



OSHTI
99/4A
COMPUTER
USERS GROUP

OSHTI



BLUEJAYS
WINFIELD
WORLD SERIES!



NOV. 1992



LAST MONTH'S OSHTI MEETING:

The Oct. meeting was well attended. Thanks to Ray we were well looked after.

Since the Blue Jays were playing that night, there was some hesitation in staying late.

The Disk of the Month featured disk utility programmes. There were several copy disk programmes, at least one of which really required a formatted disk before doing the copying. As we can all appreciate now, copying goes much faster with two drives. We will have to get Ray set up with his second drive in the near future.

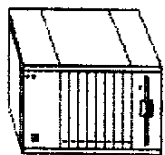
The programme, PAGE PRO PAGE COMPOSER (see more detailed review below) was demoed to show the use of the mouse. An additional programme (CLIPIX) which allowed the 'cropping' of large pics was also demoed.

Tom showed that the sliding block puzzle was solvable, even though "we" needed 52 moves rather than the minimum 26. Oh well, practice makes perfect.

We received a letter from Mike Wright in New Hampshire. He and two others are working on the TI emulator. I have included some excerpts from this lengthy letter detailing what the future holds.(SEE p.8).

Again, the weather proved to be OK. Hope our luck continues.

The next meeting will be at Bob Young's house, Nov. 18th, so check the map for details. Thanks Bob for agreeing to host the meeting. This will be our first meeting in the WEST.



FOR SALE



There are several systems for sale along with their assorted goodies. Hopefully, these will be on display at the Nov. 18th meeting. One system has 2 double drives, R3232, and 32K of memory, while the other has a single drive, but the drive is double-sided (not the standard TI drive).

If you are interested in a second system, this will be a good time to get another one in time for Christmas.

Hopefully, we can find a home for these systems.

KAWARTHA SOLVES POSTAL MYSTERY!



The mystery has been solved. In September I had to go to my postal station to pick something up. It was a newsletter addressed to ME from ME. Somehow, the letter had had its address sticker carefully cut off and my address put on the front. It cost me \$0.65 to get it back. I thought that this was a cruel trick for any newsletter editor so I didn't say anything about it before. It was one of the Canadian mailings so no blaming it on our neighbours to the south. Well, I think that the mystery has been solved.

In the Nov KAWARTHA newsletter, there is a note about them NOT RECEIVING the SEPT OSHTI newsletter. So I guess that this was theirs. I will send them both this month. Yes, it will cost us more, but they're worth it; eh, Phil and Glen and Dick and

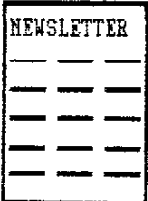
Come to think of it, HOWCUM the Kawartha club is losing so many members to other locations across the country?

First it was Mike Dunn to Kincardine, then John Baal to the Ottawa valley and now Bob Tisdale to B.C. Is there something in the air in PeterPATCH as John called it? Maybe it was the meetings at the Police station. The police encouraged Phil to 'bring in' new members. Maybe they were finding them positions in the 'line-up' and then being identified as 'RS222 serial' killers! Ha Ha... that was a good one eh, Phil!

Happy READING Guys.

Tom.

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NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

-PAGE PRO COMPOSER !

I hope you noticed that last month's newsletter was DIFFERENT in format from our usual one.

The first four pages were done using the new PAGE PRO PAGE COMPOSER programme written by Chris Bobbitt for ASGARD software. Chris wrote the programme in FORTRAN and compiled it. Yes, FORTRAN. So it runs very fast.

The advantage in using this programme was to increase the amount of text per page and thus use less paper. Of course, the size of the print and graphics was smaller.

Page Composer is a well written programme which has a graphics interface (with ICONS) and can be mouse or joystick driven. It uses a minimum of keyboard inputs.

For those who like this type of interface, it works very smoothly. Most of the ideas are very intuitive. If you know how to open files then you can progress very quickly.

I received version 1.01. There are a few minor problems with this version, but everything works pretty well as it should. The initial screen could be initialized a bit better (some initial garbage appears on the screen but is redefined to yield a clear lay out). There is also a glitch which occurs when you try to remove the last pic from the screen. I have written to Chris about this and no doubt he will clear this up in later versions.

The programme comes with a 30 page manual, but as I say, the programme is quite straight-forward and intuitive. Basically, what you are doing is setting up a file and loading it with page pro PICS. You can use up to 30 pics per page. Who would ever use this many ?

What makes this programme unique is that you can set up several pages at a time. This is great for newsletters. You can set up one page after another. The file that you create just saves the position of the pics on that page, and the number of pages. So the file you make is kind of an EXEC file.

There are several sizes for the pages that you can choose from. For comparison sake. Considering that a normal PAGE PRO page is only 60 characters wide by 66 rows deep, the COMPOSER can make the regular page and pages 80 characters by 66 and 120 characters by 66. This is in what is called the PORTRAIT mode. So you can have the regular 60, the wider 80 or the double width 120. Thus you can get up to 2 PAGE PRO regular PAGES on only one COMPOSER PAGE using the last format.

Of course, you will need an EPSON COMPATIBLE PRINTER to print the file. My printer is a STAR NX-1000 Rainbow and it works just fine. Since a lot of printers follow the EPSON standards, a lot more printers (at least the newer ones) should be compatible.

There is another MODE too. It is called the LANDSCAPE mode. It allows you to print up to 99 columns with 40, 53 and 60 rows. You can see that this would print in a format which could be used for booklets.

As if this programme were not enough, ASGARD put in the OSBTI

added programme CLIPIX by DAN GAZSY. CLIPIX allows you to view a large PAGE PRO PIC and CLIP and SAVE any and all parts of the file. This is a nice utility since it allows you to view the pics that you put together for the COMPOSER file.

CLIPIX works faster than PAGE PRO for viewing a file. It may be better to use this for that purpose rather than using the PAGE PRO programme itself.

CLIPIX does NOT use the mouse or joysticks but it does make use of the keys in a simple manner. Getting this programme was a real bonus.

One thing that the manual says is to name your backup disk PPPC. This is important if you are using one drive for the programme. However, Chris does NOT tell you how to put this programme on a RAM disk (for faster loading). You could call your ram disk PPPC if you wanted. However, if you do a search through all of the programme and printer files for -DSK.PPPC using DISKU or DISKREVIEW then you can virtually replace this name with the name of the Drive that you have it on. So, I saved the programmes to my ram disk (Horizon) and changed the PPPC name to that of my ram disk. It works very smoothly and faster.

Printing is easy to do from the programme. You can print ALL or a RANGE of pages that is in the file. This is what Page Pro lacked ! You could only print one page at a time with page pro.

Well, there are some inevitable drawbacks in using this programme. The greatest problem is in making all of your page pro text into PICS (using F7 on Page PRO and saving the text as a PIC file). This takes considerable TIME if you are converting a 60 column x 66 row page. Then the SIZE of the PIC becomes a problem. A full page pro page will be about 200 sectors. If you are using 360 sector (SSSD) disks then you are going to use a lot of disks for a newsletter. Even using BSSD diskettes, it took me 2 diskettes to save 4 pages of PICS.

Newsletter editors usually don't have enough time to make use of this system. It takes extra effort to do it and the added time may make your newsletter come out late. But the results are worthwhile.

If you were writing a booklet which you wanted to do a good job on, then this is the ticket.

What Chris will have to do is figure out a faster way of getting PAGE PRO PAGES converted to PAGE PRO PICS. The programme PIX PRO seems to be able to work fast with a variety of different file formats and convert them very rapidly to other formats, maybe PIX PRO could be used to improve this process. It sure would help.

The cost of PAGE PRO PAGE COMPOSER is \$14.95 + \$3.00 S H. You must include a photocopy of the PAGE PRO disk to get it at this price. Why would you want it if you didn't have PAGE PRO anyway?

I think this programme and CLIPIX is a worthwhile purchase. It will only improve with time.

By the way, there is NO disk cataloger included in the COMPOSER programme. This was a SPACE (32K limit) problem. Maybe, this will be overcome with the introduction of the ASGARD 128K card (see ARTICLE).

Who said there is a lack of new software for the TI 99/4A ?

Tom.

NOV 92 -2-



NEW PRODUCT: 'PALM' ORGANIZER - THE SMART2

In May Phil Townsend and I were looking at small portable 'palm-top' computer-organizers come data bases in Radio Shack at Lima Ohio. At that time Phil noticed that there was little difference in price between the US and Canadian prices.

This October, RADIO SHACK CANADA had a promo on their new (this is the FIRST TIME they have offered this product!) SMART2 64K Organizer EC-332. The cost was very reasonable at \$160 Canadian (tax included). I have reproduced a copy of the current add which continues to run through November 30 at his very good price.

This little outfit can do wordprocessing in its MEMO section. It has TWO DATA bases; one for TELEPHONE numbers and ADDRESSES and the other for SCHEDULED events (important meetings, reminders etc.)

The MEMO pad is not really a data base but it can also be searched. The MEMO pad allows me to write memos with up to 254 characters each. This is 8 full lines. You can make this longer by writing shorter lines and scroll through the lines after you get to line 8. You can of course write longer notes by writing them one after another and 'chaining' them together.

It also has a built in CALENDAR (up to 2091) which displays a month at a time. If there is a scheduled item for a month then there is a little dot beside the AM or PM of that day.

There is a built in CLOCK which can give you the correct time at HOME (Toronto) and the correct time in each of the other 24 time zones by city. For example, it is 6:55 pm Nov. 11, 1992 in Toronto as I type but it is 7:55 AM of NOV.12,1992 in HONG KONG.

The CLOCK circuit can also give you the ability to act as an alarm clock each day. It also 'beeps' for 30 seconds before each scheduled event that you put in the SCHEDULE data base. Maybe you should put the data for the scheduler EARLIER so that you have time to get there. Last Friday, I was scheduled to be in Toronto at 8:00 AM and it beeped as I entered the garage. It was then that I realized that it was reminding me of where I had to be.

Particularly nice are the SEARCH functions. You can type in a KEY WORD and search for it thru the MEMO data or thru the TELEPHONE list or thru the SCHEDULE data base or thru ALL of them. It finds stuff really quickly and it is GLOBAL so that if you type in just a few letters, it will find all occurrences of them...and it is FAST.

Oh yes, it also operates as a CALCULATOR. It doesn't have all the fancy calculator stuff like COSINE and TAN and EXPONENTIAL, but it does have a MEMORY space. Included in the calculator section is a UNIT CONVERTER for both US and BRITISH equivalents. For example did you know that there are 907.2 (rounded by me) kg in a US TON while there is 1016.05 (rounded by me) kg in a BRITISH TON. There are 22 conversions built in. For example, standard human body temperature is 37.5 Celsius. This is 99.5 Fahrenheit degrees. Yes this is correct. As you may have read lately the 98.6 standard was established back in the

OSHTI

1800's. The newer higher temperature is the correct one for 1992.

Along with the 23 built in conversions, there are 6 PROGRAMMABLE CONVERSIONS. I put the Canadian dollar in as \$1.27 and this gives me \$0.787 US. Or you can enter \$500 Canadian and get \$393.70 US. You can convert either way. Of course, you need the US dollars first.

Well, now that you can see what it can do, let's take a look at the DISPLAY SCREEN. It is 32 characters wide. Yes, that's wider than the TI screen in the normal Graphics mode or the TI BASIC or KBASIC programming mode. We only have 28 characters. Of course, there is NO COLOR!

There are 6 rows of characters giving a total of 192 characters on the screen at once. Wow, that is impressive when you see how small the unit is.

The KEYBOARD has 54 keys. It has the QWERTY key arrangement but only the upper case... you expect lower case you fool!

There are 8 FUNCTION keys and several EDITTING KEYS (insert,delete,right left up and down cursor) .The function keys take you immediately to one of a number of areas. A MEMO key a TELEPHONE key etc.

There are 6 ARROW KEYS for searches and moving the cursor. These are very useful.

I have left the COMMUNICATIONS programme to the end. The reason for this is that RADIO SHACK has NOT come out with the DATA LINK or PC LINK yet. So what will this mean? Well, from what they have told me, I will be able to SEND the info to my computer (TI or IBM) since it will be sent as ASCII data. The programme is there to do it, the I/O port is there, all that is lacking is the piece of wire and connectors. RADIO SHACK assures me that these are coming. So I took a chance on this part of the deal.

However, I have to rate the SMART2 as a very good purchase, even if this part does not pan out. You have to realize that usefulness of a device with this kind of power and memory size.

I have 23 telephone numbers, 4 memos, 24 scheduled events and still have 58 k of memory left. This is only 16 % of the space used. I doubt that I will ever use all of it.

This little baby can be easily carried in your inside suit jacket pocket with no problems. In fact this is the only reason I like wearing a jacket. It is basically smaller than a women's make-up kit at 6" by 3" by 3/4".

It operates on 2 AAA batteries and a flat lithium 3 Volt battery. The AAA batteries can be replaced without losing the memory. However, I haven't used it this much yet.

To give you an idea how far we have come in 10 years. This little unit, has twice the memory of my first computer (the COMMODORE 4032) and the size is 448 times smaller. You couldn't put the old commodore in your pocket if you tried.

So, if you are looking for a Christmas present (for yourself), better drop the hint before next week. The sale ends on Nov. 30.

I'll bet Phil Townsend will be interested and maybe Peter Townsend too (that's what the Hoosier group calls Phil!)

Of course, you could wait till the memory size goes up and the price comes down... but you'll miss the fun.

NOV 92 -3-

I just saw the comparable SHARP organizer and it was on sale at \$139.95 Canadian or \$229.95 after taxes. I don't think it had as good a screen either.

Tom

WELCOME TO A NEW MEMBER:

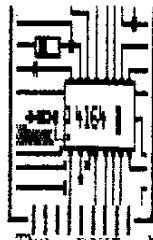


A few weeks ago I got a long distance phone call from Bryan Gelevnse in Chatham. He was in touch with our friend who runs the computer faire in Bowmanville and he put him in touch with me.

Brian only has the cassette system but is looking for upgrading this to a disk system.

Brian had some problems with his TV modulator. I offered him several solutions, one of them was to replace the small TTL chip inside the case. This tip came from the BC 39er group. If you suspect that your TV modulator has packed it in, there is a replacement chip that can be obtained for it at a very small cost.

I sent Brian a newsletter with info on our club. He has replied and indicates that he will join us. We Welcome Brian into our club.



THE ASGARD 128K CARD! NEW PRODUCT

The next big HARDWARE item to be released from ASGARD is the 128K MEMORY SYSTEM. I have included a reprint of the article in October's MICROpendium to more fully describe it. The real significance of this is the BREAKING of the 32K BARRIER!

Up to the present, there has been no way to have a programme larger than 32K in the TI 99/4A's memory. As a result of this 32K limit, large programmes like TELCO (terminal modem programme) had to be loaded into the memory in MODULES. This was time consuming if you didn't have a ram disk. Using a RAM disk, most of this problem disappeared. Now, ASGARD has opened up the programming area to 128K so that one could have a 4 times larger programme in memory ready to act at your command.

The card takes the place of the standard 32K that you may have in your PE BOX. It does NOT say if the system will work with the 32K in the console, but I think that this would NOT be the case since they are on different buses.

The cost is reasonable at \$120 (US) plus \$10 S&H.

The only thing that would have been nice was a programme to be included with the 128K card. One that made use of the new space. Although FIRST DRAFT (see above) is being released at the same time, it's too bad that this programme doesn't use the extra space. Maybe it will in the future.

ASGARD says that it will release details of how to access the 128K space (in 4K intervals) to interested programmers. I wonder how many will be interested.

Don't be lead into thinking that this is a RAM DISK. It isn't. When you turn off the computer, the memory will clear itself. There is also no statement about partitioning the space so that part of it could be an operating system like MENU for the horizon ram disk.

I think a lot of people will wait until there is a REAL REASON for buying this new hardware. After all, you can probably buy a lot of other things for this money.



PREDICTING THE FUTURE

This year, I have made some really good predictions. One was a COLD DAMP SUMMER. This proved to be true. I even followed this prediction up by taking on summer school (as teacher) to back this up. Sure enough, that prediction panned out.

I had 2 summer BAR-B-Qs and they had sunny weather, which was great. I had the whole family over for Thanksgiving dinner and the weather held and was warm and sunny. This even went against the weather forecaster.

Next, I predicted that the world series would go 6 games and that the TORONTO BLUE JAYS would win after losing one 'blow-out' game. Yes, siree! This was dead-on again!

Of course, Bill Clinton was predicted for PRESIDENT and this prediction came true. Of course the US was due for a change.

The Canadian REFERENDUM vote, I predicted a close one, but I thought the YES side would win. Canadians are really fed up with Mulrooney. If Bush went then can Mulrooney be far after? My guess is that he will be gone by mid 1993.

My latest prediction is for a SNOWY winter in these parts. I have been fixing up my 4x4 BRONCO (with snow blade) this month in anticipation. Last weekend (Nov.7-8) there was ICE on my pond! The first time I can remember this happening so early in the year.

We have had some snow, but nothing that lasted.

I guess we will just have to wait and see how accurate this one is.

So, if you see me driving over the ice this year, you will know that it is a safe bet for a long cold one.

Tom



save \$40 **139.95** ~~179.95~~

Don't leave home without your handy data bank. It schedules, directs and organizes. 64K byte, large LCD display. 65-949*



TESTED RECIPES:

FRAN'S

Banana Bread

- 2 Cups of Flour
- 1/2 Cup of Walnuts (Optional)
- 1 Cup of Sugar
- 3 Very Ripe Bananas
- 1/2 Cup of butter
- 2 Eggs
- 1 Tsp Baking Soda
- 1/4 Tsp Salt (Optional, Fran doesn't use)
- 1 Tsp Baking Powder

Cream the butter sugar. Add sifted flour, baking soda, salt baking powder. Mash bananas add to first mixture. Beat eggs add to above. Beat until smooth. Add walnuts at this point. Pour mixture into a greased loaf pan.

Bake at 350 Deg. F. for approx. 1 to 1-1/4 hours.



What to do with APPLES

Melissa's Crunchy Apple Crisp

- 4-5 Cups of Peeled Sliced Apples
- 50 ml White Sugar
- 30 ml White Flour
- 2 ml Cinnamon
- 90 ml Butter
- 175 ml Rolled Oats
- 75 ml Brown Sugar



Place apple slices in a casserole dish. Combine 50 ml white sugar, 15 ml of flour, 2 ml of cinnamon. Mix well with the sliced apples. Cut up 15 ml of butter and set on top of the apples.

In a separate bowl combine:

- 175 ml Rolled Oats
- 75 ml Flour
- 75 ml Brown Sugar
- 75 ml Melted Butter

Press the crumb mixture evenly over the apples.

- To Microwave: - Cook 5 to 8 minutes on high.
- To Bake: - Cook 25 minutes in a 400 Deg. F. oven.
- To Freeze: - Bake, cool, and seal. May be frozen for up to 6 weeks.

FRAN and MELISSA YOUNG



ASGARD'S NEW WORDPROCESSOR -with spellcheck!

Who said the TI 99/4A is not continuing to GROW ?

Wasn't me ! At any rate we have some news regarding some NEW PRODUCTS in the TI market place. These are NOT the only ones but, a couple of the latest splashes. As I reviewed earlier, PAGE COMPOSER by ASGARD is a new programme only released in July of 1992.

ASGARD is also releasing a NEW WORDPROCESSOR called... "FIRST DRAFT". I don't know if I like this title but no one asked me anyway. In May, at the LIMA conference I did spot the author showing a bit of what this could do at the ASGARD table, so I knew something was coming down the pipe.

I have provided information about this programme via the newsrelease in MICROpendium (get the fine details in the article.

To give you a brief look at the new features found in this wordprocessor will suffice here, but there are looking to break new ground.

The author of this programme is Arthur Gibson, AKA Art Gibson of the Newsletter Editor fame.

Of course this WP works in the 40 and 80 column modes so I will go on to the NEWER features.

It has the SPELL-IT spell-checker built in. You can check one word or the entire document ANY TIME YOU WANT !

It has PULL-DOWN MENUS. (NO MENTION of a MOUSE though)

It has a formatter which allows the printing of PAGE PRO graphics.

There is a BUILT-IN SCREEN PREVIEWER to see how the document will look before printing.

The programme may be FULLY CUSTOMIZED to meet the likes of the typist and the printer used.

Documents may be as LARGE AS A DISK. This was one of the draw-backs of FUNNELWEB and PREDITOR and TI-WRITER that has been overcome.

Cost of the programme is higher than the usual TI software. The reason for this is that you will also be getting the SPELL-IT word check programme. However, if you have SPELL-IT then the cost is reduced down to about \$30 (US) plus shipping and handling.

You Know It's Going to be a BAD DAY When...

- >You wake up face down on the Pavement.
- >You call suicide prevention and they put you on HOLD
- >You put your bra on BACKWARDS and it fits BETTER.
- >You see a 60 MINUTES News team waiting in your office (TO BE CONT'D next month)

TI-99/4A owners use their computers for *word processing* more than anything else. Over the years, Asgard Software has tried, and usually succeeded in making word processing easier and more powerful. Our *Spell It!* spelling checker is the standard by which all others are measured, and our *Screen Preview* has helped many see what they have written before they print it.

Now, for the first time, we have combined all of the useful add-on utilities and nice features found in all of the *TI-Writer* compatible programs into one, advanced program. Written entirely from scratch, *First Draft* brings word processing for the 99/4A and Geneve into the 90's.

This *TI-Writer* compatible programs allows you to create documents as large as your disk in 40 or 80 columns. Spell-check a word or the entire document any time you want with our *Spell It!* compatible dictionary. Use the pull-down menus to access a wide array of commands for every-thing from merging documents to managing your disks. You can even add *DISKU* comments to your files. Use the advanced formatter to print out multi-column documents with *Page Pro 99* graphics, and to take advantage of your printer's features just select the right "printer driver". The list of features and firsts goes on and on.

From *First Draft* to Final Copy, no other word processor for the 99/4A comes close. Order your copy today - because it's shipping today.

\$39.95

Shipping & Handling:

U.S. Add \$3.00

Canada Add \$4.00

Airmail Add \$7.00

**Registered Spell It! users
only \$29.95 plus S&H.**

First Draft

By Arthur Gibson

Features

- The program may be fully customized
- Includes a 25,000 word spelling checker - check a single word or the whole document while writing
- Includes 40 and 80 column versions
- TI-Writer compatible - load and save in both *First Draft* and TI-Writer formats
- Create, edit and print documents as large as your available disk space.
- Full built-in disk manager accessible from the editor: delete/rename a file, format a disk, add comments, etc.
- Menu driven - no command line
- Easy file merging
- Parallel columns - create and edit multi-column documents in the editor and the formatter
- Extended formatter featuring over 20 new commands - include *Page Pro 99* pictures in your document, multi-line footers/headers, etc.
- Printer drivers - use simple commands to access any printer's features. Never worry about codes again
- Built-in screen preview function
- Compatible with Funnelweb, Horizon RAM-disk, TIM Mechatronics, Dijit, Geneve 9640 and the HFDC

Asgard Software
P.O. Box 10306
Rockville, MD 20849

Asgard offers new memory system

Provides 128K of program memory

Asgard Software has released the Asgard 128K Memory System, which the company describes as the first advanced memory system for the TI99/4A designed to be used exclusively as memory for programs and data.

The company has also released a new invoice management program and updated several of its older programs.

The AMS functions as a 32K card with standard 4A software when installed in the Peripheral Expansion Box, according to the company. The company says it will not conflict with any hard or floppy disk controllers and is compatible with some RAMdisks. The card does not need to be configured and uses little power, according to Asgard.

Chris Bobbitt of Asgard says programs designed to work with the card can access up to 128K of CPU memory "simply and with a minimum of restrictions on program designs. Memory can be banked in 4K increments, within a few clock cycles, anywhere within the standard 32K memory space available to TI99/4A programs."

He says the design used by AMS is similar to that used in the TI99/8 computer and is accessible to programs written in assembly and GPL.

Example programs with source code as well as documentation are included with the device. The materials were prepared by software designers, Bobbitt notes. He says Asgard will provide necessary information for programming for any software developers who want to take advantage of the AMS' features.

Bobbitt says Asgard will provide "reasonably priced upgrades and even trade-in options" and will work to insure compatibility of software written for AMS with future developments.

The AMS requires a TI99/4A with a Peripheral Expansion Box and a disk system. It is compatible with all disk controllers, all video cards, and some RAMdisks and memory cards, as well as virtually all other cards for the 4A, Bobbitt says. It is not guaranteed to function with the Myarc or CorComp RAMdisks or the

TI, CorComp or Myarc 32K cards. No problems have been encountered with Horizon RAMdisks, Bobbitt says.

To order, send a check or money order for \$119.95 (plus \$10 shipping and handling in North America, \$20 elsewhere for air mail). Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Programmers may receive a free packet containing programming information by sending a postcard to Asgard.

INVOICE MANAGEMENT

Asgard has released Invoice Management by Larry Tippett in its Asgard Business Software Series. The program, said to use a "what-you-see-is-what-you-get" approach, allows the user to enter mailing and payment information as well as information for retrieving the invoice later. Once entered, invoices can be stored and recalled singly or in groups. Invoice Management does all calculations, including sales tax and has a built-in four-function calculator, according to the manufacturer.

Invoices can be printed individually or in batches on pre-printed TOPS invoice forms, as Page Pro 99 files or as TI-Writer Formatter files. An option allows printing an envelope for the invoice. A tracking report may be printed for the user.

Invoice Management allows the user to use names and addresses stored in databases created with Asgard's Mail Room, as well as product codes and descriptions from Asgard's scheduled Inventory Management package. The program may be used on its own as well, the manufacturer says.

Invoice Management requires a TI99/4A or Myarc Geneve 9640, a disk system, expanded memory and Extended BASIC. Both 40- and 80-column versions are included. The 80-column version is compatible with both the Geneve and 80-column equipped 4As. A printer is recommended. Suggested retail price is \$14.95.

Asgard has released Tris-2 by Jim Reiss, a new version of Tetris for the TI99/4A and Myarc Geneve which the manufacturer says features improved graphics and "mutant" blocks. Mutant blocks are irregularly shaped and change

their pattern as they rotate and fall.

Tris 2 is available in cartridge for the TI99/4A of \$19.95 or on disk for the Geneve 9640 for \$9.95. Owners of the previous version of the cartridge can obtain an update for \$8 (\$5 with the return of their old cartridge.) Disk users can receive the update for \$4.

CLIPIX AND GOFER REVISED

Asgard has released revisions for Clipix and Gofer. Clipix, by Dan Gazsy, is a utility included with Pix Pro, Gofer and Page Pro Composer allowing the user to load Page Pro 99 pictures of any size and "clip" any portion and save it as another picture. It may also be purchased by itself for \$7.95. Gofer, also by Gazsy, features a version of Page Pro 99's Columnizer; utilities to modify "page format" files, perform batch conversions of TI-Artist instances to Page Pro 99 format and vice versa; and a batch converter for converting IBM PC PCX-format picture files into Page Pro 99 format. It sells for \$14.95. The revisions of Clipix and Gofer correct compatibility problems with the HFDC. HFDC users with prior versions of these programs may receive the updated versions by returning their program disks.

For information or to order, write Asgard Software, P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20859-0306. Add \$3 for shipping and handling on all software orders.

MIDI music offered to TI users groups

Harrison Software offers a 45-minute cassette of MIDI music for \$2 for the cost of materials and handling to any TI users group, according to Bruce Harrison of the company.

Harrison notes that the tape can be used for "demo" purposes to show off MIDI capabilities to the membership. The music on the cassette is all J.S. Bach music programmed by Dolores P. Werths and made on a MIDI instrument.

Officers of users groups may send \$2 for the cassette to Harrison Software, 5705 40th Place, Hyattsville, MD 20781.

45 Centerville Drive,
Salem, NH 03079.
October 12, 1992.

Dear TI'er,

Thank you for your interest in the development of PC99, a PC emulator for the TI-99/4A. This letter serves to introduce the principals behind the product together with their aims and hopes.

Principals:

Mike Wright. Works as a software engineer for Xyvision, a Massachusetts company that is a leader in publishing and database systems running on DEC and IBM RS-6000 systems under Unix. TI user since 1982 and an owner of many rare TI items. Conceived the TI Cyc, an on-going development covering the history of the Home Computer and related products.

Mark van Coppenolle. Works as a senior hardware technician at Aviv Corp, a Massachusetts company that manufactures add-on boards for DEC VAX systems running under VMS. TI user since 1982. Developed the Gramulator, the most technically advanced GRAM device for the Home Computer. President of CaDD Electronics, an established New Hampshire-based company that offers hardware and software for use on TI-99/4A systems.

Greg Hill. Works as a senior software engineer for DataLogic of Chicago (and formerly of Xyvision). Responsible for the development of many software projects including xypc, a PC emulator for Xyvision's Xytext terminal. Designed and developed PC99.

Aims:

The principals believe that it is possible to develop PC99 to the point where it can be used as a TI-99/4A, with some minor restrictions.

To this end, a preliminary version of the product has been developed. This version includes the ability to emulate:

- the TMS9900 processor (all 69 instructions),
- the TMS9918A video display processor (all four modes),
- the TMS9901 peripheral device controller.

This version does not include any capability to do I/O. This means you cannot load or save any file, output to a printer, or use a modem.

It is felt that there has been sufficient development done to prove the feasibility of PC99. However, there is much work that needs to be done before the product is fully functional. We estimate there are two man-years of development required to reach this level.

In a buoyant economy we may have considered giving up our full-time jobs to develop PC99. This would have required the certainty of a market to support such a venture. To this end, we conceived a test marketing plan requesting 1,000 people to send a donation of \$1. Our aim was not to raise money, but to see if there was sufficient interest in PC99 to continue its development. Many of you sent more than the required amount, and we thank you for your generosity. However, our plan required 1,000 people as a potential market, and not the raising of \$1,000.

So far, 110 people have responded. Unfortunately, this is not enough to sustain development at the rate we envisage.

As a result, we are extending the marketing plan to include the 1992 Chicago Fair. PC99 will be exhibited at the fair, and we are also scheduled to give a presentation of the product.

We hope that the ability to see and touch PC99 will encourage enough people to support the product economically. However, if we are unable to raise sufficient interest, the development of the product will end.

Following the fair we will send you another mailing letting you know the outcome.

In the meantime, we would like to thank you for the support you have shown. In addition many of you supplied ideas and suggestions for PC99. All have been taken into consideration. The result is shown in the attached functional specification.

• Stage 0 (current version):

The current version of PC99 does not execute any TI I/O. However, it is possible to save the state of the machine through the debugger by doing a save core. The machine can then be returned to this state by reading in the core file.

Development will proceed in the following stages:

• Stage 1:

Clean up existing bugs. These include incorrect displays in multi-color mode, and incorrect color mapping in TI Basic (also shows in some modules that use the Basic interpreter).

Emulate operation under interrupts.

Emulate disk i/o and RS232/PIO.

• Stage 2:

Emulate sprites.

Emulate single-channel sound through PC speaker.

Emulate TI joystick through PC joystick connected to game port.

• Stage 3:

Emulate multi-voice sound through PC Sound Blaster card.

Emulate speech through PC Sound Blaster card.

• Stage 4:

Allow addition of external DSRs. This will be achieved by reserving a set of illegal TMS9900 instructions. Each illegal instruction will be trapped by PC99 and vectored to a user space where control can be passed to an external function. This function must be written in PC C or PC Assembly Language.

• Stage future:

Direct reading of TI disks in a PC drive.

A Basic compiler written in PC C or PC Assembly Language. The compiler must be able to read the emulated TI disk system to extract the Basic source file. The compiler will then generate native 9900 code in E/A3 or E/A5 format and place the output file back in the TI disk system. The user will then be able to load and execute the file using the Editor/Assembler.

OSHTI

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NEXT

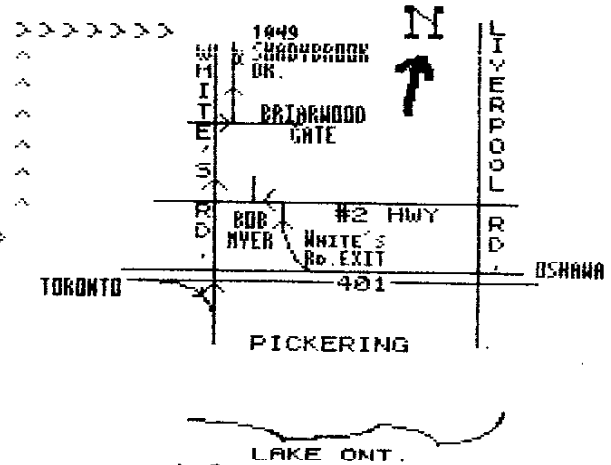
OSHTI meeting

WED. Nov. 18th

LOOK at **BOB'S**

HUGE
EQUIPMENT SALE

(PEDEXES, CARTRIDGES, ETC.)



SEE YA AT
BOB'S

**OSHAWA TEXAS INSTRUMENTS HOME
COMPUTER USERS' GROUP**

- CHAIRMAN:** RAY BLODGETT
(579-1767)
- VICE CHAIRMAN:** JOHN EASTHAM
(728-9994)
- TREASURER:** KEITH WYARD-SCOTT
(723-5758)
- LIBRARY/SEC.:** DOUG BURLEIGH
(579-5109)
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** TOM JAKABFY
(725-7298)
- MEMBER-AT-LARGE:** -----

MEETING TIMES:

The OSHAWA TI USERS' GROUP (OSHTI) meets between the hours of 7:30 and 10:30 pm. Location to be named in the newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

The OSHTI membership is \$15 per family per year. Members receive ten(10) newsletters per year.(Jan.-Jun. Sep.-Dec.). Members also have the use of the club library (CASSETTE + DISK). VISITORS to club meetings are WELCOME. Copying charges for disks-of-the-Month are \$1(your disk) or \$2(our disk).

MAILING ADDRESS:

Tom Jakabfy
660 Given Rd.
OSHAWA, Ont.
L1H 8L7

The OSHTI Users' Group is a Non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging the continued use of the TI/994A for education, entertainment and data management. The club also supports the MYARC 9640 or GENEVE(TI compatible) computer.

OSHTI

