DENVER, CO
PM 1983

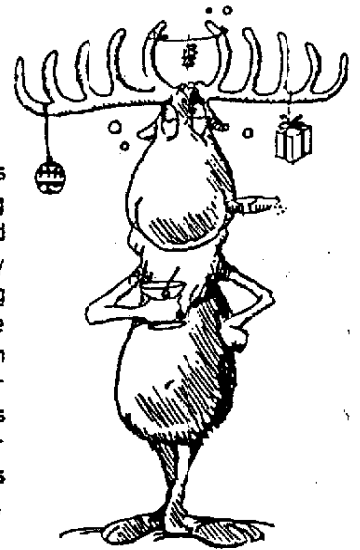Christmas USA 20c

RRECT ZIP CODE

TIC TALK

99/4

HIC HIC HIC

It's that time to celebrate but with what is going on with TI (or rather what is not going on), what is there to celebrate over. We the end users, who became very fond of this computer they call the 99/4A, worked our fannies off forming Users' Groups all around the world, and became the best support TI could have dreamed of with nearly no cost to the Company at all. And for what? In September and even into October, TI was saying, "We are committed to the Home Computer market." Just who can we believe anymore. This seems to be a better reason to sip another - hic.

Hardware is already non-existent and TI software is in short supply while some titles such as Extended Basic, Editor/Assembler, Pascal, and Mini-memory are all gone. What are we to do! We were all on a budget with the expanding of our systems. Now what! We can't find anything to expand. Do we need to look into a different Computer system? This is surely enough to drive us to drink! hic.

Let us look into the crystal ball for a few predictions. Why not, everyone else does. After sole searching, listening and studying the situation, this is what the future looks like to me.

TI will continue to introduce software which was previously announced. That one's easy. TI will continue repair of the hardware for several years. TI will re-enter the Home Computer market but will call it Personal Computers. I see this happening within a year. It will not be compatible with our 99/4A's. However NEW companies will pick up where TI left off.

HELPFUL HINTS

THIS ONE COMES FROM HUG (HOUSTON USERS GROUP)

Want to frustrate and amaze your Atari, VIC-20, TRS Color Computer friends? Just type in the following in the Command Mode with EXTENDED BASIC.

```
CALL CLEAR::CALL SCREEN(5)::CALL MAGNIFY(2)::FOR I=1 TO 28::CALL
SPRITE(#I,64+I,16,80,80,0#I,B)::NEXT I::FOR J=1 TO 5000::NEXT J
```

Hit ENTER and watch all 28 sprites do their tricks. If you want to see it again, simply hit function REDO then ENTER again as many times as you wish. You can also INSERT, DELETE, etc. to try different speeds, colors, characters, or even add a line number to make it a one line program.

THIS ONE IS BY MILLERS GRAPHICS BY WAY OF SAN GABRIEL VALLEY USERS GROUP

```
10 !      MAGNIFY
   A THREE LINE PROGRAM
     BY CRAIG MILLER
     MILLERS GRAPHICS
20 CALL CLEAR :: CALL CHARPAT(49,A$,50,B$,51,C$,52,D$) :: CALL
   CHAR(96,A$&B$&C$&D$,100,RPT$("FEFEFEFEFEFEFE00",4))
30 DISPLAY AT(12,7)BEEP:"CALL MAGNIFY(1)" :: CALL SPRITE(#1,96
   ,16,99,1,0,4,#2,100,2,100,1,0,4) :: A=49
40 CALL KEY(0,K,S) :: IF K<49 OR K>52 OR K=A THEN 40 ELSE CALL
   MAGNIFY(K-48) :: DISPLAY AT(12,20)BEEP:STR$(K-48)&"')" :: A
   =K :: GOTO 40
```

HOW ABOUT THIS ONE FROM TIGERCUB SOFTWARE OF COLUBUS OHIO

```
10 CAL. CLEAR :: FOR K=65 TO 90 ::CALL CHARPAT(K,A$) :: FOR J=
   15 TO 1 STEP-2 :: CH$=CH$&SEG$(A$,J,2) :: NEXT J :: CALL CH
   AR(K,CH$)
20 CH$=NUL$ :: NEXT K :: DISPLAY AT(14,3):"VT EHT DENRUT OHW! Y
   EH" :: DISPLAY AT(12,13):"?NWOD EDISPU"
30 INPUT Q$ :: GOTO 130
```

Are you tired of the blankety blinking cursor? This will work in Extended Basic. Won't work in Basic though.

```
10 call color(0,11,1)
```

These little gems will hopefully be helpful to many of you. If you have any ideas you have come across why not pass them along to Box 3400, Littleton, CO. 80161. Until next month, HAPPY COMPUTING!

(HIC cont.)

Some third party companies will produce computers that will be compatible with ours but with more memory. There will be boxes, cards, and other peripherals built to be used with the 99/4A. We might even see a clock and perhaps security systems.

Software companies will put forth a major push on software of all kinds for the 99/4A, including the Business Software we have been looking for. I predict that this time next year, we will be thankful that TI pulled out, considering their policy of restricting the third party software writers.

What we need to do now is to learn patience and to continue to evaluate all third party hardware and software. We need only to support the third parties that are putting quality products on the market. TI did know how to build a quality product for the market place, but faulted totaly in marketing the computer. They never heard or understood the public nor did they know how or try to sell the computer for the quality computer that it really is. Au revoir TI. It's time for another hot toddy - hic.

<<<<< CLASSIFIED ADDS >>>>>

<<<<< CLASSIFIED ADD RATES >>>>>

<<<<< DISPLAY ADDS >>>>>

~~~~OFFICERS and CHAIRMEN~~~~

PRESIDENT	RON KUSESKI	444-1797	** PROGRAM	TED MICHELSEN	979-6677
VICE-PRES.	TED MICHELSEN	984-3513	** LIBRARIAN	PETE CROWELL	750-5949
SECRETARY	MARTHA WEEG	455-4309	** MEMBERSHIP	MARTHA WEEG	455-4309
TREASURER	KEN MONSON	233-1788	** ASSEMBLY SIG	MIKE HOLMES	751-7945
EDITOR	LLOYD MAPLE	979-6677	** What's your SPECIAL INTEREST		750-5949

by AL YUHASZ

This is a BASIC sub-program to display titles and any other messages at
specific locations on the screen without scrolling. The messages appear in
typewriter fashion; one character at a time.

```
110 FOR I=1 TO LEN(M$)
120 CALL HCHAR(R,C+I,ASC(SEG$(M$,I,1)))
130 NEXT I
```

Where R is the ROW and C is the COLUMN in which the first character of the
first message (M$) is to appear. By adding the following line:

```
100 C=INT(32-LEN(M$))/2
```

You can have the messages appear approximately centered on the screen without
all that tedious character and space counting. Let the computer do it.
That's what you got it for!

Here is a simple demonstration program:

```
10 CALL CLEAR
15 REM LINE 20 STARTS THE SEQUENCE ARBITRARILY AT ROW 8
20 R=8
25 REM  M$ IS MESSAGE OF YOUR CHOICE NOT TO EXCEED 1 LINE(32 CHARACTERS)
   IN LENGTH
30 M$="XXXX XXXXX XX XXX"
40 GOSUB 100
50 M$="XXXXXXX XXXX"
60 GOSUB 100
70 M$="XXX XXXX XXXXXX"
80 GOSUB 100
90 GOTO 160
100 C=INT(32-LEN(M$))/2
110 FOR I=1 TO LEN(M$)
120 CALL HCHAR(R,C+I,ASC(SEG$(M$,I,1)))
130 NEXT I
135 REM LINE 140 PRINTS SUCCESSIVE MESSAGES ON ROWS 10, 12, ETC.
140 R=R+2
150 RETURN
160 END
```

<<<<< CLASSIFIED ADDS >>>>>

by TED MICHELSEN

With TI getting out of the Home Computer business and the reported shortage of
TI memory expansion cards left in the market place, anyone who wants to expand
the capabilities of the 99/4A must go to a third party supplier. Intellitec
Computer Systems of Murry, Utah offers an attractive price on both a stand
alone and peripheral expansion box card memory expansion system. The stand
alone unit is priced at $130 and the card is $95.

I purchased the card and received it in less than a week. I have found it to
generally work well. Since, it is a "bare" card, i.e. no metal case, such as
cards for the apple II, it does lack shielding. This generally is not a
problem because the other cards in my peripheral expansion box are well
shielded. I have found through experimentation that the best slot to use with
this card is #3, with my other cards (except the box control card) as far away
from the memory card as possible. This seems to have solved the occasional
loss of memory I experienced with extensive editing of programs. It appears
that my problems were due to originally using slot #7, right next to the disk
controller card and the disk drive. The heavy magnetic field and distance
from the cooling fan appears to have been the cause of my memory loss problem.

Overall, I am happy with the Intellitec Memory Expansion Card, and have found
it a good buy. It has worked with all the software that can access the memory
expansion, that I have tried.

HARDWARE and SOFTWARE REVIEWS

If you have purchased any third party hardware or software, why don't you
share with the rest of our group with your oppinion of how well it performs
for you. Tell us if you are experiencing any difficulties with either the
Company or the item.

From what we have heard, AJ INTERNATIONAL who has recently advertized in the
99er magazine, has not delivered any hardware and apparently has run with the
money they have collected. This is why we have to be especially careful with
whom we do business.

SST SOFTWARE INC. is selling a program for $25 which will unprotect Extended
Basic programs. You can do the same with 2 lines of programming:
```
CALL INIT
CALL LOAD(-31931,0)
```

Send your info to Rocky Mtn 99er's, P.O. ~~Box 3460, Littleton, CO 80161~~. We
have been asked about the 128k Memory card, RS-232 cards, smart modems,
business software etc. If you have anything to share send us a line.

<4>

TID-BITS

by Bob Charlson

TWO THINGS HAVE CHANGED MY PHILCSOPHY METHOD OF PROGRAMING: 1st-My TI-CC/40 COMPUTER. 2rd-My Good PSYCHIARTRIST

MY. enthusiasm runs-over greatly for the TI-COMPACT COMPUTER 40. Everyone interested in figures more than words should get it! This lil gem is for: College Science or Business Majors, Engineers, architects, Insurance Agents Claims Adjusters, Investment Tax Minded People, Bank Loan Officers, Real Estate Brokers, Builder Developers,etc. However, the Wafer Tape, Printer, and RS232 are not available yet, so I thought: "Since the CC-40 doesn't go dead when you turn-it-off, but only sleeps; WHY CAN'T IT BE FILLED TO CAPACITY WITH THE THINGS I USE MOST? (the light)

Now the importance of "MENU FORMATING" or DECISION TREE PROGRAMING really struck home. Especially for those who bot the bargain TI-99/4A with Cassette Recorders, this same principle, FILL-UP-THE-CONSOLE makes sense. It takes the tediousness out of locating loading good but short progams.

It has been said: "Little People talk about The Weather...Average People talk about Other People...Above Average People talk about Ideas." Well, my psychiatrist had the idea that he wanted a "Turn Key Computer Sytem because "Programing Was Too Dificult To Learn." I knew him to be a rugged individualist that would want some changes in any program he could buy. He confirmed this, so I asked him how he would go about writing a book, or a scientific Theme Type Paper? His answere was,"I WOULD COLLECT A WHOLE BUNCE OF NOTES." Then his wife, sharp as a tick, entered in with: "I WOULD MAKE AN OUTLINE!" Of course they were both right, but I pass along the conversation in the hope that it may help you, as it did me.

HOW DO YOU DO IT? Locations 10 to 100 reserved for Titles of Books or Theme, and a YES/NO decision ending each title line by a prompt. If YES (on line 10) THEN GO TO 100 ELSE 20, for next Title Simple: at 100 are labled Choices like Chapters or an Index. You are then prompted to choose #1,2,3,4,etc. between 110 to 200. On choice #1,2,3,4 GO TO 1000,1200,1600,1800 (for example). A NO decision on line 10 brings you to title on line 20. IF YES (ON LINE 20) THEN GO TO 200 ELSE 30, for 3rd Title. Line 200 Choices 1,2,3,4 GO TO 2000,2400,2600,2700,etc.

Carry-on with this idea of FILL-UP-THE-CONSOLE while sipping coffee as OLD CS1 does its 3-4 minute grind. It ADDS USE FRIDE TO PROGRAMING. (Be sure to test BYTES LEFT via: LINE 1 A=A+1 LINE 2 GO SUB 1 and RUN until "MEMORY FULL IN 1 appears on Screen. Then PRINT A and RUN for BYTES LEFT. Either Delete Lines 1 2 after Testing Memory Left, or Insert REM. I would love to tell you about the portable TI COMPACT COMPUTER 40 at a later date, as it can be Programed Easily from TI-99/4A EXTENDED BASIC.

<5>