

CLASSIC COMPUTERS

Working & Playing With Yesterday's Systems

T-199ers In The '90s

*Classic Computer Column
by Barry A. Traver*

The TI community is fortunate to have people like Mike Wright and Bill Gaskill serving as our historians. In a previous column, I warmly recommended a publication by Bill Gaskill entitled *Timeline 99*. This 120-page spiral-bound book, published in February 1991, was "a historical look at some of the events, people and products that have helped to shape the 99/4A community."

That book (along with Ron Albright's earlier *The Orphan Chronicles*) should be in the personal library of anyone seriously interested in the history of the TI (and I tend to agree with those who argue that you cannot really understand the present without knowing something about the past).

Well, in his own book Bill highly recommends an earlier production by Mike entitled the *TI-99/4A Reference Lists*, a 40-page resource that Bill himself used in putting together his helpful *Timeline 99*. Here's what Bill had to say about Mike's earlier contribution: "Mike, of course, produced the *TI-99/4A Reference Lists* that I have referred to so heavily in the last few pages. By my definition, TRL is a 'book,' and it is one that, like *The Orphan Chronicles*, every 99er should have in their library.... What a resource!"

If that was true of Mike's earlier effort, it is certainly true of "Mike's Cyc," (as reviewed in last month's *TI-99* column) which is the most extensive endeavor of its kind yet attempted in the TI world!

Where may you find this "work in progress" that I call "Mike's Cyc?" We may not have a definitive answer to that question until more details are worked out. By the time you read this, however, I'm hoping that members of the *TI RoundTable* on *GENie* (where I am *SysOp*) will be able to access "Mike's Cyc" while online. (One nice thing about telecommunications is that it would allow frequent revisions of the "Cyc" in its earlier stages.)

As the work progresses further, I am hopeful that a hardcopy edition (or maybe a version on disk?) may be available as well for Tiers who are not able to access electronic bulletin boards. It's too important a project, in my opinion, to be restricted to just a few people.

At any rate, I'll try to keep you informed about what's happening. If you, like Mike, are an avid TI historian and might be able to assist him track down, for example, more information about (or an actual copy of) programs (such as *Wildcatting*) that seem to have largely disappeared from view, you may want to write to him at the following address: Mike Wright, 45 Cen-

SEE PAGE 157

TRS-80 Column

*Classic Computer Column
by Michael W. Ecker, Ph.D.*

This month's column not only will continue our ongoing search for TRS-80 software, but has the lagniappe of being of interest to those of us with PCs using MS-DOS as well.

Though there are plenty of fine database managers in the PC world using MS-DOS, there are few left in the TRS-80 world. But *Misosys, Inc.* (P.O. Box 239, Sterling, VA 22170, phone 703-450-4181 or 800-MISOSYS for orders) covers both with version 2.2 of its LB database manager. LB stands for Little Brother, a cutesy name for a serious product.

Misosys is the creature of longtime TRS-80 guru Roy Soltoff, who also publishes several TRS-80 publications. Among them is the *LDOS Quarterly*. In case you are a TRS-80 newcomer, you should know that *LDOS* is one of the few, fine alternate operating systems for the line, and perhaps the only one supported today.

I haven't seen the PC version, but have taken a preliminary look at the TRS-80 version. Not surprisingly, the TRS-80 version utilizes *LDOS* format and requires installation for one of four possible configurations of drives and memory, typically requiring two floppy drives and 128K, or one floppy and a hard disk.

The basic operation is via a menu structure of 15 choices, such as naming and creating a database, adding records, searching records, sorting, printing, and the like. Press a number and ENTER to invoke the choice.

The price of LB is \$99 plus \$5 shipping/handling in the United States. I could quote the literature for statistics on number of records supported (65,534 per database, provided you have adequate disk storage) and the like. However, since I will be reviewing the program more fully over the next two columns (barring any unforeseen difficulties), I'll just suggest contacting Mr. Soltoff for more information now at the address or phone number provided.

Graphics, Too

Without too much history here, I will just say that one of the reputedly finest graphic programs ever for low-resolution TRS-80s is being made available once again. Incredibly, the new publisher is offering it at just a tad above cost, and at cost for subscribers to *TRSTimes*.

Graphics 90 created animation sequences that could be called stunning, these callable either stand-alone or via *BASIC*. It was the creation of Larry Payne of *Software Affair*, a company perhaps better known for its musical offer

SEE PAGE 129

T/S News

*Classic Computer Column
by Bill Ferrebee*

Here we are again to bring you news of the latest developments in the world of T/S computers.

T/SNUG News

We recently received issue #3 of *ZXIR OLIVE ALIVE!*, the newsletter from T/SNUG (Timex/Sinclair North American User Groups). Edited by Don Lambert, with help from Bob Swoger, the issue contains 20 pages of useful T/S news and information.

Articles include a review of the Dayton ComputerFest, letters to the editor, reviews of hardware and software, as well as details on T/SNUG itself.

Don and Bob do a great job for no financial gain. All money collected for membership goes right into publishing the newsletter. Both of them are very knowledgeable about T/S computers and are willing to help anyone asking their assistance.

Membership in T/SNUG is \$12/year for individuals and \$15/year for user groups. To start your membership or gain more information write (send a SASE) to:

Abed Kahale, Treasurer
ZXIR OLIVE ALIVE! Newsletter
335 W. Newport Road
Hoffman Estates, IL 60195

FDD Newsletter Continues

For those who own a Zebra disk drive system (or a Timex FDD system), Jay Siegel continues to publish the *FDD Newsletter*. We have found it to be a very informational publication, even for those who do not have a Zebra system.

The latest issue has an article on software that allows you to have an 8-column screen, an introduction of *CP/M*, reader letters and more.

To inquire about the *FDD Newsletter*, send a SASE to:

Jay S. Siegel
1274 49 Street, #821
Brooklyn, NY 11219-7521

Timelinez Continues

One of the charter T/S newsletters is *Timelinez*, produced for the Bay Area User Groups, as well as the Mile High group in Denver.

How did the Denver group get involved with a California newsletter, you ask? Well, Andy

SEE PAGE 128

CLASSIC

COMPUTERS

Sanyo 55X News

FROM PRECEDING PAGE

use with your Sanyo 55X (or clone). I want to hear about any dot-matrix printer you are using with your Sanyo 55X. Send me a letter showing the best print quality your printer is capable of.

Sanyo 55X Computer Clubs

If there are any other Sanyo 55X computer clubs out there, send me your names and addresses. If you have a newsletter, send me a copy. I will include your club's name and address for other Sanyo 55X or CP/M users to contact you and possibly join your computer club. If there are clubs in other countries I would like to hear from you also.

Send your letters and programs to me, at this address:
John N. Logreco

722 N. Harvard Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90029
Phone: 213-662-4290

For a great Sanyo 55X newsletter, write to:
Sanyo PC Hackers Newsletter
Victor R. Frank, Editor
12450 Skyline Blvd.
Woodside, CA 94062-4541

For a Sanyo 55X newsletter, and help and information about Sanyo, CP/M computers write to:
NewsLink
Dr. Tom Peet, Editor
6074 Bolamo Court
Westerville, Ohio 43081

For a complete listing of the graphic BASIC programs discussed in last month's Sanyo 55X column, write to:

Computer Monthly
One Chase Corporate Drive
Suite 300
Birmingham, AL 35244

TI-99ers

FROM PAGE 126

terville Drive, Salem, NH 03079. (If you do so, I'm sure that enclosing a SASE would be much appreciated!)

As we work together to regain our past, I believe we will be better able to grab hold of the future, also!

Music and More From Harrison Software

If you like good music, especially "popular classical" (or, for that matter, esoteric classical), I hope you're already familiar with Harrison Software (5705 40th Place, Hyattsville, MD 20781). Well, in addition to the assembly language computer programs already mentioned in this column, you may be interested to hear of an audio cassette recently released by the company.

As you know, there's been a lot of excitement about Mike Maksimik's MIDI Master 99 (and some excitement over the announcement that Harrison Software will be producing music for MM99), but all this talk about "MIDI" has (until now) left out those who aren't fortunate enough to have something to play MIDI on.

Well, cheer up, because Bruce Harrison has been thinking of you. You can order a MIDI Master concert for \$10 (shipping included) that you can play on your audio cassette

recorder and/or stereo system. This tape includes Johann Sebastian Bach's Anna Magdalena's Notebook (available also as a disk of assembly computer music from Harrison) plus Bach's Italian Concerto.

I recommend highly other music from Harrison Software as well; if you are interested, why not send a SASE for more information on their products?

Harrison Software is especially well-known for its music, but the company has released other things also, including a word processor, a program to facilitate moving text between a TI and a PC, and at least one game (the only version of "Wheel of Fortune" that I know that includes Vanna White!).

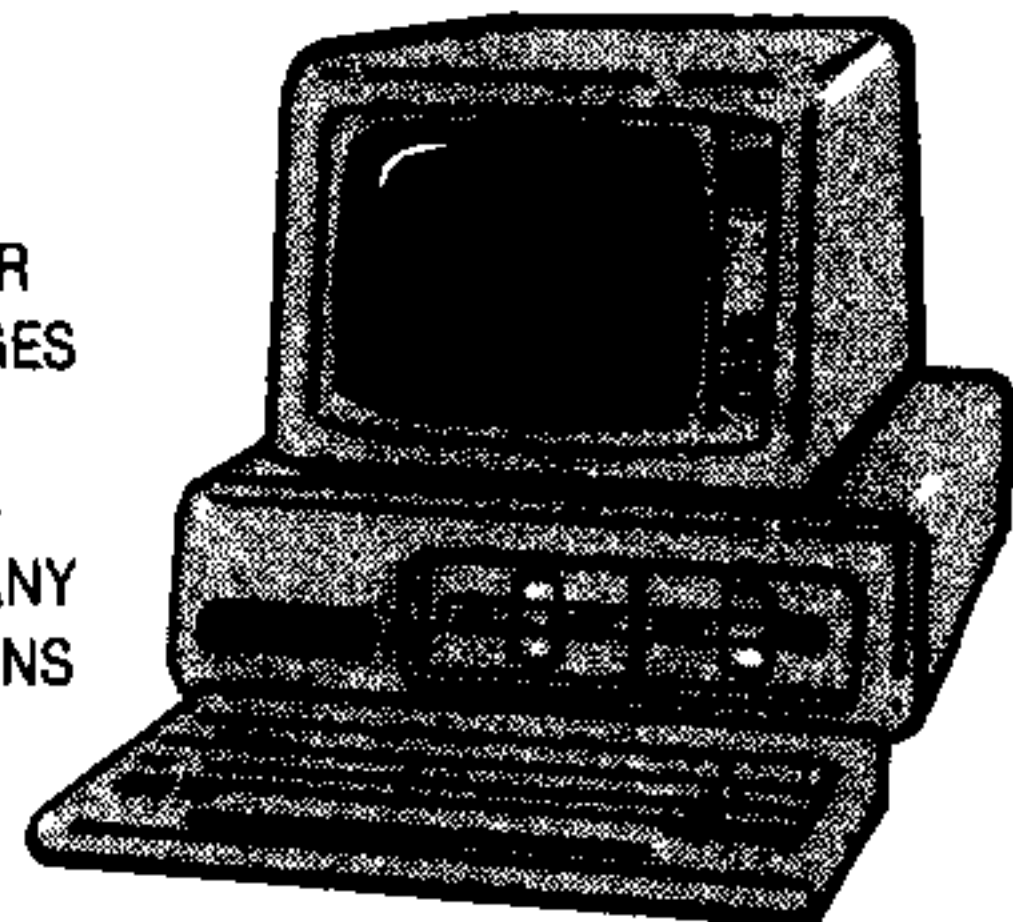
Harrison Software has released two new games for the TI, priced at only \$14.95 each: Scud Busters and Code Breakers. The first is an arcade game inspired by Desert Storm (don't be surprised to hear introductory theme music, though, from Tchaikovsky!), while the second is a program that should make cryptogram lovers very happy. Both programs are written, like other Harrison Software programs, entirely in assembly language. Check them out!

Well, that's it for this month. Until next time, keep on compuTIn'!

Print In Your Favorite Color

RED, BLUE, GOLD, YELLOW, GREEN, SILVER,
PURPLE, ORANGE, BROWN OR BLACK

SAS INDUSTRIES
SPECIALIZES IN
CREATING PRINTER
RIBBON CARTRIDGES
OF DIFFERENT
COLORS. 14 BASIC
COLORS, PLUS MANY
MORE APPLICATIONS
AVAILABLE.



We Remanufacture Laser Toner Cartridges - Call For Prices
SAS INDUSTRIES AMERICA'S FINEST MANUFACTURER
OF PRINTER RIBBONS & CARTRIDGES

DIRECT FROM THE
MANUFACTURER

SAS INDUSTRIES INC.

3091 N. Bay Drive
North Bend Oregon
97459-5020

800-245-4657

**MON-FRI
8AM-4PM
PACIFIC TIME**



New heights in Realism™



MaxxTwo™

For power, precision and versatility, the MaxxTwo™ with true self centering, out performs joysticks and keyboards. Altitude, air speed and all types of flight maneuvers can be controlled right from the pilot's seat. Whether "threading the needle" or attempting a difficult approach. Experience the realism with the MaxxTwo™.

MaxxPedals™

They get you a giant step closer to more realism. MaxxPedals™ are floor style modular attachments. Fully assembled and ready to plug in and play. Compatible with any joystick.



The
Maximum
Company™

205 SO. 20TH STREET • NAMPA, ID 83686
208-465-4606 1-800-766-6299