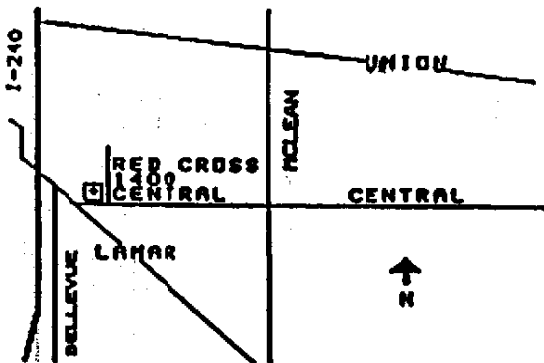


NOTICES

MEETING
7:00 P.M.
Thursday, December 21st
Red Cross Building
1400 Central Ave.

REUNION
CHRISTMAS PARTY

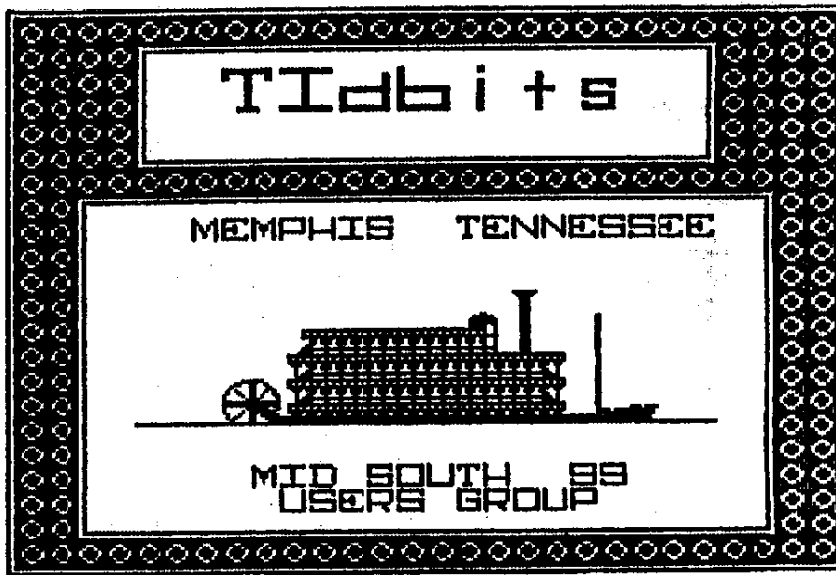


Mid-South 99 Users Group
P. O. Box 38522
Germantown, TN 38183-0522



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



DECEMBER 1989 ISSUE

Season's Greetings



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
Pierre Lamontagne	CO-Librarian	901-386-1513
Michael Dorman	Editor - Newsletter	501-732-5126
Gary Cox	Program Chairman	901-358-0667
Mac Swope	Chairman - Equipment	901-363-3880

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PRESIDENT'S BIT

By Gary W. Cox

ATTENTION!

ATTENTION!

ATTENTION!

Our meeting this month will be a special one! We are sending out complimentary copies of our newsletter to nearly everyone who has ever been on our mailing list in the past 7 years! The reason for the extra mailings is to invite former members and visitors to our first TI REUNION/CHRISTMAS PARTY/MEETING! We are hoping former members of our group will come back and visit us for our reunion. As usual at our Christmas meeting we will have all kinds of food and drinks (non-alcoholic) as well as we will be carrying on our regular meeting. However, this month we are going to have as many TI systems setup as possible including several Geneve 9640's for people to use and to get questions answered. If you have a program that you are having trouble with bring it along as we will try to solve it! I would like to ask that all local members try to make an effort to attend this meeting as a great deal of effort will be going into it!!!

As for how our group is doing our group is actually doing quite well with membership holding at about 85 members with a newsletter exchange with other TI user groups of about 60 and a total mailing list of about 170 - 190 each month. We recently even picked up a few new members! I would like to welcome as new members Yvonne Morgan who was once a member long ago as well as David Kinard. Also a new member who was once President of the ERIE, PA TI users group and who recently moved to Memphis is Rod Kerr.

Attendance at the last meeting was really good with about 30 people in attendance. I would like to thank Beery Miller for his Geneve demo of Printers Apprentices. I would like to apologize for not demonstrating TI-ARTIST PLUS again at last month's meeting. Duties of the group have taken up about all the spare time that I have thus I wasn't prepared to demonstrate it last month. However, I will do so this month!!!

A new user group is also being formed in Memphis called the Home Computer Users Group. The group supports all brand computer systems and not just one system. The group is being formed due to the need of a true home computer users group. At each meeting each computer type will have some time to demonstrate on a particular subject. Many user groups have become more business like than a user group while HCUG will cater more to what people can do at home with their computer. Meetings are the 4th Tuesday at the Library next to Clark Towers (except for the December meeting). At the first meeting, which I attended, the computer types represented was IBM compatible, Commodore, TI99/4a (Mac and myself was there representing TI99/4a), Osborne and Adaa. For more information call the HCUG BBS at (901) 683-5410 (3/12/24/9600bd).

I will need some help in getting everything set up this month! While the group will be purchasing most of the food there are still food items that we need to help cut down on our expenses as with the party food and extra mailings we will be spending a good chunk of money this month! Plus we need computer equipment and just help in getting everything set up. If you can help by bringing something (food or computer equipment) please give me a call and I will run down the list of what we need.

Also this month will be elections. Only one nomination was given for each of the four elected officers but many nominations were turned down. The nominations are as follows, for President - Gary Cox, Vice President - Richard Hiller, Secretary - Michael Dorsan, Treasurer - Bob Jones. All other offices are determined by the President.

There has been some talk about our group attending the Fest West 90 in Tucson Arizona in February. Is there anyone interested? Attending the Chicago TI Faire was great and this would be our first West Coast faire for us to attend!

As always we are in need of assistance in our group! In particular we need someone to fill the office of Information and Technical Support. This would require someone who is fairly knowledgeable on the TI99/4a. You do not necessarily have to be a local member to fill this office. Also I would still like to give up the position of Program Chairman. If anyone can fill these positions please let me know!

What's ahead for 1990? Many new products continue to be under development for the TI99/4a and Geneve. The TI99/4a is far from an outdated machine with new hardware and software coming out to bring it's capabilities up to almost anything that other computers have. When PRESS (word processor) is released it will rival any word processing package on the market for any computer! Being a computer technician working on IBM compatible computer systems I have been asked many times why I stick with the TI99/4a. The reason is simple the TI99/4a is fun, easy to use and serves many useful purposes! While many in our group own IBM compatibles including myself we still stick with our TI99/4a. Our group has become more than just a Users Group but a social group as well. I plan on keeping this group going for a long time to come so lets all stick together as the TI99/4a will never die!

C ya at this months meeting, the BIGGEST one in years!

SPECIAL INVITATION

This is a special invitation to former and current members as well as potential members to our first:

TI REUNION CHRISTMAS PARTY MEETING

WHEN: THURSDAY DECEMBER 21st 1989 - 7:00pm

WHERE: Red Cross, 1400 Central Ave.

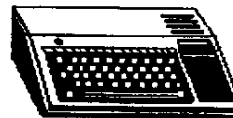
WHO: Open to everyone!

We are inviting all former members to our first TI reunion! Even if you no longer have your TI please come and visit us once again for our REUNION!

For potential members we hope that you will come to our meeting and see what we have to offer. The meeting is FREE and you are under no obligation to join or buy anything!

This will be one of our BIGGEST meetings in years with many systems setup including two Geneve's plus we will be having our regular demonstrations not to mention plenty of food for our party!

Don't miss our BIGGEST
meeting in years!



IN THE NEWS

By Gary W. Cox

According to rumor Computer Shopper is planning on dropping not only the TI Forum section of CS but all the orphan computers! This is your last chance to write and be heard before the TI Forum column in Computer Shopper disappears forever! Write to Bob Lindstrom, Editor-In-Chief, Computer Shopper, 1 Park Ave., New York, NY 10016.

New from Textaments of 53 Center Street, Patchogue, NY 11772 (516) 475-3480 is Mailing List Manager which is a program written for use with TI BASE to keep track of names, addresses and telephone numbers... MLM supports two forms of address entry, simple editing functions, multiple address reports, and prints mailing labels. Various maintenance functions are also supported, such as file sorting and disk cataloging. MLM will even autodial your telephone! (A Hayes compatible modem is required for autodialing features). MLM sells for \$14.95 plus \$2.50 shipping.

The Southwest 99ers has announced the TI-FEST West 90 to be held February 17 and 18 at the Day's Inn in Tucson Arizona. For information call (602) 747-5046 or the Cactus Patch BBS at (602) 795-1953.

The TICOFF (TI Computer Owners Fun Faire) will be held March 17 in Roselle Park, NJ. For more information call Bob Guellnitz at (201) 382-5963 or Art Byers at (915) 528-5402.

The Canadian TI-FEST is being held April 18th at Merivale High School in Wepean, Ontario Canada. For information contact Ruth O'Neill, 34, McLeod St. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2P 0Z5 or (613) 234-8050.

If you are able to be in any of the above areas try to make it to one of these computer fairs!!

The following edited from the November 1989 Micropendium.

Stephen Findlay is trying to contact as many FORTI card owners as possible. He says this could eventually result in a pooling of music already available into a centralized library to alleviate repetition by programmers and articles dedicated to FORTI music. Contact Findlay at 117 Spruce St., Aurora, Ontario, Canada L4G 3T5.

Asgard Software has released its 100th product and 65th title, according to Chris Bobbitt of Asgard Software. The newest product is the diskette version of Doom Games III, a collection of new games by Ken Gilliland for the Tunnels of Doom module. Bobbitt says Asgard has begun manufacturing its own modules, making it the first new original equipment manufacturer of modules for the TI99/4a for more than four years. DataBioTics previously manufactured Asgard's modules. Cartridges available are

Typewriter 99 and Iris. The company is also seeking assembly language programmers in adapting their programs for modules and creating new programs for modules.

Also new from Asgard Software is Pix Pro which is a new picture conversion program for the 99/4a and Geneve 9640 which is said to load pictures stored in Picasso, GRAPHX, TI Artist, TI Artist Instance, Page Pro, Macpaint, RLE or Pix formats and save them as Graphx, TI Artist Picture, TI Artist Instance, Picasso, Page Pro or Pix formats. Pix Pro sells for \$14.95 plus \$1 shipping. For more information or to order write Asgard Software, P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20849 or call (703) 255-3035.

New from Comrodine Software of 1949 Evergreen Ave., Fullerton, CA 92635 is Artist Print Shop by Paul Coleman. Artist Print Shop is a companion program for TI Artist in which the user can layout, space and center pictures, create and print custom letterhead among many other features and enhancements to help display and print your pictures to your liking. The three disk collection and manual is \$25 plus \$1.50 shipping. Other recent new products from Comrodine Software is Color Card, Color Flyer, Living Tomb (a TOD type of game) and War Zone.

As a note on some new products under development for the Geneve 9640 is a computer aided design program, GENE a graphics windowing environment which supports multi-tasking, quick basic compiler, 18 MHZ version of the Geneve where old Geneve owners can be upgraded, Streamer tape backup as well as various updates to existing software. No release dates were given on these products.

In closing I would like to make a little plug for Micropendium Magazine. If you own and use a TI99/4a and do not subscribe to the only TI99/4a and Geneve exclusive magazine why not? It's a great source of information, assistance and availability of new products... For a sample issue send \$3 or to subscribe send \$25 to Micropendium, P.O. Box 1343, Round Rock, TX 78680. To put it on your Mastercard or Visa call 1-800-777-6632. We also sell issues of Micropendium at our meetings.

More news next month...

FOR SALE

Richard Hiller has the following items for sale, PEB, J2K, SS/SD DRIVE, TI Disk controller, console and speech synthesizer with manuals. Wants to sell all together, call (901) 794-9945.

Jerry Strong of Celina, TN wants to sell the following items. 2 consoles, 1 Expansion Box, 2 disk drives, 1 TI Impact Printer, 1 GE Program Recorder, 1 Speech Synthesizer, 3 Personal Record Keeping modules, 2 Personal Report Generator, 1 disk manager, 1 Extended BASIC, 1 TI Writer, 1 Household budget management, 1 terminal emulator, 1 Microsoft Multiplan, 1 QS Sideways, 1 Business Graphs 99, 1 Business Manager. All equipment and modules

have complete instructions and manuals plus cables. Items will be sold as a package only. If interested call (615) 243-2754 after 5pm.

If you have something that you would like to buy or sell drop us a note and we will put it in the newsletter free of charge (non commercial members only). Also feel free to bring along any original software and equipment to the meetings to sell.

MORE ON CHICAGO TI FAIRE

Article reprinted from November 1989 Micropendium.

By John Koloen

There weren't as many new products introduced at this year's Chicago TI Faire as in years past, but for hundreds of visitors and scores of vendors it was a full day well spent.

The most noticeable new products was a 512K memory expansion card for the Geneve, expandable to 2 megabytes marketed by Bud Mills Services.

The 7th annual fair, held Nov 4, featured a series of seminars throughout the day and over 3,000 square feet of exhibition space packed with TI vendors and users.

Seminars were conducted by Bud Mills Services (Horizon RAMdisk, MEMEX and p-GRAM+), Roger Merritt of Comproline (Artist Printshop, Living Tomb, and Jiffy Card), Gary Bowser of Oasis Pensive Abacutors (Super Module Expander and RAMBO), Chris Bobbitt of Asgard Software (PRESS and other releases), Bruce Harrison of Harrison Software (music software) Barry Traver (Genial TRAVELER Diskazine), Jan Janowski of the Chicago TI User Group (portable TI project), Mike Maksimik of the Chicago users group (MIDI interface and FDOS), Jim Horn of the Mid-Atlantic 99ers (donating TI computers to schools), J. Peter Hoddie of JP Software (Maxflix Professional, Identifile and other new software releases), and Lou Phillips of Myarc Inc (Geneve).

Perhaps one of the reasons that new products weren't being introduced at the Chicago fair is that so much remains under development. Many of the seminar speakers focused their presentations on what users can expect in the future - near and far - rather than what they can go out and buy today.

A case in point is Gary Bowser of OPA. He described an operating system for the Geneve similar to GEM by Digital Research that would replace MDOS and the GPL interpreter. He expects the product to be marketed early in 1990. Judging from his presentation, the product would be in direct competition with Myarc's GENE, which is also under development.

Bowser also discussed a card with a Yamaha sound chip that would allow the programming of digitized sound. It would include an input for CD players and support 16 bit sound. It is Geneve compatible and would be priced at about \$100. No marketing date was mentioned.

Similarly, Bowser is continuing his project to develop a Z80 co-processor for the TI. The project has been underway for several years but still isn't near enough to completion to make marketing plans.

When Chris Bobbitt of Asgard Software spoke, everyone was listening for news about PRESS, the long-awaited word processing software that was supposed to be introduced in last year's Chicago faire.

Although a release date wasn't announced, Bobbitt described some of the new features that are being incorporated into the program as the debugging continues. Noting that the program consists of 250,000 lines of assembly language code, he said those that prepaid for the program could have their money back if they didn't want to continue waiting for delivery.

PRESS is compatible with the 4a and Geneve and supports a variety of devices - ranging from GRAM cards to RAMdisks - and allows for unlimited length text files, even on the 4a. It uses the keyboard, a mouse or joystick for input and features pull-down menus.

One of the most intriguing seminars was conducted by Mike Maksimik who demonstrated an electronic keyboard under the control of a TI. The full-sound of the keyboard/speakers surprised many in the audience as it played classical music under the direction of the 4a console. A college student, Maksimik said that no hardware modifications were required to make the system work. The only expense was an RS232 cable to connect the TI to the Casio electronic keyboard, and the Casio, which costs \$100, and a short assembly language program written by Maksimik.

The musical score is in text-file form on the TI and is sent at 31,200 baud to the Casio. He said that IBM compatible music MIDI files are directly compatible with the TI in text-file (or ASCII) format.

Another Maksimik project is FDOS, a programming environment for the 4a. It includes internal and external commands that can be executed by the user at any time. Internal commands are those that are loaded into memory when FDOS is booted and remain in memory. These include frequently used commands such as DIR to run a directory. Less common commands remain on disk similar to the way that Microsoft DOS works on a PC. These commands are loaded into memory when called. The program runs in SuperCart. The version demonstrated was v2.0. Maksimik said that future versions would support hard disks.

One hardware item that was ready for the market is p-GRAM+ by Bud Mills Services. The card is an upgrade of the p-GRAM card. It adds 120K of GRAM for a total of 160K of GROM emulating memory.

The p-GRAM+ is priced at \$280. The cost of upgrading a p-GRAM card to a p-GRAM+ is \$100.

Mills also introduced the MEMEX card for the Geneve. Created by Ron Walters, the card provides 512K of CUP expansion RAM to the Geneve. It is expandable to 2 megabytes. The cost is \$245.

MILWAUKEE FAIR

The Milwaukee TI Fair held November 5th as a companion event to the Chicago fair, featured about a dozen vendors, many of them coming up from the Chicago Faire. There seemed to be more deals available on used software and hardware than at the Chicago faire. Several seminars were also held throughout the day.

LEGENDS II

Review by James Bennington

Legends II The Sequel, just when you thought it safe to go back into the woods along comes Legends II The Sequel. This program is a continuation of the previous game Legends. A fantasy role-playing graphics adventure, it takes place on an island after you have been shipwrecked by a storm. You are allowed to use players from Legends I, but they lose weapons and armor. Your party arrives at a small town. After obtaining some serviceable clothing you make your way to the tavern. There you discover another adventure in search of a king.

Legends II consists of 3 disks. One disk is for transferring players from Legends I, another disk is for dungeons and the last one is for the main island and town. The program also comes with a manual, spell manual, combat card and word list. Legends II is written as if you have already played Legends I but you don't need Legends I to play Legends II but it is very difficult to survive with a party built in the program.

Legends II is available from Asgard Software and Triton and sells for \$17.95. The program requires a disk system, 32K and either XB or E/A.

MULTIPLAN/GRAM KRACKER MOD

By Lynn Crow

This article is about using Gram Kracker to modify the Multiplan module for operation with a Myarc Ramdisk. I will give you step-by-step instructions in this article so you can do your own modification if you care to do so. When doing this modification, be very careful as you follow the following instructions.

01. Place Multiplan module in the connector on top of Gram Kracker.
02. Press "2" to save module from Gram Kracker main menu.
03. Press "1" to load module from disk into Gram Kracker memory.
04. Press "5" to Edit Memory.
05. Press FCTN-1 to select window, make certain G window is up.
06. Press FCTN-5 enter search mode.
07. Type "MULTIPLAN."
08. Place BANK, WRITE PROTECT switch in Bank 1 position.
09. Press FCTN-S to back space to "N" in Multiplan.
10. Press ENTER to initiate search.
11. Press FCTN-9 to leave search mode.
12. Press FCTN-5 to enter search mode.
13. Type "TIMP."
14. Press FCTN-S to back space to "P" in TIMP.
15. Press ENTER to begin search.
16. Change each occurrence of "TIN?" to "RAND."
17. Return Bank, Write Protect switch to W/P position.
18. Save changes to disk.
19. Use Birdwell's DSKU to initialize the Myarc Ramdisk.
20. Copy Multiplan software to Myarc Ramdisk.
21. Backout of Disk Utilities.
22. Run Multiplan to check out changes made to module.
23. If satisfied with results, you have a new way to run Microsoft Multiplan.

These same techniques should also work with any other module disk combination. If you will be careful you will be able to perform this modification with very little effort.

FOUR-A/TALK

Random ramblings about things TI.

By Bill Gaskill

December 1989

IT'S REALLY CHRISTMAS!

WHAT'S HOT:

TI-Base Mail List Manager, TI-Base Publications Index. The Organizer!, Page Pro Utilities, new Page Pro Pics, Pix Pro, Picasso Enlarger, Picasso Borders, JJ's newest version of BOOT and more.

TEXAMENTS:

Texaments has announced the availability of two new TI-Base command file applications for owners of TI-Base V2.0 or higher, with the impending release of a third. Mail List Manager is a completely menu driven program for managing mail lists of any size. The program sports on-screen help, a custom data-input screen, a host of utilities, half a dozen ways to select the mailing label you want printed, auto-dialing of telephone numbers, report generation and more. Price should be under \$15, not including shipping.

Publications Index is a preset data base that lets you key in data from your books, journals, magazines, newsletters and the like, so that you can go back and find something later instead of trying to thumb through all the material. The Publications Index is also completely menu driven and it too sports on-screen help, a custom data-input screen, a host of utilities and other useful features.

Perhaps one the most unique features of the PI program is that it is set up to print out the command files, from within the program, so that you can see how it's all done. The price on Publications Index should also be under \$15, not including shipping

The Organizer! is an electronic filing cabinet with four drawers. Both the cabinet and the drawer names are user modifiable, and you may create as many different filing cabinets as you like. The program is designed for the non-computer person who wants to file information electronically, but who is reluctant to tackle the rigors of learning data base management. The way that you would file things manually, is the way that The Organizer! handles information. But you still get all of the advantages of electronic data storage, from search and retrieval to report printing. Price on this one should also be under \$15 without shipping.

Texaments
53 Center St.
Patchogue, New York
11772
516-345-2134

ASGARD:

Looks like GAP author Paul Scheidewantle has been hard at work lately. He has authored a package called Page Pro Utilities that is available from Asgard. The new package apparently includes an enlarger, which lets you enlarge, stretch, reduce, squeeze or ghost Page Pro pictures, a stripper, that is designed to remove the dead spaces around Page Pro pictures to save disk space, a flipper, that lets you flip pictures for greeting cards and such, and a line font editor for borders. If you are a Page Pro owner, which I am, it sounds like this is a MUST. Price is \$14.95 plus .75 shipping.

Apparently Page Pro author Ed Johnson has V1.5 ready. It is said to contain improved text merging, a disk cataloging option (thank you!!) and a screen "clip" feature that lets you save any part of a Page Pro page as a picture.

-But wait! There's more. Jim Reiss has updated TypeWriter 99 so that it has auto repeat keys and added printer interface support. He is also putting the final touches on LINK, a new terminal Emulator in a module, that is designed to give console-only owners all of the high tech features disk drive users have with 4A/TALK, TELCO and the like.

David Bishop has two new adventure modules out, Wizard's End and Witch's Brew, Jim Ken Gilliland will be releasing "Search for the True King", a game where you must find the REAL Elvis Presley among all the Elvis Clones and finally, a new game called Boulder Dash, which Asgard claims utilizes a heretofore undiscovered graphics mode on the 99/4A should be out soon.

Asgard Software
Box 10306
Rockville, Md. 20849
703-255-3085

BOOT:

-John Johnson released a new version of his fabulous BOOT program on October 16, 1989, that promises to please just about everyone. Not that I have ever heard ANY complaints about previous releases. The new program is feature-packed and is in two segments as opposed to the 30 odd sectors consumed by the older versions. BOOT now has the ability to catalog your Hard Disk (thanks, John!), run programs directly from a disk that has been cataloged, view files directly from a disk that has been cataloged and much more. Built in CALLs include CALL MDH which is designed to load Nyarc's HFDC disk manager. On my system I can load MDH, but it doesn't work. Every function errors out, which has always been the case with JJ's MENU program when used to load MDH. The only

success that I have had to date is to load FunnelWeb and boot MDMS through the FW loaders. That allows me to access my hard disk manager without having to take the XB cartridge out of the GROM port, which I hate doing. At any rate, the new version is superlative and yet another example of the programming prowess of one of the 99/4A and 9640's strongest supporters. The version number of boot by the way is 10/16/89, yes, that's right. The release data has been used as the version number.

DISCOVERIES:

-In the June MICROpendium I wrote a letter to the editor correcting an erroneous perception from an article in the March issue that Gene Hitz of Arcade Action Software was a new entity in the 4A community. Well I have since discovered that Gene has been a supporter of the TI even longer than I thought. Besides being one of the original contributors of user written software in the early days of the IUG's program exchange library, Gene also founded the PROGRAM INNOVATORS in February 1982, before Arcade Action Software went into business. How's that for loyalty and support? How about returning the support by contacting Mr. Hitz reference his product line of 99/4A software?

Arcade Action Software
4122 N. Glenway
Wauwautosa, WI. 53222

-I have discovered yet another teenage assembly language wizard in the 99/4A community. His name is Quinton Tormanen and he hails from Washington state. He tackled the assembly language manual at 11, and now at 14 he has produced a couple new games that are superb; Living Tomb and War Zone. Both are available from Comprodine and appear in their full-page ad in the October 1989 MICROpendium. I also hear rumblings of a new product being worked on by Paul Coleman but I have nothing more on it for now. Stay tuned.

Comprodine
1949 Evergreen Ave.
Fullerton, Ca. 92635
714-990-4577

-A 99/4A enthusiast has uploaded a copy of SuperCheck by Down-Home Computer Craft to the TI-SIG on GENie. I plucked it off the board to see what it was all about, remembering the Down-Home Computer Craft name from old 99er/Home Computer Magazine ads. I don't know if the program is actually public domain or not, but the uploader states that he has tried to contact the folks at the address displayed in the program, with no luck. Anyway, I found it to be an interesting program, if not a great one. Even so, it was nice to see some "trivia" from the past and to be able to associate an actual product with a former 99/4A supporter. Contrary to the belief of many, I have found some superior software (especially games) that was produced in the "early days".

-Since compiling the original list of 99/4A word processors and spreadsheets, I have discovered a couple more for the list. In the word processor category I completely overlooked HCJ Word, a

one-page text editor by David Brader, that appeared in Home Computer Journal Vol 1, Num 2. In the spreadsheet category, I recently discovered an XB program named TI Short Sheet, by Glen Bernasek. It operates much like 99Calc and other XB spreadsheets and is available for download from GENie and perhaps other TI-SIGS.

-Here's a new one for me at least. Did you know that you can convert upper case text to lower case text in the FunnelWeb Editor by using the Ctrl Period keys? I didn't. Letters, entire words, and even whole sentences can be converted by simply placing the cursor where the conversion is to begin, and then pressing and holding Control Period. The cursor moves from left to right, making lower case text out of upper case text, with no effect on anything but the letter characters of the alphabet. In other words, it does not modify the symbols like slashes, plus signs, asterisks etc. Just the letters. I discovered it on V4.10 and have no idea if it works with earlier or later versions. TI-Writer's Editor does nothing with the Ctrl Period key, the RAG Writer Editor uses it to go to the end of the file without having to do a Show End command, so only FW seems to have the feature. I'm not sure just how useful it is, but it's one more little nicety that the McGovern's have given the TI Community.

TRIVIA:

Did you know that;

-There were several game and education modules planned for the 99/4A that never made it to market, I assume because of the bailout? I know that they were planned because I have working copies of the code, that can be run out of Gram Kracker. Here's a list of the ones that I have come across (compliments of Gary Cox from the Mid-South 99ers).

WINGWARS by Imagic-which is a fantasy type adventure with superb graphics along the line of Super Lemon Attack. You are the central character in the adventure and you fly around the caves, caverns and battlefields on your winged horse, spitting out some type of fireball from the horse's mouth to defend yourself.

E.T. and HIS ADVENTURE AT SEA by Looking Glass-is an educational game that uses a map of the world (which has superb detail) as a base. You must pilot your boat, in which E.T. is a passenger, around the world, trying to get him to the secret landing site where a spaceship will come to take him home. All the while there is lightning, typhoons and other hazards that you must avoid.

MOUSE ATTACK by Don Fitchorn through Sierra On-Line-is a MunchMan type game where you steer through a maze leaving a marked trail that must cover all the corridors, while you try to avoid being eaten by the vicious mice. Nice graphics and responsiveness, even to the keyboard. The theme is a little limp though.

MANCALA by AldeBran (a German outfit I believe)-is perhaps the weirdest game that I have ever played. It involves moving a

series of stones from one set of six boxes to another set of six boxes. Although there were no on-screen instructions, it appears that you must complete the task in the fewest number of turns, with the greatest amount of dexterity. When you set the game in motion, it takes off on its own and you must press the spacebar to drop the stones where you want them without any control over the speed of the box that has picked the stones up. If I understood all that I should about the game, it would probably be a really good one. But without any instructions it was tough enough to figure out how to make it do "anything".

VONDRAKES MOLECULAR MISSION by Walt Disney Studios-is one of the neatest educational games I have EVER seen. It has to be geared at the teen to adult age group though, because it teaches you, in the most entertaining fashion, chemical formulas for compounds and the like. It certainly doesn't appear to be something that my 10 year old could conquer.

PLANT GENETICS by Texas Instruments-This one is not a game module but strictly an educational one. It is copyrighted 1984 by Texas Instruments, so I guess that's why it never came to market. WHAT A SHAME! Although it is mostly text, the program is just SUPERB!!! It is like going through the encyclopedia for information on the topic, only its all here in one place, instead of having to do the research on it. If we could only convince TI to go back and make modules like this one again. Before seeing it in the flesh, I had never even heard of this program. If this is a sample of what TI had in the works for future educational stuff then we really lost out when the 99/4A was orphaned. The program contains three different levels of learning on the topic and it covers them in a simple, understandable manner. I learned more about heredity, dominant and recessive traits, phenotypes and genotypes in the few minutes that I spent with the program than all of the years I spent in school and college. Neat program!

-Although it never came to be, Walt Disney Productions actually advertised their support for the 99/4A, claiming that as many as 50 programs were forthcoming for Ataris, Radio Shack, NEC and TI computers?

-Of all the "Home Computers" ever produced, the Commodore VIC-20 sold the most units? This, despite the fact that it had only 4K and a 22 column screen. Goes to show what marketing can do I guess. How come no one at TI ever realized people might prefer a computer that had 16K instead of 4K? That's why I bought my first TI. Although I knew next to nothing about computers, I knew right away that 16 was "bigger" than 4. Seems like little or no effort was ever made to sell the 99/4 or 4A on the fact that it was far more advanced technologically. Another TI blunder. What a shame.

-Amiga Corporation, the same company that Commodore bought out to get the Amiga Computer into its product line, made a joystick specifically for the 99/4A called the Power-Stick? It needed no adapter since it was configured like TI's wired-remote controllers, with two sticks funneling into one connector. In September 1983 the Power Stick sold for \$20 although I have never seen one.

THIS MONTH IN TI-99 HISTORY:

<1981>

TIHOME Tidings magazine ends policy of free issues to British 99ers.

<1982>

TI decides to extend the \$100 rebate program until April 15, 1983.

-Microsoft Multiplan for the 99/4A becomes a reality when the final bugs in the 4A version of the program are worked out. First actual showings of the program don't begin until March 1983 though.

-TI purchases Super Bugger from Navarone Industries.

-The 99/4(A) Program Exchange, that IUG president Charles LaFara would later be involved in a copyright infringement against, appears in Torrence, Ca.

-Myarc introduces its 5 and 10 megabyte hard disk drives for the 99/4A.

-New Horizons Users Group forms.

-Model Masters announces Disk Manager 2 on disk with promises of the cartridge version to follow shortly.

<1983>

99er Magazine fails to appear with the December issue, supposedly because of a problem with advertisers after the TI announcement of October 28th stating that 99/4A production would end.

-Emerald Valley Publishing announces an upcoming book, due out in January 1984, entitled "The Best of 99er".

-Jim Robinson 1778 Hays Dr. Louisville, Colorado, attempts to unite 99/4A users into an International 99/4A Users Group similar to the original IUG in Bethany, Oklahoma.

<1984>

Compute!'s "TI Collection Volume 1" is released by Compute! Books.

-TI receives the "Warped Disk" award from Popular Computing for its decision to orphan the 99/4A.

<1985>

Clint Pulley's c99 is announced to the world when Michal Jaegermann discovers the new language and posts notice of it on The Source.

-GRAN KRACKERS are delivered before the Christmas holidays as promised.

-Asgard Software becomes the first TI99 vendor to offer products on Electronic Mail on CompuServe.

-Navarone moves to Dallas, Texas.

-Daniel Norling, long time member of the LA 99ers, and author of the first proofreader for TI-Base/XB, dies.

<1986>

CorComp introduces first commercially made load-interrupt switch for use with 99/4A modules.

<1987>

MDOS V1.0 for the Geneve is released.

-New Day Computing in England, and the 99/4A National Assistance Group are put on the "hit" list as businesses to look out for, as both have failed to deliver paid for products to customers.

-Galen Read, of Innovative Programming, maker of Writer Ease and Console Calc, announces that his company is changing the focus of its business and is moving away from the TI market.

-Asgard Software releases Recipe Writer V2.0.

-Rave 99 announces that it will produce a ram disk for the 99/4A.

-Robert C. Holland, 6188 Caminito Baeze San Diego, Ca. 92122 announces a TI/IBM file transfer program available for the cost of two DS/DD diskettes.

-McWare Products, Box 2784 Fairfax, Va. 22031, announces Fast and Easy Tutor, a disk and booklet for the Star NX10.

-First commercially published article on how to put Extended Basic in the 99/4A console appears in MICROpendium.

-BA-Writer V1.4 is released.

<1988>

In a teleconference on Genie's TI-SIG, Asgard Software owner Chris Bobbitt outlines the features of the new PRESS word processor from Charles Earl.

-TI-Base V2.0 is released.

-Myarc announces that work on the tape streamer software for hard disk back up is to begin.

-Eric Zeno of Pittsburgh, Pa. announces the "Internal Board", a board designed to be used inside the 4/A console, that will provide 32K, a clock and more.

-Donaldson Software, of Quebec, Canada, announces several new cassette games for the 99/4A.

-Dick Altman turns the management of his "Fairware List" over to Steve Mehr.

FAREWELL:

-With a pang of regret gnawing away at me already, I have decided to put Four-A/Talk to rest. Installment number 12, a full year, will be the last. As with many 99ers before me, time is the culprit. Of late, I seem to have less and less of it for those "other" things in life like a wife and two kids, not to mention golfing, skiing and a host of other recreational activities that people live in Colorado for.

I must say that I have enjoyed the endeavor and have received nothing but positive feedback in return for my support of the many Users Groups who receive the articles from me each month. Most notably, I would like to thank Gary Cox of the Mid-South 99ers, Bob Deneter and Don Jones of the Chicago TIUG, Steve Mehr and Terrie Masters of the LA 99ers, Ida McCarger and BJ Mathis of the SouthWest 99ers and Cliff Swank of the Front Range 99ers. All have been very kind to me and have played a major role in keeping the fires burning during the last year. Thanks, folks! I hope that I have at least provided some interesting reading.

See you at Fest-West in Tucson!

STAR FLEET TECH DRAWINGS II

Review by Gary W. Cox

Star Fleet Technical Drawings II the second in a series of disks of drawings related to Star Trek. The pictures can be viewed by TI Artist, MAX/RLE and other TI Artist compatible drawing or viewing programs. Tech Drawings II comes on three disks with each disk containing a total of 7 pictures.

While the first set of Star Fleet Technical drawings dealt more with drawings of the Enterprise and the United Federation of Planets in general tech drawings II deal more with not so prominent spacecraft presented in Star Trek.

The first disk in Tech Drawings II deal with various United Federation of Planets shuttlecraft including those from the old Star Trek series, the movies and the new series. Some of the shuttlecraft includes the Galileo and Galileo II, IIA and III...

The second disk contains various UFP, Klingon and Ferengi starships including scouts, transport/tug's, the USS Stargazer and one Ferengi ship.

The third disk contains drawings of ships in the Romulan Empire including a battlecruiser, armed scout, heavy cruiser, transwarp battlecruiser and more...

All drawings are by Stephen Barackman. Each disk contains a batch file which can be used by Display Master (sold separately) to automatically load and display each picture.

Each drawing can be viewed, altered and printed using TI Artist, TI Artist Plus and compatible drawing/viewing programs. Although drawings II in my opinion are not as spectacular as the first set I think both sets is a must for any Star Trek fan!

Star Fleet Technical Drawings II costs \$9.95 plus \$2.50 shipping. To purchase Star Fleet Technical Drawings I and II together the cost is \$17.90 and with Display Master for only \$29.90.

For more information or to order write Texaments, 53 Center Street, Patchogue, NY 11772 (516) 475-3480, BBS (516) 475-6463.

THE BIT BUCKET

By Art Byers

Reprinted from Sept. 1989 newsletter of Central Westchester 99ers

As the Walrus said in Through the Looking Glass, "The time has come to talk of many things":

Of Shoes and Ships and Sealing Wax

The other day I found myself with some free time and I idly rambled through three computer software stores. Two were on Central Park Avenue not too far from the Caldor Shopping center and the third one was in Jefferson Valley. What struck me most forcibly about all three was that 85% of the displays were devoted to GAMES!! The euphemistic term used was Software for Recreation!

Now I am not talking only Nintendo. I mean for EVERY machine on the current market: Commodore, Atari, IBM and Compatibles, Apple, Macintosh. Games Games Games and more Games. - Endless supply of games, bottomless supply of games. Shoot 'em up games, Auto race games, Gambling games, Adult games, Adventure games, you name it!

Remember retail stores live and die by sales. If major space is devoted to something, this is where sales have proven they bring in the most bread and butter dollars.

You can draw your own conclusions, but I will tell you what conclusions I have drawn, and they are these:

First, The modern American public is composed mostly of MUSH-BRAINS! How nice to own a \$2500 Mac or AT, complets with 40 meg hard disk, and have it mainly used for zapping invading Martians! Yich!

Second, the kids in the wealthier segments of this society still

rule the roost and a major portion of the family's software dollar goes for such educational things as Super Mario Bros. or Dungeons and Dragons chapter MCMXVIII. Is it any wonder that many educators who first welcomed computers are now saying they have yet to live up to even a small part of their potential, and many learning studies are finding little difference in test scores in schools where computers are in constant use and schools without such computer assisted learning.

What is also exceedingly distressing is the exceptionally VIOLENT cruel scenarios of the software. Is this a reflection of our society??

Parents with Mush-brains allow and encourage their mush-brain children to become even mushier mush brains!!!

Last, isn't this where we came in with the TI over six years ago? Some of the games I saw on Demo were not as good as Q-Bert, Popeye, Burgertime, Pac Man or Shamus, - all of which were put out for the 99/4A. If you are going to be a mush-brain, you can be one as well or better on the old reliable TI-88/4A!

Of Cabbages and Kings

Thanks, in part, to a recent demo at one of our club meetings by Bob Cataldo, I have made a direct RS232 to RS232 connection between my PC and my TI. This enables me to exchange data files, both ways, between computers. I ported over data from Data Base II on a 180k disk on the TI to the 720k drive on my PC. Then I loaded the data into a special mailing list program I had purchased, expecting that I could fit four (TI) disks of data on to one (PC) disk.

<<sigh>> NO WAY!! Files that took up 180k of disk space on the TI filled 360k of disk space using the PC's software. I have commented before that where space is plentiful, programmers get careless, stop writing tight code and stop looking for efficient ways to use disk space. I also suspect that the TI DOS (in ROM) is much more efficient, if used properly, in the way it allocates the available disk space. I also mentioned at a recent meeting that even though the PC has 640k of memory, only about 60k is available for GW Basic programming. Talk about overhead!

If the obsolete orphan TI is a "Cabbage" and the PC is the "King", the Cabbage turns out to be just as good or better than the King for many purposes.

And Why the Sea Is Boiling Hot

Let's go back for another look at those three software stores. SuperCalc 5, the newest, latest, and supposedly best of the modern spreadsheets sold from \$450 to \$495. I saw a half a dozen different pieces of what is now called "Productivity" software selling from \$295 to \$400. This is all very well and good if you own a big business and are IN to office automation at every desk. BUT, for us plain ordinary home users who can buy (as evidenced in recent mail order advertisements) Multiplan or TI WRITER for \$15 each and TI/BASE for \$20, there is ample cost incentive to stay

with the 99/4A. Frankly I am horrified that buying four of the major pieces of PC compatible software can equal or exceed the cost of the PC itself!!

One of the results of this is that software piracy of these expensive tools is massive over in PC world, but that's a can of worms we won't open at present. We have been through that discussion many times at meetings. To go on...

And Whether Pigs have Wings.

Wys-i-wyg: (pronounced Whiz-I-Wig) is short for "What you see is what you get". One of the real deficiencies of word processing on the 99/4A is the limit of 40 columns on the screen. Before buying my PC, I considered both the Geneve and the Dijiit AVPC card in order to get 80 column word processing, but after totalling up the various costs, and considering all the problems with the 9640, the lack of 80 column software, a stable DOS, and more, I decided to go for whole new computer. I simply felt I got more bang for the buck with a PC. I bought, new, a 640 k compatible portable PC with two 720k drives and an internal 2400 baud modem, two serial ports and a parallel port at a cost of under \$800 and that included an extra mono monitor and all cables and shipping.

I then spent \$30 for a Wys-i-wyg type of word processor where I have instant formatting on the screen as I go along. It also has a very fast 100,000 word spell checker.

The end result is that when it comes to "Productivity" (See! I can use the current computer jargon along with the rest of you guys!) I am still using the TI actively but I do most of my word processing where I have the 80 column screen - and when I get text files just the way I like them, I often port them over to the TI for things like the newsletter on disk and because the WRITER formatter has a few features and wrinkles missing from the Wys-i-Wyg.

Besides!!! When I have the two computers connected and running, what a sense of achievement I gain in that I have added to the capacity and usefulness of both machines by getting them to cooperate. Let the mush-brains out there continue their 500th session of Lord of the Rings. I'm doing real computing!!!

PC-TRANSFER UTILITIES

Review by Michael Dorman

PC-Transfer Utilities by Mike Dodd is a collection of three conversion utilities for his original PC-Transfer program. Both programs are marketed by JP Software (formerly Genial Computerware.)

PC-Transfer allows 4A users with either a Myarc or CorCoap floppy

disk controller to transfer text files between an IBM compatible PC and a 4A (or 9640.) TI-99/4A text files are in DV80 format (TI Writer format.)

PC-Transfer expands on the original PCT premise by allowing PC/4A transfers of other than text files. PC-Transfer Utilities offers three new conversion utilities. The conversion utilities are called by PC-Transfer on the initial PC-Transfer screen. (Yes, provision for these additional utilities was made originally in PC-Transfer.

These three utilities plus a fourth conversion file are detailed below:

1. DF128

This utility converts any PC file to a Display/Fixed 128 file. D/F128 is the file format used by TI terminal emulators for non-TI files. Consequently, computer-generic picture files like RLE and GIF are stored on a TI-99/4A as D/F 128 files. This is very useful for uploading RLE or GIF pictures to a BBS for use on all systems. Many TI terminal emulators add a TIFILES header to D/F128 files upon uploading. This would render a GIF/RLE file unusable on another system.

This conversion utility actually is not a conversion utility. It actually moves D/F 128 files to and from PC files without any data interpretation.

2. SYLK

The SYLK utility converts Internal/Fixed 128 files to PC files (the reverse is also true.) This conversion is useful for converting Microsoft Multiplan SYLK files to and from the PC. This offers opportunity beyond just Multiplan spreadsheet availability as most PC spreadsheet programs offer SYLK import/export options!

3. TIFILES

This utility converts files with TIFILES headers. The TIFILES header was created by Paul Charlton when he brought XModem to the 4A world. Paul created a special 128-byte header that tells the 4A terminal emulator program what file-type the file is and how much data the file contains. In other words, the TIFILES header lets the emulator program know that a file is, for example, a I/V 254 file or a PROGRAM file, etc.

This is very useful for moving files back and forth from a PC that was downloaded with a PC computer. It has been especially helpful for moving files to and from the Midnight Hour BBS. Before this program, I had to upload and download files to move them to/from my 9640. Now, moving files from my Geneve/TI-99 computers back and forth from my BBS or my PC at work is much simpler.

4. TEXT

This utility is the same that is embedded in the PC-Transfer program. The reason it is included as a

special utility is for reloading if you use another conversion utility and then wish to transfer text files.

The routines are very small but are more than worth the money for people who regularly move files from the PC to/from the 4A.

The program is available from JP Software, 2930 El Camino Real, #107, Palo Alto, CA 94303. The cost is \$10.00. Please add \$1.00 for shipping and handling.

IDENTIFILE

Review by Michael Dorman

Identifile is another program by Mike Dodd that was released by JP Software at the 1989 Chicago TI Faire. Identifile is a new kind of disk cataloger - different than any you've seen before!

Identifile allows you to catalog a disk to determine exactly what kind of file each file is. It scans the disk and reports a brief description of each file. It recognizes over 50 different kinds of 4A and MDOS files and reports this information back to you.

Some examples of these descriptions are: E/A - Run Program File, BASIC or XB program, Archiver compressed, E/A - Load Run (compressed), E/A or XB - Load Run (uncompressed), Forth, TI-Artist picture, TI-Artist color, TI-BASE data, TI-BASE structure, Text, RLE picture (binary), tunnels of Doom game, Adventure cartridge game.

This list is only a short list of the file types recognized by Identifile. Identifile requires 32K and a disk system and can be run from either the E/A or XB cartridges. The program allows you to configure the program for the exact number and names of the drives you have and allows printer and color configuration as well.

Identifile supports hard drives and also supports subdirectories. Additionally, Identifile supports 80 column screens for those computer systems that have 80 column capability. Identifile disk listings can be printed to either screen or printer.

This program at \$15.00 is a must buy for those people (like most of us) who have lots of files but forget what those files are for. The program can be obtained from JP Software, 2930 El Camino Real, #107, Palo Alto, CA 94303. Please add \$1.00 for shipping and handling.

(SAMPLE IDENTIFILE SCREEN)

Filename	Size	Type	P	Description of file
ADDER	54 0/V	80		Text
ADDERLIST	1 0/F	0		>> Empty file <<
ADDEROBJ	1 0/F	0		>> Empty file <<
ARTHROPOD	133 0/F	80 P		E/A or XB - Load & Run (uncompressed)
AST/LOAD	2 PR8	141		BASIC or XB program
ASTIROIDS	80 0/F	80 P		E/A or XB - Load & Run (uncompressed)
BOUNCE	5 0/F	80		E/A - Load & Run (compressed)
BOUNCEP	8 0/V	80		Text
BOUNCEPS	8 0/V	80		Text
BOUNCES	8 0/V	80		Text
BUBBLES	5 0/V	80		Text
CRAYON	19 0/F	80		E/A or XB - Load & Run (uncompressed)
CRAYONSRC	31 0/V	80		Text
DISKIT	33 0/F	80 P		E/A or XB - Load & Run (uncompressed)
DUMPSRC	32 0/V	80		Text
GATB	14 0/F	80		E/A or XB - Load & Run (uncompressed)
GATBSRC	22 0/V	80		Text
GREET	7 0/V	80		Text
HONUM	15 0/F	80		E/A or XB - Load & Run (uncompressed)
HONUMSRC	23 0/V	80		Text
L/ARTHRO	2 PR8	195		BASIC or XB program
LIFEA	7 0/F	80		E/A or XB - Load & Run (uncompressed)
LIFEAS	16 0/V	80		Text
MOVES	5 0/V	80		Text
MYNAMES	3 0/V	80		Text
MYPROG	4 0/F	80		E/A - Load & Run (compressed)
MYPROGA	4 0/F	80		E/A - Load & Run (compressed)
MYPROGAS	7 0/V	80		Text
MYPROGS	7 0/V	80		Text
PLAY	5 0/F	80		E/A - Load & Run (compressed)
SCOLOR	4 0/F	80		E/A - Load & Run (compressed)
SCOLORSRC	13 0/V	80		Text
SHOOTA	6 0/F	80		E/A or XB - Load & Run (uncompressed)
SHOOTAS	15 0/V	80		Text
SPBUBBLES	5 0/V	80		Text
SPRITE	6 0/F	80		E/A - Load & Run (compressed)
SPRITESRC	25 0/V	80		Text
TEST	6 0/V	80		Text
TESTO	4 0/F	80		E/A or XB - Load & Run (uncompressed)

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User group membership info must accompany the order.

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Mac World	11.90	20.90	29.90
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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: December 21, January 18, February 15 (3rd Thursday!)
WORKSHOPS: January 27, February 24 (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

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.