

HINTS FOR REQUESTING FAIRWARE

By: Jim Swedlow

These hints can help you when you send for fairware:

SEND A NOTE or letter asking for the program. Fairware authors are in this to share their effort and to support the 4A. A check without any kind of note is discouraging. Mention where you heard about the program and describe your system. IF YOU SEND A DISK, initialize it as SS/SD (unless otherwise specified). DO NOT sweep it, format it and verify the sectors. This will make sure that it is OK. Check with the postal service to make sure that you are using enough postage (and not too much!!) Be sure to include return postage.

Many fairware authors would greatly appreciate getting programs from you - it is a waste to send an empty disk! Send programs from your area that may not have migrated to where the author lives. Mention the programs in your note so the author will look for them. IF YOU SEND MONEY, print your return address clearly. Better yet, send a mailing label. It not only helps the author but the post office moves your mail faster when the address is typed. Send your funds in the currency of the author's country. It can be anything from inconvenient to impossible to cash a check written in foreign funds. Your bank may be able to help or you can send an international money order from the post office. This is slow but sure - one that came to me from France took almost a month!

REACT AFTER YOU GET THE PROGRAM. Drop the author a line and let him know what you liked (or didn't like). Many fairware authors report that communication with other 4A owners is very important to them. Many programs have improved significantly from user feedback. If you ask a question, send a SASE (Self Addressed Stamped Envelope). It will help assure that you get an answer.

SUPPORT FAIRWARE AUTHORS. If a contribution is requested and the program meets your needs, send it with a note. Some fairware authors give special support to people who support them. Examples are extra documentation, notices of fixes and updates, copies of updates and bonus disks. Some User Groups collect funds for fairware authors. If the User Group and the author are in different countries, it is a good idea to contact the author before sending anything.

USE COMMON COURTESY. Fairware authors are 4A owners who work and/or go to school full time. Fairware is a side line. Treat them the way you would like to be treated.

Reprinted from: Cin-Day Ohio newsletter

You Can Help!

I have had my computer almost seven years now, and it works very well except for one key. I suppose I shouldn't complain; there are 47 other keys I can use. Besides, what difference can one key make?

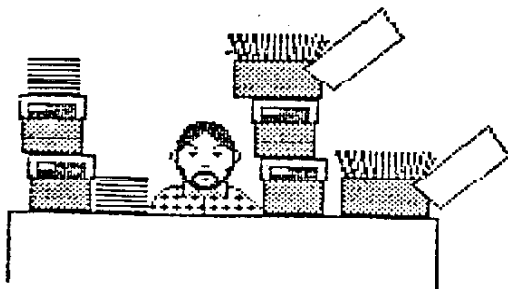
After giving it some thought, I realized that the keyboard on my TI is similar to our users group. There are numerous members in the group; some are more 'visible' than others. Some members participate; some won't participate (or can't). I understand those individuals, who due to other commitments, can't participate. I also understand those individuals who do not participate because they feel they can't make a difference. Let me assure you, your participation does make a difference! Perhaps you could review a piece of hardware or software at a meeting. We can always use an article - if it is important to you, it's important to others! How about donating a module or a book to the group so everyone can use it? These possibilities are not endless, but they certainly are many and diverse.

If there is a moral to this story, let it be that all members are 'KEY' members.

Reprinted: New Hampshire 99er's UG Via: Cin-Day Ohio newsletter

reprinted from
BYTEMONGER
DEFAULT FILING
by Steve Burns

As I sit here going through my disks of newsletter files wondering what this months "Editor's Desk" column will be about I am suddenly hit with a realization. Although I had carefully planned how I was going to organize my disks for past and present newsletter articles it did not happen that way. My organizational method has again slipped into what is normally known in computer terminology as DEFAULT. Default, as you probably know, is what happens during the course of using a program that requires you to make a decision at a certain point and you don't. This leaves the decision up to Fate (well actually, up to whatever the programmer has decided what is most likely to work, but quite often the two are close to equivalent). How does this compare to my disk organization? Very well. Through careful planning I am able to look through at least 10 or 12 disks each time I need to find a particular article. This is roughly comparable to the method I use to organize my downloaded files for the new programs we introduce into the library. The only difference is that I have to look through about 20-30 disks. I do have a method of sorting disks though... those with labels and those without. Nice neat method. I used to think that it was because I short on disks, or disk cases, but with those problems solved, I still find myself slipping in to the same old habits of sticking a file here and a disk there. Despite what others may think, I really DO know where everything is (uh, at least roughly). And despite all my excuses, I know that this mess is DEFAULT of de user.



reprinted from
PUG PERIPHERAL
TRANSFERRING SCOTT ADAMS ADVENTURES
FROM CASSETTE TO DISK

BY CARL CHIARENZA
Pittsburgh User Group

When the word "cassette" is mentioned, a lot of moans and groans can be heard, by both cassette users and disk users alike, and many, for good reason.

As most of you know, the Scott Adams Adventure Series is available either on disk or cassette. Unfortunately, for those of you who purchased one of these games on cassette, and have upgraded to a disk system, you may have found out that it was next to impossible for you to transfer your Scott Adams adventures over from cassette to disk.

Fortunately, there is a solution to this problem, even if you don't own the Adventure Editor, which was distributed by Tex-Comp.

Believe it or not, you can accomplish this task in less than 10 minutes using the Tunnels of Doom module.

Just "load" the Scott Adams adventure game that you wish to transfer, like you would any regular TOD game, and as soon as it is finished loading, select the "save" option, and immediately save it out to disk. It's as simple as that!

The only drawback using this method is that any adventure module game which is larger than 52 sectors will not "load" into the TOD module, so you will be out of luck when this occurs. Also, you will notice a few odd characters when you go to play your converted games. Do not be alarmed, as this is normal. Your games will execute properly, without any errors, and having to accept a few strange characters on your screen will seem like a small price to pay in order to have your Scott Adams cassette-based adventures now available to you on disk.

If you have any questions, you may get in touch with me thru the Pittsburgh User Group BBS at 412-341-4820, 8.N.1. 3/12/2400 Baud, 24 Hours a day, 7 Days a week. My user ID is #66.

reprinted from THE FRONT RANGER
Bits, Bytes & Pixels

STOP PRESS NOTE ADDED TO THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE:

We have just received a letter dated Dec 04/89 from Tony McGovern in response to a letter we sent him about a few bugs in the initial release of Funnelweb v4.2. Tony says "You are right, don't circulate widely on 4.20 until 4.21 is received.....I'll send 4.21 very soon." It was initially our intention to include disks with FNB v4.2 to all exchange user groups and out of town paid members who receive this newsletter. We will now wait on this. When v4.21 is received, we will mail it. The major bug in the current v4.2 is that you cannot run IBASIC software from the XB user list. You are instead returned to XB command mode. This really is no problem, because you can run XB software from the DISK REVIEW part of Funnelweb. Those user groups and out of town members who are super anxious to get their hands on v4.20 as it now exists can do so by sending TWO DISKS and a paid return aailer. We will send out v4.21 when it is available.

FUNNELWEB VERSION 4.2, IN 40 AND 80 COLUMNS
New features report by Charles Good
Lima Ohio User Group

Dated Nov 14, the first release of Funnelweb v4.2 has been sent by Tony McGovern to his regular correspondants and to those who recently sent him a fairware donation. Originally, Tony was planning to completely rewrite an 80 column version of FUNNELWEB from scratch, making its coding more "elegant" and compact and giving it the new name of WHIPBIRDS. However, such a rewrite would have made WHIPBIRDS largely incompatible with previous versions of FUNNELWEB with respect to previously created user lists and system configuration (SYSCON) data. So Tony has put WHIPBIRDS on hold and has incorporated some of the new features he planned for WHIPBIRDS into the latest FUNNELWEB.

DISK REVIEW:

The enhanced disk directory available to 80 column users (Geneve, AVPC card, or Mechatronics 80 column peripheral) since last summer as file QDAV has been renamed DISK REVIEW. It comes preconfigured in one of the FNB central menus and now comes in both 80 and 40 column versions. Yes, now 40 column users can make use of this new VERY POWERFUL utility. With the 40 or 80 column DISK REVIEW you can bring up a disk directory and move the cursor next to a file name. You can then press "R" and run the software! This includes assembly language software that reads as PROGRAM or DF80 on the disk directory and extended basic software (if you have the XB module plugged in) that reads as PROGRAM or IV254 on the disk directory. The only thing you can't run this way is TI BASIC software that won't run from extended basic, such as PROGRAMS using TE2 speech.

Using either 40 or 80 column DISK REVIEW, you can protect, unprotect, delete, rename, and copy (a feature not previously found in QDAV) the disk directory file next to the cursor. File copy requires more than one drive. You can examine the contents of the disk header sector (sector 0), and you can examine each of the file header sectors. You can print a disk directory to a printer, or to a DV80 disk file name. When printing to a disk file, the file is opened in APPEND mode. This allows you to chain successive disk directories into one large text file which can serve as a reference data base to quickly show you the contents of your entire disk library. These features allow you to use DISK REVIEW for many of the things you would usually have to do from a disk manager.

With the 40 column DISK REVIEW you can load ANY KIND OF FILE into a 17K buffer for VIEWing on the screen. If the file fills the buffer, the file continues to load and overwrites the contents at the beginning of the buffer. You can load the whole file in at once, or page it in one screen of text at a time, or one file record at a time. PROGRAM files loaded this way are displayed simultaneously in both ASCII and Hex. The display resembles what you see with a sector editor. The most useful use of this VIEW feature of DISK REVIEW is the viewing of DV80 text files. You can take the DOC file of a piece of software and read it on the screen without having to make a hardcopy. Then you can go back to the DISK REVIEW disk directory and R(run) the software. The 17K buffer will accommodate about 68 disk sectors of text before it starts to overwrite itself. Once in memory, you can print the file to a printer in whole or in part. You can mark the buffer text in two places and print to a printer or disk file only that part of the buffer contents between the marks. This allows you to make a small DV80 file containing only part of the text of a larger DV80 file.

With the 80 column version of DISK REVIEW there are two 64K VIEW buffers, the second available only if you have 192K of video RAM installed. This is an easy option with the AVPC card. It can be done, but not easily, on a Geneve. You can put text in each of these buffers and display either buffer on the screen, alternating back and forth between either buffer and the disk directory. You can also display both buffers simultaneously, scrolling them both up and down and printing all or parts of either buffer. Text in each buffer stays in memory for instant recall without disk activity until you exit DISK REVIEW. The 40 column DISK REVIEW has only one text buffer.

REVISED EDITOR:

The text and assembly program 40 and 80 column editors have been rewritten internally to allow much faster move

NEXT PAGE

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Bits, Bytes & Pixels

THE FRONT RANGER

lines, copy lines, delete lines, and reformat. MOVE LINES no longer causes a TEXT BUFFER FULL condition. Because of the increased speed of reformat, it is now unlikely that characters will be dropped at the end of lines using the 40 column editor, slightly more likely with the 80 column editor. Text buffer capacity has been increased slightly. When editing, you can alternate back and forth between two different sets of tabs using ST (swap tabs). T displays the current set of tabs, ST displays the alternate set. Both sets of tabs are saved on disk when the file is saved with SF. In the 80 column editor the tabs can optionally be displayed on the bottom ruler.

A new feature has been added to the assembly source code editor (the E/A editor) that is useful for creating new assembly code, or typing in an assembly listing from a newsletter or Micropendium. You can, optionally, keep the alpha lock off and type everything in using lower case, using SHIFT for upper case as desired in the comment portion of each line of code. When you press <enter> after typing a line of code and its comment the code automatically becomes upper case letters as is required for source code, while the comment remains just as you typed it in a mixture of upper and lower case. This makes comments much easier to read and to distinguish from the actual source code when viewing a source code listing.

In the 80 column ShowDirectory, you can bring up a second directory without having to exit SD to the editor and then reboot SD. In the 40 column SD you still have to back out and then reboot SD to see another directory.

PATH NAME CONFIGURATION FOR HARD DRIVES ETC:

When configuring FMB v4.2 you have the option of designating a path name for all files. When set, path name configuration deactivates boot disk tracking and whatever drive numbers you choose to designate for the TIWriter and EA central menus. Path name choices are WDS1.FWB, or RD, or DSKR, or HD, if you choose this option. If you are using a hard disk WDS1.FWB, allows you to have all the Funnelweb files, including user configured software, as files in the same subdirectory. This leaves DSK1, emulation available for other purposes. Using RD, you can put all your Funnelweb files on a Nyarc ramdisk. I think DSKR, works with a Foundation card. Once Boot path is set, the rest of the configuration process just needs file names. Funnelweb will automatically insert the boot path name in front of the file name when searching for the file.

"OM THE FLY" RECONFIGURATION:

When exiting Funnelweb from either of the central menus you press FCTN/9 (BACK). You need to know this, since there is no screen prompt to suggest that FCTN/9 does anything here. If you answer "N" to the resulting QUIT? prompt you are then given the opportunity to temporarily load a different character set into memory, change the editor printer default name, and change the TI Writer and EA central

menu drive numbers. These changes are not permanently read back to disk but they do remain in effect until you exit Funnelweb.

OTHER SMALL CHANGES:

Files in all disk directories are no longer marked by pressing a number. Instead you move the cursor next to the file name with the arrow keys (EI or FCTN/EI) to perform some action on that file. It is only really necessary to mark a file (with space bar or "M" or <enter> depending on where you are within Funnelweb) if you want a DV80 or DF80 file to be the workfile name that appears in the editor when you LF or SF.

You can now protect and unprotect with QUICK DIRECTORY, which you can access from most places in Funnelweb with FCTN/7 (AID).

When booting DF80 software from the LOADERS menu, or with R(un) from DISK REVIEW and you have put all the files into memory, you have to blank the next DSKx prompt off the screen with spaces or with ERASE before you press <enter> in order to display the START name. If you press <enter> without doing this you get an error. You can recover from this error with REDO. Then press ERASE and then <enter> to display the START name.

The FORMATTER is now an independent LOADER #2 file linked directly to the rest of the Funnelweb environment. This means you can use other formatters, such as the one that comes with Art Green's "TI-Writer v4.2" instead of the formatter that comes with Funnelweb. Rename the alternate formatter files FD, FP, etc and put them on the funnelweb disk or subdirectory.

Screen layouts for the 80 column DISK REVIEW and SHOW DIRECTORY have been improved, compared previous versions of 80 column funnelweb.

You can no longer delete files from the EDITOR command line, although the prompts on the FILES submenu on the command line say that you can. File deletion is now done from within the EDITOR using SHOW DIRECTORY.

CONCLUSIONS:

New features are found throughout the new Funnelweb. 40 column users especially will love the new very powerful features available to them in DISK REVIEW. DISK REVIEW is a major new piece of software, not just a minor update. If you use it you should send Tony an additional fairware payment over and above what you have already paid for other parts of Funnelweb. How much additional? Well, DISK REVIEW is comparable to the latest versions of John Johnson's BOOT, maybe better. You can consult ads in recent MICROPEN for the asking price of BOOT.

****DONE****

reprinted from
the COMPUTER BRIDGE

```
*****  
*   TEC-TIP7       *  
* ALPHA-LOCK FIX *  
*     by          *  
* Harold Hoyt    *  
*     and         *  
* Gene Breer     *  
*****
```

Many people get tired of telling their kids they have to release the ALPHA-LOCK if both Joysticks are used. A fix has been around for some time where the ALPHA-LOCK may be in either position without affecting the joystick operation. A 1N914 or similar diode is placed in series with the ALPHA-LOCK key. A very good time to make this modification is when you are replacing a tired keyboard.

The change is a low risk operation compared to other computer modifications, although WE STILL RECOMMEND GETTING HELP FROM SOMEONE HANDY WITH ELECTRONICS IF YOU ARE INSECURE. Make the change to the replacement keyboard. Do all soldering to this keyboard before attaching it to the computer. Then you won't have to worry about an ungrounded soldering iron zapping your system. Many of us have purchased keyboards from Radio Shack, their part # 277-1023.

Stocks of this keyboard are spotty. Also, the keyboard was supplied by a bunch of different vendors and vary in quality from very good to very bad. If you are lucky, you can find original type keyboards with individual keys and gold plated switches. If you are unlucky, all you will find are poor quality pressure contact bubble switches that should wear out quickly and have a very spongy feel unsatisfactory to typists. Check out the keyboard action before you buy.

The ALPHA-LOCK modification suggested requires adding a single diode to the keyboard. Since there is a variety of printed circuit layouts for the keyboard, it is hard to be specific about a physical description of where to place the diode. Refer to the key matrix schematic that comes with the Radio Shack keyboard, which is reproduced here with the diode penciled in. Check the connections to the keyboard with an ohmmeter to be certain that you know where the connector pins are. Some of these naughty people placed the marking stripe on the pin 15 end rather than the pin 1 end. Cut the trace going to pin 6 conveniently close to the connector. (Tech notes purchased at the Chicago Fair suggest putting the diode in the connector cable, but that isn't rugged enough for me.) Solder the 1N914 diode cathode (ring or striped end) to the connector and the anode end to the cut trace. Install the modified keyboard, following CAVEMAN'S directions in the January newsletter. Check to see that you get upper case characters with the ALPHA-LOCK depressed and lower case with the ALPHA-LOCK in the "up" position. Run a test program (listing below) or a game to check that both Joysticks totally ignore the ALPHA-LOCK key position.

```
100 CALL JOYST(1, X1, Y1)  
110 CALL JOYST(2, X2, Y2)  
120 PRINT X1;Y1;X2;Y2  
130 GOTO 100
```

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

T.I. COMPUTER MULTI USER GROUP CONFERENCE- MAY 26, 1990

*If you didn't
go LIMA - - - - -*



*You missed a Great
Time & Good People!*

- 7:30 DOORS OPEN, time to set up displays and equipment.
- 8:30 Room 150- CHARLES GOOD: "AIRTAXI and other educational software by Don Shorock."
- 9:00 Room 150- CHARLES GOOD: "Preview of FUNNELWEB version 4.3 with enhanced DISK REVIEW."
- 9:00 Room 160- GARY BOWSER: "Latest hardware and software from OASIS PENSIVE ABAUTORS (OPA)."
- 9:30 Room 150 BARRY TRAVER: "How XB programmers can easily use assembly in their XB programs."
- 10:00 Room 160- JIM HORN: "How to give away computers."
- 10:30 Room 150- CHRIS BOBBITT: "Latest software from ASGARD"
- 11:00 FOOD SERVICE OPENS, sandwiches and drinks.
- 11:00 Room 160- BRUCE HARRISON: "Secrets of assembly language music programng for the T.I.99/4A."
- 11:30 Room 150- PAUL SCHEIDEMATLE: "PAGE PRO v1.5 and graphic utilities desied for use with PAGE PRO."
- NOON Room 160- User Group Offers' Meeting. A discussion of common problems and solutions.
- 12:30 Room 150- BECRY MILLER: "9640 NEWS, a disk newsletter for GENEVE owners."
- 1:00 FOOD SERVICE CLOSES. Pop is available from vending machines in the hall just outside the exhibit area.
- 1:00 Room 160- BUD MILLS: "The latest hardware from Bud Mills Services."
- 1:30 Room 150- CARL ROMSTEDT: "Some original label making utilities in XB."
- 2:00 Room 160- GHAY TAYLOR: "A demo of T.I.'s CC40, T.I.'s HexBus peripherals, a Mechatronics' HexBus drive."
- 2:30 Room 150- HAROLD HOYT: "Useful applications for SUPER BASIC."
- 3:00 ROOM 160- CHRIS BOBBITT: "The ASGARD mouse and other hardware from ASGARD."
- 3:30 Room 150- IRWIN HOTT: "Using ALSAVE."
- 4:00 Room 160- BARY TRAVER: "Preview of the latest issue of GENIAL TRAVeLER, newstter-on-a-disk."
- 4:30 Room 150- BILL HUDSON: "A fast assembly language PreScan for use with XB programs."
- 6:00 - 8:00PM CLEAN UP.
- 8:00PM DUTCH TREAT PIZZA PARTY. Location to be announced.

downloaded from COMPUSERVE:

NOTES on tests of SETDSK with 4 controllers and 9 different 80 track drives. READ this file. Jerry

Notes on Bruce Hellstrom's SETDSK Utility and 80 Track Drives

I have checked SETDSK on the early (WD2793) Corcomp and TI controllers -- it works with MDOS v1.14F but not with earlier versions (both Nov 88 and June 89 versions were tested). There were a couple of surprises in the settings however:

SETTING	CC 2793	MY 1770	MY 1772	TI 1771
0	6 ms	6 ms	6 ms	(6 ms) - actually 12 ms
1	12 ms	12 ms	12 ms	12 ms
2	20 ms	20 ms	2 ms	20 ms
3	30 ms	30 ms	3 ms	30 ms

Note that the Corcomp step rates are twice what CC advertised and that those for the WD1772 are out of order. This was verified for both the 1772-00-02 and 1772-02-02 chips. The TI controller will not step faster than 12 ms even at the "0" setting.

There are also some differences between the performance of similar drives on the 99/4A with HFDC and under MDOS (v1.14F) on the 9640. These tests were all done with a Myarc 80 track FDCC (WD1772) which in theory has floppy performance similar to the HFDC.

<u>Drives Tested</u>		<u>max</u>	<u>best</u>	<u>comments</u>
-- 5.25" FH --				
Tandon 101-4	*	2ms	3ms	belt-drive, very noisy, low \$
CDC BR8B2A	*	2ms	3ms	belt-drive, very noisy, low \$
-- 5.25" HH --				
TEAC 55 GFV	*	2ms	3ms	silent at 3ms
Mitsubishi 4853	+ *	2ms	2ms	some noise
-- 3.5" FH --				
TEAC 35 FN	+ *	2ms	2ms	very quiet, no face, low \$
-- 3.5" HH --				
Sony MP F63W	-	3ms	3ms	quiet, low \$
Toshiba 352	*	3ms	3ms	some noise
Epson SMD 400		3ms	3ms	quiet, low \$
3.5" HH lowpower (5v)				
Chinon F354-A		6ms	6ms	quiet

* these drives worked fine on the HFDC at 2ms
- this Sony drive would not work with the HFDC
+ these drives were the fastest overall

max = fastest step rate at which some operations were successful
best = fastest step rate at which ALL operations were successful
low \$ = drives can be found for \$45 or less

DIRECTIONS

From Southside: take I-465 north to I 70, go east to Keystone Ave. & go north on Keystone to Kessler Blvd., take Kessler east to Sherman Drive. Follow Sherman Dr. north past 62nd St. to 6461 N. Sherman.

From Westside: take I-465 north to W. 56th St. and follow east to where it turns into Kessler Blvd. East Dr. follow past Keystone to Sherman Dr. & turn north past 62nd St. to 6461 N. Sherman.

From Eastside: take I-465 to East 35th St. and follow west to where it turns into Kessler Blvd., go past St. Pl. 37 and Allisonville Rd. to Sherman Dr. & turn north past 62nd St. to 6461 N. Sherman.

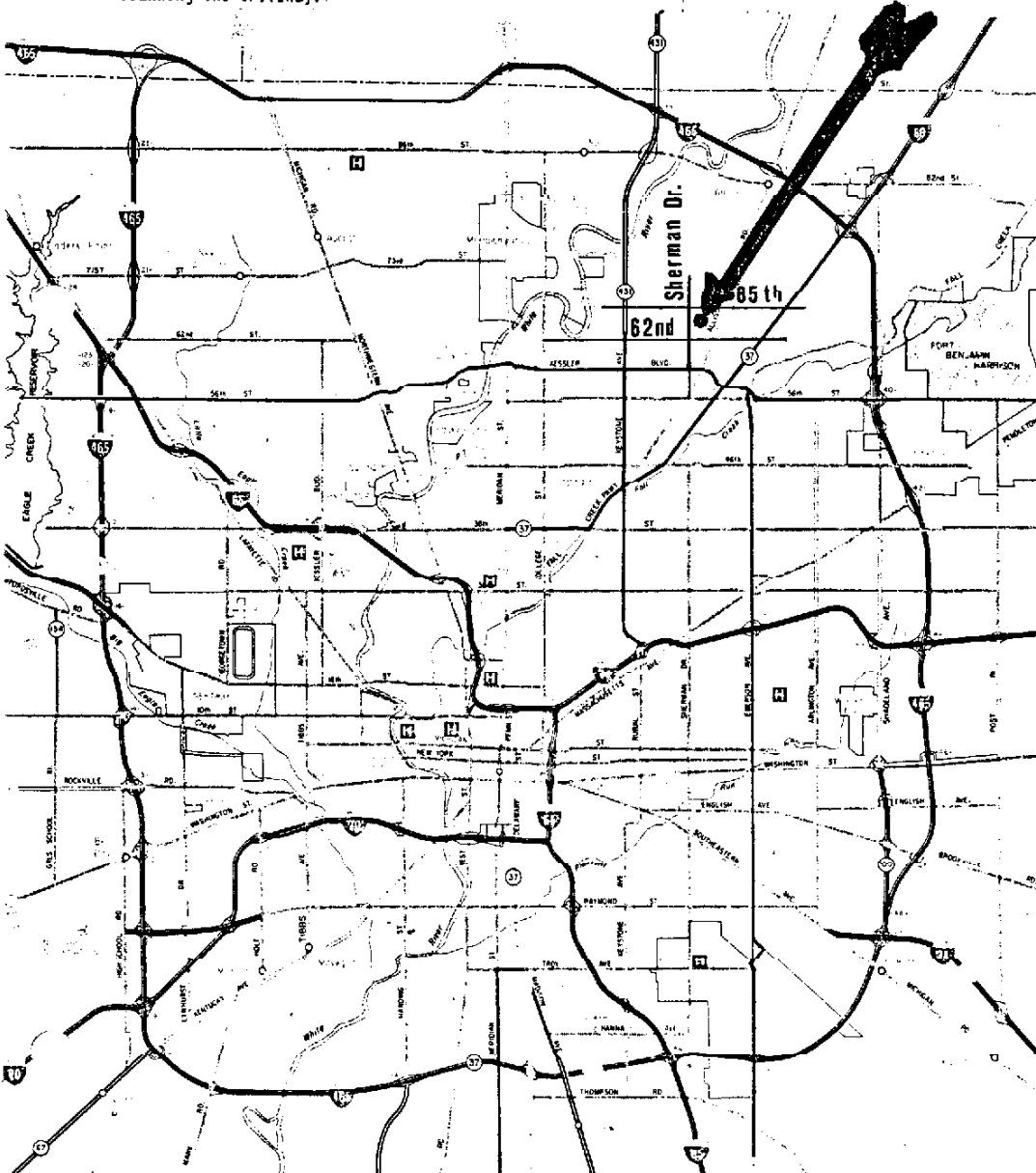
Note: look for yard with split-rail fence & a pair of large rocks flanking the driveway.

BBS
Hoosier Users Group
Baud rate 300, 1200 & 2400
On Line 24 Hours Daily
782-994A

Now with a Hard Drive
on an experimental basis
courtesy of Gary McQuade

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT..DAN EICHER	241-994A
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SECRETARY..DARLA WRIGHT	895-1765
TREASURER..GARY McQUADE	888-5654
LIBRARIAN..BRYANT PEDIGO	255-7381

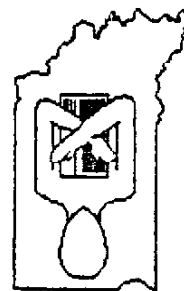


DISCLAIMER

This newsletter is produced by the Hoosier Users Group. The opinions are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Hoosier Users Group. We will not be responsible for any damage to your equipment. All projects are done at your own risk.

TIME DATED
June 10, 1990
MATERIAL

HOOSIER USERS GROUP
P.O. Box 2222
Indianapolis, IN 46206-2222
Forwarding and Address
Correction Requested



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Below you will find an application for membership to the Hoosier Users Group. Active membership entitles you to the Newsletter, up and download on the HUGbbs, attendance and voting rights at regular club meetings, access to the HUGger Library of Programs, special club activities and special guest speakers for one year.

Make check or money order payable to **Hoosier Users Group**. Send completed application to:

HOOSIER USERS GROUP
P.O. Box 2222
Indianapolis, IN 46206-2222

(Cut on dotted line)

Check One:

Active Member

New: \$20 _____
Renewal: 15 _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

_____ D _____
S _____

Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Address: _____ Apt. # _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

Interests/Comments: _____