# The Best of Ottalini #8

**(ORIGINAL DISK NAME: THE BEST OF OTTALINI #8)**

**/// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// ///**

**/// SIG, Washington Apple Pi**

**12022 Parklawn Drive**

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**WELCOME!**

**WAP /// SIG Public Domain Library Disk**

**Category/Number : WAP Articles/3WAP-09**

This is the 1993 edition of WAP /// SIG Co-Chair Dave Ottalini's articles from the WAP Journal. Also includes articles from other authors and information about PD library additions. We hope you enjoy it and encourage your submission of programs to our PD library.

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WAP /// SIG PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY

PDS NAME:  BEST OF OTTALINI #8

DISK ID :  3WAP-09

## TRAIL.COLUMNS (1993)

*CONTENTS*

## *ON THE TRAIL OF THE APPLE ///*

*By David Ottalini*
*Apple /// SIG Co-Chairman*

**January 1993**

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

1993 looks like an exciting one, SARAsaurs. With your help, we will be able to continue getting the most out of our wonderful 8-bit computers. The Apple /// can be so much more than the doorstops (literally) some have made of her. But as always, we must work together. Make one of your 1993 resolutions a promise to buy at least one commercial Apple /// product, write an article for the WAP Journal, buy disks from our PD library, come to a meeting or buy a modem and join us on the TCS. We need you all to make our SIG a real success.

### SPEAKING OF SUCCESS

Hats off to Dave and Joan Jernigan whose hard work and lobbying successfully brought us a new product for our ///s. Dave - normally a very low-key guy - excitedly made the announcement on the TCS November 22nd:

> ***I got hold of Bob Consorti on the 21st and the Driver for the 1.4 Meg APPLE Superdrive is ON THE WAY!!! He says it is faster than the Unidisk and can be used as a recording device for telecommunications.***

A few days later, Bob announced the driver on Compuserve:

> ***I've just finished the Apple /// driver for the 1.4 megabyte SuperDrive. If you want 2880 blocks of fast backup or primary storage just get the Apple II 3.5 interface card and an Apple or 3rd party 1.4 meg floppy disk drive. The Apple /// driver and documentation for the SuperDrive is available today.***

Cost for the driver is $100.00. Send your check to: Joe Consorti, 1174 Hickory Ave., Tehachapi, CA. 95361. Quality Computers (1-800-777-3642) is one possible source for the Apple // SuperDrive and interface card. The drive is $349.95 and the controller is an additional 149.95. As Bob mentioned above, the driver will also work with Applied Engineering's SuperDrive clone. Quality is asking $229.95 (but you'll also need the interface card.) Preferred Computing (1-800-327-7234) offers the AE drive for $189.00. Be sure to check for availability.

Although the price may make you take a second look here, remember that this is a piece of hardware

that is directly transferable to either a GS or a MAC. The Superdrive on the MAC is a direct plug in - you don't need the interface card.
As a side note - Bob did this with little to no help from Apple Computer - who was less than forthcoming with his request for information about the software interface.

I'd also like to thank our own WAP President Loren Evans, who WAS able to arrange for Bob to get a SuperDrive at a reduced cost. And thanks to to those who contributed funds up front to help convince Bob that the project was worthwhile. Your SIG also contributed $100.00 and is now the proud owner of a SuperDrive Driver.

**FUTURES**

This is a great place to start talking about other possible projects for our SIG in the future. I've mentioned in previous columns that there are folks out there willing to work with us on some projects that will enhance our ///s. Bob Consorti of On Three is one of those who is willing - and most importantly - has the knowledge, ability and track record - to see some of our projects through to completion.

But at this point, he now wants his money up front to start any new project. In effect, we will have to contract with him to provide us with the software we are looking for. In a way, that's OK, because it forces us to think seriously about just what it is we want. And just how much we're willing to pay for it.

I'm happy to announce that our good friends in California, the Apple Three users of Northern California (ATUNC) have agreed to work with us on this - and have appropriated $500.00 to the cause. We will be asking the WAP Board for a similar appropriation, to give us enough to at least get one or two projects underway.

What kinds of software projects are we talking about? Let me give you a few ideas that I came up with. There are others, I'm sure. But remember these must be products that you would want to buy for your machine. There's no use wasting money on something you all think is nice, but refuse to buy.

Here are some of my ideas:

1) Program that would allow us to use the Quickie Hand Scanner. (Cost for this is already set - $1000.00).

2) Program to work with the SuperDrive to let the /// access MSDOS and MAC files or convert Apple /// files to MS Word, etc.

3) Remote Access Program so we can use our ///s at work or home from another location.

4) Upgrade On Three's Communication Manager to include Y and ZModem Protocols, Scripting, VT200 emulation, FAX capabilities and (though difficult) 14,400 Baud modems.

5) CD ROM driver through the available SCSI card.

6) //e Emulation in Software Only.

7) Strip .D1... from SOS.Kernel and replace with a GS-like control panel so we can boot from any disk.

8) Laser/Stylewriter Printer Drivers.

9) Remote access to the /// from another computer.

10) Apple /// compiler/assembler.

11) Upgrade MacroManager to include scripting capabilities.

12) Shrinkit-like File Compression program.

I'll admit that the likelihood of getting all these accomplished are slim. But I think we may well be able to get two or three. Maybe more IF you care enough to lend your support. If you have any other ideas for possible projects, please let me know as soon as possible. We'll already have been discussing this a while on the TCS, but remain very open to everyone's thoughts as we decide what direction to take.

We will have talked about this more during the Garage Sale in December - hopefully I'll be able to have a complete report on what direction we'll be taking next month.

**FEBRUARY MEETING**

Our quarterly meeting will be held the second Saturday of February - the 13th - at 10am in the WAP Office. We'll be demoing some of the neat utility programs I've come across recently, talk about telecommunications on the /// and anything else you might want to discuss. Please mark this date on your calendar. As always, disks will be available for purchase and we may even have a few freebies to hand out!

**SUN REMARKETING**

Bob Cook at Sun has long been a friend to the /// community. He showed it again of late by agreeing to help repair donated ///s for the cost of the parts. We're taking him up on the offer and again remind you Sun is a good source for Apple /// hardware and some software. Call to get on their mailing list at 1-800-821-3221.

**NEWS FROM DETROIT**

As always, Paul Campbell continues to confound any and all who even think of using something other than an Apple ///:

***My boss asked me to do a demonstration of a database that I put together to help eliminate***

***the ton of paperwork that our repair techs go through each month. I always say that the three most important things in computing are: results, results, and results. After doing the demo, I explained how long it took his PS/2 to sort a similar database and did a sort on the Apple. He missed it and I had to do it again so he could see that it actually performed the sort function. He then asked for screen dumps and a copy of all the reports to take to our corporate CEO, then he put his socks back on and asked how much it would cost them to buy the Apple..... Ahhhh.. the winds of irony (grin).***

**SLOTS OF SOLUTIONS:**

Paul has been "Slotting" in his time of late to suggest:

***I think I may have a solution to my slot shortage. For the longest time I've wanted to have the Titan cards on my system, but with the Sider, 3.5 drive, trackball, modem, and 3 parallel printers (now 2), there was no way around having the slots full... until today. I just got a Microfazer buffer which has parallel I/O and serial I/O, which will allow me to run both printers from the serial port.***

***The system will probably be hooked up in the following way: serial port to switchbox with switchbox port "A" going to the modem and "B" going to the Microfazer serial input (I never use the modem and the printer at the same time). From the Microfazer will be a serial output to the laser printer and a parallel output to the Panasonic printer (the Microfazer converts either way with a front panel switch). Then I can dump the trackball and RAMdisk, leave the Sider in slot 4, the 3.5 in slot 1 (yes, I know the 3.5 will be gone in emulation) and that will leave me with slots 2 & 3 open with both printers accessible via the serial port.***

**THEN AGAIN -**

Well, things don't ALWAYS work out the way they should. A few days later, Paul reported that:

***The MicroFazer turned belly-up, so I don't know how well it would have worked. I found a much neater approach by running a straight DB25 cable from SARA's serial port to a DB25 four-way (ABCD) data transfer switch ($24.99 at Comp USA). From there it can go straight to the Modem or through a Null Modem Adaptor ($4.95 at Radio Shack) to the serial port of the Laser prntr. he output for the Panasonic printer comes from the switchbox into a "serial to parallel" converter ($27.99 at Comp USA), then to the Panasonic's parallel port. I use the standard serial printer driver set to 9600 bps, 8 bits, and no parity... this works with no modifications to the printers.***

## AND IN COLUMBUS

Rich Gast has reappeared to offer some interesting information. He's found a way to extract the Apple /// graphic from the DOS 3.3 Apple /// Confidence Program! Unfortunately, it's not easy:

> ***I booted the Confidence Program on the Apple ///, got the picture on the screen and popped into the monitor. Next I listed the picture in hexadecimal code. Then I booted a sector editor on my Apple //e, which allows sectors to be written to memory any place I wish, as I read them from disk. I located the general placement of the file by looking at the code on the disk. Hires pictures tend to look like a lot of "@'s" when converted to text, and there are other patterns I have come to know from capturing text in the past.***
>
> ***Now I looked for an exact match to the code I saw on my Apple /// screen. Once found, I wrote the sector to $2000 in memory, then moved thru the listing on the Apple /// $100 ahead, and proceeded to look on the Apple /// for another match. Upon doing this 32 times, I exited the editor some 4 hours later, and turned on the Hires screen with a series of pokes. There it was! I wasted no time writing the file to disk.***

I've uploaded Paul's handiwork to the /// SIG File Download area on the TCS for all to enjoy.

Finally, Paul offered a suggestion about finding "On Lamp" replacements:

> ***If you visit any electronic parts supply house, you will find that number 7328 lamps will do the job. These are a lot more common than the original lamp, and are an excellent replacement.***

## AND FURTHER NORTH

Our good friend C.M. Davidson continues to offer some excellent programs for all to use. One of the best I've seen of late is a wonderful clock program that I uploaded to the TCS and which will be on an upcoming PD disk.

Mr. Davidson has kindly offered to let us mine his hard disk – which contains a number of other interesting and potentially useful programs. Stay tuned!

## ///+ TROUBLES

My much-loved ///+ had a major hiccup in November. I finally tracked down the problem to the 512K upgrade. On Three's 512K RAM disk check program was the only one that would even load - and it booted just enough to tell me that there was a bad Zeropage and a few other problems. What that means is that I have some bad RAM chips - luckily not a difficult problem to fix, since it’s a matter of replacement. Now if I could just figure out WHICH RAM chip is bad...

**FINALLY**

Koji Annoura, the Editor of Annie's Letter send us 4 800K disks recently full of his recent newsletters, including Hypercard stacks, games, etc. Unfortunately, it's all in Japanese EXCEPT for those telltale words that include Apple ///, GS, Lisa and Mac. I'll turn the disks over to our MAC Librarian to see if he can do anything with them. Is there a Japanese to English translation program for the MAC yet?

*By David Ottalini*
*Apple /// SIG Co-Chairman*

**February 1993**

## SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT FUND

1983 promises to be an exciting year for the /// SIG - a year in which you will have the ability to make a direct impact in a number of areas of concern to the /// Community. At the top of our list is the new Software Development Fund, which we've set up to help us provide seed money to developers interested in producing products for the /// but who don't have the financial wherewithal to do it.

To be blunt, the Fund will be funded primarily with your donations. ATUNC and the WAP Board of Directors have already contributed some funds to help us get started, but (like the TCS fund) the BOD has asked that anyone interested in supporting the /// help through a financial contribution. IF you are interested in this, please send a check made out to WAP with a notation that it's for the Apple /// Software Development Fund to the WAP office.

You DON'T have to be a ///er to contribute. In fact, our first member donation came from Grace Gallager, a long-time Apple // user. Thank You!

If you read my column last month, you know the kinds of projects we're looking at. The plan at this point is to make some final decisions during the next SIG meeting, February 6th at 10 AM in the WAP Office. By this time, you should have received a letter from me as well, laying out those projects again and asking for your input on exactly what you would like to see us pursue.

Remember again that the criteria for any project has to be 1) a project or projects that can, in fact, be done and 2) It's a product that you would be willing to pay for. There's also one other factor that has now entered into our planning, since we have been hoping to work with On Three's Bob Consorti on the first project. Bob recently told me on CompuServe that he is planning on going to graduate school this Fall, which means our window of opportunity with him will be limited to the next six months or so.

I would invite you all to come to our SIG meeting February 6th so we can discuss this fully and work out the final details. I'd like to have a maximum of three possible projects to present to Bob so we can find out his thoughts and which ones are, in fact, doable. We also need to discuss other possible sources of developers, how best to use the funds, etc.

## PAUL CAMPBELL

… Is a new Daddy!! He announced the new addition on December 18th:

***He's here! Jonathan Michael Campbell was born this morning at 5:21 am. He was 7 lb, 10 oz, and 20 inches long. Ah yes, another future Apple user!***

All the /// SIG join me in wishing Paul and Aneita well with their third child!

**HELP LINE**

Paul also of late has been helping our SARAsaurs - by answering questions about hooking up peripherals to the ///:

***A SCSI drive is no problem, you can probably order the driver from On Three over the phone, but Bob might be busy for a little while. On Three also has a very good SCSI card for the ///. The Laserwriter should work fine with the standard serial driver or the UPIC driver; I've been enjoying my Laser printer for several thousand pages now. The Epson Action Laser II is inexpensive, pretty quick, and reliable. If you need the driver, I have both serial and parallel drivers for Epson Laser printers, and serial drivers for Hewlett-Packard LaserJets.***

***A general rule of thumb for printers on the Apple /// is: if it has a serial or parallel port, SARA can run it. The ONLY printer that gave my SARA fits was from Radio Shack. To date I have run Texas Instruments, Commodore, Okidata, Hewlett- Packard, Epson (of course!), IBM, NEC, Panasonic, Seikosha, and other printers.***

Paul also has his own solution to dealing with a burnt-out "On" Lamp in the ///:

***The easiest way I have found to do this is to remove the 2 left screws holding the keyboard to the chassis, loosen the right 2 screws, work the keyboard out and remove the ribbon cable. This will let you hold the keyboard and watch exactly where the pin sockets are. It may sound like extra work, but I'd rather go the extra step and get it done, instead of fumbling around for 30 minutes.***

**A LOMARTIRE GEM**

Our good friend John Lomartire offered this little "gem" recently and we're happy to pass it along:

1. ***Have your printer connected to the RS232 port (DB25) on the back of the ///.***

2. ***Boot up "The Communications Manager" or "Access ///" (or probably any other /// telecommunications software, but I am not sure.)***

3. ***Use Open-Apple S to set configuration to half-duplex and baud rate to same baud rate that the printer is set at.***

4. ***Return to terminal mode.***

***Now when you type at the keyboard, you not only see the text on the screen but it is also printed at the printer!!***

***Don't know of what value this would be, but it was kind of fun to see it happen. Maybe it would be handy for dashing off a short note without leaving the communications package. NOTE: There are no provisions for correcting typing errors so it has to be right the first time.***

**THE DAVE JERNIGAN WORK-OUT**

Dave loves his ///+ so much he is constantly pushing SARA to her limits. But sometimes she pushes back (as he recently related on the TCS:)

***I suddenly had problems booting the ///+. I thought I had a backup Selector /// boot disk and updated standard utilities type disks. WRONG!!! After MUCH futzing around, it dawned on me that we had a recent back-up (courtesy GoBack ///) as well as the disk directory/file fixer from our good friend Bob Consorti of On ///. DD/FF revealed gobs of errors including 11 files sharing a block with another file. (I guess that explains why things looked goofy when I tried to boot). There were also 50+ other errors that DD/FF corrected. I deleted the files sharing blocks very painlessly with the repair function of DD/FF and then selectively restored the files I deleted. Peace and tranquility reign once again in our household."***

I recently went through my own problems - but they related to my attempts at moving programs and data from my 5MB Profile to a 10MB Profile. I started by using one three and putting two Profile controller cards in slots 3 and 4. I set up the boot disk to include the correct drivers and renamed one of the profiles .Pro2 so I could transfer the files.

That part was easy. When I tried to use the 10mb, I got all kinds of weird things. On the Selector menu, little "Open Apples" would appear halfway on the screen - in time to the clock. If I tried to boot GoBack, I would get the opening menu, but any selection threw me into 40 column mode and a system crash. Hmmm.

So (being the smart guy that I am), I used DDFF3 to double check the disk (there were only some access problems noted - and then fixed) and then went ahead and did a disk wipe to be sure. Then, having done a backup of the 5 MB Profile using GoBack 3, I recovered the files and reloaded the 10MB Profile with all my programs. Voilà. Not a single problem since then.

There have been other happy campers with Bob Consorti's newest programs, including a new /// SIG Member, Gary Miller, who took advantage of the SIG's offer to get 5 PD disks for purchasing either of On Three's new programs. He calls them both "Terrific" adding:

> ***I'm just trying to make Sara last until 2000. Some of the new hardware on the market tempts me to move on, but why spend money on something because it plays better games - I can do everything else on this machine that I need to at home.***

**STEVE TRUAX'S "SMALL MILESTONE"**

Steve is a long-time ///er who recently got one of those 1200 baud modems on sale through the PI:

> ***I finally got the 1200 bps modem that I got at our last meeting hooked up, got my computer/printer/Corvus moved near a phone outlet, got Access/// and Autodial hooked up, and am finally talking to WAP with my /// rather than Cheryl's Tandy!***

**PAUL WOWS 'EM - AGAIN**

I know the Messy-DOS folks hate to hear about these kinds of things - but that won't stop me from reprinting them! Here's how Paul's latest attempt to make our SARA look good came off:

> ***My boss asked me to do a demonstration of a database that I put together to help eliminate the ton of paperwork that our repair techs go through each month. I always say that the three most important things in computing are: results, results, and results. After doing the demo, I explained how long it took his PS/2 to sort a similar database and did a sort on the Apple. He missed it and I had to do it again so he could see that it actually performed the sort function. He then asked for screen dumps and a copy of all the reports to take to our corporate CEO, then he put his socks back on and asked how much it would cost them to buy the Apple..... Ahhhh... The winds of irony (grin).***

**JOHN LOMARTIRE'S APPLE /// SYSTEM**

John answered my call for information on how folks use their ///s, and here's how he has his system set up:

> ***I have set up two Apple /// systems in the same room in order to simulate a multi-tasking environment. If you have ever:***
>
> - ***written a BASIC program on a word processor, and then EXEC'ed it into BASIC, you will***

***appreciate that having one computer set up with WP and the other with BASIC makes this task very easy. Write the program, move the disk to BASIC to test, back to WP to correct faults, etc.***

- ***needed to set up spreadsheet tables while you are in the midst of writing text on a WP, the second computer comes in handy and the file can be transferred immediately into the proper section of the text.***
- ***needed to work spreadsheet information into Business Graphics this is the easiest way to do it. It is a way to add graphing capabilities to Apple /// spreadsheet programs.***

***These are just three of the many situations that I have found where having the two units active was a Godsend.***

***What makes this concept feasible? PRICE!! With Apple /// units available at such low costs, a second unit is practically a gift. Adding a second IBM unit or MAC would certainly require greater economic justification.***

**THREE'S COMPANY**

… Continues to be available to any ///er free of charge (save the phone call). Ed Gooding reminded me recently that:

***///'s Company has 2,500 files, 15 Megs of Apple /// specific files containing programs and information available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The number is: 804-747-8752, 300-1200-2400 baud, 7, O, 1. There is so much Apple /// data here that Bob Consorti had to make special modifications to GoBack /// to allow me to back it all up!***

On that last thought, Bob Consorti added:

***Yep, I figured nobody would have more than 2048 files but ///'s Company managed to overfill even my wildest expectations...so Go Back can handle up to 3072 files now!***

By the way, we have three "Best of" ///'s Company disks in our PD if you're interested: **3INF-07;08** and **21**. **3INF21** is a "tour" of the BBS to give you an idea of what you'll see and what's available when you're logged on.

**AND FINALLY**

Thanks to John Lomartire, who just recently finished copying some 400+ disks just for our /// SIG Library. Thank you for buying our disks - and thanks to John for keeping the WAP supplied!

*By David Ottalini*
*Apple /// SIG Co-Chairman*

**March 1993**

## SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Due to the Journal deadline, I won't be able to report to you this month about what decisions were made at the February SIG meeting about the SDP (It will be on the TCS though). But I can bring you up to date about what On Three's Bob Consorti reported to me as we started discussing possible software projects.

Messaging on CompuServe in early January, Bob said:

> ***I would love to do another project or two for the /// before my time becomes scarce later this year when I go to graduate school. I've thought of a number of projects that you might find interesting and I'll list them here.***
>
> ***One involves a three way Mac-PC-Apple /// file transfer utility that requires the new 3.5 drive. This might be difficult because I haven't been able to get the info from Apple on how to read MFM disks from the SuperDrive controller card.***
>
> ***Another possible project involves a SOS speed up by using the 65802 chip. This could be separate from or augmented with a SOS speed up by allowing automatic disk caching.***
>
> ***A new 1 megabyte floptical 3.5" disk is available that also read/writes the 1.4 Meg formats. It would attach daisy-chained to people with Siders (or other ON THREE hard disks), or with our SCSI interface card. It's reasonably priced, $359 for the drive and about $25 for the disks. I think that would be a neat primary storage or backup device.***
>
> ***An updated Comm Manager to support Y and Z modem could be difficult as Tim didn't leave a whole lot of room in the program for expansion. Those protocols don't rally buy you much since with turbo downloading on you get similar performance characteristics as those larger block protocols.***
>
> ***An update to Comm Manager to support higher speeds is possible. Right now it's limited to about 4800 baud due to SOS overhead. Talking directly to the hardware I should be able to push it at least to 9600 baud if not the newer 14,400 in the ultra-high speed modems.***
>
> ***I think people may be a little mislead on the Quickie scanner thing. On the Mac and Apple // the software is available that scans in images and to even read documents into usable text***

***format. I could do the image scanning into a normal Apple /// fotofile format but text creation from the scanned image is very difficult and would involve a project cost far in excess of what I think people would want to pay.***

***I would personally like to do one other project for the /// but I don't know if time or money would permit it. I would like to do a WYSIWYG word processor for the Apple ///. The hardware could support it with reasonable speed as long as I bypass the drivers. The only problems would be in printer support but I know how to handle printers pretty well. I could even support True-Type fonts so Apple /// owners could always be current as new fonts were released. I've thought about it for some time and feel that it's a doable project, although a big one.***

Later, he added:

***I forgot to mention a couple of things. I also had some thought about doing a Finder type utility for the Apple ///. It would basically be a system utilities and program launcher. Also, to do a word processor I would find it favorable for the final look of the program to require ///'s with interlace kits. 560 by 384 resolution would work out nicely for screen and printer output as it's much closer to the Mac's 1:1 screen ratio. 560 by 192 looks pretty bad. The Apple IIGS shows this limitation by having very large vertical features due to the poor screen resolution. I could do it w/o the interlace kit but the word processor would look much better with it.***

I hate to say it, but all Bob's ideas sound pretty good to me. The questions which all of us need to consider remain, however. 1) Are you willing to back up one or two choices with a donation to develop the software and 2) are you willing to purchase it afterwards?

Perhaps we'll have some of the answers in next month's column, so stay tuned!

**THE PRINTER WHEEL GOES ROUND AND ....**

Our friends the Jernigans are again at the top of the "I need help" heap this month. This time around, their daisy wheel printer was having some major problems:

Our Comrex ComWriter IV printer works with some print wheels but not others. Wheels which used to work now seem to print random characters, generally a lot of the same character in a row.

As always, SIG members on the TCS charged to the rescue. Steve Truax weighed in with his thoughts:

***Our Brother printer at work had problems similar to those you describe for your printer, and it turned out that the print wheel had to be seated exactly right or it did not turn correctly and spun freely or stuck, which either produced nonsense or more often produced the same***

***character one billion times. Seating the print wheel turned out to be much more exacting than met the eye and much touchier than the manual stated. See if that could be a problem.***

And from Detroit, Paul Campbell asked:

***Do the printwheels have optical code markings? These usually take the form of silver or white markings on the printwheel between the hub and the print fingers. If they do, the printer uses these markings to tell what kind of printwheel is installed via an optical sensor. When the sensor gets dirty (paper dust, etc.) it will sometimes read the printwheel incorrectly and cause the kind of error you mentioned. If your printer does not use an optical printwheel sensor, then it either has a mechanical sensor instead, or the printer has switches to tell it what printwheel is installed. Regardless of what method the printer uses, the problem is caused by; A) The printer can't tell what printwheel is installed. B) The printer has a logic problem with the printwheel position locator motor. C) The printer is receiving incorrect print data from the computer.***

**PASCAL PROBLEMS**

Paul also offered some help with the Jernigan's problems getting Pascal to work on a hard drive:

***I'm assuming that you want to install the Pascal programming language, so I'll bring all the Pascal HD files you need to the meeting under GoBack ///. Do you want that on 5.25 or 3.5 (800k)? Note; Pascal must be installed in the ROOT directory.***

Can't find volume /hard4 or .profile4 with system utilities:

***Too many active volumes for Pascal, OR too many active devices. Ou Pascal seems like it was written for the ][+ instead of the ///, it will only recognize 5 open volumes at the same time. S/OS and other program languages have no such problem, which is why System Utilities (written in Pascal) has the trouble but EZP, Basic, and Desktop Manager do not. How to get around this? Fortunately, S/OS keeps track of which volumes have been accessed or "opened", so you may be able to find it with System Utilities if you go right to .profile4 without digging around the other volumes.***

***My solution to this problem came by re-organizing my SOS.DRIVER file and putting the device drivers that were really mandatory for my Pascal programs last in the SOS.DRIVER file. S/OS loads the driver file in REVERSE order: if your driver for ".profile4" is one of the first listed in your SOS.DRIVER file it will be in the back of the pack and maybe out of reach for Pascal, as ANY block device can and will be counted as a "volume" under Pascal. Think of dealing cards. The first card dealt ends up on the bottom of the stack! You can upload your SOS.DRIVER file if***

***you want me to take a look at it, but use the filename JERN.DRIVER or something like that.***

***~***

Disappearing files:

> ***I'm assuming that you tried DDFF3 and also the "Bad Block scan" option. To guarantee the SOS.MENU file, use the Selector Menu Editor to load it, then check it out (maybe print it just in case it gets lost), then save it. I'm not sure about the other 'not found' files, I'd definitely side with Dave O., may be file corruptions. If it only happens when quitting one particular program, I would suspect that program's files also.***

**FREE AT LAST...**

I read excitedly in the February issue of InCider/A+ about Tim Tobin and his "Lost Classics" project for the Apple //. He has been doing what I have been trying to do - find the developers of old software titles - and get their programs placed into the Public Domain.

Tobin has had some great successes. So I wrote to him, asking that he also mention the /// when working with software authors, since they many times wrote versions for SARA in the early days. I have NOT received a reply from him as of this writing, but there is some evidence that it may have born some fruit. WAPer Dale Smith messaged me in mid-January that:

> ***I have uploaded to Area #23 a Shrinkit disk archive of Paul Lutus' AppleWriter /// v4 which Paul has released as freeware through the GEnie Lost Classics program. You will need a II running ShrinkIt, IIgs with GSHK, or a /// in //-emulation mode running IIPlus-Unshrink to extract the disk image to a 5.25 disk. The disk image contains the boot block but not the SOS kernel which has to be added to make it bootable (along with your SOS.Driver file).***

I'm thrilled that something we had gotten through the back door many years ago has now returned to come out through the front. You can actually get the updated 4.1 version of AppleWriter, with tutorials and other information on our PD disk **3WDP-01**. There's also an AppleWriter Demo disk - **3WDP.05**. But Sun Remarketing remains the best (and only) source for manuals for the last official release of Applewriter for the /// - version 2.0. Call Sun at 1-800-821-3221 for the latest price. Thank you Paul Lutis and Tim Tobin for making this possible!

I also hope that we may also reap some additional benefits over time as well. Interested in providing some support to Tim? Write him in care of the "Lost Classics Project", xxxxxx, Carson, California. Zip is 90745-4606. His phone number is (310) xxx-xxxx.

**MICRO TERMINAL**

Steve Truax has become a MICRO/Terminal fan - it's a telecommunications program still available from Sun Remarketing:

> ***The more I play with this MICRO/Terminal program the more impressed I am with it. It has some nice features, including macros. Its sending and receiving capabilities seem limited to text, although I'm not certain about that. It took me a little while to get it up to 1200 bps, but now it's humming along quite nicely.***
>
> ***The main problems with it are related to security and the fact that I can't get it to move over to my hard drive - it insists on looking for every file (except for the boot file, which I was able to move to my Corvus under Selector) on .D1, and it keeps telling me that I have an illegal copy (it's the original) and tends to crash if you even try to send it to .D2 or .PROFILE.***
>
> ***I do think it has several features over XModem /// (such as autodial) and several over Access /// (autodial and macros).***

Paul Campbell suggested one solution to the hard drive problem:

> ***On Three also sells something which may take care of your "illegal copy" message for MICRO/Terminal. It's an Uncopyprotect driver that goes in your SOS.DRIVER file and fools a lot of programs like Advanced Visicalc and some others. Some programs don't like it, and some programs were hard-coded (programmed) to use drive 1.***

**GARY MILLER LIKES HIS ///**

Ahh... Another testimonial for our SARA. You're on Gary:

> ***This is my machine of choice. I'd rather spend 50-100 or up to get new software than to go buy another machine. I want my ///s to last until 12/31/99 or until someone can figure out how to get the clock to extend into the new century.***

All we need is the source code, Gary!

**MORE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

On Three's Communications Manager has been the subject of some discussion recently on CompuServe. WAP /// SIGer Al Bloom had these comments about the program's "Turbo Download" feature that speeds up transmission rates:

***Turbo downloading is great if you don't get any transmission errors. When you enable it, you are using an error free file transfer protocol without the bother of ensuring that the file transfer is error free.***

***I've never much seen the value in that. Seems somehow akin to bungee jumping without the rubber band.***

***Actually it isn't quite that bad. XModem is the only way you can transfer a binary file to a ///. If your various comm pieces are in good shape, you might well be able to gamble that the transfer will be error free.***

***What scares me about it is that you may not be able to tell you got a bum download until well after you downloaded the file. I envision a mis-sent block that isn't invoked all that often. So the download works almost all the time. Then the program goes to la-la land apparently randomly. I'm not all that smart about computers. I don't know that the above scenario can actually happen. But I don't know that it can't, either. As a rule of thumb:***

***I'd never cripple an error free file transfer protocol.***

Bob Consorti replied by saying:

***It doesn't work quite that way. If an error occurs you don't get a file with a bad bit/byte in it. The XMODEM protocol causes the transfer to abort and you don't get a bad file, you just have to redo the transfer.***

**FINALLY**

We've been talking with a number of interesting folks of late - looking for information about their new ///s. The most interesting? Harvey Hurst of Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada. He called with lots of questions. I tried to answer them all - quickly! Hopefully I also convinced him to become a member.

I think the one real reason I continue working with the /// is not so much our SARA as the people who continue to use her. In some ways, you are all pioneers still striving to get the most out of what you have. Thanks for letting me come along for the ride.

## *ON THE TRAIL OF THE APPLE ///*

*By David Ottalini*
*Apple /// SIG Co-Chairman*

**April 1993**

### FIRST OFF

Congratulations to Paul Campbell, who has agreed to become our SIG's new Co-Chairman. He replaces our good friend Jim Jutzin who has moved on to another platform. Thanks Jim for your time and efforts on behalf of the ///!

### SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The SDP continues to move forward. Thanks to those who attended our February meeting, the SIG decided to work on three possible projects with Bob Consorti of On Three:

- SOS Speed upgrade using a 65802 chip and disk cache
- Floptical Disk Driver
- Com Manager Upgrade to 14,400 baud (with appropriate modem)

There was also interest in Bob's proposal concerning a Finder-like utility program for the ///.

I communicated with Bob shortly after the meeting, and asked him to provide a proposal for each project, that I could then take to the WAP Board of Directors.

Here's what he told me via CompuServe:

> ***I've done some serious thinking about the 65802 in the ///. Way back when, Rob (Turner) and I wrote an Apple /// assembler that used the 65802 to speed things up tremendously. However, one of the problems with the 65802 is that to run in 16 bit mode on the ///, interrupts have to be turned off. This would play havoc with communications programs and I don't think people would like that. I could easily guarantee a 20% speed up but the new SOS wouldn't work with any communications program.***
>
> ***Without the 65802 chip I could do a new version of SOS to do disk caching but I don't know if I could guarantee a 20% speed up. On lots of disk accesses it would probably come close but I'm not sure. There are a host of other things you can do to speed SOS up, like automatically optimizing files by swapping index blocks to the front of the file when a file 'grows'. All in all I could probably get a 20% overall disk speed increase from a new version of SOS. I don't know***

*if that would be worth it.*

*The simple disk caching would require a rewrite of the SOS memory manager to dynamically allocate memory as needed and the SOS file manager to direct output to the cache ram space. Additionally a separate configuration utility would be required since some programs blindly grab all memory that's available rather than as they need it. I would probably have to allocate one 32K bank of memory to be used as a disk cache. The update would be a very quick patch of the boot code to drop off a bank of memory, just as The Desktop Manager does it.*

*The new version of SOS would be compatible with Catalyst and Selector as well as all stand-alone programs. I'd even fix a couple of more obscure bugs as well as have the SOS utility manager be able to return time after 2000. Note that most programs will be stuck displaying things in 1900 time but the update will cause SOS to display the correct time. Since I don't now think the 65802 chip option is viable I would estimate that it would take me three months to complete.*

*The Apple /// Finder project would involve a core file selector (a la Catalyst or Selector) and a core system utilities file and device utility, all wrapped in a graphical user interface. I would love to do this project and I estimate it would take about three months to complete. I have some of the core utilities routines already written (from the Disk Manager), the hard (fun) part would be to devise a Finder-like graphical interface.*

*To do the Floptical 21 Meg 3.5" disk driver it would require a new SCSI driver, one that supported the 21 Meg format and the 1.4 Meg 3.5" floppies. The problem here is deciphering how to switch on the fly between the two formats. The driver would have to be like the old Micro-Sci where two drivers controlled access to a single drive. The first one (actually two since the max volume size on the /// is 16 Meg.) would access the drive in 21 megabyte mode, the second in 1.4 Meg floppy disk mode. This should take me a little less than a month.*

*To do the Comm Manager update would require basically a rewrite of the program since I would have to be talking directly to the hardware to achieve that sort of speeds. Also, I've looked at the ///'s hardware specs and it appears that the hardware can setup for 19200 baud operation but I find it interesting that the driver manuals describe 9600 baud as the max. I don't know how fast you can actually push it but we should be able to get up to over 9600 baud speeds and most likely 14.4K baud. This should take about 2 months to complete.*

*I think the "x" number of copies up-front payment method would work best for all of the projects. For the SOS update/cache I would want $2000 or 40 copies at $50 per. For the Finder I would want $2000 or $40 copies at $50 each. I could do the Floptical for $750, or 15 copies at $50 each. I would need a drive during the development, which I would return upon completion of the project. For the Comm Manager update to higher speeds I would want $1500, or 30 copies at $50 each and would need one and possibly two high speed modems*

***during development, which I would return upon completion of the project.***

Bob says he would love to do all these projects. The challenge for us is to get enough funding to make sure we can have at least one of them completed. Without strong /// community support (read that financial support through donations), I frankly doubt we could do all of them.

By the time you read this, I plan to have submitted a report to the BOD and hopefully gotten their permission to move forward with fundraising for the project. I ask that all interested consider making a donation so that we can get things going as quickly as possible. We will have met in March to discuss these projects, and will continue to keep you posted as we go along. Again - if you have any suggestions or comments I urge you to call me or contact me by mail or on the TCS.

**PAUL'S COMMENTS**

Our new Co-Chairman - Paul Campbell - took a look at Bob's proposals and offered these thoughts:

***I read Bob's reply to the projects, and think that we need to make some serious considerations about the 65803 project. Would it be possible to have a "downshift" to 8 bit mode for Communications?, or is it a deal where you cannot change from 16 bit unless you reboot with a different disk? If we do go for a "finder" type interface and the mode can be changed on the fly, then we could have the Finder toggle the mode, something such as having the CPU turbo on or off. Could we compromise on the speed a little to enable the interrupts? Could we go with a different chip which CAN use the interrupts?***

***A different method of obtaining similar results would be to upgrade the ///'s video, patch S/OS to run the CPU as if the video were toggled off, and use the disk caching to help disk access delays. The disk caching alone won't do the job, we want CPU speed that will help with more than just disk I/O, but if disk caching is all we can do for now, let's go for it. We also have to remember that this project won more votes than anything else discussed. Another aspect to consider is the fact that the current 6502 will run comfortably at 200% of its current maximum clock speed.***

***The Finder sounds great, my biggest question is; will this Finder allow me to go to another program without quitting the program I'm in? I don't care if the program in the background stops running, can we get to our Three Easy Pieces database from Draw On ///? Can we do a little editing with Draw On /// without dumping all our alignments and settings in the Graphics Manager? The Finder could borrow the Desktop Manager's "picture" file method for memory management when another application is opened, but assign a sequence number such as picture1, picture2, picture3, etc. depending on what level you are on. Tandy's Deskmate uses a "Task Switch" to go from one program to another, up to 10 levels deep.***

***The Floptical sounds great. Even if they do change the format to 28 Meg, most of the work will***

***have been done. I know a side project that would help this one along; how about a Pascal update that removes the 16 Meg limit... the Apple /// limit is actually 32 Meg (Yes Virginia, virtual memory is not a new concept).***

***No real comment on the Communications Manager rewrite, other than it will clearly enhance the ///'s longevity. Maybe in the process we can modify the method of entering filenames when uploading with the Binary II protocol, it's a pain not being able to enter the filenames beforehand while off-line.***

**LOST CLASSICS PROGRAM**

We got a nice letter from Tim Tabor, whom I mentioned last month as heading up an Apple // "Lost Classics" program through the GEnie On-Line Service.

We have Tim to thank for getting Paul Lutus to officially release our version of AppleWriter as Freeware - which means Paul will allow its free distribution while he retains full copyright protection. That's a point I needed to clarify - since this means Applewriter is not officially "Public Domain." I'll update our Applewriter 4.1 disk - **3WDP-01** - to reflect this restriction. Unfortunately, that probably means we will not have access to the source code to update the program.

Tim says the Paul has placed restrictions on how his software may be distributed - meaning he does not want it sold for a profit. As Tim put it:

***(the software)... may be given away, but not sold either by themselves or as part of a larger package. User Groups and other services may charge nominal fees for the disks and postage, but that's not all.***

That said, I wonder what this means for a company like Sun Remarketing, that still sells AppleWriter 2.0 - the last officially released version of the program. Since Tim specifically mentioned Super Applewriter (Versions 4.0 and 4.1) and not 2.0 there may not be a problem.

Beyond that, Tim says he has been "***working to come up with a method***" to persuade his "***A2 Roundtable bosses that we should really branch out into support for the Apple ///. We Apple II owners seem to share a kindred spirit with Apple /// owners. If we do not support them, who will?***"

He went on to suggest that it might be possible to set up a dedicated area to the Apple /// within the A2 Roundtable if there was sufficient interest to warrant it.

It would be wonderful if that could happen, since we need all the help and support we can get. BUT since most ///ers who go on-line these days use MAUG's Apple /// forum on CompuServe (along with our own TCS), I don't know if there would be enough interest to sustain another forum on another on-line service. I'll continue to talk with Tim, however and will work with him aimed at improving support for our SARA.

## MORE ON LOST CLASSICS

By the way, Tim also added some detail to exactly what his "Lost Classics" program is trying to do:

> ***We are merely an entity which is trying, in a semi-official capacity, to make sure that software which ceases to be commercially viable remains available. This would range from convincing companies to keep their programs available commercially for a longer time all the way to getting them to release their software as public domain.***

Other Apple II programs already released as PD, Freeware or Shareware include 3-D Graphics Tools, Electric Duet, GraFORTH, Raster Blaster, Space Album, Trnaquility Base, Trilogy of Games and WPL Expansion Kit.

I have discussed our efforts to get formerly commercial Apple /// programs placed into the public domain. Unlike the II, the /// is a complete orphan with no support except through WAP, ATUNC, On Three/Bob Consorti and Sun Remarketing. As such, I believe that once a good faith effort has been made to contact companies or individuals who at one time produced Apple /// products, there is no reason NOT to place the products into the PD.

We have, in fact, been turned down by a few companies and will (of course) honor their desires. We also run into problems of 1) not having the software in the first place (which makes it hard to put into the library!) or 2) it is copy-protected, making it difficult to impossible to make copies easily.

But we have also been successful with such programs as Programmers Power Tools, companies like DA Data Systems and others. There are more programs out there, and as I have time, will continue to pursue our efforts at adding them to our library.

## FINAL CLASSIC THOUGHTS

Tim also pointed up something we've been saying for a while about the /// - that:

> ***Online support is fast becoming the only game in town for Apple II support, as well as various other 'orphaned' computers. Besides the software that is available, the ability to ask an Apple II related question and often get a good, definitive answer within 24 to 48 hours is a godsend.***

He finished by saying "***I see no reason why we cannot do something similar for the Apple ///.***"

## APPLE TO MAC AND BACK

We've discussed this a number of times here along the Trail. Now that I have had some experience myself, having a Mac at work, I can tell you that things are never as easy as they seem, but with perseverance, you can succeed in making the transfer from /// to Mac (and back!).

As things stand now, we actually have more ways to make the transfer than ever before. Macs can "see" ProDOS/SOS based disks either in 800 or 1.4MB (SuperDrive) formats - and we now have access to both drives thanks to On Three.

You can use Apple File Exchange on the Mac to make the transfer (it comes with all Macs) or better yet, you can use a great utility suggested to me by Rick Zeman and discussed in the March A+/InCider (see page 46 and 47 for a complete discussion).

To support its Mac LC and Color Classic line of computers (which, with a plug-in card can run any Apple II program) - Apple wrote its "II.SYSTEM" software. It includes a driver to let the Mac read from and write to ProDOS (and yes - SOS) disks. Now the good (undocumented) part: That driver can be used on ANY Mac. All you do is download the software with your Mac from the WAP TCS, unpack it, drag it into your System File and restart.

From that point on, any Apple II or /// 3.5” disk will be available to you on your Mac desktop and can be handled like any other file. Beyond that, text files will remain formatted the way you saved them on your /// with Applewriter, 3EZPS, Word Juggler, etc.

As far as transferring Database files are concerned, I discovered that FileMaker Pro and (I presume other Mac DB Programs) can NOT bring in text files properly as saved by 3EZ Pieces. That's because 3EZPs saves its text files with a <RETURN> at the end of each line. Filemaker Pro needs Tab Delimited text - something that the 3.0 version of AppleWorks CAN do.

I really don't understand why Claris can't include an import option with text that has returns, but that's another story. In any case, IF you want to bring in a DB file into your Mac from a ///, see if you can't find a friend who has the 3.0 vesion of AppleWorks to help (OK - I do!) and your life will be much easier.

By the Way, the GS (but not the //e) has the ability to read Mac HFS files and from there, they can be saved to disk and then brought into your ///. As you might remember, Bob Consorti had proposed a /// utility to allow transfers using the /// SuperDrive. But Apple is refusing to share the technology needed to let the SuperDrive read other operating systems - a problem that would prevent such a utility from being written easily.

**FINALLY**

Please join us on the TCS! If you haven’t gotten a modem yet, 2400 baud versions are available by mail order for very little. We have some wonderful discussions and it really doesn't take that much time to come "on-line" and find out what's happening with your fellow SARAsaurs. If you need some help or suggestions, please feel free to give me or Paul Campbell a call.

*By David Ottalini*
*Apple /// SIG Co-Chairman*

**May 1993**

## SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

I'm happy to announce that the WAP Board of Directors has given its approval to the SIG's proposal for a Software Development Project. As I discussed with you in past Trail columns, we plan to work with Bob Consorti of On Three to upgrade and develop software that will give our SARA's additional functionality in future years.

At our last SIG meeting in March, we decided to make our top priority an upgrade to the SOS operating system. If we can complete that project in time, we'll move on to upgrade On Three's Communication's Manager, develop a Finder-like utility for the /// and possibly a Floptical disk driver.

As approved by the BOD, we can now begin soliciting funds from any WAP member who would care to contribute to the cause. I've already mentioned that Grace Gallagher contributed $100.00 in January to kick things off. Since then, we've added another $50.00 or so. Donations will be used entirely to fund software development. WAP will sell the software once its completed and that money will go to reimburse the SDP fund.

The BOD also authorized a 2 for 1 match of club funds up to $500.00! So we have a real incentive for everyone to donate so we can obtain the maximum funding from WAP.

President Lorin Evans will also be writing a letter to all club members asking for their support, and solicit support through Apple Link. Thank you!

As I've mentioned in the past, ATUNC, the Apple /// Users of Northern California, has agreed to contribute $500.00 towards the effort. I've written a letter to President Mary Berg to let her know where things stand and thanking that club for their support. Tom Linders, the Newsletter Editor for ATUNC has helped to spear-head efforts on the West Coast for us and we thank him.

So that brings us to you. IF there was ever a time for you to show you cared about your SARA and your club, now is the time to do that. We will need help, no matter how big or small, from every /// SIG member (and any WAP member, frankly). I don't know how many of these projects can actually be completed. Bob Consorti's time frame is short and while he would like to do all the projects we've talked about, he will be returning to graduate school this Fall. At that point, our chances of working with him will be reduced considerably.

I hope you'll consider this as an opportunity, a small investment towards improved productivity for your Apple ///. Still cheaper than a new computer, no? Anyway, if you have any questions at all, suggestions or concerns, please, please feel free to drop me a note or call. I am very open to your comments and

invite your participation in our SIG and in the SDP project.

You can contribute by sending a check to the WAP office. Please make the check out to WAP but note on the check and by cover letter that the money is to go into our SDP fund. Many thanks ahead of time to all those willing to support the effort. We'll recognize everyone who does contribute on the TCS and in this column.

**INFORMATION ABOUT APPLE AND THE APPLE ///**

I recently answered a request by a member of the MicroNetworked Apple Users Group (MAUG) on CompuServe about books that include a reference to our SARA. If you're interested, there are more than a few that are enlightening and interesting to read. One is "West of Eden" by Frank Rose. Another is "Fire in the Valley" by Freiberger and Swaine. John Scully's story "Odyssey" includes some comments about the /// and why she was discontinued. Then there's "Steve Jobs: The Journey is the Reward" by Jeffery Young. Another Apple book, "The Little Kingdom" by Moritz focuses on the early years at Apple and has brief, though interesting, comments about SARA. "WOZ", a paperback about Apple Co-Founder Steve Wozniak might also help. The author is Garr.

Other sources of information about our /// can be found in our own /// SIG PD library. Check out disk **3INF-11**, "Phase /// Conference Plus!" for an interview with Dr. Wendell Sanders, the developer of the ///. There's also the transcript of a talk by Don Williams, who was the chief Apple /// Sales Manager.

Interestingly, the person who asked about the /// is a student at the University of Maryland writing an engineering class paper about "a major complex project which has NOT been able to meet its goal in terms of performance, schedule, and /or cost (e.g. Apple III and Lisa).

The research needs to determine the following:

a) project organization method and/or WBS (work breakdown structure)
b) identify project stakeholder & their interests
c) determine methods of control used
d) methods of risk reduction used
e) role of high technology in the project
f) evaluation techniques for major project decisions

I'll be interested to see how his paper turns out!

**TRADING POST**

Gary Swergold has a complete Apple /// system to sell, including a ///+//e card and lots of other goodies. Give him a call at (301) xxx-xxxx if you're interested.

Ed Desandre has a complete system for sale. Give him a call at (408) xxx-xxxx.

Out in Philomath, Oregon, Jim Wallace has three Apple ///s to sell - at least two are /// Plus models and

are, he says, in perfect condition. There are also two Lisa's available.

Jim had an interesting tale to tell. He worked for Apple for eight years - and was on the development team for the //e and c - in fact he developed the //c disk drive. He was also on the /// develoment team for a short while and did a little work on the Mac. I'm hoping to get an article or two from him on his experiences, so stay tuned.

**APPLEWRITER PROBLEM**

MAUGer Scott Thompson recently had a problem with sending a particular control code to his printer from within AppleWriter:

> ***I need to send a null character (CONTROL-@) for a printer command, and can't figure out how to do it from Apple Writer ///. I've tried several ways... including using BASIC to create a file with a null sandwiched between a couple of CONTROL-V's, and loading it into my text. Anyone know how it can be done?***

Bob Consorti gave him the bad news:

> ***You're pretty much out of luck. A null character in an AppleWriter file signifies the end of the file. You might try seeing if your printer can alternate control characters and then use a different character.***

But our friend up Connecticut way, John Lomartire, did offer a suggestion:

> ***There is one thing that you can try. It involves a little work and would probably not rate as a permanent solution. Start by using some other character instead of @. In other words, where you would enter CONTROL-@ enter something like CONTROL-^ (if that is not another Epson control command.) Print the file to disk. Write a Basic program to read the file, one character at a time and print it. However, when the program reads a ^ it substitutes CHR$(0), which is @, and sends CONTROL-@ to the printer. A bit awkward, but I don't know any other way to incorporate @ in Applewriter text.***

Scott replied by saying:

> ***That might be the only way I can do it. In the meantime I just will not be able to use the enhanced fonts in this Epson LQ-1070. At least I can control all of the letter quality fonts available to it, but I suppose I won't miss the OUTLINE, SHADOW, and combination font enhancements. If I do absolutely need them, I can use your BASIC print routine. I still have a few other things I want to try. I wonder if I can imbed a command in AppleWriter that will let me read a file directly to the printer. Something like the ^V file, only it will have ^@. I don't***

***hold much hope for the idea, but I am thinking about it.***

**DONATION PROGRAM**

Our latest recipient of an Apple /// is the Raven Rock Lutheran Camp. Thanks to Dave and Joan Jernigan for setting up a complete Apple /// system for the camp, based in Sabillasville, Maryland. A letter from Executive Director Lee Sodowsky says the camp is a non-profit organization that is used by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod for summer camping and retreats.

The Jernigans have agreed to help coordinate future donations of used ///s, so if you have any suggestions, or a /// to donate, please give them a call (before 9pm) at (703) xxx-xxxx.

**APPLE /// SUPPORT**

On Three: 1174 Hickory Ave, Tehachapi, CA. 93561: (805) 822-8580

Sun Remarketing: PO Box 4059 Logan, Utah. 84321: (800) 821-3221

Titan Support : ///+// and //e cards: (313) 429-8547

*By David Ottalini*
*Apple /// SIG Co-Chairman*

**June 1993**

## SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Given the Journal deadlines, it's hard for me to report to you this month about where we stand with the SDF. I do want to thank Dave and Joan Jernigan for making a contribution, along with your favorite Trail Column Writer. Please join us in making this a success! Remember to write your checks to Washington Apple Pi, with a note on it that the money goes for the SDF. ALL donated funds will be used for this project.

## VIDEO PROBLEMS

/// SIG member Bob Sambolin of Columbus, Ohio (see his article in this month's journal) has had his share of video problems on the ///. He offers these comments and tips on how to deal with at least a couple of things:

> ***The problem I'd been experiencing was that the screen would look as if the information coming out of the computer was scrambled (like cable TV descrambling). The condition was sporadic - happening some times when the computer was warm, other times at cold start.***
>
> ***I found two problems with my SARA's video port:***
>
> ***1) The Coax cable with RCA or Phono connectors was bad and the connectors were dirty.***
>
> ***2) The female connector on the Apple /// motherboard is not one of the best RCA connectors in the industry. I found that the exterior rim (ground) of this connector is just crimped on, something like the buttons on a jacket which are crimped onto the fabric of the jacket. I was able to turn the rim 360 degrees around with my fingers, a sign of a bad connection. The best solution (without having to change the plug) is to solder the rim of the RCA so that it makes a good contact.***

## FILE TRANSFERS REVISITED

Ah... one of our favorite subjects! The question came up again on CompuServe recently:

> ***I'm looking for a service bureau in the San Francisco Bay area that can translate AppleWriter***

***files on 5.25" ProDOS floppies from an Apple /// to Macintosh 3.5" floppies in a file format that MS Word 5 can read.***

The inestimable Dr. Al Bloom responded to Dan Henderson's query:

***I wrote a freeware program some years back to convert AW source files into 3EZP format, with formatting intact, because all Mac-side translators only know of Apple Works (3EZP). Not perfect. Apple Writer has more capability than 3EZP, so some stuff is lost in the translation.***

***But if all you want is something that MS Word 5 can read, no sweat. Open the AW file as text. All you have to do is get the thing on a 3.5 inch ProDOS disk and use the AFE text translation option to get the file onto a Mac disk. And you don't need AFE or an LC with //e card. The ProDOS File System extension works admirably on any Mac. Just donUt have DOS Mounter (or its ilk) active at the same time. Word should be able to open the file directly.***

Later, Dick Immel asked about a translation program to convert 3EZP files directly to Mac format for Word 5.0. Dr. Al responded here as well:

***There is a MicroSoft freebie WORKS-WORKS TRANSPORTER that converts to MicroSoft Works WP format. Worth every penny. If your EZP WP document is larger than 50K, hard cheese. Truncated. I use the commercial MacLink package from DataViz. I was burned rather badly by the MicroSoft freebie. And MacLink goes directly from AppleWorks (EZP) WP format into Word.***

Finally, Bill Arnold told how he handles conversion problems:

***I have another method of moving files from my Apple /// 5.25 floppies to my Macintosh. My Apple //e has an Appletalk Interface card on it. I can copy files directly over Appletalk to the Macintosh's Hard Disk. By the way Apple has created an INIT that allows you to mount a ProDOS or SOS 3.5 floppy on the desktop. Works quite nicely. With ClarisWorks I can import, edit and save/export an AppleWorks document. The Apple // user won't even be able to tell what hit them.***

**NEW /// SIG TCS SYSOP**

Our new Apple /// board SYSOP (SYStem OPerator) on Conference One is none other than my faithful /// SIG sidekick Paul Campbell. He agreed to take the "bite" but wanted to hear more about what was involved. TCS Head Guru Paul Schlosser was only too happy to help:

***Board SysOp's monitor the message traffic on their board, answering questions and guiding***

***the discussion. They have the ability to post board bulletins (seen when entering a board) and post library files in their own board library. It's really not a lot of work beyond a normal call to the TCS.***

Thanks Paul and thanks Paul!

**MORE ON RAVEN ROCK**

As I mentioned last month, our latest Apple /// donation went to the Raven Rock Methodist camp. Dave and Joan Jernigan recently recounted some of their adventures while setting up the system:

***The Raven Rock /// is up and running! The second trip up met with a little more success. The primary operator is semi- computer literate - she knows M*C. (some of our best friends use M*Cs). She is in the process of building a database for their mailing list and will explore the word processor on ///EP. They have a card for a hard drive from the original /// machine but need a SCSI drive and some On Three software to capitalize on the machine. I've given them a wish list but if anyone wants to donate... Looks like they could use a few more ///s. They will be parting with some old Burroughs hardware and software. The hardware seems slow and the software user UNfriendly. 15 minutes from print request to start of print kind of thing.***

***I think they will join the WAP and sell the Burroughs stuff at the garage sale. It's an old twisted pair network, slow and not user friendly. I think it is a 6000 series setup with lots of software. They have an OKIDATA parallel printer and a networked character printer for the Burroughs which is probably usable. They also have a Panasonic word processor (stand-alone) and a Royal electric typewriter with a kit to allow it to be a computer printer. I'm not sure how it will all fit together but...***

***We think it will take a few more trips up there before they feel comfortable. BANNER MANIA!***

Our /// SIG Co-Chair, Paul Campbell, kind of, sorta, maybe likes just a little, thinks its OK (alright - he's crazy about) ... Dr. Al Bloom's updated SIGN program (3GRX-29) (see what you think from this message on the TCS:

***Dr. Bloom,***

***I was going through my macro maps and came across the macros that I used to use for converting banners to single characters. I smiled when I deleted it, the new program works perfectly... thanks again! Requests come in frequently for banners because people know that they will be done in a few moments and they also think that the results are unique. Something that comes in handy is the ability to spool the banners to the print queue on my hard drive, this lets me store some standard beginnings such as "Happy Birthday" and use them as needed. With a space added at the end of the message, I can batch print the beginning with***

***another part and have it come out looking like it was made at the same time. Of course the operative word is "can", Sign is so easy to use that I normally don't bother with spooling and just type the banner contents and sit back. What gets me is that you updated the program so quickly and bug-free, but I guess that's to be expected!***

Ahhh, but Paul still wants more:

***Have you ever considered making a graphic version of Sign by Bloom? I for one would be willing to pay for such a program and know it would be well within your expertise.***

Stay tuned for Dr. Bloom's reply (if there is one!) next month...

**FINALLY**

Please join us at the Garage Sale! As always, we'll have an Apple /// table with software and hardware for any and all who might be interested. We always have a lot of fun, and the location is wonderful. Falcon is a great host - so don't miss the excitement!

**APPLE /// SUPPORT**

On Three: 1174 Hickory Ave, Tehachapi, CA. 93561: (805) 822-8580

Sun Remarketing: PO Box 4059 Logan, Utah. 84321: (800) 821-3221

Titan Support : ///+// and //e cards: (313) 429-8547

## *ON THE TRAIL OF THE APPLE ///*

*By David Ottalini*
*WAP /// SIG Co-Chairman*

**July 1993**

### WOW!

There is so much news to report this month that I don't know how I'll get it all in for you. But as always, we're certainly going to try!

### FIRST OFF

If you missed our SIG meeting in May, you missed a chance to hear about all the great things happening in the /// world, a demonstration of ThinkTank and much more - including our first chance to see Paul and Aneita's new baby and a fun lunch. We'll be taking a summer break and plan to come back refreshed in the Fall. Please watch my column for the date of our next meeting. And please plan to join us!

### THREES COMPANY

There's some good news - and some bad news about this BBS system that our friend Ed Gooding has been running for years out of Richmond, Virginia. The bad news is that Ed has finally decided to end his relationship with the ///. It was simply a matter of business - his computer company is doing so well he just doesn't have the time to run the BBS anymore.

That leads me to the good news. After some amicable negotiations, the /// SIG has agreed to take over the operation of Threes Company for one year. Once the new TCS becomes operational, we will begin the process of transferring the files on Threes Company to the TCS (even at 12 Megabytes and uncompressed the material is not expected to take up 1% of the new TCS download space). At the end of that year, we will close Threes Company as it now stands - but its tremendous resource of Apple /// information will live on, on the TCS for all /// SIG members to enjoy.

Ed has some 60 SARAsaurs who call in on a regular basis. We hope to win over those not now members of WAP so that we can continue to have access to their expertise and add to our ranks as well.

As of this writing, I will be operating Threes Company out of my home. The new number will be (301) xxx-xxxx. It is free to all interested – you do not have to be a member of WAP to call in. Threes Company runs on a BBS program called Infonet - a program that Sun Remarketing placed into the public domain a number of years ago and was subsequently upgraded by Walt Pawley and Ed Gooding.

The /// Community can never thank Ed Gooding enough for his strong, continuing support for our SARA

over the years and we are truly sorry to lose him. But in agreeing to take over the BBS, we will be able to continue Ed's "baby" so that it will live on for all ///ers to enjoy - and to make sure it is preserved for history.

By the way, Ed not only supplied us with a complete backup of the BBS, but also a 20 megabyte hard drive, interface card and tons of manuals, printouts and other goodies. He is promising even more. The club has helped by supplying us with a 2400 baud modem and is paying for the phone line so that I can operate the BBS. The SIG is supplying the computer, monitor and appropriate drives. Thank you!

**SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT FUND**

We have started to get additional donations - thanks to Paul and Aneita Campbell, Dave and Joan Jernigan and Steve Truax for their help! But we will need much more if this project is to get off the ground. We plan to write to all SIG members asking for donations, as well as writing to the many Apple // publications. Nothing is too small!

**ATUNC**

That leads directly to the latest developments concerning our friends on the West Coast - the Apple Three Users of Northern California. In May, I called President Mary Berg and confirmed with her their intent to contribute at least $500.00 to the SDF. I hope that by the time you read this, they will have made good on their pledge.

On another front, ATUNC has expressed an interest in becoming a Slice of WAP. Our President Lorin Evans has lent his support to the proposal and I hope to have good news for you next month. As a Slice, we can extend our user group's umbrella over another Apple /// group - and while they will maintain their independence, we have access to additional PD disks and articles as well as increased ties to a group based strategically near Apple and Silicon Valley.

Finally, this would again help enhance our efforts to maintain strong support for the Apple ///. Thanks to Lorin and the WAP BOD for their continuing support for our SIG and the /// Community. Without that support, we would probably not be here today.

**TAU**

I had frankly given up on the Third Apple Users Group. Not having heard from them in some time, I was afraid that this group - based in Wheaton, Illinois just outside Chicago, had gone under. But then in the mail, low and behold, was a TAU Journal and an indication the club was again making an effort at a come-back, with the Journal printed quarterly. There was an "Apple /// Corner" section. Under a column called "Time Passes" TAU President Lavona Rann indicated that:

> ***It is a pretty sad day when you recognize that you haven't even looked at the old Apple /// for months... Going through the boxes of disks looking for boot disks...brought back fond memories of many people helping people. TAU and many of the friendships I value had their***

***start with that ///.***

Lavona went on to ask "***If there is anyone at all out there still using their ///, or having reminiscences to share, please write for the Journal.***"

I immediately wrote Lavona, telling her of everything you have been reading about the past few months. I included a disk with a year's worth of past Trail articles that (with editing) could be reprinted. I also invited them to contribute to our Software Development Fund.

On another front, TAU has a number of Apple /// hardware and software for sale. If you're interested, you can call them at (708) 653-7640.

**SLEEPY HOLLOW/LISA SHOP**

I had a long conversation with Frank Freeman of Sleepy Hollow Corporation in May - my first since July of last year. Frank has been a long-time supporter of the /// (he will rebate to WAP a portion of repair costs on machines he fixes for members) but has not had the funds to really get specific projects underway.

That hopefully will have changed by the time you read this. Frank says he wants to hire a full time Apple /// programmer to start (now) in early 1994 - and is already taking applications (see address below).

He says he has a number of projects for the /// that he is interested in doing (we discussed these in my September, 1992 Trail Column) - and has actually been working on a slot extender kit for our /// - that would fit into a Profile case. IF he gets the funds he says have been approved, we hope to work closely with him to get some of the things we'd all like to see done for the ///. As always, stay tuned!

If you'd like to talk with Frank - or apply for that programmer's position call him at: (916)xxx-xxxx.

By the way, also in the works is a move from California to Oregon. We'll have details on that when it actually happens.

**PROFESSIONAL SOLUTIONS**

Thanks to our friend up in Connecticut, John Lomartire, we have been given some back issues of Apple's old Professional Solutions magazine – billed as "An information Service for the Professional." It's always interesting to read what Apple was saying about our SARA back in 1984 (the year the /// was discontinued). For example, in Volume 3, Issue 1, Catherine Nunes wrote about "Apple's Commitment to its Growing Apple //-/// Family." She spoke of the "staying power" of the Apple //-/// family, of Apple's "long-term commitment to the development of this product line" and said "those who already own an Apple // or /// system...may be breathing a sigh of relief (that support will continue...).

She spoke of Apple's introduction of a mouse for the // and ///, of the creation of ProDos from SOS and of a new program called AppleWorks (developed from 3EZ Pieces). And she said Apple's "***ongoing***

***development efforts on the Apple // - Apple /// product family allows customers to be confident that they're buying a highly versatile, reliable, powerful personal computer, and that they will feel as good about their purchase in the future as they do today.***"

Actually, I agree - the // and /// remain all those things (versatile, reliable and powerful). And I still feel good about my investment - both of time and money - in the ///. But ten years later, some of those words are a bit hollow knowing what we know now. Time and changing technologies impact the way we look - and think about machines so transitory as computers.

But as I've said many times before - your SARA (or any orphan for that matter) remains useful so long as you are willing to give it a chance to be useful. My /// still types just as fast at 1MHz as my Mac Powerbook does at 25 MHz. And 512K does everything an Apple /// needs that 8 Megabytes can't always do on my Mac. There aren't the extra bells and whistles, I freely admit. But depending on what you need to do, your // or /// will handle just about any chore you need doing if you accept its capabilities from the start.

**NOTES**

Bob Consorti of On Three is looking for Xebec SCSI interface cards. If you have any to sell, give him a call in Chicago at: (312) xxx-xxxx.

Paul Campbell reports that the CPS interface card and On Three Universal driver works fine with the cheap Fujitsu 800K disk drives available at many computer super stores. The only problem? The drives stay on – by design - after being accessed the first time.

**FINALLY**

My long-term project to compile all the Read.Me.First files from our PD library should be finished by the time you read this. They will now replace the three ASCII text versions of our Catalog disks (**3CAT-01 through 03**).

In concert with that project, I have gone through and updated all the disks (where possible) with our newest version of Menu.Maker and other files. Those disks without Read.Me.First files have them now and many have been enhanced to include more information. I hope you will purchase these catalog disks and use them as you look for specific public domain or shareware disks in our library. In fact, with the changes made to the order form in the back of the Journal, these disks are a must for all members!

That brings me to a small point about shareware disks. I have had my Threeworks disks in our PD for many years as shareware - and have not received the small $5.00 fee from any purchasers in years. Even though the /// is an orphan, that does not mean you are exempt from these fees! Please - IF you buy any of our shareware offerings, show your support by sending the authors their small fees. Thanks!

**APPLE /// SUPPORT**

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Sun Remarketing:  PO Box 4059 Logan, Utah. 84321: (800) 821-3221

Titan Support:  ///+// and //e cards: (313) 429-8547

Sleepy Hollow Corp:  PO Box 969, Woodland, CA. 95695: (916) 668-5637

Threes Company BBS:  (Now run by WAP  - Free to all - 2400b): (301) 593-0024

*By David Ottalini*
*Apple /// SIG Co-Chairman*

**August 1993**

## SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT FUND

The big news this month is that we have received enough funding to finance our first project with Bob Consorti! This actually happened in mid-June and we may well have the updated version of SOS in beta testing as you read this.

Frankly, I was unsure we would have enough funds donated to get this project off the ground. But a couple of things happened that enabled us to get things going. First of all, Bob gave us a deadline. He is in the process of moving to MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts to continue his education in a new career field - medicine. He said that while he had a chance to start his rotations early there, he was willing to go on with our first project IF we could come up with the funding by mid-June.

At that point, Paul Campbell and I shifted into high gear. Thanks to a solicitation letter put together by Paul and mailed to all SIG members (along with previous donations) we received some $500.00 in donations to the fund. That allowed our matching funds from the club to kick in (thank you Lorin Evans and the WAP BOD). And finally, our friends on the west coast, ATUNC (The Apple /// Users of Northern California) came up with their $500.00 donation. That was enough to lock in development for the project.

That said, we also had to make some compromises on what we will get as part of this upgrade. As Bob told me on CompuServe:

> ***I've been trying to get a 65C802 working on my /// with no success. I've tried 8 different chips on three different Apple ///'s with no luck. My guess is that there's some timing problem with the newer 802's that weren't in the original ones Rob (Turner) and I used on the ///. Consequently I won't be able to do the 65C802/SOS upgrade. I can still do the SOS upgrade with disk caching.***
>
> ***Also, in looking at what Catalyst does and how Selector also does things I don't know if I could guarantee compatibility with either. If I couldn't get it working with Selector I would include a new program selector in the SOS upgrade package (which would be faster and easier to use). Because of the inability to get a 65C802 working I don't know what kind of speed up I could guarantee. I know that my disk caching scheme will greatly speed up things but I was counting on being able to do 16 bit code to get the bulk of the speed-up. It might be better w/o the 65C802 anyway since the chip isn't cheap and that would add a fixed cost of about***

***$35 to the price of the SOS upgrade.***

One other item Bob hopes to change is the requirement that after you quit a program, you are told to insert another disk and reboot. With the upgrade, we hope to have the option, as the Apple // folks do, of simply typing in a new pathname and hitting <RETURN> to boot a new disk (if you're not using a program selector).

Although there is some disappointment that we won't be able to use a 65C802 chip to help speed things up, any other upgrades we might look forward to - primarily an upgrade to the Communications Manager - would depend on improvements to SOS. Also - at this writing, Bob was just getting started with the project, so I will hopefully have a better idea of exactly what the new SOS.Interp will look like next month. He may surprise us!

The money donated to the SDF is being used to essentially buy copies of the update from Bob up front. We will then resell them to you once it has passed muster by Bob and selected Beta testers. All funds received for the purchase of this and other projects we do in the future will be placed right back into the SDF, so that we can continue to work on upgrades for our SARA. Please watch this column and the TCS for an announcement about availability of the software and its cost.

Finally: Thank you to Ivan Munson, John Lomartire and David Rutenberg for their contributions to our Software Development Fund.

**TITAN SUPPORT**

I'm sorry to report that Titan Support has passed. The owner, Greg Stuk, apparently wants to move on and has had his Titan Support number (which was at his home) discontinued. However, a ///er in Tennessee, Matthew Thomas, has indicated an interest in possibly buying out the remaining Titan circuit cards and other materials and continuing support in some manner. Unfortunately, it's hard to say when or if this will happen. But it might merit a look from the SIG to help if we can find out what Mr. Stuk wants for all those parts. It would be a shame for them to be tossed in the trash (we will work to prevent this!). I'll try to have an update for you next month.

**///s Company BBS**

This two month delay in getting information to you in the Journal really makes things tough sometimes. In this case, I was hoping to report to you that the SIG had successfully taken over Ed Gooding's ///s Company BBS. But as of mid-June, equipment and software problems are causing major headaches that have made this project one of the most frustrating I have ever attempted.

Basically, we have agreed to take over the BBS and operate it as a separate entity for one year. Ed supplied us with a backup of the BBS and even provided a 20 MB hard disk. BUT I have (at this writing) been unable to get the 20MB drive to work properly, and have been unable to get the Infonet files un-archived (using a special version of GoBack ///). I hope to have better news for you next month!

Our plan is to get this BBS up and running, then download the files and make them available on the new TCS. In the meantime, we'll invite all the current users of ///s Company to join WAP and become part of our Apple /// family.

**WHICH SUPERDRIVE?**

Co-Chair Paul Campbell is going to bite the bullet and buy a 1.4 MB 3.5 SuperDrive for his ///. But he had some important questions to ask on the TCS first:

> ***1) Which interface card should I order, the one for the //e? 2) Will I be able to read the data on my stack of 800k disks with the SuperDrive? 3) What is the advantage of ordering the SuperDrive over another brand?***

As usual, Dave Jernigan came to the rescue:

> ***Paul, you *Must* order the Apple hdfh (Superdrive) Controller card for the II. AE uses different technology on their drive, so don't get it. This is one thing you definitely want from Apple. With the Apple Superdrive, Controller card and Consorti's driver, you are in business. You can also use it in a // and, if you had a gs with system 6.0.1, you could read messy-dooze disks and save them to a better environment.***

As we've discussed before, Bob could also have given our version of the Superdrive the ability to read and write Mac and MS-Dos had Apple been willing to share some information. They were not, unfortunately and thus, we cannot get as much usefulness out of the hardware as we should be able to.

**THREE EZ PIECES TIP**

Paul also offers this great tip when you're using 3EZPs or Appleworks:

> ***I was updating and removing duplicates from a huge database in Three Easy Pieces this week and made a discovery. When doing this kind of work, I usually make a few keypad macros to simplify things. For example, the enter key will be a down-arrow, the minus key an up-arrow, the decimal key will cause the current record to jump to the top of the screen, and the zero or some other key deletes the record that the cursor is on. The only problem is that once you delete a record in EZP, it's gone whether you wanted it gone or not. I've discovered a new way for a macro to delete records just like the normal "Open-Apple D, RETURN", with the exception being that you can GET BACK the last deleted record. The retrieval macro is almost as simple; if you hit the delete macro by accident (Oh NO!), just hit the retrieve macro and you are back on track.***
>
> ***The trick to this is using the "Move to clipboard" command instead of the delete command. The move command will remove the highlighted record from the database and place it on the clipboard where it can be retrieved if you make an error. The record will remain on the***

***clipboard until replaced by the next record that gets moved to the clipboard. The macro for moving records from the database instead of outright deleting them is "Open Apple-M,T,Return". The macro for retrieving the last record removed is "Open Apple-M,F". Ignore the commas; they only serve to separate the commands for clarity. This procedure is just as quick as the delete but gives an extra margin of safety. I've also found that databases can be edited much faster because I can move with the confidence that records can be gotten back as fast as they were dumped.***

**AND ANOTHER TIP…**

This time from CompuServe, where Paul Lynd asked about moving 3EZP files over to the Mac. Bob Consorti did the honors:

***You can do transfers of /// E-Z Pieces files to the Mac very easily, without printing each file to an ASCII file. All you need to do is get the files on a 3.5" disk. If you have access to a 3.5" disk drive, simply copy your files to it, or save your files from /// E-Z Pieces onto the 3.5" disk. Then on the Mac end of things run the Apple File Exchange program to transfer the files onto a Mac style disk. Then use the ClarisWorks program to directly import the "AppleWorks" files. Since /// E-Z Pieces and AppleWorks share the same file format, the ClarisWorks program can directly import /// E-Z Pieces files. If you don't have a 3.5" disk, find someone with an Apple //e or GS who does and copy the files from 5.25" disk to 3.5" disks that way.***

Bill Arnold (again on Compuserve added:

***You don't need to transfer the Apple // ProDOS AppleWorks files to a Macintosh disk. There is a system extension available from Apple that allows you to read and write to a ProDOS disk.***

**AND HOW ABOUT MOVING BUSINESS BASIC FILES TO MS DOS?**

This time it's Paul's turn to answer a question posed on the Internet:

***There is an emulation disk that will allow an IBM to read Apple ][ ProDOS files and will also recognize Apple /// SOS files since ProDOS is based on SOS. Your main problem will be running the programs once they are ported over to another platform unless that platform is the Apple IIGs. Applesoft, which runs on the ][ and //e does not contain features of Apple /// Business Basic, so many functions would be lost and the programs probably would not run.***

***MS-Basic and QuickBasic for the IBM would have similar problems. Other factors are the multi-level nested interrupts which are natural to the Apple /// and its built-in interrupt***

***manager. The ][ will handle simple interrupts, but not on the same scale or level of complexity as the /// which is completely interrupt driven. It gets worse for IBMs... MS-DOS has NO interrupt manager and interface cards must have the interrupts set manually by DIP switches.***

**DISK ///S INTO DISK ][S**

Closer to home, Ken DeVito asked on the TCS about using a Disk /// as an Apple // disk. A while back, ComputerLand sold a number of Disk ///s as Disk ][s by modifying the Disk /// analog card (replacing a chip and installing a jumper or two as I remember). There was a suggestion to simply replace the /// analog card and replace it with an analog card from a Disk ][ (but there have been some problems with this).

Dave Jernigan added:

***There is actually an adapter that will take the standard DD /// and plug it in to a //. We have one buried around here. Looks just like the plug that fits into the //. You plug it onto the DD /// cable and then into the //. Problem is, forget which side of the DD /// to plug it into and you FRY the DD /// controller card chip. Computerland used to sell them.***

The Titan cards can use the ///s disk drives without a hitch in emulation mode (as can the older //+ emulation - so we know it can work.) If anyone has had any experience with this, I'd love to hear about it.

**FINALLY**

Our first SIG meeting of the Fall will be next month - on Saturday, September 11th at 10am in the WAP office. Please make plans to come. Hopefully, we'll be able to demonstrate our new SOS upgrade!

*By David Ottalini*
*Apple /// SIG Co-Chairman*

**September 1993**

## THREE'S COMPANY - WAP

…Is up and running at (301) 593-0024! But as of this writing - in late July - we still were unable to have more than a 5 MB Profile hooked up – meaning we have not been able to offer all the files on the BBS – yet. Currently you'll find files from 1993, 92, 91 and some from 89. We're still working on that problem, but we are up and running – as required by Ed Gooding in return for his donation of the BBS and its files.

Three's Company – WAP will ultimately offer all the files of the original and more. I plan to include a complete listing of the WAP PD library, some additional PD software and other goodies. IF you have a modem – feel free to call and take a look. It's a free service of your WAP /// SIG!

We're already begun the process of getting these files into a form that can be used on our new TCS – so be on the lookout there as well for an expanding list of ///s Company files. They are saved to disk as Pascal DATA files – which luckily can be read by AppleWriter.

## SDF

Since this is the September column, I should be able to provide you with a better update on the status of our SOS upgrade project – actually we're calling it "BOS" for Bob's Operating System. But as of late July, the software was still being written and there's frankly no indication when we'll actually see it. But I've already started to line up some Beta testers to check it out prior to final release. Once that happens, we'll let you know when our new "BOS" will be available from the WAP office.

In the meantime, please keep those donations coming! Thanks to John Lomartire for his contribution, as well as John and Barbara Dudman. Your help is appreciated - and will ensure that we can continue to develop Apple /// software for you in the future.

## ASCIDIF UPDATE AND MORE

Thanks to the interest of ///er John Lomartire, Al Bloom has updated his ASCIDIF program to version 05.93. As John relates:

> ***The original version of ASCIDIF created DIF files from ASCII files but it did not differentiate between character strings and numbers. Both types were entered into the DIF format as strings and transferred into VISICALC as LABELS. Labels in Visicalc cannot be treated***

***mathematically, e.g. added, subtracted, etc., so in those cases where ASCII files contained numbers to be processed on the spreadsheet, this first version of ASCIDIF left much work to be done.***

***In this new version of ASCIDIF, version 05.93, Dr. Al Bloom has modified the original program so that character strings are placed in the DIF file as LABELS and number strings are placed in the DIF file as VALUES. When this DIF file is used to load VISICALC, the values CAN be treated mathematically with no further modification.***

The newly updated version of "ASCIDIF by Bloom" - disk **3UTL.25** in our Public Domain Library - is now available from the WAP office. By the way – it also includes John's "Rearrange" Basic program that reorganizes comma-delimited ASCII files for ASCIDIF. See the separate article on this.

In coming months we'll offer a set of church-related 3EZP Templates called Parishworks and some additional goodies gleaned from recent donations.

As always, your contributions to our PD library are welcome!

**DETROIT MUSINGS**

Our /// SIG Co-Chair Paul Campbell is always happy to keep us up to date on what's happening with our SARAs in Detroit - whether good or bad:

***We have a problem: The law firm with the Apple /// is considering changing to MS-DOS. A lot of legal documentation is showing up with italics and special fonts which EZP cannot do without a lot of contortions. The other reason is that on-line legal research is fast becoming the way to get every angle on a case, but the training software is IBM and Mac. I may be able to find a way around the legal search problem by having them train on an IBM, then using the /// for accessing the research system. But as far as EZP is concerned, it may be the end of the rope.***

***I have found only three valid reasons for anyone changing a computer system:***

1) ***The present computer system is un-reliable.***

2) ***The present computer system is too slow and hampers productivity.***

3) ***The present computer system is not able to perform desired functions.***

***A healthy SARA does fine in the first two areas, and the hardware can also meet the demands of the third, but the software sometimes falls short in that last area. Perhaps we should consider changing the (Software Development Fund) project priorities to address this problem before we start losing ///ers. The Comm. Manager should stay in its present position (next),***

***but maybe after that we can get Bob to do a few little "patches" to EZP.***

Maybe the answer is a version of Superfonts - since they work with the Apple // and AppleWorks, maybe there's a way to develop a similar Desktop Manager Module for the ///. Stay tuned.

**SARA TALES**

Paul also had an update about what's been happening at the Detroit Medical Center:

> ***Remember the computer device database on the Apple /// for the Detroit Medical Center which was pulled out of service because some people were threatened by it being on an Apple and not on an IBM? The DMC has not been able to keep up with the system changes or produce comparable documentation or even ANY documentation at all. When the databases were handled by our SARA, the accuracy was the best in the entire medical center with reports current as of the same day they were printed.***
>
> ***Ever since the task was pulled from the Apple /// and given to the IBM PC's, the device documentation has fallen to inaccurate at best, and non-existent at worst. The whole thing has become such a mess that the neither the cabling company, the programmers, nor the supervisors can figure out the cabling and physical layout of one of the systems.***
>
> ***Funny, it was so easy on the Apple, but nobody can duplicate the task on the IBM Pc's, as they have been trying for about two months now. Well to make a short story shorter, my boss spoke to me and asked if I would be willing to straighten the whole mess out, they will even pay me overtime to fix it! If***
>
> ***I do accept what has now become a major challenge, it will be conditional on me bringing a computer that is up to the task and a proper place to work. (Sounds like a job for..... SuperSAR!).***

**NEXT SIG MEETING**

Second Saturday in December - the 11th at 10am. See you then!

**FINALLY**

Thanks to former /// SIG member Jim Salerno for his kind contribution of manuals, programs and some hardware to the SIG. Jim was a long-time supporter of the /// and still helps out a senior citizens center where he donated a /// many years ago. As I've said all along, the best part about working with our SARA are the people associated with her. They are a dedicated lot who really care - and love to go out to lunch after SIG meetings. Now if I could just get the Jernigans to PAY for at least one of those lunches, that would be a treat! See you next month.

*By David Ottalini*
*Apple /// SIG Co-Chairman*

**October 1993**

## BOS IS BOSS

By the time you read this, we hope to have BOS – the newly upgraded operating system for the Apple /// - available for sale in the WAP Office. Please call for pricing. In August, our Co-Chair, Paul Campbell, gave us another update on what BOS includes:

Hello everyone, just in case you were wondering how the new OS for the Apple /// (BOS) was coming along, here is the current status of The Apple /// Software Development Project's first undertaking as of 8-17-93:

**Completed**

Main Operating System code
New program Selector
New program Selector menu editor

**Currently Under Construction**

Disk Cache
Utilities for setting disk cache etc.

**Next on the agenda**

Print Spooler
Background screen colors in 80 column mode (research pending) (example: white text on blue, violet, or magenta background)

Bob Consorti is all setup in his new location and is busily programming away. I have packed away my 24 pin parallel printer, Universal Parallel Interface Card (UPIC), and documentation for him to experiment with in getting the print spooler operating properly. Bob thought this would be a good idea to make sure there would be no problems with either the serial port when used for a printer, or the UPIC card. I'll keep everyone updated on further advances of the A3SDP. And once again, thanks for making this project possible. The Apple /// was at the point where we just sat around hoping that someone would guess what software was needed and write it, but because of your response, we the people now make the decision as to what software and enhancements become reality.

A few days later, on Compuserve, Bob added:

> ***BOS (Bob's Operating System) has a built-in program switcher, disk caching and spooling as well as the automatic decryption of AppleWriter, VisiCalc and Advanced VisiCals. Lastly it will***

***allow times past the year 1999. Just a few minutes ago I finished the caching utilities and I'm going to take tomorrow off and then look and see how to squeeze print spooling in.***

We intend that all funds from the sale of the disks (except taxes) will go right back into the Software Development Fund so we can continue to hire programmers to upgrade or write new software for us. We continue to take donations as well.

I can't thank everyone enough who made this project possible. Special, special thanks go to Grace Gallager who cared enough to make the first donation (and she doesn't even own an Apple /// - but she IS an Apple // family supporter). Special thanks also goes to the WAP BOD (especially Lorin Evans), who contributed $500.00 to the cause. And also to ATUNC – The Apple /// Users of Northern California and President Mary Berg, who contributed $500.00.

As for the future, I'm hopeful we can convince Bob Consorti to go ahead with an upgrade to his Communications Manager even though he's back in school. You know students always can use some additional money, so maybe we can get him to work on that as a side-project as time permits. Stay tuned.

**SEPTEMBER MEETING**

As I am writing this column about a week BEFORE the meeting took place, tis a bit hard to tell you how it went. BUT since we planned to demo the new BOS software (and I hope we did!!!) there was a lot of anticipation building. Paul was again planning to trek out from Detroit, and members from Columbus, Ohio and Norfolk, Virginia had also expressed interest in coming.

We had hoped Bob Cosorti would be able to come and demo BOS in person, but his classwork got in the way. Our loss, because I've seen Bob demo his software and there's no one who can do it better (well, except maybe Paul and the Macro Manager....)

In any case, we invite you to attend our next meeting, set for the second Saturday of September - again the 11th - at 10am. These quarterly meetings seem to be working well and the friendships we renew afterwards at lunch are always worthwhile and wonderful. Please plan to join us!

**INTERNET STUFF**

There isn't a specific topic area for the Apple /// on the Internet (Conference 5 on the TCS is our gateway) - yet at least. Recently, Dr. Al Bloom reported to us on the TCS that:

***Jeff Fritz of West Virginia University is considering starting an Apple /// LISTSERV group on the InterNet. I told him I recalled a certain amount of traffic on the subject in this forum. Do you think it'd be a good idea? Has someone already done it? Any other comments?***

The comments from me and others were positive on this score so maybe we'll have something to report to you soon on another Apple /// front!

Currently, we do have access to ///ers through the Apple // Internet forums available on Conference 5 of the TCS. Thanks to Seth Mize for keeping an eye on things and posting messages from the "comp.sys.apple2" board when they do come down the line.

Recently, Jon Kohn, Publisher of Shareware Solutions II, posted this message:

> ***Surprisingly, On Three still produces software for the Apple III. It's run by long time Apple III developer Bob Consorti...***
>
> ***In many ways, The Washington Apple Pi is the "keeper of the Apple III flame". They have a huge library of III software, and they are working with Bob Consorti on an update to the SystemSoftware.***
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> ***Oh....even better than a snail mail address...WAP and Three's Company have a BBS set up at 301-593-0024. If I were writing to WAP about the III, I'd address it to Dave Ottalini. Nah...I'd just call him at (301) xxx-xxxx.***
>
> ***Anyone still using a Sarasaur should definitely give Dave a call. (Hey, it's his term, not mine, so no flames, please)***

(Actually "SARAsaur" is what I call Apple ///ers - not the machine itself but who's complaining??)

Another message, in answer to one posted by me asked:

> ***… after we had gotten Paul Lutus to release Applewriter /// as freeware figuring out just how to pack and upload it. We finally decided to just pack it as a disk archive with ShrinkIt, and put in the file's description that it required an Apple II to unpack it, before you could actually use it on an Apple ///.***

Unfortunately, there is no Apple /// archiving standard at this point, although I would LOVE to get a version of SkrinkIt for the ///. The alternative, for which all ///ers could take advantage, is to use the older //+ version of ShrinkIt, which can run under emulation mode on all our SARA's. Those with ///+//e cards can run the "full-blown" version (be sure to have a 65c02 chip installed).

John Ruffatto and I have discussed issuing some PD disks archived this way, since we could get many more files on a disk. We would simply make ShrinkIt //+ available as part of our PD offerings. That's still under discussion at this point - we need to try it out to see if it’s worth the extra trouble for most folks.

A better bet may be to use some of the SDF funds to hire the author of ShrinkIt to write us our own version. We'll see.

**PAUL CAMPBELL LOVES THE NEW TCS**

Yes. I'm afraid it's true. Paul Campbell has another love in his life.... The new TCS. As SYSOP on the Apple /// Board (Conference 1) he recently messaged:

> ***Wow! I just did a file transmit test to check for lost characters, ended up with the inter-character delay set to 0 ms and lost nothing! On a 386 based network, I still have to slow things down, but not on the new TCS... great job everyone, you can take a bow!***

I add my thanks to the TCS crew for a job well done in keeping our Telecommunications System the best in the nation. I also want to thank them for their contribution of a Corvus drive and Apple /// card to the ///s Co. WAP board - so that we could make all 1500 files available to users.

**///s CO. WAP**

While I'm talking about it, the ///s CO. WAP board continues as a rich resource of information for the /// community. It's free to all: (301) 593-0024 at 7 bits, odd parity up to 2400 baud at this point. By the time you read this, I hope to have uploaded all the PD library offerings for you to look at, as well as other information on WAP and the /// SIG, including all my past articles for the year.

I'm still in a learning curve on this - finally figuring out that one problem we were having was due to turning ON the modem's "Auto Answer" function. ///s Co. Guru Emeritus Ed Gooding told me that Infonet polls the modem for calls - but that with Auto Answer ON, the modem answered before the program could react - resulting in many, many disconnections. That's fixed now and we are having more luck with logons.

Please try it if you haven't gotten a chance to. If you don't have a password, use "DEMO" when it asks for a user name - then leave me a message with your preferred name and password. You'll be all set by the next time you logon!

Steve Truax, by the way, has already discovered some of the treasures:

> ***The new ///s Co. BBS is wonderful - kudos to you for all the hard work you've put into it! After calling it up the other day and seeing the information available there, I only wished that I had started using it years sooner.***

**APPLE SUPPORTS THE APPLE ///?**

Paul Campbell actually got startled the other day - well, let him explain it (in a message to Jon Thomason on the TCS):

> ***Something happened a few minutes ago which made me delete my entire message and start over. While I was writing, I was also on hold on Apple's new Tech Support line (1-800-767-***

***2775), fully expecting to get hung up on. I had called just to try out the new line and see where they stood. After being on hold for a few minutes a gentleman by the name of Scott answered and responded to my Apple /// question in full seriousness, and said that yes, they now support the Apple ///. I was so shocked that I forgot what I was going to say. I'll post again when I recover from this dramatic change (clients of mine have been laughed at in the past, right on the phone). This calls for an entire re-think on my attitude towards Apple Computer. Excuse me; I need to go sit down now.....***

**FINALLY**

Happy Halloween, SARAsaurs! We'll see you next month on the Gobbler Watch!!

**APPLE /// RESOURCES**

Apple Technical Support
(800) 767-2775

Bob Consorti
xxxxxx
Brookline, MA. 02148
(617) xxx-xxxx

On Three c/o Joe Consorti
1174 Hickory Ave.
Tehachapi, CA. 93561
(805) 822-8580

Sun Remarketing
(800) 821-3221

Tom Linders
(408) xxx-xxxx

*By David Ottalini*
*Apple /// SIG Co-Chairman*

**November 1993**

## BOS IS BOSS

As I write this, our new operating system, "BOS" (for Bob's Operating System) is in beta test. Given the time delay in getting this to print in the Journal, it may well be available from the WAP office. Please check for availability and pricing.

BOS continues to grow and evolve even as we speak - since the beta testers (who include yours truly and Co-Chair Paul Campbell) add their two-cents worth. Current features include:

- Automatic installation without destruction of current files.
- Integrated program selector with four separate menu screens.
- Each Menu Screen may be individually named.
- Program selector compatible with Selector pathnames (but changeable for those with Catalyst)
- Works with Desktop Manager and all modules
- Disk Caching in three different modes
- Print Spooler
- Screen Blanker at Menu level (not from within programs)
- Password protection at boot up and by program
- Automatic decrpytion of AppleWriter 2.0 and earlier, Visicalc and Advanced Visicalc
- Allow times past the year 1999
- Selection of a program to run automatically at boot-up
- User may choose up to ten "favorite" programs that can be run with only two key presses from the Menu
- BOS Utilities program that allows the user to edit the BOS menus, set up disk caching, password protection, print spooling and screen blanking

As we found from our demonstration and from my use so far, the program is very fast. You will, in fact, not believe how fast it is when you decide to quit a program and return to the menu. It is literally the blink of an eye fast. Disk Caching also speeds up program run times, and Bob has added a special feature for non-Pascal based programs that also helps to speed things up - all you do is add a "0" in front of the program pathname such as:

```
0.Profile/Programs/Applewriter/SOS.Interp
```

There have already been some bug fixes. My first version refused to return me to the menu after automatically booting up Applewriter. it would quit right back to the same program over and over. That

was an easy fix, though.

And thanks to a suggestion from Paul, Bob has also added the ability to run Basic versions of screen blankers as well as small interpreter programs. The screen blankers are neat and user-controllable - you may select just one to run or all available in random order at a time set by you. Of course, you CAN turn it off also. By the way, because of this, the CONTROL+5 (from the keypad does not work at the menu level - but it does work within programs.

I've asked Paul to write up a complete review for you of this wonderful new - and evolving product so watch for it in an upcoming Journal!

As you may remember, we financed this project by essentially buying copies of the program up front by Bob. Thus, once he sets a price, we'll be able to sell that number of copies to anyone interested. As I have mentioned before, we intend that all funds from the sale of those disks (except taxes) will go right back into the Software Development Fund so we can continue to hire programmers to upgrade or write new software for us. Pricing for our disks had not been set as I write this, so check the WAP office for availability and cost.

We do continue to take SDF donations as well. Thanks to Burr Patterson, Ed Becker, Tad Leczszcar and John and Barbara Dudman for their recent donations.

I can't thank everyone enough who have made this project possible. Special, special thanks go to Grace Gallager who cared enough to make the first donation (and she doesn't even own an Apple /// - but she IS an Apple // family supporter). Special thanks also goes to the WAP BOD (especially Lorin Evans), who contributed $500.00 to the cause. And also to ATUNC – The Apple /// Users of Northern California and President Mary Berg, who contributed $500.00.

As for the future, I've already talked with Bob Consorti about a couple of additional projects - including the development of our own disk/file achiving utility like Shrinkit (see below) and an upgrade to the Communications Manager. Depending on the time constraints of being a student, Bob is interested in working with us, so stay tuned!

**SEPTEMBER MEETING**

Our September meeting was wonderful! As I mentioned above, our major event was the first official demonstration of BOS. We had hoped Bob would be able to come down to demo it personally, but the start of school proved a major impediment. We missed him, but everyone really enjoyed seeing what BOS could do.

Not only did Paul Campbell and Aneita (with kids!) drive in from Detroit for this meeting, but also Burr Patterson from Norfolk and Bob Sambolin came via Columbus. The regular local cast and crew were there as well - Joan and Dave Jernigan, Seth Mize and Tim Bouquet.

Burr also tried to help us with our Corvus troubles but interface cards seemed to remain a problem. We've sent him a couple more in Norfolk so he could work with them with his system.

Afterwards, many of us had a wonderful lunch (Southwestern style this time) and were joined by WAP President Lorin Evans, who added his wit and charm to the occasion.

During lunch, we all agreed to one last piece of business - to donate funds so that Bob Consorti could become not only a WAP member, but also a TCS member. Funds were quickly gathered and I sent a check the very next day.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 11 unless the WAP Garage Sale happens - in which case it will be rescheduled - probably to the prior Saturday (the 4th) but please watch the TCS or call the WAP office for an official date. Hopefully, we'll be able to demo the final 1.0 version of BOS for you!

**INTERNET STUFF**

There isn't a specific topic area for the Apple /// on the Internet (Conference 5 on the TCS is our gateway) - yet at least. Recently, Dr. Al Bloom reported to us on the TCS that:

> ***Jeff Fritz of West Virginia University is considering starting an Apple /// LISTSERV group on the InterNet. I told him I recalled a certain amount of traffic on the subject in this forum. Do you think it'd be a good idea? Has someone already done it? Any other comments?***

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John Ruffatto and I have discussed issuing some PD disks archived this way, since we could get many more files on a disk. We would simply make ShrinkIt //+ available as part of our PD offerings. That's still under discussion at this point - we need to try it out to see if it's worth the extra trouble for most folks.

But as I mentioned above, I've already discussed with Bob Consorti the possibility of writing our own program, perhaps with information from Andy Nicholas, the author of ShrinkIt. I've written Andy and hopefuly, he'll be willing to work with us on this.

**PAUL CAMPBELL LOVES THE NEW TCS**

Yes. I'm afraid it's true. Paul Campbell has another love in his life.... The new TCS. As SYSOP on the Apple /// Board (Conference 1) he recently messaged:

> ***Wow! I just did a file transmit test to check for lost characters, ended up with the inter-character delay set to 0 ms and lost nothing! On a 386 based network, I still have to slow things down, but not on the new TCS... great job everyone, you can take a bow!***

I add my thanks to the TCS crew for a job well done in keeping our Telecommunications System the best in the nation. We plan to upload all the ///s Co. files to the TCS overtime, so users may have that resource available to them!

**///s CO. WAP**

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At this point, I have uploaded my past Trail columns for the last two years (or more!). In fact, that's a great place to look for my latest column even before it's published in the Journal.

I also hope to have uploaded all the PD library offerings for you to look at, as well as other information

on WAP and the /// SIG - but until we can get a larger hard drive up and operating, things are a bit tight right now.

I'm still in a learning curve on this - finally figuring out that one problem we were having was due to turning ON the modem's "Auto Answer" function. ///s Co. Guru Emeritus Ed Gooding told me that Infonet polls the modem for calls - but that with Auto Answer ON, the modem answered before the program could react - resulting in many, many disconnections. That's fixed now and we are having more luck with logons.

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> ***The new ///s Co. BBS is wonderful - kudos to you for all the hard work you've put into it! After calling it up the other day and seeing the information available there, I only wished that I had started using it years sooner.***

Bob Sambolin and Martin Davidson are also regular callers - so don't be shy!

We are also working on some upgrades to the program – primarily improved uploading and downloading ability by using Xmodem protocol and speeding things up. I've found someone willing to take on the project – so we'll see how it goes!

**APPLE SUPPORTS THE APPLE ///?**

Paul Campbell actually got startled the other day - well, let him explain it (in a message to Jon Thomason on the TCS):

> ***Something happened a few minutes ago which made me delete my entire message and start over. While I was writing, I was also on hold on Apple's new Tech Support line ((800) 767-2775), fully expecting to get hung up on. I had called just to try out the new line and see where they stood. After being on hold for a few minutes a gentleman by the name of Scott answered and responded to my Apple /// question in full seriousness, and said that yes, they now support the Apple ///. I was so shocked that I forgot what I was going to say. I'll post again when I recover from this dramatic change (clients of mine have been laughed at in the past, right on the phone). This calls for an entire re-think on my attitude towards Apple Computer. Excuse me, I need to go sit down now.....***

**CONSORTI SALE**

Bob has a TON of Apple //, /// and Mac software (and some /// hardware) for sale. Call or write him for

a complete list.

**FINALLY**

Happy Thanksgiving SARAsaurs!  We'll see you next month on the Santa Watch!!

**APPLE /// RESOURCES**

Apple User Group Connection
(800) 538-9696, ext. 500

Apple User Assistance
(800) 767-2775

Bob Consorti
xxxxxx
Brookline, MA. 02148
(617) xxx-xxxx

On Three c/o Joe Consorti
1174 Hickory Ave.
Tehachapi, CA. 93561
(805) 822-8580

W.M. Enterprises
(301) 268-4242

Sun Remarketing
(800) 821-3221

Tom Linders
(408) 741-1001

*By David Ottalini*
*Apple /// SIG Co-Chairman*

**December 1993**

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Once again, it's time to sum up our year together as members of a VERY select group - the Apple /// community. All I have to say is - what a year it's been!

Our most important project in 1993 was - of course - the development of a fund to spur new software (and hardware) projects for our SARA. It took some time, but our first effort has been a rousing success. Working with On Three's Bob Consorti, we have underwritten - and Bob has produced "BOS3" (Bob's Operating System) - the first new upgrade to our Apple /// OS in some 10 years.

Those of you who contributed - individually as well as WAP and ATUNC - have helped to ensure that we will continue to get useful service from our ///s through the end of the century (and beyond!). Hopefully, we'll be able to build on this success with future projects.

## HONOR ROLL

Here's our list of individuals who have contributed to the SDF so far this year (in no particular order):

**Grace Gallagher, Paul Campbell, Aneita Campbell, Eric Sheard, Dave and Joan Jernigan, Ivan Munson, David Rutenberg, Dave Ottalini, Anonymous, John Lomartire, John and Barbara Dudman, Burr Patterson Jr., Ed Becker, George Blosser, Robert Tatom, and Steve Truax.**

IF I missed anyone - I apologize - we'll list you next month! Many, many thanks also to the WAP BOD and to Tom Linders and Mary Berg of ATUNC.

It's still not too late to donate to the fund, by the way. We have a number of other projects in mind, and the more money we have in hand, the more we'll be able to accomplish. This is a real situation where you can and do make the difference! Donations should be made out to WAP with a note that it goes to the Apple /// SDF.

## THAT SAID...

I am proud to announce that the 1.0 version of BOS is now available and ready for sale!!! Thanks to the arrangement we made with Bob Consorti, WAP purchased 30 copies of the program from him in advance - that is, we sent him $1500.00 and he has now decided to charge $50.00 (OK - $49.95) per copy (yes - I rounded it off for ease of computing!).

Those 30 copies are now available for sale from the WAP office. As our way of saying thank you - we will offer the program at a 10% off discount to all WAP and ATUNC members (and to any non-members who donated funds to the SDF) during December only. Proof of membership (or of a donation) must be presented at time of purchase.

All copies still remaining as of January 1, 1994 will be sold for $49.95 each plus tax (and shipping/handling if necessary). ALL funds from BOS sales (save taxes of course) will go right back into the SDF fund so that we may continue with new projects.

And what if we sell out? You'll still be able to purchase BOS through Bob Consorti's parents in California - their address is:

On Three c/o Joe Consorti
1174 Hickory Ave.
Tehachapi, CA. 93561

**SIG MEETING**

We've decided to combine our final SIG meeting of the year with the December 11th Garage Sale - that way all our members from out of town can take advantage of the great sales, and still hob nob with fellow SARAsaurs. We WON'T have a "formal" meeting this time around - but will have a table or two for ///ers to sell their goodies. We're also hoping to be able to present a demo of BOS as part of the seminars that the club plans to present.

The Garage Sale this year will be held from 9am to 2pm at the Allentown Plaza Shopping Mall, in Camp Springs, Maryland. See the map elsewhere in this Journal for information and directions.

Our first meeting of 1993, by the way will be back at the WAP Office - on Saturday, March 12th. As always, things get underway at 10am and we'll head for lunch sometime in the noon hour. Join us!

**OH MIGHTY SARA!**

Our good friend Bob Sambolin, of Columbus Ohio remains a SARA Evangelist. He offered these thoughts recently on the ///s Company - WAP BBS ((301) 593-0024):

> ***Oh mighty SARA. The people who created you did not know the potential you had! The people that used you and changed when a new machine came along didn't know your capabilities. But those of us using you today know! And we're willing to go further - to stay with you for a long time.***

Our friend Paul Campbell has written about "The Irony of Things."

> ***I just received one of my many electronics magazines. Inside I saw an offer aimed at IBM or compatible users for a "VGA to TV Package." It's a converter – that will allow the user to***

***display computer generated text, graphics, or games on a regular TV set. It can also be connected to a VCR to record the computer's output. The price? $400.00!***

***Where have I seen this before? OH! Now I remember. It's in the manuals for my 10 year old Apple ///. And all it costs for our SARA to hook into a VCR (and thus into the TV) is an inexpensive cable. The Irony Of things!***

**SYSTEM UTILITIES TIP**

You may well know about the up-arrow feature of System Utilities – which will help you put together the pathname of a file. But I learned a new trick the other day - thanks to an old "/// Dimension's" Magazine:

***Let's assume we have worked our way thought the UTILITY disk to the point where we need to enter the pathname. Since we know it is on our Profile, we enter [.Profile] and press the "up arrow" key. The listing of the highest level of subdirectories will be displayed. Among them, you will find "machinery".***

***Since this is probably the heading we want, use the "right-arrow" key to select it (in the window). NOW COMES THE DIFFERENCE. Rather than pressing the <RETURN> key we press the <ENTER> key. If you look at the pathname you will see that it has changed to [.Profile/Machinery]. By pressing the "up-arrow" key you will now display a listing of the next level.***

***After hi-lighting the last file name with the "right-arrow" key, press <RETURN> instead of <ENTER> to indicate that this is the full pathname. You have now found and selected the pathname all in one operation!***

**APPLE /// FOREVER**

Back in May of 1985, ATUNC's Wayne Schotten wrote a column called "Apple /// Forever" in which he proposed ways to make sure we can continue to use our SARAs for a long time to come. He wrote at the time:

**I have used (the ///) continuously and profitably in my business from the day I first turned it on. Every hour I've spent in learning to operate it, in learning to use applications software, and in learning to write my own programs, has been returned to me many, many times over.**

**Switching to any other machine seems surely a retrogressive move. The /// is a serious, no nonsense computer system, a powerful tool for building mental muscle. The potential for the /// has barely been tapped, and may be the perfect choice for someone who wants to be**

**creative with computing.**

Schotten made these suggestions for preserving the ///:

1) **Gather and preserve whatever documentation can be had for hardware and software from both Apple and outside vendors. (NOTE: Apple has every manual on microfilm and, for a cost, may be able to print you a copy.)**

2) **Gather and preserve spare parts, even defective equipment may someday prove valuable if repaired.**

3) **Identify and garner cooperation from those who know the inner workings of the ///.**

4) **Copy and safeguard both floppies and manuals.**

And he made these suggestions about supporting the ///:

1) **Maintain good contact with Apple, after all we are business users and still potential customers. (NOTE - as mentioned last month, Apple seems to be making an attempt to provide Apple /// support again).**

2) **Encourage by communication and purchases from peripheral manufacturers such as On /// and so on.**

3) **Buy Apple stock. Even one share gets you into the stockholders' meetings. What a noise we could make en masse!**

4) **Those of us so inclined should actively develop our own software. I've been enjoying success in writing and using my own programs. I've also been converting some Apple ][ programs and intend to build a library of public domain software. I'm more than willing to share.**

I'm not sure if Wayne still owns a /// - but IF he could see what we've done with our SDF and the development of BOS for the /// - I'm sure he'd be proud!

**WHO ONCE OWNED OR USED...**

An Apple ///? How about - Herbie Hancock (to compose music), Richard Hart (a network journalist), George C. Scott (in a movie), Burlington Industries, the Oakland Coliseum. Even "The Greatest American Hero" on TV once used one to plot his triumphs. And you thought the only famous users were Dave and Joan Jernigan....

**FINALLY**

I want to wish you all the merriest of holidays - and happiest of New Year's. This SIG would really not be here without your continued support in any number of ways. I hope you'll make a New Year's Resolution to attend at least one of our meetings, write an article or just call and touch bases this next year. Paul and I care about your thoughts and comments – especially when they deal with where you'd like to see us take SARA in 1994.

**APPLE /// RESOURCES**

Bob Consorti
(617) xxx-xxxx

On Three c/o Joe Consorti
(805) 822-8580

Sun Remarketing
(800) 821-3221

Tom Linders
(408) xxx-xxxx

W.M. Enterprizes
(301) 268-4242

Apple II Software Newsletter
(800) 776-2333

Apple User Group Connection
(800) 538-9696, ext. 500

Apple User Assistance
(800) 767-2775

Our latest offering is "Ticktock", Disk **3REP-10**:

"TICKTOCK" is a small DOS 3.3 -based utility that will help you properly set your Apple /// clock. If you have a clock chip installed, it will simply tell you whether it is going too fast - or too slow. If you have a problem, you can easily fix it yourself.

**WHAT YOU'LL SEE**

To use TICKTOCK, simply insert the disk and reboot your system. The program is DOS-based and includes the software on disk to turn on the Apple // emulation mode.

Once booted, at the top of the screen, you'll see:

```
APPLE /// CLOCK CALIBRATION TEST
```

Just below it will be:

```
1 Second Test                (a number)
```

You'll hear a "clock" ticking in the background throughout.

Actually that's it. The "1 Second Test" will give you a number that is either + or -.; presumably your clock is either too fast or too slow based on that number, and should be adjusted accordingly.

**HOW TO ADJUST YOUR CLOCK**

The clock adjustment "pot" is located on the motherboard just next to the clock chip. You can get at it by taking off the cover of your keyboard and unscrewing the four screws holding the keyboard to the chassis. Lift it up and away from you, resting against the Apple /// case (still connected to the motherboard with the ribbon cable.) The pot is approximately under the "L" key and can be adjusted with a small (thin) flat-head screwdriver.

I tried this on my ///+ and started with a 1 Second Test of +75. Adjusting the pot, I was able to get it down to +21. I would have to say the best you can do is get it as close to "0" as you can.

**THE ALTERNATIVE WAY IS TO:**

Use Business Basic to run this program:

```
10 VPOS=20:HPOS=10:Print TIME$;:GOTO 10
```

This will give you a continuous time print-out on screen, allowing you to adjust the clock potentiometer against a time source of your choosing. (Again - you'll have to have a clock chip installed and used System Utilities, Desktop Manager, Powerkeys or a Basic or Pascal program to set the proper time to start with.)

In Washington DC, you can call the Naval Observatory for the atomic clock. That number is (202) 653-1800.

The short program above is on this disk side for your convenience and can be run from Menu.Maker (you'll have to hit <CONTROL>+ "C" to end and then at the ")" prompt type "Run Menu.Maker" to return to MM.

**ENDING**

To stop the program, press the <RESET> and <ESCAPE> keys at the same time. You'll be returned to the familiar "`INSERT DISK AND REBOOT`" message.

**MORE CLOCK INFORMATION**

We've included a Three EZ Pieces data base on this disk listing all our PD disks with Apple /// clock-related files (CLOCK.PD). Another Data Base (CLOCK.ARTICLES) lists articles you might be interested in from past years.

**FINALLY**

Let the /// SIG know if you have any success with TICKTOCK and if you have any suggestions for using it. A ThreeWorks Database search turned up no articles or even mention of this program. Nor was there a mention even in the Apple /// Technical Reference Manual. TICKTOCK was found in the PD library of our old friend Joe Dobrowolski of Apple Users Group International fame.

## *WAP /// SIG PD LIBRARY (March 1993)*

*By David Ottalini*

Our PD sofware development continues - though at a slower pace than I would like. I can report that progress is being made on my project to update our current PD offerings while preparing a disk containing all the "Read Me" files from those disks. But it is slow going, I'm afraid.

In the meantime, I have been able to finish disk **3INF-38**, which is the second of 1992's "Best of Ottalini" disks. There was so much material available this past year, that I filled another 5.25" disk for you. On Side One you'll find all the articles about our PD offerings. On side two are articles from our good friends Paul Campbell, Tom Linders and John Lomartire. There's the Apple /// graphic Rick Gast pulled from one of the DOS 3.3 Apple /// Diagnostics disk. Rounding things out: my two articles comparing prices of various Apple family computers.

**3INF-29** should also be available by the time you read this. It was compiled by Apple // Librarian John Ruffatto and includes in text-file form the names and addresses of all WAP members who have agreed to make that information available. It includes many but not all of those who make up the /// SIG as well.

As for the future: be on the lookout for disk **3WDP-07**, "Write On ///" and **3WDP-08**, Stemwriter ///. They are both formerly commercial programs now in the public domain since their developers have long since gone out of business. There are more Al Bloom disks waiting in the wings, and I hope to update the TCS disk with the latest information downloaded from that wonderful resource.

As always, I am looking for any and all contributions for additional disks. Our Canadian friend C.M. Davidson recently sent some interesting programs. And I've gotten some help on my request for recipes to include on another disk but could always use more. So please take a couple minutes to see if you don't have something you'd like to share!

*By David Ottalini*
*WAP /// SIG Co-Chairman*

We offer two more disks this month for your enjoyment and edification:

**3UTL-48**: **Jeppson Codefile Utility**.

This is a Business Basic program that will allow you to change the filetypes of your Apple /// files. All the necessary invokables and documentation are available on disk for you. Dr. Jeppson was an early supporter of the /// and wrote many of the most interesting programs we have. He was a mainstay in the old Softalk Magazine. I'll bet he's a pretty good dentist too...

Side One includes a tutorial in Basic you can run using Menu.Maker. It will allow you to print out some of the material. Side two includes the actual program (in Basic) and necessary Invokables. The programs have been adapted to run with Menu.Maker.

The filetypes available using this program include:

| File Type/# | | Description |
|---|---|---|
| $00 | 0 | Typless File |
| $01 | 1 | Bad Block File |
| $03 | 2 | Pascal Code File |
| $03 | 3 | Pascal Text File |
| $04 | 4 | ASCII Text File |
| $05 | 5 | Pascal Data File |
| $06 | 6 | General Binary File |
| $07 | 7 | Font File |
| $08 | 8 | Graphics Screen File |
| $09 | 9 | Business Basic Program File |
| $0A | 10 | Business Basic Data File |
| $0B | 11 | Word Processor File |
| $0C | 12 | SOS System File |
| $0D-$0E | 13-14 | SOS Reserved |
| $0F | 15 | Directory File |

These are the ones this particular program will not only read - but allow you to change.

But there are additional types - which now include those taken by Apple and various other Apple II developers:

| | |
|---|---|
| $15 | Screen Library File |
| $10 | RPS Data File |
| $11 | RPS Index File |
| $12 | AppleFile Discard File |

```
$13          AppleFile Model File
$14          AppleFile Report Format File
$16-$18      SOS Reserved
$19          AW/3EZP Data Base File
$1A          AW/3EZP Word Processor File
$1B          AW/3EZP Spreadsheet File
$1C-$1F      Reserved
$20          Global File (Desktop Manager)
$25          Desktop Manager
$26          Desktop Manager Option
$27          Note Pad File (Desktop Manager)
$28          Subload File (Desktop Manager)
$29-$EE      Reserved
$AB          GS Basic File
$AD          GS Basic Data File
$EF          Pascal Area
$F0          ProDos Added Comment File
$F1-$F8      ProDos User Defined Files 1-4
$F9          ProDos Reserved
$FA          Integer Basic Program File
$FB          Integer Basic Variables File
$FC          Applesoft Program File
$FD          Applesoft Variable File
$FE          Relocatable Code File (EDASM)
$FF          ProDos System File
```

On Three's Communications Manager includes a utility that will allow you to change any filetype into any other.

Note, however, that you need to be VERY careful when changing file types, since you can really make mash out of a file in moving it from one type to another (For example - you can't change a Basic file to ASCII and expect Applewriter to read it.) Make a copy and do the conversion on it just to be safe. And as noted above, since the demise of the ///, Apple II developers have, on occasion, taken a /// filetype as their own, which could cause some problems if you're working with Apple II files.

**3REP-11: Apple ///+ Diagnostics Disk/512K Memory Test**.

Two programs on this disk will help you determine the health of your ///+ and (if equipped) its 512K memory board. Both are written in Applesoft Basic under the old DOS 3.3 and are self-booting. The Apple ///+ Diagnostics is similar to, but a tad different from the Apple /// version in that the tests have been moved around a bit and it will check the health of your clock chip. The RAM test seems to be a bit better at identifying what chips may, in fact, be bad. Other than that, its the same as its earlier version. You could, in fact, run this test on a /// - just don't bother with the clock chip test.

The 512K memory test is the one supplied by On Three and is an expanded version of the older Apple /// memory test found on the Confidence disk (**3REP-01**). It will, in fact, work on any Apple /// - it simply checks to see what memory is available, forgets what isn't and proceeds with the test.

When checking your ///'s memory, be sure to do it both from a cold boot and after it’s warmed up a bit.

I've found that while problems occur while cold, they can go away after things have warmed up a bit. And don't be afraid to run this test overnight - problems can turn up over time that may not with just a few minutes of chip testing.

Thanks to /// SIGer Rick Gast for contributing the ///+ Diagnostics disk.

## *WAP /// SIG PD LIBRARY (May 1993)*

*By Dave Ottalini*

Something new and something old for you this time around SARAsaurs. Disks **3UTL-43, 44 and 45** bring to an end our longstanding effort to bring you all of Dr. Al Bloom's wonderful disks into our PD. Let's take a look:

**3ULT-43** is called **PLUTIL by Bloom**. As he describes it:

> ***PASCAL is a powerful programming language. Its ability to have library units that extend the language is an example of that power. Apple Computer, Inc. offered one such set of extensions under the name "Apple /// Pascal Utility Library." Those having that product may agree that it is at once a bit more and a bit less than is needed for good software engineering in the Apple /// PASCAL environment. This disk presents an additional PASCAL utility library, one that extends PASCAL even more usefully.***

Side one has the manual-on-disk and source code. Side two has the Pascal extensions for you in a bootable format so you can see what is available.

**3UTL-44** is called **DIFPRINT by Bloom**. DIFPRINT prints the entire breadth of a spread sheet on a single page, including column titles. DIFPRINT works with any spread sheet program that can create a standard DIF (Data Interchange Format) file, including "VISICALC", "3EZ PIECES" and "Lotus 1-2-3."

Again, side one has the manual and source code. Side two the actual program.

Finally, **3UTL-45** is called **DIFUTIL by Bloom**. DIFUTIL allows you to handle many of the minor incompatibilities between different implementations of the DIF standard. It does not handle all incompatibilities or problems.

Side one has your manual and source code. Side two the DIFUTIL program.

I again want to say thank you to Dr. Bloom for his many, many contributions to the /// community over the years. He continues that support even now (despite adding other Apple products to his household) and we appreciate that!

On another front, I'd like to announce that we have pulled the two catalog disks from our INFORMATION category and given them their own home. This provides some benefits, since we now have room to grow while allowing you to know quickly where to look for the disks. **3CAT-01 through 02** will be our ASCII version of the disk catalog. **3CAT-03** is open for expansion of the ASCII disks. **3CAT-04 and 05** currently hold our 3EZ Pieces/AppleWorks version of the catalog.

Basically, we've split out the categories so they have room to grow. You will have to buy two disks instead of one disk, however to get the entire catalog. But considering the additional benefits, the extra

$2.00 is well worth the price!

Finally, we continue our efforts to update the entire disk library and create a separate disk with all the "read-me" files. The snowdisks are deep, however, so look for the upgrades over the next few months. As of this writing, I've finished through the **Information** category with **Miscellaneous** on the horizon. Time to call out the sled dogs for a little more disk mushing. That John Ruffatto is a tough taskmaster...

*BY DAVE OTTALINI*
*WAP /// SIG CO-CHAIRMAN*

**NEW DISKS**

This month we offer a host of new disks in our UTILITIES category. The first three are for those of you who own either the Titan ///+// or //e card(s). Basically, they are all the boot and other disks that came with the original cards. If you ever worried about losing a Titan boot disk, now you have to go no further than your own PD library to get backups.

**3UTL-49** is the **boot disk for the Titan ///+// card**. Side One includes :

| | |
|---|---|
| SOS.RAM.DISK | RAM disk driver for use in Native Mode |
| TITAN.DB | 3EZPs data base of where to get information about the Titan Cards. |
| TITAN.PD | Information in our PD library about the Titan cards. |
| READ.ME.FIRST | Some information about this disk. |

And Side Two has the actual boot disk. It is copyable but not listable by SOS.

**3UTL-50** is **another version of the ///+// boot disk**. It has all the bells and whistles of 3UTL-49 but also includes a built-in RAM Disk in emulation mode. See the Read.Me.First file on Side Two for instructions on how to use the Ram Disk in Emulation Mode properly.

**3UTL-51** holds the **Titan ///+//e Emulation boot disk**. Side one includes the same Data Bases you'll find on disk **3UTL-49**, while Side Two has the actual boot disk. It is copyable under SOS and interestingly, while the boot disk is really a DOS 3.3 program, you can list this disk and find it includes a RAMDISK driver for use in native mode.

Finally, **3UTL-51** is a program called **SOSTRAN**. Formerly sold by Sun Remarketing, this is a neat little Pascal-based program that will allow you to transfer files from DOS 3.3 format to SOS and back. It will also make some conversions so that, for example, a DOS 3.3 Binary graphic file can be loaded as a SOS Fotofile (in case you don't own On Three's Graphics Manager program). Information about SOSTRAN is on Side One while the program itself is on Side Two.

*By Robert Sambolin*

The first piece of hardware I wanted to get after acquiring my /// was a printer. After some research into what models were compatable with the ///, I decided to buy a parallel printer. I was using the RS232 serial port at the time with a modem.

Parallel printers must be hooked into the /// using a UPIC card in one of the Apple ///'s internal slots. UPIC stands for "Universal Parallel Interface Card." Luckily, I was able to get my UPIC through a friend who had a spare. But it didn't come with a cable. Obstacle number one!

It wasn't easy, but after some additional research, I was able to find a 20 pin connector for the card courtesy of a computer tech at a computer store - complete with ribbon cable and Centronics connector (which plugs into the printer.) Another was found at a used computer store.

With that problem taken care of, my next step was to purchase the printer. After looking at several used and new Apple printers (and having a strict budget), I decided they were too expensive. So I set out to buy a nine pin dot matrix printer that was more within my range.

Time for more research - and after looking at several models, I found the Panasonic 1180i. I found it to be one of the best both in price and features. The Panasonic is an Epson compatible and can emulate IBM instructions as well. It also has a number of features for those who like to tinker around.

As luck would have it, several days after obtaining the Panasonic, a co-worker gave me another parallel printer - this time a nine pin Star Micronics Gemini Ten. Now with two printers, it became a challenge for me to find a way to hook them both up to my SARA. I did call my good friends Rick Gast and Dave Ottalini to ask for some details in making the right cable connections.

With their help, and some additional research, here's what I found:

Thanks to the manual, I was able to make a list of the pinouts of the UPIC card and the Panasonic. The list is as follows:

```
                        Pins on UPIC =  Pins on 1180i
  Sinal Ground          # 1---------------33
  Acknowledge(In)       # 2---------------10
  Data In bit 0         # 3 Not used, Don't Know what they
  Data In bit 1         # 4 are used for. Manual for UPIC
  Data In bit 2         # 5 dosn't specify.
  Printer In Check(In)  # 6---------------32
  Printer Ribbon Out(In)# 7                N/A
  Strobe Output(Out)    # 8---------------1
  Out of Paper (In)     # 9---------------12
  Data Out  bit 0       #10---------------2
            bit 1       #11---------------3
```

```
          bit 2       #12---------------4
          bit 3       #13---------------5
          bit 4       #14---------------6
          bit 5       #15---------------7
          bit 6       #16---------------8
          bit 7       #17---------------9
Printer ON Line (In)  #18---------------11 ?
Printer Power On(In)  #19---------------13 ?
Signal Ground         #20---------------16
```

Pins 3,4,5 are a mystery, the manual does not explain what they are used for. The only mention is that they are inputs. On pins 18 and 19 I connected the pins of the printer I thought where appropriate.

After all the connections where done and with the printer off, I plugged in the cable to the UPIC card. I then booted my System Utilities program and made sure the 3EZ Pieces SOS.DRIVER file had the appropriate Parallel driver. Once finished, I started up 3EZ Pieces. I went to "Other Activities" at the main menu and setup the Panasonic as one of the existing Epson printers. Voila! It worked like a charm.

It was a little more challenging for the Star printer, since I didn't have any manuals or literature to help. But after calling 800 information, I found out that Star did have a tech line and was able to get the pinout configuration. It just happened to be the same as the Panasonic! I also got the dipswitch settings.

With that, I built the second cable exactly as the first and it worked just fine. Here are the steps to connect any printer to your computer:

1) **Find out what is needed to connect a printer to your computer and any options that might be required or necessary.**

2) **Decide if your printer will be serial or parallel.**

3) **If you are going to use a serial printer, and still use the RS232 port for modem, look for an A-B switch box from Radio Shack, mail order or at the WAP Garage Sale.**

4) **If you are going to use a parallel printer, make sure you have a parallel port, or for the ///, a UPIC card and cable (available from Sun Remarketing (800) 821-3221, or try Tom Linders at (408)xxx-xxxx).**

5) **If you decide to make your own cable, compare the data of the parallel port on the computer and the port on the printer. Then proceed to make the cable.**

6) **If you need information for any piece of equipment you have try calling dealers, clubs (like WAP), 1-800 information, computer repair shops, the local library or the person you bought the equipment from.**

I've really enjoyed working with my SARA - a source of continuing happiness and new knowledge. The /// may well be an orphan and obsolete to some. But to those who use her, SARA is still a machine that takes us "out of this world."

## *EXTRAS: ProFile Low Level Formats*

*by Tom Linders*

/// SIG member John Lomartire recently asked about how to do a low level format of a Profile five or ten megabyte hard disk using an Apple ///. Here's how you do it:

First of all you need:

- **Apple ///**
- **ProFile (5 or 10)**
- **Masked ROM (5 or 10)**
- **Formatting Disk or Debugger Disk (5 or 10)**
- **Two pin jumper**
- **LED substitute**
- **ProFile I/F card**
- **ProFile test disk (5 or 10)**

As can be seen, it takes a different set of materials depending on the ProFile under test. The five and ten Meg ProFile hard disk Assemblies, and Analog and Digital cards are not interchangeable.

The first thing you have to do is assemble the parts to do the formatting. This can be no mean task as there are only a few people in the USA that have everything needed. I have a set, as does Bruce Leitz, Dale Warnke, Bob Consorti (On Three), and Bob Cook (Sun Remarketing). I'm sure there are more, but these are the ones that come to mind.

**TURN POWER OFF AND DISCONNECT EVERYTHING**

You then take the cover off of the Profile; four screws on the back, and three on the front part of the bottom and it is all over sans disconnecting the LED that is on a long cable.

After the drive is apart, verify that it is a five or ten Meg drive, and remove the main Z8 processor and replace it with the proper masked ROM, making sure that it faces the correct way and that no pins are bent in the process. While you're at it, add the LED and the two pin jumper.

Make sure the Apple /// is off and put the ProFile I/F card in slot one, and connect up the ProFile to the Apple ///. Turn on the ProFile and after the LED comes on steady, turn on the Apple /// and follow the prompts of the disk you've inserted.

When you're done, you can run diagnostics, and I usually do so for a day or two. Then put everything back the correct way: the interface card in slot four, and the normal Z8 processor for the masked ROM. Then turn it on and do a high level format with System Utilities and you should be all set.

I make no guarantees about the above, but I have formatted about 50 ProFiles and have not had a problem.

*By Milt Johnson*
*(CompuServe: [xxxxxx])*

If you are interested, the startup sequence sent to your modem by MC is located in the code file MCMAIN.CODE (if on hard disk) or in SYSTEM.STARTUP (if on floppy disk). It is the 129 block long file if there is any confusion.

Beginning at block 43, byte 159 is the sequence `ATQ1E0S0=0S2=130`. It is preceded at byte 158 with a length byte with the value 16. You can change this sequence with a block editor as long as:

1) The total length of the characters does not exceed 16 (if you need to go to 17 bytes, leave me a message via EMAIL on Compuserve with a voice telephone number)

2) If the sequence is shortened, the remaining bytes are filled with decimal 215 (hex D7), which is the p-code NOP and the length byte must be changed accordingly.

I would not advise radical changes. However, I set mine to `ATQ0E1S0=3S2=130` so I could get the feedback from my modem directly, without interpretation by MICRO/Courier. I would advise against changing the S2 register, which is the escape character. It is probably used internally by MC in various places and changing it here would screw things up - but then again I may have to experiment!!!

Also, Block 44, Byte 464 and Block 45, Byte 464 contain the value ATS0=1, which is the setting for auto answer on the first ring. You may want to change this to some other value such as the third or fourth ring. Just don't make it a value greater than 9 as this will screw up the code. Also, note that the byte preceding each of these is the length byte with a value of 6. This cannot be changed unless you REALLY understand p-code. If you really need to change the rings so that it is in the range 10 to 99 leave me a message via EMAIL on CompuServe with a voice telephone number.

*By Ken Johnson and Harry Baya*
*Thanks To ///s Company BBS)*

Did you know (a collection of tidbits you won't find in the manuals):

**That you can print text files from the System Utilities Program?** Use the Copy Files option and copy from your disk files to .PRINTER, or whatever you call your printer driver.

**That you can insert the OPEN APPLE graphic symbol into a text file with the Pascal editor by pressing the combination CONTROL-SHIFT- ?** You can't print it on a printer very easily (nothing is impossible), but it will display to the console in text files which you call up as help screens, for example. You could do the same thing with the old version of Apple Writer, but not the new 'cause the new AW recognizes this as the same as the ///+ DELETE key.

**That with Applewriter you can name any WPL file HELP and have it run from a disk in the built-in drive when you press OPENAPPLE-?, regardless of what your prefix is set as?**

**That you can execute screen control commands, like Clear Viewport(28), Set Inverse Text(18), Set Normal Text(17), Sound Bell(7), perhaps the most useful, by entering CONTROL- , CONTROL-R, CONTROL-Q, and CONTROL-G respectively in a WPL program?** In fact, you can enter virtually any of the 31 screen control codes that the .CONSOLE driver recognizes into a WPL program and produce all kinds of effects!

**That you can move the help screens from the Applewriter master disk to any other disk you want and have them available as long as that disk is in the built-in drive?** Transfer HELP and the entire HS subdirectory to another disk (System Utilities is most convenient for this). Then change all references to /AW3MASTER volume in HELP to .D1 and all references in each file under the HS subdirectory back to /aw3master/help from that to .d1/help and you are in business. Sounds like a lot of work, but with the [F]= and [S]= options it is really easy.

**JUST A FEW TID-BITS, WHICH ARE IN THE MANUAL:**

You can speed up processing by a factor of approx. 20% by turning off the screen display with a <control 5> on the numeric keypad only, and then toggle it back on with the same keypress. This will speed up file accesses, 3EZ Pieces recalculations, etc. Most programs will turn the screen back on automatically for you.

You can clear out the type-ahead buffer with a <control 6>, which can be very useful when you type the wrong thing. It's not available on the IBM PC. The <control 5> and <control 6> both refer to pressing the control key and the # on numeric pad on the right of the key board.

When you use <control 5> to turn off the screen, it will automatically come back on when it wants input.

Try using <control h> a lot for back-space. The advantage is that you don't have to take your hands away from their normal typing position.

The Pascal editor permits entering any character (chr(0)..chr(255)) if you know how to do it. It was used to control an Epson MX-100 printer. Eg <control l> is a form feed and simply be inserted in the text. It took a while to figure out all the codes using the Epson manual and pages 136 and 140 in the Apple /// Device Drivers manual. Some characters require pressing the open-apple key simultaneously. Eg. To insert and <escape> in a Pascal text file, press <open apple> and escape simultaneously. So, for emphasized print, type <open apple> escape, and E. (<open apple esc>E ).

You can have several Profile disks attached at the same time. You simply put in more cards and configure the drivers for the desired volume names and slots. For some reason it is always a little confusing. You will probably want to do part of it with a bootable system utilities disk so that you can do whatever you want without having the system block you from changing something on the hard disk you might have used to help boot. (Harry Baya says he was not very successful in attaching both a Profile and a CMC Hard disk because the pair did not work consistently. But Ed Gooding suggests you put the CMC in slot 1 and Profile in Slot 4 and that should take care of the problem).

Try using a micro-buffer with your printer. Hook it in line with a switch that allows you to shift the printer, and the buffer, back and forth between two computers.

*By Robert M. Sambolin*
*Columbus, Ohio*

I've had an interest in electronics for many years due in no small part to my grandfather who is an electronic engineer. That interest began in the early 1980s, thanks to what was then a "new form of life" - the PC.

My first experiences with a computer came with my Dad's purchase of a Commodore Vic 20. I didn't really do much with it actually, just a little Basic programing. But I'd caught the bug. The idea of using computers as a way to learn new things never left me.

In the mid-1980s, a friend of mine was working with Tandy TRS 80 computers. He was kind enough to teach me some things about them. Then, in 1986 he started to work for a computer store close to home. He soon was the proud owner of his first Apple computer - a Macintosh. Being the good friend that he was, I got to use it frequently.

Two years later I went to college where I began using MS-DOS machines. I found them to be dreadful - the MS DOS commands painful to use – especially after having used a Mac.

After college, I was given a broken TRS-80. One of the engineers at work told me to throw it away - that it wasn't worth fixing. But he told me the company had an old Apple /// just gathering dust in a corner - and wondered if I would be interested in it. Needless to say, I took him up on the offer.

It took me just a couple of days playing with the Apple /// before I got hooked and bought it. The /// had come bare-boned, with only a few software titles originally used by the company. I asked the engineer if he knew where I could find more software and additional hardware. He made some suggestions to help me with my search.

My journey took me to one of the biggest computer stores in town. Luckily, they had a catalog with the names and addresses of all the computer clubs in Ohio. Here I found several Apple computer clubs. I tried three or four, hoping to find someone who knew something about the Apple ///. Paydirt came in the form of the Apple /// ACE (Active Computer Enthusiasts) club and my new friend, President Rick Gast.

Rick has really helped me to learn more about SARA and what she can do. In fact, I have become a devoted SARA user and promoter. I especially enjoy talking with other ///ers by phone - including members of the WAP /// SIG.

I can't describe to you how much pleasure I get using my SARA. The only thing I CAN say is, I have gotten other people hooked, and I will never part with the ///. In fact, I will buy as many as I can!

## *EXTRAS: File Transfer Between an Apple /// and an MS-DOS Computer*

*By John Lomartire*

Recently, an MS-DOS (read IBM clone) computer became a part of this household, invading what had been up to now, strictly Apple /// territory.

One of the first questions to arise was, "Can a DOS unit and an Apple /// 'talk' to each other?" This was not mere curiosity. The DOS unit was not equipped with any of the peripherals that augment the ///, such as a printer or a modem, so an ability to move files back and forth would certainly be helpful. In addition, many friends and cohorts have DOS equipment while I am almost alone in my use of the ///. It would be advantageous to be able to transform DOS into SOS and vice-versa.

It was recognized at the outset that not all files that could be transferred could be used since the operating systems differed between the two units, but since much of what was of common interest was contained in ASCII files, this type of file could be transferred back and forth and used on either computer.

Knowing nothing about DOS computers, it was not clear how to go about setting up the exchange system. Fortunately, we have a fine Southern gentleman, Mr. Ed Gooding of ///'s Company in Richmond, VA, who has considerable experience along these lines. He provided the necessary guidance.

As it turned out, the entire operation was simplicity itself, but just in case someone needs to know, this is a detailed account of how the two computers were tied together.

Equipment required:

| | |
|---|---|
| Apple /// and DOS computer | (obviously) |
| Communications software for the /// | (see note A) |
| Communications software for the DOS unit | (see note B) |
| Cable to connect RS232 port on the /// to serial port on the DOS unit | (see note C) |
| Modem Eliminator | (see note D) |
| Gender changer(s) | (see note C) |

**Note A**: For ASCII file transfer almost any Apple /// communications software such as ACCESS ///, or The Communications Manager, and probably almost anything else would be satisfactory. For non-ASCII file types the ability to communicate with Binary or X-Modem protocols is necessary, so for this reason The Communications Manager is preferred over ACCESS ///. (TCM is sold by ON THREE).

**Note B:** Same advice as given in note A applies to the DOS side. Most likely you would want a DOS communications package that permitted ASCII and non-ASCII transfers. I used PC-TALK as the

communications program here.

**Note C:** The cable should be a 25 wire round shielded cable with DB25 connectors at each end. Commercially available cables are usually wired "straight-through", i.e. pin-for-pin correspondence from one connector to the other. To connect into the female RS232 port on the ///, a male connector is required. On my DOS unit, a female connector is needed at the other end of the cable to fit the COM1 port. If the cable on had does not have the required gender fittings, then gender changers can be used to correct the situation.

**Note D:** The two computers cannot be connected directly with a straight-through cable because each unit is designed to output and receive on the same wires. For this reason, a modem eliminator is put in the line, primarily to cross the output and receiving lines between the units and avoid conflict. The modem eliminator also makes other connections, but the crossing of lines 2 and 3 is its main function. Modem eliminators are available at Radio Shack at a reasonable price. (Custom cables can be made so that a modem eliminator is not needed, but they are expensive.)

Now to assemble everything.

Start by plugging in the modem eliminator into the RS232 port on the ///, then attach the cable to the modem eliminator. Continue with the cable connection to the DOS unit. (Use gender changers if necessary.)

Boot up the communications software on the /// and check the protocol settings. You need to know (or set) baud rate, parity, data bits, stop bits.

These values are representative of one such setting:

```
baud rate = 9600
parity = odd                        Note: If transfers are to be made in
data bits = 7                             X-Modem or Binary mode, use No
stop bits = 1                             parity, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit.
```

(Since there is no modem to contend with, very high baud transfer rates can be used. File transfers are very fast under these conditions.)

Activate the DOS unit and set the serial port configuration to match the protocol settings of the ///. This is done with a MODE command. For example, a match to the setting shown above would be:

```
mode COM1:96,O,7,1
```

(or for Binary and X-Modem): `mode COM1:96,N,8,1`

(If the serial port is already configured by the Autoexec file, this step may not be necessary.)

Bring up the DOS communications program, and if necessary match up the protocol settings using the procedures given for the particular software.
Once both ends have been set to the same protocol conditions, and each program put in communications mode, the two computers are ready to exchange information.

Typing at one keyboard should produce an output of the same characters at the remote monitor.

Similarly, by using the file transfer options of each communications package it is possible to transfer files in either direction. A word of caution: communications software documentation must be read very carefully because each package has its own way of attaining certain results, and usually there are also has some limitations that should be understood.

If data is to be received and stored on a disk, then the disk must be formatted for the unit it is in. RAM disks, if available, will also speed up transfers.

Both short and long ASCII files were transferred back and forth between the two units with ease. They could be saved on disks and used at a later time.

DOS Binary, and other DOS non-ASCII files, were downloaded from a commercial database with the ///, saved on disk, then transferred to the DOS unit, and successfully used there. (These files would not run on the /// since they were written for DOS.)

Obviously this circuitous procedure is of interest only in those circumstances where direct input into the active unit is not possible. It is also nice to be able to put an Apple /// ASCII file onto the DOS disk for porting to another DOS unit at a different location.

Jerry Kendall
Editor-In-Chief
Two Alive Magazine

Dear Mr. Kendall;

I'd like to let you know some exciting news about a long-time member of the Apple // family.

Remember the Apple ///? It was the first computer actually designed by Apple Computer - designed to incorporate many of the things Apple // users had to buy to upgrade their machines - to use a serial port, run a disk drive, use 80 columns. Our Sara was given one of the most powerful operating systems for a personal computer - SOS. It was so good, Apple reworked it a tad into ProDOS and even incorporated some features into the Mac's HFS.

There are still a lot of us "SARAsaurs" out there - using our ///s in business and home; running the original Appleworks - /// EZ Pieces and AppleWriter, using SCSI hard disks, Apple SuperDrives, background desktop utilities that can be used from within ANY program, printing on laser printers, etc. We have a useful machine that continues to get many of our most-needed jobs done.

Now, I'm happy to report that through the efforts of Washington Apple Pi, one of the nation's largest Apple Users Groups (based just outside Washington, DC), we are working to make the /// even more useful. We have raised funds (with the help of the Apple Three Users of Northern California) to upgrade the ///'s operating system. It should be ready this fall. We are working with other companies to provide additional peripherals and software upgrades aimed at making the /// a great low-cost system for home or business through the decade.

Washington Apple Pi recently took over ///s Company, the nation's oldest Apple /// BBS with some 21 MB of /// information. We have been working to develop a software bank of all known Apple /// software. Our /// PD library contains some 250 disks of free or shareware offerings. We have one of the best Apple /// hard copy libraries in existence.

We would also enjoy working with you, so that we can continue support for the ///. One example immediately comes to mind. As you upgrade AppleWorks via the Quadriga project, would you consider working with us on an upgrade to our version as well? The two programs shared much of the same original code.

Would you also consider running an Apple /// article on occasion in Two Alive and include the /// when you publish future reader surveys, etc? We'd enjoy talking with you about some of the possibilities.

Finally, thanks for the fine service you are providing the // community! Your concern and interest (which goes beyond just the business aspects) is very much appreciated. Thank you for taking over the // circulation of A+/InCider and giving those of us with // family machines an option we might not have had otherwise.

Sincerely;

*David Ottalini*
*WAP /// SIG Co-Chairman*