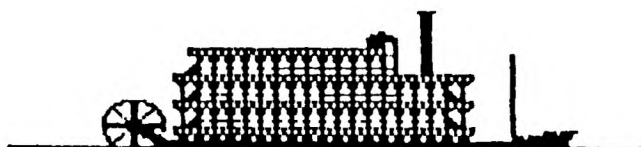


TI dbits

MID SOUTH 99 USERS GROUP



MEMPHIS TENNESSEE

NOVEMBER 1989 ISSUE



Happy Thanksgiving!

# T I D B I T S

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## PROGRAM BIT

- 6:30pm - Doors Open
- 7:30pm - General Discussion
- 7:15pm - Election Nominations for officers.
- 7:30pm - Demonstration by Gary Cox of TI Artist Plus.
- 8:30pm - Demonstration by Gary Cox of Identifile.
- 9:30pm - Meeting Ends.
- 9:45pm - Late Dinner at location to be announced at meeting.

# PRESIDENTS BIT

By Gary W. Cox

As you read this it has only been about a week since the Chicago TI Faire. Among those in our group who attended were Jim Samenes and his wife, Beery Miller (9640 news) and his wife, James Bennington and his wife, Michael Dorman, Richard Hiller, Lynn Crow and of course myself.

Our trip to the Chicago TI Faire this year was once again a very enjoyable event and for me this was my fifth year to attend. Our trip began Friday morning about 6:30am with Beery Miller and his wife and kid in one car, James Bennington and wife, Richard Hillier and Lynn Crow in a van full of TI99/4a equipment and Michael Dorman and myself in my car with a CB radio between us all.

We arrived Friday night about 5:30pm where we attended the Social Mixer that night. Many famous TI personalities were present and the mixer provided a great opportunity to talk with everyone on a personal basis.

Saturday, of course, was the BIG event of the fair. Several of us helped Beery Miller set up his 9640 NEWS table where Beery had on sale many programs for the Geneve as well as GIF and MACPAINT pictures plus issues of his 9640 news.

All of us certainly spent plenty of money buying software from new games to new programs such as Identifile, Maxflix Professional and equipment ranging from Ramdisks, Rambo Ramdisk update and Lynn even purchased a Geneve! We spend anywhere between \$150 and \$300 each on software and equipment! In fact, we purchased plenty of new software and equipment to keep new demonstrations for our meetings coming for quite some time.

On our trip back to Memphis I must mention a nice stop for lunch in Sikeston, MO that we had at Lambert's Cafe the "home of throwed rolls" where they actually pitch the rolls to you all the way across the room. It's an unusual place with fantastic food! If you are ever traveling along through Sikeston make a point to stop at this Cafe!

At this months meeting we will be demonstrating some of the things that we purchased at the fair as well as I took about 60 pictures focusing on the most well known personalities in the TI community and will have those on display. A more detailed article on the faire can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

At this months meeting we will also be taking nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer with the election being held at the December meeting.

As a foreword about our December meeting we are planning a BIG one! Not only in December are we planning our usual Christmas

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party/meeting but it is also going to be a TI REUNION meeting. We are planning on sending out invitations to anyone who has ever been on our mailing list the past seven years to invite them back to visit with us whether or not they still have their TI99/4a or not. This is just a chance to see once again many who have long since dropped out of our TI community. A great deal of work and money will be going into this meeting so please spread the word to former members about the event and please plan to attend. I know there are many in our group who are still members but haven't attended a meeting in years. Please try to make this one as we will be having plenty of food, computer demonstrations and fellowship with current and former MSUG members! The December meeting is Thursday December 21st. We will also be needing a great deal of help in setting up this event so if you can help please let me know. Make plans now to attend! Not to downplay our November meeting we will be taking a look at all the "goodies" that we picked up at the Chicago TI Faire plus we will have the usual pictures that I take at each faire. C ya at the meeting...

# IN THE NEWS

By Gary W. Cox

Not a lot of news this month as most of it would be a repeat of information about the Chicago TI Faire. However, here are some bits of news from the October 1989 Micropendium.

Ever wonder how many Micropendium are published each month. According to a statement in the October issue around 4,200 are sent out each month.

The former Genial Computerware of Massachusetts is now operating out of California with a new name. Products from the company are now available from JP Software, 2390 El Camino Real, #107, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Genial Computerware of Pennsylvania whose product is a "magazine on disk" for the TI, continues to operate at 835 Green Valley Dr., Philadelphia, PA 19128.

The Chicago TI Users Group of P.O. Box 578341, Chicago, IL 60657 is offering a TI-Writer Supplement Manual. The manual is a compilation of articles and programs related to TI-Writer. Also scheduled for release is a disk containing all the programs in the manual with others not contained in it. The manual alone sells for \$5, the disk alone for \$5 and the package with the disk and manual for \$7 plus \$2 postage. I noticed that this manual was available at the Chicago TI Faire.

Comprodine is seeking programmers and distributors according to a news release from the company. Individuals interested in programming and user group interested in becoming distributors should send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Comprodine, 633 Hollyburne Lane, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360. For software ordering

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Information send SASE to Comprodine, 1949 Evergreen Ave.,  
Fullerton, CA 92635.

The Interface Standard and Design Guide for the TI99/4a  
Peripherals by Tony Lewis and others is now available along with  
programs on disk. The intermediate level manual, more than 100  
pages long, covers topics including basic peripheral electronic  
features, definition of all peripheral spaces, dimensions for  
P-BOX cards, Device Service Routine architecture as well as other  
information. The disk contains utility programs to assist in  
creating DSR's. Programs include disassemblers for the 9900 and  
GPL, a debugger and a DSR save and load program. The manual is  
available for \$21.95 with a DS/SD disk or \$22.95 with two SS/SD  
disks. Price includes shipping and user group discounts are  
available. For more information or to order write Tony Lewis, 409  
Dromond, Raleigh, NC 27615.

# FOUR-A/TALK

Random ramblings about things TI.

By Bill Gaskill

November 1989

TRIVIA ROUNDUP

WHAT'S HOT:

JIM PETERSON'S PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE LIBRARY

-You may recall from previous Four-A/Talk columns that I ordered a  
host of disks from TigerCub out of the massive TI PUBLIC DOMAIN  
CATALOG they offer (a new one is also in the works). Well I am  
here to tell you that I now have some of the neatest  
non-commercial education and productivity software offered for the  
99/4A. I honestly had no idea that so much was available. Jim  
Peterson has to have hundreds of hours invested in gathering and  
cataloging all of these programs. PLEASE show him some support by  
at least looking at the catalog. I am certain that you will find  
something in there that you can use. Honestly! Virtually any area  
of interest, from religious music to computing the number of  
square feet of carpet needed for a room is addressed. Each disk  
is only \$1.50. You simply can't go wrong and if ever a 99er  
deserved support for the effort invested in a project useful to  
the entire community, this one is it!

DISCOVERIES:

-Asgard Software has begun manufacturing TI-99/4A modules. At  
present they produce only TYPEWRITER99 and TETRIS, but are looking

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for programmers who wish to have their assembly language coded material put into module form or who wish to write new applications for Asgard produced modules. If you are interested contact;

Asgard Software  
P.O. Box 10306  
Rockville, Md. 20849  
(703)255-3085

-Mark Wacholtz of the St. Louis 99ers has just completed installation of his new T.I.Illinois-BELLeville PBBS. The system is based upon Travis Watford's Paradigm Bulletin Board software and supports 300/1200 baud. It is available 24 hours a day and may be logged onto by calling 618-233-1768.

#### HARD DISK USER TIPS:

-I guess this is info more than it is "tips", but here goes. I have just completed modifications to Christopher Flynn's Disk Card File program, and John Taylor's Checkbook/Budget Manager program so that they run from and write to a hard disk. Both programs are excellent productivity applications, of the highest quality. Flynn's DCF program came from Jim Peterson's Public Domain library, so I assume that it is now in the public domain. John Taylor's CBM is fairware.

CBM includes several neat utilities by K.D. Wenzel and myself to add new dimensions to an already great piece of software. If you would like a copy of either or both, you may download them from GENie, obtain a copy from your club's library (if your club receives Four-A/Talk from me directly) or you may also get them from me (they will be delivered in ARC'd form). Send me an already initialized SS/SD disk, with mailer and return postage, and I will send them your way. The JET program is still fairware for John Taylor, not me. So your financial support needs to go to him.

Bill Gaskill  
Box 2642  
Grand Junction, Co.  
81502

#### TRIVIA:

Did you know that;

-Dave Rose, author of the fantastic Character Sets and Graphics Design series, that is still available through Textaments in Patchogue, New York, used to market other 99/4A products under the business name BRIGHT MICRO COMPUTERS?

-The old TIGERCUB himself, Jim Peterson, lives on 156 Collingwood, in Columbus, Ohio and he also lives on 156 Collingwood in Whitehall, Ohio? Wish I knew what was going on there. I've sent orders for his software to both addresses and he gets them.

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-At one time or another, there have been more than 30 text/word processors available for the 99/4A community to choose from. While TI-Writer is generally what comes to mind when we think of word processing on the 99/4A, that was not always the case. TI-Writer has really only been around since August of 1982. Although its official release was at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas in June, TI-Writer really didn't become widely available until later that summer.

Most of the pre-TI-Writer text or word processors were written in Extended Basic and lacked a lot of the speed and power that we have come to expect in a word processing application since TI-Writer. The early programs were still able to handle basic formatting and printed output of text though, and many did or still do a great job for light-duty uses.

Out of those that I have actually used, the best XB offering by far is Extended Software's TYPWRITER, written by Jim Schwaller and CIN-DAY Users Group founder Larry Morrow. It has more formatting capabilities than some of the assembly language word processors of today. Using symbols imbedded in the text, one could control font and mode choices in printed output and it even right-justified. Overall, a pretty neat piece of programming for a 16K environment. No doubt some of the others such as TextTiger II and especially TextTiger III, were/are excellent pieces of software. I just haven't actually used them.

The assembly language power-houses in the group include TI-Writer and its clones BA-Writer, FunnelWeb, MY-Word and Word Master along with non-clones Companion, the Harrison Word Processor and WriterEase.

There may be more that I have overlooked, but here is the list:

AVERAGE BEAR WRITER	DataBiotics
BA-WRITER	Paolo Bagnaresi
COMPANION	INTELPRO
CONSOLE WRITER	Navarone Industries
DIRECT WRITER I and II	Dynamic Data and Devices
EASYWRITE (AKA TI-YPWRITER)	NSY Software
FUNNELWEB	Will and Tony McGovern
FUTURA WORD PROCESSOR	Ehninger and Associates
HEBREW TYPEWRITER	Micro-Melamed
LETTER WRITER	BizWare
LETTERIGHTER	IRON Software
MINI-EDITOR	Advanced Software
MINI-WRITER	Model Masters
MISSING LINK	Mid-West Engineering
PAGEWRIGHTER 99	VMC Software
R. ROY'S WORDMASTER	KCR Software
SUPERWRITER	Morning Star Software (CP/M card)
TEX T.A.L.	Vaughn Software
TEX-SCRIBE	David G. Brader
TEX-SCRIBER	Tex-Soft
TEX-WRITER	Soft-Tex
TEXTIGER II and III	Patio Pacific (Fred McCarty)
TEXTRIGHTER I	Arro-Soft Systems
TI-WRITER	Texas Instruments

TI PROCESSOR	TISOFT
TI WORD PROCESSOR	James D. Baker
TURTLE TEXT (LOGO program)	Roger B. Kirchner
TYPWRITER	Extended Software
W.O.R.D. WRITER	W.O.R.D.
WORD PROCESSOR	Harrison Software
WORD WRITER	Todd Kaplan
WORTEX	Amnion Software
WRITELEASE	Galen Read

-Along the same lines, how about spreadsheets for the 99/4A?

The first one produced for our computer that I am aware of was a program called FREEFORM. It was offered by Texas Instruments to purchasers of the (then) new P-CODE system. FREEFORM appeared in May of 1982.

Phil Barnes authored the first 16K 99/4A compatible spreadsheet that I am aware of, producing 99-CALC in early 1983. It was a commercial piece of software that was advertised in some of the non-TI computer magazines for \$20.

Other 99/4A spreadsheets that have been around at one time or another are listed below, along with those just mentioned.

99-CALC	Phil Barnes
CONSOLE CALC (aka TI-PLANNER)	DataBiotics (Galen Read)
COUNT-SIL	Systems Interface
DELPLAN (aka HOMEPLAN)	Bob Delpit
FREEFORM	Texas Instruments
HOMEPLAN (aka DELPLAN)	Bob Delpit
MINI-CALC	Advanced Software
MINI-PLAN	Complete Software
MITI-CALC	Milo Tsukroff
MULTIPLAN	MicroSoft Corp.
SNAP CALC	Gary Strauss
SPREADSHEET	Peter Chalamish
TI-99/4A CALC	Gregory Schmalhofer
TI CALC	Raymond J. Herrold
TI-MINI-CALC	Orion Software

and we can't forget the data base managers;

In this category the first non-PRK module data base of any significance appears to be the Data Base 300/500 programs offered as part of the IUG's Master 99 series. It was authored by XXXXXXXXXXXX and unfortunately emulated the PRK module in its limitations of field lengths and such. Data entry was incredibly slow as each keypress was accepted via a CALL KEY and then converted to the actual value for storage in the data string that was eventually saved to disk. Data Base 300 was so named because it could support 300 records per file. Data Base 500 followed suit as far as number of records per file.

Next on the scene was Western-Ware's Data Base X, which was a fair implementation of a flat file data base manager. But we really got down to business when Chuck Davis of Oak Tree Systems cranked out ACORN 99 in 1984. That was followed almost immediately by the



Navarone Data Base Management System, which was a 100% assembly language setup that boasts the best report generator for a 99/4A DBMS to this day. Along with FirstBase, it also boasts the largest file sizes.

Here's the list that I have;

ACORN 99	Oak Tree Systems
Automatic Filer	Eastbench Software Products
Card File	Christopher Flynn
Card-Trix	Randy Thompson
Create-a-File	Arro-Soft Systems
Creative Filing System	Mark Beck
Data Base 1	SPC Software
Data Base 99	Quality 99 Software
Data Base 300/500	IUG Master 99 Series
Data Base X	Western-Ware
E-Files 99	VNC Software
Easy Data	Ayers Computer Products
FirstBase	Warren Agee
Flex-File II	TSS Software
Personal Pearl	Morning Star Software (CP/M cards only)
PR-BASE	William Warren
S-Files and S-Reports	Shepard Software
TI-BASE	Inscebot Inc.
Turbo Data Man	EasyWare

So that I don't seem to be favoring the productivity programs with too much emphasis, how about some games trivia?

Did you know that there are or were at least 12 different 99/4A adaptations of the popular FROGGER arcade game? Yep. Here they are, all of which tried to be a little different than the competition, but all of which still had some poor slimy little amphibian or other creature (humans are included) pitted against the evils of 20th century technology, trying to cross some traffic way, be it freeway, waterway or whatever.

E.T.	Texas Instruments
FREEWAY 2000	John B. Dorff
FREEWAY FROGS	Bit Byte Bit Software
FROG ROAD RACE	Basic Computer Sales Ltd.
FROGGER	Parker Brothers
FROGGERY	Best Software
FROGGIE	SoftCom Enterprises
FROGGY	Extended Software
FROGLEGS	Prometheus Software
FROGO (Logo adaptation)	Ted Barnicoat
HOMEBOUND	Khoa and Quyen Ton
SUPERFROG	Gem Software
TI-TOAD	Software Specialties

Yes, believe it or not, even the tired and worn out old E.T. got into the picture (well almost) when TI contracted to have an E.T. module done for the 99/4A. Of course it never made it to market thanks to the bailout, but the program is or was based upon the

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Frogger theme. The only difference is that it's E.T. trying to cross the highway instead of a frog. The version that I have is written for some Scandinavian country also. I've not come across an English version yet.

Last but not least, there were the Q\*BERT clones that had this weird little egg with legs (or some other creature) jumping from platform to platform on a pyramid while trying to dodge all sorts of deadly threats;

|              |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| CANDY BURT   | TJ Software              |
| CUBIC JUMPER | D. Krols                 |
| CUBIT        | Bill Gronos              |
| KU-BERT      | D. Walker                |
| PEW-BERT     | D. Siddons               |
| Q*BERT       | LaFortuna                |
| Q*BERT       | Parker Brothers          |
| Qbono        | M. Curtis                |
| QUBE*BERT    | Arcade Design            |
| QUIMBEE      | Dynamic Data and Devices |
| R*BERT       | D.D. Reed                |
| TI-BERT      | author unknown           |
| TOPPER       | Texas Instruments        |
| Z-BURT       | TexWare Associates       |

Topper was actually a rabbit doing the dodging, but the basic theme of the program was similar.

#### THIS MONTH IN TI-99 HISTORY:

<1981>

Joe Nichols, a pioneering member of the Washington, D.C. 99ers, and influential force behind the formation of the IUG by Charles LaFara, dies on the 28th.

<1982>

Texas Instruments acquires exclusive rights to distribute the TI COUNT line of accounting software for the 99/4A.

-TI opens up a toll free hotline for prospective customers to find out where to purchase 99/4A products or to order them by mail.

-Rumors of a TI-99 version of the Forth programming language begin to surface.

-Myarc Inc., East Hanover, NJ., advertises to get "beta testers" for its new winchester disk and controller system for the 99/4A.

-Hi-Fi Exchange, Northampton, Ma., name is changed to Moonbeam Software.

-Denali Data, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, introduces a "Data Backer Bus" that allows placement of the (stand-alone) peripheral boxes behind the console instead of having to place them all to the right of it.

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-99er Magazine goes monthly.

-CORTEX, a kit-form computer using the 9995 cpu and 9929 vdp chips appears in Electronics Today magazine. It is said to come with "TI Power Basic".

-Cheryl Whitelaw, aka, Regena, makes it into the 99er Hall of Fame by getting to the 43rd screen on Munchman with the score of 178,950.

-England's most familiar 99er, Steven Shaw, makes it into the 99er Magazine Hall of Fame with a score of 10,028,010 points in Pinball.

-99er ON-DISK debuts.

-Rumor of an E.T. game module for the 99/4A are mentioned in the newsletter of the IUG.

<1983>

Development and introduction of the 99/8 computer is cancelled completely as TI decides to pull out of the Home Computer market. About 250 99/8's are actually produced.

-Bill Cosby is out as the advertising personality for the 99/4A.

-Photo and article on the Racal-Vadic modem appear in Compute! This is one of the early 99/4A compatible modems.

-PLATO COURSEWARE for the TI-99 debuts.

-Racal-Vadic acoustic modem, a TI-99/4A compatible peripheral, is released.

<1984>

Corcomp Inc. files for bankruptcy.

-"33 Programs for the TI-99/4A" book by Brian Flynn released by Compute! Books.

-"Innermost Secrets of the TI-99/4A" book by Computer Shopper columnist Randy Holcomb is released for \$5.95.

<1985>

Millers Graphics begins taking orders for the first GRAM KRACKERS.

-Myarc announces plans to produce an upgrade computer for the 99/4A. A box that did not work was shown at the Chicago TI-Faire. It included a keyboard built into the console like the 4/A, a cartridge slot on the top of the console, 10 function keys across the top of the keyboard, a ten-keypad and was announced to be 256K minimum RAM configuration.

<1986>

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MICROpendium magazine receives an award from the Front Range 99er Computer Club of Colorado Springs, Colorado for its continued support of the TI Community.

<1987>

Rave introduces speech synthesizer on a card for the PE box.

-Mike Dodd's PC-TRANSFER is released to the 99/4A Community.

-Avanti 99 Forth card for the PE box is announced by McCann Software. The beta version is shown at the Chicago Faire.

Miller Communications of Seattle, Washington develops an IBM-like box to hold the Geneve and TI peripheral cards.

-Graphics Expander, by J. Peter Hoddie, debuts at the Chicago TI Faire.

-Ryte Data releases Super Clock Support

-A newsletter for users of TI's CC-40, and the TI74 and 95 calculators debuts.

-Last hardcopy print of "Tips From the TigerCub" is mailed out.

<1988>

MICROpendium receives an award from from the Ottawa TI-99/4 Users Group for the support MICROpendium has given the TI Community since 1984. The award is is presented to John Kolean by Ottawa UG member Jane LaFlamme.

-Tom Freeman and Jim Lohmeyer, T and J Software, announce the release of their DisKassembler program for the Geneve.

-DataBiotics announces plan to create a group port add-on board for the 99/4A.

-PRESS word processor from Asgard fails to make its debut at Chicago Faire.

-Genial Computerware announces Picture Transfer for the 9640.

Until next time...

## CHICAGO TI FAIRE REVIEW

By Gary W. Cox

What has become an annual event is the Chicago TI Faire which this year was held November 4th in Chicago Illinois. The faire

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provides a great opportunity to view and purchase products for the TI99/4a and Geneve 9640 on the spot as well as take a look at the latest developments. Plus the fair provides a great opportunity to talk with the software and hardware developers and attend demonstrations on their products. I do not have an exact count of how many people attended this years fair but estimates range around 400.

Among the TI personalities in attendance this year was Peter Hoddie, Paul Charlton, Terrie Masters, Tom Freeman, Bud Mills, Chris Bobbitt, Art Byers, Gary Bowser, Barry Traver, Barry Boone, Lou Phillips, Beery Miller, Roger Merritt, Steve Mehr just to name a few...

PRESS by Asgard Software was not yet available and is just promised soon... While PRESS was unavailable several new products were!

New from OPA Oasis (Gary Bowser) is RAMBO, a special hardware/software expansion kit designed for the Horizon Ram Disk. RAMBO is said to be compatible with all Horizon Ram Disks from the first HRD to the latest 3000 series. What RAMBO allows you to do is partition the space on the RAM disk from RAMDISK to PROGRAM space memory. Thus you can use this extra RAM space as program space which can be as large as your ramdisk is! In some respect this is a sort of "extended memory" for the TI99/4a and Geneve 9640! Price for the chip and software is \$45.

Also new from Gary Bowser is Phoenix 2001 Diskodex which is designed to make up master catalogs of all your disks and allow you to print, update, delete, sort and display catalogs of all or some of your files/disks plus many extra features are included. Price is \$15. Program works for the TI99/4a and Geneve 9640.

Another new product from OPA OASIS is a "review module library" device. Many of you might have accidentally seen on your menu screen the option to "review module library" when a module has messed up. This "review module library" is apparently an option that Texas Instruments worked into their modules for a device to be made later to allow the connection of many different modules together through a device similar to a Cartridge Expander (Widget). Gary Bowser has come out with such a device which allows up to 5 cartridges to be connected all at once and the user may switch between cartridges by the use of a menu on the screen. However, not only can you switch between menu's but routines built into modules can be accessed. For example, if you are in XB and wish to have access to the unlimited speech capabilities of TE2 you simply write a short program as if you were in TI BASIC with the TE2 module plugged in and you have it! Cost for this device is projected at about \$100 and is expected to be available by the first of next year.

Yet one more new product from OPA OASIS is a new stereo music synthesizer card similar to that of the FORTI card except in this model an addition of a sound digitizer port will be added where you can digitize and replay sounds... Projected price for this card is around \$100 and is expected to be available the first part of next year.

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New from JP Software (formerly Genial Computerware) is MaxfliX Professional and Identifile. MaxfliX Professional is an enhancement to the earlier MaxfliX program which can read Macpaint pictures produced on a Macintosh computer... Among the new features is the ability to load larger picture files and the ability to write a mini batch file to print multiple pictures. Identifile is a program which will identify different file types on disks telling you what loader that you need to load a program or what program that file it is related to such as if it is a GIF file, RLE file or a TI BASIC program... Also new was The Bugger for the Geneve which is a debugging utility which accesses the RS232/2 port providing easier debugging abilities without effecting the Geneve screen. A terminal must be connected to the RS232/2 port for use with the Bugger. Also new was PC Transfer utilities which converts files from IBM compatibles over to TI including GIF files as well as other picture files and even Multiplan files. PC Transfer utilities requires the use of PC Transfer and a DS/DD controller. Firstbase was also available at a special discount price of \$25 (formerly \$49) which the special \$25 price can still be taken advantage of as Peter Hoddie, during his demonstration, stated that owners of TI BASE may send a photo copy of their cover page manual to them and they can receive Firstbase for \$25. Firstbase can use datafiles from IBM compatibles and Macintosh and can even use DBASE files... Another new product was AV Indexer which can be used to create and maintain audio and video tape labels. Also new was GenPRO which is a software development package for MDOS (Geneve users). Furthermore is another new program called Triad which combines a disk manager, terminal program and text editor all in one. AV Index sells for \$15, Chainlink for \$12, GenPRO \$69, Identifile \$15, MaxfliX Professional \$20, PC Transfer \$25, PC Transfer utilities \$10, The Bugger \$18.50 and Triad \$20.

New from Comprodine Software is Color Card and Color Flyer. These two programs are essentially the same as Jiffy Card and Jiffy Flyer but will work with color printers. Also new was Living Tomb a sort of Tunnels of Doom adventure game (Tunnels of Doom cartridge not required). War Zone was another game which is new written in 100% assembly language. War Zone sells for \$10 and Living Tomb sells for \$15 plus shipping.

Asgard Software was also showing off some of their latest games including TRIS, an implementation of a new game from the Soviet Union. Other recent new publications available from Asgard Software are The Orphan Survival Handbook, The Communicating Computer, V9938 Technical Data Book, Home Publishing Software on the TI99/4a plus new programs include Pix Pro, Hardmaster, The Animator, Page Pro 99, Page Pro Fonts, Page Pro Pics, Picasso Borders, Picasso Enlarger, Picasso Utilities, Picasso 2.0 and a book on using Picasso. Furthermore, other new programs include Zoom Flume, Witches Brew, Wizards End, Tunnel of Doom games III, Legends II and Karate Challenge.

New from L. L Conner Enterprise is a "Interface Standard and Design Guide" for the TI99/4a on which peripherals can be designed for the TI99/4a.

Bud Mills Services was selling their usual assortment of Horizon

Ram Disks plus a new memory card for the Geneve called Memex.

One of the new companies at this years fair was Colonial Software whose catalog contains a wealth of public domain and Shareware programs.

Software and hardware both old and new was present from old TI cartridges to the latest software. Much used equipment was available from Competition Computer. If you are looking for a particular hard to find item Competition Computer is a good place to look as well as Hunter Electronics and L.L. Conner Enterprises.

Many projects for the TI99/4a and Geneve are still in the works. One project from Peter Hoddie is a Desk Top Publishing system but no date was given as to it's completion. Barry Boone is nearing completion of a collection of utilities for owners of the MBX Voice Recognition System. No date is given as to it's release.

As a note from Barry Traver (Genial TRAVeLER Diskazine and TI FORUM in Computer Shopper) noted that JZ and himself are still sending articles to Computer Shopper and continue to be promised that the column will re-appear. However, it is many people's opinion that we may be a test case in which if not too much noise is made about the TI FORUM section missing all Orphans may be dropped from the Computer Shopper! If you read Computer Shopper it is extremely important that every one of us write a letter in protest of the missing TI column section. If we do not stand up and be heard now it may be too late later!

That's all the time that I have to write about the faire! More news in next months newsletter.

The following is a list of those who displayed at the faire:

Asgard Software, P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20850 (703) 255-3085  
Gary Bowser (OPA OASIS), 423 Tris St., Apt 502, Toronto, Ontario Canada M4Y 2H3  
(416) 960-0925 or 960-0925  
Bud Mills Services, 166 Dartmouth Drive, Toledo, OH 43614 (419) 385-5946.  
C 6 Drives, 1241 Landwehr Road, Northbrook, IL 60062 (312) 272-0468.  
Cadq Electronics, 81 Prescott Road, Raymond, NH 03077 (603) 895-0119.  
CBUG, 4102 N. Odell, Norridge, IL 60643.  
Chicago TI Users Group, P.O. Box 578341, Chicago, IL 60657 (312) 869-4304.  
Colonial Software, 15 Wyada Court, Colonia, N.Y. 07067 (201) 815-1279.  
Competition Computer Products, 2629 National Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 672-4010.  
Comproline Software, 1949 Evergreen Ave., Fullerton, CA 92635. (714) 990-4577.  
Comserve, P.O. Box 4170, Rockville, MD 20850.  
C.O.N.N.I. Users Group.  
Data Systems, 7326 Brynmawr, Chicago, IL 60631  
Fox Valley Users Group, 1536 Amarillo, Carpentersville, IL 60110,  
(312) 426-6301.  
Genial TRAVeLER Diskazine, 835 Green Valley Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19128.  
H H Computer Supplies, 824 Garfield, Aurora, IL 60506.  
Harrison Software, 5705 40th Place, Hyattsville, MD 20781.  
Hunter Electronics, 4N370 Pine, Bensenville, IL 60106 (312) 766-0566.  
Illinois Micro, 515 W. Golf Rd., Arlington Hts., IL 60005.

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J.P. Software (formerly Genial Computerware), 2390 El Camino Real #107,  
Palo Alto, CA 94303. (415) 328-0885  
L.L. Conner Enterprises, 1521 Ferry St., Lafayette, IN 47904 (317) 742- 8146.  
Micropendium Magazine, P.O. Box 1343, Round Rock, TX 78680.  
Midwest Engineering, 203 Arcadia Drive, Vernon Hills, IL 60011.  
Milwaukee Users Group  
Myarc Inc.  
9640 News, 5455 Marina Cove #1, Memphis, TN 38115.  
Rave 99, 112 Rambling Road, Vernon, CT 06066. (203) 871-7843.  
St. Louis 99ers Users Group, P.O. Box 26326, Crestwood, MO 63126.  
Texaments, 53 Center Street. Patchogue, NY 11772.  
Will County Users Group, P.O. Box 216R, Romeoville, IL 60441.

# MILWAUKEE FAIR

By Beery W. Miller

(This article may be reprinted in it's entirety as long as credit is provided to the Mid-South 99er's User Group and 9640 News)

Everyone that did not make it to the Milwaukee fair missed a good one. As I spent the majority of my time at Chicago at my booth, the Milwaukee Fair gave me the time to chat with various people under a little bit more relaxed atmosphere than Chicago. This fair provided to me quite a bit of information regarding the Geneve and future Geneve software. A few comments are as follows.

John Birdwell demonstrated Disk Utilities that he wrote also explaining the many features it has that only the documentation provides when you make your Fairware payment. It was very obvious from the crowd, that perhaps only a few made their fairware contributions. John also provided a small demo of his Geneve/4A version of Disk Utilities (most likely to be called Disk One) that permits a disk manager control of the HFDC with the same features of Disk Utilities and more. Do not expect a hard drive Optimizer from this program as Peter Hoddie quickly expressed that if such a program is developed, it would be marketed separately because of the extensive memory requirements. Disk One was seen running in the GPL environment in 80 columns (40 column support for the 4A was going to be provided too).

I had the opportunity to stop by Bud Mills table and ended up being sold on the MEMEX card for the Geneve. The MEMEX is a memory expansion card (504K at minimum, expandable to 1.5 meg I believe) for the Geneve. It is a card designed by Ron Walters and is reported to be the top in it's class of development as it is using faster RAM chips on the card which will essentially speed the Geneve up (perhaps twice as fast). Bud went on to comment that they are currently only selling the 504 K expansion and are making sure that the additional megabyte of RAM will not cause



problems with the Geneve or other hardware as that memory must be accessed by two wires being soldered to the Geneve itself to use it. Bud did say that thru this addressing scheme, the Geneve could possibly support up to 16 megabytes of RAM. Not too bad for a computer. Bud was also demoing a program written by Ron Walters in 9640 Fortran displaying the speed he had accomplished using the 9938. He has gone farther in boosting the speed of the Geneve than anyone else will probably ever even address. He had one screen that was rotating a sign (one minute you saw the front, the next minute the back side) at a 30 rewrites of the screen per second providing nearly animated motion. Ron knows the 9640, and the 9938 and other hardware very, very, very well.

McCann Software had some very interesting software for the Geneve of which I purchased one item. The Printer's Apprentice for MDOS mode only had been developed and is the best page making program available for the Geneve community. On the disk is provided three fonts of characters, plus an a sample file. The neat thing about this program is that it does not matter what size the fonts were created. This is because they can be expanded or enlarged to any degree that you prefer. If you opt to print the page sideways, with full magnification it is possible to even produce banners with the program. You are permitted to see the whole page on the screen at once or only portions. When viewing the whole page, text is squeezed in in accordance with font heights. If you have a large font, it may be readable when viewing the whole page whereas some of the smaller lines may look like little squiggles. It does print exceptionally well to Epson and Star printers. Importing of text is easy (it also has it's own text editor). The nice thing about the importation of text, is that you can microjustify the text. Where we used to see left and right margin justification in the Formatter sometimes produce too many spaces between words, TPA will justify to individual pixels and not to character spaces. TPA also provides for some limited drawing and also the ability to import TI-Artist instances and I believe fonts too. At \$22.95, definitely get this program if you have a Geneve. It may take a while to fully comprehend the documentation to learn all of the features, but it is well worth the output. I took a text file 100 lines long, and printed it thru TPA onto approximately 1/3 of page space and produced very readable text. TPA uses Bit map graphics on the printers and does it as well as any other off-brand computer can.

McCann also had the The Geometer's Apprentice which was another fine program. The demo they had displaying some 3-D work was beyond any other program the 4A/Geneve community has ever seen. The displays created and details, shading, etc, are extremely nice. I recommend this program for anyone in the engineering or scientific community that needs graphic work. This is another one of those highly valued programs. \*

Quite a bit of my time was spent chit/chatting with Paul Charlton and Peter Hoddie. Paul had the revisions to GENPROG ready where I and some others had discovered some small bugs and was also selling Picture Transfer. Paul provided some very good answers concerning the Geneve if you know the proper questions to ask. If you give him a specific question, you will get your specific answer. I was loaded with questions and from them I have already

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developed a method of 'installing' a program in memory on the Geneve. I hopefully have the answers to some other questions I raised to hopefully develop my own 'GEME' type program that Myarc once was developing (more on that topic later).

Peter Hoddie provided me the first glimpses of TRIAD for the 9640 that are indeed nice. Transfer protocols have been added with script file processing and much, much more. This program could very well rival Telco and may be the program of choice for the Geneve user. Let's say this, unless Telco has another major enhancement made to it, I will be switching over to TRIAD when it is released. Triad as many already know, has a text editor, terminal emulator, and disk manager all available in memory at once. With what it contains at present, it is my next future upgrade as a terminal emulator.

Barry Boone also made it to the fair. I missed his demo, but caught a table demo of his MBX software. He definitely knows how to program for just about any type of hardware on the 4A that exists. Regarding GEME, my last conversation with Barry on Sunday after the Chicago fair left these impressions. Barry commented he has not signed any contract with Myarc to produce GEME, nor had he said he would finish GEME. He told me that he told Lou he would 'look at' the code and decide. Barry said it was news to him when Lou announced that Barry was going to complete GEME. Barry also went on to mention that version 1.2 of Exec is due to be released. I asked Barry about the possibility of EXEC remaining in a batch program when it is called. These were his comments. It works in V1.14 of MDOS, but fails with VO.96H for these reasons. When the DSR's are remapped in, they close all open files. With V1.14, the master DSR did not contain the code necessary to close an open HDS1.BATCHFILE (only works in 1.14 with batch file from hard drive). Later versions of MDOS for the HFDCC are relying less on the eeprom DSR, and more on the Master DSR which automatically closes those files. Thus, the batch file will never continue to run after EXEC is run because the file was closed. Sorry folks.

I also had the opportunity to speak with Lou and have these comments. Lou showed me the source to his GPL calls that are required to finish the H version of MDOS. Lou says they are near completion. Other conversation with Lou is suggesting that all 9640 Software developers that have Geneve specific software to send Lou approximately 2500 single page flyers that can be sent with the final versions of software to be released in the 'near' future. I would suggest contacting Lou first. Regarding Lou's development of software, Lou now has the tools with the release of GENPROG by Paul Charlton to assemble and test out his GPL opcodes as Paul provided Lou some object code that can be LINKED with GENPROG to test out the software. Let's cross our fingers.

As a comment, both fairs were extremely nice. I, myself, thoroughly enjoyed chatting with everyone. Meeting those folks that you chit/chat on different networks all the time was very nice. I also want to thank any/all of my subscribers that came by and either renewed or began a subscription with 9640 News. Everyone's comments were taken in the good spirit that they were intended and where some people saw need for improvement, by darn, I will do my best.

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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.

## GROUP INFO

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

## CALENDAR

MEETINGS: November 16, December 21 (3rd Thursday!)  
WORKSHOPS: November 25 (4th Saturday!)

## 24HR TI BULLETIN BOARD

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

## GROUP MAILING ADDRESS

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

## LIBRARY ADDRESS

David Ferguson  
3377 Creighton Ave.  
Memphis, TN 38118

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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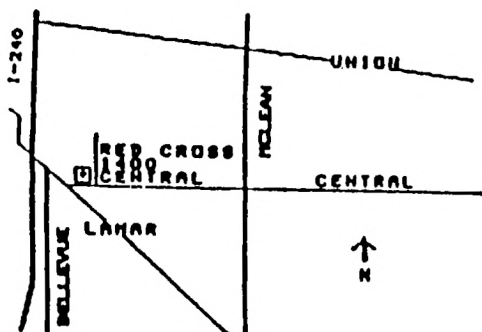
NOTICES

MEETING

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

WORKSHOP

9am till 12noon  
Saturday, November 25th  
To Be Announced



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



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