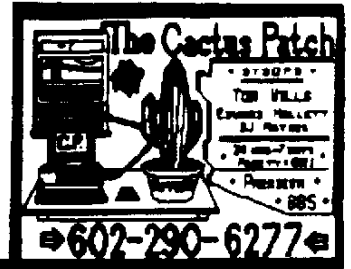


# Southwest Ninety-Niners SEPTEMBER 1991

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Library Chmn-BJ & Jack Mathis Disk Librarian-Ida McCargar  
Lending Librarians-Richard Baron, Mike Doane & Dale Usery

## DISK OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER 1991

by Ida McCargar



Thanks go to Richard Baron, one of our very active librarians, who furnished these programs, many required much time typing in from MICROpendium and he furnished translations for the German games.

AFGHANIST Shoot down the fighter planes. DR-NIM Try to make your opponent take the last stick(I think this one is rigged--TI wins every time!). E-T2 Help ET cross the street to the phone booth so he can call home. I found this one fairly easy, if you don't have to go back. PONGO? This one can be addictive.

Micropendium INDEX - Elton Schooling's index for 1990. We have the 1988 index in the library. Does anyone have the 1989 index? If so, I'd like a copy.

KUWAIT A Basic program by Regens, a map of Arabian peninsula with background music. I merged BXB into this program so I could run it in XB. To remove it, Delete lines 21931 to 21937 and line 0.

Miscellaneous Utilities: Cursor program, Number Conversion program, 4 column catalog Envelope printer by Jerry Stern, 40 column text screen for XB by Dr. Tamashiro, Multymodes (Basic only, I don't know what it does), Screen Location, Screen Color, and Exit to Title screen. I don't know how they would be used. Also Extract/XB, disables FCTN-QUIT, and XLATE, by John Ford--a text to program converter--writes a merge format file from text.


CAD, Computer Aided Design, is a Basic program by S.L. Johnston and I don't know what to do with it. Any questions about these utilities should be directed to Richard Baron.

DOMs are available FREE to SW99ers attending the membership meeting each month. If you are unable to attend the meeting, members may buy DOMs for \$1, either at a later meeting or by mail (no extra cost by mail). Non-members should send \$2 for each DOM requested.

Cassettes are prepared each month for members with "cassette only" systems. The COMs are FREE to "cassette only" members who attend the membership meeting each month or for \$1 as outlined above for DOMs.

## AUGUST SESSERS' MINUTES

Thursday August 8, 1991

1. Vice President Tom Wills conducted the meeting since President BJ Mathis is on vacation.
2. In the newsletter last month, it was reported that Ed McCullough would be 71 years old on August 2. Someone caused him to skip the big 70, so this is a correction that gives him one more shot at the golden seventies.
3. The August 5 issue of NEWSWEEK, page 33 showed a nice picture of the TI-99/4A console.
4. What is your feedback regarding the last issue of our newsletter? 
5. a. The font used for the Hulpke article was very difficult to read. (This was an experiment on the part of the assistant editors.)  
b. There should be more variety in articles. (One way to get more variety is by getting more input from the members, and, we did have room for more articles. We experimented with using the back page as the outside for addressing and stamp, folding and stapling.)  
c. We should provide input to ABO for their advertisement in the newsletter. It was decided that the Executive Committee should look into it. (We could suggest the ad might highlight many types of hardware and other items that are compatible with the TI-99/4A & Geneve.)
6. Following a discussion regarding selection of a Fairware Author of the month, it was decided that Mike Doane would be in charge of the selection process and reporting to the membership the fairware author of the month.
7. This is the farewell meeting for Pat Craig, who is returning to his home in Ohio next week.

Ed McCullough, Secretary



The Editor is Back....



# TOM'S OBSERVATIONS

By Tom Wills



This month I am going to concentrate on one subject, dealing with what I call "troubled vendors". Several vendors have fallen into this category over recent years. They included vendors such as RYTE Data, Emerald Valley Publishers (Home Computer Magazine), and miscellaneous others. We still appear to have some of these vendors around. At the present I am aware of four TI vendors who are having problems. They include Myarc Inc, Oasis Pensive Abacutors, Asgard, and Electronic Systems Development. Also, included in my troubled vendors list is one non-TI vendor, Lyco Computer.

By troubled vendors, I am referring to several symptoms. They include one or more of the following:

- 1) Failure to deliver an advertised product
- 2) Failure to make good on an advertised claim
- 3) Failure to communicate with consumers
- 4) Failure to reply to consumer inquiries
- 5) Failure to repair/replace defective item(s) in a timely manner
- 6) Failure to refund money when requested
- 7) Taking consumer's money and disappearing

Some of the above may appear to be saying the same thing, but there are subtle and important differences. For instance, points 3 and 4. Point 3 is referring to keeping a pre-paid consumer abreast of any delays or problems during product development, while point 4 is not replying to a consumers letters and/or telephone calls.

Point 6 is when a consumer requests, or demands (a very important word), full refund of any money pre-paid on an ordered item. Item 7 is generally a problem when a vendor claiming to have a new product suddenly disappears from the face of the Earth, or so it seems.

The following will discuss the problems with each of the above mentioned vendors and will refer to one or more of the seven points listed.

The most prominent of the above vendors is MYARC, INC. There should be no reason to go into great detail over Myarc's problems as they have been repeatedly discussed in many newsletters over the years. Therefore just a brief summary should suffice. First of all, Myarc has not to this day delivered on several of its advertised claims.

They include:

- 1) The Geneve still does not have a fully operational Hard Disk Operating System. Those who also have the Hard and Floppy Disk Controller Card (HFDCC) still need to have a separate controller card to operate their floppy disk drives.
- 2) HFDCC users are still not able to use 1.44 megabyte 3-1/2" disks as promised in Myarc ads.
- 3) The Geneve still does not have a Pascal system, even though Myarc has been stating it is "...almost ready" for several years now. This was supposed to be in the original Geneve package.
- 4) Myarc no longer has an operating telephone. The Alabama phone is now disconnected.
- 5) Myarc still has not delivered all the Geneve's ordered and paid for by TI'ers.
- 6) Some TI'ers and Geneve'ers have been waiting a number of months for parts sent in to be repaired and returned in working condition.
- 7) Myarc has NEVER kept consumers abreast of production delays and problems. Not even thru MICROpendium unless they were forced into it.

R) New updates to any Geneve software is never an official release anymore. It is always found on BBS's and has been enhanced by someone else.

ASGARD is the next vendor on the list. Chris Bobbitt must be given credit for trying to turn things around. He is employing the services of Harry Brashear in an attempt to help rectify a bad situation. I wish Chris and Harry lots of luck, but only time will tell if they can accomplish this feat. Most of Asgard's problems have to do with non-shipments. One good example is the now apparently defunct Asgard News. The name has been changed to Reflections. This was to be a quarterly publication, but hasn't been seen in a couple of years. A number of people have been "hung out to dry" on this fiasco.

Another blowout for Asgard was the super word processor he was going to market. A lot of hype, but no product. Just lots and lots of excuses. There has also been problems with Asgard's marketing of a new Midi device. Because of Asgard's poor performance record, the developer has chosen to become his own distributor.

OASIS PENSIVE ABACUTORS is a surprise here. This was an up and coming company. Lots of promise here. Many new products. Some of which seemed too good to be true and many really exciting innovations. One area of concern here is the fact that OPA is a Canadian company. That puts them outside of many U.S. rules and regulations. In fact, there is little you can do to get your money back or any kind of judgement against them. The fact that they have mailed out a catalog and are dealing with the U.S. Postal Service makes little difference.

Case in point: In early June I send OPA a check for almost \$55 for two Geneve compatible mice (mouses?). My check cleared shortly thereafter. In mid-July I wrote a nice letter asking what had happened was the shipment lost or what? Five weeks later, no reply. Also no mice. I've tried a couple of "backdoor" approaches to get some action here, but nothing yet.



HOLD THE PRESSES! Just as I am putting together this article, who should call but Gary Bowser himself! Gary apologized for the delay in shipping out the mice to me. He pleads lack of manpower. Hopefully this lack of manpower is because business is much greater than he anticipated. Not because of neglect. I am willing to give Gary Bowser and OPA the benefit of the doubt and another chance. See my comments about how to order at the end of this article to prevent future problems.

In any case, I would like to personally thank Gary Bowser for taking out the time to call me this morning. I hope he gets the additional manpower he needs and gets the shipments back onto a timely basis.

ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT is the last of the TI vendors to be covered in this article. When ESD started, what they had was a good workable design. It also seemed like they were set to go to it. But, plans kept changing. First one change, then another, and another... etc. At first they kept the consumers informed. But that is no longer the case. Consumers haven't heard a word since this past February. Even though they have promised to refund the money of anyone wishing their money back, I have not heard of anyone who has actually received their money back.

ESD is falling into some of the same areas of problems as Myarc. Lots of promises, but no delivery, no answering of telephone calls, and no apparent concern about their consumers. As ESD does not yet have any kind of track record, it is difficult to say if, and when, they will ever come out with a product. Tread with caution here.



And last, but not least, a non-TI vendor, LYCO COMPUTER. Lyco has in the past been a very good company to do business with. Lately some of their strategies have changed. They will not honor advertised prices. They are very non-responsive.

Case in point: In June I ordered a MX-1001 printer from them which was advertised at \$134.95. They cashed my check immediately, and then sent me an invoice saying I still owed them \$14. Upon calling Lyco, I was informed that the price had gone up by \$14, and no, they would not honor the advertised price (despite the fact they had already cashed my check). I then cancelled my order and asked for a full refund.

In late July I sent them a letter asking where my refund was and again stating that I had cancelled the order. Still no refund, or reply, or anything. I have now sent them a letter via Registered U.S. Mail with a return receipt requested. I have also given them a deadline, reasonable of course, to refund my \$134.95. I will let everyone know the results next month.

What can be done to redress our grievances against companies such as those mentioned above? Several things. Contact the company again. Maybe the order or whatever got lost in the mail or by UPS or by whomever. Whatever is done, give the vendor a chance to make good. After all, it may be circumstances over which they have no control.

If you feel you have been more than patient with the vendor and are tired of bending over backwards, or if the vendor doesn't reply, then send a registered letter with return receipt requested. In each step of the process, give the vendor a reasonable amount of time to respond. I personally feel two calendar weeks are sufficient. Make certain that you specify that you are expecting a reply by a certain date, and make that very clear to the vendor. In the letters requesting a refund, do not be nice! Demand, yes that's right, DEMAND your refund in full. Use the word "demand". Do not hint it, but state it forthrightly. During each step of this process, be certain you save a copy of any correspondence, or cancelled checks, dates of phone calls (usually backed up by your long distance phone bill). If you feel you are now a victim of mail fraud, contact your local U.S. Postal Inspector, also contact any other consumer oriented organizations you have access to. I wouldn't put too much faith in the Federal Trade Commission. Contact local and state agencies. You might even wish to contact your local Small Claims Court. In some cases, judgments are good even across state lines, but research this before starting any action.



One good way to avoid these problems is to deal, whenever possible with vendors, through the use of a credit card. Try to never deal with cash. With a credit card you can cancel the charges on your card at no cost to you. With a check, it

is a whole other ballgame.

If anyone has any additional information on any of the above companies, or has other suggestions on how to best get ones money back from any of them, please send me a note or letter to the User Group address listed on the front of this newsletter. I am dealing with the facts as I have them and am reporting them to the best of my knowledge. If anyone finds any false statements in the above article, please let me know and I will retract that which is incorrect. If any of the vendors listed in this article wish to respond to my charges, I would be happy to hear from them and will publish their replis in this newsletter without any editorial comment.

All the opinions stated in this column are strictly my own and do not necessarily reflect those of the SouthWest Ninety Miner User Group, its members, or its officers.

## USER DEBUG: GLOBAL SEARCH

by Leonard Tabbs

For those of you that may have run into difficulty trying to use SW99er's DISK OF THE MONTH (DOM:06/91), here is something that may get it to run if you had the same problem I did.

To use this excellent program you first had to Un-arc the file 'SEARCH/ARC'. The using the Editor/Assembly Option 'LOAD AND RUN', enter the Filename 'SEARCH' at the prompt. That file will load and then comes the problem I had with this program (and at least one other person who tried to run this had the same problem). The program now does not do what the Docs said it would. (The program docs say you do not have to enter and 'Object File Name' -- that the program would automatically move on to the Initial Menu.) No matter what I did, there was no way the program would pass up the 2nd prompt (for Object File Name). By trial and error (or sheer luck) I found that if you would simply PRESS FUNCTION/3 (ERASE) THIS WILL ERASE THE SECOND PROMPT. THEN PRESS ENTER.

Ida (McCargar) says in the "READ-ME" notes (DOM:06/91) that she had not tried this program or figured out how to make it work, so maybe this solution offered above will help others. Incidentally, the title screen of this SEARCH program shows W.WARREN as author (rather than E. Gaskill as the \*READ-ME notes indicate).

The files on this disk are from Jim Peterson's EDUCATIONAL software disks. As you know, Jim Peterson's library/TigerCub is one of the richest sources of useful information and utilities made available to the TI Community. WARREN's SEARCH program provided allow you to search for any item you may wish to find to ascertain what programs may be available to help you.

I feel this disk is yet ANOTHER (!) of the most valuable/helpful DISKS of the MONTH that Ida has given us. THANK YOU, IDA!!!



## LET'S GET ACQUAINTED!

by Mike Doane



This month's LGA has a slightly different format. The difference is the featured person wrote up the information himself! Thanks, Mike, for doing this. If anyone else is interested in doing the same, let me know you wish to do it, and go to it. You know what I am looking for by now. If not, ask me, and I'll fill you in. Now, let's all get acquainted with Mike Doane. ....Tom

"My name is John (Mike) Doane. I live with my wife Joan and our two sons (Matthew 9 years and Sam 7 years) at 5607 E. Julius Stravenue. My telephone # is (602) 298-8835. It is easier to reach me on the Cactus Patch (user #29) as I have this nasty habit of turning off the ringer on the telephone."

"I moved to Tucson from Indianapolis, Indiana 12 years ago. I moved here because Tucson is easier to spell than that other place."

"I have always been interested in electronics and computers but I did not get one of my own until 3 years ago. I bought my first T.I. at a garage sale. I later added a cassette. I got bored rather quickly with both the lack of available programs and the time needed to load them. I began looking for other programs and I called T.I. The service representative gave me the number of S.W.99ers. I called BJ Mathis and she invited me to come to a meeting. The first meeting I came to almost drove me away. I was so lost in the talk about sectors, crashes, densities and other foreign words. I attended a general users group meeting later and I was immediately impressed with all the help and advice I received."

"The system I now have consists of: a console, P.E. box with 32k, CorComp controller, RS232 card, a 1200 baud modem, color monitor, 2 DS/DD drives and an Okidata printer with a special cable (Ask Jack Mathis about that). I have a couple more systems also."

"I mainly use my system as a word processor but I also use it for graphics. I am in the process of trying to teach myself Multi-plan and if I ever find the time I am going to be attending the TI-Base workshop."

"I don't know if I would consider fishing as a hobby. I believe that I would term it as an overwhelming passion. I hold two state and one national records. The state records are for (drum roll please):"



"1) The largest amount of effort and bait expended for the smallest fish ever caught."

"2) Most fishing line ever entangled in the prop of an under 16 foot boat."

"The national record is for number of excuses why every body but me caught a fish. These awards are not easy to come by, but I want you to know that I don't consider myself as anything special because of them (autographed pictures will be available at the next meeting for a nominal fee.)"

"Thank you folks for being a great audience!"

Mike missed one little thing here that I feel I must add. Mike is serving as a co-Librarian of the SW99UG's documentation library. He is doing this in cooperation with Dale Ussery and Richard Baron.

## FEEDFORTH @ FEEDBACK

by Leonard Tatts



On my return from a 2-Week driving trip back East (Michigan), I was pleased to find a letter in my mail from a SW99er, R.W.Zink, as a response to the article in our last newsletter 'FEED FORTH'. Without having had time to ask his permission I am taking the liberty of quoting from his letter in part:

"I agree! SW 99ers needs a Feed FORTH, Back or Sideways column. There are constantly small problems that irritate me which others have long ago solved."

"I also have (the GASKILL 5 Disk Index). If an index could be easily created that eliminated about 80% of the unneeded records, I would include that index on my Ramdisk for quick reference....SPELL-IT (could also) be cut in half..."

"The SEARCH program on 6/91 DOM works only if you know a keyword already. ... (It) ... would be helpful if the Index were trimmed and sorted'. Color ....(and another item) ... (Where) is the sector area on Birdwell's Disk Utility to change the (Color) default?..."

Bob Zink's final question in his letter is: "Does anyone know what Alexander Mulpke said on pages 2, 3, and 4? Thanks for the forum."

It is really great to have a member take the time to respond to our Newsletter. Bob made me realize something which was how rarely I myself have ever taken the time to write people whose articles or programs I have read to either thank them or comment on what I liked about their program or suggestions I might have, etc. Thanks, Bob! Elsewhere in this newsletter (or in the next one if time does not permit to get it in this one) I will attempt to give answers to your questions.

This letter was the very kind of input I hoped the Feedforth column might encourage. It certainly could be a useful column for exchange as the above quoted letter indicates.

## FAIRWARE AUTHORS

by Mike Doane



SouthWest 99ers UG are going to have a Fairware Author of the month. We will send letters to the fairware authors. The name of the author chosen for each month will be listed in the newsletter. Those who use the program will be asked to contribute to a collection for the author taken at the monthly meeting, and a check will be sent from the group with an attached list of all contributors.

In the newsletter we will list all the programs by the Fairware Author of the Month, and (depending on the responses to our letters) any new programs by the author.

We hope, in this way to show our support and gratitude of the people who have done so much for our community.

# FEEDFORTH

by Leonard Tabbs

FEEDFORTH was introduced in the last newsletter as a column opposite to a FEEDBACK column--a catalyst, if you will, to stimulate reaction from readers. Very informal, it is written by a lay-person who identifies himself loosely as an 'early intermediate level' programmer--still in touch with beginning level programming. My area of concentration will be data manipulation. I am not that much into Graphics or games (although I appreciate and can enjoy what others have accomplished in this area). There may be other readers out there who have worked with games and graphics, interested enough to contribute to this column.

In this column I will elaborate on 'Bamba', mentioned in the last issue. My early programs were all TI Basic and used 'PRINT' statements. This was before I had learned how to enter information as DATA statements to be read by the computer and, then, further manipulated. The next step would include a means of 'sorting' (alphabetizing) the data. In TI Basic, if using 'PRINT' statements, you are limited to a screen or printer display of the data in the order you entered them. That's it unless you create a fancy series of GOTO statements or similar programming to accomplish jumping around to different PRINT statements--a very lengthy and tedious process. Entering your information as DATA statements is far more practical as you can tell the computer to do some pretty fancy things with it including instructions to go to a part of the program that will sort this data or any portion of it for you. A simple example of a DATA program is illustrated by lines 20, 40, and 50 in the following:

```
10 RESTORE
15 INPUT "Enter Item Bought:
   ":ITEM$
20 READ A$
25 IF A$="@" THEN 10
30 IF POS(D$,ITEM$,1)=0 THEN
   20
40 PRINT A$
50 GOTO 20
100 DATA 168,AT EVEN WHEN TH
   E SUN,ANGELUS,112/3$45/5X$4/
   5X$.L.M.
110 DATA 237,BEROLD A LITTLE
   CHILD,ARTHUR'S SEAT,5/8.876
   /5X$.66.66.88
120 DATA 382,O WHERE ARE KIN
   GS AND EMPIRES NOW,TALLIS' O
   RDINAL,1/3455/665,C.M.
130 DATA @
```



Lines 15 and 30 change a simple data reading program into a simple SEARCH program. The key to this search program is line 30 ('IF POS...'). This single line can be entered into many existing file reading programs to add a SEARCH feature to them (along with a line for your inputting item to search)--A\$ in line 30 will need to match whatever string variable your file reading program uses.

BAMBA started out as a simple sort program in which you could enter up to 100 items to be put into alphabetical order. It would only accept alphabetical characters (numbers were refused). When you typed 'END' it would sort your items and then print them out on the screen for you. This program was selected from a book of BASIC programs (I would like to credit the author/publisher but have mislaid the book--it was not in TI Basic language). This program fascinated me but was very frustrating as it had no program lines to control the scrolling up the screen, no means of saving the sort, no printer option to print the list out. Imagine trying to copy the list as it scrolled up the screen--yet that was what I had to do. The longer the list the more times I had to enter the items all over again to get a complete list.

Necessity became the motivation to start me out learning how to program what I wanted this sort program to do for me. Jack Mathis was to be much thanked for generously providing me with a starting program with SAVE and CHANGE/DELETE features. The early menu for this program looked something like this:

- ```
SELECT
1 NEW LISTING
2 OLD LISTING (FOR CASSETTE)
3 VIEW LIST
4 CHANGE/DELETE ITEM
5 SAVE
6 END
```

Here was an exciting program for me but the sort was terribly slow. When I learned how to increase the items I could enter I tried a list of some 300 or more items. The sort was so slow that I continued to think the computer had locked up because nothing seemed to be happening! Not until the phone rang one day and I was away from the computer for a half hour or more (while it was sorting) did I come back to find the menu returned waiting for me to view the list! This showed me the importance of having a screen indication that not only was the computer sorting but some kind of indication on the screen that the computer was active and not locked up. With a static or stationary screen display you have no way of knowing whether old faithful has locked up or not.

BAMBA today has two main menus:

(First Menu):

- ```
1 NEW LISTING
2 OLD LISTING (CASSETTE)
3 OLD LISTING (DISK)
4 GO TO SECOND MENU
5 CHANGE COLOR
6 SET FLAGS (*SEARCH *PRINT ALL *PRINT
   SELECTED ITEMS)
7 AUTO LOAD
8 RUN AGAIN
9 HEADER OPTION

F - TO SEE FILES
D - DATE S - SPACE
```



(Second Menu):

- ```
1 DISPLAY ONLY (SEARCH option if flag set)
2 ADD TO LIST
3 CHANGE/DELETE ITEM
4 PRINT (numbered)
5 SAVE (CASSETTE)
6 SAVE (DISK)
7 SORT
8 PRINT (W/OUT NUMBERS)
9 END

M - MENU 1
S - SET FLAGS
```



Meanwhile, from an old 99er magazine I found a new sort called 'Quick Sort' which was substituted for the original slow sort. (Quick Sort sorted about 5 times faster than the original, so now I could sort hundreds of items in minutes--I think it will sort about 500 items in 10 to 15 minutes or less (depending upon how out of order the items are). Which raises the question of capacity--how many items you can enter before you get the dreaded 'MEMORY FULL' message depends upon your system's memory capability. Because the length of items in your list decide how much memory is used (as well as number of items). Multiple files are one way to get around memory problems using this program.

MENU 1 Option 6 is to set three flags: activate printer, activate Search Option (to search any BAMBAs file for specific item), and a flag to scroll list (with interrupt) to give you option of printing only selected items from list you want. ('S' option on Menu 2 is same option). Opt 7 (AUTO LOAD) was a bonanza find for me. I discovered that I could load a second file on top of the first file and continue to do so until memory was full. This meant that I could merge separate files to be sorted as a larger new file without having to use separate lists. AUTO LOAD has another provision which allows you to load one file (up to maximum memory), then delete this file before loading the next file. So you can load an infinite number of files to search for an item that you cannot remember which file it is in. In this way BAMBAs became an early handy 'Scratch Pad' program. Another early use I made of this was to index several years of American Organist magazine articles. By including a list of these files in the AUTO LOAD part of the program it could search the entire magazine files and print me a list of whatever item I was searching.

Opt 8 (RUN AGAIN) simply avoided the problem of FNCTN Clear and having to enter 'OLD DSK1...'--(practical only when running AUTO LOAD). Opt 8 (HEADER OPTION) was a convenience to enter any title to identify the list to be printed in advance. (Kept forgetting when I ran printer options). 'F' option was to see BAMBAs files list to save having to look them up. Date option was handy to be included in any list you might be looking at weeks or months later. 'S' option handy to get printer to roll up wherever you wanted to (separate different groups of items being Searched, etc.)

MENU 2 options are self-explanatory. Included in every option of all menus is an ESCAPE if you make wrong selection. If you pressed SORT option you can even escape that without having to wait for Sorting to be completed. If you press SAVE to CASSETTE by mistake, this escape means no annoying wait for the computer to cycle through that routine before you can continue!

To conclude, BAMBAs is a DATA input program. It accepts one line at a time--alpha or alphanumeric characters. It cannot manipulate this data apart from sorting it. It saves in Internal Fixed 192 format (to accommodate Cassette files) but can be saved in D/V 80 file format or whatever your preference as long as you remember the length of your entries must keep the SAVE format in mind (so you don't inadvertently lose data). I have other programs that are faster than BAMBAs but BAMBAs is very useful and quick for lists that don't have more than 100 to 200 items. The nature of this beast is winsome. The capacity for Cassette files seems to

be about 30 (+ ?) sectors. On Myarc ramdisk I get about 94 sectors (525 items in one of my largest files--items up to at least average length of 100 characters (+/-). Later added features have been a LIMITER function which allows user to SAVE parts of lists or SORT only parts of lists or SEARCH parts of lists (particularly useful when you know what you are looking for is near the end of the list and you don't want to have to wait for the computer to scroll through early part of alphabet or low numbers...). While there are other programs (and some very good ones) that allow you to assemble data in a similar way, I am rebellious against some of these programs' limitations such as having to enter the data in a specified way and limited as to length of entries, etc. If BAMBAs sounds interesting I will be glad to publish the program or share a copy.

## NEWBYTES

by Ida McGovern



New FUNNELWEB, v4.40 released in Mid-August by Will McGovern. Two DSSD disks available from SW99ers, contact Ida for a copy and please specify disk format.

Signs of the times are that Hunter Valley UG of Australia will cease operation very soon, according to a letter from Tony McGovern.

Lima UG has obtained copies of several video presentations made for TI between 1980 and 1983. They have put them on 2 VHS tapes with total viewing time of about 3 hrs. User groups may obtain these videos by sending \$5 (or a blank tape and \$1.25)) for each tape to P.O.Box 647, Venedocia OH 45894.

Tap #1 --The Video Controller Cosby tape. An "in store" point of sale tape featuring the 99/4. It is designed to be used with the VIDEO CONTROLLER peripheral, but you can view it in the normal way. Included are demos of many vintage software cassettes and cartridges.

Tap #2 --Official TI Commercials, Sales training, etc. Includes Cosby commercials, and segments from TV shows with TI demos, and the RETAIL SALES TRAINING video, about 45 minutes.

The 9900 CLIPBOARD: a new diskazine. A new magazine on a disk for Assembly and c-programmers. On one side of a 3S/3D floppy are articles, and on the other side is Assembly and c source code, Assembly Object code and PROGRAM type files. This is written by two college students who definitely know their stuff. NOT for the user, though some may find some of the programs useful. This diskazine is geared toward the programmer. The price is definitely right. You may get a sample copy of issue #1 free along with information on subscribing. It is well worth the \$.29 it takes to get a copy. Write to the following address and mention Andy Frueh's review in "Bits,Bytes Pixels".

TMS 9900 Clipboard  
629 Field Cliff Drive  
Stone Mountain GA 30087

# THE COMPLETE TIME TRAVELER: A TOURIST'S GUIDE TO THE FOURTH DIMENSION

by Howard J. Blumenthal & others  
Ten Speed Press c1988, 2038.

Book Review  
by Ida McCargar



A comprehensive book on Time Travel, written in the year 2038, when Time Travel has become a popular activity. Includes descriptions of various types of time machines, the rules and regulations of time travel, travel basics such as clothing required, how to deal with sanitation in the past, manners and customs to be observed, obtaining shelter, local transportation, etc. Some destinations are suggested, along with tips on what to look for and certain times to be avoided.

There is a chapter of questions and answers, and a glossary of time travel terms. One of the most valuable features of this book is a 13 page bibliography of books, short stories, essays, films, and TV programs. All in all, this is a fascinating book which I recommend to everyone interested in science fiction, time travel, imaginary voyages, or humorous essays. It can be obtained at any branch of Tucson Public Library by requesting it from the librarian. If it is not in your branch, the librarian will send for it.

## AUTOMATIC COMPUTER MUSIC

by Earl Ragusa  
UGOC ROM - AUG '91

About 15 years ago there was some music that was supposed to have been composed by a computer. It was pretty goo I thought, but I doubted the word composed. Generated may have been a more accurate word. Although music is a mathematical subject, I will never believe that some genius' formula will do a truly creative task. However, listening to the "music" played by the following little program, written by a 12-year old almost makes me a believer, a non-disbeliever at the least. It is short, type it in and run it, it's worth the effort. Press any key to stop it.

100 ! SAVE DSK1.AUTOMUSIC  
105 ! from ENTER magazine  
(by a 12-year old),  
reprinted in NEWJUG North  
Newsletter April '85,  
author not named.

110 ! echo  
120 DIM A(6)  
130 RANDOMIZE  
140 DATA 247,262,294,330,349  
,392,440  
150 FOR B=0 TO 6  
160 READ A(B)  
170 NEXT B  
180 B=INT(RND\*7)  
190 C=B  
200 D=B  
210 GOTO 250  
220 D=C  
230 C=B  
240 B=INT(RND\*7)  
250 CALL SOUND(-200,A(B),0,A  
(C),9,A(D),19)  
260 CALL KEY(O,E,F)  
270 IF F=0 THEN 220



## PANDEMONIUM: PATTER WITH PAN

by Charles Hubbard  
Brevard UG NL May '91



"Hello! Welcome to Pandemonium, your friendly 'does it all now' computer data masseur. Let me introduce myself: I'm your tutorial. Let me show you the ropes. Just call me Pan, and it's your turn. Please type in your name on the keyboard, no more than twelve letters."

Well, Hello again, Tom Jones. Since we are friends, I'll just call you TOM. Ha! It's your turn again, Tom. Please press the 'Enter' key; that's the one on the right."

"Very good Tom! You really catch on fast! Look at that list on the screen. Each item has a letter; you choose from the list by typing the letter. We call this list a menu. Try it, Tom. Press a letter key, see what happens."

"Oh, not the 'L' key, Tom. You see, 'L' wasn't on the list. You have to choose a letter from the menu. Press another key."

"Not the 'Control' key, Tom. That's confusing because it brings up the next instruction. Please, we're in this together. We can't go to the next item until we've finished this one. Come On, Tom a letter please!"

"Oh! No! Not the 'Control' again ..."

"Must have a letter ..."

"Pandemonium! ... Jumble ..."

"No Compute!"

"Bedlam! ... Babel! ... Berserk!"

"Breakdown ... Meltdown ..."

Lights out ... Ah, Oblivion!"



## THE ALTMAN FAIRWARE LIST

The Altman Fairware List is being maintained and updated by the SouthWest 99ers. The latest list includes over 400 titles, and indexes for author, and subject. It is available for \$2 (postage inc). You can choose to receive it, either pre-printed or on disk. The SBSD unarchives to 591 sectors, and prints out to over 30 pages. Send a check or money order to SouthWest Ninety-Miners, P.O. Box 17831, Tucson AZ 85730.

Announcements of new fairware may be sent to the above address. Please include a short description of the program(s) and the author's address. The information provided will be added to The Altman Fairware List and made available to other TI/9640 users.

# WISE GUYS



The following information is provided as a service to our members. The items listed are for sale by the individuals indicated and are subject to prior sale. The group assumes no responsibility for items listed and makes no claims as to their condition or interface compatibility with the TI-99/4A computer. Only computer related items will be accepted for publication in this newsletter.

**WANTED - TI Color Monitor**  
Richard Brewer - (602)790-3562  
Leave message

Entec external power supply box. Has enough power for a hard disk and two full power floppies. Light toggle switches on front to control 3 outlets on the back of the box. Asking \$80.

Tom Willis (602)886-2460 or #1 on CP

\$100 o.b.o. PEB w/TI Controller  
SSSD drive (no other cards)  
Ida McCargar (602)294-3024

\$20 Empty TI Expansion Box  
\$150 TI-99/4A Expansion System  
32K, SSSD Drive & Speech Synthesizer  
Hunchman, Parsec, Adventure, Star Trek  
Home Financial Decisions, The Attack  
Tunnels of Doom, Disk Manager II  
Kip Wagner (602)625-1220  
or #39 on Cactus Patch BBS

\$150 TI-99/4A Expansion System  
32K, RS232, SSSD Drive  
Speech Synthesizer, Widget, Joysticks  
Many Modules, and other Software  
Well Organized Documentation  
Joe Deane (602)722-4109 after 5pm

\$100 Expansion Box w/SSSD Drive  
TI Disk Controller, & Memory

\$125 Expansion Box w/SSSD Drive  
TI Disk Controller, Memory & RS232

\$175 Expansion Box w/2 SSSD Drive  
TI Disk Controller, Memory & RS232

\$40 Stand Alone Disk Drive & Case  
\$5 300 BAUD Modem w/cable & power  
\$4 Replacement keyboards  
\$4 Replacement Console Power Supplies  
\$15 TI-99/4A Console  
500/¢1 Mailing Labels  
Tractor feed 1-across  
50/¢1 Disk Labels  
TI Keyboard Overlays \$3ea or 5/¢10  
Printer Cables 4'=\$8 6'=\$10 10'=\$12  
Modem Cables 6'=\$8 (Telex ready)  
\$3 Cassette Cable

**Printer Ribbons**  
\$3 NX-10 \$4 NX-2400  
\$2 Epson NX-80 \$3.50 NX-1000

**Cartridges**  
\$1 Home Financial Decisions  
\$1 Household Budget Management  
\$10 Multiplan  
\$1 Hunch Man  
\$1 Personal Real Estate  
\$1 Personal Record Keeping  
\$1 Tax Investment Record Keeping  
\$10 TI Logo II

## Books

- \$1 36 TI-99/4A Programs for Home, School, & Office
  - \$3 Best of 99er
  - \$2 Computer Playground
  - \$1 Getting the Most From Your Cassette System (for SV99ers only!)
  - \$10.50 Home Publishing on the TI-99/4A Supplement #3 w/disk
  - \$2 Programs for the TI Home Computer
  - \$3 Sans Entertainment Games in TI Basic & XBasic - Book & Cassette
  - \$3 Sans TI-99/4A 24 BASIC Programs - Book & Cassette
  - \$3 Sans TI-99/4A Games - Book & Cassette
  - \$3 Sans TI-99/4A Calc - Book & Cassette
  - \$1 TI-99/4A: 51 Fun and Educational Programs
  - \$3 The Writers by Harry Brashear
  - \$10 Thinking Forth
  - \$2 Using & Programming the TI-99/4A Home Computer/99er Magazines  
\$1 each or 6 for \$5  
November 1982 thru  
November 1983  
Vol 4, #1 thru Vol 5, #3
- Jack or BJ Mathis (602)747-5046

POX TROT by Bill Amend





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 COMPUTER BLDG/ AISLE 3

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 New 360K Drives for TI

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Serial Cords \$10.00 & up

Modems, Cards, etc.

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**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

*by BJ Mathis*

At the August meeting there was some discussion of the items available from ABO and the fact that their advertisement was not aimed at the TI users.

ABO carries many items that are compatible with the TI and Geneve. Any IBM compatible 360K disk drives, printer, or modem can be used by the TI or Geneve. Many of the older monitors are compatible with the TI. ABO also carries monitors that can be used with the Geneve. Check out ABO and tell them BJ sent you or you saw their ad in the SouthWest Ninety-Niners newsletter.



FOX TRAY by Ed Amend

**MEMBERS MEET**

Thursday, September 12th at Devon Gables Health Care Center (Exec Dining Rm) at 6150 E. Grant across from the Price Club at 7pm. Jack Mathis will demonstrate the many new features of his latest version of Disk Manager 1000 (DM1000).



**GENEVE USERS**

Second Tuesday each month (September 10th) - 7:30pm, Ida McCargar's home - 5428 E Madison Stravanue - 294-3024.

**EXEC MEETING**

Monday after the membership meeting. September 16th at 6:30pm. Perkins Restaurant at Grant and Swan, NE corner. All SW99ers are invited.

**GENERAL USERS**

Third Tuesday each month (September 17th) - 7:30pm, Mathis' home - 5941 E 26th - 747-5046.

**GRAPHICS WORKSHOP**

Saturday, September 21st - 9am-12noon - Bear Canyon Library, 8959 E Tanque Verde Larry Newman will demonstrate graphics on the TI-99/4A.



**ADVANCED LANGUAGES**

Fourth Tuesday of each month (September 24th) - 7pm, Rod Stallard's home - 7575 E Logan Dr - 745-6071.

**TI-BASE WORKSHOP**

October 1st - 7:30pm - Tom Wills' home - 6925 E Kingston Dr - 886-2460.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

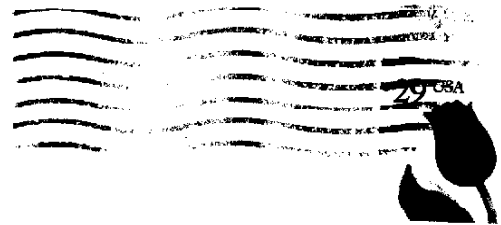
Twenty members attended the August '91 membership meeting. We McKinley Jones, Mike Doane, Tom Buick, Lee Janowsky, Les Neff and Dale Usery renewed their memberships. There are now fifty-nine members of SW99ers. Hope to see more members at all the meetings now that summer is over!



*SouthWest Ninety-Niners/Sep '91*



SouthWest Ninety-Niners  
PO Box 17831  
Tucson, AZ 85730



Dallas TI HC Group 9108  
Dallas 99 Interface  
PO Box 29863  
Dallas TX  
75229

