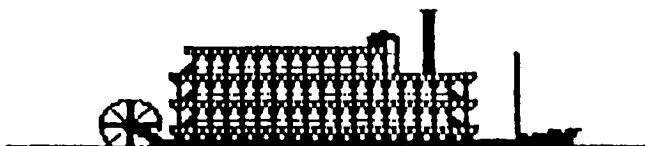


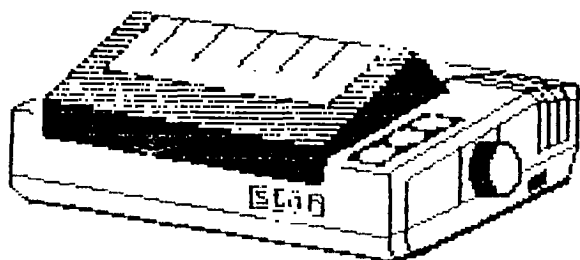
TIdbits

MID SOUTH 89 USERS GROUP



MEMPHIS TENNESSEE

AUGUST 1989 ISSUE



REVIEWS

Page Pro
MICROdex

T I D B I T S

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Richard Hiller	SECRETARY	901-794-9945
Bob Jones	TREASURER	901-363-9213
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David Ferguson	Disk Librarian	901-795-3287
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PRESIDENT'S BIT

By Gary W. Cox

Meeting attendance last month was not too bad with a count of 24 people in attendance. The meeting was somewhat overshadowed by the loss of one of our best members and friends Al Doss...

This month marks the first month that all demonstrations are through our new sponsorship program. This program allows a member to purchase a pre-approved program and we will pay for it as long as he demonstrates it and writes a review for the newsletter. Michael Dorman will be demonstrating the new desk top publishing program from Asgard Software called Page Pro 99 while Beery Miller will demonstrate Microdex...

According to unconfirmed rumor subscriptions to Micropendium Magazine have increased recently which if true shows an increase in interest by the TI99/4a and Geneve 9640 community. Requests for sample newsletters in our group have also increased as well...

This month's meeting should be a good one so everyone please come!

LIBRARY BIT

By David Ferguson

Ten new disks have been added to the library as of this printing and they are:

- 1021, 1022 - Health and the Human Body (a 2 disk set)
- 2065 - The Maze of GROG! Help Woodstock rescue Penelope from the Grog.
- 4020-4023 - The Hamilton User's Group Music Package by Stephen W. Johnson
- 4024, 4025 - Two disks of music from the TIGERCUB, Jim Peterson
- 4026 - Sonatas for Pianoforte by J.S. Bach

I've run most of these programs and there is something for everyone in these latest additions, especially if you like long hair music. I mean one guy did a great job with "Stairway to Heaven"

PROGRAM BIT

- 6:30pm - Doors Open
- 7:00pm - Meeting begins, general discussion.
- 7:30pm - 8:15pm - Demonstration by Beery Miller of Microdex.
- 8:15pm - 9:15pm - Demonstration by Michael Dorman of Page Pro 99
- 9:45pm - Meeting ends.
- 10:00pm - Late Dinner at location to be announced.

IN THE NEWS

By Gary W. Cox

Triton Products is now offering their "bridge box" that they once used for their Triton Turbo XT's (IBM compatible) for \$29.95. This box is nothing but a fancy switch that essentially allows the TI99/4a console to control an IBM compatible computer. However, at that low price it might be a neat little item to play with. If interested contact Triton at 1-800-227-6900.

Texaments of 53 Center Street, Patchogue, NY 11772 is offering several new products. Among them is TI Sort. TI Sort is described as the "only universal sorting utility available for the TI99/4a". Also described as being fast, powerful and easy to use TI Sort will sort an unlimited amount of data records stored in almost any file format including TI BASE files, delimited files, fixed length files and BASIC or XB files... As an example TI Sort will sort a standard TI BASE file with 843 records sorted on 2 fields in just under 9 minutes using a standard floppy drive while the same sort took over three hours using the SORT directive of TI BASE! TI Sort sells for \$14.95 plus \$2.50 shipping. Texaments has also released four new companion products for TI Artist (Artist companions #10-#13.) For more information write or call (516) 475-3480 or call their multi user BBS for TI owners at (516) 475-6463 300/1200bd 24hr. By the way I have logged onto their BBS and it is a very nice system!

Texaments has also offered user group discounts on TI Sort, Companions #10-13, TI BASE and TI Artist. Discounts range from \$3 to \$5 per item. If interested in any of these products contact one of the officers of our group.

Asgard Software has released a new adventure for the adventure module called Zoom Flume. Zoom Flume is described as being set in a water-park. The object of the game is to have as much fun as you can within your budget in this "amusing new type of adventure game". The game is available on disk or cassette for \$7.95 and requires the Adventure module. For more information write Asgard Software, P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20850 or call (703)

255-3085.

Harrison Software of 5705 40th Place, Hyattsville, MD 20781 is offering a new word processor which runs in Extended BASIC. It is described as having features like move, copy up to full page, even into another document, full compatibility with Epson FX/MX, Star and other dot matrix printers. Built in utilities to create and edit printer action tables for other printers, built in utilities to boot up tailored for your system, file conversion to/from TI-Writer or ASCII files, menu driven and user friendly. The word processor is simply called "Word Processor" and sells for \$20. For more information write or call (301) 277-3467.

The following edited from the July 1989 Micropendium Magazine.

Disk Only Software of P.O. Box 244, Lorton, VA 22079 now has a new 800 number. The new number is 1-800-736-4951 and operates within the continental United States. All other calls should be made to (703) 550-9877.

Richard Lynn Gilbertson is offering an extension to BASIC for the TI through the use of CALL LINK statements. The program may be downloaded from the PUNN (Portland Users of 99s) at (503) 233-6804. The program is being offered as fairware and asks that it be distributed through user groups only. For further information contact Gilbertson at 2205 S.E. Salmon, Portland, OR 97214.

DDI Software has released Appointment Scheduler for the Geneve 9640 and a utility package called Artist Utility. Appointment Scheduler is designed to create an appointment schedule on a day-to-day basis for every month of the year. Artist Utility includes Sidenaker, a program to create slides and instances for TI Artist. Also included is Prografix, a program to create graphics for use in a program in HEX or ASCII. Plus there is Textgrafix, a program to create small graphics for My-Word and TI-Writer. It uses no TIs and runs out of XB. Appointment Scheduler sells for \$15 and Artist Utility for \$12. For further information or to order write DDI Software, 2004B Leann, Austin, TX 78758.

MICROdex

Review by: Beery W. Miller

MICROdex is a difficult application to review. MICROdex is a database to be used with TI Base that indexes nearly all information regarding the TI that 'can' be called up and from which you can locate the original article by issue/page number. The information contained in the first volume (indexes of Micropendium, Compute, 99er Magazine, and HCN) and the second volume (Byte, Computer Shopper, Creative Computing, Enthusiast 99,

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Family Computing, Mini Mag 99, Popular Computing, R/D Tech News, Super 99 Monthly, and The Smart Programmer) is enormous. There are in excess of 2000 records with appropriate magazine, issue, and page number provided.

As it is written, MICROdex revolves around command files used by TI Base. This means you MUST own TI Base to use the program. I found MICROdex to have it's advantages and disadvantages. It's advantages are several. In the menu invoked from the command file, the ability to Browse all records is provided. I found it most enjoyable to scan article titles relating to our computer such as "TI drops 99/8", "GK Utilities", etc. A lot of information that I did not know existed was indexed. Now if I only had some of those old magazines to be able to read the article, I would be in business. Another advantage of MICROdex, is that for the inexperienced TI Base user, the person is given the opportunity to see the actual 'text code' of a TI Base command file and could learn how to set a TI Base command file up to make your data needs simplified.

The main disadvantage I see with MICROdex, is that when searching for an article title, the match must be EXACT. All spaces, punctuation, and complete title must match, or it will NOT find the article in question in the data base. The ability of KEYWORDS to locate information, such as 9640, 9938, 9918, Myarc, Cor Comp, TENEX, etc. is not provided. The documentation (4 pages, but that was ample for the program) does provide the information necessary to locate partial string matches. I think this was something that should have been added to TI Base that would have made it extremely versatile.

The program does what it says, but no additional extras should be expected. Documentation is adequate for what is required, and the price is excellent for what you are getting. Overall, I would give this application a [B+] in performance, with the only fault being the lack of a partial string search that should have been included within the command file itself. Textaments, 53 Center Street, Patchogue, NY 11772 is offering the program as Vol 1 (4 disks) for \$14.95, and Vol 2 (2 disks) for \$9.95 or both for \$22.95. You can't really go wrong with this application if you sometimes have as much trouble locating information as I do. Countless times I have search MICROpendium after MICROpendium for an article I remembered reading to finally find it 30 minutes later when I could have found it within 5 minutes using MICROdex. If nothing else, the ability to print each record out for a hard copy is even provided within the command file.

At the next meeting, I will review MICROdex, and at the same time, try to answer questions regarding the use of command files and data base organization. So if you use TI Base, and something has you stumped, I should be able to answer it, but if I can't answer it, hopefully, someone else will be at the meeting that might be able to answer your question.

# FOUR-A/TALK

Random ramblings about things TI.

By Bill Gaskill

August 1989

A HOT SUMMER IN THE 99/4A and 9640 COMMUNITY

WHAT'S HOT:

PPDNU (Page Pro Device Name Utility), COLUMNTEXT, TI-SORT and THE BUGGER.

DISCOVERIES:

-Insebot Inc. has released the commercial version of TI-SORT. It contains all of the features mentioned in a previous Four-A/Talk column, but now has some of the neatest "windows" you have ever seen for on-screen help. It loads quickly and has performed flawlessly. If you don't have it, you WILL want it. The program sorts almost any kind of file, in ascending or descending order, by multiple fields. It also makes sorting a TI-Base file a "dream". Grab it! For \$14.95 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling, you can't go wrong.

Insebot Inc.  
P.O. Box 291610  
Port Orange, Fl. 32029

-Richard W. Lauhead, a member of the Minneapolis/St. Paul 99ers, has written a neat assembly language coded utility to convert disk/path names on a floppy or ram disk to other paths/names. The program was originally written to convert Ed Johnson's Page Pro 99 so that it would run from a hard drive, but according to the author, the program will work on any application, not just Page Pro. The utility may be ordered from Richard or downloaded from GENie and probably the other major on-line information services by now. The program is not Fairware, but Richard wouldn't turn down any donations that you care to send. Here's a short explanation of the program from him;

"Page Pro 99 Device Name Utility is a utility program I wrote to convert all the device names on the Page Pro example disk from DSK1 to WDS1.PAGEPRO (the directory on my hard disk where I put all the examples). This allowed me to load all the example pages without getting I/O errors, or having to use the method detailed in the manual for getting around this problem. I also used it on the three program files to convert all the default DSK1 prompts to WDS1.PAGEPRO prompts. The utility is really very simple. It reads each sector of the disk on the drive you specify and searches for the string DSK1. If it finds the string, it replaces

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it with the device name you specify, and corrects the device/file length byte. The program uses low level disk controller sector read/write routines. It has been tested on a CorComp controller on the Geneve, a Horizon RAM disk on the Geneve and a TI controller on the TI99/4A, but it should work on any controller. It has not been tested on the hard disk controller."

Richard's address is;

Richard W. Lauhead
3985 Clover Ave.
St. Paul, Mn. 55127

-Ron Prewitt, a member of the Tacoma 99ers, has released version 4.1 of Columntext and version 3.1 of MarginText. Both are companion programs designed to produce columnized output of DV/80 files. Both programs are menu driven and almost don't need any documentation to figure out. If you want to spruce up the appearance of your newsletter, this may be the package for you. Ron asks a paltry \$5.00 for his efforts. You may write to him at;

Ron Prewitt
6429 South Fife
Tacoma, Wa. 98409

-Mike McCasline has compiled a listing of over 200 TI-99 Bulletin Board Systems around the country. I don't know if Mike is interested in sharing the list or not, but a couple of dollars might help sway him if you are interested. Mike's address is;

Mike McCasline
Box 885
Monrovia, Ca. 91016

NEWS:

-The official "final" version of Advanced Basic for the Geneve was released June 30th. It may be downloaded from GENie in either one arc'd file (#3330) or as 7 un-arc'd files.

-MDOS version .95H for the Myarc Hard Disk was released on June 6th by Lou Phillips. It may be downloaded from GENie. It is recommended that you download the un-arc'd version, apparently because of a "possible" problem with the compression of the file when it is archived. Both versions are available for download. The un-arc'd version is file #3299.

-As of July 15th, the word is that the most recent version of MYWORD for the Geneve will be the last one produced. Apparently since Peter Hoddie has moved to the Silicon Valley area of California he is no longer working for Myarc. Paul Charlton, who at last report was working in the Boulder or Fort Collins, Colorado area, is still working for Myarc. More good things to come I hope.

-A rumor is circulating that John Johnson will take over as sysop for the TI RoundTable on GEnie and that Scott Darling, who took over from Mark Sumner, way back when the TI RoundTable was first formed, will move on to "other" things.

-Another rumor I picked up is that Norm Sellers, master of music fairware, is nearing completion on a new assembly language coded utility for the 99/4A. Although I don't have a name for it, the program supposedly will read disk files and tell you virtually anything that there is to know about the files. A real "Innermost Secrets" type application.

-Ernie Pergren, the Educational Program Chairman for the Chicago TI Users Group, has undertaken a project to put together a 20-25 page booklet of non-copyrighted articles from other newsletters? It will be patterned after the very successful Hardware Projects Manual that the Chicago Group produced via Nick Iacovelli et al.

-Tom Freeman and Jim Lohmeyer of T and J Software have announced the release of THE BUGGER, an assembly language debugger that sends output to the RS232 port to avoid corrupting the program being debugged. The program lacks print routines at this point apparently, but will have them included as soon as the necessary code for "all" RS232 cards is available. THE BUGGER is available for \$18.50 (which includes S/H) from;

T and J Software
515 Alma Real Drive
Pacific Palisades, Cal.
90272

-Barry Traver has uploaded over 15 files of public domain graphics data files (that contain pictures) that can be used with a program called TIPS, by Ron Wolcott, to convert the pictures to TI-Artist Instances. As soon as I locate Ron's address I will let you know. I also haven't been able to find the TIPS program either.

-Comprodine's Roger Merritt and TexComp's Jerry Price have apparently entered into an agreement whereby the giant distributor of TI-99/4A products will handle Comprodine software. On a similar note, Paul Coleman, author of GAP (Giant Artist Posters) and the NameLoc line of software, is apparently now lending his programming skills to the Comprodine line of innovative products. Look for great things to come!

Comprodine
1949 Evergreen Ave.
Fullerton, Ca. 92635
714-990-4577 (12-5 PST)

TexComp Users Supply
P.O. Box 33084
Granada Hills, Ca. 91344
818-366-6631 (24 hr. order line)

THIS MONTH IN TI-99 HISTORY:

<1979>

According to Interface Age magazine the first modules to be produced for the new TI-99/4 will include; Connect Four, Hangman, Yahtzee and Zero Zap.

<1982>

The home computer industry "shake-out" begins.

<1983>

Morning Star Software, Beaverton, Oregon, offers CP/M card for Peripheral Expansion Box.

-H/S Enterprises, Suffern, NY. offers a custom designed carrying case for the 99/4A that let you take your computer on the road with you. The product let you pack the console, RF modulator, cassette recorder, speech synthesizer, power supply and several cassette tapes in a high-impact carrying case. It retails for \$59.95.

-Not-Polyoptics introduces the Texas Light Shooter in six gun shape.

-TI signs with Spinnaker Software to produce FACEMAKER and STORY MACHINE for the 99/4A, and they also reach an agreement with SEGA to produce 99/4A versions of CONGO BONGO, STAR TREK and BUCK ROGERS.

-The Chicago Users Group goes on line with the first Users Group BBS.

-Ralph Fowler's TIBBS goes on-line in Kennesaw, Georgia.

-MBX system debuts at Summer Consumer Electronics show in Chicago.

-Compute! magazine reports that the TI- 99/8 is close to production.

-ENTRAPMENT, MINI-WRITER, MOONHINE and SNEGGIT debut at Summer CES.

-Basic Tips by Amlist book appears.

-Doryt Systems releases 32K stand alone unit for the 99/4A, along with printer hookup called "Paraprint".

-Vaughn Software, author of the BITHAC drawing program, releases a new series of game programs on cassette.

-First issue of TI USER, a British 99er publication, appears.

-Counterpoint Software, St. Louis, Mo. changes its name to Challenger Software International.

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-Memory Devices, Lilburn, Ga., changes it name to BizWare Inc.

<1984>

Super Extended Basic utility by Jim Hollender debuts.

-The first spelling checker ever written for TI-Writer debuts from Omaha, Nebraska author Thomas Kirk of Dragonslayer-American Software.

-CorComp file for bankruptcy protection under Chapter 11.

-ST.NICK and SCHNOZ-OLA game cartridges are released by FunWare.

<1985>

CorComp releases TRIPLE TECH CARD for PE Box that contains 64K printer buffer, time and date clock and ability to put speech synthesizer chip into the expansion box.

-Monty Schmidt releases "TECHIE" BBS.

-PERSONAL AUDITOR version 1.0 released by PRK DataBasics Grand Junction, Colo.

-ASGARD LIGHT PEN by Bob Emmel debuts.

-Barry Traver's GENIAL TRAVELER disk debuts.

<1986>

Danny Michael enhancements to Extended Basic and Editor/Assembler modules for for Gram Kracker are released.

<1987>

Super Extended Basic module, written by Craig Miller, with the help of others such as Danny Michael, Mike Dodd and M. Shillingburg, is released by the Triton Products Company, Foster City, Cal.

-Grand Ram is announced by DataBiotics.

-GRAPHX Slideshow is announced.

<1988>

Myarc releases MDOS 1.06, GPL 1.02 and Disk Manager Five V1.21 for the 9640.

-Tony Lewis begins a series of tutorial articles on the TMS9918A VDP chip, that are published in MICROPENDIUM.

-Myarc releases 512K ram card for 9640.

-Asgard Software releases PrEditor by Tom Bentley and Column Attack, which is the first game program to be released that is written in 99Fortran.

-CaDD Electronics, a Haverhill, Mass. firm, releases Gramulator, a successor of sorts to the short-lived GramCracker produced by Millers Graphics in 1985.

Barry Boone releases ARCHIVER III.

-Reery Miller, 5455 Marina Cove #1, Memphis, TN. 38115 begins offering "9640 News", the first on-disk newsletter for owners of the Myarc Geneve 9640 computer.

-Myarc announces a 512K card for Geneve

#### TRIVIA:

Did you know that;

-Someone out there in TI land produced disk versions of several of the better known TI entertainment/game cartridges like; A-Maze-Ing, Ambulance, Blasto!, Burger Builder, Buck Rogers, Car Wars, Chisolm Trail, Congo Bongo, Connect Four, Espial, Face Maker, Fathom, Football, Hangman, Hunt the Wumpus, Mash, Microsurgeon, Moon Mine, MunchMan, Music Maker, Othello, Popeye, Q\*Bert, Soccer, St. Nick, Star Trek, TI-Invaders, Video Chess, Yahtzee,

-There were two MunchMan games? The original MunchMan game released by Texas Instruments in 1981 had a title screen which sported a huge mouth with giant teeth and buggy eyes? When you pressed a key or the fire button to signify that you were ready to play the jaws on the mouth closed in a chomping motion. The same program also had the MunchMan (our hero) eating dots (ala Pac-Man) instead of laying down a chain as the 1982 (the current) version does. The 1981 release also had had the power pills represented by pulsating circles instead of the cute little TI symbols that we are familiar with. Personally, I like the 1982 version better. Looks like someone at TI did too.

-Software Specialties, the same Evergreen, Colorado outfit that gave us Midnight Mason and TI-Toad, also produced Micro Pinball and Micro Pinball II? You may recall that computer-game giant Broderbund Software was scheduled to produce a pinball game called David's Midnight Magic (and another game called Choplifter) for the 99/4A, but dropped the plans after the October '83 bailout by TI. Until I discovered the Software Specialties games, I didn't realize that a 99/4A pinball game existed outside of the Extended Basic one that John Behnke wrote while with the Chicago TI Users Group. Both of the Software Specialties pinball games are 100% assembly and a joy to play. If you are interested in obtaining them, try writing to;

Software Specialties

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P.O. Box 3692
Ocala, Florida
32678-3692

I cannot guarantee that this address is still good though. It is about three years old. I believe that DataBiotics may also have released one or both of the programs in cartridge format too, but I haven't confirmed that yet.

-E.M. Smith of 3506 Garden Drive in Knoxville, Tn. 37918 used to offer bumper stickers for sale that read; "I'm a 99/4A booster. I love my TI-9/4A. We eat Apples for lunch"?

-The LA 99ers formed January 27, 1982 as the Los Angeles-South Bay 99/4 Users Group? Bob Saunders was the first group president and Bob Delpit, author of the DelPlan spreadsheet, was the group's first newsletter editor. Dick Martin and Jerry Price (of TexComp fame) were club librarians. Sam Tepper (any relation to Mini-Mag 99 editor Leslyn Tepper, I wonder?) and Fred McCarty, author of the TextTiger word processor, were program chairmen.

-In June 1982 TI announced the release of 45 new modules/programs for the TI-99? Among the software listed was Parsec (\$39.95), Multiplan (\$99.95), TI-Writer (\$99.95), Alpiner (\$39.95), Chisola Trail (\$39.95) and Logo II (\$129.95). Obviously not all of it appeared on schedule, but it must have been a thrill for the new TI owner to see that kind of support.

-In May 1982 TI offered a free Pascal spreadsheet called FREE FORM to anyone purchasing the new P-Code system? I had never heard of the program before, but I guess that's what trivia is all about.

-Ron Nelson designed the TOPICS log for the LA 99ers newsletter in February 1983 and it is still in use today?

-DataSoft, the Chatsworth, California company that had originally planned to release Zaxxon for the 99/4A, cancelled the plans because the program apparently could not be housed in a module and they didn't feel that there were enough owners with expansion systems to justify the release of a disk version. Bummer!

-The never to be released "BattleStar Galactica" game module for our 99/4A allowed two TI-99/4A's to be interfaced for two players to do battle in three dimensional space, complete with speech capabilities?

-When the Disk Manager II module was first released in February 1983, disk controller card owners were charged a \$9.95 upgrade fee? TI started shipping the new module with all disk controller cards in May 1983?

-TI had a marketing program called the Computer Advantage Club?. It was a marketing tool designed to educate users in computer usage and software applications, offered among other things; a 5-hour course on TI-Writer for \$49.95, an 8-hour course on Multiplan for \$95.00, a 4-hour Pre-School course for \$35.00 and a 10-hour course on Advanced (Extended) Basic Programming for \$75.00. The courses were taught by Product Support

Representatives, who were local users themselves, picked by TI to act as "area managers" for TI-99/4A product promotion. I don't know if these folks were paid any money for their efforts, but they did get all the newest hardware and software for their trouble.

Until next time...

PAGE PRO 99

Review by: Michael Dorman

What it is

Page Pro 99 is an assembly program from Asgard Software that makes pages. You can intermingle text with up to 28 different pictures on a page of 66 lines and 60 columns. With Page Pro 99 you can use two fonts at one time - a large font (16 x 24 pixels) and a small font (8 x 12 pixels).

You can also draw lines easily. Change all three fonts by loading new ones from disk (1. small font, 2. large font, 3. line drawing font.)

Page Pro 99 is a great page making program.

What it isn't

Page Pro 99 is not a "desktop publisher". Page Pro 99 (nor any other 4A program) does not have the ability to use limitless font combinations.

Page Pro is also not a drawing program. It uses fonts and pictures to create a good looking graphics page but it does not create the fonts and pictures.

Page Pro is not a word processor. However, it does read and write DV80 files that can be used with TI-Writer (within its 60 column line length limitation).

Overview of the program

Page Pro resembles TI-Writer when first booted up. It uses the same method of windowing from left to right. The page window shows 12 lines and 31 columns of the total 66 lines and 60 columns. As you move around the screen, the window adjusts to display the part of the page you are on. You cannot view the whole page at once (just like TI Writer). While there is a Geneve-enhanced version of Page Pro included, both versions are limited to a 40 column screen. An 80 column version is being planned according to Asgard.

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The bottom portion of the screen is used for displaying prompts, the status line, and for device name prompts. The status line is used to tell the user where the cursor is on the page, which direction the cursor will move (yes, you can type left to right, right to left, up or down!!!), and whether pictures will be displayed while you are working on the page.

Picture display can be turned off or on. One reason for turning off picture display while working on a page is that everytime a line or window is scrolled the picture has to be redrawn. This can be alleviated by turning the picture off. The picture is approximated by Page Pro. Page Pro uses "x's" to mark where the picture is on the page. This is an extremely useful function.

Different fonts can be loaded by pressing CTRL-A and loading in different fonts. Suggested suffixes for Page Pro fonts are as follows:

_LG - Large Fonts
_SM - Small Fonts
_LN - Line Fonts

Line Fonts

One of the most intriguing functions of Page Pro 99 to me is the inclusion of line fonts. Each line font basically includes 2 different types of line drawing fonts. Through clever use of line fonts, all sorts of previously difficult printing tasks can be easily accomplished. Using different line fonts, you can create forms, charts, maps, etc. Line drawing with Page Pro 99 differs from the technique used by Comprodine's Form Shop. Form Shop takes advantage of the built-in IBM line characters in most dot matrix printers. Page Pro, however, uses bit mapped graphics to build an endless variety of line graphics.

The drawback of this method is, of course, lack of speed. The advantage is the increased flexibility of the program.

Line drawing is used by pressing CTRL-8. This remaps the alphabet keys to different line symbols. These line symbols are shown on the status portion of the screen (bottom 1/4). By pressing CTRL-S,D,E,X, you can change the direction of the line drawing. Very neat!

Character Fonts

OK. So where do we find these fonts. One place is from existing TI Artist fonts. Since Page Pro supports a different font format, a utility program is provided to convert TIA fonts to PP fonts. The utility allows you to select either small or large fonts. Some TIA fonts are too large but can be converted with Genial Computerware's Graphics Expander or Asgard's Artist Enlarger.

Since there are programs to convert CSGD fonts to TI Artist fonts, there are many, many existing fonts to convert to PP format. If you don't want to go through the trouble of converting fonts, you

can buy from Asgard's new Page Pro Fonts series.

Pictures, pictures, pictures!!

Page Pro really shines at mixing pictures with text. Besides allowing the use of 28 pictures on a page, Page Pro 99 has a very interesting feature that allow you to type text right up next to the picture (or even over it if you want to). Page Pro allow two pictures to "overlap" by looking for "white space" and ignoring it. Refer to the accompanying article by Page Pro 99 author, Ed Johnson.

Where can we get pictures for Page Pro? Again, Page Pro uses a different file format (more compact) than TI Artist. And again, a conversion utility is provided for converting TI Artist instances to Page Pro format. Since MAXRLE allows conversion from Graphx, RLE, and TI Artist, many additional pictures are available. (Of course, TI Artist pictures must be converted to TI Artist INSTANCES by using TI Artist itself!)

One other new source of pictures comes from the recently released public domain series of TIPS pictures. TIPS pictures (available from The Midnight Hour BBS) are conversions of IBM pictures. Ed Johnson has written a conversion program to convert TIPS to Page Pro 99.

Full technical information on fonts and pictures are included in one of the 2 Page Pro manuals for those adventurous users who want to convert or create fonts, pictures, character sets for Page Pro 99.

Page Pro pictures are loaded in from the cursor position on the screen. The top left corner of the picture loads at the cursor and continues left to right, top to bottom.

Pictures can be deleted singly or in total or by typing over parts of a picture. This creates a easy, simple way to manipulate pictures.

Saving and loading pages

Loading and saving pages is a simple affair. Press CTRL-F to get the file options menu. The menu also gives the option of importing and exporting text which can be used with other word processors that use D/V 80 format (such as TI-Writer.) Page Pro 99 saves picture reference information with the page. For example, if you use DSK1.BASKET to put a picture of a basket on a page, that reference is also saved. Unfortunately, Page Pro expects the file - BASKET to be on DSK1 from now on. You cannot reload a page from another device and default to that device. So, if you intend to keep your pictures in DSK1. or WDS1.PICS., make sure you use that devicename when you first save your page.


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## Other features

Screen colors can be changed by using CTRL-C to toggle through 12 different color combinations. Another good feature is the ability to change your mind at file name prompts by pressing FCTN-9. This should be standard operating procedure with all commercial software. Unfortunately, some programs do not provide for a user backing out of a prompt.

## Utilities

This program comes with several utilities, sample pages, and alternate fonts. Included are a good text columnizing program, picture and font conversion programs, and a quick reference sample page. All of the utilities are in Extended Basic.

In addition to the utilities provided, Asgard is releasing new utilities (such as the TIPS conversion) via a download section on GENie which is available only to GENie users who have purchased Page Pro 99. Asgard has also uploaded some very good tutorials to GENie.

## Third Party Support

Page Pro 99 appears to be headed to joining an elite group of TI-99/4A programs such as TI Artist, CSGD, Graphx, and TI-Base. These programs are all programs that have created an aftermarket for companion products.

There are already commercial products being readied for use with Page Pro 99. Several fonts and other programs have already been uploaded to the telecommunication services from different Page Pro 99 users.

## Program Requirements

Needed are: TI-99/4A or Myarc Geneve 9640  
32k Memory Expansion (if 99/4)  
Extended Basic or Editor/Assembler or TI Writer  
Disk System  
Printer (Epson compatible - Prowriter  
version is being worked on per Asgard)

Extended Basic necessary to run utility programs

## Documentation

The documentation, as is usual with Asgard's products, is quite good. For some reason, the docs are split into two manuals. One is typeset for the utilities, tutorial, and tech reference. The reference booklet appears to be created by Page Pro itself. (It is unfortunately printed on yellow stock - BLECH!)

The tutorial in the Utilities manual is a very good exercise for

getting used to the ins and outs of Page Pro 99. Several helpful pointers are given that make the initial learning experience a pleasant one.

### Ease of use

What can I say? It's easy to use. Definitely first rate. The user interface is intuitive and even CTRL keys are mnemonically named. (CTRL-F for files, CTRL-P for print, CTRL-C for color)

### Conclusion

Page Pro 99 is one of those programs like TI Artist, TI-Base, and Telco that put new excitement in the 4A. It probably appeals to be more than the drawing packages because I am not artistic. Page Pro lets me easily use predrawn pictures with text. Definitely worth the money.

Page Pro 99 is available from:

Asgard Software  
P. O. Box 10306  
Rockville, MD 20850  
(703) 255-3085

Page Pro 99 sells for \$24.95 plus .75 shipping and handling. If using VISA or MasterCard add \$1.25 bank handling fee.

(Editor's note: Ed Johnson's Page Pro display article will be published next month due to lack of space in this month's issue)

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NOTICE

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

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

CALENDAR

MEETINGS: August 17, September 21, October 19 (3rd Thursday!)
WORKSHOPS: August 26, September 23, October 28 (4th Saturday!)

24HR T1 BULLETIN BOARD

The Midnight Hour BBS 300/1200/2400/9600 Hayes 501-735-9980
Dial 735-9980 from Memphis area for toll free call.

GROUP MAILING ADDRESS

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

LIBRARY ADDRESS

David Ferguson
3377 Creighton Ave.
Memphis, TN 38118

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, Tn, 38183-0522.

NOTICES

MEETING

7:00 P.M.

Thursday, August 17th

Red Cross Building

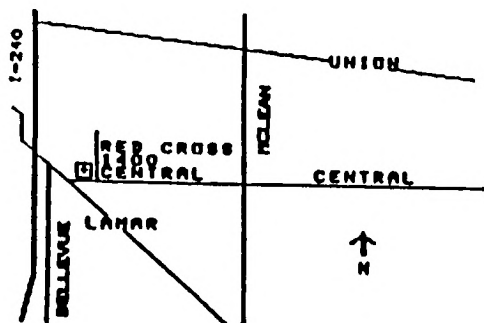
1400 Central Ave.

WORKSHOP

9am till Noon

Saturday, August 26th

To Be Announced



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



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