



# West Penn 99'ers

Supporting the TI-99/4A Home Computer



*Established 1985*

**ISSUE #70**

**June 1991**

## FOR THE RECORD

by Mickey Schmitt  
as reported by Ralph Vasko

The May meeting of the West Penn 99'ers got off to a rather slow start at 7:24 P.M. as last minute arrangements had to be made for a meeting room due to the fact that our regular meeting room was being used to house the voting machines for the recent elections. As usual, Lynn Gardner gave a very favorable Treasurer's Report, (though we must remember that we now have newsletter printing costs to contend with). Bob Sadusky, our West Penn Librarian, reported that the Fairware version of Artist Enlarger has been added to our library, as well as five Logo programs that coincide with the Logo Video Tape that our club recently purchased. Bob also asked that last month's minutes be corrected to report that we DO NOT have nearly 1,000 disks in the library. President, Mickey Schmitt reported that the club recently acquired an Extended BASIC module, an Editor Assembler module, and an Adventure module so that we could begin building our new module expander for the club. It was suggested that a Disk Manager II module would be nice to have as well. (The club is currently looking for one at this time). This still leaves our module expander with one empty slot. Any Suggestions?

Mickey reported on the Lima Show that was held on May 18th. This years show was bigger and better than ever! The West Penn Club hosted a table and was able to sell quite a bit of stuff that we had acquired over the years. Special thanks to Rob and Joe Ekl who handled most of the transactions. MS Express Software also hosted a table, and was very pleased to hear all of the "positive" comments from those who attended the show. (Sales were also reported to be very good).

Once again, our club ordered the Lima Video Tapes. This will give everyone a chance to see what all they missed... even if they were there! See Mike Sealy at the meetings to get on the sign-out list for these excellent tapes.

One of the many highlights of the show was the release of the Midi Master from Mike Maksimak's new company, Crystal Software. The West Penn Club was rather fortunate to get one of the first available and will be showing it off in the near future.

A new feature that will be becoming a part of every West Penn meeting will be the presentation of "ON-LINE GRAPEVINE" by VonRicky. This disk will highlight some of the best DV/80 text files concerning all types of info for our very own TI-99/4A computer. Be sure to pick up your copy at every West Penn meeting. Our thanks to Rick Keppler and the Pittsburgh Users Group for making this series available to us.

(Continued on p. #3)

**WEST PENN 99'ERS CLUB INFORMATION**

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

June 18th, 1991  
7:00 P.M.

**MEETING LOCATION**

PENN WOODS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

**New location!**

Check back cover for detailed map.

**LIST OF WEST PENN OFFICERS FOR 1991**

|                    |        |              |
|--------------------|--------|--------------|
| PRESIDENT:         | Mickey | 412-335-0163 |
| VICE PRESIDENT:    | John   | 412-527-6656 |
| TREASURER:         | Lynn   | 412-835-4304 |
| RECORDING SEC:     | Frank  | 412-751-6065 |
| CORRESPONDING SEC: | Mike   | 614-282-5627 |
| LIBRARIAN:         | Bob    | 412-863-5672 |
| NEWSLETTER EDITOR: | Chris  | 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
- \* RESULTS OF THE WEST PENN FLYERS CONTEST
- \* "ON-LINE GRAPEVINE" DISK #2 BY VONRICKY
- \* NOTUNG'S "FILMLIB" - DEMO BY MIKE SEALY
- \* OSCAR - HARDWARE DEMO BY MICKEY SCHMITT
- \* AN "ALL-BEIGE TI SYSTEM" BY GARY TAYLOR

**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...**

Is anyone interested in buying *West Penn 99'er* T-Shirts? If we have enough people interested we can place an order. Discuss it at the meeting and/or let me know directly at the above address.

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 JUNE '91**

**Magazines! --**

Wow, you can pick up a computer magazine on the newsstand that carries the TI! Vulcan's computer Monthly, which sells for \$1.95 at the newsstand, 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♦

## From the Pittsburgh User's Group, Gary Taylor writes...

Texas Instruments still cares! Texas Instruments still provides a great service to the TI-99/4A user by providing repair service for our computers: I called Texas Instruments at 1-800-TI-CARES (1-800-842-2737) and asked about their repair service. I was told that they still repair all the equipment manufactured by them for fixed prices and if it could not be fixed they would replace it with on hand stock. The following is the prices that I received today, March 15, 1991 to repair the equipment:

| EQUIPMENT                | PRICE | S&H |
|--------------------------|-------|-----|
| TI-99/4A console         | 45.00 | 6   |
| Peripheral Expansion Box | 70.00 | 6   |
| RS232 card               | 33.00 | 6   |
| 32K card                 | 44.00 | 1   |
| Disk controller card     | 44.00 | 6   |
| Flex cable(fire hose)    | 25.95 | 5   |
| SSSD disk drive          | 80.00 | 6   |
| P-code card              | 33.00 | 6   |
| Speech Synthesizer       | 30.00 | 5   |
| TV modulator             | 12.95 | 4   |
| Joy Sticks               | 9.75  | 3   |
| Power transformer        | 10.00 | 3   |

They also require state sales tax for whichever state you are ordering from. They accept Master Charge, Visa, and personal checks. You can send your broken equipment with the payment to: Texas Instruments

ATTN: Repair Center  
2305 North University Ave.  
Lubbock, Texas 79408

They will also repair CC-40 equipment at the following rates:

| EQUIPMENT       | PRICE | S&H |
|-----------------|-------|-----|
| CC-40           | 60.00 | 6   |
| Printer/plotter | 55.00 | 6   |
| Printer 80      | 55.00 | 6   |
| RS232           | 33.00 | 6   |
| Modem           | 33.00 | 6   |

WP♦

Continued from p. 1...

For The Record

Raffle prizes for the night included, Page Pro Banner Maker (from Asgard Software), the TI Hardware Reprints Manual (from the Chicago Users Group), and a widget.

Norm Rokke closed the meeting with one of the best organized SIGS ever presented. (Presidents choice of best SIG of the year!) He demoed FONTALS and his very own SCRALS program, giving all who attended step by step hardcopy instructions and the opportunity to purchase all of the files that he used in his demonstration on disk at a very nominal charge, which benefited the clubs intake for the night.

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 P.M.

# 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.

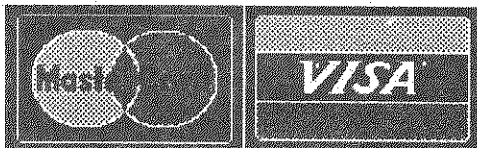
*Adventure Hints - Series II* requires a TI-99/4A console, a monitor or TV screen, a disk drive system (minimum configuration of 1 SS/SD drive), and the Adventure Module.

**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:**



## CONFIGURING FUNNELWEB-THE QUICK AND DIRTY WAY.

First of all Function 9 and Control C both act as a return mode.

Secondly all prompts require just a single key press and are the first letter of the prompt name. (E for Edit etc...)

Okay now with that out of the way lets configure away!!!!

Loading: Load configure (filename CF) either from main Xbasic screen or DPT #5 from E/A module.

The first screen will be the Configure title screen. Already you have 3 options to contend with.

1. is ? which pops up a help screen. This command will also work at all other screens where you must make a choice.

2. Function 7 will display a Disk Directory of a drive.

And finally by hitting any other key you'll get to the next screen.

(NOTE THIS IS A STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTION. If you need more info I suggest you read the docs from the Funnelweb package.)

Sysinfo

Next you choose between Load Edit Save

Load the info into memory.

Now you will be prompted for the location of the SYSCON file after this is filled in correctly hit enter.

Edit.

AND NOW THE FUN STARTS!!!!!!!!

Loading- this will bring up a window for changing the loading info for FunnelWeb.

Boot Loading is used if you want FunnelWeb to follow the disk drive from where you loaded FunnelWeb originally. If you intend for FunnelWeb to only look for specific files on specific drives then use B until OFF is displayed.

TI-Writer Side and EA Side These #'s should correspond to the drive that FunnelWeb files are located on. If The TI-Writer files are on a separate disk than the EA files then correct the # for these drives. If both sets of files are on the same drive then use the same # for both prompts.

Working Drive-I usually leave this blank.

Immediate. This tells FunnelWeb how a return to FunnelWeb is wanted when coming back to the FunnelWeb environment (ie. returning from DSKU or DM-1000) this also is how FunnelWeb is entered when you load FunnelWeb from E/A (using FW or UTIL1 as the E/A loader). Hitting I cycles through 3 choices. 1:DR reloads Disk Review immediately. 2: UL loads the UL list that you create.

3: FW loads the TI Writer Menu. Choose whatever you like.

Hard Disk path is if you have a Hard Drive.

Now go Back (Control-C or Function-9)

Devices

This is where you set up your printer and files names

Edtr Printer sets the parameters for the PF command of the editor as well as the P command of Disk Review

Format Printer Sets the parameters for the Formatter (I use PIO and PIO.LF respectively)

I generally leave Object File and Program File blank. For Work file I enter DSK2. so that when I do a SF from the Editor all I need to enter is the filename. Put whatever you like here.

After you finish here Control-C or Function-9

Colors which sets up your screen and character colors for FunnelWeb. I like the ones that came with FunnelWeb I left mine alone.

Menu

TI Writer this sets up the TI Writer menu screen you have the choices of Edit Back Redo Next in the remaining menus

Edit allows you to change the info. Redo returns bar to top of menu, Back moves bar up one space Next goes down one space.

Remember that these files must be E/A loaded and the actual filename should be 2 characters long.

Edit title name. Then hit <enter> next enter Filename <enter> finally use arrow keys to move bar to the program type that loads your file then hit <enter> again.

\*\*FYI Anything that you want to appear on the F command of Disk Review should be in either the TI Writer menu or the E/A menu.

After you have made the changes you desire go back and choose E/A menu make changes in the same way as above. Then go back 2 times to come to the selection screen.

Main Menu. This is where you can change the Main title screen. Also this is where Extended Basic Programs load from.

Now you are given a couple of new options. You first should Fetch the old menu you will be prompted for the location of the LOAD Program for FunnelWeb. After this is loaded you can Reserve which puts into memory the original menu Xchange allows you to go back and forth between the menu you are editing and the one stored in memory. Ebrings up the menu. Using the arrow keys you can scan down the menu and when you come to something you want to change press Edit. Now the first thing you need to do is to create a title name for your file (I'll use DM-1000) press <enter> and you need to choose Boot Tracking. If off it will require you

specify what drive the file will be located in. If ON it will boot from the drive that FunnelWeb was loaded from.

Protecting Reainder will cycle between YES and NO what this does is if you answer YES then FunnelWeb will ask you for the disk to be

inserted for this program every time you try to load it (handy for those who have one drive or more than one FunnelWeb disk) if the answer is NO then FunnelWeb assumes that the file is located on the disk that FunnelWeb is Booted from.

<Enter> moves you to the next part.

Here you enter the Filename for this particular file. Using DM-1000 I would enter MG If Boot Tracking was on or DSK#.MG where # is the drive that MG file is located on. Notice that if Boot Tracking is on there is no need to enter the DSK prompt. <enter> Now you use the arrow keys to move the bar to the file loading type. When you are in the correct area (E/A Program for my MG file) hit enter. NOTE Only in this menu can you access the XBasic Loader.

When finished you Control-C or Function-9 to go back.

UL List: This will allow you to change the UL file as well as the create any other UL file that you wish. The directions are the same as for The XB menu except you must Fetch each list individually and must Save each list individually. By creating more than one UL file and giving them different names you can string them together Using Next list as a File and calling the next file. Again only E/A files can be loaded from this file. and remember to Save each list. After you are finished with the UL and saved the UL file(s) Control-C or Function-9 until you return to the Sysinfo Menu of Edit Load Save. Now you will want to Save the changes so hit Save and fill in the prompt for where the SYCON file is located. (Note the SYCON file should be on the Main FunnelWeb disk but after you are through configuring you can leave of the CF and CS files to conserve disk space) Hit <enter> and wait for the screen to come back to the Sysinfo menu. Now Control-C or Function-9 to the Sysinfo Quit Install screen and Hit Install. You now will be asked for XB-Load or FW/UTIL1 -Load. Main XB and enter where the LOAD file is <enter> then when the targeted filename is requested hit <enter> again. When this is through you should save the information to either a FW or UTIL1 file for E/A loading of FunnelWeb if you choose not to then Control-C or Function-9 and hit Quit then reset the computer and reboot FunnelWeb and see if it all works well. This text was written as a brief quick and dirty outline for configuring FunnelWeb 4.31 and by all means is not a complete tutorial. Basically I wrote this as a companion to my demoing the Configuring of FunnelWeb for our users Group. If any other group wishes to reprint this then go for it. All I ask is for proper credit and a copy of the newsletter that this is printed in.

Good Luck and for more info read the FunnelWeb docs. ALSO PLEASE SHOW SOME \$\$\$\$ SUPPORT FOR THE AUTHORS OF FUNNELWEB. WILL AND TONY MCGOVERN.

PATRICK POWELL P.O. BOX 496 OCEAN PARK, ME. 04063-0496

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### LITTLE TIPS AND TRICKS FROM THE TI EXPRESS

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#### Funnelwebs Editor-

1. To Change screen color hit control and 3 at the same time.
2. Control and . changes the letter under the cursor to lower case.
3. Control and ; changes the letter under the cursor to UPPER CASE. 4. Control and A move screen down one screen.
5. Control and B moves screen bak one screen.
6. Control U and then Shift J puts in a linefeed. Control U return to original mode.
7. Control M can be used for a carriage return
8. Control C return you to top prompt line.
9. Control E S D X H J also act as arrow keys.
10. Control Z acts as the Tab.
11. Control T acts as a back tab.
- 12 Control G places a blank line above the line you are on.
13. Control L places cursor in the top left corner of screen.
14. Control P places a new page mark.
15. When using Show Directory using the arrow keys moves the little lines up and down 1 file hitting the space bar places a carat besides the and marks it. Then just hit enter and LF for load file the name you will now appear.

#### Formatter Tips

16. When at the prompt for a file name hit Function 7 for a disk directory. Then proceed as above (except no carat) Control = brings you back to the Formatter now hit Function D and the marked file will appear.

#### Just a Tip

17. When at the TI Writer menu or E/A menu Function 9 allows you to exit Funnelweb in a grace ful manner. The error checking allows you to be sure that htis is what you want to do.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following info is taken from the NOVA Users Group Newsletter 12/90 and was written by Gary W. Cox  
Terry Miller, former owner and co-founder of Triton Products Company announced today that he has completed the purchase of the TI 99/4A business from Triton Products. Miller's new company, TM Direct Marketing will begin marketing hardware, software and

## THE CONFERENCE AT LIMA

By Glenn Bernasconi

The time for the multi user group conference at Lima, Ohio has come and gone, but the memories will go on and on! Once again the Lima User Group has done the TI-99/4A community a service that will be hard to surpass. The multi-user group conference at Lima this year provided us with a day filled with informative and fascinating seminars and demonstrations. The only problem I felt I had was that I was unable to attend each and every one on the agenda. Therefore I am only able to provide a "thumbnail" sketch of the seminars and demos I was able to attend.

Barry Traver started my day off with a presentation on "Programs That Write Programs". One of the most interesting items that Barry covered was his "GRAPHICOMP". This neat routine enables the programmer the ability to transfer Extended Basic screen graphic commands, which are notoriously slow, to the blinding speed of Assembly. All is accomplished with a minimum or no knowledge of TI Assembly! Talk about a tool and a half! I bought a disk from Barry, and am eager to learn how to use this tremendous tool.

I had to reluctantly break away from Barry's presentation to attend a meeting on the status of the Ohio Regional TI-99/4A / Geneva article BBS being set up by COMMI. The SYSOP will be none other than Irwin Nott! With Irwin at the controls, this clearing house for articles about the TI-99/4A and the Geneva will be in operation some time this year. Watch for announcements and system details to appear in the COMMI newsletter.

Much was discussed about the BBS system. Irwin said the 2400 baud modem should have arrived by time you have read this review. However the HFDC controller issue is still up in the air, and the system is waiting to see what ESC will have to offer. Basic organization was discussed. This included items of interest such as:

1. Setting a calling time for non-local users.
2. Limiting "on line" time if needed.
3. General servicing to registered (right now a \$30 minimum per user group is requested to be a registered user with two (2) users per group) clearing house users such as periodic mailing of disks with BBS library and acceptance of mailed in disks containing articles. (Providing the disks conform to a yet unspecified format.)

As you can see, much has been done toward accomplishing what had started out as a basic idea discussed at the user group Executive session during the 1990 conference at Lima.

This brings me to the next session that I attended. This was the user group Executive meeting to discuss and share different group problems, ideas and solutions for the 99/4A community.

Charles Good started off the meeting with a caution that the conference at Lima is NOT to be considered a

foregone conclusion. The facility we all enjoy is provided at the pleasure of the Ohio University administration, and there can be no guarantees that this facility will be available next year. Besides, both Charlie and Dave Szippel stated quite clearly that they wouldn't mind traveling to a multi-user group conference elsewhere. I can't really blame them in the least!

Membership and software support was discussed at length, and many excellent ideas were shared as to how a user group could maintain their membership. Software writer support was also discussed, and the up-shot was that financial support was sporadic to say the least. However, not only paying the author(s) is needed, but recognition of their work is also wise to do. As the Lima group has so well demonstrated, a user group can sponsor a particular commercial program and reap the benefits of that sponsorship.

I also attended a presentation by Chris Bobbitt, of ASGARD SOFTWARE, on the future of the "PAGE PRO" utilities series. Chris showed the power of PAGE PRO and the "stand alone" spin offs such as POSTER MAKER and BANNER MAKER. He also demonstrated PAGE PRO EFFECTS which enables the user to manipulate graphics in most any way desired. Chris also confided in me that a new version of SPELL IT! will be coming out in the near future. This version (v. 1.101) will include the user option of selecting a quick (shorter) version of SPELL IT! rather than being locked in to the full dictionary search version that is now available.

There was much to see and do at this year's conference! An isolated comment I had heard was that it was beginning to have a "flea market" look to it. This is only natural in that much of the TI-99/4A goodies, that have been "squirrelled" away, are just now beginning to be made available. I don't consider this to be a distraction in any way!

This brings me to my challenge for the Cleveland area 99ers out there. If any of you are willing to commit yourself to putting on a multi-user group conference in the greater Cleveland area next year, call or write me and we'll see what we can do! Obtaining a site for the conference isn't that difficult, but we need a few committed members who will be willing to organize and operate a multi-user group conference in the greater Cleveland area next year! If you're willing to work with me, I'm more than willing to work with you! All you have to do is call me at (216) 238-6335 (evenings) or write me at 13246 HARPER ROAD STRONGSVILLE, OHIO 44136. The challenge has been given, let's see who will meet it!

Thanks again Lima! Your dedication, on the behalf of TI-99/4A users everywhere, is appreciated more than you will ever know!

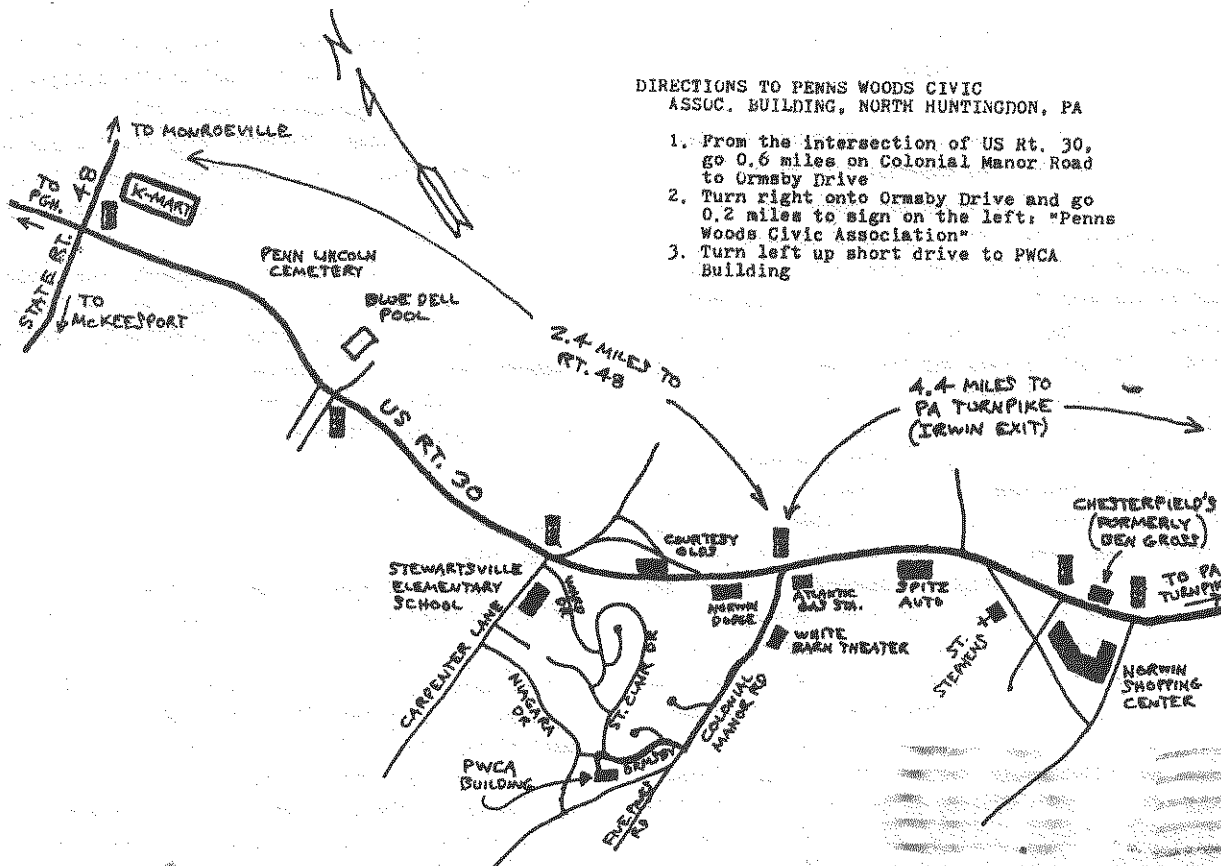
### EXECUTIVE NOTES

TI-Chips Cleveland, Ohio  
By Glenn Bernasconi

About half of our normal attendance showed up for the especially scheduled "pre-conference" meeting of the TI-Chips on May 11th. Those who were able to attend were in for some un-scheduled demo surprises. And since this was an

**DIRECTIONS TO PENNS WOODS CIVIC ASSOC. BUILDING, NORTH HUNTINGDON, PA**

1. From the intersection of US Rt. 30, go 0.6 miles on Colonial Manor Road to Ormsby Drive
2. Turn right onto Ormsby Drive and go 0.2 miles to sign on the left: "Penns Woods Civic Association"
3. Turn left up short drive to PWCA Building



**New Meeting Place!!**

**WEST PENN 99'ERS**

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



**ISSUE NUMBER 70**  
**JUNE 1991**

**FIRST CLASS**

**MEETING**



F911231  
 MICKEY SCHMITT  
 196 BROADWAY AV  
 LOWER BURRELL PA 15068