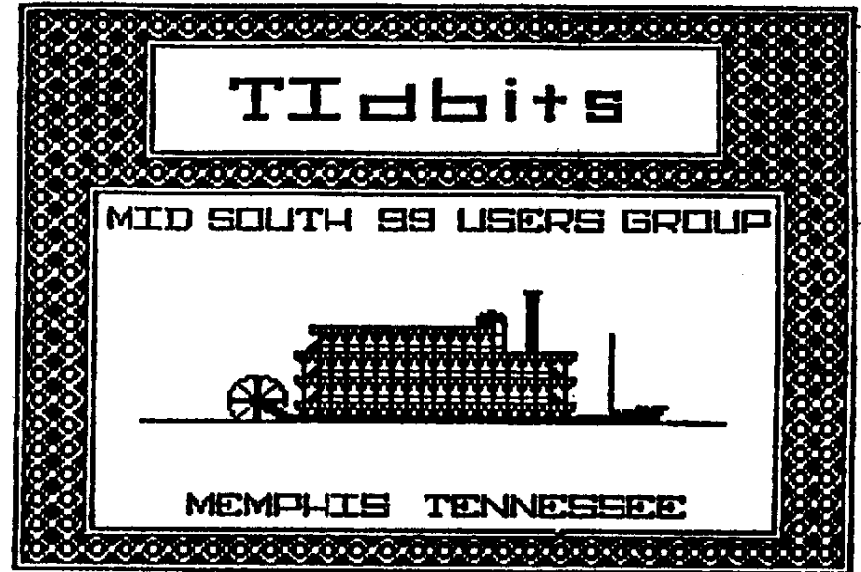
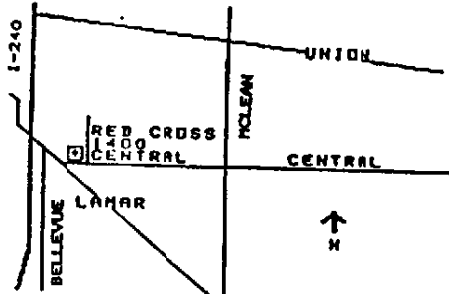


NOTICES

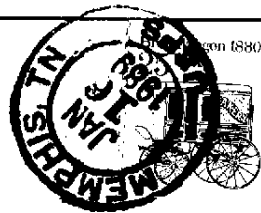
MEETING  
7:00 P.M.  
Thursday, January 19  
Red Cross Building  
1400 Central Ave.

WORKSHOP  
9am till Noon  
Saturday, January 28  
To Be Announced



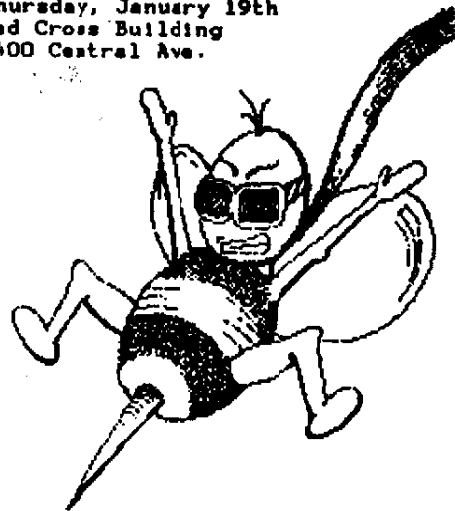
JANUARY 1989 ISSUE

Mid-South 99 Users Group  
P. O. Box 38522  
Gerrantown, TN 38183-0522



UG 2/86  
DALLAS TI USER GROUP  
P.O. BOX 29863  
DALLAS, TX 75229

MEETING  
7:00 P.M.  
Thursday, January 19th  
Red Cross Building  
1400 Central Ave.



*Bee  
There  
!!*

# T I D B I T S

## OFFICERS

Gary Cox	PRESIDENT	901-358-0667
Mac Swope	VICE-PRESIDENT	901-363-3880
Richard Hiller	SECRETARY	901-794-9945
Bob Jones	TREASURER	901-363-9213
Michael Doraan	Midnight Hour BBS SysOp	501-732-5126
David Ferguson	Disk Librarian	901-795-3287
Richard Hiller	CO-Librarian	901-794-9945
Michael Doraan	Editor - Newsletter	501-732-5126
Gary Cox	Program Chairman	901-358-0667
Al Doss	Information and Assistance	901-743-6781
Mac Swope	Chairman - Equipaent	901-363-3880

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## PRESIDENTS BIT

By Gary W. Cox

Looks like I am once again President of the Mid-South 99ers!

Looking back at 1988 we had some up and downs. The up side of 1988 included the continuation with our NACC computer fairs with 1988 being the biggest year yet. For the first time ever an entire page in the paper was devoted to user groups with a very favorable mention of our group! Computer Shopper listed Michael's BBS as one of the best in the country. Last year was also the fourth year in a row that we attended the Chicago TI Faire. 1988 was the year we saw the emergence of some fantastic new software such as Telco 2.3 and Archiver 3.02, new versions of older programs such as Funnelweb 4.12 and the addition of some fantastic new commercial software such as Press Word Processor, First Base and TIBASE... Support for the TI99/4a remains strong and 1988 has shown that the power of a computer is not necessarily in the abilities of the computer itself but in the abilities of the programmers who program it.

Looking at the bad side of 1988 we saw the apparent failure of RYTE Data and a national problem of dropping membership in the TI99/4a user groups contributing to the failure of several TI user groups across the country including three groups on our newsletter exchange list...

What do we have to look forward to in 1989? I think that we will continue to see the development of new software and hardware for the TI99/4a and Geneve 9640 as well as new versions of existing software and improvements in existing hardware.

A strong base of devoted TI99/4a owners still exist but it is up to each and every one of us to keep the support going. As President of our group I want to see us continue to grow and serve our membership. I would like to continue to increase our library and make it more accessible to the membership. I would like rearrange the format of the meetings to provide not only a demonstration of a new product each month but a tutorial on a popular piece of existing software. In short I would like to provide something of interest to everyone at each meeting. Our group is here to provide support and assistance to TI99/4a owners as well as provide a means of social interaction between people with a common interest. To continue to provide our services we need your help in the way of support. While meeting attendance was up last month (about 30 people) attendance has been relatively low the past 6 months with on average about 22 people at each meeting. Many offices appointed by the President and currently filled in by existing officers still need filling. In particular we need a Program Chairman responsible for setting up the meetings and arranging the demonstrations and an Equipment Chairman responsible for keeping up with our equipment, making sure it is operational and seeing that it arrives on time to the meetings. We are always in need of individuals to help with newsletter production and in writing articles for the newsletter. In fact,

we are always short handed and sometimes we are unable to provide a new service due to the lack of volunteers to help out with what we already have to do. If each and every one of us do not take our part in the operations of our club someday when you need a TI user group the most we may no longer be here! Last but not least remember the vendors of TI products who continue to support us! If you can be of help or if you are ever in need of help please don't hesitate to call one of the officers.

## IN THE NEWS

By Gary W. Cox

I would like to begin by thanking all those who attended the last meeting/party as it is nice to have a fair amount of people at the meeting. I would also like to thank those who brought along food for the party and especially my Mom who was kind enough to help me shop for the food and who set it all up at the meeting!

The BIG news this month is a MEMPHIS COMPUTER FAIR! Last month I was contacted by Shows Unlimited of Maryland offering our group a FREE table at an upcoming vendor computer fair here in Memphis and of course I accepted! The fair will have local and out of town vendors as well as liquidators of products according to Joanne O'Keefe, fair organizer. Mrs. O'Keefe says that this will be their first vendor fair for Memphis and if it is a success they will plan future events.

The fair will be held Saturday January 21st from 10am to 4pm at the Cook Convention Center here in Memphis, Tennessee. Admission to the fair for adults is \$7 and \$5 for children. We may have some discount coupons for \$1 off admission at this month meeting. At any rate this fair I think will be one worth attending. It is likely that no TI99/4a specific vendors will be present but we can always use modems, disk drives, printers and other standard equipment. Many of the local user groups will have a table setup offering membership information for each of our groups. This means that we will need some volunteers to help out during the day. Those working at the group table will have FREE admission to the fair. Would someone please help me? PLEASE?

I would like to encourage everyone to come by as if this fair goes over good there will probably be more fairs and besides you might pick up a good bargain. There should be plenty of TV and newspaper advertising about the fair but please pass the word along to your friends...

In December new officers were elected and the results are as follows:

President - - - Gary Cox  
Vice-President - Mac Swope  
Secretary - - - Richard Miller  
Treasurer - - - Bob Jones

All other offices are appointed by the President.

Recently I wrote a letter to Texas Instruments in regards to the rumors of the discontinuation of their 800 number and as to how long that TI plans to continue repair services for the 99/4a. According the letter which I received from Shirley Wadsworth of Consumer Services at Texas Instruments "Texas Instruments will continue to service the TI99/4a as long as replacement parts are available. I have no information regarding the discontinuation of the 1-800-TI-CARES number." However, in a phone conversation with one of the representatives at the 800 number I was told that the 800 number will be replaced with a toll number some time in the future although the person didn't know when. According to the representative at the 800 number the new number, which is already in operation in conjunction with the 800 number, is (806) 747-1882. The letter from TI also stated the same toll number as being customer relations.

The Western New York 99ers is offering a manual called the Home Publishing Manual describing how to use existing programs for the creation of banners, pictures and creative text. The manual is described as showing in detail what clips and instances are and how to use them. It also catalogues 160 fonts and shows how they can be used. Home Publishing manual is also described as talking about the many graphic programs, how they relate to each other and how to put them together to work for you. The manual is 80 pages long and includes two 20 page supplement issues during the coming year to keep you up to date with information on the latest graphics software. Also included is a disk of programs to help your documents look their best. The disk programs include a TI-Artist instance printer, a program to organize your fonts and graphics and a coluanizer program. The total cost is \$15 including shipping. For user groups the cost is \$12.50 for orders of 10 or more. For more information or to order write Western New York 99ers, c/o Harry T. Brashear, 2753 Main Street, Newfane, NY 14108.

(Some of the following information edited from Micropendium)

Version 2.0 of TI-BASE has now been released. Among the enhancements include new directives, enhanced printer control, improved sorting capabilities, ability to convert non-TI Base files to TI BASE format, decreased loading time, new dynamic memory display, global system data etc... The tutor disk has also been updated to include the new features plus is now menu driven so the user can select help on just certain topics. TI BASE is now also fully compatible with the Geneve 9640 in GPL mode and will also now work with the Horizon Ram Disk according to Steve Lambert of Texasents. Current owners of TI Base can upgrade to version 2.0 by returning their original system and tutor disks along with a check or money order for \$7.95. Those who purchased TI BASE after November 1, 1988 can send a dated sales receipt along with the disks and \$2.50 to receive the upgrade to 2.0. All upgrades are being handled directly from Texasents, Lambert says. A new expanded 66 page manual will be sent with all upgrades. For new orders, TI Base sells for \$24.95 plus \$2.50 shipping. For further information, to order or upgrade write Texasents, 244 Mill Rd., Yaphank, NY 11950 or (515) 345-2134 (voice) or (516) 475-6463

(IBS).

Asgard Software has moved and now has a new telephone number, the new number is (703) 255-3085. The address remains the same at P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20850.

New for the Geneva 9640 is GENE, a windowing, multitasking environment that will allow users to run up to four programs simultaneously. The GENE system is not quite ready yet but a preliminary version was shown at the November Chicago TI Faire.

Software for the streamer tape backup system on the Myarc Hard Disk Controller is expected sometime in March. This will allow hard disk owners to easily back up their hard disks.

DataBioTics is considering the development of a 32k option board that would plug into the GROM port of the TI99/4a for use with the DataBioTics Grand RAM. This would allow Grand RAM users to free up a spot in their PEB.

DataBioTics is also planning the development of a cartridge based memo program which allow users to put in memo's for each day of the month. Projected cost is \$20 to \$25.

New products already on the market by DataBioTics include Beyond Parsec, Star Trap, D Station I and D Station II, Microtennis, Sorgan II (turns your keyboard into an organ or piano) and Wordwriter Xtra. Wordwriter Xtra is described as having all the commands that the TI Forsetter does with the exception of the Mail List. For more information on these products write DataBioTics at P.O. Box 1194, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274 or call (213) 867-0481 or (213) 925-2120.

Donaldson Software of 521 Lievre St., Buckingham, Quebec, Canada J8L 2C2 has released several new programs. Among the new programs is Swordfish Patrol, described as a graphic multi-screen airplane war game. The game requires only Extended BASIC. A TI BASIC version of War of the Netherworlds has been released. This two player strategic space war game is a race between Draconis and Cygnus 5 for the conquest of 12 moons. The Speech Synthesizer and TE2 is recommended. Also new is an adventure game called Monster Castle, described as being a type Tunnels of Doom style game. The user must take on giant spiders, crazed bats, ghosts and other creatures in an attempt to become owner of the castle, according to the description of the game. Monster Castle requires Extended BASIC. Also new are Sun and Planets, Speed Rally and TI-PAC MAN. All the above mentioned programs come on cassette tape and sell for \$8.95 (U.S.) each except for Speed Rally and TI-PAC MAN which are in one package. A catalog of their products is available by sending \$1.50 (U.S.).

According to a letter written to Micropendium Magazine Navarone is no longer servicing their TI products. According to Vincent Martel, sales manager at Navarone, the new ownership as of December 1, 1988 manufacturers hardware for the Atari ST and Mega computers and does not hold rights to TI products or support them. Martel says that all Navarone products were sold to Triton and Microsphere.

Wameloc Software of 3971 S.E. Lincoln, Portland, OR 97214 has released version 1.2 of Graphic Lister. Among the new features is better error trapping, ability to back out of menu selections and an additional program called Message Printer. Message printer will allow the user to print out TI-Writer files onto fanfold 3x5 or 4x6 cards. Graphics Lister is available for \$10 plus \$1.50 shipping. Current owners wishing to upgrade may send the original disk plus return postage for an update or just send \$2 for the update if you are a registered owner.

TI-Fest West 89 is scheduled for February 18-19 at the Clairon Hotel at Balboa Park, 2223 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, California. The two day TI computer fair runs from 9am to 6pm both days. For more information write TI-FEST West, c/o SCCG, P.O. Box 21181, El Cajon, CA 92021 or call the club B3S at (619) 278-8155.

The fourth annual TICOFF (TI Computer Owner Fun Faire) will be held March 18 at Roselle Park High School, Roselle Park, New Jersey. For more information write TICOFF 89, c/o Roselle Park High School, 185 West Webster Ave., Roselle Park, NJ 07204 or call Robert Guellnitz at (201) 241-4550 or (201) 382-5963. You may also call the club IBS at (201) 241-8902 300/1200bd.

May 20th will be the Lima Users Group Multi Users Group Conference to be held in the Reed Hall/Student Activities Building on Ohio State University campus. For further information write Lima Users Group, P.O. Box 647, Venedocia, OH., 45894 or call Dave Szipple evenings at (419) 228-7109.

I have mentioned Micropendium Magazine before but I feel it necessary to mention it again as many in the group still do not subscribe to it! It is the only exclusive TI99/4a/Geneva 9640 specific magazine for the TI99/4a and provides a great deal of information on tips, new products and reviews. Well worth subscribing to for only \$20 a year. Their address is P.O. Box 1343, Round Rock, TX 78680, a must for any dedicated TI owner. We also sell copies of Micropendium at each meeting. I might also note Computer Shoppers TI Forum section also has good deal of information for TI99/4a owners. Computer Shopper is available at most book stores.

In closing I would like to welcome a new member, C. W. Johnstone in British Columbia, Canada!

## FOR SALE

TI99/4a Console, TI PEB, TI 32K, TI RS232, TI Disk Controller, SS/SD drive, 13" BW TV, Extended BASIC, Mini Memory, Editor/Assembler, Disk Manager, TI-BASE, EZKEYS, TI-ARTIST plus a good library of other software including manuals for most of the software and hardware. Total package will all go for \$300. Software purchased from companies can be separated and sold separately. If interested contact David Watson, P.O. Box 1203, Dahlonga, GA 30533-9998 or call (404) 864-5771.

TI99/4a Console, TI PEB, TI 32K, TI RS232, TI Disk Controller, SS/SD drive, Speech Synthesizer, Extended BASIC, cassette holder, Editor/Assembler, TI-Writer, Logo II, Joysticks, DM2, Flight Simulator, Printers Apprentence, Pole Position, Burgertime, Munchman, Super Demond Attack, Parsec, TI-Invaders, Alpinder, Amazing, Carwars, Music Maker, Homework Helper, Readiad Roundup, Early Reading, Early Learning Fun, Household Budget, AMA Mail List, TE2, Personal Realistate, TI99/4a Calc and other Misc. Software. Will take best reasonable offer. If interested call Benny Adams at (901) 789-2376.

## FOUR4-A / TALK

Random ramblings about things TI.

From Member Bill Gaskill - Grand Junction, CO.

### SOFTWARE SURPRISES:

A quiet revolution seems to have taken place in TI-99/4A software over the last year that threatens to vault 4A productivity into the 20th century. It started in Canada when an unknown programmer named Charles Earl suddenly appeared with TELCO, a telecommunications program for the 99/4A that had no business looking and acting like it was written to run on an IBM, but it surely did. Then Dennis Faherty, partners in the famed Inscobot Inc. software house that brought us TI-Artist, came out with a dBase-like information manager, complete with a command language and all sorts of disk management features built right into the program. While we weren't watching another virtual unknown named Jim Reiss delivers Typewriter 99, an elegantly crafted yet alarmingly simple tool to turn the 4A into a typewriter, complete with on-screen display of boldfacing, underlining and more. Wow! Now, well-known data base guru Warren Agee has released a data base program called FirstBase that has the potential to handle 32,767 records in a single file, with 720 bytes per field and 75 fields per record?! Incredible! To top things off, Charles Earl is also promising to deliver a word processor that can do columns and act like it is a TI-99 version of Word Perfect. I love it!

Released in February of 1988, Telco is already in V2.3 as Charles Earl struggles to keep up with the demands of users, his own ideas for improvement and those who find that occasional bug in the program. Much to my dismay, I have not been able to get a copy of Telco working properly with my system. The Myarc HFDC doesn't seem to like it. I sure hope that something changes, either in the card or the program, because I seem to be missing out on the greater telecommunications program available for TI owners.

If you are a MICROpendium reader (if you aren't, WHY NOT?) you will know about my love affair with TI-Base from Inscobot Inc. This is the best data management program available for the 99/4A without exception. It is 100% assembly language coded, it is absolutely feature packed and it is pure fun to use. Try it. You

WILL like it.

Jim Reiss's TypeWriter 99 is a superb program that has only one limitation that frustrates me. Since I use the Horizon Ram Disk to hold all of my "everyday use" programs like DM1000 and TI-Writer, I also wanted to put TypeWriter on the HRD. Well, that can be done, but with some limitations on program performance.

Apparently TypeWriter 99 is written with an absolute origin address or something, because it only works properly with the Editor/Assembler module. Neither option 3 from the Horizon Ram Disk, Barry Boone's E/A5 Loader from Extended Basic nor the FunnelWeb loaders fully support it. What happens is that the program will still type, but all letters are in upper case, both on-screen and at the printer, and none of the boldface nor underline inverse video shows up on screen. Tab keys also don't work. That's really too bad because I never use the E/A module and I hate to do module swapping anyway. So, I rarely use TypeWriter 99 as a result. I really think that such a program needs to be readily available to be really valuable. As it is, I can boot my ram disk version of TI-Writer in 1-2 seconds, so I am not going to want to take the time to swap modules and then load the program off of a floppy disk. I hope that Jim Reiss reads this and is able and willing to make some adjustments to the program. I really like TypeWriter 99 but since it is designed to be a convenience tool, it really needs to be useable from Extended Basic, which is the module most users always have in their consoles.

Warren Agee's FirstBase program will be reviewed in MICROpendium. Keep your eyes peeled for it. If you are considering FirstBase for your data management needs you will want to find out what I have to say about it in order to make an informed decision.

### NUTS AND BOLTS AND STUFF:

Ever hear of Jim Peterson? How about TigerCub Software? If you haven't heard of either, then you haven't been a member of the TI community very long. Well, about four months ago I ordered a whole slew of programs from Jim (TigerCub) because I wanted to have the information on what he had to offer so that I could include it in an indexing project I was working on. Besides that, I read that he had the stuff on sale, and I'm a sucker for a sale. What I got was a surprise, a whole bunch of neat programs and a delightful horde of information that will keep me busy for months.

TigerCub Software sells three disks that are called Nuts and Bolts that contain over 300 XB subprograms and/or routines that you can merge right into any existing XB program. The scope of the routines runs from screen displays to file manipulation and they are awesome! Nuts and Bolts 1, 2 and 3 are a virtual anthology of a programmer's life at the keyboard of the 99/4A. There has to be years of labor involved in these gems because (1) there are so many of them and (2) they are so clever.

The utility of the Nuts and Bolts disks provides the XB programmer with an instant library of routines that will save you countless hours of trying to figure out how to program things like screen

fade-ins and fade-outs, how to get ACCEPT AT to take more than 28 characters, how to justify text on screen, how to create graphs (including bargraphs and 3-D graphs), sorting, searching, string segmentation, all manner of character redefining, joystick routines, program debuggers, calendars, financial routines and so much more. The Nuts and Bolts libraries are unique in the TI community. No one offers anything like it except Jim Peterson. If you program in XB, Nuts and Bolts 1,2 and 3 are a must. Contact Jim at TigerCub Software 156 Collingwood Rd. Columbus, Ohio 43213 for more information.

#### THE AMNION HELPLINE:

If you have been around the 4A community for any length of time you have probably also heard of Dr. Guy-Stefen Romano and the Amnion Helpline. I've known of Amnion since the early days of my computer ownership in 1983, after Texas Instruments orphaned the 99/4A. Only I just filed the information away and never took advantage of it. The other day I was reading through some old National Ninety-Niner newsletters given to me by Ralph Jones and I came across a question and answer column by Dr. Romano that I actually took the time to read. It turned out to be the single most informative article on CALL FILES that I have ever seen! Further on in another issue I ran across the same regular feature with some reader asking Dr. Romano about simulating the MOD feature from Pascal in TI Basic. I didn't even know what the MOD feature was until I saw it in the article. After reading the response from Dr. Romano, I now not only know what it is, I know how to simulate it in TI Basic. I thought I knew alot about computers and programming but I can't hold a candle to Dr. Romano. If you need a question answered, you have just found the resource. If you are looking for a program for a particular task you have only to call Dr. Guy-Stefen Romano, the Amnion Helpline, 116 Carl St. San Francisco, Cal. 94117 415-753-5581 9am-4pm Monday through Saturday. The help will be free and the programs almost so.

#### GREAT GROUP NEWSLETTERS:

One of the really neat things about being a 9Ser is the contact I make with other members of the community and staying in touch with what is going on in the TI world. Belonging to a Users Group is absolutely the best way that one can accomplish this. I belong to five Users Groups, none of which are close enough to where I live to allow me to be a regular attending member. Nonetheless, I find that the newsletters I receive in the mail from them keeps me in touch and involved. So the newsletter of a group is pretty important. I can heartily recommend any or all of the groups listed below, if you are thinking about joining a Users Group or would like to join more than one.

CHICAGO TIUG  
Box 578341  
Chicago, Il. 60657

Front Range 99ers  
Box 5572  
Colorado Springs, Co. 80932

LA 99ers  
Box 67A75  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90067

Mid-South 99ers  
Box 38522  
Germantown, Tn. 38183-0522

Tacoma 99ers  
Box 42383  
Tacoma, Wa. 98442

Do yourself a favor and drop any or all of these a line to find out more information about becoming a member. All of them provide excellent newsletters that promote positiveness and cooperation within the community. I like that and look for it before I will join. I think you will like that kind of outlook too.

#### WHO CARES?:

Just when you think that the world has forgotten all about the 99/4A along comes a major article about it and other orphaned computers in PC Computing magazine (Dec88, p.222) "Gone But Not Forgotten" by Deborah Asbrand. This is one well researched article. The author includes not only historical information about the 99/4A but also provides facts about the largest Users Groups, the names and addresses of some of the major TI/99/4A product vendors and even talks about Myarc and the Geneve computer. Neat! Pick up a copy if you can. It's valuable if only from an historical perspective. Who cares? We do!

#### TRIVIA:

I love to write about things TI but it is the generally useless bits of information I come across that I like the most. Did you know that:

-Tom Freeman, author of DisKassembler and other great programs, is a doctor or more correctly I guess, a pediatrician by trade?

-Ray Kazmer, author of the Woodstock Xmas program that has circulated all over the world, is the only person to ever be published three times in the same issue of MICROpendius?

-the three most famous father/son teams in TI-99 history are Doyle and Don Rynum, Dennis and Chris Faherty, and Will and Tony McGovern?

-To date there have been more than 100 books published on TI-99/4A use, but only four that I am aware of since 1985; "TI Intern" by Heiner Martin, "Technical Drive" by Monty Schmidt, "Cracking the TI" by Brian Prothro and "Hardware Manual for the Texas Instruments 99/4A Home Computer" by Michael Bunyard? Sure would be nice to see someone do a really comprehensive but understandable assembly language text.

-Richard Mitchell, editor of The Smart Programmer, is now writing legal information bases for IBM computers? (will we ever see another issue of TSP?)

-Craig Miller is now writing custom software for the IBM world and doing fabulously at it? (did we expect anything else from one of the greatest supporters the TI community ever saw?)

-assembly language wizard John Phillips, who has yet to reach the ripe old age of 30 (he's 27 I believe), authored Hopper, Moonmine

and Word Radar and worked on Burgertime, Demon Attack, Munchmobile, Jawbreaker, Facemaker, Treasure Island, Angler Dangler, the Line-by-line assembler for Mini-Memory and Slynoids while at Texas Instruments?

-virtually all of the modules that TI produced for the 99/4A were not written on it? Only Hopper was actually written on a 99/4A with the Editor/Assembler module. The others were written on a TI mini.

-Floppy Copy, from The Softspot in Silver Springs, Md. was written by Chris Faherty of TI-Artist fame?

-Futura Software founder Charles Ehninger dropped out of school in the sixth grade, but later went on to earn a Masters Degree in Economics?

-the MiniWriter word processor Bill Moseid (dba Model Masters) released for the Mini-Memory module was originally called MINIED? MINIED could print text via RS232, Model Masters own Joyprint or The Missing Link from Mid-West Engineering?

-TI Runner was written by Jon Burt and Scott Emery? Who are they I wonder, and how come so much talent dropped out of sight?

-the computer that never was, known to most of us as the Phoenix, was actually named the CCI-99/64 by CorComp Incorporated, the firm that was supposed to build it? On-board or built in capabilities included three keyboard styles, a numeric keypad, three cartridge slots, a built in RS232 interface, 64K ram, speech and extended basic.

#### USER NOTES:

If you are a TI-Base owner who has a slew of data on PR Base diskettes you probably would like to know how the files can be transferred. Read on.

-First, the maximum record size that you can transfer is 132 bytes. Anything greater than that will be lost. The reason is because the transfer is done by printing PR Base data to disk via the REPORT feature.

When you want to transfer the data simply design a tabular report in PR BASE that will print all data in one line on a page of paper. Whatever the length of that line is the file format that the disk file will be saved in. For example, if you design a 132 column report the file that is printed to disk will come out as DV/132. This file is readable and convertible by TI-Base V2.0 using the CONVERT feature. The manual for TI-Base will tell you that the record to be read must be in FIXED format. That is not exactly correct. What it means is that the data in each record must be in the same place. Usually, you must have a fixed record format to get this, but printing a data file to disk does this too, so you don't need to worry.

When designing the report print out your screens so that you know later on exactly where each field ends on the printed page. Part

of the CONVERT process is to design the record format for the new file. When you do so, remember to build in enough spaces in each field to include both the data for that field and the blank spaces that follow it on the printed report. For example, if the report printed field 1 at column 1 and then continued for 28 characters with a 1 character separator between it and field 2, then make field 1 a total of 29 characters long so that the blank space is attached to the first field. That will allow TI-Base to properly assign characters 30 through the end of field 2 to the proper field in your new data file. All remaining fields are done in just the same way, including the last one.

#### MICROdex99:

MICROdex99 is an indexing project I started in September 1987 that is still going full steam. To date I have compiled a data base of almost 6000 records on the location of anything published for the 99/4A and Geneve computers. I make the data base available on SS/SD or DS/SD diskettes now for use with a TI controller card, with plans to include higher density floppies and hard disk files in the future.

If you are a TI-Base owner you will want to purchase the files in TI-Base format. If not, MICROdex99 is available in its original file format with its own data manager that requires XB, 32K and disk. The files take up 6 SS/SD floppies or 3 DS/SD floppies in un-archived format. They are delivered to you packed and compressed using Barry Boone's Archiver 3.02. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of MICROdex99 please specify the desired disk format and whether or not you want it for TI-Base. The price for MICROdex99 is \$20. It may be ordered from:

Bill Gaskill  
P.O. Box 2642  
Grand Junction, Co. 81502

Until next time...

## JUMPBOOT V. 2.0 - REVIEW

By Beery W. Miller

Jump Boot V2.0 is one of the greatest disks for the Geneve 9640. Simply, Jump Boot contains the latest version of MDOS on a specially formatted disk allowing the Geneve 9640 to maximize disk read capability for MDOS and GPL both simultaneously. A typical load time (cold boot of MDOS) into a loaded GPL environment can be achieved in 15 seconds, only 5 seconds for MDOS from the time the drive is accessed (Note: For Epson V0.98 for the 9640, load times may increase slightly because the Canadians apparently have lower grade drives available in certain areas as this was the reason for

the VO.98 aprom).

Jump Boot V2.0 is provided on a double sided disk only in either SD or DD format. Along with "SYSTEM/SYS", you receive a special XB/AL program to install MDOS onto Side 2 of the disk for optimum read capability. In addition, you receive MCOPY and a modified MCOPY for 80 track Jump Boot disks so that other files can be copied onto the front side of the disk (A Freeware payment is expected if you find MCOPY useful).

While I must admit that I have a HDCC and boot SYSTEM/SYS from it, I do still find benefit with the program as I do a lot of programming and usually end up wiping out various files. That is why the author of this program has provided instructions and his utility program to solve the problem with your own blown Jump Disk if you are forgetful and forget to write protect the disk and delete too many files.

#### Who is Jump Boot For???

Jump Boot V2.0 is for everyone without a HDCC. Even if you have a Horizon Readisk, Jump Boot is highly suggested. Think about freeing an additional 358 sectors on your Readisk and only increasing load time by 3 or 4 seconds!!! Traditionally, your SYSTEM/SYS files takes roughly 35 seconds to boot as it comes from MYARC. This application of the Geneve's potential will help ease memory lockups for the programmer to the person that boots his system every day.

#### Can I make a BackUp of Jump Boot V2.0

If your question is can I copy Jump Boot, the answer is yes and no. Any normal means of copying Jump Boot, you lose all the speed of it's special loading characteristics. This covers Hyper-Copy, Not-My-Copy, and any other disk manager/copier available. While the files can be copied, only under the special formatted conditions can this disk keep it's fast loading capabilities.

#### Where can I get Jump Boot

Jump Boot can be purchased in the following formats:

Jumpboot 2.0 - 5.25 Single or Double Density .... \$15.95  
Jumpboot 2.0 - 5.25 80 Track, Quad Density ..... \$18.95  
Jumpboot 2.0 - 3.5 80 Track, Quad Density ..... \$19.95  
Jumpboot 1.0 - 5.25 .....SSSD ONLY..... \$15.95

\*\*Purchase 2 for \$25.95\*\*

DISK ONLY SOFTWARE P.O. BOX 244 LORTON, VA 22079

ADD \$2.00 SHIPPING, U.S. AND CANADA - \$4.00 AIRMAIL OVERSEAS

DELIVERY TOLL FREE CREDIT CARD ORDERS - 1-800-456-9272 - VISA, MASTERCARD AND AMEX Specify single or double density for 40 track, 3.5" or 5.25" for 80 track.

Please mention that you read the following review in "9640 News"

Review by: Beery Miller and 9640 News 5455 Marina Cove #1 Memphis, TN 38115

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## MAXFLIX - REVIEW

By Gary W. Cox

Maxflix is a new program sold by Genial Computerware of P.O. Box 183, Grafton, MA 01519 and written in 100% assembly language by Peter Hoddie. The program requires a minimum of 32K, 1 disk drive and Extended BASIC and will also operate on an Geneve 9640. An Epson compatible printer is needed in order to print the pictures.

Maxflix is very similar in function to MAX-RLE except that Maxflix will read Macintosh MacPaint graphics and is the first TI99/4a program to do so. Where MAX-RLE opened up graphics compatibility between TI graphic formats (GRAPHX, TI-ARTIST...) and RLE format graphics, Maxflix will now allow TI owners to read MacPaint graphic files opening up a new source of graphics. Furthermore, Maxflix allows the user to convert portions of the MacPaint graphic into TI-Artist or Myart format. Once the picture is converted into TI-Artist format other programs (such as MAX-RLE) can be used to transfer the graphics into any other format desired.

Since MacPaint pictures are too large to be viewed all on the screen at one time the arrow keys are used to move around portions of the picture. When a portion of the picture that you like is on the screen you may then save it to disk in TI-Artist format or Myart format. By using the number keys 1 through 9 the amount of space that the picture moves when pressing the arrow keys can be selected.

Using the print picture option the entire picture can be printed to an Epson compatible printer. Four options are available in printing the picture in that your picture can be large, medium or small. Usually on the large picture part of the picture itself is cutoff but the objects are at their largest. Medium size pictures generally will display the entire picture with good resolution. The best resolution is obtained in printing a small size picture. The fourth option on the print menu is to print to a Prowriter printer but the size option is not available on this selection.

A few other options are available in the program such as inverting



the picture (all pixels on are turned off and all pixels that are off are turned on). Also the option to catalog a disk and delete a file is available as well as the program will display what the original name of the MacPaint file was as it was called on the Macintosh computer.

Finally a program called PCT/MACFLIX is included on the disk to be used in conjunction with PC Transfer to unload pictures directly from an IBM formatted disk. MacPaint pictures are available on many BBS's as well as the major communication networks such as Genie and Compuserve.

Although this is just a brief look at MaxfliX I have found it to be very easy to use and found it a useful tool in obtaining a new source of graphic picture files. For only \$15 MaxfliX is a bargain.

## IMPACT 99

By Jack Sighrue

### ADVENTURING

Marathons of the Mind

From tiny little word puzzles called riddles to elaborate puzzles called mystery novels there is really great intellectual growth. This growth is nurtured by fun: the fun of solving puzzles.

In recent years problem-solving puzzles written or developed on massive scales have become the intellectual pastime for a large number of young and old people throughout the world.

On the one hand such brainstorming, role-playing activities as the Dungeon and Dragon style puzzle/games have become extremely popular. These situation games require intense researching and reading skills which are only now beginning to astound teachers. How is it possible that a child who can't read SEE PUFF RUN. can not only read very technical books on mythology but apply that learning to problem-solving situations?

On the other hand we have - computers! - the greatest friend a teacher (particular those of us harried by fragmentation) ever had.

Besides being electronic flashcards and word-processors and educational development tools (i.e., Rocky's Boots, Playwriter, Heath Science for Apple, et al), the computer can serve as an excellent reading/writing/problem-solving tool. This tool gets students involved. This tool is known, jargon-wise, as interactive fiction. But, to the novice, it is simply identified as text adventures: No graphics except as in the mind.

Most educators who have been using these games in the classrooms with any regularity have agreed that the different approaches to the game (henceforth known as the adventure) are varied and effective. Most teachers prefer a group of three to five youngsters on the adventure at one time and that there should be almost no teacher intervention once the programs have been explained and the classroom structure has been established.

A good place to start for most computers would be Scott Adam's ADVENTURES. Pirate Adventure (the text version) is probably best to start with. With our 99/4A, of course, we might even start with simpler adventures like FOUR VEDAS which aren't available for other computers. Others in that series include MINER 49er, FUNHOUSE, HAUNTED HOUSE, and STONE AGE.

Once the game is loaded there is a certain structure usually followed by most adventure programmers: At the top of the screen the scene is described in a manner similar to this: You are in a small dark room. There is a square patch of light in the distance. Shriill, high-pitched noises can be heard above your head.

Directions: S W U

Then there is a flashing cursor.

The players must decide what to do. They all assume the role of the one character. Everything is perceived from that person's perspective.

Now the character may be directed to go Up or South or West or take an INVENTORY or LIGHT CANDLE (only if he/she has one and matches to light it with) and LOOK ROOM. (Most commands, as you can see, are given in abbreviated form in adventures. This helps the game move faster. Usually commands require only the first or the first three letters: V or INV. To perform specific actions (or reactions) usually requires a two-word situation: verb noun. CLIMB TREE, GO HOUSE, TAKE KNIFE, EAT SOUP.

Very high-level games, such as those created by Infocom, allow you to write complex multiple commands in sentence form. Some of their games (the ZORK series, Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, Suspended) may take adults months. Although they are marvelous they probably would not be suited to classroom use. (Many elementary school children, alone or with their families DO these incredible adventures.)

Meanwhile, back in the classroom, if you have one or two computers going with adventures, you will note an enthusiastic brainstorming at a very profound level. This is an exciting thing to watch. This kind of experience can be easily translated into other kinds of reading, writing, problem-solving, brainstorming experiences.

Depending on the amount of time you allow a group to participate will depend on how many days it takes to complete the adventure. It is an unusually rewarding experience for the youngsters and one which motivates the next group ready to start their adventure (the same or another; it doesn't matter). A beautiful side effect is

the sharing that goes on.

There may be individuals who can attempt a solo adventure for some good educational reason, too. The children will volunteer to work on the program during lunch and recess.

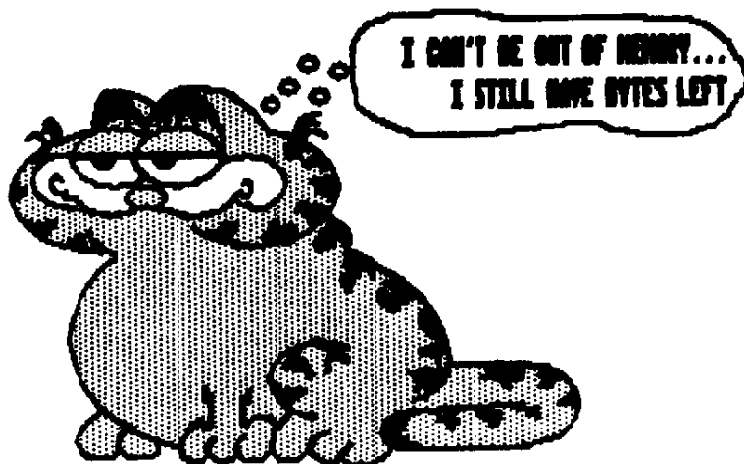
Adventuring turns on kids. And it's impossible to keep a turned-on kid from learning. (An excellent classroom environment is provided for computer-use also.)

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There are other kinds of adventuring, too. The D&D-style slash & hack appeals to most youngsters. There are two extraordinary ones for the TI: TUNNELS OF DOOM and the extraordinary one, LEGENDS. TOD is superb because you can get TOD Editor, which lets you create your own adventures; and LEGENDS is great because it is, simply, the best of the S&H adventures around. The graphics are superb, the options are excellent, the potential for growth is built in, and the "real world" geography is unmatched by any other similar game.

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[Jack Sughrue, Box 459, E. Douglas MA 01516]



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## CALENDAR

MEETINGS: January 19, February 16, March 16 (3rd Thursday!)  
WORKSHOPS: January 28, February 25, March 25 (4th Saturday!)  
c99 CLASS: Every Thursday except meeting night, location TBA.

## 24HR TI BULLETIN BOARD

The Midnight Hour BBS 308/1200/2400 bd 501-735-9980  
Dial 735-9980 from Memphis area for toll free call.

## GROUP MAILING ADDRESS

Mid-South 99 Users Group  
P.O. Box 38522  
Germantown, Tn. 38183-0522

## LIBRARY ADDRESS

David Ferguson  
3377 Creighton Ave.  
Memphis, TN 38118

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