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WHERE IS THE CHILD? by Luis Palau

Many years ago a wealthy European family decided to have their newborn baby chrsitened in their enormous mansion. Dozens of guests were invited to the elaborate affair, and they all arrived dressed in the latest fashion.

After depositing their elegant wraps on a bed in an upstairs room, the guests were entertained royally.

Soon the time came for the main purpose of their gathering, the infant's christening. But where was the child? No one seemed to know.

The child's governess ran upstairs, only to return with a desperate look on her face. Everyone searched frantically for the baby. Then someone recalled having seen the child sleeping on one of the beds.

The baby was on a bed, all right - buried underneather a pile of coats, jackets and furs. The very object of that day's celebration had been forgotten, neglected and nearly smothered!

I can't help but remember that story as I walk along busy city streets during this holiday season. Everywhere I look I see lights, tinsel, trimmings and trappings. Shoppers loaded down struggle beneath burdens of expensive gifts that may take the next year to pay off. And I ask myself, "Is this Christmas?"

Where is the Child whose birthday we celebrate?

During the first Christmas, wise men from the East came to the city of Bethlehem, looking for the Christ Child. They came searching for One who would become the Savior of the world. Today, if we were to search for Jesus in the homes and streets fo our towns and cities, would we find Him?

THE OTHER CHRISTMAS

You see, there are actually two Christmases. One Christmas features commercialism and the excesses of overeating, overdrinking, and overspending. The other Christmas abounds with love, joy, hope, peace, and adoration for the One whose birthday we are invited to celebrate.

According to the Bible, the real Christmas is a vivid demonstration of God's love. "This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our

sins" (1 John 4:9-10).

Jesus Christ was God's love-gift to the world. He came into the world, was born of a virgin and lived among men. The Christ Child of that first Christmas became the One who sacrificially died for the sins of the world and rose again by the power of God. That is why, as we read in Romans 6:23, "the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

To experience and know God's gift of eternal life, you must receive Christ. "To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOU

This year, Christmas can be the most wonderful holiday you have ever known. If you receive the gift of God - Christ Himself - this Christmas will have true meaning for you. You will have peace with God and peace in your heart, a peace unlike any the world can offer.

Where is the Christ Child in your Christmas?

The best way I know to put Jesus Christ back in your Chirstmas is to simply confess your sin to God, by faith trust that Christ's death has paid for those sins, and receive His free gift of eternal life. If that is your decision, then tell God now - silently if you wish - right where you are. You may wish to use this prayer.

Heavenly Father, I want to celebrate the real Christmas. I believe in what the Child of Christmas, Your Son, Jesus Christ, did for me on the cross when He died for my sins. I don't completely understand it, but I accept it by faith. I want to be a child of Your's too. Please come into my life, Lord Jesus. Because you have forgiven me, I want to follow You and obey You forever. Amen.

If you have just prayed the prayer above and trusted Jesus Christ as your savor, or if you have any questions, pleae write to me at the address listed below.

Luis Paylau P.O. Box 1173 Portland, Or 97207 Copyright 1989 by Louis Paylau.

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NIAD PROCEDURES



Dr N.I.A.D. is published monthly except for the months of December/January and July/August, which are combined issues by the Northern Illiana ADAM User's Group. Individual issues may be purchased for the current month or a backissue for \$3.00. The November issue of N.I.A.D. is the 58th issue published by N.I.A.D., there are 57 preceding issues. When ordering backissues, please specify the issue number.

Description The standard membership rate for 10 issues is \$19.00 USA Third Class and \$26.00 Canadian, USA First Class Hawaii, Alaska and it's possessions. Contact us for membership rates outside of these areas.

☑ N.I.A.D. welcomes contributions of original reviews, programs, articles, questions, suggestions and comments. Please include a SASE (Self-addressed Stamped Envelope) if you want a written reply. Also, any contribution sent in on DDP or DISK will be available to receive a public domain program or volume in return at no charge!

Pour N.I.A.D. member ID number is on the first line of your mailing label (affixed to the newsletter). The first four digits are the month and year of the final issue in your current membership. Please check this number each month to make sure that issues are not missed.

 □→ N.I.A.D. will not be held liable for any issues missed due to an address change which we are not informed of. Please get this information to us as soon as possible so as not to cause any type of difficulties. Also, include your member ID number.

 □ N.I.A.D. accepts advertising for ADAM related products and services. Cost is \$50 for a half page ad and \$75 for a full page ad for one month. Contact us for multi-issue discounts. Well over a thousand ADAM owners receive our newsletter each month and many more get to see it second hand. You may send in your ad in either SmartWRITER, SpeedyWRITE, PowerPAINT, PrintWORKS, other ADAM formats, IBM ASCII or PUBLISH IT! DTP format files or even supply us with a high quality printout for reproduction in the newsletter. NIAD reserves the right to not advertise certain products.

in the same the first four digits in your member number, it is time to renew your membership to insure that you do not miss an issue.

№ N.I.A.D. welcomes software developers to submit their programs for us to evaluate for possible commercial sale. Send in your products for us to evaluate and to review in the newsletter. N.I.A.D. offers a 50/50 split of the royalties procurred from the sale of items that we handle distribution of for all developers. You will find that this is one of the best offers around in the ADAM community.

Dr Our Chicago Local Chapter Meetings are a great way to learn more about our beloved ADAM systems. You have the opportunity to meet fellow ADAM owners, ask us questions, see live demonstrations of hardware and software and also purchase products. We meet in our store, CompuKINGDOM, the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM. We also have surprise specials on many products at each meeting. The next meeting will be held on December 14th.

We have exercised due care in the preparation of this newsletter. No warranty, expressed or implied with regard to the information contained herein is given, either by interpretation, use or misuse. The opinions expressed herein do not reflect those of the editor or staff unless noted

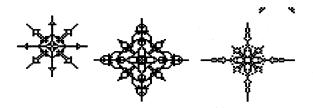
Greetings, hope you all had a great Thanksgiving.

All of us here at NIAD wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Christmas season is a wonderful time of year when we spend close times with our families and remember that love is what makes the world go around. Try not to let the commercialism and rush of this season draw you away from the really important things.

As has become our custom, NIAD is offering some great specials this year as well as our new/ renewal membership bonus. Please carefully read over all this material before placing your order, noting the minimum order requirements for the free gifts and the beginning and ending dates of these specials.

Regarding ordering in time to guarantee delivery before Christmas - THE SOONER YOU ORDER THE MORE LIKELY YOU WILL RECIEVE YOUR ORDER BEFORE CHRISTMAS !! We will be working as hard as we can to process and ship your orders, but we can't perform miracles. If you want to place your order by phone, please call us Monday through Friday 11AM to 7PM Chicago time and 9AM to 5PM on Saturday. The phone number is (708) 961-3529



NEW / RENEWAL MEMBER **SPECIAL**

Any new or renewal memberships postmarked between 11/27/89 and 1/31/90 will be eligible to receive 000 of the following FREE GIFTS WITH A PRODUCT ORDER OF AT LEAST \$20 (i.e. you can not receive the free gift for just renewing your membership, a minimum product order is required software, supplies, hardware)

- 1. ANY one PUBLIC DOMAIN volume
- 2. SMARTGAMES PACK 3 high quality arcade type graphic games
- 3. LVAC I 7 great games and 3 utility programs 4. NAID GOLD GAMES I - 17 challenging color
- graphics games that will challenge young and old.

 5. PRODUCT REVIEW BOOK containing reviews of over 100 Adam products

NIAD CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

(VALID FOR ALL ORDERS PLACED FROM 11/27/89 THRU 12/31/89

* 1. ADAM SINGLE SIDED 360K DISK DRIVES - \$189.95 (while supplies last).

- * 2. NIAD back issues \$2.00 each
- 3. Three ADAM RIBBONS \$12.95
- 4. Disk drive head cleaning kit \$7.95
- * 5. 5 1/4 Diskette storage case (50) \$7 .95
- * 6. 50 diskettes with sleeves \$19.95
- 7. NEW ADAM Keyboards \$10.95
- 8. See our "2 for" software specials on page 20
- 9. ADAMCON01 VIDEO full VHS tape of the highlights of the first ADAM convention.
- * 10. Your choice of ONE of the following FREE with a \$75.00 product order (not including membership price):
 - a. Any two Public Domain volumes
 - b. Two Coleco joysticks
- c. Super Zaxxon arcade game (see page 14)
 11. Your choice of *ONE* of the following **FREE** with a \$150.00 product order (membership price not included):

 - a. Any 5 Public Domain volumesb. NOVA BLAST game cartridge
 - c. HEIST game cartridge
 - d. Dr. Seuss Mlx Up cartridge
- * 12. Your choice of ONE of the following FREE with a \$300.00 product order (membership price not included):
 a. Any 12 Public Domain volumes

 - b. Power Strip 6 outlet surge protector
 - c. 75 diskettes w/ sleeves
- 12. Take **7% off** all orders Over **\$500.00**

HÅPPY HOLIDÄY9

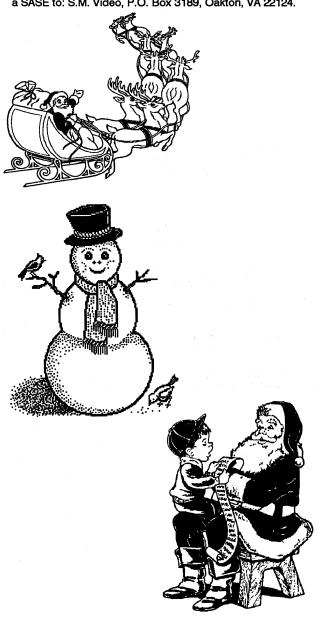


- ⇒ NOTE: Our next issue is te combined December/ January issue which will be mailed in mid- January.
- ⇒ We have prepared a VHS videtape containing all the highlights of the recent, very successfull ADAMCON01 held in Orlando. The cost to NIAD members is \$14.95. The tape has demo's of new products by the developers themselves. This will be a collector's item, so don't go without ordering it. (NOTE: This item is not on the product list order as ADAMCON01 VIDEO).
- → Reedy Software has just announced a new graphic tools package called Powertools which will contain many sprite, clip-art, brush, full screen pics and three font files all for use with PowerPAINT. Also included is the 'Christmas Tree Construction Set,' all for \$12.95! We did not receive a demo in time for this issue, so we will have a review in the Dec/Jan '90 issue. Please call for availability. Also, note that they have a new address: Reedy Software, P.O. Box 129, Lowell, MI 49331.
- ⇒ Basic System Manager/Fastrun has been upgraded to yet a better version. If you own an earlier version, any bought through NIAD are older versions, you can send it back to Practical Programs for an upgrade absolutely free! Send to: Practical Programs, P.O. Box 244, Kalamazoo, MI 49005-0244.
- ⇒ Reports out of the Softworks Factory have it that GoDOS is very close to being finally completed after a couple weeks delay due to some contract problems. GoDOS is now being configured to run out of the memory expander, which will leave the user workspace occupying standard RAM. This is opposite the demo version which was sent out a couple months ago, but means that program execution will speed up dramatically. No details on the latest release date, call for the latest information.
- → The Dynomite Sound Digitizer and SmartCLOCK release dates by Trisyd Video have been pushed back a couple weeks to allow for the completion of more feature packed software. Planned release date is now Dec. 1st. Call NIAD to find out the latest on the availability of these tremendous packages. "SOUNDS" like a great Christmas gift
- ⇒ TeleGames is offering a limited time special on the purchase of their Personal Arcade Colecovision compatible game system. For \$75, you will receive the Personal Arcade with one built-in game; Meteoric Shower, Tournament Tennis Cart, Motocross Racer Cart and \$70 in gamebucks coupons for discounts off future purchases of TeleGames products. For more info contact: TeleGames, Box 901, Lancaster, TX 75416, (214) 227-7694.
- → Micro Innovations has announced that their Powermate unit will be released on Dec. 1st. This is the unit that was written about last month by it's developer, Mark Gordon. If

you have been waiting for a good HD, this is the one for you. Contact: Micro Innovations, 12503 King's Lake Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 22091, (703) 620-1372.

Page 3

- ⇒ We have also been awaiting information on the new Extended DDP 320K Format which has been developed by Trisyd Video, but unfortunately at press time do not have any details on their availability or cost. Please call to check whether or not we have these in stock by the time you read this
- ⇒ S.M. Video is still hard at work tracking down never released public domain software and are continuing their efforts with Mihn Ta to provide the ADAM community with some really outstanding hardware add-ons. If you would like to receive more information from this upstart company, send a SASE to: S.M. Video, P.O. Box 3189, Oakton, VA 22124.





ADAMCALC WORKSHOP by J. Scatena

I AM SURE ALOT OF YOU HAVE BOUGHT ADAMCALC AND THOUGHT IT WOULD BE QUITE USEFUL. WELL, GUESS WHAT, IT IS.

BY NO MEANS DOES IT HAVE ALL THE FEATURES OF LOTUS 123. IT WAS PATTERNED AFTER VISICALC WHICH WAS THE FORERUNNER TO LOTUS. IT ALSO DOESN'T ACCEPT AS MUCH DATA AS LOTUS WHICH IS DUE TO THE MEMORY RESTRICTIONS OF THE ADAM.

HOWEVER, THIS LITTLE SPREADSHEET PROGRAM CAN STILL BE A POWERFUL TOOL TO A SMALL BUSINESS OR FOR THE PERSON KEEPING TRACK OF THEIR EXPENSE, CHECKING, BUDGETS, ETC.

1.MY FIRST TIP IS THAT YOU CAN CURSOR UP AND DOWN AND SKIP 15 ROWS AT A TIME BY HOLDING DOWN THE CONTROL KEY AND PRESSING THE ARROW KEYS UP OR DOWN. YOU CAN DO THE SAME TECHNIQUE FOR CURSING SIDEWAY BY HOLDING THE CONTROL KEY AND LEFT & RIGHT ARROW KEY. (usually about 4/5 columns at a time)

2. ANOTHER GOOD POINT IS TO USE GLOBAL FORMAT AND CHOOSE FREE FORMAT, NO COMMAS, AND ADJUST LEFT.

THIS WILL ACCOMPLISH A COUPLE THINGS. IT WILL SAVE MEMORY & SPREADSHEET SIZE. THE NORMAL MODE OR DEFAULT IS \$\$ SIGN & COMMAS. BY DEFEATING THIS YOU SAVE 2 SPACES PER CELL.

- 3. THIS TIP SHOULD BE FOLLWED BY EVERY SPREADSHEET USER INCLUDING THE LOTUS 123 BUFF. CHANGE THE DEFAULT FOR AUTO CALC TO MANUAL CALC. THIS WILL ALLOW QUICKER INPUT WITHOUT WAITING FOR THE COMPUTER TO CALCULATE EVERYTIME A ENTRY IS MADE.
- 4. ALOT OF TIMES OUR SPREADSHEET IS 45 ROWS DOWN & 12 TO 13 COLUMNS ACROSS & WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A CERTAIN TOTAL CELL OR CELLS AFTER CALCULATION IS DONE. THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISH BY NAMING THAT CELL. EXAMPLE; IF CELL 45,3 (row,col) IS THE TOTAL FOR EXPENSES IN MAY, JUST NAME THAT CELL "MAYTOT".

HERE'S HOW TO DO THIS:

USE THE "MORE" SMARTKEY TO GET TO THE SMARTKEY LABELED NAMES.

THEN PRESS SK V FOR DEFINE NAMES.

THEN ENTER THE NAME YOU WANT FOR THIS CELL SUCH AS MAYTOT.

THEN MOVE TO THE CELL OR ROW OR COLUMN YOU WANT TO NAME.

THEN PRESS SK VI TO EDIT AND SK VI TO FINISH.

NOW YOU CAN USE THE SHIFT KEY & @ KEY AND TYPE IN

MAYTOT AND YOU'LL BE THERE IN A NANOSECOND.

REMEMBER, YOU CAN NAME THAT WHOLE RESULT ROW OR COLUMN OR CELL AND THAT WILL CUT DOWN YOUR SEARCH TIME TO NOTHING.

5. WANT TO SAVE ALOT SPACE & MEMORY IN YOUR SPREADSHEET (NOT TO MENTION ROOM) - USE THE CELL EDIT FEATURE WITH THE COMMENT BRACKETS { }.

FOR EXAMPLE, ALOT OF US LIKE TO PUT EVERY SINGLE ENTRY FOR AN EXPENSE ALONG WITH A DESCRIPTION SO THAT WE CAN KEEP TRACK AND IDENTIFY OUR COST ETC. THIS EATS UP PRECIOUS SPACE AND POWER AND MAKES THE SPREADSHEET TOO BIG TOO CONTROL OR PRINT.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

a. PUT YOUR 1ST ENTRY IN AS NORMAL AND THEN USE THE COMMENT BRACKETS{} TO DESCRIBE THE EXPENSE AND DAY OR CHK# ETC. MAKE SURE THERE A COMMENT BRACKET AT THE BEGINNING AND END.

THEN THE NEXT TIME YOU HAVE TO GO INTO THE SAME CELL USE SMARTKEY EDIT CELL AND CURSOR OVER TO THE LAST COMMENT BRACKET AND PUT A + SIGN NEXT TO IT. THEN ENTER YOUR AMOUNT AND THEN YOUR COMMENTS WILL GO IN BRACKETS AGAIN.

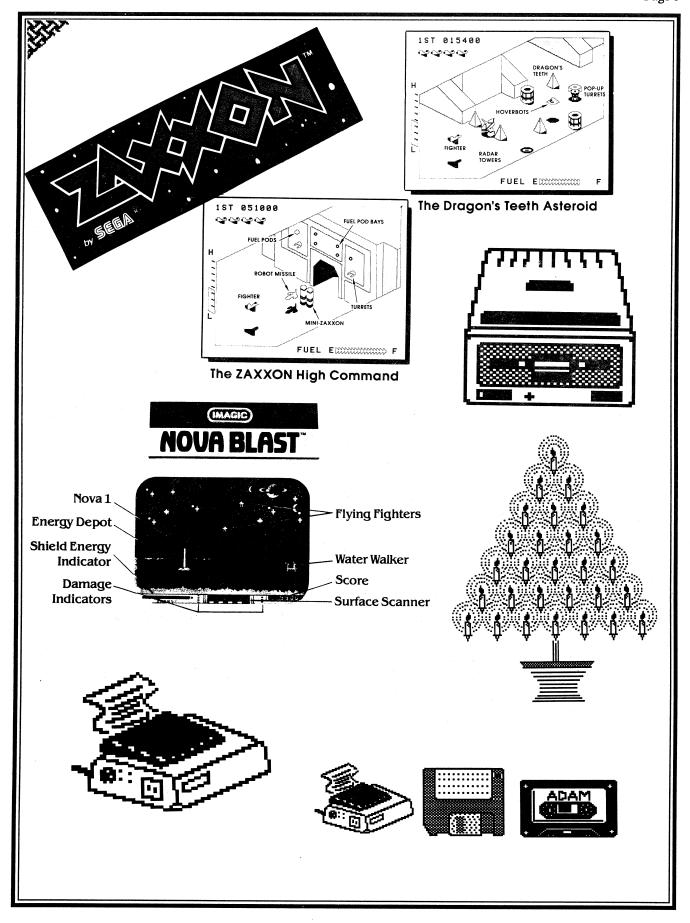
THIS WILL TOTAL THE CELL AUTOMATICALLY PLUS LEAVE YOU WITH A RECORD OF THE EXPENSES.

YOU CAN PUT ABOUT 15 TO 16 ENTRY IN ONE CELL DEPENDING UPON THE LENGTH OF YOUR COMMENTS. KEEP THEM BRIEF & EFFICIENT.

b. EXAMPLE: 4.95{11,subroc,205} THIS MEANS I SPENT 4.95 ON DAY 11 ON SOFTWARE CALLED SUBROC WITH CHECK # 205. IF YOUR CELL GETS REAL LONG USE THE CONTROL ARROW KEY TRICK INSIDE THE EDITED FIELD AND YOU'LL SPEED TO THE END IN NO TIME.

OF COURSE THERE IS MUCH, MUCH MORE TO SHOW AND EXPLAIN. IF YOU LIKE THIS ADAMCALC WORKSHOP COLUMN PLEASE LET NIAD KNOW AND I'LL DO MY BEST TO KEEP IT ALIVE. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS PLEASE SEND THEM TO NIAD AND I'LL TRY TO ANSWER AS MANY AS POSSIBLE IN THE NEXT LETTER. REMEMBER, I'LL BE LIMITED TO SPACE DUE TO OTHER ARTICLES, ETC.

HOPE THIS HAS BEEN HELPFUL FOR YOU.









PUBLIC DOMAIN WORKSHOP

MARKET MONITOR

Market Monitor is a management system for the personal investor that is designed to run on the Coleco ADAM. It is easy to use and requires very little time to learn. Market Monitor maintains fifty buy or sell transactions on fifteen securities. The securities are entered into a "security dictionary".

Market Monitor has many other features. Realized capital gains are calculated and reported to help the investor prepare his income tax data. A Valuation Report may be generated to compare a portfolio's cost value with it's present market value. The current price of each security may be maintained automatically by the Financial Post Data Service or entered manually.

In short, Market Monitor provides the investor information that would otherwise be available only through a broker or portfolio manager. Market Monitor can be used to experiment with "paper portfolios" and is an easy alternative to manual bookkeeping.

We have made some minor improvements to Market Monitor to allow for easier use. First, a dot matrix print driver has been added to allow for using either the ADAM Printer or a Dot Matrix. Second, the directory and the files have been fixed so that one may view the files that are on the media. This change will also allow those who know a bit about programming to break into the files and modify Market Monitor to better suit their needs. Lastly, the manual has been typed into SmartWRITER for easier distribution and to avoid any extra charges for reproduction of the manual.

TAX PLANNER

The Tax Planner is a powerful tool that, when properly used, can greatly simplify personal tax planning and can give you, the taxpayer, a clearer and more complete picture of your tax situation. The Tax Planner takes data about your financial situation and from them provides answers to important tax planning questions, all at a glance:

How much more income could you earn without increasing your tax rate? What effects do present deductions have on tax paid? How could other available deductions affect your tax situation? What other avenues are available as deductions or additional income sources, and how do these options affect the total tax paid?

The Tax Planner can quickly answer these questions and more. Despite it's power and versatility, the Tax Planner is easy to use. Procedures for entering data and producing reports are clear and logical. Financial modelling -- 'what it' experimentation -- is easy to perform simply by changing numbers around and checking the results, or by setting up different financial profiles and comparing the overall tax reports.

Tax planning should not be a sudden frantic rush at tax time; it should be an on-going, year-round consideration. The Tax Planner is there to help you throughout that process.

Note that the Tax Planner was designed by a Canadian for Canadians, but does perform admirably for the US citizen. Also, dot matrix print drivers have been added as well as the directory fix and the program documentation being contained in SmartWRITER files like Market Monitor.

SOLO ADVENTURE PACK VOL. 2

This public domain volume for use with Mage Quest by Reedy Software, contains six new Solo Adventures: The Lost Castle, The Hold, The House of Fly, The Druid Temple, The North Tower and Krom's Hall. A SmartWRITER doc file is also contained on the media to explain how to use these solo adventures with Mage Quest. If you thought the original levels in Mage Quest were difficult, wait to you try these mammoth levels. NOTE: Solo Adventure Pack Vol. 1 is included with Mage Quest already.

SOLO ADVENTURE PACK VOL. 3

Same as above, but contains 6 new solo adventures for use with Mage Quest: Darr's Palace, The Slaughter House, Hill Guard, Castle Vontrapp, The Troll Hole and The Grand Crypt

X-10 HOME APPLIANCE CONTROL/SECURITY

This is a SmartBASIC program which was developed by Mihn Ta of AWAUG. The X-10 software will allow one to control lights, alarms, emergency dialers, etc. through your ADAM. The actual X-10 System can be purchased at any local Radio Shack for a reasonable amount. Also required is a serial interface and cable to hookup the X-10 device to the ADAM.

EZ-MATCH

EZ-Match, by Soloman Swift, is a colorful, memory exercise matching game (ala Concentration). Players alternate turns flipping two tiles on an on-screen play board consisting of forty tiles. If the two objects exposed by lifting the tiles match, the matching objects and two tiles are removed; also, the player wins a point and gets to select again. Try to remember where objects are located on missed turns. The player with the most matches after all the tiles are removed is the winner. Each game is randomized; every game in a play session should be different. One or two players may vie for high score. In the one player version, you compete against a computer player -- the computer plays well. Just insert the media and pull the <COMPUTER RESET> switch. You'll be prompted to select the number of players. Then players alternate by selecting two tiles to flip. The joystick is used to move the cursor, press either trigger to select, press <ESCAPE> on the keyboard to abort a game. Player 1 uses the front controller, Player 2 uses the rear controller.





PRODUCT REVIEWS



THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN Review by Aamir Malik

For many centuries, mankind has been baffled by the mystery of the legendary abominable snowman. Now thanks to the Alabama based software company *Graftex Software*, you can yourself experience the mystery of the legend in their latest endeavor, "The Abominable Snowman." The game is a combination graphics/text game which utilizes an original concept and interesting gameplay and graphics to achieve a stunning effect.

To start the game, simply place the disk or data pack into any drive and pull the reset on top of the ADAM console. Upon loading, you'll quickly see a boot screen followed by two screens which serve as a preface to your adventure.

You are told that you are an inquisitive anthropologist. You have recently heard reports of sightings of the legendary Abominable Snowman. You are not sure as to the validity of these reports, but you feel compelled to follow them through. Your intentions are only locate the habitat of the beast for now, and study their culture later due to shortage of time. Your motto is, "Locate now, study later."

The introduction screens are immediately followed by the first game screen. On the bottom of the screen is a text window in which the game relays messages to the player. Centered in the upper half of the screen is a vertical menu consisting of six numbered options. The first option; READ MORE; allows you to read more text than what is displayed in the text window. The second option; SEARCH; allows you to search an allotted area for clues. The rest of the options are PROCEED, TURN BACK, REST and EAT, which speak for themselves.

After playing the game for a while, it is easy to become accustomed to and like the menu format. It is an improvement from the strictly "type it in" interface. The gameplay is geared toward the novice and younger player and is geared for a non-violent player. You are not allowed to kill any creatures in the game, but you die easily and often throughout the course of the game.

The Abominable Snowman is distributed by ADAM Software Support on DDP or DISK for \$13.95 as well as NIAD. I highly recommend this game for a novice and younger player. It is an original game, with attractive graphics, and superb gameplay. Another benefit of the game is the excellent support Graftex puts behind it with their upgrade and support procedures. Joe Quinn, the programmer, should be commended for bringing out an easy to play adventure game since there hasn't been a good beginner's adventure game since Troll's Tale was released into the public domain. I still have not found the snowman, but am searching all the time.

Rating: B+

BLACK GOLD

Review by Preston Harris

"Black Gold" is *Image MicroCorp's* newest edition to our software library, here at NIAD. In the past Image MicroCorp has brought us great game titles such as Diablo, the comprehensive Spanish tutoring software, and Stock Market simulation software. This game fits in well with these titles, being well designed, and easy to use.

Black Gold simulates an oil deposit hidden beneath the surface of the earth. You, and up to three other players, play the role of enterprising oil tycoons. Your goal is to find the richest oil deposits in a 27×19 grid. You have ten weeks to earn you're fortune, at which time the game ends and the winner is chosen, but beware! It is easy to go several thousand dollars into debt.

The basic on-screen display is, as mentioned before, a 27 X 19 grid. At each of these locations is a drilling site. To the right of the map is a graphical representation of an oil drill, which displays the drill bit forging further and furthein he Earth and whenever oil is struck, this oil drill spouts oil. Below the map is statistical data such as player name, drill location, and net worth. Also provided, is a portfolio screen which displays all of a player's drilling sites, drilling costs, earnings and other vital information.

At each of the 513 available oil sites you may drill up to 900 meters deep or until you strike oil. After striking oil, the on-screen map is color coded at the drill site. The color code represents the productivity of your drilling efforts, and is quite useful in determining where to drill next.

Also, at the end of the ten weeks of Black Gold has concluded, a full screen expanded view of the drilling map is generated. The map is completely color coded so that you may see where the most profitable drilling sites where located. Yellow color shows the edge of the oil field, drills located at these areas barely produce enough oil to pay for their drilling costs. Green property show a marginal profit. Wells located in Blue areas are high production and reap a good profit. Light Blue property indicates premium land value and indicate the probability of striking oil is between 92-100 percent. Each game however, is totally randomized.

In conclusion, Black Gold is an excellent game. The graphics are acceptable, but not exciting. The game concept is very stimulating and insures hours and hours of continuous play. A player may save his portfolio, which contains his/her drill sites and location, and net worth. Either a disk or ddp may be used to save to. While the game works on adult interest, enterprising children will find it fun also. Best of all though, is the fact that Black Gold allows for up to 4 players to go head-to-head, nothing like some friendly competition!

Rating: A



DRAGON: The Chinese Challenge Review by Jim Notini

DRAGON: The Chinese Challenge is the latest release from Reedy Software and continues on Reedy Software's tremendous reputation as one of the leading software entertainment developers for the Coleco ADAM Computer. The game of DRAGON was inspired by a centuries-old Chinese game called Mah-Jongg (many of us computerites are more familiar with the name "Shanghai", which has been available for other computer systems as well as the Sega Game System for some years now), which requires one to clear a board of 144 strategically layered tiles, by matching pairs. The tiles are laid out in a formation called "The Dragon." The Dragon is built by mixing the tiles and placing them in stacks from one to five tiles high. The stacks get taller toward the center of The Dragon and your view of The Dragon on the screen is from directly above (see picture), you can only see the top tile of each stack. Since the stacks are three-dimensional, you can tell how high a stack is by looking at the thickness of the lower-right sides.

Upon boot, a graphic boot screen is displayed while the program loads into memory. After which the DRAGON title screen, with a beautiful picture of a dragon, is displayed and the user is prompted to press a key to start. From this title screen one may also switch the background and foreground colors from grey background and black tile display to black background with the tiles being displayed in white. This option is included to allow those without monitors to get a better picture display, although I would recommend staying with the normal default colors. When a key is pressed, the tiles

will be shuffled and then placed on the screen one at a time until all 144 tiles are placed. This process is a little slow, but the wait is more then bearable and definitely worth it!

Once completed, the frantic search for the matching tiles begins, but there are a few twists which are thrown in to cause havoc with the gamer's mind. First off, the matching tiles which you wish to remove must be FREE. A tile is free when there's nothing on top of it (i.e. it's on top of the stack) and it can slide out to the left or right. If tiles on both sides of it are at the same level (or higher), that tile is not free and therefore can't be removed even if you have a match for it. In order to match a pair of tiles, the two tiles must be identical. There are 7 different styles or suits of tiles which are used throughout the game which in turn have 42 different designs including: The Suit of Houses numbered from 1 through 9. The Suit of Dots numbered from 1 through 9, The Suit of Bam numbered from 1 through 9, The Dragons (Red, White

and Green), The Winds (North, South, East and West), The Seasons (Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter) and The Elements (Water, Terra or Earth, Air and Fire). In order to make a match, the tiles must be free as well as be identical to one another (i.e. a 1 of Houses may only be paired with another 1 of Houses, it can't be paired with a 1 of Dots or a 5 of Houses). There are some exceptions to this rule however, since there are two sets of tiles which don't need to match within their respective suits. The Seasons and The Elements suits may be matched with another tile from the same suit to complete a match, but once again, you may not interchange the suits to eliminate tiles from the display.

In order to select a pair of tiles, the gamer uses the arrow keys to move the highlighter around on the screen and then presses the RETURN key in order to highlight the first tile. Then the same thing is done to select the second tile. If a match is made and the tiles are free, the tiles are erased from the screen, but if a match isn't made or a tile is not free, the

second tile will become highlighted and the first tile will revert back to normal.

Not only can you control all action with the

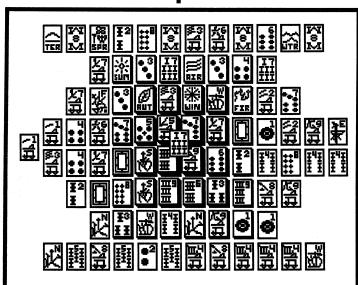
keyboard, but by pressing the ESCAPE/ WP key, a SmartKEY window overlays the screen and gives the gamer the option to either switch control from the keyboard to joystick #1 or back again to keyboard. Other options from this SmartKEY window include: START A NEW GAME, which comes in handy when you are stumped and cannot find a matching pair of

tiles (the new game will also randomize the placement of the tiles so that you will not be playing the same game); RESTART SAME GAME, which will restart the current game from the beginning; QUIT to SmartWRITER; BACK UP ONE MOVE, which will replace the last two tiles which were matched and hence removed from The Dragon (you can repeat this option as many times as you wish until all 144 tiles are back on the screen): SHOW ALL MOVES, which will have the computer search through the remaining tiles displayed to find a valid match. This is easily the most used option of any since finding a matching pair is not always as easy as it seems. If the computer finds a match, the two tiles are highlighted and the gamer may continue the game or have the computer check for further matches. This option does have it's drawbacks though, first it is cheating to rely on the computer to find

matches, and secondly is when the computer can't find a

match and informs you that there aren't any more matches!

Also displayed from this SmartKEY window is the remaining





number of tiles which are still on the screen.

To sum it up, Reedy Software has found the perfect follow-up program to their tremendously successful ADDICTUS program and then some DRAGON just challenges you to try to beat it and in most if not all instances you will not! Even if you follow a good game plan by removing the tiles which are stacked on top of other tiles first, you will soon find yourself desperately seeking for other free tiles to match. You will also encounter situations where you have 3 or 4 identical free tiles which can be matched and therefore eliminated from play, but which two do you choose because you choice will affect what other tiles become freed up for removal. Also, since the tiles are laid out randomly for each new game, a pattern will never develop unless you reply the same game over and over for hours non-stop! I have had a similar program on another computer for some 3 years now and have never been able to conquer it, now Reedy Software has released their own version for the ADAM and I am back sitting in front of my ADAM for hours on end trying to once again come up with a solution, which I for one am not sure exists. This is perhaps the most challenging game ever released for the ADAM and as ADDICTUS had captivated us for hours on end, DRAGON will enthrall you for years to come! Don't pass this one up, it is well worth any amount of money (to a certain degree)!

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: A+

MR. T LIBRARY Review by Lyle Marschand

Mr. T Software, one of our innovative software developers, has released their latest product - MR. T LIBRARY. This is a very comprehensive utility program designed to provide a complete disk/ddp file management utility. The unique advantage of this program is the multiple functions it performs relating to the management, organization and printing of the files you may have on multiple disks and data packs.

Have you ever been frustrated pawing through your disks/data packs looking for a particular file that you just know is "there someplace". It takes a lot of time to load up each disk/data pack and do a directory to see if the file you're looking for is there. Well, with MR. T LIBRARY, your troubles are over!!

Upon loading MR. T LIBRARY you are presented with a menu that gives you the following options:

ADD TO LIBRARY - This is the routine to read your media (disks or data packs) and add the files to your master library. One of the great features of this program is the ability to categorize each disk into one of eight types of programs - GAMES, GRAPHICS, TEXT, EDUCATIONAL, UTILITIES, PUBLIC DOMAIN, BUSINESS & UNCLASSIFIED. Additionally, Mr. T nicely gives you the option of naming your own categories if these don't suit you. A menu is presented on which you select what category you want for the media, then you type in a description of the volume which is a nice way

to further define the contents of a volume. The list of files is presented and you are given a number of options to edit the media before the volume and all the files are saved to your library disk/ddp (see details in EDIT LIBRARY below).

PRINT LIBRARY - This is a nice feature that allows you to print each volume within a category with all its associated files or all files within a category, sorted alphabetically. This is a great feature that will give you super reference for all your files by volume so you will never again have to fuss with trying to find out where a particular program is.

EDIT LIBRARY - This is a key enhancement to this program that gives you the ability to perform the following on each media:

- Clean Directory will erase all deleted files off your media.
- ⇒ Lock Files will protect files from being deleted
- ⇒ Rename Volume allows you to change the name of a volume.
- → New Description allows you to change the description of a volume.
- → Print Label is a big help. It prints a label for your media that gives the volume name, the description you gave the volume, the number of files, the number of blocks left on the media and the category name. Hence, MR T. LIBRARY gives you a label that matches the contents of your media as a by product of creating a central library of all your files!!



VIEW CATEGORY -

You can view the

number of volumes and number of files within each category.

VIEW LIBRARY FILES - You can view all the files by volume within a category, similar to the print out.

END PROGRAM - Clears memory and returns you to SmartWRITER.

I found the program easy to use and understand. All screens are nicely done in color and SmartKEYS are provided for most selections. The ESCape key will take you back to the menu from most points in the program. Both dot matrix and the ADAM printer are supported.

I highly recommend this program for all ADAMites who need to better organize their disks and ddps. MR. T LIBRARY will definitely help and fills a much needed gap in our utility software for a very reasonable price - \$ 10.95.

RATING: A

ERRY

PITY

Review by Jim Notini

Remember back to our early childhood when it seemed that all we did with our friends every second of the day was play board games (especially since computers weren't around then)? Well, now you can play one of everyone's alltime favorites, SORRY, on the ADAM thanks to Z-DELTA SwiftWARE, a subsidiary of Digital Express, which plans to release many children's programs as well as more advanced game packages. The goal of PITY is to move all four of your game pieces out of the START BOX and around the board to the player's HOME BOX, which is directly adjacent to the START BOX, but can only be reached by moving the game piece around the board. The first player to advance all four of their game pieces around the board and into the HOME BOX wins the game! To do so is not as easy as it sounds however, and some games can last for quite a while before someone comes out on top.

Upon boot, a graphic title screen is displayed while the rest of the program loads into memory. Once loaded, the game board will be on the screen (see picture) and some options will be given before the actual start of the game. PITY allows

for 1 to 4 players to play at once or if there are from 1 to 3 players that will bе competeing, the computer can take up the slack from lack of players and provide some real mean competition. After choosing the number of players, the gamers choose which color they will be for the game (either red, blue, green or yellow), as well as if they will be playing at the beginner experienced level.

HOME
HOME

HOME

CARD
PILE
HERE
HOME

HOME

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Each player may choose their own skill level, but the only difference in skill levels is that a beginner will already start the game with one piece out of the START BOX and on the board where as the experienced gamer's pieces are all in the START BOX to begin the game. All control of the on-screen pointer for selecting options is controlled by joystick #1, just point and click.

It may sound easy to get your four game pieces around the board and into the HOME BOX to win the game, but there are many catches to this game as there are in SORRY. To start out, player #1 will be prompted to FLIP CARD from the card pile on screen. The cards that will come up include the numbers 1 through 10 as well as a Pity card, which will cause the current player to lose his/her turn. In order to move a game piece out of the START BOX, a 1 or 2 card has to come up. If you don't have a game piece already on the board and something other than a 1 or 2 comes up, you will have to forfeit your turn and try again after all the other gamer's have gone. Also, you may only have one game piece occupying any given square at a time, so if you get a 1

or 2, you will have to move the piece which is in the first box out of the START BOX. There are also some other special functions to a couple of the cards: Card #3 advances your game piece 3 steps forward, but also gives you another free turn; Card #8 advances the game piece 8 steps while also bringing out the HOME CHASER. The HOME CHASER races around the board and stops at random on a square, if any game piece is in that square at the time, it will be taken to it's HOME. Card #9 advances the game piece nine steps as well as brings out the START CHASER, which is almost identical to the HOME CHASER, but will cause any piece it lands on to return to the START BOXI. Card #6 will move the game piece chosen back 6 spaces.

There are many other catches included in PITY to keep you on your toes. As in SORRY, if a game piece lands on another piece of a different color, the landed on piece gets bumped back to the START BOX. Also, since you may have from 1 to 4 of your game pieces on the board at once, a little strategy will be required in determining which piece to move after selecting a card. There is also a special box which is color

coded to your game pieces, four spaces before your HOME BOX. If you land on this box, your game piece is automatically transported home. Although a short trip, it definitely helps when you've got another persons piece hot on your taill

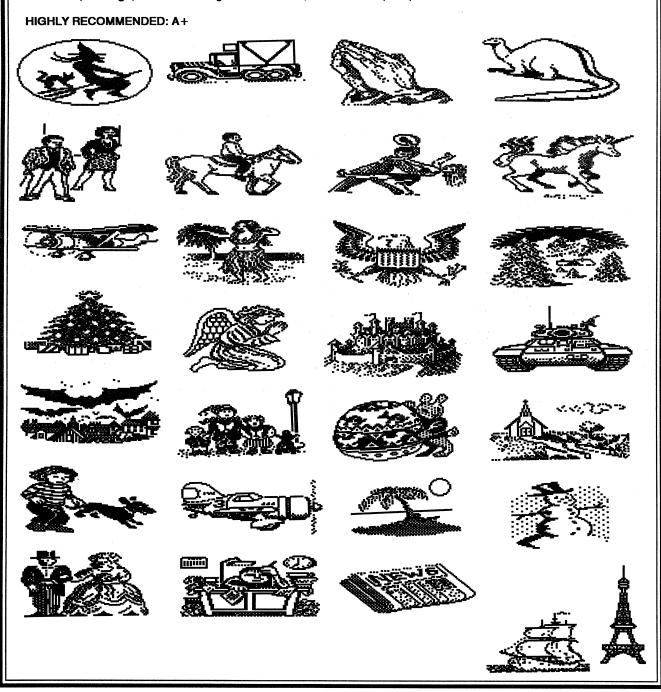
Overall, PITY is a very exciting game which will keep the interest of younger children as well as us older young at heart folks. PITY just might be the

ultimate party game, because up to 4 players may play at once. This option will add a lot of fun and excitement to the program as well as make it a great baby-sitter when a bunch of kids are over at the house. Graphic displays and animation are captivating and add to the game's overall value as well as the many different sound effects that correspond with what is happening at any given time. As mentioned earlier, all control is via the joystick and choices are made through a very simple to use interface of point and click. This method of option selection will further simplify the game for younger children. Although PITY is recommended for ages 7 to Adult, this is a game which can easily be learned and played alone by a child younger then 7, especially since most children have played the board game SORRY already and they seem to learn how to use a computer rather quickly when there are sharp, colorful displays on the screen. A memory expander is NOT REQUIRED, but if you have one, the game's loading time will be faster. A definite must buy for the holiday season!

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: A+

HAPPY CLIPS VOL. 1 THRU 9 Review by Jim Notini

HAPPY CLIPS VOLUMES 1 through 9, by *Gerlach Family Software*, are easily the most professional clip-art volumes available on the market today for use with CLIPPER and PowerPAINT by Digital Express and The Print Works and The Label Works by Walter's Software Co., as well as for use in SmartBASIC (you have to have CLIPPER in order to use these clip-art volumes in SmartBASIC since you have to save them as a different file type and the clip loader basic program is contained on the CLIPPER medium). Each volume of HAPPY CLIPS contains roughly 20-25 clip-art pictures which can be incorporated into one of the above mentioned programs. Many of these clip-art pictures files have been ported over from an IBM system, so now we, ADAMites who love to work with graphics, have access to some of the most professional clip-art pictures developed for any system! Why do I say these are the best clip-art volumes available? Well, just take a gander at the pictures below! You'll see why a picture is worth a thousand words! If you wish to receive a complete printout of what pictures are on each volume, then send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: ADAM Software Support, 8125 W. Catherine, Chicago, IL 60656. Enough with the words, check these clip-art pictures out!





SmartDSK CARTRIDGE

Review by Jim Notini

So you say you're tired of always having to load your favorite ramdisk software from disk or ddp to setup your ramdisk options. Better yet, your tired of having to load your favorite software programs from disk or ddp all the time, then having to reset the computer to move onto another program for a short time and finally reboot the first program again. Well, the SmartDSK Cartridge is a terrific short cut utility to use to overcome long program loading times. The S.C. was developed by Walters Software Co. to make it easier for ADAM users to boot up the SmartDSK Operating System (OS/9). This system also includes ramdisk setup routines which are easily the most advanced on the market today. Pulling the <CARTRIDGE RESET> switch toward you will boot the cartridge program and operating system instantaneously. Options include: loading ramdisk, saving ramdisk, booting ramdisk, booting SmartBASIC V1.0, V2.0 and Plus from the ramdisk, booting any drive, EOS start and booting SmartWRITER. The booting from the ramdisk option eliminates the need to modify the SmartBASIC filename, you can load a disk or data pack with SmartBASIC 1, 2 or Plus to the ramdisk and load it in the blink of an eye with this option. This also eliminates the need for special setup disks or data packs and simply put, many programs may be loaded into the ramdisk to be booted super fast. The advantage of this is to be able to boot the SmartDSK Operating System with the above options and access programs in the ramdisk super fast by pulling the cartridge reset (pulling the cartridge reset doesn't destroy any files or data stored on the ramdisk). The SmartDSK III utilities and SmartBASIC can be loaded into the ramdisk, and booted from the ramdisk when the need calls for using SmartBASIC and the utilities. Any files copied onto the ramdisk will stay in place until the machine is turned off or a program such as some of the Digital Express titles destroy the contents by using the memory expander.

To start out, all one needs to do is plug the S.C. into the cartridge slot on the system. Once the cartridge is plugged in, you will never have to remove it again, since it is invisible to your programs when not in use. Pull the cartridge reset switch and the S.C. main menu is displayed without a seconds delay. The main menu gives one the option of copying the contents of the ramdisk to a disk or ddp, this option is a tremendous time saver since you can setup a ramdisk before booting SmartBASIC for instance, save all your work in basic to the ramdisk, when finished you would pull the cartridge reset to bring up SmartDSK Cart and then proceed to copy all your work on the ramdisk to disk or ddp for future use. You may also copy any disk or ddp to the ramdisk, for instance a bunch of clip-art files to be used with The Print Works, or even copy your CopyCart media with the cartridges on it to the ramdisk. Once they are copied to the ramdisk, you can boot the ramdisk and load the cartridges from the ramdisk faster then any hard drive can! The last option, CONTINUE, takes you to the next menu of options.

The second menu allows for the user to either boot the SmartDSK (the ramdisk), this program is used when you have an executable program already copied onto the ramdisk and wish to boot it up from the ramdisk. An example of a bootable program would be SmartBASIC V1, V2 or Plus, any CopyCart media, and just about any program that contains a standard boot routine and directory. The boot

drive options allows for the user to boot up a program that is in a given drive at the time. This option comes in handy since the SmartDSK Operating System remains in memory when the media is booted. Not all programs will be able to take advantage of the added capabilities of this new OS (such as SmartLOGO), but many more do than don't and the non-compatible program will still load properly. The last option to load a program deals specifically with a couple of programs which are fully compatible and can access this new OS's capabilities. With the load program option one may boot from the ramdisk or a physical drive either SmartBASIC V1.0, V2.0, Plus or SmartWRITER as well as force an EOS START, which looks for an occupied drive and tries to boot it if a disk or ddp is inserted already. Note that for SmartBASIC V1.0 and V2.0 to boot properly, the original boot block must be used. If you have a modified boot block. it may not load up correctly. Also, in order to get SmartBASIC PLUS (SuperBASIC +) to boot correctly, the user will have to make some patches to the program which are provided in the S.C. owner's manual.

The Walters have done it again folks. The SmartDSK Cartridge is a fabulous utility to own. It affords the user ample options in setting up specialized medias which can be stored to the ramdisk and booted directly from the ramdisk. No more digging through your disks or ddps for the ramdisk software and then having to dig even further to find your favorite utility programs. Just copy SmartBASIC and your utility programs (or whatever) to the same media and copy them to the ramdisk with the cartridge. Then boot up the ramdisk and you'll be in SmartBASIC in a blink of the eve and have access to your basic program files on drive #7. Also included in the owner's manual are detailed instructions on how to setup many different programs and use them with the SmartDSK Cartridge. For instance, SuperBASIC Plus as is, is not bootable from the ramdisk, but with the supplied patch in the manual by the Walters, you can fix this problem quite simply.

A little experimenting will be needed in order to find out which programs are compatible and which are not, but as long as the program you will be using doesn't setup it's own ramdisk, access the memory expander for expanded program size, modify the OS or boot block routine you should have no problem (Most Digital Express products will not be able to work with this cartridge because they setup their own ramdisk routines and also use the expansion RAM for extra programming space). To all you hackers out there, this is a definite must buy. Even if you aren't that experienced, the SmartDSK Cart is still a valuable addition and a tremendous time saver, especially if you have a larger memory expander (256K and up), the true power of this cart will be realized. With a 64K Expander, one will have to be a bit more careful as to how they are going to setup the ramdisk and if they are going to put files onto the ramdisk, but it sure beats having to boot a couple different disks or ddps to get to the desired setup. Don't forget to save any information you saved to the ramdisk back to a disk or ddp before you power down your system, because all that information will be lost once power is turned off!

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: A+



MYSTERY Review by Carol Topia

Courtesy of ADAM International News

Mystery beckons. You have just received an invitation to solve a gruesome murder in the swank mansion of Mr. Vic Tim.

When you arrive, all the suspects and possible murder weapons have already been assembled in the Drawing Room. You must carefully analyse all the clues given in order to determine who killed Mr. Tim, in what room, and with which weapon. The killer is sly and devious. You must use all your powers of deduction and have some faith in Lady Luck to find all the correct answers as quickly as possible.

Using the joystick, you first move the cursor to the room of your choice. You have a choice of five rooms: the Gym room, the Bedroom, the Hall, the Pool room, and the Steam room.

Next you pick the murderer from clips of several lethal beauties on the left side of the screen by placing the cursor on y o u r selection. you Then move the cursor to the left side of the screen to choose the weapon.



After your selections are made, the computer goes over your choices and then gives you hints as to which ones are correct or incorrect. This hints range from rather vague to extremely helpful. It would help to make a chart and check off all eliminated persons/items/rooms as you go.

On solving the mystery correctly, you are told how many turns it took, what your final score is, and asks if you wish to play again. In all the times I played this game, I never noticed any repetition and found the game enjoyable each time.

This game reminds me of similar games previously released for the Adam--but the presentation and ease of use were much better than in the other similar type games. I liked the use of what appeared to be clip art of women's faces as the murder suspects as opposed to just lists of names that has been used before. The high-resolution graphic game board with display sections for the the suspects, weapons and rooms truly sets Mystery apart from any other CLUE' style game that I have seen so far. This is a great game and I hope there will be more games in the future from A & S Software.

RECOMMENDED: B+

SmartBASIC CONSTRUCTION KIT

Review by Preston Harris

SmartBASIC CONSTRUCTION KIT is the first program produced by *Graftex Software*. SmartBASIC CONSTRUCTION KIT, contrary to it's name, is a SmartBASIC V1.0 tutorial. The program will offer beginners a quick and easy way to learn SmartBASIC. For the SmartBASIC novis this program is a must.

The SmartBASIC CONSTRUCTION KIT is organized into the following two parts; SmartBASIC Instructions, and SmartBASIC Procedures. These two options are presented in a menu fashion after boot up of the program. In the following paragraphs I will discuss the facets of each.

After choosing the option to study SmartBASIC Instructions in the bootup menu you'll find that you may review every SmartBASIC command. Either all commands may be reviewed or selected commands may be chosen via a menu. After a command is chosen information concerning the command is presented. Command information includes, command name, command purpose, and an example of how the command is used (all the information found in a SmartBASIC manual). No longer is there a need to search through pages and pages to find the meanings of commands when coding a Basic program.

If you should choose the second option in the bootup menu (SmartBASIC Procedures), several options are presented. The first of these is sound. When this option is selected, you may listen to one of three sounds, which include a coiled spring, machine, and falling sound effects.

If you should select the second option on the SmartBasic Procedures, you'll be able to see the ASCII (American Standard Code of Information Interchange) equivalent of any key you press. This option is more of a novelty than a necessity.

The third option on the menu allows the user to see how the powerful CHR\$ command is used. CHR\$ allows programmers to access peripherals and non-standard characters. Knowing how to use the CHR\$ is a necessity for everyone whom uses SmartBASIC, and an indispensable part of the SmartBASIC CONSTRUCTION SET!

The final option in the menu covers making decisions with SmartBASIC. Examples are cited for if...then commands, logic operation such as greater than and less than, and other decision making commands.

SmartBASIC CONSTRUCTION SET is a good tutorial. The name doesn't fit, but I would recommend anyone whom wishes to learn Coleco SmartBASIC pick this program up as soon as possible. What the program lacks is options for users to experiment with commands and procedures being taught as well as a print dump routine of the current screen.

RECOMMENDED: B+



DEADLINEReview by Rick Lefko

Wouldn't you like to get some use out of that CP/M datapack you bought? Do your wrists ache from yanking that joystick around? Are you tired of shooting aliens? Then dust off that CP/M datapack and prepare to enter the world of an *IWFOCOM* adventure!

"A wealthy industrialist, Mr. Marshall Robner, locked himself in the upstairs library of his New England colonial estate one night and committed suicide by taking a lethal overdose of anti-depressants."

Or did he?

You've been asked by Robner's attorney to make a thorough investigation of the case, simply to 'quash the suspicions which are inevitable' when a moneyed man dies a sudden and unnatural death. The Medical Examiner found nothing unusual, and interviews with family members and family associates are consistent with the idea that Robner committed suicide. Everything fits neatly -- maybe too neatly. You smell foul play, and have 12 hours to crack the case. (Excerpt from the DEADLINE manual by Marc Blank.)

You play the part of Sgt. Anderson, Chief of Detectives, of the Connecticut Police Department. The cast of characters range from the deceased's promiscuous wife, to his rather irreverent son George, to the irascible gardener, Mr. McNabb. Doesn't sound too hard you say? There is also a maid, secretary, business partner, the wife's lover ... well ... you get the idea.

You move room through room or outside the house by typing in simple commands such as "North" or "N" or "Southeast" or "SE". Once you come upon a character, you can question him or her in PLAIN English, though there is a simple format to follow. For example, "Mrs. Robner, where were you the night of the murder?", is perfectly acceptable. DEADLINE recognizes over 600 words!

DEADLINE has many other options which make it easy and enjoyable to play. You can get verbose descriptions of the rooms or shorten them if you've been there before. You can even have your printer turning out a written hardcopy of all that transpires so you can get out your magnifying glass and examine the clues more closely. Since you only have 12 hours to solve the mystery, there is a clock on the screen that keeps track of what time it is as each move makes a precious minute pass. You can answer the phone if it rings; pick up and examine any object and even call in your able-bodied assistant, Inspector Duffy, to take an object back to the crime lab for further analysis. You can hide in a corner somewhere and give the command "wait 10 minutes" and watch all that happens around you. And as if all that wasn't enough, there are MANY possible endings to the case, but only one correct one! I could go on and on!

You really DON'T need to have much CP/M experience (thank goodness) to run an INFOCOM adventure. Simply slip

your CP/M DDP (or diskette) into a drive and pull the computer reset; when CP/M boots up, you get a directory of the INFOCOM drive by typing DIR. Just type in the name of the file with the ".COM" extension. In DEADLINE for example, after typing in DIR you would see DEADLINE.COM; just type in DEADLINE and your off (NOTE: Versions NIAD sells come with a configuration file called SADAM.COM which allows for the custom setup of DEADLINE to the system you have)! Unfortunately, to my knowledge, ALL Infocom adventures come on disk only; but they are definitely worth the trouble of buying one and having a friend with a disk drive copy it to datapack for your use (NOTE: Running any Infocom text adventure from DDP is very slow as well as a lot of wear and tear on the drive as well as the ddp). I even run mine directly from my 256K memory expander with no problems.

DEADLINE is available from "THE ADAM CONNECTION" and "ALPHA-ONE", to name a few.

These adventures are awesome!! The level of sophistication and interaction is amazing! You won't solve the mystery in a night, a week, or even a month!

So if you've ever considered yourself an armchair detective, then try the ultimate "Who Done It": try DEADLINE.

By now I'm sure you're wondering "Who Done It"? Well, it was \dots

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: A+

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS NOVA BLAST

Mini-Reviews by Preston Harris

If any of you have ever played and enjoyed Atari's Defender, you'll love Imagic's Nova Blast. Nova Blast is based on the same game concept as Defender but adds different concepts are truly superior graphics. It's your responsibility t pilot the Nova 1, the last of the Novon Fleet, fighting to Orion Fighters, Gravitines, and six other types of airborne aliens before they obliterate the four Capsuled Cities of the Water Planet Hydron. These foes attack not only from the air but from the sea; blasting, bombing, and crashing in their seizure of your Hydronian metropolises.

Super Zaxxon Mini-Review by Preston Harris

Super Zaxxon is the Super Game version of Sega popular arcade hit, "Zaxxon." Super Zaxxon is not to be confused with the cartridge version of Zaxxon. Super Zaxxon implements superior sound and graphics. Through shading and sprite manipulation the graphics seem near 3-D and are unparalleled by any game ever created for the Adam. In Super Zaxxon you will explore asteroids beyond those in the cartridge version of the game, face a mini-Zaxxon, and the dreaded Floating Citadel which is a floating space fortress. To end it all Super Zaxxon has a save game feature, pause game option, and of coarse, a "Hall of FAME!"



StoryMaker Review by Preston Harris

StoryMaker, by *Orbitware*, is a program which helps children learn about the use of words, their meanings, and how any word from a given set of topics will make perfect sense when allotted into the correct place.

The child can input things as his favorite color, his name, and other words he is familiar with, and ADAM will place these words in the plot of a story, and the story turns out different, every time you use the program.

Throughout the program, many examples are given to guide you through the builder. If you don't understand any part of the program, don't worry, examples are always given.

When the program begins, you will be asked to think of a few words from each of the given categories. If a small child is using the program, you may familiarize him/her with the keyboard, so they understand what the computer means when it asks you to depress a key on the keyboard.

This program is educational to children, in the sense that, with the help of the parent, it can be a useful tool in teaching kids how to read, and at the same time, helping them to learn how to use a computer, and also how to type. While the children have FUN with the program, they will be learning many important skills. In another sense, this program helps children know that learning can be FUN and exiting!

Here is a sample output, note that capitalized words are the ones inputed by a user:

The Space Shuttle HOUSE, QUICKLY lifted off today, to begin a trip to SUN. On-board is a male and female KANGAROO to observe how animals mate in weightlessness. Thousands of FAT onlookers, watching outside Kennedy Space Center yelled.."WOW!" as the MEAN shuttle plunged into deep UGLY space. Eight KIND astronauts are aboard. New EGG capsules are being tested for being a nutritious source of space food. During this mission, they will launch several INTERESTING satellites, and once they reach SUN, they will build a lazy space station, and survey SUN to determine whether or not there are BEAR's there. The lucky astronauts are expected back on March 8TH, 1988.

As you can see, about 80% of the time, the users words are implemented correctly, in a grammatical sense. Though this is acceptable, simply put, the stories are too general and just don't make any sense. What this program lacks is "intelligence." Words are placed into stories judged only by their type (noun, pronoun, etc.). What the program could possibly do is reference a library of synonyms and determine if the words should be used or not. There are also other means of making the stories a great deal more understanding. Yes, the program is interesting, but it still needs more development abd a dot matrix printer patch!

NOT RECOMMENDED: C+

ROADRUNNER PUBLICATIONS ADAM TECHNICAL BOOKS

BOOKS WRITTEN BY MEL OSTLER

FROM BASICS TO BASIC: Preparatory Text

A beginners look at a computer. Follows the development of the modern computer, and in the process develops the solutions to the problems which the scientists faced. The reader will finish this book with an understanding sufficient to allow him to begin to program computers in the language of the machine. He may then be classified as a beginning "Hacker." Contains thorough explanations of the number systems used in the computer and why they are required, the makeup of the microprocesser and how it works, the way the instructions are used, the RAM's and ROM's and how they work with the microprocessor, and illustrates the use of the machine language instructions in writing a program, and submitting it to the microprocessor.

LEARNING TO READ WITH ADAM: Z80 Language Tutorial A discussion of machine language instructions, some specifically, and a great many generally as the author develops the disassemblies of all that transpires after the reset button is activated. The disassemblies are deatiled and discuss many of the more curious aspects of several of the machine language instructions as they are being used in the Operating System of the computer. The object is to study how professional programmers have used the instructions, with a view toward having the reader become more familiar with the usage thereof. The initilization of the Operating System is disassembled as it refines itself; and then the initilization routine searches for a media to "BOOT" into RAM. At this point the author assumes that the media contains the Basic language program, and the whole process of booting that program and loading it into RAM, and then jumping to its operation is followed. The complete set of machine language instructions is printed, but without specific comments on each, other than those used in disassemblies. The unique feature of this listing is that the decimal equivilants are given. No other known work provides these decimal values whaich are essential to the entering of machine language programs into RAM via Basic; the most common form of machine lanuage entry for the beginner. More examples of how to enter machine language programs are given, with the idea of promoting the direct use of existing subroutines in the Operating System by the reader.

DISASSEMBLIES: BASIC

The complete Basic program is disassembled. All separate routines are separated by title of function. Invaluable for the Hacker who wants to follow the disassemblies with a view with a view toward CALLing these subroutines directly, or revising them to accomplish his own designs.

EXTENDED OPERATING SYSTEM

The complete Operating System is disassembled. All routines are separated by title of function. The EOS routines were principally designed to be used separately, as called upon by other programs, like Basic, ADAMCalc, etc. They are equally available to the user who wishes to use them for reading disk blocks, writing disk blocks, playing songs, making graphics, etc. Through study the user may determine the exact function of each and use them effectively for his own programs, etc.

Special Product release:

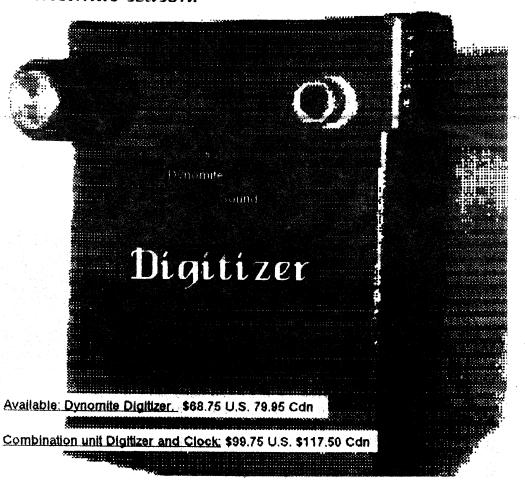
Trisyd Video Games announces two new items ready for the 1989 Christmas season.

DYNOMITE Sound Digitizer

which offers the utmost in customized audio programming. Plugging into your cartridge port, this unit will capture almost any sound you can feed it whether it is your voice, music or that impossible special effect. The result is then savable as a file which can be called upon within a users program as often as they wish.

Digitized sounds are played back through Adam's own sound chip without need of the dynomite sound digitizer!!

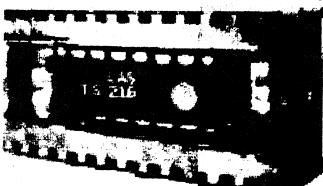
A combination digitizer with onboard clock chip installed is also available.



Smart Clock Stand Alone Version:

\$40.00 U.S \$47.00 Cdn

All product orders require an additional 10% to cover shipping charge.



✓ Send Cheque or Money order to Trisyd Video Games letterhead address. Visa accepted. On the left we see a photo of the Smart Clock. It keeps track of hundreds of seconds, seconds, minutes, Hours, Days, Day of week, Month, Year.

Full 12/24H modes along with leap year correction. Dating feature labels Smartwriter and a host of other application files. This provides effectent file catagorizing

Smart Clock can be sold separatly or with Dynomite Sound digitizer. It installs inside Adam in the stand atone application thereby requiring technical skill to follow directions.



NIAD SPECIALS

- PANASONIC 1180 PRINTER \$199.95
- ⇒ PANASONIC 1180 PRINTER with ADAM parallel printer interface and special ADAM printer cable \$239.95
- ⇒ PANASONIC 1191PRINTER \$259.95
- ⇒ PANASONIC 1191 PRINTER WITH ADAM Parallel printer interface and special ADAM printer cable \$299.95

SPECIFICATIONS:

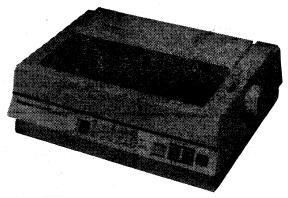
The Panasonic line of printer known for their reliablity and quality. The 9 pin dot matrix printhead support of the draft, near letter quality and high resolution graphics printing, emulation both the Epson and IBM standards.

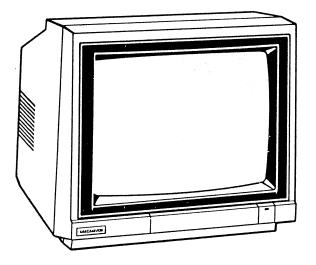
Draft, NLQ and Compressed print can be selected form and external control switch.

Full support for justification, centering, L/R alighnment under software control. Attachable to any standard parallel printer cable.

SPEED (INCHARCTERS PER SECOND):

	1180	1191	
DRAFT	192	240	
NLQ	38	48	
IVE			1





- ⇒ MAGNAOX 8572 COLOR MONITOR \$219.95
- ⇒ MAGNAVOX 8767 COLOR -\$299.95

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13' SCREEN

330 BY 350 RESOLUTION

COMPOSITE VIDEO IPUT

40 COLUMN DISPLAY

GREEN TEXT DISPLAY SWITCH

SHARPNESS CONTROL

VERTICAL/HORIZONTAL CENTERING CONTROLS COMB FILTER

BUILT IN STAND

8572 ADDITIONAL FEATURES - RGB INPUT FOR IBM

COMPATIBILITY,80 COLUMN DISPLAY, 640

HORIZONTAL RESOLUTION



PRODUCT LIST

EFFECTIVE 11/15/89 & SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

COMPLETE ADAM SYSTEM\$209.95 New / reconditioned ADAM system in original box with all original accessories. 90 day warranty. Includes S/H!! EXP MODULE ADAM SYSTEM\$159.95 ADAM that attaches to Colecovision game system to make a complete computer system. 90 day warranty. Includes S/H!! 160K DISK DRIVE EPROM\$15.95 Greatly reduces disk formatting time along with fixing some bugs in the original disk drive EPROM. User must install. 320K DISK DRIVE EPROM\$17.95 For use with older double sided drive conversions, reduces read / write time of most operations. User must install. UPGRADE SINGLE SIDED DRIVE TO: 320K 5 1/4\$109.95 720K 3 1/2\$139.95 Send in your Coleco single sided drive to be upgraded to either a 5 1/4 inch double sided 320K or 3 1/2 inch 720K drive Shipping not involved the sided si	MONITOR CABLE
drive. Shipping not included - \$5. Don't send power supply. DIGITAL DATA DRIVE	 COMPUSERVE STARTER KIT\$29.95 Includes ID, password, CIS information guide and reference book and \$25 credit towards usage of online time. MAG'VX 8702 COLOR MONITOR\$219.95 Composite color monitor provides superior picture compared to television. Use ADAM monitor cable above to obtain both audio/ video. MAG'VX 8762 COLOR MONITOR\$299.95 Same as above but provides higher resolution and RGB input for compatibility with IBM PC and other RGB color computers. 80 column display in RGB mode. SURGE PROTECTORS 3 OUTLET\$14.95 6 OUTLET STRIP\$16.95 POWER CENTER /5 OUTLET\$99.95
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XXX	
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• PANASONIC 1180i	\$ 199 95
(with ADAM printer interface & cable)	\$ 239.95
9 by 9 dot matrix printer with 4K buffer and paralle	l interface.
Draft speed 192 CPS; Near Letter Quality speed 38	
Two year limited warranty. Bottom / rear tractor fee PANASONIC 1191i	
(with ADAM printer interface & cable)	
Same as 1180i above but draft speed is 240 CPS	
speed is 48 CPS.	
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Hacker's Guide Vol. 1&2 DDP or DISK	
Using & Programming ADAM	
From Basics to Basics Learning to Read with ADAM (Z-80)	\$15.00
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Disassembly: Extended Operating System	. \$15.00
NATIONAL ANNUAL STATES	T.O.
MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLI	ES
- DIEGE DI GE GOVERN GOVERN GET A DAVIA	***
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	2 GAMES - HANG ON / ASTRO WARRIOR	
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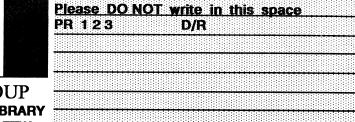
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	MENT TENNIS	\$19.95	SmartLOGO # 1 - 4 (4 different) # LNDV 1 - 4
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545.5.		410.00	PINBALL GAMES # 1 - 2 (2 different) for PINBALL CON
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	(PAINTER	\$19.95	TROLL'S TALE - Children's adventure game with graphic
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	AINT (64K required)	\$29.95	ADAM DIAGNOSTIC - Requires 64K Memory Expander
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CLIP-ART	VOLUME II	\$12.95	SmartBASIC V2.0 with DOCUMENTATION file
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POWERP	PRINTS VOLUME I	\$12.95	EOS DISK MANAGER - Replacement on DDP or DISK
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SPRITEP	OWER (64K required)	\$15.95	FALL GUY / VIDEO HUSTLER - Unreleased cartridges
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SNAPSH	OTS VOL. I (for SignShop/NewsMaker)	\$10.95	SmartBASIC V2.1 - Great modification of SmartBASIC V2
PAINTMA	STER (DDP)	\$22.95	SmartBASIC V2.0 40 - 40 Column Text
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	JRTLE LOGO / GRAPHICS	\$18.95	MULTIWRITE PATCHES
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	E PATCH KIDS: PICTURE SHOW	\$18.95	TEMPLE OF APSHAI - Revision 2 (no docs - DISK ONLY)
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DEFENDE		\$12.95	TAX PLANNER - Never released Coleco business softwar
TIME PILO		\$9.95	SOLO ADV. PACK VOL. #2 - 3 (2 different) for Mage Qu
	RAINERS	\$17.95	X-10 HOME APPLIANCE CONTROL/SECURITY SYST
	AVENGER		A-10 HOME AFFEIANCE CONTROL/SECONITY 5151
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DANCE F	ANIASY	\$12.95	MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC DOMAIN GRAPHICS:
			*** For use with PowerPAINT, CLIPPER, SmartBASIC ***
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	COMMERCIAL SOFTWARE - INFOC		
	UIRES ADAM CP/M SOFTWARE - DISK	ONLY ***	REEDY ART GALLERY VOL. # 1 - 2 (2 different)
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*** REQ ZORK I		\$19.95	PAINTMATES VOL. # 1 - 11 (11 different)
*** REQ			





Northern /liana ADAM User's Group

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DISCOUNT BUYING SERVICE FOR HDW & SFTW BUYING SERVICE ORDER FORM Your MEMBER# Name Name Address Address Phone ((Shipping address - If different) Qty. Item Name / Number DDP / Disk Price Each **TOTAL PRICE** 6.75% on all items except including DDP/Disk Software Sub Total **SALES** → Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio - 5% on all items → Minnesota - 6% on all items → Michigan - 4% on all items TAX Tax Please do not forget SHIPPING/HANDLING. Use the chart Below

Sub Total Range		() US MAIL	() CANADA
50.00	\$ 3.00	, ,	\$ 6.00
100.00	\$ 5.00	•	\$ 12.00
200.00	\$ 8.00	•	\$ 18.00
and up	\$ 11.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 26.00
	50.00 100.00	50.00 \$ 3.00 100.00 \$ 5.00 200.00 \$ 8.00	50.00 \$ 3.00 \$ 4.00 100.00 \$ 5.00 \$ 8.00 200.00 \$ 8.00 \$ 12.00

Ship / Hndl.

Initial ANNUAL Membership Fee required for Buying Service

New or Renewal Fee

PAYMENT N Check or Money Order Enclosed	ETHOD Charge my:		VISA	Master Charge
Write Credit Card	Number in Boxes	;	\$ 25	minimum charge
		1 1		Exp. date:
Signature:				

	11.0	Fde	O-h-	
Credit Due	_			
Balance or				

U.S. Funds Only

TOTAL INCLUDED



MULTI - FUNCTION USER GROUP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY DISCOUNT BUYING SERVICE FOR HDW & SFTW

" For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only SON, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his SON to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. "... John 3:16

NIAD NEWSLETTER For -



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DELIVER

NOV24'I

BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lisie, IL 60532

Permit No. 468