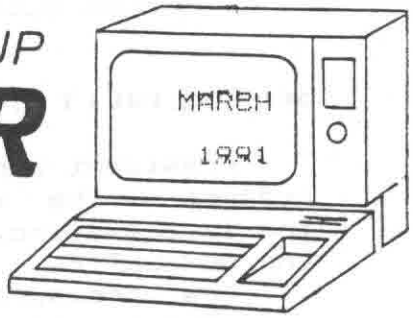
CEDAR VALLEY 99'ER USER GROUP
NEWSLETTER



CEDAR RAPIDS/MARION, IOWA

****

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
Gary Bishop
3270 28th Ave.
Marion, Iowa 52302
(319) 377-9574

VICE PRESIDENT:
John Johnson
398 Forest Dr. SE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403
(319) 366-4541

SECRETARY:
Bill Paeth
923 Owen St. NW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405
(319) 396- 6470

TREASURER:
Bruce Winter
702 Fernwood Dr. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
(319) 393-0610

COMMITTEES

PROGRAM:
Ed Edwards
102 N. Davis St.
Anamosa, Iowa 52205
462-2329

PUBLICITY:

EDUCATION:
Jerry Canady
6616 Kent Dr NE
Cedar Rapids , Iowa 52402
377-9382

EDITOR:
Jim Green
377 Cambridge Dr NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402
377-4073 (Home) or
395-1898 (Office)

****NEWSLETTER TOPICS****

1. Future Meeting Dates
2. Next Meeting Notes
3. Minutes from the February Mtg.
4. Election of Officers
5. The Library Blurb
6. Need Organization?
7. Speech!
8. From the President

OLD BUSINESS
COMPUTER FAIR
$22.04 POSTAGE
INVOICING FOR PAY!
NEW BUSINESS
ELECTIONS
DON FRO CHICAGO U.G.
DISPOSITION OF HARDWARE
NEWSLETTER EDITOR.
NEWSLETTERS-POSTAGE COSTS

****FUTURE MEETING DATES****

Please mark the following dates on your calendar for future meetings: MARCH 12. APRIL 9. MAY 14.

********NEXT MEETING********

The regular monthly meeting will be TUESDAY. March 12. at West Music Store in Cedar Rapids. Open discussion will start at 6:30 PM. Officers for the next year will be nominated and elected. so be sure to attend and have a voice in our leaders! After the election. we will be entertained with some new software and news of the recent computer fair.

* MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING *

President Gary Bishop called the meeting to order with eleven present. The first order of business was the reading of the minutes of the last meeting. The minutes for January were accepted as printed in the NEWSLETTER.

The treasurer then gave his formal report. This month's report included our payment of $30 to CONNI for inclusion in the TI clearing house for articles. It was moved, seconded and passed that the report be accepted as read.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. Gary reported that he sold most of Paul Mortensen's TI equipment and was able to give about $500 to Mary. 2. As mentioned above our fee for the first year has been sent to CONNI.

NEW BUSINESS: 1. The EASTERN IOWA COMPUTER FAIR will be held on March 2, 1991. Admission is only $1. Several different computers will be on display. It was finally decided that we try to set up a table. If not this year then get our name in for next year. Gary called the fair information phone but only got an answering machine. Several members will try to attend and/or man our table. Gary will be in touch.

DISCUSSION: 1. The BUDGET/MANAGEMENT MODULE was discussed. The "save" function lists "CS1/2" or "other device". The problem was HOW? There just happened to be that module left in Gary's goody box. The operator error was found so that "DSK1" could be used. 2. John announced that he has finally been granted access to the Chicago BBS. He has been enjoying a speech coder program he was able to download. More on that later. 3. John also reported that the game demo he used last month is now ready to go. See his article soon.

The meeting was adjourned.

The demo tonight was by Gary. He set up a demo of "packet radio" as managed by his TI computer. He had a little problem with batteries but was able to show it off. He promised to bring it back later when it was all running.

Submitted by Bill Paeth, Secretary

ELECTION OF OFFICERS THIS MONTH

ELECTIONS: Well, brothers and sisters, it is that time of year again. We need to hold elections in March. As of this writing, I have not had a chance to ask if any of the present officers would like to continue to serve. I will determine this before the next meeting. If you would be willing to run for an office, let me know. None of the positions are difficult, and I can speak from experience, having held three out of the four elected positions (I've never been Treasurer). If we ask you to serve, please give it serious consideration.

Personally, I have enjoyed being the President, and I feel there are others in the club that should be afforded the opportunity. Therefore, I will not run for re-election as President. I'm not ruling out any other positions, but the group can only benefit from the varied experiences of those that serve as our leaders. Please try to make the March meeting, and make your voice heard and your vote count. New officers will take charge in May. This meeting is therefore very important, and we need each member to be present!

THE LIBRARY BLURB

Trivia- One of the sources for TI software is an outfit called COMPRODINE. What does Comprodine stand for? Speaking of changes, this makes two months in a row I have put out a Blurb. Bad precedent.

FW4.31	457	Newest Funnelweb. Also 458. Vers 4.31
Tips	450	More Tips pix. Also dsks 451,452,453
Billyball	459	An arcade game from England
Pan/arc	459	XB graphics utility
Speech	442	A speech utility for XB or assmy
Sky	456	Some of our sky oriented pros on one dsk
Mass	459	The Masscopy source code.
Cathy	459	Rescue the princess. Game.

Not a really long list but certainly an impressive one to me. The new Tips are here and sure to please. Latest and greatest Funnelweb! I have been playing with the speech utility program on disk 442 and I believe it will raise the level of this computers speech by an order of magnitude. An article is in the works. Billy ball is an arcade game from England acording to Micropendium.

Misc- Here is more info on the XB assembly files loader article in the last newsletter. When you create the IV254 file and load it into memory you can put in or take out whatever you want from that area of memory before you resave. The XB interpeter apparently could care less what you do in there. I thought I had a new idea for shareware authors but I see the author of the program Panorama has it in his docs so I will only repeat it. Instead of always asking for money I plan to ask for other programs in exchange. This will allow many programs to get around without putting such a dent in everyones budget. There were more programs asked for this month than ever before. The only exception I can remember was a single order for about 200? progams shortly after I started this job. The clubs computer got used this month I can tell you. Here is something that may interest you ramdisk users. When I loaded the speech utility program from a real disk drive number two it would'nt let me save the files on the ramdisk. But when I load the speech program from a ramdisk it will.

End- I feel I would be remiss if I did not say a few more words about the speech utility program. I got it from the Chicago UG BBS and I have been hooked since then. It is from Germany originally. I here they have access to info on the TI there that we don't here and it shows. This program gets right down to the nitty gritty. You can change any characteristic of the words that you want to. Once again an article is coming. OK so what does Comprodine stand for? COMputer PROgramers Distribution NETwork. Help! I don't believe it but I lost the source for that one. If anyone sees this info elsewhere please let me know so I can give proper credit.

EOF....J Johnson CR

NEED ORGANIZATION?

It occurred to me that from the many hundreds, perhaps thousands, of hours I have spent organizing to come up with simplified systems that meet varying physical and geriatic limitations, perhaps it is possible one of the ideas may help someone else who does not have the knack of organization.

When I get a new batch of TIPS' graphics, the first thing I do is convert them to TI-ARTIST format. Since the main formats we use are TI/ARTIST, CSGD FORMAT, and PAGEPRO, that is the logical starting point as I have programs that can convert to all those formats.

All our graphics are categorized according to the topics we will likely use. In the beginning I start with a blank disk for each category, such as: Christmas, Easter, religious events, weddings, halloween, anniversaries, sports, birthdays, Marian Hall specific, get-well, cartoon, flowers, etc.

Next, I put them on the disk of that category. Since I will wish to delete some later and rearrange, I catalog them so I can mark on the sleeve each file with "d" for delete, "tr" for transfer and know how many sectors are used. Next, I put them in TI-ARTIST PLUS where I can index them and see what I have. Since economy of space is a factor, I also instance catalog them so I know the rows, columns and can see readily if we have the graphic already, as many of the same public domain files that surface have different names and many different files have the same name. All our disks are cataloqued on the jacket and all are cataloqued in instance or graphic format so double checking is easy. Our graphic catalogs are in note binders. Finally, I am ready to save the graphic to the working copy. I save from TI-ARTIST PLUS rather than use a disk utility to transfer files for several reasons. First, often instances have a lot of blank space saved which takes up precious disk space and also throws off centering etc, in cards, signs and banners. Secondly, I can rename it and modify any part we wouldn't use.

Our disks are arranged for as little disk swapping as possible and with each format in mind. So our CSGD format has character sets (/CH) which are fonts combined with graphics (/GR) or saved JIFFYCARDS under each respective topic, example, birthday. So on that disk all graphics are placed that one would likely use for birthdays or alternate choices for the cards saved on one disk. CSGD graphics only take 2 sectors for graphics, character fonts vary and cards are 27 sectors so it is a reasonable way to combine, since a disk can only take 127 files. Even on SS/SD that would leave wasted space if one were to use graphics only.

In TI-ARTIST format, I put different sized instances (_I) all together so when I make signs, cards, or banners, I have variety for size placement and effectiveness. Because they are topically arranged I do not run into a choice problem later if I wish to use five instances, for example, in SIGNMAKER as my choices are all present. That works well with all TI-Artist support programs we use. A mixed choice of commercial, shareware, and public domain also gives a variety of style. Our fonts are on separate disks since most programs access them in either drive. However, I always put our favorites on the program disks, which comes in handy and avoids a lot of disk switching. I do the same

with borders, too. Since a two drive system will eventually need repair in one drive, I have a backup program disk I can use with a one drive system for emergencies, as I would not want to copy an original at a time when malfunctioning is present and perhaps undefined. I only do that with the programs we use daily.

In Page Pro format, I also have files topically arranged; here I have fonts and graphics all on the same disks. It avoids a lot of disk swapping.

One other aid I have found where we have many disks is color coding. When color disks were on sale in bulk, I bought them so at a glance I know red is Christmas, dark blue, patriotic; light blue, special events; orange, Halloween or Thanksgiving; brown, Jiffycards; yellow, fonts; signs, lavendar etc. I started with colored labels until I could build up colored disks. I also know I am not working an original if I have color in most cases.

A last help is the physical arrangement. My disk holders have 2 sides. 1541-ARTIST format is in one disk holder. It uses both sides for all my topics and programs; below it on the next shelf is CSGD format and all frequently used utilities such as disk managers, Funnelweb etc. on the second side; on the top shelf is Page Pro with music and games on the second side with programs and utilities I use less often.

Since fractured file takes a lot of loading time, after my working disk is finished, I do a file by file copy with a disk manager. Fractured files are indicated with an * on our disk manager. I figure it must be harder on the drives to go looking for parts of files too and since we use our computers so much, time saving in the long run saves us too. Then I get out a good mystery and read while my final version is being copied!

It is my hope that one of these ideas may help you, too! Perhaps you have an idea that would be even better?

Sister Pat Taylor, BVM

S P E E C H !

This article is about the program SPEECODER by Michael Zapf of Karben Gemany. I have had the program for about a month now and am so happy with the results so far that I decided to write this in the hopes that others will have as much fun as I have. What I hope to do is to add to his docs some additional ideas that will help others use this great program. The program should be [in our library] under the file name above as I am making a a point to load that program and this article at the same time.

The program allows loading and saving words from the resident vocabulary, GROM, cartridges, disks, etc. By loading words or parts of words you can make new words and sentences. If you try this you will find that they do not sound well together at all. In fact I feel the words in the resident vocabulary go together to make sentences that sound like a raving lunatic. Now the fun begins. If you look ahead to the example you will see that the sentence is made up of words taken from the resident vocabulary. If you print out the screens for the original words and compare them to the example you can see what changes have been made. But before we get into that here is a little background on the method TI uses in the speech synthesizer. When you want the word(s) spoken in the program you choose a selection called LPC. LPC stands for linear predictive coding. Basically they save memory by predicting parts of speech by using certain rules. If you have heard the Bert and Ernie program you can see that this method has its good and bad aspects.

Let's look in detail at what the screens show you that allows you to change every characteristic of the words. Again if you look at the example the first thing is energy which is quite simply the volume of that particulatr part of the word. Next RP means repeat. A one means to repeat the previous sound. Note that if repeat is a one there can be no K values. Pitch is really the pitch period. This is the reciprocal of pitch or 1/pitch. Thus a larger value here means a lower sound. The K values work pretty much like ten filters that affect the loudness of the low and high parts of the sound being produced. The low values are on the left and progress to the highest on the right. Here they are affecting the pitch directly so the numbers work the opposite of the pitch period. Handy, isn't it.

To help you get started here are some hints that work for me most of the time. Don't take these as hard and fast rules. I have been fooled. It seems to vary a lot from word to word and also combinations there of. I usually have the best luck working on one word at a time but in the sentence it is used in. Sometimes taking a word from the vocabulary and reworking it alone and then inserting it in the sentence is sucessful. But usually it will require more work in the sentence. Generally using a single letter in a word does not work well either. Better to find another word that has the sound you want and extract it. As with the TE2 the sound is important not the spelling. That is why this program with its greater control of the sounds is so great.

To make a sentence you load each word from the VOCABULARY or wherever and save it to disk by going to DECODE and SAVE. When you have all the words you need just string them together by calling them from the disk in the ENCODE section per the docs. If you need to make a word by combining parts of other ones do it now. The example "Welcome to the TI meeting" is saved in this form under the file name OTIMEET. Next it is a good idea to print out the sentence screens by going to the PRINT function under ENCODE. You may also want to print out or view the screens for each word to determine where each one starts in the sentence. Now you are ready to modify the words into a smoother sentence. The first thing you can do is to try to get the pitch of all the words fairly close to the same value. The words in the vocabulary are especially bad about this. Next the energy of less important words like "the, and, etc." and the second half of compound words will need to be lowered. Strip the ending sounds from words to speed it up or repeat the last ending sound for slowness. I was surprised at how much you can strip from some words without affecting its intelegibility. As you get into it, it reminds one of painting a picture. The changes in volume, pitch, speed and timbre we all use in our speech are the reason computers sound so stupid when they speak. Preceding and ending a word with a 0 (zero) line will make it sound more distinct but at the price of smoothness. This was done in lines 46 and 47 of the example. Also some consonants don't need many lines to sound good. Try a 0 line, a 9,0,0,26,6,6,7 line, and another 0 line and you should have a fairly good sounding "t" sound. The numbers in the preceding line refer to the Energy, RP, Pitch, and first four K values.

That is about it except for a few miscellanious notes. I tried to save words and sentences to my ramdisk when I had loaded the program in from a regular disk drive. But the program wouldn't accept the higher disk numbers until I also copied the Speecoder program to the ramdisk. If anyone knows about any plans for building a voice digitizer for the TI I am interested. Other speech programs are also in my interest category. I hope I haven't left out that one thing you need to make this program work.

The files in this arcfile should be- 1.All the original words in the example sentence in separate files named after each word with an "O" in front of it. Example- OTO. 2. The original words put together in a sentence as they came from the Vocabulary. File name- OTIMEET. 3. The revised sentence in file name- TIMEET. (This is what the example on the following pages came from.)

Please send any correspondence to the following address.

John C. Johnson
398 Forest Dr. S.E.
Cedar Rapids, Ia. 52403

E	RP	PIT	K1	etc.								Line #	word
1	0	36	2	22	12	9	5	5	6	2	4	4	1	Well
5	1	42												
8	0	42	5	22	11	12	1	3	7	4	6	3		
11	0	39	8	18	10	15	5	4	5	5	7	4		
14	0	38	12	15	7	11	11	5	8	5	5	3		
14	1	38												
14	1	37												
14	1	40												
13	0	42	11	18	9	13	7	4	12	4	3	4		
11	0	44	9	25	12	9	7	5	8	5	2	4		
0														
7	0	0	17	22	6	5							12	come
7	0	0	14	14	7	4								
7	0	0	17	14	9	5								
5	0	0	17	19	8	5								
7	0	36	18	12	10	11	6	8	3	4	5	5		
12	1	40												
12	1	40												
12	0	40	14	16	11	11	5	6	3	5	4	4		
11	1	44												
9	0	43	13	19	4	10	5	4	2	4	5	4		
8	1	45												
8	1	45												
7	1	45												
7	1	46												
6	1	46												
0														
7	0	1	27	17	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	to
8	0	1	28	13	7	8	0	0	0	0	0	0		
7	0	1	18	16	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	0		
11	0	38	20	8	6	10	2	10	6	4	6	7		
11	1	38												
11	1	38												
11	1	39												
11	0	40	18	5	6	11	4	9	4	4	6	7		
11	1	45												
11	0	46	14	8	8	9	5	7	4	4	6	7		
11	1	49												
11	0	43	21	20	6	5	4	5	3	6	6	4	39	the
11	0	43	21	20	6	5	4	5	3	6	6	4		
11	0	46	22	24	8	5	3	4	2	6	7	5		
12	0	46	20	18	4	2	3	10	9	7	3	3		
10	1	46												
8	1	44												
6	1	44												
0													46	
0													47	

7	0	0	26	8	6	7							48	I
10	0	42	25	17	8	5	2	3	4	5	4	4		
10	1	42												
13	0	42	24	18	8	3	0	7	8	7	5	5		
12	1	42												
12	0	42	24	17	5	3	1	8	9	7	4	4		
12	1	42												
12	1	42												
11	0	43	24	13	3	3	3	11	9	6	3	3		
11	0	43	24	13	3	3	3	11	9	6	3	3		
11	0	43	24	13	3	3	3	11	9	6	3	3		
12	0	40	16	15	7	12	8	8	3	5	6	6	59	I
12	1	40												
12	1	38												
12	1	40												
12	1	40												
12	1	40												
12	0	40	16	19	7	10	7	6	8	5	5	5		
12	1	42												
12	0	42	16	19	7	8	7	7	8	6	3	4		
11	0	47	17	20	3	11	6	7	11	5	1	4		
10	0	47	16	19	5	5	9	12	6	4	1	2		
0														
6	0	45	19	24	0	6	5	6	3	5	3	7	71	me
11	0	42	23	23	10	5	0	3	4	7	5	5		
11	1	42												
11	1	42												
11	1	43												
11	1	44												
6	0	0	26	13	9	4							77	teen.
9	0	31	22	16	6	4	2	7	8	6	3	5		
10	1	36												
10	1	37												
9	0	38	25	17	3	3	4	11	9	6	2	2		
10	1	44												
10	1	44												
10	1	46												
10	1	46												
8	0	47	11	13	2	13	9	6	10	2	2	4		
6	1	48												
6	0	48	11	12	2	14	8	5	10	3	3	3		
6	0	48	9	11	4	12	9	4	9	3	4	2		
5	0	48	8	12	4	13	9	5	10	3	3	3		
6	0	48	15	5	6	6	9	10	7	4	5	2		
15														

Note that the line numbers will be on the left side if you print this screen from the program. I have not had much luck working with any of the K values (other than the left two) so far.

EOF...J C Johnson...CR

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I still have a couple of Paul's consoles with modulator, manuals, etc. for $15 each. Also, a couple of speech synthesizers remain, $10 ea. Thanks to all those that bought his items through me, it really helped everybody out.

Thanks also go to eagle eye Bob Heiderstadt for finding an error in my Epson transliterate listing I published last month. For the line that turns on the expanded mode, the codes should be: .TL 2:27,87,48,0

Right church, wrong pew. Last month, I mentioned that our new member Patti Thoma was looking for a program, but the type of program I stated was incorrect. She is looking for an INVOICING program, not an inventory program. If you think you can help here, make contact at 319-557-9495 or at 8881 Havenwood, Dubuque, IA 52001. Better yet, Patti, why don't you write up what your are trying to do, and how the TI figures into it, and send it to us? That would give us more information about your application, and would be some good input to our newsletter.

I've been trying to write a program for Sister Pat that would use only a basic console, speech module, and the minimemory to produce a menu of selected speech words for voice impared persons. I have hit two snags: There is almost no information available on how to make the speech synthesizer parse and use phonems from assembly language, and the tables resident in the TE-II module that normally perform the lion's share of work are at least 9K long. The minimemory has only 4K of ram available. Any one out there have any ideas or suggestions as to how to accomplish this? The goal is to use only an unexpanded system to provide the speech, so the only two choices are minimemory or TE-II. The use of a cassette is too demanding and finicky for the intended users, so it is out.

Open circuit to those who would like to get their ham licenses: As of February 15, 1991, the Morse code requirement for the Technician class only license will be dropped. This means that to operate hand held walkie-talkies in the VHF and above bands no longer will require a code test. To operate on the short wave bands, and talk all over the world, will still require a Morse code test. This is called the Novice license, which remains unchanged. Talk to me about it if you are interested. A free class may be forming soon by the local radio club to help you get a Technician class license.

Faced with another round of postal increases, we are forced to take a look at how our newsletter is distributed. Those of us that can are having the newsletter distributed to them through other means. Some clubs have proposed that the newsletter be handed out at a meeting, and those that are not picked up are then mailed. This certainly saves postage, but one of the more important functions of the newsletter is now removed, that is a reminder of when the next meeting will occur. Think about it, and come to the next meeting prepared to discuss your ideas. Raising dues? A dues surcharge? Dropping some of our newsletter exchanges?

I would also like to ask you out there to consider if you could be a newsletter editor. Our present editor, Jim Green, has done an admirable job for, lo, these last 2 or 3 years. He hasn't said that he wants to quit this position, but I think we should consider a replacement before he gets burned out. Elections loom on the horizon, so that would be an excellent time to make a switch. Now, if Jim comes up and twists my arm to stay on as the newsletter editor, well, who am I to argue? The responsibility of editor is very important to our club, and should be shared and spread around, if possible. I know that one thing that helps an editor out tremendously is simply to provide him or her with material for inclusion in the newsletter. More to think about.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EASTERN IOWA COMPUTER FAIR: The fair was held on Saturday, March 2, 1991, and our TI group had a presence there. We staffed one table, complete with two expanded systems, and plenty of games for the kids. The fair seemed to be quite popular: all the display tables were filled, so there weren't any open spots. Traffic was heavy and steady during the morning two hours I was there, and it still remained moderate at 5 PM when I returned to pick up my system. Although the clone systems dominated the floor, there were many user groups there, some from Illinois. Commodore user groups were numerous, in fact, they were the only type of user group there, besides TI. We suffered somewhat in not having enough time to put together any software to demonstrate, and I heard several comments that someone had a TI stuck in a closet somewhere, having not seen use in many years. Several comments were also that the TI was the first computer they ever owned, and still have fond memories of its use. I tried to put on my salesman's hat to get some of these people to either investigate using the TI, or possibly donating their equipment to one of the several worthy causes we are aware of. I didn't have much success, but the efforts may bear fruit eventually. Our original purpose was to maintain a public profile, and I believe we accomplished that.

I want to thank Sister Pat for her beautiful cards, banners, and fliers she made up for us, and I have to apologize to her. In the rush of trying to load up and haul the club system and library, my system, and other hardware items to show during a

rain/sleet storm at 7 AM on a Saturday, I forgot to load up most of the items she made for us. We did have on display many fine examples of greeting cards, which did attract some interest.

I also want to thank those that agreed to volunteer part of their Saturday to staff our table: Bob Wahlstrom, Wayne Betts, Ray Novey, Ed Edwards, John Johnson. Maybe next year, we can put on a better show, and have something more to offer.

DONATIONS: Over the past several months, the club has been the recipient of several hardware items. I am writing this to acknowledge the donors, and to let you know what items are available. Now, the club hasn't decided what to do with these items, but I envision a lending library similar to how the software library operates. The same librarian may not have responsibility over both items, but this can be discussed.

Brian Hawkins, a former member, donated the following magazines: 5 issues of Enthusiast'99 magazine, the "Official Publication of the International 99/4 Users Group," May 83 to Jan 84; and 13 isues of 99'er/Home Computer magazine. Thanks Brian. Also, Bill Bonda donated the following items: cartridges with manuals; Personal Record Keeping, Personal Real Estate, Personal Report Generator, Household Budget Management, Tax/Investment Record Keeping, Home Financial Decisions; disk/manuals: TI's Checkbook Manager, Auto maintenance, 4A/Talk, Concordium cassette/manual. These items are for whatever use we see fit, we can keep them, loan them out, give them away, sell them, whatever. I welcome all inputs as to what disposition should be made of these items. Thanks to Bill and Brian for sharing these items with us.

FOR SALE: I have collected the following items I wish to sell: P-Box with disk controller, single sided disk, DM-2 cartridge, manuals; $100. I can't accept much less than this. For Mary Mortensen, I have a console complete with manuals, modulator, power transformer, $15, TI cassette recorder, $20, joysticks $2, several cartridges, make offer. Gary Bishop, 377-9574

Cedar Valley 99'er Users Group
377 Cambridge Dr. NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

Send To:

GARY BISHOP
124-222
3270 28TH AVE
MARION IA 52302