



PARIS 99'ER NEWS



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 9

SEPT 8, 1988

*** SEPT MEETING ***

PARIS USER GROUP
Thur. 8 7PM TP&L
TI-BASE
by Jerry Keisler

*** OCTOBER MEETINGS ***

PARIS USER GROUP
Thur. 13 7PM TP&L

BASIC SIG
Thur. 27 7PM TP&L

NEW LIBRARIAN

Stephen Barackman was appointed librarian at the August meeting. Stephen has been collecting several disks of programs from several UGs. He also spends a lot of time on the phone talking with other 99/4A owners about swapping programs. The Group voted to pay Stephen postage for swapping disks.

NEW EQUIPMENT CHAIRPERSON

Robert Skidmore was appointed equipment chairperson at the August meeting, Relieving Stephen of that job. Robert is building a box with wheels for the group's system. He will be able to roll the system into the meeting room. The box can be placed on a table and removing the front and back doors will allow you to operate the system while still in the box. He is also adding another disk drive so we will have two.

DISK DRIVES

William St. John has bought some DSDD disk drives. He has two and I have two. These are half high, half power. The cost is \$80.00 per drive which includes shipping and handling. I have had mine in operation for over sixteen hours. A pair of these can be put in your expansion system. You will need a "Y"

power connector and another socket added to the drive control cable. The connector is about \$4.00 at Radio Shack and the "Y" is about \$4.00 at the Computer Source in Paris.

If you would like to order a few disk drives contact William St. John. The TI controller card can handle three of these in DSSD mode or 720 sectors per disk.

BASIC CLASSES

If everything works out the basic classes will start in October. I will start with the beginning basics since we have several new members that would like to start at the beginning.

TI-BASE

I will print several articles on how to use TI-BASE as many of our group now has it. If 2 or more of you want it Stephen can get it at the group rate. Contact him for more information. If you need help with TI-BASE I will provide what I can.

HARD DRIVE

Stephen Barackman is now the proud owner of a Myarc hard and floppy disk controller. He is now looking for a hard drive for the controller. We should have a good program on using hard drives when Stephen learns all the ins and outs of it.

800-TI-CARES

Texas Instruments has discontinued their toll free line "800-TI-CARES" but still maintain direct phone lines for customer service.

General Info 806-747-1882
Tech Assistance 806-741-2663
Dealer Parts 806-741-2265
or 806-741-2268

PAGE #1

! TI-BASE TUTORIAL !
! by Jerry Keisler !

!----CREATE ADDRESS DATA BASE----!

Let's create an ADDRESS data base and print it to screen and to printer in address label format.

I will show the "." when input from the dot prompt is used.

Assuming TI-BASE is loaded proceed as follows:

.CREATE ADDRESS

You can only use 8 characters in data base names as TI-BASE adds /D to data files and /S to structure files.

FIELD DESCRIPTOR TYPE WIDTH DEC

```
1 FIRST_NAME C 10
2 LAST_NAME C 15
3 STREET C 25
4 CITY C 15
5 ST C 2
6 ZIP N 5 0
```

Press FCTN/8 (EXE) to save record structure

INPUT RECORDS? Press "Y".

```
FIRST_NAME JERRY
LAST_NAME KEISLER
STREET 2221 COLLEGE DR
CITY PARIS
ST TI
ZIP 75460
```

Use capital letters for all entries so you can find them easier later, since matches with fields are case sensitive when you are hunting data.

Continue entering data. When finished press FCTN/9 (ESC) on a blank record to exit data entry.

.APPEND will allow you to enter more address as needed.

You will note the bottom line contains:

```
! ADDRESS 0001/0003EOF
```

"1" says you are in slot 1.

"ADDRESS" is the data base in slot 1.

0001 is the current record.

0003 is the number of records in

TI-BASE Tutorial Page 4

Now it gets interesting. We are going to create a small program, or create a COMMAND FILE. However, create is not the right terminology. The phrase is MODIFY COMMAND (filename) (E). Filename is any name you would like to call the command file. It should be eight characters or less in length, and do not add any of the identifiers you may have picked up along the way (/C). Just type everything to the left exactly as you

see it. Take your time typing and allow time for the computer to do its job each time you press enter.

```
>CLEAR <E>
>CLOSE ALL <E>
>MODIFY COMMAND LBLS1 <E>
```

```
>* Command file LBLS1 "LABEL Prog."
>*
>SET TALK OFF
>SET RECNUM OFF
>SET HEADING OFF
>SET LINE=80
>CLEAR
>LOCAL TEMP C 40
>LOCAL BLNK C 1
>USE TNames
>SORT ON ZP
>TOP
> WHILE .NOT. (EOF)
>   REPLACE TEMP WITH "           ";
>   ! " Exp. Date " ! XP
>   PRINT TEMP
>   PRINT BLNK
>   REPLACE TEMP WITH TRIM(FN) ! " ";
>   ! MI ! " " ! LN
>   PRINT TEMP
>   PRINT SA
>   REPLACE TEMP WITH TRIM(CT) ! ", ";
>   ! ST ! " " ! ZP
>   PRINT TEMP
>   PRINT BLNK
>   MOVE
> ENDWHILE
>CLOSE ALL
>SET TALK ON
>SET RECNUM ON
>SET HEADING ON
>RETURN
```

```
>FCTN (8)           This will save the command file.
>DO LBLS1 <E>      This will run the file.
```

The information starting with CLEAR and ending with DO LBLS1 is everything you must type in to create and run a small program that will produce mailing labels from the database named TNames. It is that easy, and yet it is quite complicated. I will take the last half page of this article to give you some idea what's going on. The rest must wait until next month. I hope that what you have done so far has run successfully and your mind hasn't turned to mush.

The line MODIFY COMMAND LBLS1 (E) is the line that invokes TIB's Editor. This establishes that a command file is being created and will (if successful) be saved to the DATDISK under the name LBLS1. At the time the file is saved the identifier /C will be attached to the name LBLS1 to produce LBLS1/C. This is why you cannot use 10 characters in the file name. Once you are in the editor the previously described keys are active (F1,F2,F3, Arrows, etc.). Lines that start with an asterisk "*" are comment lines. FYI: Don't use more than a couple comments, they eat up memory (FEL). All of the lines that SET something OFF are housekeeping. LOCAL TEMP C 40 initializes the variable named TEMP. TEMP will hold up to 40 characters (C). The variable BLNK can hold 1 character (C). At this point both variables are initialized blank or empty. We will refill and/or use them later. In the next three lines we are telling TIB to USE TNames and SORT that database ON the Zipcode field (ZP). When it is done we want it to go to the TOP, or beginning of the database. The next part of the program is a chunk. The chunk I refer to is everything from WHILE to ENDWHILE inclusive. This is the part of our program that does most of the work. When our program executes the word WHILE it does the whole line. This actually says to TIB, WHILE you do and ENDWHILE. If you do encounter the (EOF), or in this case the end of the database, then go to the next line after the ENDWHILE. The next line inside the loop will REPLACE the empty space in the variable TEMP with a bunch of blank spaces, the phrase " Exp. Date " and the club members Expiration Date (XP). The vertical lines "!" mean concatenate or stick together, the same as "&" in Extended Basic. So all three of those items are put into TEMP. Those items are then printed with the line PRINT TEMP. PRINT BLNK is the equivalent of "print a blank line". The next REPLACE takes FN (First Name), TRIMs off all the trailing blank spaces, sticks one space back (" "), attaches MI and another space (" "), puts LN (Last Name) on the end of that and sticks the whole mess into our variable TEMP. Now you see why TEMP had to hold up to 40 characters. The semicolon ";" at the end of these long lines is telling TIB that I couldn't get it all on 1 line and it should look for more on the next line down. TEMP is then printed as before. SA or Street Address is printed directly with no fancy stuff and the process is repeated for CT, ST and ZP. The blanks are thrown in for proper spacing to the next label. MOVE, moves the database to the next record and ENDWHILE sends you back to the WHILE statement to start over with the next name and address. The rest of the program is rather boring. When you finally run out of records the program jumps past all this to the CLOSE ALL. TNames is closed, everything you turned OFF is turned ON again, and the program is over. IMPORTANT, next month I will work with larger programs, using the FunnelWeb Editor/Assembler Editor. The program on this page (LBLS1) is about the best you can write using the Modify Command Editor. I will also get into the use of printer control codes. Control codes can be imbedded in the program with the FUNLWB Editor, but not with the TIB Editor. I will cover some of the (FGLs), Further Explanation Later and I will print out everything many times. In TIB there are several ways to write a program to accomplish the same task. In that situation I will compare the previous program. This should give you more contact with TIB logical procedures.

Continued Next Month.

ADDRESS.

"EOF" will only show if the current record is at the End Of File.

When you are done with the data base, type

.CLOSE

When you want to leave the program, type

.QUIT

DO NOT EXIT ANY OTHER WAY OR YOU MAY LOSE A DATA BASE. And don't forget to back up your data base files. Both the /S and /D files.

If you closed the data base or have reloaded TI-BASE and want to use the ADDRESS data base, type

.USE ADDRESS

To view the contents of the data base, type

.DISPLAY ALL

To print the contents to printer, type

.PRINT ALL

Or you can see parts of the data base using

.DISPLAY ALL FIRST_NAME CITY

include any fields you want displayed up to 8 in any order you want them displayed. DISPLAY can be replaced with PRINT. ALL can be left out if you only want to see the current record. If your printer does not work, type

.DISPLAY STATUS

If the description following PRINTER is not that of yours, change it by typing

.SET PRINTER=your printer description.

Then add it to your SETUP file by typing .MODIFY COMMAND DSK1.SETUP

After the last line of the SETUP file add SET PRINTER=your printer description FCTN/8 (EXE) will save changes. Type

.DO DSK1.SETUP Now TI-BASE will start with your correct printer description.

If you are not sure of the structure of ADDRESS type

.DISPLAY STRUCTURE while the data base is in use.

!----DISPLAYING ADDRESS----!

Things to remember about command files.

.MODIFY COMMAND (filename) will create or modify a command file.

(filename) can not exceed 8 characters. Do not type the ().

TI-BASE adds /C to command files.

FCTN/8 (EXE) will save the command file.

FCTN/9 2(ESC) will leave the command file WITHOUT saving it.

INS CHR is a toggle. It turns on and off like a light with a chain.

You can use all the commands on the function strip while writing a command file.

Let's build a command file to display our ADDRESS data base in address label format. First .CLOSE your data base if

you have not done so. Then type .MODIFY COMMAND ADLAB I use AD to tell me the command file works on the ADDRESS data base. The LAB tells me it is a LAB file.

This gives you a blank screen. Type

#ADLAB/C

\$print address labels to screen

CLOSE ALL

SET TALK OFF

SET HEADING OFF

SET RECNUM OFF

CLEAR

LOCAL NAME C 15

LOCAL CITY2 C 25

LOCAL BLANK C 1

USE ADDRESS

WHILE .NOT. (EOF)

REPLACE NAME WITH TRIM(FIRS;

T_NAME)!" "LAST_NAME

REPLACE CITY2 WITH TRIM(CIT;

Y)!", "IST!" "IZIP

DISPLAY NAME

DISPLAY STREET

DISPLAY CITY2

DISPLAY BLANK

MOVE

ENDWHILE

CLOSE ALL

SET RECNUM ON

SET HEADING ON

SET TALK ON

Press FCTN/8 (EXE) to save.

.DO ADLAB will run the command file.

ADLAB explained.

Anything following an asterix "*" is a comment and will be ignored.

A semicolon ";" indicates the line is continued on the next line. Lines can be 256 characters long.

CLOSE ALL will close all data bases in all slots, in case you forgot or stopped a command file with FCTN/9 (ESC).

SET TALK OFF keeps every executed line in the command file from being displayed to screen along with the data you want. SET TALK ON when you want to trouble shoot a command file.

SET HEADING OFF turns off the field names. Otherwise they will be displayed with each line displayed.

SET RECNUM OFF turns record numbers off so they will not be displayed with each line displayed.

CLEAR clears the screen.

LOCAL NAME C 15 creates a variable called NAME and makes it a Constant with 15 spaces.

LOCAL CITY2 C 25 creates a variable called CITY2 and makes it a Constant with 25 spaces.

LOCAL BLANK C 1 creates a variable called BLANK and makes it a Constant with 1 space. I will use this BLANK to put blank lines on the screen between each address.

USE ADDRESS opens data base ADDRESS and puts it in the current slot (1).

When you do a WHILE, IF or CASE it is easier to follow the file if you indent.

WHILE .NOT. (EOF) if the data base is not at its end (End Of File) will execute the commands below WHILE.

REPLACE NAME WITH TRIM(FIRS;

T_NAME)!" "LAST_NAME TRIM removes all right blank characters from the fieldname in(). ! connects fields. " " puts a space between first and last name. The result is put in the variable NAME.

REPLACE CITY2 WITH TRIM(CIT;

Y)!", "IST!" "IZIP does the same for CITY2 as was done for NAME. Note ZIP is a numeric variable.

DISPLAY NAME prints the contents of NAME to the screen.

DISPLAY STREET prints the contents of the field STREET to the screen.

DISPLAY CITY2 prints the contents of CITY2 to the screen.

DISPLAY BLANK prints the contents of BLANK (one space) to the screen.

Each Display will print one line to screen unless it exceeds 39 characters or HEADING is on.

MOVE moves the data base to the next record. REPLACE and DISPLAY only work on the current record.

ENDWHILE checks WHILE .NOT. (EOF). If it is true the loop will run again. If it is false the file will continue down the list.

CLOSE ALL same as above.

SET RECNUM ON turns record numbers on.

SET HEADING ON turns heading on

SET TALK ON displays all statements to screen.

Try it. If you have problems call me.

Try this.

.COPY ADLAB/C ADLAB2/C GO

.MODIFY COMMAND ADLAB2

Replace DISPLAY NAME with DISPLAY FIRST_NAME LAST_NAME.

Replace DISPLAY CITY2 with DISPLAY CITY ST ZIP

FCTN/8

.DO ADLAB2 and see what happens without the ! to TRIM commands.

!----PRINTING ADDRESS LABELS----!

.MODIFY COMMAND ADLABP then type the following or

.COPY ADLAB/C ADLABP/C GO and

.MODIFY COMMAND ADLABP and add or change the necessary lines.

#ADLABP/C

\$prints address labels to printer

CLOSE ALL

SET TALK OFF

SET HEADING OFF

```

SET RECNUM OFF
SET LINE 25
SET PAGE 66
CLEAR
LOCAL NAME C 15
LOCAL CITY2 C 25
LOCAL BLANK C 1
USE ADDRESS
  WHILE .NOT. (EOF)
    REPLACE NAME WITH TRIM(FIRS;
T_NAME)!" "LAST NAME
    REPLACE CITY2 WITH TRIM(CIT;
Y)!" "ST!" "IZIP
    PRINT NAME
    PRINT STREET
    PRINT CITY2
    PRINT BLANK
    PRINT BLANK
    PRINT BLANK
    PRINT BLANK
    PRINT BLANK
    PRINT BLANK
    MOVE
  ENDOWHILE
CLOSE ALL
SET LINE 80
SET PAGE 56
SET RECNUM ON
SET HEADING ON
SET TALK ON

```

You will find ADLABP/C is too big for the editor, so we will create another command file for the printer, but first put DO ADLABPR in place of PRINT NAME. Line erase all print commands and finish typing the ADLABP/C command file, then press FCTN/8 (EXE) to save. Now let's build the ADLABPR/C command file.

```

.MODIFY COMMAND ADLABPR
$ADLABPR/C
$Address Label Print Routine
PRINT NAME
PRINT STREET
PRINT CITY2
PRINT BLANK
PRINT BLANK
PRINT BLANK
PRINT BLANK
PRINT BLANK
PRINT BLANK
PRINT BLANK
RETURN
Press FCTN/8 (EXE) to save.
.DO ADLABP will run the command file.

```

To print to address labels
 .EJECT then adjust printer and labels and turn the printer off and on. Then
 .DO ADLABP Try this first on paper to see what happens.

ADLABP explained.

I will explain new commands.

First a few things to remember.

1. The default for page length is 56. This means after TI-BASE prints 56 lines a form feed will be issued. This may

throw your paper out of alignment as the printers form feed and TI-BASE form feed may not be located at the same line. So, before running a Print Label command file you must make TI-BASE form feed and your printers form feed agree, even if you are using 66 lines to the page. To do this type

.EJECT This will cause your printer and TI-BASE to go to the top of page. Now load the address labels in your printer, align the printer and turn it off and on to reset the printer. Now TI-BASE, your printer, and the address labels should all be at Top Of Form (TOF).

2. The default for printer line length is 80. If you don't change this the print head will move over 80 characters whether they are printed or not. To reduce print time set line length to the minimum length needed.

SET LINE 25 tells the printer to print a maximum of 25 characters per line.

SET PAGE 66 tells TI-BASE to print 66 lines before telling the printer to form feed.

PRINT NAME change all DISPLAY statements to PRINT statements.

PRINT BLANK add enough PRINT BLANKs to move to the top of the next address label.

SET LINE 80 returns line length to default value.

SET PAGE 56 returns number of lines per page to default value.

Try it. If you have problems change SET TALK OFF to SET TALK ON and DO ADLABP again. If you can not find the trouble call me.

!----TI-BASE TIPS----!

Here are a few things Dennis Faherty, Author of TI-BASE, passed along to me.

The concatenation "!" and TRIM in V1.02 are limited to 11 instances per statement. Following that a table overflow causes an arithmetic error. This probably won't be fixed until V2.0 as it is a little too much for patching.

The READ directive expects an expression as a response such as:

- 1 numeric literal (0123456789.+)
- 2 character literal ("...")
- 3 valid fieldname

Character literals need to be surrounded with "...". Version 2.0 will contain a READSTRING directive in which the response is assumed to be a character literal and the "" are supplied internally.

The number of fieldname entries following a DISPLAY or PRINT directive is limited to 8 at this time. Any more will result in an error message of some type. This will be fixed in V2.0. Note that a

DISPLAY ALL or PRINT ALL works correctly no matter how many fields are involved.

There is a bug that might alter records in a data-bases being used if things are done in a specific sequence. This is corrected by editing in the following patch as the first thing in the SETUP file:

CHANGE 294A 295D P1 V1.02 This is included in our disks.

V2.0 should be out in about a year.

A program to import and export ASCII files should be out in 4 months.

!----MORE TI-BASE TIPS----!
 by Jerry Keisler

Dynamic memory is small, about 1600 bytes. This is used for MODIFY COMMAND, open data bases, operating command files and local variables.

To allow maximum memory for building command files type .CLOSE ALL and CLEAR LOCAL. This will allow about 1 and 1/2 screens to build a command file. You can also build short command files that are called by operating command files like GOSUB in basic. Two commonly used command files would be:

```

.MODIFY COMMAND START
$START/C
CLOSE ALL
SET TALK OFF
SET HEADING OFF
SET RECNUM OFF
CLEAR
RETURN
Press FCTN/8 (EXE)

```

This file can be called from within a command file or at the dot prompt by typing DO START.

```

.MODIFY COMMAND END
$END/C
CLOSE ALL
SET RECNUM ON
SET HEADING ON
SET TALK ON
CLEAR
Press FCTN/8 (EXE)

```

This can be called as the last line in a command file or at the dot prompt by typing DO END

RETURN returns you to the calling command file.

We currently have 4 members with 2 drives and 2 members with 1 drive that bought TI-BASE. If you have only one drive, copying OVRLAY/P to the data disk will allow you to run COPY, DELETE FILE, CHANGE COLOR and CATALOG from the data disk. Note, this will cost you 30 sectors of disk space.

