



K-TOWN ^AK 99'ER

NEWSLETTER OF THE K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP
AND THE ATHENS COMPUTER CLUB
APRIL 1993



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COMMENT

The K-Town 99er is published monthly for the benefit of the K-Town 99/4A Users Group membership specifically and the TI Community in general. The Articles in this newsletter to the best of our knowledge are factual but nevertheless the views expressed are the views of the author and

are not necessarily the views of the K-Town Users Group. Any article, unless stated otherwise, may be copied by other users groups and published in their newsletter providing credit is given to the author and the K-Town 99er.

K-TOWN APRIL MEETING / 1993 DUES

THE APRIL MEETING OF THE K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP WILL BE AT THE HOME OF E.M. SMITH. This meeting begins the tenth fiscal year for the existance of our USERS GROUP. That explains the special notice posted above about DUES. It is important that you respond to this notice promptly. With such a small membership, non-payment means early removal from newsletter mailing list.

Foy Edwards, a friend and former coworker of Dill Sheridan before retirement from TVA, has been rescheduled to demonstrate his lap_top computer. Work priorities forced a postponement from last month. The time is 7:00 pm. The date is the second Thursday, April 8th. You might look in the President's Forum for more information and other items on the agenda for the evening.

DUES / MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the K-Town 99/4A Users Group is open to any owner or user of the TI-99/4A Home Computer. Dues are TEN DOLLARS per year and subject to our fiscal year which begins April 1 and ends March 31 of each year. Dues are clasified as family memberships. New memberships are prorated at

the rate of ONE dollar per month if less than a full year, except for the last five months of our fiscal year. There is a minimum fee of five dollars. Memberships are not prorated for current or former members. We welcome visitors.



1993 DUES ARE DUE NOW !



P R E S I D E N T S F O R U M

It sure is good to have a back-log of good programs for our meetings! The demo of a new lap-top by Bill Sheridan's friend fell through last month because the friend, a TVA worker, was called out of town to rescue a sunken barge on the Mississippi. However, we did not lack for good stuff - Art Gibson showed us the latest improvements he has made on First Draft, the first really new word processor that has appeared in a long time. Changing 40 column windowing to 40 column scrolling is a very nice step forward - or rather, sideways. Also a new compressed format for the dictionary gives the fastest and handiest spell checking on record. Thanks, Art!

This month, barring further barge accidents on the Mississippi, we will see the demo of the lap-top.

Somebody smarter than me probably knows the answer: Can direct transfer by cable be made of text files from our TI to our IBM PC friends with lap-tops, for instance - RS232 to RS232? It sure would be handy!

Spring is springing all over the place and it is time to plan for the Lima Fair. Who wants to go? Who can go? Who has a car available? The dates are Friday, May 14, and Saturday, May 15. Let's make plans at this month's meeting.

I will see you, all of you, I hope, at E.M.Smith's place, 3506 Garden Drive, at 7 P.M. on Thursday the 8th of April.

John H. Bull



POTPOURRI

BY BILL SHERIDAN



While on DELPHI last Saturday, I came across the below information and program. It looked interesting so I downloaded it. So happened I had a disk with about 15 small miscellaneous programs on it. I added this LOAD program, and now I can run any of the programs without having to remember the file name. The program will list all of the file names on the disk on the screen. You can then select which program you wish to run with a joystick.

As an aid to help you copy the program, I ran it through the CHECKSUM program to add checksums to each line. Load and run the CHECK program. CHECK will calculate the checksums as you enter each line. If the checksums total doesn't match the checksum of the program line you are inputting, you will know there is a mistake in your entry.

Name: XB JOYSTICK CONTROLLED AUTO-LOAD
Type: PROGRAM
Date: 12-OCT-1992 21:47 by BRADSNYDER
Size: 10 SECTORS

MY OWN auto-load program for XB. Copy it onto your disks of XB or Basic programs, and name it LOAD. Yes, I know that there are tons of these around, but I wrote this one several years ago, and you can use the program as another example of how to run a program from a program. I used a method similar to Tom Freeman's. Line 1000 is searched for, and then the filename is poked into it. Line 1000 doesn't have to be last, or first, it can be anywhere.

What's different about this LOAD program from the ones I've seen is that you use joystick #1 to move a cursor to the filename that you want to run, and then press the fire button to run it.

```
100 !-----! !102
110 ! AUTO-CAT ! !034
120 !-----! !102
130 ! !131
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140 ! BY Brad Snyder !108
150 ! !131
160 ! REQUIRES: !077
170 ! * TI X-BASIC !145
180 ! * 32K MEMORY EXP. !209
190 ! * DISK SYSTEM !029
200 ! * JOYSTICK FOR INPUT !020
210 ! !131
220 ! USE "DSK1.LOAD" TO !024
230 ! SAVE THIS PROGRAM. !144
240 ! !131
250 CALL CLEAR :: CALL CHAR(128,"0000183C3C18"):: CALL COLOR(13,7,1)::
CALL SCREEN(15):: FOR S=0 TO 12 :: CALL COLOR(S,5,1):: NEXT S !075
260 DIM NM$(127),TF(127),FL(127),TYPE$(5):: CALL INIT !254
270 DATA DF,DV,IF,IV,P !242
280 FOR X=1 TO 5 :: READ TYPE$(X):: NEXT X !255
290 IMAGE " #####" !092
300 IMAGE DISK: ##### PG # OF # !123
310 DISPLAY AT(12,5):"LOADING DISK CATALOG" :: OPEN #1:"DSK1.",INPUT,
RELATIVE,INTERNAL !063
320 FOR RD=0 TO 127 :: INPUT #1:NM$(RD),TF(RD),B,FL(RD):: IF NM$(RD)=""
THEN 340 !035
330 NEXT RD !044
340 CLOSE #1 :: N=1 !031
350 DISPLAY AT(1,1)ERASE ALL:USING 300:NM$(0),N/44+1,INT((RD-2)/44)+1
!005
360 ROW=1 :: FOR DIS=N TO N+43 :: IF DIS=RD THEN 410 !233
370 IF ABS(TP(DIS))=5 OR (ABS(TP(DIS))=4 AND FL(DIS)=254) THEN CH=32 ELSE
CH=128 !138
380 RDIS=INT((ROW+1)/2)+2 :: CDIS=1-(ROW/2=INT(ROW/2))*14 !173
390 DISPLAY AT(RDIS,CDIS)SIZE(14):USING 290:NM$(DIS),TYPE$(ABS(TP(DIS)))
;:: CALL HCHAR(RDIS,CDIS+13,CH)!052
400 ROW=ROW+1 :: NEXT DIS !097
410 ROW,COL,LROW,LCOL=3 !023
420 CALL JOYST(1,CV,RV):: ROW=ROW+(RV/-4):: IF CV=-4 THEN COL=3 ELSE IF
CV=4 THEN COL=17 !213
430 IF ROW<3 THEN IF N>44 THEN N=N-44 :: GOTO 350 !217
440 IF ROW>24 THEN IF N+43<RD-1 THEN N=N+44 :: GOTO 350 !030
450 RC=2*(ROW-2)-1+((COL=17)*-1)+N-1 !162
460 IF RC<1 OR RC>127 THEN ROW=ROW-(RV/-4):: GOTO 420 !116
470 IF NM$(RC)="" THEN ROW=ROW-(RV/-4) ELSE 500 !193
480 IF CV=-4 THEN COL=17 ELSE IF CV=4 THEN COL=3 !185
490 GOTO 420 !244
500 CALL HCHAR(LROW,LCOL,32):: CALL HCHAR(ROW,COL,62):: LROW=ROW ::
LCOL=COL !049
510 CALL KEY(1,K,S):: IF K<>19 THEN 420 !221
520 IF ABS(TP(RC))=5 OR (ABS(TP(RC))=4 AND FL(RC)=254) THEN 530 ELSE CALL
SOUND(300,110,0):: GOTO 420 !079
530 RN$="DSK1."&NM$(RC) !008
540 CALL PEEK(-31952,A,B,C,D):: LS=A*256+B :: LE=C*256+D !246
550 FOR T=LS TO LE STEP 4 !046
560 IF T>32767 THEN P=T-65536 ELSE P=T !251
570 CALL PEEK(P,A,B,C,D):: LN=A*256+B !106
580 IF LN=1000 THEN 610 !070
590 NEXT T !234
600 CALL SOUND(300,110,0):: DISPLAY AT(12,7)ERASE ALL:"PROGRAM ERROR" ::
STOP !027
610 PR=C*256+D :: IF PR>32767 THEN PR=PR-65536 !091
620 CALL LOAD(PR,169,199,LEN(RN$)) !144
630 S=1 :: FOR X=PR+3 TO PR+2+LEN(RN$) !100

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640 CALL LOAD(X,ASC(SEG*(RN#,S,1))) !006
650 S=S+1 :: NEXT X :: CALL LOAD(X,0) !011
660 CALL CLEAR :: CALL CHARSET :: CALL SCREEN(8):: DISPLAY AT(12,1):
"LOADING "&RN# !093
1000 RIIN " " !095

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For those of you who would like to use this program, but don't want to key it in, I will have this program on disk with me at the April meeting.



1993 DUES ARE DUE NOW!



CHATTERBOX - 26 BY BOB BUEHLER



This has been a toughy! I'm beginning modification of it's fifth draft. It sort of got out of control during the writing, and became too self centered. Yet my engineering career really became interesting and worthwhile at about it's mid point; when I began to try doing things my way rather than always some traditional way. Controversy added to my fun. First, now, something recent that is an annual thing.

THE SAVINGS SEASON, AGAIN.

Here it is. My 1993 season to collect substantial savings. Consider saving more than \$2000 in only six days, July 26-31. I'm talking about "Short Courses," those PLUMS for college Professors Nation wide who teach them during the free time 'summer semesters' between standard semesters.

Short Courses are good for all! Teachers hone their skills and earn good extra pay. Colleges brighten their images and enhance their reputations. Attendees upgrade their skills.

I, though, capture the crowning benefit. I plain don't go; hence reap the harvest of total savings.

Season Totals --- It's way too early to sum total benefits for this year. It depends on places, dates, and careful choices. If two Short Course have coresponding dates, I can compound my savings by not attending both! Three with coresponding dates are most unlikely but WOW wouldn't that be something to write home about, and what if they were in Honolulu, San Francisco, and Key West. Air fare savings alone would gross a bundle, and I'd certainly go first class to these!

Examples --- That July Short Course is a week at the University of Tennessee In Knoxville. Subject: Finite Element Analysis in Fluid Mechanics and Heat Transfer. It's a good one to not attend because of it's high, \$1450 registration fee. But there are no transportation costs to save and lodging either unless I use a temporary out-of-state address, which would be cheating.

Before that one is Water Resources Sytems -- Risk Assessment and Management May 10-14 at the University of Virginia. That's right down my alley and Virginia is nice that time of year. Registration, though, is only \$900.

Housing at \$49 per day, meals, and transportation would help increase my savings for non-attendance, but not by enough to change any plans.

Nothing Comes Free --- Don't get the idea that these sizable savings come free!! I'm offered these Short Courses because I belong to some five Professional Societies to which I've paid annual dues for 30 to 50 years. I'll likely not last long enough to recapture all those dues by "not going" to Short Course, but I aim to try, by gaa!

DUES WELL SPENT

Be not mislead! Society dues have paid handsome dividends far overshadowing the whimsical financial benefits of not attending Short Course! Society Memberships were my entree to technical meetings around the world, parts of Asia, Mexico, and the length of South America. And lots of times across the USA. Most trips were expense paid by TVA or tax deductible when consulting after TVA. At modest added personal cost wife Evelyn could accompany and itineraries could be expanded like an extra week around Japan after the main meeting in Kyoto. And interesting tours in Thailand after a main meeting in Bangkok and stops in Hong Kong and Formosa enroute back to USA. And good sight seeing in Brazil, Argentina, and Peru after the main meeting in Sao Paulo. Expense paid and tax deductible trips were earned by preparing and presenting technical papers, usually more fun than work.

The big Professional Societies are much welcomed by host nations. Doors are opened to events quite outside the sphere of commercial tourism!

USA Stuff --- Interesting travel resulted from

service on two National Workgroups to formulate technical standards of some engineering importance: Evaluating Spillway Adequacy for Dams, and Design Basis Floods for Nuclear Reactor Sites. I'm still riding herd on the latter now 18 years after leaving TVA. The Workgroups met many USA times ranging from San Francisco to Washington, Chicago to St. Petersburg Beach, and once each in Gatlinburg, TN, and Honolulu, Hawaii. The last of our meetings was in San Francisco. I'm looking, even now, at an 8X10 color photo of the seven of us then remaining.

Private Consulting --- It was sheer joy to whip the Corp of Engineers in a Little Rock, Arkansas, Federal Court. As a witness for a farmer named Mr. Fuller I convinced the Judge that the farm land was being flooded more with upstream dam operation than without. I used a pocket calculator and published Corps' documents. This was something of a landmark case, but of subsequent insignificance because of everlasting appeals in the legal process. Farmer Fuller likely died before a final judgement will be reached.

Just one more example:---A Kingsport, TN court awarded zero damages from the State to residential owners who built homes on frequently flooded low lands but claimed that upstream Interstate Highway construction caused the flooding. Actually the reverse is true. Such zero awards are euphorias for a witness!

My Final Job Was a Humdinger!!--- By a stroke of good fortune I was employed on a five man Board of Consultants to The New England Power Company. The others were all Phd's, and of far greater renown. Over several months it took me to a series of meetings in Boston and Washington and one in San Francisco. I was bold enough this time to demand First Class air travel and a fee rate which in three days exceeded my annual salary in early years in TVA. On this fun job I used my TI to route big floods through a Hydro Power System in Vermont to verify independently the Power Co results exactly!

Other Career Benefits --- One example: Meeting, knowing, sharing, and becoming friends with a host of technical people bred values beyond estimate! Just two cases: A friendly couple we met on our first foreign trip, Japan, we met again in Sao Paulo for dinner in their home, at their Jockey Club, and their Country Club. As a college Professor he was expected to indulge this type of life style. Again we met in Baden Baden, Germany and enjoyed seeing the wedding pictures of a daughter we'd met in their home.

Second example: I met purposely Johannes Buhler in Zurich because our names were the same, and explained that my Grandfather had migrated to Wisconsin from Switzerland. That evening he telephoned my hotel for more particulars.

Steaming from this he later took a train trip and copied ancient records. I'm here today because of a massive 1847 rockslide in Felsburg, Switzerland. By Swiss law a village is responsible for the welfare of it's people. Eight families, three named Buhler, and two of these with given names Jacob, opted for funds to migrate to America rather than rebuilding locally. My Grandfather, then 7 years old was one of the Jacob Buhler families. Happily, after years of coorespondence, Hannes visited us but, unhappily, only for a mere 24 hours about a year ago.

A Final Blessing --- From Professional Society membership and all of it's related ramifications, by self appraisal I'm not yet "brain dead." And my TI-99/4A is much responsible in recent years. I'm frank to admit diminished vigor mentally and physically for certain but sure as heck I'm not BRAIN DEAD YET!!

A PRIVILEGE, PLEASE.

Sorry about this. The capricious easy money trick seemed like a clever beginning for a Chatter Box. The Society dues cost was a logical transition to reality. The scanty framework of true Society benefits completes the progression. Too bad it had to slip into an autobiography! Let me park it here for now. I may want to refresh my own memory some future day. Thanks.

OBVIOUS TRUTHS

Nothing is as easy as it looks.
Everything takes longer than you think.
If anything just can't go wrong it will anyway.
Nature always sides with the hidden flaw.
It's impossible to make anything foolproof because fools are so ingenious.

RECIPES

We were invited to a light lunch and I liked the OVEN SALMON CAKES so much that I borrowed the recipe. Now I'm loaning it to you.

OVEN SALMON CAKES

1 1/4 Cups crackr cruabs	1 Slightly beaten egg
2 Tbls snipped parsley	2 Tbls sliced grn onion
2 Tbls Milk	Dash of pepper
Dash of Worcestershir	1/2 Cup shredded cheddar
1 Tbls Butter	16 OZ can salmon, flaked, Deboned and drained.

Combine 3/4 cup of the cruabs, egg, parsley, onion, milk, pepper, and worcestershire. Add salmon and cheese. Mix thoroughly and shape into 4 patties. Mix butter and remaining crumbs. Coat patties with this mix. Bake on ungreased baking sheet at 400 degrees for 10 minutes

From Kay Conover, former neighbor.

BB 3/9/93 and many earlier days.

MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 1993

We returned to the usual location, EM's fine basement Rec Room. It's just as nice and comfy as always. In fact, it is one of the many important ingredients that keeps K-Town 99er's so happily glued together. But we'll remember well that three comfy, nourishing meetings at Bill and Kitty Sheridans's kept us stuck together those pleasant times.

BUSINESS.

"Dues are due," said President Bull, maybe simultaneously with Vice President Sheridan. Close cooperation between President and his Vice! After EM reported on K-Town's bank account, a motion to retain the \$10 rate passed with one dissenting vote. All present paid. These are the true actives but one. Joe Simmons couldn't. He likely had the money, but he wasn't there. His \$10 is/are expected.

Election was next and was rough, rowdy, fleeting, and decisive! Bull for President, Sheridan for his Vice and Editor too, EM for associate Editor. Seems I heard something like "same slate as last year," but I didn't hear Secy-Treas mentioned specifically. Dues were handed to me as Treasurer. I'll pass them on with a written account to the exchequer and active Banker, EM.

PROGRAM

The scheduled Lap Top Computer demo by Bill Sheridan's former co-worker didn't happen. With Art Gibson on deck, that proved no problem. Art whipped out his last update of First Draft-Final Copy and showed it's new features. The upgrade version is about ready to roll accept for a bug or two.

John Bull had brought a new, pretty modem with which to test a new connecting cable assembled by EM. It worked. It was such a pretty modem, about 8 time faster than mine. I might get me one with left over gift money. Even family doesn't know what to get me in the line of gifts, so give money. It's a mighty comforting way to satisfy my longing for fantastic goodies!

Adjournment was temporary, reconvening at the Golden Arches on Broadway.

Bob Buehler, Secy-treas, I think.



STUMBLINGS

BY

JOE

SIMMONS



Here I am again. Where have I been? That is a good, deep question for I have been around and have been using our favorite toy; however, I have not been stumbling with anything new. For this column to have a subject matter one must be stumbling.

About a month ago, I finally received the ramdisk which I ordered back in May and had expected to receive in August. Bud Mills finally sent me a completely assembled one instead of the kit which I had ordered. Since receiving the ramdisk, I have ordered, received, and installed two more 128K ram chips bringing my total ramdisk capacity to 640K. On ramdisk #5 I have Art's loader menu, modified DM1000, Newsletter Editor, Final Copy, and Faherty's TI-Base. On ramdisk #6, I have Crowley's Checkbook Program with my modifications for running parallel Personal, Church, and Personal Charge Account checkbook programs. Ramdisk #7 has my daughters DV/80 files, John Bull's Bridge Game, and free space. Ramdisk #8 has Multi-Plan command "Monna" disk files! AND Martin Smoley's club roster command files.

For the short period of time which I have had to use

the ramdisk, I have enjoyed it. About a week ago, I lost my ROS and after following Art's patiently given directions of removing one of the batteries for about five minutes and reconfiguring the ramdisk and reloading the previously saved ROS, it was back working properly. The only problem which I am presently experiencing is that Art's Newsletter Editor (Art and I have not been able to load first draft into the ramdisk) does not recognize my floppy drives only the ramdisk files. Even computers have discrimination! Otherwise, the ramdisk environment is just fine. Or have I spoken too soon?

The 6K and the ramdisk are not compatible and Multi-Plan will not save a template to the ramdisk. Can any of you pros out there give me some assistance in overcoming these difficulties?

For the past month, I have been directing three crews of timber cruisers, one crew of compilers, and one crew of comparable sale collectors to determine the value of our lands in West Tennessee, Mississippi, and Southwest-Central Georgia. As some of you may have heard

or read in the newspapers, we are selling about 35,000 acres of our non-strategic timberlands. These lands were purchased to support our mill via rail woodyards back in the mid 50's. Due primarily to "feather-bedding" by the railroad companies, they gradually raised their freight rates two to three percentage points above inflation each year to the point that we have not been able to ship wood from these areas to our mill economically for several years. These timberlands were mostly abandoned farm lands or mismanaged ones which we have purchased and lovingly cultured into the standards of a Bowater managed forest.

For the past nine years, I have been trading these lands for lands closer to our mill here at Calhoun, Tennessee. This has achieved us a better site for growing trees and a reduced freight rate although we lost the first rotation (the most expensive rotation) and are having to start over again with these newly acquired lands. Although the exchange program has achieved many of its goals, the higher ups in the company want the cash instead of more lands. While this is short sighted on their part, they are the boss and I am attempting to get the best price possible. For those of you with extra change in your savings plans, these lands are managed tree farms with less than 15% cut over.

Enough business talk!

Mail Bag:

Art: Hopefully, my weekends will once again become free for playing with our toy!

Lloyd: Katherine wants to assemble her own IBM clone and would like to have some guidance. She has been visiting some of the computer stores around K-Town and has found that they have the components which they sell as

well as assemble themselves. She feels she can, with some capable guidance, assemble one and save herself about two to three hundred off their \$1400 prices for 386 with 33 mb. Is there a book which might guide her ...hand me?

Foster: Did you enjoy the Big Snow? You should submit an article telling us how you survived it.

John: Have you completed your more intelligent partner for the computer Bridge program? The one I have has been kicked by me to the point he wont play!

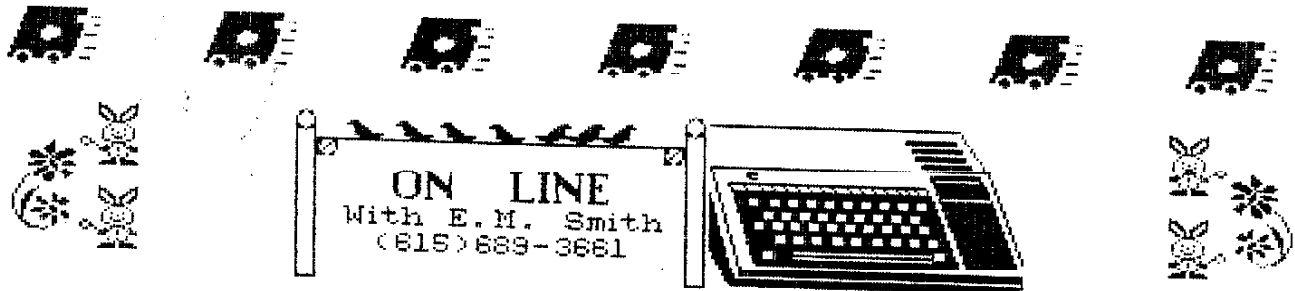
E.M.: The last meeting found me down in Georgia doing comparable sales. Hopefully, I will be able to attend the next one.

Bill: Have you and Art tested my modem which Art has to see if it will work properly? If not, since you are not long distance via the phone, please try to get it to work so that I will be able to get my newsletter contribution to you on time. Paul assured me that it will work!

Bob: I bet during the snow, you were cooking up some delicious bean soup... Between sleigh trips down the hills!

Dennis: The other day at lunch in Cleveland I saw a sharp looking young lady which I knew I should know but did not. I finally went over to her table and ask what her name was? She had become a sorta of a dirty blonde having colored in burnett hair but as witty as ever. She was your sister-in-law Linda! She and Lonnie used to brave the rapids on the Hiwassee and hike the pocket wilderness's of Bowater's with Ellen and I. It was good to see her.

Enough giberish since I have not been stumbling. How can one stumble when Art is available to guide one through the maze? See you next time! Time 1:29 a.m. on March 22, 1993.//joe



No room for my article, but there is room to show off my new LOGO which I expect to use as a header for the 2000's. I think you will find the 2000's appropriate whether you are writing serious articles relative to telecommunications, other subjects of interest, or just "stuff" which you may consider as being "fit for the birds." That explains the birds in the LOGO.

The best way to not be subjected to reading my articles is for you to keep your articles coming on time.



1993 DUES ARE DUE NOW !



K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP

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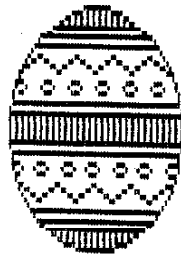
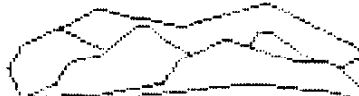
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CELEBRATE GOOD FRIDAY
AND HAVE A HAPPY EASTER!