

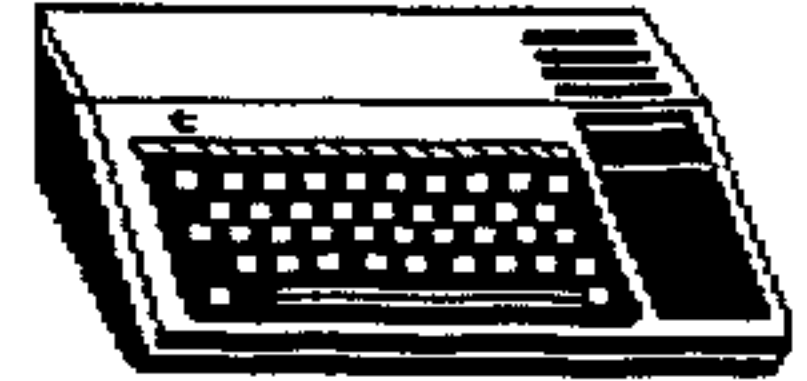


CLEVELAND AREA

TI-99/4A

USER GROUPS

FEBRUARY
~~FEBRUARY~~ 1997
MARCH



OFFICE	TI-CHIPS	MEETINGS
CO-PRESIDENT	Fred Ialacci 941-9397	10-12:00 A.M.
CO-PRESIDENT	Jim Krych 979-9295	N. Royalton
TREASURER	Lin Shaw 235-3912	County Library
MEMBERSHIP	John Parken 331-2830 4172 W. 217th St. Fairview Pk., OH 44126	State Rd. SO. of Route 82 1/4mi EVERY THIRD SAT.
SECRETARY	Glenn Bernasek 238-6335	
DISK LIBRARY	Les Kee 238-6938	NOV 16, 1996
TAPE & MODS	John Parken 331-2830	DEC 21, 1996
EDITOR	Harry Hoffman 631-2354	JAN 18, 1997

OFFICE	NORTHCOAST 99'ers	MEETINGS
CO-PRESIDENT	Ken Gladyszewski 12163577274	1-4 P.M.
CO-PRESIDENT	Walt Ryder 921-8223	Euclidian Room
Treasurer	Frank Jenkins 283-8526	Euclid SQ. Mall
MEMBERSHIP	Martin Smoley 12162571661 6149 Bryson Mentor, OH 44060	E.260th off I-90 (South) EVERY THIRD SAT.
SECRETARY	Deanna Sheridan 333-5986	
DISK LIBRARY	Martin Smoley 12162571661	NOV 16, 1996
TAPE & MODS	Frank Jenkins 283-8526	DEC 21, 1996
HARD COPY	Dick Aiden 12162571661	JAN 18, 1997



From the Editor's Desk:



Hi Tiers,

We have a good article on how to change XBasic programs to print to a 24 pin printer. This, written by John Parken of TI-Chips. There will be some stuff from the TI list server. There are over 100 Tiers on the server. Not many of these are Clevelanders. Besides myself, there is Glenn Bernasek, Bruce Rodenkirch, Jim Krych, Joe Simmons (Tennessee, but a member!). Hopefully, others from here have signed up. There is plenty of news from around the world so jump right in!;-)

The 1st of February is on a Saturday and that means meeting day is coming too soon for a procrastinator like me! I'll try to get the news out BEFORE the meeting this time!

The meeting is also the day after Valentines Day, so I hope you remembered your special sweetheart in a very special way!

I've put in the newsletter some articles involving the new products being made by our brothers overseas. Hopefully, there is fire where rumor has it that Don Walden may be manufacturing these products. No word from Don on this!

See you at the meeting.





JANUARY, 1997
By Deanna Sheridan

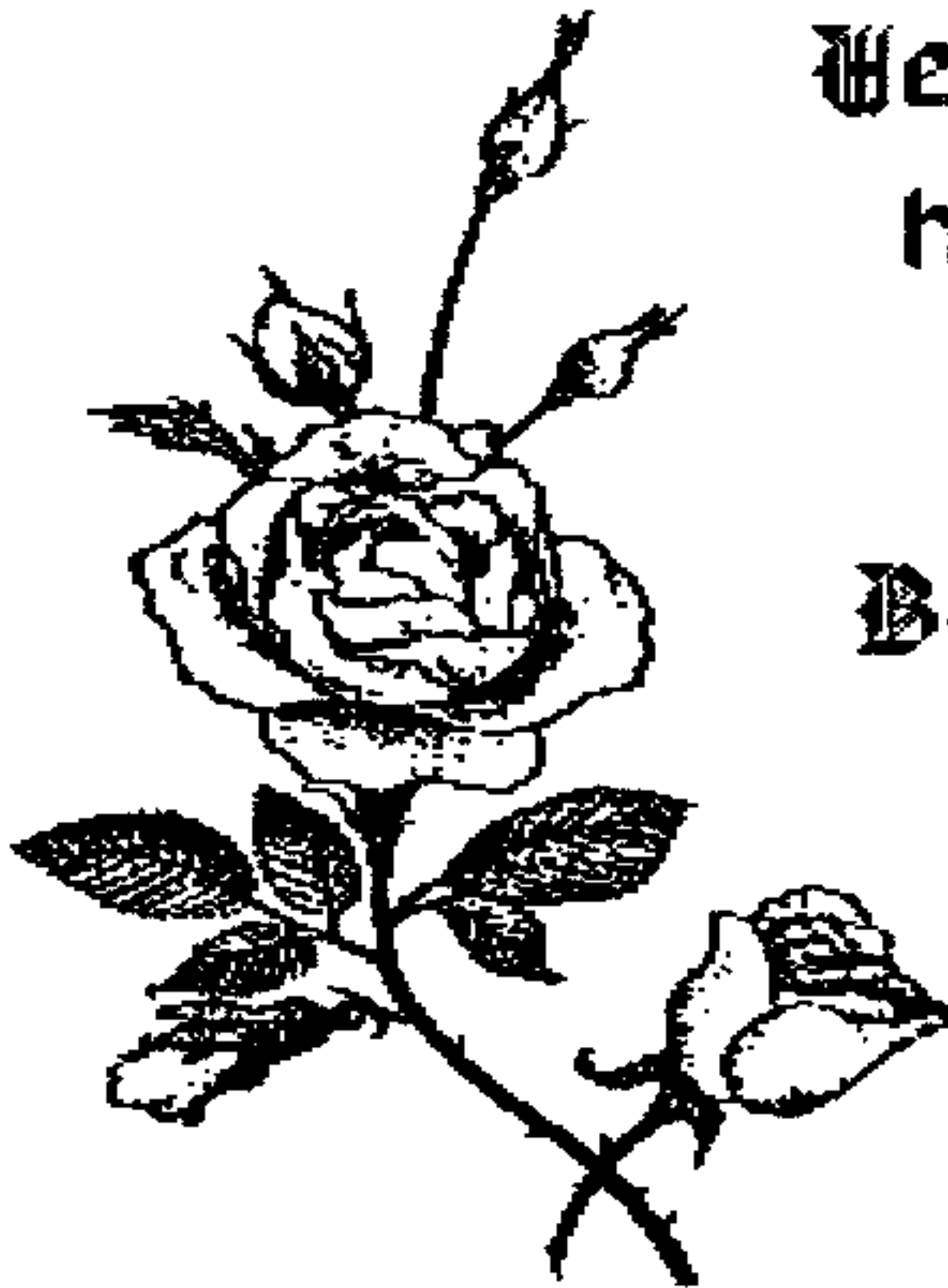
You find out who the real Tiers are on one of the Coldest Saturdays of the year! Most of the regulars showed up for the meeting.

Ken Gladyszewski called the meeting to order. There was no treasurer's report as Frank wasn't present. There was no new business and no one seemed to be having any problems on their TI's.

Ron Markus took us on a trip through the woods of Legends II. Legends is an adventure game that allows you to pick your team and work with them to beat the monsters and gather treasures. The graphics are pretty good and the game can be saved for further playing at another time. Thanks, Ron.

Ken will have the demo for the February meeting. See ya there.

Deanna



We hope all Tiers
had a wonderful
Valentines Day.
Be our Valentine
every day....

Harry & Nina
Hoffman

By Glenn Bernasek

Fred Ialacci called the January meeting to order and asked Lin Shaw to give the Treasurer's report. Lin reported the carry-over balance was down from last year's carry-over. Lin asked Harry Hoffman if he knew why there was a variation in the club's newsletter costs every-so-often. Harry replied that much of the changes were due to the cost of copying different sized newsletters and different copier services. The more pages printed - the more it costs to copy. Harry added that Frank Jenkins has done a super job of shopping for the lowest cost copier service. I asked how many newsletters were being mailed out. Harry replied that there were about 100 copies made and mailed each month.

It was pointed out that Frank Jenkin's services in the distribution of the newsletter should not be expected to go on forever. It was stated that some things (services) have been around for so long that we don't consider how they get there. Although this was discussed at some length, no decisions or offers were made at this time.

John Parken reported that, once again, the Chips' membership is holding up very well. John also reported that he had received a request from a member of the Southern California User Group for a copy of Memcheck. John said that he shipped a copy out. Fred asked how the video library was doing, and John reported that the Lima and Cleveland MUG videos were being regularly loaned out.

John and Les Kee told the group that an excellent TI-Writer user hint sheet, on disk, is available from Les. Just ask for General Information Disk #6.

While this was going on, Harry Hoffman was working on trying to bring the club's RAMdisk back to life. Harry loaded DOS several times, but it just wouldn't stay operational. I said the system's been bumped and moved every month and someone else that it hasn't been used at all between meetings. It was also said that maybe the back-up battery might be on its last legs. (A lot of theories. Maybe each has a part in the problem.) I also threw in a suggestion to check for loose chips. (If push comes to shove, I guess we can always go back to the old, slow but sure way... load and run from floppies.)

I passed around a down-load from the Tom Willis' List Server containing a posting by a Tier from Germany, Oliver Arnold, regarding the developments for the TI-99/4A in Germany. It is a fascinating posting and I said the internet and Tom's List Server was largely responsible for all Tiers around the world to begin communicating. (This is a definitely a giant step forward for the TI community.)

I said I'd like to see another demo of how to transfer text (DV-80) files from the 99/4A to a PC via a serial cable hook-up and terminal emulators (i.e., Telco on the TI and Procomm on the PC). I said this would be a repeat of Deanna's demo, but would be worth it.

John Parken showed us some labels he created with TIPS and printed out on an inkjet printer. John said although TIPS doesn't understand how to print labels side-by-side, he was able to get by this problem by printing one column of labels, re-feeding the label sheet into the printer and tabbing the labels over to enable them to be printed on the second column. A little fiddling around, but printing TIPS designed labels makes it worth the effort. (I haven't been able to get my 486DX Compaq to do what can easily and creatively be done with TIPS and my TI-99/4A!)

There wasn't any demo this month. (Harry put on enough of a show in trying to get the RAMdisk to run. Nice try Harry.)

The raffle was won by Jim Zblegien. Congratulations Jim.

How do I Print 9 Pin Tips to My 24 Pin Printer By John Parken TI-Chips

You do need to sector edit the Page Pro program to print to a 24 PIN Printer. Also for Certificate 99 you need to sector edit. Graphic Label Maker gives you options for set ups. The code for line spacing is one of those. You can then save this to your working disk. For TIPS 1.8 you modify a few lines of code and it prints just fine.

Disk Labeler 99 is also written in XBasic and can be modified to print to your 24 pin printer. It is not the graphics but the line spacing which is the concern.

One of the reasons I mention Disk Labeler 99 is that I have disks with labels falling off left and right. 1983 to 1997 translates to 14 years that some of the labels have been on. I guess the adhesive was never designed to be forever but not a bad time of service. The labels I bought for my inkjet printer do not seem to be of the highest quality in adhesive or in thickness. If there is writing underneath the label you can read it through the label. I did shop around for the least expensive labels & I guess that is what I got. Before I do some serious disk relabeling I will buy fresh and hopefully thicker labels. This relabeling will be a good time to weed out some old copies of duplicate or old programs. Maybe I also can separate some lumped together programs.

Back to what I started to talk about. Any XB program like TIPS or DL99 can be listed to a disk file and then searched with TI Writer for occurrences of CHR\$(27);CHR\$(65);CHR\$(N) which is the line spacing of N/72 of an inch. In most 9 pin printers there are 5 vertical line spacing commands: 1/8; 7/72; 1/6; N/216; N/72. These are respectively CHR\$(27);CHR\$(48); :CHR\$(27);CHR\$(49); :CHR\$(27);CHR\$(50); :CHR\$(27);CHR\$(51);CHR\$(N); :CHR\$(27);CHR\$(65);CHR\$(N).

The program I am looking at is Ron Wolcott's TIPSSHOW, Line 260... CHR\$(27);CHR\$(65);CHR\$(8). This equates to 1/72 of an inch = .01388...X 8 which = .1111104 of an inch line feed. In the 24 pin printer 5/360 of an inch equals 1/72 of an inch therefore 8 times that would equal 40/360 of an inch which when divided out is accurate to 5 places. This rewrites the line to CHR\$(27);CHR\$(43);CHR\$(40). After making this change you save the program to DSK*.TIPSSHOW. This does a great job of cataloging a TIPS disk on my Cannon ink jet.

Lets do the same thing with TIPS 1.8 main program which is TIPSX. How I found where there were CHR\$(27);CHR\$(65);CHR\$(00) in the program was to list the program to disk file. But the DV80 file was too large to fit the TI Writer text buffer. So I saved it in two halves: LIST "DSK1.TIP1":-1990, and then: LIST "DSK1.TIP2":2000-. The XBasic manual explains this.

Using TI Writer & the 'Find String' command. I searched for CHR\$(27) to find all the printer line spacing commands. Only 3 places did I find it needed changing. Line 1830, line 1910 and line 2760. Line 2760 may not be related to label printing & the commands are concatenated. I left 2760 unchanged and my labels printed correctly. But, if you are printing a card; this not being changed could mess up your printing. I am not sure what function this line goes with.

After I made the changes and saved the program to DSK*.TIPSX, it printed the 1" x 4" ink jet labels flawlessly. All ink jet labels come on full 8 1/2 X 11 sheets, so if you run the sheets thru one more time set the tab to 41. You will have all your labels facing the same direction.

One of the reasons I wrote this article with exact line numbers I had changed is that anybody with the TIPS 1.8 program can change it instantly and have a 24 pin TIPS program to use. No disk to send for and no waiting. But by knowing how I found what needed to be changed and how to change it means you can change other programs written for 9 pin printers. Just to recap what the lines should be:

First for TIPSSHOW:

```
260 PRINT #3:CHR$(27);CHR$(43);CHR$(40)
```

Next for TIPS:

```
1830 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);CHR$(43);CHR$(40)
```

```
1910 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);CHR$(43);CHR$(40);C$
```

```
2760 GOSUB 3060 :: FQ$(1)=RR$&CHR$(27)&"L"&CHR$(00)&Z$ :: FQ$(2)=CHR$(27)&CHR$(65)&CHR$(45)&C$&C$&C$&C$&CHR$(27)&CHR$(43)&CHR$(40)
```


To show some of what you can enjoy by joining Cleveland Freenet or any freenet system, this "Home, Yard, & Garden" answer to my question about what to do with Christmas Cactus seeds that are developing on two of the plants. There are so many free Q & A places on freenet that you will always find something of interest for yourself and your spouse, if applicable.

From: britton.4@osu.edu (Constance J. Britton)
Subject: Christmas cactus

I referred your question to Dr. Robert McMahon at the OSU Agricultural Technical Institute. (He had some beautiful cacti in bloom this winter!) Here is his response:

Seeing that these plants are tropical in nature, I would imagine that the seed need NOT be stratified upon ripening of the fruit. I would plant the seed in a WELL DRAINED soil, lightly covered and kept moist, but not wet. I would use a commercial soil mix that has composted pine bark, which helps to suppress Pythium and other root rot pathogens that seem to "love" holiday cacti roots. Upon emergence of the seedlings, keep root medium moist and start a weak fertilizer program a couple of weeks after emergence. Once the seedlings are established, allow the surface of the soil to dry between irrigations. That's my best shot at this question. Never have grown holiday cacti from seed before.

When you refer to "pears" do you mean that the cacti are bearing "fruit"?

This factsheet on Christmas cactus might also be of interest to you. April 1987 (Revised) LEAFLET NO: 8516

GROWING CHRISTMAS CACTUS

(Zygocactus truncatus)

Joseph W. Love,

Extension Horticultural Specialist

The Christmas cactus is a sensational pot plant when in bloom for the Christmas holiday season--if it blooms. This somewhat demanding plant can be grown with success, but requires a bit of "watching".

Soil. The ideal soil for Christmas cactus is composed of equal parts of garden loam, leaf mold and clean coarse sand (not sand from the seashore). Add a quart of wood ashes per bushel of mixture. One-tenth part by bulk of old dry cow manure may be added if garden soil is poor.

Re-potting. Plants should be re-potted every two or three years, or whenever pot is filled with roots and the

soil appears to be depleted of nutrients. Christmas cactus usually is re-potted in the spring, but a plant which is unhealthy because of the root system can be re-potted at any time of the year.

Light. Although Christmas cactus is a member of the cactus family, it is not grown in the same way as the well-known thorny, prickly member of the group. CHRISTMAS CACTUS DOES NOT LIKE DIRECT SUMMER SUN. If you want to grow it indoors in a south or west window, you should shade the plant with glass curtains. No diffusion of light is needed on the north or east. Many growers move the plants to the broken shade of a porch or patio or plunge the pot in a shady spot in the garden during the summer months. Christmas cactus needs shading from the sun between May and September.

Water. Unlike the prickly members of the cactus family, Christmas cactus is not a dry soil plant that you can neglect for weeks. Grow it as you would coleus during most of the year--and be sure the soil is porous.

During the month of October, give the plant no water. Cautiously resume watering in November, but don't let stems get flabby from over watering. If the atmosphere is dry, place pot on a tray of pebbles. Keep pebbles moist with water in the tray.

After plant completes blooming, let it rest by withholding water for six weeks. When new growth appears, re-pot and top-dress with fresh soil. Resume watering to keep soil fairly moist.

Fertilizing. As tender growth appears in the spring, apply a weak solution of liquid houseplant fertilizer at 2-3 week intervals.

Temperature. From October on, keep the plant where it is cool at night--60 to 65 F. **Propagation.** A well-tended Christmas cactus will reach unmanageable size in time. To root cuttings for new plants, cut back shoots from the tips--cut at the second joint of each tip. Place cuttings in a moist peat and perlite, or peat and sand mixture. Water sparingly at first to prevent rotting of cuttings. After two or three weeks, water as you would any other cutting. When cuttings are rooted, pot them in a very loose mixture of good potting soil.

Bud Dropping. Common causes of bud dropping are over watering, exposure to cold drafts, a position too close to a hot radiator or vent and lack of sufficient potash in the soil. Syringe foliage frequently in the fall of the year. Water plant sparingly and feed a little liquid manure weekly.

Date: Sat Jan 25 15:00:26 1997
From: aa360@acorn.net (Bruce Rodenkirch)

I found the following in the British Columbia NL for Sep 96.

RS232 PORTS by Ron Warfield
>From the B.C. NEWS Newsletter
216 10th Ave., New Westminster,
British Columbia, Canada, V3L 2B2
DIAL-A-TI BBS..250-522-9830, 2400, 8N1, 24 hours

I have noticed more and more members wanting to connect extra peripherals to their RS232 cards. As it stands the TI RS232 supports 2 serial and one parallel port. To use the extra serial port you need a Y cable and use RS232/2.

Well now you have an extra printer, a mouse and maybe you wanted to connect a direct cable to your "other machine" and find there is no where to plug all these toys.

I will explain how to add an extra RS232 card to the PBOX so you can have RS232/1, RS232/2, RS232/3, RS232/4, PIO/1, AND PIO/2

This modification is for TI RS232 cards only. Some Corcomp cards come with a switch to do the same thing. Open the extra RS232 card shell by removing the screws or popping the plastic shell. Place the card face up with the LED to your left and the card edge connections towards you.

Look at the card and 1 3/4 inches in from the left side and 2 1/2 inches down from the top you will see a integrated circuit with the number 74LS02N on it. Marked on the board will be U15. At the bottom of this chip you will see a resistor marked R5 (brown, black, brown). It will have a black mark around it printed on the board. Right below this resistor you will see a metal plate strip with a soldered over hole at each end. The markings on the board are PTH1. Carefully unsolder the resistor and move it down to the empty holes directly below it. You will have to remove the solder in the holes, or if you have three hands you can hold the resistor to the holes and solder iron to the holes and when the solder melts the resistor will go into the hole. Good luck with this. use a small iron and be carefull. I will not be held responsible for damage you may cause. Replace the clam shell around the card.

When this is done, place the modified card along side the old card in the box and you have four RS232 ports and two PIO ports.

To address these ports you will have to change some of your programs to get the port you want. RS232/1, RS232/2, RS232/3, RS232/4, PIO/1 and PIO/2. You will need two Y cables for the serial ports.

I have modified the extra card in my computer and have my main printer on PIO/1, a label printer on PIO/2, a Mouse on RS232/1, my Amiga hard wired to RS232/2, my TI PRO hard wired to RS232/3 and Telco on RS232/4. This is great now because I can transfer files between the PRO and Amiga to the TI, print everything to the main printer PIO/1 and print labels to the other printer PIO/2.

With a couple of A B C switches I share the modem and printer with the other computers. If you can, you might as well make playing with your toys as easy as possible. P.6



PRESIDENT'S DAY

FEBRUARY 17TH, 1997



Abraham Lincoln
1861 — 1865

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ABE AND
GEORGE !!!**

Date: Fri Jan 17 01:19:16 1997

I am forwarding this message to the listserv from Oliver Arnold

Charles Good

Hello Charles,

In the following I send you a list of some developments for the TI-99/4A. If you find it useful please put it in the next LINA newsletter. Please send the next newsletter to the address below of the list.

Hope to see you again any time in the USA... or in Europe?

Oliver

=====

* HP-MGR: A userfriendly print manager for Hewlett Packard printers. It is possible to print till to 8 TI-ARTIST pictures on one side. Menu driven program with disk directory, show TI-ARTIST picture, print double wide and much more... written in C99.

* RISK: a strategy game for 2 to 6 players, completely written in Assembly language, uses full Bitmap-Graphics, needs only a TI, 32k, Disk and two joysticks

* Speech for Infocom Adventures; a batch program, let your infocom text adventure speak to you, e.g. Floyd says nasty things... needs an extra Ram >6000 a speech synthesizer and the new speech card from Winfried Winkler; this card has as a true speech DSR, not the pseudo one of the TE-II Modul

* 16-BIT-BOARD opens the way to the full 16 Bit World included is a double sided PCB with 64k memory banked RAM with 16 Bit access and a super fast 16 Bit Input/Output Port expandable to 256 Bits. This port can be used by any language you like e.g. Basic you only need a peek or a call load; there are drivers on the board to connect a longer cable (more then one meter) The two memory banks are set by a poke to a special address. In XB it is possible to load two XB-Programs or you can use the 64KRam for a large buffer.

The board is installed in the TI with a special socket on the top of the CPU so you don't need to remove anything. If this board is installed you have easy access to the full TI-BUS for other developments.

I use the I/O-port for a 16-Bit-LOGIC-ANALYSER a software project of our user group (TI-User-Gruppe-Mannheim). In the last years we developed software called SPION (means spy) to use the full speed of the 16 Bit port. We have sample rates till to 4 mikro seconds (10⁻⁶ seconds) in full 16 Bit wide. There is room for 5000 measurements which you scroll on screen to see the high or low signal, set a trigger point, search binary combinations, start the measurement with individual speed, save or reload a measurement and and and... The program is menu driven and uses full bitmap graphics to give you a sophisticated tool to analyse binary measurements.

E. g. I have used this program to analyse the I2C-BUS

for the teletext card.

This board was shown with software to the public on the international TI-FAIRE in Wolfsburg Germany in September 96.

Next development for this board is a 16-Bit Ramdisk.

* The TELETEXT-CARD is a new hardware project for the TI99/4A and for the Geneve. The card is an external device which is connected to the RS232 interface. On the other side you need a CVBS signal from a TV or something else. I use a satellite receiver. The software is written mostly in C99 and in assembly language. This software controls the decoder chip (SAA5246A/PE) via the RS232. The software needs 32k memory, a Diskdrive and a program file loader like the Editor/Assembler Modul or the Horizon menu.

The card is controlled by a user friendly menu program with the following options:

- searching four pages at the same time
- dump pages with graphics to printer
- save them to any other device you like in DISPLAY VAR 80 format
- show the status of memory
- show moving index, date, time, channel
- find subpages
- if you have an 80 column card you can store 176 pages in memory
- automode function: the program searches the pages alone
- move pages during the searching process
- see two page equally on screen
- if the Ti speech synthesizer is adapted the computer gives you advices
- use other language characters: german, french, spanish etc.

Absolutely necessary is the following hardware:

TI-99/4A

32k Memory

Disk

RS232

and of course the TeletextCard

Further supported are:

80 column cards: Becker, Mechatronic, Tia, E61, GENEVE

TI speech synthesizer

Printer

And very useful: a printer buffer

Any interests? Please write to the following address:

Oliver Arnold

Pestalozzistr. 15

80469 Muenchen

Germany

or via email:

oliver.arnold@gedos.de

P.8

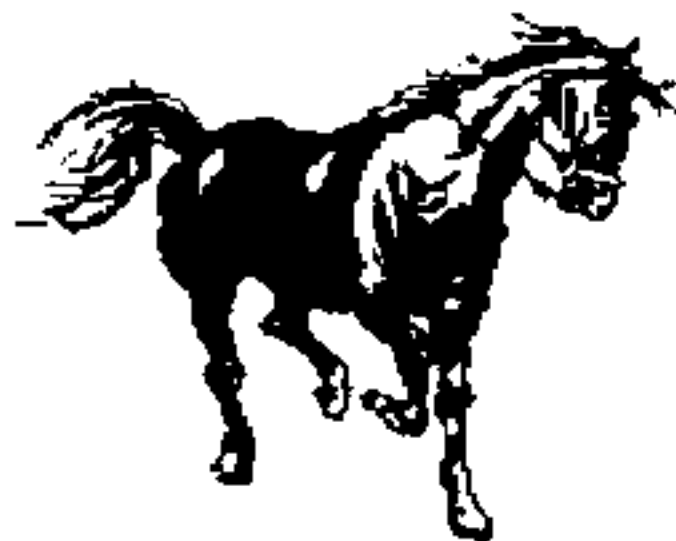
'RD
rd



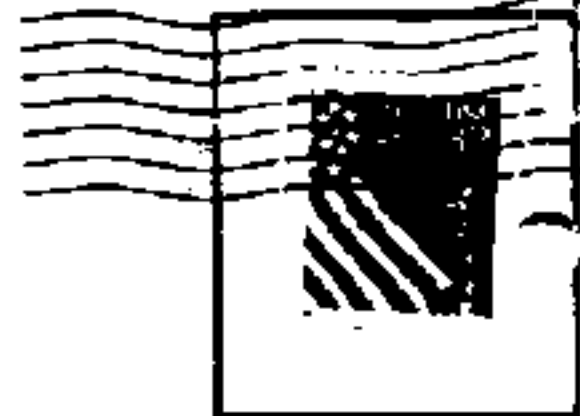
SOME Toughys



and just cuties!



Cleveland Area User Groups
Harry Hoffman
3925 Troubridge Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44109-1349



Check your expiration date.
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Try the "TI list server", you'll like it!!!

Check your past newsletters to see how easy it is to
get on the list!

I guess you can't stay up with the owls
at night and fly with the Eagles in
the daytime!

-X- Page 10 -X-

