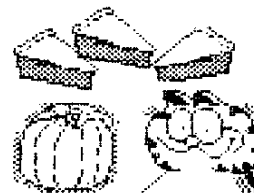




**K-TOWN** <sup>A</sup> <sup>K</sup> **99'ER**  
 NEWSLETTER OF THE K-TOWN 99/4A USERS GROUP  
 AND THE ATHENS COMPUTER CLUB  
**NOVEMBER 1992**



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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 NOVEMBER 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. NOVEMBER 12th is our next meeting date. Bill Sheridan has promised to demonstrate the use of a PLOTTER which he shares with another member of our group, Jack Garrison. Perhaps he can get Jack to come along with him. We

regulars miss Jack and would like to see him at attendance at our meetings. Bill will also show us the software that drives the plotter. Operating a plotter appears to require the same type software as required for operating ROBOTS in a selected enviroment. You dont't want to miss this demonstration. Other surprises may be lurking in the shadows of Bill's Demo.

**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 five 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

By the time that you read this it all may be gone but right now East Tennessee is the garden of Eden. You don't have to take trips to anywhere to see it - just look around!

We owe our thanks to Art Gibson for his demo and for the clever programming that made the demo possible. It looks to me like a real breakthrough in word processing and more. Wouldn't it be great to have a really big step upward from TIWriter!

This month Bill Sheridan will demo another fascinating gadget that draws pretty pictures. See elsewhere in this Newsletter to understand why I am so interested. Thanks, Bill!

I will see you all on Thursday, November 12 at 7:00 at 3506 Garden drive.

John H. Bull

## POTPOURRI BY BILL SHERIDAN

I logged on DELPHI last Sunday (Oct. 24). Below you'll find some items I thought you might find interesting out of the 247 sectors I logged (saved). The first item (announcement) we have been expecting.

Name: 1ST DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT

Type: NEWSLETTER

Date: 18-OCT-1992 12:31 by C\_BOBBITT

Size: 4088 Count: 12

This is an announcement for the new First Draft word processing system by Art Gibson and Asgard Software. First Draft combines the best features of (of) other word processing programs with many new ones of its own. For the TI-99/4A and Myarc Geneve 9640

Keywords: TI994A, GENEVE, ASGARD, WORD PROCESSING, GIBSON

Name: XB JOYSTICK CONTROLLED AUTO-LOAD

Type: PROGRAM

Date: 12-OCT-1992 21:47 by BRADSNYDER

Size: 2432 Count: 13

MY OWN auto-load program for XB. Copy it onto your disks of XB or Basic programs, and name it LOAD. Yes, I know that there are tons of these around, but I wrote this one several years ago, and you can use the program as another example of how to run a program from a program. I used a method similar to Tom Freeman's. Line 1000 is searched for, and then the filename is poked into it. Line 1000 doesn't have to be last, or first, it can be anywhere.

What's different about this LOAD program from the ones I've seen is that you use joystick #1 to move a cursor to the filename that you want to run, and then press the fire button to run it.

Keywords: UTILITIES, LOAD, EXTENDED BASIC, BASIC, JOYSTICK, XB

Name: NEWLOAD

Type: PROGRAM

Date: 9-OCT-1992 05:54 by TOMSFREE

Size: 1664 Count: 21

NEWLOAD is a xb segment which can be added to other programs so that a second program can be run as a variable. TI doesn't allow RUN A\$ - this program steps around the limitation. Unlike previous versions it can be edited and it's line numbers and location are not important.

Keywords: UTILITIES, XB, EXTENDED BASIC, LOAD, VARIABLE LOAD, RUN

Name: TIMER V6.02

Type: PROGRAM

Date: 6-OCT-1992 01:22 by EBERKEN

An updated (constantly! ;>) version of my XB programmable timer.

New to version 6: Saves and loads timer sequences on disk. Smaller than version 5, and a little cleaner interface.

Speech required, will run without it, but it slows the program. I have produced a non-speech and a cassette version if anyone is interested, e-mail me.

The program is pretty self-explanatory, and I do not have the docs from v5 updated to include here, but v5 is still in the 99 database (with docs for that version, very similar to v6.02) In the new spirit that is arising to share TI99 material with the rest of the "gang", I submit this small effort. Enjoy!

Keywords: APPLICATIONS, TIMER, CLOCK, BXB (FOR CLOCK), XB, DARKROOM, PHOTOGRAPHY

Contents:

1 TIMER V6.02 (Size: 11648 Count: 8)

2 SAMPLE SEQUENCE (Size: 7040 Count: 8)

24-OCT-1992 22:23 TI99/4A SYSTEM FOR SALE

Posted by: CAL47  
HARDWARE / SOFTWARE / COMPLETE SYSTEM  
Ad: Hardware for Sale  
Jerry F. Griffin  
4747 E. 128th Ct.  
Thornton, Co. 80241  
(303) 451-7309

- 2 TI 99/4A COMPUTERS (1 BLACK AND SILVER, 1 TAN)
- 1 EXPANSION BOX WITH FLEX CABLE CARD INCLUDES:
  - A. 128K FOUNDATION CARD (MODIFIED-QUALITY 99 EPROM & SOFTWARE)
  - B. CORCOMP RS232 CARD (SERIAL PORT 1 INOP - SERIAL PORT 2 O.K.)
  - C. TI DISK CONTROLLER WITH INTERNAL DSSD DRIVE
- 2 REMEX MODEL RFD480 DSSD DISK DRIVES MOUNTED IN EXTERNAL POWER SUPPLY
- 3 SPARE REMEX MODEL RFD480 DSSD DISK DRIVES (NEW & UNUSED)
  - 1 SPARE MPI MODEL 5251 DSSD DISK DRIVE
  - 1 SPARE MPI MODEL 52 DSSD DISK DRIVE
  - 1 SAMSUNG COMPOSITE COLOR MONITOR (40 COLUMN)
  - 1 NAVARONE 3 CARTRIDGE EXTENDER, CASSETTES, MODULES AND DISKS GALORE & MUCH MISCELLANEOUS.

I AM ASKING \$200 + SHIPPING FOR THE WHOLE OUTFIT OR MAKE OFFER!  
LEAVE E-MAIL TO CAL47 FOR A MORE COMPLETE LIST OF ITEMS.

24-OCT-1992 16:54 TI HARDWARE FOR SALE  
Posted by: CAL47

MONITOR / GRAMKRAKER /

GramKraker 80K with software and documentation. \$85.00 includes shipping.

Zenith ZVM131 40 col. RGB/Composite color monitor. \$60.00 PLUS shipping.

30-AUG-1992 16:49 GENEVE, MEMEX, HORIZONS, MORE FOR SALE

## CHATTERBOX - XXI BY BOB BUEHLER

This time Chatter Box reverts from rather Editorial Generalities to things specific to our respected, still viable, faithful TI-99/4A. It begins with JIM PETERSON. He is Guru Extraordinary of TigerCub; and Nuts & Bolts #1, #2, #3; and likely much, much more than I can even imagine.

After procrastinating too many years; then seeing in Jan '92 MICROpendium Jim's 6-Window, 6-Memory, 34-Function Calculator discussion and it's 181 lines of programming; also seeing Jim's taped presentation at Lima, but without sound; I finally got in touch with him. Sent him \$20. Not just for the calculator, but for whatever else he would select for me. That whatever else amounts to a dozen diskettes. I hope to tell you about them in due time.

### THE 6 - 6 - 34 CALCULATOR.

The MICROpendium article and the DOCS on the diskette are identical to which I can't add much of value. Jim put no fairware price on the product but asked for 19 cents worth of comment on a post card. (NOW, how difficult not to say "penney post-card." That's what they were called

Posted by: MARCLEVINE  
MEMEX / HORIZON / MYARC

Marc C. Levine (MARCLEVINE) 1341 Engle Creek Dr O'Fallon IL 62269 (618)628-0514 (evenings)  
Following items: Geneve with Myart & mouse, Picture Transfer, Hypercopy, Genti and all other MDOS software ever bought or obtained -- 300 + 10 shipping. Memex 512K card (use with Geneve) 150 + 5 shipping. 256K Horizon Ramdisk - 100 + 5 shipping. 800K Horizon Ramdisk - 200 + 5 shipping. Bare Exp Box (includes Elephant hose)- 75 + 10 shipping. Teac 55b 360K drive 25 + 7 shipping. Magnavox BCM683 (upgrade over 515) Composit, Analog & digital RGB - 125 (I have no way to ship this item -- would need to be local to come and get it.  
Other misc ods and ends (ie. data cassette recorder. TI 32K Mem exp) give me a call or leave me a message here.

20-AUG-1992 06:46 LOTS OF TI 99 4A STUFF FOR SALE

Posted by: KBREITO

- 2 TI 99/4a computers - both black & silver.
- 2 PEb's - one has the original TI disk controller. the other a Corcomp Disk controller. Both have the memory card, and RS232 card.
- 1 MBP clock card - original, I was one of the designers!
- 2 TEAC DSSD 1/2 height drives.
- 1 original TI full height drive.
- 1 TI cassette tape player with 10 or so tapes (not sure right now).
- 1 Amber monitor.
- Also have numerous copies (2 full years I think) of Micropendium that I will throw in, along with a number of books from Compute! and a full copy of FORTH, including Leo Brodie's book. 3 or 4 extra power supplies - 2 or 3 extra keyboards

Please send me e-mail with your offer, or call me at 919-469-0360. If you are serious, I will give you my 800 number to call me back on for your questions and to finalize the sale.

when a letter went for 2 cents.) So here's my 19 cents worth but about like I really sent to him in a letter.

The program is ingenious, interesting, and fun, but it can't take the place of modern shirt pocket calculators for me partly because the latter can be laid right down on

the desk side by side with the problem. One difference, Jim's will provide your choice of 14 digits of accuracy or ten, like shirt pocket calculators. For a moment I thought 14 might be an advantage in land surveying. So I divided 9,999,999,999 feet digits by 5280 and got 1,893,939 miles. No land tract has any side that huge. So 14 digits has no 'earthly' use. In celestial navigation possibly, but that's way over my head!

#### The 6-Window 6-Memories.

I imagined a "window" to be boxed in on it's four sides. In Jim's calculator they are six successive full screen width lines without boxes, labeled U, V, W, X, Y, Z. Each is a separate independent memory, but contents may be recalled at will to use in math computations. The memories can be given additional specific names for convenience, and their contents are all visible at the same time. This is one place where Jim's beats the shirt pocket, hands down!!

#### Keying Math.

+ for add is SHIFT =, - for subtract is SHIFT /, / is for divide, and \* for multiply is SHIFT 8. These we've been using since the beginning! BUT, one of the best things about Jim's calculator is alternates he programmed in: 'P' for plus may be used instead of +, 'M' for minus instead of -, 'D' for divide instead of /, and 'T' for times instead of \*. But the conventional symbol, not the letter, appears on the screen. Not only handy, I think I've discovered that some equations need these to function; ones that don't work with +, -, /, \* Example coming later.

#### Did I find a goof?

*Pobably: Because I've spent some many hours trying the better to understand Jim's Calculator by testing examples, almost all of which were after my letter to Jim. If and when I'm reasonably sure that I know what I'm talking about, I'll send a copy of this Chatter Box to him. Don't know, though, if all this can happen before I leave for a visit to Wisconsin in early October. To give you a hint, the conventional +, -, /, \* work fine in all examples that Jim uses to explain his nice Calculator. BUT a simple example of my own didn't work with +, -, /, \* in the 'S' mode whereas P, M, T, and D did make it work fine!*

*Finally I decided to phone Jim, mid-morning, 9/22/92. Got his answering machine, but he hasn't called back. Wouldn't blame him if he doesn't. Jim can hardly be bothered with such trivia.*

#### Math Keying Modes.

These confused me most. One mode is 'C,' for Conventional ("Like an ordinary calculator," Jim says.) The other mode is 'S,' for Straight Line (but it's the way I use an ordinary calculator.) No wonder I got confused! 'C' or 'S' shows on the monitor, upper right. That helps slightly to avoid confusion.

Now to some details.

'C' Example -- Jim's example is: 67 (ENTER) + 33 (ENTER) / 2 (ENTER) \* 5 (ENTER) =, ENTER.

When I use a shirt pocket calculator about like this it is to show results progressively along the way, but unless I need to record progressive results I use:

The 'S' mode of Jim's -- 67 + 33 - 2 \* 5 = ENTER.

When this is run NOTHING HAPPENS.....You wonder.....You wait.....Then it happens. Reason for delay: the equation needs to be written into memory before it gets to work! Kind of fun!

To switch between keying modes, press J, ENTER. The change isn't instant. You must again tell if you want to label the memories and if you want 14 or 10 digits. Only then, you specify 'C,' or 'S.'

An Example That Fluffs using +, -, /, \* !/

'S' Example -- 2.3 + 6.7 - 4.3 \* 6.8 / 6.14 = ENTER.

When this is run using keyboard +, -, /, \* NOTHING HAPPENS again. But this time, in a moment, with a faint puff, the line plus disappears completely, leaving no answer! If, however, P, M, T, and D are used an answer appears. That's what I hope I can talk to Jim about. Well, I called again on 9/26, Saturday rates, Jim didn't have an answer but was amused, like I. He had just mailed a letter.

Of interest, addition and subtraction is processed as though the first three terms were in parentheses. Unfortunately parentheses are not available in either the 'C' or 'S' modes. They are in another fun way, though, to be discussed later.

#### All Those Other Functions.

In addition to the basic four, above, there are Caret (power), R (root), and Z. Of course there must be pi, that important thing with circles! Jim has assigned pi to FCTN U, which is  $\pi$ , if you will look on your console. In either 'C,' or 'S' mode, pressing FCTN U enters a symbol that you can recognize, but does not show it's numerical value. One way to see the numerical pi is to enter it, multiply or divide by 1 and ask for the answer. Well, of course you could enter pi and add or subtract zero. Either is a tough way see pi, so try it once and then, in an actual equation, just go ahead and use it putting your trust in Jim Peterson. There is also LOG, which correctly these days is the so called natural LGN, meaning to the base 'e.'!

We're still not up to the advertised 34 functions. Well, give or take, the rest are trigonometry. In Highschool, University, and 60 years of engineering practice the only Trig I've used are Sine, Cosine, Tangent, Cotangent, and their inverses. Jim has all these plus enough others to yield the advertised 34!!

But he makes no bones about them. He doesn't know what they are for, but has a great idea. So you don't want 'em either, then use the space they take in his calculator program to substitute in functions you do like, and use! He tells where this space is, lines 760 - 1080. I've taken a look at the beginning of these, but I'm not ready to go any further!!! But still in trigonometry, Jim programmed for angles measured in RADIANS RATHER THAN DEGREES! This would make his fine calculator too much

trouble with Trig!!

I didn't expect to use this much space about the Calculator, sorry. If I don't hear from Jim I'll send him a copy of this. No I'll send either way.

#### Programmability

Simply by entering # Jim's Calculator is programmable, and here the parentheses I promised are fully useful. Here is one of Jim's examples:

$$A=(B+C)xD/(E-F)$$

When this is run, you are prompted for the variables B, C, D, E, and F. Then you get the computed value of A which you may send to the screen or one of the 6 memories. I don't know, though if this can be run repetitively without rewriting the formula. Maybe Jim will tell or maybe I can experiment. Better still, one of our smart K-Towners may figure it out.

#### Iterative programmability.

Enter @ to access this fun one. Jim's example is:

$$A=B^P-SQR(B).$$

What's tough about that you ask! WELL, 'A' IS KNOWN. The proper 'B' must be determined by trial and error. For me it was fun to watch the computer select a first trial, and then it's zeroing in on the solution to ten digits of accuracy. Near the end it took so long that I'm confident it was solving to 14 digit accuracy but only printing 10 'cause I'd so specified.

When I get more time I'm going to have more fun with this one.

#### PRINTING

Output can be printed. But I haven't had time to test. Another time, maybe.

#### FORTHRIGHT FACTS

If everything is going well, you've overlooked something.

In thermodynamics things get worse under pressure.

To study a subject **best**, understand it completely before you start.

Always draw your curve before you plot the data.

If at first you don't succeed, transform your data set.

Don't believe in miracles. Rely on them.

Science is truth. Don't be misled by facts.

#### RECIPE AGAIN.

Most eateries, when you order a sandwich, will ask, "Plain or whole wheat?", "Toasted or not?", "Butter or mayonnaise?" It's that last question that raises my hackles, 'cause I dislike mayonnaise!! "And what dressing for your salad?" Like any red blooded American, best choice is, "Blue cheese, please, but not if it's made with mayonnaise!" The server doesn't know, so you take a chance. You win some. You lose some. Well, if you don't want to chance it, if you want a winner, USE:

**Evy's-8th-Grade Boiled dressing.**--- Evy is my wife and has been making this good stuff for 61-1 years. That first year marriage was a secret, and making Boiled Dressing was impossible in separate rooming places on a University Campus. Now, though this tasty treat is yours to make with this recipe!

#### Evy's-8th-Grade Boiled Dressing.

4 Tbls Sugar	2/3 Cup Milk or Water
2 Tbls Flour	1/2 Cup Vinegar
2 tsp Ground Mustard	2 Tbls Butter
1 tsp Salt	2 Whole Eggs

Mix dry ingredients. Beat eggs. Add milk to eggs. Blend into dry ingredients in double boiler, adding vinegar. Cook to desired consistency.

Keeps well in refrigerator in jar with screw lid. Yield: Never enough!

This is what makes Lettuce-Bacon-Tomato sandwiches GREAT! Bread is toasted. Also TOPS when making ham salad. (Grind left over ham, add pickle relish, chopped hard boiled egg, and E-8th-6 BD.

BB 9/28/92 Still trying to get ahead. Want time off for a trip to Wisconsin in early October. Last month, Chatter Box - 20 went from here to EM by modem. Don't know yet about this one, but it won't be from, Wisconsin, that's certain!

#### LATE STUFF

Got the October Newsletter today. WOW!, how I'll miss the October demo of Art's better NL Printer!!! I almost wish he can't get it done in time, or bad weather will delay this good one, or he'll do it again, maybe with video recording. I'll furnish the tape.

BB 9/30/92

## MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 1992

In the absence of our esteemed Sec/Treas., Bob Buehler, yours truly, EM Smith is reporting the minutes for the October Meeting. We expect Bob to be back and in control for the November Meeting.

All the regulars except Bob

Buehler and Dennis Mackey were on hand for Art Gibson's Demo. Bob was away on a visit in Wisconsin and Dennis called in to report he would be absent because of an encounter with a bad case of hives. He considered it unwise to be driving while taking a

prescribed drug. At the time of his call he did not know the cause for the affliction. We all wish Dennis a speedy recovery. Also present was Mike Epperson. Mike is a former member and president of our group who abandoned us in favor of the Big Blue. We were glad to have Mike visit with us and we extended him a request for a return visit at future meetings.

Mike brought with him a couple of full height DSDD disk drives which were commandeered by Paul Blevins and/or Joe Simmons. Don't remember which. Mike also availed us of information relative to an outlet for new and used computer equipment located in Maryville, TN. Mike reported sighting a large inventory of TI software and hardware. Bill Sheridan indicated he would check it out and report his findings at the next users group meeting.

The premeeting hype on Art's demonstration billed it as an updated version of his Newsletter Printer Program. Perhaps it is, but his demo displayed none of the menu screens which were/are familiar to me as a regular user of his FAIRWARE version. Art has changed the name to **FIRST DRAFT/FINAL COPY** and is distributing it as an Asgard product. He expects it to be available at the Chicago TI Fest being held at the end of October. We wish Art much success with this new adventure into the commercial world.

Art's new program has all the features of his Fairware version plus the convenience of an on board spell checker and is enhanced by a UTILITY which permits the user to build his own menus and chain them in a manner which permits one to run any of his Extended Basic or Assembly programs from this environment. The programs may be located on any brand of Ramdisk, hard disk, or floppy disk drives. The UTILITY also has a BOOT TRACKING feature.

Art didn't mention the documentation but he has a reputation for including good documentation with his programs and I am sure he will follow suit in this program.

Joe Simmons arrived early for a change and was armed with a large package of "raisin free doughnuts" and the group devoured most of them. When he first arrived I thought he was bringing me a token gift in appreciation of all the domestic labors I do for the group before and after each meeting. I knew that was wishful thinking when he announced that they were raisin-free. Maybe I'll get some appreciation on another day. Ha,ha! Just kidding fellows but it does sound like a good idea to me. Thanks Joe!

During a brief business session it was announced that C.O.N.N.I. had sent the group a disk which contained a program emulating accessing the NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE BBS. The program is very informative but admittedly is no substitute for the real thing.

Following adjournment the members journeyed forth to McDonalds for its usual post meeting session featuring the absorption of McDonald's specialities which were enhanced with the exchange of information. Some facts - Some fiction. I adjourned about 10:35 and thought the others were leaving posthaste. Shortly after midnight I received a call from a concerned wife wondering if I knew where her husband might be. I regretted that I couldn't shed any light on the subject and because of the foggy weather I too remained anxious until another call about twenty minutes later announced that John had just walked in the front door. It seems that John and Art enjoyed an extended session of exchanging programming skills.

End of minutes for 10/08/92.  
By EM Smith for BB!

## THE COMET IS COMING!

As you may have seen in the paper the other day, Brian Marsden, a specialist in comet orbits, has calculated that comet Swift-Tuttle has an orbit that will bring it close to the earth, perhaps close enough to hit us. The good news is that the expected day of contact is in 2136. We only have 144 years to wait.

A couple of years ago the astronomy magazine, Sky and Telescope, published a computer program for calculating the position of a comet or anything else in solar orbit - planet, asteroid, space vehicle, etc. What you have to know is the eccentricity ( $e$ ) of the orbit and the perihelion distance ( $Q$ ). The eccentricity is a fraction that describes the shape of the orbit.  $e=0$  is a perfect circle,  $e=.99$  is a very, very long oval. The perihelion distance is the closest approach to the sun. It is measured in Astronomical Units - 1 A.U. is the average distance of the earth from the sun, about 92 million miles. Time is measured from the point of perihelion, closest approach to the sun, and is measured in days.

The program accepts any  $e$  between 0 and 1 and any  $Q$  and, for any time  $T$ , calculates the distance from the sun and the angle measured from the axis of the orbit and the sun. From these it is possible to plot the comet's position at the time you have specified. Now take, say, 100 consecutive days and it will give 100 positions and you can plot a curve.

The program, to get these results, has to solve Kepler's equation and that cannot be done by ordinary algebraic methods. For values of  $e$  between .95 and 1 the program uses Gauss' series to get the solution and for 0 to .95 it uses a method of iterative trial and error with 33 iterations. Neither one is quick in Basic. Each position takes almost 10 seconds and so drawing a curve takes a while.

Showing the orbit on screen is a problem - only sprites allow you to show a position with any precision and the sprites are limited to 28. Not many for a good curve.

That was the situation until Bill Sheridan came along with his plotter which will plot hundreds of points with excellent precision and all in color.

To get around the time problem I had to reinvent the wheel. Anybody who has ever used a plotter has probably known about "plotfiles". You make your program convert positions to X,Y coordinates and PRINT them to disk as a PLOTFILE. Another program will then INPUT the PLOTFILE and transmit it to the plotter at any convenient speed. You have your orbits on disk and can plot them whenever you like.

Bill's plotter was designed for the TRS-80 computer but it works fine with the TI and much more simply. The TRS-80 requires 30+ lines of Basic to "initialize" it for the plotter while the TI needs only OPEN #1:"RS232/2.BA=2400".

At our November meeting we will see if all this works. 2136 is coming soon!

John H. Bull

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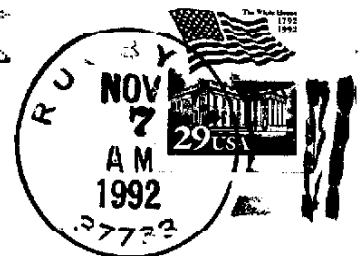
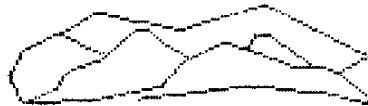
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IN ONE CONTINUOUS  
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VETERANS DAY  
NOVEMBER 11TH.



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