The Best of Ottalini #7

(ORIGINAL DISK NAME: THE BEST OF OTTALINI #7)

/// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// ///

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WELCOME!

WAP /// SIG Public Domain Library Disk
Category/Number : WAP Articles/3WAP-07

Wow! Hard to believe this is the 7TH installment of our "Best Of" Series for Dave Ottalini's WAP Journal articles. It's been fun over the years - and rewarding dealing with so many truely nice people. Thanks for making the SIG worth continuing! This disk has Trail articles from 1992 only. Disk 3WAP-08 contains PD articles and articles from other /// SIG contributors to the Journal. Enjoy!

WAP /// SIG PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY

PDS NAME: BEST OF OTTALINI #7

DISK ID : 3WAP-07

TRAIL.COLUMNS (1992)

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MENU.MAKER 6.0

A major upgrade to our /// SIG's Menu.Maker program

By David Ottalini
WAP /// SIG Co-Chairman

January 1992

SARA AND THE GS

Well, my (used) //GS has gone down less than six months after I purchased it. I think it's a bad power supply and have ordered a new one. Meanwhile, my trusty ole ///+ has yet to miss a beat with all four slots filled and its 5MB Profile in tow. I never turn it off save for major storms and use it pretty much every day.

My learning curve with the GS continues. But the more I use it the more I find myself knowing the /// should have evolved towards this same machine. Apple showed a tremendous commitment to our SARA. Yet they never really had a clear vision about where they wanted to take her.

The /// was to have replaced the //, yet Apple never really positioned it as the true replacement machine. They introduced it before all the bugs were worked out and didn't promote it like they should have. The Lisa and Mac pushed it to the side. Sara was killed just at the point where she had become a great computer.

If the /// was to have replaced the //, Apple should have phased out the // upon introduction of the ///. Had that happened, though, Apple would probably have gone under. The /// had too many handicaps to be the "next" Apple computer. It was (and is) a wonderful machine. But it was wrong for the job Apple had in mind.

Apple would better have spent its resources upgrading the // to more fully compete with the IBM PC. SOS should have been written for the // rather than putting it into a separate machine that could only emulate the //+ in software and was not emulation upgradable. Adding a more powerful Apple // model would have given better competition to the emerging IBM-PC without hurting the education market.

The /// ended its run at about 100,000 machines. The // and gs will end theirs soon with considerably more in the marketplace. But imagine how Apple might really have done if they hadn't spent the time and resources on a completely separate 6502-based machine. Imagine the programs that could have been written for the // had programmers not had to spend their time writing for the /// or switched to the PC. Lotus 1-2-3 was being written for the /// when the PC came out. You know what happened next.

I will never, never regret purchasing a /// or learning how to compute on one. How can I when I consider the /// still to be the best of the // family computers? But hindsight tells us that things would have been better for all had Apple done its market research properly back in the late 1970s and realized what a great machine the // was, that it was not about to die and deserved the time and effort to make

it competitive with the PC from the start.

WHY SOS?

A good question. Apple needed an operating system for its Apple /// that was more powerful than the //+'s DOS, one that was flexible and expandable. And it had to be more user friendly than DOS.

SOS (Sophisticated Operating System) was designed to be all those things and more. It was so good that Apple finally reworked it into ProDos on the //e. GS/OS is today's ultimate version of SOS designed to take advantage of the //GS's capabilities. And the Macintosh's Hierarchical File System (HFS) owes its roots directly to the /// as well.

SOS was not meant to be, nor designed to be, a Graphical User Interface operating system. Yet it does what it does as a text-based system extremely well. Since the three SOS-specific files (SOS.KERNEL, SOS.INTERP and SOS.DRIVER) are all loaded upon boot up, the user only has to configure his/her system (the software to the hardware) once and never again (or until a new piece of hardware - a peripheral device - is added.)

As Alan Anderson wrote in his "Apple /// Guide for Humans" in *Apple Orchard*'s Fall, 1981 edition:

The Apple ///'s SOS lets you plug in devices like printers, mass storage devices, modems and anything else, and handles much of the necessary translation between computer and the external device... (Thus) all things plugged into the ///... are all treated equally...

For computer novices (and those who just want to use the computer) that means no patches or modifications are necessary to the software. Device Drivers added to the SOS.DRIVER file are all it takes. That can be a daunting task for those who have never used the /// before, which is why the /// SIG (in part!) exists. If you are having trouble configuring your system, call a member listed in the WAP Hotline. You can also check the library for many Apple /// manuals or a video tape on how to configure your /// to the hardware you have.

ORPHAN COMPUTER SOFTWARE

Having served as your /// SIG Co-Chairman for a number of years, I have worked very hard to make our Public Domain library the best in the nation. We now offer more than 180 disks. Almost all are double sided and self-booting. Most have been configured to work with our Menu.Maker Business Basic program for ease of use and many include programs or information that were developed specifically for our SIG. No other /// group, frankly, has gone to the effort we have in this area.

Now, as the /// moves towards its 12th anniversary, it's time to reconsider our PD policies and where we wish to go in the future. It's a discussion that the Apple // users must start considering as well, as their computers become fully orphaned. Orphan Mac owners you should also take note.

Here's what I'm talking about. Over the years, thousands of programs have been written for our machines. Many of them were written to be placed freely into the Public Domain.   But there are many

commercial offerings that were sold for a time and then discontinued for one reason or another. I believe it's time to think about what we should do with those programs that are no longer commercially available.

Specifically, I believe that user groups should be able to place these programs into the PD for all to use with the following guidelines:

- The program is no longer being produced and is not available commercially, even if discontinued (thus vendors still selling discontinued programs are protected until their stock is exhausted.)

- A good faith effort is made to get the permission of the original software company or developer.

- The user group treats the software exactly as it would any other PD offering. That means it must be sold for the same price as any other disk.

- The user group must follow any requirements placed by the software company or developer for placing the material into the PD (For example - you must order the manual from them).

Remember that user groups like WAP sell their PD disks basically at the cost of the media itself and not for the software found on it. We make no profits off the software.

A good faith effort should be made to get permission to place the software into the PD. But if it is determined that the originating company no longer exists or the developer cannot be reached (phone disconnected, mail returned), then there should be no reason users can not have access to the software. Though old, the software may still be of use to our members.

The manuals would be placed into the hardcopy library for users to check out or scanned/transcribed and placed on disk. If, at a later time, the developer/copyright holder surfaces and asks that the software be withdrawn, made shareware, etc., it would be up to the user group to act on that request.

Our /// SIG PD already includes some software that is no longer sold and the original developers are not reachable or have given their permission to place the material into the PD library. There will be more to come in the future. But I would enjoy your thoughts and comments about this PD policy and what it could mean for the users of orphaned machines.

Placing these programs into the PD also has one other useful, historical, purpose. It ensures that the hard work of many people in past years does not die. Their programs live on for anyone interested in using them long after their commercial life has ended.

At some point, there should also be given some consideration to asking permission to place older (read that out-of-date) versions of programs still on the market into the PD or as shareware. What a great way to try something out and thus serve as an incentive to buy the latest version.

My bottom line in all this is why should we waste resources that could make our computers useful for a few more years? We are offering programs that are no longer available save in this manner. We are not making a profit by it. We are helping our members get some additional usefulness out of their orphaned machines. We are preserving the programs for historical purposes. The /// SIG has actively

implemented this program. What say the rest of you?

AT IT AGAIN

/// SIGer Paul Campbell continues making discoveries about the usefulness of his Apple ///. He had these comments recently on the WAP /// SIG TCS board:

> *The last few days have been pretty exciting in the local /// world. I've been playing with System Utilities and taking advantage of SARA's device independence. I went to copy a text file, and when it asked for the file destination name, I entered the name of my printer. To my suprise, it asked if I wanted a page of directory information before each file, I responded "yes" and the printer took off!*

> *In addition to the banner page, I got the document printed EXACTLY as it would have printed by EZP (without embedded commands like Bold, ect. Of course). It works so well that I've been printing long reports and documents to disk from EZP and AppleWriter, then doing batch printing by giving the subdirectory name. The margins and everything come out perfect, even footers, headers, and page numbers..... I'm impressed! So are all the people at my IBM-infested work place.*

BTW, I came across a neat little quote which goes like this: "Fools ignore complexity. Pragmatists suffer it. Geniuses remove it." Sounds like a compliment for us Apple users who have done away with MS-DOS.

HOW DO I?

mpuserve. As always, it was our good friend Ed Gooding to the rescue:

> *You can get the volume ID by doing a catalog. The volume ID will be listed at the top of the catalog/directory listing. You can do a catalog from Applewriter by pressing CONTROL-O and choosing A. Note that, on the ///, you can address devices by their device name, or their volume name. If you know the volume name, then SOS will search each block device looking for that volume. It can be faster to just use the device ID as SOS will go directly to that block device to access the desired file.*

> *Ed was kind enough to answer another question related to a problem with the Titan /// + //e cards. MAUGer Bob Archambault said his brother's /// was experiencing a "thermal intermittent" problem, where the system would lock up in Apple // mode if the temperature was too high. Ed suggested that Bob:*

> *This has been a time honored tradition for ///'ers. The /// has always had a problem holding onto its chip, especially if their owners turn them off and on every day. Over time the chips will loosen in their sockets, and as the machine heats up, their pins will expand and cause them to pop up and make weird things start happening. Periodically, /// owners have to remove the MLB and gently but firmly press down on every socketed chip. This has been proven over and over to solve many problems. If this doesn't solve it, I'd suggest looking at the power supply, swap it out*

if you have a spare or a friend with a ///. Then you might want to proceed with your freeze process. Just about all the chips in the ///, with the exception of Apple's proms, can be purchased from Jameco Electronics in Belmont, CA.

By the way, Ed says the power supply can be the source of many problems associated with the ///. Sun still sells them for $75.00 or you can try Alltech Electronics (602 Garrison St, Oceanside, CA. 92054; 619-721-7733). Pre-Owned Electronics (617-891-6851) and Shreve Systems (1-800-227-3971) may also sell them.

By David Ottalini
WAP /// SIG Co-Chairman

February 1992

NEW MEMBERS

First things first, /// SIGers. We do continue to get new members and I'd like to welcome two in particular in my column this month.

I'm especially pleased to say that we have our first member from Japan. Koji Annoura pushishes a bi-monthly newsletter for Apple II, ///, Lisa, MacXL and Mac Plus users in Japan. The Newsletter is called "Annie's Letter" and is based out of Annies Crafts in Fukuoka Japan (Full address is: Annies Crafts,Inc. 303-3-27 Akasaka 3-chome, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka 810 JAPAN Fax: 81-92-731-4555 70064.275)

Koji made his appearance in the MAUG (MicroNetworked Apples Users Group) section of CompuServe in late November. He indicated at that time that he wanted to join WAP, "and write our newsletter about your group and your information," as well as exchange newsletters. Beth at the WAP office sent him all the information and a sample Journal. So hopefully by the time you read this, we'll have him all signed up. More on this as we get additional information.

Our other new member is Clifford Dowling. According to /// SIGer Seth Mize "plans to update peanut record keeping from hand to computer throughout Georgia with a dozen used Apple ///'s." I've talked to Mr. Dowling and asked him to write us an article about what he is doing with his ///s, so stay tuned.

PAUL CAMPBELL MISSES THE GARAGE SALE

Sad, but true. Paul was one of the few /// SIGers who missed the December WAP Garage sale. (His only, appropriate, comment: "AAARRRRGGGGGGHHHHHHH!")

There were lots of ///s for sale this time at excellent prices. I even found some software. On a down note, our long-time friend and ///er Bob Shaffer told me his final Apple /// system is up for sale. Call him at 301-722-2500 if you're interested.

There will be another chance for Paul and any other unlucky ///ers who missed the December garage sale this coming June. So start planning now!

MORE PAUL....

Mr. Campbell continues his prolific writing ways for us... indicating recently on the /// board of the WAP TCS:

"...How would you like to print thousands of pages of text with a simple command on your Apple ///? It's a piece of cake with our SARA and my latest article tells you how. The article is finished and I just need to re-read it in a couple days to make sure I still like it. I already uploaded the one mentioning laser printers along with two poems. I just started a general article on the Panasonic KX-P1124, I'll try to get it in by the next deadline.

And on his continuing quest to show the Apple /// can still beat the pants off of Tandy's Deskmate product:

A few Radio Shack employees got surprised to see someone put their Deskmate up against an Apple /// and lose... you should have seen the puzzled expression on their face. The new Deskmate on the 386 Tandy seems much better and the help files come on screen almost as fast as EZP now, too bad it's not any easier to use.

WHEN IN PARIS...

Write in French using AppleWriter. It can be done, even in the good old USA thanks to Dave Rutenberg. Recently on CompuServe he noted that:

APPLEWRITER /// by Paul Lutus was converted to FRENCH. (Version Francais) ("Traitement de Texte"). I have the program, which comes on three diskettes, i.e Disquette Principle, Utilitaires, & Sauvegarde. I do not seem to have the manual, but I believe like the English Version, there are HELP screens.

If there's enough interest, I will be happy to contact Dave and ask him for a copy of the program as well for our Public Domain library. There actually were a tremendous number of programs written for our /// all over the world. But getting ahold of copies of them now are next to impossible (heck, it's very hard to find lesser-known English-versions of Apple /// products as well.)

GREAT DEALS

Titan Support (originally GR&D), the company that sells the Titan ///+//e cards (that turns your /// into an Apple //e) has a new number. It's 313-429-8547. I'm also happy to report that after talking with Greg Stuk at Titan, he's agreed to another group purchase for the cards.

That means from February 1st through May 31st, you can purchase the Titan cards for just $199.00. That's the lowest price these cards have been offered in quite some time. Greg says this may well be the last chance you'll have to obtain the cards at this price, since they are made to order.

Greg has also agreed to make the original Titan ///+// card available as well for just $99.00. This is a single-slot card that will turn your /// into a 128k // Plus. But more importantly, it can act as a RAM card in native mode.

The /// SIG has made available our PD disk 3UTL-18 to Titan and it will be included with all orders. The

disk contains the drivers you need to run either the ///+// or ///+//e as RAM drives, something you will not be able to live without once installed.

To order, call Titan Support or write them at their new address: 1225 Jeffrey Lane, Saline, Mi. 48176.

EXCHANGING PARTS

Can you take an analog board from an Apple /// disk drive and use it to covert an Apple // drive? ///s Company Guru Ed Gooding told ///er Michael Hughes on CompuServe the answer is... maybe yes, maybe no:

> *I tried a Disk][with a /// analog board and had mixed results with it. Pascal definitely didn't like it for some reason. I eventually scrapped the project due to its unreliability.*

AND WHAT ABOUT...

Converting files from the /// to the MAC? On Three's Bob Consorti offers one method:

With either the UniDisk 3.5 or our CPS 3.5 disk drive for the /// you can copy the files over to the 3.5 disk with the System Utilities or whatever. Then on the Mac run the software called Apple File Exchange which is included with ever Mac. It will look at the disk as if it was an Apple // ProDOS disk.

Remember that ProDOS was a descendent of the ///'s SOS. The Apple File Exchange program allows you to copy groups of files at a time. It will directly copy over text files. Other companies sell AFE translators that will convert AppleWorks (/// E-Z Pieces) files directly into MicroSoft Works or Excel format, so converting over is fairly easy.

And... if you use the CPS 800K 3.5 drive on the Apple ///, you can plug the disk directly into the Mac and use it there too. The UniDisk 3.5 is specific to the Apple /// or //e and can't be used on a Mac.

Check local dealers or mail order for 800K Unidisk drives. Or you can order a CPS 800K drive and software from On Three (206)-334-8001. They also sell the Unidisk software driver you'll need.

By David Ottalini
WAP /// SIG Co-Chairman

March 1992

MEETING!

I'm happy to announce that the WAP /// SIG will have its first meeting of 1992 on Saturday, April 25th from 10am to Noon in the WAP office. Since we haven't had a meeting in quite some time, I'm hoping you will put this on your calendar and plan to attend!

We'll have some demonstrations going, PD disks and freebies, a Q and A session and a few door prizes. We could also have a mini swap meet if there was enough interest (there are space limitations at the office). In fact, if there's something you would be interested in, please drop me a note or give me a call. Paul Campbell is even promising to bring a system with him from Detroit to show us all the wonderful things he's been up to of late.

ANOTHER REMINDER

That the Titan sale continues this month. Thanks to a special deal, Titan ///+//e cards are now just $199.00 and the original Titan ///+// card only $99.00. This may well be your last chance to get either product since they are being made to order from available stock. Call Titan Support at 1-313-429-8547 to order and be sure to mention your /// SIG.

Paul Campbell was especially excited about the sale, when it was announced on our /// SIG TCS board:

> *About the Titan cards......YAAAHHHHHHHOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!! I have been waiting and watching. This is really a break for a lot of folks who will be able to use the wonderful SOS of SARA, and yet run all those great Apple][programs too. I'll be getting both the //+ and the //e versions. I can only allow one more card on my main system, but I'll use the //e cards in another for Pubish It!, etc.*

Remember that you'll have to replace the 6502 CPU chip in your /// with a 65c02 if you want to operate your /// and Titan cards in an enhanced //e mode. The 65c02 chip will not affect your /// in native mode at all. In fact, it runs cooler so it actually is a bit of a help. One vendor, Alltech Electronics, offers 65c02 chips for just $9.00 each. Their number is 1-619-721-7733. Address is 602 Garrison St., Oceanside, CA. 92054.

By the way, should you ever need a replacement 6502 chip, please give me a call. I have a number of them and they are yours for the asking.

GRAPHICS GRAPHICS GRAPHICS

In case you didn't know by now, Apple /// graphics are one of my favorite subjects. With this month's contributions, our PD library now has some 36 disks of programs, utilities and FOTOfiles. As mentioned in the accompanying PD article, I've finally found a Business Basic Invokable module that will allow the printing of graphics from our Menu.Maker program.

But I wanted to discuss a little bit here about the process I use to port graphics over to the /// for use on our disks. Lately, that has meant using my QUICKIE hand scanner and //GS to scan pictures that can then be saved in an Apple // Double HiRes format.

As I've mentioned before, Double HiRes is a 33 block file that is equal to the ///'s FOTOfile format. The only difference is the file type. Double HiRes is a binary file and thus must be converted for use on the ///. The best way to do that is using On Three's Graphics Manager to load the binary file into memory. I then do a little cleaning up where necessary (that is, I clean up the picture to make it more presentable) and then save it to disk.

The SCR.PRT.INV invokable I mentioned above will print any Apple /// FOTOfile. But I discovered that the FOTOfile must be in INVERSE mode to print a proper "Positive" picture on paper. The new disks we offer for the PD this month were all saved by the QUICKIE software in this inverse or "negative" mode before being converted to a FOTOfile by Graphics Manager. You can use Graphics Manager, Draw On Three or other graphics program to turn them back into "Positives" if you desire.

I've really been able to use the GS to help enhance my ability to produce /// public domain disks for you in the past few months. I hope you are enjoying them. As always, I am very open to suggestions for new disks and, of course, always thrilled to accept contributions for disks.

ANNIE'S CRAFT

Our friend in Japan, Koji Annoura, was true to his word and has sent us a copy of his "Annie's Letter" newsletter. As I wrote last month, Koji presides over a group that supports Apple //, /// and Lisa computers. The newsletter is in both english and japanese. In fact, it's rather interesting to be looking through the Japanese articles and see "Mac"; Apple II; CPU; and other English words interspersed. There were no /// articles that I could discern. But there was one Apple // article in English ("A History of Swiftyware" by David Wing).

Most amazing to me was the five page advertisement from A2 Central's "Resource Central" catalog. In addition, there was a one page ad for a company called DAFAX that listed a complete line of LISA products! In fact, these folks are actively working to upgrade and improve LISA/MAC XL Software. And they're based in Malba, New York. Any of you folks who own a Lisa/Mac XL should get in touch with DAFAX at 1-800-323-1751 for a catalog. They claim, by the way, to be upgrading the MacWorks Plus software from Sun Remarketing to break the System 6.0.3 barrier.

Interestingly enough, there were NO ads from companies in Japan that offered Apple //, /// or Lisa/Mac XL software. I'm frankly not sure there ARE any. If I can find someone who can understand Japanese, I'll have them take a look and try to find any other tidbits.

Finally, I've gone through all my extra PD disks and am sending Koji a ton of Apple /// PD software. Maybe we'll get something back!

ATUNC NEWS

The Apple Three Users of Northern California continues into the New Year. But Newsletter editor Tom Linders writes in the January, 1992 edition that:

> *I have had four responses to my query of what shall we do? All four plus yours truly say let's stop. I will finish out the dues year as your editor and then, unless things change, I'm out. I usually get nothing to put in this publication, and nobody comes to the meetings here, so why continue?*

This is distressing news, since ATUNC is the only "active" Apple /// group remaining on the west coast. If you can help with an article (and yes, you can send it to me too for the Journal!) or a letter of support, please contact Tom Linders, 12604 Wardell Ct., Saratoga, CA. 95070. I wonder if they'd be interesting in becoming a slice of WAP. Hmmmmmmm.

APPRECIATION

Navy Rear Adm. Grace Hopper died New Year's Day.

The name might not be familiar. But I wanted to make a brief mention of her here in my column because she was so responsible for laying the foundation for the computer industry we have today.

A New York Times article published on January 3rd said she made "several vital contributions to the development of modern computing systems, including helping invent the COBOL language..."

She actually helped develop the world's first electronic computer, the ENIAC, and later helped develop the first practical compiler for modern computers. But her most famous contribution came when she coined the word "bug", to describe all those problems we seem to have with our computers on occasion.

The Times says she really wanted to live until the year 2000, so she could point back "to the early days of computers and say to all the doubters, 'See? We told you the computer could do all that."

Grace Hopper didn't quite make it. But she was close enough to still be able to say "I told you so."

By David Ottalini
WAP /// SIG Co-Chairman

April 1992

SOURCES

I am constantly looking for new sources of repairs and equipment for our SARA and would like to share some of my findings with you this month.

First off, Practical Computer Consignments in Springfield, Virginia will buy, sell or trade any and all makes of computers. President Ed Kay says they do get Apple //s and some ///s. But (as you might imagine) their inventory tends toward MS-DOS and Macintosh.

If you want to sell your computer, you bring it in and set the price. If they sell it, you'll pay them a percentage (20%). Haggling is discouraged by the way. Your price is the one they try to sell it for. They also sell printers and some software if it can still be registered.

There's also a repair center and Kay says they will look at /// disk drives and power supplies. Most of their repair work, though, goes for Macs and MS-DOS machines. There's a $45.00 trouble shooting charge and labor is $55.00/hour.

The company plans to move this summer to a facility that will include a 4000 square foot showroom (they claim to have the largest computer consignment showroom in the DC area already). Their number is (703)-321-3003.

Out in Beavercreek, (Dayton) Ohio, Creative Solutions says if they can't fix something, they won't charge you save for shipping costs. Gene Dalrymple says the company does repairs on Apple //s and Macs and has done some work with Apple ///s. They also repair Lasers. Mother board repairs run from $69.00. Power supplies are $29.00 (all costs plus $5.00 shipping)

They also have bargain basement prices on all kinds of cards for the //, disk drives, etc. For example, in a recent ad they offered super serial cards (which work in the ///) for $49.00 (Same as Sun Remarketing), //e 5 1/4 drives for $76.00, etc. For more information, you can send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Creative Solutions, 2650 Crone Rd, Beavercreek Ohio 45434. Their number is 513-429-5759.

By the way, I've asked our crack office staff to send both these companies information about WAP. Hopefully they'll sign on as new advertisers!

ATUNC DISKS

I'm not sure if you've had a chance to do a little mining in our growing "Best of ATUNC" PD disks. If you have, you know there's a tremendous wealth of information that can help you get a little bit more out of your SARA. For example, on an upcoming Best of disk (#5 to be exact). Wayne Schotten offers an excellent series on Basic programming.

For example, the program below creates a neat little on-screen menu that shows the usefullness of using CHR$ text commands. Along the way, it also offers some other tips, like how to use the Open Apple key from Basic. Wayne explains that:

CHR$(28) will clear the current screen, the same as the BASIC word "HOME". Other useful control characters (but by no means a complete list) are

    (07) beep
    (14) turn the screen off like Control-5
    (15) turn the screen on
    (16) same as BASIC word "NORMAL"
    (18) same as BASIC word "INVERSE"

Wayne notes there are many CHR$ commands you can use (check out CHR$(127)). A complete list is in your Basic manuals and in the Miastakowski Apple /// book (all available in the WAP office library). The menu program looks like this:

```
10    PRINT CHR$(16);CHR$(1);CHR$(19);CHR$(13);CHR$(20);CHR$(4)
20    HOME
30    PRINT DATE$; TAB(18);"MENU"; TAB(32); TIME$
40    HPOS=10:VPOS=6
50    PRINT"0 First Selection on Menu"
60    HPOS=10:VPOS=8
70    PRINT"1 Last Selection on Menu"
80    VPOS=22
90    PRINT"Select by Number or Press ";CHR$(127);"Q to Reboot"
100    GET q$
110    IF ASC(q$)=241 THEN STOP
120    IF q$="0" THEN GOTO 110
130    IF q$<>"1" THEN GOTO 80:ELSE GOTO 110
140    TEXT:HOME
```

Did you notice the use of DATE$ and TIME$ in the program to return the date and time (you'll need a clock chip)? Unfortunately, Business Basic PRINTS both to the screen in a way that is less than useful. For example, TIME$ returns the time in 24 hour mode like this: 23:13:53. And DATE$ returns the date as: 92/02/19.

You can improve on this greatly by taking a look at how we deal with the problem in our MENU.MAKER program (thanks to Jim Salerno):

```
1400    REM  ..... "DATE.TIME.LINE" ....
1410    M=VAL(MID$(DATE$,4,2))
```

```
     1420    ON M GOTO
1430,1440,1450,1460,1470,1480,1490,1500,1510,1520,1530,1540
     1430    M$="JANUARY":GOTO 1550
     1440    M$="FEBRUARY":GOTO 1550
     1450    M$="MARCH":GOTO 1550
     1460    M$="APRIL":GOTO 1550
     1470    M$="MAY":GOTO 1550
     1480    M$="JUNE":GOTO 1550
     1490    M$="JULY":GOTO 1550
     1500    M$="AUGUST":GOTO 1550
     1510    M$="SEPTEMBER":GOTO 1550
     1520    M$="OCTOBER":GOTO 1550
     1530    M$="NOVEMBER":GOTO 1550
     1540    M$="DECEMBER":GOTO 1550
     1550    PRINT TAB(26);"-";M$;"
";VAL(RIGHT$(DATE$,2));",";"19";LEFT$(DATE$,2);"    ";
     1560    IF VAL(LEFT$(TIME$,2))=>13 THEN PRINT VAL(LEFT$(TIME$,2))-
12;RIGHT$(TIME$,6);:GOTO 1580
     1570    IF VAL(LEFT$(TIME$,2))=0 THEN PRINT"12";RIGHT$(TIME$,6);:ELSE
PRINT TIME$;
     1580    IF VAL(LEFT$(TIME$,2))=>12 THEN PRINT" PM-":ELSE PRINT" AM-"
     1590    ON KBD GOTO 1630
     1600    IF WW=1 THEN 390
     1610    HPOS=26:VPOS=21:GOTO 1400
     1620    GOTO 1400
     1630    OFF KBD:WW=1:RETURN
     1640    REM
```

In this way, you get a readable date like: April 25, 1992 not to mention a running clock (assuming you have a clock chip) that is in a 12 hour format.

PRICE WATCH

I've become interested in following the ever-changing prices of our Apple // family machines and will, from time to time, offer the following chart for comparison sake. Format changes will likely occur so stay tuned. I'll note type of computer or peripheral, where it was advertised, if it's an entire system or not and the price. Prices listed are current as of March, 1992. Sun Remarketing will be used as our "base" for what Apple //s and ///s are being sold for by commercial resellers.

CPU = Computer ; MON = Monitor; DD = Disk Drive; PR = Printer; SW = Software
RGB = RGB Color Monitor; PCT = PC Transporter; HD = Hard Disk; + = Much More
"Micro Systems" advertises in Computer Shopper's Classifieds section.

COMPUTER/PRINTER	SOURCE	SYSTEM?	PRICE
Apple /// 128K	Sun	CPU	$295.00
Apple /// 256K	Sun	CPU	$345.00
Apple /// 256K	Sun	CPU/MON	$349.00
Apple //e 128K	Sun	CPU	$229.00
Apple //e	Post	CPU/MON/DD/PR/SW	$350.00
Apple //e	Post	CPU/MON/2DD/PR/SW	$300.00
Apple //e 1MB	WAP Journal	CPU/MON/2DD/PR/SW	$500.00
Apple //e	Micro Systems	"Systems From"	$349.00
Apple //c 128K	Sun	CPU	$249.00
Apple //gs	Sun	CPU	$399.00
Apple //gs	Post	CPU/MON/2DD/PR/SW	$600.00
Apple //gs 1.25MB	Post	CPU/RGB/2DD/PCT/PR	$955.00
Apple //gs 2.75MB Woz	WAP Journal	CPU/RGB/20HD/3DD/PR+	$1,500.00
Apple //gs 1.25MB	Micro Systems	CPU	$599.00
Imagewriter //	Sun	Printer	$329.00
Imagewriter //	Post	Printer	$250.00
Imagewriter //	Post	Printer	$100.00
Imagewriter //	Post	Printer	$185.00
Imagewriter //	Post	Printer	$150.00
Imagewriter //	WAP Journal	Printer	$200.00

FINALLY

Please remember our meeting on April 18th at 10am in the WAP Office. We'll have PD disks and Apple /// T-Shirts for sale, SARAs that need to be repaired, demos of programs and even wild discussions about Business Basic. Maybe even a refreshment or two. It should be fun so bring your questions and I'll look forward to seeing you!

By David Ottalini
WAP /// SIG Co-Chairman

May 1992

SALE OF THE TITANS

Our final reminder that the Titan ///+// and ///+//e sale ends on May 31st. The special price for the ///+// card is just $99.00 and ///+//e is $199.00. Call Titan Support at 1-313-429-8547 to order.

MORE TITAN

Beyond the Users Guide that comes with the Titan Cards, where can you find more information? Our PD library of course! Doing a search through our PD library files, I have found 11 disks that mention the Titan in one way or another. Perhaps your best resource in all those disks is on 3INF-27: "The Best of ATUNC #5." In there, you will find a series of articles about the Titan cards including descriptions, reviews, and good and bad features.

On 3INF-28, "The Best of ATUNC #6 (available this month) you'll find an excellent discussion about the jumpers on the Titan ///+//e cards and how to install a switch to make them easier to use. You'll also find a review of DA Datasystem's RAM drivers for the Titan cards (which are in our PD library - 3UTL-18 - AND are included with the Titan cards when you order them from Titan Support).

Other places to go for help: 3UTL-03 (Apple II Emulation), which discusses using the Titan ///+// cards and Catalyst in emulation mode.

I also did a search in my ThreeWorks disks and found that in additional to the ATUNC articles mentioned above, you'll find a ton of information in everything from A+ (a positive review done in July of 1986) to TAUTALES, the old /// Magazine and even the WAP Journal.

I can see your eyes glazing over as you try to wade through all these places sooooooo I'll look into putting together one PD disk with all this information in one place for you. I am such a nice guy sometimes!

TITAN PROBLEMS

And yes, even though the Titan cards are usually pretty reliable, our own Dave Jernigan has been having some problems with his new ///+//e cards:

> *I finally broke down and bought the Titan III + IIe and went to format the RAMdisk when my ///*
> *refused to boot. I first got garbage when I tried the Titan but it would boot a straight /// disk ok.*

Then it refused to even try booting. I checked the power supply and two or three of the pins don't have power is this normal? Does anyone know where I can get help? Consorti doesn't / can't return my calls. The Titan worked before so I suspect something like the power supply. I've reseated all the chips to no avail.

I suggested Dave make sure his /// was working properly with the Titan cards out of his ///. I also suggested he check that the Shorting Plug or a Joystick was installed in socket UF-1. If that plug is "empty" the /// will boot the Titan disk and will boot /// disks. But it will also refuse to go into emulation mode.

I think Dave finally got everything up and running finally, but it remained a mystery why there were troubles.

<div align="center">

MENU MAKER

</div>

I continue to look for ways to improve our Menu.Maker program and hit upon a rather simple piece of code to make sure the menu always displays the correct (see below) year for the copyright notice. In the past, I've simply hard coded the year in as each new one came along. But there's an easier way to do it using Business Basic's ability to look at its internal clock and return DATE$ upon command.

DATE$ only returns the last two digits of the year, so we do have to hard code in the "19":

```
270   VPOS=3:HPOS=14:PRINT"This /// SIG Disk is  ^ 19";LEFT$(DATE$,2)",
Washington Apple `, Ltd."
```

IF you have our 5.0 version of Menu.Maker (the one now used with our graphics disks) this line is line 300. Also note the " ^" and "`" characters are changed with our WAP.STANDARD font included with all our new disks to show a (C) and a "Pi" respectively. Type this in exactly as you see it here.

LEFT$(DATE$,2) tells Business Basic to return the left two numbers from DATE$, which happens to be "92". Of course, this all is predicated on your having a /// with a clock and it's been set to the proper date.

You can use System Utilities to do that, or, from within Business Basic, you can run the TIMESET program found on disks 3BSB-08 or 3MSC-11. By the way, one other reason I HAVE hardcoded the "19" in is because your /// can't return the correct year past 1999 (I guess Apple never thought our SARA would last past that). There is a way around the problem, though. Check out the file "TIMESET.2000" on disk 3REP-03. It's also on our New Members Disk 3INF-02 (file is SOFTWARE.HELPS).

Finally if you DON'T have a system clock (and you should!!), you can order the On Time kit from On Three for just $24.95 (206-334-8001) or you can order the clock chip from Jameco (415-592-8097). As Ed Gooding (of ///'s Company BBS fame) tells us:

Order part # MM58167AN, 24 pin microprocessor real time clock chip for $6.95. This simply plugs into the only empty chip socket on the motherboard of your ///.

I am also working to get some clock chips for the SIG. Stay Tuned.

Lastly, if you are interested, there's a tutorial from ///'s Company on the New Member Disk on installing a battery backup in your ///.

ACCIDENTAL EMPIRES

/// SIG member Tim Bouquet offered these comments recently on our TCS board about this new book by Robert X. Cringely:

> *My Mother gave me this book for my birthday. I am posting this review because it mentions the Apple /// five times. It is about the history of the computer industry in Silicon Valley 1975 -- April 1991. Most of the book dwells on the specific personalities and corporate mistakes made in the growing industry. Of course it has to talk about our Apple ///. Here are some quotations:*
>
> *" ... I came across a shelf of Apple /// computers for sale for $100 each. Back in 1979 ... I remember sitting in a movie theater in Palo Alto with one of the Apple /// designers, pumping him for information about it."*
>
> *" There were only 90,000 Apple /// computers ever made, which sounds like a lot but isn't. The Apple /// had many problems, including the fact that the automated machinery that inserted dozens of chips on the main circuit board didn't push them into their sockets firmly enough. Apple's answer was*
> *to tell 90,000 customers to pick up their Apple /// carefully, hold it twelve to eighteen inches above a level surface, and then drop it... "*
>
> *" ... With the introduction of the Apple /// in 1980, life had become much more businesslike at Apple, which suddenly had two product lines to sell."*
>
> *" ... Jobs thought at one point that he had killed the Apple ///, but it went on anyhow."*
>
> *" ... The Apple ///, the Lisa, and now the Macintosh were all failures."*

Tim says the book dwells on IBM twice as much as Apple, ending with last year's alliance between Big Blue and Cupertino.

NEWS FROM PAUL CAMPBELL

In mid-March Paul told us on the TCS that:

> *My own SARA is cruising along as usual, I installed a trackball a few weeks ago. It's a lot of fun going in and out of programs without using the keyboard. The trackball uses less space than my mouse, which was always running into papers and stuff. The Trackball works well with Draw On Three and the Graphics Manager, but I may have to get rid of it when the new 800K CPS drive arrives from On Three (NOTE: The Trackball is also available from On Three).*
>
> *The main reason I'm getting the new drive it is to share AppleWorks files between my Apple ///*

and someone else's //c+, and also backing up data for my clients. I spooled my directory listings to disk and printed them (using the print queue of course!), the list was about 30 pages long and I now have over 1,700 files on my hard drive which makes backup that much more important.

A lot of people have been asking about computer viruses since the latest scare with the Michaelangelo virus. A few large companies got hit on this last March 6th. Everyone kept asking me what I was doing to protect my own system, my reply (with a smile) was "I don't use IBM". Although my workplace took precautions with the Mainframe and all the PCs, we still had a lot of system errors and abends (processing jobs that fail to complete properly).

In answer to Tim's review above, Paul commented that:

RE: " ... The Apple ///, the Lisa, and now the Macintosh were all failures."

> From a business standpoint, yes. From a technology standpoint, no. There is not an IBM pc or Mac in the world that does not use the Apple ///'s HFS (Hierarchical File System), and there are hundreds of thousands of computers that the /// will easily leave behind. The Lisa became like the Mac but was verrry expensive. Although it took a few years for the Macintosh to match the speed of the ///, the Desktop Publishing industry was virtually created by the Macintosh.

CLUB NEWS

I'm happy to report receiving both the TAU Journal and ATUNC Newsletters in the mail in March. The ATUNC publication has some great Business Basic tips and Tom Linders reports he has Profiles and Apple ///s for sale at $50.00 each, with a 90 day parts and labor guarantee. Interested? Call him at (408)-741-1001.

As for the TAU Journal, they kindly continue to reprint some of my old Trail columns. There's also a report that the /// was mentioned in the March issue of Reseller's News. The publication has been looking back 10 years to some of the issues of that day and time. According to TAU:

Reseller's News asked, "Has Apple solved the reliability and software problems it had with the Apple ///? That was a serious question on their mind in January, 1982."

DESKTOP MANAGER TIP

One of the neat things you can do using the Disk Manager module is print any text file from within ANY program. It works just like System Utilities in that you select the Copy File command & instead of copying from one disk to another, you copy your file from disk to printer. It will NOT be formatted however and unlike System Utilities, you can only select one file to print.

PARALLEL CABLE PROBLEMS

Some of our /// SIG members have been having troubles with UPIC parallel card cables of late. The

cable itself is non-standard on the UPIC card side. Some of the same troubles surfaced recently on the Micronetworked Apple Users Group (MAUG) on CompuServe. The original problem was Steven Templeton's:

> *I'm trying to get a parallel printer to work with my Apple ///. My first step was to order a UPIC cable from Sun. They send what appears to be the wrong cable. The UPIC end of the cable has a connector 1/2 the length of the connector on th UPIC itself. Sun says that's the only cable they have and that "of course" it won't work (it doesn't).*
>
> *Does anybody know where I can get a real UPIC cable, or a wiring diagram so I can have one made?*

Ed Gooding responded with:

> *It sounds like you DID get the right UPIC cable, even though it looks wrong. The connector on the cable only connects to the pins in the middle of the card connector. There is supposed to be a couple of black insulated covers over the pins at each end of the card connector. You should see a "break" in the pins that segregates the last four rows of pins on both ends. The cable plugs into the middle ten pairs of pins.*

For more information about the UPIC and its parallel cable, see our PD disk 3INF-10 (Inpert's Corner by Bloom) or On Three's Letter's column in the November, 1987 issue. The UPIC Parallel driver, if you need it, is on 3UTL-01 and 3 UTL-04. Disk 3UTL-12 has Daryl Anderson's wonderful print buffer drivers for the UPIC. As for the UPIC manual, there should be a copy in the WAP office or give me a call.

FINALLY

I've been meaning to mention this for a while but didn't have the time till now. Our hats go off to Bridgehill Associates (a computer repair/maintenance firm based in Herndon, Virginia) whose business cards sport an Apple /// computer logo! Now if the /// could run TEMPEST for the federal government....

By David Ottalini
WAP /// SIG Co-Chairman

June 1992

/// SIG MEETING

What a lot of fun it was! We had a total of nine people who stuffed themselves into the small tutorial room at the WAP office April 18th. Paul Campbell drove all night from Detroit to be there. Martin Davidson came down from Ontario, Canada on his way to a vacation with his wife in Florida. Steve Truax came in with his wife from Charleston, West Virginia. Dave and Joan Jernigan drove in from Lovettseville, Virginia and Seth Mize made it in from Glen Burnie. Tim Bouquet and yours truly rounded out the local contingent.

Paul brought his /// with 40 MB Sider Hardisk, 800k disk drive and Panasonic printer to present a great tour through some of the things he's been doing (see some of his comments below). His demonstration of On Three's Macro Manager created the most interest.

Later, I demonstrated the new 6.0 version of Menu.Maker, taking it through its paces to generally rave reviews (you can say those kinds of things when you are writing about it!). A meeting that was originally scheduled to last two hours stretched into three and a half. We gave out On Three T-shirts, there were lots of free disks to look through, catalogs, etc. And afterwards, five of us went out to keep things going over lunch.

It was really just a fun time and I think everyone came away with a little more appreciation for what our 12 year old SARAsaur can still do and do well. My thanks to Beth Medlin at the office and Bill Wydro for helping smooth the way for our meeting.

DIRECTORIES GONE BY...

Along with some additions for our PD library, Martin Davidson also contributed an old Vanloves 1983 Apple // and /// Software Directory. It's fun to take a look at what was available back then for the ///. Still amazing, in fact, that despite the problems, developers were producing software for our computer. In this Directory there were 52 programs listed.

In introducing the Apple /// section, Softalk Magazine's Al Tommervik commented that:

> *Apple made some mistakes in its development and introduction of the Apple ///, but the biggest mistakes are now being made by the folks who overlook this incredible machine when deciding on hardware buys. The Apple /// is now reliable, powerful and useful.*

He went on to say that "The SOS operating system is a dream to work with" and said the programs

detailed in the Apple /// section bore little relationship "to what you're accustomed to seeing on smaller microcomputers in that they're so much more capable and faster."

SOFTWARE/HARDWARE

IF you have a need for a specific program like Visicalc, AppleWriter, etc. please let me know. We have many donated programs that are still in their original boxes with manuals. We have lots of Pascal manuals for those interested and even a CP/M card or two. I also have one more /// Fan available if anyone is interested. You'll need some hardware to install it, though. It fits in the back of your /// (where the slots for interface cards are). Dave and Joan Jernigan got one and I'm waiting to hear how it's working for them. These were the original "Core ///" fans as advertised and sold by Joe Dobrowolski of Apple Users Group International.

We also need some volunteers to take a look at some of the donated ///s in the office and find out if they run and if not, to repair them. I want to keep one 512K machine at the office for our own use. But after that, our ///s need to find some good homes. The Jernigans have been in contact with the Washington Post's Bob Levy, who has promised to help.

I also hope to be contacting every SIG member by mail, asking you to do a little transcribing for us. One long-time project has been to get some of the best articles published about the /// onto disk for all to enjoy. This is something every member can work on in a free moment or two. If everyone helps with just one article, we'll have lots of new PD disks – and ensure the legacy of our /// lives on.

SARA LIVES IN CUPERTINO!

Our old Apple /// friend Tim Harrington (responsible for many of the Desktop Manager modules and other ON THREE Software) now works at Apple and commented on CompuServe recently that:

> You know what I found stuck in the corner of our lab the other day? You guessed it, an Apple ///. I fired it up just for yucks, and it worked great. I even found an old Profile with various /// programs on it. I had it set up in my cube for a while. People from all over would stop by and play with it. We got a big chuckle out of the System Utilities. I can't believe they expected the average user to be able to add and modify device drivers like that! Oh well, the wheels of progress still turn.

MAUGer Loren Damewood reminded Tim, however that:

> That's still better than having to flip switches to input octal code. I still have to use a Honeywell 316 at work sometimes . . . ;-)

Actually, Apple DIDN'T expect the average business user to set up their SOS.DRIVER file. The Apple dealer was supposed to do that for them at the time of purchase or as needed later. Unfortunately, over time and with the loss of support, we all had to learn how to use the System Configuration Program to get by.

No, we don't double click on things and drag files (or "folders") around, but I feel like I can do what's needed quickly enough to suit me! Besides, I don't really feel that the GS System Tools, with their "Installation Scripts" to install drivers is all that much easier or quicker.

ON THREE

Out of the Tim Harrington conversation above, On Three's Bob Consorti also chimed in with an update on how he's doing:

> I'm still in Chicago going to school and planning which grad school to go apply to - Stanford is high on my list so I might be coming back to the west coast next year. Funny you should ask about new products. I've actually gone back into the old GoBack project every other weekend when I get some time. I have the ultimate Apple /// development environment now. I use my souped-up 10 mhz GS to assemble directly to a partition on a shared hard disk that I access from the ///. After assembling it just takes a fraction of a second to hit return from Selector and test it.

By the way, On Three (that is, Bob Consorti's parents) has moved once again. The company is now in a little town called Tehachapi, California not too far from where your's truly grew up (in Lancaster and Quartz Hill – all near Edwards Air Force Base where the Shuttle lands on occasion). Their new order number is 1-805-822-8580 and the address is 1174 Hickory Ave. Zip code is 93561.

And there's more. Detroit ///er Paul Campbell has had more than one occasion to call Bob for some help. He noted recently on the WAP TCS that:

> I am grateful that On Three remains in business, and also that (Bob Consorti) continues to make himself available for questions concerning our SARA. I sent an order to On Three for an 800K CPS drive and some software a few weeks back, and got a package in the mail the very next week! The drive itself was not in the package (Bob likes to test the drives for about a week before shipping), but it should be well worth the short wait.

> Super Accessories Disk #4 arrived, was loaded, and worked perfectly. It includes; Find Files, Area Code+Zone, List files, and Disk Eraser. Find Files is the most valuable new DA for me, I now have over 2,800 files on my main drive. The documentation for Find Files says that a search should take 15 seconds at most, but the worst time that I got for finding the last file on a 16 Meg partition with 129 DIRECTORIES of files was less than 6 seconds... pretty impressive!

Paul confirmed at the SIG meeting that Bob was committed to finishing GoBack now. And he said Bob is still interested in producing more 512K upgrade kits IF there is enough interest. The 512K upgrade is probably the best thing you could ever do to ensure your /// remains useful for many years. IF you think it's something you'd like to see, please write On Three and let them know.

DETROIT UPDATE

Paul Campbell continues his work to get every business in Detroit to switch from their Messy-Dos

---

computers to our Apple ///s.

But success is breeding problems, as these comments on the TCS demonstrate:

> *I have 7 people waiting for Apple ///'s. I have a couple here in the midst of repair and Tom Manion is sending a couple more. The bookstore that purchased a /// is finally going to put it to use. Most of the employees were intimidated for a long time, but now that they know it is easier than the cash register, they are bugging me to get things rolling again. I re-wrote the macros to make operations more simple.*

> *One feature that they really like is the day-end totals. The cashier presses "solid-apple t", and SARA gets the sales history database, sorts the file, then puts the report on the screen with the total number of items sold, the total sales amount, the total sales amount plus tax, and then the total tax with the last sales day at the top of the screen. All this takes 3 seconds.*

> *One of the new ///'s will be used to run a church, that includes book keeping, membership, and word processing. I'll let everyone know how it works out. BTW; The SARA used as the ONLY computer for that law firm in Detroit has been keeping busy. An attorney from another firm has been using the systemas well with her own subdirectory on the hard drive, and other people in the office are considering buying an Apple ///.*

AN UPDATE FROM JAPAN

Our new Japanese friend Koji Annoura has become a member of WAP! He recently messaged me on Compuserve to ask permission to reprint the club's PD disk offerings and Membership form in his "Annie's Letter" newsletter. Being the nice person that I am, I said sure. Koji says of WAP "It's big news to Japanese Apple users and many users will join your group."

24 PIN PRINTERS

I finally decided to upgrade my printer from the 9 pin Seikosha that had faithfully served me for so long. Since laser printers (and even Deskjets) are still too pricey, I decided to go with a 24 pin printer. Everything I've read about 24 pin printers and the /// suggested there would be few problems in making the switch. My experiences with the Panasonic KX-P2123 proved that to be true.

First off, I got a great deal through Staples. Their sale price equaled or bettered anything I could find in Computer Shopper. And on top of that, I found a coupon in the paper for a free color upgrade kit ($49.00!). That savings went into the purchase of a serial port for the printer (since I don't want to waste a slot with a parallel card).

The Panasonic runs in both Epson and IBM emulation modes and that's the key. The Epson mode is essentially the same as what I was running with the Seikosha. There are some control code differences however due to the additional features and color capability of the printer. The operating manual is fairly easy to understand. But you have to study it a bit to get the hang of programming the many available features.

The only thing I really had to do was switch to 2400 baud and set the top of page command. Once I'd installed the Serial port (which required taking the printer partially apart), the printer automatically recognized it (you can switch back to parallel anytime.)

I love the text quality and the fact it's much faster than my 9 pin printer. The KX-2123 has a "Quiet" mode should you desire it, three different paper paths and ability to handle a cut sheet feeder. It also prints Apple /// graphics very well, thank you. And it works just as well with my //GS!

FINALLY

It's nice to know there's someone fairly local who can do Apple /// repairs. Wayne Meckling is one. He sells used ///s and other Apples and does repairs as well. He recently noted on the TCS that:

> *I have a list of Apple III computers and stuff which may be of interest to someone: 3 Apple III computers 256k (computers only); Spare Parts including Motherboards; Power Supplies; Keyboards; Profile Interface cards; Internal disk drives and parts and Profile Hard Drives.*

Wayne's number for more information is 410-xxx-xxxx in Annapolis.

By David Ottalini
WAP /// SIG Co-Chairman

July 1992

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DAVE JERNIGAN'S DOWNLOAD PROBLEMS

/// SIGer Dave Jernigan wrestled with a download problem recently and (smartly) sought help on the Pi TCS. He reported that:

> *Seems like our Sara is too fast for the cludgy][s <grin>. I'm using a 2400 baud modem and Consorti's Deskop Manager and got failures when I tried to download, X modem style. Also is his Turbo the same as Y or Z modem? What do I need to be able to download? I can capture fine as in reading messages. Obviously, I'm doing something wrong.*

TCS Mavin Dale Smith answered that:

> *When you're downloading, it doesn't matter if your machine is "too fast" – it would matter if it were "too slow" -- with one proviso: that the comm. program is not keeping time relative to the machine speed, which can wreak havoc in time-critical routines that depend on REAL time if the machine is accelerated or something like that ....*

The other thing that might make problems, is if the TCS were for some reason not getting characters to your machine within the relevant timeout period – I have never experienced this problem with a direct connection to the TCS (via regular phone lines) but I have encountered it over packet-switched networks such as PCPursuit, where the delays from the network can exceed the timeout normally provided. Modern comm. programs include a provision for "relaxed timing" which doubles (or more) the timeout period to accommodate such delays.

And Paul Campbell couldn't resist weighing in with his own thoughts:

> *The CPU speed difference is not the problem with your X Modem failures. Most problems with speed occur when transmitting a text file using the "Open Apple - T" (or similar function in other programs). Since the /// is interrupt driven, it has little else to do besides spit out the file full-blast and display the returned characters in the screen.... unless we change the character delay!*

> *On the other hand, the TCS Apple]['s must receive your characters, perform word-wrap and linefeed functions, blast the correctly formatted characters back to you, and keep checking I/O devices for other input. This a lot of work even for the accelerated Apple]['s. I find that this problem is not only on the TCS. As of this writing I have only found one BBS that can handle an Apple /// direct file transmit unless each character is delayed at least 5 milliseconds. Most IBMs can't keep up but a hard running 386 can accept a transmit with a 5ms delay, forget XT's, AT's, and 286's. The Macintosh also has trouble, even the FX.*

> *There are only 3 things I can think of that might be causing the Communications Manager (CM) to abort a download. 1; the response from the sending computer system "times out". When this happens, CM waits about 1.5 minutes before aborting because the other system has not yet transmitted 2;*
> *You might have a hardware problem with your ACIA chip - this is not a problem I have ever seen, just a possibility. 3; The most likely cause would be data errors while downloading in the "Turbo" mode. Each block of data downloaded by your SARA is checked for any errors.*

If an error is detected in the NORMAL download mode, SARA requests that the same data block be transmitted again and continues the download. If an error is detected in the TURBO download mode, the download is automaticaly aborted. Most download errors are caused by noise in the phone line. Turbo X Modem is the same as regular X Modem except slightly faster. Binary II is the best for multiple files and David O. sometimes uses it on the TCS, it's really neat to see all those files transmitted one after another with the correct filenames and everything!

TITAN REPORT

Greg Stuk at Titan Support reports he did get some takers for our group purchase sale of Titan ///+// and ///+//e cards. I talked to him in late May and he indicated some additional calls were coming in, so hopefully he was able to sell some more cards.

Greg also tells me that he can do Apple // family repairs at very reasonable prices. Instead of swapping out motherboards, he actually goes in and tries to fix the problem. He says his prices are "aggressive" so give him a call at 1-313-xxx-xxxx for rates and information about sending him your problem. Greg says he can fix any Apple // or Apple /// computer but shies away from disk drives and other components.

MORE REPAIRS

Locally, I'm happy to report that Tenlytown Computer Clinic's Steve Ridenhour says his company will also do repairs on Apple ///s. The cost is $55.00 for an estimate, which will be applied to the final bill if you decide to go forward. They'll determine what's wrong and discuss if it's worth repairing or not. TCC also repairs disk drives and Profiles. They even advertise in the Journal, which shows their very good taste in clubs and publications (smile)...

TCC's phone number is (202)-362-9702. Their address is 4433 Wisconsin Ave. in NW DC.

APPLEWRITER TIP

Ever wish you could simply read a file without loading it while you're in Applewriter? Turns out it's quite easy. I discovered it, in fact, quite by accident. Begin by pressing <CONTROL> and "L" or if you have loaded your glossary keypad, press the "0" key on the keypad. Down at the bottom of the screen you'll see the familiar [L]oad selection.

Now type in the pathname of the file you want to read. But before pressing <RETURN> add a " " to the end of the pathname like this: [L]oad .D2/myfile . Now press <RETURN> and you can read the file without loading it. Use <CONTROL> and "7" on the keypad to stop the scroll and start it again. Once you do this, it won't stop until finished.

This trick works even if you have another file already loaded. It will not harm that file in any way. Thus, with On Three's Desktop Manager or with Powerkeys, you can capture text easily from one file to paste into the file you're already working with.

FINALLY ....

Ever wonder why you need a modem eliminator for your Serial printer to work properly? Our friends at ATUNC, the Apple Three Users of Northern California have the answer:

> *A modem eliminator basically reverses pins 2 and 3 in the RS-232 cable. This is necessary for your Serial Printer to work properly. Reversing the pin outs is necessary, because the printer and the A/// both send info out the 2 pin and receive thru the 3 pin. For more info on the Serial port, see page 131 of your owner's manual.*
>
> *To use your serial port with a modem you do not use the modem eliminator. If you have had a special serial cable built for your printer (or plotter), you also would not use the modem eliminator. However, if you want to use a standard RS-232 25 pin cable to hook your serial printer to your built-in serial port, then you must have a modem eliminator.*

Note that 25 pin cables and modem eliminators are available by mail order or from Radio Shack and most computer stores.

By David Ottalini
WAP /// SIG Co-Chairman

August 1992

SOFTWARE/HARDWARE

IF you have a need for a specific program like Visicalc, AppleWriter, etc. please let me know. We have many donated programs that are still in their original boxes with manuals. We have lots of Pascal manuals for those interested and even a CP/M card or two. I also have one more /// Fan available if anyone is interested. You'll need some hardware to install it, though. It fits in the back of your /// (where the slots for interface cards are). Dave and Joan Jernigan got one and I'm waiting to hear how it's working for them. These were the original "Core ///" fans as advertised and sold by Joe Dobrowolski of Apple Users Group International.

We also need some volunteers to take a look at some of the donated ///s in the office and find out if they run and if not, to repair them. I want to keep one 512K machine at the office for our own use. But after that, our ///s need to find some good homes. The Jernigans have been in contact with the Washington Post's Bob Levy, who has promised to help.

I also hope to be contacting every SIG member by mail, asking you to do a little transcribing for us. One long-time project has been to get some of the best articles published about the /// onto disk for all to enjoy. This is something every member can work on in a free moment or two. If everyone helps with just one article, we'll have lots of new PD disks - and ensure the legacy of our /// lives on.

STEMWRITER AND THE ///

Our good friend from Detroit, Paul Campell, has been trying his hand at getting Stemwriter to work properly on the ///. His experiences were reflected in some of his comments recently on the TCS:

> *John Lomartire responded to my call for help with setting up StemWriter's printer attributes. It seems he DEFINETLY knows what's going on. John says that I was on the right track but had made a mistake ... he posted step-by-step instructions so I'll have to try them out this weekend.*

ON THREE NEWS

This comes by way of Dave Jernigan, who reports that:

> *I asked On Three's Bob Consorti about a 1.4 meg 3.5 drive for the beloved Sara. He has heard a rumor Apple (object of love, hate. scorn, derision) Inc. has/will release a 1.4 drive (for the //e and gs). Bob is willing to try to write a /// driver for same. But he's a poor starving student and not*

rich enough to indulge these enterprises on his own anymore. Anyone want to furnish a new Apple 1.4 meg floppy to send/lend to Bob? We would be willing to buy a part "ownership." Anyone else Interested?

I wonder if this includes the 1.4 drive Applied Engineering now offers for the // family? I've heard it has some problems, though and feel it would be better to wait for the Apple version (despite the cost). More on this as it becomes available.

TEST TEST TEST

Paul Campbell does much of his own repair and testing for the machines he sells to clients (he listed nearly 10 on the TCS just in June alone). But he warns that it's important to make sure SARA works before shipping her off:

> *The renewed interest in SARA has caught a few folks off guard. I usually have someone waiting for a /// before I get a chance to go through and do any adjustments or repairs (and put through at least 1,000 test cycles). It's better for them to wait and get a solid system, rather than sell them one as soon as they come in. There was one Apple /// that the new owner could not wait for, so I gave him one that was recently delivered.*

> *Although it seemed to work fine as did most of the others in that batch, I got a phone call after about 3 hours. After a new motherboard and memory he was back in business, but I learned my lesson; what runs fine for a few minutes in my basement may not last for 12 hours a day in a busy office...*

IMPROVING "SIGN"

Dr. Al Bloom's SIGN program (3GRX-29) is one of our more popular programs. It is an upgraded version of POSTER (3GRX-18) which can produce typewriter-style posters in various sizes. SIGN uses an improved character set drawn from a mainframe poster utility.

Paul Campbell (who should be writing the column this month!) says he has found that:

> *In order to improve the appearance of the banner, I usually spool it to disk then use AppleWriter to replace all the characters with the "@" symbol. The only reason for this is because different letters have different body weights ("L"s are much lighter than "M"s), having all the same character makes the banner look more even. Of course you already know that this would kill my Spinwriter if I used it to print the sign instead of my dot matrix!!*

Dr. Bloom has offered (with enough interest) to "option the (program) to print a single character instead of the character-per-letter." We'll advise if there's an upgrade.

DISK NOTES

We have two disks to offer this month, /// SIGERS:

Disk 3GRX-42 is ///D Graphics, a neat little Basic graphics program contributed by Martin Davidson. Information about the program (which requires a joystick) is on side one of the disk. The actual program is on side two. Upgrades/enhancements welcome!

Disk 3GRX-43 is our long promised disk of Summer Olympics graphics. Self-booting, the disk includes everything from fencing to swimming, running to boxing. Check it out.

FINALLY

I want to again say "thank you" to Nancy Sefarian for loaning us the clip art from which we've been able to make many of our graphics disks (they are all public domain).

By David Ottalini
WAP /// SIG Co-Chairman

September 1992

LISA SHOP

In mid-July, I had a long talk with Frank Freeman of the Lisa Shop. I've talked about him before in previous Trail columns and thought it was time to find out how things were going.

What I found out was that The Lisa Shop is now the R&D division of a company called Sleepy Hollow Corporation, with Frank the CEO who owns 51% of the stock. Even more importantly, Frank reports his 10 person company remains strongly committed to the Apple /// and Lisa, while expanding their repair efforts to other Apple platforms (fancy talk for the Mac and some Apple //s).

This all happened at the end of last year. Another division of Sleepy Hollow, called TLS Services works with dealers at the wholesale level to provide repair services. That runs from the Apple /// to the Mac FX machines. Dealers can call if they need a repair. They send the broken part and get a working part in exchange.

Individuals can also do this, but on the retail level (that is - at a higher price). For example, a dealer would pay $75.00 to exchange a Mac+ power supply for a working one. As an individual, you'd pay $150.00. Again, it's wholesale to dealers, retail to individuals. But here's the good news. Sleepy Hollow will send WAP a 10% rebate for all repairs done for members. All members have to do is send in a photocopy of their WAP membership card (to prove membership). This is a great deal for our members and for WAP!

And here's even better news. Freeman reports that by the beginning of next year, he hopes to begin moving some of his Apple /// and Lisa projects off the drawing board and into production. That includes a 3.5 disk drive that would replace the 5.25 internal drive all ///s currently have. It could also include a newly designed mother board for the /// that would be based on a Motorola 68030 chip and would allow you to run your computer in /// emulation mode or as a UNIX work station. The new motherboard would switch out with the current mother board or could be used in a plain jane-style PC box. To help with all this, Freeman says plans include hiring a programmer in 1993 to do nothing but write in Apple /// assembly language.

Sounds great but, but there are still some ifs in here. For one, Freeman needs to get ahold of the source code to SOS. He also needs some other source code listings. Those listings are needed to allow the new /// to search for a boot disk other than a 5.25, access additional memory, etc.

The other problem is money, though Freeman seemed pretty sure his company would financially be able to move forward on these projects by the start of the new year.

He's also talking about a new mother board for the Lisa and additional enhancements. Freeman says his primary goal is to make these machines continue to be useful for many years to come.

Interestingly, he also says that since the Lisa was based heavily on the ///, working with the Lisa has helped him better understand how the /// was put together and how our SARA works.

You can help now by writing to Sleepy Hollow and encouraging the company to keep up its efforts on behalf of our orphan machines. Its address is: Sleepy Hollow Corp.; PO Box 969; Woodland, CA. 95695. Their phone number is (916)-668-5637.

One last note: Sleepy Hollow has some 10 Apple ///s for sale. Give Frank Freeman a call at the number above if you're interested.

OTHER LISA NEWS

A new version of MacWorks - MacWorks+ - could be out even as you read this. As mentioned in a previous column, MacWorks+ is being released by a company called DaFax Processing. Its owner is Sam Nuelinger. For product information call 1-800-323-1751. To talk with Nuelinger directly, call 1-718-xxx-xxxx. The product is an upgrade to software originally released by Sun Remarketing and has been licensed to DaFax.

ON THREE'S NEW PRODUCT

Miracles continue to happen, and Bob Consorti of On Three continues to please and surprise his Apple /// fans. In mid-July, he announced a new Apple /// product and the promise of another that's been long-awaited by the /// Community.

Here's what Bob had to say on CompuServe:

Yes, believe it or not I'm still creating new products for the venerable old Apple ///. My latest creation is called "Disk-Directory-File Fixer ///" or DDFF3 for short. DDFF3 was designed to repair corrupted directories/files and is written in assembly language for blindingly fast speeds. There are six powerful program options:

Test Disk Volume will scan the selected disk for directory and file errors and provide a detailed report of all problems on the disk.

Repair Disk Volume will scan the selected disk and repair any directory and file errors it encounters.

Main Directory Repair is used when your main directory is overwritten and you can't access your disk. It will scan the selected disk and create a new main directory and fill it with any subdirectories that it finds on the disk. All files located in subdirectories will be recovered.

Bad Block Scan/Repair will scan the selected disk and repair any bad blocks that it finds. Note that this is a much improved version of our earlier "Bad Block Fixer" program. This option will create a BAD.BLOCKS file containing the bad blocks on the disk, allowing you to continue using the disk.

Disk Wipe fills every non-used (free) block on the selected disk with a pattern that completely erases any previously deleted file, making your files absolutely secure from intentional recovery.

File Verify/Repair attempts to read the file(s) that you select and if they happen to contain a bad block the program will swap the bad block for a good one, repairing a previously unusable file automatically.

DDFF3 is very, very fast - 29 seconds to test a 10 megabyte hard disk, 36 seconds to repair over 400 problems from the same 10 megabyte hard disk. It's a really cool program that every Apple /// owner should have - even if you don't have a hard disk.

I'm happy to report that DDFF3 is available now from On Three. Cost is $49.95. Call 1-805-822-8580 to order.

GO BACK UPDATE

The long-anticipated Go Back utility program, a replacement for Backup ///, should also be ready by the time you read this. Cost is $69.95. On Three's Bob Consorti told me in mid-July that:

Go Back should be ready within days now. Everything and I mean everything is done except restores which I'm working on now. It's difficult to compare it and Backup /// because they do things slightly differently but the sample times for a backup are listed below:

```
Backup times: 676 files from .PROFILE (20480 blocks) to .BACKUP
(8704 blocks)

Backup ///
----------
1:41 to construct Table Of Contents
2:30 to verify
14:32 to backup
4:30 to update directory (clear backup bit)
----------------
23:13 total time

Go Back ///
-----------
0:06 to construct Table Of Contents
9:04 to backup
1:12 to verify
0:07 to update directory (clear backup bit)
----------------
11:07 total time
```

These timings were done from one HD volume to another for simple testing and access to floppies is even faster. If I can get everything working the way I want it in restores it will be even faster restoring (much!) than it is in backing up in comparison with Backup ///.

MORE ON.... BATCH PRINTING

Paul Campbell added some meat recently to his comments last month about batch printing using a filename suffix:

I have been using some new batch printing methods which make it a "one key" operation. Now, when a report or document is spooled to disk, I always add a ".o" suffix to the filename. When I feel like printing, I hit the macro which opens System Uilities, prints everything with the ".o" suffix, then changes the suffix on everything printed to ".x" and exits System Utilities. The reason for the suffix is: (1) It allows System Utilities to recognize only the files specified for output to the printers. (2) It allows me to keep track of what has been printed. (3) It makes re-prints a piece of cake! For example, I just click an arrow on the jobs that I want to re-print, and press return.

NEW FONT

And on another f(r)ont, Paul has uploaded to our TCS file area a new font he calls NEW.FONT. You'll need XMODEM to download it properly for use and make sure it's of the proper FONT filetype. Paul says:

It ... looks a lot better than the standard one for most applications. I made it mainly for EZP and you may notice a few things concerning that. First of all, I love toggling between the two cursors, but the insert cursor is tough to find some times, so the underscore character was thickened.

This ... improves the appearance of EZP menus and desk accessories. To use within EZP, copy the font to replace the standard character set on your EZP boot disk with the same name as the old font. I launch all my applications under Selector /// which allows you to specify different character sets. For EZP, I tell Selector /// to use ".Profile/EZPFONT" and copy any fontfile wanted to that name. With the system set up this way, it is only a few seconds between character set changes (I have a macro to change fonts with a single keypress).

Apple Writer will let you change character sets if the file name has the correct suffix. This font was created with the Graphics Wizard, but it might have been easier to use CustomFont from the WAP library. A note about CustomFont; this software looks for its own font file (called Swenson) on the boot disk. There are instructions on how to have it locate this font file on your hard drive, but the program still hunts around your drives. Although CustomFont eventually finds the Swenson font file, I have found it better to copy the font file to my Selector /// boot disk and rename the disk "CFONTB". Selector does not care about the change, and since CustomFont checks the built-in drive first... why waste time?

PARALLEL CABLES

Our good friend Tom Linders says in the latest ATUNC newsletter that he can put together Parallel cables for anyone needing them. In answer to some questions if previous Trail columns, he reports that:

For the UPIC cable, I have short 20 pin Molex type cables with a polarizing notch on one side, on one end, and an IBM parallel DB 25 on the other end. This cable mates with the IBM parallel cable, which has a DB 25 on one end and an AMP 36 pin Centronics 36 pin on the other end. My little cable is ten bucks, the IBM is five bucks, and so for about fifteen bucks, give or take, you have a parallel cable, in any length you want. Interested? Call Tom at (408)-xxx-xxxx.

MORE ATUNC NEWS

Tom Linders continues to offer Apple ///s and Profiles at $50.00 each. Wayne Schotten, another ATUNCO, has a ton of hardware, software and manuals. If you're looking for something (after calling me about the excess software we have) give him a call at (415)-xxx-xxxx.

NETWORKING ON THE ///

That was the question recently on CompuServe's Micronetworked Apple User Group Apple /// forum. Mike Pavelski asked:

Can an Apple /// be put on a mini computer network? I would like to be able to place a /// as a terminal in a system 36 network, but don't know where to begin. I read something a while ago about a 3270 controller for the ///, but don't know if it would do the job or if it (or something else that could work) is still available (even second hand). I checked with Sun, and they said they haven't seen the 3270 controller for some time.

As usual, it was ///'s Company Guru Ed Gooding who had the answer:

About the only way you could connect a /// to a S/36 at this time would be via an async port on the 36 with a protocol convertor, using the Access /// terminal program in DEC VT100 mode. This way, you could still use the /// as a stand-alone PC, and as a dumb terminal on your 36.

MEETING QUE

As promised, we'll have a September meeting at the Pi office. Put 10am September 12th (a Saturday) down on your appointment book. We'll have access to the large tutorial room this time. There will be more demonstrations, more free software, questions and answers and lots more. Hope to see you then!

FINALLY

Bill Arnold on CompuServe observed that:

I read in a computer column recently that our ///'s are considered good bets for vintage PC collections. Also on the list was the SOL-20, Osborne I and Exidy Sorcerer. Well I've got three of the four. Why did I give my Exidy away?

By David Ottalini
WAP /// SIG Co-Chairman

October 1992

1.4 MB SUPERDRIVE PROJECT

Those of you who get up on the TCS know that Dave and Joan Jernigan have been spearheading efforts to get a driver written for the new 1.4 MB SuperDrive that was recently released for the //e and gs. It's the same drive that Mac folks have and are able to use to read and write Mac, ProDos/SOS, MSDos and other formats.

Dave and Joan primarily want to use the drive for backup purposes and they enlisted On Three's Bob Consorti to write the driver. As they recently indicated on the TCS:

> *Backing up with a 1.4 meg drive has to be a lot more fun than 5 1/4 or even 800K. Bob says the card will transfer between machines if you don't want to buy one for each. We'll be writing reviews on several machines with the 1.4 once we get it into our hands (anyone want to volunteer to do one for the Mac?).*

The only hitch to all this was that for Bob to write that driver, he needed the actual drive and interface card.

So with the help of WAP President Loren Evans, we've managed to procure a card and drive at prices that won't break the bank. Some members have contributed funds towards the project and your SIG contributed $100.00.

According to the Jernigans:

> *Once we know for sure the thing works on the three, we'll get the word out. At that point, we can furnish the donated funds towards a drive and controller card for the club or redistribute the donations back to the donors.*

This will be a primary topic at our SIG meeting September 12th, so watch this column next month for an update.

MORE ON GO BACK

As I mentioned last month, On Three's new Go Back backup utility is now available. Recently on CompuServe, Bob Consorti had some additional information about the program that I'd like to pass along to you now:

Go Back /// is finally ready. After several years of procrastinating, a month ago I started in on the Go Back program I've been teasing everybody with for quite a while. Many long days and nights later it's completed.

Go Back is the one program that every Apple /// owner with a hard disk MUST have. As many of you are painfully aware, Apple's backup program (Backup ///) is slow and gives you a false sense of security because the backups it makes are usually bad and you don't know until you try to do a restore and get the infamous "Internal Program Error" message.

Go Back /// is written entirely in assembly language & has been optimized by yours truly to be as fast as can be. An example of Go Back's superior speed is in a comparison with Backup ///. On a 676 file backup it took Backup // 1:41 to create the table of contents and Go Back 6 seconds. Backup /// took
4:30 to update the directory at the end of the backup (clear backup bits) and Go Back did it in 7 seconds. Actual backup time to disk in Go Back took about 2/3rds of the time Backup /// did (9:42 vs 14:32).

On average a backup with Go Back takes less than half the time as with Backup ///, a tremendous time savings - and you can be assured that your data is secure. I've run Go Back through tests that make Backup /// turn belly up and moan in agony and Go Back has come through with flying colors. The backup/restore options are complete and very powerful and I think you'll like my new file selector (like the one in DDFF3) as you can select any combination of files anywhere on your disk at once. You can backup files in any subdirectory at once - just pick and choose which ones you want. Combined with the directory/file optimizer that's built into the restore portion of the program Go Back will make backing up something you want to do!

There's a new procedure for ordering from On Three that I was made aware of after completing last month's column. Send your order by mail to:

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

We're also being asked to make checks out directly to Joe Consorti instead of On Three. The price for Go Back is $69.00.

By the way, why does Bob continue supporting our /// after so many years? He put it this way...

I like being a big fish in a small pond and Apple /// folks have treated me very well over the years, that's the reason I spent the hours finishing my last two Apple /// projects.

EXPERIMENTS

I'm always trying to find out if we can push our ///s a little bit here or there and recently discovered something you may well find interesting. On Three has a driver for the Central Point Software 800K

interface card and driver. But I wondered if it would work with the Laser card and Laser-brand 800K drive (which are fairly inexpensive).

The answer is a resounding yes. In fact, I discovered that you can also run an Apple // 5.25 drive off that Laser card as well (the card has two ports, which the On Three driver calls .U1 and .U2).

Bob Consorti says later versions of the Laser card may not support the 5.25 inch drive, but it's worth a try since Apple // drives are plentiful and cheap, as are clones. I would also assume this would work with the older 400K drives, which you can also purchase very cheaply these days...

NEW SIGN

Paul Campbell is throwing kudos to Dr. Al Bloom's update of his SIGN program (3GRX.29) and had these comments recently on the TCS:

> The new version of Sign is on my hard drive right now. It works so well that it should be hanging in an art gallery somewhere. Every feature that I wanted has been perfectly incorporated in this new version. I went ahead and deleted my macros that converted the old banners without any regrets.

/// USERS

Ever the one to throw names around, Paul also announced recently that another Very Famous Person has decided to become a SARAsaur:

> Thought that I would mention this; Author/Musician/Composer/Playwright Elrea Dodds has decided to purchase a computer system. Her works have been accepted internationally and also performed locally here in Detroit at such places as the Paul Robeson Theatre and Orchestra Hall. She has ordered a 512k Apple /// with 20 Meg hard drive, Slectr ///, EZP, and Word Juggler.

She joins a long list of VFP's who owned ///s at one time or another including columnist George Will, Pete Rose, writer Rob Swigart, and musician Herbie Hancock. Wonder if Ms. Dodds would be interested in joining WAP....

FINALLY

I continue my quest for hard-to-find Apple /// software. If you have something interesting that you think ought to be in our PD, give me a yell. Otherwise, have a happy Halloween and we'll see you next month.

By David Ottalini
WAP /// SIG Co-Chairman

November 1992

MEETING REPORT

Once again we had a good turnout of SARAsaurs for our meeting in September. Paul Campbell brought his /// system again (not to mention his wife and two kids!) and we had a great time giving Bob Consorti's Disk Directory/File Fixer /// a runthrough. It found and fixed all kinds of problems in Paul's Sider hard disk. The program is great because it can be used to check ANY disk you wish, from .D1 to .U1 to .Profile.

This meeting was a little less structured that the last one in the sense that we all just kind of worked our way through demonstrations, questions and fellowship. Then we adjourned for an excellent Thai lunch to continue our discussions.

One project that I asked everyone to take on was to transcribe a portion of the System Utilities Tutorial book that Apple put out with its "System Utilities, An Introduction" package. Once all the pieces are put together, I'll have another PD offering for you.

Beyond that, Paul donated a couple of excellent programs that will also soon be finding their way into our PD. Both are word processing programs, including the powerful StemWriter program from Australia and Write On! ///, one of the earliest word processors for the ///.

Please note that we do NOT plan another meeting until early next year at this point. Watch this column next months for details.

PUBLIC DOMAIN DISK REPORT

I've been working on a number of PD disk projects these past couple of months but have nothing to report at the present time for you (vacations and kids always seem to get in the way...). Along with the disks mentioned above, I can promise you a couple of new telecommunication disks are in the works, a new disk speed test utility, another Pascal contributions disk and even more Dr. Al Bloom disks.

I'm also starting to work on a project for John Ruffatto to put all the Read Me (or similar) files from our PD disks onto one 800k disk, so that it can be used to develop a new Apple /// PD Disk (hard copy) catalog. As I can, I'll also update these disks with the new Menu.Maker and associated files so that the programs are "modernized" as much as possible.

TRANSFERRING FILES

As you might guess, a hot topic these days is how to transfer data from our Apple /// to another computer. Just such a question was asked on CompuServe recently:

I have an Apple /// and a whole lot of Apple Writer /// text files that I want to convert over to MS-Dos.   Does anyone out there know a simple method for this? Please reply as soon as possible.

As you might expect, the answers WERE quick. This one from On Three's Bob Consorti:

There are two ways. If you had an 800K 3.5" drive on your Apple ///, simply copy the files to the 3.5" disk. Take them to a Mac with a SuperDrive and use Apple File exchange or the newer ProDOS init that will also recognize the Apple /// SOS disks. Use the Finder to copy the files to an MS-DOS disk. If you don't have a Mac or a 3.5" drive for your /// you will have to either directly connect the Apple /// and PC via the ///'s RS-232 port and the Mac's comm port or through two modems. Next on the Apple /// end you'll need a package like my Communications Manager that will transfer the files for you. On the PC side you will need ANY communications program to receive the files.

MAUGer Bill Arnold added his thoughts to the discussion:

Years ago when my /// was brand new I transferred all my Electric Pencil files from my SOL-20 to AppleWriter ///. I just had capture text turned on the Apple ///. I have transferred files that way a number of times since.

I recently transfered a ton of Three Easy Pieces / Appleworks files for a relative. He needed the final files in MSDOS Word Perfect 5.0 format. It went very smoothly. My Apple //e is attached to my Macintosh with an Appletalk //e card. Copied all the files to the Mac's hard disk using 7.0 filesharing. Then the translation with ClarisWorks. ClarisWorks lets you import the Appleworks file then save it out as WP DOS 5.0. Then just used Apple File Exchange to copy the converted files to a 3.5 MSDOS disk.

I think people get confused at times. Just for the record you do NOT need a SuperDrive in your Macintosh to read and write ProDOS disks. A standard 800 MB Macintosh drive with AFE works just fine.

Bob returned with:

The latest ProDOS init does not require that you have the //e card in order to access SOS/PRODOS disks from the Mac Finder. To get the files to a PC disk you DO need a SuperDrive or an Apple 3.5 800K drive attached to the Rapport, a device that plugs into the disk drive port and allows regular Mac 800K drives to write in the PC style disk format.

///'s Company's Ed Gooding added some final thoughts:

Text files in the /// world have each line terminated by a Carriage Return (CR). Text files in the

MS-DOS world like to have their lines terminated by a CR and Line Feed (LF). You can do this in Applewriter before you do your transfers by doing a global scan and replace:

```
CONTROL-F <><>CONTROL-J<A
```

This finds each occurrence of a CR and changes it to a CR-LF. Then transfer your files via direct connect, modem, or thru a Mac and you will be in business. If you have imbedded AW commands for print formatting, etc. you would be better off to remove them before the transfer, also. You can set up a WPL program to scan each file for .LM's, etc. and remove them automatically.

SUPERDRIVE PROJECT

I'm happy to report some progress with our SuperDrive Driver project. In mid-September, Dave Jernigan reported that:

Bob Consorti has the new (Apple // controller) card working on the /// in the 800k drive mode but is not happy with the speed. He needs Tech data from Apple and Apple has not been forthcoming (what else is new). I'm hoping Lorin's contact can get Bob the info he needs. Once Bob gets the "real"1.4 meg drive from us/Apple, he'll continue development.

I hope that by the time you read this, we'll really have some good news about the driver. I want to thank the Jernigans for really pushing this project and our esteemed President, Loren Evans, for helping us.

Looking ahead, I've asked Bob Consorti what it would take to write a driver for the Quickie Scanner, and adapt either Draw On Three or Graphics Manager to accept graphics scanned from the Quickie. If the price is reasonable, I think this may well be another project we can pursue. Any other ideas? I'm very open to any you might have. PLEASE let me know what you are interested in.

Frankly, the only way we will be able to get new software for our /// in the future will be to contract for it. IF it can help us to continue getting some additional use out of our SARA's then I think it's worth the effort. What do you say???

STEVE TRUAX HITS THE JACKPOT

What is that old saying, "If you keep your eyes open, someone will sell an Apple ///?" OK... so it's not an OLD saying but /// SIGer Steve Truax had his eyes WIDE open when he took advantage of a great Apple /// sale recently:

I visited Mr. Griffin and Mr. Crossley this weekend looking for a Profile and color monitor but they made me an offer I couldn't refuse and I drove back to West Virginia with their entire stock - three systems (including two Profiles, a 10 meg Corvus, an Epson printer, and several boxes of software and manuals) and a lot of interesting odds and ends. I now have several things that I've never had before, and the only problem is finding places for it all!

I've seen more Apple ///s and software on the market again recently and there's also been a good selection at the recent Garage Sales. So keep your eyes open. You never know what you might find. You can NEVER have enough ///s (unless your wife says otherwise!!).

512K UPGRADES

They are available again from On Three - While They Last. Dave Jernigan reports that:

> I talked with Bob Consorti awhile back about the 512 upgrades. He has about a dozen boards which were originally rejects. He is trying to turn them into working copies. I asked about a new run and he said it could be done but he would need a backer to put up the front money (thousands and thousands).

If you're interested in upgrading to 512K (and I can highly recommend it) give Bob a call at (312)-xxx-xxxx for more information.

PAUL CAMPBELL

Our column wouldn't be complete without some comments from Detroit. On the TCS recently, Paul commented about my reports that Frank Freeman was interested in working to upgrade our SARA:

In regard to the plans that Frank Freeman has, I agree completely with his ideas. Replacing the internal floppy drive with a 3.5 inch model makes sense, just look at the possibilities; 1) Running programs larger than 140K without swapping disks, 2) Wordprocessors AND dictionaries on the same disk, 3) WAP graphics disks can haveMenu Maker 6.1 and about 40 super hires Fotofiles on a single 800k floppy, 4) two half-height 3.5 drives can be internal, or the ultimate Apple ///: a 512K system running under Selector /// with background desk accessories, two 1/4 height 3.5 drives, and an INTERNAL hard drive running off a controller card in slot 4!! With the space available where the old drive was, there are lots of potential configurations.

I understand Frank's need for source code. The search for .D1 is initiated by the Apple ///'s startup ROM, and although the device drivers for everything else are found in the SOS.DRIVER file, the drivers for .D1 - .D4 are contained in SOS.KERNEL. As far as additional memory is concerned, 512K is more than enough for the present applications and will allow spreadsheets sizes that are much larger than the average IBM can handle. Unless running with a large chunk of RAM devoted to a RAMdisk, I have never run out of memory.

The new processor will bring about an interesting situation. Most people "in the know" understand that MS-DOS is on the way out, UNIX will be one of the operating systems moving to the forefront of technology.

On the SOS front, I've been working with our friends at ATUNC to try and get Apple to release SOS into the Public Domain. Their answer? No - because the Macintosh OS was based on SOS and they didn't want to release it. Amazing that Apple still cares about SOMETHING related to our ///, even when it bears no relationship to the MAC OS of today. Stay tuned. We're still working on this....

FINALLY

Remember that I maintain a large library of Apple /// program disks. If you have a program that crashes (and shame shame you don't have a backup) please give me a call. I can probably help.

By David Ottalini
WAP /// SIG Co-Chairman

December 1992

HOLIDAY CHEER

Boy do I love to get THESE kind of letters - especially with the holidays upon us! You know. The kind that tell us what a GREAT job we're doing. It reflects not only on your humble /// SIG but also the club as a whole. My thanks to Jim Jennis of Winchester, Virginia who wrote in early October that:

> *I must say that since joining Apple Pi, and communicating with yourself as well as others in the organization, I have been overwhelmed by the kindness and support shown by everyone. I never expected the kind of response that I have seen. Owning an Apple computer and belonging to Apple Pi has been more like having an extended family than just being a member of an organization!*

I must say that we enjoy hearing from any and all about what we're trying to do or what you think we SHOULD be doing. I am very open to your comments so please don't be shy.

APPLE /// SYSTEMS

Ever wondered how other ///ers put their systems together? We've heard a lot from our good friend Paul Campbell in Detroit about his system (and seen it as well at SIG meetings). And I've told you a bit about mine - which includes a 512K ///+, 800K disk drive, three 5.25" drives and a lowly 5MB Profile.

Recently, C.M.Davidson, a long-time ///er in Canada sent me a disk of information about his SARA and what he had attached to it. I thought you'd enjoy hearing how he's configured his Apple ///:

> *My equipment includes an Apple /// 256K, with 2 external Disk ///s and Corvus Hard Drive (20 Meg, subdivided into 1 Meg device .C1 as system controller, and two approximately 10 Meg devices .C5 and .C6, each accessed by a separate Catalyst Boot Disk, but capable, when running, of accessing the other (eg my 3EZP, Applewriter, Visicalc and Customfont systems are on .C6, but all my EZP, Applewriter, Visicalc files and Fonts are on .C5).*

> *The contents of .C1 (file Catalist.C1) may be of interest. All my SOS files (KERNEL, INTERP and DRIVER) for my .C6 Catalyst bootup reside there; my Boot disk contains only the Block 0 code and VCSWAPPATH.DIF for Visicalc (There must be SOME way to make Visicalc look to my Hard Disk for THAT file, but it still eludes me). This makes for a reasonably fast (18 sec.) bootup. All this is made possible by a modified SOS.KERNEL which Scott Stinson prepared for me.*

> *Installed peripheral cards are: UPIC and Corvus. I have a CP/M card, but took it out (no obvious*

use for it). I also have an Apple //e Mouse half-card, but my system refuses to boot when it is installed (some voltages drop too low at boot-up, I think). The system supports a 2400 baud Modem and a Panasonic KX-P1091i dot matrix printer.

One of the interesting things I learned about just by looking at the files he sent concerned a great way to set up a /// EZ Pieces Data Base file (and which, of course, applies to AppleWorks or other data base programs as well). If you always wished there was an easy way to pull a catalog or even a document into a DB program for faster sorting, all you have to do is make a new data base from a text (ASCII) file with just one field. Each line of your text will be loaded and then you can do finds or sorts as you wish.

Mr. Davidson did that with the directory of his hard disk. First he used Power Cat III (3UTL-15) to create a complete catalog. It was saved as an ASCII text file, then pulled into 3EZ Pieces as a data base. You can do a little cleaning up as desired, but this method gives you a quick and easy way to create databases of long lists of information.

How is your system configured? We'd love to hear more in the form of an article. Or do you have any tips or ideas you've tried and found to be successful on your ///? Write them down and send them to me care of the office and we'll share the wealth!

ANOTHER ORPHAN

I had to laugh - my company got me a Macintosh Powerbook 170 to use and I received it just three days AFTER Apple announced it had been discontinued. My Mac will find itself in good company in 1993!

PD RUMBLINGS

I'm once again soliciting any and all contributions for two more disks I'd like to put together. The first will be our third disk full of favorite Apple Pi recipes. Read that Pi now and not necessarily pie! I WOULD be happy to take a few pie recipes too, but let's see what other culinary contributions anyone might care to provide. Yes you Apple // and even Mac types are welcome to throw a recipe my way if you like. All those contributing will get a copy of the final disk (Mac folks - I'll put it on a 3.5 disk for you).

The second will be to showcase your artwork, scanned graphics, or whatever. My only request is that you please keep it clean (the /// SIG is heavy into Family Values...)   Yes, I can take not only Apple /// FOTOFILE but Apple 2 Hires or Double Hires binary files or GIF files. Again, all contributions will get a complete disk in return, so please feel free to send me your finest creations!

MEETING Q

Our next meeting will be in February - I'll have a date locked down by the next Journal and will post it on the TCS as soon as I know. Please plan to attend!

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

On Three's Com Manager can currently handle modems of up to 9600 baud. But can it be upgraded for the new 14.4 models? Dave Jernigan reports sadly:

The Communications Manager cannot be upgraded to accept the faster modems. (There are apparently) machine limitations that would be very difficult or impossible to work around.

REPORT FROM BOSTON

In early October, Seth Mize reported on the TCS about his trip to Boston with other WAP members to the Applefest. Although Seth was unable to set up his /// at the WAP booth due to space limitations, he said that:

I did talk with Tony Diaz from Alltech Electronics, and he confirmed that he was thinking about redesigning the /// +][e card.

That spurred me to call Tony in late October about this project - which is still in its formative stages. Basically, what he wants to do is turn the two-card ///+//e into a one card system. It's something he thinks is possible. The reason for doing it? Alltech has a number of ///s "just sitting around" and the company would like to make them more salable. And they've been getting calls from people asking about ways to get more out of their ///.

Giving the /// an enhanced //e capability would enable Alltech to sell an entire system for about $300.00. The new card itself would, claims Tony, sell for about $100.00 (vs. $299 or so for the Titan cards).

One of the things the current Titan cards cannot do is use MouseText characters, something Tony thinks "can be figured out." Diaz says he is also interested to see if the new card could make use of the Apple ///'s memory - something the Titan cards can't do. This is not really a project designed to make money (they'd be pleased to sell 100) but rather to provide some new life to our SARAs (and in the process get their ///s out the door!).

This is definitely a project we should support (your /// SIG is already doing that). But it's got a long way to go. Best thing you can do right now is write or call them with encouragement. Alltech's address is 602 Garrison St., Oceanside, CA. 92054. Phone number is 619-721-7733. Fax is 619-721-2823. Alltech, by the way, sells Apple family peripherals and their ad says "we do repairs on most Apple equipment." They also buy "unwanted and surplus" items.

BENCHMARKS

Paul Campbell reports that :

I was doing some testing this week and thought I would do a time test that pitted the new Disk-Directory-File Fixer /// against Norton Utilities. Norton's program was run on an IBM PS/2

Model 50 and took 1 minute, 42 seconds to check 1000 files. DDFF3 running on an Apple /// was done in 1 minute, 10 seconds for 1000 files.

And on CompuServe recently, /// SIGer John Lomartire added his comments about On Three's newest programs:

I would like to join the others in bringing Bob Consorti's two new products to your attention.

The first, DDFF3, is just great. I thought my Profiles were in good shape but this test showed that there were some errors in the file structure, identified them, and corrected them! This has got to be a major addition to anyone with a ///. Although it has obvious merit if you have a Profile, it will also check other disk types and directory integrity.

The second, GO BACK, is a much better backup program than BACKUP ///. In one of my test runs which involved backing up a 38 file database, the backup went smoothly. On restoration, I got a message that one file could not be restored (probably due to something I had done) but all the other 37 files were restored perfectly! Going back and picking up that one file and restoring it gave me a good working set of all 38 files. BACKUP /// could never have handled this situation. It would have aborted the run and you never would have been able to get any of the good files transferred.

I know there are some /// users out there and I urge you to jump at this opportunity to pick up some really excellent software that may save you a peck of trouble sometime in the future.

DAVE'S COMMENT

In order for the /// community to continue getting quality programs like GoBack and DDFF3, we must all be willing to support On Three. Bob Consorti is the ONLY Apple /// programmer left and he is getting closer to the feeling that the /// community does not care about the time and effort he has been spending on new products for our SARA.

Sounds like an old record, doesn't it? But during this holiday season, I ask you to treat yourself and buy at least one product from On Three (specifically - but I urge you to support Sun Remarketing as well). As an incentive, the club will provide anyone buying either DDFF3 or GoBack or both with 5 PD disks (of our choice). Just send me a copy of the cover of either program (5 disks per person). That translates to a total savings of $10.00. I really feel strongly about this, since I hope to work with Bob on some additional projects for all of us. But we need every /// SIG member's support to show Bob that his efforts are appreciated. Call 1-805-xxx-xxxx for ordering information. 'Nuff said.

PAUL CAMPBELL'S COMMENT

We need to get together ideas and do some mailings and P.R. work. The problem with Bob's approach is that he contacts the people that already know about his products. There has been nothing that I know of in the way of advertising outside of the former method, and there are THOUSANDS of Apple /// users who just don't know.... I run into them all the time. I showed one of Bob's catalogs to a user who got her /// only 2 years ago, and she was like a kid in a candy shop. Most other ///ers just get discouraged by lack of new products and give up.

No, SARA is not a nitrogen-cooled 32 megabyte $15,000.00 486DL, but she does her job and does it well, and after spending 2 DAYS transferring IBM files, I'm convinced that neither DOS nor Windows can touch her file handling capability.

If we need to do a mass mailing on old numbers, fine. My SARA now has a dedicated Laser printer, so all the labels and correspondence can be done here. If the amount is not outrageous, I'll foot the postage.

MACS, APPLE ///s AND IMAGEWRITERS

Dan Wepking recently asked about connecting Macs and Apple ///s to his Imagewriter. Here's what Ed Gooding, of ///'s Company BBS suggested:

> *If you have an Imagewriter on your Mac, then you can share it with your ///, via an ABC switch box, if you like. The Imagewriter first came out for the ///, and is the default printer in most /// software. Contact Sun Remarketing at 800-821-3221 and ask for a catalog. They support the /// and older Mac's.*

TCS MUSINGS

The Apple /// board on the WAP TCS continues its active ways. IF you haven't joined us, you can get a really good deal on a 1200 baud modem through the club, including Apple /// software so there really aren't any excuses anymore!

Of note lately from Paul Campbell:

> *It has been posted by a non-/// user that there has been a marked increase in /// questions on the National Apple Echo. Anyone know their number? To help Bob Consorti, I might bump up the price on the Profiles I sell a little bit and bundle Goback with them. It will kill any financial profit, but it would be worth it.*

I mentioned this to Bob Consorti - and hopefully something can be worked out. On another front, the famous team of Dave and Joan Jernigan have been waving their magic wand around the country and are finding that "there are still lots of users out there."

The Jernigans are going to start keeping folks interested in the /// on the Internet telecommunications system up to date about our SARA – and could use any help you could provide. Contact them at (703)-xxx-xxxx before 9pm. This could also be a potential goldmine of new members for us.

Dave also reports a goldmine of another sort:

> *James Smith (friend of the guy we bought the ///s from) works for a computer store in/near Milwaukee that just changed hands. The place is/was called Apples (Apple Program and Library Exchange for Students and they have lots of stuff for us:*
>
> > ***Several Profiles***

Image Writer I
approximately 10, YES 10 Monitor ///s
approximately 8 ///s
Lots of software - some still shrink-wrapped

The same place has two more stores/warehouses with unknown goodies. Anyone interested in a trip? I'll call to let them know we are interested and not to throw any of it away. We may be able to get an inventory list and help set fair prices. I wonder if some of this stuff is still new?

Dave and Joan have also received a shipment of Apple /// software from Iowa State and tons of manuals, etc. If you need anything before our next meeting - please give them a call at the above phone number. It appears there might also be some hardware available from Iowa State as well – stay tuned!

FINALLY

Whew! Some column to close out our 1992 year. I can't thank all of you enough for your continued support and help. It would really not be worth the effort if I didn't have all you folks out there. We've made some really great new friends in 1992 and continued friendships with old ones. PLEASE make an effort to come to a SIG meeting, write an article, throw your name into the Hotline basket. Resolve in 1993 to get a little more involved and everyone will benefit. May your Holidays be Happy and your New Year Prosperous.

By David Ottalini
WAP /// SIG Co-Chairman

I'm happy to announce this month a major upgrade to our /// SIG's Menu.Maker program which is now available on PD disk **3BSB-09**. Menu.Maker is our Basic Menu program that allows users to work their way through many of our Public Domain disks. With it, users can read ASCII text files on screen, load and print graphics and change fonts.

As with any Business Basic program, it has its limitations, not the least of which is a /// SIG Co-Chairman who still struggles with programming. But after a lot of effort (and even some thought), an upgraded version of the program will now be available on our new PD disks. The program has been designed to make it easier to use on a hard disk. And it comes in a modular form with modules now named using the familiar 3EZ Pieces/AppleWorks file format.

The 6.0 version of Menu.Maker presents a better, more professional look when reading text files. It gives you a better on-screen idea of what's happening and attempts to have a friendlier face while doing its chores. The graphics module is expanded and provides support for two styles of printing and (if you have a color printer) limited single color printing capabilities. You can also now change to another disk prefix quickly and easily.

BY THE MODULES

First of all, when you CATALOG your disk, you'll notice that the Menu.Maker file itself is much smaller now. That's because the Text, Graphics and Font sections of the program have been pulled out and are now separate files called SEG.T, SEG.G and SEG.F respectively. They are NOT stand-alone programs.

On disks that don't have FOTOfiles, we WON'T include the SEG.G file or associated SCR.PRT.INV or BGRAF.INV files. That way, we save space and can include more information. It's likely that SEG.T will remain on at least one side of all new PD offerings, since we usually always include text files to explain what's on a given disk. The module that allows you to change fonts, SEG.F will also only be included on disks where changing fonts is necessary. When that happens, we'll also include the required DOWNLOAD.INV invokable module.

Menu.Maker is able to access these modules by CHAINing to them. That way, all the variables set when you originally booted Menu.Maker are not destroyed (primarily the prefixes and DIMed arrays). When the module is finished, it returns control back to Menu.Maker.

Look through the text versions of the programs on this disk and you'll note we've hard-coded in .D1 as the disk the programs should go back to when CHAINing. This is easily changed by you if you want this on a hard disk so that the program can look for the proper pathname.

THE GRAPHICS MODULE

The SEG.G file is one I've spent a considerable time working on and think you'll find it to be the most interesting. When you choose a FOTOfile from Menu.Maker, you are transferred to the SEG.G module and given a new menu with four choices:

- **SEE THE FOTO ON SCREEN**
- **SEE THE FOTO AND PRINT IT**
- **SEE THE FOTO AND PRINT IT IN INVERSE MODE**
- **RETURN TO MENU.MAKER**

In using the SCR.PRT.INV screen print module, I discovered that the FOTOfile must be presented in INVERSE mode on screen in order to print properly (that is in normal mode). A FOTOfile that is printed in INVERSE results in a printed background and outline of the FOTO. In Normal mode, the background is clear and the FOTO is properly outlined.

Since I've been doing a lot of "Floppy Coloring Books" of late with graphics that are scanned using a Quickie Scanner, I wanted the pictures to be in INVERSE mode so that they would be printed properly with the SCR.PRT.INV invokable module.

But the FOTO doesn't always look that great on screen in INVERSE mode. So, I searched for a way to INVERSE the FOTOfiles as presented on screen. That way they would appear in NORMAL mode. I found the answer using an advanced procedure offered by the BGRAF.INV graphics invokable called XFROPTION. Designed for use with black and white graphics, XFROPTION specifies what happens when one color is plotted over another.

The answer to INVERSING a FOTOfile turned out to be fairly easy once I played about with the procedure. Basically, all you have to do is:

```
) PERFORM XFROPTION (%6)
) PERFORM FILLPORT
```

after you have loaded the FOTOfile (PERFORM GLOAD.x). The (%6) means the XFROPTION procedure will INVERSE INVERT the file in combination with PERFORM FILLPORT. IF you PERFORM Grafixson (that is, turn on the screen to see the graphic) before these procedures, the FOTOfile will magically INVERSE from top to bottom in front of your eyes. Or, if you do it afterwards, the FOTOfile will be inversed and then be presented all at once. The only problem? It IS slow.

By the way, if you choose to Look at a FOTOfile and it is INVERSED on screen, that means the original file on disk is in NORMAL mode. If you decide to print it, use the See and Print Inversed selection.

By selecting choices 2 or 3 to print the graphic, you will be given additional choices to make. These have to do with the way the graphic is printed, whether you want it boxed or not and (if you have a color printer using an Epson emulation mode) what color it should be printed in. You may choose to have the FOTOfile printed centered or to the left.

If you say yes to "Should it be rotated?" you'll get a large picture printed at 90 degrees. Otherwise,

you'll get a smaller picture front on. Choose yes or no to the box. For color, choose Black if you don't have a color printer. Otherwise, you can choose from colors ranging from red to blue or yellow.

Once the picture is done printing, the printer will do a form feed and you'll be back to the Graphics Menu. If you have a color printer, it will be reset to Black. From the menu, you can print another copy of the graphic or return to Menu.Maker. By the way, aborting a print once it's started is pretty much impossible.

Finally, note that I've been working with Seikosha and Panasonic Serial printers that have EPSON emulation. I frankly haven't tested this module using a parallel printer. But if you simply replace the included SOS.Driver file with one of your own that has your printer driver and the Graphics driver, it should work fine.

TEXT MODULE

The text module has been cleaned up a bit to make it faster and easier to use. Unlike previous versions of MM, the text does not scroll but is presented on the screen 18 lines at a time from top to bottom. You can still pause at any time and choose to return to Menu.Maker. You also still have the option to print the file as well.

When printing, the screen now prints the first 18 lines so you can see what it is. And there's a special surprise. We've added a timer display at the bottom.

By the way, the program prints 60 lines per page, and then does a form feed. At the end of the file, it will do another form feed for you and then return you to Menu.Maker's main screen.

FONT MODULE

This little program basically remains unchanged from its original version in earlier Menu.Maker programs. It will download into memory any fontfile you desire so long as you have the DOWNLOAD.INV invokable module available on the disk for which you've set the prefix.

IMPROVEMENTS

What else can be done to improve Menu.Maker? I'd enjoy your comments and suggestions. I want to continue working on the Text module. I'm still unhappy with the way text is displayed on the screen in the sense that when you INPUT a string from the specified file, it can be very long. Unless I've gone through and inserted a RETURN at the end of each line, the program will literally load and scroll each string of text (actually each paragraph is a better way to describe it.) It can be very disconcerting.

I also continue to search for ways to read 3EZ Pieces text files. It can be done from Pascal and from Applesoft Basic. There's no reason we can't do it too. Help!

I also plan to use Daryl Anderson's BASIC GTO to try and speed the program up a bit more. But so long

as it's disk-based, it will always be slow. It takes time to read and load files. That's why you CAN speed things up considerably by placing all the files on a hard disk and making sure the prefixes are set accordingly in the programs.

Along with the new Menu.Maker on disk 3BSB-09 you'll find a number of special articles, graphics and fonts originally put together for our /// SIG meeting on April 18th and designed to help show off what Menu.Maker can do.

I hope you enjoy the disk - and new Menu Maker as much as I have programming it for you. Your comments/suggestions/programming improvements are very welcome.