

# K-TOWN <sup>A</sup>K 99'ER

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

JULY 1992

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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 JULY 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. JULY 9th is our next meeting date. Our newest member, Dennis mackey will favor us with one or more demonstrations of some of his favorite programs. The nature of

these programs will e Dennis's secret until he reveals them at the meeting. Looks as if we will just have to be present at the July meeting in order to learn what goodies Dennis has brought with him from the library of the Florida Users Group of which he was a member while living in Florida.

## 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.



# P R E S I D E N T ' S F O R U M

See the minutes from our trusty Secretary to see what went on at the June meeting. Our newest member, Dennis Mackey, was out of town but he promises to be with us for July and bring some interesting things with him.

Speaking of relatively new members: where is Jim Mc Neillie? We would like to see your smiling face again! You paid your dues and we would like to see you get your money's worth.

Sharing a trip to a meeting like the one at Lisa is not easy. Show and tell will only go just so far. Is it

possible that Bob and/or Paul could put together about an hour's worth of the tapes that were made there? We hear that the quality is good. Such a sampling might make available the flavor of the occasion and make a good program at some future meeting.

I will see you all on July 9 at 7:00 at 3506 Garden drive!

John H. Bull

## A FAST FINISH

Our adventure with programming the calculation and display of sets of six numbers for the Kentucky lottery came to a blazing conclusion last week.

Art Gibson and I have been working on the program, passing disks back and forth, talking on the phone. The speed sailed upward to the range of 40K sets per minute. I spent two evenings working out a way to combine the routines for calculating the sets and for putting them into a string for display. Finally, I got it to work! Only 23 lines of source code instead of 45 and a new speed of 43K per minute! I was pleased with myself.

In the next mail was a disk from Art. His "LOTTOH" now runs at 76K+! Art, you win! I say "uncle"! I did try putting my new routine into his program but it slowed it down to 73K.

The numbers are not only too fast to read but they are a blur. Even a quick hand cannot halt it to catch any particular set and you have to be fast to catch even a single screen.

The word is that there are levels of computer languages: high level, like Extended Basic that are very convenient but very slow. For each program statement the computer has to do many things with the bits before it produces the results. That takes a while - in this case 240 sets per minute.

On the other hand, there are low level languages like Assembly, that work much closer to the machine bits. They are more complicated to write but are much faster - 43,000 sets per minute, in this case.

In his program Art got about as low-down as you can get. Using the assembler, he devised a super low-level language of his own. The source code sometimes looks strange - thirty two uninterrupted, identical lines of `MOVB *R0+,*R15` for instance - but it works beautifully and displays 76,802 sets per minute. I can't explain it, but there it is.

It was fun but it is over! The white flag is up. I surrender!

John H. Bull

## CHATTERBOX - XVI

BY BOB BUEHLER

Please be reminded that Chatter Box is non specific. It may be on varied subjects. Best if it concerns the TI-994/A. Next best if it concerns related peripherals, computing, word processing. Next to next best if it is just plain everyday interesting to most folk generally. Least best if it is of interest mostly to me, and enough so to keep me writing this stuff month after month. There, you have the rules of Chatter Box!

So, now, if you want to do something about it: contributions are invited, herewith: Requested, Encouraged. Solicited. Entreated. Pleaded. Begged, on bended knee, already! Otherwise, it's going to continue as before!!

#### FROM CARBON PAPER TO WORD PROCESSING

Well do I remember first seeing/hearing the crazy phrase "WORD PROCESSING." What a joke! Heck, from TVA's beginning there was the "Typing Pool." That's where you took your hand drafted stuff to have it typed. A letter. A study report. Even a technical paper to submit for publication. Or maybe an article from a technical book or magazine you wished to file for reference in future tasks. Every engineer built a cherished reference file to help him do a good job better.

Some typists could whack out page after page without mistakes, and fast! Unbelievable! And a good typist could correct mistakes so they could scarcely be detected, and I mean using a typewriter eraser. This was a thin round disk of rather gritty rubber, thin enough to remove a single letter from between two neighbors. The paper would be rolled forward enough clicks to locate the error on the platten, thus to support erasure. After erasing the crumbs of rubber, ink, and paper were brushed away with the bristle brush on the handle of the eraser. Then the paper was clicked back and the correction typed in. It was tricky enough to do on a single sheet. Multiple carbon copies were no end trickier!

These were the "Carbon Copy" days. (Make that DAZE.)

Even a letter needed a carbon copy for it's author, an information carbon copy for his Boss, his Boss, too, and on up to the General Manager and Chairman of the Board in some important cases.

Now hear this! Carbon copies aint for Sissies!!!

And the more the carbon copies the more bitter the misery.! In fact, so bad I just plain don't want to write about it!

Along came the copier.

And XEROX was the leader. In fact Xerox became an acronym for 'copy.' It was so effective that I knew enough right off to buy Xerox stock. It couldn't miss. Only trouble, I didn't have the money and I lacked the guts to borrow to buy. The Xerox pretty much did away with carbon copies and it's miseries. It even led to copy abuse - more than fast filing files could hold, and regulations banning unneeded copies!

Typing errors too became trivial problems. Ribbon inks were developed the print of which could be "lifted clean" by an auxiliary, onboard ribbon so that correct typing could be substituted.

Fast following, typing, could be inspected on a screen and corrections could be made BEFORE printing.

Word Processing had arrivwd

And no longer do I think of this as a crazy phrase! No sir! Without it I'd be in big trouble. I'm still fascinsted with the computer for it's mathematical

capabilities, but Word Processing is right in there in importance.

My cherished electric typewriter served me mighty well in my most active consulting years after TVA retirement, but is now so buried under "stuff" that it sees service once per year, to type my income tax forms.

#### NEXT WORRY AND IT'S REMEDY.

Happiness with my Word Processor using my STAR GEMINI 10X printer has been plagued with worry. How can this marvelous, complicated printer device keep GOING, AND GOING, AND GOING like the little ENERGIZER Bunny beating a little drum invading unrelated commercials and other stuff on the TV screens? Just 'cause my printer is still going doesn't stop worry, but my son's keen eye in Chattanooga did the trick. The newspaper advertized a little-used GEMINI 10X for \$40! So now I have a safty factor. In fact I'm using it now. Happy, happy.

#### GREEN THUMB

This I don't have; yet my lawn looks better this year than usual despite less than usual effort. Favorable weather was a big factor. Nose-end spraying of an assorted bunch of fertilizers did the rest. The assortment had resulted from bargain shopping in a variety of places, like Big Lots. Some was in granular form but most was in liquid form. The spraying began when some of the granular leaked and ate a hole in the storage shelf; to stop further damage I sprayed it on the lawn where it belonged. The result was so favorable that I've been spaying on the bunch more to get them out of the WAY as much as anything. In fact, now I'm aiming to get more of the granular stuff, but in a good container that wont leak. The sprayer I like much the best loads with the dry grains and mixes and dilutes with water as it sprays. MIRACLE GROW is one, and K-Mart has Super GRD which is as good or better. I've learned a bunch about easy lawn care this season. Hope it helps you too.

#### A NO CHERRY YEAR!

Following removal of about five trees last year (oak, maple, and hickory), those left were fertilized by the tree man. With a huge electric drill that I could't begin to lift, he bored about two inch holes a foot and one-half deep at about six locations on the drip line ringing each tree and poured in a pint of granular fertilizer. It sure helped, especially the two cherry trees, but spring weather nipped the blossoms, leaving only 11 sickly fruits. That wont stop me from publishing a sort of cherry cake with cherry-kirsh sauce recipe some month soon; because it is soooooo super, and I'm the only guy around who knows the recipe! (I have a few quarts of sweet red and also Royal Ann cherries frozen from better years.) As a bonus, I'll include a recipe for chery freeezer jaa,

but I've first gotta' get it from a neighbor who picked my cherries last year when my family doctor prescribed no more ladders for this old impatient patient. I was counting on that same neighbor again this year, and he was hoping to pick too, until the spring freeze changed our plans.

This would be a natural place to begin my usual recipe topic. Persistent unhappy World news, however, demands interruption of good food thoughts for a brief Editorial about my dissapointments in humanity generally.

#### EDITORIAL: THE BANGKOK EXAMPLE

I'm disappointed to the state of near disgust with humanity. There is disorder everywhere. I've picked Bangkok as an example because I was there some years back when it was such a happy place! Now there is killing in the streets. The same streets that I walked so pleasantly. Pleasantly because however involved were the traffic jams, folks walking alongside wore such happy faces. The facial expression was obvious. Otherwise I might not have noticed because I was so busy also looking at gems, jewelry, electronics and other good stuff in shop windows. Bangkok is in Thailand. I'm not about to research this again here now, but memory says that Thailand means HappyLand. I could believe it in part because these were the "prettiest" people I'd seen anywhere! But now they are killing each other. "Sure," you say, "What would you expect from a Pagan Monarchy?" "Well," one could answer, "So how about Christian, Democratic Los Angles and other US trouble spots." I learned enough in Thailand to believe that Buddhism and Christian beliefs are in agreement in important essentials. It's not politics and/or religion to blame. It's Humanity too often that is bad, bad, bad!

#### RECIPES

One member says he "gets a kick" out of my recipes. I think he meant that favorably. He did continue on to ask why I don't bring samples to the meetings, like peanut

butter cookies. Golly, if I could be sure that Joe Simmons would be there I might do just that. But it would be hard to bring samples of home-made Chili Sauce, which is the recipe for this month from my Mom's kitchen of years ago. There should be plenty of good tomatoes about now!

#### Home-made Chili Sauce

36 nice size tomatoes, scalded and peeled  
1 HOT pepper            4 Large onions, cut coarsely  
4 Cups vinegar        1 Whole cinnamon stick  
4 Tbls salt            4 Tbls sugar  
1 Tbls whole cloves

Tie pepper, cloves, and cinnamon in cloth bag. Chop tomatoes and drain, to reduce boil time, but save drainings. Combine all of the above which will about 3/4 fill a 10 quart kettle. Boil slowly to about one-half volume. It will take 4 to 6 hours. Can in sterilized jars and seal. Makes about 9 pints, but I always use half/pints so as to give to more people and still have some left. I like it best on cold roast beef. Season the drainings for fresh tomatoe juice. The kitchen aroma will NEVER be forgotten.

#### HERE'S TO YOU!

Doubt no longer. Smoking is a leading cause of statistics

It's not a matter of life and death. It's more important than that.

Drugs injected into rats produce scientific reports.  
Doc Smith's clinical rule: What you don't take wont hurt you!

Secret of good health: eat a raw onion each day. Then try keeping the secret.

Horse sense is mostly the ability to say MAY!

BB - 5/27/92 Still trying to stay ahead.



## MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 1992

Six again was the magic number. New member Dennis Mackey had to be in Florida on business and Joe Simmons didn't make it from Etowah.

**BUSINESS** -- was a single but vital item: What to do with our myriad of exchange Newsletters? Their inherent value is ENORMOUS. They are the product of hundreds of good minds, some in the genius category. Yet none of us K-Towners can store the 7 boxes or use the letters effectively.

So there was a motion to destroy. During discussion a postponement seemed wise. So a motion to table until next month was passed. On further reflection I, the Secy. thought the exchange newsletters might be offered to any person or group willing to pay shipping cost. After talking to other officers, a notice in this Newsletter will announce availability and terms.

**THE PROGRAM** -- was somewhat disjointed and much of it over my head. Of early interest John Bull read an article he wrote about the lottery program that he proposes to send to MICROpendium for publication. It begins, "On a dark and stormy night, after adjournment to McDonalds..." I think it'll be accepted. Incidentally, John and Art Gibson now have the program running at lightening speed.

Everybody present except I had gone to the MUG conference at LIMA, so they saw no reason to report on same. And I was much looking forward to that. There was some literature brought back but no one had anything to say about the Accelerator, Memex memory, or a hard disk controller, and no interest in acquiring any of it. And here I sit with birthday money already to order a goodie! Oh well, I guess I better stay satisfied with my Horizon

Ram and P Gram card. Well maybe upgrading to P Gram.

Much further discussion concerned using modems, beginning with the practicality of sending our newsletter that way to Rugby for printing. And newsletter contributions just across town and from Etowah. The logistics are far over my head so far, but I'd like to get interested. EM already has pertinent instructions for modem communication stuck to his PE box and printed copies for a couple others who were present and knowledgeable.

Ajournment again was to McDonalds, but I couldn't go because, instead I could take an ailing VCR to a convenient "work at night" repair place. Maybe someone else will leak any important happening.

By the way: A new ribbon fixed the printing ills, as is obvious from the June Newsletter. And wasn't it another dandy with its good graphics. Hope I can learn how some day.

BB, Secy, Treas.

## WHY ME SO OFTEN!

By E. M. Smith

I know you have heard more than once the expression: "Misery Loves Company". If that is your present mood just pull up a chair and lend me your ear this story is designed to comfort you. I am certain that the gremlins have me targeted. Anytime I think that now is a good time to tackle some of those tasks which have been set aside in the interest of doing something less challenging I find the gremlins lurking at every turn.

This past weekend I decided to tackle the writing of a letter which I really didn't want to write in the first place. But darn it, I just couldn't postpone it any longer. This won't take long anyway, I thought. Well, typing the letter didn't take more than four hours I would guess. I sometime put an awful lot of thought into my letters so I don't actually do all that much typing. About three pages plus the signature line sitting at the top of the fourth page all by itself.

I scan the letter in question looking for a spot that I could absorb that one line but I was left with no choice but to change the margins or the page length and force more text onto the fourth page just for appearance. That should be no problem so I chose just to change the margins. I was using Art Gibson's Newsletter Program Editor and changing the page length is a bit cumbersome. It can be done with the >.BP < COMMAND but I decided it would be

more simple to use FUNNELWEB word processing in favor of expediency. It was no sweat to alter the FORMAT COMMANDS and now I would have the option of changing the page length and/or margins.

With the new commands in place in the text file I powered up a printer and set back in my new Lazy Boy Executive chair to wait for the finished product. OOPS! Something has gone askew. As prescribed in the format commands the printer formfeeds after fifty-five lines and proceeds to printing the next page but after printing just five lines it form feeds again. It is very obvious that previous form feed did not negate the printer defaults to form feed at sixty lines. I had experienced this problem before while using some other programs and was able to embed printer commands in the program to squelch the form feed, but never in a TI-Writer type file.

My printer was updated with an eprom that afforded me some print options which were not originally there so I was forced to do some research into the print codes. The index directed me to much about turning on or off the form feed with internal dip switches but little about the use of software control. After some hours of experimenting I finally solved that problem but now I encountered another problem which I detected in the first printing

effort and failed to mention earlier - EVERY "d" in the text file was replaced with a blank space.

I made strategic calls to two old reliables and concluded that I had more software problems. I pulled out an older version of FUNNELWEB and on trial it printed out properly so I now knew that I had a contaminated format file on my ram disk but which version was it and I questioned that my back-up disk to my ram disk might also be contaminated. Luckily, the backup was good so I unprotected the ramdisk file and copied the back-up format file to the ramdisk to end this adventure. The letter which I started on Friday was finally ready to drop in the mail Sunday afternoon and of course there is no Sunday pick-up.

During the course of time required to publish that letter we encountered a cloudburst which turned the storm sewer through by yard into a raging river that was

rising so fast I became concerned that it might flood my basement. Thank the Lord, it stopped before it reached that level. Another twelve inches in depth would have entered the basement. Though the basement was spared the yard was left with scattered quantities of debris which required prompt removal so as to not damage the lawnmower when the yard was mowed. I mentioned that the basement was spared but the storm revealed a roof leak over a rear bedroom. This is a new roof-1991 vintage and the roofer has been back but he is still looking. Looking for the next rain so he can look again.

Are you feeling better now? Well this little tid-bit should put you on a real "High". This past weekend also revealed that **TERMITES** have infested the walls of a front bedroom. The exterminators will be here Friday to tap my bank account while ridding my house of that menace. So you think you've got troubles? **CHEER-UP.**

## POTPOURRI

BY BILL SHERIDAN

**POTPOURRI** - A medley or miscellany; mixture. That is what you are going to get this month - articles from three different newsletters about three different subjects.

This first article is from the May issue of **WORDPLAY**, a newsletter by the Portland, Oregon U6.

Here is a real time saver for people who use the **TI WRITER FORMATTER** of **FUNNELWEB** v. 4.31. It is super for people (like me) who are intimidated by long file names or cannot remember if the file was named **DOCS**, **-READ-ME** or **README**.

While in **FORMATTER**, do a disk directory (**FCTN 7**). Arrow down to the file you want. Press the space bar, which puts an **INVISIBLE** mark on the file. Press **CTRL-** to return to the **FORMATTER**. Then press **FCTN D (RIGHT ARROW)** to place the new file name in the **FORMATTER** mail box. This saves the time of repeatedly loading the **EDITOR**, **SHOW DIRECTORY** and **FORMATTER** just to mark files. (NOTE: - This worked on my Funnelweb on floppy disk but for some reason it wouldn't work on my Horizon Randisk. They are both v. 4.31.)

The following article is from the April issue of

**99'er News** by the **TI U6** of **WILL COUNTY** of **Romeoville, IL**. The article was written by **Charles Good** of the **Lima Ohio U6**.

### WHY DSKU REFUSES TO BOOT FW

**DSKU** v. 4.2 was distributed by the **Lima User Group** with **Funnelweb** v. 4.40 and earlier **Funnelweb** v. 4.31. There is an item on the main **DSKU** menu that says "Load **FW**". It usually doesn't work. The reason is that **DSKU** searches the drive you specify for a file named **UTIL1** which is what the main **Funnelweb** file used to be called. The main **Funnelweb** file is now called **FW**.

It is easy to modify **DSKU** to boot file **FW** every time you ask **DSKU** to "Load **FW**". Here's how. Use **Funnelweb's** **DISK REVIEW** or other sector editor to search the third **DSKU** file named either **DW** or **DSKM** for the **ASCII** text

"UTIL1". Change the UTIL1 to "FW" and put blank spaces over the IL1. Then change the screen display to Hex (CTRL H if you are using DISK REVIEW) and move the cursor to the left to the first appearance of "0A". This is at byte DD in my file DW. Change the DA to 07 and write these

changes back to disk (CTRL W and then CTRL A if you are using DISK REVIEW). This change shortens the length of the text the computer expects to find since DSK1.FW is shorter than DSK1.UTIL1. DSKU will now properly boot Funnelweb when you select "Load FW" from DSKU's main menu.

This last article (for fun) was seen in the May issue newsletter from the SouthWest Ninety-Niners UG of Tucson, AZ. It was copied from HOCUS 99 2/92 newsletter.

### HOW TO KNOW YOU ARE GETTING OLDER

Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work...  
The gleam in your eye is from the sun hitting your bifocals...  
A dripping faucet causes an uncontrollable bladder urge...

**You:**

Little black book contains only names ending in M.D....  
Children begin to look middle aged...  
Knees buckle, but your belt won't...  
Back goes out more than you do...

**You:**

Feel like the night before, and you haven't been anywhere...  
Get winded playing cards...  
Join a health club, and don't go...  
Look forward to a dull evening...  
Need glasses to find your glasses...  
Turn out the light for economic, rather than romantic reasons...  
Sit in a rocking chair, and can't get it going...  
Have too much room in the house, but not enough in the medicine chest..  
Sink your teeth in a steak, and they stay there...  
**Are wondering why more people aren't  
using this size print?...**



**FREE!! FOR SALE FREE!!  
A MYRIAD OF EXCHANGE NEWS LETTERS?**

Their inherent value is ENORMOUS. They are the product of hundreds of good minds, some in the genius category. Yet none of us K-TOWNers can store the 7 boxes or use them effectively. But they are too good to destroy.

**8000000000000000**

These treasures will be sent to the first person or group that will pay their shipping costs. Telephone Bill Sheridan, our librarian, at (615)970-3647 for more information, and to STAKE YOUR CLAIM.

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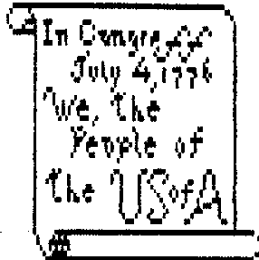
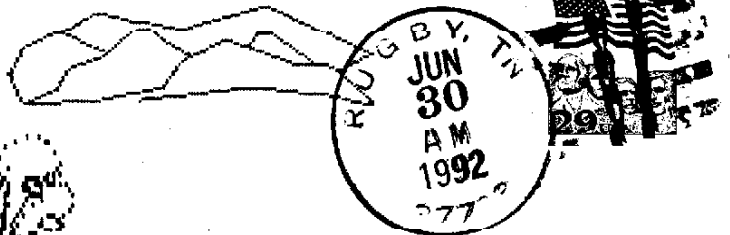
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