

K-TOWN ^K 99'ER

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

OCTOBER 1991

THE K-TOWN 99'ER IS A JOINT PUBLICATION OF THE K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP AND THE ATHENS COMPUTER CLUB. EACH ARE NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS. ORGANIZED FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF GATHERING AND DISSEMINATING INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THE USE AND OPERATION OF THE TEXAS INSTRUMENTS' TI-99/4A HOME COMPUTER. WE ARE IN NO WAY AFFILIATED WITH TEXAS INSTRUMENTS OR ANY OTHER COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATION.

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 OCTOBER 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. OCTOBER 10th is our next meeting date. The program for the October Meeting was not available at the time this file was updated. I

feel certain that our President will have something of interest cooked up. By whom, I don't know either. Come to the meeting and experience a surprise. What you see is what you'll get. This might be a good time to sneak in a demo of your choice.

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 of 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.




 OUR PRESIDENT APOLOGIZES FOR NOT HAVING AN ARTICLE FOR THIS ISSUE.

POT POURRI

BY BILL SHERIDAN

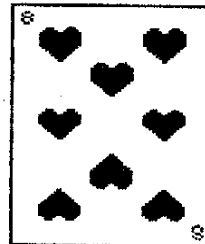
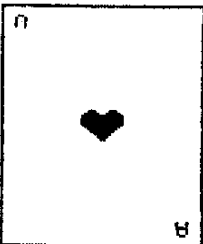
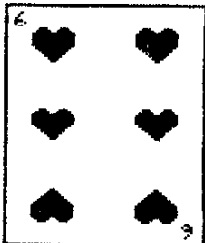
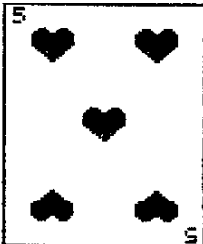
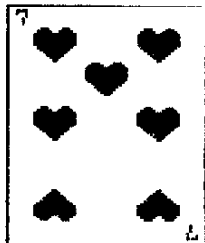
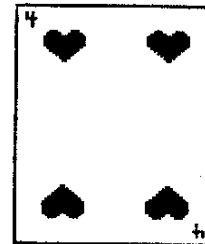
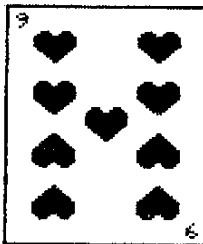
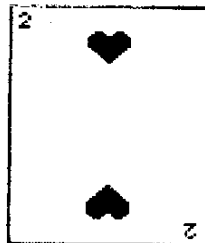
In the August issue of the K-TOWN newsletter, I printed two puzzles. For those of you who have not had the time or are were to lazy to solve the puzzles, here are the answers.

Quiz No. 1 had to do with rearranging nine cards so that the value of the cards would add up to 15 in all directions. If you were lucky enough to start with the 9 card, solving the problem became easy. First, you realized that there were only two sets of cards that went with the 9 that added up to 15 ($9+2+4=15$; $9+5+1=15$). Therefore, the 9 card must either be the center card:

- 1) of the first row
- 2) of the third row
- 3) of the first column
- 4) of the third column

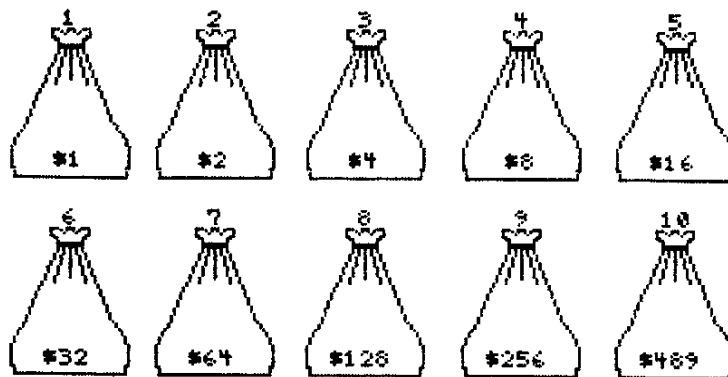
The 9 card cannot be used in one of the 4 corner positions, or as the center card in the second row, as these positions require more than two sets of cards. Since the cards form a perfect square (3X3), it doesn't make any difference where (of the 4 positions above) you put the 9 card, as the remaining cards will fall in the same relative position. With the 9 card in place, you

will soon find out (with trial and error) that the 5 card must be in the center. The Ace, therefore, must be placed in the same row or column. The only option you have is with the 2 and 4 cards. Looking at the solution below, you may swap the 2 and 4 cards, which will require swapping the 7 and 3 cards and the 6 and 8 cards.



In Quiz No. 2 you were asked to divide \$1000 in \$1 bills between 10 bags so that 1 or more bags would add up to any amount from \$1 to \$1000. This one was easy. In bag 1 put \$1. In bag 2 put \$2. Bag 1 plus bag 2 = \$3. Put \$4 in bag 3. Bag 3 plus bag 1 = \$5. Bag 3 plus bag 2 = \$6. Bag 4 plus bag 1 and 2 = \$7. Put \$8 in bag 4. Using the same method as above you will put \$16 in bag 5. By this time you should realize that you are doubling the amount each time. So, for bag 6 \$32, bag 7 \$64, bag 8 \$128, bag 9 \$256, bag 10 will not be \$512 because you only have \$489 left. So put the \$489 in bag 10. Now we'll make a few checks. If you spend \$75, then use bag 7, 4, 2, and 1. That will be \$64+\$8+\$2+\$1 = \$75. If you spend \$332, then use bag 9, 7, 4, and 3. That will be \$256+\$64+\$8+\$4 = \$332. If you spend \$758, then use bag 10, 9, 4, 3, and 1. That will be \$489+\$256+\$8+\$4+\$1 = \$758.

Now try one of your own such as \$889.



CHATTERBOX - VIII

BY BOB BUEHLER

PLUS! V2, CONTINUED

ISTHAY ONTHMAY OMSAY OFAY THEAY INSTAAY INGSTHAY ILLWAY EBAY
ESTEDTAY ANDAY EENETAY ANDAY INYTAY ALOSAY UTBAY OTAY EARNLAY HATWAY
ISAY OMINGCAY QUAY USTMAY INTERPRETAY ISTHAY

Well actually the above was typed in English and then printed through PLUS! IG!PAY to get the Pig Latin version. Then, so you could see the Pig Latin thing, I had to type in LABORIOUSLY that which you see, above. A labor of "lu yu guys!"

Now lets go to some INSTA and TINY or TEENY programs that I was alkingta bouata boveatay. These are a mixture of fun stuff and handy stuff.

INSTACLNR

If you want to know the day of the week when you were born maybe to get an idea if your Mom had to take off work that day, load INSTACLNR and follow instructions by entering the month, day, and year. You'll then learn that you were born on MONDAY, provided your birth date is identical to mine. No, this can't be reversed to learn my age. Maybe you wonder if next JULY 4 will give a three-day summer weekend. If not keep trying 'til you find when it will. Same with Christmas and New Year. But don't get any ideas about a three-day Thanksgiving weekend.

INSTACOUNT

Here's one PLUS! INSTA that does nothing for me, and

the DOCs don't even mention this one. Guess it did nothing for Jack Sughrue either. Just to be a bit more sure, though, I dug up the earlier PLUS! It didn't have INSTACOUNT thereon. Guess it died abornin' somewhere. INSTADUMP

Now here's one that WORKS, but I don't know just what to do with it, and that's no fault of the program. It sure as shootin' scans the monitor beginning at Row 1, Column 1, and transcribes this to printer hard copy. I've wondered much about such as this. Here's why. Something's on the screen and you want to print it. You forget that LIST *PIO* will do this nicely. So you load

INSTADUMP. WOW! You've erased the screen you wanted to dump!

You look at the DOCs. "Easily adapted to GOSUBS." you read. Well that's a hint, but to be a GOSUB it has to be a part of the program you want to dump. So I wrote a stupid program that would fill the screen ending with go to LINE 150. INSTADUMP was on the same DSK as a MERGE program. With the stupid screen words, NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL.....YOU KNOW WHAT, I merged INSTADUMP. I RUNed my stupid program to see if the screen would fill. It did, and before I could say, "Jack Sughrue," the printer was reproducing the screen. I hadn't remembered that I had it turned on. NICE, but I still don't know of a practical use. Can anyone help? For kicks I ran the thing again just now. The full screen scan and print took 54 seconds. Not at all bad if a use can be found.

INSTAPRINT

This INSTA surprised the heck out of me. The 2 Sector thing will print out a Dis/Var 80 file just about like PRINT FILE in TI Writer, FunWeb, NL/PRINTER, etc. I just now checked this out for fact! And it does this FAST! Great as it is, I don't know a practical application. Again, can anyone help?

INSTALABEL

Heres's one of Jack's INSTAs that I can use to advantage. It's quite friendly, at least after a first use. It allows six lines of condensed font, prints the number of labels wanted, and returns to the beginning if a different label is wanted. The program informs how to make a simple change if you prefer PICA font, but of course, you'll get less per line. This one isn't as showy as others I have, but it will be good enough any time.

INSTAMAIL

INSTAMAIL prints an address list, in compressed font, line by line as you key in the information. Before you get a chance at this, though, it prints out a heading in Upper Case: NAME, STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP.

Everything about this INSTA is "one time." When instructed on the screen you key in the NAME. This is your one and only chance to Edit your keying for accuracy, because when you press ENTER, it's gone and you're instructed to key in STREET, also with opportunity to Edit only before you press ENTER. So it goes with the CITY, STATE, and ZIP entries. Now it's the Computer's and the Printer's one and only chance to preserve that NAME and ADDRESS for posterity, because the INSTANT that you press ENTER after entering ZIP the printer takes over and prints the line; where upon the screen instructs you to key in the next NAME, etc.

So you have a one and only copy of an address list. It isn't sorted in any fashion, it's not stored anywhere except on that one and only print out. WOW, WOW, WOW! I only now realized the VALUE of this INSTA. It's to print that "Little Black Book" of Romantic Fame! Shame on you, Jack Sughrue!

END OF THE INSTAS

Now are coming the TINY and TEENY stuff that I have yet to test. First thing I learn is that the TINY and TEEN really are INSTAS also. I tried TINYTEENY FIRST. TINYTEENY

This is a Word Processor for adding machine tape. It prints in condensed subscript with squeezed line spacing. It allows keying in some 137 characters, counting spaces and punctuation. Then by pressing ENTER that much will print, whereupon another burst of prose may be entered and printed. That's how it goes. It does all this with a single Extended Basic program statement. There are no instructions, but when the program is entered and run a question mark appears (?). Seemed like the natural thing to do then was to start keying in, and that did it. The 137 characters amounts to five lines. This may be carried on and on on the adding machine tape until you have finished your novel. Of course, this will be the only copy and it won't be preserved on DSK or CASSETTE TAPE. Well maybe it could go to DSK by a simple program change. Then your novel could be preserved for multiple copies. That would make a novel novel. Next might be to develop a copying machine that uses adding machine paper. Now that I'm spouting ideas, why not corner the market on adding machine tape?

I think this is a cute program whether or not it will be used, but I'm here to remind you that a couple of years ago I did about as much with easy printer controls in the Editor Mode. I printed "NOW IS THE TIME...and THE QUICK SLY FOX....." twice each that could be covered with a one-cent stamp!!

TEENYPRO AND TEENEPRO

These are essentially the same as TINYTEENY, above except that they announce themselves with some embellishment and in Upper Case Compressed, not subscript and no squeezed line spacing. They also carry messages about themselves. It was a long time before I read all the fine print to discover that TEENEPRO contained a specific message directed to K-Towners. Darn FOX of Jack Sughrue, I'd say!!

'TILL NEXT MONTH

I wrote to to Jack about some goofs, but asked that he should not let my worries hamper his return to health and preparations for a new teaching job. There is still more to tell about PLUS! V2, but next month will likely wind it up.

ABOUT THE RECIPES

In case you care, last month there were only two RECIPES and they were in disjointed location and there was no SWAP SHOP. That's because there was too much material for our 8-pages. Editor, Bill Sheridan scuttled some material 'till next time, I scuttled two RECIPES and SWAP SHOP. Then, at Print Time there was room left. A second RECIPE filled that space, but it was too late in the afternoon to recompose.

I had already decided that I couldn't afford to disclose three recipes in each Newsletter, so this bit of editorial scrimage fit right into my plans. Soooooo, here comes last month's missing recipe, and from here on there will be only one per month, unless I change my mind because of an irresistible one!

BEIGNETS

A much remembered New Orleans experience is early

evening trips to the "French Market" on the river front for "doughnuts" and "coffee." The doughnuts are really BEIGNETS or SOPAILLAS. The coffee is really chicory. It is brewed STRONG, but mixed half and half simultaneously with scalded milk, a pouring pitcher in each hand. Peculiar me, that's the only coffee I've EVER really liked! Here come the "Doughnuts." I can't help with chickory.

4 Cups flour - 1 tsp baking powdr - 3/4 tsp salt
2 Eggs - 1 Cup milk

Sift flour, baking powder, and salt. Beat eggs well. Add milk and stir into dry ingredients. Add more flour if needed to make a soft dough.

Roll out dough to thin layer on floured board. Cut into small squares and fry in deep fat (375 Deg). Drain on paper towels and sprinkle with confectioner's sugar. Nice snack for four folk, even with ordinary coffee.

SWAP SHOP TIME

I'm in trouble. What with helping even only modestly to arrange a 60-year marriage anniversary celebration; participating therein in a dual billing; then subsequent recuperation from this once-in-a-lifetime event; there's been no time to continue monitoring my audio CD's to select swappables! Just a quick glance at my CD titles, though, and without listening, tells me that I likely can't part with any. BUT I SURE BETTER QUITTE BUYING ANY MORE!! Further, there's been no response to my prior CD SWAP offers. I can take the hint. I better look for a different SWAPPABLE.

VIDEO TAPES FROM LIMA

Tape #1 from the Lima conference of May 18, 1991. Subjects are: Software from MS Express; SPOONER - An Elementary School Group; HOTT - Status of the newsletter clearing house; USER Group officers conference (A Lima NUG conference in 1992 is doubtful); WRIGHT - Bits of TI History; ROMSER - Hardware from O.P.A.; MILLER - Software from 9640 News. My eyes, ears, and savoir-faire are too feeble to appreciate this tape. And the background noise is BAD. Moreover the hinged back has one broken pivot. I had supplied a new tape, and paid \$1.25 to get the pivot busted! But listen, this offered swap has strings attached. K-Towner, Paul Blevins, has offered to fix the hinge. Soooo my swap offer is first to Paul. It goes to him in only artial return for his past generosity to me. I'll still be in his debt!

FLASH: Paul already has this LIMA tape so it goes to anyone for "peanuts."

Paul fixed the tape anyway, so I'm still more in debt to the man! At least Paul accepted postage from Rugby, but reluctantly.

I wrote to Charlie Good about the background noise of this and the other two Tapes. Of course he was aware of this and noted that a lapel mic might help. Anyone know the cost of one? But let's wait to see if a 1992 Conference is in the cards.

Tapes # 2 and #3 are on the Swap Shop list, but will be described next month

BB, 9/11/91, but much more. I'm trying to get ahead for a 2 week absense, in hope that it will "make your hearts grow fonder"

K-TOWN MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 12, 1991

Six regulars wasn't bad when another had to work and yet another was Reuniting with Navy Buddies. Good and sufficient reasons for sure. So the program got underway almost on time. It was a Multiplan Demonstration by Joe Simmons.

Art Gibson and EM Smith also new something about the Plan so as Joe began to describe the basics of operation he got a lot of advice, and needed most of it. Then Joe warmed to the subject using demonstrations. That's when things began to make good sense and prove it's worth. And made a guy wish he knew how as well as Joe. Slim chance of that soon, because Joe says he's been learning it since 1983. I bought my copy in early 1984 and haven't yet removed the clear plastic protective wrapper. Multiplan is one of many programs catagorized as a "SPREAD SHEET."

I remember lots of years ago when a nephew working for IBM told me about the wonderous program in the works. It was a spread sheet, maybe the first at that time. A bunch of others seemed to follow in close order.

Multiplan for our TI consists of BOXES aligned in rows and columns. I'm not sure of the number of each, but I'll bet there are enough for any of us. Data can be entered into these BOXES, or formulae may be entered. The BOXES are much expandable in size. In some applications,

such as an inventory, BOXES may be oriented simply by row-column, and not closely related.

In other applications, such as pricing with varying costs and varied mixtures, like in creating "mixed nuts" for the grocery shelves, BOXES are strongly related. Changing cost or percent of mix then can produce response over a large part of the spread sheet array. In fact, changing just one price in nut mixture could cause a full scale 'movement' of all percentages of components in the mix if the objective is finding a price per 'can' considered to be marketable.

Joe didn't go the nuts route in his demo, but it's easier for me to understand so I'll continue with that variation.

Peanuts can provide a high degree of leverage in a pricing scheme because they are lowest in cost. Pecans have a like but opposite effect because of their relative high cost. Prices of nuts are sensitive to weather. The 1990 fall crop of peacans was the worst in many years. The resulting high cost is why I bought none on two trips through Georgia. Usually I get 50 pounds for gifting to relatives and friends. Peanuts, too, were high because of a poor crop that year.

So buy a can of mixed nuts today (1991). Peacans are almost non-existent. You have to search, when no one's looking. Fewer than normal peanuts are less conspicuous because they are always in greatest percentage normally but now their fewer number makes the tough peacan search just a bit easier. But why are there more almonds than normal in the 1991 can from Kroger's? Almonds are usually considered a classy, expensive nut. Then I remembered reading about a good almond crop in California.

Really, this is an unconventional way to report minutes of a meeting, but it was much easier for me to

explain how Multiplan is actually used by Joe Simmons to appraise value of timber tracts with their mixture of pine timber, hard woods, farm acreage, and barns and homes. Joe's not going to buy these. His boss company, Bowater, down on the Hiwassee River in prettu East Tennessee might buy. Bowater makes newsprint paper from pine trees.

Moreover, Joe's Demo was the mostest of the meeting. I couldn't attend the ajournment to McDonalds this time. I was too dern tired from my sneaky search for peacans in that 1991 can of Kroger's mixed nuts.

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.



As those of you who barbequed that poor individual giving the MultiPlan demonstration at our last meeting know, I have been using MP to create a land appraisal summary sheet. As with any endeavor, one forgets with disuse and remembers again when one gets involved. Such is the case with MP.

Before I get too long into this article, let me say again Art A. Green: THANK YOU! for speeding up the recalculation time for MP. It also appears that you have speeded up the entry of data; however, I have not checked this out with any benchmark test.

At work at Bowater (we make newsprint, lightweight coated paper with 20% recycled paper as well as the manufacturing of computer paper) we have the use of Lotus 1,2,3 version 2.2 as well as a spreadsheet called 20/20 which is installed on our Digital Workstation computers. The similarities between spreadsheet programs is very striking and yet different. Each of these prograas like McGovern's FunnelWeb, Art Gibson's Newsletter Printer, John Bull's Bridge are continuing evolving. While working between them, one is able to do one thing such as a range deletion on say 1,2,3 and finds through experimentation (who ever reads the instructions!) that the same range

deletion can be done with a modified format command on 20/20 and a more involved route in MP. One has only to experiment to find these similarities.

I said the above to set the stage for what follows. In MP to have a range deletion, one needs to name the ranges. The NAME command is a powerful MP tool as well as the , comma.

Developing a Land Appraisal Template for use within MultiPlan is a fun type of activity! After the template is completed, the formulations may be locked using MP's LOCK command so that the template will not be destroyed through the careless action of either yourself or others. The input data which changes with each appraisal needs to be eliminated once the template has completed its computations (In order NOT to have the trouble of changing External commands, I place my template with its supporting sheets on a diskette all to itself.). Using the BLANK command on each group of cells can be a nuisance as well as time consuming. However, if one names the ranges of the input data cells, one can get the computer to do this blanking (range deletion) with the speed of the computer.

On my appraisal template, I needed to delete the acres, evaluation criteria, and timber volumes as follows: * R5:30C3, R32:33C6, R36:44C4, R3:8C2". To do this I used the NAME command and named this range CLER, pressed control 2 and inserted the above ranges and pressed enter. Now to blank these ranges, I press "D" for BLANK and type in "CLER" and press enter and the computer clears the data ranges.

As one might suspect, the above ranges cross over subtotal formulations; however, since they are locked the computer ignores them and proceeds to erase, delete the other unlocked cells within the ranges so specified.

So, our orphaned toy has the capability to do what the big spreadsheets can do:

Less we forget the COMA ",", this is one feature that I wish I could duplicate on 1,2,3 and on 20/20 without using MACROS. The comma allows repetitive executions with in a MP command. With the other spreadsheets, the above CLER range would require four separate commands.

On the other hand, I wish we could incorporate macro commands with MP!

The comma also allows one to skip cells when copying
MAIL BAG:

Lloyd and Carol: Have you or Carol used Art's printer program? Ellen, the girls, Mother and I enjoyed your visit and look forward to when we can partake of one another's company again.

Chris Pratt: Of the West Penn 99'ers, I am surprised that you have not mentioned Art Gibson's newsletter within your newsletter. Art's program will provide your members with a very useful program. Check the LIMA tapes for more information.

Also, when do you expect the disk controller with the hard drive capabilities to be ready for shipment.?

Art Green: Is there away you can allow MP to have the ability to use MACRO key stroke commands? Is this a challenge you would like to accept?

Enough stumblings for this
month... Joe // 14:00 hrs. 9/21/71 at Etowah,
Tennessee.

a formulation. It is a very neat utility.

NAMing your print ranges is good way to print out selected areas of your spreadsheet. In the appraisal summary sheet which I named "Whatif", I use the naming of the cells on the individual EVAL templates to EXTERNAL copy the resultant computations on to my summary sheet. The NAME command is a powerful tool! Experiment with it and you will find that MP is a neat *cheat sheet* which will provide you with many computations that you use in your daily activities.

Next month I will share the use of the ISERROR command to eliminate computation errors as well as meaningless #DIV/0's down your spreadsheet.

Today, we began a REVIVAL meeting at our church. The topic for the Sunday morning worship was what deeds will there be written that we have done on judgement day. Will there be any notations of the good that we have done for others or will all of our deeds be for our own benefit?

This is good food for thought. Before it is too late, we should begin now to treat others as Christ would have done if he were here. Other wise, we may not like the verdict on judgement day.

K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP

OFFICERS:

President - JOHN BULL 694-4750
V. President BILL SHERIDAN 970-3647
Sec/Treas - Bob Buehler 689-5326

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Equipment - E. M. Smith 687-8869
Publicity - John Bull 694-4750

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

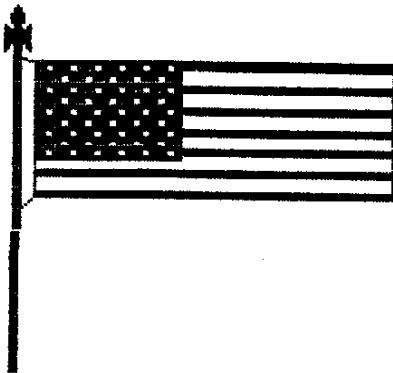
Bill Sheridan 970-3647

Athens Computer Club
Rt. #2, Box 608
Etowah, Tennessee, 37331

Officers:

President - Joe N. Simmons 263-2963
Sec/Treas -
Librarian -

*
* K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP *
* 3506 Garden Drive *
* Knoxville, TN. 37918 *
*



DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER CLUB

P.O. BOX 29863
DALLAS, TX 75229

**HAPPY COLUMBUS DAY
HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**