Mass Users of the Ninety-nine and Computer Hobbyists

JULY 1995 Monthly Newsletter Version 14.07

WE'RE STILL ALIVE IN 95

AT OUR NEW HOME IN WORCESTER

T. I. FALL FAIRE SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 1995

M.U.N.C.H.
C/O J. W. COX
905 EGDEBROOK DRIVE
BOYLSTON, MASS. 01505

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JULY 11th.

POSTMASTER: Forwarding and Address Correction Requested.
AT OUR NEW HOME:

FIRST CLASS!!

R. A. BISHOP
16 FRENCH AVE.
NORTHCOTE 3070., VICTOR IA

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, July 11, 1995 7:00 PM. In our NEW home!

MUNCH OFFICERS AND NUMBERS (all in 508 area unless noted)

PRESIDENT	W. C. Wyman	865-1213		
VICE-PRESIDENT	Open		MUNCH DUES:	
TREAS./EDITOR/CLK.	Jim Cox	869-2704	New Membership	$25.00
DEMO LEADER	Jack Sughrue	476-7630	Renewal	$15.00
Asst. Demo Leader	Lou Holmes	617-965-3584	Newsletter Sub.	$13.00
LIBRARIAN	Walt Nowak	413-436-7675		
Advanced Programmer	Dan Rogers	248-5502		

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JUNE MEETING. The June meeting had seven members in attendance. We discussed the upcoming Fall Faire. We were notified that our original date of October 15 was not available do to the gathering of a Lutheran Ministers' New England wide meeting on that weekend. I think the new date of September 30 will work our just as good.

JULY MEETING. We will continue to plan for the Faire and, hopefully, Jack will have something to demo, possibly the D.O.M.. We will also have to get our system up and running.

RAFFLE. Every month we have a raffle to help defer the rental cost of our meeting hall. A typical raffle will have programs, blank disks, books, bumper stickers and all sorts of odds and ends of interest to the T.I. user.

REPRINTS. Reprints are permitted as long as credit is given to M.U.N.C.H.

ARTICLES. I am always looking for articles for this newsletter, anything which interest you will probably interest other members of the T.I. community, so please share your ideas and opinions with all of us.

DISK LIBRARY. The disk library is at all meetings. We have copies of all disks in the library and they are available to members for just $1.00 for each disk unless otherwise specified. You can order them through the mail, please add $1.00 for the first disk and $.40 for each additional disk ordered to cover postage and handling.

DISK OF THE MONTH. This month's DOM #145 is Wheel Of Fortune. I hope Jack will get me a good copy in time. My copy keeps locking up at the start, but from what I can see it looks like a good game.

ADVENTURE II. This is our fund-raiser for 1994/95. The cost to members is $4.00 add $2.00 for first class postage. The regular price is $6.95 plus postage. This is a two DSSD disk set, archived. There is also a special on The Adventure Compendium and Adventure II for members it is $8.00 plus $3.00 for first class postage.

HELP WANTED. I need someone with a pickup truck or a van that can take a shelving unit to our new home. The unit is approximately 5' by 3.5' by 2' deep. If you can help, call Jim at the number above.

have a problem that you think we should work on, or if you just need help with one of your own projects, just drop us a line, either through MICROpendium or direct to:

Bruce Harrison
5705 40th Place
Hyattsville MD 20781
U.S.A.
Phone (301) 277-3467

We look forward to hearing from you. Perhaps your problem will be next month's column topic.

BriTIsh Columbia 99er Users' Group Newsletter

CREATE YOUR OWN CURSER

By Bob Turner

I don't quite know how to give the proper credit to this routine, but whoever discovered this way to modify the cursor is an unsung hero. While I have experimented with TI Extended Basic, I have learned many ways to make it do the things about which the manual never told you. Also, I have learned not to forget the clever programmers who offered their information and discoveries to the TI community.
Creating a cursor is rather easy, and once done, the cursor routine can always be used in other programs. If you understand how to define a character then understanding how to create a cursor is just as easy. First, here is the TI Extended basic code to re-define the cursor:

```
100 CALL CLEAR :: CALL INIT
110 CALL LOAD(8196,63,248)
120 CALL LOAD(16376,67,85,82 ,83,79,82,48,8)
130 CALL LOAD(12288,255,129, 129,129,129,129,129,255)
140 CALL LOAD(12296,2,0,3,24 0,2,1,48,0,2,2,0,8,4,32,32,3 6,4,91)
150 CALL LINK("CURSOR")
```

Line 130 defines the cursor description (what is looks like). Defining the cursor is made rather easy because you are not using HEX but decimal.

Decimal>	128	64	32	16	08	04	02	01	
ROW 1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	=255
ROW 2	X							X	=129
ROW 3	X							X	=129
ROW 4	X							X	=129
ROW 5	X							X	=129
ROW 6	X							X	=129
ROW 7	X							X	=129
ROW 8	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	=255

As you can see, the values come from adding the total value across each row to define the segments in the cursor. (Note X's in the figure and the weighted value that was totaled.)
After defining your custom made cursor, save it to disk and you are ready for your first run.
Run your program and look at your cursor. If you don't like it merely make some changes and run again. repeat this process until you are satisfied with your new cursor. The new cursor will stay until you turn off the console.

The "extras" on the disks

All of the disks in this "collection" include instructions, plus an Extended Basic program to print those instructions. Most also include the source files for their Assembly content, and the pure Assembly ones include an Extended Basic loader so that users who have only Extended Basic may still enjoy the Assembly programs.

Some of the disks come in more than one version. That's mostly true of the ones that involve timing with the vertical interval, in which cases there is a second version for the "European" market which uses 1/50th second timing.

A Word of Caution

To those who have Geneve computers. Not all of these things will work correctly on the Geneve. Not having one, we can't test on that machine, so we can't guarantee that any of our products will be useful on that machine. The same goes for the owners of TI computers with various third-party hardware installed. Some won't work with 80-column cards, or with Myarc or CorComp disk controllers, and so on. All are compatible with Horizon Ramdisks and the Horizon P-Gram.

A Bud Mills mystery!

Just recently, we experienced a problem with one of our Horizon Ramdisks. Sometimes, the problems in one Ramdisk will affect the whole system, and that seemed to be the case. The Horizon Config program was calling this particular card "unrecognizable". Having run into this kind of thing before, and knowing that what was on that card was safely backed up on Floppies, we took the ultimate step for such cases, pulling out one of the batteries from that card for a few seconds.

We put the card back into the system, turned on the card and then the system, fully expecting to have to re-initialize our drives 6 & 7. NOT SO! For reasons we can't fathom, the card behaved as if everything was still there! We re-loaded the ROS from a backup disk, but didn't need to do anything else! How did the card still retain all the data when its battery had been removed? We were under the impression that once a battery had been removed, the card would promptly "forget" everything it once "knew". If anybody knows, please don't tell us, so this can stay a mystery forever. Maybe we'll submit the case to "Unsolved Mysteries" and see how Robert Stack tells it.

What will we do next?

That, dear readers, is largely up to you. We have been known to create special programs just to solve one particular problem for just one person in our "community". We've also taken on challenges issued by users, and developed whole products just to answer a challenge. We could keep on doing this forever, but sometimes a little inspiration helps. If you

both integer and floating point random numbers. # 1082B.

The All-Assembly products

Reformat - Assembly program that takes D/V 80 text files as created by TI-Writer or Funnelweb's Text Editor, and allows the user to re-format very quickly to any number of characters per line. Also performs right-justification and margin change at user's option. # 946A.

Midi Toolbox - Tools for doing things with source files for MIDI-Master. Includes many useful items, including one which will determine in advance whether a MIDI-Master music file will fit into memory when compiled, and one which will convert the durations of notes to go from Geneve timing to TI or vice versa. # 1080.

Metronome - A tool for the musician or the child taking music lessons. Provides a steady "tick" at a selected number of beats per minute. Range is from 15 beats per minute through 500 beats per minute. This disk also includes a "Eur" version for use with 50 Hz PAL video systems. # 869A.

Sandwich - A utility for the frustrated E/A program owner. This will allow the user to convert an E/A Option-3 object file into the more efficient and quicker-loading Option-5 format, without having access to the original source files. It won't work in all cases, but where it will, it's worth having. # 869B.

Extended Basic Compiler - This is not a cure-all for every Extended Basic program in your library, but can provide improved speed of execution for many XB programs. Not recommended for very large XB programs. # 1013. Source code # 1014.

Drawing Program - A poor man's way to draw bit-map pictures on your TI. Also allows use of TI-Artist Instances and Fonts. Includes printing capability. # 928.

Video Titler - Allows use of either Harrison Drawing program pictures or TI-Artist pictures as titles for video taping. Provides for two complete pictures to be in memory, and allows smooth "wipes" from one picture to the next. # 1011.

Font turner - Allows user to rotate the characters in a CHARA1-type file to the left, right, or upside down. Mainly intended for use with the Drawing Program. # 1012B.

Slideshow - A program that allows use of TI-Artist picture files for an automated "Slide show". There is also a "EUR" version for 50 Hz PAL video systems. # 1075 (U.S. version) or 1076 (European version).

Password - A very special program for those who use Horizon Ramdisks. Provides a way to secure your TI system with a private password all your own. # 935A.

836A.

Utilities Volume 2 - A collection of Assembly routines that deal with DATA in the XB program. These can make quick work of, for example, assignment of DATA to array variables. Also includes a very fast MENU driver which works with DATA from the XB program and puts a nicely composed menu on-screen in a hurry. # 1081B.

The Ultimate Accept AT - A special ACCEPT AT assembly routine which will provide a prompt, accept more than 28 characters into string variables, either clear the field or not, and so on. # 834A.

Time Calculator - A purely XB program that calculates time quantities in Hours, Minutes, Seconds. # 863B.

Short Danny - A modified version of the old Danny Michaels Screen Dump - provides a quick loading process and allows dump to be activated via Function-7 while programs are running or in Command mode. # 801B.

TIMEOUT - Provides a way to have ACCEPT AT, CALL KEY, or INPUT statements run for a limited time, then exit back to XB program. Timing is done by an Interrupt, so it doesn't change with speed of the computer. # 926A.

Music Background - Provides a way to have music play "on background" while the computer is doing other things. Can be activated while programs are running or in Command mode. Demos show how to provide music during an ACCEPT AT operation. # 934B.

The Ultimate Delay - A delay that's unaffected by speed of the processor, and can optionally be aborted by a keystroke or not. This includes a "Eur" version for 50 Hz PAL systems. #1079B.

Checktime - Provides a means of measuring the speed of execution for XB programs. Uses an interrupt to measure time while an XB program is running, then reports elapsed time back to XB variables in minutes and seconds. (Does not require a "real-time" clock.) This is also available in a "Eur" version for 50 Hz PAL video systems. U.S. Version, # 1079A, EUR #1081A.

Font Converter - This does not use Assembly routines, but makes Assembly source files which allow conversion of Jim Peterson's Screen Fonts into CHARA1-type files. # 929.

Loader - This is a combined XB and Assembly product which can load and run almost any E/A Option 5 file from Extended Basic. # 922B.

Callfiles - An Assembly routine that allows an XB program to perform CALL FILES while it's running. # 957B.

Randoms - A group of utilities to provide very fast random number generation in XB programs. Includes routines for making

The Art of Assembly
Part 51
Body of Work
by Bruce Harrison

Today we're taking a different tack. We thought it might be of some interest to our readers to know what all is available from the many projects we've done on our TI. Some of these have been mentioned in this column, of course, and in some cases we've put complete programs as source code in the Sidebars. Still, it's been nearly 12 years that we've been pecking away at the TI, and lots of "products" have come from that work. Some of those products were produced for the Commercial market under the Harrison Software label. Except for the "Assembly Music" products, which have been released to Public Domain, all of that commercial stuff has been pulled from the market. The "Assembly Music" products were all released through Jim Peterson's TI-PD catalog. Since Jim's passing, we don't know exactly what's the status of that catalog, so we're not listing those products here.

The Public Domain Products

Since the demise of Harrison Software as a commercial venture for the TI Community, we've produced a large number of Public Domain disks. Most have some Assembly Language content, and some are complete programs, while others are just small utility routines for Extended Basic programmers. We've made sure that all of these products are available through two sources. The primary distribution point is the Lima Users' Group. Dr. Charles Good has kept all of these in the Group's Public Domain library, and makes them available by mail order at a nominal cost. Contact the group c/o Dr. Charles Good, P.O. Box 647, Venedocia, OH 45894. For those with modems, we've also supplied these disks to Barry Traver, who's made them available on Genie. (Disks may or may not be available there, as Genie has a time limit on disks kept on-line.) From time to time we've made updates, and have provided Dr. Good and Barry Traver with the latest versions as appropriate.

Some of these products were inspired or suggested by our friends in the community of TI users. Others were products of our own imagination, which we hoped somebody would find useful. In most cases, we've gotten some feedback, at least from Barry Traver or Dr. Good, to indicate that there's some need for the items. Here then is a listing and description of what's out there for use by anybody who needs it. The number after each description is the Disk number for that disk in Lima's Disk Library.

Extended Basic "Utilities"

Utilities Volume 1 - A collection of routines for use with Extended Basic, includes Boot Tracking routines so that an XB program can find out what disk it was loaded from, and can even modify all references to DSK1 within itself. Also includes special forms of ACCEPT AT for numeric and string variables.

FAIRE FACTS-JUNE 29th

by

Jim Cox

NEW DATE We got off to a bit of a rocky start with the news that the original date was not available at the church after all. I think moving the date to September 30th might be a blessing in disguise. Our first date was just two weeks from the Chicago Fair and it might have cut the number of vendors we might attract from out of the area.

FIRST ACCEPTANCE Mike Wright of CaDD Electronics was the first vendor to respond to our notice about the Faire. Mike will also do a demo of his PC emulation software.

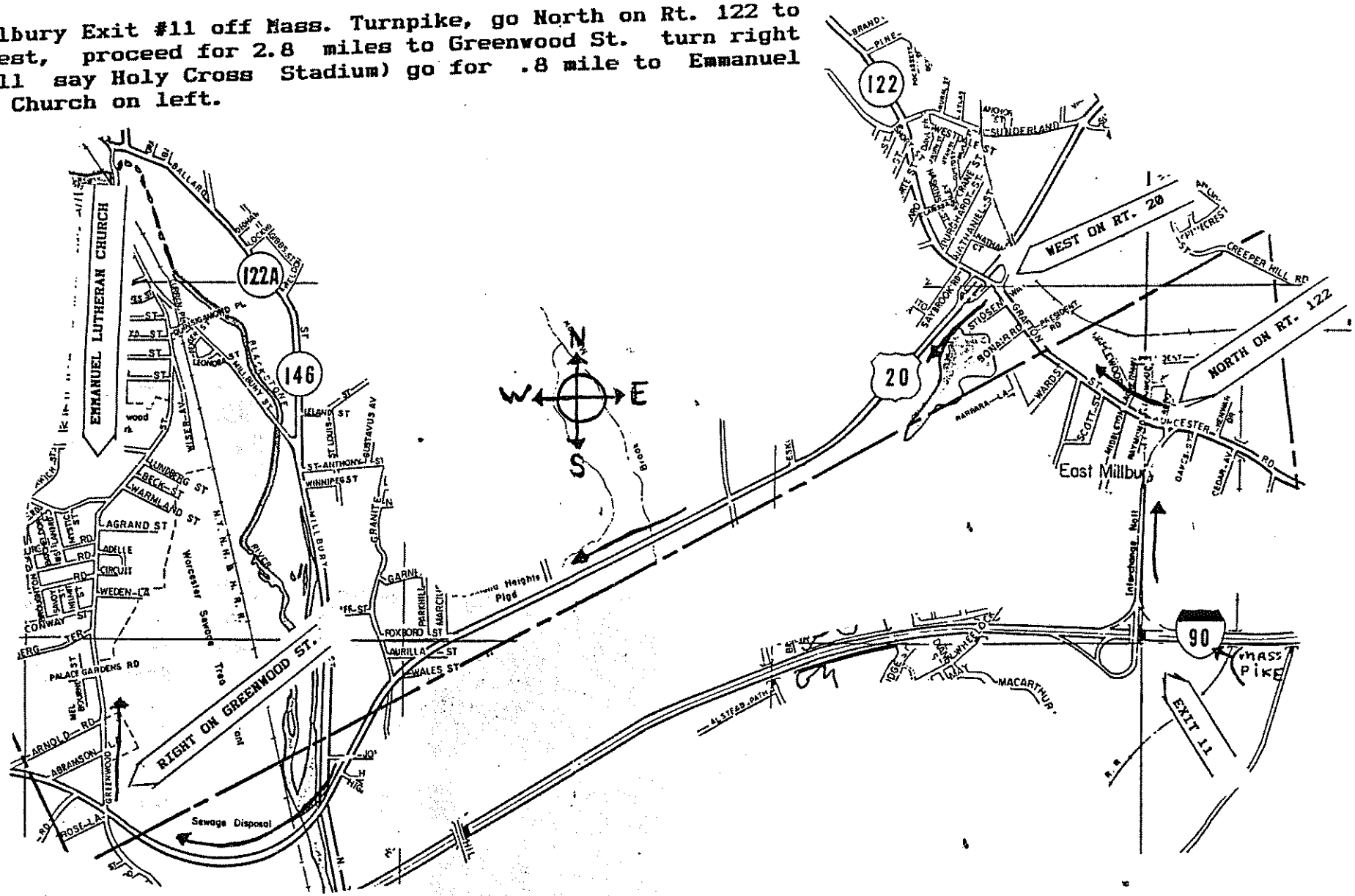
EXCITING ADDITION Charles Good of the Lima Users' Group will send us the complete Tigercub Library. We will have it available at the Faire for anyone to copy. Jack Sughrue will co-ordinate this project.

HELP WANTED We will need people to help set up, cover the MUNCH table, cover the Tigercub table and clean up. There will be plenty of work for everyone to do and I know, from previous fairs, that it is a lot of fun. So lets get all of our members to attend.

DEMOS As noted above, Mike Wright will do a demo of his software. Jack Sughrue will also do a demo of Tigercub Jim Peterson's Nuts-N-Bolts disk. I have seen this presentation, and Jack does a great job. I am sure he is everyone's favorite teacher at school.

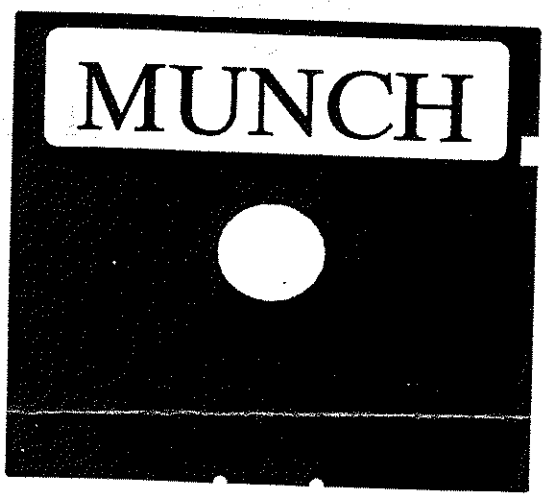
Well that's all the news for today. Its hard to believe but it is just 92 days to September 30th. See you at the FAIRE.

Take Millbury Exit #11 off Mass. Turnpike, go North on Rt. 122 to Rt. 20 West, proceed for 2.8 miles to Greenwood St. turn right (sign will say Holy Cross Stadium) go for .8 mile to Emmanuel Lutheran Church on left.



SATURDAY, SEPT. 30, 1995, 10 AM - 4 PM

M.U.N.C.H. PRESENTS THE T.I. NEW ENGLAND FALL FAIRE



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