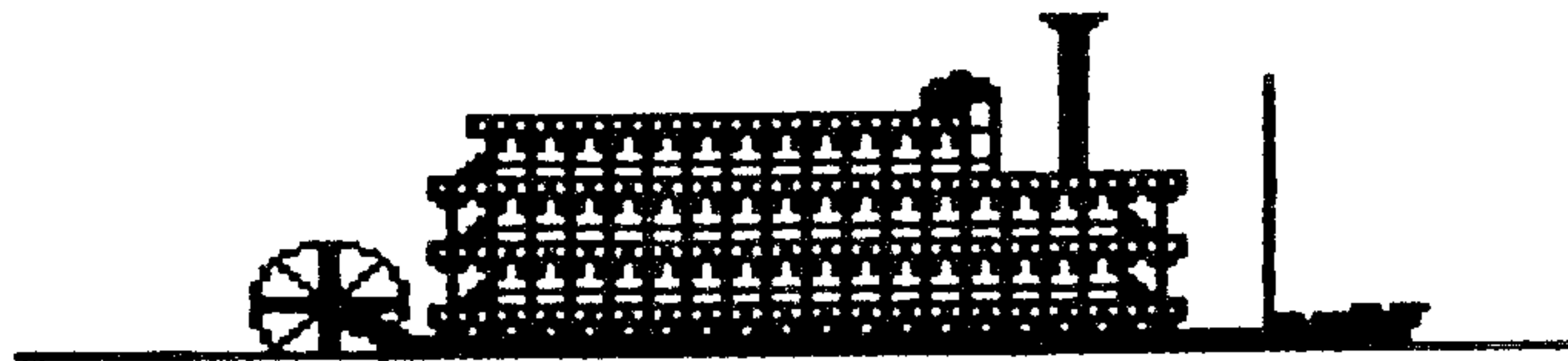


**'T'IDBITS**

MID SOUTH 98 USERS GROUP

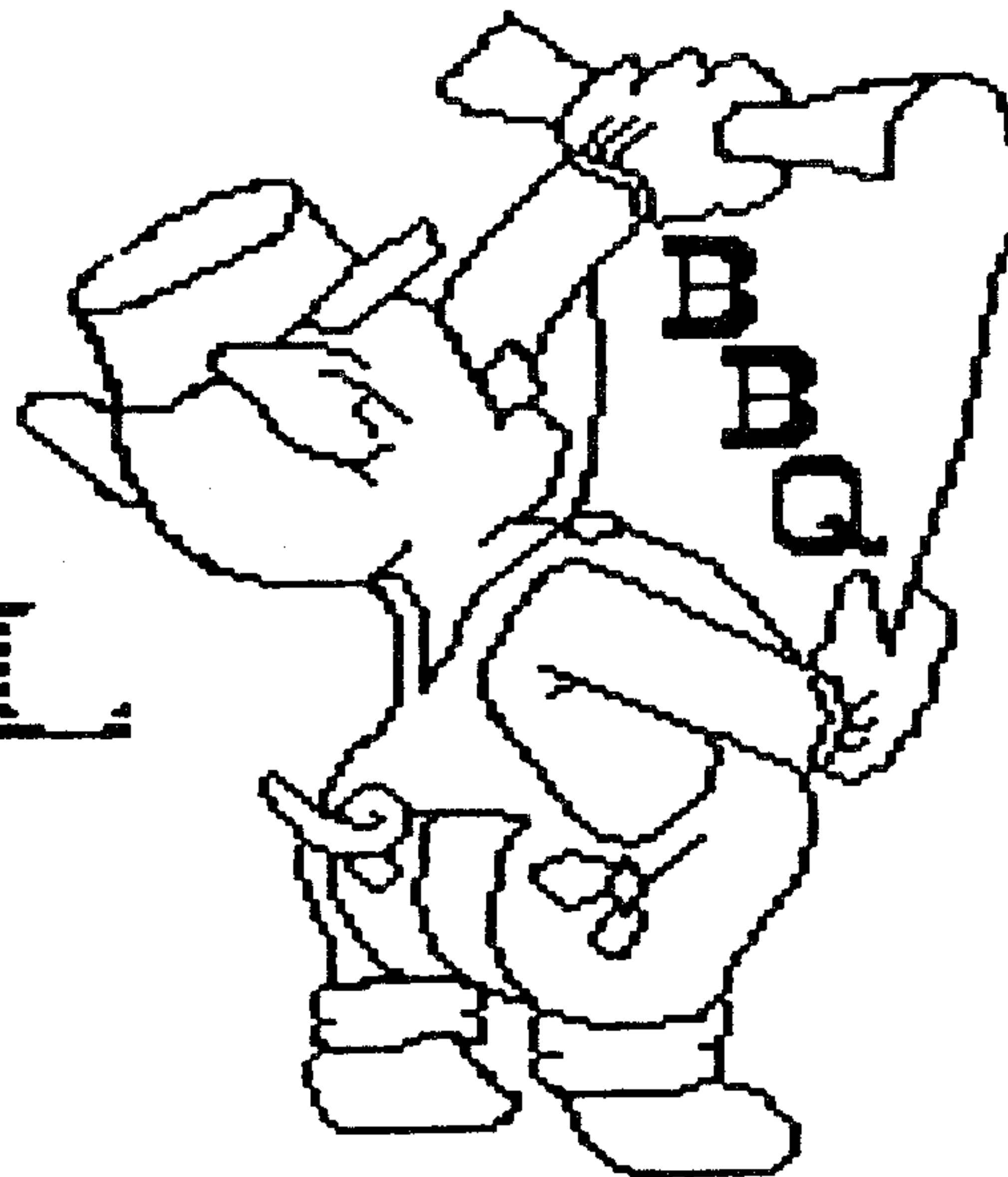


MEMPHIS TENNESSEE

APRIL

1991

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# TIDBITS

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## PRESIDENT'S BIT

by Gary W. Cox  
April, 1991

This months meeting will again be a special one! Back in November 1990 we had a FREE Barbecue dinner so we are once again having a Barbecue dinner before our meeting. This will be an all you can eat FREE BBQ dinner for all members of our group in good standing (dues paid) which includes family memberships. Non members may eat for \$3 which is still a greatly discounted rate for all the food that we will have. However, I do ask that if you do plan on bringing your wife or kids etc... that you let me know (leave me a message on the BBS or call me) so I can plan for the right amount of food. Also desert will be up to you, please bring something like cookies, brownies etc... It should be a great meal! After eating we will continue on with another great meeting of demonstrations! What other computer users group in Memphis or for that matter anywhere feeds you before the meeting? The food alone that we have had in past months has been worth the membership fee!

As some of you may already know I am currently vice-president of the Home Computer Users Group (HUG) which is primarily an IBM compatible users group dedicated to the home use of computers. HUG will be sponsoring a computer fair to be held at State Tech sometime in September or October (date has yet to be set). All groups in Memphis will be invited and our group will be there! As you remember several years ago we had an annual computer fair at State Tech and this fair will be along the same lines. The fair will be a demonstration only type fair and a good chance to pick up members and just show off and have a good time. Since I am also fair chairman I do not have any time to organize the TI portion of the fair and thus will have to rely on someone to volunteer to get things together for our group so I need a volunteer! I think it would be possible for us to get a TI vendor or two to attend if they could sell their products. However, since State Tech is a non-profit organization we are not allowed to have sales on campus so my idea is to carry the fair onto a second day elsewhere where we can have TI vendors sell what they demonstrate during the fair the day before. This will require a fair chairman for our group to handle this so depending on if someone volunteers for this will determine if we carry on the second day...

Please note that the address for Jim Saemanes (librarian) has changed, his address is now 46 Higgins Rd, Brighton, TN 38011. Also remember to call the 9640 News BBS (carrying the TI ECHO) at (901) 368-0112 24hrs a day at 300/1200/2400 baud.

As you may notice on the back of the newsletter the Saturday workshops are never listed. The place for workshops are determined at the meetings and announced there. If you are unable to attend a meeting and would like to attend a workshop call me for the time and place of the next workshop or check the message area on the 9640 NEWS bbs. Workshops are the place where members can bring their problems (equipment and software) and we will try to solve them.

Also those who do not attend meetings may not be aware that we produce two newsletters each month. One is the main newsletter from which you are reading this. The other newsletter is called Technical Interface or T.I. for short. T.I. carries a collection of the best of articles obtained from other user group newsletters. The articles of T.I. are usually of the technical nature relating to software, hardware and to projects... T.I. is available at each meeting and is FREE to members, those who are unable to attend meetings but would like to obtain the monthly issues of T.I. may do so by paying for the postage to mail it to them. Price for postage for a year is \$9 but you must be a member of the group to obtain copies of T.I. For a FREE sample copy of T.I. drop me a note or leave me a message on the 9640 NEWS BBS.

Remember don't eat before the meeting as we will have plenty of food for all and then some great demonstrations by Jim Saemenes. C ya there...

## IN THE NEWS

By Gary W. Cox  
April, 1991

TM Direct Product Marketing of 379 Beach Road, Burlingame, CA 94010 has now started advertising in Micropendium magazine with many different products. TM direct marketing took over Triton's TI sales... Among their products are TI PEB \$199.95, TI Disk controller - \$119.95, Myarc 32k card \$149.95, TI RS232 card - \$99.95, TI Speech Synthesizer -\$69.95, TI 10 inch color monitor - \$159.95. They also have a complete TI peripheral expansion system with the TI PEB, TI controller, TI internal disk drive (SB/SD), Myarc 32k for \$479.95. All TI equipment are reconditioned meaning they have been returned to Texas Instruments, inspected, tested and repackaged by Texas Instruments and guaranteed to work and carry the original 90 day TI warranty. For more information of TM product marketing's products call them at 1 800 336-9966.

The following edited from the March 1991 Micropendium:

Glenn Bernasek of TI Chips is offering a disk containing a complete library of his 2 liners programs. Two of these routines TEXT/COPY and TINY/LIB, appeared in the October and November 1990 User Notes in Micropendium. To receive the disk with documentation send a 5 1/4 inch disk with mailed and postage to Bernasek at TI-CHIPS, 13246 Harper Rd., Strongsville, OH 44136.

The TI BBS in Whittier, California previously operated by Roger Davis, has moved and has a new sysop (system operator), now the Club 99 of Covina CA BBS, operates at 300/1200/2400 baud, 8N1 at (818) 339-1134. The Sysop is Larry Hoffman, downloads are allowed on the first call...

The Ottawa Users Group Canadian TI Fest is scheduled from 10am to 4pm April 27th at the Merivale High School, 1755 Merivale Rd., Nepean, Ontario, Canada. For further information contact Gard at 3489 Paul Anka, Dr., Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1V 9K6 or (613) 523-9396.

That's the news for this month...

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BULLITEN BOARDS

February, 1991

Ogden 99

(C) 1986 by Bill Garrard. Submitted by Harold Bingham with permission from Bill Garrard.

Bulliten boards have been with us in one form or another for hundreds of years and will likely stay with us well into the future. Why? What's so special about bulliten boards?

It's difficult to pinpoint when the first bulliten board appeared. Perhaps cave paintings were primitive bulliten boards. In the modern sense of a community communications media, the earliest bulliten board may have been the medieval practice of posting royal proclamations in the center of commerce, the town square.

The traditional bulliten board, with a wide variety of messages tacked to a freely accessible surface, abounds in our supermarkets, factories, offices, schools, laundromats, and city halls. These bulliten boards are more than just a way to give away kittens or sell automobiles. They make it possible for people to reach out to the community as a whole.

The thousands of computer - based electronic bulliten boards, more commonly known as bulliten board systems or BBS for short, offer the traditional message posting and a great deal more.

Imagine trying to maintain a series of communications with other people using a regular bulliten board at a supermarket. Driving to the store every time you want to leave or read a message makes extended communications via corkboard and notecard extremely inconvenient. Even if you make a trip regularly, a less than careful search of the posted messages may miss the very reply that was sought.

The fact that a BBS can be accessed remotely, by using a computer and a modem, without leaving ones B=5CJ-M on ongoing dialog between many people a simple matter. A computer dedicated to running a BBS manages the messages. In addition to numbering and indexing the messages, it also automatically notifies its many users of messages intended specifically for them.

The first BBS was started in 1978 when microcomputers were just getting off the ground, and the first microcomputer users were few and far between. The four major areas of personal computing were located in California, Illinois, Texas, and Massachusetts. Although the computer clubs in these areas exchanged newsletters regularly, there was a lack of spontaneous interaction between the major groups and even within the groups themselves. Ward Christensen and Randy Suess, both members of the Chicago Area Computer Hobbyist Exchange, came up with the answer. They developed a program to run on a computer that was quipped with a modem hooked up to a phone line. The program turned the computer into an automated message system.

Callers to the Computerized Bulliten Board System or CBBS, could leave and retrieve messages at any time of day. The CBBS was a huge success, and other clubs began pressing personal computers into service as bulliten boards. CBBS was not a universal program. It was written for computers which used the CP/M operating system. Christensen and Sues wrote a widely publicized article describing the program and the structure of their system as it appeared to the person calling into the CBBS. Realizing that similar programs would be written for other types of computers, they proposed that the functions and commands used by the CBBS be standardized for all BBS's. This would make it unnecessary for people to learn a whole new set of commands for each type of board they accessed.

Sure enough, BBS software for other popular systems followed. Craig Vaughn and Bill Blue created a program for Apple II computers called the People's Message System (PMS). Close on their heels was Bill Abney, who produced Forum-80 for the Radio Shack TRS-80, and Tom Giese wrote the Atari Message Information System (AMIS). Late in 1982, the first version of the Remote BullitenBoard System (RBBS) for the IBM was written by D. Thomas Mack and Jon Martin.

Aside from a message exchange, most BBS's offer a selection of public domain programs and other types of files. By using terminal software capable of receiving files via a modem from a remote computer, callers can transfer (download) copies of these files from the BBS to their own machines. The terminal software must have some type of file transfer ability. Ward Christensen developed a protocol for transferring files and called it XMODEM.

This protocol would add a check bit to the end of a block that the host computer had sent to the receiving computer, if the receiving computer did not receive something correctly, it would request the block be sent again. Sometimes this could not work correctly and some bad blocks would be kept, which would make the program not function correctly on the receiving computer.

Steve Punter developed a protocol that has a more efficient error checking capability and would also send the file faster. The callers could also send a program (upload) to the remote computer for others to download and use. Most of the free software available from the BBS's consists of programs that computer enthusiasts have written and wish to share with other people.

A plethora of games, word processors, spreadsheets, database managers, and terminal programs are available for the price of a phone call (and it's local the call is free). Whatever your needs, you can acquire a respectable library of almost-free software that will handle all but the most demanding tasks.

## MULTIPLAN /4.0 USERS

by Audrey Bucher  
Pittsburgh Users Group  
March, 1991

I received a letter from Art Green of RAG Software giving me some more patches for Multiplan V.4.0.

A small bug has been discovered in V.4.0. This bug occurs when trying to get a directory of a disk with more than 18 files. That is, in "Transfer Load" when a filename is typed and then down arrow: this should give a directory listing beginning at the specified file. A patch is given below to fix this error. The procedure to follow is:

1. Make a copy of the MP 4.00 disk(s). Don't use the original disks.
2. Using an editor, type in the patch statements. Type carefully and check your typing. If using the TI-Writer editor turn word wrap off.
3. Save the patch onto the COPY of the MP disk.
4. Run the RAGPATCH (E/A Option 5) or XBPATCH (XBASIC) program.
5. When prompted for the "Patch File Name" enter the name you used in step 3.
6. Patching is complete when the "Patch More?" prompt is displayed.
7. Check that the patched version still works.
8. Repeat steps 1 to 7 once for STANDARD version and once for the GRAM version.

You might want to read the Patch Program Documentation before you begin patching.

```
STANDARD VERSION PATCH
| Column 1
|
V
*
* TI MULTIPLAN VERSION 4.00
* FIX "TRANSFER LOAD" DIRECTORY LIST
*
CFILE DSK1.MPINTR.>2000 MPINTR LENGTH >2000
*
VERIFY >01E4,'4.00' VERSION #
VERIFY >18BC,>20D1 THIS IS THE ERROR!
*
PATCH >01E4,'4.01' MAKE VERSION 4.1
PATCH >18BC,>38C7 FIX DIRECTORY LIST
```

```
GRAM VERSION PATCH
| Column 1
|
V
*
* TI MULTIPLAN VERSION 4.00
```

```
* FIX "TRANSFER LOAD" DIRECTORY LIST
* IN THE GRAM VERSION, MPINTR IS IN
* RAM BAND 2, "MPGK" AND IS OFFSET TO
* >6010
*
```

```
FILE DSK1.MPGK400 MPINTR
```

```
*
VERIFY >61F4,'4.00' VERSION #
VERIFY >78CC,>20D1 THIS IS THE ERROR!
*
PATCH >61F4,'4.01' MAKE VERSION 4.0
PATCH >78CC,>38C7 FIX DIRECTORY LIST
```

Another bug occurs when trying to load a non-existent spreadsheet, and empty file is created. A patch is given below to fix this error.

```
| Column 1 STANDARD VERSION PATCH
```

```
|
V
```

```
*
* TI MULTIPLAN VERSION 4.01 PATCH
* FIX CREATION OF A NULL FILE WHEN "TRANSFER
* LOAD" OF NON-EXISTENT SPREADSHEET.
*
```

```
CFILE DSK1.MPINTR,>2000 MPINTR LENGTH >2000
VERIFY >01E4,'4.01' VERSION #
VERIFY >13AE,>119E WRONG WAY BRANCH
PATCH >01E4,'4.02' MAKE VERSION 4.01
PATCH >13AE,>189E JUMP ON CARRY
```

```
| Column 1 GRAM VERSION PATCH
```

```
|
V
```

```
*
* TI MULTIPLAN VERSION 4.01 PATCH
* FIX CREATION OF A NULL FILE WHEN
* "TRANSFER LOAD" OF NON-EXISTENT
* SPREADSHEET.
* IN THE GRAM VERSION, MPINTR IS IN
* RAM BANK 2. "MPGK400" AND IS OFFSET
* TO >6010
*
```

```
FILE DSK1.MPGK400 MPINTR LENGTH >2000
VERIFY >61F4,'4.01' VERSION #
VERIFY >73BE,>119E
*
PATCH >61F4,'4.02' MAKE VERSION 4.01
PATCH >73BE,>189E JUMP ON CARRY
```

## HOW DOES MULTIPLAN RUN ON DIFFERENT SYSTEMS

by Garth Potts  
SOONER 99ers  
July, 1990

Recently B. J. Mathis authored a study in the Southwest 99'ers Newsletter which compared Multiplan, the sole TI spreadsheet program run on a few different configurations. Since I run quite a few sports statistical sheets on TAMP, I applied similar tests to one of the files I set up for this purpose. For giggles, I also set up the exact same datafile on an IBM-version of Multiplan with some surprising results.

The worksheet I ran stretches the TI-version of Multiplan to its memory limits. It is 63 sectors long, has 236 formulas spread across 1360 cells (80 rows down by 17 columns across), and has 15 Named cells. My original version of Multiplan resides on a 512K Horizon Ram Disk, which obviously reduces the loading time of the program dramatically. . . . .

The numbers looked something like this:

-----MULTIPLAN COMPARISONS-----

FUNCTION	TAMP ORIG. (RAM Disk)	TAMP4.0	TAMP (Geneve)	IBM Multiplan
Loading Program	:05:13 *	:20:32	:20:58 *	:11:34
Loading Datafile	:30:76	:27:18	:20:40	:09:67
% Memory Unused	2%	2%	63%	94%
Recalc Time	:1:48:76	:58:21	:29:76	:02:23
File Save Time	:1:19:63	:1:15:53	3:38:76	:23:00

\*Geneve requires loading of MDOS and TAMP Module (saved to disk) - 1:03:48

What did I learn from this exercise?

1. The 4.0 TI-version is outstanding in its ability to reduce recalculation times in almost 1/2. . . . .
2. Recalcing times are halved by the Geneve version, but that advantage is lost by the unbearably slow file saving function. . . . .
3. The IBM version was run on an AT 512K RAM with a 30Meg Hard Drive. . . . .

My conclusion is that Multiplan for TI, however arcane for any computer, fits my bill very nicely thank you. It does what I need done and I'll happily continue using it. The Geneve setup is a bonus for me compared to last year's TI-version. The new 4.0 version, however, is an outstanding upgrade that is worth every penny and is downright miraculous for \$10 from:

R. A. Green - RAG Software, 1032 Chantenay Drive,  
Gloucester, Ontario, Canada K1C 2K9 .

**COMMUNICATIONS**  
 Kevan J. Coleman  
 109 Cowan Court  
 Longview, WA 98632  
 Phone: 1 (206) 423-9130

**THE NATIONAL "TI-ECHO"**  
 FOR THE TI-99/4A & GENEVE 9640 USERS

The topic of this article is the network and how to connect with it.

Are you missing out? There's a national TI Conference that you can probably access **LOCALLY**, without the monthly fee for commercial services like CompuServe, GENie, or Delphi.

The network is called FidoNet and the TI-Echo is one of many conferences available to users. Access into the network is via one of the nearly 10,000 local BBS systems in the US and Canada.

For an isolated TI user group the TI-ECHO can provide up-to-date information on what's new, like the new "DeZipper" program by Ben Yates or Gary Bowzer's "Zmodem" for the TI!

If you have questions about hardware, software or system bugs, someone on the network **CAN** and **WILL** answer your questions. You might even hear directly from the software authors such as TI-ECHO participant Beery Miller.

**HOW TO OBTAIN ACCESS**

Check out the BBS systems in your local area. If one of the systems is identified as a Fido node, ask the sysop to **PLEASE** carry the TI-ECHO. It is **IMPORTANT** that you inform the sysop that the TI-ECHO is on the "BACKBONE" and that traffic averages between 7-15 messages daily. The term "BACKBONE" is important to

sysops as it tells them they will not have to make any additional calls and it will come via the normal feed. Informing them of the traffic size is a courtesy and it will insure that you will probably get the ECHO. Some sysops do not like to carry numerous echos that have 100-200 messages a day (i.e. Star Trek: The Next Generation, Genealogy).

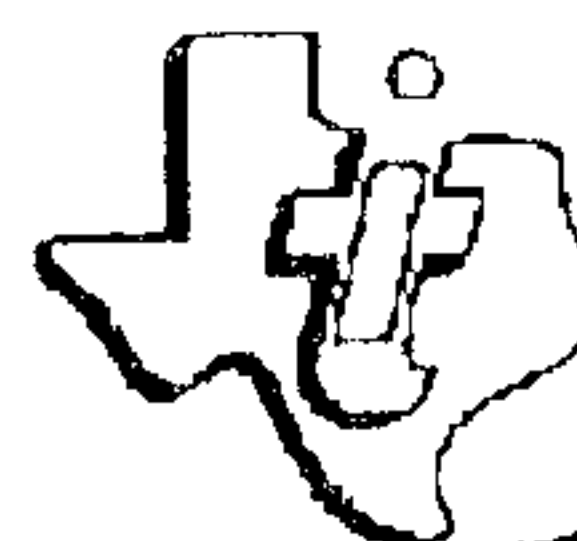
The following are numbers of FIDO systems that support the TI and carry the TI-ECHO. Special thanks goes to Walter Tietjen for netmailing the numbers.

- STAR ONE .....Tulsa, OK  
9600 HST.....1 (918) 835-8933
- TI-RALEIGH.....Raleigh, NC  
2400.....1 (919) 833-3412
- RADIO FREE.....Milwaukee, WI  
9600 HST.....1 (414) 352-6176
- FULL MOON.....Memphis, TN  
9600 HST.....1 (901) 386-1760
- BOB'S PLACE.....Pittsburgh, PA  
9600 HST.....1 (412) 344-8504  
2400.....1 (412) 341-5313

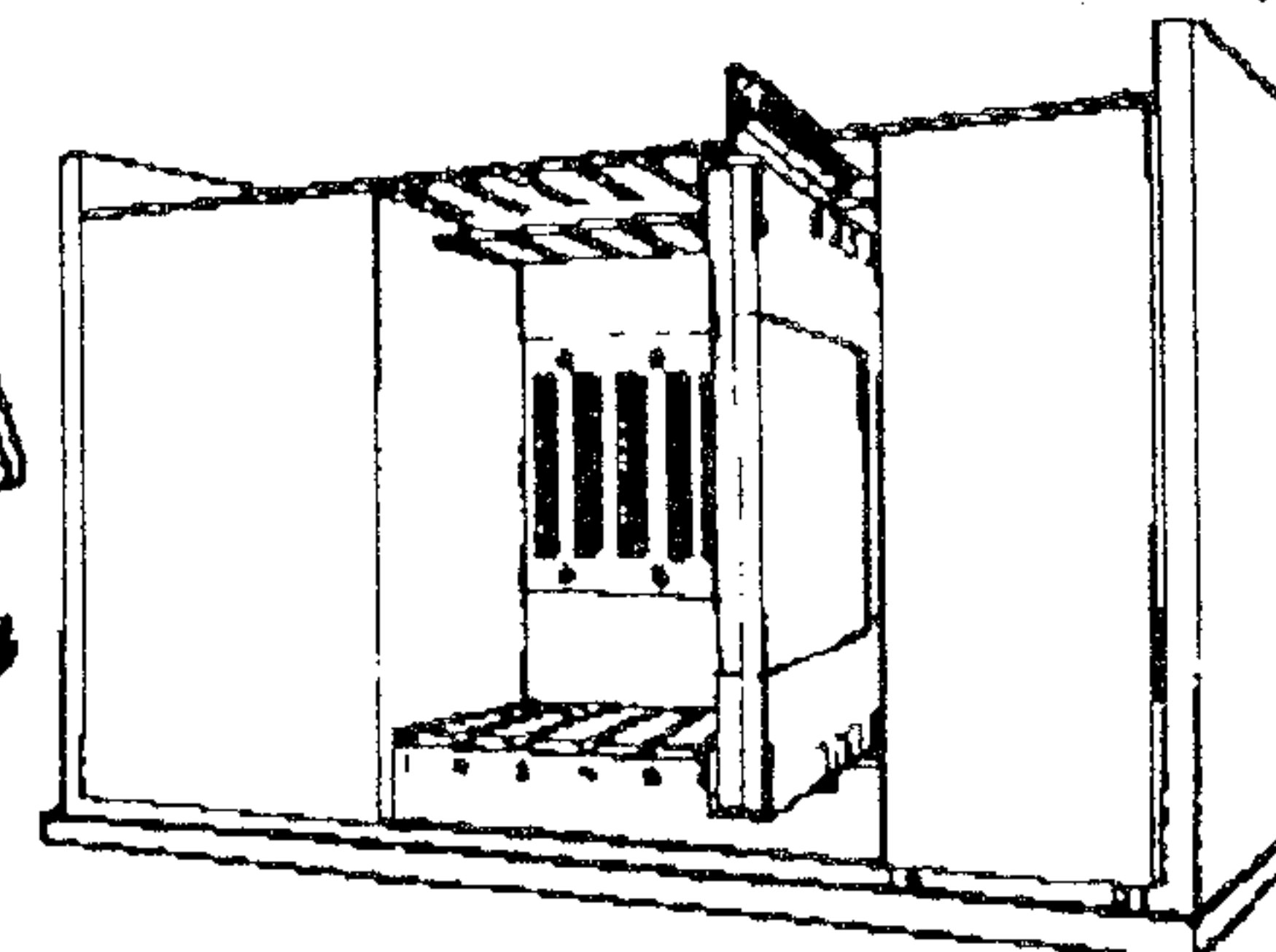
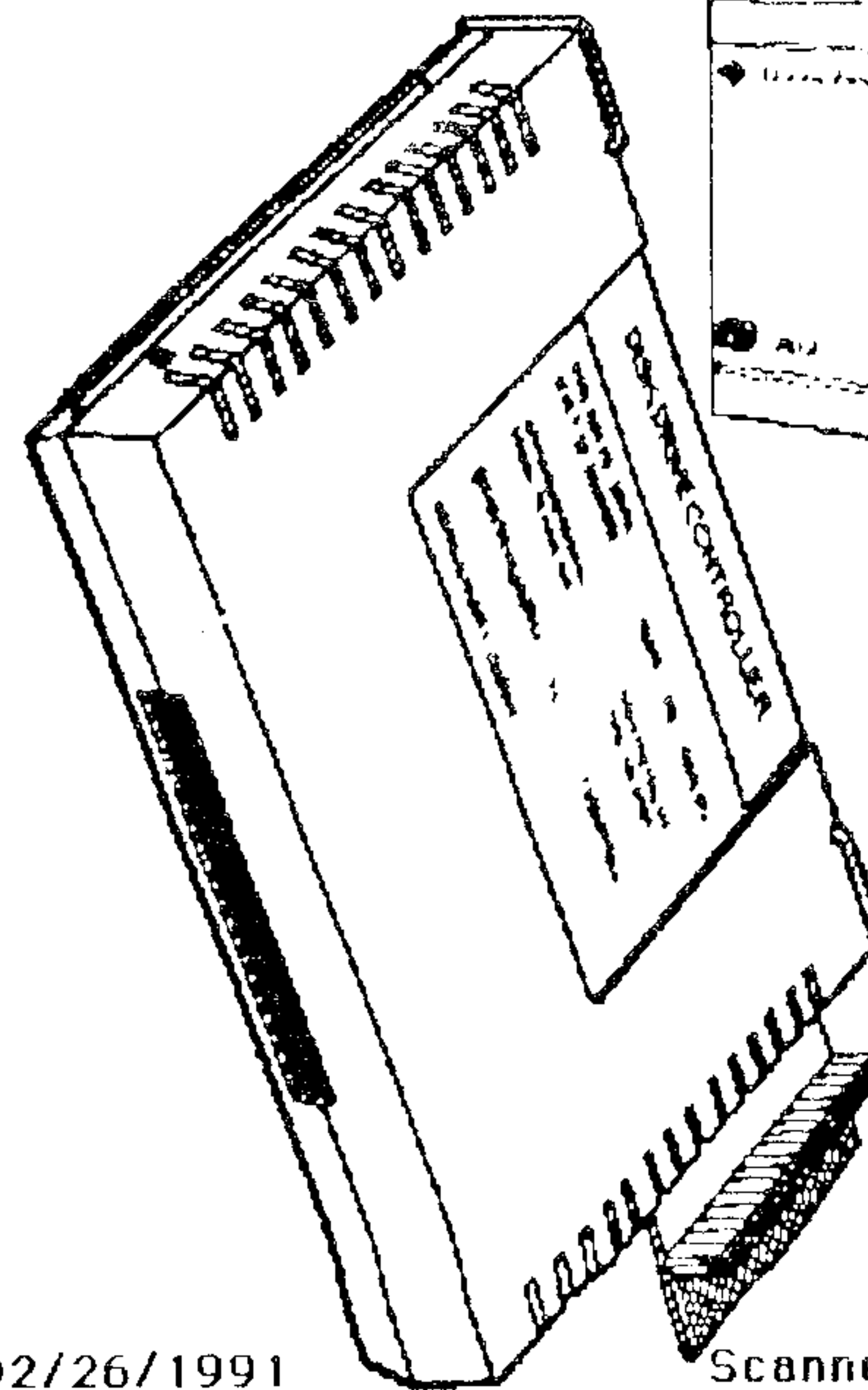
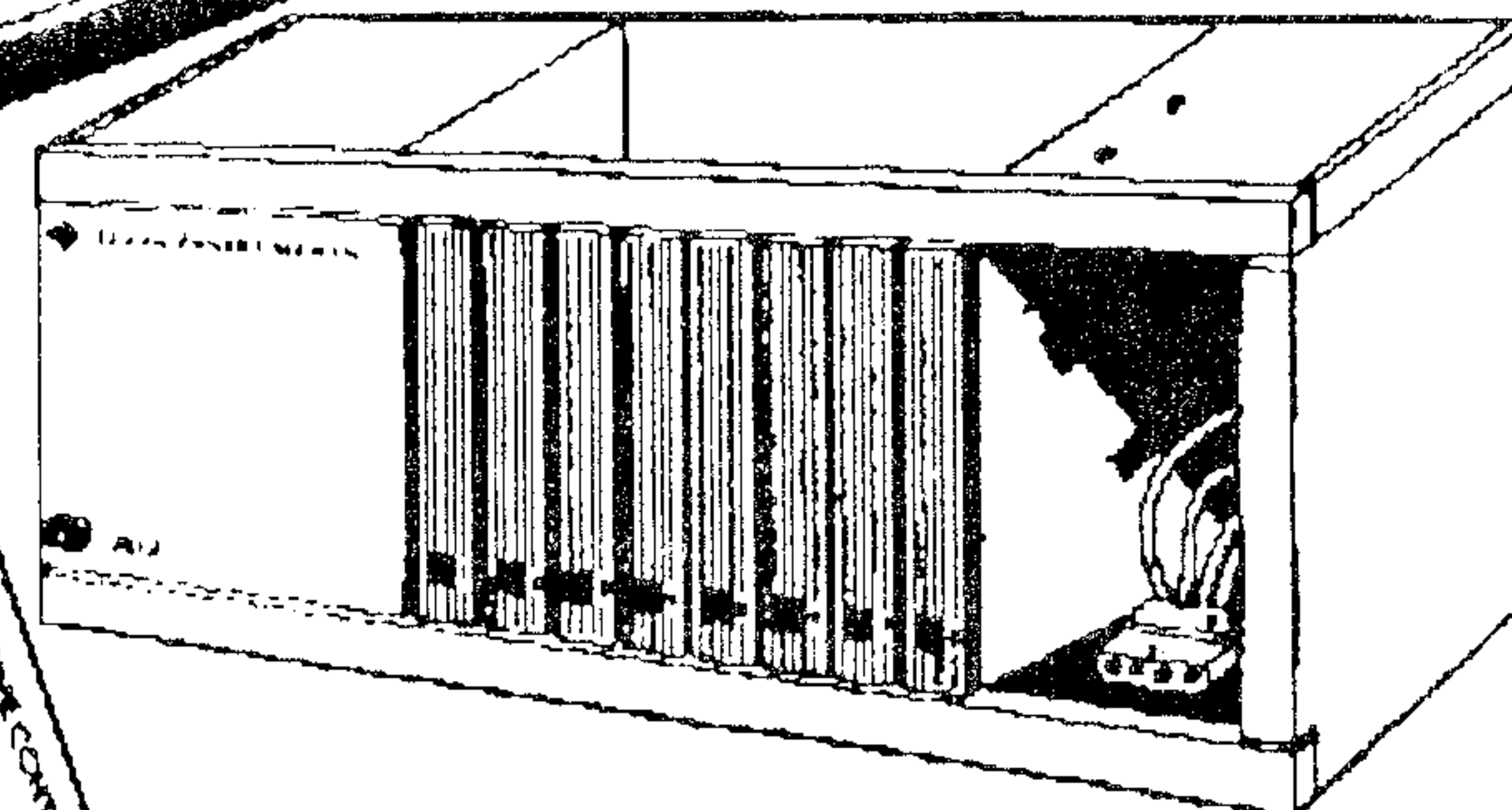
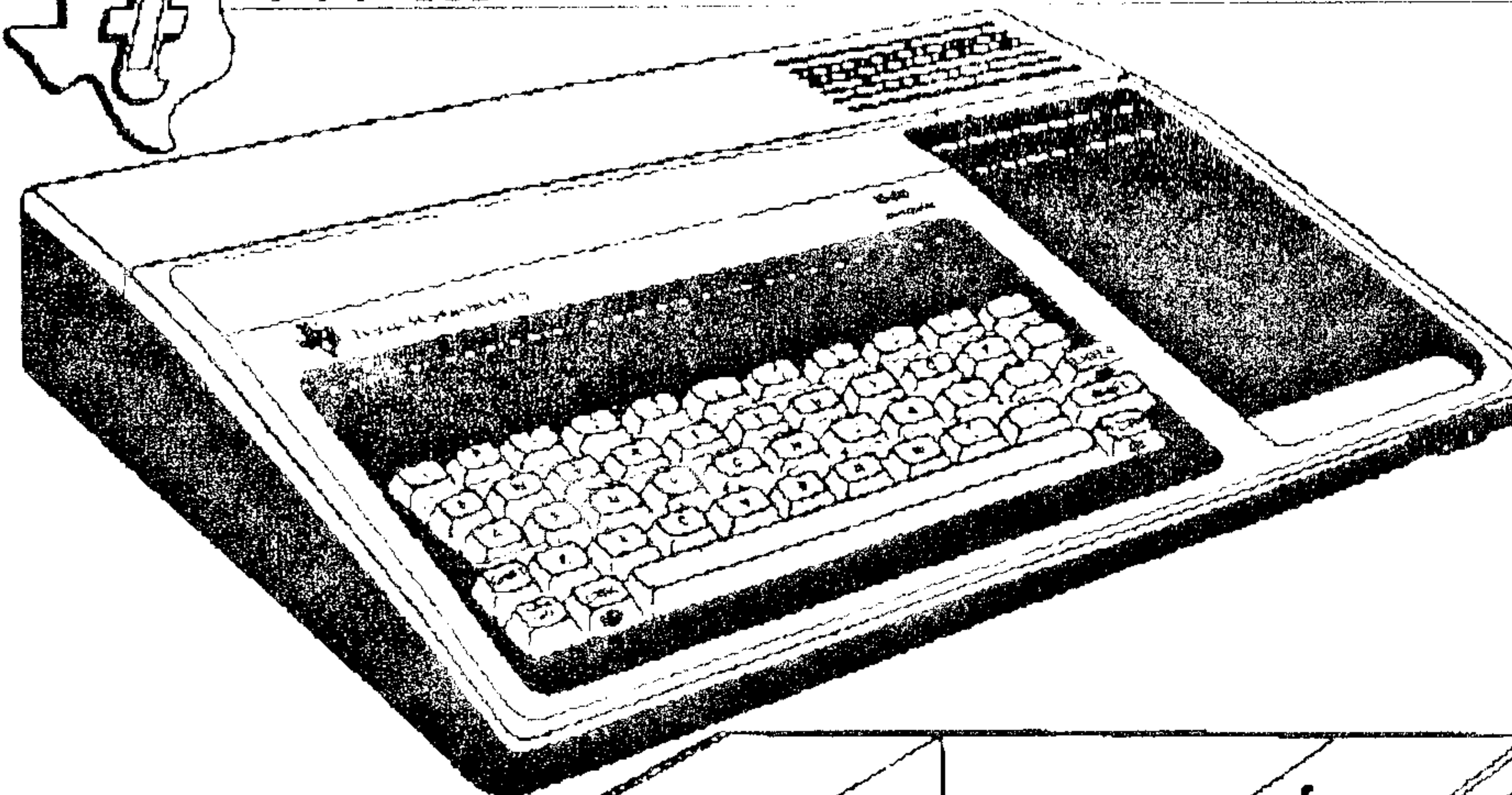
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 Kevan J. Coleman

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**SHARING KEEPS THE TI COMMUNITY ALIVE!**



99/4A ONE DECADE AND STILL GETTING BETTER



02/26/1991

Scanned By: Kevan Coleman -- Fido 1:105/642.15

# MAIL LIST MANAGER

Bill Gaskill

April 1991

When I received my MICROpendium On-Disk in January, I found that they had included a bonus program named QBASE, which is a mailing list manager, written by Bill Sponcia of Ottawa, ONT. Seeing QBASE reminded me that more work gets done on the TI-99 with programs that are written in Extended Basic than it does with software running in any other language. Digging into my archives, I came up with a mailing list manager of my own that I wrote back in 1986. While there are already a ton of mailing list programs around, I think you will agree that few if any share the look of this one that I call MLM.

MLM is a mail list data base that operates around a main menu. The menu displays ten choices, each of which may be accessed by pressing the upper case letter displayed in the name of the option.

MLM supports custom file design with up to eight user-defined fields per record, and a maximum of 130 records per file. One-across, 3 1/2" X 15/16" labels are required.

## THE MAIN MENU:

A-add new data.  
 C-create a new file.  
 D-disk catalog.  
 E-exit the program.  
 F-find a record, delete a record, edit a record or create a subfile.  
 H-read on-line help.  
 L-load an existing file.  
 P-print labels or reports.  
 S-save the current file.  
 U-utilities for altering screen display colors, printer name or data path, re-running MLM to purge errors, sort current file and load screen dump utility.

## GETTING STARTED:

When you first boot MLM you must either load an existing file or create a new file. Only Create, Disk, Exit and Util work without a file being in memory. Press C to Create a new file, or L to Load an existing one from disk.

## CREATING A NEW FILE:

To create a file, press C to select Create, enter the number of fields in the record being designed (maximum of 8), name the fields in the record (a field name may be up to seven characters long), assign a length and a type to each field (max length is 26 characters, types are A for Alphanumeric or N for

Numeric), and then press N at the "Any changes? (Y/N)" prompt. Note that the maximum length for any record is 128 bytes. If your's exceeds that amount MLM will tell you so, and then send you back to the drawing board.

MLM is designed to print two types of labels; Business labels and Non-Business labels. Each type uses a slightly different record structure.

## BUSINESS LABEL RECORD:

Name	Len	Type	Rept
NAME	22	A	05
BUSNAME	22	A	28
ADDRESS	20	A	50
CITY	17	A	69
STATE	7	A	79
ZIPCODE	7	A	88

The business label format is as follows;

Line 1: NAME  
 Line 2: BUSNAME  
 Line 3: ADDRESS  
 Line 4: CITY STATE ZIP (NATION)

Optionally, reversed names can be printed;

Line 1: BUSNAME  
 Line 2: Attn: NAME  
 Line 3: ADDRESS  
 Line 4: CITY STATE ZIP (NATION)

Exact field names lengths used are up to you, but the content placed in each field must be consistent with MLM's label printing structure. This means that the first field in the file must contain the company contact name (the person the mail is actually being sent to), the next field must contain the name of the company, the next field must contain the company address and so on.

Printing of Business labels can be done through the FIND option or the PRINT option. The PRINT option will produce a continuous series of labels, one per record, for every name in the file that falls within the range of record numbers you specify. FIND will allow searches to be performed for only selected names or zipcodes or states or whatever (subfiles), and then will allow you to print up to 99 labels for each record that is located within those subfile parameters.

## NON-BUSINESS LABEL RECORD:

Name	Len	Type	Rept
FNAME	12	A	11
LNAME	14	A	24
ADDRESS	24	A	39
CITY	20	A	64
STATE	4	A	80

ZIPCODE 16 A 97

The Non-Business Label format is as follows;

Line 1: FNAME LNAME  
 Line 2: ADDRESS  
 Line 3: CITY, STATE ZIPCODE (NATION)

Optionally, a reversed names label may be printed;

Line 1: LNAME, FNAME  
 Line 2: ADDRESS  
 Line 3: CITY, STATE ZIPCODE (NATION)

The exact names and lengths that you use in this file structure may be changed too, but First name must be the first field in the file, the second field must be Last name and so on.

ADDING DATA:

Simply press A and then key in the information you wish to store. Enter an UPPER case E in any field to Exit to the menu. Errors in data entry are corrected in the FIND mode by located the record and then pressing E (to Edit) once it is on screen. Depending upon the size of the record structure, a maximum of 130 labels can be entered into a single file. Realistically, we know that the 16K VDP Ram of the 99/4A is a severe limitation, so 130 records per file is somewhat optimistic.

DELETING, EDITING, FINDING:

FIND is used to locate any data for screen display. Once a record is displayed it may be edited by pressing E or deleted by pressing E and then entering \*\*\* (3 asterisks) in the first field while in the edit mode. Find also has the ability to print labels for the record displayed, by pressing P. As many as 99 of them can be printed for the current record.

FIND allows only one record to be located or a range of records. A single record may be located by searching one specific field, for one item of data. You must specify a field number to search through, and then the data item to be found in that field. Partial data may be used in locating an entry. For example, JOHN S would find JOHN SMITH.

A range of records may be found via the Subfile option that appears when F is first pressed from the main menu. Here too you must specify a field number to search through and the a beginning and ending range for the data to be found (in the field specified). Make sure that the beginning range parameter is of lower ASCII value than the ending one, or nothing will be found in the search. For example, if searching for States between CA and CO, you would have to enter CA as the beginning parameter and CO as the ending one.

If you elect to print output from a subfile search, MLM will print labels, not reports. When the first record is found you'll be prompted for the number of labels you want printed for

each record located. Type in the desired number of labels and then PRESS FCTN E FOR BUSINESS LABELS OR FCTN X FOR NON-BUSINESS LABELS. Pressing <ENTER> will print Non-Business labels as the default label format, even if a Business Label file format is in memory. MLM cannot tell the difference. Once you choose the number of labels to be printed per record and the label format (Bus or Non-Bus) to use, printing will continue uninterrupted. You will not have to answer the same prompts each time a new record is found that meets the criteria of your subfile. Pressing Fctn 9 and holding it down will abort a subfile search.

The same Fctn key rules are used for printing a label in a non-subfile search. That's when you use FIND to locate a single record, which also may be printed in label form from the screen. Once again, FCTN E FOR BUSINESS LABELS FCTN X FOR NON-BUSINESS LABELS.

Exiting to the system menu clears the label choice used, so that you can select another type the next time FIND is used.

PRINTING:

Press P to display the Print Menu. Four options are available;

1. Business Labels
2. Non-Business Labels
3. Columnar Report
4. Exit to Menu.

Option 1 prints a continuous stream of mailing labels in the business format already discussed.

Option 2 prints in the same continuous stream, but does so for a file of Non-Business names.

MLM also provides columnar report design that can print normal or compressed print reports. To create a report, all that you need to do is;

- Press P from the menu,
- choose 3 for report,
- Select the number of the last field to be included in the report,
- Choose the printer codes that are to be sent to your printer, that help decide compressed or normal width reports,
- enter the sequence that all fields will be printed in (first, second, third et cetera),
- assign each field a tab number that tells MLM how far from the left margin of the page to begin printing the content of that field.
- press Fctn 6 (PROC'D) to print the report.

MLM allows you to choose the first and last record numbers to print in a file, which can be useful when printing a segment of the current file that you have sorted by zipcode or whatever.



You may also specify the last field to include in a Columnar Report. Assuming that you have included a Notes field (or any other field name) as field number 7 in a 7 or 8 field record structure, you could eliminate fields 7 and 8 by typing in the number 6 for the last field to print. Once you specify the last field to print you are asked to provide a series of printer codes. The numbers that are listed as defaults are for Epson or compatible printers. They stand for;

27-Escape Code  
 15-Compressed print mode  
 00-user definable  
 12-Page Eject  
 64-Reset code to reset printer back to normal when printing is completed.

Once you have provided the print codes the sequence (order) of printing prompts appear. The numbers entered here allow to manipulate the order of appearance of the various fields in your record structure. For example, you might want LNAME printed before FNAME. You may make that happen by entering 2,1, as the order of print instead of 1,2 and so on.

The numbers listed to the right of the field names and lengths earlier, that are under the heading REPT, are recommended TABS to be used for Columnar Report generation. They assume that the field lengths listed are also used when you created the record structure.

When either of the label printing options is chosen you are given the opportunity to print names in reversed order. If the Business Label option is used the reversal adds the word Attn: to the second line of the label and then adds the contact person's name. If the Non-Business Label for mat is being used, Last Name is printed first, followed by a comma and then the person's first name.

#### UTILITIES:

Pressing U displays a submenu where you can change display Colors, Data Drive and Printer name, Re-Run the MLM program, Load a screen dump routine or Sort the file. Each of the options is pretty much self explanatory except for sorting.

#### SORTING:

The SORT option lists the fields in the current record structure and then prompts you for a field number to sort the file by. Only single field, ascending (A-Z) sorts are available in MLM. To sort the file, press U and then S, and then choose the field number to sort the file by. When sorting is complete the main menu will reappear.

## AFTER THE BALL WAS OVER

by Jim Deards

from the pages of the Fox Valley Newsletter, Dec., 1990

New research developments : Bellcore researchers developed a unique low-cost prototype device that detects fires involving polyvinyl chloride (PCV) before there's smoke or even heat. When PVC, which is common cable and wire insulation material, overheats or burns, it produces extremely corrosive hydrogen chloride gas that can destroy electronic equipment even several feet away. The gas is emitted before the PVC burning takes place. The new device uses an inexpensive quartz crystal coated with zinc that's set to vibrate at a certain frequency. The zinc metal corrodes when hydrogen chloride gas hits it. Forming zinc chloride which rapidly absorbs water from the air. This causes the quartz crystal to change its vibration frequency. Which sets off the alarm before flame or smoke occur. Wonder if Murphey had anything to do with that?

## FOR SALE

MID-SOUTH 99ers

## APRIL 1991

If you have something that you would like to sell or buy ads in the For Sale section of the newsletter are FREE to individuals (availability of space each month dependant on space in the newsletter). If you want to place an ad in the for sale section contact Gary Cox. Plus individuals are welcome to bring items (TI related) to sell to each meeting as what better place is there to sell TI equipment?

Note that current and some back issues of Micropendium are available at each meeting for \$2 a piece (.50 cents off the cover price). Also the group has several video modulators for sale for \$5 a piece.

Bob Lane of 3210 Getwell Ln, Olive Branch, MS 38651 (601) 342-5546 has the following for sale: TI99/4a, Expansion Box, 32k memory, single sided disk drive, RS232, cassette cable, printer cable, TI color monitor, TI writer and multiplan. Best reasonable offer gets it all... If interested please call...

# Editor's bit

----- Marshal Ellis

And now to continue the excerpts from: "A Brief History of the World: Certifiably Genuine Student Bloopers" written on essay questions and collected by teachers throughout the United States, from eighth grade through college level, 1987. ...

Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock.

In the Olympic Games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits and threw the java. The reward to the victor was a coral wreath. The government of Athens was democratic because people took the law into their own hands. There were no wars in Greece, as the mountains were so high that they couldn't climb over to see what their neighbors were doing. When they fought with the Persians, the Greeks were outnumbered because the Persians had more men.

Eventually, the Ramons conquered the Geeks. History calls people Romans because they never stand in one place for very long. At Roman banquets the guests wore garlies in their hair. Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March murdered him because they thought he was going to be made king. Nero was a cruel tyranny who would torture his poor subjects by playing the fiddle to them.

Then came the Middle Ages. King Alfred conquered the Dames, King Arthur lived in the Age of Shivery, King Harold mustarded his troops before the Battle of Hastings and Joan of Arc was cannonized by Bernard Shaw. Finally, Magna Carta provided that no free man should be hanged twice for the same offense.

## PROGRAM BIT

APRIL 1991

- 6:45pm - Doors Open, Thursday April 18th 1991.
- 7:00pm - ALL YOU CAN EAT BARBEQUE DINNER, FREE to members ; \$3 for non-members.
- 7:30pm - Library opens.
- 7:45pm - Demonstration by Jim Saemenes of various programs.
- 9:00pm - Meeting ends, cleanup period.
- 9:45pm - Doors close.

## NOTICE

Information contained in Tidbits is accurate and true to the best of our knowledge. Viewpoints and opinions expressed in Tidbits are not necessarily that of the Mid-South 99'ers. We welcome any opinions/corrections from our readers. Articles may be reprinted elsewhere as long as credit is given to the author and newsletter.

## GROUP INFO

Visitors and potential members may receive 3 free issues of Tidbits while they decide if they wish to join (no obligation) On the top of your label is a code. A Y means you are a member, N means 3 free list, UG means user group and S means a business. Beside the Y is a date, one year from that date your dues are due. A dollar sign (\$) on the label will indicate that your dues are due. The library is open only to members. Library list is \$1. Mail order disk library access is \$2 for the first disk and \$1 for each additional disk max of 5 disks per month. Order by disk number only. At meetings, library access is FREE if you exchange your disk for ours or \$1 per disk for our disks. Send all mail order library requests to librarian's address! Send dues and correspondence to group address.

## CALENDAR

MEETINGS: April 18, May 16, (3rd Thursday!)  
WORKSHOPS: TO BE ANNOUNCED

## 24HR TI BULLETIN BOARD

The 9640 NEWS BBS 1000/1200/2400 Hayes. 901-368-0112

The Full Moon BBS 1000/1200/2400/9600/14400 Hayes. 901-386-1760

## GROUP MAILING ADDRESS

Mid South 99 Users Group  
P.O. Box 38522  
Germantown, Tn. 38183-0522

## LIBRARY ADDRESS

Jim Saemenes  
46 Higgins Road  
Brighton, Tn., 38011

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  \$15.00 FAMILY  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  \$10.00 JUNIOR (under 15)  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ :INTERESTS \_\_\_\_\_  
EQUIPMENT, ETC. \_\_\_\_\_

Detach and mail with check payable to: Mid-South 99 Users Group,  
P.O. Box 38522, Germantown, Tn, 38183-0522.

# NOTICES

## MEETING

7:00 P.M.

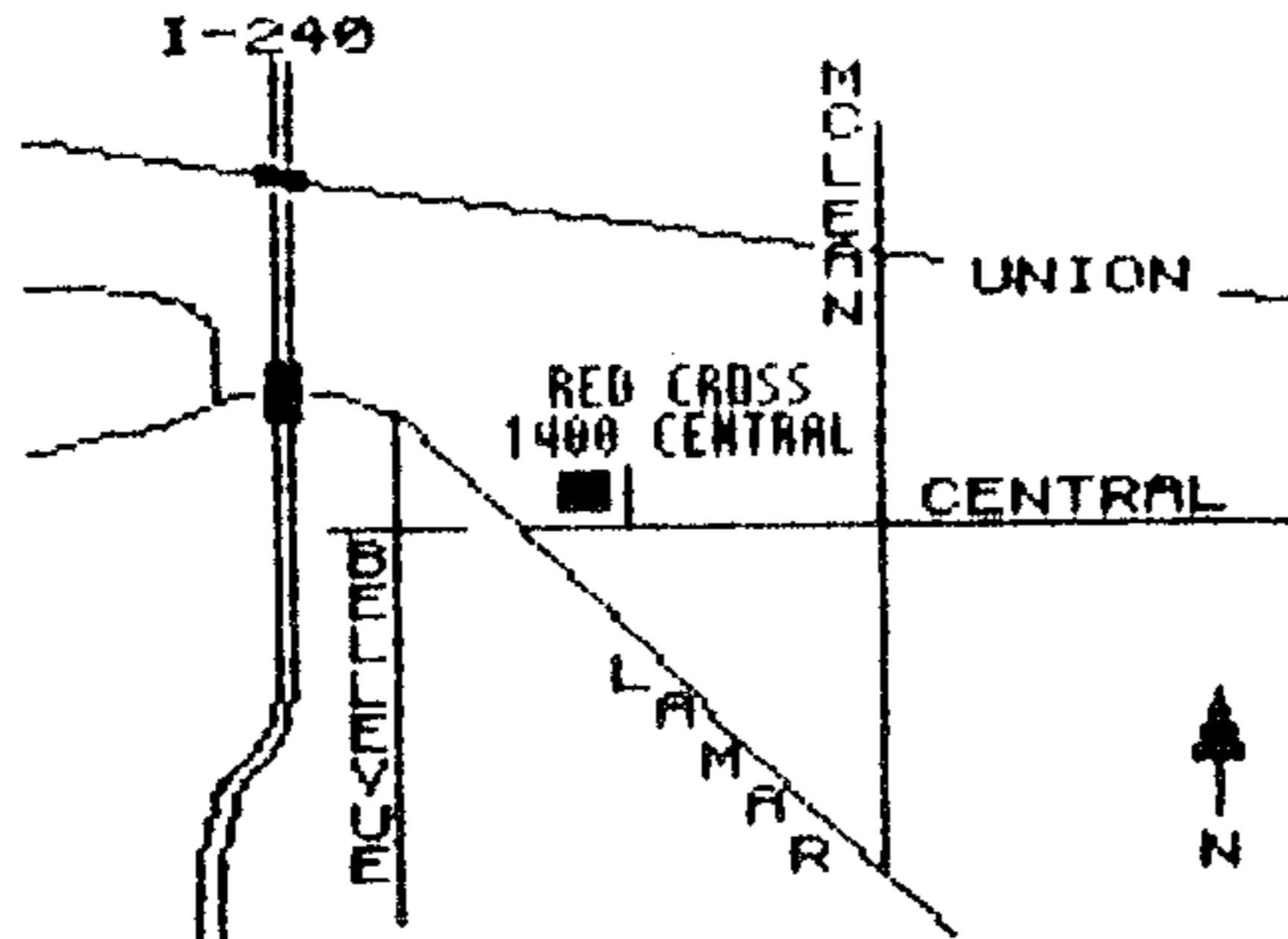
Thursday, April 18 th

Red Cross Building

1400 Central Ave.

## WORKSHOP

To Be Announced



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Mid-South 99 Users Group  
P. O. Box 38522  
Germantown, TN 38183-0522

