



Northern Nevada Ninety Niners



Vol.
6

OUTPOST

No.
10

DEC

Users' Group Newsletter

1990

RE M I N D E R + R E M I N D E R

E N E X T M E E T I N G E

M TUESDAY 11/22/91 M
 I 7:00 CLOCK P.M. I
 N ROUND TABLE PIZZA N
 D WEST 4th & VINE D
 E RENO, NEVADA E

R E M I N D E R + R E M I N D E R

IN THIS ISSUE!

TIPS FROM THE TIGERCUB #11

By permission of Jim Peterson - Tigercub Software.
Reprinted from CIN/DAY NEWS Jan, '87.

infoBITS

TI-9956 Announcement!

NEW-AGE/99 - SPECIAL

Courtesy: Jack Sughrue

WORD HUNT

Theme: CHRISTMAS

MAXIMS for the NINETIES!

Rules to live by.

DISKS OF THE MONTH:

GRCC & GRCD - Public domain graphics for Ron Wolcott's TIPS program.



4 N A F F A I R S !

MEETING MINUTES - 10/30/90

President Jim Nuckolls called the meeting to order at 7:17 P.M. Ten members were present.

OFFICER'S REPORT



Jim apologized to the group about his last two absences from the meetings and offered to make up for it by possibly putting together a S.I.G. on TI Print Shop, which he had an opportunity to work with recently. He passed around some labels and cards which he made using TIPS.

Treasurer, Richard Eablen, reported that the group had \$295.26 in its account.

Jerry Cohen, couldn't attend the meeting due to a change in his work schedule. Consequently the two disks of the month, SARGON and STARFORT were unavailable. However, these disks will be offered along with the November Disks of the Month.

OLD BUSINESS

Due to lack of interest by members, the TI-ZONE BBS has closed up shop.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought up for discussion.

DISK'S OF THE MONTH -

The following two disks will be offered at the next meeting:

Disk #1 & #2 -

GRCC/GRCD - Public domain graphic disks for Ron Wolcott's TIPS program, beginning with BATTER and ending with CLOUDS.



Minimum system requirements:

- * TI-99/4A console
- * 32K memory expansion
- * 1 SSSD disk drive
- * Extended BASIC module.
- * Printer.

HOTLINE.....(800)842-2737
 INFORMATION....(800)747-1882
 TECH LINE.....(806)741-2663.
 PARTS DEPT.....(806)741-2265



BINGO

The BINGO game was cancelled.



CLOSING

The formal meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Editor's Notes:

- * Item 1 - The December meeting has been cancelled.
- * Item 2 - Just received word that a friend of ours, Jeff Asenas, from the TRI-VALLEY 99'ers, was in an accident recently and is currently in the Los Robles Hospital in a coma.

Our thoughts & prayers are
 with you, Jeff...
GET WELL SOON!



- * Item 3 - A Tip of the hat to Dr. Charles Good who graciously sent our group the very latest update of Tony McGovern's FUNNELWEB, version 4.31, which includes the new 40 column version of DISK REVIEW.

Also included with it, compliments of Dr. Good, are DISK UTILITY, DM-1000, and ARCHIVER III.

Read Jack Sughrue's New Age 99 article elsewhere in this newsletter for more specifics about this program as well as some important info about the author, Tony McGovern.

If you're interested in updating your present FUNNELWEB, it will be available from the Program Library. It is a two disk set, partly archived, and is double-sided/single density.

REMEMBER... Give Tony McGovern, Barry Boone, John Birdwell, and the OTTAWA Users' Group their fair share if you find yourself using these unique programs more often than not!

Texas Instruments still supports the 99/4A. The following is a list of telephone numbers for information and parts:

The OUTPOST is compiled with Will and Tony McGovern's FUNNELWEB (V4.31), Chris Faherty's TI-ARTIST Plus, Jack Sughrue's PLUS!(V2.0), and Ron Wolcott's TI PRINT SHOP(V1.6/ER).



(The following comes to us courtesy of TICO TOPICS / Jul 90. - Ed.)

The following announcement was received by Jonathon Livingston K. from 99-N-STUFF 'PUTERS Ltd., and was downloaded from the TIEBS NORTHWEST of Seattle, Washington:

Phillip Noah Blarney, Pres.

Dear TI-99 User,

Ever since Texas Instruments thought it best to discontinue their fine product and leave us out in the cold to fend for ourselves, people like you and me have been asking for an upgrade to our miserable little machines.

Well sir, your waiting is over. Announcing the new upgrade for your TI-99... it's the TI-99SG (\$6 for Super Good)! It is, in our opinion, the best little buy that can be legally had in this country. You see, friend, my chief engineer and next door neighbor, Farley, had his kid's TI open trying to clean the cat fur from between the keys, and he looked up at me and said, "Phil, this ain't so hard to clone. Why, give us a little time and we can make one of them upgrades ourselves. If we could get it working before the next presidential election, we ought have it before them boys back east ever finish with theirs."

"You know, Farley," I replied, "you got something there." So Farley and me, we cleaned out my garage and began working on what would become the TI-99SG! But enough preachin, let's get down to brass tacks.

The 'puter is about as big as my cat, Fred, so if you

ever met Fred you probably have a good idea. Either way it's about the size of a toaster oven, with a long air conditioner cord which hooks to 220 so you can plug it in next to your dryer. And unlike the 99/4A, we put a fan in ours to keep her cool. We got the fans on sale too. Ever wonder what they do with those WWII office fans that's as big as a plate and painted that dirty grey? Well, they're just the thing to keep all this high tech stuff cool.

Let me tell you, the cabinet is a beaut. We went out and bought a lot of that cork board they have on sale over at the lumberyard, and we fashioned us this box. We then stuck some contact paper over it, shined her up with some wax and a little spit, and I'll eat spoiled milk if it don't look as good as a mantle clock polished with bacon fat. We also went down to the auto body shop and got us one of them smoked glass things all the VW's seem to have, and with a lick of the torch, we fashioned a custom dust cover. 'Course, you hve to prop her up with a pencil and a piece of postal tape, but Farley says we can throw that in without uppin the price any.

For those of you technical folks, well, we got a surprise. Farley got one of them old microwave ovens and he put together our microprocessor, the CPV3204-XOIR/PSI99x. It's about the size of a pack of cigarettes and has more wires coming out of it than a beagle has hairs on his butt. We figure that you can just hook whatever you want to whatever wire and get better results than all that Japanes dip-switching stuff.

Now, a lot of jaw-flappin's been going on about keyboards, and we came up with a great idea. Farley said we have to keep costs down, so we decided that we'd fix it so you can get one of those cheap typewriters at a rummage sale and hook it up straight away. You take the keys and you take that long little arm, and instead of hooking it to those levers, you hook it up to the little arms we have jutting out of the box, and you can use your typewriter as a keyboard. You can even use one of them electric jobs if that's your fancy. You just open up the bottom, pull off all that electrical junk and hook her up just like it was a manual job and you're all set.

We also have a RAT (Real Astonishing Thingamajig) which'll beat those "nice" paws down. Instead of having its tail going all over the floor and hooking up to the 'puter itself, we decided to go remote control. Now what you do is you lift these two little antennas which are where its ears ought to be, and then you kind of give it a thump on the back of its neck with the back end of your middlefinger. The RAT will send a signal to the 'puter, which will send a signal back. The RAT's eyes'll light up like a Christmas tree and you're ready for business. Whole thing doesn't take more than thirty seconds or so 'to do.

Of course, there's always someone yammering for compatibility. Our computer will become compatible with whatever is out there. Of course, it'll take time, and Farley figures that by the time we get it to run right, our competition will be filing chapter 11. So, we'll burn that bridge when we come to it.

Now, we have to admit that the computer isn't quite up to snuff yet. We've found that if its left on for more than five minutes, it starts a minor electrical fire, and the CPU does have a tendency to explode, which sends the RAT running in circles underneath the house. However, we feel these are negligible bugs and will be worked out by the time you read this.

In the meantime though, we've been traveling about showing off our dandy cabinet and telling good folks like yourself all about it and what it'll do when we get it working proper. And I must admit, everyone seems pleased as pie with the cabinet and say if the 'puter is as good as the cabinet looks, we'll be living in Rio this time next year.

And I thank you all for your whole-hearted support. Maybe we can drop by your user group meeting and show you our cabinet too. We also have lots of literature, such as you're reading right now, and we have a few photos of Farley and me holding up the RAT. Those always seem to do well.

Hope to see your check for the new 9956 computer soon. And God bless.

Cordially,

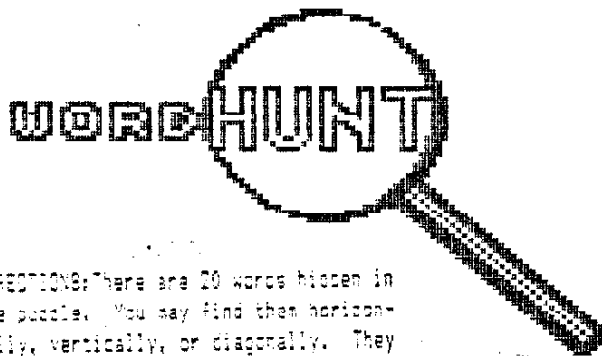
Phillip Noah Blarney

P.S. One of our admirer's suggested we include a garbage disposal in the beautiful cabinet as an option. Farley was so disappointed by this oversight on his part that to make amends he will not only include a garbage disposal but also a PAPER SHREDDER! This should be especially attractive to newsletter editors. We listen! Give us your feedback.



"At first I liked the voice component, but then my computer started laughing at me."

WORD HUNT



DIRECTIONS: There are 20 words hidden in the puzzle. You may find them horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. They may also be either forward or backward. Circle each word as you find them. One word has been done for you. GOOD LUCK! (Answers to puzzle found on last page.)

```

C G G X K J U N L R Y K I R K D I J Q I
N E N D F I J F J F A F Y Y Q H D U D S
K D X D H L W I D J J R Q B R W N C W D
H F J S O T E N S D A F E E Z O O A G D
Q S E Z C N E P H M R S E F M W D M W S
P Z C X D Z K I T X O W U Y S D S B J M
Z D B F A I I E T Q I O R S L H E Y U F
W P C H W R P O Y S T R Y I E T B H F A
E X D V E E K Z E A H L N P H J D L O G
W E M G R D W M K H U G H L B G W X J O
J T N A O S E A O E C E E A A B B Y T Z
G A T G D N A B B L R H B U R H L C X G
M S F N W X A V O D E Y S L O C O M O P
J A A K S U G T I M G H H T H A A L U L
P Z A H J P H O G G O E K N X N L Y N Y Y
N G P C M E I M O E R B I K L Y Q A K U
F Q I M S O S W P T X E H N N K J G N E
O J U Y R I R H V O C W E D G P U H G Z
K F K J H P E S O J M O E S F Z K A E Z
D F P E E Y D E S N E C N I K N A R F S
  
```

WORD LIST

- BABY
- BETHLEHEM
- COWS
- DONKEY
- FRANKINCENSE
- GOD
- GOLD
- HOLY
- JESUS
- JOSEPH
- KING
- MANGER
- MARY
- MYRRH
- SAVIOR
- SHEEP
- SHEPHERD
- STAR
- SWADDLINGCLOTHES
- THREEWISEMEN



MAXIMS for the Nineties

FUCHS'S FACT: If your name can be spelled wrong, it will be. - M. Fuchs

HAWKEYE'S CONCLUSIONS: It is not easy to play the clown when you've got to run the whole circus. - Hawkeye Pierce (of TV's M*A*S*H)

HENDERSON'S TEXAS A&M RULE: Once is tacky, twice is tradition. - Lt. Col. Joe Henderson, USAF

HOFFMAN'S POTHOLE LAW: Any public road having waited a minimum of five years for badly needed paving during which time no underground construction has taken place, except by gophers and moles, will within one week of being resurfaced be torn up by at least five public or private entities to make long-scheduled, not emergency, repairs; such entities will always work consecutively and not conjunctively. - A. Hoffman

HONCHO'S LAW OF WIND CHIMES: Regardless of the velocity of the wind, your wind chime chimes only when you are trying to sleep. - "Honcho" Holland

HOOVER'S BENEDICTION: Blessed are the young, for they shall inherit the national debt. - Herbert Hoover

HOOVER'S QUESTION: If a man tells you that he never tells the truth, can you believe him? - Herbert Hoover

LAUREL'S LAW: Honest people and stupid people have a common characteristic; they take it in the shorts a lot. - Laurel Siemans Moore

LAVER'S EXAMPLE OF MURPHY'S LAW: There are more j's and z's on my computer keyboard than the English language requires. - Murray Laver

HOLMES'S PRIORITY RULE: It's better to be a masochist, than not kissed at all. - Hoseph Holmes

McALISTER'S PRINCIPLE: The rate of cooling of coffee in a cup is inversely proportional to the amount of time you have to drink it. - R. G. McAlister

McCONNELL'S OBSERVATION: The only thing that works in an old house is the owner. - Spero McConnell; from his brother Ray



CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN 19)
 PEOPLE MAY COMPLIMENT YOU.
 YOUR HEAD WILL GET TOO BIG
 FOR YOUR TOUPEE.



NEW/AGE SPECIAL

* by JACK SUGHRUE, Box 459, East Douglas, MA 01516 *

GOOD, BETTER, BEST!

There is only one program in the TI disk community that is (as my 5th-grade pupils would say) "totally wicked awesome rad to a gnarly degree." I agree with the sentiment, if not the mode of expression.

Nothing else in our world computer community has equalled the impact of the FUNNELWEB environment created for us by Tony McGovern and his son, Will. These two Australian geniuses (and I do not use the word lightly) put together what all of us deemed impossible for the TI.

FUNNELWEB just grew and grew. The original American release was a TI WRITER and EDITOR ASSEMBLER combo, more or less (actually more). Next version a few months later contained a bit more with lots of enhancements of what went on before. TIW, for example, does not contain a ruler or address recall or macro-key CAPS or LC. Tony put all these things in fairly early versions, all of which we take for granted in our word processing activities. The environment always loaded by either E/A or XB, thus making it ideal for supercards (again from earlier versions) or RAMs or whatever device hardwarers could devise. Then things like Disk Manager 1000 and Diskpatch were added and modified. As were loaders for c99, FORTH, etc. Each time Tony (primarily) would unravel the complexities caused by these needs and create new and better solutions than dreamed possible.

When he came up with the windowing effects for the CONFIG program, for example, which established a profound systems configuration (still able to be ported *en masse* to any newer version, I felt he had reached his peak. Boy, was I ever wrong.

FUNNELWEB is not a program. It is an environment which gives you, the user, some great computing tools in such a complete package that it becomes almost impossible to do without them after using them.

Probably 80% or more of normal (non-programmer) use of computers - especially the TI - is word processing. People need to communicate. FUNNELWEB turned TIW into a great word processor, adding so many features that should have been in the original cart/disk combo that when you go back to that combo you are appalled at its limitations. As I say, we have become spoiled by Tony and take for granted what is surely a remarkable achievement.

Much as I ♥ my TI, I know that if FUNNELWEB did not exist I would no longer be TIing. I couldn't. FWB's a structure equal to the best that any home computer has to offer its users at any price.

Let's face it. It serves as a Master DOS. What does a Disk Operating System do? Well, it lets you load up other programs, primarily, or lets you handle some disk management tasks. FWB does all that as a sideline.

With the new 4.31 FUNNELWEB the console 99 disk user has just leaped quantumly into an exciting era. The 40-column (standard) TI computer fan now has available to him or her a package heretofore only available to non-standard 80-col upgraders.

Before I go on, I'd like to say:

STOP!

The bad news is this: Will went over to the Amiga a long while ago, and his father will be following shortly. This will mean that the greatest single piece of software for the TI will no longer grow; nor will we be seeing any other pieces come from Funnelweb Farm; nor will there be any more great tutorials (particularly those on exploring XB). This is not only BAD news, it is HORRIBLE news. Not that I can blame Tony. Although close to 100% of all TI disk users use FWB and its

upgrades, an extremely small number has ever paid the author a penny - and a tinier number, still, has ever given a second contribution (though the original to present upgrade is similar to the difference between my salary and Donald Trump's). And a tinier number, still, have ever written to Tony to tell him how much they use and appreciate FUNNELWEB and all the other great things he has done for us.

Remember, this is not commercialware. Fairware authors need and deserve our support. Fairware authors of the stature of Tony McGovern have earned massive support financially and socially. They just don't get it.

I urge every user group to "charge" a minimum \$10 copying fee to each member for this upgrade and send the entire collected sum to Tony. Send a group letter. Write him up in your newsletter. Let's let '91 be the Year of the McGovern. Even more, I urge every single reader to sit down at your first opportunity and write (probably using FUNNELWEB) a supporting letter, enclosing the largest cash (certified check, international coupon, money order) contribution you can really afford. It'll still be cheaper than anything you'd have to pay for that would be in the same league as FUNNELWEB (if such a thing exists). People couldn't wait, for example, to shell out \$60 for PRESS (sight unseen) or \$25 to \$60 for data bases. Many of our game cartridges cost at least five times what some consider a "fair" price to pay for the finest piece of software ever for the TI.

How about this for a rule of thumb? Take the most expensive piece of software you ever bought (and probably don't even use anymore) and double it. Send that as a donation. Remember what you paid in those pre-inflationary days for LOGO and MULTIPLAN and TI WRITER and DISK MANAGER II and E/A and whatever?

Well, the new FUNNELWEB has so many new features that most of those expensive cartridges and upgrade disks can be chucked in the basket.

What's your TI worth to you? What'll it be worth to you down the road with Tony McGovern gone? Decide soon about your commitment and make the investment today in your future.

~~~~~  
So what are a few of these outstanding features? Well, for one, there is no more Disk Manager 1000 nor Disk Patch, because the new Disk Review performs all the functions of both (and then some) from within the FWB environment, including COPYING FILE BY FILE (to eliminate fractures) WHOLE DISKS TO MULTIPLE DRIVES! So stick a disk in Drive 1 and copy to Drives 2, 3, AND 4, while you go comb your wallaby. Disks can be FORMATTed to Quad density, if you have the right controller. Any program can be RUN right out of DR, including the huge IV254s. The Quick Directory now lets you mark a file from WITHIN the FORMATTer or ASSEMBLER. And the disk editing functions are plentiful and profound.

The whole FUNNELWEB 4.31 environment is profound. You'll realize this immediately when you see BOTH central menus displayed on the screen simultaneously and you just have to move the cursor around to either RUN the program (or VIEW and/or PRINT the text file).

This is a must for everyone!

Get it from your user group today, being aware that everything worthwhile in life costs.

TIPS FROM THE TIGERCUB

NO. 11

TIGERCUB SOFTWARE  
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THESE TIPS ARE DISTRIBUTED BY TIGERCUB SOFTWARE FOR PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES, AND MAY BE REPRODUCED BY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING THAT CREDIT IS GIVEN TO TIGERCUB SOFTWARE.

TIGERCUB SOFTWARE IS A KITCHEN-TABLE ENTERPRISE SPECIALIZING IN ORIGINAL LOW-COST QUALITY SOFTWARE FOR THE TI-99/4A COMPUTER. I HAVE OVER 130 PROGRAMS AVAILABLE ON CASSETTE OR DISK AT ONLY \$3.00 EACH. MY DESCRIPTIVE CATALOG WILL BE SENT TO YOU FOR \$1.00 WHICH IS DEDUCTABLE FROM YOUR FIRST ORDER.

LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE WAS TO UNFURL THE U.S. FLAG (WITH 49 STARS), FROM THE MAST OUT, IN 2 LINES OF EXTENDED BASIC.

```
100 CALL CLEAR :: CALL COLOR
(2,16,5,3,16,16,4,7,7):: AS(
1)="*****080808" :: AS(2)=
RPTS("80",7):: CALL CHAR(33,
RPTS("01",8)):: CALL VCHAR(4
,4,33,20)
110 FOR C=5 TO 22 :: X=1+ABS
(C>11):: FOR T=1 TO 13 :: CA
LL VCHAR(5+T,C,ASC(SEGS(AS(X
),T,1))):: NEXT T :: NEXT C
:: GOTO 110
```

ONE OF THE PREVIOUS CHALLENGES WAS TO WRITE THE EXTENDED BASIC STATEMENT IF X=1 THEN Y=7 ELSE IF X=2 THEN Y=33 ELSE IF X=3 THEN Y=19 ELSE IF X=4 THEN Y=21. MY SOLUTION WAS Y=VAL(SEGS("07331921",X\*2-1,2)). JIM JOHNSTON IN THE K\*3 USER'S GROUP NEWSLETTER CAME UP WITH A METHOD WHICH IS BETTER BECAUSE IT DOES NOT REQUIRE THAT THE VALUES OF X BE IN A SEQUENCE:

```
Y=ABS((7*(X=1))+(33*(X=2))+(19*(X=3))
+(21*(X=4)))
```

PROVING ONCE AGAIN THAT THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SKIN THE CAT, AND OFTEN A BETTER WAY - ALTHOUGH THE CAT MIGHT NOT AGREE.

ADVICE TO DISK-DRIVERS - KEEP AN EYE ON THOSE LITTLE TABS OF SILVER TAPE THAT YOU USE TO COVER THE WRITE-PROTECT NOTCH ON YOUR DISKS. THEY TEND TO BECOME DOG-EARED FROM BUMPING AGAINST THE

SLOT OF THE DRIVE. I RECENTLY HEARD A HORROR STORY ABOUT ONE OF THOSE TABS THAT CAME LOOSE AND GOT INTO THE DRIVE!

THE FOLLOWING MENU-LOADER OR AUTO-BOOYER WAS ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED BY A. KLUDGE IN THE 99'ER VOL. 1 #4. MARSHAL GORDON AND THOMAS BOISSEAU GREATLY IMPROVED IT AND PUBLISHED IT IN THE ATLANTA 99/4 UG NEWSLETTER VOL. 2 #1. I HAVE NO IDEA HOW IT WORKS, BUT HAVE MANAGED TO MODIFY IT SO THAT IT WILL CATALOG UP TO 99 PROGRAMS ON A DISK, STOPPING FOR INPUT AFTER EACH 19 ARE LISTED, OR STOPPING WHENEVER ANY KEY IS PRESSED; I ALSO ADDED A DELETE OPTION, REQUIRING A REPEATED INPUT TO PREVENT ERROR. IT TAKES UP ONLY 8 SECTORS. IF YOU HAVE EXTENDED BASIC AND DISK DRIVE, LOAD THIS PROGRAM UNDER THE FILE NAME LOAD. IT WILL THEN AUTOMATICALLY RUN WHENEVER YOU SELECT EXTENDED BASIC, WILL LIST ALL THE PROGRAMS ON THE DISK, AND WILL RUN WHICHEVER PROGRAM YOU SELECT.

```
100 OPTION BASE 1 :: DIM PGS
(99),TS(5):: CALL CLEAR
110 TS(1)="DIS/FIX" :: TS(2)
="DIS/VAR" :: TS(3)="INT/FIX
" :: TS(4)="INT/VAR" :: TS(5
)="PROGRAM"
120 IMAGE #
130 DISPLAY AT(1,9)ERASE ALL
:"DISKETTE MENU"
140 I IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN
ONE DISK DRIVE, DELETE THE I
IN LINE 150
150 I DISPLAY AT(12,6):"DISK
?(1-3):" :: ACCEPT AT(12,19
)SIZE(-1)VALIDATE("123"):DS
:: DS="DSK"&DS&". "
160 DS="DSK1." :: OPEN #1:DS
,INPUT,RELATIVE,INTERNAL ::
INPUT #1:N$,A,J,K :: DISPLA
Y AT(1,1)ERASE ALL:SEGS(DS,1
,4)&" - DISKNAME="&N$:
170 DISPLAY AT(2,1):"AVAILAB
LE=":K:"USED=":J:LK:"PROG FI
LENAME SIZE TYPE": "-----" ::
I=0
180 FOR X=1 TO 80 :: IF X/20
<>INT(X/20)THEN 210
190 DISPLAY AT(24,1):"TYPE C
HOICE OR 99 FOR MORE" :: ACC
EPT AT(24,27)VALIDATE(DIGIT)
:K :: IF K=99 THEN 200 :: IF
K>0 AND K<X+1 THEN 360 ELSE
190
200 X=X+1 :: CALL VCHAR(1,2,
32,48)
```

(CONT.)



```

210 I=I+1 :: IF I>127 THEN K
=X :: GOTO 300
220 INPUT #1:PS,A,J,B
230 IF LEN(PS)=0 THEN 270
240 DISPLAY AT(X+4,2):USING
120:X :: DISPLAY AT(X+4,6):P
S :: PGS(X)=PS :: DISPLAY AT
(X+4,18):USING 120:J :: DISP
LAY AT(X+4,22):TS(ABS(A))
250 CALL KEY(0, KK, ST) :: IF S
T=0 THEN 260 :: FLAG=1 :: GO
TO 280
260 NEXT X
270 DISPLAY AT(X+4,1):" " ::
DISPLAY AT(X+4,2):USING 120
:X :: DISPLAY AT(X+4,6):"TER
MINATE" :: DISPLAY AT(X+5,2)
:STR$(X+1)&" DELETE?"
280 DISPLAY AT(X+6,1):" C
HOICE"
290 ACCEPT AT(X+6,16)SIZE(2)
VALIDATE(DIGIT):K :: IF K<>X
AND K<>X+1 OR FLAG=1 THEN 3
50
300 IF K=X THEN CALL CLEAR :
: CLOSE #1 :: END
310 DISPLAY AT(X+5,11)SIZE(1
8):" #?" :: ACCEPT AT(X+5,15
)SIZE(2)VALIDATE(DIGIT):KD :
: IF KD<1 OR KD>X-1 THEN 310
320 DISPLAY AT(X+6,1)SIZE(28
)BEQ:"VERIFY - REPEAT DELET
E #?" :: ACCEPT AT(X+6,27)SIZ
E(2)VALIDATE(DIGIT):KD2 :: I
F KD2<>KD THEN 340
330 DELETE "DSK1."&PG$(KD)
340 CLOSE #1 :: GOTO 130
350 IF K<1 OR K>99 OR LEN(PG
$(K))=0 THEN 270
360 CLOSE #1
370 CALL INIT :: CALL PE$(_
31952,A,B):: CALL PE$(A*256
+8_65534,A,B):: C=A*256+8_65
534 :: AS=D3&PG$(K):: CALL L
OAD(C,LEN(AS))
380 FOR I=1 TO LEN(AS):: CAL
L LOAD(C+I,ASC(SEGS(AS,I,1))
):: NEXT I :: CALL LOAD(C+I,
0)
390 RUN "DSK1.1234567890"

```

COME TO THINK OF IT, IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE DISK DRIVE YOU WILL ALSO HAVE TO DELETE THE FIRST STATEMENT IN LINE 160, AND MODIFY LINE 330.

HERE'S A MEMORY-SAVER FOR YOU - PUT YOUR DATA IN STRINGS INSTEAD OF DATA STATEMENTS. MY "HANGMAN PLUS" PROGRAM WAS ONLY 7764 BYTES LONG BUT IT CONTAINED A VOCABULARY OF 315 WORDS IN DATA STATEMENTS. AFTER

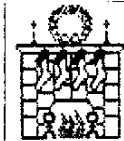
READING THESE INTO AN ARRAY, IT HAD TOO LITTLE WORKING MEMORY LEFT, AND PAUSED TOO OFTEN FOR GARBAGE COLLECTION. AFTER CHANGING ALL THE DATA STATEMENTS TO STRINGS, IT RUNS WITHOUT STALLING EVEN THOUGH THE NUMBER OF WORDS WAS INCREASED AND AN ARRAY OF 50 IS STILL DIMENSIONED FOR USER INPUT OF WORDS. WHEN I LOADED THE ORIGINAL VERSION IN EXTENDED BASIC WITH THE MEMORY EXPANSION AND ASKED FOR SIZE AFTER THE DATA HAD BEEN READ IN, I FOUND THAT I HAD 14756 BYTES OF PROGRAM AND 7669 BYTES OF STACK FREE. IN THE VERSION WITH DATA IN STRINGS, AT THE SAME STAGE IN THE PROGRAM I HAD 14874 BYTES OF PROGRAM AND 11310 BYTES OF STACK FREE - A SAVING OF 3730 BYTES! AND ANOTHER ADVANTAGE IS THAT THERE IS NO DELAY WAITING FOR ALL THOSE WORDS TO BE READ INTO THE ARRAY. HOWEVER, PULLING DATA OUT OF A STRING IS UNDOUBTEDLY A BIT SLOWER, SO THIS METHOD SHOULD NOT BE USED WHEN SPEED IS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE.

IN THE "HANGMAN PLUS" PROGRAM, I USED LOWER CASE LETTERS AS DIVIDERS BETWEEN THE UPPER CASE WORDS. TO PULL WORDS AT RANDOM, I RANDOMLY SELECTED A STRING AND A POSITION WITHIN THE STRING, USING THE POS OF THE LOWER CASE LETTER TO FIND THE WORD. THE FOLLOWING IS A MUCH ABBREVIATED EXAMPLE:

```

100 M$(1)="AJOHNBJOFCCHARLIE
DMIKEELARRYF"
110 M$(2)="AGEORGEBPFTFCCHRI
SDONERALPHF"
120 X=INT(2*RND+1)
130 Y=INT(5*RND+97)
140 X$=SEGS(M$(X),POS(M$(X),
CHR$(Y),1)+1,POS(M$(X),CHR$(
Y+1),1)-POS(M$(X),CHR$(Y),1)
-1)

```



IT IS OF COURSE ESSENTIAL THAT ALL THE STRINGS CONTAIN THE SAME NUMBER OF ELEMENTS OF DATA. IF LOWER CASE LETTERS ARE NEEDED, THE SEPARATORS CAN BE ASCII CODES 129 THRU 154, OBTAINED BY HOLDING DOWN THE CTRL KEY WHILE TYPING THE ALPHABET - IT'S A BIT HARD TO KEEP TRACK OF THOSE, BECAUSE THEY'RE INVISIBLE! NUMERIC DATA CAN ALSO BE STORED, USING THE VAL FUNCTION TO CONVERT IT TO NUMERIC AFTER IT IS PULLED FROM THE STRING.

YOU PROBABLY ALREADY KNOW THIS, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO TYPE IN THE BLANK SPACES BEFORE AND AFTER THE :: IN MULTIPLE STATEMENTS IN EXTENDED BASIC. JUST RUN EVERYTHING TOGETHER 100 CALL CLEAR::RANDOMIZE::FOR D=1 TO 100::NEXT D AND THE COMPUTER WILL REPERATE IT FOR YOU, SHOWING STATEMENTS IN ADDITIONAL LINES IF NECESSARY.

OUT OF MEMORY

HAPPY HACKIN'

JIM PETERSON



## PUBLICATION NOTICE

The OUT\*POST, is published monthly, except in JULY and AUGUST of each year, by the NORTHERN NEVADA NINETY-NINERS USERS' GROUP (4N), a non-profit organization, supporting the TI-99/4A and compatibles. 4N is not affiliated with TEXAS INSTRUMENTS or their subsidiaries.

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Please contact the Newsletter Editor when any missing or illegible copies are received. Back issues are still available for a small fee. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

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## MEMBERSHIP

To join the Northern Nevada Ninety-Niners, an annual fee of \$20.00 (\$15.00 for newsletter ONLY subscription) is due and payable on or before the last Tuesday of each January. Membership includes a monthly newsletter, access to the Program and Paper libraries, and S.I.G.'s.

The following color-codes are placed on address labels to serve as reminders to our subscribers/members regarding their active status with 4N:

GREEN highlight = Renewal fee due.  
YELLOW highlight = Fee is 1 month overdue.  
RED highlight = Fee is 2 months in arrears...  
FINAL NOTICE!

## PROGRAM LIBRARY

Disk programs are available from our library at the following rates:

SS/SD = \$2.00  
DS/SD = \$4.00 (includes FLIPPIES.)  
DS/DD = \$6.00

Send disk, self-addressed postage-paid return mailer and check or money order with your specific request to the Program Librarian's attention at the return address on the back of this newsletter.

## DISKS of the MONTH

Two software programs on disk are demoed each month at the general meeting, announced in advance through the newsletter. These disks are available only to the active members at a discount of .50 cents each. To qualify for the special rate (normally \$2 each), they must be picked up in person during the evening of the demonstration. NO EXCEPTIONS!

## PAPER LIBRARY

4N participates in an ongoing newsletter exchange program. Presently, we have over 25 users' groups on our mailing list. Active members are encouraged to check out these newsletters (maximum 6 issues) for a one month period, and on a first-come, first-served, basis. There is no fee charged for this service. However, members are expected to return them to the paper library, in the same shape as they were received, within the allotted period.

ATTENTION EXCHANGE NEWSLETTER EDITORS... Please send your newsletters to the address on the left +. THANK YOU!

## S. I. G. 's

As the need arises by the membership for special instruction in order to develop the skills necessary for a particular software program or hardware item, a special interest group may be called upon by the President. This is not a formal meeting and is usually held at a member's home, where personal attention and instruction is readily given.

## SUPPORT

4N supports the following vendors:

MICROpendium, P.O. Box 1343, Round Rock, TX 78680  
COMPUTER MONTHLY, P.O. Box 7062, Atlanta, GA 30357  
TEXCOMP 1-818-366-6631  
TEXAMENTS 1-516-475-3480  
ASGARD 1-703-255-3085

4N also supports the FAIRWARE concept and urges others who have acquired and frequently use these particular programs to please REWARD THE AUTHOR for his work!

## ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page - \$10.00 / Half Page - \$7.00

Quarter Page or Business Card - \$4.00

ALL RATES ARE FOR ONE ISSUE ONLY!

Present circulation - 55 (As of 11/27/90)

## MEETING DATES

Unless noted in this newsletter, 4N general meetings are held on the last TUESDAY of each month, at 7:00 P.M., at ROUND TABLE PIZZA, West 4th and Vine St., Reno, NV. Visitors are cordially invited to attend!



