

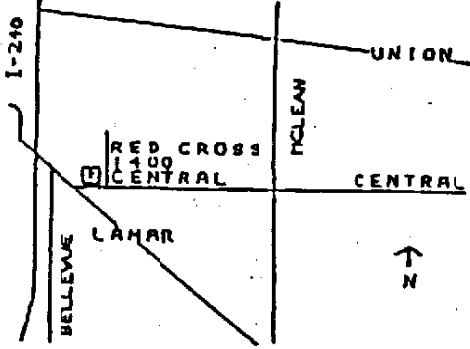
**NOTICES**

**MEETING**  
7:00 P.M.  
Thursday, NOVEMBER 19TH  
Red Cross Building  
1400 Central Av.

**WORKSHOP**  
7am till Noon  
Saturday November 28th  
Place to be announced at  
meeting.



SUPPORT YOUR  
USER GROUP....



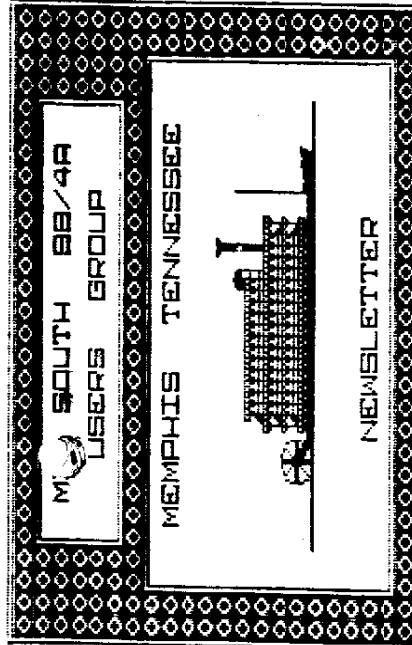
Y 5/87  
FLOYD J. PEMBERTON, JR.  
481 SPRUCE  
LEWISVILLE, TX 75067

**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

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## Presidents bits

Hello again, October and November have proven to be busy months in the TI community. Many were able to attend the MACC faire at State Tech and several of us also made it to the Chicago TI fair. Our friend Al Doss had his Florida vacation interrupted with a very serious heart attack. We are glad to say he is feeling much better and wish him a speedy recovery. Al has done an excellent job with the newsletters and has always set high standards for the quality of print and material. We thank you!

One thing that really impressed me at the Chicago fair was the number of people that walked up to us and said, "I know you!, You're Gary Cox!" Gary would squint and look for their nametag and say "Yea, I know you, You're 'so-in-so'". Of course there were a lot of people named 'Guess'. No joke, Gary is very well known in the national circles for his articles, programs, and support. Gary has a great article about the fair in this issue.

Another observation made about Gary on our trip, that exhausted look that Gary sometimes has is not due to hours of late night computer hacking. Rather, it is due to the fact that everytime he sleeps, he snores, and wakes himself up. It is not until he is in front of his keyboard, with the rhythmic tapping on the keys, does he fall into a deep slumber..( yes, he types in his sleep... which accounts for some of this months typos.)

Has it almost been a year since our last election of officers? Which means it is time once again time to cast nominations and vote! Richard Miller is the fellow you need to call if you want to volunteer (or volunteer someone else) for a post. We have lots of talent in our club, lets see some hands!

Our librarian David Ferguson "bd" has been doing a super job at keeping fresh and vital disks available to those who ask. Bring a few blank disks to the meeting and we'll fill 'em up.

Dicko has issued a challenge to some of our programmers to write short subtasks in different languages to show their advantages. These will be written with input from everyone and executed at the meeting.(not to be confused with the poor dog on the last page).

Pierre is on a hard drive for a hard-drive for the groups BBS. Any contributions should be made to "Hard Drive Fund". care/of this group. We are eagerly awaiting the release of the HD controller by MYARC.

I'm inviting everyone to contribute to the News Letter by sending us an article on disk or cassette (or hand written in clay tablets!) and program demonstrations are always greatly appreciated! ...mac

## PROGRAM BIT

The demonstrations at this months meeting will be of the different languages available for the TI99/4A such as BASIC, Extended BASIC, Assembly, c99 and more... Lynn Crow will be demonstrating his Morse Code program. Then some fantastic music programs obtained from the Chicago TI Faire will be played.

AWARD PRIZES will again be given away including a Music Maker cartridge and some books. If our purchase goes through we may also have some Home Weather Stations devices to give away to local members of our group... Gary Cox

## GROUP NEWS

Al Doss our Newsletter Editor and major supporter of the group has had a very serious heart attack while in Florida last month. Fortunately he is doing somewhat better now and is back in town. I think I speak for all when I say I wish a BIG GETWELL to AL!

Please excuse any errors in this months newsletter as I have become temporary editor as Al is no longer able to do it and with all the activities of this month I had very little time to edit and produce the newsletter so it may not look as good as usual...

Congratulations to Beery Miller whom was married October 17th to Shell! Megan! As Spock would say "live long and prosper"... If you have tried to call his BBS lately (Risky Business) you have noticed it is down. I guess he has something else on his mind? It is certain if or when the system will come back online.

Nominations will be taken from the floor this month for our elections to be held in December. Nominations will be for President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. All other offices are appointed by the President. You must be a full member to vote.

As mentioned last month the Disk library is now open VIA mail. You must be a full member (\$15) to have access to the library. Those who wish to update their membership to full status may send in \$5. You may request up to 5 disks per order. Disks must be ordered by disk number according to the library list. No orders can be filled for single files or programs. Program disks will be \$2 per disk including postage and mailer and an updated listing will be provided on one of the disks (if there is room) or a printed copy may be obtained for \$1. This service is available for all full members in town and out of town.

However, the library is open at each meeting where the disks on the library list can be obtained on the spot as David has copies made of the most popular disks. If you are wanting a particular disk number let David (librarian) know before a meeting so that he can be sure to bring a copy. The disks at the meeting can be obtained for a \$1 a piece or you can trade your disk for ours and pay nothing. I think our library policy is the lowest priced in the country as many groups charge up to \$5 per disk and if you come to a meeting we charge nothing and for mail access we charge

very little. Please allow several weeks for delivery VIA airmail. Additional postage may be required for out of country members. Inquire for details.

To speed in receiving your library requests please send all requests for the disk library directly to the librarian at the following address:

David Ferguson  
3377 Creighton Ave.  
Memphis, TN 38118

*Jerry*  
The Cassette Library will be re-opening with Richard Hiller as Librarian. Through the cassette library programs will be available on cassette for those in the club who just have a cassette system. This portion of the library will not be available through the airmail as of yet. Richard should have a listing up soon of what is available in the cassette library. For more information contact Richard at 901-794-9945.

The Mid-South 99 User Group is now offering a Best of the Mid-South 99 User Group consisting of programs all of which are written by persons in our users group. The disks contains games and utilities written in TI BASIC or Extended BASIC. The Best of the Mid-South 99 User Group comes on two SS/SD disks or one DS/SD disk. To obtain a copy send a self addressed stamped return mailer along with one or two initialized disks to the following address:

Gary M. Cox  
3174 Melbourne  
Memphis, TN 38127-6739

Through special arrangement with the authors of the various programs on our disk we are offering the Best of the MBUS as Fairware to help support the expenses of our group. If after receiving the programs and if you find them useful and entertaining we ask a donation of \$5 to \$10 most of which goes toward the group.

Meeting attendance was really low for some reason last month. Nevertheless we had a great meeting as Dicko demonstrated Comuserve and Genie which are nation wide call up modem services where a variety of information can be accessed such as business reports, weather and a national TI bulletin board... We also called up PC PURSUIT which is a network with local nodes where we can access certain cities in the network by using the network bypassing long distance charges for just a flat rate each month. Then 99 Animator was demonstrated. Dicko always has good demonstrations going on at each meeting although we it say not be mentioned in the newsletter as demonstrations are usually made up only a few weeks in advance of the meeting. We even had a Geneve at our September workshop as well as our October 31st MACE Air! Hopfully we will have the Geneve demonstrated again at our main meetings soon.

We have started purchasing some MICROpendium magazines to sell at our meetings as a service to our members. Many other groups have

tried this so we are going to give it a try for a few months. Price per issue will be between \$1 and \$1.50 .

As for our Treasury we are holding at \$955.00 dollars in our account. As soon as we can get a Treasurer hopefully we can once again start publishing detailed treasury reports.

Thanks to all those who submitted articles this month as they are appreciated!... Gary Cox

## IN THE NEWS

*Jerry Note ↓*  
Remember MoonBeam Software? L.L. Conner Enterprise of 1521 Ferry Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47904 (317) 742-8146 has a full line of their software for \$10 a piece and comes on cassette tape and runs in Extended BASIC. They have Death Drones (very good!), Strike Force 99, Robot Runner (very good!), Zero Zone (very good!), Cavern Quest, Astromania, Garbage Belly, MoonVasion and Moonbeam Express. Of course, you can convert the programs to disk after you get them. Note you will have to do a few steps in converting them to disk but it is very easy. See the article entitled "converting from cassette" in this newsletter. They also have Romox cartridges for the TI for \$10 a piece including Princess and the Frog, Ant Eater, Hen Picked and Rotor Raiders. Atarisoft for TI for \$15 a piece including Donkey Kong, Picnic Paranoia, Defender, Pole Position, Pac-Man and Centipede. Other cartridges such as Star Trek and Alpiner for \$10. They have used equipment as well such as TI Extended BASIC for \$39, TI99/4A (holes for \$60, used PE boxes and more...

Having trouble with your disk drive? ISR Disk Drive Specialists of 8104 Parkdale Drive, Austin, Texas 78738 can repair them. They charge a \$10 diagnostic fee to see if there is a problem or if it is too costly to repair. Mechanical Repairs do not exceed \$25 such as Alignments, Cleaning, Motor Adjustments, Labor for replacing parts... Diagnostic fee is included in this price. PCB Repairs do not exceed \$40 where the PCB is repaired or replaced when necessary and possible. Mechanical repairs and diagnostic fee are included in this price. They have an average two day turnaround and 120 day warranty. Return shipping is freight cost plus \$2 handling charge. For more information call them at 1-800-458-6778 or (512) 467-7085.

The following from the September 1987 MICROpendium

A new Proto-typing board for the peripheral expansion box has been announced by Scott Coleman and John Willforth. Willforth says the board also incorporates a general purpose project carrier for the PEB.

TI board can be used in the 99/4A, 99/8 and Geneve 9640 environments, the manufacturers say. They list the following features:

For the 99/4A, all the standard address, data and control are brought up through the recommended 74LS244, 74LS245 and either a

74L8125 or chip of the users choice, to be interlaced to the circuit. The board will support both solder tail and wire-wrap.

For the 99/8, the three additional address lines are brought up on board.

For the Geneve, the unused address and control lines are brought up on board. The board has columns identified by 10s. The board directly supports two voltage sources. Because of the large potential for use of the 6264 and 62256 Low Power static RAMS, the board has two dedicated etched areas to enable easy development with this chip.

Below the RAM area are three 16-pin chip locations for decoding and setting CRU addresses.

From 1 to 4 boards may be ordered at \$35 each, and from 4 to 9 boards at \$30 each. Shipping and Handling is \$3.50, with an added charge of \$1.50 for Canadian and other foreign orders. The boards may be ordered from Computer Bug, 5075 Clairton Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15236, (412) 882-3374. Quantity pricing is available. For further information contact Willforth at R.D. #1, Box 73A, Jeanette, PA 15644 or (412) 527-6656.

Ryte Data South closes. Henry Schlereth of Houston, Texas has announced the closing of his company, Ryte Data South as of October 19th. Schlereth cited difficulty with deliveries from a major supplier as the reason. He said he wants to express thanks to all his customers. All his products can still be purchased from the main company Ryte Data Millennium Computer at 210 Mountain Street, Haliburton, Ontario, K0M 1S0, Canada.

Datax, manufacturer of The Brain and De-Tax Auditor, has relocated from New York to Florida. The new address is Datax, 470 12th Ave, North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. New phone number is (813) 894-7472.

That's all the news that I have collected this month...Gary Cox

## MACC COMPUTER FAIR

The Memphis Area Computer Council (MACC) User Group fair was a great success with an estimated crowd of nearly 1000 attending. The fair was held at State Tech on October 31st. Many groups participated in the fair such as IBM and compatibles, Commodore, Texas Instruments, Atari, Amiga, Osborne, Radio Shack Color Computers, Memphis Micro and Adam. The Commodore group, I must admit, had one of the most impressive demonstrations held throughout the day in the auditorium. The demonstration was of a new stereo music cartridge for the Commodore of which Memphis was the first to see it. Using the huge projector screen and a stereo system they provided a very impressive music demonstration! However, not to be left out we also can provide a similar musical demonstration with the Forti music synthesizer card which can provide up to 12 voices on one card and with two cards 24 voices! If enough people are interested we might have a demonstration

again of it at one of our meetings.

The IBM group had the biggest response at the fair with a packed room all day. One item in the IBM group I noted was their voice synthesizer / voice digitizer card which was made by none other than by Texas Instruments! By speaking into the microphone the computer would digitize my voice and repeat it with astonishing clarity! All the groups had some impressive demonstrations running such as the Atari and Amiga with their graphics and some were even digitizing pictures of items and then displaying them on the computer.

At our TI group display we had two computers running automatic demonstrations showing things such as graphics to music and speech... A third system was used for copying programs and doing other work. Michael Dorman was kind enough to bring his Geneve 9640 of which we got a first hand look at it's capabilities.

I would like to welcome the ten people who signed up at the fair to receive our three free issues of our newsletter. If you have any questions please feel free to call upon us...

Plans are already underway for a BIG fair which will include vendors. Even at this fair we had vendors calling wanting to participate. Thanks to everyone who made this fair possible by bringing equipment and by attending! ... Gary Cox

## CONVERTING TO CASSETTE

Have some programs on cassette tape that you would like to put on disk? Well usually this is no problem. You simply load the program and then save it to disk. However, with some programs on cassette that come close to taking up the 16k memory in the console you may have problems. When your disk system is connected you lose 3K of memory in your console (even though you may have 32K) for the disk drive to use for it's own operations. As you may or may not know X3 programs which exceed the 16K memory in the console are saved to disk not in PROGRAM format but in INT/VAR 254 automatically. The INT/VAR 254 tells the computer that part of the 32K is needed for the program because it exceeds the console memory. When you try to load that cassette program you might get a load error. This may be because your cassette program is close to taking up the 16K console memory which is now 13K because of the disk drives. Programs exceeding 16K can not be saved to cassette tape even though you have 32K memory. Therefore, there is no way to have INT/VAR 254 format on cassette tapes thus the program will not load because the computer does not think it has enough memory to load it in even though it really does. The solution to the problem is to recover most of that memory taken by the disk drive by the following commands. Type:

```
CALL FILES(1)
NEW
```

Now load your program off of cassette and save it to disk. Well

now you have the cassette program on disk but in the process of eliminating one problem you have just created another. That program you just saved was saved in PROGRAM format because the computer thought all of the 16K memory was available and thus did not have it in INT/VAR 254 format. So what you will have to do is every time you wish to run that program you just saved to disk you will have to type CALL FILES(1) and NEW or you can convert it over to INT/VAR 254 format. To convert it to INT/VAR 254 format perform the following steps:

1. Type CALL FILES(1)
2. Type NEW
3. Load the program ie LOAD DSK1.PROGRAM or OLD CS1
4. Type SAVE DSK1.PROGRAM, MERGE
5. Type NEW
6. Goto the Title Screen
7. Re-Enter Extended BASIC
8. Type MERGE DSK1.PROGRAM (This will take a while)
9. Type SAVE DSK1.PROGRAM

Where PROGRAM is the name of the program you are converting. The program is now on disk in INT/VAR 254 format and all you do to run it from now on is load it and run it ie RUN "DSK1.PROGRAM".

How do you know if you are having this memory problem? If you can load a program off of cassette without the disk drives turned on (PEB OFF) but when you turn on the PEB you can not load that cassette program (you receive an I/O error) then you need to follow the above steps. In particular most programs from Moonbeam Software you will have to do this.

Also if you try to save a program and you get a "PROTECTION VIOLATION" error. You will need to unprotect it first. To do this load it into the computer with your PEB turned on (32K needed). You may have to type CALL FILES(1) and NEW to do this if you have the memory problem mentioned above. Then type:

```
CALL INIT
CALL LOAD(-31931,0)
```

Now the program is unprotected and you can save it to disk and then follow the conversion steps if needed. By the way when you go back to the title screen the CALL FILES command is reset to normal. What the CALL FILES command is actually doing is telling the computer that you are going to have only a maximum of one disk data file thus it releases some of the memory it had reserved. However, since you are probably not going to need any data files in this case it makes no difference. However, you need to reset the command by going back to the title screen before running other programs as if it accesses more than one disk data file (IE OPEN #2) you will receive an error... Gary Cox

## GOVERNMENT BBS

After months of planning I finally had enough money to purchase a printer and modem for my system. Having talked to everyone I knew that was knowledgeable on the subject I decided to purchase the

Star NX-10 printer and the Avatek 100hc modem. Lycor computer ads in the Computer Shopper seem to have the best price so after a call to them to confirm the price I mailed the cashier's check and the agonizing wait began. Three weeks, four days, eleven hours, forty-two minutes, and twenty-one seconds later, UPS arrived with my package. Not wanting to foul things up I decided to call Gary Cox and find out what I should do next. Gary suggested that the first thing to do would be to open the boxes, and read the manuals before doing anything.

The next day was spent running down parts to make interface cables for the units. The modem was hooked up and ready to go by late afternoon. It would be several days later before the printer was operational, due to a serious short of brain matter on my part.

The adventure begins! Mass Transfer loaded, everything in place, a touch of the key and we are off on a new adventure. The first number dialed was TI-NET. Across the screen the message "connect" appeared, I had made the move to computer telecommunications. After several unsuccessful attempts to sign on I finally gave up. Later I was able to sign on Risky Business. After several days of calls to TI-NET and Risky Business I started looking for new ground. The Houston TIBBS, Chicago TIBBS, Cpus and UBBS the last two are local BBS's here in Little Rock.

Last week while searching for a new BBS I called the Federal Information Center in Little Rock to see if there was any government BBS that was open to the public. I was referred to a number in Washington D.C. that might be able to help me. I talked to a gentleman in Washington and told him what I was looking for and after he got over the shock of my call, he wanted to know who told me about them and just what type of information I was looking for. Well I really didn't know, I was just being nosy so I said I was interested in aviation. The gentleman was not sure if I would find what I needed but gave me a number to a BBS in Washington 1-202-287-9656 the following is the opening screen:

```
FLICC/FEDLINK AUTOMATED LIBRARY INFORMATION EXCHANGE
PCBOARD SOFTWARE - VER. 10.0-01/08/86
SYSTEM UP AT 12:45 ON 10-13-1987 AT 1200 BAUD.
WANT COLOR GRAPHICS (C/R)=NO? N
ALIX: AUTOMATED LIBRARY INFORMATION EXCHANGE
FEDERAL LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTER COMMITTEE
FEDLINK NETWORK OFFICE
MICROCOMPUTER DEMONSTRATION CENTER
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS / ADAMS BUILDING ROOM 1026B
WASHINGTON, DC 20540
```

```
7:30 AM TO 5:00PM
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
1200BAUD 8 DATA BITS 1 STOP BIT
```

```
SYSTEM OPERATORS:
BRUCE MILLER AND LEE POWER
STEVE PALINCZAR AND BILL STOCKEY
```

I'm in now what? My head started racing. Just what can I get into now? I looked over the main menu and decided to call up the bulletins. Listed under the bulletins #14 other government BBS phone numbers. Below is a complete list of numbers, unless otherwise stated the area code is (202)

FEDERAL (AND OTHER) GOVERNMENT BULLETIN BOARDS  
IN THE WASHINGTON DC AREA  
PREPARED BY FRANK YOUNG  
7/20/87

1. The Department of Commerce had two lines which used to be FREE but now cost twenty five dollars a year. The department provides economic data and forecasting materials on these. The numbers are 337-0433 and 377-3870.
2. The National Science Foundation at 634-1764.
3. The Census Information Center at 763-4576.
4. Population Estimates at 763-5225.
5. Climate Assessment at 899-0830.
6. Fcc Mainframe, Public Access Link, at (301) 725-1072.
7. Federal Highway Administration, Planning division at 426-2961.
8. NASA HQ (Carlos Ujeda) at 646-5197.
9. Census Bureau at 763-4574.
10. NOAA at 770-0069.
11. Federal Trade Commission at 523-7468.
12. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at 737-7264.
13. DAES-NET (Defense Acquisition Evaluation Summaries) at 697-5187.
14. Department of Justice at 898-0318.
15. Bureau of Standards - (Node I) at 948-5717, (Node II at 948-5718.
16. Jag-Net (Judge Advocate General of the Navy) at 325-0748.
17. East Coast Marine Weather at 454-8700.
18. Navwea (Naval Weapons Engineering Support Activity) at 433-6639
19. Nanci (Naval Aviation News, in the Navy Yard) at 475-1973.
20. US International Trade Commission at 786-3400.
21. Agency for International Development at 875-1465.
22. GAO Information Technical Center at 275-1050.
23. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Budget BBS at 786-3640.
24. Veterans Administration, Infotechcen, at 376-2184.
25. Export Import Bank (Node I) 566-4602 (Node II) 566-8180.
26. Fannie MAE (FNMA) (Node I) 537-7945 (Node II) 537-7475.
27. World Bank at 676-0920.
28. Mitre for FAA Weather at 790-1740.
29. Ada (Prog. Lang) Information at 694-0215.
30. Army Corps of Engineers ("Manpower") at 272-1514.
31. National Bureau of Standards, Data Management Information Exchange at 948-2048.
32. United States Naval Observatory, Mainframe access, at 653-1079 settings 1200/E/7/1.
33. Department of Energy. "Megawatts" -- (Node I) at 586-1958 (Node II) at 586-2688.
34. Department of Energy "Infolink" (Node I) at 252-9359, (Node II) at 252-5406.
35. Army Corps of Engineers, "HGHOMES," at 272-1323.
36. USDA, Food and Agricultural Policy, at 786-3400.

The following are not Federal Government Lines, but do fit into the general classification of government boards.

37. Arlington Police at 524-5279.
38. Bendix Users Group (Defense contractor) at 345-1455.
39. EXR Inforcorner, Integrated Systems Federal Users Group (ISFUG) at 756-6109.
40. Fairfax, Co. Education board at 321-2839.
41. DC Government, Office of the Mayor at 727-6668.

As you see I have unlocked a number of new areas to look into. To date I have only tried three of the BBS listed above. Mitre for FAA Weather, Fairfax Co Educational Board, and FLICC/FEDLINK, each of which are full of information. The only problem now is the phone bill I hope I can get a hold of it before my wife sees it or I may have to move.

Thanks to Gary Cox and the other members of the Mid-South 99/4A Users Group as I am now beginning to really enjoy using my computer equipment. It sure beats trying to do the job alone.... Member Claude Johnson - Little Rock, AR.

EDITORS NOTE: The above BBS's were obtained off the Library Congress BBS and to our knowledge are public access. The operation times are unknown. I must give Claude a big hand in finding these systems as I had no idea such BBS's were available. I tried the Library of Congress BBS and it is interesting...

## TI-NET BBS



ERROR 130 IN LINE 1230!!

Oh no... not again... and all I tried to do was reply to a message left me from Ralph Wilson the 2nd (or something like that). Seems my luck on our club's TI-Net BBS has been running somewhere near the same as enjoyed by that famous cruise ship, the Titanic. I can, however, go to bed without fretting too much as Pierre will roll out of bed early in the morning and before leaving for work check the status of the board. The downed system will be discovered and immediate action on his part will soon have it up and running again. Bravo! So begins another day of slashing and hacking on our near-famous local BBS.

I might point out that the board's crash was not Pierre's or my fault. Seems the program hits certain errors sometimes and does not know what to do about them and in its panic it decides to crash! TI-Net may not be the perfect BBS program for the TI but it certainly is the most popular. For included with it is an additional program called the Gameroom that almost all callers love to venture into. Inside the Gameroom the caller finds himself quickly lost in a far-away land of strange monsters that he must do battle with and a whole host of unfriendly co-players who at one time or another will do their best to deprive him of

his head and rob him of his gold! Not that I would ever stoop to such a low and disgraceful act upon a fellow BBSer, never!

Also, the Gameroom, or Adventure Land as I am wont to describe it, has several other keen features available for the game player to try his hand at. One is Jousting, another is building your castle in which you store your hard earned gold. Raiding another's castle is fun if your character is strong enough. Going to Proving Ground and doing hand to hand battle with another user's character is fun and most useful for reviving your character if you found yourself dead upon entering the Gameroom from the main BBS. To store your gold in your castle you go to the Bank and deposit it there. The Bank will keep track of your accumulated wealth and put the gold over into your castle's tenth room. It is in this room that your character resides unless called out to the Proving ground or unless you call in and bring him into play. Otherwise, while waiting for a battle or for you to summon him he will wait in this room guarding your gold! Editing your castle is another feature of the game. In this mode you are allowed to put 1 thru 10 level monsters into each room depending upon your wealth. Each level of monster put into each room costs you 50 pieces of gold. So to put a 10 level monster in room 1 costs you 500 pieces. If you plan on hoarding up a bunch of gold for purchasing better weapons and armor then it is a must to build as strong of a castle as your wealth will allow.

Why accumulate gold? Go to the Store and check out the 60 different weapons available for purchase and the 24 different kinds of armor. Each higher numbered weapon and armor increases your ability to fight bigger and tougher monsters (higher level monsters) and also to fight and win against other players on the Proving Ground. The game starts first time callers with the miserable allotment of Chest Hairs for armor and Hands for weapons! You don't get very far with these! Also, the Store in the Gameroom section itself will allow you to sell your weapon or armor or both back to the store for half value. This way when you decide to upgrade your character you are not totally penalized by the loss of what gold you have already invested into arming and protecting him. (or her, as the case may be)

A Training Center is available for those willing to shell out the required gold pieces. In here you can increase your Strength, Agility or Intelligence one point at a time per visit. A slow way to grow but a steady one. Price per visit depends upon your character's current standing in the overall game. The further you advance the more it will cost. Agility and Strength are important stats when attacking a monster or engaging another player in combat. Intelligence, on the other hand, is what sets your reward level when you accumulate enough Experience points to move up to the next level in the Kingdom. You start out as a Slave and slowly advance your way in successive calls towards becoming a King or maybe even a God!

Once you have done all the damage to yourself or to others as you care to do in the Gameroom you have the option of hanging up or going to the famed Gameland Casino. This is a third program separate from the BBS and Gameroom programs that is then loaded into memory. In the Casino you have your choice of several

different ways to either lose your gold or increase it, if your luck holds out. Russian Roulette is strictly for the brave hearted ones, I lost 80,000 pieces of gold there in one pull of the trigger! Sob. In the Casino you have access to the Bank, where you can retrieve or deposit your gold, to the castle Edit section, where you may spend your gold beefing up your defenses, to the Store, where again.. you may buy weapons or armor (but you cannot sell them in this section.. do that in the Gameroom store!) to a Chat mode if Pierre is available and to a selection that is also available over in the Gameroom...."Y"our Stats, where your current stats are displayed on the screen. From the Casino you exit back to the dull everyday world we all live in.

Getting back to the main BBS section.... there are 5 message bases already in use there. "B" is the main general interest Bulletin section. "HS" is the software/hardware sig where topics relating to these two areas are discussed as well as equipment for sell notices are posted. "GS" is the Gameroom Chit Chat sig where members discuss the goings ons in the Gameroom. Begging for mercy is not an uncommon message found posted there! "F" is the Feedback section where your messages to the SysOp are posted. And finally, "E" is the E-Mail sig where private messages from one caller to another are posted.

Other features available for your enjoyment include the "N"ews section where current news worth items are stored and updated on a timely basis by Gary Cox himself, "D"ownload section, "S"end an upload section, "L"ocal BBS numbers, and many others.

All in all, this is the finest BBS program available anywhere, bar none on any local system at the present. No other computer has a BBS with such a Gameroom feature. When Pierre put this BBS up it attracted such a crowd of callers and players that access to the Gameroom had to be limited to TI club members and those who agreed to pay a \$10/year fee for access to that part of the BBS! If you have a modem and have not given the board a call then do so! If you are a paid-up club member then you will be given access to the Gameroom probably by the next time you call. The phone number is 901-386-1760. For those of you who live elsewhere obtain a TI-Net BBS program for your local TI BBS board.

Ricko Glisson, alias: Attila the Hun himself!

## CHICAGO TI FAIRE

The following is just a brief overview of the Chicago TI Faire as this article is being written the Monday after the fair and only hours before printing this issue of the newsletter. More details and information will be in next months newsletter.

The annual Chicago TI Faire was held November 7th in Chicago Illinois. Although not as many people from our group attended this year we were well represented. Our trip to Chicago started early Friday morning with Mac and his wife Patricia, Richard Hillier and myself driving up there from Memphis. Jonathan and his

wife Susan met us at the Holiday Inn D'Hare in Chicago driving from Kansas where they recently moved to from Memphis. Michael Dorman also met us there as he flew into Chicago and was heard commenting his arms were tired from the flight. In all we were represented by seven people although the women went shopping elsewhere while us men went shopping at the fair.

Friday night at the Hotel was a social mixer in a meeting room. A fairly large crowd filled the room with food available for everyone... Before the pannel discussion started Jonathan and Michael (Geneve owners) cornered Jack Riley (Myarc) in a corner where they made him tell all kinds of secrets... Mac, Richard and myself walked around the room talking to various persons. Sandy Bartels President of the Chicago TI Users Group MC'd the pannel discussion in which Todd Kaplin (software author), Chris Bobbitt (Asgard), Jack Riley (Myarc), Jim Horn (TI Forum), Franz Wagenbach (T.A.P.E), Barb Wienderhold (Queen Anne Computer Shoppe) and others discussed various topics such as new products and answered questions...

Saturday came the big event with the following companies and user groups setup, Asgard Software, Channel 99 Users Group, B and D Computer Supplies, Chicago Area U.G. Library, Bud Mills Services (Bud Mills Owner), Chicago TI User Group, Bytemaster Computer Services, Chicago B128 Users Group, C and G Drives, Central Ohio 99'ers, Competition Computer Products, Compuserve II-Forum, Fox Valley Users Group, Corporate Disk Company, Genial Computerware/Boston Computer Society, DataBioTics, Genie, Data Systems, Great Lakes Software, Digi Systems, Disk Movers, Horizon Computer Limited, Diskmasters, Hunter Electronics, Inscobot Inc., L.L. Conner Enterprise, T.A.P.E. Ltd., Myarc Inc., Texas + Software, Ryt Data and the Mill County Users Group.

Taking a look around the Various tables Chris Bobbitt President of Asgard Software had several new products to add to his existing products. One of the new products was Legends, a new graphics adventure game with nearly a year's worth of work put into it. It looked pretty nifty so I purchased a copy and will have a review within a couple of months. Also new is EZ-Keys which is both a programmers and users utility program with such features as Macros and various helpful functions. Ashard also had a new version of Fontwriter called Fontwriter II.

Great Lakes Software was represented by Ernest (Gene) Chandler (got it right this time Gene!). They also had a new product called Certificate 99. Certificate 99 allows the user to create certificates for awards, diplomas, licenses, flyers, advertisements, signs, notices etc... which can be printed on any Epson Compatible printer. Special official paper is provided with it to make it look official. I purchased Certificate 99 (it looked nifty too) and was given a copy of Extended Business Graphs to review. A review of Certificate 99 and Extended Business Graphs will appear in the next few newsletters.

Franz Wagenbach represented T.A.P.E. Inc of Canada. Among the products that they had was a Mouse which can be used with certain command modules or your own Extended BASIC programs. Also shown

was Extended BASIC II Plus, an 80 Column card, 128K Standalone memory, 128K Ram Card, E-Promer and Grae-Karte (Similar to a Grae Kracker).

Peter Hoddie of Genial Computerware and of the Boston Computer Society had several new products on display such as PC-Transfer written by Mike Dodd who was also helping at this table. You may remember Mike Dodd from the K-Town group in Knoxville Tennessee. I first met him at the Nashville TI Faire several years ago and he has now turned in very popular software author. Mike's program, PC-Transfer, will transfer data between a TI99/4A and an MS-DOS based machine directly disk to disk with no interconnecting cable between the computers needed. Also new by John Johnson is a program to help keep up a weekly Schedule called Remind Me. A new program by Peter Hoddie is Graphics Expander which will enlarge TI Artist and CSGD fonts, rotate the characters, create mirror images or invert them without having to redraw them. Other products which have already been out a while which were displayed were XB:BUS (debugging program for XB programmer), XBasher by Mike Dodd (will reduce the size of XB programs and improve performance), Grae Packer, Horizon RAM Disk EPRON and a magazine on disk called Genial TRAVELER... Peter also had a prototype of a new product called a Gramulator which is a direct equivalent to the popular Grae Kracker by Millers Graphics (MG). No production Gramulators have been built yet. To go from a prototype to a production model requires a substantial investment. Those seriously interested in purchasing such a device should write to the following address and express your interest:

Mark Van Coppenolle  
2 Audubon Road  
North Hill, MA 01830  
(617) 372-0336

Actual production of the Gramulator will depend on the amount of feedback received, no feedback, no product.

Representing Bud Mills Services was Bud Mills himself. Both Bud Mills Services and Horizon Computers were selling some new Horizon Ramdisks available in various memory sizes ranging from 96K to a One Megabyte! Both David Romer and Ron Grimes creators of the Horizon Ramdisks were present. While there I obtained a copy of version 7.1 of John Johnson's operating system.

Representing Myarc Inc. was Jack Riley who was the person who demonstrated the Geneve at one of our meetings a few months back. Jack was here in place of Lou Phillips (President) whom I guess is now devoting all of his time to working on their products and letting Jack sell them. According to Jack the Hard Disk Controller card which many people have been waiting for will be out very soon. Furthermore the MyArt program for the Geneve will be shipped real soon. Jonathan Leslie will have a full report on M.F. Geneve and the hard disk controller card for next months newsletter.

Moving on around Trio + Software had a new graphics program called Print Wizard which allows you to create Greeting cards, Signs, Letterheads and Banners. Trio + Software was represented by the



owner Timothy L. Berg. They also have a new version of their Disk Envelope designer program.

Representing Rave 99 was John M. McDevitt (Vice President Marketing Sales). They had on display their keyboard enhancement where you can replace your TI keyboard with a nice IBM style keyboard with added enhancements. Also on display was their new Speech Card where you can install your speech synthesizer in a PEB. Also new was the Rave 99 Memory Enhancement System which allows the user to expand up to 544K bytes of backed up memory per card or with four cards 2 Megabytes of memory can be accessed!

Available from Queen Anne Computer Shops is the VideoFlex card. This card which is designed to work with the Geneve 9640 will create broadcast quality production graphics! It allows powerful graphics or animation to be combined with an incoming video source. The high resolution graphics routines can be superimposed or overlaid on top of the incoming signal. Pages and pages of features are available.

Bruce Ryan President of Ryte Data was present showing their various hardware and software products such as their 99AT expansion system which replaces the PEB with an AT expansion style box. It looked very nifty. Monty Schmidt was also present as he was the author of some of their programs.

Texaments had a table setup selling their products such as the CSGO III series etc... Chris Faherty of Inscobot Inc showed their new TI-Artist in a cartridge form for those who do not have a disk system. Data Systems was selling quite a few programs for a price such as Life Expectancy, Geography, Constellation Finder, Navigational Stars and many others. Tomputer Software had many software products on sale. Digi Systems displayed their RGB conversion kit and Video Processor Card. Hunter Electronics, Competition Computer Products and L.L. Conner Enterprises were selling various hardware and software products for the TI99/4A while Disk Movers, Disk Masters, B128 U6, B D Computer Supplies sold general products such as disks, disk holders, modems and various other computer supplies. Compuserve and Genie electronic communication networks were present showing what their network has to offer. The Channel 99 Users Group and Boston Computer Society were selling various small products as well as public domain and Shareware disks while the Fox Valley U6 and the Will County U6 were giving out membership information.

Noticably missing from the fair was Tenex. Although Roger Dooley (President of Tenex) attended the fair. In talking to him he said they did not setup a table this time because they did not know if their catalogs would be ready in time or if they would have enough people to man the tables. Lou Phillips was also missing. I guess he is working on the Geneve while Jack Riley takes his place at the fairs. Also missing was Steve Lamberti of Texaments who sent someone in his place. With so many fairs going on I guess they all can't afford to go to all of them...

Thought out the day demonstrations were held upstairs with demos of items by Myarc with the Geneve (biggest demo), Ashard of Legends and many others... This year instead of seeing a lot of

demonstrations I pretty well stayed down stairs going to each table talking to everyone. The demonstrations will be available on video tape which we have ordered.

Attendance at this years fair was down slightly from last year. Preliminary attendance figures for this year is estimated to be about 700 whereas 900 attended last year. However, this year I seem to get more of an opportunity to talk and meet with people. I recognized many people this year that I had met the other years I have attended and whom I have seen their names before in newsletters and other publications or those whom I have spoken to over the phone or communicated to by mail. For me it was not just a fair but a reunion! Many groups attended such as the K-Town group in Knoxville Tennessee. Among those from Knoxville were Mike Dodd and D.R. Fudge...

The Hotel we stayed in was a first class establishment. The Friday night social mixer was very nice as it provided a great opportunity to just talk to people whereas at the fair itself it is more crowded. One opportunity in particular which was interesting was when Jack Riley and his crew left to go up stairs for the Geneve demo. Jack asked Jonathan Leslie to sit at the Myarc table and watch the equipment. As soon as I saw Jonathan at the Myarc table I walked on over to get his picture. Then as my mind began to race I thought why not get my picture sitting at the table? So I had Mac take Jonathan's and my picture. Then I thought why have Jonathan in the picture? So I had Mac take a picture of just me behind the Myarc table so I could take a picture back to our group making it look like I was running the Myarc table. Well right then Mac and Jonathan caught on to the idea and had me take a picture of them with Jonathan's camera. Then Mac wanted me to take a picture of him with his camera and then I wanted a picture of Mac and Jonathan at the Myarc table and we went on and on taking pictures of each other with each others camera! We probably have 20 pictures of us sitting at the Myarc table!

Many Public Domain and Fairware programs were obtained while in Chicago such as some fantastic music, graphics programs, utilities, DM 1000 3.8 and more. They will all be available in the library soon. Also received directly from Australia is version 4.0 of Funlweb with some fantastic additions! Tony McGovern really outdid himself this time.

I would like to thank the Chicago Users Group who made this fair possible as I know a tremendous amount of work had to have been done to produce such a fair. Also thanks to all the vendors who attended and who continue to support the TI99/4A.

Pictures taken at the fair will be shown at this months meeting... Gary Cox

## TINYGRAM

This TINYGRAM program written by John Witte comes from the Omaha Users Group. His program provides a Max Headrom type display. The program runs in Extended BASIC.

```

10 !!!!!TINYMAVE!!!!!!
!!!!A TINYGRAM!!!!
!!!!BY JOHN WITTE!!
!!!!SOMAHA TI U 68!!

```

```

11 CALL CLEAR :: A$(1)="ABCDEF6FEDCBA" :: FOR I=1 TO 7 :: CALL
CHAR(72-I,RPT$( "0 ",2*(I-2)&"FFFF",47,"30303EFF7F3E1E04")):
A$(I+1)=SE$(A$(I),2,12)&SE$(A$(I),2,1):: NEXT I

```

```

12 CALL BPRITE(#5,47,2,180,180,-23,0,#6,47,2,80,100,-23,0)::
CALL MAGNIFY(2)::CALL SCREEN(6)

```

```

13 FOR I=1 TO 12 :: PRINT
A$(I+(I>7)+2*(I-7))&A$(1+(I+(I>6)+2*(I-6)))
:: NEXT I :: GOTO 13

```

## LIBRARY BIT



I don't know where Gary comes up with the programs that he does, but he surely must come into contact with a great many TI fans. And these folks write some pretty good stuff. The programs don't have to be long and complex to be useful. Take for instance this month's offering of **QUICK-LOAD** from Robert Asanta of Hillcrest, NY. His program allows the QUICK loading of any programs on the disk along with comments about the program. The program QUICK-LOAD is run one time only for each disk and builds a file catalog for the LOAD program to read. The LOAD program is pre-scanned and develops a menu to make your choice from. Another feature on the disk is a convenient disk catalog program. (seems like we have a surplus of these, but it is nice to have one handy without having to re-load another program.) Requires Extended Basic, 32K memory, and at least one disk drive. The author is requesting \$5.00 for his program and this seems more than reasonable for the time it takes develop software like this. The program has been included in the group's freeware library as DISK # 122 and will be available at the meeting....db

## SHOPPERS CORNER

Want to sell some of your equipment? Jim Triable of Prographics is offering a service through which to sell your used computer equipment. He plans to publish a sell booklet a couple times a month listing people's equipment for sale. Listings cost \$6 a month. Jim can be reached at home at 458-0535 or at the office at 761-1798.

From Megatronics of P.O. Box 3660, Logan, Utah 84321 (801) 232-6342 comes a special discount to our group. We can obtain an Avatex 1200 for \$75 or an Avatex 1200hc (fully Hayes Compatible with built in speaker and help menu) for \$99 plus shipping (modem cable not included). The offer is for a limited time only. Just call to order and ask for the "User Group Special".

User group discounts are available from Software Carousel of Z3757

VIA Kannela, Valencia, CA 91355 (805) 253-4141. They are offering a program called Graphics Code Generator which we demonstrated a while back and have a demo tape of the program. Contact me at the meeting for more details and if anyone is interested we may also run the demo tape again.

Have something you would like to buy or sell? Have it listed here for FREE if you are a member of the group. Business ads are \$15 for a center page ad (two pages) \$10 for a full page ad and \$6 for a half page ad...Gary Cox

## NEWSLETTER INFO

If you have a "\*" on your label it means your dues are due. Y = Member, N = 3 FREE list, UG = User Group, S = commercial. With a Y or N a date indicates the last date you last paid your dues. UG's are permanent as long as we receive a newsletter in exchange.

## CALENDAR

MEETINGS: November 19th, December 17th, January 21 (3rd Thursday!)

WORKSHOPS: November 28th, December NONE, January 23 (4th Saturday!)

c99 CLASS: Every Thursday except meeting night, location TBA.

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## 24HR TI BULLETIN BOARD

TI-NET(Mid-South User Group) 300/1200 bd 901-386-1760

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