

Oct 84

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\* THE CENTRAL IOWA 99/4A USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER \*  
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VOLUME 2 NUMBER 10  
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OCTOBER 1984  
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CALENDAR.....  
OCTOBER 22ND.....7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.....USER GROUP MEETING..EASTSIDE LIBRARY  
OCTOBER 18TH.....6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.....COPY LIBRARY..EASTSIDE LIBRARY  
NOVEMBER 1ST.....7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.....TI/MULTIPLAN..BOB UTTER'S HOME  
NOVEMBER 8TH.....7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.....TEL/MODEM..MADONNA NORDAKER'S HOME  
\*ASSEMBLER AND BASIC CLASS TO BE ANNOUNCED  
NOVEMBER 26TH....7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.....ELECTION..EASTSIDE LIBRARY

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\* PRESIDENTS CORNER - BY MADONNA NORDAKER \*  
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WHAT GREAT NEWS I JUST GOT!!! THE CLUB LIBRARY IS READY AND WAITING. WILL BE A SESSION THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18TH AT THE EASTSIDE LIBRARY. ALONG WITH THIS, SOME OTHER NEWS. THE CLUB OWNS ABOUT 30 TAPES - THESE WILL BE ON SALE AT OUR NEXT CLUB MEETING FOR \$2.00. NOW THAT'S A BARGIN.....!!!!

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE HAS BEE FORMED. THEY ARE BOB UTTER, NEIL FARMENTER, BOB RYERSON AND ????. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING AN OFFICER OF OUR CLUB OR KNOW SOMEONE YOU THINK MIGHT SERVE, PLEASE CALL ANY OF THESE MEMBERS AND LET THEM KNOW. THERE ARE ALSO OTHER PROJECTS THAT NEED YOUR HELP. PLEASE CALL ME AND SAY "HOW CAN I HELP OUR CLUB".

AM SURE YOU'VE NOTICED A DIFFERENCE IN OUR NEWSLETTER FORMAT. MONEY IS SHORT UNTIL YOU START SENDING IN OR BRINGING TO THE CLUB MEETING YOUR RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP DUES. SO AM TRYING THIS. BOB RYERSON HAS REDUCED OUR PAGES TO PRINT FORM AND HERE WE GO. MAY LIKE IT SO WELL WE'LL CONTINUE. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS PRO OR CON AND/OR ANY SUGGESTIONS.

OUR MEETING THIS MONTH WILL BE DIFFERENT. THE EASTSIDE LIBRARY HAD ALREADY SCHEDULED A APPLE IIE COMPUTER PROGRAM ON "OUR NIGHT". SINCE THIS IS THE COMPUTER USED IN MOST SCHOOLS IN OUR AREA, IT WAS DECIDED TO COMBINE OUR MEETING WITH THEIRS. SO 7:00 TO 8:30 WILL BE APPLE IIE - 8:30 TO 9:00 OUR TI MEETING. WILL BE DIFFERNT BUT ALSO WILL BE INTERESTING.

HAVE ANY OF YOU WRITTEN TO ANY OF THE USER GROUPS I LISTED IN OUR LAST NEWSLETTER??? READ ABOUT ONE IN ISRAEL. THEY WANTED ANY NEWS ABOUT TI'S. NOW SOMEONE SHOULD WRITE TO THEM. THINK HOW INTERESTING IT WOULD BE FOR ALL OF US TO BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM...WE TI'ERS NEED TO STICK TOGETHER AND HELP EACH OTHER OUT WHEN POSSIBLE. THEY WANTED ANY NEWS ABOUT TI.....

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JUST ONE REASON TO BELONG TO A GROUP LIKE OURS !!!!!

I WORKED FOR MANY YEARS AS A COMPUTER MAINTENCE TECHNICIAN BUT HAD NEVER DONE ANY PROGRAMMING. I BOUGHT A TI CONSOLE AND CASSETTE AND STARTED TO LEARN PROGRAMMING IN THE BASIC LANGUAGE. WITH HELP FROM CLASSES TAUGHT AT THE CENTRAL-IOWA 99ER USER GROUP MEETINGS, WITHIN ONE YEAR I HAD WRITTEN SEVERAL PROGRAMS INCLUDING A LABEL/PRINTING PROGRAM FOR OUR OWN MAILING ADDRESSES. THEN CAME AN OPPORTUNITY TO ALTER MY CAREER. I WAS OFFERED A POSITION WITH A DIFFERENT ORGANIZATION. THE NEW POSITION INVOLVED COMPUTER PROGRAMMING. WITH THE EXPOSURE I HAD FROM THE TI I FELT COMFORTABLE IN ACCEPTING THE NEW POSITION. I HAVE HELD THIS POSITION FOR ALMOST A YEAR NOW AND BELIEVE THE TI PLAYED A VERY BIG PART IN MY SUCCESS.

Gary Park

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\* TI NEWS - BY BOB UTTER \*  
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WHAT'S NEW IN MAGAZINES

**SOFTX:** This is a new magazine for the TI 99/4A computer and is published in Australia. It is published bi-monthly and will cost \$37 for 6 issues mailed airmail. Features will include reviews of hardware and software, programs to key in plus tutorial articles. If you are interested, the address is Softex Magazine, 59 Landstrom Quadrant, Kilsyth. 3137. Victoria. Australia.

**ODDBALL SOFTWARE:** This magazine will describe any type of special purpose software, and give the author's name and address. The programs will be sold by the author and will not be available anywhere else. The magazine will be bi-monthly and cost \$15 per year. For information, write Oddball Software Magazine, P.O. Box 1385, Pittsfield, MA 01202.

**SUPER 99 MONTHLY:** This new monthly devoted to the TI 99/4A has just put out its first issue. Features included articles on Forth, Basic programming, games plus some programs to type in. The subscription rate is \$12 per year and can be obtained from Bytemaster Computer Services, 171 Mustang Street, Sulphur, LA 70663.

SECRETS OF THE T.I.

Recently the Computer Shopper magazine ran a series of articles on the innerworkings of the TI 99/4A computer. Described was the architecture of the TMS 9900 microprocessor plus assembly language programming tips. These articles are now compiled into a book called "The Innermost Secrets of the TI 99/4A". To get a copy, send \$5.95 to Computer Shopper, P.O. Box F, Titusville, FL 32781.

ONLINE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

TI Source subscribers now have available to them an online monthly newsletter. It is called SUBFILE99 and contains articles, tips, and Basic and Assembler programs which can be downloaded to your own computer. Details on how to download from SUBFILE99 are in the Modem SIG library.

The instruction manual for downloading TI programs from Compuserve is also now in the modem library. Contact Joan Maust if you would like to look at them.

NEW LEARNING AID

Fliptrack Learning Systems has released a new program called "How to Operate the TI 99/4A." It consists of an audio tape with entry level lessons. The user is to lesson to the tape and follow interactively with the computer. For information, write Fliptrack Learning Systems, 999 Main Street, Suite 200, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, 60137 or call 1-800-222-FLIP.

PARSEC FOR \$4.95?

Yes that's right. Parsec, plus many other TI modules, which once cost as much as \$39.95 are now selling for as low as \$4.95 by mailorder. Both Texcomp in Los Angeles and Triton in San Francisco have drastically cut their prices of modules. Both take orders by phone and the numbers are: Triton 1-800-227-6900 and for Texcomp 1-818-366-6631.

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DO IT TODAY!!!!!!!

SEND IN YOUR RENEWAL SLIP -- YOUR EXPIRATION DATE

IS ON YOUR MAILING LABEL.....

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*          TI FORTH DISK COPIER - by Ron Rutledge          *
*                                     *
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If you thought the 6 pass disk copier was nice have I got a deal for you! How about a new copier, written in TI-FORTH, which 1) executes a little faster, 2) auto-boots when Forth is executed from the Editor/Assembler, and 3) COPIES A DISK IN ONLY 3 PASSES!! And it's a snap to use! This copier is now in the library but remember that the club's system does not have memory expansion and cannot run Forth so you will have to copy it using the Disk Manager unless you get it at a software copy meeting. Thanks to Doug Smith of Waldorf, Maryland for writing it. He also provided some telephone assistance to get it running. (That's a long story). If you have any questions or want to modify the copier to run from a standard Forth disk see me at one of the meetings. The two screens which do the actual copying are shown below. If you want to get a little practice in or want to use the copier right away simply enter the screens, "COLD" start Forth, and key in "30 LOAD". Forth will do the rest of the work for you. Have a good time !!

Please make a note of the following. When you finish a copy the message "DONE - ENTER W TO COPY ANOTHER" will appear. This is sometimes followed by garbage, depending on what was on the disk. As long as you get this message you have a good copy and you can ignore any trash which is printed. You can also keep copying without reloading your screens.

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SCR #30
0 ( 3 PASS DISK COPIER - DOUG SMITH 301-645-1432 ) ; IT ;
1 : CLS 16 SYSTEM ; ; VMBW 2 SYSTEM ; ; VMBR 6 SYSTEM ;
2 : 0 VARIABLE AREA 15360 ALLOT 0 VARIABLE PL 0 DISK_LO !
3 : TX CLS 5 11 GOTOXY ;
4 : M1 TX ." INSERT COPY DISK-PRESS ANY KEY " KEY DROP ;
5 : M2 TX ." INSERT MASTER - PRESS ANY KEY " KEY DROP ;
6 : M3 TX ." DONE - ENTER W TO COPY ANOTHER " ;
7 : PR TX ." COPIER NOW READY-PRESS ANY KEY " KEY DROP ;
8 : PU PL @ 20 + PL @ 5 + DO I BLOCK AREA 2 + I PL @ 5 + - 1024
9   * + 1024 CMOVE LOOP ;
10 : BU PL @ 5 + PL @ DO I BLOCK UPDATE LOOP M1 FLUSH ;
11 : DR PL @ 10 + PL @ 5 + DO AREA 2 + I PL @ 5 + - 1024 * + I
12   BUFFER 1024 CMOVE UPDATE LOOP FLUSH PL @ 15 + PL @ 10 + DO
13   AREA 2 + I PL @ 5 + - 1024 * + I BUFFER 1024 CMOVE UPDATE
14   LOOP FLUSH PL @ 20 + PL @ 15 + DO AREA 2 + I PL @ 5 + -
15   1024 * + I BUFFER 1024 CMOVE UPDATE LOOP FLUSH ; -->

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SCR #31
0 ( 3 PASS COPIER CONTINUED )
1 : BPU PL @ 28 + PL @ 20 + DO I BLOCK 5120 I PL @ - 20 - 1024
2   * + 1024 VMBW LOOP
3   PL @ 28 + BLOCK 3072 1024 VMBW
4   PL @ 29 + BLOCK 1122 1024 VMBW ;
5 : BDR PL @ 25 + PL @ 20 + DO 5120 I PL @ - 20 - 1024 * + I
6   BUFFER 1024 VMBR UPDATE LOOP FLUSH
7   PL @ 28 + PL @ 25 + DO 5120 I PL @ - 20 - 1024 * + I
8   BUFFER 1024 VMBR UPDATE LOOP
9   3072 PL @ 28 + BUFFER 1024 VMBR UPDATE
10  1122 PL @ 29 + BUFFER 1024 VMBR UPDATE FLUSH ;
11 : PAS BPU PU BU BDR DR ;
12 : CY 0 PL ! 30 / 1+ 0 DO PAS PL @ 50 > IF M3 ELSE M2 I 2+ .
13   30 PL +! THEN LOOP ;
14 : W M2 B9 CY ;
15 PR W

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DO IT TODAY!!!!!!!  
 SEND IN YOUR RENEWAL SLIP -- YOUR EXPIRATION DATE  
 IS ON YOUR MAILING LABEL.....

\*\*\*\*\*  
\$ SOFTWARE REVIEW by Ron Rutledge \$  
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You will enter a dimension of fantasy, of mutant imagination gone wild. You may find yourself scrubbing Deck 9 on the stellar patrol ship Feinstein, or searching an Egyptian desert looking for the last of the Great Pyramids, or trying to restore the life support systems on a derelict spaceship the size of an asteroid, or maybe awakening from a dream and finding yourself in the Great Cavern with only your old friend, the brass lantern, to help you. You have entered the world of INFOCOM, the most advanced fantasy role playing games known to man.

INFOCOM adventures are the most elaborate, the most detailed, the most complicated and involving adventures on the market. They range from searching an underground empire as a treasure hunter to tracking down a murder suspect as a detective to searching a seemingly abandoned complex on another world as the survivor of an exploded spaceship or even casting spells as a sorcerer on an enchanted world of magic. If you have played any of the T.I. (Scott Adams) Adventures or Tunnels of Doom then you know what an adventure is. Try INFOCOM and you will know what an adventure can be. The high res graphics don't come with an adventure, they are displayed in your mind, and INFOCOM gives your mind the most brilliantly detailed scenarios you can imagine. Once you experience an INFOCOM adventure, you may never be able to play another!!

Don't plan on playing an INFOCOM adventure in an hour or two, not even in a day or two. INFOCOM costs slightly more than the others, but the extra cost is more than worth it. If you want a challenge, if you want to become so involved you become part of the illusion, if you want to live the fantasies of a lifetime, get INFOCOM. It's not just a game, its an adventure!

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\$ MEMBER'S CORNER \$  
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How about using this area as a question and answer section. Got a problem trying to program something? Can't quite figure out how to solve the problem in the adventure you are playing? Wondering how to put together the third party equipment you bought? Have an answer for somebody's question or maybe just a note about something useful you have discovered or heard about but never saw in type? Put it here, this area doesn't do anybody any good blank. Throw out your problems, tell us about your tricks and tips. Nothing is too insignificant.

--Ron Rutledge--

Anybody besides Mark Tallman have both the Foundation 128K Memory card and the CorComp Disk Controller card?? At the present time the two cards will not function together. Mark has talked to both companies and found that although they are mutually working toward finding a solution, each company blames the other and no solution has been found yet. Good luck, Mark!

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LET'S ALL SHARE

NEED ALL CASSETTE TAPES AND CARTRIDGE'S TURNED IN

IMMEDIATELY!!!!!!!!!!

SO OTHERS CAN SHARE ALSO....PLEASE BRING TO NEXT MEETING

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 \$ MANUALS AVAILABLE FOR CHECKOUT by Ron Rutledge \$  
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The following items have been made available for checkout from the club. Sorry if the deposits seem excessive, but I don't want to have to replace the copies I have made because it was cheaper to keep them than to copy them. If you want to check out something you may do so at the general meetings. All deposits must be in cash, no checks. Your deposit will be returned when the manual is returned provided it hasn't been folded, spindled, or mutilated!! Seriously, I won't be very picky about the condition of returned items but please try and take care of the stuff so it will be in good condition for the next person. There are three copies of each manual so after the initial rush there shouldn't be any availability problem.

Also, we have two books available for checkout. There is only one copy of each and they will be checked out on a first come, first served basis. NO RESERVATIONS will be taken over the phone for books or manuals.

If anyone has a manual which isn't listed here now about donating at least one copy. Or let us borrow it and the club can make some copies. The same goes for books. If you have more than one of the same thing (may sound funny but it happens) or if you have a book you no longer use, want, or need, donate it to the club library and make it available to others. Anything you have to give will be appreciated and will help the club, whether it be your time, your newsletter articles, or an item we can use in the library or somewhere else.

One last comment. If you have checked out a manual or book please try and RETURN THE CHECKED OUT ITEMS BY THE NEXT MEETING!!! Everyone would like to have a crack at checking out the items. If a manual or book is not returned within two meetings I will call you and if it is not returned by the third meeting you will forfeit your deposit.

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MANUALS	PAGES	DEPOSIT
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FORTH articles	40	\$10
GETTING STARTED WITH TI-FORTH	45	\$10
TMS 5200 VOICE SYNTHESIS PROCESSOR DATA MANUAL	29	\$5
SOFTWARE SPECIFICATION FOR THE 99/4 DISK PERIPHERAL	32	\$5
FUNCTIONAL SPECIFICATION FOR THE 99/4 DISK PERIPHERAL	24	\$5
GPL INTERFACE SPECIFICATION FOR THE 99/4 DISK PERIPHERAL	15	\$5
TERMINAL EMULATOR PROTOCOL MANUAL	33	\$10

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BOOKS	PAGES	DEPOSIT
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LEARNING TI 99/4A ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE PROGRAMMING	330+	\$20
BEGINNING ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE for the TI HOME COMPUTER	225+	\$20

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WE HAVE RECIEVED THE TIGERCLUB SOFTWARE CATALOG FROM COLUMBUS, OHIO  
 -I'LL BRING IT TO OUR NEXT MEETING FOR YOU TO READ--WE SHOULD TRY AND  
 BUY SOME OF THESE ORIGINAL PROGRAMS. ALL HAVE EXPLANATIONS AND MOST  
 SEEM INTERESTING. SEE MADONNA NEXT MEETING.

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\* 99 TIPS - BY JOHN HAMILTON \*  
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- 87) Happy Birthday to the TI 99/4. For a grand sum of \$1150 you could buy it and the color monitor at a Teas Electronics store in October of 1979. If you waited 4 years, you could get a 4A (no monitor) for \$10 (40 less the \$50 rebate) at a Target store. Chances are you got yours for something in between (my first cost was \$390 and the rf modulator was an extra \$50). The tip for this month is to latch on to a 2nd (3rd, 4th, etc) console if you can since they are prone to wearing out (especially if you have kids). It doesn't hurt to have a spare in the closet.
- 88) For those of you who have modems and would like to upload files to any of the local boards, the instructions are out on the Mansion. Here's a short summary of what you need to do:
- a) Get to the upload mode on the board and answer the questions
  - b) Use CTRL O and leave TEII
  - c) Go into BASIC from the title screen
  - d) Load the program you want to upload with OLD DSK1.prognam
  - e) Type LIST "RB232"
  - f) Use FCTN = and leave BASIC
  - g) Go into TEII from the title screen
  - h) Type CTRL K (or whatever that board requires) to end the upload
- The program for getting downloads was listed on page 3 of the 7/84 issue.
- 89) Reread the RB232 manual some evening. You may not realize that you can use SAVE, OLD, LIST with the RB232 (easy way to transfer information between 2 computers - for example: one of you from BASIC can type LIST "RB232" and the other in TEII will have the program "uploaded" to the screen). The same can be done using the PIO ports if you have both of the computers in the same room (note that you will need to rewire the parallel cable). Finally, you can LIST to DSK1 and get nice 80 column listings to merge into TI WRITER files. Experiment and let us know if come up with anything new or useful!

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CENTRAL IOWA TI 99/4A USERS GROUP MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL  
NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO KEEP TI INFORMATION FLOWING  
\*\*\*\*\*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP (\$10) \_\_\_ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (\$12.50) \_\_\_

EXP DATE \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ MEMBER NO \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: CENTRAL IOWA TI 99/4A USERS GROUP

RETURN TO: NEIL PARMENTER  
3021 38 ST  
DES MOINES, IA 50310

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\* MARKETPLACE - by Ron Rutledge \*  
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>> to place a free ad call Ron at 987-1145 before 9 or see me at a meeting <<

The University Bookstore at 30th & Forest has the following while they last:

Hardware	PEB, 32K, disk controller & disk drive .....	474.95
*****	Hewlett Packard inkjet printer .....	434.95
	CorComp Micro Expansion System w/RS232 .....	149.95
	CorComp RS232 card (for TI PEB) .....	99.95
Software	Logo II or Multiplan .....	84.95
*****	Editor/Assembler (required for FORTH) .....	34.95
	Various TI & 3rd party disks & modules .....	inquire

The Computer Supply Store at 1014 Grand has the following items:

Hardware	Epson RX80 or Gemini 10X printer.....	299.95	
*****	Okidata 82A printer ..... 339.95	Okidata 92 ..... 450.95	
	Toshiba 1340 printer ..... 850.00	Toshiba 1351 .. 1450.00	
	Prowriter printer .....	369.95	
	Panasonic 1091 printer .....	369.95	
	Abati letter quality printer .....	460.00	
	Printer cable .....	29.95	
	Anchor Volksmodem (cables 11.50) .....	74.95	
	Monitors: Comrex: ..... 89.95	Gorilla ..... 99.95	
	Navarone Cartridge Expander (more on order) .....	29.50	
Supplies	Ribbons: 82A or 10X ... 2.99	RX80 ... 6.99	Pro ... 5.40
*****	15# 3500 sheet .....	24.40	
	20# 2700 sheet fine-perf paper .....	22.39	
	Elephant SSSD disks (box of 10) .....	20.25	
	3M SSSD disk (box of 10) .....	23.15	

Children's Palace now has Q\*BERT, POPEYE, and FROGGER available for \$19.95.

FOR SALE: Panasonic RQ2309A cassette recorder, \$30. Dual cassette cables, \$10. Call Ron Rutledge at 987-1145 between 6 and 10.

FOR SALE/HIRE: "Cross Country Road Race", XB, on cassette, was \$19.95, now \$10. Also, Dave McBride is still copying tapes. He has pre-recorded tapes he will copy for \$2 which contain 30-40 programs. The \$2 includes the tape and for another \$1 he will mail it to you. A variety of topics are available. For more info and/or tapes call Dave at 262-9031.

FOR SALE: Infocom adventures "ZORK I", "ZORK II", and "STARCROSS" for \$20. "WITNESS" and "PLANETFALL" for \$25. Will trade for another Infocom adventure other than "Zork III". (Retail is \$35 and \$40). Call John Hamilton at 262-2749 between 6 and 9.

FOR SALE: Cassette cables, Munchman, Video Graphs, Personal Record Keeping, and Adventure for \$6 each. Call Greg Kline at 276-6015 before 9 P.M.

WANTED: "Home Computer Disk Peripheral Hardware Spec." and "File Management Specification for the TI 99/4A Home Computer". Would rather borrow but will buy. Call Ron Rutledge at 987-1145 or write to 1020 3rd, Waukee, Ia 50263. Any other user's groups have anything? Would be interested in any manual not listed on the "Checkouts" page of this newsletter.

WANTED: Backup 99/4A console. Will take best offer, not interested in high-priced or beat-up machines. Call Madonna Nordaker at 262-8619 after 4P.M.

CENTRAL IOWA TI 99/4A USERS GROUP

C/O ROBERT UTTER  
3013 E. 32ND ST.  
DES MOINES, IA 50317



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P.O. Box 1194  
PERU, IN 46970