MAD HUC

INNESOTA AND DAKOT

GRAND FORKS, ND

March 1988

MONTHLY MEETINGS

MEETINGS
(AT THE G.F.)
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Minnesota And Dakota Home Users Group meets every second Tuesday in the upstairs meeting rooms and every fourth Tuesday in the Electronic Room of the Grand Forks Public Library. Yearly dues are \$12.00. Members can use the group's hardware and software by presenting the library reference librarian with your membership card and asking for the keys to the MADHUG files. Anyone interested in the TI-99/4A is welcome to attend.

MINUTES, FEBRUARY 9, 1988

In the absence of the President, meeting was called to order by the Vice President, Bill Overton, at 7:20 pm. Attendance: 12 members.

Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and accepted without additions or corrections. Secretary reported receiving no reply from the Pueblo 77er Users Group concerning possible collaboration with us.

Due to opposition by the Grand Forks Public Library staff, Rich Jurgens was unable to place a single drawer file cabinet in the Electronics Room for our newsletter collection. Also Rich plans to curtail sending our Newsletter to other Users Groups that do not reciprocate. (Exchange of newsleters is of vital importance to the preservation of the TI-97/4A community.)

Vice President has added on-line RLE viewing to his BBS (telephone number (701) 594-9797). This works with the standard RLE format. After viewing, the screen can be saved to disk and then loaded and printed. He also reported his experience with a computer shopper mall. Secretary won the raffle. Prize selected: package of 10 diskettes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm to the Electronics Room. Vice President demonstrated MAX/RLE. At 9 pm, meeting adjourned to Perkins—for further discussion. HWE

SIG MEETING, FEBRUARY 23, 1988

Total attendance of 9 members. Explored several different programs and their utilities. Had to open the console and reposition the keyboard, before we could proceed. Discussion of other functions of the TI-99/4A was interesting and profitable. Meeting continued at Perkins. HWE

APOLOGIES

From Rick Alston

I would like to apologize for missing the February MADHU6 meeting and not having anything to say in the February newsletter, I havent forgotten about our MADHU6 members, but I had been extremely busy at my job, working a lot of overtime.

{{ DID YOU KNOW }}

By Rick Alston

This is a selection of items hopefully of interest to you Version 4 FUNNELWRITER users. The following items are for use in the Text EDITOR mode.

Converting uppercase characters to lower case meant you retyped everything, until now!

Depress CTRL and "." (PERIOD), the cursor is then able to pass over each character converting every character the cursor passes over to lower case. Very nice in word wrap mode.

Complete and the complete and c

Converting lowercase characters to uppercase is just as simple.

PRESS CTRL AND ";" (SEMICOLON), autorepeat functions also. (Thanks to the McGoverns).

It is also possible to load a file without typing in the file name!.

In the Editor mode enter "SD" on the command line, at the next prompt enter the drive number "1,2 or 3", this will place a listing of the disks files on the screen, you may then press the CTRL key to view the next page of files, SHIFT will allow you to return to the previous page.

Entering the number preceding a filename will mark the file with a dash in front of the filename, (if it is a text file) you may then press enter, that returns you to the Editor. Now Enter "LF" the filename you marked (including the drive number) will be displayed as the file to load, simply press enter and the file will be loaded.

This works real neat, but did you know that you may also VIEW text files without loading them into the Editor? And without losing the file you are working on in the Editor, just follow the menu prompts listed at the bottom of the screen after you perform the "SD" and drive selection routine.

Note of caution: Be careful because you can delete files in the "SD" (Show Directory) mode, of course there is a confirmation "Y/N" prompt. If you havent fully investigated (experimented with) the possibilities in this amazing diskful of programs, then you are missing out!!! If there is interest in exploring the capabilities of this "Version 4 FUNNELWRITER" then let it be known at the next MADHUG meeting. MADHUG

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GAME REVIEW
By Steven Little

Hi again! This month I am reviewing a disk instead of a game. Don't worry, the disk is full of games. The disk I am doing is the ATARI disk we have in the library. Of most of the people who have played the games on the disk already know most of these games were very popular in the arcade.

Centipede: You are a little gun-like object shooting at centipedes, because they are wanting to destroy you. After you shoot them they turn into mushrooms which fill up the screen. When the living centipedes hit them they bounce off the mushrooms they go the opposite direction but come closer to you. You must now shoot as many mushrooms as possible.

Defender: It is a space game in which you must shoot all of the aliens that you will meet. If you don't shoot the aliens quick enough they will come down and kidnap the humans you are defending. If an alien catches a human, you can rescue him by shooting the alien and grabbing the human as he falls to the ground, then you must place the human on the ground. You must be fast because if you don't rescue him in time the human dies.

Dig-Dug: You are a man with a gun that has to dig into the earth to kill all the monsters. Some move fast in order to kill you, others blow fire. You have rocks you can dig under to drop on the monsters or you can use your gun to shoot them. In order to kill them with your gun you must shoot many times. The more you drop rocks on them the more points you get.

Donkey Kong: You play the part of Mario who is trying to rescue the pretty girl from Donkey Kong, the Grilla. To do so you must jump over obsticles such as harrels or fireballs. You may jump up to get a hammer to crush these things but it uses lots of your time. You have a required amount of seconds depending on the level you are on. You must do all of this while Donkey Kong is throwing these barrels or releasing these fireballs upon you. The higher level you get the more tun it gets.

Pac-Man: This is a maze game. You play the part of a little round, hungry ball with a big appetite. You eat all the dots on the while trying to avoid the four ghosts. If the ghosts get to hard to handle you eat the big dots in each of the corners (called power pellets.) When you do this the ghosts turn blue. This means you can eat them to get them out of your way, but only for a limited time. After you clear the screen you go on to another screen with plenty more dots and more challanging ghosts.

Pole Position: This is the last game on this side of the disk. In this game you are a race car trying to qualify for a race. If you make it you try to dodge the cars in your way. You must not crash very often because you are timed.

Next month I will tell you about side 2 of the disk. But until then,

Happy gameing!!

WORDPROCESSING WITH WORDWRITER (a review) by BOB TRAUTHANN, 224 McKINLEY AVE. PITTSBURGH, PA (412) 118 1000

"Dad, you have to do something about this old typewriter!", my teenage daughter screeched one day. I had used the old Sears portable typewriter when I went to school and I must admit it was on its last legs. So I becan to check the stores for a new one. Gee, typewriters can do a lot more than they could do when my old one was new. Some can automatically erase a whole line of goofs at a time and replace it with a nice neat and correct line in just a few

what happened next I owe to an energetic salesman who said, "What you really need is this little baby right here!", as he pointed to the latest, biggest, fastest (most expensive!) typewriter in the store. "It can do everything", he said. "Why, it's almost as good as a wordprocessor." CLICK - On went a light in my brain.

Maybe I could get a wordprocessor for my TI. A court

Maybe I could get a wordprocessor for my TI. A quick check of a handy computer catalog showed me that TI Writer was only about thirty dollars and did a lot more "good stuff" than that expensive typewriter. I would, of course, need to get a printer and interface. Then I noticed a little note at the bottom of the catalog page, -(DISK SYSTEM REQUIRED)-, but I am still using a cassette recorder and I don't even have a PE box. So I turned the page and there it was, Wordwriter II by DataBioTics, Inc., another wordprocessor cartridge that did most of the great things that TI Writer could do. It worked with a cassette system so I wouldn't need to buy a disk drive or PE box. The price was only about ten dollars more than TI Writer.

To make a long story shorter - I bought the Wordwriter II cartridge and an inexpensive dot matrix printer and a Axiom Parallax parallel interface.

To make a long story shorter - I bought the Wordwriter II cartridge and an inexpensive dot matrix printer and a Axiom Parallax parallel interface.

It is just great! My daughter can turn out some swell looking book reports with it, and I have found it very usefull too. I can write and re-write, edit and re-edit, format and re-format, move and remove words, sentences, paragraphs and pages. I can control the printer to output six different sizes of type, underline and control the paper feed for more or less space between lines. I can set margins tabs and automatic indent at the start of a new paragraph. Word wrap is another neat feature. I can search the text for a word, phrase or sentence and replace it with new in just a few keystrokes. And everything can be saved to and re-loaded from my cassette tape recorder.

Most of the commands are similar to those in TI Writer and can be accomplished by pressing the control or function key and one other key, or through use of a prompt line.

Here are some of the commands:

accomplished by pressing the control of function key and one other key, or through use of a prompt line.

Here are some of the commands:

(C) means with Control key and (F) means with FUNCTION key PROMPT LINE (HELP!)= (F)9; UNDO LAST COMMAND (OOPS!)= (C)1; CHANGE COLOR OF MONITOR SCREEN= (C)3; TURN LINE NUMBERS ON OR OFF= (F)0 (zero); TURN WORD WRAP ON OR OFF= (C)0 (zero); MARGIN AND TAP SET= (C)T; TAP ADVANCE= (C)I; WORD TAB (CURSOR TO FIRST LETTER OF NEXT WORD)= (C)7; CURSOR LEFT= (F)8; CURSOR RIGHT= (F)0; CURSOR UP= (F)E; CURSOR DOWN= (F)X; WINDOW LEFT= (C)S; WINDOW RIGHT= (F)0; WINDOW UP= (C)E; WINDOW DOWN= (C)X; WINDOW TO BOTTOM LINE OF TEXT= (F)B; WINDOW TO HIGHEST LINE OF TEXT= (F)H; DELETE CHARACTER= (F)1; DELETE COMPLETE LINE YOU ARE ON= (F)3; DELETE FROM BEGINING OF LINE TO CURSOR= (C)J; DELETE FROM CURSOR TO END OF LINE= (C)K; INDERT LINE= (F)2; COPY THE LINE YOU ARE ON TO THE SPACE DIRECTLY BELOW= (C)5; COPY A lINE OR GROUP OF LINES TO A DIFFERENT AREA OF THE TEXT (START LINE NUMBER, END LINE NUMBER, AFTER LINE NUMBER)= (C)C; MOVE A LINE OR GROUP OF LINES TO A DIFFERENT AREA OF THE TEXT AND ERASE THEIR PRESENT LOCATION= (F)M; NEW PARAGRAPH (CARRIAGE RETURN AND AUTOMATIC INDENT)= (C)B; NEW PAGE (CARRIAGE PETURN AND FORM FEED)= (C)9; FIND A STRING= (C)F; REFORMAT MARGIN TO MARGIN (LINE YOU ARE ON TO END OF PARAGRAPH)= (C)2; REFORMAT FROM CURSOR TO RIGHT MARGIN (LINE YOU ARE ON TO END OF PARAGRAPH)= (C)2; REFORMAT MARGIN TO RARGIN (LINE YOU ARE ON TO END OF PARAGRAPH)= (C)2; REFORMAT MARGIN TO RARGIN (LINE YOU ARE ON TO END OF PARAGRAPH)= (C)2; REFORMAT MARGIN TO RARGIN (LINE YOU ARE ON TO END OF PARAGRAPH)= (C)2; REFORMAT MARGIN TO RARGIN (LINE YOU ARE ON TO END OF PARAGRAPH)= (C)2; REFORMAT FROM CURSOR TO RIGHT MARGIN (LINE YOU ARE ON TO END OF PARAGRAPH)= (C)2; REFORMAT HORDING CODES TO PRINTER= (C)0; PRINTER EXXT FILE (OR START AND END LINE NUMBERS)= (C)P; STOP THE PRINTER AND RETURN TO THE EDIT MODE= (F)4.

All of the above commands are accomplished with a single keypress but if you forget the cod

All of the above commands are accomplished with a single keypress but if you forget the codes most are available through the prompt line (F)?.

Some additional features are only available through the prompt line, they are: CURSOR TO A CERTAIN LINE NUMBER= (F)9L(enter)S(enter)(LINE NUMBER)(enter);

DELETE A CERTAIN LINE OR A GROUP OF LINES= (F)9L(enter)D(enter)(START LINE NUMBER, STOP LINE NUMBER)(enter);

PURGE= (F)9P(enter)Y: SEARCH FOR A STRING AND REPLACE WITH A NEW STRING= (F)9SH(enter)RS(enter)/(ORIGINAL STRING)/(NEW STRING)/(enter) you will then see the location of each occurrence of the original string and have the option to replace (Y) or not replace (N) that occurrence or to replace all occurrences of the string (A) with the new string or to stop and return to the edit mode (S).

It is most convenient to type with word wrap on, line numbers on and margins set to 1 and 34. This allows you to see the line numbers and the entire text without worryipg about horizontal windowing. When you are finished typing and you are ready to print reset the margins (C)T and reformat (C)R. Wordwriter II doesn't have automatic centering and it doesn't have automatic right justification but these features can be accomplished manually.

Wordwriter II by DataBioTics, Inc. is a great wordprocessor that does not require a disk system.

P.S. Documentation is very good too.

there perts are avoilable through the MADHUG. USEL Group

From The ROM Newsletter (Users Group of Orange County, September, 1985)

HAMAI'S hardWARE #5

by Ken Hamai

First, an apology to all those who patiently waited for the info on constructing a disk drive power supply from the surplus Ti-99 power supply boards currently available at Radio Shack. Due to circumstances beyond my control, both job related, (I gotta eat too!) I was unable to attend the last two meetings. Anymay, I hope this clears up some of the questions I got when I demonstrated the completed power supply at the August meeting:

Second, I was unable to get my disk drive running at the meeting due to an incompatibility with the club's system and how it was connected to my drive. This has to do with how the strapping pack is configured and also with the terminating resistor pack. Will demo next time using my own system.

- ## WARNING ###
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- ** WARNING-** WARNING ** WARNING **

This project requires some skills and knowlege in Electronics assemble. Incorrect assembly could result in burning up your disk drive. If you are not sure how to connect the parts, contact so or somebody who can help. In any event, neither, I or the ROW will cover you for any damages or losses resulting from the use of this power supply as suggested by this article and you are using it solely at your own risk. IThis goes double for the Cin-Day Users Group, hoping I didn't introduce any errors through retyping to fit our format-Editor. PS.-Tenex,P.D. Box 6578, South Bend, IN 46660 has a power supply and box for an external drive at 59.95- about the lowest I've seen in Computer Shopper.]

PARTS LIST

- 1. Radio Shack 277-1016 power supply chassis
- Radio Shack 273-1511 12.6 voit, 3 amp transformer
- 3. 1/2 amp fuse and holder
- 4. SPST bat switch
- 5. 5 ft. of lasp cord and plug
- Three 6 inch lengths of 20-22ga stranded wire, different colors.
- 7. Male plug for disk drive power connector
- 8. Small piece of heat shrink tubing 1/16th inch size

All of the above items except for item 7 are available at Radio Shack stores. The disk drive connector plug is available from one of our advertisers, RB Electronic Supply. 100 E. Orangethrope Ave. Anaheim, CA 92801. [or from Hendelson's, First Avenue, Dayton DH, they still had some

last time I was there -Emitor) 🧍

When you purchase the power supply board, you will note that it comes with instructions on a suggested wiring scheme. These instructions also recommend the use of an 18volt transformer and 2amp fuse. The reason I recommend the other transformer is because the power supply does not have to work so hard to regulate the output voltages and the lower amperage fuse gives quicker response to an overload. An added plus is that the 12.5volt transformer costs less...

Step 1. - See fig. 1 for suggested hookup for the transformer and the power supply. You will note this is the same as shown in the Radio Shack diagram. I have included some notes for clarity.

Step 2. — Double check your connections and then plug your outlet to test it out. Be sure to turn on the power supply switch located on the board (see fig. 3). Using a suitable volt meter and fig. 2, check that you get the indicated output voltages when you test the +5 and +12 pins and ground. The voltages MUST be pretty close. DO NOT use the power supply if you find it is off by 1/2 volt or more, especially on the +5 volt pin. If the voltages are way off, I suggest you return the board and get another one.

Step 3. - Disconnect the power to the supply and carefully bend the -5 volt pin out of the way or cut it completely off. Then solder one of the 6 inch lengths of 20-22ga wire to each of the remaining pins. Use a piece of heat shrink tubing over each soldered connecton for insulation. Use yours or a friend's blow dryer at the High setting to shrink the tubing.

Step 4. - Referring to fig. 4, assemble the three wires you soldered to the pins into the power connector for the disk drive. Double check your wiring and test the connector with your voltmeter to be sure that you have the wires in the correct socket postition.

That's all there is to the wiring. If you connected up your disk drive now, it should work.

One more thing, I have not included plans for a cabinet for the disk drive and power supply. You will need to build one to hold your components together. For my demo model, I attached the transformer, fuse holder, off-on switch, and disk drive to a piece of plywood and covered the whole thing with a piece of cardboard to keep the fingers and dust out. Since various models of 5-1/4 inch floppy disk drives can be used, I suggest you take your own measurements for the design of the cabinet. See fig. 5 for a suggested configuration.

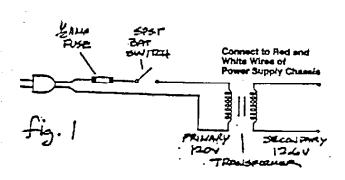
Using the above and one of Bob Harper's Brand-X disk drive specials (I understand these are still available, ask Bob where he gets them from), you should be able to set up a double sided double density drive AND this power supply for less than \$50.00, including the cardboard and nails.

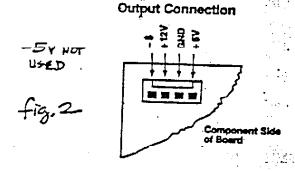
Bye for now. Be expecially careful out there and tell them you saw it FIRST!...in the RDM...Ken H.

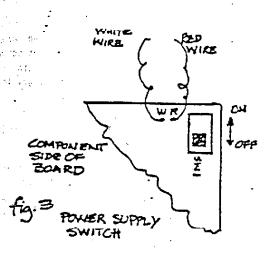
- MAD HUG-MARCH, 1988

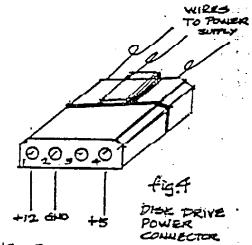
P. 5

DISK DRIVE POWER SUPPLY

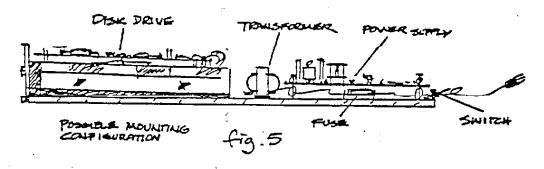








HOTE- POSITION 3 NOT USED. THIS IS A
KEYAD CONNECTOR AND CAN ONLY FIT THE
DRIVE SOCKET ONE WAY.



The new \$49 disk drives have just arrived. They are just as advertised: new, black-fronted, double-sided, double-density, i height, Qumetrack 142s. The ones we have set up are very, very quiet. It only cost \$12 to ship in five of them and they didn't surcharge my VISA card. These are a very good buy. We aren't taking any more orders but you can contact the company direct: Computer Surplus Store

715 Sycamore Drive Milpitas, CA 95035 Phone 408-434-0168 Order line 408-434-1060 NEW LISTING OF GROMS FROM TEXAS INSTRUMENTS..

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF GROM CHIPS AVAILABLE FROM DEALER PARTS AT TEXAS INSTRUMENTS IN LUBBOCK, TEXAS. In writing address your letter to: TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, ATTN: DEALER PARTS, P.O. BOX 53, LUBBOCK, TX 79415 or call: (806) 741-2265, 2268. They are a great group of People to deal with and are very helpful to users of the TI-99/4A.

THE LIST BELOW IS NOT IN ANY ORDER THAT I CAN DECIPHER, BUT IF YOU SEARCH BY THE NAME OF THE CARTRIDGE, AND LOOK AT THE CHIP(S) IN YOUR CARTRIDGE CAREFULLY, YOU SHOULD HAVE A GOOD IDEA WHAT THE PARTS WILL COST YOU. IN ORDER TO KEEP THE COST DOWN BY SHARING THE S/H YOU_SHOULD CHECK WITH OTHERS IN THE GROUP TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MUTUALLY SHARED EXPENSES.

THEY WILL BILL YOU, IF YOU INDICATE THAT YOU PREFER TO BE BILLED WITH THE SHIPMENT. THE TIME ALLOWED FOR PAYMENT IS 30DAYS. THEY TRUST US, SO DON'T ABUSE THIS TRUST PLEASE. I HAVE REPAIRED EXTENDED BASIC, EDITOR ASSEMBLER, SOCCER, PLATO, AND OTHER CARTRIDGES, AS WELL AS MADE SOME NEW ONES THAT COULD NOT BE EASILY ACQUIRED I.E: EDITOR ASSEMBLER, AND THE TI DIAGNOSTIC CARTRIDGE. I HAVE THE FEELING THAT EVEN THOUGH TI SENT ME THIS NEW LIST, IT IS NOT COMPLETE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE SURE, IT IS BEST TO CONTACT THEM. ONE LAST NOTE, COUNT THE GROMS IN YOUR CARTRIDGE, AND THEN SEARCH THE LIST AGAIN, FOR EXAMPLE MULTIPLAN HAS 5 GROMS, AND 3 ARE IN ONE AREA AND 2 IN ANOTHER ON THIS LIST.

John F. Willforth 12/87 DEMONSTRATION
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WANTED: If anyone has the origonal instruction manuals for the following games please contact Steven Little: Pac-Man, Ms. Pac-Man, Defender, Dig-Dug, Donkey Kong, Moon Patrol, Jungle Hunt, Zero Zap, Ambulance, and Personal Record Keeping.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR.

Last month we ran who was to do which reviews. Myron Fischer turned his in at the February meeting. Where are the rest of your articles?

From the FLUG (Forest Lane) news Letter comes a TId-bit. They heard rumors recently about something going on with TI and possible re-entry into the Home Computer market in some capacity, but will hold until more information is available. Lok for some additional word in the future. Could be sooner than we think.... Stay tuned.

Micropendium is looking for our help. They are requesting what kind of information and material that we as the reading public would like to see in the coming year. If you have a preference, jot it down on a note card and send it to them at MICROpendium, PO BOX 1343, Round Rock TX. 78680.

May the "4A's" be with you. DOS.

- FOR FUNNELWEB USERS

TI-WRITER TIP: Ever need to convert lowercase to UPPERCASE

or Visa-Versa.

Try using Ctrl "." and Ctrl ";" on a line of text and see what happens!!!!!

USER EXPERTENCE.

What do you do if you want to use 4A to drive a printer but you don't have a peripheral expansion system ("P box")? For at least three DTIHCG members the answer was to use an Axiom Parallax Interface.

Rip Dowling, Jon Hodges and Thierry Weber combine for about six years of ownership and use of these devices. They feel that the Parallax interface is an inexpensive and reliable device, especially suited to the user without immediate plans for a "P box." Although the old standalone RS232 interface is also available, Jon points out that it does not provide a parallel port.

There are a couple of common complaints from Parallax numers, but most have to do with the design or operation of the interface rather than its reliability. The Parallax connects to the side of the 4A, just the old II standalone peripheral; additional devices are connected to the rear of the Axiom unit, however. All agreed that desktop clutter is desktop clutter. no matter which way it runs. For certain programs, some hadware setup (jumper connections) or software changes are also required. Rip notes that the interface has its own power plug, which can be a bit troublesome when you've already used up all nearby outlets!

Rip eventually acquired an RS232 card in order to use a modem and retired the Parallax at that time. Jon found that his CorComp micro99 expansion system didn't get along with the Axiom unit and abandonded the Parallax. At last report, Thierry was still using his but had just gotten a "P box" and expected to move on the an RS232 card before long. While most users eventually do likewise, they all agree the Parallax is ideal for minimal systems.

The unit is reported to work with all parallel printers and does allow some unusual "file open" statements for additional printer control, if you do your num programming. The Axiom Parallax interface is an excellent, low cost entry point to the world of printing with the 99/4A.

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The officers are working on recataloging the newsletters and cleaning out the MADHUG files at the library. If you find semething missing, it may have been taken home to be worked on by an officer.

We are still trying to convince the library director to let us move in a small file cabinet to house the other groups' newsletters. We may have to appoint a committee to do some arm twisting.

We have lost one member this last menth but we gained three new families. We would like to give a hearty welcome to Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Gaines of Devol,OK, the Aarne Read family of North Kingston, RI, and the Bruce Hansen family of Grand Farks. Just when your treasurer thinks he sees the end, new bleed pops out of the weedwork.

TREASURY NOTES

As of February 29, 1988, with all bills paid and all deposits in, the treasury stands thusly:

On deposit (Feb.1)

Cash on hand

Deposits

Total

\$ 135.31 24.00 54.00 \$ 213.31 Expenditures

Newsletter printing (Feb) Newsletter stamps (Mar,April) Receipt book

April) 22.00 2.00 Total \$42.40

\$ 18.20

On deposit Feb. 29, 1988 Treasury Balance

\$147.11 \$171.11



















DALLAS TI Z USERS GROUP P.O. BOX 29863 DALLAS TX /5229