

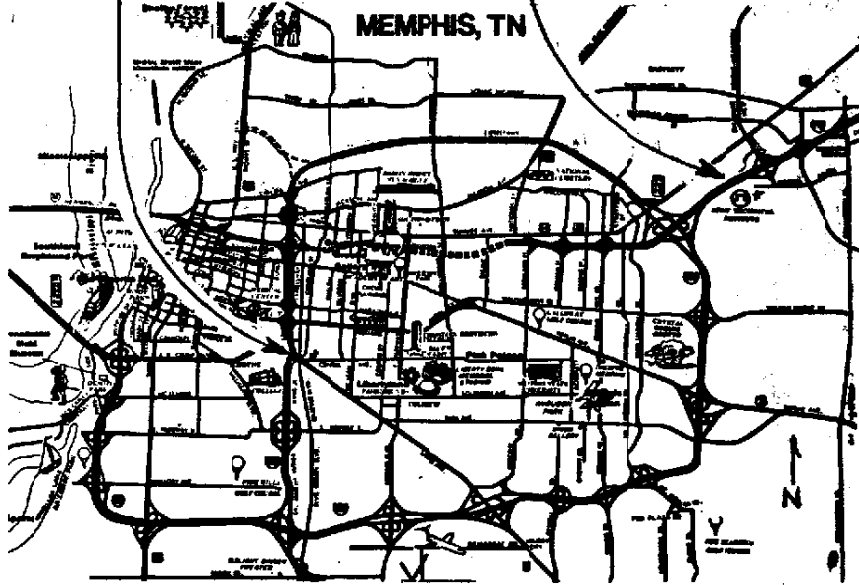
**NOTICES**

**MEETING**

7:00 P.M.  
Thursday, May 19th  
Red Cross Building  
1400 Central Av.

**WORKSHOP**

9am till Noon  
Saturday June 4th  
State Tech Computer Fair  
5983 Macon Road



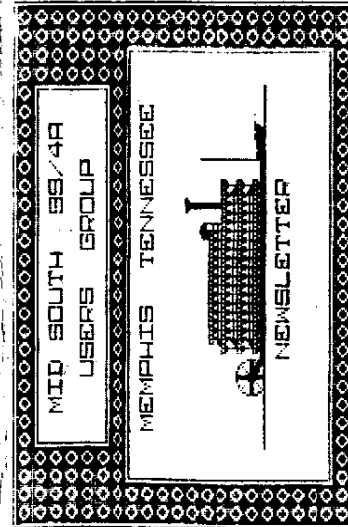
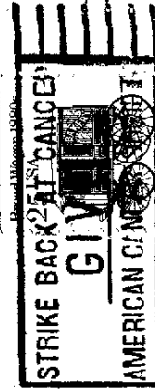
MEMPHIS, TN

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 FAMILY  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 JUNIOR (under 15)  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 ASSOCIATE (N/L only)  
PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ : INTERESTS \_\_\_\_\_

EQUIPMENT, ETC. \_\_\_\_\_

Detach and mail with check payable to: Mid-South 99 Users Group,  
P.O. Box 38522, Germantown, Tn, 38183-0522.



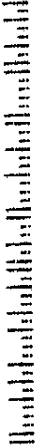
P.O. BOX 38522, GERMANTOWN, TN 38183-0522

**TIDBITS**

**MAY 1988 INDEX**

- LOCAL NEWS.....2
- NATIONAL NEWS.....3
- GENEVE NOTES.....5
- PLATO FIX.....6
- MUNCH II-DINGS.....6
- MACC MEMBERS.....8
- TI-99 TRIVIA.....12
- ARCHIVER.....17

USER GROUP  
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# T I D B I T S

## LOCAL NEWS

The BIGGEST news of the month is the Memphis MACC General Computer Fair to be held Saturday June 4th from 10am to 5pm at State Technical Institute located at 5583 Macon Cove off I40 at Exit 13. Special guest speakers will hold presentations on Desktop Publishing, Computers in Small Business, Computerized Investing, Word Processing and more... The Memphis area computer clubs will be demonstrating various equipment and software. The fair is being held in conjunction with State Tech and thus State Tech will be demonstrating their equipment including their VAX main frame, CAD/CAM computer drafting systems, packet radio and more... Door prizes will be given away including items such as 300/1200bd modems, computer systems and generic computer items and software. A few prizes for TI owners will be given away as well. If you have any price that you can donate for the fair (cartridge or program that you are no longer using...) please contact me! Since the last newsletter two more groups have been added to MACC and the fair which are the Apple Core of Memphis and the Region 950 Opus BBS Sysops. The groups who will be at the fair include the Memphis PC Users Group Inc. (IBM compatibles), Memphis Commodore Users Group, Mid-South TI99/4A Users Group, Memphis Micros, Memphis Atari System Hobbyists, Osborne Users Group, Memphis Amiga Users Group, Adam Computer Users Group, Memphis Color Computer Users Group, Apple Core of Memphis and the Region 950 Opus BBS Sysops! Admission is FREE plus FREE popcorn and Cokes for everyone... This fair will be no doubt one of the largest ever for the Memphis area. Although no computer software or equipment will be sold much will be demonstrated.

Our group will probably have 5 or more systems setup (depending on how many that we can get) including Michael Dorman's Geneva 9640 system. The club library will also be setup and operating for anyone wanting library programs. At this time it is unknown if any TI vendors will be attending (Myarc?) but we have received quite a few catalogs from various TI99/4A suppliers to give out. Plus hopefully some TI users from TI clubs in this general area will show up. I know a few of our out of town members plan to attend.

As noted last month massive amount of volunteers are needed to help in the operation of the fair as we are expecting between 2000 and 3000 people if not more! If you can help for a couple hours, an hour or even 5 minutes please contact me! We need your help! At least please come to the fair. It is sure to be fun for all!

Some excellent looking advertisement Flyers have been printed up to distribute around the area. If anyone can pass any out please let me know and I will get some flyers to you.

As for other advertising the fair flyers are being distributed to all Memphis City and Shelby County Schools and Memphis Public Libraries. We are working on Public Service announcements on Radio and possibly a TV interview on TV 5 plus announcements on several cable channels. State Tech is mailing out about 6,000 flyers to those on their mailing list, there will be advertisements in the the local paper in Memphis and Millington and the flyers will be distributed to businesses in the Memphis area... Plus with mentions in our newsletter the past couple of months and in Micropendium I think we are going to have more people at the fair than we will know what to do with!

This month marks the end of the operation of our club BBS system. Many months of discussion about the fate of our club BBS following recent problems and reduced useage have prompted us to at least temporarily shut down the system. Reasons for the shut down is reduced useage and time limitations of Pierre (System Operator). In fact, more non-TI'ers have been using it than TI owners! The system can better be used at meetings and computer fairs to relieve us officers from the wear and tear on our equipment! Our club system has been in operation 24 hours a day row for more than four years! I would like to give Pierre a BIG thanks for the tremendously long hours that he has put into the system over the years! Without Pierre we would have never had such a great system. Pierre's work on the system far exceeds any donation of time and effort than nearly anyone else in the club! Again thanks Pierre. Meanwhile Michael Dorman's Midnight BBS can provide a means of communications since it primarily supports TI99/4A and Geneva 9640... Please keep in contact through his BBS at (501) 735-9980. Dial 735-9980 from Memphis area for toll free call.

Want to contact other modem users in Tennessee without long distance charges? A 800 BBS is being operated in Tennessee at 1-800-343-5779 (valid for TN only!). The system is free and operates 24hrs a day at 300/1200bd. I would suggest using Telco's 80 column simulation as the BBS is designed for 80 columns.

I would like to welcome yet a new member, Martin Zeddies of the Federal Republic of Germany! I think he can definately be classified as an out of town member! Plus thanks to everyone for the continued renewals!

Another note of thanks to the contributors in this months newsletter notably Bill Gaskill, Beery Miller and Marshal Ellis who typed in some articles which appear in this issue... Gary Cox

## NATIONAL NEWS

Some of the following edited from MICROpendium Magazine.

A guide to TI-Writer and it's clones has been produced by the Western NY 99ers users group. The 24 page manual contains information to help users understand and use TI-Writer and Funnelweb. The guide costs \$3 including shipping. Write to Western NY 99ers, 2753 Main St., Neufane, NY 14108.

The Southwest Ninety-Niners of P.O. Box 17831, Tuscon, AZ 85730

are distributing vinyl keyboard strips for the II99/4a which describe the function and control keys in BASIC, II-Writer, Multiplan, Editor/Assembler and IE-II. The strips are \$3 each or five for \$10.

FirstBase, developed by Olympys Technologies, is scheduled for release in the second quarter of 1988. According to the manufacturer, the program will feature IBM style query commands, batch processing with four-function floating point math, multiple keyword searches, "extremely large" capacity and "handy Macros". The batch processing allows the user to perform search and replace functions or to delete a group of records at once, according to the manufacturer. The specifications include 720 bytes/fields, 32,767 records/databases, 3,000 byte/records, 100 megabytes/file and 75 fields/records. The program allows for search on multiple fields using AND and OR, or on keywords; sort on multiple keys; queries sent to screen, printer, new database or existing database; and records on several screen displays. It features a flexible report generator, according to the manufacturer. FirstBase requires 32K, disk system and either XB, E/A, or II-Writer cartridge. It is also Myarc Geneve 9640 compatible. Suggested retail price is \$49.95. Exclusive distributor is Genial Computerware, P.O. Box 183, Grafton, MA 01519.

CaDD Electronics of 52 Audobon Road, Haverhill, MA. 01830 (617) 372-0336 has introduced the GRAMULATOR. It is described as "a simulating device that every II owner should have." According to the manufacturer the GRAMULATOR is like the Gram Kracker device from MG except the Gramulator can save and load MXB cartridges as well. The GRAMULATOR, according to the manufacturer, produces files compatible with the Geneve 9640 and Gram Kracker with the exception of the MBX cartridges which can't be loaded by the Gram Kracker. For those who wanted a Gram Kracker and couldn't get one this looks like a good alternative. Projected price is \$180. Call or write for more information...

From the Delaware Valley User's Group

An article on 3.5-INC DISKETTES for the II-99/4A! (Borrowed from West Penn. 99'ers Club, Oct. '87). Use of the 3.5" Toshiba floppy drives on the II system: The drive is 1/2 height, fits right into the PEB, comes in two packages, and all you need is a screwdriver. It is Double Sided and can be formatted by the II Disk Controller as a Single or Double sided unit. The Corcomp or Myarc Controller will format to DSDD. The user who wrote about the 3.5" drives (Ralph Jones) advises he is very satisfied with their use and finds two major advantages: It's a mechanically superior drive and has much greater storage capacity. DUUG adds: the 3.5 unit spoken of here is PLUG COMPATIBLE with the controllers mentioned and the name of the supplier is: ALPHA SCIENTIFIC P.O. BOX 626 CHESTERFIELD, MO. 63006 (314) 878-7117 (central time) Saturdays: 10 AM - 2PM... Gary Cox

## GENEVE NOTES

BY Beery W. Miller

Well, I would like to begin this article thanking a couple of users that responded to a note that I left the month before last about PR-Base V2.1. Two users out their more than 500 miles away responded and sent me copies and I thank you. Both of you will have probably received your disks back with some files that you requested from the library, etc.

What is happening in the Myarc area? Well, I will tell you. BIG Talk from Jack Riley with NO action and continuously broken promises. The biggest heartache for Geneve users and those waiting for the hard drive controller card is that they have been told numerous times when to expect software and/or hardware when they knew beforehand, they could not deliver. For example, last summer in June or July when Jack Riley was at our user group meeting, he told us the hard drive controller card was working but had crashed just the week before at another meeting. As you followed Jack across his travels with various user groups, he told the same story over, and over, and over again. We found out in December that that is when people started writing MDMS that would control the card. LIES!!!! (I hate them!!!)

Following that, a couple of months ago I wrote an article saying that MY-Word was supposed to run from MDOS. Jack Riley was quick to inform us that that was not so. So my response to Jack Riley is, look in your November 16, 1987 Addendums that was sent to all Geneve users and look on page 10: quote "Once all the software is completed (I.E. MDOS, Advanced Basic, Pascal, and a new release of MY-Word, all of which will load from the A> prompt of MDOS), Myarc will mail a full set.....". If this does not say MY-Word will load from MDOS, the first person over at my house can have this thing. I can understand after having seen MDOS source why conversion would take forever, and knowing what I do of the MDOS routines, MY-Word would probably slow down by a factor of 2-3. Jack Riley needs to get his act together before he destroys the II community. I myself vote for Myarc to dump this, er, salesman that they wish to call him as public relations are at an all time low. I am glad Myarc replaced that secretary that used to answer the phone callers with a more pleasant secretary to converse with. Hopefully Lou Phillips will realize this particular mistake and correct it too.

What else is happening out there, a few programs have been released. C language support for MDOS has now been made available. I should caution you that I have run several test programs with GPL versus MDOS mode and 4A mode and have this to report. MDOS mode is the slowest and 4A mode is about half of that. GPL mode is then about 30-40% faster than the 4A mode. Reason you ask? The reason is that MDOS has some super slow screen write routines (this is even mentioned in the SYSTEM/SYS file if you go thru it with a sector editor) and takes it much longer to write to the screen. While non-screen access may be quicker, the

only advantage currently with c language in MDOS mode is a larger memory space.

Another file that has been brought to us with versions for both GPL and MDOS is a Clock program. This is quite a nice program as you can set the Geneva clock, date, set an alarm, set a timer, and this program also corrects the incorrect day bug caused by Leap Year in SYSTEM/SYS.

From the top of my head, only one new item has been mentioned lately. A programmer is requesting that all MDOS programs begin with a NOP statement. This statement doesn't do anything, but when you assemble for MDOS a file with only the NOP statement, and then execute it, it will re-execute the previously MDOS loaded program that was exited. This is because all programs in MDOS load at >0400 and since both files have NOP as a statement, the short file does not overwrite the larger file and in a second, you can reboot any program without waiting for it to reload. If MY-Art is modified, I am sure that this idea will be incorporated.

Well, last month I promised to include another source code file for the newsletter. As it turns out, others feel that the newsletter space can be of better use since our group only has 3 or 4 Geneva owners. Don't despair though, if you like to program, just send me a disk and enough return postage (or send me your Geneva source code files you have written), and I will provide you with my source code files. I guess this way we can mutually benefit each other. My address is Beery Miller, 1561 Galveston, Memphis, TN 38114. See ya next month... Beery Miller

## PLATO FIX

From Barry Traver:

Want to run Plato on your Geneva? Or want to run Plato using your GRAM Kracker, but can't because Plato gets confused because of a ramdisk in your P.E.B.?

Here's the solution: using an appropriate sector editor, search the disk files for occurrences of the string "020C0F00". (You'll find it twice: once each in two different files.) Change the string to "020C1000." It's that simple! Enjoy!

## MUNCH TI-DINGS

Taken from LA TOPICS, 1988

ONE(+) LINERS FOR GRAPHING

by TONY FALCO

Graphing is an important topic in mathematics education today. Computers and computer graphics will make it an even more important topic in the future. The following one and two (sorry!) liners can hopefully help out some middle school or high school students with some of the more basic concepts.

The first program gives practice with the process of plotting points. At the "X,Y=" prompt the user enters two numbers separated by commas. The program will show that point if its coordinates will fit on the screen. Bear in mind that all the programs here are low resolution and plot only integer points.

The second one graphs the function  $y=10*\sin(\pi*x/14)$ . Users can experiment with other functions by simply changing that expression. Try  $Y=ABS(5-ABS(X))$  for example.

The third and fourth programs are very similar. The third one allows the user to experiment with sine waves. At the prompt you enter values for A and B, again separated by commas, and see how these numbers change the period and amplitude of the wave. The last one graphs shapes known as parabolas. At the prompt enter values of A, H, and K, once again separated by commas, and see how these values effect the shape, position and orientation. Values of A between -2 and 2 (decimal fractions are fine) work best. Again bear in mind that with low resolution many points do not get plotted, but this is exactly what one does with paper and pencil. We plot a few points and infer the position of the rest.

For a neat display run using CALL CLEAR::RUN. Note that Extended BASIC is required for these programs.

PROGRAM #1:

```
1 FOR D=1 TO 2000 :: NEXT D :: CALL CLEAR :: INPUT "X,Y=":X,Y ::
IF ABS(X)>15 OR ABS(Y)>11 THEN 1 ELSE CALL HCHAR (12,1,43,32) ::
CALL UCHAR(1,16,43,24):: CALL HCHAR (12-Y,16+X,30):: GOTO 1
```

PROGRAM #2:

```
1 CALL HCHAR(12,1,43,32):: CALL UCHAR(1,16,43,24):: FOR X=-15 TO
16 :: Y=10*SIN(PI*X/14):: CALL HCHAR(12+Y*(ABS(Y)<=11),
16+X,42-(ABS(Y)>11):: NEXT X :: GOTO 1
```

PROGRAM #3:

```
1 CALL CLEAR :: INPUT A,B :: CALL CLEAR :: DISPLAY AT(1,7):
"Y="&STR$(A)&"*SIN(2*PI/"&STR$(B)&")"
```

```
2 CALL HCHAR(12,1,43,32):: CALL UCHAR(2,16,43,23):: FOR X=-15 TO
16 :: Y=A*SIN(PI*X/B):: CALL HCHAR(12+Y*(ABS(Y)<=11),16+X,
42-(ABS(Y)>11):: NEXT X :: GOTO 2
```

PROGRAM #4:

```
1 CALL CLEAR :: INPUT A,H,K :: CALL CLEAR :: DISPLAY
AT(1,7):"Y="&STR$(A)&"(X-"&STR$(H);")^2+";STR$(K);
```

```
2 CALL HCHAR(12,1,43,32):: CALL UCHAR(2,16,43,23):: FOR X=-15 TO
16 :: Y=A*(X-H)^2+K :: CALL HCHAR(12+Y*(ABS(Y)<=11),16+X,
42-(ABS(Y)>11):: NEXT X :: GOTO 2
```

## MACC MEMBERS

The following is a list of the members of MACC (The Memphis Area Computer Council) and contacts for the groups. If you know of someone looking for help with a particular computer pass along this information as that is what MACC is all about... Gary Cox

MEMPHIS AREA COMPUTER COUNCIL (MACC)  
P.O. BOX 341864  
MEMPHIS, TN 38184-1864

Supporting computers in general with support, assistance and information as well as an annual computer fair.

For more information contact:

Ken Akins (901) 388-1112  
Paul Russel (901) 386-0265

Charter members of MACC listed below updated as of April 1988:

Memphis PC Users Group Inc.  
P.O. Box 241756  
Memphis, TN 38124-1756

BBS (901) 763-3440 24hr 300/1200/2400bd  
Supporting IBM (MS-DOS) and compatibles, for information contact:  
Don Helger (901) 685-5521  
Michael Otto (901) 756-1725

Memphis Commodore Users Club  
c/o Charlis Wirth  
3757 Sylvan Hills Cove  
Memphis, TN 38128

BBS (901) 366-4676 24hr 300/1200bd  
Supporting Commodore computers, for information contact:  
Charlie Wirth (901) 386-3337  
Jim Fox (901) 323-1185

Mid-South II99/4A Users Group  
P.O. Box 38522  
Germantown, TN 38183-0522

BBS (501) 735-9980 24hr 300/1200bd (West Memphis local call from Memphis)  
Supporting II99/4A Myarc Geneva 9640 computers, for information contact: Gary Cox (901) 358-0667  
Mac Swaps (901) 363-3880

Memphis Atari Systems Hobbyists  
P.O. Box 240244  
Memphis, TN 38124-0244

BBS (901) 377-1904 24hr 300/1200bd  
Supporting Atari computers, for information contact:  
Jim Jacobs (901) 754-0854  
Daniel Notowitz (901) 795-6683

Memphis Amiga Users Group  
P.O. Box 381462  
Memphis, TN 38183-1462

BBS (901) 761-3729 24hr 300/1200bd  
Supporting Amiga computers, for information contact:  
Tom Jones (901) 353-2294

Osborne Users Group  
2753 Woodland Hills Cove  
Memphis, TN 38127

Supporting Osborne, for information contact:  
Ike Kullman (901) 358-8128

Memphis Color Computer User Group  
P.O. Box 11736  
Memphis, TN 38111

Supporting Radio Shack Color computers, for information contact:  
Logan Ward (901) 386-8452

Adam Computer Users Group  
c/o Paul Russell  
7022 Tuliptrail  
Memphis, TN 38134

Supporting the Adam computer system, for information contact:  
Paul Russell (901) 386-0265

Apple Core of Memphis  
P.O. Box 241002  
Memphis, TN 38124

Supporting Apple line of computers for information contact:  
Bill Hawkins (901) 372-6425  
John Sorrell (901) 728-4898  
Bill Lagrone (901) 682-3026

Memphis Micros  
c/o B. Berry  
3028 Luridge  
Bartlett, TN 38134

Supporting Kaypro/CPM, for information contact:  
B. Berry (901) 382-8953

REGEDN 950/(OPUS) Sysops  
C/O Ken Akins  
3536 Anesbury  
Memphis, TN 38134

Supporting OPUS BBS Systems for information contact:  
Ken Akins (901) 388-1112 (voice)  
Flagship BBS (901) 382-1864 300/1200/2400 24hr.

# COMPUTER FAIR

**FREE ADMISSION! • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

**June 4, 1988 • 10 am. Till 5 pm.**

**State Technical Institute**

**5983 Macon Road. • Memphis, Tn.**

**Fulton Building**

• Demonstrations •  
of  
Computer Equipment  
and  
Programming

by the Memphis  
Area Computer  
Clubs

\*\*\*\*\*

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DESKTOP PUBLISHING

COMPUTERS IN SMALL BUSINESS

COMPUTERIZED INVESTING

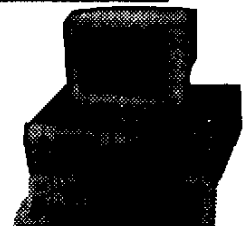
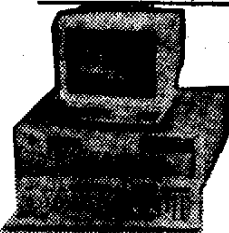
WORD PROCESSING

Tours of State Tech computer labs and  
the Mid-south Micro Computer  
Resource Center will be open all day!  
Fair is being held in conjunction with  
State Technical Institute

This Computer Fair is directed by *The Memphis Area Computer Council*

▶▶▶ Member clubs of MACC ◀◀◀

Memphis PC Users Group • Memphis Commodore Users Group  
Mid-south TI99/4A Users Group • Memphis Micros  
Memphis Atari Systems Hobbyists • Osborne Users Group  
Memphis Amiga Users Group • Adam Computer Users Group  
Memphis Color Computer Users Group • Apple Core of Memphis  
Region 950/ Sysops Organization



# TI-99 TRIVIA

By Member Bill Gaskill - Grand Junction CO.

Some of what you will read here you may have seen before, some perhaps you haven't seen. All of it is simply a collection of facts, figures and other trivia collected from the innumerable publications that have covered or even mentioned the Texas Instruments' Home Computer era. Although it is an excellent source for this type of information, I collected very little of the trivia in this article from Dr. Ron Albright's "Orphan Chronicles" book. I didn't want to plagiarize his work, nor did I wish to duplicate information that you could already find in another resource. The majority of the information comes from the actual publications that I have perused in compiling the Master Index of 99/4 and 4A information. Here goes...

The TI-99/4 was unveiled in June of 1979 but didn't actually make it to market until early 1980 because of pre-production bugs that couldn't be worked out in time for the Christmas season.

The TI-99/4A was unveiled in June of 1981, at the Summer Consumer Electronics Show in Chicago.

It is the "A" in the TMS9918A Video Display Processor chip that gave the 99/4A its name. The 99/4's screen controller chip is the TMS9918.

On April 25, 1983 TI began offering a free Peripheral Expansion Box to anyone purchasing any three of the following; an RS232 card, a Disk Controller Card, a Disk Drive, a 32K Memory Expansion Card, a p-Code Card, TI-Writer, or Multiplan.

Plans to introduce the TI-99/2 (a low end, 4.2K RAM competitor to the TIMEX-Sinclair computer) were cancelled in May 1983 after prices for the 99/4A fell to a point where they encroached upon the 99/2's target market.

Plans to introduce the TI-99/8 (the 64K upgrade computer for 99/4A owners) were shelved in June 1983 and the introduction was cancelled completely in November 1983 because of the "bailout".

The TI-99/8 came with Extended Basic and Pascal in ROM chips like the 4A has TI Basic.

TI's planned Hexbus Interface (which was another casualty of the "bailout" decision) supported a Wafertape drive that was faster than a cassette and it let you name files just like you do on a disk? The Hexbus also supported a four-color printer/plotter and was to be available with RS-232 and/or parallel ports?

The TI Pilot programming language (which was never released as far as I know) was written in UCSD Pascal and required a P-Code card to run.

The home computer "shake-out" battle between TI and Commodore

began in earnest in August of 1982. By July of 1983 it was clear that TI had lost the battle. They reported over a \$100 million loss in the second quarter of 1983 alone.

Despite losing so much money on the 99/4A, the entire product line accounted for only 5% of TI's sales.

When the 99/4A was among the most popular selling home computers on the market (and even afterwards for awhile) TI contracted with the likes of Addison-Wesley, Control Data Corporation, Gabriel Industries, Inagic, Milliken, Milton Bradley, Minnesota Educational Computing Consortium (MECC), Scholastic Inc., Scott Adams, Scott-Foresman, Sierra and others to produce software for the Home Computer.

Though you rarely if ever see them listed anywhere, TI offered a "library" of software applications under the PHL catalog designation. Some of them included the;

-HOME FINANCIAL MANAGER LIBRARY-consisted of the Home Financial Decisions, Household Budget Management and Personal Real Estate modules. (PHL 7001)

-FAMILY ENTERTAINER LIBRARY-consisted of the Attack, A-maz-ing, and Hunt the Wumpus modules. (PHL 7002)

-ELEMENTARY EDUCATOR LIBRARY-consisted of the Beginning Grammar, Addition and Subtraction I and Early Learning Fun modules. (PHL 7003)

-MUSIC EDUCATOR LIBRARY-consisted of the Music Maker module and the Music Trainer cassette. (PHL 7004)

-SUPER PROGRAMMER LIBRARY-consisted of the Extended Basic module and the Teach Yourself Basic tape. (PHL 7005)

-SPEAKING MATH TEACHER LIBRARY-consisted of the Addition and Subtraction 1 and 2 and the Multiplication 1 modules. (PHL 7006)

-SPEAKING READING TEACHER LIBRARY-consisted of two modules, names unknown (PHL 7007)

-SPEAKING SCHOLASTIC SPELLING TEACHER LIBRARY-consisted of Spelling, levels 3-6. (PHL 7008)

-TI ARCADE GAME SERIES LIBRARY-consisted of the Tombstone City, TI Invaders and Car Wars modules. (PHL 7009)

-MILTON BRADLEY GAME SERIES LIBRARY-consisted of the Blasto, Hustle, Zero Zap, Connect Four and Yahtzee modules. (PHL 7010)

-COMPUTER INTRODUCTORY PACKAGE LIBRARY-consisted of the Household Budget Management, TI Invaders and Multiplication 1 modules. (PHL 7011)

-FOREIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION LIBRARY-consisted of the Key To Spanish package which was made up of four modules and four cassette tapes. (PHL 7012)

each library came with a album-like binder similar to the TI-Writer and Multiplan binders and all libraries sold for \$100 and up. (source is the Christmas 1983 J.C. Penney's catalog)

Although I have never seen them listed anywhere, I learned from Dr Albright's book that TI also offered the;

- ENTERTAINMENT PACK-consisted of Hangman, Parsec, Adventure, Blasto, Oldies But Goodies and Connect Four. (PHU 1001)

- VARIETY PACK-consisted of Beginning Basic Tutor, Market Simulation, Oldies But Goodies and Personal Financial Aids. (PHU 1002)

TI also offered some obscure options for the 99/4A that have (to the best of my knowledge) never appeared in the catalogs of any of the major mail-order houses since the bail-out. For example; a VCR controller (PHP 2300), a speech editor module (PHM 3011), a Personal Tax Planning package that was designed for the UCSD P-System (PHD 5077), and a Course Designer Authoring Package for teachers (PHD 5068).

There were several programs that TI was going to market for the 99/4A that never made it because of the bailout? Some of them were; an Advanced Assembly Debugger for assembly language programing, the TI Mini-Writer word processor for the Mini Memory module (it eventually appeared from Model Masters via Tex-Comp), Entrapment, a cassette based arcade game (that was available in the TENEX catalog for quite a while), David's Midnight Magic (a pinball game from Broderbund Software) and Chop Lifter (an action arcade game also from Broderbund Software). It is possible that both of the Broderbund games were actually written in 99/4A code in preparation for production because I have seen pictures of them on screen, Choplifter in Enthusiast 99 and David's Midnight Magic in 99er Magazine. Unfortunately they never made it out the door.

Besides TI, CoComp and Myarc, other companies such as AJ International, Box Car, Doryt Systems, Intellitac, Nikel Labs, Tachyon Systems and Ultracomp produced RS232 and 32K RAM hardware peripherals specifically for the 99/4A.

The beige colored 99/4A console appeared in June of 1983.

TI announced the end of the 99/4A on October 28, 1983. Total production of the computer actually ended in 1984 though.

Microsoft Corporation wrote TI Basic for the 99/4 and 4A.

PARSEC (with the help of Paul Urbanis), MUNCHMAN and CAR WARS were all written by TI Programmer Jim Dremis.

The speech/voice in the PARSEC game is that of Aubree Anderson.

Alpiner, the game module from TI, was authored by Janet Srimushnam.

Many of the current "personalities" in the TI Community are

long time users, evidenced by their contributions to early TI-99 publications like 99er Magazine. Amazingly enough, many of them who we now consider the "wizards" and "gurus" amongst us, started out just like the rest of us, programming in BASIC and Extended Basic? For example, if you browse through some of the old issues of 99er Magazine you will discover programs and articles published by such "known" names as Bill Bies, author of Arcturus (the ZAXXON clone) and Arthropod (the CENTIPEDE clone), Barry Traver, (CIS and GENie Sysop among many other credits), John Clulow, (the TI wizard who gave us the BK DSR card and who figured heavily in such projects as the Super Cart and Horizon Ram Disk), Marty Kroll, the author of CATLIB, Tarik Isani, the author of NIBBLER, Mike McCue, co-author of Night Mission and Steve Languth, the author of the TI DIGITIZER.

Oak Tree Systems (Chuck Davis), maker of the Acorn 99 Data Base program, Smash, the XB program compactor and the Display Enhancement Package utility, also used to market a little known program called Super Checkbook.

PEP, the text transfer program from INTELPRJ, the Canadian company that gave us the COMPANION word processor, was first introduced under the name UPWARDS! in 1985.

TI Personalities John Phillips and Cheryl Whitelaw (REGENA) used to write for Enthusiast 99er, the "official publication of the International Users Group".

Dr. Guy Romano of the Amnion Helpline also used to contribute to the Enthusiast 99er, was the Editor at one point and also used to be the custodian of the IUG's library of programs.

Dr. Romano also used to market a 4A product named WORTEX through a company named AMNION Stoneware.

The Super Cataloger program from J and K H Software was created by Larry Hughes who later founded Quality 99 Software. Graphics and assembly language routines for the program were added by Jim Hollendar of J and K H.

ZAXXON, the arcade hit, was scheduled to be written for the 99/4A by Sega or DataSoft but development was cancelled because of the "bailout". DataSoft advertisements in 1982-83 issues of Compute! Magazine even list the 99/4A as a compatible computer for the game.

DataBiotics (doing business as Model Masters) introduced the first non-TI command modules for the 99/4A.

Besides writing "36 Programs for the TI-99/4A" and "101 Programs for the TI-99/4A", Len Turner also published a "Program Writing Workbook".

The MYARC winchester hard disk and controller first appeared in November of 1982 and were first marketed in December of the same year.

The first direct-connect modem for the 99/4A was the



Signalman Mark III, introduced in November 1982 through Tex-Comp.

ELEX-TEK Inc., the Chicago-based giant in the mail-order sales of MS-DOS computers, used to be a big marketer of 99/4A products.

A Suffern, New York outfit named H/S Enterprises used to offer a custom designed briefcase to carry your TI-99/4A and peripherals on the road with you. The product let you neatly pack the console, RF modulator, cassette recorder, speech synthesizer, power supply and several cassette tapes all into a single high-impact carrying case. It retailed for \$59.95.

The TI-COUNT accounting series by Pike Creek Software debuted in March 1983.

The Navarone Cartridge Expander, also known as the "Widget", originally appeared in April of 1983 as the "Select-A-Cart" command module expansion unit.

A home appliance control system called First-Ade appeared on the market before CorComp ported the X-10 Powerhouse program over to 99/4A use.

Besides the name similarities in the TI Community that attracted attention such as Home Computer Compendium (MICROpendium's original banner that was challenged by Gary Kaplan and 99er Home Computer Magazine) and Explorer (the product name that spurred a short-lived dispute between Tex-Comp and Millers Graphics) other name similarities exist(ed). For example; CompuServ (a North Carolina based computer peripherals manufacturer) and Compuserve (the on-line information service giant), Super Extended Basic (the JKH Software package and Super Extended Basic (the RG/Triton Extended Basic module), 99er Magazine (published in the U.S. by Emerald Valley Publishing) and 99er Magazine (published in West Germany by Hasse Verlag).

An outfit named PROIO-QUICK offered a commercially available prototyping board for 4A development as early as July 1983.

the newest TENEX catalog (FALL 1987) features a picture of the 99/4A console and peripheral expansion box with the cartridge port and the disk drives on the left side of the computer/PE Box (page 20).

#### CREDITS:

Although I compiled the information for this article, some credit must go to the folks who helped supply some of the publications. I wish to thank them all, but most especially Ralph Landrum of Houston, Texas, Gary Woerner of Springfield, Illinois and Gary Cox of Memphis, Tennessee. Thanks Guys!

## ARCHIVER

Since several people have had questions on Archiver 2.4 lately I thought I might answer the questions for everyone here.

The problem most people have with Archiver 2.4 is just in understanding it's operation. Archiver 2.4 is a VERY important utility for anyone who calls BBS's and even for those who don't. What Archivers (on the TI and other computers) will do is take many files and pack them into just one for easy transportability. For example, it is easier and faster to download one file from a BBS than to download many files. However, not only can Archiver 2.4 pack together files but it can then compress that archived file reducing the size of it as much as 50 percent! So a program package packed and compressed into one file provides a tremendous time savings on BBS download time not to mention requires less space to store the package. Use of Archiver is not just for BBS purposes but is good for keeping backups. For example, if you would like to keep a backup of MASS-TTRANSFER first pack and then compress the files and place the one file onto a disk and put it back somewhere (archive it, thus the name archiver came about). Thus you have just that one file taking up less space than the original files.

Most files on BBS's today are usually packed and compressed with Archiver 2.4. So the first thing that you need to do is get a copy of Archiver 2.4. It is available in our library and on the Midnight BBS. Archiver 2.4 is an assembly language program and thus requires the use of a "loader" in order to run it. If you have Editor/Assembler use option #5 (PROGRAM) to load Archiver 2.4. To use Funnelweb to load Archiver 2.4 first go into the TI-Writer section. Press the SPACE bar to get the second menu and select 3 for LOADERS. Then the next menu comes up type 3 for PROGRAM (E/A) and type in the drive number and program name and it should then load right up!

Now that Archiver 2.4 is loaded you first must determine what type file that you have so that you will know if to just unpack or decompress and unpack. Use the utility section of Archiver 2.4 to catalog your disk (if you have not already done so previous to loading Archiver 2.4). If the file is DIS/VAR 128 format then the file you have is just packed. If the file type is INT/FIX 128 the file is packed and compressed. Packed and compressed files will need to first be decompressed then unpacked. Note that the result of decompressing will result in a file with the type DIS/VAR 128 in which case you unpack it like stated previously. Unpacking is the final stage and returns the program package back to it's original state.

As far as how to unpack or decompress and unpack depends on your system setup. The ideal setup would be to have a DS/SD or DS/DD drive. Regardless of your setup the procedure is similar. If you have an INT/VAR 128 format file you need to decompress, so select decompress from the menu and decompress to the same disk as you have the compressed file on. Be sure to name your decompressed file differently from the compressed file. If you

run out of room on that disk you will need to decompress to a second disk either by swapping disks (archiver will ask you if you wish to do this) or by sending it to a second drive (just type DSK2 instead of DSK1).

After decompressing you then have an DIS/FIX 128 format file. DIS/FIX 128 format files need to be unpacked. For best results unpack to a blank disk as a disk with programs already on it may have conflicts in file names and cause current files to be replaced by your unpacking. You can unpack to the same disk as you have the packed file or unpack to a second disk by either sending the file to a second drive or by using the swap disk option where you can swap disks in and out of the drive for the process. Your options depend on if you have two drives or enough room on the master disk etc...

Once you have finished unpacking a file you now have the program in the original format. Delete the packed and/or compressed file as they are now no longer needed unless you wish to keep them. Note that a DIS/FIX 128 format file may be deletion protected in which case you must use a disk manager to unprotect it before you are able to delete it.

Probably the biggest problem that you will encounter in these processes is running out of room on your disks. You can determine what to do by how much room you have to work with. If you have DS/DD drives then you will most likely not have any problems. If you just have one SS/SD drive then you may have to use the swap disk option as there may not be enough room on the one disk to contain the compressed file plus the file after it is decompressed. You can determine how much room is required by a packed or compressed and packed file by using the utility section of Archiver 2.4 and using the catalog arc file option. This option will list the contents of the file along with the size used and file types... Note that you can NOT run a packed or packed and compressed file you MUST use Archiver to get the files back into their original state.

Archiver 2.4 will be demonstrated at this months meeting so if you have questions and are totally confused by this article come to the meeting. Note also that you can speed up the process by decompressing to a Ram Disk but I would not recommend unpacking to a Ram Disk unless you are sure there is no conflict in file names... Gary Cox

## NOTICE

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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). A Dollar sign (\$) indicate that your dues are due. On the top of your label is a code. An 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. The library is open only to FULL (\$15) members. Library list is \$1. Mail order disk library access is \$2 per 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: May 19, June 16, July 21 (3rd Thursday!)

WORKSHOPS: June 4, June 25, July 23

99 CLASS: Every Thursday except meeting night, location IBA.

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Richard Hiller	CO-Librarian	901-794-9945
Henry Badon	Editor - Newsletter	901-345-1673
PLEASE VOLUNTEER!	Program Chairman	.....
Al Doss	Information and Assistance	901-743-6791
Mac Swope	Chairman - Equipment	901-363-3830

## 24HR TI BULLETIN BOARD

Midnight BBS (Michael Dorman) 300/1200 bd  
Dial 735-9980 From Memphis area for toll free call.

501-735-9980

### 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