

BUG NEWS

EDITOR'S CORNER

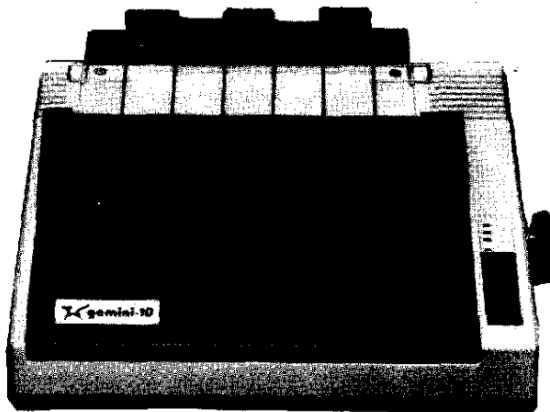
BUG NEWS is finally here again! Our thanks to all of you who have contributed your articles to this issue, keep up the good work! We would also like to welcome all of our new members.

The last two months have been very active ones for the groups. The Cahaba Heights group is now fully organized and growing rapidly. The Irondale TIBUG held its tutorial sessions apart from our regular meetings in February. Nine members attended the classes,

which ran for three nights. All agreed that they learned a lot about TI BASIC. The tutorials were held at the Crestwood ZAYRE, and once again we thank them for their help.

Recently, we held our first "Pizza Byte Bash" at Big Daddy's Pizza in Rosebuck. This meeting was strictly for fun, food, and fellowship, and a good time was had by all. We will be having more social meetings and tutorials in the future.

THE GEMINI 10 PRINTER



In the world of computers, where "expensive" seems to be the rule, it is refreshing to find a real bargain.

In researching computer printers in this area I was shocked to find that the lowest priced printer that I could purchase locally cost around \$400 at a local electronic chain store. This printer produced a fairly poor quality print.

With this in mind, I decided to put off a printer purchase for an indefinite period of time.

It wasn't until a fellow group member, Barron Bartlett, showed me samples from his new printer and my need for a typewriter that I seriously "reconsidered" my original decision on the printer.

The samples he showed me were almost amazing. 5, 6, 8.5, 10, 12, 17 characters per inch modes were available. Lower case decenders, Proportional characters, 9 x 9 matrix characters, emphasize and double strike modes, and dot addressable graphics were again standard. In fact the printer had more features than many \$800 machines. The best thing about all this is that it could be purchased for under \$360.

NOW THAT'S A BARGAIN!

Below are samples of the print:

THIS IS A TEST! This is a test!
THIS IS A TEST! This is a test! 123456
THIS IS A TEST! This is a test! 1234567890
THIS IS A TEST!
THIS IS A TEST! This is a test!
THIS IS A TEST! This is a test!

In addition to the above modes and features, the printer has a 4K buffer, parallel interface, friction or tractor feed, and much, much more.

We purchased the printer mail order, I suggest that you check with ROEBUCK TYPEWRITER before you order your machine because they have an excellent price.

(THE GEMINI WAS USED TO PRINT THIS NEWSLETTER)

-by David Grisson

LIBRARY NEWS

As of this newsletter we have a total of 86 programs. The majority of the programs are written in TI BASIC. As some people have commented, all of these programs (games) are not all that exciting to play, but most people tend to forget that a computer is to learn and gain more knowledge, not just to play games on. If only games were wanted, we would all have a home video game system, not a home computer. So, when "games" are checked-out, they serve us best by trying to dissect, trace, and de-bug along with playing the games.

Some of these BASIC games are "San Francisco Tourist", and "Hangman" are familiar to most everyone. "San Francisco Tourist" is a graphics game where the player must guide a speeding car down a narrow and winding street. In "Miner", the player must go underground, dig for gold and then deliver the gold to the bank.

Some EXTENDED BASIC games include "Interplanetary Rescue", "Battlestar", and "Battleship". All 3 of these games are of the 'shoot-em-up' theme, but all are very well written.

Also, we have programs written for education, graphics, music, and home use.

"Calculation of PI", "Typing", "Chemistry", and "Morse Code" are just a few of the educational programs. The typing programs include "Typing for Accuracy" in which an actual typing course is taught and "Typing Symbols" in which symbols and function keys are covered. "Morse Code" include character identification and practice segment by trial and error.

Included in the graphics and music selection, we have quite a few to choose from in both BASIC and EXTENDED BASIC. "Pink Panther" and "War Eagle" have both music and graphics. "Dixie", "Amazing Grace", and "Beethoven's 5th and 9th Symphonies" are all well written programs.

Programs written for the home seem to be the most popular. These include "Home Secretary", "Checkbook Balance", "Consumer Loan Analysis", and "Real Estate Loan Analysis".

"Home Secretary" allows storage of data such as names, address, etc.

Also, this program has a phone directory that can dial numbers with a touch tone phone.

The loan analysis programs enable the user to figure interest rates, payment amounts, and length of payments.

I would like to take this time to thank all of the people who have designed and donated programs to our user's group. These programs are an inspiration to us all to achieve greater heights. A few of these programs are "Football", "Blackjack", "Leapfrog", "Music Creator", and "Triangle and Trigonometry".

In conclusion, a reminder about the library policies. Paid membership entitles the user to check-out tapes at the meetings.

There is a 30 day time limit on the cassettes, but please remember that others are waiting. If there is a problem in returning the cassettes, one be mailed with a regular envelope and 40 cents postage to me.

Linda Biddinger
42 Sunscape Drive
Birmingham, AL 35215
(205) 856-0801

USER'S GROUP DISCOUNTS

Computer Supplies, Inc. is offering a 10% discount to card carrying members on computer supplies (diskettes, printer paper, etc.). They are located at:

4001 2nd Ave. South
Phone: 592-4230

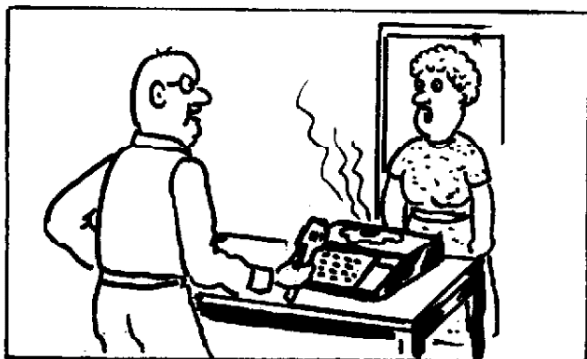
Roebuck Typewriter is still offering club members special prices on printers and monitors.

The Crestwood Zayre is offering a 10% discount on TI equipment and software to all card-carrying members.



**Additional Printing
and Circulation
Courtesy of**

Zayre



"I HAVEN'T RECEIVED MY ADAPTER FROM TI!"

TI INFORMATION

SAFETY ADAPTERS

TI recently discovered a potential defect in some of the transformers sold with the computer. "Even in the unlikely event of transformer failure, contact with electrical current is possible only when touching an input port on the console of the RF modulator connected to your television. There is no hazard when touching other parts of the computer." TI has quickly solved this potential problem. For owners of the computer, you will receive an adapter directly from Texas Instruments. If you have changed your address since purchasing your computer or are not positive that you filled out your yellow card, you should call TI at 800-527-3550 or 800-838-4565. All stores in Alabama now are selling the "safety checked" computers with adapters attached. If you should see any computer in any store without a green safety label, please contact Jackie at 956-5044.

STORES SELLING TI

You can now buy TI computers and software at the following stores: K Mart, Zayre, Golbro, Standard Distributors, Video Concepts, Pizitz, Service Merchandise, Rich's [Brookwood only], J.C. Penney, and soon at Sears.

PRICE REDUCTION

I am sure you are all aware by now of the price reduction on the TI. Most stores are selling the computer for \$245-\$249 with the \$100 rebate. If you are a card-carrying member of TIBUG you can purchase a "spare" computer from Zayre at a 10% discount.

TI INFORMATION CONTRIBUTIONS--Jackie Sanford

THE TI AND YOUR FAMILY TREE

Do you love to read mystery and detective stories? If so, you will love doing genealogical research, which is now the third largest hobby in the United States. If you have been researching your family tree, you have found that you have collected reams of notes and records, and that the problem of retrieval of information has become a chore. As an owner of a Texas Instruments TI 99/4A computer you have the ideal tool to aid you in your research by keeping your records orderly, and eliminating confusion.

Before you begin putting your records on your computer you will need to decide how you want your records organized. Different systems offer advantages and disadvantages. For example, using word-processing allows you to write your records in any fashion you choose, but you cannot compute with it. That is, you cannot link one person's file with another person's, whereas in data-base management you can retrieve a portion of a record and print it, such as place of birth, date of birth, etc.

Since there is a scarcity of genealogical programs for the TI 99/4A available, you may choose to write your own program to suit your needs. You may start by putting your records on cassette tape, but eventually you will need a disk system. If you research your parents' ancestors for ten generations you will have 1022 names, which does not include any brothers or sisters. Since the number of parents doubles with each generation you go back, you can see how fast the volume of records will multiply.

The Birmingham Public Library has the largest source of genealogical records in the South, and there are several historical and genealogical societies here. The library now has computers in each department which are on an information network, and when the new library is completed there will be several computers in each department.

If you are interested in a more detailed explanation regarding using computers for genealogical research, copies of an article, "COMPUTING YOUR FAMILY TREE", which appeared in the January 1983 issue of PERSONAL COMPUTING magazine will be available in the TI BUG library. Happy hunting!

BY ALLAN COX

THE SECRET OF THE MULTI-COLOR MODE

Having heard about the MULTI-COLOR mode for a long time, it came as a very pleasant surprise when I finally gained access to this mode of operation for the 99/4 computer, and just had to share the secret of accessing it with others. The MULTI-COLOR mode allows user definition of any 64 column position and 48 column position colors. Any of the normal 16 colors is available (numbered 0-F in hexadecimal notation).

With the MINIMEMORY in place, or alternately with the MEMORY EXPANSION and EXTENDED BASIC, the MULTI-COLOR mode can be called as simply as using the program:

```
100 CALL CLEAR
110 CALL LOAD(-31788,232)
120 CALL KEY(0,K,S)
130 IF S=0 THEN 120
```

If you type in this program and run you will be in the MULTI-COLOR mode, however you will note that nothing happens until you press any key, but when you do some funny colors appear at the bottom of the screen. At this point if you are working with MINIMEMORY you must either turn your computer off or type in (without looking at the monitor) the command CALL LOAD(-31788,224) then hit enter and any key to return to the normal mode.

Now we can begin to examine what is going on and build on this knowledge. The CALL LOAD command told the computer to put the value 232 in the address -31788 to register 1 in the computer. Now let's add the routine to end and go back to the normal mode.

```
620 CALL KEY(0,K,S)
630 IF S=0 THEN 620
640 IF K<>46 THEN 620
650 CALL LOAD(-31788,224)
```

Now if we run the program we can press the period key to exit the MULTI-COLOR mode. First the colors can be defined by using the CALL CHAR commands. The 16 HEX codes that we normally use to define a graphic character now define the 16 colors that are available except they run from 0-F instead of 1-16. If you add the fol-

lowing lines to your program you will see what I mean.

```
140 CALL CHAR(96,"0123456789ABCDEF")
370 CALL VCHAR(2,2,96,19)
```

These lines will place colors in the four small color blocks of the normal character blocks located at R1, C10, R2, C10, R3, C10, R4, C10 you should begin to see where the colors are being placed. Each CHAR definition defines the four small blocks within it in the following order: upper left, upper right, lower left, lower right. Now that you have the concept, I look forward to seeing your programs in the new mode.

REQUIRES THE MINIMEMORY OR EXTENDED BASIC AND 32K MEMORY EXPANSION.

```
100 CALL CLEAR
105 CALL INIT
110 CALL LOAD(-31788,232)
120 CALL KEY(0,K,S)
130 IF S=0 THEN 120
140 CALL CHAR(96,"0123456789ABCDEF")
150 CALL CHAR(97,"0011")
160 CALL CHAR(98,"0008111")
170 CALL CHAR(99,"008811")
180 CALL CHAR(100,"0088181")
190 CALL CHAR(101,"0088118181818181")
200 CALL CHAR(102,"181")
210 CALL CHAR(103,"008811")
220 CALL CHAR(104,"008810")
230 CALL CHAR(105,"1811")
240 CALL CHAR(106,"8810")
250 CALL CHAR(107,"0E444E4E4E4E4E4E")
260 CALL CHAR(108,"EE4400EE4400EE44")
270 CALL CHAR(109,"0EE4E40EE4E4E")
280 CALL CHAR(110,"0E4E4E4E4E4E4E4E")
290 CALL CHAR(111,"00000000000000EE44")
300 CALL CHAR(112,"0E4E4E4E4E4E4E4E")
310 CALL CHAR(113,"EE440000000000EE44")
320 CALL CHAR(114,"EE4E4000EE4E4E4E")
330 CALL CHAR(115,"0811")
340 CALL CHAR(116,"0E666E6E6E6E6E6E")
350 CALL HCHAR(1,2,97,29)
360 CALL VCHAR(2,30,94,19)
370 CALL VCHAR(2,2,96,19)
380 CALL VCHAR(3,3,98,4)
390 CALL VCHAR(3,6,99,4)
400 CALL VCHAR(3,9,100,4)
410 CALL VCHAR(3,7,101,4)
420 CALL VCHAR(3,8,102,4)
430 CALL HCHAR(9,7,102)
440 CALL VCHAR(3,12,103,4)
450 CALL VCHAR(3,13,104,4)
460 CALL VCHAR(3,14,104,4)
470 CALL HCHAR(9,12,105)
480 CALL HCHAR(9,13,105)
490 CALL HCHAR(9,14,106)
500 CALL VCHAR(13,9,107,4)
510 CALL VCHAR(13,10,108,4)
520 CALL VCHAR(13,11,109,4)
530 CALL VCHAR(13,12,110,4)
540 CALL VCHAR(13,14,111,4)
550 CALL VCHAR(13,15,112,4)
560 CALL VCHAR(13,17,116,4)
570 CALL VCHAR(13,18,113,4)
580 CALL VCHAR(13,19,114,4)
590 FOR I=2 TO 30
600 CALL VCHAR(20,I,94,4)
610 NEXT I
620 CALL KEY(0,K,S)
630 IF S=0 THEN 620
640 IF K<>46 THEN 620
650 CALL LOAD(-31788,224)
```

by Barron Bartlett

WE WISH TO THANK RON COUNCIL, OF
ADVERTISING & ART COUNCIL FOR PRINTING
BUG NEWS.

INPUT/OUTPUT

- Q. How can I load a cassette program produced by another company or individual on my recorder without frustration?
- A. Turn the tone control to its highest setting. Volume should be mid-range. Follow instructions after you type in OLD CSI. If you get the message NO DATA FOUND, increase the volume. If you get the message ERROR IN DATA, decrease the volume. -From COMPUTE!, Jan. 1983, p 184
- Q. Will the rebate and speech synthesizer offers be extended past April 15th?
- A. No, there are no current plans to extend the offers at this time.
- Q. Where can I find articles and programs for the TI-99/4A?
- A. Of course the 99'ER HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE is your best source. Also COMPUTE! magazine now offers monthly articles and some programs for our computer. The Irondale Public Library subscribes to this magazine. Issues, other than the current one, may be checked out.
- Q. I own a Disk Manager I but would like to swap it for the new Disk Manager II. How do I go about doing this?
- A. Send the serial number from your disk controller card, along with \$9.95 to:

P.O. Box 53
Lubbock, Texas 79408
Texas Instruments
Attn: Accessories Department

TI DEMOS

The TI-99/4A was demonstrated to thousands of Birmingham area folks at the Modern Office and Computer Show at the B-J Civic Center held February 9-10-11. The computer was demonstrated by TI Computer Advantage Club people,

including Carolyn Henshaw-Lewis. The show was attended by more than 30,000 people. TIBUG has gained several new members as a result of the show. Area stores reported brisk sales during and after the show. We would like to thank Ron Council, of the Advertising and Art Council for letting us share their display booth at the show, and for helping to spread the TI gospel.

The TI was also demonstrated at the Home and Garden Show at the Civic Center March 11-14, in the Zayre booth. Several PSR's participated in the demonstrations, to a crowd almost as large as the one drawn by the computer show.

PERSONAL COLUMN

For sale: TI phone modem, for \$100. Call Dr. Wilson, 1-586-4171 days, or write to him at 937 North Main St., Arab, AL 35016.

For Sale: A Honda mini bike, in good condition, for \$175. Call Chuck Biddinger at 836-8476, or 856-0801. (Editor's note: We don't usually accept items not related to computers, but Chuck said he needs the money to buy his Peripheral Expansion System!)

For Sale: One Tombstone City cartridge for \$15. David Grissom, 681-5630.

Printer Listings: I will make a hard copy of your program, starting at \$1.50 a copy, depending on program length. D David Grissom, 681-5630.

Custom written software- inventory, etc. DATA SOUTH, phone 870-0641.

Lost: I am trying to locate my TEACH YOURSELF BASIC tapes, and don't know who I last loaned them to. If you know about these tapes, please call Jackie Sanford at 956-5044.

CAHABA HEIGHTS USERS' GROUP

The Cahaba Heights group recently accepted as its official name TIBUG-SOUTH. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 7:00 at the Cahaba Heights Elementary School library. We now have about 25 members, and our dues are the same as the Irondale group. President of TIBUG-SOUTH is Joe Patrick, who can be reached for more information at 967-3033, or 250-6443. Vick McGraw is vice-president, and his phone number is 823-4547.

GROUP CONTACTS

As a result of our users' group's name and address appearing in the TEXAS INSTRUMENTS HOME COMPUTER NEWSLETTER (even though it was spelled TIBUG rather than TIBUG), we have received correspondence from other users' groups and also from individual companies. The following is an update on information from these sources:

THE DAYTONA 99'ERS COMPUTER GROUP
President: Ralph Fowler, III. This group has about 110 members and a 200 selection program library. They meet monthly at Daytona Beach Community College where they have access to a 12x25 foot projecting video monitor. This group has membership dues of \$12.00 annually and charges \$1.50 for tapes from its library, or \$3.00 to non-members. They also charge \$2.00 per copy of their monthly newsletter to non-members. This group announced in their last newsletter that they will conduct a workshop/gab session for about 3 hours. This may evolve into a monthly affair, and is free to members, with a \$5.00 charge to non-members. TIBUG has responded to this users' group by sending our last BUG NEWS issue. We hope to continue a newsletter exchange.

JBC USERS' GROUP (JUG)

President: Greg Bucy (Houston, Texas). Membership in this group is about 110. They have planned some very exciting meetings. They will see a demonstration of "Pegasus", TI's new business

computer, by Tom Dassenbrock, a member of the design team that worked on the development of the "Pegasus". He is also a member of the Houston Users' Group. In April, Charles Ehninger of FUTURA SOFTWARE will demonstrate some hardware that he will be marketing for 99/4 A 41 also a few software programs. TIBUG has exchanged newsletters with this group also.

COLORADO 99/4A USERS' GROUP

President: Pete Crowell. This group's newsletter, TIC TALK, contains several informative articles. Our group has permission to reprint any of the information contained within the newsletter. One interesting article is DISPLAY FORMATTING AID. The instructions can also be adapted to printer output. Another article reviews the command cartridge, Personal Record Keeping (#PHM3013). This newsletter (and all others received) will be placed in TIBUG'S library for your use.

CENTRAL ALA. TI 99/4 COMPUTER USERS' GROUP

President: Tommy Griffin. This group meets monthly in Montgomery (4th Thursday at 7:00-9:00 p.m.). This group has a library of over 200 programs which may be obtained by a trade of two for one, or by paying \$1.50 each for duplicating plus \$1.00 for the cassette. This group does not publish monthly newsletter, but more information can be obtained by writing T. Griffin, 551 Larkwood Dr., Montgomery, AL 36109.

All of the above groups have suggested library exchanges.

SOMETHING NEW!

Recently the Irondale group made some important additions to the software library. We purchased software from several software houses.

TI ASTEROID, SHUTTLE COMMAND, RING DESTROYER, and INVENTORY are just a few of the purchases that we have made. These items allow our membership to evaluate "outside" software for later personal purchase. (NOTE: This software must not be duplicated as it is copyrighted material--User's Group Officers)

We hope the membership enjoys the addition of these new programs.

TI LITERATURE

There has finally been a book of programs published just for the 99/4A. This book is PROGRAMS FOR THE TI HOME COMPUTER by Steve Davis. It contains 50 programs in TI Basic and TI Extended Basic. The programs include games, programming aids, educational programs and more. Copies may be ordered from:

The price is \$14.95+\$1.00 shipping. Bookstores may order the book. The ISBN number is 0-911061-00-2. Those of us who have already purchased the book have found it to be worth every penny it cost. The programs we have entered so far have been excellent, and the variety is welcome.

Steve Davis Publishing
P.O. Box 190831
Dallas, Texas 75219

Please complete the information below, and return with your check to:

Jackie Sanford, TIBUG
709 Nytol Circle
B'ham AL 35210

To join TIBUG-SOUTH, the Cahaba Heights group, make your check payable to Steve Fahy, and send with your application to:

Joe Patrick
3505 Far Hill Rd.
B'ham, AL 35243

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

☐ Yes, I would like to be a regular member of TIBUG, and have enclosed my check for the annual fee of \$15.00 for a single membership, or \$20.00 for a family.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____ BUSINESS PHONE (OPTIONAL) _____

OFFICIAL USE ONLY: