

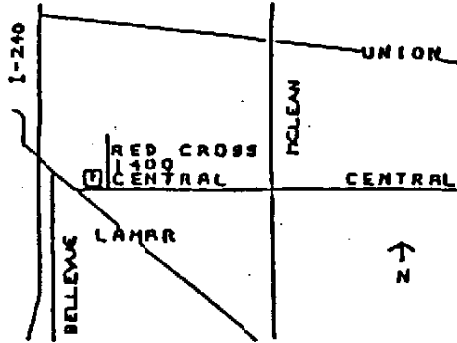
NOTICES

MEETING

7:00 P.M.
Thursday, September 17th
Red Cross Building
1400 Central Av.

WORKSHOP

9 A.M. till noon
Saturday September 26th
Ricard Miller's place
5704 Maple Tree Dr
Memphis, Tn 38115



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ \$15.00 FAMILY
 ADDRESS _____ \$10.00 JUNIOR (under 15)
 CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ \$10.00 ASSOCIATE (N/L only)
 PHONE () _____ INTERESTS _____

EQUIPMENT, ETC. _____

Detach and mail with check payable to: Mid-South 99 Users Group,
 P.O. Box 38522, Germantown, Tn, 38183-0522.

Y 5/87
 FLOYD J. FEMBERTON, JR.
 481 SPRUCE
 LEWISVILLE, TX 75067

MID SOUTH 99/49
 USERS GROUP

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 38522 GERMANTOWN, TN38183-0522

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T I D B I T S

EDITORIAL

This issue will be the last newsletter published by the Mid-South 99 User Group due to lack of articles, lack of interest and lack of help. That's not really true but maybe it got your attention as we really do need help with the newsletter and if not you may see that message for real sometime in the future... We do GREATLY appreciate those few who have been helping with the newsletter and volunteering to do other things in the group!

An assistant newsletter editor is badly needed! We need someone responsible and reliable who can call around and organize help in production of the newsletter, help in the collection of newsletter articles, assist in meeting newsletter deadlines and helping out the newsletter editor (Al Doss) who is still overloaded in production of the newsletter... No experience is necessary just a desire to help is all that is required. We still need articles as well! This month only a few people turned in an article which included some that I typed in from other sources. The deadline for articles are the end of each month for the next months newsletter. I know many of you are busy as myself... so does anyone have any suggestions?

A newsletter may not be published in October as Al has other commitments and will be unable to produce the newsletter. So unless someone volunteers to take over for a month we will have to skip the October newsletter in which case will be the first time in five years we have not produced a newsletter.

To end this article I saw the following bulletin on Memphis Microsystems BBS which I felt is an appropriate ending.

This is a sad story about four people... Their names were... Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody!... All were employed by the same large corporation!...

There was an "important" job that had to be done!... Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it. Somebody thought Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it... And since Nobody did it, Somebody got mad (because it was Everybody's job). Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it... Finally it ended up... Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did that which Anybody could very easily have done!... Gary Cox

Al's Note: Please note Nraemeka Egwuekwe (known as Meka) to most of us has his system for sale, he wishes to sell it by the piece, but will sell all for \$450 OBO includes modem, RS232, etc... phone 743-1694... We will miss him when he goes on to another computer, because I feel he is going to be programmer as can be attested in

the programs he has already written....Al Doss

AVATEX MODEM

By J.P. Gallagher taken from the July 1987 Micropendium.

REPORT CARD:

Performance.....A+
Ease of Use.....B-
Documentation.....A-
Value.....A+
Final Grade.....A

Cost: \$99.95 to \$119.95
Manufacturer: E + E Data Comm, 1230 Oakmead Pkwy., Suite 310, Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

Requirements: Console, TV or monitor, terminal emulator program (32K and disk drive), RS232 interface, telephone.

Have you gone to using 1200 baud yet? Ah, you thought of it but \$250 to \$300 is too much for the budget. If \$99.95 to \$119.95 sounds better, then read on.

There is a company in Sunnyvale, CA that doesn't believe that good hardware to be expensive. They go the name of E + E Data Comm. One of the items they market is a little gem called the Avatex modem. This article is devoted to how to make this not-designed-for-the-T199/4A modem to work like a horse for you. In fact E + E Data Comm doesn't even make a cable for the T1.

The first step is to "shop" around the many mags and periodicals for the best price. The price can range from a discounted \$99.95 from large mail-order companies to \$149 from those firms that have you pay for the name of the place you ordered it from. I have even seen the Avatex 1200 advertised for \$89.95. So be sure you are "time wise and not penny foolish" when buying.

Once you have decided where to purchase the modem you have a choice of two models, the Avatex 1200 or the Avatex 1200hc. What's the difference? About \$10 to \$20 and a few more goodies. The Avatex 1200 is about 80 percent Hayes compatible (which will accommodate most emulator programs or BBS's). The Avatex 1200hc is 100 percent Hayes compatible. The Avatex 1200 is warranted against any manufacturer defects for one year, while the 1200hc is warranted for two years. Unless you plan on using the modem for a contact sport, either one should last longer than a visit from your relatives. Also, the 1200hc has its very own speaker (very useful!).

What do you get for your hard-earned dollars?

1. A direct connect modem that operates at 300 or 1200 baud (give the Mickey Mouse Eared modem back to Mickey).

2. A three "push" button control panel; one for on/off, one for forcing 300 or 1200 baud and one to switch from "voice to data" connection.

3. To the left of the push button are eight (count 'em eight) LED's. From left to right they are "RI" lets you know when someone's calling or transmitting or when you are dialing out, "IM" text mode, yep, this little gem will trouble shoot itself when you tell it; "MC" modem check, continuously checks the modem's operation when on and not in use and goes off during data transmission; "RD" receive data, flickers whenever the modem receives data, which at 1200 baud it "blinks" pretty fast; "SD," you guessed it it comes on whenever your modem sends data; "TR" terminal ready, comes on whenever you "power up" the modem and the signals that the signal (DIR) is operational; last but not least is the "POWER" LED-you're right again, it means you turned the modem on.

4. Now for a feature that has mixed blessings. On the back of the modem you have the standard "phone/jack" RS232 (female) port and the AC adaptor socket (adaptor included) plus a series of DIP switches. The DIP switches allow the user "manual" control over some very important functions that are used for the average telecommunication application. The user manual included with both modem models gives you the factory settings and even explains why. The mixed blessing begin with the fact that you will have to ignore the factory settings and change the switches to accommodate the TI and most of the software written for telecommunications. The following settings work with MASS Transfer 4.0 and higher, 4/A Talk, Fast-Term and TEII.

You can "play" with any combination you want to suit your tastes, but the above work the best for most BBS programs as well. (Be cautioned not to change DIP switches while power is on the modem as it will mess it up!)

OK, not that we've tackled the option switch (DIP) situation, let's venture on to the cable. First of all, the modem does not come with a cable. This is OK for TI'ers because we gotta make our own anyway. In fact, all the companies I talked to do not stock a TI-compatible cable.

If you have a "knack" for wiring or have mastered the upside-down and back-wards world of the RS232 jumper box, you will have no problem making a working patch cable. If you are not versed in the aforementioned, take this article to a friend and/or technician who is.

There are at least two ways you can make a patch cable. The first is by buying two (male), 25-pin RS232 connectors (that's what I said, two male connectors, because both the TI RS232 and the Avatex 1200/1200hc have female ports); a couple of metal shields for the connectors (metal is better than plastic, as metal reduces RF interference); and some resin core solder, soldering implement and at least two feet of multistrand wire (at least seven strands). If you can't find any wire, standard telephone wire (for strands) will work doubled up just fine.

The second way (the one I prefer) is to purchase a two to ?? foot length of standard (male to male) connector installed wired straight through to all 25 pins. Then purchase a standard (male to female) connector "jumper box" for the RS232, some resin core solder and a soldering implement. You will have to be extremely careful of what side of the jumper-box you wire to be the modem and what side is to represent the RS232. I strongly encourage you to mark at least one side of the jumper-box bread board connectors to indicate which is the modem pin-out and/or which is the RS232 pin-out. If they are switched around i.e you plug the jumper-box into the modem port, connect the pre-wired cable and connect the pre-wired cable to the RS232 port, the modem will just sit there or start doing some strange things. The correct method is: Plug the finished "jumper box" into the RS232 port first, connect the cable to the modem port. Once you have all the cables, etc., connected, be sure you "tighten/fasten" them to the modem, themselves and the RS232. All too often transfer problems can be traced back to an improperly secured cable.

(The B-grade for "ease of use" is only because the user has to build the cable.)

CAUTION: When using the jumper-box method pay close attention to where the pin numbers are on the bread board. When making a cable from scratch, don't mix the ends up as they are both male connectors.

Another thing I like about the jumper box is you can insert your wires and test your configuration first before soldering.

As you have checked all final connections (recommend the use of an Ohm meter), you are ready to connect the Finished product in the manner previously described. There you have it. Now you can enjoy this rather sophisticated piece of hardware at a total of around \$140. Since most modems of this caliber for an orphan cost more, coupled with the fact that you still have to buy a TI configured modem cable, you've got a great deal.

If I had to say something negative about the Avatex 1200/1200hc it would be in the way the user manual requires you to bounce back and forth between sections to acquire all the neat information you received in this article. The manual is 72 pages long and goes into some pretty serious areas such as what commands to test the modem's operations are and how they are to be interpreted. You will learn what and how to utilize the on-screen commands. The menu(s) built into the Avatex 1200hc (not the available on Avatex 1200) is fantastic. For those who might be wondering, the Avatex 1200/1200hc does not have a status register. The settings described will more or less eliminate the need for one.

As for myself I shopped around for quite a while before and after this modem appeared on the market. First I was tempted by its price, then when I found out what you got for that price I was convinced that it was the best buy for the money, even if you do have to make a cable. If anyone desires any help or additional information I can be contacted on GEinie E-MAIL "JPGALLAGHER", CompuServe ID #73147,343 or my 24-hour SAGEsoft BBS at (509) 244-5209.

CORRECT PIN-OUT CONNECTIONS

MODEM (female side of jumper box) OR (Either male connector for when building the cable from scratch)	RS232 (male side of jumper-box) OR (Either male connector for when building the cable from scratch)
PIN	PIN
#1 - (Protective Ground)	1 - (Protective Ground)
#2 - (Transmitted Data)	2 - (Received Data)
#3 - (Received Data)	3 - (Transmitted Data)
#6 - (Data Set Ready)	20 - (Data Terminal Ready)
#7 - (Logic/Signal Ground)	7 - (Logic/Signal Ground)
#8 - (Carrier Detect)	19 - (Terminal Ready RS232/2)
#20 - (Data Terminal Ready)	6 - (Data Set Ready)

NOTE BY Gary Cox

In the September Computer Shopper Lyco Computers at 1-800-233-8760 advertised an Avatex 1200hc for \$99.95! I have the Avatex 1200 (no hc) and like it a lot! I agree it is the best modem and buy around. However, I would recommend getting the Avatex 1200hc as the additional features are worth a few extra dollars but the price of 99.95 here is the lowest I have seen for either the 1200 or the 1200hc. Since this modem is an auto dial modem you can use MASS-TRANSFER to dial a BBS until it gets through!...Gary Cox

INTERESTING NOTE

From the September 7th Commercial Appeal of Memphis, TN.

(UPI) An recent article in the Commercial Appeal had a headline which read "Computer disease hospitalizes man". The story read - A young man became so mesmerized by his computer he had to be hospitalized with a "computer syndrome" that made him unable to distinguish between the real world and computer programs, Denmark's medical journal said.

The journal said the unidentified 18-year-old contracted the new form of psychosis - called "computer syndrome" by three doctors at Copenhagen's Nordvang Hospital - after spending 12 to 15 hours a day in front of his computer.

The doctors said the young man began to think in programming language, waking up in the middle of the night thinking: "Line 10 go to the bathroom, line 11 next."

The patient told the doctors he "discovered that man is only a machine. There is no difference between the computer and man."...Gary Cox

GENEVE GLEANINGS

Webster defines 'glean' as "gathering facts slowly". That is just what this article (and maybe others to follow) will be, gathering

facts about the Myarc 9640 computer SLOWLY. There may even be a few observations thrown in...<grin>

First of all let me say that I am in no way an "expert" or experienced hacker. I know some who are but I am not one of them. I'm just an ordinary user who enjoys dabbling in a little programming to suit my own fancies as well as knowing what makes a machine tick - if I can understand it. Many of you are in the category as me, therefore I'm writing this for you.

The Geneve, or 9640 whichever you choose to call it, made a BIG impression on me when I saw it demonstrated at the 1986 Chicago TI Faire. I just had to have one, if I could persuade the treasurer to allow the expenditure that is! Since I am writing this article on a 9640 you can see I was successful. The speed and graphics of this computer were just what I was looking for to upgrade to from my trusty old 99/4A. I had and still have no desire to move into the world of "Big Blue", but I did want some of the features that are available for the Intel crowd. The TI-99/4A was my first computer and I still think it is a better machine than those it should have been competing against. Enough history.

I received my 9640 after what seemed like an eternity after placing my order. But after seeing it in action I was not to be put off as I heard some were by the long wait. When it came via UPS I was thrilled to say the least. I already had an Amiga 1080 monitor waiting for it. (More about that later). I was very surprised and puzzled when I found no software in the box. A call to Myarc cleared up the mystery. The DOS was not ready, so I hung with many other first-in-line buyers would have to wait at least a little bit longer." Thoughts of my 4A friends jeering at me flashed through my head. But the hardware was a reality so I just gritted my teeth and said "okay". I did discover that even without software I could at least see the swan picture upon bootup. This is where I found out about my monitor problem. (Now is later.) I got a beautiful picture in the composite mode, but the screen was blank in RGB! Lou Phillips told me to send the card and monitor cable in to them for testing. The cable I am referring to is the one included with the monitor, but modified according to instructions from Walt Howe and Myarc. (Yes I have gotten to talk to Lou several times. He's always helpful and never gives a brushoff.) They reworked the cable modification and returned them saying it worked fine on their 1080. When I got the card and cable back via UPS I found the software included. YEAH! Now I could get down to some serious computing! I'm still working in composite. I have to say that I have heard of no one else with this problem and I know it is in the monitor as I have tried other 1080s and they all work, just not mine. The actual 9640, the PEB card, fit right in slot #1 in the PEB replacing the Interface Card and its attendant "firehose" cable. Yeah!!! The card extends out the back of the PEB about 1" which is my only concern. It would be quite easy to damage or destroy it at that point when moving the PEB between locations. This extension contains all of the I/O ports and since the rest of the card is full of chips it was probably necessary to make it this shape.

The 9640 card has performed flawlessly since arrival and I am

convinced of its high quality. If it took the extra wait to make sure of that, then I am glad I had to wait. I ordered mine with the enhanced keyboard which gives you a separate numeric keypad and cursor keys. (Thanks for the advice Michael!) The keyboard has been the biggest possible source of error in the system. The main keypad has functioned as it should, but the separate cursor pad is troublesome in some programs. That can usually be gotten around by using an ALI/ESDX combination. The ALI key usually functions as the FCIN key on the 4A so you can still access FCIN/letter combo from a 4A program. The F1-F10 keys provide the same access as on the 4A except only one keypress is involved instead of two. This is probably one of the other big reasons for me wanting a 9640. I prefer the selectric style of keyboard layout and really like NOT having to search for the small FCIN or CTRL keys on the 4A. (I'm now free of the accidental "quit" function!) Some functions are duplicated on the keyboard so whatever type of program you are using there is an alternate choice of keypress for a particular function as well as a user preferred choice if you are used to using a keyboard of this type at work. The feel of the keys is firm but not harsh. There is no tactile "click", but I like it as is. The layout is very nice and the more I use it the less I have to look for the key I want and the more I can hit it from "memory". One other thing I no longer have to put up with is "lockup" due to a cartridge port problem. I have had lockups many times, true, but they were due to software incompatibility and not hardware. I much prefer a software problem as it is more easily overcome.

The software I received now comes bundled with the 9640s being shipped. Included are DOS, CSAVE, MYWORD, MICROSOFT MULTIPLAN patch, and MYARC ADVANCED BASIC V. The DOS is not the M-DOS detailed in the manual, but rather a GPL interpreter that allows you to load GK format saved cartridges. (M-DOS is said to be one or two weeks away from distribution.). CSAVE is a program that saves any cartridge (except Milton Bradley ones) to disk in the Gram Kracker format. It runs out of the E/A cartridge on the 4A and works best when using a Widget. This is the first step after of course making backups. Since the GK format is used, you can run any cartridge saved with the GK itself. Besides the cartridges I own, I have tried out several of a friend who owns a GK. Most will load and operate properly on the 9640. A few of the ones that won't are TICNESS, CONGO BONGO, TI LOGO II, DONKYKONG, MOONMINE and PLATO. Most WILL work just fine, most importantly TI EXTENDED BASIC and E/A. These two are the most useful especially E/A. Myarc Advanced Basic V is actually XBII v2.11 modified to include a 4th graphics mode that accesses the 9938 VDP's 80 column mode. I use this in place of TI XB. The Advanced Basic covered in the manual should be shipped at about the same time as M-DOS. The Multiplan patch allows you to run Multiplan in 80 columns which now lets you see columns of the spreadsheet instead of the one on the 4A. You also get a BIG increase in speed especially when moving around on the spreadsheet. Since the speed is so much greater, gone is the lag between your first keypress for a cell entry and the actual entry into the cell. This is a most welcome plus. Last but certainly not least is MyWord, the word processor that is obviously based on TI-Writer but is also obviously a vast improvement over it. I, along with the author of an article in another publication hate to term it a TI-Writer "clone". I'll cover this in greater depth in a later

article. (I can see now that this will definitely take more than one article.) Since probably my biggest use now of my computer is word processing, MyWord is a MOST welcome addition to my software library. I have tried out several programs, mine and borrowed, for their compatibility on the 9640. As stated by Myarc, those programs that follow the TI standard in their source code work okay and those that don't...well, some do, some don't. Perhaps later I'll publish a list of my findings in that area, but for now I'll just say that enough programs work to allow me to do anything I did on my 4A with the exception of using a database. I was using PRBASE, which I consider to be a prime choice among those available for the 4A. I have read though, that a modification is on its way to allow PRBASE to be used on the 9640 so all of my files are still useful. (Whew!) Graphics programs are probably the biggest sources of incompatibility. I have heard TI-ARTIST won't work and JOYPANT 99, which I use, is quite troublesome though useable. I suspect TI-Artist will either be modified or replaced as the author seems to be working quite closely with Myarc in software development for the 9640. Myarc is coming out with their own graphics program called MY-DRAW. (I think) It is said it will be included with the mouse Myarc is going to be marketing soon. I haven't heard if it will work with a joystick or trackball. DISK+AID works fine, but I haven't gotten Birdwell's DISK UTILITIES to run properly. I haven't been able to try out a copy of the CSGD series yet nor FONTWRITER. The Printers Apprentice is a no-go due to it being written in Forth and using the 64 column editor screen. I had heard though that with a few changes in the source code it could work. Myarc's Disk Manager III works except for formatting as does DM1000 3.5 and older. But v1.1 does perform all functions including formatting. OF TE programs, Fast-Term 1.16 and Mass-Transfer v4.1 and up use a non-standard keyscan so don't work. But MI v3.5 and 3.9, PTERM, and a new version of FI modified by Paul Charleton do work without a hitch. The F19640 also has an 80 column mode as well as access to the 9640s clock. Surprisingly, I haven't even tried Funnel Writer! FW practically lived in my #1 drive with the 4A, but since everything loads up directly through the interpreter or indirectly via EA or XBII on the 9640, I really have no reason to use it. Funnel Writer functions like the DOS shell in a PC and since I'm using an interim DOS with the final product soon to come, FW has no real value on the 9640. (Watch me get blasted for that one!) I still think that FW is the best thing since memory expansion for the 4A however.

I hope this article has given you an idea of what you might expect if you buy a 9640. Your experiences may differ from mine and I hope you avoid the problems that I have encountered, especially the monitor dilemma. Again, I have heard of no one else having this problem. The other monitor being recommended is the Magnavox model 8515. You can expect to encounter some frustration in the area of software incompatibility, especially if it's your favorite program that won't run. Now that I have been able to do a fair amount of experimenting with various programs, reboots are getting rare and I have my most used applications and utilities saved on one DSDD disk which also contains the bootup program....Jonathan Leslie

IN THE NEWS

A LOT of news this month, please read on. Some of the information below was obtained from MICROpendium.

DIJIT System of San Diego, California has introduced its latest product called Advanced Video Processor Card. According to the manufacturer, the AVPC fits into the PEB and is compatible with existing TI99/4A software. It features 80-column text and advanced graphics with up to 512 colors, the manufacturer says. The AVPC also supports Mouse and Light Pen inputs.

The DIJIT systems card contains a Yamaha U-993B video processor with 192K of video RAM and is designed to work with the "DIJIT-EYEzer," and external Gen-lock and video digitizing accessory. According to their flyer the digitize function can take a TV picture and instantly adapt it to a computer graphics picture! It will also allow titling and graphic overlays on home video as well as computer manipulation of external video images, giving the TI99/4A video processing power comparable with the Atari ST and the Amiga.

AVPC was scheduled for release last month for \$195. For further information contact DIJIT systems at 4345 Mortensia St., San Diego, CA 92103 or (619) 295-3301.

DataBioTics of P.O. Box 1194, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274 has released a number of new products for the TI, including a RAM disk, called Grand RAM, with configurations ranging from 64K to 512K or RAM. Prices range from \$129.95 to \$229.95. According to DataBioTics, up to four of the RAM disks may be plugged into a PEB providing more than 2 megabytes of memory. It is compatible with CorComp, II, Myarc, Geneve, Morning Star and Foundation peripherals and may be used with the RAM disk menu system designed by John Johnson. Accessories for the RAM disk include a plug-in real-time clock and an analog-to-digital device to interface with other devices and an emulator to create cartridges. The clock is priced at \$29.95. The Grand RAM is available in a kit (build it yourself) ranging in price from \$99.95 for a 64K to \$185.98 for 512K.

Also available from DataBioTics is a Desktop Publishing program (kinda like Print Shop). The cartridge-based word processing program requires only a console and printer. The word processor may be used to create fonts and includes a picture editor that is used to select graphic elements. The graphics may be modified by the user, according to the manufacturer. Users may also produce line art. The program works with any parallel printer and may be used with a cassette recorder or disk drive. Price is \$59.95.

Other products marketed by DataBioTics include Barrage, Jumpy, Spotshot, Black Hole, Spy's Demise, Stargazer I, II and III, Pro Typar and TI Workshop.

Barrage, for one or two players list for \$17.98. As commander of Missile Control, the object is to survive the Draks, who rain acid balls on the planet. Twin laser cannons are at the disposal of

Missile Control. Joysticks are optional.

Jumpy is a Q-Bert like game. Purple and black monsters join forces in a relentless chase of Jumpy. The list price is \$17.98. Joysticks are optional.

In Spotshot the player is a giant dragonfly with a laser-like tongue used to defend against insects. Joysticks are optional. List price is \$17.98.

Black Hole puts the user in control of two spacecraft against the Black Hole empire's fleet. For one or two players. Joysticks are optional. The list price is \$17.98.

Spy's Demise has nine screens and the object is to penetrate embassy security and avoid security guards. It lists for \$17.98.

The Stargazer series allows the user to visit constellations on the screen and test your ability to identify constellations. The program lists for \$37.95.

Pro Typar is a typing tutor program with a list price of \$17.95.

TI Workshop is described by DataBioTics as a "program support environment". The program allows the user to view, display and edit the contents of any type of computer memory. Also included is a disk manager, menu-driven program debugger, and an enhanced editor and assembler and cross-referencer that lets the user load and edit text files, print text, merge, save and display D/V 80 and D/F 80 files, purge, assemble and cross reference. With the cross-referencer users may identify the line number where a label was defined or referenced. The program requires a memory expansion and disk system. The list price is \$59.95.

FREE-NET goes online: FREE-NET, a free, open access computer network, began operations July 24th on the campus of Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio. The network is sponsored by the university and St. Elizabeth's Hospital Medical Center's Health Education Center. The system is the first of an eventual nationwide network of similar community systems. The network is being sponsored by the Society for Public Access Computing. The sponsors say that the network occupies a middle ground between a BBS and a large commercial system such as The Source or Compuserve. According to their description 'FREE NET is a multi-user system with the sophistication and power of the commercial systems, but is owned and operated locally with a distinct local orientation.' Phone number for the system is (216) 742-3072.

New from TexComp of P.O. Box 33064, Granada Hills, CA 91344 (818) 366-6631 is Certificate 99. This is a 100 percent assembly language program that gives you everything that you need to create exciting certificates, diplomas, licenses, handbills, signs, notices, awards, flyers and advertisements. Heavy parchment paper and gold foil seals are included to get you started. The disk based program comes with six text fonts in two sizes, twelve different borders, twenty four clip art graphics and official looking signatures and seals. Requires disk system, 32K, XB and

any Epson/Star Dot Matrix printer. Price is \$19.95 plus shipping.

Datax of 1928 Linden St. Ridgewood, NY 11385 is offering THE BRAIN at a new price of \$29.95 plus \$3 shipping. The program called THE BRAIN is for professionals, homemakers, students, teachers, investors, brokers, programmers or just the casual computer user according to the manufacturer. Financial functions of THE BRAIN include Future Value, Interest, Interest Rate, Present Value and Time Periods. Included in the program are conversion functions including Number Base conversion (hex, decimal, octal, binary), Trigonometry, Area, Length (inches, centimeters, Km, Temperature, Weight, Capacity and such more). Other functions include Math and Calculus, Geometry, Vector functions, Electronics, Electrodynamics functions, Ohm's Law, Resistance, Capacitance, Power Dissipation, Inductance etc... More conversions include Speed, Trajectories functions and Physics. Six Tables are included which has ASCII codes, TI99/4A color codes, IMS 9300 Instruction Set, Trigonometry, Elements, Isotopes and Metric equivalences. The BRAIN is controlled by a set of 21 menus, it has 18 screens of context-sensitive help available at a touch of a key, a pop-up calculator window and a separate installation program allows you to customize THE BRAIN to your needs according to the manufacturer. For more information write or call (718) 417-0165. MICROpendium gives it a review grade of an A-.

Writer EASE, a new word processor with built in spelling checker, now has an updated manual after the bad manual review in MICROpendium. The program is available from Innovative Programming for \$39.95 at 1-800-255-2985. The program it received a grade of an A. By the way IP is a new company who recently started supporting the TI99/4A. You may call their 800 number for a FREE catalog. They also operate a 24hr 4A/Talk BBS at (707) 585-3321 (300/1200bd). Galen Read of IP advises that terminals be set to eight data bits, on parity and one stop bit when calling the BBS.

Have a question you need answered or looking for a certain program. Maybe Guy Romono of the Amnion Helpline has the answer. Guy operates the Amnion Helpline as a non-profit volunteer effort free of charge. Write to him at 116 Carl St. San Francisco, CA 94117. Be sure to include a self address stamped return envelope if you wish a reply. You may also call him 9 to 4 (pacific time) Monday-Saturday at 1-415-753-5581.

Every so often people ask me where to get their equipment repaired although I have mentioned it in the newsletter several times Texas Instruments still repairs all the equipment made by them. If any TI brand equipment goes bad (console, 32K, cartridges anything...) just call them at 1-800-TI-CARES for information in sending it in for exchange or repair. For non-TI brand equipment (such as Myarc or Corcomp) contact those companies for repairs. Also few companies who advertise in MICROpendium also repair TI and equipment. By the way TI does NOT sell any TI99/4A related equipment as expressed in a recent letter sent to us by them as they seem to have people calling them wanting to buy equipment. However, if you have the part number you may call the TI Dealer Parts number and order some individual parts from them such as PC

boards and chips...

The date for the next Chicago TI Faire (November 7th) is coming up rapidly. Anyone interested (even if you are not sure) should contact me sometime this month so I can put you on a list of people who possibly want to go as we will need to have a special meeting soon to discuss the trip. Last year we split the cost of gas going in several cars as well as split the cost of rooms being several to a room. Some of us left Friday morning while others left Friday night for the Saturday fair all starting back Sunday morning. It is a rough trip but one us dedicated TI'ers make each year. This year will make the third trip for many of us in our group. If we wish to stay at the recommended hotel which all the out of town TI'ers are staying we must have our reservations in by October 22nd. Anyone interested in going please call me ASAP.

September 18th and 19th the Memphis Area Computer Council (an organization of many groups in the Memphis area) will be represented at the Newcomers to Memphis fair at Kirby Woods Mall from 10am to 6pm. Our TI group is included. Please stop by or even better volunteer to help out! Also don't forget October 31st is the MACC user group fair at State Tech.

By the way the TI section of the Computer Shopper is having a giveaway where you simply send in your name and address to be placed in a hat to win software. I was suprised to be this months winner of the drawing where I won Cryptopad (P.O. Box 3222, Camarillo, CA 93011 a neat program for solving cryptograms), GPL Interpreter and GPL Assembler (Ryte Data, 210 Mountain Street, Kilmurton, Ontario, KOM 1S0 Canada). THANKS Computer Shopper! If you do not subscribe to The Computer Shopper (500+ page publication available in bookstores) and MICROpendium (exclusively for TI) you are missing a wealth of information! Since almost nothing is available locally for TI these magazines are a major source of reviews and new product information...

Also note that Games N Gadgets in the Mall of Memphis has recently received a few new pieces of software for the TI. It is selling fast so go by and take a look. Books Unlimited at Eastgate shopping center still has several books for the TI99/4A discounted to \$2 a piece!

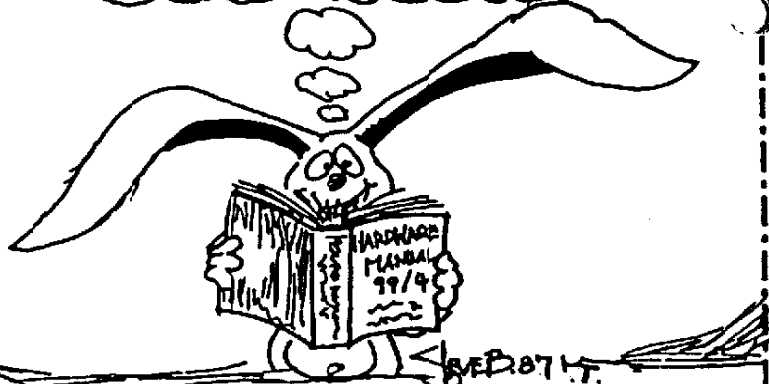
As a closing note I would like to mention that those who are not attending meetings are really missing a good time. Meetings are full of demonstrations of hardware and software as well as tutorials, we display our months mail which includes many newsletters with articles on about anything you can think of. We even get newsletters from TI user groups in Canada, England and Australia as well as here in the USA. The library is usually open at each meeting and we have a preliminary list made up where you can select from the list whatever disk you would like. Pre-copies of many of the popular disks are available for immediate pickup at the meetings. Hopfully David will have the list available for everyone soon...Gary Cox

HARDWARE MANUAL

TI 99/4A

DESCRIBES:

- Console Design
- Custom Chip Operation
- TMS 9900 H/W Organization
- TMS 9900 Instruction Set
- Interfacing Pitfalls
- Console Schematics
- PEB Card Descriptions
- GROM Simulator Design
- Extended Basic Module description & schematics



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NEWSLETTER INFO

Visitors and potential members may receive 3 free issues of TiDbits while they decide if they wish to join (no obligation). A Dollar sign (\$) indicate that your dues are due. Please pay your dues to be able to continue to receive the newsletter and other benefits of the group. You will note a letter and date on the top of your address label. The letter Y indicates if you are a member and the date indicates the last time you paid your dues. One year from the date your dues are due!

CALENDAR

MEETINGS: September 17th October 15th, November 19th (3rd Thursday!)
WORKSHOPS: September 26th October 24th, November 28th (4th Saturday!)

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