

# West Penn 99'ers

Supporting the TI-99/4A Home Computer



*Established 1985*

**ISSUE #69**

**May 1991**

## FOR THE RECORD

by: Frank Zic

The April meeting started at 7:15PM at our new location at the North Huntingdon Town House. Mickey gave special thanks to all those that helped move the equipment and refreshments. Lynn gave a favorable Treasurer's report. Bob said we now have nearly 1,000 disks in the library. He also gave thanks to a guy named hernia Bill for carrying in the library each meeting. Joe Ekl came in late and was he loaded, with equipment that is. Later in the meeting he sold-off most of Jan Trayer's TI equipment and we all got some good buys. We will miss you Jan, stop in and see us sometime and good luck. Joe and Rob demoed their new composit TI unit. It was a masterpiece of workmanship. Nice work fellows. I'm hoping they will write an article on it later. They will demo the unit at the Lima Faire, May 18. Oh! before I forget Rob got blamed for doing it again, he made the Honor Society, we all congratulated him and a very proud Poppa. Introduced was Jim Cerini of where else, Donora. Attending again was new member John Whelan of Monroeville. Welcome also to out of state new member, Bob Zink. We are all pleased to have you join us. Also in attendance was our other straight man "Scoops" Bitner.

The report today may be a little random, but then so was the meeting. At any rate I'll cover it at length because it was interesting. Next month Paul Brock will demo Invaders and perhaps show us the hidden ghost. I will demo single and multi-shot Entrapment. Disk prices have been reduced to \$.30. B&W monitors still available for \$5. Re-inking ribbons \$1.(does a good job), thanks Art. Gary is again President of PUG and would like for someone to handle the BBS, come on, get your feet wet, the waters fine. Gary said there were over 6,000 calls received. He preformed a magic trick with Mickey, they each tore up a piece of square black paper. After the famous magic words, Abbra Kadabra, Mickey's came out in pieces, while Gary's came out in a large pair of Mickey Mouse ears. Just the thing for Mickey to wear at the Lima Faire. John reported that IDE had 32 Meg hard drives for \$189 and a company in Harrisburg had RGB's for just \$119. Check "Computer Shopper" and "Computer Buyer's Guide" for purchases. Mickey reported that the Boston Faire was much improved over last year. Some modifications are still coming through on the final version 4.31 of FNLWEB. MS software is going very strong and had a display of seven games and hints.

(continued on page 4...)

## WEST PENN 99'ERS CLUB INFORMATION

### NEXT MEETING DATE

May 21, 1991  
7:00 P.M.

### MEETING LOCATION

NORTH HUNTINGDON  
TOWN HOUSE

OLD ROUTE 30  
NEAR IRWIN, PA

### LIST OF WEST PENN OFFICERS FOR 1991

PRESIDENT:	Mickey Schmitt	412-335-0163
VICE PRESIDENT:	John Willforth	412-527-6656
TREASURER:	Lynn Gardner	412-835-4304
RECORDING SEC:	Frank Zic	412-751-6065
CORRESPONDING SEC:	Mike Sealy	614-282-5627
LIBRARIAN:	Bob Sadusky	412-863-5672
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Chris Pratt	703-415-3964

### GENERAL ITINERARY OF THE CLUB'S MEETING

6:45 P.M.	DOORS OPEN
7:00 P.M.	GENERAL MEETING
7:45 P.M.	DEMOS & NEW INFO
8:45 P.M.	TI BASE SIG
8:45 P.M.	PAGE PRO SIG
11:00 P.M.	DOORS CLOSE

### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR THIS MONTH

- \* LATEST T.I. NEWS AND SOFTWARE DISCOUNTS
- \* LATEST T.I. NEWS FROM THE "LIMA SHOW"
- \* NEW FROM MS - COMPUTER GRAPHICS LIBRARY
- \* PAGE PRO BANNER MAKER DEMO BY MICKEY
- \* REVIEW OF THE LOGO II VIDEO TAPE & DISK
- \* FUNNELWEB CONFIGURATION INSTRUCTIONS!

### RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES!

\$15.00 PER YEAR FOR INDIVIDUAL / FAMILY  
\$10.00 PER YEAR FOR JUST THE NEWSLETTER

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### From the Editor...

This month's issue of our newsletter is packed with more exciting information regarding our little computer! This month is the Lima show, May 18th, so look for more exciting stuff in the next issue as well as a report of the show.

A reminder to all readers that you may submit articles for publication to me at:  
801 15th St, S APT #605  
Arlington, VA 22202-5017  
Please keep those articles coming.

CDP

-WP♦

### Best Buys MAY '91

#### Magazines! --

Wow, you can pick up a computer magazine on the newstand that carries the TI! Vulcan's computer Monthly, which sells for \$1.95 at the newstand, or \$15.95 subscription rate for 12 issues, has been carrying the TI for about six to eight months. Barry Traver has a column in the Classic Computer section dedicated to the TI computer. It is an excellent source of information about the TI community. The magazine also carries ads similar to the Computer Shopper...so you may find some "best buys" in there too. They also have a computer BBS: 1-205-655-4059 or 1-205-655-4065

[Best Buys are the editors choice for products that are compatible with the TI and are based upon the editor's personal experiences with the products listed in this column. Items are selected on the basis of quality, price, and performance. Suggested vendors are sometimes included either because they are the only ones who carry the product, or because of outstanding customer support from the vendor.]

-WP♦

# CONFIDENTIAL FILE

A monthly series  
By: Christopher Pratt

## Funnelweb Upgrades

As promised, this month the *Confidential File* has been reopened. Everyone in the TI community will be pleased to hear the report that Tony McGovern, co-author of Funnelweb, has delayed his move to the Amiga for the time being to pursue some rather large Funnelweb programming projects!

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"Tony McGovern...has delayed his move to the Amiga..."

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Funnelweb is well known to the TI community and has been for quite some time. The versatile program has seen many updates and revisions. Funnelweb is not simply a cute, ☺, TI Writer package anymore, it has developed into a complete applications package well suited for even the most tame TI users. The current version, 4.31, is stock full of enhancements this editor now takes for granted! <My most favored is the 80 col. support.> But there is still more to come...

Tony McGovern is currently concentrating his programming efforts on the Funnelweb Editor. Tony plans a complete re-write of the editor which should prove beneficial to the efficiency of the files to say the least.

Tony has also wanted to add hard drive support to funnelweb for quite some time. Currently there is limited support which

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"Tony plans a complete rewrite of the editor..."

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allows one to load Funnelweb from a hard drive sub-directory, but it is a far cry from what Tony envisions as his completed work. Given up hope on the Myarc HFDC, Tony has turned to the new Electronic Systems Development Corporation H/F Controller card. Shane Truffer, CEO/President of ESD, has been quoted as saying, "I will personally send Mr. McGovern any equipment and technical information he may need to complete his project." Some of what ESD will be providing includes a new, brand name 40MB MFM hard disk and of course the new H/F Controller card. The hard drive support would include file support in the editors and hard drive access in the DiskReview program.

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"[ESD] will personally send Mr. McGovern any equipment and technical information he may need to complete his project."

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As a TI user for many years I am very excited about the continued support by programmers like Tony McGovern. The TI is quite a computer and it will continue to be my computer for a very long time!

--WP♦

For the Record continued from page 1...

Yes, it is now official there is a Digitizer for the TI. It ties your VCR, TI and Printer together and produces a nice picture. The nice reproduction we were treated to was a portrait of Mickey and her fiancée Mike which was taken at the Boston Faire. Obtain the "Imagewise Portrait Print" software from: Circuit Cellar Inc., 4 Park St. Suite 12, Vernon, Ct. 06066. Call 1-203-875-2751. Fax (203) 872-2204. The equipment itself is obtained from RFW Enterprise, 111 Oakridge St. Chicobee, Ma. 01020. Call (413) 593-3274.

There is available a good VCR tape on the use of Logo. Don't forget the TI user club contest flyers are due by May 21. Check the March 91 Micro, an article on p8 by PUG member Nick Gramatikos, Fest West and Ottawa show on p32 and Saving Paper on p38. These are Mickey's latest picks. Mickey, John and Jerry were all house cleaning and brought in a lot of good TI reading material. Speaking of reading material, there is perhaps no better way of keeping-up on the TI world than by reading the Newsletters we receive from other clubs. Our library has Ver 2.5 of Artist Enlarger. Gary demoed Water Works (fair but needs some speeding up). It was also given as a raffle prize. Next month our library will have a copy of the Bible, King James version after I break the disks down.

May the good 4's be with you.

--WP♦

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**Wanted:** TI-99/8 computer.  
Christopher Pratt  
801 15th ST, S. APT 605  
Arlington, VA 22202-5017

**Wanted:** CorComp DS/DD  
Disk Controller Card.  
Contact Patrick Morris @ 301-647-3658  
or Email on Delphi, PMORRIS.

**For Sale:** TI-99/4A Consoles  
Black & Silver -- \$15.00  
Beige -- \$20.00  
Extended Basic Module -- \$20.00  
TE II Module -- \$5.00  
TI Modem 300bps -- \$8.00  
Contact John Drennen at:  
455 Tenth Street  
Struthers, OH 44471-1050  
216-755-7550

[Classified ads may be placed by any member of the West Penn 99'er User's Group free of charge. Please send ads directly to the editor or give to Mickey at the meetings. The normal deadline for submission applies.]

--WP♦

LETTER HEADER  
by Dave Swartz

At the recent Rocky Mountain 99'ers Jamboree I was discussing word processing with a new member (yes, we do have new members) and the point was brought up about using word processor files to hold routine information used frequently, i.e. letterheads and return addresses that are printed on almost every letter we write. My friend said he had never heard of the procedure, but thought it would be a good idea. With his remarks in mind and not knowing how many others there may be who do not know of the procedure, this article has been written to help spread the word. The procedure works equally well with TI Writer or FunnelWeb Writer.

The address data as well as control codes can be encoded so you can set up your format and printer one time and have it available with a few key presses.

Usually, I type documents Emphasized (E) and Double Strike (G) so as to get nice black copy for the copy machine. I use the CTRL U, FCTN R, CTRL U codes to set this up. Another CTRL U code is used to set up 12 characters per inch (M), as I feel this makes a better looking document. I use an Epson LQ-850 printer, so use standard Epson codes.

The first line looks like this on the monitor:

```
0001 'bE'bG'bMcr
```

Next I set up the format of the letterhead or return address I am going to use. The rest of the set up looks like this on the monitor:

```
0002 .AD;FI;LM 8;RM 88;PL 64cr
0003 .CE 4cr
0004 ROCKY MOUNTAIN 99'ERScr
0005 P.O. Box 31846cr
0006 Aurora, CO 80041cr
0007 U.S.A.crf
0008 cr
0009 .IN +56cr
0010 xx Nov 1990cr
0011 cr
```

```
0012 .IN +0cr
0013 (Type in address for business
      letter. May be several lines.)cr
0014 cr
0015 Dear xxxxcrf
0016 cr
0017 .IN +5 (Normal paragraph indent.)cr
0018 (Text)cr
```

This file is saved as DSKx.HEADING on the disk on which I compose and save my letters.

For personal letters where I want my return address on the right side of the paper, I make changes as shown below:

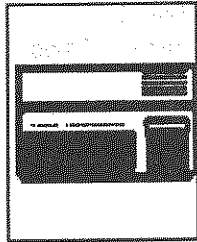
```
0001 'bE'bG'bMcr
0002 .AD;FI;LM 8;RM 86;PL 64cr
0003 .IN +56cr
0004 (Street address)cr
0005 (City, state and zip)cr
0006 xx Nov 1990cr
0007 cr
0008 .IN +0cr
0009 Dear xxxxcrf
0010 cr
0011 .IN +5cr
0012 (Text)cr
```

I have used parameters for 12 characters per inch instead of 10 per inch. If your printer does not have a 12 CPI capability, you should modify the commands for Right Margin and Indent to reflect your printer's capabilities.

With this system, all you have to do is load your D/V 80 "HEADING" file, put in the date and addressee, and start your letter. It saves much time and typing and eliminates errors in addition to formatting your letters.

In lines 0001 of the above programs, the symbol "b" represents the ESCAPE code. Key in CTRL U, FCTN R, CTRL U, to generate the escape code. Then use the character shown in the printer handbook for the function you wish to employ. The symbol "cr" indicates the CARRIAGE RETURN (ENTER) key should be pressed.

My thanks to Jack Sughrue and his "PLUS!" program which facilitated the printing of the printer control symbols.



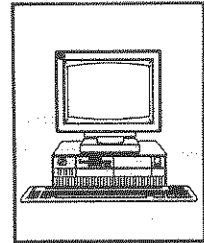
Texas  
Instruments



to



from



IBM  
Compatible

**The following reprint from the Unix TI conference is a message from Germany about implementing TI emulation in an IBM environment...**

Message #3762 - Unix TI conference!

Date : 16-Apr-91 20:04

From : Thomas Opheys

To : All

Subject : info about TI-99 emulator

-- @PTH 1:250/98.0@FidoNet

Newsgroups: comp.sys.ti

@Organization: University of Passau, W-Germany

@Message-ID: <1991Apr16.200420.26467@forwiss.uni-passau.de>

@Date: Tue, 16 Apr 91 20:04:20 GMT

Information about my TI-99/4A emulator. I would have answered all the mails I received but at my university I am not allowed to mail that much outside of Germany because of the costs. So I try to answer all questions in comp.sys.ti hoping not to bore those who aren't interested.

The emulator will require the following hardware: an IBM PC, any DOS version, and a standard VGA card capable of the 640x480x16 mode. The faster the machine, the better...

The emulator is 100% written in Assembler, for speed reasons. Someone asked me if it was possible to port it to the Amiga. Now you know the answer: naturally I could give you the source code but it will be a full time job to rewrite it for an Amiga or any other machine. You won't get a good TI emulator written in any higher language, not even C.

How will the emulator work? You'll see the original TI screen on your PC monitor. While the TI graphics only uses 256x192 pixels, there is enough space to display more information on the PC screen. When running in debug mode, the emulator displays the processor data like registers, status, debugged assembler instruction, VDP and GROM addresses and lots more.

In addition, there is a display of the current GPL instruction being executed by the GPL interpreter. The rest of the screen is reserved for some switches (ON/OFF, Load Interrupt) and Lamps (access of the peripheral cards, Interrupts).

Naturally, the performance of the emulator isn't too good with that huge amount of data displayed. So you can switch it to speed mode which just displays the TI screen. As I see it now, the emulator will be only slightly slower on a 20 Mhz 386 than the original TI. But I can get it faster...

The whole hardware is supported: Keyboard, Video Display Processor with all modes (text, graphics, bitmap, multicolor), Sound Processor (in the moment, only one sound channel (of four), because of the restrictions in PC sound, but SoundBlaster owners will get the full TI sound), 32k memory expansion, MiniMemory, GROM/ROM modules like Extended Basic, Editor/Assembler and peripheral cards like the P-code card, RS232 and Disk Controller. RS232 and Disk Controller can be the only sources of incompatibilities. Because of timing problems, the Disk Controller and RS232 hardware can't be emulated correctly on the hardware level. So the DSR ROMs will be patched so that every software level call of the card routines are handled by DOS. That means that you can print to "RS232.BA = 9600.CR.LF" without problems, but terminal software like Telco won't work because they access the hardware directly.

Even more complicated will be the disk controller access. I will provide a patch of the ROMs that enable you to access every file name on your PC hard disk just by giving the normal DOS name (i.e. RUN "C:\TI\LOAD" in ExtendedBasic). And whenever accessing "DSKx" or using programs that read sectors of these DSKs (like Disk Manager 1000), the emulator accessed special files on your PC hard disk that represent a TI disk. A utility to copy whole TI disks to the PC will be provided. Again, software that directly accessed the hardware of the controller won't work (COPY-C, Turbo-Copy and RapidCopy).

Another thing you can forget is the speech synthesizer... But I shure hope that you didn't even expect that. SoundBlaster owners can perhaps play the words in ROM, but I think I can never emulate the Speech Synthesizer due to lack of hardware information...

In the moment, the emulator is absolute not ready. The processor is nearly ready (only three instructions are missing) and the TMS9900 instructions, registers and status and the GPL code are correctly displayed debugged on screen. If anyone wants to play a little with the program in its actual state, the only way in the moment is to send me a disk and money for mail return (poor student...) because they kill me if I post it to comp.binaries.ibm.pc... And, as I said before, I CAN, but I am not allowed to E-mail outside Germany.

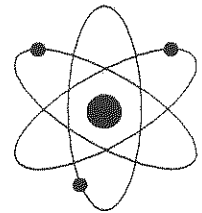
Any suggestions, hints, hardware information (NEDEDED!) and testers are welcome! Everyone can get the source and I don't want any money. I am just loving that GREAT machine...

Thomas Opheys, Franz-Stockbauer-Weg 1, App. 88, W-8390 Passau, Germany

-- lws9012@eva.fmi.uni-passau.de Sledge Hammer and I - we're just good friends--- - Fred-Uf 1.7(L)[BETA]! Origin: EQSgate UseNet < = > FidoNet Gateway (1:250/98.0)@PID: FredMail 1.7-BETA

-WP♦

No. 6743 \* For Your Information \*  
On: 04/07/91 2:38pm  
By: GARY KUEHN 15 (PITTSBURGH PA)  
To: ALL  
Sb: SOFTWARE



FYI

This is to inform you that the Geneve is not dead, yet. A new flyer from McCann software informs me that he has written a program called HQ-Stacks, similar to Hypercard and the like. I and Gary T. don't really understand exactly what it is supposed to do or be but it is good to know that McCann is still writing for the Geneve. He is as of now (in my opinion) the best writer out there for the Geneve and the only one to produce good quality, professional software for the beast. Pass this to your user group and any Geneve users.

Gary Kuehn

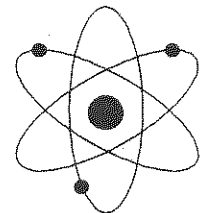
-WP♦

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FROM: Christopher Pratt  
TO: ALL  
SMRY: TI - Asgard

> > > The current ways to reach Asgard Software:

On CIS - 72561,3241  
On GENie - C.BOBBITT  
On Delphi - C\_BOBBITT  
On B.B.B.B. - User #95



FYI

Written letters should be sent to:

Asgard News/Reflections  
P.O. Box 10697  
Rockville, MD 20849

-WP♦



## ADVENTURE HINTS - SERIES II

### BY LYNN GARDNER

Could you use a little extra help in solving Castle Darkholm or Witch's Brew? Then, let MS Express Software introduce you to our Adventure Module Hint Concept and our *Adventure Hints - Series II*

Our Adventure Module Hint Concept was specifically designed to be very user-friendly, using the same programming format and storage medium as any of the regular adventure module game. Thus, our hint programs load exactly like any of the regular adventure module games, and operate in very much the same manner as these games, using two-word (verb/noun) commands in asking for specific help. There is no need to learn any type of special deciphering code, hold a piece of paper up to a mirror, or carry around a special booklet and lighting pen.

In fact, our hints are so portable that you may even wish to copy our hint files directly onto your original adventure disks, for immediate help whenever you need it.

What's more ... not only do we provide a built-in map in all of our hint programs, but we also include a map to each of these games on paper ... just in case it helps to see everything mapped out.

So, what are you waiting for? Help is just a mailbox away. Order your copy of *Adventure Hints - Series II* today.

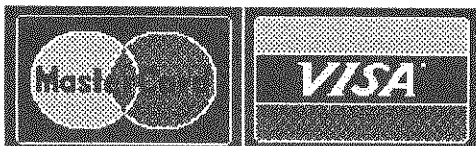
*Adventure Hints - Series II* requires a TI-99/4A console, a monitor or TV screen, a disk drive system (minimum configuration of 1 SS/SD drive), and the Adventure Module.

## MS EXPRESS SOFTWARE

### P.O. BOX 498, RICHMOND, OHIO 43944

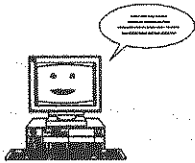
<i>Adventure Hints -- Series II</i>	_____ X \$9.95	
Name:	SUBTOTAL	
Address:	OHIO TAX	
City:	\$1 PER ITEM S&H	
State & Zip:	GRAND TOTAL:	
Card number:	Expiration:	MC 4 digit #:
SIGNATURE OF CARD OWNER: _____		

We Gladly  
Accept:



Interesting last minute news break...

Sources say that Mike Makismik, who has done work for Asgard Software in the past, is starting his own company. He has written the Asgard Mouse Drivers and is currently working on the MIDI interface. It is unknown at this time if Asgard will still carry the MIDI device. Mike also has other plans for future TI support! For more information see the last issue of the Chicago newsletter (which we have in our newsletter library). You can also call the Chicago BBS, Mike is the sysop there, (708) 862-0182.



**Call the PUG BBS:  
300/1200/2400 bps  
(412) 341-4820  
24 hours a day**

**Sysop: Gary Taylor**

-WP ♦



Time is running out! You have to have your entries in by the end of the May meeting! Good luck to everyone who participates in the West Penn Flyer Contest. Who will win??? See last month's newsletter for official entry rules.

-WP ♦

## WEST PENN 99'ERS

c/o Mike Sealy  
RD #1 BOX 184  
Toronto, OH 43964-9719

**NOTE !!  
ADDRESS  
CHANGE**

BULK RATE  
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**ISSUE NUMBER 69**

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F911231

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196 BROADWAY AV  
LOWER BURRELL PA 15068