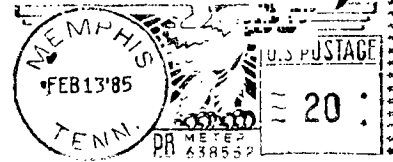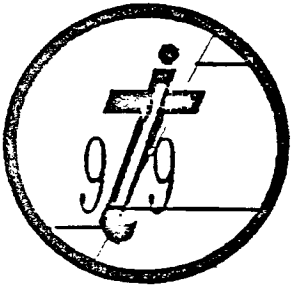# MID-SOUTH 99

USERS GROUP

P.O. Box 38522   Germantown, Tn   38138

tdbits

PRESIDENTS BIT

Welcome to the All New Presidents Bit! TA..DA! Ok as the new president elect I promise to make Gary Cox do all the work! Now that I got that out of the way, I'd like to ask again that all members tell us what it is you would like to see done at the meetings. Also what is it you want out of the Club? The Newsletter? The Officers? The Bulletin Board? Sure we can do it all, but its so much easier if you give just a little input as to just what it is you want. Us new guys have some great ideas and things planned as did those before us.

Let anyone of us know what's on your mind, so we can get it into action for you and the rest of the group. Remember the group can only be as good as its members will let it be. And that means you and me John Q TI-user! We're not dead and are not going to let anyone talk us out of our choice in computers. We know our machine is just as good if not better than a lot of the others. With all the new add on peripherals stand-alone and plug in cards it's a wonder that someone does not go ahead and make a 4A upgradeable right now! Hint: someone is rumored to be doing just that! So save that money and watch this space before jumping ship, you might just be in for a big suprise later on this year.

Well this will be my first and last Presidents Bit. Why? Well to make a long story short I'm moving in Febuary a week before the meeting. But enough of that. I'll still be a big part of this group because I plan to send articles via modem at least once a month after I get settled. The Disk-a-Zine will go back into full swing (was it ever) since I'll have more time to give to it (I hope!). It has been a great two years and I have met many wonderful people, and have learned much from many of you. You know its strange. You think that things will stay the same forever and then something comes along and changes it all around. This change I think will be good for me and a chance to grow and find out what I can or can't do. Boy I sure hope its more can than can't!

<div align="center">
Bert Jones
President
</div>

~ ~~~~~~

VICE-PRESIDENT BIT

Thanks to all who voted for me in the last election. I think that
we . have a bigger and better year ahead. TI is not dead yet! In
the past few months I have seen more software and hardware than
when TI's were still being produced! I have also heard of plans of
new equipment such as a modem card and already someone has taken
up producing Extended BASIC. Cards like a CP/M card, 80 column
card and more are coming out with the prices also going down.   I
have even heard a rumor that somone may produce a console that is
compatible with the TI99/4A system possibly having 64K CPU ram,
16K VDP ram and built in Extended BASIC! I think that the TI will
continue to be alive and grow for some time to come. Now I would
like to thank Mac Swope and his Father for bringing and
demonstrating the Stero Music Synthesizer card at the last
meeting. If you missed it, it was really something fantastic! I
have some plans that I hope will equal the magnificence of the
music card for this coming meeting. If you have some suggestions
on what you would like to see demonstrated at future meetings just
holler....I hope to see you there....

                              Gary Cox

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

First of all let me explain what a programming lanugage is. The
program is the instructions that tell the computer exactly what to
do.   Without these instructions the computer can do nothing. To
make it easier to give the computer these instructions different
types of computer languages were devised to suit the purpose of
the programmer. The fastest most efficient programming language
is machine language followed by Assembly language. Both of these
languages are referred to as low level languages.   A low level
language is a language that is close to what the computer actually
uses however, low level languages are more oriented to the
computer and its machine-like procedures and is more difficult for
humans to understand.   Therefore high level languages were
developed which are more human oriented and easier and faster for
the programmer to use. However, high level languages are usually
slower and have less capabilities than low level languages. FORTH
is a high level language but remains close to machine language in
efficiency and speed. BASIC is a high level language as well as
Fortran (used to ease computation of scientific formulas) and
COBOL (used to ease the handling of business oriented problems)
and there are many more..... So the reason for many different
programming languages is to make the task of programming easier
and faster for the programmer.

                              Gary Cox

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COMET SPLICE

Here is a program that I call COMET SPLICE which gives a fantastic
demonstration of the sprite capabilities of Extended BASIC.

```
10 ! COMET SPLICE
20 ! BY DANNY COX
30 !
40 CALL CLEAR :: CALL MAGNIFY(2):: CALL SCREEN(2):: CALL CHAR(140,
"0102040810204080"):: FOR X=1 TO 28
50 CALL SPRITE(#X,140,X/2+2,92,124,0,0):: NEXT X
60 FOR T=2 TO 18 STEP 4 :: FOR K=1 TO T :: FOR I=1 TO 28 :: CALL M
OTION(#I,K-I,I-K):: NEXT I :: NEXT K :: FOR M=1 TO T+2 :: FOR N=1
TO 28
70 CALL MOTION(#N,N-M,M-N):: NEXT N :: NEXT M :: NEXT T :: RUN
```

Danny Cox

CURSOR REDEFINER

This Extended BASIC program will redefine the cursor into the
shape of Texas. This program also requires memory expansion.

```
1 ! CURSOR REDEFINER
2 CALL INIT
3 CALL LOAD(8196,63,248)
4 CALL LOAD(16376,67,85,82,83,79,82,48,8)
5 CALL LOAD(12288,48,48,63,255,254,124,24,12)
6 CALL LOAD(12296,2,0,3,240,2,1,48,0,2,2,0,8,4,32,32,36,4,91)
7 CALL LINK("CURSOR")
8 CALL COLOR(0,16,1)
9 ! REST OF PROGRAM HERE
```


MicroPal XBASIC

Microsphere Inc., a manufacturer and distributer of home computer
products, has announced the availability of the MicroPal Extended
BASIC cartridge. The company said shipments were to begin in late
December. Microsphere is producing the cartridge under license
from Texas Instruments and plans nationwide distribution to
wholesalers and retailers. The suggested retail price is $89.95.
The company guarantees that MicroPal Extended BASIC is 100 percent
compatible with all commercial and user-written programs requiring
TI Extended BASIC. For more information contact Microsphere at
14009 E. Jefferson Blvd. Mishawaka, IN 46545, 1-800-348-2778 or
(1-219-259-7040 in Indiana). The cartridge can be obtained locally
through Larry Hamel of Computer Systems Support at 901-872-4742 at
a price slightly below suggested retail.

Edited from MICROpendium January 1985 issue.

SOFTWARE GIVEAWAY

Danny Michael, of Route 9 Box 460, Florence, Alabama 35630, has a screen dump program that he wants to give away. Michael wrote the unprotected utility program in asselbly language. It requires Extended BASIC and a disk system and works with Epson/Gemini-type printers. The program disk includes instructions and fully commented source code. "All one has to do to get the program is to send me an initialized disk along with a stamped, self-addressed disk mailer," he writes. Or users may send $5 instead and Michael will provide the program disk, mailer and postage. Michael says. "Not only are you allowed to give copies to your friends, I request that you do so."

RESIDENT DIRECTORY

Myarc Inc., which several months ago introduced a disk controller card capable of handling double-density, double-sided diskettes, is releasing a chip that will allow owners of the card to have a resident disk directory available for use. at any time. The directory can be operated without losing the contents of the computer's memory. According to spokesmam Lou Phillips, the directory can be called at any time and takes up about one kilobyte of the card's memory. There remains another kilobyte which the company expects to utilize with a future enhancement. Under consideration is a routine similar to the "Load and Run" option of the Editor/Assembler cartridge. Phillips notes that Myarc has been very busy lately. "We're cranking out the RS232 and disk controller cards by the thousands," he says. "Everybody is calling Myarc now." Myarc peripheral cards are available through a number of dealers. The company can be reached at P.O. Box 140, Basling Ridge, NY 07920, (201) 766-1700.

PRICE CHANGES

Morning Star Software has announced a price reduction on its CP/M processor card for the peripheral expansion box. Originally priced at $595, the company has reduced the cost to $495. The card operates in the Osborne I single-density, single-sided format. Osborne is a 50-column computer, and the Morning Star card offers a 40-column display. Both the Osborne and Morning Star systems use scrolling and windowing to utilize 80-column CP/M software. For more information, contact Morning Star Software at 4325 SW 109th Ave., Beaverton, Oregon 97005

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FREE SOFTWARE

Ramsoft Enterprises, 1501 E. Chapman Ave.,Suite 338, Fullerton Ca
92631, is offering its Computer Craps game free to TI users.   The
game features a California Layout (craptable), sprite dice, chips,
sound and optional speech.   Instructions are included on the disk
and can be printed out using TI-Writer. Betting options include
Pass Line, Come Line, Field, Don't Pass, Big 6, Big 8 and Place
bets.   The program requires a memory expansion, a disk drive and
Extended BASIC. It sold originally for $14.95.   According to
Ramsoft, "Although te program is copyrighted (to prevent it from
legally being resold for profit), the user will be granted
permission to freely distribute the program as long as it is not
distributed for profit, and as long as the dedication screen is
not removed.   Users groups are encouraged to distribute it to
their members (on a non-profit basis)." Included is the program,
instructions, and the source code for the assembly language
routine. Those who would like to recieve a copy must send an
initialized disk and $2 to cover shipping and handling to Ramsoft
Enterprises.

<div align="center">From MICROpendium January 1985 issue</div>

TI BASIC MUSIC

This program comes from Michael Christianson of Pekin, Illonois in
which he won first prize in a Software Improvement Contest in
MICROpendium magazine. Entrants were asked to make improvements
to a brief program that simulates an organ in BASIC.   Entries were
limited to 1,500 bytes. The program uses the left side fo the
keyboard to represent the natural notes and the right side to
represent the sharps and flats. The program includes a screen
depicting a piano-like keyboard with white and black keys.   When a
key on the console is presed, a musical note appears on the screen
keyboard to indicate the location of the key. Also, a red musical
note symbol is placed on the screen in a ramdom position.   Each
time a key is pressed, another note symbol is added to the
display. Also two keys may be pressed at the same time.

<div align="center">Edited from MICROpendium January 1985 issue</div>

TIBBS

TIBBS is going to go through another change! With our illustrious
president of the month about to move off to some god-forsaken part
of the universe (I here it is really pretty country), it will be
necessary to move the board to someone else's house and get
another telephone installed and this will probably mean a new
number for the board. We will try to inform everyone what the new
number is as soon as we know.

Hopefully the board can be back on the air in a very short time
but don't be suprised if it takes a while (maybe a month or so.)

In the meantime, keep in touch with each other on some of the
other boards around town.

<div align="center">6</div>

MODEM BIT

Those of you using the TE2 for telephone comminications with BBS's and Compuserve and other services have probably noticed that the TE2 has a small text buffer which saves only about 4 or so screens full of data and any over that is scrolled off. Using the following procedures you can obtain an almost unlimited text buffer for a cost of almost free! (this will work only with acoustic modems.) First go to Radio Shack and buy a Telephone Pickup cord used to record telephone conversations (#44-533). It only costs about $1.99. You will notice on one end is a suction cup which has a microphone in it. The other end has a jack to plug into the microphone jack of a tape recorder. Place the suction cup on the listening piece of your telephone and plug the other end into your recorder. Then press record and call the modem service and perform all operations as normal. When you are through and log off rewind the tape. Now with your TE2 still operating put the modem in originate and press play on the recorder. Adjust the volume to only loud enough for the ready light (carrier detect light) to come on. Everything that you did while connected will be displayed just exactly as it happened. You may press fast forward on the recorder if you wish to advance ahead. One word of caution, keep the suction cup microphone away from transformers, televisions, or any electrical device as they will cause a humming noise interfering with the recording. Of course you will have to have the microphone close to the modem but only a slight humming noise will be detected and your modem should filter out the noise when you play the tape back. As for those with acoustic modems you might (on some) place the suction cup microphone on top of the modem to record but I do not know how you would play it back to the modem.

Gary Cox

LIBRARY BIT

Hello all and welcome to the New Library.

I wish to thank Bob Conner and staff for the wonderful job they've done in the past. We have 50+ disks full of programs available to members, free of charge. I would also like to thank Howard Watson and Company for starting and maintaining a group of this magnitude and stature.

I will be your new Library Chairman, and Danny Cox is Co-Chairman. We will try to make this a useful and rewarding function, as much as possible, to ALL members. I haven't, as of yet, considered assistants due to concentrating all efforts to getting the library complete for the next meeting.

At this time, the number of programs catalogued is nearing 300. I expect to have well over 350 at this month's meeting. A new database program, written especially for the library, has been written and developed by none other than our own Dick Vandenberg. The program listings are now more complete giving more information on particular programs. The databse does a very good job as you

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will be able to see for yourself at the meeting. Dick, take a
bow, you deserve it!

We have found some very interesting programs. For instance, how
would you like to be able to change the shape of your cursor?
Those of you with editor/assembler or ext/basic and mem exp may
run this simple program or include it in your programs as I have.
This is only a very small example of what is available.

This is your library to use not abuse. Respect for others goes a
long way. So if these rules seem harsh, they are necessary so
that every member may be entitled to obtain full benefit of the
features of the library.

Now for the library laws and procedures:

The library will be opened at 6:45 and will recess when the main
program starts. Requests may be submitted at this time. Also ALL
items checked out the month prior must be returned during this
time.

After the meeting presentation is over the library will resume
business till 9:00 or there abouts.

All requests must be submitted with the following information:

1. Your name
2. Your ID #
3. Date of request
4. The name of the item(s)
5. The XREF # of your software request(s).

It is not the task of the library to perform software demos during
times of business.

ALL items checked-out must be checked back in at the next meeting.

Failure to cooperate will be handled in the following manner:

1 month late, results in a limited status.

2 months and over, results in a restricted status.

        Limited status means you may receive software only.(no
magazines, cartridges etc.).

        Restricted status means you are restricted from library
priveliges for the amount of time you were overdue. If you
are unable to return the materal by the next meeting please
let me or one of the officers know.

Submissions: Submissions are always welcome, however they must be
              user written or public domain. They will be in the
              library at the next meeting. Noteworthy submissions
              will be published in the next month's newsletter for
              all to see. So get busy, learn, and enjoy.

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Media:

Tapes: If your requests must be on tape, there will be a $0.60
       charge for each blank tape required. Unless of course you
       supply your own blank tape(s). If you want your tape
       before the next meeting, postage must also be given. I
       will check the post office for local delivery charge.

Disks: If you bring your own formatted disks, you may possibly be
       able to receive your requests at the meeting, depending on
       time availability. I don't think it is a good idea to send
       disks through the mail as it is costly and damage prone.
       But if you are willing to risk it, I'll be happy to
       accomodate you. Blank disks are $1.75 should you forget to
       bring one. If you can wait, your disks will be ready for
       you at the next meeting or workshop.

Help: If you would like to see your library grow, you may key in
programs for yourself, submit them to the library for others to
enjoy and/or use. It would also be beneficial to demonstrate this
new program at the meeting, of course it is not necessary.

Your cooperation is sincerely appreciated,

                         Pierre LaMontagne,
                         Chairman, Library

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

On your newsletter you will notice some figures above your name
and address. The first figure should be a Y if you are a member.
The next figure is the date that you joined or last paid your
dues. If you have not paid your dues for a year you need to do
so. If there is an 83 there you especially need to do so. The
next figure is the date you last attended a meeting. So if your
membership dues are due please pay up so you will continue to get
your newsletter, library access and all of the other benefits.
Thank you.

AT THIS MONTHS MEETING

At this months meeting a program called "Graphics Construction
Kit" will be demonstrated. It is a fanstastic program in which
the user draws graphics on the screen using the joystick and the
computer will write a complete program which will reproduce the
graphics for use in your own programs.. Also, an educational
program for children called "The First Step" will be demonstrated
as well as a game called "The Quest Beyond". So I think this
meeting will have something for everyone of all ages and
interests. These programs were made available for demonstration
by Infosoft through Computer Systems Support. I would like to
thank these people for allowing us to view these fine programs.
We need to support these companys and many others like them who
continue to support us.

                         Gary Cox

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ANNUAL DUES

Is your annual membership due? To find out, look at the mailing
sticker on the back of this newsletter. If it has dollar signs
($$$) on it, it is time to renew your membership. Your membership
in the group is required for use of the library, the Bargain
Corner deals and the newsletter. Your dues are the only funding
the group has to pay its bills and produce and mail the
newsletter, so please pay when your time comes. It is only
$15.00.

PROTECTION

There are strong FEDERAL LAWS against duplicating copyrighted
programs. Please don't break these laws!

I

LIBRARY PROGRAM ORDER FORM

ID # _____ NAME _____ PHONE (___) ____-_____

   COPIES ON TAPE   TAPE TURNED IN _____

1. _____ 3. _____
2. _____ 4. _____

   OR

   COPIES ON DISK   DISK TURNED IN _____

1. _____ 4. _____
2. _____ 5. _____
3. _____ 6. _____

COMMENTS:

|_| YES, I WOULD LIKE TO WORK ON THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.
Mail form to: Pierre LaMontagne, 3805 Denver, Memphis, Tn., 38127

DISCLAIMER

ANNOUNCEMENT

The TIdBits newsletter is available in LARGE PRINT for the visually impaired. Contact Brenda Watson for copies.

FREE NEWSLETTERS

When you come to a meeting as a visitor for the first time and become registered on our files by filling out a "User Profile" sheet (does not obligate you to join), you will automatically receive three issues of our newsletter, **TIdBits.** If you have not joined our club within three months, you will notice three pound signs (###) on your mailing label. That means this is the last free newsletter you will receive. You must pay the annual membership dues to continue receiving **TIdBits** afterwards. Watch your newsletter label and pay your dues to ensure that you keep receiving the newsletter.

CALENDAR

MEETINGS: February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9.

WORKSHOPS: February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18.

OFFICERS

	President	
Gary Cox	Vice-President	358-0667
Yvonne Morgan	Secretary	372-7002
Tara Kirby	Treasurer	388-1104
Pierre LaMontagne	Chairman – Library	353-3067
Howard Watson	Editor – Newsletter	755-4859

GROUP MAILING ADDRESS

Mid-South 99 Users Group
P.O. Box 38522
Germantown, Tn. 38138-0522

NOTICES

MEETING
7:00 P.M.
Thursday, February 14
Auditorium
Memphis Board of Education
2597 AVERY
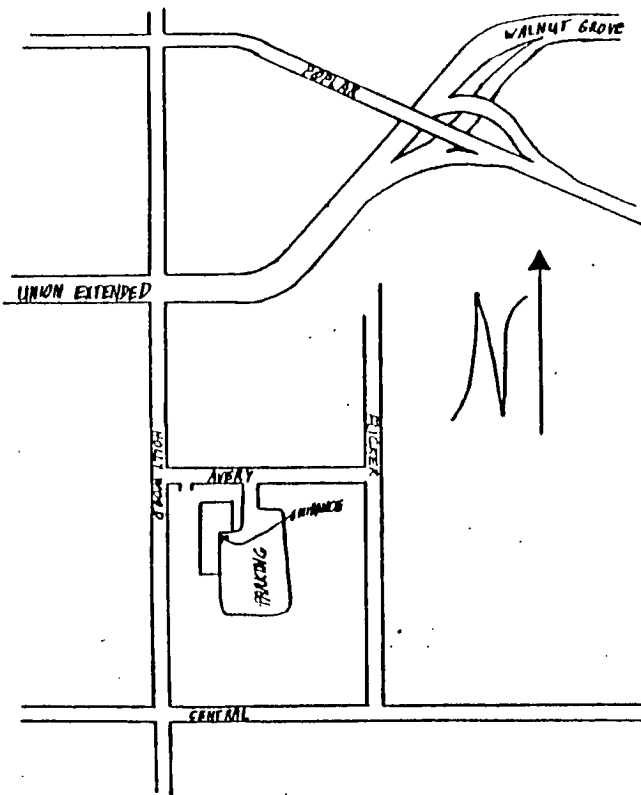(Parking and entrance in the rear)

WORKSHOP
9:00 - 12:00
Saturday, February 16
Fellowship Hall
Park Av. Cumberland
Presbyterian Church
3261 Park Av. at Greer

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ |_| FAMILY $15.00
ADDRESS _____ |_| JUNIOR (under 15) $10.00
CITY _____ ST __ ZIP _____   INTERESTS _____
PHONE   (___) ___ - _____   _____
EQUIPMENT & SOFTWARE: _____   _____

Detach and mail with check payable to: Mid-South 99 Users Group,
P.O. Box 38522, Germantown, Tn, 38138-0522.