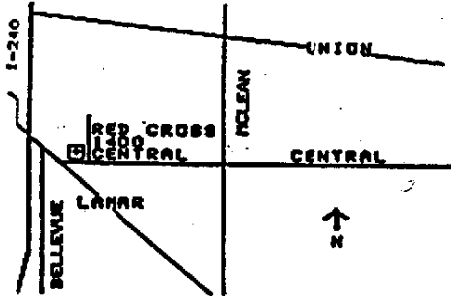


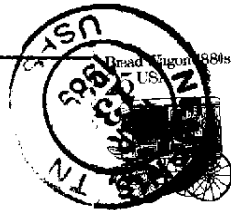
**NOTICES**

**MEETING**  
 7:00 P.M.  
 Thursday, March 16th  
 Red Cross Building  
 1400 Central Ave.

**WORKSHOP**  
 9am till Noon  
 Saturday, March 25th  
 To Be Announced

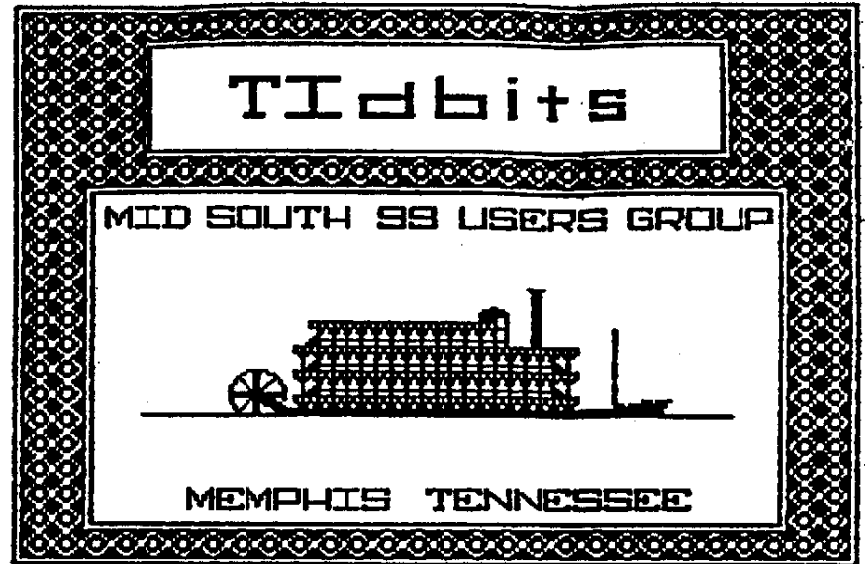


Mid-South 99 Users Group  
 P. O. Box 38522  
 Germantown, TN 38183-0522

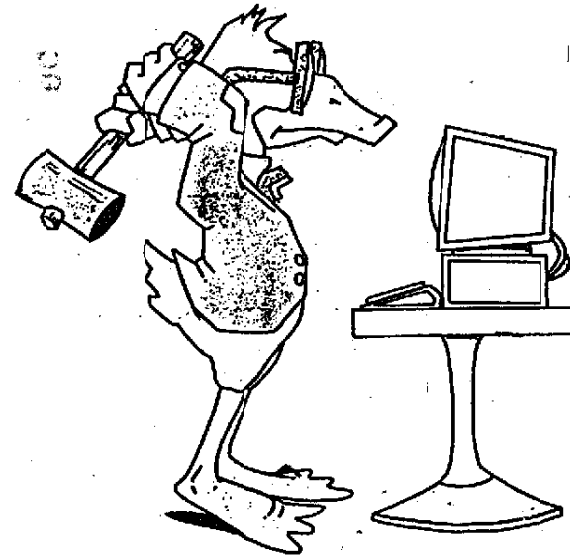


UG 2/86  
 DALLAS TI USER GROUP  
 P.O. BOX 29863  
 DALLAS, TX 75229

**first class**



**MARCH 1989 ISSUE**



"HIT ANY KEY TO CONTINUE"

# 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
Richard Hiller	CO-Librarian	901-794-9945
Michael Dorman	Editor - Newsletter	501-732-5126
Gary Cox	Program Chairman	901-358-0667
Al Doss	Information and Assistance	901-743-6781
Mac Swope	Chairman - Equipment	901-363-3880

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## PRESIDENTS BIT

By Gary W. Cox

I am happy to report that membership seems to be on the rise. Membership now stands at 85 up 5 from last month with a total mailing list of 170. I would like to welcome some of the recent new members, Paul Elevins - Rugby TN, Carlyle Browning - Fayetteville AR, Stephen Justham - Kutztown PA, Dero Ramsey - Miss. State MS, Tom Shillings of Millington TN and anyone else that I may be accidentally leaving out.

Another Memphis Area Computer Council (MACC) general computer fair is scheduled for April 29th from 10am - 5pm at State Tech here in Memphis. This will be the same type of non-profit fair as in the past representing all the major computer brands. Currently I am Vice-Chairman of MACC and in charge of advertising for the fair. As before we will be looking towards radio, tv and newspaper advertising. (See IN THE NEWS for more details of the fair) This of course, seems we will need volunteers to help out at the fair. I would like to cram a room full of as many different TI compatible systems as possible but I need your help... Last year the MACC fair was listed at the Best Bet for the weekend in the Memphis Commercial Appeal! As a note to TI99/4a vendors, we are not allowed to sell anything at the fair due to it being a state operated facility but we are allowed to give out information and demonstrate products. If you have a new product that you would like to show or like us to show it for you please let me know. Furthermore, any vendors wishing to send to us your catalogs we would be happy to pass them out. Due to our small P.O. Box and the fact that I do not check it but once or twice a week (long drive for me to check it) please send any materials to my home address at 3174 Melbourne, Memphis, TN 38127.

Our group is here to support and assist owners of the TI99/4a so if anyone has any ideas of what they would like done or have a suggestion for a demonstration for our meeting please let me know. If there is a piece of software or hardware that you would like to see demonstrated just ask and I will try me best to get it for the meeting.

David Ferguson, our librarian, is still working on the new listing of our library which should be ready soon. However, he is in need of assistance in trying out the programs and writing up a description. If you can be of help please contact David. The advantage of helping is that you will have access to some of the new programs in the library!

From reading some of the other newsletters that we receive and other publications TI User Groups are under siege! Several groups have been talking about starting an IBM compatible sig of which a motion to that effect was defeated in the Chicago TI Users Group. However, some of the smaller TI groups seem to be leaning toward this in order to survive. My opinion on this matter is that we should stay strictly TI and Geneve as there is plenty of user groups for IBM compatibles already and mixing two computer types

can lead to trouble and it is difficult to serve both. In fact, many of the officers of our group (including myself) own an IBM compatible as each system has it's advantages and disadvantages but we still stick with our TI activities. Of course, if it is a question of a group going under or staying alive an IBM compatible sig in the group would be a better alternative than no group at all. TI user groups are not the only user groups facing this problem as many other brand user groups have remarked they are also losing members over to IBM compatibles. The local PC Users Group is growing by leaps and bounds averaging about 25 new members a month with new IBM compatible users looking for help and assistance. The only exception to this may be the Apple user groups who seem to pulling in users as well. However, don't worry as for our group I plan to keep it going for a long time to come. We are maintaining a good base of memberships, we have a fantastic BBS operated by Michael, our newsletter is one of the best and we have a lot going on. Still it is up to our membership as to how well we continue to do. Myself and many others have worked long and hard over many years to keep us going and I intend to do my best to continue to keep us going for years to come. One of the things that has helped us is bring in new members is through the mentions in Computer Shopper, CS User Group Listings, Registered with Library Information Services, participating in local computer fairs and events, having the monthly meeting listed in the paper as well as the article on us several months back. Exposure to the public is what will keep us going as there are still thousands of TI owners out there wishing that there was a user group that they could join... Please pass the word along to everyone that we are here! As always we are here to support and assist TI compatible owners, if you have a question or a problem please feel free to call or write as I personally answer ever letter that we receive.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to those few people who help out in the group by storing club equipment, providing demonstrations, writing articles, running the BBS, producing the newsletter, operating the library and helping out in other ways in the group. It is only by working together that we can continue to survive!

## PROGRAM BIT

- 6:00pm - Doors Open
- 6:30pm - Library Opens
- 7:00pm - 7:25pm - General Discussion.
- 7:25pm - 8:00pm - Demonstration of fast console 32K project described in Micropendium. Demo presented by Jim Saemnes.
- 8:00pm - 8:15pm - Demonstration of Browse by Genial Computerware. Demo presented by Gary Cox.
- 8:15pm - 9:00pm - A walk through game history from TI-TREK in 1980 to the latest such as Micro-Pinball and Tennis.. Demo presented by Gary Cox. (If Demos run long this may be continued onto next month.)

- 9:00pm - 9:45pm - Main system open for use.
- 9:45pm - Library closes, cleanup period.
- 10:00pm - Late Dinner at Perkins Restaurant, Poplar and Highland.

## IN THE NEWS

By Gary W. Cox

### LOCAL:

The Memphis Area Computer Council (MACC), a consortium of local user groups in the Memphis area, in conjunction with State Technical Institute is currently planning our fourth annual Memphis Computer Fair from 10am until 5pm Saturday April 29th 1989 to be held at State Tech located at 5983 Macon Cove Road.

This computer fair will be different from most computer fairs in that there will not be any commercial sales (non-profit event) and thus no pressure to buy anything! At the fair local computer user groups will be demonstrating some of the latest in computer hardware and software. User group representatives will be available to answer most computer related questions and solve problems and the public will generally have hands on access to some of the programs and equipment. The various user groups will also be showing what they have to offer to the computer community... Guest speakers will be giving presentations on topics such as Desktop Publishing, Computers in Small Business, Computerized Investing to name a few and will be demonstrating programs and equipment related to those topics. The exact schedule of speakers and demonstrations should be available in April.

Whether you are interested in computers for business, school, home use, as a hobby, or if you are just trying to decide what type of computer, equipment or software that you need this fair is for you! All the major brand computer systems are scheduled to be represented including IBM compatibles (MS-DOS), Apple, Commodore, Texas Instruments, Atari, Osborne, Amiga and Radio Shack Color. You may even see some computers that you have never seen or heard of before... Even the OPUS BBS System Operators will be available to answer your questions about Electronic Bulletin Board Systems (BBS's) and data communications over the modem! The State Tech Engineering Technology department will also be having open house that day giving tours of their facilities, demonstrating their computer equipment and showing what they have to offer!

This event will be a tremendous educational opportunity as well it will be fun and entertaining! Past MACC fairs have drawn between 1,000 and 1,500 people and we are hoping to surpass that figure this year!

Admission to all the activities and to the fair is FREE and open to the public. Furthermore, computer related door prizes will be

given away each hour and State Tech will be supplying free popcorn and cokes for everyone! Don't miss one of Memphis's biggest and best computer events! For more information call Gary Cox at (901) 358-0667 or Bill Dewitt at (901) 346-6720.

Of course, our group will be there in full force but we will need volunteers to bring equipment and to just help out at the fair.

#### NATIONAL:

Many user group newsletters continue to report that the 1-800-TI-CARES phone number is disconnected but this is not true as I used the 800 number just last month! Perhaps the 800 number may not be valid for just certain areas of the country? However, according to representatives at that number it will only be in operation for a indefinite period of time. When the 800 number is disconnected you will need to use the toll number for TI customer relations at (806) 747-1882.

So far as of this writing PRESS word processor has still not been released. PRESS is a fantastic new word processor by Asgard Software scheduled to be ready soon. Since it is so hard to pin down deadlines Asgard as well as Myarc are no longer giving out deadlines on major products. This policy seems to be true of many companies in the IBM compatible world...

The following information edited from the February 1989 Micropendium, a great source of news, reviews, information and projects for the TI99/4a and Geneve 9640!

Asgard Software of P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20850 is offering Form Maker 99 by Ed Johnson, at \$19.95 plus 75 cents shipping. The assembly language program is designed to create forms, maps, charts, and graphs and include pictures in the text and allows the usage of different fonts. Requires XB or E/A, 32k, disk drive and an Epson compatible printer.

The February 1989 Micropendium had a great review (among others) of an XB tool called Superbasic. This is a program which has been around since 1987 but few people know of it, including myself. The program loads into low memory where it stays resident until needed. Among the additional commands are RENUM (resequences portions of a program), JOIN (joins lines together), FIND, TEXT, DIR, TYPE (displays DV 80 on screen), COPY (works like on IBM compatibles), APPEND, RENAME, LOCK, UNLOCK, QOFF, QON, ENTER (merges DV 80 file directly into a program), EDIT (Edit DV 80 without leaving XB), WRITE, KILL (turn off Superbasic) and INSKEY. It looks like a good deal for \$25. For more information contact Steven Karasek, 855 Diversey, St. Louis, MO 63126. However, the program does not seem to be compatible with the Geneve 9640.

The Southwest 99ers of P.O. Box 17831, Tucson, AZ 85730 is offering overlay strips for the console showing the key usage for TE-II, E/A, Multiplan, TI-Writer and a general console overlay. Cost is \$3 each or five for \$10.

Tony Lewis is in the process of producing a manual geared toward the software and hardware design of new cards and add-on products.

The manual is to assist persons interested in developing new peripheral products for the TI99/4a and the PEB. The manual is planned to be in two parts, one section will be a hardware section covering the development of the electronic circuits commonly used in TI products and a discussion of the various 9900 signals and interface requirements. The other section will contain information covering writing code to access memory, CRU bits and the development of Device Service Routines. For more information contact Tony Lewis at 409 Drolmond Dr., Raleigh, NC 27615.

Tigercub Software has announced the availability of more than 200 SS/SD disks of Public Domain software. According to Jim Peterson of Tigercub all of the programs run from Extended BASIC with instructions added where necessary, all obvious bugs corrected and an autoloader is included on each disk. Disks are \$1.50 each, postpaid. Peterson says that no fairware will be offered without the permission of the author. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope for the list, or \$1 for catalog listing all titles and authors, to TI-PD, 156 Collingwood Ave., Whitehall, OH 43213.

The Bunyard Group, who produces the hardware manual for the TI99/4a, has a new address. The new address is P.O. Box 62323, Colorado Springs, CO 80962-2323.

If you have a version 2.2 console which will not operate some of the third party TI software, page 46 of the February Micropendium has a good article on solving the problem for only a minimal cost. This may be cheaper than purchasing a "GROM buster" to solve the problem. As you many know some of the last consoles produced by TI (the title screen shows v2.2) had a feature to prevent the use of third party software. However, other GROM devices such as the Gram Kracker and its clones can also bypass the v2.2 operating system problem...

We seem to be in a sort of lull of new products at the moment but many hardware and software developers for the TI99/4a have mentioned that they are working on and/or nearing completion of new projects. That's the news for this month...

## FOUR-A TALK

Random ramblings about things TI.

by Bill Gaskill

March 1989

#### DISCOVERIES:

I received a call from Ed Edwards of the Cedar Valley 99ers in Cedar Rapids, Iowa the other night. Ed was calling on behalf of Jim Leiss, author of the excellent software program TYPEWRITER that is distributed by Asgard Software. The gist of the conversation involved Jim's concern over my comment in the January

'89 Four-A/Talk article about TYPEWRITER not being compatible with any of the loaders I had except the E/A module. After some investigation and experimentation Ed and I discovered that the incompatibility occurred only when running Menu V6.4 on my Horizon Ram Disk. After installing JJ's V7.3 ROS, which I had simply been too lazy to do in the past, I discovered that TYPEWRITER worked flawlessly. So the message I would like to convey to all who read Four-A/Talk is that TYPEWRITER DOES work properly with all loaders available, including the John Johnson loader from the Horizon Ram Disk, FunnelWeb, E/A, Barry Boone's XB/EA loader etc. It does not work with the ROS that comes with Menu V6.4 for the Horizon Ram disk. Sorry Jim!

Along the same lines, I also received a letter from Chris Bobbitt of Asgard Software suggesting that the ROS may be the problem. But the real meat of the letter contained some interesting information about Jim Reiss and the future of his contributions to the 4A community. According to Chris, he met Jim on CompuServe some months ago and discovered that Jim, who is an under-graduate at Cornell University, was looking for a short project involving the TI-99. Since Chris had a few in mind the relationship was off and running. TYPEWRITER apparently is only the first (but hopefully not the last) Jim Reiss product that we will see. I also discovered from Chris' letter that TYPEWRITER will be available in module form shortly and will be introduced in the March 1989 Triton catalog. I hope that we provide the support needed to keep Jim and others with his kind of talent interested in writing for our community.

#### OTHER DISCOVERIES:

Jeff Bunting of the Roanoke Valley 99ers Box 12522 Roanoke, Va. 24012 has written an assembly language cryptogram solver that you may purchase for a \$5 ShareWare fee. Jeff gives credit to Leonard Morgan Jr., Barry Traver and Wayne Stith for help with the project. I am not familiar with Leonard Morgan, but everyone knows who Barry Traver is of course and Wayne Stith is fast becoming another of the movers and shakers in the community. His KwikFont tutorial stands out as the best novice's introduction to assembly language programming I have ever seen, and now he has introduced TRIAD, the disk manager, text editor and telecommunications package rolled into one. The end result of the collaboration for the Cryptogram solver is a neat looking program. If you are a cryptogram buff, you need Jeff's offering.

Mike Wright, 45 Centerville Drive, Salem, New Hampshire 03079 has produced a booklet that is a must for every 99er. It is over 40 laser printed pages listing 99/4A books and their descriptions, disk, tape and module software produced by TI, the 1983 price list for 99/4A products before the bailout, information on the Valu-Paks TI offered and more. I picked up my copy at the Fest-West for \$5.00. I would guess that you can order yours from Mike for \$5.00 plus around \$2.00 more to cover the cost of packaging and mailing. It is a superb \$7.00 investment.

#### TI-BASE:

Alan Coleman of Cincinnati, Ohio, who does his computing on the

964C, wrote me a few weeks back asking for some help on a student grading program he was trying to write in TI-Base. The task that he wanted to accomplish was two-phased. First it involved entering five different grades in a record then summing them, dividing the results to get an average and then storing the average in a separate field in the same record as the original five grades. The second part involved entering five quiz scores into a record along with two test scores. Alan then wanted the quiz scores summed and averaged and the results placed in a separate field within the same record just as he did on the first part of the task. But then, the average of the five quizzes and the two test scores also had to be summed and averaged and the results of that computation written to a separate field in the same record. It was a fun challenge that turned out quite nice. About a dozen TI-Base command files were used to create a menu-driven system to get the job done. Alan was quite pleased and was gracious enough to send me a few dollars for my time and effort, which I REALLY appreciated. Thanks Alan!

Anyway, out of the entire effort came a command file for TI-Base that builds a MENU that I thought I would share with you, since menus are always a useful tool in any computing environment. The file that follows is actually an abbreviated version done so to save space. But the concept and technique used are what's important. The menu can be expanded to include many more options.

In the MENU the CHOIRENT, CHOIRUPD, GMUSENT and GMUSUPD names listed after the DO statements are other TI-Base command files that are "RUN" by the menu. Each of those command files end with a RETURN that causes the MENU file to be re-RUN upon exiting any of the menu options. Any number keyed in that is outside of the valid options listed causes the MENU file to be executed again, so you can't make a mistake that will crash the file.

```
* menu
SET TALK OFF
SET RECNUM OFF
SET HEADING OFF
CLEAR
LOCAL A C 2
WHILE A <> "0"
CLEAR
WRITE 2,8 "    MAIN SYSTEM MENU"
WRITE 3,8 "    -----"
WRITE 5,8 "1 - Enter Choir data"
WRITE 6,8 "2 - Update Choir data"
WRITE 7,8 "3 - Enter Gmusic data"
WRITE 8,8 "4 - Update Gmusic data"
WRITE 9,8 "0 - Exit"
WRITE 19,6 "Selection Number:"
READSTRING 19,18 A
IF A = "0"
CLEAR
RETURN
ELSE
DO CASE
CASE A="1"
DO CHOIRENT
```

```

BREAK
CASE A="2"
DO CHOIRUPD
BREAK
CASE A="3"
DO GMUSENT
BREAK
CASE A="4"
DO GMUSUPD
BREAK
CASE 1-1
REPLACE A WITH "X"
BREAK
ENDCASE
IF A<>"X"
CLEAR
ENDIF
ENDIF
ENDWHILE
RETURN

```

#### FEST-WEST '89:

I spent a weekend in San Diego February 18-19 at the beautiful Clarion Hotel, meeting scads of neat people at the 1989 version of Fest-West. What a great time! If you have never been to any of the major TI faires like the TICOFF in New Jersey, the Chicago Faire in Illinois or the Fest-West which is always somewhere in the western states each year, you really should go to one. Aside from the fabulous products and seminars available, you will usually rub shoulders with most of the movers and shakers in the TI community. Many of them were in attendance at Fest-West '89. Regena, Barry Traver, Steve Mehr and Roger Merritt from Comprodine, Terrie Masters and Fred Moore from the LA Users Group, Jerry Price from Tex Comp, Tom Freeman and Jim Lohmeyer from T and J Software, Rich Carroll from DIJIT, Mike Wright representing Peter Hoddie's Genial Computerware, John McDermott from Rave99, Ray Kazner of WoodStock fame, T.A.P.E. with their innovative mouse system and other goodies for the 99 was there as were B.J. and Jack Mathis from the SouthWest 99ers in Tucson. The Mathis family members were featured in the December 1988 edition of PC Computing magazine in a marvelous article about orphaned computers entitled "Gone But Not Forgotten".

As an information item for you PR BASE V2.1 users, Jack Mathis has re-written the PR BASE utilities programs by John Johnson to work with the Mike Dodd V2.1 version. If you are interested in procuring a copy write to Jack care of the Southwest 99ers, Box 17831 Tucson, Az. 85730. Jack is an up and coming assembly language programmer who I hope to hear more from in the future.

I never asked about the actual attendance figures, but I can reasonably say that attendance was well into the hundreds. It was so neat to be apart of it all. Fest coordinator Woody Wilson even let me give a seminar on TI-Base on Saturday afternoon. Other seminars were given by Regena, Barry Traver and Woody himself. The Fest was sponsored this year by the Southern California

Computer Group, Box 21181 El Cajon, Ca. 92021. Thanks to the ladies and gentlemen of the SCCG for their hard work and excellent organization. It was a GREAT event! There is talk already of Fest-West '90 taking place in Tucson. I hope so. I've never been to Tucson and I can't think of a better excuse to go than a TI Faire.

#### COMPRODINE:

Comprodine is an acronym for COMputer PROgrammers Distribution Network. The firm is owned by Rodger Merritt and Steve Mehr. Thanks to the programming wizardry of Rodger and the marketing where-with-all of Steve, the company offers some of the neatest graphics oriented software ever produced for the 99/4A. Besides the PRINT-IT program I already own from them, I was able to pick up Form Shop, Jiffy Card and Jiffy Flyer. If you ever need to produce professional printed material for any purpose, Comprodine is the company to contact. If you are a Computer Shopper subscriber you can read all about Form Shop in the February 1989 edition in the TI Forum column authored by Barry Traver. Comprodine's address is 1949 Evergreen Ave., Fullerton, Cal. 92635.

#### TRIVIA:

Talk about off-the-wall trivia! Did you know that California Dreamers Inc., Chicago, Illinois 60610, produced a beautiful greeting card that features the beige version of the 99/4A console on the front of the card, with a message inside the card that reads, "I'd love to program your software"? Unreal! The layout was designed by Jim Lienhart, who may be a 99er, but it is not a name that I have ever seen anywhere. The card is copyrighted 1984, which means it was done after the "bailout" by TI. Wonder why he chose our machine? Glad he did at any rate.

#### MICROdex for TI-Base:

In the January '89 Four-A/TALK I introduced the MICROdex program and data base for publications referencing. This time I am going to tell you about MICROdex for TI-Base.

Because I find TI-Base to be the most powerful and flexible data base management system available for the TI, and because there are over 1000 copies of it out there in the community already, I have written the MICROdex library files in TI-Base format. This means that TI-Base owners can now have access to the thousands of indexed items that are found in the MICROdex libraries. The MICROdex for TI-Base system contains TI-99/4A indexes for 99er/Home Computer Magazine, Compute! magazine, MICROpendium and miscellaneous files for Enthusiast 99, Super 99 Monthly, The Smart Programmer and others.

MICROdex for TI-Base is entirely menu driven with no command file programming required. It performs some of the fastest searches available in any 99/4A data base and supports both displayed and printed output. If you have ever read something on the 99/4A or Geneve and wanted to find it again, this is the tool for you. Aside from being an excellent reference library, it also gives you

a host of TI-Base command file examples that you can modify for other uses. MICROdex for TI-Base will be available through Texagents in the next couple of weeks. Look for it.

#### NEXT MONTH:

Myarc's HFDC card is discussed. Until then...

## FOR SALE

TI99/4a console, TI PEB, TI 32K, TI Controller, 1 drive, TI RS232, Speech Synthesizer, Joysticks, TI Extended BASIC, TE2 and various other pieces of software. ALL reasonable offers will be considered. If interested write to Chuck Brandenburg, 1910 Edwards Mill Rd., Germantown, TN 38138.

TI99/4a system for sale, contact Dave McLendon at (406) 628-8246 or write 2711 Alpine View, Laurel, MO 59044.

Looking for some books on the TI99/4a? Books Unlimited at Eastgate shopping center (other locations also) has about 5 different titles for under \$5 each. The only other local store that sometimes has TI specific products is Games N Gadgets in the Mall of Memphis.

## REVIEWS

By Gary W. Cox

Here are some short reviews on some recent new programs.

#### CALENDAR MAKER 99

Calendar Maker 99 is a recent new program sold by Asgard Software of P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20850. Calendar Maker 99 does just what the name implies, it produces and prints calendars and does a good job at it. The presentation of the calendars produced are custom designed by the user. Calendars can be printed for an entire year or just for one month. Each month can have a big picture at the top or just have one month by itself or you can place two months onto one page when not using a big picture. The big pictures can be created with a graphics program called Picasso (Shareware version available in our library). Individual small pictures can be placed onto any day on the calendar (22 pictures come with the disk) and an option is available to overwrite everything in that block with a small picture or combine the picture with text or you can just have text by itself. The text option for each month is probably the most useful in reminding you of appointments, birthdays etc... But as I mentioned pictures can

be added to that text also to help remind you of the event. Additional small pictures can be converted over from TI ARTIST instances and placed in with any day of the calendar. Furthermore, a small message can also appear at the bottom of the page.

Many different typefaces and borders are available and included on the disk. For anyone who needs to make their own custom made calendar I think this program is it! It is easy to use and truly custom designable. The only item that I do not like about the program is that it does not automatically know which days are a holiday. Cost of the program is \$19.95 plus 75 cents shipping. The program requires Extended BASIC, 32K, Epson compatible printer and a disk system. Two disk drives are helpful but not required. I give the program an overall rating of an A. The program comes on a non-copy protected disk. (This program was demonstrated at last months meeting.)

#### BROWSE

The next program for quick review is Browse written by Peter Hoddle and sold by Genial Computerware of P.O. Box 183, Grafton, MA 01519. Browse is a text file utility program which does what the name implies it allows you to Browse text files or more commonly referred to as Dis/Var 80 files. At first I thought, why do I need a program to do that as I could just load Funnelweb? After working some with the program I do see some advantages in the ease and quickness in access to text files that Browse provides. First of all the program allows the loading of up to 24K of text files (D/V 80 files) into memory, this is equal to about 100 sectors of disk space. Furthermore, more than one text file can be loaded into memory at once with each retaining their separate identity. Thus you can look at one file that was loaded and then look at the next without having to reload the different files off of disk more than once. Once a file or files are loaded into memory they are retained in memory until erased. You can load as many files into memory as you wish until the 24K space is full with each file retaining its separate identity and thus can be pulled up by selecting the file name listed on the screen without reloading it off of disk. Browse is controlled through the use of simple pop up menu's where various options can be selected. Standard screen controls are active such as window left and right, up and down or move line by line... For Geneve 9640 owners files are displayed in full 80 columns.

Each file loaded can in turn be printed with features to start each file on a new page, print the file name, use special modes of your printer, strip control characters, select lines per page and define output device.

In short, Browse is a nice easy way to view and print text files. Browse is only a small program taking up 32 sectors (plus 5 for Charal file and 5 for the XB loader if you need them) thus can be placed onto your utility disks for quick access to files. Browse will load from XB, E/A or TI Writer option #3 and requires 32K and a disk drive. Browse is mentioned as compatible with ram disks, hard drives and the Geneve 9640. However, the usage for Browse is limited to its few functions but if you have a need for a quick

and easy way to view D/V 80 files and need a program that doesn't take up much space on disk this program may be what you are looking for. The only bit that I didn't really like about Browse was that when cataloging a disk it only shows D/V 80 files on the catalog which is actually fine considering that the program only works with D/V 80 files. Browse sells for \$10 plus \$1 shipping. The program comes on a non-copy protected disk.

## IN THE MIDNIGHT HOUR

By Michael Dorman

Several new items have been announced in the last few weeks regarding software for the 9640. Cliff Pulley, the author of c99, has released a new interim graphics library for the 9640 version of c99. He has also released a patch to patch a running version of MDOS 1.14 to enable the use of his graphics library. Both the graphics library and the patch can be downloaded from The Midnight Hour BBS.

The newest release of the Myarc Disk Manager V for the Myarc Hard/Floppy Disk Controller is also available on the board. This is version 1.28 of MDHV.

### Advanced Basic

According to Lou Phillips, speaking on a TI Forum conference on Comuserve on Tuesday, March 7th, Advanced Basic will be passed out at the TICOFF fair in New Jersey on Saturday, March 11, 1989. It should be available on Comuserve (and The Midnight Hour) shortly thereafter. After a couple of weeks, MDOS 1.15 should be released. Lou stated that he was waiting to release MDOS 1.15 after any bugs in Advanced Basic are found. Advanced Basic relies on MDOS calls. MDOS 1.15H (the hard drive version) is supposed to be released a few weeks after the release of MDOS 1.15.

According to Walt Howe who is writing the appended documentation for Advanced Basic, there is an undocumented feature in Advanced Basic. It now has the ability to use DV80 files for Basic programs. This means that programs can be created/modified in a text editor or word processor and then run in Basic.

### 9640 Fortran

The following is a press release that announces the new 9640 Fortran.

March 4, 1989

LGMA Products announces the availability of 9640 FORTRAN, the finest compiler for the 9640 GENEVE computer!

Alan Beard, author of 99 FORTRAN and spokesman for LGMA Products, says that 9640 FORTRAN is the most exciting language development in the history of the TI-99/4A and MYARC GENEVE product lines.

9640 FORTRAN runs under the 9640 GENEVE computer native MDOS operating system, version 1.14, and has the following outstanding features:

1. A full screen text editor with string search/replace capabilities and FORTRAN tab stops.
2. An optimizing FORTRAN compiler. Contains many FORTRAN 77 features, including BLOCK IF statements, and six data types (integer \*1, integer \*2, integer \*4, real \*4, real \*8, and logical \*2). An extension of the PROVEN 99 FORTRAN compiler.
3. A FORTRAN linker, which allows linking FORTRAN and Assembly Language (TI E/A) modules.
4. Execution support package, which includes floating point support, integer \*4 arithmetic, and transparent MDOS input/output interfaces.
5. An extensive FORTRAN Symbolic Debugger, which includes features never before seen on the TI-99/4A or MYARC GENEVE, such as:
  - o Breakpoints by line number and FORTRAN label
  - o Built-in Disassembler
  - o Source View Capability
  - o Memory Display/Modify in byte, word, longword
  - o Built in command help
6. Three FORTRAN libraries, containing over 160 FORTRAN subprograms and SUBROUTINES, providing the most extensive library of any language for the TI-99 or MYARC GENEVE, and interfaces to almost all of the MDOS graphics, sound, memory, utility, and I/O XOP libraries.
7. Four demonstration programs are provided in source form, including:
  - o A spreadsheet calculator
  - o A sine wave plotting program
  - o A fractals fancy graphics program
  - o A disk/file sector editing utility

9640 FORTRAN produces native MDOS executable programs, just type in the name of the file and it will execute just like assembly language programs!

Generous documentation is provided in the form of a 230 page user manual, describing all features and functions of the FORTRAN system, including many examples. Also included are two double sided/single density diskettes and a ninety day limited warranty.

9640 FORTRAN will be available at the TICOFF computer show on March 18, 1989, and orders may be taken NOW for delivery on that date.

9640 FORTRAN is available for a suggested retail of \$69.95 from



Disk Only Software. Additional dealer information to follow.

### New 9640 Assembler

Paul Charlton announced a new 9640 assembler/linker/librarian package on TI Net Sunday, February 26, 1989. TI Net is a forum on Delphi. The following release is courtesy of TI Net:

New product from Genial Computerware, written by Paul Charlton, to be released soon!

[these programs are currently done, work which remains before release is testing and documentation...a 1 April 1989 release is planned!]

This package contains:

- 1) GENASM macro assembler. Runs in MDOS mode. Ideal for developing code for 99/4a and MDOS applications. Great for C99 programmers!
- 2) GENLINK linker. Runs in MDOS mode. Full support for code libraries. Ideal for developing 99/4a and MDOS applications.
- 3) GENLIB librarian. Runs in MDOS mode. Allows easy interactive maintenance of code libraries for the linker.
- 4) libraries for 99/4a and MDOS programmers, with commonly used routines.
- 5) GENMAKE make utility. Runs in MDOS mode. Allows an author to easily keep track of file dependencies in programs and large documents. Great for programmers and people who are writing the great American novel. When run, it will update all files which need to be updated, and will (optionally) ignore all files which are already up to date.
- 6) MDOS programming environment documentation, with programming examples for all MDOS library functions, programming tricks for MDOS.

All utilities can be invoked from a batch file, for complete development automation.

The suggested retail price is \$69.95 for the entire package, which will be available from Genial Computerware and Disk Only Software.

Quick notes on GENASM assembler. (c) Copr 1989 Paul Charlton

This is a one-pass assembler which generates object code for all 9995 opcodes (and it is FAST).

Symbol table size is only limited by the amount of memory on your system. (over 2,000 fully cross-referenced symbols with TINODE off).

Assembler performance:

	GENASM	(GPL speed 5) 99 Assembler	speedup
floppy (1)	2,500 line/min	900 line/min	x3
HFDC (2)	7,000 line/min	1900 line/min	x4
ramdisk	12,500 line/min	2600 line/min	x5

- 1 --- interlace 4 floppy disk
- 2 --- interlace 22 HFDC disk

In addition to the standard 9900 series assembler directives, the assembler supports nested conditional assembly, nested macros, and local symbols.

The assembler can generate several types of reports:

- 1) Error log
- 2) Unreferenced symbols (unused code)
- 3) Cross reference of programmer specified global symbols.
- 4) Full cross reference of all global symbols (w/o registers)
- 5) Full cross reference of all global symbols (including registers)

Error reports are very complete, identifying the file, line number and statement number of the error, as well as a highly detailed description of the cause of the error (good learning aid for people just starting to dabble in assembly.)

Expression evaluation is much more robust than the TI99 assembler, with more numeric operations allowed (+, -, \*, /, mod, and, or, shift left). Expressions are also allowed to contain parentheses to override the normal left-to-right evaluation sequence of expressions.

All symbols are allowed to contain up to 31 characters (including REF/DEF !!!) Get rid of those cryptic label names!

Numeric constants can be expressed in Hex, Decimal, -and- Binary.

The assembler also has support for a symbolic debugger for object code.

Quick notes on the GENLINK linker program.

The linker has full support for developers of MDOS and TI99/4a applications programs, including GPL based programs.

The linker accepts command input from the keyboard or a script file.

The linker has full support for a symbolic debugger, and should be robust enough to support symbolic debugging environments for higher level languages such as Fortran, "C", and "PASCAL".

You are able to specify blocks to load, with priorities for each block. You are able to move data from place to place in the object code before you save the program image. (Good for reducing the disk space used by a program which is fragmented in memory.)

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You are able to save chained program images for MDOS, T199, and GPL program images. You can also save large program images similar to SYSTEM/SYS (for complete control of the computer!) You are able to use any DEF symbols in expressions for saving and moving blocks of memory.

You can resolve references from subroutine libraries provided, and libraries of own creation.

You can execute any MDOS internal command from within the linker.

The linker is also -fast-, it is able to link more than 150k bytes/min.

Quick notes on the GENLIB librarian.

The librarian has full interactive support for maintenance of linker subroutine libraries, including insertion and deletion of subroutines.

This comes with libraries for the full E/A programming environment, as well as a library for MDOS programmers.

Quick notes on the GENMAKE utility.

The best way to keep your multi-part programs and documents up to date after making changes to parts of them. In general you only want to update the resulting files which are affected by the changes, GENMAKE does this for you automatically. (You can override this default to update any section you want to.)

GENMAKE files can contain:

- 1) macros to be used on later lines in the file.
- 2) rules specifying file dependencies (can be many lines long)
- 3) actions to be executed if a rule fails to be up to date.

The dependencies can be nested and be shared between different rules.

Quick notes on MDOS documentation.

The most complete documentation available for the MDOS programming environment. All parameters, quirks and calling sequences are documented for each MDOS library routine. The structure of a TASK's header is explained. Programming tips and tricks for MDOS programmers. Programming examples are given for each subroutine call.

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**NOTICE**

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**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 per 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: March 16, April 20, May 18 (3rd Thursday!)  
WORKSHOPS: March 25, April 22, May 27 (4th Saturday!)

**24HR TI BULLETIN BOARD**

The Midnight Hour BBS                    300/1200/2400 bd                    501-735-9980  
Dial 735-9980 from Memphis area for toll free call.

**GROUP MAILING ADDRESS**

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

**LIBRARY ADDRESS**

David Ferguson  
3377 Creighton Ave.  
Memphis, TN 38118

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ | | \$15.00 FAMILY  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ | | \$10.00 JUNIOR (under 15)  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_ : INTERESTS \_\_\_\_\_

EQUIPMENT, ETC. \_\_\_\_\_

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