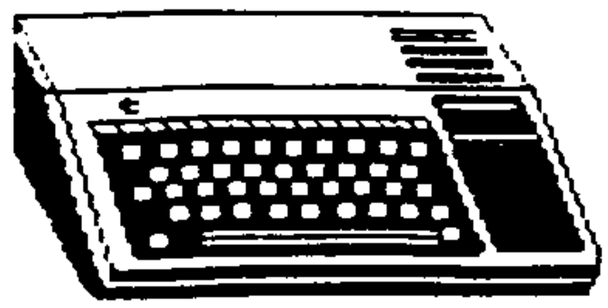
CLEVELAND AREA TI-99/4A USER GROUPS

JUNE 1993



OFFICE	TI-CHIPS		MEETINGS
CO-PRESIDENT	Glenn Bernasek	238-6335	10:00 AM
CO-PRESIDENT	Virgil Thomason	1264-7779	N. Royalton
TREASURER	Lin Shaw	235-3912	County Library
MEMBERSHIP	John Parken	331-2830	State Rd. SO. of
	4172 N. 217th St.		Route 82 1/4mi
	Fairview Pk., OH 44126		EVERY THIRD SAT.
SECRETARY	Tia Bodenmiller	234-4297	
DISK LIBRARY	Matt Andel	676-9759	JUNE 19,1993
TAPE & MODS	John Parken	331-2830	JULY 17,1993
HARD COPY	Harry Hoffman	631-2354	AUG 21,1993

OFFICE	NORTHCOAST		MEETINGS
CO-PRESIDENT	Ken Gladyszewski	1357-7274	1-4 P.M.
CO-PRESIDENT	Walt Ryder	921-8223	Euclidian Room
Treasurer	Frank Jenkins	283-8526	Euclid SQ. Mall
MEMBERSHIP	Martin Smoley	1-257-1661	E.260th off I-90
	6149 Bryson		(South)
	Mentor, OH 44060		EVERY THIRD SAT.
SECRETARY	Bernie Zuckerman	381-4088	
DISK LIBRARY	Martin Smoley	1-257-1661	JUNE 19,1993
TAPE & MODS	Frank Jenkins	283-8526	JULY 17,1993
HARD COPY	Dick Alden	1-352-9172	AUG 21,1993

From the Editor's Desk:

JUNE 1993

Hi There,

Under the gun here! Last minute and still waiting for articles that are vapor. Maybe next month! Regular writers, please forgive this crass statement. This was not meant for any of you, but for the talent that is out there and hidden because of shyness or whatever. Our clubs need your input to survive. Not only for what you can teach us, but also to help the regulars rest up and and play with their TI toy!

Lima was great for me this year. Finally remembered to take a few pictures and most of them turned out. I should have taken more but next year will be soon enough. There will be a display showing pics of your favorite TI people, I hope! There was an article in the just Sunday paper, in Lima after the Faire, that will be on display also. The University and in particular Dr. Charles Good must be thanked for allowing us into their buildings free of charge, and with such great support of our TI community. The Lima Conference has to be the most pleasureable of all TI faires because everyone is so friendly and ready to just enjoy themselves to the fullest. This includes the vendors, who usually have to sell a bunch at higher prices to make up for renting tables at other faires.

There were seminars all day from people who program or make hardware so we can keep up with what's new and how to use it! Chris Bodenmiller put on a seminar about game programming and using different kinds of graphics for game programming. He has a new one that he demoed at the chips meeting about UFOs. It uses "The Missing Link" program environment. Very interesting!!

There are two articles in this newsletter about the Lima Conference: One by Glenn Bernasek, the other by my lovely wife, Nina. Thank you both very much! There is a little demo of what you can do with Ken Gilliland's "Fonts and Borders VII" disks (3 in all) for just $14.95. See Ron Markus for his price! Ron's ad for the ProStick is also included.

I hope everyone has a nice holiday and good weather for the upcoming July 4th celebration. See you at the meeting June 19th!

NORTHCOAST 99ers

By Bernie Zuckerman

MAY 22,1993 MEETING

The (delayed) May meeting of the Northcoast TI User's Group was called to order by Co-President Walt Ryder at 1:30 P.M. in the Euclidian Room of the Euclid Square Mall. There were 13 members present. There was no financial report so the next financial report will cover two months. Walt was quite sure that Frank did not go south with the funds.

The meeting started with a discussion of the Lima Conference. Harry Hoffman came home from the conference with 150 disks including some European software from Sweden and England, also a set of 18 disks for the stamp (U.S. only) collectors that will print out the stamp catalogues. Some new hardware was introduced, some with bad reviews and others with very good reviews.

Additional comments on the Lima Conference: There was a feeling that the attendance was about half of last year - about 160 people signed in at noon, with many not signed in. Although there was much hardware for sale the prices were varied - high and low. A couple of our members bought interfaces for the P E box ("firehose"). The demos were reported as being very good; Art Gibson had his wordprocessor for sale; Bud Mills demo'd his hardware - he stated that he will not start anything new until he completes what he was working on. Harty mentioned a program that runs TI Software on an IBM Compatable but it was very slow and requires a 486 - the feeling was that it was too expensive a deal and not worth-

There was a demonstration of the "Tower of Power" to replace the PE box and which includes a hard disk, cards etc. The designer is planning this for the Geneve at first - cost $200. There was only one Geneve at the meeting - none for sale. There was a seminar on repairing Geneves - several boards made for the Geneve had a problem. In addition to repairs there was discussion on adding chips to improve operation. Don Walden of Secure Electronics repairs Geneves and Myarc HFDC cards (updated to operate cooler and better!).

Harty picked up a copy of Version 5 of the 40 column Funnelweb and he has copies available for the members. This is the version which is called Eurowriter which has the ability to write in several foreign languages.

Bruce Rodenkirch discussed the possibility that boards in the expansion box may run hot due to problems with the transformer. If the PE Box quits it may be a fuse in the primary winding of the transformer which is buried in the transformer. This is in addition to the panel mounted fuse.

It is a small glass fuse under the wrapping of the transformer and when it blows the expansion box goes dead. If the transformer is putting out a higher voltage than is necessary , the voltage regulators will heatup which in turn heats up the boards. A suggestion was made to use a "bucking" transformer to keep the voltage down within limits. Also problems can result from power company high or low voltages delivered to the house.

There was no additional old or new business and the meeting was turned over to Harty Smoley to demonstrate how his TI taught him to write letters and make labels reminding members to renew their membership.

Harty distributed copies of letters written to each member when their membership dues become due. He also distributed the details of the command files necessary to have the TI write letters and print labels. TIBASE makes it possible to use data from four different databases, checking the data and making decisions as to the makeup of the letters to be sent. Three different letters can be produced - the first when the dues are due, the second and third following up if the member does not respond. Harty admits that he has a very smart TI.

Have a Safe and Sane July 4th Holiday!

TI-CHIPS Executive Notes

by Glenn Bernasek

The 1993 MUG Conference - Lima, OHIO

I don't know how they do it! But somehow, most likely with huge doses of dedication and talent, the LIMA TI-99/4A USERS GROUP just keeps on producing one successful conference after another! This years' MUG (Multi User Group) conference certainly lived up to its well earned reputation.

As usual, there was much to see, learn and barter for. Also, we were all given the pleasant opportunity to meet with old friends who just happen to have the same interests.

The seminars were well spaced out, and it was much easier to attend more sessions this year.

Jack Sughrue led off the day with a seminar on the benefits of using the TI-99/4A as a teaching tool. Jack recounted that it has been his delightful experience that the students in his third grade class preferred the TI-99/4A to learn with. The advanced, clear graphics and easy to understand tutorial software of the TI-99/4A made this machine an natural learning instrument. Jack said that he assigns a team of students to "LOAD" the program-of-the-day into the class TIs, at the beginning of the day, by cassette tape. The computers then run SILENTLY for the rest of the day!

One additional note of thanks to Jack. Yours truly must admit that I didn't really know how to take advantage of the directory options of the BOOT programs! Jack's detailed instruction on how to "tag" a file for loading or reading has made my life much, much easier! I found that I can do the same thing with EDITOR (TI-WRITER). I think I just typed in my last filename! Thanks again Jack.

After spending "quality time" at the TI-CHIPS tables (meeting new friends, seeing old friends, handing out both a historical NOVEMBER 1983 "Decade" disk), I was able to attend a seminar by Art Gibson on his super fast word processor FIRST DRAFT. This is a super quick word processor that has a built-in spell checker that is equally fast. The speed of this program is due to the D/F 80 format of both the text and spell checker files. The DISPLAY/Fixed 80 format treats each line like a data base, and is able to flag the position of any word quickly as a RELATIVE record. The D/V 80 (DISPLAY/VARIABLE 80) text files we are so accustomed to are unable to do this because of their VARIABLE length lines. The D/F 80 file takes more space on your disk (each line is padded with spaces to make a full 80 character line, but it is a heck of a lot faster to edit.

I was able to drop in on the tail end of Mike Maksimik's demonstration of his software interfaces with a Yamaha electronic piano. What little I saw and heard was nothing short of amazing! The TI was able, through Mikes routines, to control not only the pitch and amplitude, but also the tempo. As Mike stated, this form of instrumental control through software can lead to the real possibility for developing tutorial routines for such complicated instruments as the organ. We're all looking for what Mike has planned for the TI-99/4A.

Of course, I would be remiss if I didn't attend the MULTI USER GROUP CONFERENCE of user group officers. Charles Good started off the meeting with a request that all user groups and vendors reserve their tables at least two weeks in advance of the conference date at Lima. Tables were set up at the last minute for several attendees who didn't give the LIMA UG any advance notice of their requirements. (Author's note: The LIMA UG is providing the TI community with the ability to meet and share at NO CHARGE. These people not only deserve our thanks and admiration, but also our COURTESY).

Charles also announced that, as of 12:30, 160 attendees signed in, and he was quite sure that many more people just walked in without registering. This is equal to, if not better, than last year's attendance! It certainly appears as though the TI-99/4A will be around for some time to come! HAPPY 10th ANNIVERSARY TIers!

The conversation switched to the operation of the CLEARING HOUSE BBS operated by the C.O.N.N.I. group in Columbus, OHIO. We were informed that THE CLEARING HOUSE BBS has been recognized nationally. This is quite an achievement for a project conceived just 3 years ago during a Multi Users Group meeting in Lima, Ohio. A comment was made that BBS's tend to have a very short life span, but I have a feeling, with continued strong user and user group support, THE CLEARING HOUSE will be around for a long time!

The last items discussed were the cost of newsletters and community interaction. It was said that the newsletter is the heartbeat of the TI community. However, some user groups find that financing a newsletter has become prohibitive, and rely on MICROpendium for information and communication for their user group. This pointed out the value of MICROpendium to the TI community. Jack Sughrue's seminar on using the TI as an educational tool was discussed, and we found that not only would schools benefit from donations of TI systems, tutoring and repairs, but community libraries would benefit also. It was brought out that not only could TI user groups become more community involved, but it would be greatly appreciated by the schools, libraries and many other institutions.

I took time for a delicious sandwich (with all the trimmings) from the campus cafeteria. This was another service arranged for the TIers by the LIMA UG!

Two members of the Cleveland area user groups did us all proud! Tim "Chris" Bodenmiller, of TI-Chips, conducted a very thorough and fascinating seminar on developing game graphics on the TI! Part 1 consisted of a cursory overview of the graphic effects available on the TI. Part 2, of Tim's seminar, dealt with more advanced explanations on how to plan out and execute bit map game graphics and color controls. Totally fascinating!

Ken Gladyszewski set up schematic and hardware displays of his analog/digital circuit modifications of the TI joystick port. You wouldn't believe the interest Ken has generated with his much heralded hardware hacking. Both Tim and Ken displayed a level of professionalism that one wouldn't normally expect to see from home computer enthusiasts. I guess the TI brings out the best in us all!

The last seminar I attended was given by Don Walden of CECURE ELECTRONICS. Don shared much valuable information about modifications of the PEBox power supply and the expansion boards. Don provided cautions on what to look out for, and the pitfalls of carelessness. He recommended the ecologically friendly AQUEOUS SOLDER when doing soldering work on circuit boards. This form of solder is HOT WATER cleanable. As a matter of fact, Don informed us that his company routinely washes their circuit boards, in preparation for assembly, in a dish washer! Now that's a new wrinkle, but it makes sense. Don also informed us that Ron Markus (RAMCHARGED COMPUTERS) was THE source for joysticks for TI users. This was welcome news for those in attendance.

Thanks to Charles Good, Dave Szipple and all of the LIMA USER GROUP members who made a conference such as this available to the TI-99/4A community! We are forever in your debt!

TI-CHIPS Notes

by Chris Bodenmiller

The meeting was brought to order at 10:12AM, May 8, 1993, with 12 members present. The Treasurers report was read and we are doing fine. The amount is slowly growing back.

The disk library is fine, and we are all looking forward to getting some new software at Lima.

The membership is still holding firm. And tapes and cartridges are available from John. Some of our friends from the Northcoast group were also here today.

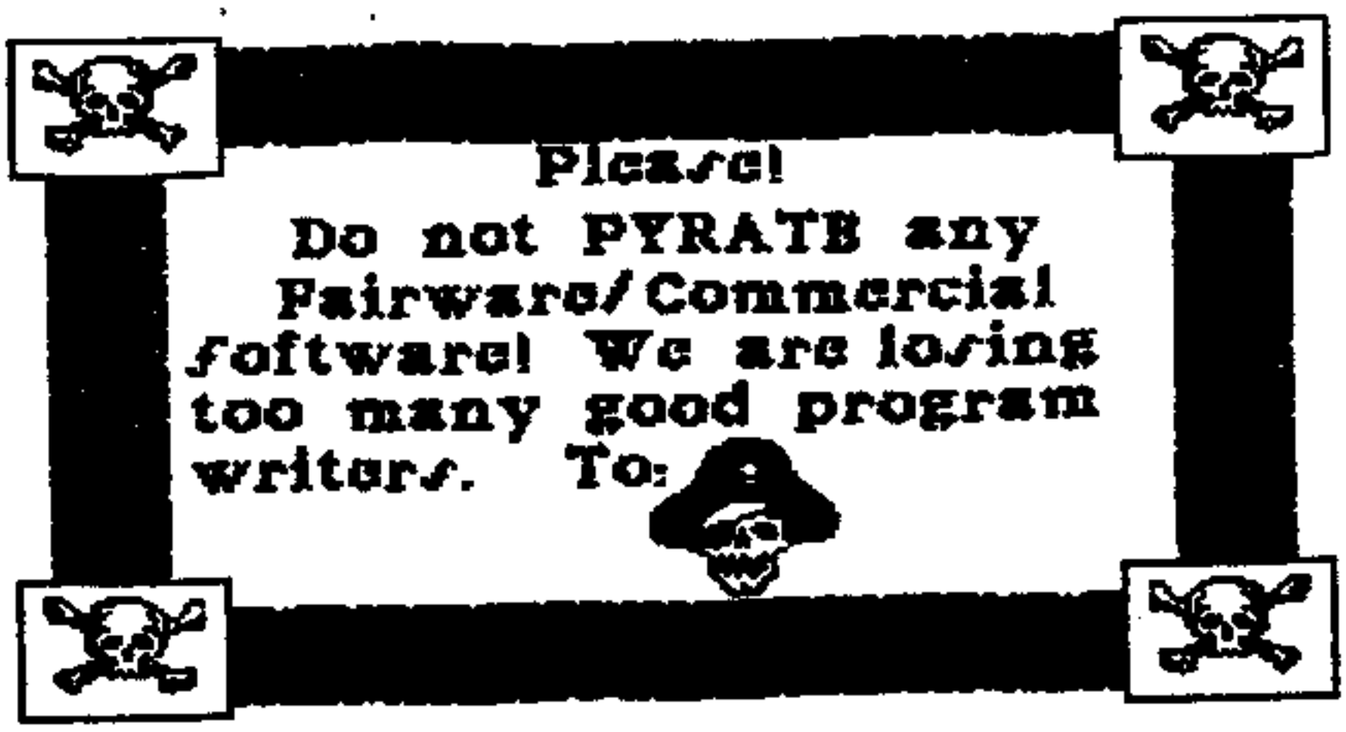
Lee Kee demoed The Missing Link, from Texaments. This is a set of assembly routines that you use in your program to utilize the bit-map mode. It also comes with a program written for it called Paper Saver. It shows you what your TI-Writer file will look like before you print it. It will even allow you to make some minor changes to the document.

It lets you make little "windows" on the screen, and gives you greater control over text. It lets you print text at any dot row and at any dot column. It even has it's own fancy Input routine. In the area of graphics, how about being able to use TI-Artist pictures! It still lets you use Sprites (all 32 of them). And it lets you synchronize their movements on the screen. It is an excellent tool for all XB programmers, but it does take some getting used to. Thanks alot Lee, this is something we all needed to know about.

I did a brief demo, as a preview of my Lima one. My new game "Who's Behind the Mexican UFOs" uses the Missing Link, and is a text, graphics adventure. The TI-Chips disk for Lima has Glenn's lowercase routine, as well as several other excellent programs, and even some TI-Base tutorials. This disk could certainly come in handy and be quite entertaining.

There was no raffle, and the meeting was adjourned. People are all preparing for Lima, have fun!

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy Christopher
Bodenmiller



These PPRO pictures were made using Ken Gilliland's FONTS and BORDERS VII - 'The Best of Collection'.

NOTUNG SOFTWARE always has quality software and for those who don't have Ken's "Disk OF" series; this is the way to go. These fonts & borders are TI-Artist plus compatible. To convert the borders to Page Pro you have to use the Enhancement part of Artist+ and flip the corners, so you have Top(left & right), and Bottom(left & right). You may have to also do a side & top center part that will convert to PagePro as a solid pic with no blank ends. TI-Artist users should know what I mean by that! Since the fonts maybe too large to convert to Page Pro, doing your text in Artist then creating an Instance out of it, then convert to a PPRO picture will be your best bet.

There are three disks in this set, with 20 Fonts & 13 Borders. Some of these I've never seen before, such as SCRABBLE(with real game-like tiles), Blackboard, and GOO-GOO Blocks(just like Kid's wooden blocks).

See Ron Markus if you wish to purchase any NOTUNG SOFTWARE, by Ken Gilliland.

A Woman's Point of View

Hello again,

I apologize for not following through on my resolution to know the computer better this year, but due to medical problems with my hands, I was not able to type for awhile. This gave me quite a problem, as I forgot all I had learned in the first place, so here I am beginning again. Lucky for me, I have computer smart people in the house to help me and boy do I need help!

For this months article I am just going to write on my perception of the LIMA TI FAIRE. First of all, though we had been to Lima several times I wrote to the Chamber of Commerce to obtain maps, hotel information for that area, places of interest, shopping malls, public parks, churches and restaurants in the area. They sent me a catalogue that was excellent and presented quite a bit of information. I then called the automobile club for a trip tik and a map of Ohio, Lima, and the surrounding area. We always make a long weekend out of our Faire trips, so I mapped out an agenda.

Harrison and I are really blessed because we have made friends with other couples from the computer club; Vonn and Maryanne Malcuit and Ron and Ada Markus. The three of us usually attend the Faires together and this makes for a real great time. Also the people we see from other groups are a small community of friends so it is a real pleasure looking forward to seeing them.

Usually we go to Lima Thursday and stay at Motel 6. It is a very nice motel and is clean, comfortable, affordable, close to the college and centrally located to shopping, and points of interest. Restaurants are very close (Bob Evans is a few steps away), and a big plus, many of our fellow TIers stay there.

Fridays, Harrison and I visit the parks, or do a little reconnoitering of the area. In the early afternoon Vonn and Maryanne usually join us and we have lunch together. Then the guys go to set up at the College and we girls do our own thing. Usually during the interim we are joined by other TIers from out of town and the guys have a bull session.

Saturday, bright and early, we eat breakfast and then head for the college. I must say that the facilities are really excellent and the committee, headed by Charlie Good and Dave Sziple, really take care of things and make you feel right at home. Hats off to these great organizers. At the faire I really don't look around too much as I really don't know about computer stuff..... However, this year I did volunteer to help copy disks for our clubs library... After instructions from my better half and the assistance of Vonn Malcuit I got the hang of it and really enjoyed myself. Little did I realize that my volunteer work would help get Vonn and I on the 11:00 news that evening. The university had much media coverage that day!

Maryanne and I then went garage sailing and we had a ball...lots to see and do. We rejoined the guys in time to help close up and then all of us went to the PIZZA PARTY given free by the LIMA GROUP. The food was delicious and there was plenty of it. We then went back to the motel and had a quiet early evening as Harrison was recuperating from his operation. We were visited for a short while by our friends Ron and Ada Markus who were quite busy all day at the faire.

Sunday morning, we had breakfast together with our friends, said goodbye and headed for Cleveland. A good time was had by all.

Another great thing about the faire was that quite a few of our members also came down to enjoy themselves and see what else is new in the computerworld. It was nice to see Lee Israel who helped out at our booth, Carol Shaw who sold cartridge games she picks up at garage sales, Glen Bernasek who had his own programs, Chris Bodenmiller who had his new game to sell and a seminar to give, and our own Computer entrepreneur, Ron Markus with his helpmate Ada. Deanna Sheridan, Marty Smoley, and Ken Gladyszewski, who set up his hardware projects at the North Coast tables, Bruce Rodenkirch, Norbert Sitter, and Virgil Thomason (Co-president of TI-Chips) were also in attendance. I hope that next year we will get to enjoy this outing with more of you. If you would like any info on the trip to Lima or the Chicago endeavor please feel free to call me and I will gladly help in anyway I can. Goodbye for now....

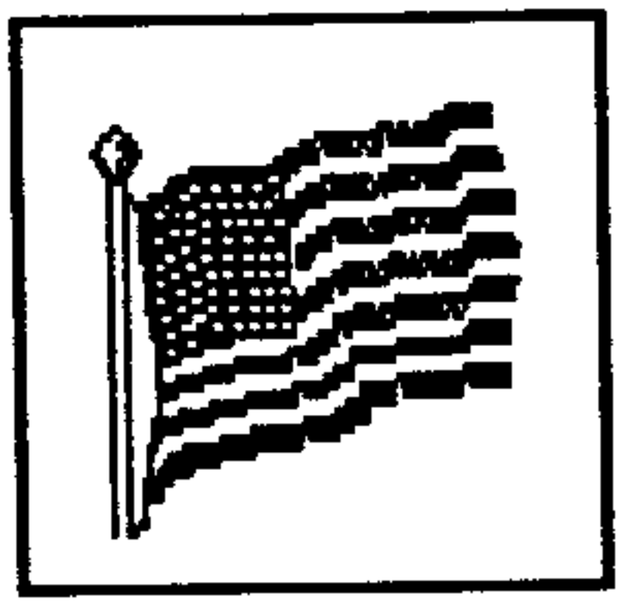
NINA MAE

Flag Day 1998

June 14th

I guess you have to be as old as myself to remember when!

The flag of our country was never burned in public, spit on, or mutilated in any way. BECAUSE: We respected the FLAG as the symbol of our country, and those things were against the LAW!! What happened? And, when did this corruption become something that is legal under the GUISE of FREEDOM OF SPEECH!!! Freedom of expression has always been the right of every American! I pray that the people of America learn to express themselves in a peaceful manner, and not with violent methods which is becoming more prevalent lately.



We can all do our part, by not word-bashing our leaders but showing them at the voting time just what we think of job they are doing!

GOD BLESS THIS FLAG AND KEEP IT FLYING, FOREVER!

The U L T I M A T E is back !

RamCharged Computers has taken over all remaining stock of the finest joystick ever made for any computer or video game. With the 4 way/8 way switchable gate plate the game pro of the family can lock out those pesky diagonals and get greater response and scores on all maze type games which require only up-down-left-right movement (most all computer games).

The artist can switch to Prostick's precise 8 way movement and become the next Rembrandt of the computer world.

Not to leave anyone out, we have also taken over all stock of TI(tm) joystick adapters that allow the use of two Prostick's with the TI-99/4A(tm).

In addition, we have made a drastic price reduction for a limited time only. The Prostick II(tm) which sold nationally for $26.95 is now only $14.95 and the TI(tm) adapter is now only $6.95, reduced from $9.95.

S&H is $4.00 for one
$6.00 for two.
$2.00 for adapters if purchased separetly.

COMPATIBLE WITH:

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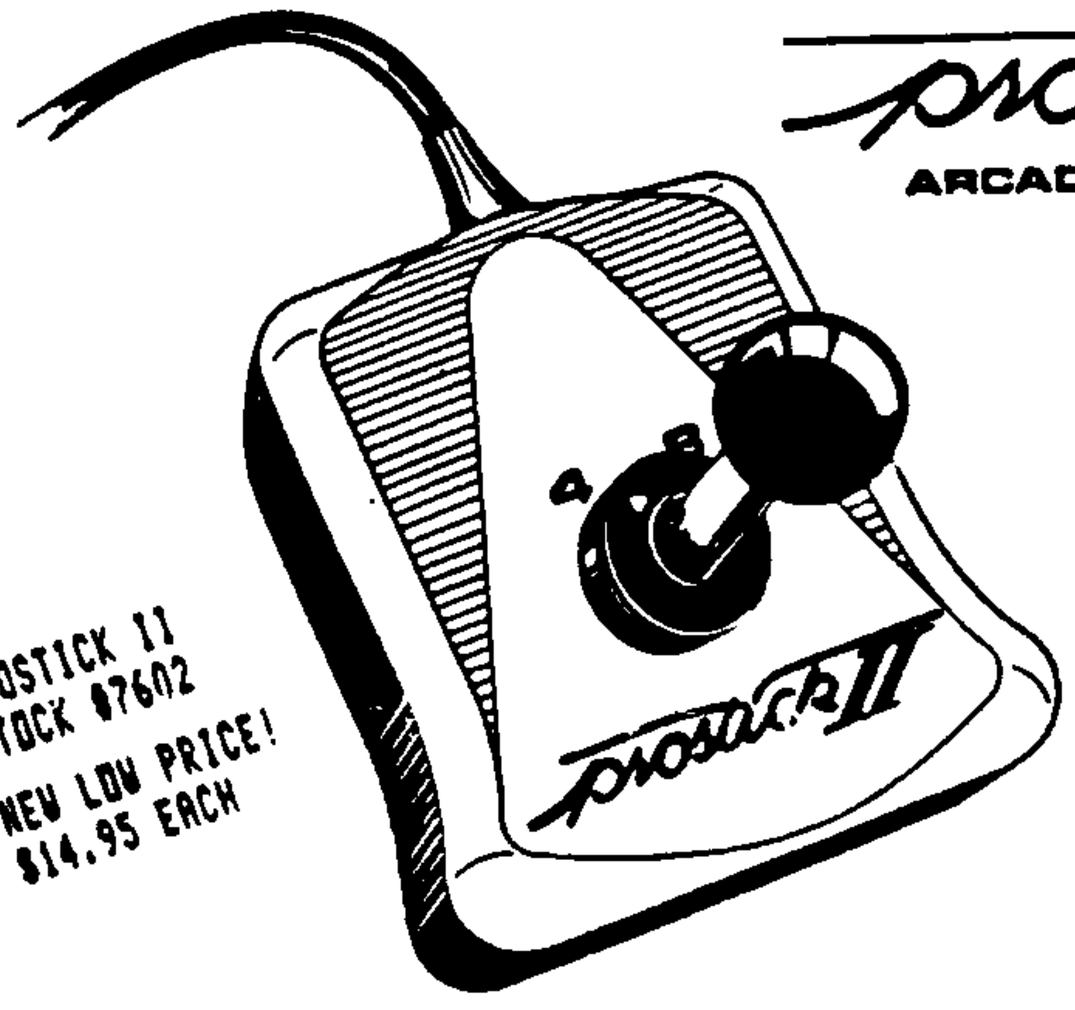
TI-99/4A™ COMPUTER (with adapter) (see below)



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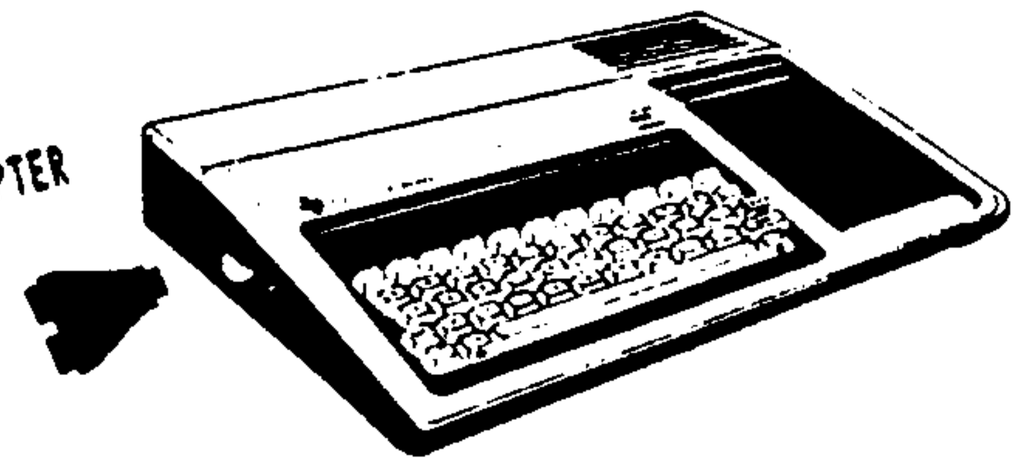

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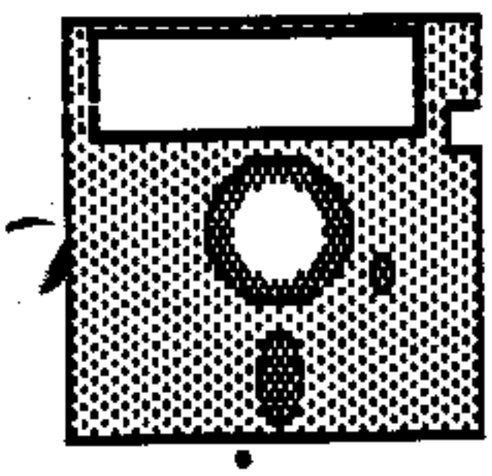
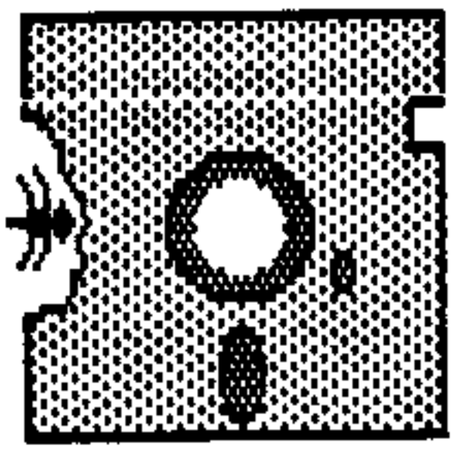


FUNNEL WEB

40 Column v. 5.0

FIRST-DRAFT

version 2.0

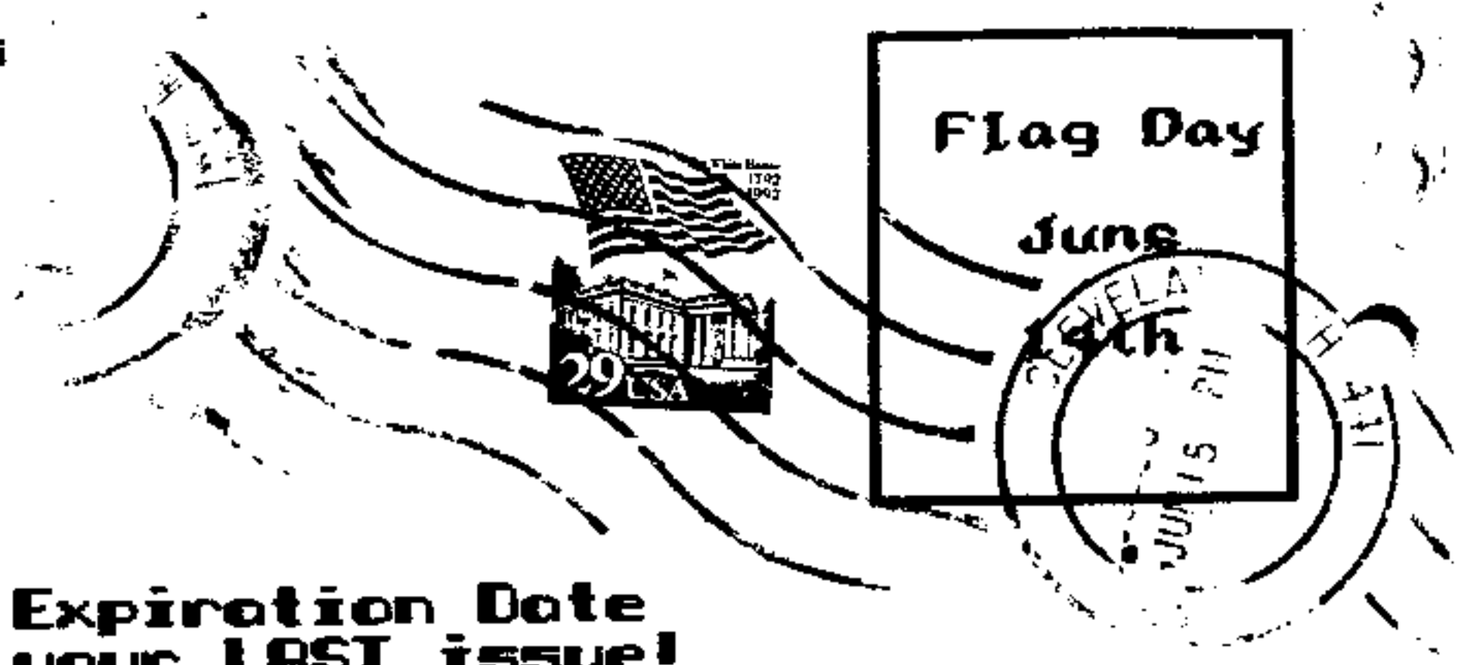


I bought Funnel Web some time ago and was not very impressed until updating to 2 DSDD disk drives. Then along came the Horizon Ram Disk, which made using FNLWEB a joy to behold! At Lima, the version 5.0 of the editor portion became available. Several of our club members picked one up and installed it in place of the old version. It has a very serious quirk, in that it locks up the computer when exiting the editor. If anyone knows a way around this, please let us in on it!

FIRST DRAFT version 2.0 also came out in Lima and we find a bug? in this also. Someone said that it may need the operater to install his own printer driver, but this has proved difficult to do on our own. So, again we ask for help in accomplishing this task! The program works fine on text only files, it is just the graphics that do not print out properly. The only reason I'm including this in the newsletter is to get the word out faster while waiting for answers to this problem from the programmers in the mail. Thank you for your help if it is forthcoming !!!

Harry Hoffman

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



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This may be your LAST issue!

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FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

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Newsletter only cost is $12.00
Full membership price - $15.00 w/library priveleges.
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