

What that means is that you can create a set of very attractive, standard graphics, or hire a page-creation company to do it for you. A number of Canadian companies provide this service. You can receive the pages in the form of a cassette tape or computer diskette, and store them as a library, in any microcomputer. Then, as the weather changes, or as your program listings change, or as you want to update news, you can drop the new text into the existing image, using the most basic of computer equipment. Canada's largest cable operator uses this approach to update its program listings channel. It uses an Apple II microcomputer. The Apple feeds through a Norpak Mark IV NAPLPS decoder, directly into the cable system head-end. The system was developed by Formic, a Montreal firm.



SHAKE HANDS, PARTNER

If you're not sure you want to get into the newsgathering and writing business, consider a partnership with your local newspaper.

In Brockville, Ontario, the local Recorder and Times newspaper works with Cableshare's Picture Painter system to create brief capsules of the day's important news stories. These are illustrated with standard graphics, a library of which is stored on the Picture Painter's diskettes. Another piece of Cableshare software times and cycles through the set of pages stored on the computer, and sends the encoded information out over a dedicated coaxial line to Brockville Cable's head-end. At the head-end, a Mark IV decoder turns the encoded pages into standard video signals which are broadcast over a dedicated cable channel. Of course, such an information channel could carry advertising, creating a new source of revenue.