

AMARILLO 99/4A USERS GROUP

P.O. BOX 8121, AMARILLO, TEXAS, 79114.

April 1990

Published by TechSys, Inc. The Friendly Technical
Consulting Group
Copyright 1990.

CONTENTS:

New Beginnings

By Samuel Burton

Well once again the Amarillo Users Group is putting out a newsletter (and trying to make it a quality one at that!) As most TI 99/4A users will quickly note this newsletter is done with some not so standard Texas Instruments equipment...but since I'm the editor I'll do the newsletter my way!

We have a new mailbox address and all correspondence should be mailed to :

Amarillo 99/4A Users Group
P.O. BOX 8121
Amarillo, Tx 79114

If you want to leave a message or ASCII text article for the newsletter editor by modem, call the BurgBoard BBS at (806)-352-5784.

----- DISCLAIMER -----

The Amarillo Users Group and TechSys Inc. are not to be held liable in any way for damages incurred by the reader from information, programs, or other material found in this newsletter.

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Column.....	
Minutes.....	
Treasurer's Report.....	
From Other Groups.....	
Ratings, Reviews, Requests....	
TI News.....	
Computer Humor.....	
Swap and Sell.....	

You make a difference! Get involved...Turn On...Tune In, and Drop In to the next TI users group meeting on May 14, 1990 at the Amarillo Main Library. See you there!!!!

Attending Members:

Joe Stutz Jake Fortenbery
Sam Burton Steven Eggers
Fred Dennis
Frank Aleman
Carl Bourn

Newest Members:

James Rardon
Robin Frisk

President's Column
by Joe Slutz

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we have changed our P. O. Box number from 8421 to 8121. So please be sure to make that change when sending me or the group any mail.

We were very pleased that so many members were present at the last meeting in that we had 12 members present. Sam Burton has agreed to publish us a newsletter and so maybe we can get some business accomplished and let more people know we exist.

If anybody knows of a special topic they would like to see at the future meetings, then they should let me know by phone of 359-7148 or leave a message on the Burg Board #2 at 352-2345 I enjoy having meetings and getting together with you people

At the last meeting we discovered a few problems some were having and hopefully solved them. We also had a few guests that may come back. It's going to be fun having more than 2 or 3 people come to the meeting. I sure hope some more of you fellow members will volunteer to help Sam with the newsletter by helping type in articles. This article was transfered via modem and then incorporated into the finished product. I will be searching my magazines for noteworthy pieces.

The Prez.

Treasurer's Report
(not submitted)

There seems to be an officers position open here! Anyone interested in keeping our books? Ask Joe for the needed help if your interested.

The Mailbox has been empty for quite a while and it turns out the Post Office had closed our box! That explains the missing issues of Micropendium and the recent dearth of TI newsletters. Joe Slutz and Sam Burton are once again trying to build up our group to its former status, do you want help? Lend us a hand and we can again be quoted as the "finest users group in the Texas Panhandle". This month we are experimenting with this new package but don't know how readable the final result will be. The newsletter is a bit small because of the lack of current info but all in all it should still be interesting. I did not get any computer jokes this month but I promise good ones for our next newsletter. Carl Bourn is experimenting with the graphics and telecommunication aspects of TI computing.....any pictures you would like to see your TI display? Give us some feed back!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
THE AMARILLO USERS GROUP!

THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE "OZARK
99'ER NEWS" THE JANUARY 1990 ISSUE

* TI WRITER TIPS AND HINTS *

1 PUTTIN IN CARRIAGE RETURNS

When articles or documentation are downloaded via modem, or someone gives you a file that was printed to disk rather than saved, or someone writes you something with the word wrap turned off (open cursor--toggled ON/OFF with FCTN O), you may want to change the width or reformat part of it. Now in the above situations, if you try to reformat with CTRL 2, the whole thing will become one ball of string because there are on carriage returns in it. You have several options:

a) In TIW, CTRL U turns on and of the special character mode for imbedding printer controls, and SHIFT M makes a CR. So, press CTRL U, press SHIFT M, (move the cursor with the arrow keys and put in CRs at the end of each paragraph), then press CTRL U to turn off the special charater mode.

b) CTRL M by itself puts a CR and an insert,

c) You can retype the whole piece, or

d) You can use Jim Peterson's XB program CR-ADDER which is on the DOM. (OZARK 99ER NEW DISK OF THE MONTH)The program asks for the file name and length of the lines in the program and puts a CR at the end of each line.

2 DELETING TO THE END OF THE
LINE--CTRL K.

3 CURSOR TO TOP OF THE SCREEN--CTRL
L.

4 CURSOR TO BEGINNING OF NEXT
PARAGRAPH--CTRL J.

5 CURSOR TO BEGINNING OF NEXT
WORD--CTRL W.

6 CURSOR TO RIGHT MARGIN--CTRL T.

7 CURSOR TO LEFT MARGIN--CTRL V.

8 CURSOR TO CENTER, LEFT MARGIN,
CENTER--CTRL I.

9 SHOW A LINE--In command line,
type (S)how <enter>; You'll be asked
fo a line number; type 1 or E or 9,
etc.

I have read about a couple of these
and when I did a few things by
accident, I just tried all the keys
There were some other functions too
but they were duplicates of some of
the FCTN commands. <Mary Phillips>

THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE "DALLAS
99 INTERFACE " THE FEBRUARY 1990
ISSUE

ALIVE AND WELL

Excitement and eagerness were evident on the child's face as he concentrated on the early education program on the computer screen in front of him. His little fingers manipulated the keys, eyes were glued to the monitor...he was obviously having fun, and was proud of what he was achieving. He appeared to be about 5 years old...

This was the 6 PM newscast on a Dallas channel...as the camera zoomed in closer to the child's fingers, the keyboard became more visible, and more familiar! The emtirtre keyboard console came into focus---a TI 99/4A!

Yes, our old, familiar ablack and silver console, with the black keys, and a cartiridge located in the grom port. Yes, the 6 o'clock news...and what is the date? Not 1982, or 1983, but January 25, 1990. Yes 1990! As the news continued, the story was of the early childhood education programs at the East Dallas Community School, where our computer obviously plays an important role. Indeed, the 4/A is very much alive and well!

: Happy New Year! Burg Board no longer supports 300 baud :

: Bvte the Bullet ceased operation 25 Dec 89 :

: Attic	381-2932	3/12/24	PCBoard 14.2e	Cheree/Mike Gilliam
: Bill's Board	359-4824	3/12/24	QuickBBS 2.61	Bill Ward
: Bull Pen	373-1061	3/12	PCBoard 10.0	"Steve Canyon"
> Burg Board	1> 352-5784	12/24	TBBS 2.1m	Tom Whittenburg
>	2> 352-2345	12/24		
: Cadillac Ranch	358-6708	12/24	PCBoard 14.2d	Jay Glass
: Golden Billboard	372-7883	3/12/24	Spitfire 2.7	Mark Dubina
: Golden Spread Data	383-2270	3/12	FIDO 11v	Herman Green
: Havockland	359-6760	3/12/24	RBBS 17.1d	Randy Andrews
+ Headquarters	353-4284	3/12/24	GBBS Pro 1.3j	Kyle Green
: Love Board	355-3031	3/12/24	C-NET 128 4.0	Wayne Martin
: Merlin's Palace	371-8544	3/12	C-NET DS-2 11.60	"Merlin"
: Orion System	373-5616	3/12	QuickBBS 2.62	Don/Debi Hunter
: PC Data Link	655-7918	3/12/24	TBBS 2.1	J.D. Stephens
> Radio Board	1> 352-2482	12/24/96	PCBoard 14.2e	Ron Chase
>	2> 352-9365	12/24		
: Tardis	372-8088	3/12/24	RBBS 17.2a	"The Doctor"
: Teacher's Pet	355-6968	3/12/24	Phoenix 1.30	Don White
* TexLex	355-1202	3/12/24	Phoenix 1.30	Gerald McDougall
> Top of Texas	1> 355-9600	12/24/96	PCBoard 14.1e	Gary Campbell
>	2> 355-5157	12/24		
: Workbench	359-8088	12/24	RBBS 17.1d	Dan Carroll

..... CompuServe.... 1200> 379-8411 2400> 372-4494

..... GENie..... 1200> 372-2403 2400> 372-8499

..... Telenet..... 1200> 373-0458 2400> 373-1833

..... Tymnet..... 2400> 355-7088 2400> 355-9138

: + New BBS + # New phone number # > Multi-line BBS < :

: * BBS shares voice line * BBS hours 8p-8a Mo-Su * Voice only days * :

.....

: Speeds supported shown in baud * 100 (3/12/24/96 = 300/1200/2400/9600) :

: All numbers area code 806 All boards use 8/N/1 protocol :

: Submit comments via E-mail/any listed board Jim O'Malley, editor :

..... ama90jan.txt

HERE IS AN EXAMPLE FROM OF A SCREEN FROM THE LOCAL BBS KNOWN AS THE BURG BOARD.

Msg#:33683 *E-MAIL*

03-08-90 08:09:42

From: SYSOP

To: SAMUEL BURTON

Subj: REPLY TO MSG# 33681 (ASCII UPLOADS)

Yes, you can send plain ASCII to a message. TBBS will wordwrap it however, and with some things this can cause problems. The E-mail section of TBBS is a private message area. From Main Street press "F"ost office and "E"mail and then just leave a short message, something like "Here is the newsletter article". Then, instead of saving the message press "F"ile. You can then use Xmodem, Ymodem, or any other error correcting protocol to upload the file to the board. Then save the message and the file will be ENCLOSED with the message. Then when the message is read you are given the "E"nclosed option that will let you download the attached file. It is actually much easier than I am making it sound.

USING YOUR TI FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS

By: CARL BOURN

THE TEXAS INSTRUMENTS COMPUTER HAS REALLY ADVANCED SINCE IT WAS FIRST INTRODUCED INTO THE HOME COMPUTER MARKET. WE NOW HAVE ALL KINDS OF HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE TO HELP US UTILIZE OUR COMPUTERS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. ONE MAJOR ADVANCE IS THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY. WE NOW CAN USE THE HIGH QUALITY MODEMS THAT ALL THE "BIG NAMES" USE. THIS ARTICLE IS ABOUT GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR NEW MODEM.

WHEN YOU FIRST GET YOUR MODEM, YOU NEED TO READ THE MANUAL THAT COMES WITH IT; IN ORDER TO LEARN THE CERTAIN COMMANDS THAT ARE USED TO CONTROL AND OPERATE YOUR MODEM. GET FAMILIAR WITH THESE COMMANDS SO THAT YOU MAY USE THEM "FLUENTLY". AFTER BECOMING FAMILIAR WITH THESE COMMANDS, WE NEED TO INTERFACE OUR MODEMS WITH OUR T. I. COMPUTERS. THIS IS DONE WITH A CABLE THAT CONNECTS TO THE BACK OF THE MODEM AND ALSO CONNECTS WITH THE RS232 INTERFACE CARD THAT IS LOCATED IN ONE OF THE SLOTS OF THE PERIPHERAL EXPANSION BOX. THE MANUAL WILL TELL YOU ALL THE ACTIVE PINS THAT ARE USED AND THE RS232 MANUAL WILL TELL YOU WHICH PINS ARE ACTIVE ON YOUR COMPUTER.

AFTER YOU GET OUR MODEM INTERFACED, TRY IT OUT! IF YOU ARE USING A GOOD TERM PROGRAM SUCH AS TELCO IT WILL BE MUCH EASIER TO LEARN AND USE YOUR MODEM ON A REGULAR BASIS. LOAD YOUR SOFTWARE AND ENTER THE TERMINAL MODE OF YOUR SOFTWARE, THIS IS WHERE YOU COMMAND THE MODEM AND PERFORM THE FUNCTIONS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS. ALSO YOU CAN CONFIGURE OR SET UP YOUR MODEM IN THE WAY THAT IS BEST AND EASIEST TO USE FOR YOU AND YOUR COMPUTER.

WHEN CALLING A BBS (BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM) YOU NEED NOT CONFIGURE YOUR SYSTEM OR YOUR MODEM AFTER ITS INITIAL CONFIGURATION, JUST GIVE THE COMMANDS AND THE MODEM WILL DO THE REST; HOWEVER, IF YOU ARE TELECOMMUNICATING WITH A FRIEND, YOU MUST SWITCH OR SHIFT YOUR SOFTWARE INTO HALF DUPLEX. DUPLEX IS THE MODE OF COMMUNICATION YOU ARE ACTUALLY USING. IN FULL DUPLEX (ONLINE WITH A BBS) THE BBS AUTOMATICALLY ECHOS OR SENDS YOUR COMMANDS BACK TO YOU ON THE SCREEN SO THAT YOU CAN SEE WHAT YOU ARE TYPING ON THE SCREEN; HOWEVER, WHEN COMMUNICATING WITH A FRIEND THAT DOES NOT HAVE A BBS WE NEED TO BE IN HALF DUPLEX MODE BECAUSE IN FULL DUPLEX YOUR COMMANDS ARE NOT ECHOED BACK TO YOU; IN OTHER WORDS YOU CANNOT SEE WHAT IS TYPED ON THE SCREEN. YOUR FRIEND WILL SEE WHAT YOU TYPE BUT YOU WON'T. HALF DUPLEX WILL ECHO YOUR CHARACTERS TO YOUR SCREEN WHILE SENDING THEM TO YOUR FRIEND AS WELL. DON'T FORGET TO SWITCH BACK TO FULL DUPLEX WHEN GOING ONLINE WITH A BBS, IF YOU DON'T YOU'LL GET DOUBLE CHARACTERS BECAUSE WHEN YOU TYPE A CHARACTER IT IS SENT TO THE BBS AND IS ECHOED BACK TO YOU BY THE BBS. IF YOU ARE IN HALF DUPLEX WHEN ONLINE WITH A BBS YOUR CHARACTERS ARE SENT TO THE BBS, AND ECHOED BACK TO YOUR SCREEN BOTH BY THE BBS AND YOUR COMPUTER SO IT WILL APPEAR THAT YOU ARE TYPING DOUBLE CHARACTERS. NOW THAT THE COMMONLY ENCOUNTERED DUPLEX PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN EXPLAINED, WE WILL GO ON TO TROUBLE SHOOTING.

TROUBLE SHOOTING CAN SEEM DIFFICULT AND SOMETIMES IMPOSSIBLE BUT DON'T GIVE UP. IF IT DOESN'T WORK RIGHT THE FIRST TIME THEN YOU MADE A MISTAKE, NOT THE COMPUTER!!! KEEP IN MIND WHAT YOU WANT TO DO AND IF IT DOESN'T WORK CHECK THE MANUAL OR RETHINK THE PROCESS. IF YOU ARE GETTING GIBBERISH OR SOMETHING UNINTELLIGIBLE THEN THE FIRST THING TO DO IS CHECK THE BAUDRATE SETTING. THE BAUDRATE IS THE SPEED AT WHICH THE COMPUTER IS COMMUNICATING WITH ANOTHER COMPUTER. IF ONE COMPUTER IS SET

AT 1200 BAUD AND ANOTHER IS SET AT 300 BAUD THEN OBVIOUSLY THEY WILL RESPOND WITH GARBAGE THAT IS UNREADABLE OR GIBBERISH. DON'T GET UPSET, USUALLY YOU CAN BREAK OUT OF THE TERMINAL WITHOUT BREAKING THE CONNECTION, THEN YOU CAN SET UP OR CONFIGURE YOUR SYSTEM TO WHERE IT WILL COMMUNICATE PROPERLY. AS I SAID BEFORE IF YOU ARE GETTING GIBBERISH THE FIRST THING TO CHECK IS THE BAUD RATE. IF YOU ARE USING TELCO THEN JUST HIT F9 OR FUNCTION 9, THIS WILL GIVE YOU THE MAIN MENU. SELECT SETUP OPTIONS AND YOU WILL GET ANOTHER MENU; THEN SELECT TERMINAL SETUP, THIS WILL GIVE YOU A LONG LIST OF THINGS TO CHANGE OR CONFIGURE. SELECT BAUDRATE AND CHANGE IT TO THE APPROPRIATE SPEED AND RETURN TO THE MAIN MENU BY HITTING F9. SELECT TERMINAL AND SEE IF THAT FIXED THE PROBLEM. USUALLY THIS IS THE MAIN CAUSE FOR GARBAGE BUT NOT THE ONLY ONE. IF THE GARBAGE IS STILL OCCURRING AFTER ALTERING THE BAUDRATE SETTING THE NEXT THING TO CHECK IS THE PARITY. USUALLY "8N1" IS THE NORMAL SETTING AND IN MY EXPERIENCE I HAVEN'T HAD TO USE ANY OTHER. THE PARITY CAN BE CHANGED IN THE TERMINAL SETUP JUST AS THE BAUDRATE. IF PROBLEMS STILL OCCUR THEN WE CHECK THE EMULATION MODE AND THIS IS A COMPLICATED SUBJECT TO EXPLAIN FOR BEGINNERS SO WE WILL JUST TELL YOU WHAT TO DO. SELECT TERMINAL SETUP THEN CHOOSE EMULATION MODE THIS WILL GIVE YOU A LIST OF DIFFERENT MODES THAT EMULATE DIFFERENT COMPUTERS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS. EMULATE MEANS "TO COPY" OR "TO ACT LIKE" AND DIFFERENT COMPUTERS CANNOT EMULATE OTHER COMPUTERS UNLESS THEY ARE IN THE CORRECT EMULATION MODE. ADM3A IS THE STANDARD EMULATION MODE FOR THE T.I. HOME COMPUTER SO JUST STICK TO THAT ONE. IF PROBLEMS STILL OCCUR THEN ASK EITHER SAM OR ME AND WE WILL BE GLAD TO OFFER ASSISTANCE.

THIS CONCLUDES OUR BEGINNERS INFORMATION ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND MODEMS. LOOK FOR FURTHER ARTICLES IN UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE TELCO IN YOUR COLLECTION OF SOFTWARE, A SHAREWARE COPY CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE USERS GROUP LIBRARIAN.

RATINGS, REVIEWS, AND REQUESTS

by Jason L. Walker

Performance A
Ease of use A
Challenge B-
Value B+
Final grade B

IMPOSSIBLE MISSION

Good morning, Mr. Phelps. Your mission (should you decide to accept it) is to prevent this automated nuclear reactor from being destroyed by a saboteur's TIME BOMB! The saboteur is a heart patient and is still loose in this building.

With these encouraging words you are now ready to embark on an impossible mission. In this game by Scott Adams you must first find the saboteur, then find equipment to disarm the bomb. I am a Mission Impossible fan and have been for some time. So when I received this game I was pleased with the results. This game is a simple one and a person can easily learn to be an adventurer on it. But I'm not sure it would be enough of a challenge for an experienced adventurer. For those of you who have this game and have not yet conquered it, I have some clues for you:

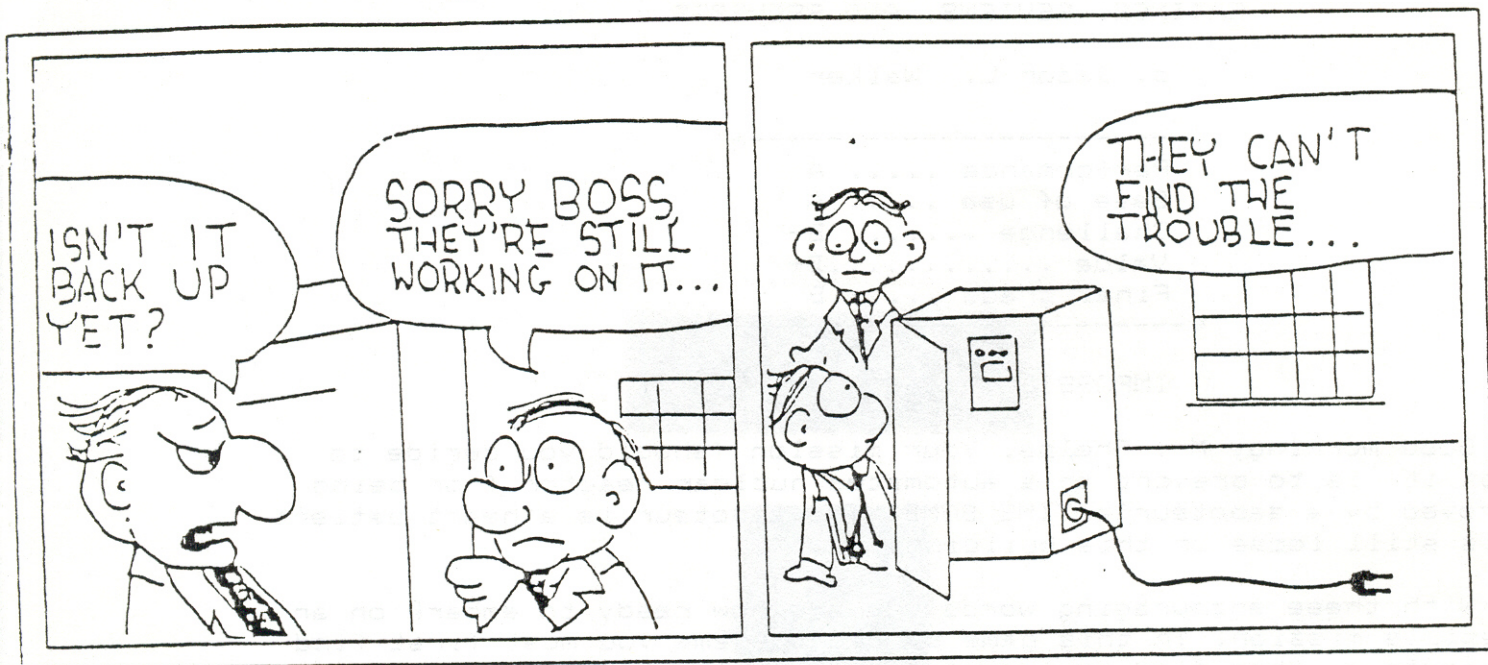
- * To get passes into rooms sit in the grey chair and push the red and then the white button.
- * Shake the mop for the blue key.
- * Frisk the saboteur.
- * Break glass with the tape recorder.

This game is available from Triton for \$4.95. For an adventurer who is just starting out I suggest you get this game. I for one have enjoyed this game and will recommend it to others. I have included a map to help you with your adventure. Please, if you have any game or adventure that you have written, would you lend me a copy to test out and review? My address is:

Jason Walker
4720 Matador
Amarillo, Tx. 79109

In my next article I will talk about The PIRATE ADVENTURE.
HAPPY ADVENTURING!

Powering Down



Data Processing Def'i·ni'tion(s)

Assumed Decimal Point. Located two positions to the right of the programmer's current salary in estimating his own worth.

Bit. The increment by which programmers slowly go mad.

Chaining. A method of attaching programmers to desks to speed up output.

Checkpoint. The location from which a programmer draws his salary.

Common Language. The first thing a programmer must forget in order to be successful.

Counter. A device over which martinis are served.

Error. What someone else has made when he disagrees with your computer output.

External Storage. Wastebasket.

Fixed Word Length. Four-letter words used by programmers in a state of confusion.

Floating Control. A characteristic exhibited when you have to go to the restroom but can't leave the computer.

Floating Point. The absolute limit before floating control is lost.

Flow Chart. A graphic representation of the fastest route to the restroom.

Input. Food, beer, aspirin, etc.

Macro. The last half of an expression of surprise: "Holy Macro."

Memory Dump. Amnesia.

Programmer. Red-eyed, mumbling mammal capable of conversing with inanimate objects.

Spreadsheet. Used at a picnic.

SWAP AND SELL

Classified Ads:

*Your ads are free as
members of the users group.*

For sale: The TI Legend- 99/8 computer,(this is not a typo!) complete with working built in speech, basic, and pascal. External disk drive and even has the preproduction instruction manual, and schematics! Asking \$1200.00 or best offer! Contact the Amarillo Users Group for details.

For Sale: TI system, PE box, Single sided disk drive, console, and cartridges.....\$300.00
Contact :

For Sale: P-Code Card and manuals.....\$200.00
Contact: Sam Burton 352-4778

For Sale: Cartridges.....\$5.00
Contact: Sam Burton 352-4778

Wanted:super modem chip source to build internal modem card for the TI 99/4A. I have the schematics but not the chips to

complete the project. Thanks!
Contact: Sam Burton

For Sale: Fountain XT system, 100% IBM compatible, has 20 hard drive, monochrome IBM monitor, and 360K floppy, internal 1200 baud modem and serial port.....\$1000.00 or \$600 and trade in of complete TI 99/4a system(i.e. color monitor, printer, etc). Send complete description of your terms and TI system for this upgrade to an MS-DOS compatible! Please no dealers! Call (806)-352-4778 for more details.

For Sale: TI sidecar Termal Printer, uses 2 inch wide paper and will support cartridge screen dumps with graphics. Compatible with music maker cartridge and home inventory cartridge. Asking \$60.00 or best offer.
Call.....352-4778 after 6.00PM.

Rave 99 Keyboard Modification, already installed and ready to use, comes complete with KEY TRONICS keyboard (MS-DOS) compatible. \$120.00 or best offer.
Call 352-4778 after 6:00 PM

Your Ad could have been Here!!