

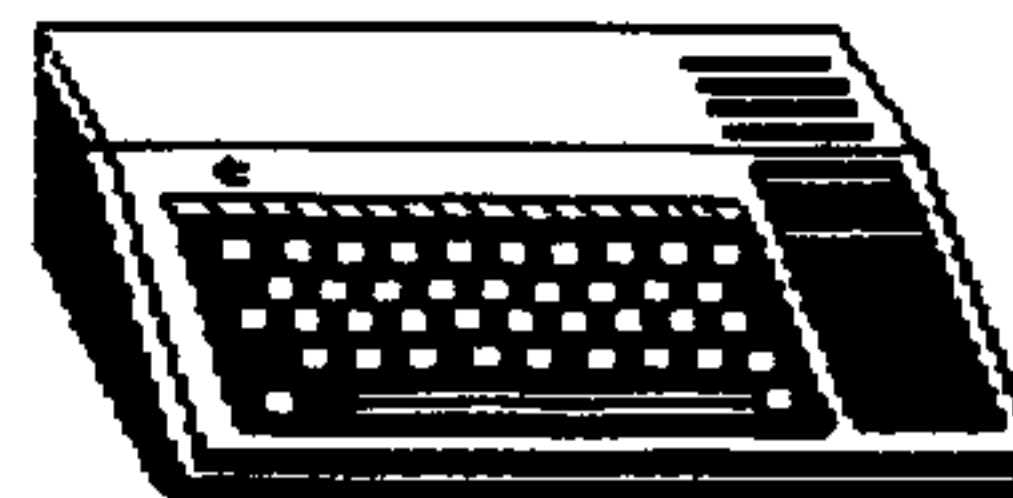


CLEVELAND AREA

TI-99/4A

USER GROUPS

JULY - AUGUST 1997



OFFICE	TI-CHIPS	MEETINGS
CO-PRESIDENT	Fred Talacci 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 N. 217th St. Fairview Pk., OH 44126	State Rd. 50. of Route 82 1/4mi <u>EVERY THIRD SAT.</u>
SECRETARY	Glenn Bernasek 238-6335	
DISK LIBRARY	Les Kee 238-6938	JUL 19,1997
TAPE & MOBS	John Parken 331-2830	AUG 16,1997
EDITOR	Harry Hoffman 631-2354	SEP 20,1997

OFFICE	NORTHCOAST 99'ers	MEETINGS
CO-PRESIDENT	Ken Gladyszewski 12163577274	1-4 P.M.
CO-PRESIDENT	Walt Ryder NA	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) <u>EVERY THIRD SAT.</u>
SECRETARY	Deanna Sheridan 333-5986	
DISK LIBRARY	Martin Smoley 12162571661	JUL 19,1997
TAPE & MOBS	Frank Jenkins 283-8526	AUG 16,1997
HARD COPY	Dick Alden 12162571661	SEP 20,1997



From the Editor's Desk:



Hi Tiers,

Another two month newsletter! I could not separate these pages as a unique thing happened this month. John Parken gave me several pages for his article on putting XBasic & E/A cartridges inside your console. Marty gave me pages about using Funnel Web v.5.01's IBM mode for the printer. It just so happens that John used this IBM mode to draw his pictures showing where to solder and find components on the mother board of our computer. Also, Glenn's review of the Lima fair had to be included as a time related article. Bruce Rodenkirch also sent in an article with Hamfests attached. I could not send this in time for one of the fests, but the other was in time. The article Bruce sent is about talking between an IBM and a TI. So you see, it had to be done.

Frank Jenkins and I are looking for someone to take over his Newsletter responsibilities of getting it printed, folded, stapled, and mailed out!

Frank has many other tasks and no longer uses a TI, so feels this matter has to be addressed! Anyone interested should call Frank or Harry. Phone #'s are in this newsletter. Thank you.

See you at the meeting.



TI-CHIPS MINUTES
By Glenn Bernasek

The May meeting of the TI-Chips was called to order by Fred Ialacci. Lin Shaw presented the Treasurer's report and stated that the balance was stable. Lin then showed a K MART ad from August 1982 showing a rebate offer from Texas Instruments for the TI-99/4A. The TI ad was run directly below the VIC 20 ad. This is a interesting piece of TI-99/4A history, and I offered to have it laminated and placed on display at the MUG in Lima.

John Parken said there were 10 memberships up for renewal and he had sent out reminders. John said he wasn't too concerned about the Chips members renewing their memberships.

Les Kee delivered more disks that were requested. (The TI-Chips are certainly keeping Les busy these days.)

Jim Krych announced the winners of this year's JIM PETERSON ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS. They are as follows:

Community: Tom Wille
Hardware: SW99ers (SuperAMS card)
Software: Bruce Harriean
Geneve 9640: Tim Tesch

Jim said there was a high level of response world-wide in voting for the Jim Peterson Awards. It was brought up that the TI-Chips was fully subsidizing these awards. This was determined to be an expense that our limited treasury could not afford indefinitely. Therefore, a motion was made and passed that the TI-Chips would accept community-wide contributions to help defray the award costs.

Jim also announced that international nominations for the 1998 Jim Peterson Awards will be opened at the conclusion of this year's award ceremony in Lima and will be closed 12/31/1997.

I read the e-mail response I had received from Oliver Arnold, from Germany, concerning an inquiry I had made about recent developments for the TI-99/4A Oliver had posted on the list server. Oliver said his software is fairware and copies should be at the MUG at Lima for free distribution.

Ron Markus showed off several TI-99/4A T-shirts he and Ada had designed. The designs were rather unique and the shirts were for sale at Chips meetings and the MUG at Lima.

John Parken received authorization from the Chips to raffle off a Canon Color Jet printer at Lima this year. (Good luck John.)

John Parken's 9 pin to 24 pin conversion for TIPS article is a feature article in the March/April '97 edition of MICROpendium. Well done John!

John then demo'd DISCOVER and showed the File Reader option that doesn't chop words to the next line. It looks for the space character BEFORE the last word and sends the next word to the new line. Cute and very easy to read.

The North Royalton library cleaned out all of its TI-99/4A systems and software from the children's library, and donated it back to the TI-Chips. These are consoles and cartridges we had originally donated to the library. They were put up for grabs to the members in attendance. (This is why it pays to come to the meetings.)

Ron Markus won the May 50:50 raffle. Congratulations Ron.

I announced that I wouldn't be able to attend the June meeting. So Harry volunteered to take notes for me. Thanks Harry.

Extended Basic and Editor Assembler in Your Console
By: John Parken - TI Chips

From month to month, we have had problems with the TI Chips Club computer at our meetings. I thought the problem was the XB cartridge contacts. When I got home, I cleaned the contacts on the cart with alcohol and cotton swab. What a difference that had made, no problem.

Now say to yourself XB in the console, the answer to all your problems. Well I did out XB in my own and it worked pretty well, but still locked up sometimes. One day my son just couldn't get it to work. A little probing with a pen on the GROM and it was working again.

This leads me to believe that yours and my lockup problems are due to contacts, or better put, a lack of contact. This simple problem could cause you to go IBM if it locked up on you in the middle of an unsaved report.

An unreliable computer... what good is it, large paper weight maybe? You must remember most of our computers have connectors and modules approximately 15 years old. Those must be loose and dirty.

Putting XB in the console was inspired by an article in West Penn 99er Newsletter by John Willforth. Many thanks to John for all the info on how to do it. Without this article I wouldn't have done it.

In a time period when you can get XB cartridges for \$20 just plan on committing one to a console. This will make your console dependable by putting XB on the mother board. First of all something always bothered me about hooking my XB to the back of my GROM. What happens when my GROM gets so bad that I have to throw it away? My answer was not to use the GROM connector at all. If I put it on the motherboard, I would not have to disturb it to replace the GROM. The GROM connector is much easier to solder to than is the mother board and you will need very good soldering skills. So I will include the pin layout of the GROM connector because it is so important to have the correct information, no matter which way you do it.

Now let's get a list of material:

1) XB cartridge shell removed, to put it in the console you will have to insulate it. Use heavy plastic from a notebook or cardboard from a notepad and electrical tape to keep this insulated.

2) Ribbon cable. I prefer 2 pieces of 18 conductor: one 9 1/2" long and one 11 1/2" long. (Just buy 25 and cut it down). The 9 1/2" long piece is for pins 1-35. The 11 1/2" piece is for pins 2-36.

3) A DPDT slide or toggle switch for Xbasic installation. If you plan to do Xbasic and Editor Assembler you will need a 3PDT (three pole double throw center off). With a switch on-off-on you can make use of the module port with the switch in the off (center) position.

4) A momentary contact push button for resetting the computer

5) Small diameter (0.031) solder 60/40 rosin core.

6) Low wattage 25 or 40 soldering iron. (A fine tip helps)

From the 25 conductor ribbon cable you made into 18 conductor; use your extra 7 conductors: 4 for your DPDT switch in your XB cartridge and 2 for your reset switch.

The 100 ohm resistor must be cut out of the XB cartridge. There are also 2 traces that have to be cut and the DPDT switch connected between the cut traces. A razor blade works good to cut the traces. When the switch is closed the cartridge will function normally. But when it is open the cartridge will be transparent to the computer.

Modify your XB cartridge first then try it in your console. With the switch in one direction you should see: "PRESS 1 FOR TI BASIC, PRESS 2 FOR EXTENDED BASIC". With the switch in the other direction you should only be able to see basic. Step 1 is therefore complete. Next... make your 2 ribbon cables ready. Strip about 1/4" of insulation off each end. Twist the strands then tin each wire. I then tinned the contacts of the XB cartridge and tacked on my wires. The 9 1/2" long cable goes to the odd pins 1-35. The 11 1/2" go to the even. Do not connect pins 4 and 6.

After you tack the wires onto the XB module you need to decide whether you want to use the grom connector or tack these wires onto the motherboard. If your eyes are good and your soldering skills are good and you have an extra XB and console, go for the motherboard. If not, use the grom connector. I have included views of the pin layouts of the motherboard, XB cartridge, grom connector, and console groms. These are fresh drawings at least at this point and should be clear. Whether you pick the motherboard or grom connector you have clear information.

I found a pair of hemostats worked well to form and bend the wires around the pins that you will be soldering to. Double check your soldering paying attention to NO adjacent pin shorting.

Now if you are doing this in a orderly manner you will have tested the XB Module after you have modified it with the switch and cut the traces. If it's working, proceed with putting it in the console and soldering the ribbon cables on. After this is done check for proper operation of the console. You do not need to put it all back together but test it plugged together. Smoke is obviously very bad and with very little hope of recovery without replacing something. If the computer has a blue screen and howls at you check for shorted adjacent pins.

To make this installation complete why not put EA in the console as well. This is so easy it is a gift. I must admit I always use XB but this weekend at our User Group meeting I did have an occasion to use the EA 5 option to load a program when an XB loader did not work. I was glad I had it in the console.

We have 3 groms installed in our console; these sockets are paralleled together. What this means is that by piggy backing 2 chips you can free up a socket. To put the grom from the EA module in the console.

By having the third set of contacts on your toggle switch, you have 3 options: position 1 XB, position 2 the module port will work, and position 3 EA. I think you can't ask for much more. As with all my hardware projects I have done this to several computers so I do know it does work. But as with all hardware projects if you can't stand to completely lose use of what you are going to modify.... don't do it.

To add the EA chip you need to get it from TI or unsolder it from an EA module. (I don't think TI is selling these anymore.) You will need to solderwick the chip out of the module.

Then take one of the grom chips and piggyback it to another grom chip. The console grom chips are labeled CD2155NL, CD2156NL and CD2157NL. Clean the legs, where you want to solder, with a little steel wool or scotchbrite as this will make soldering much easier. Also prebend the top chip so the legs have some spring and physically make good contact.

After soldering, try the console, if all works out in the EA chip in the empty socket. Now try this, if all went well you should have the EA option on the screen as well. Now remove the EA chip and bend pin 14 up so it does not go into the socket when you put the chip back in. These are the 2 wires that go to the third position on the toggle switch one to pin 14 on the EA chip and one on pin 14 of the chips you have piggybacked do this and try the console again if all works you are in good shape if not you only need to back track 1 step to try and fix your problem.

Last, but not least, put your reset pushbutton in. It goes between pins 6 and 26 of the TMS 9900 processor. You will need to drill 2 mounting holes 1 for the reset switch and one for the toggle switch. Put these in the top half of the console on the right side. Mount the toggle switch to the body making sure it clears the module port in the console. The reset switch can be mounted closer to the front as it is not as bulky.

Now you will have to put this all back together. The shielding may have to be cut and folded back to provide an entry for the ribbon cable. Use care in putting this back in the case and believe it or not there is plenty of room. I had one occasion after I had put a tested assembly in the case that it would not work. I had put a case screw through the ribbon cable upon reassembly. It was an easy problem to fix. I removed the screw and rerouted the cable. I was lucky as I had shorted the address bus. If I had shorted other wires, I might not have been able to recover. What I would like to try and do is to get the TI console in the PEBox. That sure would be nice to have no flex cable. We will save that one for a rainy day. Good luck if you decide to do the XB modification.



TI-Chips June Minutes

In the absence of Glenn Bernasek, the minutes were recorded by Harry. The meeting was opened by Fred Lalacci at 10:20 AM, due to waiting for more than 7 members to be present.

Lin Shaw gave his Treasurer's report. We are still well in the black and are improving some!

John Parken spoke of mailing renewal requests and getting response from some members. All in all we are holding our own. The raffle at Lima was a success in that we broke even. John Voyde of Cuyahoga Falls won the color printer!

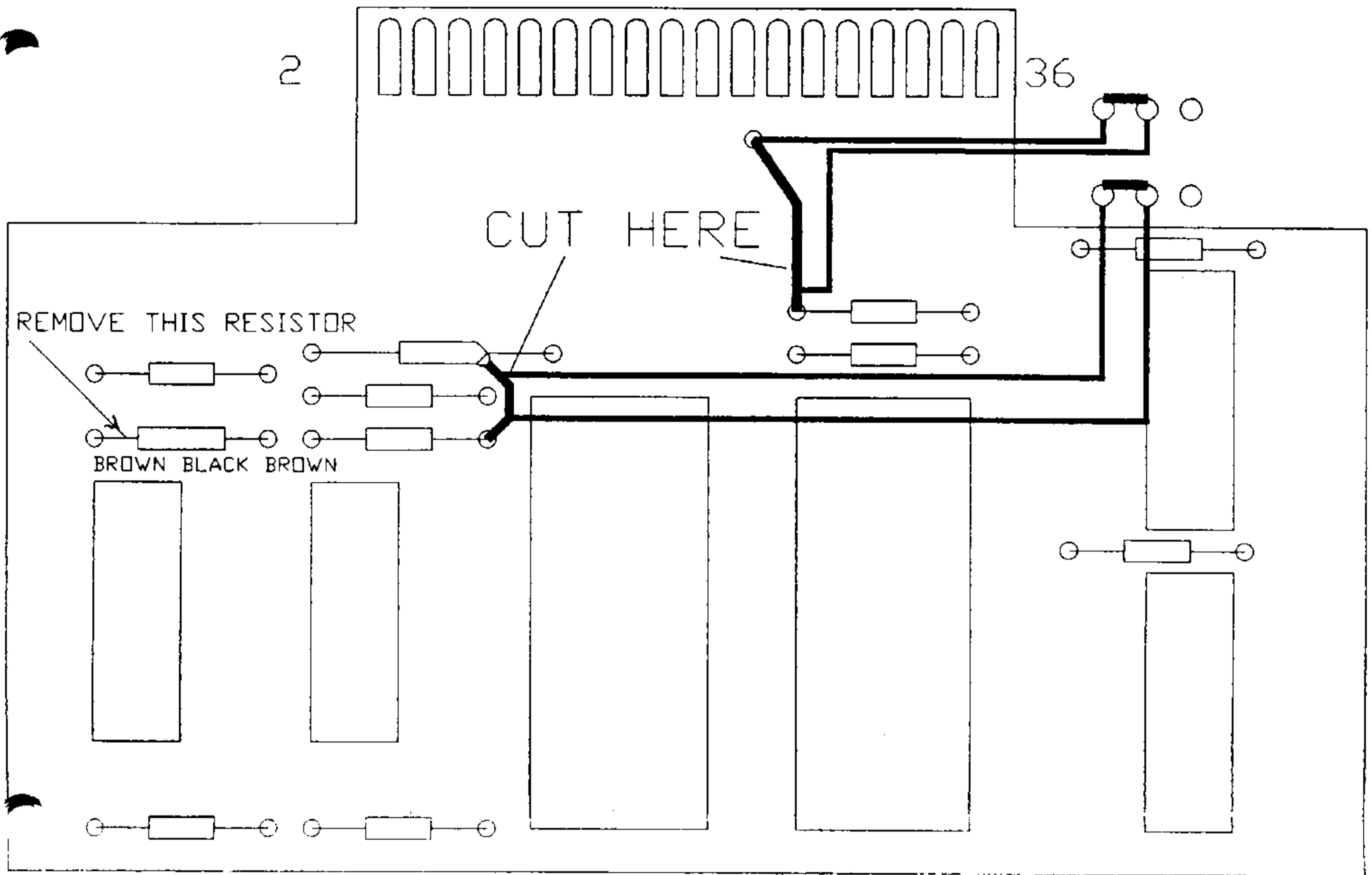
Les Kee's report on the Library was a little disappointing, as few ordered new disks. There are many new and great programs to play with. John Parken gave a

demo on FunnelWeb v. 5.01, showing how to take advantage of the IBM graphics built into your printer. John made a drawing of the way to put XBasic & Editor Assembler in your console with a reset button also installed. This is what the club's computer has installed and works very well! This will be in this month's Newsletter.

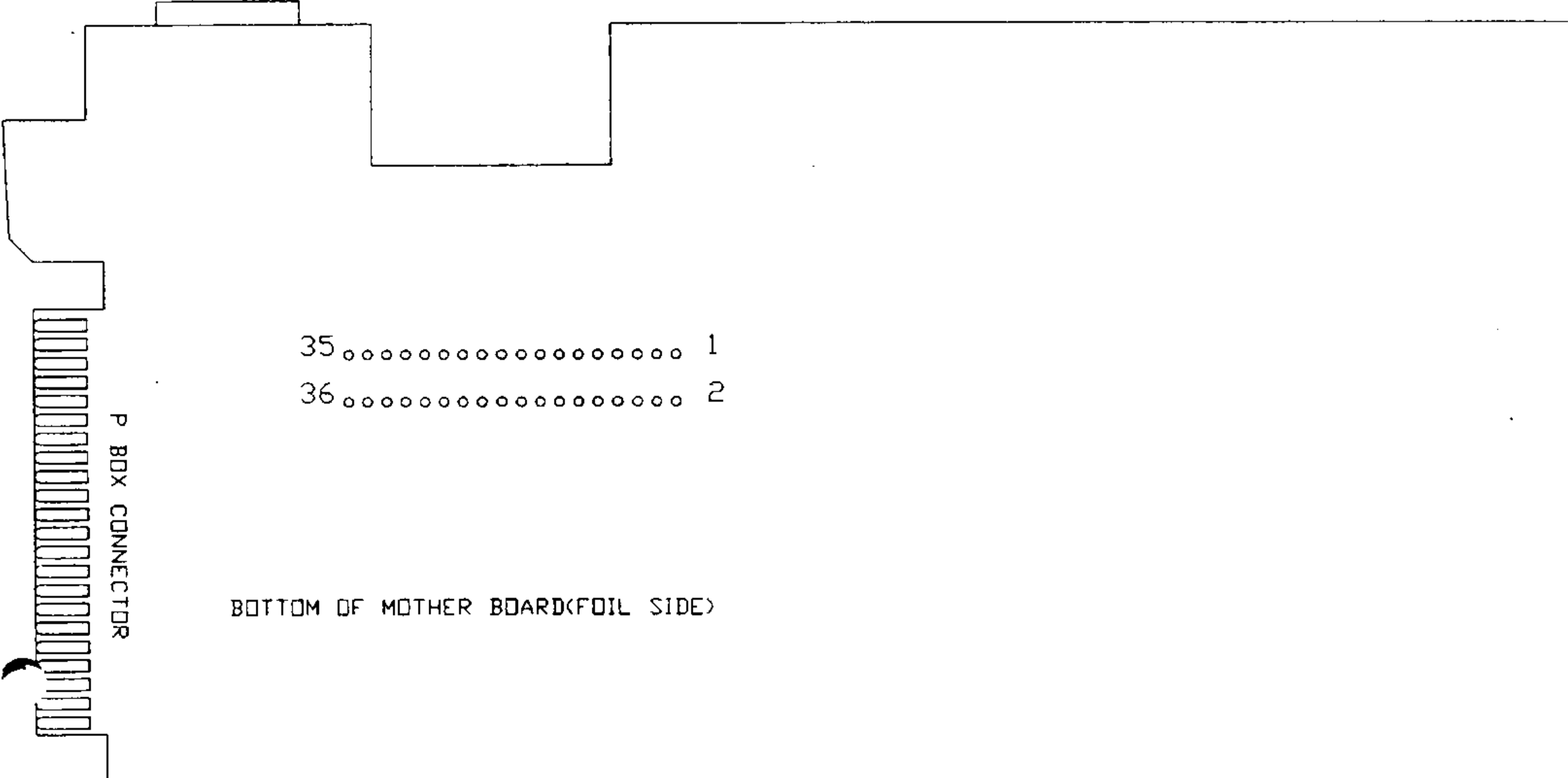
There was a general conversation about the Lima Fair and all enjoyed it very much! After more TI discussion we had our 50/50 drawing. Ada Markus won! Congratulations Ada!

The meeting ended about 12:00 Noon. See you at the next meeting!

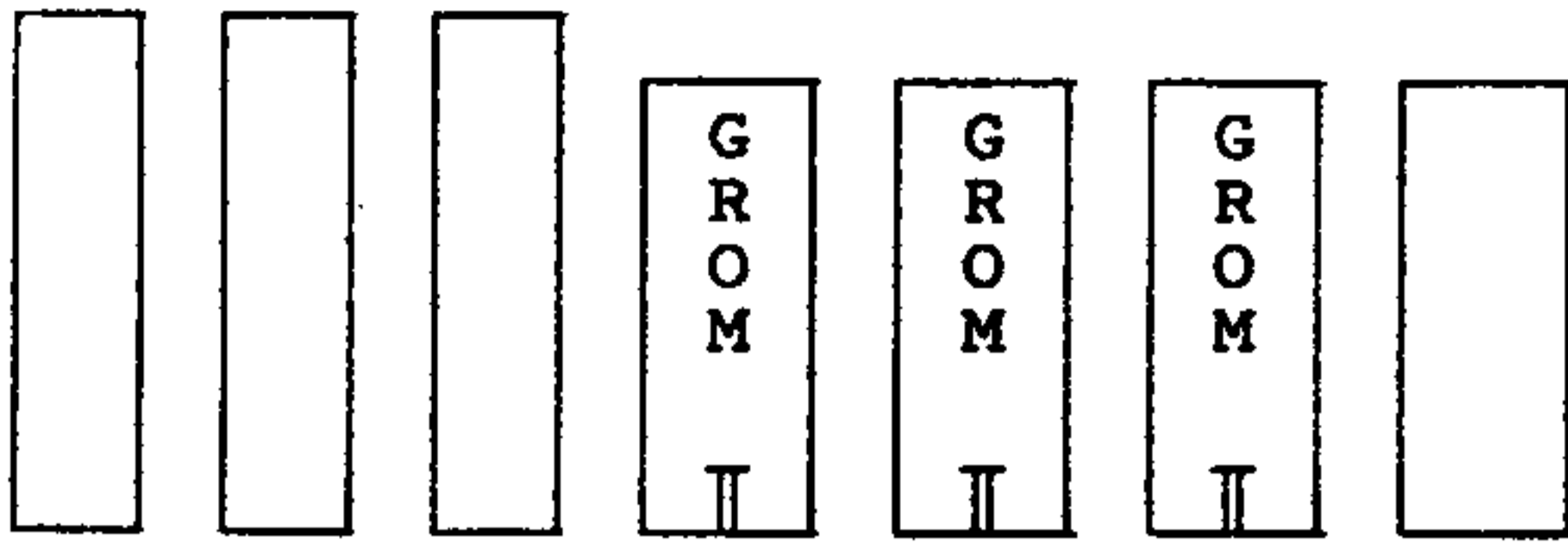
TI EXTENDED BASIC CARTRIDGE MODIFICATION
THIS IS THE COMPONENT SIDE



CASSETTE PORT



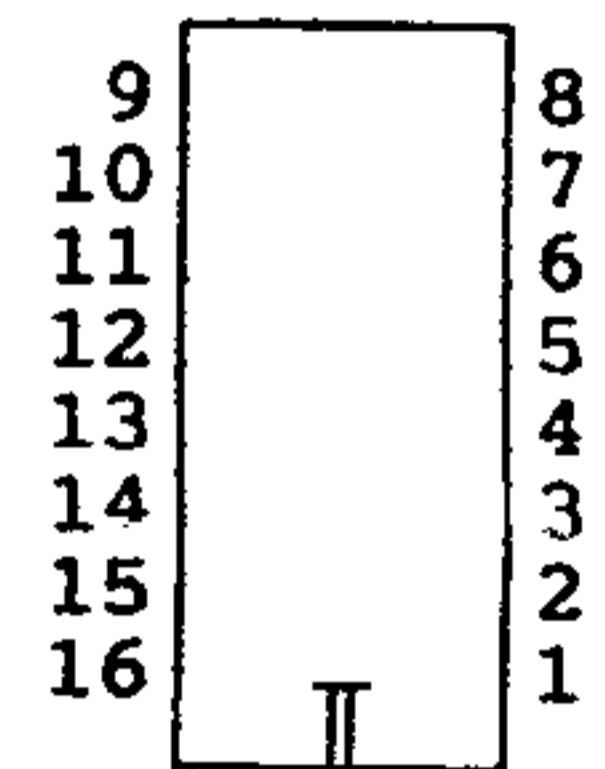
BOTTOM OF MOTHER BOARD (FOIL SIDE)



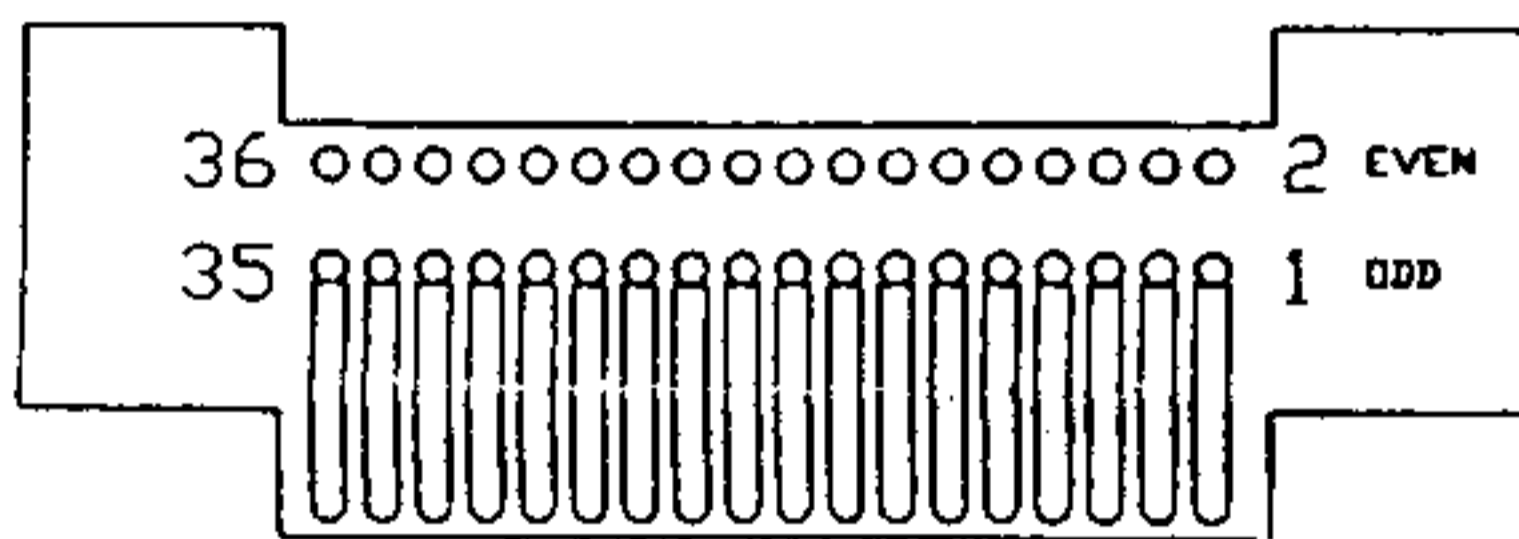
GROM PORT

TMS 9900

PIN OUT OF
16 PIN CHIP



BACK VIEW OF GROM CONNECTOR





By Martin A. Smoley © June 1, 1994

6149 Bryson Drive, Mentor, Ohio 44060-2324

I do reserve the Copyright on this material. However, anyone in the TI community may use or copy this material as they wish, provided they do not make a profit from my work, and that the NorthCoast 99'ers receive credit for the original publication. The respective authors, like the McGoverns, and supportive publications, like MICROpendium, may use my material freely.

Your printer and FunnelWeb 5.01

Yes, I said "Your Printer", not "My Printer". You probably thought you wouldn't see "Your!" anything after all of the, My, My, My, stuff I've been writing lately.

Deanna, Ken, Walt and I went to the Lima Fair May and had a great time. I brought back a copy of the newest FunnelWeb (Version 5.01) for our library. It is a 40 column SS/SD disk, that was put together by Charles Good of the Lima group. The disk contains the basic FW 4.40, the 5.01 Editor and the All-Char files, and everything self loads from Extended Basic. This is the newest FW disk out (received by Charles Good in May), and is bug free. Plus, it is already configured, so you don't have to do anything, just put it in drive one and select 2 for Extended Basic. At the first screen, hit the spacebar to move along, then 1 for Editor, and Enter, Enter, Enter. The defaults are already set. As easy as this is and with the temptation of All-Chars at my fingertips, I decided I had to try out this new FunnelWeb. "I like it!!" I printed this page (in one pass) using the PF option directly from the FW Editor, including the Ohio Graphic in the upper left corner.

One of the neat new things you can do with the All-Chars package is to print the IBM character set that most newer printers have above ASCII 127. I'm sorry to say that this doesn't include some older printers, like the Gemini 10X, but there are still some things that you can do with older printers that make this new FunnelWeb "Neat and Interesting". You will need to get out your printer manual and change the DIP switches that control which character set the printer uses, but that's not hard. After that you will be able to print characters as they are drawn on your screen.

SHIFT 2 = Ç	Shift * = ¬	Shift U = Ŧ
SHIFT A = ü	Shift + = ½	Shift V = π
SHIFT B = é	, = ¼	Shift W = ‡
SHIFT C = â	- = ¡	Shift X = †
SHIFT D = ä	. = «	Shift Y = ‡
SHIFT E = à	/ = »	Shift Z = ŀ
SHIFT F = å	0 = 0	[= [
SHIFT G = ç	1 = 1	\ = \
SHIFT H = ê	2 = 2] =]
SHIFT I = ë	3 = 3	Shift ~ = ~
SHIFT J = è	4 = 4	Shift _ = _
SHIFT K = ï	5 = 5	ˆ = ˆ
SHIFT L = î	6 = 6	a = a
SHIFT M = ï	7 = 7	b = b
SHIFT N = Ä	8 = 8	c = c
SHIFT O = Å	9 = 9	d = d
SHIFT P = É	Shift : = :	e = e
SHIFT Q = æ	; = ;	f = f
SHIFT R = Æ	Shift < = <	g = g
SHIFT S = ô	= = =	h = h
SHIFT T = ö	Shift > = >	i = i
SHIFT U = ò	Shift ? = ?	j = j
SHIFT V = ü	Shift @ = @	k = k
SHIFT W = ù	Shift A = A	l = l
SHIFT X = ÿ	Shift B = B	m = m
SHIFT Y = Ö	Shift C = C	n = n
SHIFT Z = Ü	Shift D = D	o = o
FCTN R = Ç	Shift E = E	p = p
FCTN Z = £	Shift F = F	q = q
FCTN T = ¥	Shift G = G	r = r
SHIFT 6 = ₣	Shift H = H	s = s
FCTN U = f	Shift I = I	t = t
(Spacebar) = á	Shift J = J	u = u
Shift ! = ¡	Shift K = K	v = v
Shift " = ¨	Shift L = L	w = w
Shift # = #	Shift M = M	x = x
Shift \$ = ¤	Shift N = N	y = y
Shift % = %	Shift O = O	z = z
Shift & = &	Shift P = P	Shift { = {
' = ' (quote)	Shift Q = Q	Shift =
Shift (= (Shift R = R	Shift } = }
Shift) =)	Shift S = S	Shift ~ = ~
	Shift T = T	Char 255 NA



By Martin A. Smoley © June 6, 1994

6149 Bryson Drive, Mentor, Ohio 44060-2324

Your printer and FunnelWeb 5.01

Second Page.

I don't want to tell you which switches to change on your printer because there are many types of printers and the switch settings from one to the next will be different. Plus, I really think that you need to know your printer manual and what it all means, so dig in there and read.

Once you have mastered the switches, you will be able to use the IBM characters I printed on the first page. You do this by two methods. To use any of the Chars from (Spacebar) or (á) to Char 255 you hold the Ctrl key down and press comma (,) key. You should hear a short blip. This puts you into a mode where pressing the key or keys on the left hand side of the equal sign will produce the character on the right hand side of the (=). [The Alpha Lock must be off.] For example, holding the Shift key and pressing the X will produce a (X). Pressing the 5 (with no shift) should produce the ¶ Character. The special Char should look the same on your screen as the print out, so if you are doing something wrong it will be immediately apparent. You simply hold Ctrl and press the comma (,) again to get out of this mode for normal typing. What I think of as the second method is needed to use the Chars from SHIFT 2 up to, but not including, (Spacebar). First hold Ctrl and press the comma as before. Now hold Ctrl and press the U key. This will give you the short cursor. Now if you enter one of the key combinations from SHIFT 2, (Ç) through FCTN U, (f), one of the IBM Chars will appear. To return to normal typing, hold Ctrl and press U and then hold Ctrl and press comma. Using these combinations of keys will allow you to access all of the special IBM characters seen on the first page of this article, provided your printer has them. If your printer doesn't do a good job printing these characters, you might try the Unidirectional Mode. Turn it on just before the IBM Characters and off right after. Older printers, like the Gemini 10X, have a built-in Char set that contains some boarder graphics, but they don't match the print-out on my first page and the will not match what you see on the screen. However, if you have one of these and you don't see a new printer in your future, you can fool around with this until you figure out which

screen characters produce which printed characters, and then mix and match as needed to get the job done.

NOTE: The <Ctrl ,> mode automatically turns off when you go into Command Mode and then comes back to editing. So if you press <Ctrl ,> and then save your file, when you come back from that operation you would need to press <Ctrl ,> again for the IBM Char set. You should also know that the ASCII value 255 or Char 255 is not available for use and will be kicked out by the command mode. This is because the TI uses 255 or >FF as the End Of File marker.

There are also many new Editing features of FW 5.01. One of these is Reformat. With the old FW you could reformat a paragraph with <Ctrl 2>. This still works but leaves you a ragged right column edge. You can now Right Justify a page or column (as I have in this article), with <Ctrl R>. This only Right Justifies from the cursor to the next CR so you can mix and match to your hearts delight.

You can now release both the Right and Left Margins, with <Ctrl Y>. This means that when you get to the Right Margin, you can hold Ctrl and press Y, and keep on typing over to column 79. This is a big help to me because I'm always putting in control codes that change the printer, but don't show up as type. This means I have to add more characters to fill out the end of the line. This column is about 55 Characters wide, so I can hit <Ctrl Y> and add up to 25 more Chars past the right margin.

Another neat thing is that you can arrow up or down from the command mode. Have you ever wanted to copy or move a line, hit <Fctn 9> to get to the command line at the top of the screen, and then forgotten the line numbers you needed to enter? "I have". Well now, if you press the up or down arrow, the screen below will move up or down until you find the forgotten line numbers to be entered. "Great!"

If you press <Ctrl =>, you will be able to arrow right or left as usual, but when you get to the end of that line the cursor will jump up or down respectively, and continue at the beginning of the next line. This means that with <Ctrl => I can arrow from the top of a document all the way to the bottom, if I want.

This new version of FunnelWeb is worth the minor effort involved in setting it up and learning how to use it. I highly recommend that you pick up a copy and try it out. You can get it from our Library by the name FunnelWeb SS/SD, Version 5.01, until we list it and give it a number. It's neat, it's easy to use, and it's available now. I did this with my TI99/4A and the new FunnelWeb Version 5.01. Marty.

FunnelWeb 5.01 help sheet.

August 1994

General Key Functions

<Fctn-0> = Line numbers on/off.
 <Ctrl-3> = Screen Color.
 <Fctn-9>, <Ctrl-C> = Command ESCape.
Note: While on the Command Line, the text page may be scrolled up or down with <Fctn-E>, <Fctn-X>

Cursor Movement

<Fctn-S>, <Ctrl-S> = Move left.
 <Fctn-D>, <Ctrl-D> = Move right.
 <Fctn-E>, <Ctrl-E> = Move up.
 <Fctn-X>, <Ctrl-X> = Move down.
 <Fctn-6>, <Ctrl-Q> = Page up.
 <Fctn-4>, <Ctrl-A> = Page down.
 <Fctn-5> = Screen window right.
 <Ctrl-4> = Move to start of last paragraph.
 <Ctrl-6> = Move to start of next paragraph.
 <Ctrl-H> = Goto first page of document.
 <Ctrl-J> = Goto last page of document.
 <Ctrl-L> = Home (Upper left corner).
 <Ctrl-V> = Move to beginning of line.
 <Ctrl-Z> = Move right to end of line.
 <Ctrl-Y> = Release right or left margin.

Edit Key Combinations

<Fctn-1> = Delete character.
 <Fctn-2>, <Ctrl-G>, <Ctrl-B> = Insert.
 <Ctrl-M>, <Ctrl-8> = New paragraph.
 <Fctn-3> = Delete line.
 <Fctn-8> = Insert line.
 <Ctrl-1> = Oops.
 <Ctrl-2> = Reformat.
 <Ctrl-R> = Reformat + Right justify.
 <Ctrl-K> = Clear to End Of Line.
 <Ctrl-Y> = Release right or left margin.
 <Ctrl-F> = Freeze screen below cursor.

Note: <Ctrl-F> draws a temporary line across the screen just below the cursor. The upper part of the screen may be scrolled while the lower part remains in place. Pressing <Ctrl-F> again removes the line.

<Ctrl-U>+<Ctrl-,> = IBM Chars. 128-159
 <Ctrl-,> = IBM Chars. 160-255

Tab Key Functions

<Fctn-7>, <Ctrl-I> = Tab.
 <Ctrl-7>, <Ctrl-W> = Word Tab.
 <Ctrl-T> = Back Tab.

Note: To set Tabs press <Fctn-9>, then <T>, and then select 1,2 or 3. Complicated tab settings may be made in each of these numbers, which may then be selected from the command line. It is an easy way to reset the right margin. When finished press Enter.

Print File functions

First <Fctn-9> Command ESCape.
 PF Print File to PIO, RS232.BA=4800 etc.
 PIO Print complete file to PIO.

Variations of PF

m n PIO Print lines "m" through "n".
Note: "83 87 PIO" prints lines 83 through 87.
 C PIO Strip hi bits + Ctrl Chars.
 L PIO Print file with line numbers.
 P PIO Send printer start codes.
 Q PIO Send printer stop codes.
 P Q PIO Send start and stop codes.

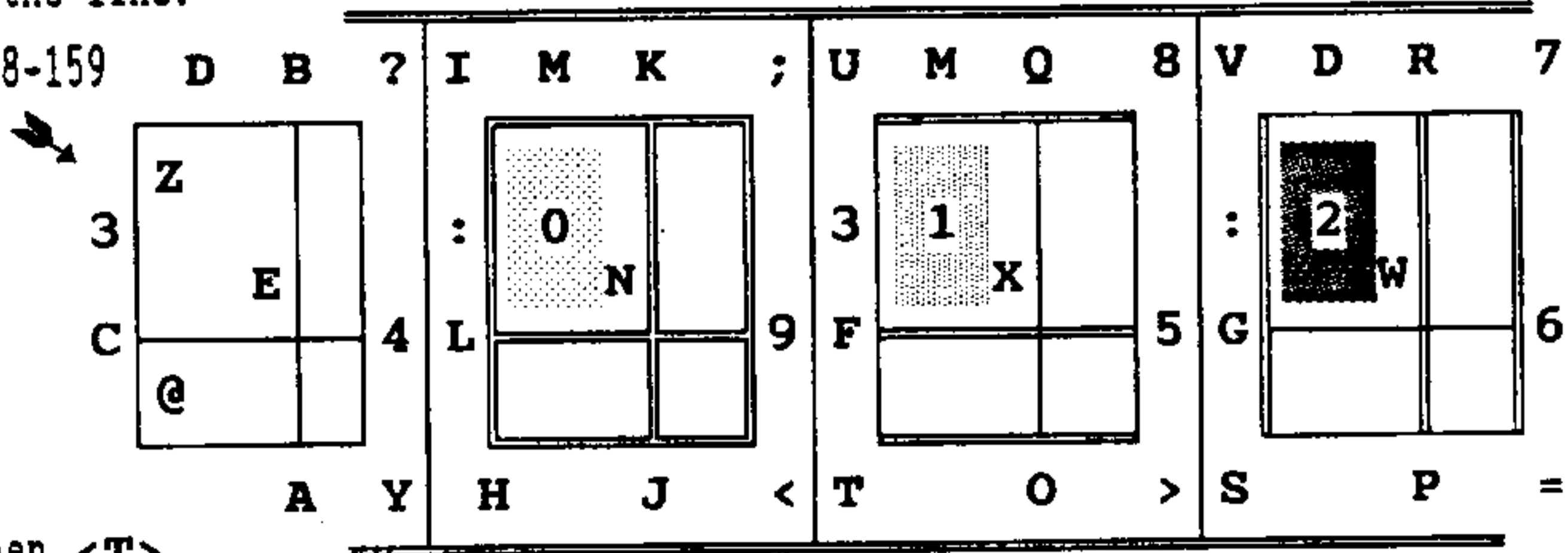
Print File to disk functions

First <Fctn-9> Command ESCape.
 PF Print File.
 DSKn.filename Print complete file to Disk.
Note: "n" is the disk number and filename is the name of file to be created on disk. Example: DSK2.TEXTONE

Variations of PF to disk

F DSKn.filename Print to disk as DisFix/80.
 A DSKn.filename Append to existing file.
 M DSKn.filename Create File as MS-Doss DF/128.
 U DSKn.filename Create File as UNIX DF/128.

I typed this up for my own benefit, because I don't like switching to the help screens. I asked Harry to put it in the NorthCoast Newsletter in case some of you prefer a help printout to the FunnelWeb screens, as I do. This sheet is not complete and I may have made some mistakes, but it helps me as a quick reference for keystrokes like <Ctrl-V> and <Ctrl-R>, which are among the new keystrokes in FunnelWeb 5.01. If it helps anyone, it was worth the effort. Good luck. Marty.



NorthCoast 99'ers
 Cleveland, Ohio

PC/TI FILE TRANSFER
by Bruce Rodenkirch

I got an old PC (for free at a hamfest) with an 8088 cpu and have been spending some time with it. I bought a 20 meg hard drive and after a lot of trial and error and help from my buddies got it formatted and running. This seemed like an ideal place to store the many files I have been accumulating. It isn't too hard to do I discovered.

I have it connected to my TI (Geneve) through the serial port and have been experimenting with transferring programs back and forth. I use a "straight through" cable from the RS-232 card out the front of the PEBox, which just acts as an extension cord. Then I bought two DB-25 sockets, one male and one female, and soldered short wires, about 4", between them. These are also connected straight through with short (1/4") gaps in the insulation, staggered to minimize the chance of a short circuit. You don't need to use 25 wires, only about ten or so to cover the pins you need to connect the pins you plan to use. I then plug my modem cable to this and since it is wired for TI parallel use the modem thinks it is connected directly to the RS-232 card.

This is handy if you need to experiment with changes in the RS-232 to modem wiring, such as with TERM 80 or the PORT terminal program for the Geneve. It also makes it easy to hook up a clone to the TI with a "Y" cable which can be easily constructed. Get another DB-25 plug of the gender needed for the clone cable. Connect pins 1,2 and 3 to the same wires in the short cord described above. Number one is ground, and 2 and 3 are receive and transmit but since the clone and TI pins 2 and 3 are the opposite, the TI will transmit to the receive pin of the clone. Using appropriate terminal programs for the two computers (TELCO and PROCOMM for example) ASCII text files and XMODEM file transfers can be made. Also whatever is typed on either screen will appear on the other screen. Reversing pins two and three to the clone will send the downloaded info from the modem to to both computers.

HAMFESTS

Bowling Green Wood Co. Fairgrounds July 13

(Editor note: The above will be over by the time you receive your NL.)

Van Wert ARC Van Wert Co. Fairgrounds July 20

The Warren Hamfest is one of my favorites and it is coming up on August 17 at the Kent State Trumbull Campus. It is at the intersection of Rte 45 and the Rte 5 bypass on the North side of Warren. There is a big mall on Rte 46 just south of the bypass if you need a place to park your wife.



THE 1997 MUG AT LIMA
By Glenn Bernabeck

The 1997 Multi User Group Conference at Lima, Ohio was a "bitter/sweet" experience.

Seventy six attendees had signed in by 2:00. (I know there were more because I saw familiar faces who hadn't signed the registry.) Our numbers are dropping slightly, but the TI-99/4A and Geneve 9640 enthusiasm certainly isn't.

The first thing (and somewhat confusing) that greeted the people who came was a "give away" table set up by the Lima User Group. It turns out that they were cleaning house and everything had to go either to Tiers or the dumpster. Charlie Good felt bad about the dumpster option, and he said he hoped everything would go to the Tiers who attended. Needless to say, this put a "slight" crimp in the plans of attending Tiers who were hoping to sell some of their equipment at the conference.

John Parken, membership chairman for the TI-Chips, brought a Canon BJC-620 color jet printer to be raffled off by the TI-Chips. The raffle was a great success. We didn't make any money, but it didn't cost us very much either. (Darned near broke even, and everyone had a ball!)

I was able to receive consultation from Mike Wright of Cadd Electronics on the in's and out's of running the file transfer routines of PC99. Mike also stated that PC99, Stage IV will be available for an upgrade cost of \$9.94. This is most definitely NOT vapor ware. We've had a fantastic amount of new developments for the TI-99/4A and Geneve systems in the past year. Cadd Electronics' PC99 is just another gem in this development. Mike also said that he was thinking of writing a version of PC99 for the SuperAMS card.

Bruce Harrison showed his software written for the Super AMS. Bruce demo'd is "Slide Show" and "Video Titler". Both routines took advantage of the memory pages in SuperAMS that allowed simulated animation and very fast screen title presentations. Bruce said he is interested

in working on a SuperAMS version of "Midi Master".

The multi-user group officer's conference covered three very important points. First, Charlie Good said he is trying to get two students to take on offices in the Lima User Group for 1998. If he is successful, Lima will host the 1998 MUG. Charlie stated that 1998 would probably be the last MUG the Lima group would host. I said that the TI-Chips would commit for 1999 if Lima confirmed, by this September, that they would host the 1998 show. At this time, Charlie made clear just what was happening at this MUG. The Lima group found it necessary to remove their equipment from campus storage and had also decided to close out their treasury. This, in effect, will put the Lima User Group on an informal organizational status. Charlie said he will continue to swap software and publish the "Bits 'n Bytes" newsletter when he is able.

The second point was brought up for discussion by Dave Sziole. Dave said the internet would be a possible mechanism for keeping the TI community together. He said we could set up a world-wide internet user group and be able to keep on communicating and sharing. The officers in attendance said the time has come to give this idea a chance. The technology is there. All we have to do is to log on and start talking.

Lastly, the idea of opening user groups up to other computer system platforms on an formal/informal basis seems to be gaining momentum. One group said they have been having "mixed" meetings with both the TI home systems and MS-DOS clones. They found that this was an excellent way to keep the user group viable and maintain friendships gained through the years. When asked if they had changed their by-laws to accommodate the new agenda, the answer was "no". The meetings continue as usual, but room is now made for MS-DOS discussion and or demos. Another representative said their Faire is open to anyone who is willing to pay the table registration fee. (I distinctly got the impression that this change has been quietly occurring through out the community.)

THE 1997 MUG AT LIMA
(Continued)

The few demonstrations I was able to attend were impressive to say the least!

Andy Freuh put on a super, two part presentation on how to use the internet and how to set up an Email account. Andy uses Microsoft's Explorer, and used Rich Polivka's web page as an example of what the net has to offer. Andy handed out copies of a very comprehensive guide to the workings of the internet. Super job Andy! One of the high points in Andy's demonstration was when John Bull posted a message from those at the show on Tom Will's List Server. John signed the posting with the names of those at the demo. (It was great to see this posting when I got home that night.)

Ron Markus (Ramcharge Computers) showed the Pro-Stick joystick and game software he has available. While Jim Krych demoed the Video Turtle. The most amazing part of this demo was the clarity of the images on a "standard" S-Video TV screen. Detailed color pictures and 80 columns

with NO fuzziness or distortion. (To paraphrase a line from a well known Christmas movie, "Yes Tiers, there is a working replacement for those hard-to-find RGB monitors. It's called the Video Turtle.")

The winners of the 1997 Jim Peterson Achievement Awards follows:

TI COMMUNITY	TOM WILLS
TI SOFTWARE	BRUCE HARRISON
TI HARDWARE	SW99ers (SuperAMS)
GENEVE 9640	TIM TESCH

(Nominations for the 1998 awards are now open.)

Our gracious hosts, the Lima User Group, closed out the MUG in grand fashion with a catered, after the conference dinner which included stuffed chicken, potatoes, green beans, salad and dinner rolls. This was a gift from the Lima User Group. Thank you Lima! The TI-99/4A and Geneve community will forever be in your debt. Thanks for the ride. It was wonderful!

Date: Wed Jul 2 07:53:02 1997
Subject: TI99: Bruce Harrison's MIDI letter

Dear Charlie,

I'm taking the unusual step of sending you this letter on disk as well as in writing, so that perhaps you'll be able to use it in your next newsletter. It's big news for those who are using Mike Maksimik's MIDI-Master 99. No, the AMS version is not ready, but on the way to making that version, I've made a much improved non-AMS version.

Improvements are many. Perhaps the most important are the simplest. For example, in the accept fields when the user is entering a file name or other such data, the keys FCTN-1 (del), FCTN-2 (ins), and FCTN-3 (erase) work now, just as in a normal ACCEPT AT field. The cursor blink rate, which used to be okay on Geneve but very slow on TI, will now be the same "normal" rate on any machine.

One of the real "biggies" is in the business of saving music in memory image format. In the older versions, this operation would always create three files, for a total of 100 sectors of disk space, even for the shortest and simplest pieces of music. This new version figures out how much of the memory is taken up by the music, and saves only what's needed. For short pieces, that may be only one file of 13 or so sectors, so that's what gets put on disk.

The error trapping has also been improved, so that meaningless errors are not reported. Also, there's no longer an error report that says "FATAL FILE ERROR". I changed this to simply "FILE ERROR", because as far as I know nobody has ever died because of a file error on his TI.

This new version, which I'm offering for the "P.O." price of \$1.00 including S&H, also includes an improved version of MIDI Album. The new version of Album is faster, and has many small improvements, but one big one. That concerns the business of Random play of selected files. In the previous versions, Random play would very often play numbers over and over, while some of the selected ones might "never" get played. The new version takes a lesson from the old, and plays the selected files in random order but without replacement. This means each selected file will be played only once, but all will get played in random order.

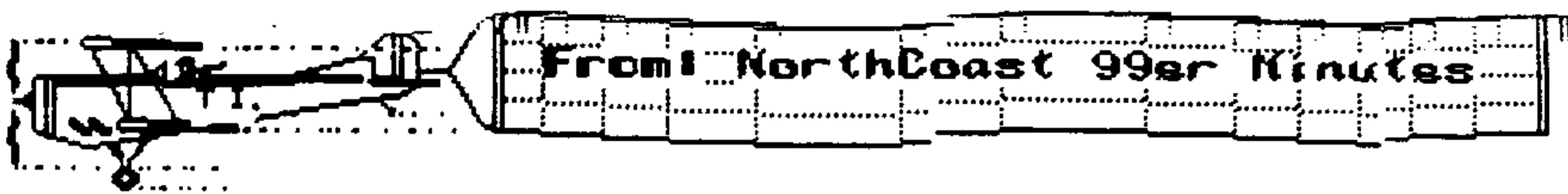
The new disk is intended only for those who already own an earlier version of MIDI-Master 99, as the user will have to already own the connecting cables that were supplied with the original. I believe the cables can still be obtained from Cecure, but only as part of the original MIDI-Master Version 2.3. In any case, you'll need them to use this version.

The new version, designated 2.5Z, has been created with permission from Mike Maksimik, and still bears his copyright notice, so it's not to be considered Public Domain or any other kind of software product. Please publish this in whole or in part in your next newsletter, so we can get the word out in the "community" about a new and improved MIDI-Master 99. My sincere thanks go out to Mike Maksimik for allowing me to tinker with his source code, and to Jim Krych, who arranged for this to happen.

Work continues toward the AMS version, but no promises are being made, as that requires a lot of difficult work to become a useful product.

Best Regards,
Bruce

PG 12



MAY AND JUNE - 1997
DEANNA SHERIDAN - SECRETARY

The May meeting was called to order by Ken. The treasurer's report from Frank was read.

Marty wanted a note added that NorthCoast members do not need to send dues since we are not charging.

We then voted on our choices for the Jim Peterson award to be given at the MUG conference at Lima. Earl Blewett was selling his system for any interested in pieces and parts.

On to the demo by Jim Harris. Jim explained that he is an avid reader and needed a system to keep track of the books he has read and a summary of the story. He obtained a piece of software called Typewriter99 which will print a line as typed. He demoed how he used this program to type out the pertinent information on 3 X 5 cards which he kept in an alphabetical file. He also uses TI BASE which will print out a listing of his books.

The June meeting was also called to order by Ken. No Treasurer's report. Several reported on the MUG conference and stated that they still felt it worthwhile to attend and enjoyed themselves. Lima will host the 98 meet and has asked that Cleveland do 99.

Then to the demo by Deanna. She scoured through several boxes of diskettes and her CD ROM trying to get something new or useful. She found an excellent database called VCR/GUIDE which lists a VCR tape by title, rating, playing time, and counter. You can sort alphabetically by movie title or numerically by tape number. All went well until she tried to print out the listing and her bubblejet would not initialize.

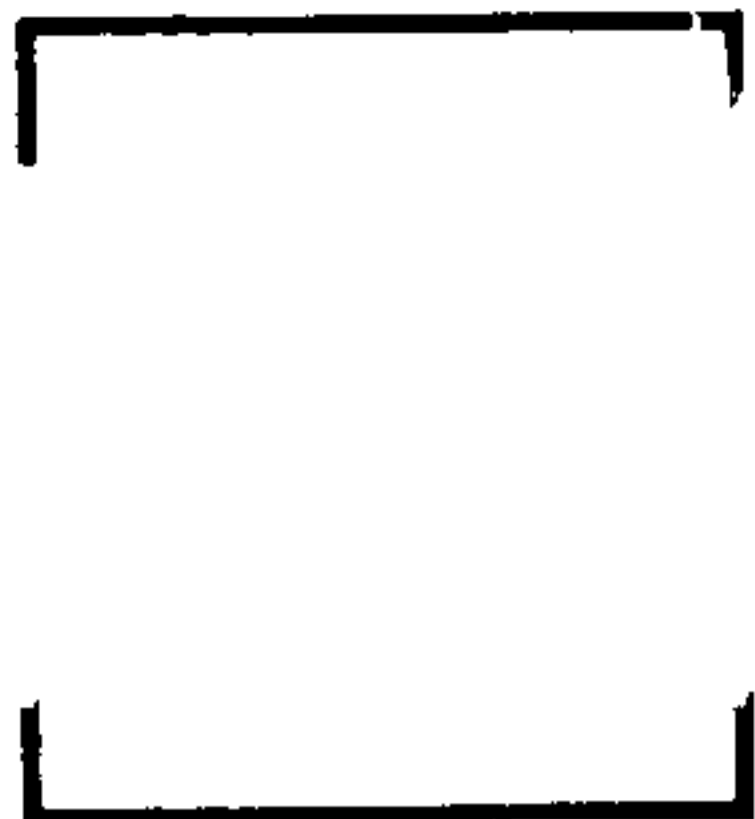
The next program was an amortization program that would determine one unknown number, such as interest rate, number of payments, or payment amount. Again, she was unable to print out the amortization schedule. However, she had compiled a disk of these programs and a few others which was handed out and hopefully, the members can print out examples on their own. (When she got home and attached the printer to her DOS machine, the windows program for the bubblejet said that the ink sensor was broken.)

Marty will have the July demo and plans on reviewing some TI BASE stuff which you will find in another part of the newsletter. Keep cool!



NOTICE NORTHCOST 99ERS: DO NOT send any dues to Marty, as we are not charging dues until further notice!!!

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



Check your expiration date.
This may be your LAST issue!

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

Full Membership. \$15.00/Yr, with library privileges.
Newsletter only. \$12.00 per year.