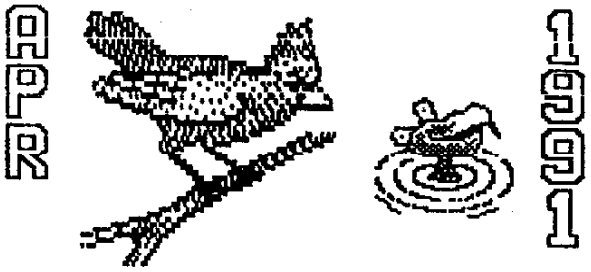
OSHAWA TI
99/4A
COMPUTER
USERS GROUP

OSHTI



T.I.M. IS HERE

TI IMAGE MAKER (Tiny TIM) has arrived....! Oasis Pensive Abacutors 80 column HIRES upgrade for the TI 99/4A is now available for $179 (US or CAN). Now you will be able to luxuriate with the W I D E S C R E E N. Load in GIF pictures and use the 256 colour Graphics mode 6 and 7 which the V9958 video chip supports.

Although TIM uses the newest YAMAHA video processor the V9958. All of the software that supports the older 80-column cards (the V9938) also works. OPA has made sure that there is compatibility between them. The installation of TIM is very simple. You "pry out" your V9918A chip (from your console) and pop in the TIM board and make a simple solder connection to the bottom of the mother board. You also remove the two GROM chips and add the S.O.B. (Son of a Board) and make another solder connection, this time to ground.

The instructions are easy to follow and most anyone will be able to add TIM and SOB to their console. If you are faint at heart hen I suggest that you make use of a 'techie' from your user group. If you still can't do this, then you can send your console into OPA and they will do it at a small additional charge.

The S.O.B. is a 'stand-alone' unit and can be added to anyone's console. It is a powerhouse by itself. In fact it will perform more operations than Editor/Assembler. S.O.B. replaces GROM 1 and 2 in the console so that you will have TRUE LOWER CASE characters and a MICRO disk manager as well. OPA has also changed the STANDARD TI screen(s) as well.

OPA also supplies the purchaser with software so that you can immediately use the system. X-HI,X-80 from Alexander Hulpke are packaged with it as well as a GIF viewer and of course 80-column FUNNELWEB (DISK REVIEW) 4.31. There are also other programmes which make use of the V9958 graphics.

If you are presently using TELCO, you can readjust your set-up for 80 columns it works in a 'flash'. Now you don't have to worry about wrap-around from BBS's.

TIM is a complete package and the PRICE is definitely RIGHT. You get TWO great hardware upgrades which will turn your TI 99/4A into a computer for the 1990's.

OPA is also thinking ahead has engineered in lines for future add-on devices - GENLOCK devices, IMAGE SCANNERS,as well as a composite monitor adapter. Presently an ANALOG RGB MONITOR is needed with TIM (see article later).

If you've been waiting for 80-columns, now you can get it and not worry about the support for it. You get

512x424 pixel resolution and the FULL 192 K of VDP ram.

OASIS PENSIVE ABACUTORS
432 Jarvis St. #502
TORONTO,ONTARIO,CANADA
M4Y 2H3
$179.00 + 7.50 shipping and handling

COMPUTER MONTHLY:

For those who may NOT know it, the there is an excellent article (1-2 pages) in the COMPUTER MONTHLY. This can be purchased on your local newstand ($2.50 CAN + GST). The last one I purchased was in Buffalo for $1.95 US.

Most of the articles are on the latest hardware for computers and there are lots of MAIL ORDER computer hardware wholesalers.

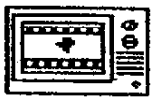
Barry Traver, who also puts out a DISKOZINE of TI stuff and writes for MICROpendium, writes the articles. I don't know how Barry writes all of these articles and writes programmes to boot.

The articles are invaluable for finding the addresses of TI suppliers. Barry gives the latest scoops on what's happening in the TI community.

In April's edition as well as reviewing Jean Marleau's XBASIC utility languages, he writes about a NEW C-compiler which is being written for the Geneve. This compiler already can be used on an IBM to translate code for the TI or GENEVE. That's right, an IBM programme that writes TI C-programmes.

A programme is like this is being written for the GENEVE. It is being developed by LGMA Products (Little Green Men). This would be a full K and R style compiler adapted from the PDC compiler for the UNIX 68000 machines. Clint Pulley of c-99 fame is also working on this programme.

80-COLUMN SUPPORT:



In April 1991 COMPUTER MONTHLY, Barry Traver has mentioned the development of more 80-column support. Jean Marleau from Montreal has announced the release of PL/2 an enhanced language for EXTENDED BASIC. In the article, Barry quotes Jean as saying, " The utility programme is much like XBasic except that it is much,much faster. There are more than 100 new routines, some which have not been seen before. There is full screen support for 80 x 25 V9938 processors." It is available for $22.99 plus $3 shipping and handling. Address is:(NEW)

Jean Marleau
1424 Des Melezes
Saint-Hubert
QUEBEC, Canada
J3Y 8S8

As if there was not enough support for 80 columns, I also read in Computer Monthly that LGMA PRODUCTS offers 99 FORTRAN for the TI which supports 80-columns as well. The latest version of 99 FORTRAN also supports Super Cart memory and bit-map modes. Anyone interested in FORTRAN ?

LGMA PRODUCTS
5618 Applebutter Hill Rd.
COOPERSBURG,PA
18036

Latest version of 99 FORTRAN is 4.4

MARCH OSHTI:

As Ed Conlin I think) commented," maybe we should pick another day of the week to hold our OSHTI meetings; the weather always seems to be bad! ". I think Ed is right, weather patterns tend to be periodic and recur weekly. However, it wasn't nearly as bad as last month.

Our fellow TIers, Phil and Glen and John from Kawartha 'graced' us with their 'presents'. Tom and Keith tried feverishly to get a Commodore RGB monitor to work on the newly obtained TI Imagemaker(T.I.M.) from OPA (AKA Gary Bowser). Unfortunately the cable used was missing a much needed pin to make it work. We will have to wait for next month's meeting to see.

However, Tom demonstrated the S.O.B., Son of a Board which comes with T.I.M. As mentioned in the March OSHTI newsletter, this board can be purchased separately from T.I.M. for $59 (Can.) The board features TRUE lowercase characters for all console cartridges, BASIC and XBASIC. Even the zero is slashed.

With the PBOX attached you can choose to RUN a disk based programme from the micromenu screen or choose the module. If your speech synthesizer is attached the SOB says "READY to START" on power-up, then "DEVICE" for disk drives and "MODULE" for cartridges. When you access a drive it says "RUN". The menu screen runs smoothly but there is a complaint about the screen colours on a B-W monitor. It was also noted that there is a compatibility problem between SOB and the MYARC FDC (floppy disk controller). If there is NO synthesizer attached, the MYARC FDC causes the SOB to hang up before displaying anything. Gary Bowser, is working on the fix for this apparently unusual incompatibility. Unfortunately, this might delay orders of TIM and SOB.

Thanks to several members who contributed to the growing $$ for FUNNELWEB. We are asking for a Faireware donation of between $15-20 to give us a continued support of FUNNELWEB by the McGoverns.

The Pickering HAM operators Fleamarket is fast approaching...Sat. Apr.13th. Rumour has it that Phil will be sleeping overnite on Friday to scoop up the bargains before anyone else. Good luck! The club will be purchasing 4 tickets and be manning a 2 table booth. Those who have shown an interest are DOUG,BOB,KEITH and TOM. If you wish to help out contact Doug or Tom. Remember, it runs between 9am and about 2 pm. We usually go out for a 'coffee' afterwards,eh?

The disk of the month featured several DISK to CASSETTE utilities, a word counter programme and the game of BILLIARDS. This latter game proved to be quite popular.

A lot of hardware problems were discussed and some attempts made at fixing them. I hope we found Doug's TI controller problem. His controller and cabling seems to work in another box.

Tony got some suggestions on some possible solutions to his chess module 'lock-ups'...maybe a cleaning with rubbing alcohol of the GROM connector and port will fix this. We also suggested drilling holes thru the plastic console cover over the power supply (with the supply removed of course). Everyone could do this to

help the circulation of air thru the console. There is a lot of heat build-up over the power supply.

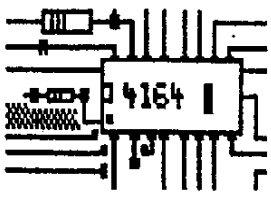
Tom forgot to put on the fire this month, as a result all 35 cups of coffee went before the end of the meeting.

Donations to DISKU by the recently deceased John Birdwell seem to be unsure. One report has it that the Chicago TI Users' Grp. has established a memorial fund which will give out a yearly award for outstanding contributions to the TI computer world for a worthy software or hardware developer or user group.

A verbal report I heard suggests that this award is still up-in-the-air because of some financial problems with the Birdwell estate. Wait until next month before making a faireware contribution if you are about to.

The OTTAWA TI FEST is slated for Sat. Apr. 27th in NAPEAN not NAPANEE ! Napean, pronounced na-pee'-on is a 'burb of Ottawa (pronounced home of the federal government, yuk!). Doug and Tom have shown an interest in attending. The Kawartha group will be going up on Friday the 26th, possibly in the Mike Dunne 'bus'. This has to be firmed up. It was a very pleasant time travelling to and from the Ottawa Fest in this mode of travel... Phil is having the Motel rates checked in the Ottawa area.. they are higher this year and we are looking for a better deal than the TALISMAN offers.

Phil and Tom have expressed an interest in going down to the LIMA OHIO Multi User Group Faire on May 17-18 (the lonnng Canadian Victoria Day weekend). This faire was the Best one in 1990 and should prove to be as good in 1991.



HORIZON TIPS

Now that I have my Horizon Ram Disk (HRD+) up to full capacity, 1.024 Meg it is a real problem when things apparently CRASH! Here is a tip I read in a newsletter somewhere, I just can't remember where.

If your HRD locks up and won't access even the physical drives, DSK1, then you seem to be stuck to load in anything. The system will seem to work but the Disk controller light and HRD light (LEDs) will be ON. Turning the console and PBOX off and on doesn't seem to work. This is what to do.

Use the E/A module. Turn the PBOX and the console off. Then turn the CONSOLE ON FIRST ! That's right, FIRST.

Then turn the PBOX ON WHILE HOLDING DOWN the 'shift' key. Select option 5 from the E/A and load DSK1.CFG to configure your system. Strangely enough the disk access reappears. The RAM disk directories are still intact as well and their contents are still there.

Next, RELOAD the ROS you usually use. DO NOT throw out the existing information.

Exit CFG and everything will be fine.

It saves having to dissassemble the HRD from the PBox and doing other aweful things.

It works for me...

Tom.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR '91 OSHTI MEMBERSHIP ?

XBASIC MODULE EXPANDER

Easter weekend saw our family paying a visit to Buffalo NY for a PEEWEE hockey tournament in which my son played. While I was there I thought that this would be a good opportunity to pay a call on William Shores in Lockport. Bill produces a nifty little device called an EXTENDED BASIC MODULE EXPANDER. It allows you to take your EXTENDED BASIC module and add up to 5 more GROMS to it. I found out about this device though the LIMA user group newsletter and through an article in MICROpendium (Dec.1990). This device sounded like an easier one to build than the ZENO board, which I put together last year. So I gave Bill a call on a Saturday afternoon and got the directions for his house.

Lockport is only about a 20-30 min. drive from Buffalo, well, if you know where you're going. I got to Bill's house with no difficulty and Bill was happy to show me a couple of different versions of his module. He also gave me the low-down on how the ZENO board had got him started on this project. He had also put one together and had encountered the usual difficulties with wiring diagrams and 'very close traces'.

I must compliment Bill and his wife on the neatness of their house, I don't think mine would compare favourably. This also tells me how meticulous Bill is when it comes to putting computer hardware together. His kits are EXCELLENT and a model of careful thought and great organization. Everything is packaged beautifully and only a sloppy person like me would have trouble losing a piece.

When you get a 'home-made' kit you don't expect such an excellently packaged product. But this one is. There are 6 pages of directions, printed in LARGE PAGE PRO print. This makes assembly very easy. I didn't miss a step putting it together. All tolled, I took about 3 hours to assemble the module. Most of this time (90%) was spent DESOLDERING the GROM chips from the XBASIC and MULTIPLAN modules. The XBASIC GROM chips are STACKED so they are really difficult to desolder, even with a suction bulb.

Bill also provides you with a NEW case for the XBASIC expander. It has E/B, E/A and 1,2,3,4 marked on it. EA stands for Editor Assembler. Bill also makes kits with only EB and 1-5 if you like.

There is also a RESET switch that can be wired in. All of the switches,wires, grom sockets, knobs, etc. are provided. Yes, you don't have to go to the store to buy a thing. You only need some (resin core) solder and a low power soldering iron to do the job. Of course you will need a DESOLDERING device for the GROM chips that you remove from the modules that you wish to use.

There are NO LED's INCLUDED. But I think that I could figure a way to include some. I didn't Phil !

I also opted to purchase the stacking board for $5 extra. I thought that it would make it that much easier, and it did. You don't have to buy this extra part since you can make it from part of the board that you take your other GROM chips off. It will save you time and it is worth it.

After I assembled the

module it worked the first time. However, the reset didn't work since I forgot to solder a wire to it. However, it was an easy thing to fix.

If you have ever put something together and were missing parts or directions then you will all the more appreciate this kit. Bill has done a SUPER job putting this kit together. Even a novice should NOT have much trouble. When you are finished, the module looks like something that maybe TI would have produced. And it's PORTABLE, not like the ENO board.

The cost is very reasonable at $25 (US)($5 extra if you want the top board pre-assembled) plus $3 shipping (in the US) or $5 outside of the US.

Send your orders to:

WILLIAM SHORES
5737 GLENDALE DRIVE
LOCKPORT, NY
14094
Phone 716 434 0709

P.S. I bought an extra one if any one in our club (or Kawartha) is interested and in a hurry.

Thanks again Bill, I hope you will continue thinking of new ways to make the TI 99/4A just that much better.

T.I.M. and YOUR MONITOR

As mentioned in the Mar. OSHTI meeting minutes, I purchased my TI Image Maker (aka 'tiny' TIM) but was unable to get it to work on the monitors I brought home. Well, here it is Mar.22nd, only 4 days later and TIM is up and working. I sure learned a lot about RGB monitors in the last week.

First thing that you should know about RGB monitors is that there are basically two(2) types. There are the:

RGB analog
and the
RGB digital(or TTL)

TIM to date ONLY works on the RGB ANALOG! No digital models will work. To Keith's and my disappointment, the COMMODORE 1902 RGB monitor will NOT work...it is DIGITAL ONLY!

Most of the Amiga monitors (1084,1084S)from Commodore will work.

I also suspect that the RADIO SHACK monitors,CM5 and RGB11 will work. The reason that I say this is that they have relatively LOW RESOLUTION and have a Horizontal sweep rate of about 15.75 kilohertz. Herein lies the next problem; the horizontal scan or sweep frequency.

TIM works well on a 15.75 kilohertz scan,but most inexpensive RGB monitors are 31.5 kilohertz, or double this frequency. This causes a small problem (I'm not exactly sure, but it is significant enough). This makes a wide variety of modern VGA monitors for the moment out of contention.

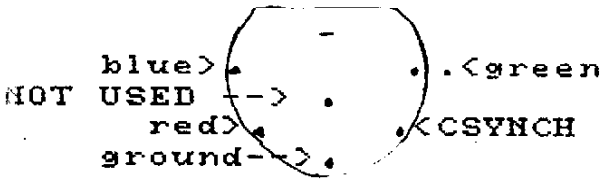
The last problem lies in the wiring diagrams to these monitors. They use separate Horizontal and Vertical scan lines. TIM, at the moment is set up to use only a Composite Synch line.

The good news is that TIM WORKS ! It works with a variety of monitors (see list below). Gary Bowser of OPA is to be congratulated for the work he has done on TIM. Gary continues to work on these last two problems and hopefully TIM will eventually be able to work on more (inexpensive) monitors in the

future.

Commodore AMIGA 1080,1084
MAGNIVOX 8CM515
THOMPSON 4120
SONY XBR series(KV1311CR)

The following is the pin-outs for the DIN 6 plug on my version of the Commodore 1084



Looking at the back of the monitor at the female plug.

Another thing to keep in mind is the SIZE of the PIXELS. From experience with the AMIGA monitor and from the advice of others (Will McGovern), a pixel size of 0.42 mm is ACCEPTABLE but a SMALLER size is BETTER !

Finally, besides the cost, you want a monitor which can do a screen size of 640 x 480 pixels. This is fairly standard on most VGA systems. You will pay more for the higher sizes but the TIM can only do a maximum of 512 X 424 so any larger sizes than the 640 x 480 won't improve things.

To summarize you want a monitor for TIM that is:

>RGB ANALOG
>less than 0.42 mm pixels
>640 x 480 pixel screen
>15.75 kilohertz Hor.scan

Tom (Mar.24 1991)

EASY PROGRAM saves typing!

The other day my oldest son was typing on the computer using Funnelweb when he asked me how to retrieve a line he had lost. I told him to use Control 1 (the oops key). When I looked at what he was typing I noticed it was all numbers.

I asked him what he was doing and he said,"I want to make a list of all the baseball cards I have by checking them off a number list." I said that he should consider setting up a Data Base but he said he just needed a list of what numbers he had. So I said that typing them in was a 'drag' and a better way to do this is to use TI BASIC and write a short program to accomplish this. Here is the programme I wrote.

```
100 CALL CLEAR
105 OPEN #1:"PIO"
110 FOR I=0 TO 99
120 FOR J=0 TO 7
130 PRINT #1:TAB(9*J+5);I+100
150 NEXT J
160 NEXT I
170 CLOSE #1
```

The Program below prints a list of 0 to 799 in columns across the page in neat columns of 100. This worked for what he needed, so he was happy.

I thought I could improve on this idea and make it more general by allowing the user to input a STARTING NUMBER and ENDING NUMBER and the NUMBER of COLUMNS desired. So that's how the next program got written. It also makes sure that the columns will be printed out neatly with all numbers appearing once. There is a check line in the program to accomplish

this.

```
100 REM IMPROVED NUMBERING
105 REM BY T.JAKABFY 040291
110 CALL CLEAR
120 INPUT "START AT # ":S
130 INPUT "END AT # ":E
140 INPUT "# OF COLUMNS ":C
150 PRINT "ARE YOU SURE ? "
160 CALL KEY(3,K,ST)
170 IF ST<1 THEN 160
180 IF K=ASC("Y")THEN 195
190 IF K=ASC("N")THEN 110
    ELSE 160
195 IF (E-S+1)-(INT(E/C)*C)
    <>0 THEN 196 ELSE 200
196 PRINT :"UNEVEN ROWS...
    .TRY AGAIN"
197 GOTO 120
200 CALL CLEAR
 10 OPEN #1:"PIO"
 20 FOR I=S TO INT(E/C)
230 FOR J=0 TO C-1
240 PRINT #1:TAB(80/C*J+S)
    I+INT(E/C)*J;
250 NEXT J
260 NEXT I
270 CLOSE #1
```

You will notice that I allowed the user to REDO the entries using the "ARE YOU SURE" followed by a CALL KEY. You will also notice that the CALL KEY is on unit #3. This allows for upper case only even though you may be in lower case. This was discussed in March OSHTI p.6.

If the number of columns does not have all columns even then line 195 sends the user back with an error message "UNEVEN ROWS.....TRY AGAIN".

I used the same loops in lines 220 and 230, the only difference being the generalizing formula. The I-loop in line 220 controls the ROWS printed and the J-loop in line 230 controls the columns printed across the page. I used a printer width of 80 in line 240 (tab(80/C) to evenly space the numbers. The maximum width for C is 20 allowing for 4 spaces per number.

What is the point to this you might ask ? Well for one thing you DON'T USE a WORDPROCESSOR for repetitive typing, write a BASIC programme to do this.

Secondly, you can write a simple programme and LATER make it MORE GENERAL to accomodate other uses.

Thirdly, I can add this to my utility programme disk to help someone do another problem.

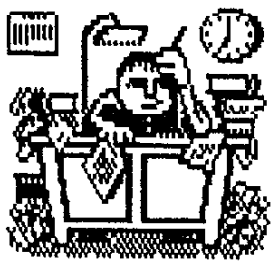
Tom

80-COLUMN FWB DISKREVIEW TIP

Here is a tip for using the 80 column DISKREVIEW on Funnelweb 4.31. If you read the DOCS you will see that you can use either V or W to view a D/V 80 (ASCII) file on disk. If you wish to see 2 files using the SPLIT SCREEN (CTRL 0) option then you MUST load one file using V and the other using W otherwise it won't work. Also you will ONLY see the file AS FAR AS YOU READ it into VRAM.

Why would you want to do this ? Well, you are putting the file in VRAM and you don't have to access the disk to read it in the split-screen mode. It goes by as fast as you want since it is in dynamic VRAM. Of course you should ideally have 192K of VRAM to maximize the effect.

Try it, it works very well. TOM



"When are you going to write an article ?

FUNNELWEB 4.31 DOCS:

The other day Keith and I were talking and he mentioned an interesting point,"Where is the documentation (printouts) for things like DISKU, FUNNELWEB etc. ?". The answer to this is simple or complex depending on how you view it. The documentation for a lot of these programs is on the original disks. Sometimes they are in the form of simple *README files but other times they might be called FWDOC/LOAD etc. This sounds great for those who have printers, but what if you don't (ED NOTE: I think you are missing out on a lot without one!).

The simplest way to SEE or VIEW the docs is to use the BOOT program (supplied on most ever Disk of the Month from the club. Select 1 and load the Directory from drive 1. If you see a "dv 80" file (these are DISK VARIABLE (length) files) then you can 'cursor' down to it using "ESDX" and press return.

When you come back to the BOOT menu select option #2- VIEW A FILE. The name and location of the file will be displayed at the bottom of the screen. If this is the correct name, then just press ENTER and the file will be seen on your screen in 40 column format. Pressing a key will scroll the file up one screen at a time. You WILL NOT not be able to GO BACKWARDS.

If you want to print this file quickly you simply press <shift> 2 instead of 2 to view. The file will then be output to your printer. Although this works, the print-out will be UNFORMATTED. This means that you will simply get what you would see on the screen and not a neatly formatted document. If formating characters are used in the document then they will also get printed and this may not be aesthestically pleasing.

Well, what is a way to get a HARD COPY (print-out) if you don't have a printer? The answer here is to get one through the club.

I keep a copy of all of the documentation which I feel is important, almost everything. So a photocopy can be made for those with no printer. This is another service that the club can provide. The cost would have to be borne by the one who wants it.

So that's it. If you don't have a printer then it gives you a copy for your use.

Those who made a faireware contribution for FUNNELWEB will receive complete documentation at the APRIL OSHTI meeting.

Tom and Keith

MULTIPLAN VSN 4.00 BUG!

There is a bug in TI MULTIPLAN version 4.00 put out by Art Green. Art has sent corrections to some users who noticed the bug. If you have more than 18 files on a disk directory, Multiplan is supposed to show the next number of files by typing in one near the bottom of the screen list and using an arrow key during LOAD (arrow key). This works for the TI version but Art's has a bug. Unfortunately, I lost the corrections which were in the PUG March 1991 newsletter. I am noting the bug here and I will put in the correction next month.

NEXT

OshTI meeting

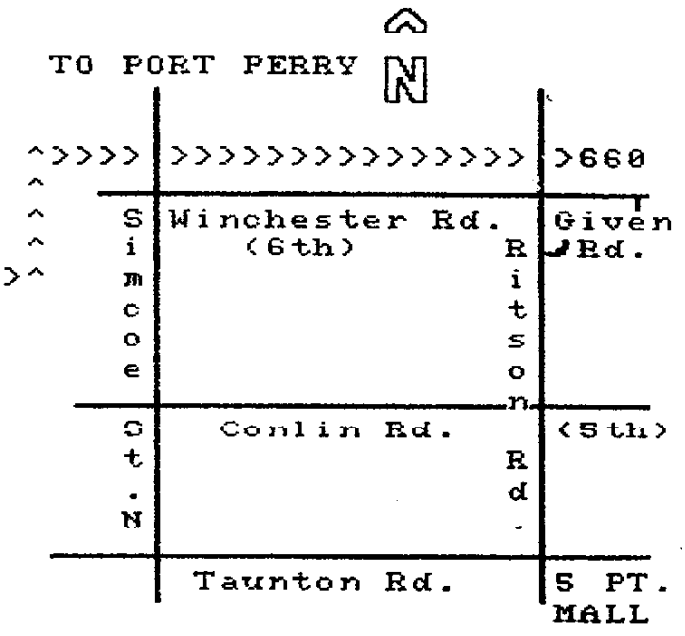
MONDAY APR. 15

7:30 PM
Tom's Place : See map >>>

COMPLETE TI SYSTEM FOR SALE
....MAKE AN OFFER...BUY IT!

FLEAMARKET
APR.13
PICKERING HS

FULL
T.I.M.
DEMO



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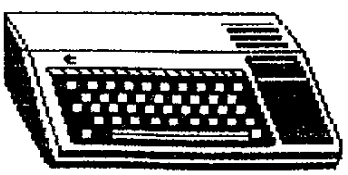
OSHAWA TEXAS INSTRUMENTS HOME COMPUTER USERS' GROUP

CHAIRMAN:	RAY BLODGETT (579-1767)
VICE CHAIRMAN:	JOHN EASTHAM (728-9994)
TREASURER:	GUY LAFONTAINE (576-5910)
LIBRARY/SEC.:	DOUG BURLEIGH (579-5109)
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	TOM JAKABFY (725-7298)
MEMBER-AT-LARGE:	----------

MEETING TIMES:

The OSHAWA TI USERS' GROUP (OSHTI) meets between the hours of 7:30 and 10:30 pm Location to be named in the newsletter.

OshTI



MEMBERSHIP FEES:

The OSHTI membership is $15 per family per year.
Members receive ten(10) newsletters per year.(Jan.-Jun. Sep.-Dec.).
Members also have the use of the club library (CASSETTE + DISK).
VISITORS to club meetings are WELCOME.
Copying charges for disks-of-the-Month are $1(your disk) or $2(our disk).

MAILING ADDRESS:

Tom Jakabfy
660 Given Rd.
OSHAWA,Ont.
L1H 8L7

The OSHTI Users' Group is a Non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging the continued use of the TI/994A for education, entertainment and data management. The club also supports the MYARC 9640 or GENEVE(TI compatible) computer.