

If you want to add, subtract, multiply or divide numbers before you increase them by any power, put them in parentheses $(10*4+8)^3$.

If you keep Sally in mind, you will have fewer bugs in your programs!

STYLE A LINE

A TINYGRAM

by Ed Nachonis

TINYGRAM: A short program which can be typed in its entirety on one screen without any program lines scrolling off the screen. (REM statements can scroll off.) Popularized, I believe, by Mike Stanfill of the Dallas TI Home Computer Group.

First of all let me make clear that this is not a novelty program. It is a work horse, provided you have the work for it. What kind of work? Do you ever have to print just a line or two, such as a page header, an article or picture title, a title for a data base printout, a credit line for a reprinted newsletter article, etc., etc. Further, would you like to print this in an Expanded Compressed Italicized Double Strike Underlined type style? Yes all the same time! If so, this program is for you.

What no printer? I will try to have something for you next month. (A TINYGRAM - NOT a printer!)

Many of you are familiar with my 10 Line basic programs, PRINTSTYLE and PRINTALINE. (Both TINYGRAMS, written before I knew the name existed.) I often use both of them in titling data base printouts or copy for the Newsletter but it got to be a pain to change between the two every time I wanted to change a type style. Finally the light dawned! Why not carry the two?

STYLE A LINE is the result of that marriage. One major revision was to change an INPUT statement in PRINTALINE to a LINPUT. No more need to enclose in quotes any text lines containing commas or leading spaces

Using LINPUT required that the program run in extended basic. After some streamlining by deletion of unneeded features from PRINTALINE and the consolidation of statements into multi-statement lines, we wound up with 9 lines of code. (After merging TWO TEN Line programs. The power of extended basic!)

Don't let its brevity fool you. You can select any of the 128 type styles available on the Epson RX-80 and many compatibles. With line spacing and margin variations, over 2000 different selections can be had. (Half line spacing and condensed superscript will let you tack on several lines of comment onto a photocopied article.)

Although there are better ways of doing it, you can even produce a right margin justified letter. (THIS is

novelty!) Using Emphasized Pic, set Left Margin at 13, and enter text. Two screen lines will print text 54 characters wide (LINPUT uses two character spaces.) Justify text by inserting spaces between words so that second line ends at screen edge. But it will NEVER replace TI-Writer!

Using the program is very easy. When RUN, a menu is displayed for programming the printer. It is always best to select "1" to clear the printer. If your printer doesn't support a master reset code, turn it off then on to clear it. Combine styles by successive selections. Select Option 10 to input text.

If you wish to change the type style, or do repeated printings of the same text, typing "???" or "xxx" will return you to the menu. Option 9 will do repeat printing of the same text and styles can be changed as required. To input new text, select Option 10 again. When in text mode, pressing ENTER with no text input will print a blank line.

Watch those commas in line 10. The next to last data item is a lower case "L", not the figure 1.

BRAIN TEASER: Where is the data to set the left margin at column 13?

```

1 ! *** STYLE A LINE ***
  a TINYGRAM by Ed Nachonis
  QB-99ers, Bayside, NY

2 DIM P$(15):: FOR I=1 TO 15
  :: READ P$(I):: NEXT I

3 OPEN #1:"PIO",VARIABLE 132

4 CALL CLEAR :: PRINT "1 PIC
A/RESET", "9 PRINT TEXT", "2
ELITE", "10 INPUT TEXT", "3 EX
PANDED", "11 SUPERSCRIP", "4
COMPRESSED", "12 SUBSCRIPT"

5 INPUT "5 EMPHASIZED 13 1/
2 LINE SP6 ITALIC 14 L
MARGIN 137 D'BLE STRIK 15 R
MARGIN 678 UNDERLINE ?":I

6 P$(9)=" &TEX$ :: PRINT #1
:CHR$(27)&P$(I):: IF I=4 THE
N PRINT #1:CHR$(27)&CHR$(15)

7 IF I<>10 THEN 4

8 PRINT "INPUT TEXT OR '???'
FOR MENU" :: LINPUT TRYS

9 IF TRYS="???" OR TRYS="xxx"
THEN 4 ELSE TEX$=TRYS :: P
RINT #1:TEX$ :: GOTO 8

10 DATA 8,M,M1,,E,A,G,-1,,,8
0,S1,1,1,DC
  
```

The 2nd word in the 2nd line originally read "listed". Using STYLE A LINE, the printed article was corrected to read "typed".