        NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING FOR THE
EXECUTIVE POSITIONS. THE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE OCTOBER MEETING.
THIS COULD BE YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED AND INFLUENCE THE DIRECTION
THAT YOUR CLUB TAKES IN THE COMMING YEAR.
        OVER TWO YEARS AGO JOHAN VANIMSCHOOT SPOKEN WITH ME ABOUT A LARGE
HIGH QUALITY WIDGET TYPE DEVICE FOR MORE THAN THREE MODULES. THE CONCEPT
WAS A SIX OR EIGHT SLOT EXPANSION BOX WITH LINE DRIVERS AND A BUFFERED
SELECTOR FOR EACH MODULE. THIS WAS TO REMOVE THE NAVARONE WIDGETS WORST
FEATURES , LIMITED EXPANSION AND NOISY SWITCHING.
        THIS IDEA HAS HUNG AROUND AND A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO HE AND I WERE
TALKING ABOUT IT, AND I MENTIONED THAT I HAD READ ABOUT SUPPOSED SOFTWARE
SUPPORT EXISTING IN THE TI FOR MUTIPLE PAGES OF CARTRIDGES. THIS BUILT IN
SOFTWARE WOULD SUPPOSIDLY WORK WITH THE PROPER EXTRA HARDWARE.   LENDING
CREDENCE TO THIS INFORMATION WAS A MILLER GRAPHICS NEWSLETTER REFERING TO
THE ADDRESS DECODING REQUIRED. JOHAN AND I HAD BOTH HAD A SCREEN WITH
"REVIEW MODULE LIBRARY" COME UP FROM TIME TO TIME DURING ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE
DEVELOPMENT. WE TALKED ABOUT THE HARDWARE PROBLEM AND DEVISED A SIMPLE
SCHEME TO TEST HOW THE SOFTWARE WORKED (AND IF IT WOULD WORK AT ALL) .
        I LOANED JOHAN A WIRE WRAP AND BREADBORD PROTOTYPING SYSTEM I HAD
BUILT FOR THE CARTRIDGE PORT AND WITH CONSIDERABLE EFFORT JOHAN MANAGED TO
LOCATE SOME 36 PIN SOCKETS.

        THE SOFTWARE DOES WORK ! THIS IS WHAT APPEARS TO BE POSSIBLE.

        THE TI MENU COMES UP FOR THE AS IT USUALLY DOES AND AN EXTRA
SELECTION IS ADDED "REVIEW MODULE LIBRARY". IF THIS OPTION IS CHOSEN THE
NEXT AVALIBLE CARTRIDGE PAGE IS DISPLAYED ON THE MENU AS IF IT WHERE THE
ONLY CARTRIDGE PLUGED IN AND THE OPTION "REVIEW MODULE LIBRARY" IS ALSO
DISPLAYED. THIS ACTION CONTINUES IN A LOOP THRU ALL THE MODULES UNTIL A
SELECTION IS MADE OF AN APPLICATION.
        NOW THIS IS NICE, NO NEED TO FLICK SWITCHES AND UP TO 16 MODULES
COULD BE AVAIBLE IN A MONSTER BOX. BUT THERE IS MORE !

THE GPL (GRAPHICS PROGRAMING LANGUAGE) SYSTEM IS DESIGNED SO THAT
WITH THIS HARDWARE THE BUILT IN SOFTWARE ALLOWS ONE CARTRIDGE TO ACCESS
THE DEVICES AND CALLS IN ANOTHER. THIS ALLOWS FOR EXAMPLE CONSOL BASIC TO
ACCESS ALL OF THE PLUGGED IN MODULES CALL ROUTINES AND DEVICE NAMES AT ONE
TIME. "MINIMEM1" , "MINIMEM2" AND "SPEECH" AND CALL PEEKV,POKEV,LOAD. ETC
ARE ALL AVALIBEL FROM BASIC.
        TI FORTH CAN ACCESS "MINIMEM1" AND "MINIMEM2" AND "SPEECH" AS
DEVICES WITH NO NEED TO SWITCH ANYTHING OR TO MODIFY ANY CONSOLE HARDWARE.
THE OPERATING SYSTEM IN THE CONSOLE HANDLES ALL ACCESS TRANSPARANTLY.
        THIS WAS BUILT IN FROM DAY ONE WITH THE 99/4 AND IS ON MY PRE 1983
BLACK AND SILVER CONSOLE . I DONT KNOW FOR A FACT IF THIS IS ON THE NEWER
MODELS BUT I SUSPECT THAT IT IS.
        THE SOFTWARE DURING MODULE LIBRARY SELECTION FINDS ONLY THOSE PAGES
THAT CONTAIN GROM OR GROM AND ROM COMBINED. THE SLOTS WITH ROM ONLY
(THIRD PARTY STUFF) DO NOT COME UP ON THE MENU. MUCH LIKE THE POST 1983
CONSOLES.

        THE VICTORIA COMPANY OSRAM INDUSTRIES IS CURRENTLY DEVELOPING AN
INEXPENSIVE "SUPER WIDGET" TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THIS IN CONSOLE
SOFTWARE.

        RADIO SHACK NOW HAS TEN FOOT EXTENSION CORDS FOR JOYSTICKS IN STOCK.
PART # 276-1978 FOR $5.99 EACH.
        THESE EXTEND THE FULL 9 PINS AND WILL WORK WITH TI JOYSTICKS OR WITH
AN ADAPTER AND THE ATARI TYPE JOYSTICKS.

        LOTS OF 128K CARDS ARE NOW AVAIBLE FOR THE TI AND MANY WITH EVEN
MORE MEMORY CAPABILITY WILL PROBABLY SOON BE AVAIBLE. SOFTWARE MAY BE A
LITTLE HARDER TO FIND FOR THEM ,BUT I SUSPECT A FEW RAMDISKS AND PRINT
SPOOLERS WILL BECOME AVAIBLE. THER PRICES SHOULD CONTINUE TO COME DOWN TO.
PRESENTLY 256 K OF DYNAMIC RAM (WITHOUT SUPPORT CIRCUTS) COSTS ABOUT
$50.00 CANADIAN.
        THE CURRENT ISSUE OF BYTE MAGAZINE DISCUSSES A COPROCESSOR BOARD
FOR THE IBM PC. THIS IS A FULL 32 BIT PROCESSOR WITH 1 MBYTE AND WITH
POWER AND SPEED EQUIVELENT TO MANY MINI-COMPUTERS . THE ITEM COSTS
$1500.00 U.S. AND JUST USES THE EXPANSION SLOT IN THE PC AND RUNS ITS
OWN LANGUAGES IN ITS OWN MEMORY. SOUNDS LIKE A NEAT THING TO DROP INTO
A TI AIRCONDITIONER. THE PC VERSION WOULD NOT BE USABLE DIRECTLY BUT THE IDEA
CERTAINLY IS PORTABLE.
        THE NEW LOGO IS THE WORK OF CHRIS MACMURCHIE USING THE GRAPHX
PROGRAM AND THE OLD LOGO FOR INSPIRATION. CHRIS ALSO HAS A NEAT LITTLE
GAME WHICH WE WILL GET INTO THE NEXT NEWLETTER.
        THE LAST PAGE IS A PROGRAMING AID CHEAT SHEET FOR ALL THOSE DETAILS
THAT WE HAVE TROUBLE REMEMBERING. TOM HAS FISHED THIS OUT OF THE
NEWSLETTERS THAT THE CLUB RECEIVES IN EXCHANGES WHITH OTHER TI CLUBS
AROUND THE CONTINENT.

CORCOMP DISK CONTROLLER UPDATE

    I recently received a letter from someone at
    Corcomp letting me know that not many cards
    had the "no disk" or "no drive" problem which
    I mentioned in my review two months ago.
    Apparently there were enough, however, that a
    slight design change was made so that no cards
    since May should have that problem. The problem
    itself is apparently easy to fix: a simple resistor
    change. Good to hear that Corcomp is still out there,
    still working at it...

        Johan.