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SAN DIEGO COMPUTER SOCIETY
TI-SIG NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 1988

MORE ABOUT THE TI-FEST WEST in Feb. 1989
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Since last month, there has been a change in the name of the hotel in which the FEST will be held. The Lafayette hotel is now known as "CLARION HOTEL AT BALBOA PARK". Everything else will be the same.

You may be interested in room prices and availability. There are:

- 34 CABANA rooms at \$69.00
- 39 MANOR rooms at \$59.00
- 32 GARDEN rooms at \$49.00

(All prices plus 8% San Diego room tax) These prices are for single OR double occupancies, so bring a friend. The CABANA and MANOR rooms are large enough for an additional roll-in bed. There is a \$10.00 charge per person over the double occupancy, but children under 16 are free (in same room). The beds are HUGE.

As you undoubtedly know, the Southern California Computer Group is sponsoring the FEST. However, since their August newsletter has been distributed already and this news was just confirmed on Aug. 15th, I held up finishing the SIG newsletter so that we could get this info to you. The TI-SIG, along with many of the Western area TI99er groups, will be participating in the big (we hope) event of February 18th and 19th in 1989.

If you are in a hurry to get info, reservations, etc., drop a SASE legal size envelope to me with your request:

W.A. WILSON
 5311 KALMIA ST.
 SAN DIEGO, CA 92105
 TEL. (619) 264-6515

I am a vice-president in both groups, so the info will not go astray.

One suggestion we are working on is to furnish table space AND rooms to our vendors at NO charge. So far, we can furnish the tables free and if some of the other user groups will ADOPT a vendor, perhaps their rooms can be paid for also.

All of us are well aware of the large expenses incurred by the vendors in traveling across this large country of ours. We, in the south-west corner are

just about as far as you can get in the continental United States from the many fine vendors in the eastern states. Can your group help or suggest a way of putting on a FEST so that our vendors don't lose their shirts?

We wish to thank the Southwest Ninety-niners of Tucson, Arizona for offering to once again handle the registration at the FEST. Those of you whom attended the FESTS in 1987 and 1988 know what a good job they did.

Since it was first decided to hold the 1989 FEST WEST in San Diego, I have been reading every newsletter that I could find that covered TI FAIRS. The report of the Lima, OH Fair was of extreme interest to me, since it appears that it was exactly the type that we want to put on in San Diego..a fun thing with everyone having a good time. I think we CAN do it too! Part of our job here will be to see how best we can entertain the families of of the TIers in attendance. We know that kids love the Zoo and Sea World and since February 20th is President Day, perhaps we can get some persons from out of state to attend with their children. (We will have a computer in the hospitality room. MAYBE more than one, if I can round up another.) So, come on and have some FUN. <Woody>

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REPORT TO THE SAN DIEGO COMPUTER SOCIETY

The July meeting of the TI-SIG was very informal. We had no planned program, so much of the time was spent in discussion of various topics that might be of interest to the members. For example Rod VanOrden told us a little bit about FORTRAN for the TI. John Johnson looked at Julia Flanagan's disk drive that was not working properly. Waldo Hamilton and Woody Wilson discussed having a work shop session to see if some of the problems with non-working drives and PE box cards could be solved. The time and place of the workshop will be determined and announced so that all interested members can attend. It was mentioned that Charlie Summerhill of the North County TIers had agreed to demonstrate his MYARC 9640 computer at our August meeting. John Johnson suggested extending an invitation to the SCCG members to attend the meeting. (This was done at the August SCCG meeting)

RIBBON CABLE CONNECTORS FOR THE TI99/4A
By Waldo Hamilton

This month we will look at how to build a ribbon cable such as for the I/O port for the TI99/4A. This information will, for the most part, apply to nearly any ribbon cable. The only difference will be the particular connector you may happen to be working with. The pin spacing of the connector will depend on the hardware it is to connect to. In the case of the TI, it will be a spacing of .1 inch.

Refer to figure 1. It is an illustration of the ribbon cable. Note that most cable you will buy will have one edge conductor marked with a color stripe. This is usually used to reference pin #1 on the connector. Some cable, however, comes without the stripe. In this case it is a simple matter of adding a stripe with some sort of waterproof marker. I say waterproof because water-based ink will not adhere to the plastic, and will soon be gone. Note also that the end of the cable must be cut off perfectly square. This can also be done after the connector is mounted. My particular tools for mounting the connector happen to require the cable to be cut beforehand. This is simply the layout of my tools.

Refer to the other figures to get familiar with the appearance of the various connector parts. These illustrations, incidentally, are not to scale. We are discussing a 22/44 pin connector, and the illustrations do not actually have that number of conductors. The important thing is the relationship of the parts to each other and to the cable.

Some cautions are in order, since these cables, as durable as they are, are easily damaged during assembly if care is not taken. First and foremost; the cable MUST be lined up EXACTLY perpendicular to the connector. Otherwise the conductors will not be pierced correctly. They may either be cut or not make contact with the pins. At this pin spacing, you can also get shorts between pins. Note that the cover of the connector has serrations on the side adjacent to the cable. These match up with the ribs of the cable. A rib goes into an indent of the serrations. Second is the amount of pressure used in closing the connector on the cable. Use only enough to slowly close the connector. When all gaps between cable and connector are closed up, release pressure. Pressure should be applied slowly. I strongly recommend against using a hammer for this step. It can be done, but can damage the parts. I'll bet you wonder why I say this? ...yep; I've wasted a couple of connectors. Pressing is the best way. Otherwise the

makers would furnish hammers for it. Most people have vises, or know someone who does. If you are lucky, you may actually know someone who has a press designed for this work.

I will not cover building the other end of this cable, as it could be done in the same way as I just covered, or wired to a printed circuit board. In the case of the latter, this will be covered next time with the GROM port cable. This will be dealt with using a defunct plug-in module as an example. As to circuit boards for the I/O port there is such a wide variation of possibilities for this cable to be used with that it would be beyond the scope of this series. That would be best covered on a request basis. In the meantime, soak this up and see what ideas you can apply this current information to. Have fun!

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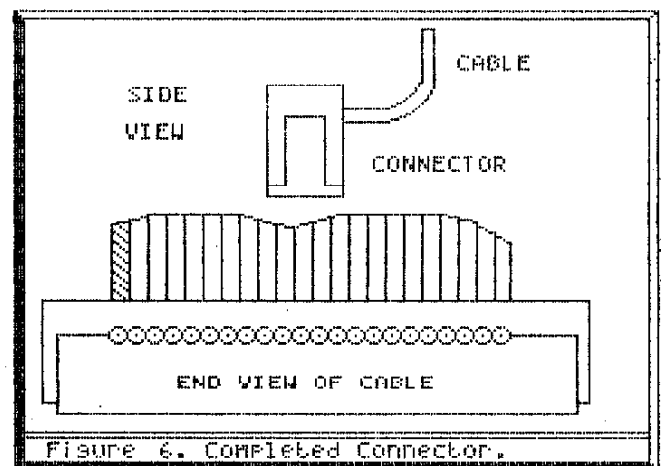
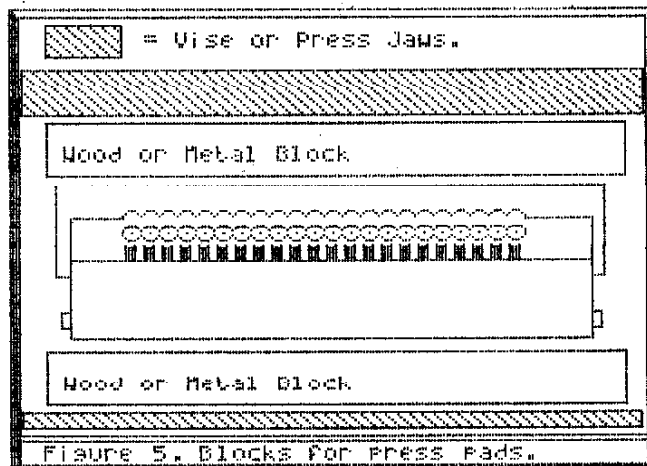
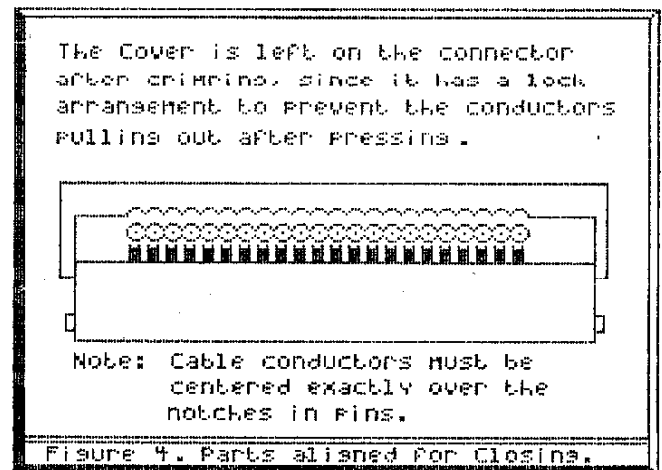
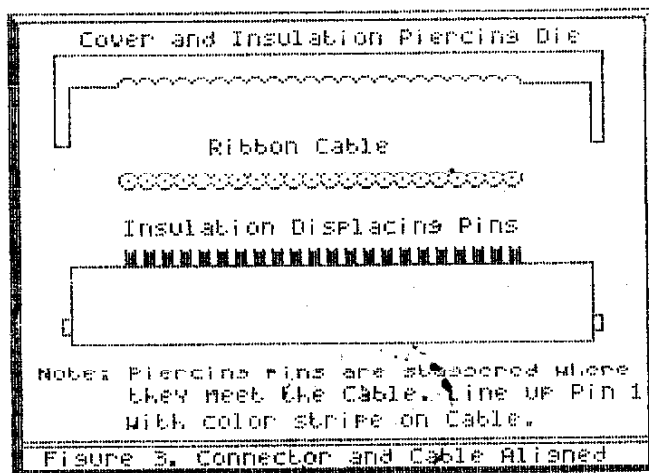
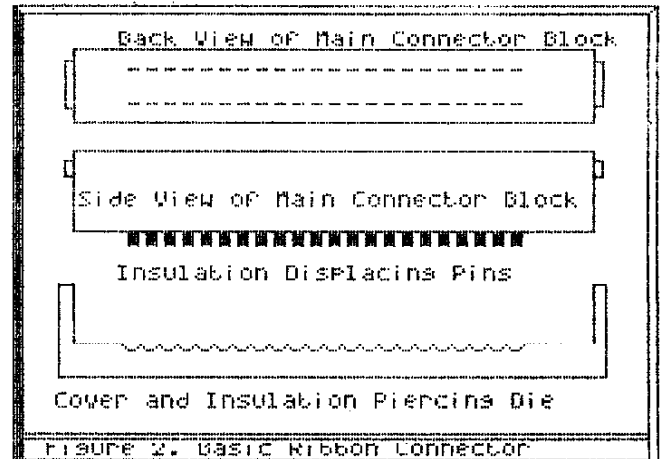
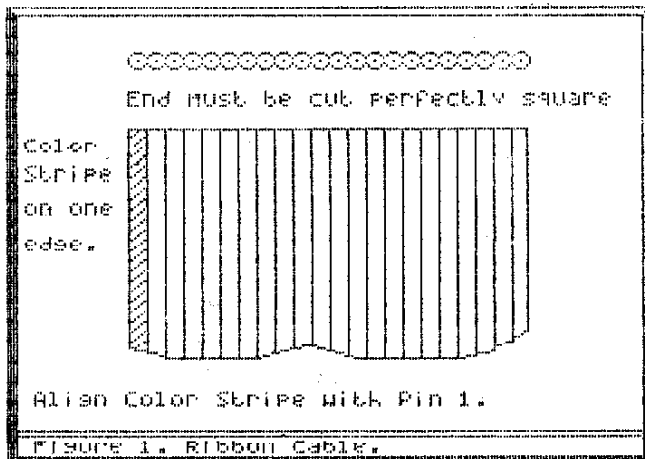
NOTES FROM WOODY'S DESK

I was trying out a few CALL LOADS just now and ran into this one. Type in the following program and before you run it, try to guess how it will appear on the screen.

```
100 CALL CLEAR
110 CALL LOAD(-31873,10)
120 PRINT "THIS IS LINE ONE"
130 PRINT
140 PRINT "THIS IS LINE TWO"
150 PRINT
160 PRINT "THIS IS LINE THREE"
170 GOTO 170
```

NOW RUN the program. FCTN 4 to get out. In line 120, add a semi-colon at the end of the line (after the quotation mark). RUN the program again and observe how the line spacing changed.

CALL LOAD(-31888,63,255) followed by a NEW will disable your disk drives. But put it as a statement in a program with out the NEW and see what happens. Type SIZE before and after. BYE will clear or you can use CALL LOAD(-31888,55,215) and NEW to free the drives. Notice that you have 13928 Bytes of stack free with the disk drives disabled but only 11840 with the drives free and the console in the default size of CALL FILES(3). You will find that your drives use 534 bytes plus 518 for each open file, so if you should use the maximum of nine open files, the stack will drop to 8732 bytes free. You can load large XB cassette files into memory and save by following procedure: 1. CALL FILES(1) <ENTER> 2. NEW <ENTER> 3. Load program into memory 4. SAVE as DSK1.FILENAME, MERGE <ENTER> 5. BYE 6. Go to XB and type MERGE DSK1.FILENAME NOTE: this may take some time 7. SAVE program to disk, SAVE DSK1.FILENAME1 8. Program is now on disk in INT/VAR format and will load and run normally.



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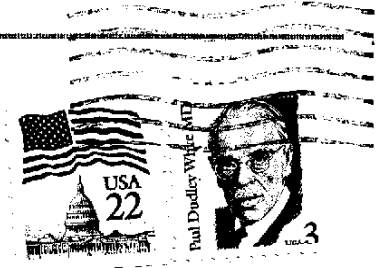
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Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month, at 7 P.M., in the Game Room of the North Park Recreation Center, 4044 Idaho St., San Diego

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