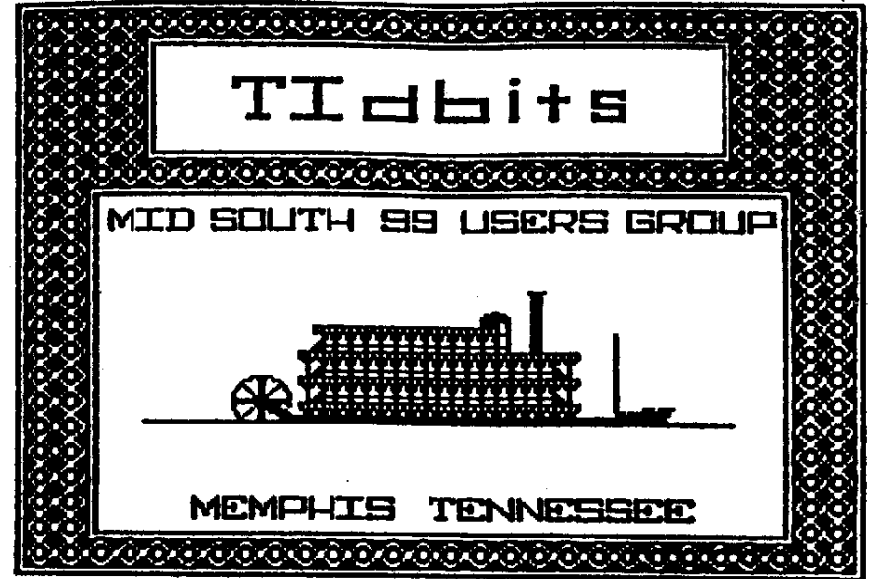
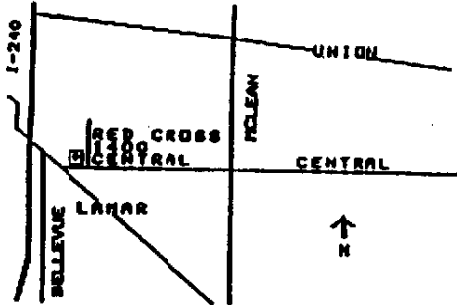


NOTICES

MEETING
7:00 P.M.
Thursday, July 20th
Red Cross Building
1400 Central Ave.

WORKSHOP
9am till Noon
Saturday, July 22nd
To Be Announced



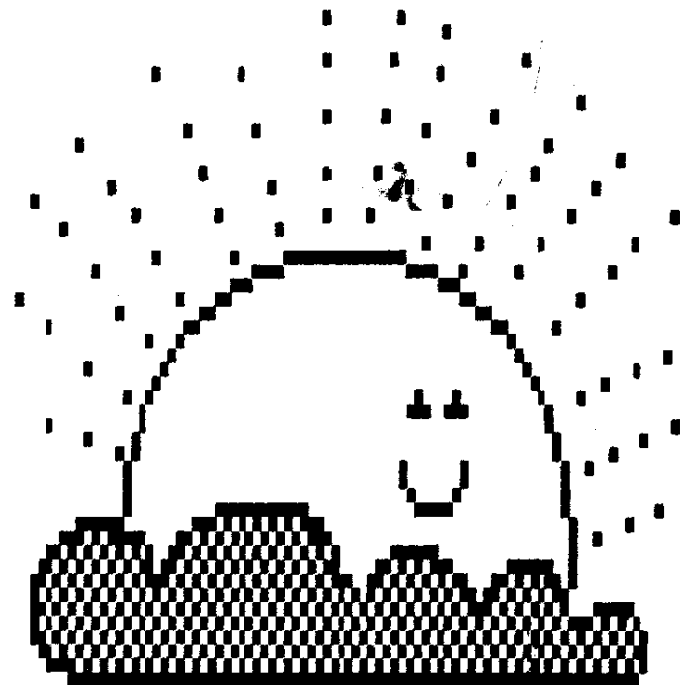
JULY 1989 ISSUE

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



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

first class



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 Dorman	Midnight Hour BBS SysOp	501-732-5126
David Ferguson	Disk Librarian	901-795-3287
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Michael Dorman	Editor - Newsletter	501-732-5126
Gary Cox	Program Chairman	901-358-0667
Mac Swope	Chairman - Equipment	901-363-3880

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IN MEMORIAM

By Gary W. Cox

This month we have suffered a great loss in the group both as a member and as a good friend to us all. Al Doss passed away Thursday June 29th after a long battle with a heart condition.

As a member of our TI group Al has always been there to help out. Not one day passed that I couldn't call Al and count on him to help out the group. Much of the work he did was behind the scenes from picking up our mail to keeping up the mailing list or even helping put the newsletters together... Through the years he performed many jobs in the group, just whatever was asked of him. Workshops at his house was always crowded and a member needed to only call him and they would be invited over for whatever reason to play with the TI! He has always been at the meetings early sometimes even before I would get there to help set up the room. I can't say enough about how much Al has meant to the survival of our group as I doubt we would have made it this far had it not been for Al!

Al was always worried about his sometimes abrasive personality while all we really worried about was his typing! I remember when Funnelsweb and DM1000 first came out and Al was plucking away at the keyboard while the rest of us watched on the edge of our seats expecting at any minute Al to forget the disk!

Al was a great friend to me personally as well! I remember when I was going to Memphis State and he worked there I would often see him around campus. He would always point out all the women to me and tell me that I should go out with them. Then if you think my spelling is bad now you should have seen it before Al kept on my case from the words which I consistently misspelled in my articles!

Through our groups' good times and bad Al was an intricate part of our survival and we could have never made this far without him! His presence will be sorely missed and there will forever be a great gap in our group at his absence.

Our sincerest condolences go out to his wife Joanne and family.

PRESIDENT'S BIT

By Gary W. Cox

Last month's newsletter contained a few errors, the first correction is a phone number. As mentioned last month Lynn Sampson of Friends of Young Flyers is asking for donation of computer equipment to her non-profit organization. Those donating anything can receive tax credits... However, her phone number is (601) 781-3184 and not area code 901. If you live in Memphis though you may dial 781-3184 for a toll free call.

The second error was in the Questions and Answers column. TI-Writer formatter saw fit to scramble my little diagram of the 16 pin parallel port connector. That connector should have been numbered as follows:

2	1	< top of connector
4	3	< keyway on this side
6	5	
8	7	
10	9	
12	11	
14	13	
16	15	

Now that the errors have been corrected I must begin by thanking Michael Dorman for such a great production of the newsletter last month. It was a major effort to produce a 28 page newsletter! Thanks also to Jim Saenens for the great demonstrations at last month's meeting.

Speaking of demonstrations we have started a new policy in the group... I have become so desperate for people to demonstrate anything that our group will purchase a piece of software and give it to you if you promise to review it for the newsletter and demonstrate it at a meeting. So if you see a new piece of software that looks like it might be good and interesting to others in the group contact me as we might purchase it for you. The only rules are that the purchase must be pre-approved and that you must review it in the newsletter and demonstrate it at a meeting. Just give me a call if you see something that you think might be interesting.

At the same time for any software and hardware companies that are out there we would be glad to review your software for our newsletter and demonstrate it at a meeting if you want to send it to us...

By now everyone should have received their up to date library list. We decided to mail them out FREE to all members of the group. If you didn't receive your library listing at the last meeting or in the mail drop me a note and I will send you one... Also note that that list is just a small fraction of what is actually in the library as more remains to be cataloged. Plus I realize the listing is not very descriptive of the programs but it

is the best that could be done with the help we have. Just getting that listing together consisted of a tremendous time consuming effort by David Ferguson. Thanks David!

As a reminder note, many members' dues are due this month or are past due. You can tell if your dues are due by looking for a \$ (dollar) sign on the top of your mailing label.

Talk is once again starting about the annual Chicago TI Faire coming up in November. Anyone interested in going again this year?

C ya at the meeting....

PROGRAM BIT

By Gary W. Cox

6:00pm - Doors Open
7:00pm - General Discussion
7:15pm - Door Prize given away!
7:30pm - Demonstration of System 3 Checkbook Manager program v5.6 by Ervin Crowley. Demonstration by Steve Drew.
8:00pm - Demonstrations to be announced by Jim Saenens
8:45pm - Game demonstration.
9:30pm - Meeting ends
10:00pm - Late dinner at location to be announced.

A drawing for a prize will be held this month of a Texas Instruments dot matrix printer originally worth several hundred dollars! You must be a member of the group and you must be present to win.

FOUR-A/TALK

Random ramblings about things TI.

By Bill Gaskill

July 1989

AN OPINION ON OUR FUTURE

WHAT'S HOT!

Barry Boone's new EPROM for the Mechatronics 80-column card, AV-Indexer from Genial Computerware, a promised upgrade to 99 FORTRAN by Al Beard, MY-WORD Externala from J. Peter Hoddie, cSHELL99 from Joe Ross and GENIEINDEX from Scott Darling.

NEWS:

Geneve 9640 users will be happy to hear that Peter Hoddie has created a way to add new commands and keypresses to the current version of MY-WORD. I don't have any more details on it other than to report that a demo External and documentation are available for downloading from DELPHI's TINET SIG.

Al Beard, Professor Emeritus of the Fortran language for our two 9900 series computers, has promised an upgrade of 99 FORTRAN to V4.0 to help it keep up with the immensely popular 9640 FORTRAN that seems to have taken over c99's spotlight (at least for now) as the developer's language of choice for the 9640.

Barry Boone, guru of DSR's for the 99/4A and the author of the best archiving utility in existence in my opinion (for any computer), has announced a \$20.00 EPROM for the Mechatronics 80-column card that contains fixes for the bugs that apparently existed in the original EPROM. There are several other enhancements to the card too, including the ability to use any CRU base so that ram disks can be used with it and an 80-column version of John Johnson's Menu V7.3 for the Horizon Ram Disk, to prove it. Cost is \$20.00 plus \$2.00 for S/H. Write or call Barry at;

Barry Boone
Box 1233
Sand Springs, Ok.
74063
918-356-4648 9am-10pm weekdays.
10am-10pm weekends.

Don and Aaron West have authored a new program called AV-INDEXER that will print labels for cassettes and VCR tapes. It also provides some indexing capabilities and can import files from Asgard's Cassette Labeler. It is available through Genial Computerware for \$15. Write to Genial at;

Genial Computerware
Box 183
Grafton, Ma.
01519

Joe Ross, a here-to-for unknown programmer (to me at least) has created a REALLY slick looking product called cSHELL99, which is designed to provide a GEOS-like front end for the 99/4A. In case you didn't know already, GEOS (Graphics Environment Operating System) is an icon-based add-in for the Commodore 64/128 line of computers that looks and acts like the user interface that comes standard with an Apple Macintosh.

cSHELL is written in c99 and asseably and it gives the user the

ability to point at icons (little pictures, like a trash can) to provide various disk management and printer functions. It also provides loaders for files that can be loaded with the Editor/Assembler module's option 3 and option 5, and it allows you to link to c99 programs so that the cSHELL99 interface is reloaded upon exiting. The graphics on the program are superlative and program performance is quick and efficient. I hope to have more information on cSHELL after I get more time to spend with it. Although I have yet to really get into the program, it looks NEAT!!! Program cost is \$30.00, which includes S/H. That buys you two floppy disks and a 46 page manual. If you are interested, send your inquiries to;

Joe Ross
119 Knollwood Terrace
Clifton, NJ. 07012

DISCOVERIES:

Word is that Warren Agee is readying the next version of FirstBase and Genial Computerware is looking for suggestions from users on new features that they would like to see in it. You may write to Peter Hoddie at the Genial Computerware address with your suggestions.

J. Peter Hoddie has been working on a program tentatively named Sign Shop, that will operate like Broderbund's Print Shop for Apple and IBM type computers. JPH also intimated that he hopes to produce a Navarone to FirstBase conversion program to allow owners of the Navarone DBMS to port their data files over to FirstBase format.

Scott Darling, one of GENIE's TI-SIG hosts, has uploaded a neat file to the TI RoundTable that lists a ton (if not all) of the products and services available on GENIE. The file un-arc's to 359 sectors and prints out to 39 pages of information. If you are a GENIE subscriber and want to have a quick source for what GENIE has to offer, this is the file to spend your downloading dollars on. It covers everything from games to on-line shopping, with excellent descriptions of each product or service. If your club receives Four-A/Talk from me directly, the file should be available from your librarian. A TI-Base adaptation of the the short-list of GENIE's products is also available from your librarian as a shareware offering. I ask \$7 for a copy of it. I think that you will find it to be one of the best TI-Base command file programming examples around. It covers menu creation, and offers features to add, browse, change, find, list, report on and search for data. It also provides a command file to print a disk label for the diskette that you store the file on. I think TI-Base owners will like it.

VIEWS:

-Opinions expressed in the following article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent my ideas or opinions in the area(s) discussed.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

FUTURE SPECULATIONS

By Steve Nickelson, 919 Users Group
CompuServe 76545,1255; Delphi SMICKELSON; GENie S.Nickelson

As the second anniversary of the production model 9640 approaches, one can exercise some interesting speculation as to the future of Myarc is concerned. All that's required is an open mind and vivid imagination.

As with most computer manufacturers are concerned, the direction of product development and marketing plans are both driving and driven by the demands/needs of the market place. Apple, as an example, started as one of several companies in the market place, who eventually created their own niche in the market place to dominate; namely in the desktop publishing field. Today Apple enjoys the pleasant position of both generating and taking-care of the needs of their users.

With other models, their niche is not so clear and Myarc's approach of using an operating system, M-DOS, with the same instruction set as MS-DOS can be advantageous and a liability, at the same time. True MS-DOS was patterned after the CP/M operating system and provided a familiar feeling to users who changed from one system, to another, history does not necessarily repeat itself. Witness, the relatively few converts who moved up to OS/2, from MS-DOS. Besides, if a person were inclined to go the way of MS-DOS, wouldn't it seem logical that instead of buying a Geneve, they would buy a clone?

Granted, there is enough similarity that a user with an IBM or clone at work, could easily run a 9640, from MS-DOS. But the relative lack of software for the 9640, compared to the IBM world is a distinct disadvantage.

A mouse-driven "GEN-like" operating system would seem a better way to go, as the 9938 mouse and its VDP RAM could easily contain an instruction set of micros which could be selected by mouse, thus freeing the CPU for other tasks, or should I say multitasks.

The preference towards more simplified "non-technical" oriented operating systems seems to be the way to go, witness the popularity of Windows in the world of Big Blue. I digress too much back to the speculation as to where Myarc is leading/following.

As far as new hardware/software is concerned, Myarc is the manufacturing leader of new hardware. While the standard memory expansion card and disk controller cards have captured their share of the TI market place, the 9640 and Hard Floppy Disk Controllers, especially the HFDC, have created a significant market within a market. All new software, generally must address the compatibility "problem" with the 9640 and the HFDC. Here the hardware has impacted upon the software. So where do we go from here?

If we follow the development of the 9640, we must go back to 1983, when Myarc as a supply arm of TI had produced around 150 TI-99/8, when TI pulled-out of the market place, officially at least.

The large base of users still hoped for and expected someone to pick up the torch and produce the upgrade. The 9640 went through many changes, appearing in some TI publications as a stand-alone suspiciously similar to the 99/8. The discontinuation of the 9918 video chip by TI, along with the the trend towards larger RAM, than the 64K in the 99/8, delayed the introduction and drove up the costs of production. The memory jumped to 128K, then 256K and finally 512K. The need for a replacement video chip was answered by the Yamaha's advanced 9938 chip. To keep costs down, the computer evolved into a P-Box card, using an IBM style keyboard. This innovation led to the emergence of companies like RAVE, which make keyboard interfaces for 99/4A users.

Many of the bugs of the 9640 were resolved through the Myarc RAMdisk/expansion memory card, which had a "TI" version of 9640 Advance BASIC. This card was originally designed to work with the 9640 and as Lou Phillips had put it, the card was re-wired for the 99/4A. So the TI users beta tested both the memory expansion and Advance BASIC for the 9640. This kept costs down and helped promote compatibility between the 99/4A and 9640.

The 9640 is out and some final version of software packages are nearing completion. Where to now?

A couple of years ago, an interesting prototype was shown at the Chicago TI Fair, namely a 9640 incorporated into a Sony monitor with built-in 3-1/2" disk drive. Last fall, a non-functioning Myarc expansion system made its appearance at Chicago. Both of these systems point towards a stand-alone 9640, much like the original concept that embodied this computer.

Interviews from CompuServe, Delphi and in MICROpendium indicate that the 8-bit data bus in the P-Box limits the speed and memory capacity of the 9640, (which is about two Megabytes in its present form). Also, prototypes of a "new" 9640, with a 20 MHz clock reveal more of what may come. The upgrading of the O-wait state RAM for the CPU from 32K to 64K enables the 9640 to conceivably jump to a new GPL speed of 6.

The CorComp microexpansion system shows just how small a memory, RS-232, and disk controller could be made five years ago, so imagine what could be made today! Lou mentioned to me that a small extension to the 9640 could be made to provide for a RS-232 cua parallel printer port.

Lets put the pieces of the puzzle together and see what we could have; a stand alone super Geneve with 20 MHz, (I've heard that you could almost double the clock speed to 40), minimum of 2 Megabytes expandible to a full 16 Megabytes, with both a Hard/Floppy controller, with the same hi-res graphics and mouse capabilities as the 9640. This computer would have a minimum 16-bit databus, and super fast O-wait memory cache's. It wouldn't be TI compatible, but would be able to run the M-DOS software, Run time Pascal, Advance BASIC, GENIE, etc. or a modified version of this

software.

So we know what the next step of the 9640 evolution would look like, based on the evidence of the past, just who would buy such a unit and how would it be marketed?

Again we have some clues, but here not so clearly hinted. It has been mentioned that the new multifunction card will have a Yamaha music chip on the MIDI interface, as Myarc "has a good relationship with Myarc", having produced the 9938 video chip for the 9640. From this, a conceivable scenario could be of a stand alone 9640, running a software based Z-80 simulator, (much like the one Jim Ballentine developed and had running on a 9640), running as the GPL interpreter simulates the 99/4A. But, here the Z-80 simulator on this super Geneve would provide an upgrade for the Japanese MSX2 computers, which use the same 9938 video chip.

Myarc, could conceivably agree to have Yamaha and other Japanese MSX2 manufacturers produce under license Geneve overseas in high quantities for both their domestic and our markets, eventually both users weaned off of their respective GPL or Z-80 environment to one which uses the full power of the Geneve's native environment?

Who could be behind such a plan to capture two segments of the world computing market, in a "back door way"? Possibly Myarc's original patron Texas Instruments! So much for the power of a vivid imagination. The next few years reveal how accurate are such deduced speculations.

This Month in TI-99/4A History:

1981:

Proposal is made in fourth issue of the TIHOME Tidings magazine to set TIHOME up as a recognized Users Group by Texas Instruments.

1983

Anteater game module released.

-First issue of TI*NES is published by Britain Clive Scally.

1984:

JOYPRINT, a printer interface that is designed to work out of the joystick port, is released by Model Masters.

-Impending publication of the Super 99 Monthly magazine is announced by editor Richard Mitchell.

-Article appears in Popular Computing that derides TI and its non-standard 16 bit chip, citing the failure of the TI-99/4A as an example.

-QUICK COPYER is released by Quality 99 Software.

-TINY LOGO released for the 99/4A.

-WILD WOODS game program by JW Software debuts.

1985:

FUNNEL WRITER 2.1 arrives in the U.S., introducing the Australian programmers Tony and Will McGovern to the American TI-99/4A Community.

-Myarc announces XB II for use with its new Ram Disk.

-Navarone Industries announces its ill-fated HYWAY (Have it Your Way) program.

-TI-99/4A Users Association of Canada is formed with Jane LaFlamme as contact person for membership interest.

-Steve Lawless, author of MASSCOPY, has a new program available: 128-WRITER. It stores the TIW editor and formatter in bank 3 of the FOUNDATION 128K card.

1986:

Rave add-on keyboard announced for the 99/4A.

1987:

MICROpendium publishes the history of Disk Manager 1000.

-Federal Communications Commission plan to tax on-line communications services is announced.

-Ralph Fowler announces that his TIBBS, the first bulletin board system for the 99/4A, will shut down for lack of use.

1988:

Bill Knecht, pioneer member of the TI-HUG (Houston Texas Users Group) and long time programmer of music for the 99/4A, dies of cancer.

-McCann Software, Omaha, Nebraska, releases the Avant-99 Forth card for the 99/4A PE Box.

-Rave99 releases the MX01 Memory Enhancement System, which is a ram disk card capable of being configured to store up to 544K.

-Texsents, a New York based supplier of 99/4A products, relocates to Yaphank New York 11980, 244 Mill Road.

-John Guion, Dallas, Texas releases a plug in upgrade to the Triton/MG Super Extended Basic module that provides SXB, Disk Manager III, Editor/Assembler and TI-Writer capabilities in one module.

-Sierra On-Line, former producer of 99/4A game modules such as Jawbreaker, publically announces it will not enforce its 99/4A

copyrights.

-John Birdwell begins assembly language programming series for MICROPENDIUM. He decides to teach the language by making each published installment one part of a working word processor when complete.

-Ray Kazner, 13225 Azores Ave. Sylmar, Cal. 91342, becomes the first person in the history of MICROpendium magazine to have two articles, one review, one User Notes and a letter all published in the same issue.

TRIVIA:

Did you know that...

-Stephen Flanagan, the author of Data Base 1, marketed quite successfully by SPC Software out of Brightwaters, New York, is now doing his programming on the Commodore Amiga?

-Chicago TI-UG members Roger and Orlan Degris created a "49-99" keyboard for the 4A in 1985 that had a second function key? The additional key was built onto the existing 48-key board just to the left of the letter A. Sort of a compliment to the <ENTER> key in the same position on the right side of the board. I remember actually seeing one at the '86 Fest-West.

-John Keown, creator of the Module Emulator that was primarily marketed through Pilgrim's Pride in Philadelphia, is credited with giving Myarc's computer on a card the "Geneve" name? The name apparently came from a framed print that was hanging on a wall in Lou Phillips' place. Lou gave the computer the 9640 designation, the 9 coming from the 9900 series chip that the computer is based on and the 640 coming from the size of the RAM that it comes with.

-Texas Instruments had a promotional policy in effect that offered a free "Teach Yourself Basic" cassette to 99/4A purchasers? I haven't been able to discover when it ended, but it was still in effect in May of 1984 for those who had proof of purchase prior to October 31, 1983.

-The famous random number generator benchmark that compared the 99/4A to Apple, IBM and Osborne 1 computers (and that showed it outperforming them) appeared in an article in the July-August '84 issue of Interfaces Magazine, pages 81-87? The article was authored by D.T. Modianos, R. Scott and L.W. Cornwell.

-Another obscure article on the 99/4A appeared in the Journal of Computers in Math and Science Teaching, in the Fall of 1983, that discussed 99/4A computers as science lab instruments. The article appeared on page 28 and was authored by Frederick Thomas.

-While supporting the TI Community, Navarone Industries moved from one address in Sunnyvale, California to another one, then to Sonoma, California, then to Texas, back to California and ultimately back to Texas again? (whew!)

Until next time...

IN THE NEWS

By Gary W. Cox

Texas Instruments has announced the startup of a TI-CARE Forum BBS. The BBS is a multi-line system permitting access by several users. The system contains general information about TI products and services. Users who have purchased TI-CARE Support Services have access to technical information... The number for the system is (512) 250-6112 300/1200/2400 bd 24hrs a day. Call for more information... Also remember TI Customer Service if you need repair of your TI99/4a or TI brand equipment is still (VOICE) 1-800-TI-CARIS or (806) 747-1882.

According to the May 1989 West Penn 99er newsletter of Jeannette, PA Gary Bowser of Toronto, Ont Canada has been working on a Z80 card to run in the PEB with the TI99/4a or Geneve 9640. The card is said to allow a user to run Z80 assembly code plus the games from Colecovision with a big increase in speed over other Z80 computers. This is because the card is said to run at up to 25Mhz, which is about 6 times faster than most Z80 machines. The card is described as able to fully interface with the TI 9900 microprocessor in a coprocessor/multiprocessor type system to give you the increased speed and memory in TI programs designed with the Z80 code, making use of the many possible functions with the cards CPU and memory. Gary is currently looking for a Morningstar CP/M card in order to make his card compatible with any CP/M software that was written for it. For more information write Gary Bowser, 432 Jarvis Street #502, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y-2H3 Canada or call (416) 960-0925.

W. Irving Crowley author of Checkbook Manager III has now increased the price of his program from \$10 to \$12 with a new improved version released. You can order the program directly from him at Lost Canyon Road, Pine Level, AL 36065. This program will be demonstrated at this months meeting.

The Miami Users Group is offering a program called BOOT which allows users to use the John Johnsons ram disk menu program without having a ram disk... Price is \$7.95. Write Yvette McKenzie, 6775 Tamiami Canal Road, Miami, FL 33126.

The following edited from the June 1989 Micropendium.

The Chicago TI Users Group has announced its annual TI-Faire for November 4th at the Holiday Inn at 3505 Algonquin Rd. in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. A social mixer will be held from 8pm until midnight November 3rd with the fair from 9am to 5pm the following day. A dinner will be held after the fair. The TI-Faire is held in conjunction with the Milwaukee TI Faire November 5th at the Quality Inn, 5311 S. Howell, Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin. For further information contact Sandy Bartels, Chicago TI99/4a Users

Group, P.O. Box 578341, Chicago, IL 60657 or phone (312) 859-3850. For information on the Milwaukee TI-Faire contact Gene Hitz, 4122 N. Glenway, Wauwatosa, WI 53222 or call (414) 535-0133. If we attend this years fair it will make the fifth year in a row that our group has attended! Lets GO!

Billed by its sponsoring group as the World's Faire of TI Shows, TI International Expo 89 is scheduled for September 16 at the Howard Johnson Inn in Alexandria, Virginia. The event is sponsored by the Mid Atlantic Ninety-Niners. The show is scheduled for 9am to 5pm on the exhibition floor at the inn, at 5821 Richmond Highway and I-95 on the Capital Beltway. A preshow reception will be held at 6pm the night before the event and a postshow reception 6pm on the event date followed by a dinner at 7pm. For further information write MANERS, TI International Expo 89, P.O. Box 40005, Rockville, MD 20850 or (301) 340-7179.

TI-Fest West 90 is scheduled for February 17 and 18 at Days Inn in Tucson, Arizona located at 88 E. Broadway just off I-40. The event is sponsored by the Southwest 99ers. For more information call (602) 747- 5046 or the Cactus Patch BBS at (602) 795-1953.

Texaments is currently testing a new high speed sorting utility for TI- BASE owners. The sort utility is expected to be announced during the third quarter of 1989. Texaments has also announced that they are trying to compile articles on TI-BASE. Texaments is asking that anyone who has written an article or utility to send it to them. Texaments hopes to make the materials available FREE of charge to TI- BASE owners. For more information write Texaments at 244 Mill Rd., Yaphank, NY 11980 or call (516) 475-3480 or (516) 345-2134.

The Massachusetts TI Users Group is offering the TI Adventure Compendium Disk set. The set is said to contain games requiring Adventure or Tunnels of Doom module while some work through Extended BASIC, BASIC, Mini-Memory, TE2 or Editor/Assembler. Price is \$11.95 for three DS/DD disks, \$15.95 for five DS/SS disks or \$19.95 for 10 SS/SD disks. To order make checks payable to M.U.N.C.H., P.O. Box 7193, Worcester, MA 001605-7193.

Barry Boone is offering a new upgrade EPROM for the Mechatronics 80 column card which among other things fixes many bugs. For information write P.O. Box 1233, Sand Springs, OK 74063 or phone (918) 356-4648 8- 10pm CST and weekdays 10am to 10pm.

Also for more information on the above news consult the June 1989 Micropendium Magazine. A GREAT source for TI99/4a material!

GENEVE NOTES

By Beery W. Miller

Well, the Geneve appears to be coming along pretty good lately. In the last month, Myarc has released what they say is a bug free version of Advanced Basic that is bug free by testing each individual command. Myarc is asking anyone testing their 'beta' version to please notify them of any bugs they locate when larger programs are used and bugs are found. Myarc has also commented that the Pascal runtime system will be coming along shortly, but I wouldn't hold your breath as I am sure they will have 'beta' versions with their Pascal system too with my prediction it will appear around the Chicago fair.

Floppy support for the HDCC and the Geneve is approaching that of being finished. Version 0.95H has implemented most usages, however, the formatting ability is still unstable. It is supposed to be fixed in an 'in-house' version of MDOS 1.15H.

Ron Walters has written an extremely nice utility that runs out of MDOS. It is called MEMTEST and it will check for all available memory in the Geneve and report what memory is free, amount of fast ram available, and do a byte check on every location and report any errors it finds. What is really nice about this program is that it was written in 9640 Fortran and it used a lot of it's features. The graphics that are displayed when each 8K bank is checked along with the other information that is displayed on the screen must be seen by every Geneve user. It shows the beginnings of what 'CAN' be really done with the Geneve and also not too mention 9640 Fortran.

Also, Vol 1 #3 of 9640News has been released by myself. This issue provided one of my largest assembly language endeavors to date. The program called MT9640 permits you to create a John Johnson style Menu as we have seen on the 4A with the ability to create your own menus, view text files, display disk directory, clone disks, format disks, and the ability for the user to designate what programs he would like to Multi-task (run at the same time). This program is fairware unless you are a 9640News subscriber.

Also released on the same disk were utilities expanding upon the use using the 9938 VDP graphics capabilities in extended basic. One program called XHI (now V3.0) permits the use of the bitmap graphics for drawing and various pitch sizes of text, the ability to display My-Art pictures and many other features too numerous to mention. By the same author was a program called X80 that permitted one to use the extended basic environment in 80 columns along with the use of true inverse video, blinking, tabbing within ACCEPT statements, and several other features. Both of these programs run on any 80 column card. If you do not have an 80 column card, you should try to get one as they have been retailing around \$100.00 and are worth it. "9640NEWS" also included the latest in news, some 9640 Fortran demos, the use of inverse video and blinking in MDOS programming and many other files.

Some of the latest news concerning the Geneve has been Bud Mills and Ron Walters development of a plug in 512K memory expansion card. Several memory options are available from a minimum of approximately \$210 to over \$600. Call Bud Mills before ordering to obtain the current price quotes as chip prices have been fluctuating lately.

There has also now been some confirmations of problems with disks that utilize the advanced features of Hyper-Copy. Several of my subscribers have noticed that the disks I distribute may not work on one drive, but will work on another drive. Since skew and interlace are involved with Hyper-Copy to optimize disk copying and formatting times and that is what I use, that appears to be the problem. All subscribers that have reported the problem have commented this occurs with older drives or drives that have been realigned (sorta reminds me of Dicko's drives he had realigned). If you are swapping disks that you have copied with Hyper-Copy, be aware if a problem such as this occurs. It's not that you got a bad copy of the disk or anything is wrong with Hyper-Copy, but that the disk drive is not fast enough with the requirements of the disk to read in some of that 'in between the sector information' that is required.

I would also like to make some remarks with some programming in assembly language I have encountered to pass on to those that are still trying to get that first program written. If you wish to Multi-task your program with any other program, the filename and length must be in memory at a location lower than >2000. Somewhere in the neighborhood of >400 to >2000 as a bug in MDOS (has been fixed in later versions) does not permit it to be outside of that range. I have also been trying to run MDOS from MDOS. The CLI (v1.14 Command Line Interpreter) uses memory pages >06,>02,>0B,>11 for it's address space of >0000 to >7FFF when those pages are mapped into the memory mapper at >F110,>F111,>F112,>F113. When these pages are mapped in, you actually have running what you see on the screen as being the normal MDOS program. I have gotten as far as making some patches to the code and some appropriate Branches to install a program within the operating system and to run MDOS from MDOS. My goals are to be able to install a memory resident program and to flip back and forth from MDOS/Install program at will. Somewhere in the near future this may be accomplished.

That is about all I can think of that has happened recently with the Geneve. So until next month, or when I have time to write again.

IN THE MIDNIGHT HOUR

By Michael Loran

BBS Activity

As many of you already know, The Midnight Hour BBS has been locking up a lot lately. I finally narrowed the problem down to a faulty serial port (COM1). I have switched the BBS operation to COM2 and that has seemed to fix the problem. Now I need to buy another serial card for COM1 (sigh).

I have also deleted a lot of PC and GIF files to clear room on the hard drive for more 4A and 9640 files. This seems to be an ongoing process as the BBS contains one of the largest 41/9640 collections around (excluding national services like GENie, CompuServe, and Delphi.)

Speaking of national telecommunication services, the Source has been purchased by CompuServe and will cease operation on August 1, 1989. Current Source subscribers have been given the option to join CompuServe. I started in telecommunications by joining Texnet on the Source several years ago. Boy, does that seem a long time ago. The TI sign on CompuServe, Delphi, and GENie all seem to be doing quite well. (I belong to all three!)

New Uploads

The major upload this month is TIPS. Tips is a program and collection of picture files. The picture files were gathered from PC public domain sources and converted to TI internal format. Tips is an Extended BASIC program that lists, views and prints these picture files. There is also an included program to convert these pictures to TI Artist Instances.

Tips is by Ron Wolcott and is a major project. The files include TIPS.ARK, TIPS.PT1 through TIPS.PTH. That's right! There are 18 archived files in this collection. TIPS.PT1 through TIPS.PTH are collections of pictures from A to Z. Check this program and collection of picture files out! This is an incredible public domain project. Thanks, Ron!

Other 4A files include:

COOLER.BOX - File on how to make a PEB cooler.

HDDATA.ARK - A useful file listing the heads/cylinders of many hard drives.

GENIE.LST - Listing and TI-Basic adaptation of GENie GENIE.TIB services. See Bill Gaskill's article in this newsletter.

PARK117.ARK - Version 1.17 of Jesse Slicer's hard

drive head parking program.

- COLUMN4.ARK - A GOOD text columnizer. Runs from XB.
TIDOS.ARK - A beginning MS-DOS-like command set that uses M.Riccio's Enhanced Display Package.
XXB1-5.ARK - A collection of CALL LINKS that extend XB by Barry Traver and friends. Compiled by Barry from GENIAL TRAVELER. Very Good!

Geneve 9640 files include:

- CTANGLES.ARK - P.Dam's c99/MDOS graphic demos.
MENU4OPK.ARK - P.Dam's MENU40 package
V9938TEX.ARK - Source files for using TEXT2 mode
ABASIC.ARK - 6/30/89 version of Advanced Basic
CLRDEMOS.ARK and Demonstration programs.
DEMOS-A.BAS Docs for mouse usage.
ABHOUSE.ARK
FBLOCKH.ARK - Fortran 9640 new BLOCKH routines
MMDELPHI.ARK - (X)B Fortran 9640 programs to read
FORDELPH.ARK and store Delphi message base (TI)
LOGITECH - Instructions for using Hi-rez Logitech
LOGI2.TXT mouse with 9640. Lo-rez docs by Beery.
KGMUSIC.ARK - Ken Gilliland's c99/MDOS music
KGMUS_S.ARK programs with source code.
MEMTEST.ARK - An excellent memory testing program.
Includes expanded memory.
192KNOD - How to add additional VDP RAM.

Next Month

Next month, U.S. Mail and Asgard willing, I will review Asgard's new Page Pro 99. This program is already a "hit" and appears to be picking up steam all the time. There are already several programs built around Page Pro. One of them is by Ed Johnson, the programmer of Page Pro. It converts TIPS pictures to Page Pro pics.

I will also be demonstrating Page Pro 99 soon at one of the meetings. See you next month!

NOTICE

Information contained in TidBits is accurate and true to the best of our knowledge. Viewpoints and opinions expressed in TidBits are not necessarily that of the Mid-South 99'ers. We welcome any opinions/corrections from our readers. Articles may be reprinted elsewhere as long as credit is given to the author and newsletter.

GROUP INFO

Visitors and potential members may receive 3 free issues of TidBits while they decide if they wish to join (no obligation). On the top of your label is a code. A Y means you are a member, N means 3 free list, UG means user group and S means a business. Beside the Y is a date, one year from that date your dues are due. A dollar sign (\$) on the label will indicate that your dues are due. The library is open only to members. Library list is \$1. Mail order disk library access is \$2 for the first disk and \$1 for each additional disk - max of 5 disks per month. Order by disk number only. At meetings, library access is FREE if you exchange your disk for ours or \$1 per disk for our disks. Send all mail order library requests to librarian's address! Send dues and correspondence to group address.

CALENDAR

MEETINGS: July 20, August 17 (3rd Thursday!)
WORKSHOPS: July 22, August 26 (4th Saturday!)

24HR TI BULLETIN BOARD

The Midnight Hour BBS 300/1200/2400/9600 Hayes 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
Gerrantown, Tn. 38183-0522

LIBRARY ADDRESS

David Ferguson
3377 Creighton Ave.
Memphis, TN 38118

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NAME _____ \$15.00 FAMILY
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