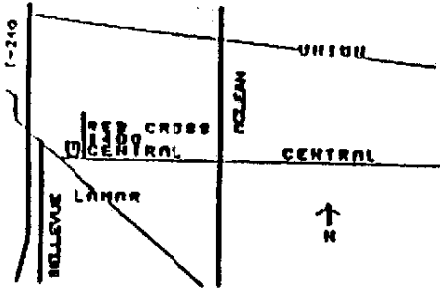


NOTICES

MEETING

7:00 P.M.  
Thursday, December 20th  
Red Cross Building  
1400 Central Ave.

WORKSHOP

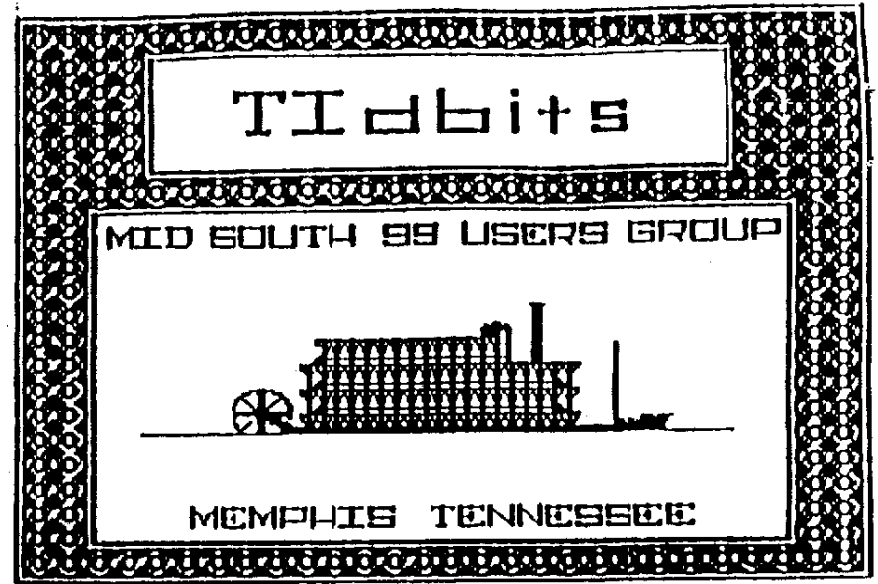


Mid-South 99 Users Group  
P. O. Box 38522  
Germantown, TN 38103-0522

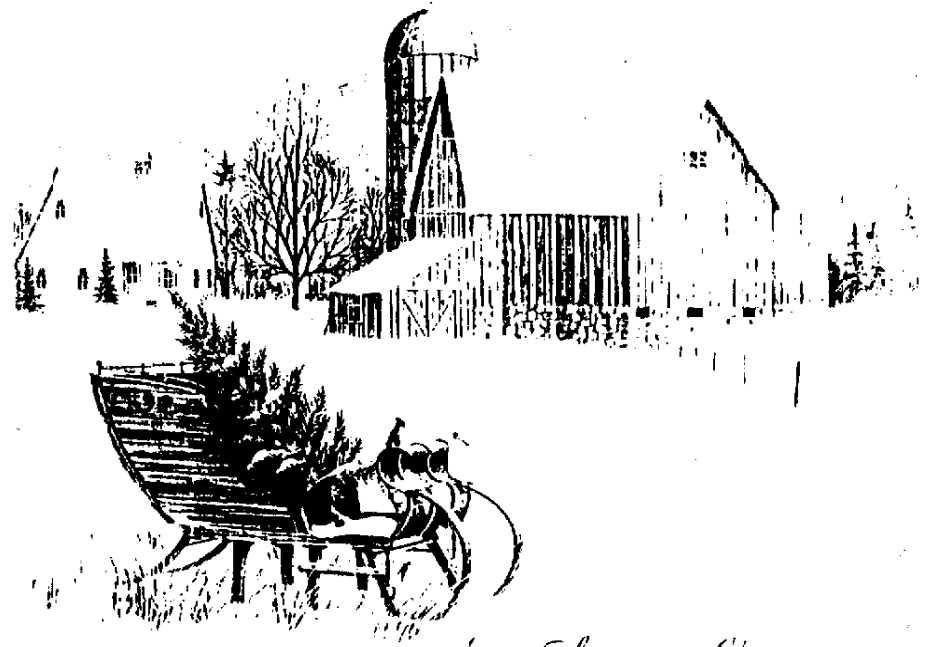


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FIRST CLASS MAIL



DECEMBER 1990 ISSUE



*Season's Greetings*

# T I D B I T S

## OFFICERS

Gary Cox	PRESIDENT	901-358-0667
Richard Hiller	VICE-PRESIDENT	901-794-9945
Michael Dorman	SECRETARY	501-732-5126
Bob Jones	TREASURER	901-363-9213
Jim Saemmes	Technical Support	901-476-7011
David Ferguson	Disk Librarian	901-795-3287
Pierre Lamontagne	CO-Librarian	901-386-1513
Marshall Ellis	Editor - Technical Interface	901-327-2506
Michael Dorman	Editor - Newsletter	501-732-5126
Gary Cox	Program Chairman	901-358-0667
Mac Swope	Chairman - Equipment	901-363-3880
Michael Dorman	Midnight Hour BBS Sysop	501-732-5126

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# PRESIDENT'S BIT

By Gary W. Cox

The last meeting went quite well with nearly 30 people attending for our free barbecue meal and meeting. Thanks to all who came out!

Nominations were taken last month for the top 4 offices. The results are as follows: President - Gary Cox, Vice-President - Richard Hiller, Secretary - Beery Miller, Treasurer - Bob Jones. Since only one person was nominated for each office only write-ins will be accepted for others at the elections at this month's meeting. All other offices are appointed by the President.

As you may have read, Michael Dorman is retiring from the job of newsletter editor and producer this month after many long years of service and Marshal Ellis will be taking over the job. I have said this many times but it bears repeating "THANKS MIKE for all the work, without you there would not have been a newsletter!" Also, Jim Saemmes has volunteered for the job of librarian and has said he will be adding more programs and will be coming out with an updated list of the programs in the library.

You may have noticed that I am once again running for the office of President. However, to be honest, I am absolutely worn out. Therefore, I hope to be doing the job that the President is supposed to do and just supervise. Mostly what this translates into is I need your help, especially someone to type in articles for the newsletter, not necessarily write articles but just type in articles from material I already have. The size of the newsletter will be completely up to you!

Remember to come out this month as this month's meeting again will be a special one! This is our annual Christmas Party / Meeting / Reunion as we are sending newsletters to many of the former members inviting them to come out and visit once again. Plus we will have all kinds of snack food and terrific demonstrations planned.

As this year comes to a close it is time to reflect upon our group and our future. Looking back I find myself as one of the oldest members of the group who is still a member of the group. Our group was forced way back in 1982 by Howard Watson and Dicko Vandenburg among others where our meetings at one time enjoyed attendance of several hundred members. When I started in the group it was meeting in a packed basement of The Computer Center then located at Poplar Plaza shopping center. Soon thereafter the group moved to the Board of Education and then briefly to a meeting hall in a Church and now to our present location at the Red Cross. After first becoming President in 1985 I have either been President or Vice-President since then.

Current membership now stands near 80 and we exchange newsletters with nearly 60 user groups across the country. Looking back it is really quite amazing that our group is still here and in fact,

that the TI99/4a is still being actively used. The TI99/4a was first introduced in 1979 as the 99/4 and soon thereafter in 1981 it became the TI99/4a where hundreds of thousands and possibly millions were sold even after production was dropped in 1983 by Texas Instruments. While many computers of yesteryear have come and gone such as the Commodore Vic 20 and others with whom the TI99/4a was in competition with, the TI99/4a is still very active relatively speaking. New software and hardware is still being produced for it.

What can we expect for the next year in the TI community? We can still expect to see new hardware and software additions for the TI99/4a and Geneve 9640. Too many people still use the TI and as long as people keep purchasing equipment and software new items will continue to be produced. However, you would be blind not to recognize the decline in the use of the TI99/4a and Geneve 9640 toward a dominant IBM compatible and Apple (MAC) world where the majority of computer usage is heading. Not just the TI99/4a is effected but all the others such as Commodore, Atari, Amiga and others. A good percentage of our members own an IBM compatible including myself but still stick with the TI99/4a for it's fun aspects and the pleasant differences that it possesses. Plus many stick with the group for the fellowship and friendships that we have developed over the years.

I think that the TI99/4a and Geneve 9640 has some good years left and I hope that everyone sticks it out with us together... Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## IN THE NEWS

By Gary W. Cox

Thanks to Charles Good of the Lima Ohio TI users group we now have a copy of version 4.31 (40 and 80 column) Funnelweb. The copy will be available for copying at this months meeting.

The following edited from the November 1990 Micropendium.

The Rave 99 PE/2 expansion box for the TI and Geneve has a 32 bit expansion bus that isn't usable by the TI or Geneve but could become the home of a co-processor board that emulates another computer. According to John McDevitt, Rave's owner, the 32 bit bus has a lot of potential for development. He described it as similar to a PC XT bus with an additional eight data and address lines that are currently unusable by the TI or Geneve. He said it has the potential for expanding memory in the multi megabyte range. He said that use of the bus would depend on a new product. It's like the first step in the process. If we didn't do it, no one would be able to take advantage of this type of expandability.

Asgard Software has released a number of new products. The company has also released its fall catalogs for software and for

Sideways Picture Printer, a new version of Spell IT! and Tournament Solitaire. For further information on these products contact Asgard Software at P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20849.

MS Express Software, a partnership between Mickey Schmitt and Mike Sealy made its official debut at the Chicago TI Faire November 3rd. The company has released Adventure Hints Series I, Galactic Emperors, Sliding Block Puzzles, and Sliding Block Solutions. For more information write MS Express Software, P.O. Box 498, Richmond, OH 43944.

That's the very brief news for this month, c ya at the meeting...

## PROGRAM BIT

- 6:45pm - Doors Open
- 7:00pm - Meeting begins - Christmas Party complete with party food!
- 7:30pm - General Discussion, elections.
- 7:45pm - Demonstration of GIF Mania, demo by Gary Cox.
- 8:00pm - Demonstration of programs obtained at the Chicago TI Faire! Demonstrations by Jim Saenenes.
- 9:45pm - Meeting ends, cleanup period.

## FOR SALE

Rob Butler, a member who lives in Mt. Joliet, TN, has the following items for sale: TI console, PEB with RS232 card, disk drive, J2K, Joysticks, TI Writer, Parsec, Extended Basic, TI Programming Aids, HCM volumes 1 and 5, TI Mail List, Data and File Management and TI-99/4A Calc. Plus he has various books and magazines. Asking \$150 FOB Nashville. If interested, contact Rob at his daytime number at 1-800-476-2113.

## PAGE PRO 99 PAGE FORMATTER

November 1990

By Bill Gaskill

The Extended Basic program that follows this article is called PAGEFORM (Editors note, program available on disk at the meeting). It is designed to allow a single page of text to be produced, in two-column, newsletter style format, that can be imported into Page Pro 99. PAGEFORM allows up to 114 lines of text to be entered into a file. That is the number of lines that will produce a single page of two-column text for a Page Pro file.

Each line may contain up to 28 characters maximum length.

To produce a newsletter, you may type in the text for each page free-hand, or it may be imported from a TI-Writer file. PAGEFORM loads saves all documents in DV/80 format, just as the TI-Writer program does.

When all text for each page has been entered into a file it may be printed with ragged right margins, or you may "run it through" the PAGEFORM justification process prior to printing to enhance the appearance of the Page Pro page.

Justification is selective in that it allows you to select only those lines that you want to justify. For example, one would not normally justify the last line in a paragraph. Lines that have only one word in them, or blank lines are ignored by the justification routine.

Pages may be numbered at the bottom of the page during the printing process. You will be prompted for the number to print and it will appear in the middle of the Page Pro page, in the gutter between the two columns of text that are produced.

#### PROGRAM OPERATION:

PAGEFORM uses a command mode and a text mode to provide all text and file processing features. The text mode is active when the cursor is flashing. The command mode is active when the cursor is not visible on the screen. Fctn X is used to toggle between the two modes.

Text mode is used to enter text that is to be saved or printed. The command mode is used to access any of the commands listed in the menu at the base of the screen. Commands are accessed by pressing the first letter of the command. For example, one would press C to Clear the screen.

PAGEFORM provides six text screens that are capable of holding the 114 text lines available in a 1 page file. Paging from one screen to another is done by the program, based upon cursor position, and is thus automatic.

Cursor movement is done via the arrow keys and the ENTER key. Fctn E takes the cursor back one line at a time and ENTER advances the cursor one line at a time. Fctn S and Fctn D move the cursor horizontally within a text line.

#### Command menu options;

- Clear the current screen
- Delete a line of text
- End of file access
- File name and path display
- Justification of text
- Insert a blank line
- Load a file
- Output/input path change
- Pages prints file in Page Pro format

- Quit the program
- Save a file in TIW format
- Top of file access

Options available from the command mode that are not listed on the menu include the ability to toggle the over write protect mode on/off (F4), the ability to purge the current file (F8) and the ability to catalog a disk in the active drive (Fctn E/X).

#### EXPLANATION OF MENU OPTIONS:

- CLEAR allows the current screen to be erased in a single key press. A cleared screen may be restored by selecting the Top command, or by pressing the number 1 key to display screen one.
- DELETE physically removes a line of text from the file. You may use Fctn 3 to erase a line, but must use DELETE to actually remove it so that the next lowest line on the screen takes the deleted line's place in the file. To use DELETE, simply place the cursor at the line to be deleted and then press Fctn X to access the command mode. Then press D to Delete and the line will be removed.
- END displays screen six and places the cursor on line 114, in the text mode.
- FILE displays the path/file name of the last file that was either loaded or saved. If neither operation has been performed, such as when you are working with a new file, the display will be blank.
- INSERT physically "pushes" each line of text downward to make room for a blank line. You can insert a blank line at any point in a file except line number 1. To use INSERT simply place the cursor at the line where a blank line is to appear, press Fctn X to access the command mode, and then press I to Insert.
- JUSTIFY allows you to right justify selectively. When J is pressed from the command mode the file is placed at screen 1 and the first line of text to be justified is displayed at the bottom of the screen.  
You are prompted to press Fctn X to skip the line if desired, ENTER to allow it to be justified or Fctn 9 to abort and return to the text entry mode. Blank lines, lines that contain only one word, and lines that are already justified are ignored by the routine.
- LOAD retrieves a document from disk and then displays it on screen. Fctn E/X may be used to catalog the disk that you are retrieving a document from. See Special Features for more detail.
- OUTPUT provides pathing options for loading and saving of files. When 0 (not zero) is pressed you may specify DSK2, 3 or even WDS1 as the path where your files will be read from or written to.
- PAGES first prompts you for the name of the Page Pro file that will be printed to disk in two-column format. The default is DSK1.PAGE1. Type over it to suit your needs. A prompt for the

page number then appears and finally the number of tabs spaces from the left margin to begin printing at. Using the default of 1 tab space will allow for a 1 column left margin and a 1 column right margin on the Page Pro page. Fctn 9 will abort file printing and the spacebar will suspend it until the spacebar is released.

-QUIT prompts you for a Y/N key press to confirm that you DO wish to exit the program. Any key press not a Y will return the program to the point you left when Q was pressed.

-SAVE writes an existing file to disk for later access. An overwrite protect mode is built into SAVE that protects existing files from being destroyed. See Special Features for more detail.

-TOP displays screen 1 and places the cursor on line one regardless of where you are at in the file. It is the compliment to the END command.

#### SPECIAL FEATURES:

A disk cataloging option may be used from the LOAD prompt by pressing the Fctn E or Fctn X keys before the file name to load is entered. This will cause the contents of the disk in the active drive to be displayed at the base of the screen, one file at a time. Pressing any key will advance the cataloging to the next file name. Pressing F9 will abort the catalog routine and return to the LOAD prompt where the last file listed in the catalog will be displayed, ready to load.

PAGEFORM also provides an overwrite protect feature in the SAVE command. It will warn you when an existing file is about to be overwritten. The overwrite protect feature may be disabled or enabled with Fctn 4. It is enabled as the default. When it is disabled an asterisk is displayed to the right of the word "Load" on the command line, to let you know that you don't have the protection available.

Should you wish to totally purge the current document, you may press the REDO, Fctn 8, keys while in the command mode to clear out the text buffer. This option will re-RUN the program, so once it is chosen, there is no way to recover a purged document. BE CAREFUL!

#### CREATING TEXT:

If you choose to use TI-Writer or one of its clones to create the text for your newsletter, make sure that the left margin is set to zero and the right one to no more than 28. Also make sure that 114 text lines or empty lines are in the file. PAGEFORM reads and writes exactly 114 lines in each file, whether they are blank lines or not.

When you are ready to save the file, PRINT it to disk using the PF option, and use the Clear option to remove all carriage returns. For example, C DSK1.PAGE1.

#### PLANNING THE PAGE PRO PAGE LAYOUT:

Before you create a two-column file for use in Page Pro you will want to consider the newsletter banner and the use of pictures mixed within your text.

Newsletter banners are easily added to the top of page 1 from within the Page Pro program. Fctn 9 toggles the font size from normal to gigandous (is that a word?) and the gigandous font makes a superb banner. Since PAGEFORM uses only 59 of the 66 lines available on a Page Pro page, you should have more than enough space for the banner on a couple of other lines like the club address or whatever.

Inclusion of pictures in your text requires a little planning. The rule that I follow is to know the size of the picture(s) before I format the text or type the text into the PAGEFORM editor (I find it easier to do manipulation of text around a picture in the PAGEFORM editor than in TI-Writer, but that is a personal choice). Once I know the picture size I then can allow for the picture(s) where ever I want to. For example, the 99/4A picture that comes with Page Pro is 6 spaces high, by 14 spaces long. That means that I should allow 8 rows and at 16 columns of space in the column where I am going to insert the 99/4A picture. This allows for a 1 character coat of white space around the picture in the printed page later.

To determine picture size I just boot up Page Pro, load the picture that I am going to use, press Ctrl 0 (ohh, not zero) to turn the picture off, and then count the number of blocks at the widest point in the picture and then at the highest. I then just leave the requisite number of rows and columns blank when entering the text, so that kerning is already done when the formatting of the text takes place. While this is not an ideal method, it's the only one that PAGEFORM will support.

A word of caution here though. Line 57 represents the bottom of the two-column page on the left-hand column of text and line 114 does the same for the right-hand column. Make sure that you don't put your picture spaces (the blank rows and columns) so close to the bottom of the page that the actual picture won't fit when it comes time to insert it into the Page Pro page.

Once you have printed your text using the PAGES option on the command menu you can load Page Pro. To read the file into Page Pro that you created with PAGEFORM, place the cursor at an appropriate position such as Row 4, Column 2, and then select the file loading options (Ctrl F). Choose 3 (Import) and then press <ENTER>. Type in the name of the file created in Page Form and then press <ENTER> again. The two-column text file will appear, with a 1 character margin on each side and a 2 character gutter in the middle.

Bill Gaskill  
2310 Cypress Ct.  
Grand Junction, CO 81506

# STATE OF THE 4A

## ORPHAN NEVER LACKING LOVING PARENTAL CARE

By Steve Mickelson

Today's state-of-the-art computers have an abundance of features which would have been considered truly amazing only a few years ago. For example, it's not unusual for contemporary systems to include spreadsheet and wordprocessing capabilities, or arcade games featuring multi-colored screens, music and digitized speech.

But a computer existed more than half a decade ago that already had all of the above features and more. That computer was Texas Instruments' TI-99/4A, also known as the original "Home Computer" (a term coined by TI). Despite being an orphan, for five years this computer has survived and thrived.

TI produced over 3 1/2 million of the 16-bit TI-99/4A computer consoles worldwide, including about 1/4 million Expansion Systems. Most of the early software produced for the TI was "locked" in GRON (Graphics Read Only Memory) cartridges distributed through TI. For each cartridge sold, TI collected a fee - a policy which unfortunately discouraged many potential software writers.

After TI unsuccessfully tried to undersell the popular Commodore Vic-20, the company decided to cut its losses. TI stopped production of the TI-99/4A in October 1983. By rights, this should have led to the disappearance of the computer within a couple of years.

But despite TI's failure in the marketing the 99/4A, the company had assured the survival of its orphan computer by implementing a policy of consumer satisfaction.

### Support for the user

---

Back in the early 80's, TI responded to the computer literacy needs of many fledgling users by creating a number of regional workshops, exclusive to the 99/4A. Also a regular bulletin was mailed out to users.

As sales rose, demand for information outstripped supply. This led the company to encourage the formation of local user groups. TI sent out starter packages to aid in the formation of local user groups. These new groups began their own newsletters to their members. A number of user groups began to exchange newsletters. When TI pulled the plug on their popular home computer, the existing network of user groups filled the void, providing the invaluable technical assistance needed by users.

### Additional technical and hardware support

---

The TI-99/4A endured for another reason. Since the 99/4A was built to the high commercial standards of Texas Instruments' mini-computers, many systems have been in use for five or more years with little or no need for repairs. For those users with problems, TI created a toll-free 800 line called "TI CARES". TI

released updates for example existing TI software, and even some previously commercial software programs, to all user groups for release in the public domain.

Support for orphaned 99/4A's also came from many third-party sources. For example, a couple of magazines, Home Computer, MICROpendium and Asgard News, catered exclusively to the TI user (though Home Computer is now deceased). And many hardware manufacturers picked up the slack, increasing production of cards for existing expansion systems, as well as designing brand new add-ons and expansion systems. Among these companies, Myarc is probably the best known.

Shareware software and hardware kits have also come from talented individuals within the many 99/4A user groups. For example, the Horizon RAM disk and MBP real-time cards have come from user groups. And DM-1000, a disk manager from the Ottawa User Group, has become the standard in the worldwide 99/4A community.

### From mail order to regional TI Fairs

---

Several mail order suppliers still meet the needs of TI users. And now another forum has emerged for users to not only see the latest hardware and software for the 99/4A, but also to meet the remaining software authors and distributors within the TI community. That forum is the local or regional TI Fair. Chicago just had their sixth annual TI Fair, with others taking place in Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Las Vegas, and Los Angeles.

In Canada, Ottawa and Halifax have been local focal points for TI forums. These events, usually held in community halls or auditoriums, give TI users an opportunity to meet one another in person, see the latest hardware and software, and hear lectures and demonstrations on their beloved orphan computer. TI-ers have been known to travel hundreds or thousands of miles just to attend such an event.

### The legend lives on

---

Today, many of the original TI computers are still in service. For example, some of these robustly built systems have seen two or three owners without enduring any hardware failure.

Surprisingly, more options are now available for the TI-99/4A, in hardware and software, than when Texas Instruments originally discontinued the computer. There are now several languages for the 99/4A: Extended BASIC, two versions of Forth, a Turbo Pascal, Pilot, Fortran, and c99, among others. There are currently also several data bases, including TI-Base (which looks similar to D Base III). Other available databases are Creative filing System and PR Base.

A host of other useful programs are now available too. For example, there are utilities that allow the user to port text files to and from an IBM, by reading/writing and even formatting in IBM disk format. There are several good graphics programs,

including TI Artist, Picasso, Joypaint, and Graph X. And as for word processors, there are Companion, Writerease and the Press. As well, a number of advanced disk, diagnostic and assembler utilities are available for any interested 99/4A users.

#### New Hardware

New hardware add-ons for the TI include voice recognition systems, trackballs, mice, 80-column cards, double and quad disk controllers, as well as hard disk controllers, real-time clock cards, speech cards, digitizers, music-synthesizer cards, and battery-backed RAM disks with up to one megabyte of pageable memory.

It is also possible to purchase IBM-XT keyboards interfaces, and hardware to dump the older cartridge software to disk.

One of the most recent hardware developments has been the Myarc 9640, also known as the Geneve. The Geneve, literally a computer on a single card, has many features of the discontinued TI-99/8, as well as a number of other features which are simply state of the art.

For example, the Geneve uses the upgrade-compatible Yamaha 9938 video display chip. And this "intelligent" video chip has mouse and joystick ports built in, with 80 column display, digitizer capabilities, as well as composite, analog RGB, and RF-modulated video outputs.

The Geneve has the same sound chip as the TI and comes with IBM XT, 12-function keyboard. The operating system, M-DOS, has the same command set as MS-DOS. Yet, a GPL software interpreter creates a TI-emulated operating environment within the 9640, one which lets most of the 99/4A programs run on the Geneve as if they were booted on a 99/4A.

Nevertheless, the Geneve's 12 MHz clock speed allows the user to run programs at selectable speeds up to 3 1/2 times faster than those of the 4A. The 9640/Geneve has 32K or an optional 64K of Q-wait memory, plus 640K of RAM on the card. Also, the Geneve has a battery-backed real-time clock. The Geneve's graphic output is up to 512x424 pixels, in any of 256 colours.

Recent software offerings for the Geneve include a mouse-driven art program which can load and print 99/4A art and GIF pictures, as well as GENE, a mouse-driven windows-like utility, which allows up to four programs to run at the same time. Overall, the Geneve brings to the TI-user many advanced features not possible in the TI-99/4A.

#### A bright future

In the near future, we can expect a MIDI interface card, a Canadian built Z-80 card, Kermit software, GIF software for the TI, and possibly an IBM co-processor card. Also, expected in the near future is a stand-alone Geneve computer system, available to

any user who does not already own a TI-99/4A system.

As long as we have a dedicated community of innovative enthusiasts, the TI-99/4A orphan will continue to endure and prosper a contemporary classic, one of the true paradoxes in today's computing world.

Steve Mickelson is President of the Toronto 9T9 Users Group and edits Newsletter 9T9.

The above article was written in the early fall of 1988 and was printed in the January edition of Toronto Computes. This article may be reprinted by any non-commercial newsletter, providing credit is given to the author and publication.

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The author may be reached c/o Newsletter 9T9, 109-2356 Gerrard St. East, Toronto, Ont., M4E-2E2, CANADA.

## GIF MANIA REVIEW

Review by Gary W. Cox

GIF Mania is a new program written by Barry Boone and sold through Texasents. For those who are not familiar with the term GIF, GIF stands for Graphics Interchange Format and is a format for saving pictures for viewing on a computer. GIF is probably the most popular format for saving pictures and a vast array of pictures are available through BBS's, among other places. So in other words, the same GIF's that you can view on a PC you can now view on your TI (to certain limitations). GIF pictures include pictures of just about anything you can think of from pretty country scenes to pictures of people... Many people may be familiar with the term RLE format pictures. The difference between RLE and GIF is that GIF allows pictures in color while RLE doesn't and GIF allows higher resolution pictures than what is available in RLE format.

GIF Mania is geared more toward TI99/4a owners as it does not take advantage of the graphics capabilities of the Geneve or any graphics card that you may have. However, it does display GIF pictures to the best of the ability of a TI99/4a. Furthermore, GIF Mania allows the GIF picture to be saved in TI-Artist format whereby the picture then can be printed using TI-Artist...

Several options are available in the program to change the way your GIF picture looks including displaying your picture in grey scale, monochrome etc... Thus with many GIF pictures, especially those which contains many colors (256 colors etc...) options to filter the way your picture looks becomes useful. GIF Mania also displays the resolution of the picture and how many colors are originally embedded in it. Pictures with 16 colors and lower resolutions display better than pictures with more colors and high resolution. You might compare the way the GIF pictures look on the TI to that of CGA on an IBM compatible.

I found GIF mania to provide a good link between the TI and GIF graphics files and is in fact, the only program that I know of on the TI99/4a to allow the TI99/4a to use GIF pictures and convert them to TI-Artist format. In order to display GIF pictures in higher resolution and in full color you will need either a Geneve or a graphics card providing that capability along with a GIF displayer compatible with such equipment...

Cost for GIF Mania is \$14.95 plus \$3 shipping from Texaments of 53 Center Street, Patchogue, NY 11772 (516) 475-3480. Program requires 32k, a disk system and Extended BASIC or Editor/Assembler and is HFDC compatible. The program comes with several sample GIF pictures plus many GIF pictures are available on the Midnight Hour BBS. GIF Mania will be demonstrated at this month's meeting.

## HINTS, TIPS & ANSWERS

Edited by Bill Sponchia of the Ottawa TI99/4a Users Group. Tips come from various authors...

1) Outdenting- This is the reverse of "indenting". It will allow first line of a paragraph to be start farther to the left then the remaining lines in the paragraph. eg - ".LM12;IN7;RM71" causes the first line to start at column 7 and subsequent lines to begin at column 12.

2. When using REPLACE STRING you must be in the same MODE (Word wrap or Block) that the original document was produced in.

3. This is for use in Funnelweb Text Editor mode (note: it may work for regular TI-Writer but I'm not sure.) Want to convert the character case (Upper to Lower) Lower to Upper)?

1) Upper to Lower - depress CTRL and "." (period)  
11) Lower to Upper - depress CTRL and ";" (semi-colon) By keeping the keys depressed the autorepeat function will take affect and every character the cursor passes over will be converted.

4. To save part of a document insert in front of the filename the

first line number you wished saved then either a comma or a space and then the last line number you wished saved. eg - 5,30 DSK1.MINUTES or 5 30 DSK1.MINUTES - will save the lines 5 to 30, inclusive, onto disk drive #1 under the name MINUTES.

5. To "get rid" of the line numbers on the left of the screen press FCTN 0 (zero). To get them back press FCTN 0 again.

6. If you erase a line in error, press CTRL I (known as "OOPS!") and your line will be restored. Note: This will work ONLY if no other keys were pressed between the erasing and "OOPS".

7. When using the "Search" command remember that the search is only from the point that the cursor is located. Therefore to search the total document the cursor must be on-line 1 before you go to the Command mode.

8. To backspace beyond the left margin press CTRL Y. This will temporarily disable the left margin. There is no right margin release.

9. When using the Header or Footer command with the page number it is possible to have NO value printed (such as for the Introduction, etc) by using the .PA format command with a value of zero. The page numbering will begin on the following page. A

10. TI-Writer can save a file in other than the normal D/V80 format by using the PF command and either putting a "F" in front of the filename (ie F DSK1.MYFILE) or by putting a "C" in front of the filename. "F" causes a file to be created in a Display/Fixed 80 format. "C" strips any control characters from the file as it is sent.

11. TI-Writer can be used as a database. Each line must be a record and set up exactly the same. For example if the data was names, addresses and phone numbers then all names must start in the same column; all addresses must start in the same column and all phone numbers must start in the same column. There can be no lines which are blank or which have other type of information on them (ie - titles). Then using the program SORT UTILITY (by D R Rower J Clulow) you can sort this file. Once sorted, which is done very quickly, titles can be added if you are printing it out.

12. There are CTRL keys equivalents to most FCTN keys, plus a few others. For example to tab to the right you can go FCTN 7 or CTRL W; to tab back (to the left) you can go CTRL T (there is no equivalent FCTN key).

13. If you must go to the bottom of your text (and it is very long), instead of paging down simply go to the Command Line and press "S" for "show line" and at the prompt "enter line number" just type "E" and press ENTER. "E" is a valid line number for the last line (end) of a document. This feature is active in all the commands requiring you to enter a line number.

14. If you wish to prevent the form feed at the end of printing when using the Formatter then make the last line of your text ".PL 1". This will suppress the form feed, but note: do not forget to



reset PL if you have another document to print.

15. You can string the formatter commands on the same line separated with a semicolon. eg - LM 10;RM 70;IN +5;FI;A)

16. If you are having problems with formatter commands, make sure they are UPPERCASE letters.

17. To avoid a BUFFER FULL notice you just save the files as it gets larger, then use the SD command to see the file size. The BUFFER is full at 92 sectors.

18. When using the .CE command you MUST also use the .LM and .EM commands because .CE centres the text between the SET margins, not necessarily the middle of your paper.

19. The Formatter also ensures that you have two spaces after each period. To control this when you are typing such things as "Mrs. E Smith" or "1023 N. Queen Street" then use the " " sign in place of the space after the period. eg - Mrs. E Smith; 1023 N, Queen Street.

20. If you must have a dot in column one of your text, transliterate it. ".TL 124:46" will allow FCTN A to print out a period.

21. To create a file with out line feeds yet formatted, do the following:

1) use the FORMATTER to print the text to disk  
11) go back to EDITOR and do a Print File (PF) replacing PIO with C DSKn.filename.

22. If you wish to include a program listing in your document instead of retyping it into TI-Writer just LIST the program to the diskette using the following command LIST "DSKn.filename". This will save the program in DISPLAY/80 format which allows it to be read by TI-Writer. You can now load this file into TI-Writer and place the carriage return character at the end of each program line.

23. If you wish to place a Carriage Return at the end of a line of text (a line without the return will usually occur when you have inserted blank lines in the text and then put text on them) then place the cursor at the end of the text and press CTRL 8. This will place a Carriage Return where you want it and insert a blank line below. If this line is not wanted you can delete it with FCTN 3.

24. You can get a print out of your file WITH LINE NUMBERS when printing out of the Editor mode by placing an "L" and a space before the printer name in the command instruction. eg - L PIO This will eliminate the last 6 characters at the end of each line (#75 to #80) therefore keep your line lengths to a maximum of 74.

25. Did you know that you can type anything you want after a carriage return ON THE SAME LINE and it won't print out; but it will SAVE. This is great for text notes for screen reading.

26. When typing up a document which uses certain long words or phrases frequently then a time saver (and also added insurance against typing errors) is to type the words in shorthand or initials (ie - TI-ARTIST could become TIA; Ottawa TI-99/4A Users Group could become OTIUG). When you are finished with the document use the Replace String function (RS) to change the words back to the full spelling (eg - /TIA/TI-ARTIST/). Care must be taken in three forms when using this:

i) the search only begins from the spot that the cursor is on so to do the whole document insure that the cursor is on line 1 before starting.

ii) the search will locate all occurrences of the string. Therefore if the string searched for is "at" it will find word "at" and also the "at" in "cat" and "that", etc. So before telling the machines to "Change all occurrences automatically be sure this program can't arise. If you are not confident of this it is best to walk through and change each separately as it is found.

iii) as a reformatting will be done wherever a change is made it would be wise to review the document after to be sure that it is still formatted correctly.

27. When using the FIND STRING command you can specify which column range to search. eg - 5 15 /text/ will look for the string "text" in the columns 5 through to 15 inclusive.

28. If your printer does not have a slashed zero and you want to print it out that way use the following Transliteration: printed; then backspace (8); and then a printing of a slash (47).

29. Two files can be loaded into the Editor (assuming the total size is not too large for memory) by loading in the first file then doing a LF and entering E DSKn.YYY (where n=disk # and YYY=second file). This will load the second file after the end of the first file.

30. If you don't like the windowing when using the 80 column format then set the margins for 0 and 40 and turn off the line numbers (FCTN 0). When you are finished reset the left and right margins to what you desire and reformat each paragraph.

31. You can merge sections of a second file into the current document by the following entry using the LF command:  
25 7 12 DSK1.YYY - This will load lines 7 to 12 (inclusive) from file YYY to the current document after line 25.

32. If you are using FUNNELWEB 4.1 or greater after you have the directory on the screen (using the SD command) you will be able to see how many lines are in a file by marking the file and then requesting (V)iew. The line count will be shown at the bottom of the screen.

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## CALENDAR

MEETINGS: December 20 (3rd Thursday!)  
WORKSHOPS: TO BE ANNOUNCED

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