

K-TOWN ^KA 99'ER

NEWSLETTER OF THE K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP
AND THE ATHENS COMPUTER CLUB

SEPTEMBER 1991

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COMMENT

The K-Town 99er is published monthly for the benefit of the K-Town 99/4A Users Group membership specifically and the TI Community in general. The Articles in this newsletter to the best of our knowledge are factual but nevertheless the views expressed are the views of the author and

are not necessarily the views of the K-Town Users Group. Any article, unless stated otherwise, may be copied by other users groups and published in their newsletter providing credit is given to the author and the K-Town 99er.

K-TOWN SEPTEMBER MEETING

The K-TOWN 99/4A Users Group will meet at the home of E. M. Smith. We will continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. SEPTEMBER 12th is our next meeting date. Joe Simmons will entertain us with a special demo called "FUN WITH

MULTIPLAN". Dr. Charles Good has favored us with the latest FUNNELWEB UPDATE VER.4-4. You will need to bring two disks (DSSD) to get coppies of this update. Also on the agenda will be a brief business session and the usual copying of disks.

DUES / MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the K-Town 99/4A Users Group is open to any owner or user of the TI-99/4A Home Computer. Dues are TEN DOLLARS per year and subject to our fiscal year which begins April 1 and ends March 31 or each year. Dues are clasified as family memberships. New memberships are prorated at

the rate of ONE dollar per month if less than a full year, except for the last three months of our fiscal year. There is a minimum fee of five dollars. Memberships are not prorated for current or former members. We welcome visitors.



THE PRESIDENT'S FORUM

We had an inquiry a couple of weeks ago from Dennis Mackey who will be moving back to the Knoxville area after some years away in the Navy. He is a TI user and wanted to know what we are like. I found that it was a pleasure to sort of back off and give him a broad view of the K'town 99'ers. We have a lot to offer in the way of knowledge, skills, talent, and good company and I told him so. His letter sounded like his special interest is in modem and BBS use.

Paul and Ron are really getting along with their Zeno (correct spelling this time) project. They dare to venture into that holy of holies, the inside of the console. Not only did they put new stuff into it but they

attacked it with a soldering iron! It scares me but they don't seem at all afraid and it still works.

Once again the other night, at two o'clock in the morning, I had that great experience - assembling an Assembly Language program, cranking it up, and it worked! You can't beat that feeling of power.

See you at 3506 Garden Drive at 7 o'clock on September 12. Who knows what treasures we will find there!

John H. Bull



QUADRATIC ROOTS

Our TI is good at handling numbers. The TMS9900 central processing unit with floating point arithmetic and radix 100 representation does a good job. Its speed and precision compare favorably with its contemporaries, such as the TRS80, Commodore 64, and the original IBM PC, as demonstrated in benchmark tests. As for the 1991 models, wellllll, TI still does a good job.

Somebody once said that good mathematicians are all lazy; that "short cut" is the name of the game. Do you remember what a chore it was to find the roots of, or solve, a quadratic equation. You had three choices: factor it, complete the square, or use the formula. Factoring wasn't much work but was seldom possible. Completing the square was complicated and difficult. The formula was a pain.

The formula is no pain for TI. Here is a little program, really just an algorithm using the formula, that makes it a snap. The only real difficulty is the difference between the graphics of the X/B screen and the normal math symbolism.

The program first shows the standard form of a quadratic equation, then asks you to input A, B, and C,

the coefficients. Zip! There are the roots, real or imaginary.

```
100 !"QUADROOTS", Roots of quadratic equations
110 PRINT "AX2 + BX + C = 0": :
120 INPUT "A,B,C = ":A,B,C :: PRINT
130 B=B/A :: C=C/A
140 D=B*B-4*C
150 IF D<0 THEN 210
160 X=(-B+SQR(D))/2
170 PRINT "X = ";STR$(X):"and":
180 X=(-B-SQR(D))/2
190 PRINT "X = ";STR$(X): :
200 GOTO 120
210 D=-D
220 PRINT "X = ";STR$(-B/2);"+it";STR$(SQR(D)/2): "and":
230 PRINT "X = ";STR$(-B/2);"-it";STR$(SQR(D)/2): "
i=SQR(-1)":
240 GOTO 120
```

There! Does that make me a mathematician or just lazy?

John H. Bull

POTPOURRI

BY BILL SHERIDAN

Here are some more tips (some old and some new) when using Funnelweb, that I saw in the June issue of the WEST PENN 99'ers newsletter.

Funnelweb Editor-

1. To change screen color press CTRL and 3 at the same time

2. CTRL and period (.) changes the letter under the cursor to lower case.

3. CTRL and semi-colon (;) changes the letter under the cursor to UPPER CASE.
4. CTRL and A moves the screen down one screen (same as FCTN 4)
5. CTRL and B moves the screen back one screen (same as FCTN 6)
6. CTRL U and then Shift J puts in a linefeed. Press CTRL U again to return to original mode.
7. CTRL M can be used for a carriage return (same as pressing ENTER or CTRL B).
8. CTRL C returns you to the top prompt line (same as FCTN 9).
9. CTRL E S D X H J also act as arrow keys.
10. CTRL Z acts as a Tab.
11. CTRL T acts as a back tab.
12. CTRL G places a blank line above the line you are on (same as FCTN 8).
13. CTRL L places cursor in the top left corner of the screen.
14. CTRL P places a new page mark (same as CTRL 9).

15. When using Show Directory (newer versions of Funnelweb), use the arrow keys to move the little lines (to the left and right of the file names) up or down to the file you wish to mark. Press the space bar to mark the file. Press D to Delete the file or press ENTER, type LF, then press ENTER twice to load the file.

Formatter Tip-

16. When at the prompt for a file name press FCTN 7 for a disk directory. Then proceed as above (except no carat) to mark a file. CTRL = brings you back to the Formatter. Now press FCTN D and the marked file will appear.

Just a Tip-

17. When in the TI-Writer menu or E/A menu pressing FCTN 9 allows you to exit Funnelweb in a graceful manner. The error checking allows you to be sure that this is what you want to do.

EOF

In the June issue of the LA 99ers Topics, I found the following bit of information that they had copied from the February issue of the SUNCOAST BEEPER.

KILO comes from the Greek "khilo" meaning thousand.
 MEGA comes from the Greek "megas" meaning great.
 GIGA comes from the Greek "gigas" meaning giant.
 TERA comes from the Greek "teras" meaning monster.

When measuring bytes, however, they stand for:

KILO = 1,024
 MEGA = 1,048,576
 GIGA = 1,073,741,824
 TERA = 1,099,511,627,776

Interesting, ain't it?

In English, these words stand for:
 Thousand, million, billion, and trillion.

EOF

Another article in the same issue of LA 99ers Topics by Chuck Ball, ex editor of Word Play, the PUNN Newsletter of Portland, OR, is about a program called TIPS, which I found to be very interesting.

Some of you have heard of the program "TIPS". This program has been around for a little while now, but for those of you who do not know about it or haven't acquired it, read on!

- Bill). What a joy it would have been to liven up some of the articles with a nice illustration. We could have even dressed up the mailing labels.

The program was written by Ron Wolcott. He has converted some 4000 illustrations from the IBM world for use on the TI-99/4A. The program is available and so are the disks containing the illustrations. With some additional software the illustrations can be used with TI-Artist, Page Pro, Picasso and Graphx. You can even add the pictures to your TI-Writer files and print your text combined with any of the illustrations. This has to be one of the best of recent programs written for our TI's.

The entire package to date consists of 3 disks of program material that offers various functions. Viewing the pictures in a sort of slide show; converting the pictures to different program formats; reversing the image to use on a transfer type paper for iron on tee shirts; a calendar maker; and other features too numerous to mention here. I have obtained approximately 40 disks of pictures with each disk holding about 100 pictures, some more, some less. These disks are all SSSD, however, with archiving they would fit in such less space.

In addition to the features already mentioned you can also print labels, banners and posters using both text and the pictures that have been converted. Personally, I wish I had the program available when I was the editor of Word Play. (How about Art Gibson's Newsletter Printer program?

One unique thing about our TI world is that once a good program is released it doesn't take long for some ardent programmer to try to improve on it. And that is just what our good TI friend Earl Raguse of the Orange

County User Group did. With all due respect for Ron Wolcott, without whom we wouldn't even have the program, Earl made a few minor changes and wrote a fine documentation that makes it easier to use and understand, especially for non-programmers like myself.

I have acquired the original documentation written by Ron Wolcott, plus many additional tips and hints from the various newsletters. I am now in the process of

assembling this material in an orderly format and it will be available for anyone interested.

The real beauty of this program is its ease of use and compatibility with other programs. If you're into any kind of word processing, newsletters, publishing or poster making, once you acquire TIPS you'll wonder how you ever got along without it.
EOF

If interested in the above program, I found, in the February 1991 issue of MICRopendium, a full page ad (page 3) on TIPS. The program disk and library disks(1-10) of over 2000 graphics is available from TEX-COMP at \$4.95/disk + s/h, or the entire package for \$39.95 +s/h. Additional TIPS library disks(11-16) are also \$4.95 each or the 6 for \$24.95. It doesn't say, but I'm sure you must include s/h. For shipping and handling add 3% (\$3.00 minimum) west of the Mississippi. For those of us on the east side they require 4 1/2%. The address is TEX-COMP; PO BOX 33084; GRANADA HILLS, CA 91344. Credit card holders (Visa or Mastercharge) may call (818) 366-6631 to order anytime 24 hours a day. Add 3% for credit card orders.

CHATTERBOX - VII

BY BOB BUEHLER

PLUS! V.2 CONTINUED

Programs that Jack Sughrue packed into his V.2 (V.FINAL according to him) stemmed from useful utilities for elementary school instruction and from requests and suggestions by users and other friends.

Calendars

One of the most used PLUS! programs prints calendars. In fact, there are two. DESKCAL is a 12 pager, letter size, with provision for printed personal "reminders" on any day. YEARLY/CAL is three pages with four months on one letter size sheet. Here I go again, finding fault. I think there are bad graphic goofs in both.

YEARLY/CAL- This is the worst. Graphics used to divide the month into day blocks are so massive as to almost obscure the date numerals. Character Styles of the ASCII Code Tables are used. They are CHR\$(254) and CHR\$(252), both 45 degree triangles about as high and blacker than a numeral when output on the printer. I changed to CHR\$(95) for horizontal and CHR\$(124) for vertical day block dividers. Now it prints out much prettier. Then I had a flash-back, so dug out my 1988 version of PLUS! Low and behold it's YEARLY/CAL printed out even a little prettier. So I promptly transferred the 1988 version to the later V.2 version. I must write and tell Jack about this. He thinks V.2 is his swan song on PLUS!, but I don't see how he thinks he can get away with it's YEARLY/CAL!!

DESKCAL- Here the graphic goof is on those days having printed personal reminders. A day block has room for six lines each of about 10 characters. Strangely,

though, any shorter reminder, even just one single letter, causes all remaining spaces to be filled with the lower right quadrant of a circle, CHR\$(160). Silly as it seems, I substituted CHR\$(255) which is an empty rectangle, and it worked. Again, I'm going to let Jack know about this.
Other PLUS! Stuff

FNLSTRIP- With this I learned, maybe relearned, a couple of good things that I should have been using all along. FNLSTRIP prints out simply a keyboard strip applying to TI Writer, Funnelweb, and NL/PRINTER, and also to DM1000. It may be cut out, glued to stiff paper, and taped to the console strip slot in case you've lost the printed plastic strip that came with your console. Or as an extra, hinge it at about that same location. I notice EM Smith has several strips taped to his console. Guess I better check them out. I learned one good thing from the part of the strip pertaining to the CTRL key and the other good thing from the DM1000-FCM part.

The good thing from CTRL was learned because it contained two errors. Now that's a strange way to learn! Here's how. I noticed "NxtPage" under column 4 and "LstPag" under column 6. Gosh, I well know that NEW PAGE is under column 9 because I've hit it too many, many times when I was aiming for NEW PARAGRAPH under column 8!! Hence "NxtPage" and "LstPag" on FNLSTRIP was confusing if not impossible. Of course it had to be "NxtPara" and "LstPar" under columns 4 and 6. I tried them that way while I was in NL/PRINTER and they worked. See FNLSTRIP, below, as corrected and in condensed font so it will stay on the page.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
Ops!	!Retrnat!Colors!NxtPara!DupLine!LstPar!WordTab!NwPara!NewPage!WdWrap!CTL								
DelChr!	!InsChar!DelLin!RollDown!Nxt-->!	!RollUp!	Tab!	!InsLin!	Command!	Line!	!FCTN		
DelChr!	!InsChar!	Config!	Halt!	!DIOM!	Manul!	ProC'd!	Cat!	Prnt!	Input!
									!r#Sub!
									IDM = FCTN

These "Para" things can save time in editing. Actually I think I used to know and use them, but got out of the habit. But I gotta tell Jack about the errors.

The good thing from the DM-FCTN part of FNLSTRIP is confirmation of something EM Smith told me long ago. If DM1000 wont print the catalog, go back to the Title Screen and press FCTN-3. Then enter your printers name at the proper time. Now I see on FNLSTRIP that FCTN-3 in fact is a Configuration like EM told me about. Thing is, though, I now went back to the Corcomp Disk Controller Manual and find the printer instruction is different. Oh well, I can do it easy EM's and Jack's way! Finally on DM-FCTN, it shoud be "ProC'd" under 6, as corrected above, rather than "Request" as it is in Jack's V2. of PLUS!

There are other good things to relate about PLUS! V2 but later.

ANOTHER RECIPE

BEER BREAD

We've had an automatic bread baker from DAK for two and a half years. For the two years I bought only one loaf of "store" bread. Lately I got out of the auto-bread-bake habit. BUT BEFORE the DAK baker I made beer bread often. It's so simple and makes great toast. 3 Cups self rising flour - 1/3 Cup sugar - pinch of salt One twelve ounce can of beer.

Mix only until moist. Bake in greased loaf pan for one hour at 350 Deg. I used to have a loaf on deck at all times. Maybe I'll get back in the beer bread habit.

DD 8/20/91 and more

K-TOWN MINUTES, AUGUST 8, 1991

Right here at the top, I can't do justice to this meeting. We were TEN! The most in a long, long time. One from 75 and one from 10 miles North West. One from 61 and one from 15 miles south West. Three from 61 miles West. Three from Zip Code 37918, that of our meeting place. So much happened, it's tough to report, and certainly in no systematic way.

Someone asked about the state of our treasury. Active Treasurer, EM Smith reported roughly \$380, including accrued interest, and a few 29 cent stamps. Remember, our newsletter is getting printed free; and this happy happening now seems fairly certain for the year. We're in pretty good shape for the shape we're in!

To fill a time gap while we awaited arrival of Prexy, John Bull, to call us to order, Bill Sheridan reported pesky problems with his computer system. He could not operate Art Gibson's NL/PRINTER program. But could operate every other program he tried. Obviously NL/PRINTER had to be at fault. So Bill hiked by pick-up truck to EM's to try the same DSK on EM's system. There it worked! But Bill picked up a fresh NL/PRINTER copy anyway. It didn't work at home either. The fault was no longer obvious! Bill recited for us the many, many substitutions he attempted, in frequent telephone conference with EM. To no avail. Finally EM suggested trying a different main console, obviously not the culprit, but yet an avenue of last resort. Bill took the wrappers from a new, never used console; a handy spare just awaitin' on the shelf. You guessed it. Then the NL/PRINTER program functioned for Bill Sheridan, K/Town Editor, no less. Seems like one more of the many times when our TI Sage, EM had the winning answer!

While Bill had the floor, he asked how many had solved his two puzzles in the Newsletter. In shame, I

reported a lack of time. Gee Whiz, in the meantime I'd spent time getting ready for, enjoying a 60th wedding anniversary whingding as one the two main characters, and then recovering from it all. Anybody else have that good an excuse? Bill's two puzzles, along with their graphics were darn swell. It's a pure shame when life is so busy that stuff like Bill's good work can pass without proper appreciation. We surely should "Take time to smell the roses," but it's tough when your a computer addict.

Seeking to capitalize on the above triumph over Bill's pesky problem, EM proudly announced his recent discovery. His SSDD, 720 Sectors, system with it's TI DSK controller, really will initialize a DSK as DSDD. But it then wouldn't perform as such. For proof EM demoed. All eyes on the monitor, presto, sector count verified away in normal fashion. UNTIL just following 720. Then verification zipped at lightning speed through 1440! Suspicious, I guessed. Next a DSK catalog provided an answer of sorts. It showed 718 Sectors free and 722 Sectors used! As a final test, a file exceeding 718 Sectors failed to load. Now listen good. This is the first EM Smith innovation that I know about that fluffed. BUT only 'half a fluff. It did initial but left 'half th Sectors already used, maybe by Pixies or Elfs. In my diary, a one-half fluff out of dozens and dozens of EM inovations and revelations ain't bad!

Now's time to make known that the three from 51 miles west were Art Gibson, his pretty wife Debby, and his good looking son Arthur. Arthur takes after Debby; She's on the staff of the Roan County news paper. Golly she's aiming to put K-Towners in the news. Debby began a question period that somehow didn't really fly. I'm no quite clear on why, but I thinks that's about the time

Prexy John Bull made his late entry; late for good reason herding a potential visitor but who didn't make it. Debby's first question: How many of you Tiers also have an IBM or clone? Only one confessed, 'cause he has to use one at work. Question two: If you could afford it would you buy an IBM or clone. No one said yes. I shook my head no emphatically. Say maybe that's when John Bull arrived to a healthy cheer and hand clapping. No wonder Debby's interview ended without finishing!

About when Paul Blevins and Ron Hatmaker were preparing to hook up the ZENO board that Ron had built, Art Gibson slight-of-handed a surprise package from his pocket into the cartridge slot of the regular console. Behold; it was an ordinary module, altered. It had a small bank of dip switches on the top and a red light push button switch. Any of several standard TI module programs could be called up with the proper switch setting. And it was so simple. Rom chips removed from their regular cartridges were plopped into the one cartridge and wired to the dip switches for control. A show stopper it was. With pocket knife Art opened the interesting package to show how the chips were inserted and wired. He said that only a cartridge with a plug-into-console-strip having contacts on a single side could be so adapted. It's surely a useful intriguing idea, but maybe not practical

if there is still room on a Ram DSK to hold the same program. Just for kicks, I opened a module that had been kicking around. Guess I could still work-up one of the things if I had the chips and switches. I know I could have when my hands, eyes, and nerves were younger and steadier.

Back to the ZENO board, in response to question, Paul said "It wasn't all that expensive." That likely is a Rugby, Tennessee, expression meaning less than maybe less than \$150, not counting a \$1000 labor equivalent by Ron. Ron opened the board to show why construction is such difficult. The etched circuit board lines are sooooo close together that it's mighty hard to avoid bridging when soldering! Sadly, there is plenty of room to have made them farther apart. Paul did report that he uses the ZENO board console regularly maybe as much for its attachable IBM keyboard as anything. He like that.

Debby Gibson took a dozen or so flash shots during the meeting, lending support to her stated intention, subject to the approval of her Editor, of course.

All ten adjourned to nearby McDonalds for good unhurried socializing despite the considerable number of miles that most of those present had to drive before beddy.

Bob Buehler, Secy' Treas.

STUMBLINGS

by

Joe N. Simmons

Have you ever stumbled on to a new technique either at the computer or in another club's newsletter? If so, this column is for you. The geniuses will be so deep in thought that they will never know that they missed these stumbles! Enough gibberish.



I have been missing from this newsletter for the past several months due to problems I was experiencing with my Myarc 512 RAMDISK! That is the sad news. Now that I have replaced it with the TI 32K card everything is working like it should.

During the summer months, I have been fishing for Blue Gil and Bass with a fly rod which is a completely new experience. THERE IS a great deal more action with a fly rod than what one gets from a spinning reel!

Yesterday, John Bull called and asked that I present to the club a demonstration on the use of MultiPlan. Those of you who are unfamiliar with this *cheat sheet*

should pay attention. As I am a lazy creature when it comes to programming and yet one who has many questions which can be answered by a little bit of calculations, TI's MultiPlan is just the program I need.

If I want to calculate various car payments, timberland values, checkbook colations, or values on real estate comparable sales, I can customize a template on MP MultiPlan to answer the question or questions which I have. At tax time, I have one which computes the maximum IRA I can use and still be tax deductible.

MP is an electronic spread sheet much like those long green accounting pads with 24 to 48 columns which many of

us used when going through the calculations in a college timber volume and statistics classes. Along the X axis horizontal you can enter either your variables, categories, or both and on the Y axis vertical you can also list the categories, variables, or both. A cell is (R4C7) which is row 4 column 7. In a cell one may do mathematical calculations, such as add, subtract, multiply, divide, and exponential, or place alpha characters, or recall calculations from elsewhere in the spreadsheet and from other spreadsheets elsewhere on your diskette.

At our club meeting I will try to have three or four templates with which to demonstrate some of the applications to which I have applied MultiPlan.

Art, at work we have DEC "Digital Electronic Company" workstations. In their word processors they have a function key where one may switch from insert to overstrike mode. Normally, one is always in the insert mode. As you know, the TI writer and your editor are in the overstrike mode. As the cursor is moved down the page, the lines are reformatted. I feel the insert mode is much more user friendly. How much trouble would it be to change your editor? Also, in the tab utility one may insert # in the tab position at which one wishes for the paragraph to wordwrap.

###Mail Bag###

Art Green:

Since you're the programmer who has been improving MP, how about developing a way one can catalog your diskettes from MP to determine the availability of diskette space as DM1000 does.

Foster Fulton:

I have a book of yours which I need to return to you.

Charles Good:

Thank-you for sending the Athens Club version 4.40 of Funnelweb. To the reader: I have already sent Charles a thank-you note. Charles is a unique individual who should be awarded the most valuable TI Computer Promoter Award. He works continually copying diskettes and video tapes, taping videos, and writing articles for our computer toy!

Lloyd: Remember when we got version 2.0 or maybe it was 2.4 of FunnelWeb? Since these beginnings we now have sophisticated programs which have been enhanced. Green's has made MP's cursor to speed up data entry and recalculation, Gibson has made word processing have the ability of inserting graphics as well as viewing the publication prior to printing. And the McGovern's have enhanced their FunnelWeb to have windows, to have a Disk Manager which they call DR- Diskreview. DR is a very versatiel and incorporates many new enhancements. Among these are disk-patch as well as a scrolling of DV 80 files.

Athens Club Members:

As I walk through the Bowater forest I am beginning to sense the beginning of the change in the seasons. It is difficult in the 90 degree plus and 95 per cent relative humidity to detect the change; however, Fall is just around the corner. With it we should plan another one of our get togethers you know one of those club meetings when we have more than one or two members. Perhaps, we may be able to get three or four with the help of the K-town Club and some of our former members.

I have got to go for I am out of coffee and it is too late to make more before bed time.//Joe 21:41 hours 8/25/91.

ANOTHER RECIPE

Some good foods are well remembered partly by the atmosphere and decor of where they were eaten. So it is with fruit fritters and corn fritters served at Sand Point Inn near Cape Canaveral. The setting is waterfront oriented, with the launch site within view. No fancy interior, but well kept and comfortable. Beautifully kept aquariums in the lobby. Sea food is a specialty, of course, but the fritters may be best remembered. They begin arriving as soon as your order is taken, and continue as long as you wish. Only problem, you could eat too many and diminish your remaining appetite. Some years back the fritters were fruit. Later they are corn fritters. I'm some partial to the fruit, but either is appropriate this season with sweet corn and peaches in abundance and apples on the way. Here's the recipe.

FRUIT FRITTERS (1/2 BATCH)

3/4 Cup all-purpose flour - 1/2 Tbspn sugar
1 tsp baking pwdr - 1/4 tsp salt
1 1/2 Cups finely chopped fruit - 1/3 Cup milk
1 egg, beaten - 1/2 Tbls oil - Powdered sugar
Bit of vanilla

Combine flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt, mixing well. Add fruit, milk, egg, and oil, stirring until just moist. Drop batter by teaspoons full into deep, hot oil (370 deg). Cook 2-3 minutes, turning, until golden brown. Sift powder sugar over fritters. Yields 1 1/2 Doz. I've used peaches, apples, and pineapple. For ripe, juicy peaches, double the flour. Batter should be quite stiff for nice rounded fritters. On 8/20/91 one-half batch made just enough for three old folk.

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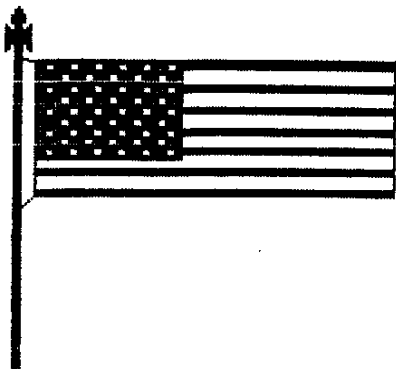
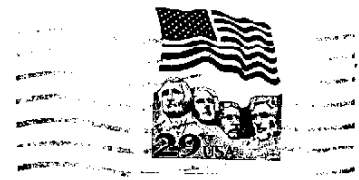
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**AMERICA CELEBRATES.
HAPPY LABOR DAY! DRIVE SAFELY!**