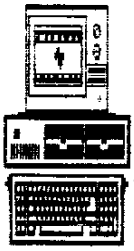
OSHAWA TI
99/4A
COMPUTER
USERS GROUP

OSHTI

MAY 1993



The ANDREWS SPECIAL TI-99

Well, just when you think that you've seen it all, you get another surprise.

Stephen Andrews from North Bay (Ontario Canada) has 're-built' a TI 99/4A that has some of the features that we've been longing for.

Keith would love the system... it has NO FIRE HOSE ! No big black cable joining it to the disk drives. It has NO big clumky power cord; just a nice 3 pronger that can even be detached like the one on the PEBOX. Gone is the standard TI keyboard; replaced by one similar to the RAVE keyboard but it's neither.

Joystick ports in the BACK ! Ones that will take ATARI or COMMODORE joysticks without adapters.

The only things you see are the wide RAVE(IBM type) keyboard, a monitor and a slim plastic box about the size of a VCR and a monitor.

Steve has worked on this set-up for some time and finally its working. In fact we copied over 50 diskettes on it Friday night before the fair.

What's the secret ?

Steve took out the TI motherboard and used it with a new cool switched power supply. The power supply also supplies power to the disk drives and a disk controller that Steve pulled out of a PERCOM stand-alone disk drive. The PERCOM is a DOUBLE SIDED controlier very similar to the TI controller. It runs the drives flawlessly.

Then there is a printer port which makes use of an AXION parallel printer card. It is also powered by the switched power supply. Steve even included a very quiet fan to keep things cool.

Steve rearranged the cartridge port so that it is in the front, middle of the unit just under the disk drives. The drives are mounted sideways like a VCR tape slot.

Of course Steve has built in the 32K into the motherboard with a SUPER CARD which runs the tiny MENU programme.

Steve has decided to purchase a POP CART from OPA to run the system. He wants to get the POP CART that has RAM in it so that it would also have fast disk access.

Steve is to be congratulated for the fine job that he has done. Of course, this makes everyone envious of the nice TI system that you have.

Tom

LAST OSHTI MEETING... Gary DEMO'S the POP CART

The APRIL OSHTI meeting was held on a thursday so that Gary Bowser could attend. Gary came down on the GO train and made it down just in time to have a quick supper and get ready for the many questions that would be asked.

I made a video of Gary's talk and haven't had a chance to go through it yet (see B. and E. article)

Generally, speaking Gary and OPA have finally got the POP CART ready to ship out.

We had a good turn out at the OSHTI meeting. Glen Daniels and Dick Bulmer (yes I can spell your name correctly this time) were down from Peterboro. The number of donuts hit an all time high! We even had enough coffee to 'float' us all home.

The disk of the month consisted of several files on using the FORMATTER with FUNNELWEB or TI-WRITER. I will add to these files for the next meeting as well as put some of these in print in the newsletter. I have tested these files to make sure that they work properly. You can print out the SCREEN FILE using PF from the command line. It will look quit bit different from the FORMATTED file.

I hope Bernie is having a good vacation. He must be still down South since I haven't been able to get an answer on his phone.

NEXT MEETING will be Wed. May 24th at DOUG'S PLACE. See the MAP on the LAST page for directions.

MAY INDEX:

B & E :BREAK and ENTER

(not a fun story)

Sometimes you just have a gut feeling that some doom is going to befall you. I had this feeling for a few weeks(maybe even a month).

I felt that I was going to be burglarized. And unfortunately I came home yesterday (May 3rd) and my fears had come true.

I knew something was wrong when I saw the garage door up. I never leave it open. As I looked in I could see the tell-tale signs of B and E (bread and enter). You get a gut wrench and start to feel shaky. Mostly you just don't know what to do first.

The police call was interesting. I didn't think it would be a 9-1-1 emergency so I dialled the number in the white pages. I just couldn't seem to find it in our BLUE pages (where you find the Government Services). The voice on the other end said that the number was NOT IN SERVICE... hum. So I dialled another number and got an officer. I said. "I've just been robbed." They don't call a break and enter a robbery by the way.

The front door was basically kicked in and there was a lot of broken glass from the door light. However, I consider myself lucky because they didn't really do a lot of damage.

Of course they stole my big TV and VCR and camcorder. The TV and camcorder were nicely detached (they sell better that way). They go through your drawers in your bedrooms as well to see if you are dumb enough to leave anything there. Except for a gold wedding band and a small caliber rifle, nothing of major value was lost there.

They also steal some blankets. This is to conceal your TV etc. Maybe just to protect it from the ride to the pawn shop.

I don't have a lot of expensive items besides the ones above. My computer stuff, in the basement was untouched. I suspect that they only had a quick look in the basement.

What I think is most interesting is what they DON'T STEAL.

- small TV's
- record players
- loose change
- kitchen items
- computer equipment
- check books
- personal stuff (pictures etc.)

The B and E was done in broad day-light. Just after I left for work in the morning.

Now the worst part is trying to get all of the materials replaced; even with replacement coverage insurance you have to provide copies of bills of sale or at least a picture or video of the items. The $200 deductible is also a problem. I hope to 'work' this off by doing some of the repairs myself. Usually the insurance company will allow this; it's cheaper for them.

Another problem comes from the fact that even though this electronic equipment (VCR,TV, camcorder) is a year old, they have been replaced by more sophisticated and cheaper equipment.

The one problem that I found out in playing around with new equipment is in the different designs and functions of the remote controls. I wish someone would standardize them.

What can be done to stop future B and E's ? Probably some type of alarm system (external to the house) so that neighbours or passers-by will stop and take notice. Also, the police have warned me that they might hit after I get the new equipment.

Personally, I feel 'lucky'. Although I am out some expensive equipment and have to spend time itemizing the loss, it has not embittered me or caused me to lose faith. Worldly things can always be replaced. Our most cherished things such as family and friends are still here to enjoy.

Tom

FIXING A BLOWN DISK FILE:

What happens when the file you were just using comes up with a dreaded IO error 06 ? When you go to do a directory, you find that it gets stuck and you can't finish the rest of the file list ? Well, just list to the following to see one way out.

A week ago (April 28) I was using GOFER vsn 1.1 to RENAME some of the picture files on a Page Pro file when it tried to save the amended file, I got an IO error 06. When I tried to get a directory of the disk, it stopped after the file previous to the one I was working with and would go no further. The DISK was BLOWN ! or rather ONE of the SECTORS was blown.

What you can do is rather simple if you have the file backed up; just delete the blown file from SECTOR 1 (see the article on DISK FILES) on the disk and carry one. The BIT MAP on SECTOR 0 will still say that the sectors used to store the programme have been used up and probably you will never (I hope) try to write to that sector again. However, as luck would have it, there was NO BACKUP of this file. But I did have a printout of what was on it... not the best but a starter.

Next I turned to John Birdwell's(deceased) Disk Utilities program (DISKU) . I was able to find the offending sector. It was the sector which held the first sector of data. The next 20 sectors of data were fine.

To get the directory back I simply went into the SECTOR EDIT part of the DISKU and found out where the HEADER file was located in the memory. On SECTOR 1 you have a list of numbers which point to the sector header file in a table. I then took out the offending number and moved all of the other numbers up and wrote the sector back to SECTOR 1.

Now the directory would work fine, but I didn't have the file. But it is still physically on the disk.

I then went back to another disk a loaded a 'dummy' PAGE PRO file on it (21 sectors in length). The idea is to get as much of the old file sector copied over to the new file.

Since I knew what sectors the 'dummy' files occupied (again using DISKU), I started using DISKU to SECTOR copy >(using SECTOR edit and CTRL R- to READ the bad sector and CTRL W-to write it to the other disk)

the last sector of the 'bad' file back to the last sector of the 'dummy' file until I reached the sector which was blown (the first one). I then went back to PAGE PRO and loaded in the 'dummy' file which only had a slight difference in code for the first part of the page pro picture. This I fixed and got all of the original file back on the new disk in a new file.

The only problem was what to do with the blown sector on the disk. Probably, copy all of the other files to a new disk and REformat the disk.

Anyway, another problem solved, and no files lost this time.

My motto is, "There is more than one way to recover a file !"

Tom.

LIFE BESIDE A POND:

The summer always seems to creep up on us with little regard for a proper spring. This year we have two 'permanent' visitors to our pond in the form of two Canada (eh!) geese. My daughter has named them Lucy and Rickie after the Arnez'. Well Lucy has been sitting on her eggs for the last two weeks and any day now we should see some little goslings.

Although Canada geese are somewhat of a bain because of their numbers in the city(Toronto seems to have much too many of them and they plague the parks with their greeny poop), these two are nice company and offer some interest to our family.

I needn't worry about any other geese coming around; they fight them off if they get near. On the other hand, if there are any mallard ducks around they can can get quite close to the nest without any problem. Who says that animals aren't discriminatory... at least to their own.

Of course, what would the spring be without the presence of a wandering beaver ? Last Saturday (May 8th) one of the mangey critters tried to set up shop in the pond. Well, it didn't take me long to 'shoo' this giant rodent away. The last time I saw it it was making a 'b' line for the creek and heading north.

The black flies have been quite good this year; that is there have been fewer of them. All we need to wait for now are the mosquitoes and June bugs.

Life is never boring around a pond (especially a one acre one).

A L L A B O U T F I L E S :

This article is about how each file is stored on your diskette. Knowing this can help you fix blown files or at least save part of a file.

There are several important places that each file will be identified on a disk.

1> the FILE DESCRIPTOR RECORD (FDR)
2> the FILE DESCRIPTOR INDEX (SECTOR 1)
3> the VOLUME INFORMATION BLOCK (SECTOR 0)

FDR:

There is one whole sector used to identify various things about the file. This SECTOR is called the FILE DESCRIPTOR RECORD (FDR for short). The first thing in the FDR is the file's NAME(10 bytes). This is followed by the type of file (eg.hex 80 for dv 80 files).

Here is the sequence of commands for locating the FDR for a file (using DSKU Vs.4.0).

```
select 3) DISK UTILITY
```

```
select 3) FIND STRING
```

```
DRIVE # __(disk drive the disk is in)
STARTING SECTOR >2 (won't be on 0 or 1
ENDING SECTOR >____(enter Total
sectors form BOTTOM
of the screen)
ASCII or HEX STRING (A/H) A (chose ASCII)
_________< (file name or 3-4 letters in name)

REPLACE STRING
_________< (select default which is same as
above)
```

When the string is found the disk will stop and the sector will be on the screen with the letters highlighted in reverse colour. Select the E>dit option and you will see the ASCII representation of each of the 256 bytes. Write down the number of this sector, it will e at the bottom of the screen; we will use this later.

Press CTRL H and the ASCII values are replaced by the HEXADECIMAL values.

>bytes 0 to 9 contain the FILE name

>bytes 10-11 not used

>byte 12 is the FILE TYPE
eg. 80 means DIS/VAR
>byte 13 Max. number of Records per sector eg. DV 80 = 256/80 = 3

>byte 14-15 number of sectors used
(dir or cat size -1)

>byte 16 End of File offset (how many bytes of the last sector are used)

>byte 28 the FIRST sector number of the programme. From here, the bytes are read in clusters of 3. If there are more than 3 bytes used then this shows that the programme is 'chained' over several sectors in different areas of the disk. All you have to do is read the first byte (28 that is) to tell where the first sector of the actual file is. Although it gets more complicated, you can get usually get by with the first sector of the programme starts on.

You can READ the first sector of the file when you are in the sector edit mode. That's what you would be in if you were looking at the FDR screen as above. Simply press CTRL R (for Read) and enter the digits that you found in byte 28. This will take you to the first sector of the file as it physically is stored on disk.

You can toggle between ASCII (CTRL A) and HEX (CTRL H) to better read the file. DV 80 files are easier to read in ASCII.

Press F9 to return to the PREVIOUS screens. Pressing F9 repeatedly will take you back eventually to the first screen. Now this time Choose (1) FILE UTILITIES.

Under FILE UTILITIES select SECTOR EDIT.

This time pick (4) SECTOR EDIT. Enter sector 01. This is the FILE DESCRIPTOR INDEX.

Make sure that you have HEX turned on (CTRL H). You will see a series of numbers arranged in TWO BYTE PAIRS. These are POINTERS to the FDR sectors arranged in ALPHA order. You will see the file that you searched for earlier in the list. If your FDR was 07 then you will see the number 07 in one of the bytes on this page. It will only appear ONCE since there should only be a single copy of this file there.

When you do a DIRectory or CATalog of your disk, the ALPHA order of files uses sector 1 to find the file names. You can do all kinds of strange effects by rewriting sector one. Be careful, if you don't have the pointer in the list then the disk controller will have a hard or impossible time finding the file.

A copy protection programme once used employed the writing of a 0 to the first byte of sector one and then moved all the other bytes up one on the list. This gives a disk with NO FILE NAMES but one where the disk controlled can still find the files. I don't recommend this idea but it shouldn't affect the RUNning of the programmes.

Since there are only 256 bytes on a sector and 2 bytes used for each pointer, you can see why we are limited to 128 files per disk.

Lastly, the VOLUME INFORMATION BLOCK or SECTOR 0 shows several important things.

Press CTRL R and enter 00 to Read this sector. If you change to ASCII then you will see the DISK NAME as bytes 0 to 9.

> byte 10-11 is the total number of formatted sectors in HEX (eg. 5959 = 0168 or the hexadecimal equivalent of 360)

>byte 13-15 = DSK in ASCII to signify that this is a TI compatible disk.

>byte 16 unused

>byte 17 = number of tracks per side
(eg. HEX 23 = 35 tracks per side)

>byte 18 = diskette density in HEX
(eg. 01 is single density and 02 is double)

>byte 20-55 for future expansion(?)

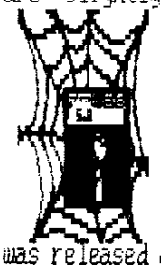
>Byte 56-255 Allocation Bit Map.

The Bit Map tells the computer what sectors are used or what ones are left to write to. The controller must update this everytime a file is WRITTEN to the disk. If this Bit Map gets corrupted then one programme could write over another one. DON'T MESS with this MAP!

I won't get into how to read this map; there are tables that allow you to do this.

The source of all of the above information came mainly from MILLER GRAPHICS ADVANCED DIAGNOSTICS. However, the disk and book apply only to the TI and CORCOMP disk controllers. MYARC disk controllers are slightly, but importantly, different.

Tom.



40 COLUMN FUNNELWEB vs 5.0 is HERE !

Yes, FUNNELWEB 5.0 for 40 columns was released at the LIMA fair. Copies will be available at our next meeting.

We are looking for a contribution to the McGoverns who have produced these excellent programmes.

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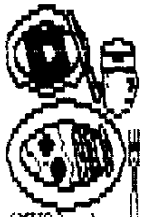
ON THE ROAD TO LIMA:



The LIMA MULTI USER GROUP CONFERENCE (MUG) has again come and gone. This year 5 intrepid Canadians from East and North of Toronto Voyagered down to visit Charles Good and company. Glen Daniels (driver) Dick Bulmer(co-pilot) from the Kawartha 99er's, Pat Graham(translator) and Steve Andrews(chief Technician) from North Bay User Group and yours truly (navigator) made the 600 plus kilometer trip.

One of the best part of the trip (of course I am totally unbiased) was the feasting at several excellent restaurants.. ie. truck stops. The first one was at Woodstock and Hwy. 2. Nick's Truck Stop. This excellent little place was discovered last year and resurrected just in time for lunch. Pat ordered a 'small' order of fries and had to leave some for the next group of hearty eaters. The food was piping hot an fast.

Our second stop was in Detroit. We made a quick 'pith' stop in a somewhat suspect part of town. You had to fight your way past the mop and bucket to use the 'john'. This rest room was voted worst of the trip.

Two and a half hours out of Detroit is Lima, on I-75. We were going to stay at the DAYS INN but found that someone had lost Glen's reservation. As it turned out, the had plenty of rooms anyway. The accomodation was very good, except for the fact that you had to 'manually' turn the stations on the TV.

The DAYS INN had a nice restaurant which we quickly made use of. Dick was wondering what happened to his 3rd Walleye fillet when the waitress assured him that the two he had were bigger than the 3 little ones which were usual. Steve and Pat settled on liver while Glen and I had the 'all you could eat' shrimp dinner; it proved to be just about the amount we could eat too.

After checking out the action at the OHIO campus we went over to the Toronto 99er groups digs. They seem to like the HOTEL 6; we were glad our reservations were at the DAYS INN. The Toronto group included Gary Bowser, John Van Weelie and a third person that I didn't get the name of. This gave us a Canadian contention of 8. Not bad, eh? They had been copying the LIMA disks for several hours, so we borrowed about 50 to get us a head start.

Our fearless fivesome than stopped in at RAYS for some brewskies and chips to tide us over. Then it was back to the motel for some copying, TV watching (Lethal Weapon 3) and some serious semi-relaxation.

Saturday morning saw us up at near first light and then down to the campus for some serious disk copying and bargoon buying.

I was looking for a MYARC HARD/FLOPPY DISK CONTROLLER. There was only 1 available but the price was too much $200(US). A Geneve was also on my list, but it was also too much according to my budget. So I wasn't able to get my big items. This saved me a lot in the long run.

All of us picked up some good buys on diskettes and disk drives. Unfortunately the prices were not always what we would have liked.

WE did get some serious shopping done at WALMART and a few other stores on the WEST side of LIMA. Navigation of LIMA is somewhat of a challenge since the downtown stores seem to be closed while only the malls on the WEST side (opposite the campus) offer good shopping.

As usual, Charlie Good and he LIMA group put on an excellent conference. The attendance looked better than last year even though the official count was only a bit higher. I saw more people there that I had not seen in previous years. The lectures proved to be excellent and informative. All of our clubs have purchased copies of the lecture tapes so that we can have a closer look at them and view ones that we couldn't get to.

Saturday night saw us all attend the PIZZA party at MAMMA'S. The pizza was compliments of the LIMA group! Thanks again. There was a last chance to talk to the TI people and share a nice meal. Needless to say, no one went away hungry.

After some last minute night shopping at MEIJER'S (it's open 24 h and 7 days a week) we went back to the motel to get a restful sleep after one very hectic day.

Although the weather was excellent for Friday and Saturday, mid 70's (24 C), we had some cool cloud to drive through on our way back. Dick took over the controls while we all relaxed. Pat managed to get the odd snooze in too (zzzzzz!).

The border crossing was uneventful. We stocked up on some cheap booze ($11 for 40 oz of Canada Club).

We made London just in time for a nice buffet lunch at a spot that Glen new about. We were treated to some antique cars here also. Steve particularly enjoyed he STRETCH MORRIS MINI LIMO.

I got back to Whitby just in the nick of time. A weekend of heavy eating starts the 'juices' flowing, eh guys.

Thanks again for the company, it was really enjoyable travelling with you. Next time I won't forget my comb,Pat.

Tom

PEOPLE & PIZZA

The other thing that you get from going to a fair like LIMA's is meeting and seeing the people that you read about.

Programmers like Ken Gilliland (Disk o' Pirates, Dinosaurs etc), Mickey Schmidt (sliding block puzzles), Jim Peterson (Tiger Cub software), Bruce Harrison (SCUDBUSTER, GOLF SCORE programme), Art Gibson (FIRST DRAFT) and the young BodenMiller (he has started up his own software company).

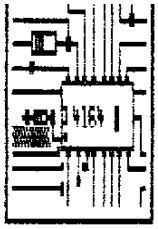
Then there are the people who write columns and give

opinions like Jack Sugrue or have their own newsletter like Beery Miller (9640-Geneve News) and prolific programmer/writers like Barry Traver who is suffering from carpal tunnel syndrome, and Martin Smoley, the writer of many TI-BASE articles seen in many newsletters.

The hardware people were also there: Gary Bowser of GPA with his POP CART and TIM, Bud Mills, Don O'Neil and Jeff White with the SCSI, and of course Mike Maksimik the developer of the MIDI interface for the TI.

Last and never least is Charlie Good, the driving force behind the LIMA M.U.G. conference. You see Charlie helping organize, making announcements, and even mopping the floor so that the next group will have a clean area.

Another big THANK YOU goes out to CHARLIE from me and many others for the excellent work you have done on behalf of the TI community.

SCSI is  nearly here!

The BUD MILLS, JEFF WHITE and DON O'NEIL show on the SCSI card was of most interest. Jeff White ran a programme which showed the SCSI drive (20 Meg) getting formatted in less than a minute by my count. This apparently was the first time this had been done in public.

The SCSI card has been a real problem for Bud and Company. Good news is that MIKE MAKSIMIK is writing the 'ultimate' utility manager for the SCSI card. To date there still is not a finish DSR, but the card is being sold in limited amounts. A ROM chip will have to be shipped to those who have purchased the prototypes.

Best guess, according to Jeff White and Don O'Neil is one or two months to finish up the card DSR and have it ready to ship. I think this is overly optimistic. But Bud is committed to it; he has ventured a lot on this.

Bud has released the latest RDS upgrade. It is RDS 7.14F. There are NO BUGS in this version like 8.14C. Registered owners can get a copy from user groups or from Bud. Bud apologized profusely for the bug that he typed in by mistake.

What the TI world needs is a GOOD HARD DISK CONTROLLER ! The MYARC product has very low availability and is 'old' technology; it's an MFM hard drive controller. Most modern hard drives are IDE. The advantages of SCSI are in speed of transfer and ability to use devices like scanners and CD ROMS. It seems that the main problem caused by SCSI devices in the IBM world has been that each device has used its own card; there was NO STANDARD SCSI card. The other problem that occurs with SCSIs in the IBM world is that it does NOT always like other devices working at the same time. Some SCSIs won't work with floppy drives for example. While the IBM world tries to get the SCSI together, wouldn't it be something if the TI did get it worked out!

ASGARD'S FIRST DRAFT: vsn 2.0

I attended the ASGARD talk on FIRST DRAFT by Art Gibson. This was valuable in deciding if I would purchase the programme. I think Art has done a great job on it and I would recommend it to those who are not sold on Funnelweb or TIWriter. It has a lot of excellent features and is very professional. The addition of user definable MACROS is unique, as well as the pull-down menus. The latest version is 2.0 which was shipped 'yesterday' to those who have been waiting for their copy. ASGARD offered a show special of $30 on first draft (usual is $39.95) so this produced even more sales.

AMS/AEMS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM vsn 1.2 RELEASED

Asgard sent out the latest version of its AMS (ASGARD MEMORY SYSTEM) in the mail this MAY. I got mine the other day.

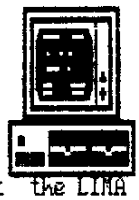
It contains software which will aid the programmer in putting together software (in assembly language) which will eventually drive the AMS.

The disk of material contains compacted files which will expand to fill about 5 SSSD diskettes. The work on this system was done by two respected experts in the TI community...ART GREEN (Ottawa: he upgraded TI-Writer and MULTIPLAN) and JOE DELECTO (New Jersey: he wrote the windowed C-SHELL). With people like this writing programs, the AMS will soon gain some added respectibility.

Although I have just glanced at the disk, it contains a long article by Chris Bobbitt extoling the virtues of the AMS. I will put the article in the June newsletter.

Tom

"You damage that terminal, Wallenberg, and you will have made a career move."



TRIALS of the PC-99 EMULATOR

At the LIMA fair I got to see the PC99 emulator running on an IBM computer. You really can flip out when you realize that this is the TI running with the same features as the one you have in front of you.

The screen of course does NOT fill the entire IBM monitor since the TI screen has a lower resolution. The colors are much sharper on the IBM, especially noticeable when you see the start-up screen.

I typed a short programme in to see if it would work. I used 'NUM' to start the auto numbering of lines. Yes, it works fine. I typed in the commands like 'CALL CLEAR' and it cleared the screen. I then typed in my standard programme to see if it would work.

```
100 CALL CLEAR
110 FOR I= 1 TO 24
120 PRINT TAB(I);I
130 NEXT I
```

This programme clears the screen and places the numbers 1 to 24 on different lines and pushes it sequentially across the screen from right to left.

It worked flawlessly. The PC99 emulator, now up to STAGE 1 works fine.

Well, there is one draw back. It is SLOWWWW!

Even on a very fast IBM, the TI operates slower than TI BASIC when it is in basic emulation. The assembly language programmes, like DM 1000, run faster than BASIC but are still slower than the same programme on a TI-99/4A.

I think that these programmers are to be commended on the job that they have done. Seeing the TI screen and programmes run on an IBM is a new feeling. It gives you confidence that the TI99/4A will be running long into the future, even when the last TI99/4A console breaks down. But knowing the record of long service that the TI99/4A console has, this will be long after I pass away.

The cost of the STAGE 2 is $80(US). You will need at least a 386SX to run it as well. It will be slower on this than on a 486. The consortium foresees a time when there will be fast enough IBM's around to run this emulation even faster. Until that time the TI99/4A continues to win out.

LIMA VIDEO TAPES on their way!

I have purchased the VIDEO TAPES to ALL of the LIMA conference speakers. Eventually, our club members will be able to see these demonstrations and talks.

OPA's NEW RAMOS SYSTEM:

Gary Bowers unvailed his first version of the much talked about ultimate operating system for the TI; the RAMOS.

While RAMOS looks a bit like ROS, the RAM disk Operating system, it will offer much more than the ROS system. RAMOS will be able to make use of all types of configurations of the TI from a simple disk system to one which has hard drives, ram disks, and/or different kinds of disk controllers (MYARC,TI,CORCOMP).

OPA (or Gary) is working on the format for the screen selections.

The one that Gary showed was very reminiscent of the MENU programme from John Johnson in concept; it uses numbers and letters to go to programmes. Although the format is similar it uses a 32 character screen to get in extra colors. Gary is asking for input on the final format of the screen.

Personally, I would like to see a completely different interface (screen). I would like to see windowing and selection by mouse or arrow key or joystick. GOFOR by Don Gaszy has a nice screen display that can be worked from joystick or keyboard, and it's windowed. That's what I'd like to see Gary... the J.Johnson Menu has been around for some time, let's get something newer!

Tom.

A GUIDE TO SAFE FAX....

The following article was taken from the MARCH newsletter of the OTTAWA users' group.

THE FRIENDLY GUIDE TO SAFE FAX
by Dr.B. Comfortable

Q.: Doctor, I am new to fax, I have not had much fax, and I am worried. Is it safe to have fax ?

A.: Fax is perfectly safe, provided both you and your partner maintain your equipment in good order, keep it clean and have a regular check-up by a qualified consultant. Do not be embarrassed at your lack of experience. There are many excellent fax manuals available, including my own, "The Joy of Fax".

Q.: About how often should I fax ?

A.: Those who are new to fax can't get enough, and do it all the time. We usually find, however, that as we get older and the novelty wears off, the desire to fax decreases rapidly, particularly if we still have the same old machine. (It is not unknown for jaded faxers to have a brief "fling" with a new, exciting machine, but this, too, will usually burn out quite quickly.)

Q.: Can I have fax with more than one person ?

A.: By all means. This is perfectly normal, even necessary in most circumstances. It is time we cast aside our hang/ups about fax, feel free to "let it all hang out" and share the true self with the world.

Q.: Do you have to be married to have fax ?

A.: Good lord, no. People who hardly ever fax their wives will spend most of their working lives faxing complete strangers.

Q.: My parents say they never fax when they were young, and were only allowed to write memos to each other until they were twenty-one, is this true ?

A.: Yes, but why worry about boring old twits like them ?

Q.: If I fax something to myself, will I go blind ?

A.: Certainly not, as far as I can see.

Q.: There is a place on our street where we can go and pay for fax, is it legal ?

A.: Yes, many lonely people have no outlet for their fax drives and must pay a "professional" when their need becomes too strong.

Q.: What are the consequences of indiscriminate fax ?

A.: Very high telephone bills.

First published in GENIE LAMP, online magazine of the GEnie information service, Feb.1,1993.

MIND BOGGLER:

EVEN EINSTEIN SCRATCHED HIS HEAD!

The following comes to us via SW 99ers (in TUSCON) which they reprinted from the K-Town 99er's (Kentucky?).

These are good MIND BOGGLERS. I use them in school for a relaxation exercise after a test.

The idea is to supply the correct phrase when you have been supplied only the key LETTERS in the phrases. Each phrase is linked by the fact that they relate to a NUMBER.

The first one is done as an example.

GOOD LUCK !

No. 20 is NOT Pounds on a Fat Toad !

1. 26 = L. of the A. = Letters of the Alphabet
2. 7 = W. of the A.W. =_____
3. 1001 = A.N. =_____
4. 12 = S. of the Z. =_____
5. 54 = C. in a D. including J. =_____
6. 9 = P. in our S.S. =_____
7. 88 = P.K. =_____
8. 13 = S. on the A.F.=_____
9. 32 =D. at which W.F.=_____
10. 18 = H. on a G.C. =_____
11. 90 = D. in a R.A. =_____
12. 200 = D. for a P.G. in M. =_____
13. 8 = S. on a S.S. =_____
14. 3 = B.M.(S.H.T.R.)=_____
15. 4 = Q. in a G. =_____
16. 24 = H. in a D. =_____
17. 1= W. on a U. =_____
18. 5 =D. in a Z.C. =_____
19. 57 = H.V. =_____
20. 11 - P. on a F.T. -_____
21. 1000 = W. that a P. is W. =_____
22. 29 = D. in F. in a L.Y. =_____
23. 64 = S. on a C. =_____
24. 40 = D. and N. of the G.F. =_____

For those who need CLUES see page 9.

ANSWERS to follow NEXT MONTH.

DAFFYNITIONS RETURNS...

(SEE MAR.93 OSHTI...BC99ers)

18. COMPILE: — A heap of decomposing vegetable matter.

19. CONVERSATIONAL MODE: Describes the typical office on a Monday after a Steelers game.

20. COUPLING: An activity usually preceeded by marriage, but not necessarily.

21. CPU: A juvenile way of telling your dog he missed the paper.

22. CRT: A movie about a little alien who forgets his telephone number and must write home.

23. CURSOR: An expert in the use of four letter words.

24. DEBUG: The act of placing shoe leather against a small creeping creature.

25. DISC DRIVE: Propulsion method developed by a well known foreign car manufacturer.

26. DOWNTIME: Title of a movie song popularized by Petula Clark.

27. DUMP: The EPA's answer to health.

28. EPROM: Movie actor Eprom Zimbalist, Jr.

29. ERROR: Something only humans can commit.

30. FIFO: A cute name for a dog.

31. FLOPPY DISCS: A defect occuring in all 1982 disc drives, necessitating a factory recall.

32. GIGO: A movie industry acronym refering to the numerous Gidget Goes xxxx movies, i.e., GIGO Hawaiian, GIGO Crazy, GIGO Surfing, etc., etc.

33. GLITCH: Scientific name for the little balls of fuzz that collect in navels.

34. HARDWARE: Typically boots, leather and chains. Contrast with Software.

35. INTEGRATED CIRCUIT: The end result of busing.

36. INTERFACE: The opposite of "Getouttamyface".

37. K: A term used in employment ads to disguise how much they are really willing to pay.

38. KEYPUNCHING: An activity similar in most aspects to coupoking.

39. MEGAHERTZ: A very large car rental company.

40. MODEM: A contraction. Commonly used as in "Give me some modem cookies".

41. NETWORK: The occupation of a fisherman.

42. ON LINE: A statement shouted at tennis judges in response to serves being called out.

43. OUTPUT: What people who talk backwards do to their cats.

44. PROGRAM: What commercials try to do to us.

45. RAM: A male sheep with horns.

46. REAL TIME: Here and now, as opposed to fake time which only occurs there and then.

47. RECURSIVE: See "recursive".

48. ROM: A RAM after a delicate operation.

49. SEMICONDUCTOR: A person hired to lead an orchestra before he has graduated from the famous director's school.

50. SERIAL PROCESSING: The procedure through which corn flakes are arrived at.

51. SNOBOL: A small white round object thrown in the winter.

52. SOFTWARE: Typically silk nighties, nylons, garter belts. Contrast with hardware.

BOGGLE CLUES:

CLUES to the MIND BOGGLERS:

2. Colossus of Rhodes
3. Ancient Tales
4. Aquarius
5. Wild
6. Earth
7. Ray Charles
8. Colonies salute
9. Ice
10. 'F O R E !'
11. Square
12. Money
13. Road Intersection
14. Rodent
15. Milk
16. Time
17. Monocycle
18. Mail
19. Soup
20. Football
21. Description
22. 30 days has Sept.
23. Bobby Fischer
24. Noah

NEXT

OSHTI meeting

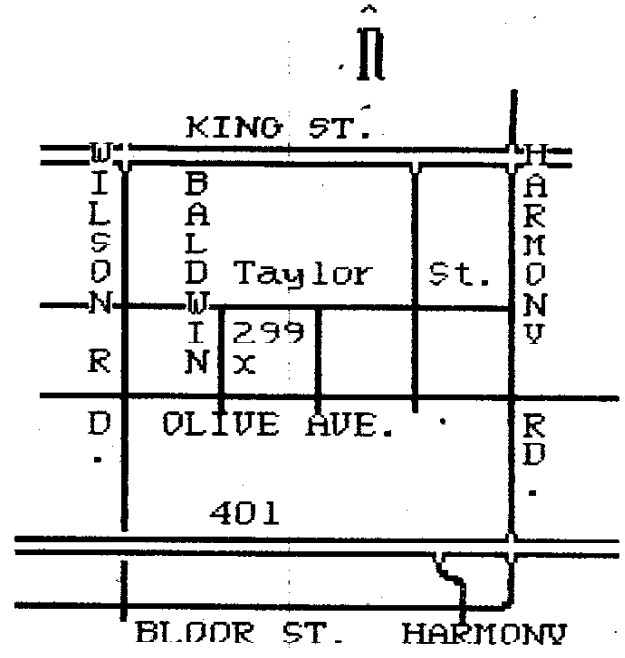
WEDS. MAY 26

at DOUG'S
(299 Baldwin Ave. SEE MAP>>)

FUNNELWEB 5.0
NEW 40 COLUMN VERSION

LIMA NEWS...
see Doug's HARD DRIVE

OSHAWA



OSHAWA TEXAS INSTRUMENTS HOME COMPUTER USERS' GROUP

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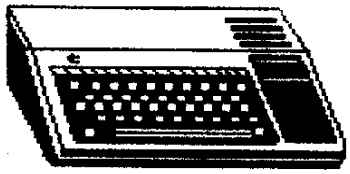
MEETING TIMES:

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:

MEMBERSHIPS STILL ONLY $15

VISITORS to club meetings are WELCOME.
Copying charges for disks-of-the-Month are $1(your disk) or $2(our disk)

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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.