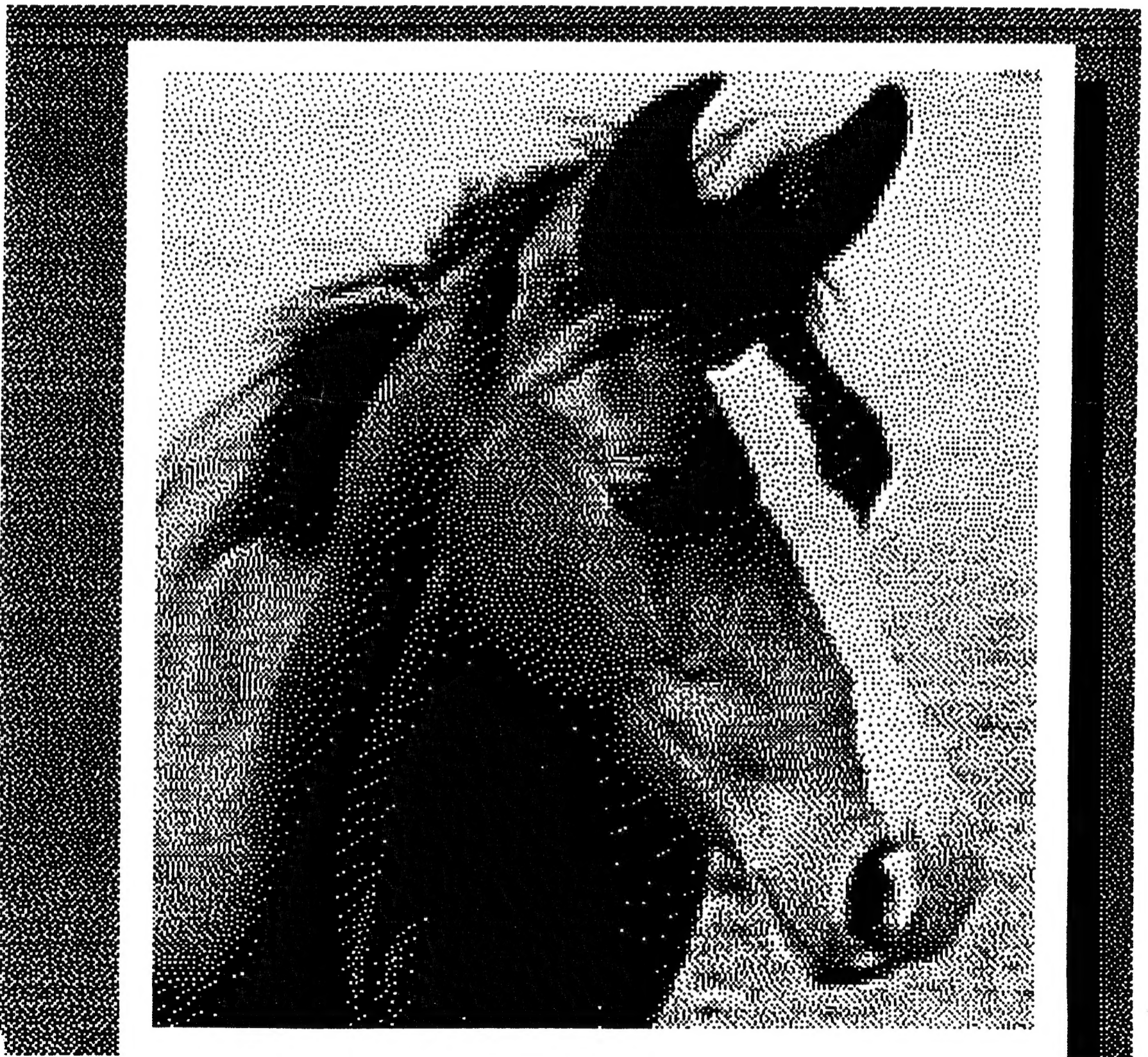


SINC - LINK

SEPT-OCT '93 VOL 11#5



TORONTO TIMEX-SINCLAIR USERS CLUB

SINC - LINK

SEPT-OCT '93 VOL 11 #5

SINC-LINK IS A PUBLICATION OF THE TORONTO TIMEX-SINCLAIR USERS CLUB AND IS ISSUED 6 TIMES A YEAR. CLUB MEMBERS RECEIVE FREE COPIES AS PART OF THE \$20.00 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE.

NEWSLETTERS ARE EXCHANGED, FREE OF CHARGE, WITH OTHER TIMEX-SINCLAIR USER GROUPS.

PLEASE CREDIT THIS PUBLICATION AND THE AUTHOR IF YOU COPY MATERIAL.

THE TS2068 & ZX-81 GROUP MEETS ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 14 RICHOME COURT, SCARBOROUGH, ONT. 7PM START.

THE QL SIG WILL MEET AT 586 ONEIDA DRIVE, BURLINGTON, ONT. 7PM START. NEXT MEETING TO BE ANNOUNCED.

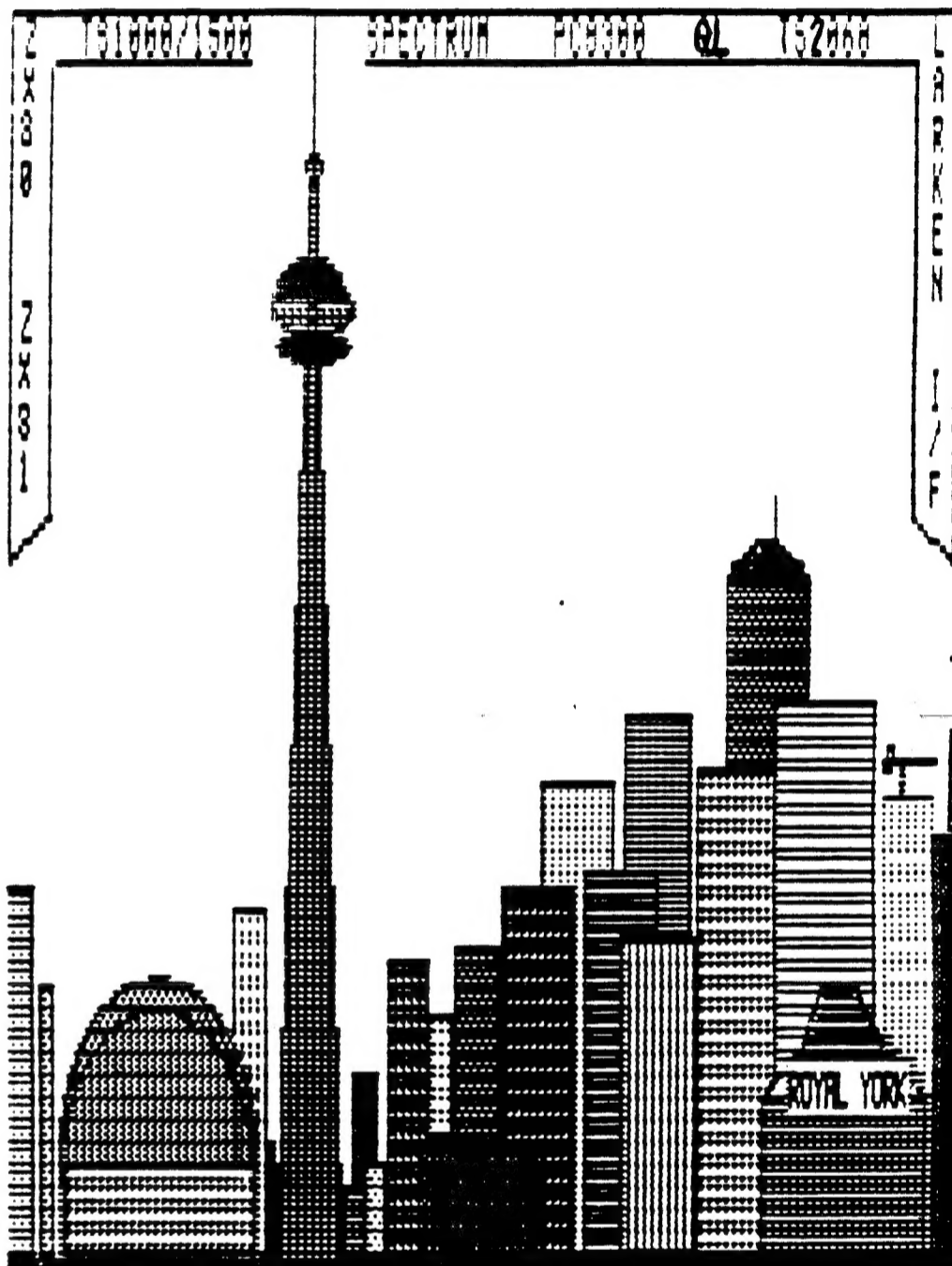
SINC-LINK IS PRODUCED ENTIRELY ON SINCLAIR AND TIMEX-SINCLAIR COMPUTERS.

SEND CORRESPONDANCE TO:

SINC-LINK EDITOR, TORONTO
TIMEX-SINCLAIR USERS CLUB, 14
RICHOME COURT, SCARBOROUGH,
ONTARIO, CANADA M1K 2Y1.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:	RENE BRUNEAU (531-9749)
TREASURER:	BILL LAWSON (444-8772)
SECRETARY:	GEORGE CHAMBERS (751-7559)
ACTIVITIES:	LOU LAFERRIERE (820-3725)
QL CONTACT:	HUGH HOWIE (634-4929) NOTE NEW AREA CODE 905
NEWSLETTER:	JEFF TAYLOR (244-8583)
LIAISON OFFICER:	GEORGE CHAMBERS, 14 RICHOME COURT,
(Out-of-town members)	SCARBOROUGH, ONTARIO M1K 2Y1
	(416-751-7559)



TORONTO TIMEX-SINCLAIR
USERS CLUB

TORONTO TIMEX-SINCLAIR USERS CLUB

TORONTO TIMEX-SINCLAIR USERS CLUB

INDEX VOLUME 11-5

Page 2 - Club Stuff	Page 16 - SuperBASIC Routines -QL
Page 3 - Index, Editorial	Page 19 - Beware of GST+
Page 4 - Kill the Newsletter ?	Page 20 - I Visited Dayton Hugh Howie
Page 5 - Qlips	Page 22 - Important Notice Toronto Fest 1994
Page 6 - Spectrum Emulator Review	Page 23 - John Juergens writes Gold Card, PC Conqueror
Page 10 - QL Woes - Fixits for errant QLs	Page 25 - LKDOS Disassembly Continued
Page 13 - ZXB1 Resources 1MB SRAM board	Page 28 - Toronto Fest 1994 Questionnaire
Page 14 - QL Library Report	

GUEST EDITORIAL

Once again the newsletter is late. In part, the delay has been caused by the fact that we have received very few articles from the TS1000 and 2068 membership and we felt that we could not put together an issue representative of the overall membership of the club. If you look at the composition of this issue, 17 pages were written by QL users (8 by Hugh Howie), 7 pages from 2068 users (two articles), and 1 page from TS1000 users (me). I think we can all agree that of the three computers used in the club, the QL continues to generate the most activity and interest among its owners. However, there are still a lot of TS1000 and 2068 owners out there, and we would really like to hear from you. To be a bit melodramatic, the life of this newsletter depends on YOU.

With the exception of Hugh Howie and Bill Lawson, the executive members use 2068s or Ts1000s. We are finding it very difficult to maintain our enthusiasm when the majority of the members of the club are not participating in the continued well being of the club. Paying your dues is not enough. This club will NOT fold because of lack of funds, but it will not continue in its present form for very long if you do not respond. Active participation from all members in maintaining the standard of excellence that we have attained in the newsletter would be a welcome boost.

Our editor, Jeff Taylor, and the rest of the Executive thank those writers, both members and nonmembers, who have submitted articles, and look forward to seeing more of your efforts published in future issues of SINC-LINK.

Rene Bruneau, President 1993

KILL THE NEWLETTER? - KILL SINC-LINK?

by Hugh Howie.

On receiving the July/August issue of SINC-LINK, (on August 6th no less), I was astounded to read the comments of our secretary that our prestigious and most looked for newsletter was perhaps going to be discontinued.

I am very sorry to see this in print. I am sorry that the newsletter is so late in coming out those days. I am sorry there is such a lack of contributors that makes those statements possible. I am sorry to see the club in such straights that it is on the verge of folding, and that is what our secretary means; the club is on the verge of folding if we do not get more contributors! We must remember that it is SINC-LINK that links this club together. It is the newsletter that links any club together. I do not know any widespread organisation that does not rely on some sort of paper communication to keep its members happy and interested.

In a club as strong in members as we are, it is unbelievable that we can not get enough material to fill 30 pages once every two months.

The reason that the newsletter is a bit late at times is because our editor keeps hoping for more material to fill out the pages - he waits and waits - but nothing comes in. Now how is an editor to build a newsletter if he has nothing to work with? I have said in this publication, as also in others, that more material is required. We need more input, and on a regular basis also.

I am unhappy that our secretary is able to say that he is going to fold the newsletter. Kill one, kill all! George Chambers was the instigator in the birth of the club many years ago, and it would be a pity if he were to kill it.

Since becoming a member, I have seen many others clubs fall by the wayside, and in each and every case the folding was preceded by an urgent plea for more INPUT from the members. I guess the plea fell on deaf ears as it was soon announced that those clubs were folding. Do you want that to happen here?

I once was proud to say that I belonged to the biggest and best in North America. Can that still be said?

I have done my bit to keep this club and its newsletter in action. I have done all I can - and so have many others - officers and members have all done a good job, and are still willing to do a good job, but we need something to work with.

In all our membership it is hard to believe that no one anywhere, has nothing to write about. We can tell of our successes and our failures. What we do for this that or the next thing. Solutions - problems - questions - information - what is good equipment and what is bad. Good programs and bad.

Many years ago the QL was pronounced dead, today the QL is more active than it ever was. There is more action in the provision of good hardware, and more really good software available than at any time in the QL's history. A machine which had such a poor start has developed into a machine which is second to none in its ability. So why do we not take more interest in it?

Do you not like what you see in our newsletter? If so, why not write and tell us so that we can improve the content. If you don't like what you are getting then write something of what you would like and we will be only too glad to print it.

Finally, I have heard no mention other than the comment of our secretary, that the newsletter is going to fold. If anyone has the power to say that, it should be the Editor. I know that our editor has problems in filling space, but he has not as yet said anything like that, not to me at any rate. And although he may be a bit frustrated on occasion, I do not think he is going to say "lets fold".

You folks out there, if you want a newsletter then it is up to you and only you to provide your own newsletter.

Send something in.

930807

Q L I P S

by Hugh Howie

Recently I had occasion to be writing to one of our members, sending him some library disks he had requested. Unfortunately he had been using a catalogue which was long out of date. I was still able to give him what he requested, but he was asking for individual programs, and this creates a bit of a headache to me.

Last year I decided that I could only (for the sake of my own sanity) provide complete disks and not individual programs. And this I attempted to do for my friend, but as he had only sent a small number of disks, I had a problem; not insurmountable, but still there, so I added some prefixes to the titles and managed to get two disks onto one, and I told him how to remove them to make disks of his own which would still conform to the TorQLib Library disks without the prefixes. (Are you still with me?)

In my letter I explained how by using TK2 he would have no problems re-naming when copying the programs to their proper disks.

I was not sure as to the expertise of the person I was writing to, and I made the comment that "I was probably teaching my granny how to suck eggs"

My friend replied humorously, saying that I had the gender wrong, and that he was a grandfather, and that he was unaware he was related to me.

This gave me some thought, as I believed everyone knew what I was saying or trying to say; so I got out various books of learning (so-called) and was unable to find any reference to my statement. There was no reference to "teaching my granny how to suck eggs!"

My interpretation of this statement is that it alludes to trying to instruct the expert in the basics. And what is more basic than sucking eggs? A wonderful source of food, and not only that, it is a country boys dream of yore, to build a collection of birds eggs, and to do that you had to have a knowledge of how to suck eggs to get the innards come out and leave the outards to be saved as part of

the collection. So you just had to know the gentle art of sucking (or blowing) eggs. Even my granny knew how!

But in my books of knowledge there were plenty other references to eggs and as I read I got interested in the subject.

I found that Shakespeare had written about the weasel and the ease with which a weasel sucks eggs. So perhaps somewhere along the line 'granny' had been substituted for 'weasel'.

Further on in my research I came across a probable answer to the question "What came first the hen or the egg?"

Well, Samuel Butler once stated "A hen is only an egg's way of making another egg" So that takes care of the question as to which (what?) came first; it was the egg. No?

As one cartoonist put it in a caption under a picture of a dejected rooster bemoaning lifes caprices, "Yesterday an egg - tomorrow a feather duster"

Christopher Isherwood had this to say:-

The common cormorant or shag
Lays eggs inside a paper bag
The reason you will see no doubt
It is to keep the lightning out.
But what those unobservant birds
Have never noticed is that herds
Of wandering bears may come with buns
And steal the bags to hold the crumbs.

Now that still does not really answer my original statement about my granny. I can only rationalise that it is some kind of colloquialism I picked up somewhere on my travels. As to whether it is well known I have no idea.

I still maintain that it is very apt in certain circumstances especially when trying teach the expert how to do something.

If you have read this far you are probably wondering just what this is all about. I really don't know! I guess you could say something just egged me on.

930728

THE KILLER EMULATOR FROM HELL by John Pazmino

By now the supplies and sources for Sinclair hardware are quite dwindling. It is tough to introduce newcomers to Sinclair for the general lack of apparatus to outfit them with. On top of this is the pervasion of the IBM type of computer among the vulgate which works fiercely against adopting Sinclair as a new platform.

What to do? In the UK, where Sinclair still rules in the 8-bit computer world, there were efforts to work a software solution: Turn the IBM into a Sinclair. In principle this is easy because the Z80 CPU architecture has been emulated on the 8088 (and higher) chips thru software. Many readers will remember, and perhaps still have, the CP/M emulators on the early IBM rigs.

However, emulators for the Sinclair have been, well, ech!. Why? Mainly they are written by Sinclair folk who on the whole are unversed in IBM. In deed, some Sinclair emulators are nothing but the Z80 code of the Sinclair ROM shoved into a Z80 CPU emulator. This was for many years not cricket because the code was the property of Sinclair and then Amstrad.

There's a physical barrier, too. Except for the very first IBM PC, issuing simulataneoulsy with the Sinclair ZX-81, the IBM has no innate means of receiving input from a cassette. Some emulators simply gave up at this obstacle and work only with type-in programs.

Well, now in this merry year of 1993 comes the Killer Emulator from Hell, a Sinclair emulator for the IBM that does everything a Sinclair emulator should do and does it right. This new emulator, Z80, is a shareware creation from Europe.

Shareware, not lucreware.

This point is crucial. For in early 1993 Amstrad, who holds the rights for the Spectrum and QL, formally threw the code for the ROMs into public use. That is, anyone may now copy and distribute the original ROM code in their own products PROVIDED that these products are noncommercial. Commercial use of the ROM code is still prohibited. Ergo, altho Z80 does have woven into it native Sinclair code it is copasetic and quite kosher.

Z80 dissolves the above -- and many many other -- problems in bringing the Sinclair to the IBM. It comes on an IBM stiffy with 720K of files. They rehydrate to about 2M on your harddisc. Two megabytes! That's, um, more than thirty Spectrumsful! What ARE all these crazy files!? Relax, already. Most of the files are sourcecode and literature. **You can shiv them, after printing or copying them off,** leaving 'just' 330K of working files. That's STILL about five Spectrumsful of stuff. For emulating a Spectrum?

They toto in uno are a symphony of several Sinclair systems: the Spectrum 48K model, 128K model (with pixel graphics and multichannel sound), Interface 1 (with serial ports), Sinclair and Kempston joysticks, Multiface 1 (with memory capture), tape loading indicator, Z80 dissembler and monitor, header-reader, screen editor, RAMdisc, swoppable ROMs, Microdrives, Disciple discs, and (of course!) tapedrive. All of these are provided via software in quite perfect replication of the original hardware gadgets. Thus, the complete inability to attach native Sinclair accessories to the IBM is much overcome by building the most crucial ones right into the emulator.

The emulator receives its original input from cassette only. This requires a cable connecting the IBM parallel port to the cassette deck, with some circuit bits along the way. The emulator has clear instructions for making this cable and it took me an afternoon to build it, including a stopoff on Canal Street to get the parts.

If you in giddy delirium shoved Z80's disc into your IBM without

between Sinclair's CR-only and IBM's CR/LF line terminations. All these conversions use the IBM file as the working medium.

The Microdrives are mimicked on IBM file. There are eight 'microdrives' in the emulator, the maximum capacity of the original Interface, and each 'cartridge' is an IBM file. You 'slot' a microdrive by allocating a file to a drive. Ah!, to use a new cartridge you must 'format' it ("FORMAT "m";3;<name>"; hey!, those extra IBM keys ARE cool!). This creates a new IBM file 137K long with 126K of 'tape'. Two of these fit on a 360K floppy or five on a 720K stiffy. Once you format an emulated cartridge you can work with it exactly as you would a physical cartridge. You even pull a 'catalog' of the file and 'erase' stuff from it!

The Disciple disc is, too, cloned in Z80, altho the United States never enjoyed this system. Again, the IBM file is the working medium. Being that on stateside we deal with many minor disc systems, can Z80 handle, say the Zebra system? Now comes the freako part. The code for the Disciple system is excisable from the primum corpus of the emulator. YOU CAN REPLACE IT WITH THE OPERATIONS OF YOUR PECULIAR DISC SYSTEM. Yes!, you may ultimately junk the hardware of the Zebra system and run everything from the Zebra code you wrote into Z80.

The total supplantation of Sinclair's physical media with IBM files lets you jettison just about every disc and cartridge utility in sight. With your stuff in IBM files you can apply any and all of the IBM file utilities on it. Farewell, Cartridge Doctor! Vale, KopyKat!

Wait a minute!!! What happens to all those luscious Sinclair cartridges and discs in those milkcrates? Since you simply can not feed them to the IBM you must revert to the original tapes. Load the files into Z80 from the tapes and save them onto the emulated disc or cartridge. Without such prime tapes you may have one revolting job before you! You must transfer the disc or cartridge files back to cassettes and then procede as just described.

Communications thru the emulator use the cloned serial ports of the Interface 1. Remember my series a year back on PostScript on the Sinclair? (Yesyesyes, I know, LISTings missed out the fourth and final part.) Now you can actualize this by running Z80 on an IBM fitted with a PostScript printer. But there's a weirder prospect, attainable with Z80: Pass data from the Spectrum to an other IBM program. You in this case do not need a PostScript printer; use your existing printer! You run a PostScript software emulator like Emulaser or GhostScript on the IBM and send Spectrum generated PostScript files to it. Ugh! such disgustingly gorgeous output. From a Spectrum. FROM A SPECTRUM!

Becuae the emulator is European the presumption is that you use the serial port for printing and the instructions detail conversing with a printer thru it. In the US printers are routinely hung from the parallel port and the serial port is the avenue to a modem. Hence, in making the cassette cable, include a 'Y' connector or A-B switch so the printer and cassette can coexist. To accommodate the possibility of a parallel printer, Z80 allows a redirection of output to LPTx.

However, there is a clumsiness in using the printer, one of the [very] few downpoints of Z80. The LPRINT, LLIST, and COPY commands do not fire characters directly to the attached printer. You have to first open a channel to the printer ("OPEN #3,"t") and then send output to that channel. I already wrote, via Internet, to the author about this and suggested that he make LPRINT, LLIST, and COPY send output to a DOS printer driver of the sort included with word processors. If he can work this into a future edition of Z80 you'll be printing to whatever device you got attached to the IBM.

What the deal about other ROMs? You recall that the American flavor of SPECTRUM, the Timex 2000, has a dockport into which an external ROM plugged to override the onboard ROM. Also, when the Zebra

making the connector, chill out! Z80 comes with seven ready-to-run Spectrum programs. Nothing fancy, some games and utilities.

I can not here elaborate on the very many details of this emulator. That would amount to describing the entire Spectrum world! I here highlight a few major features. This emulator, for starts, in fact does what every Sinclair fan sweats in sleep for: IT BODILY TRANSFERS TAPES TO DISC. Yes, it takes the files from tape and mirrors them on a regular IBM file. And this file to the emulated Spectrum quacks and flies and waddles exactly like the original tape. The major positive(!) difference is that you never 'spot' or 'rewind'. This feature alone virtually eliminates the 'tape loading error' from a tapefile that failed to catch. It'll pass around again in, oh, a millisecond for another go. Each 360K disc holds several, depending on length, cassettes of programs.

With Z80 you may choose between a replica of a cassette OR AN ORDINARY IBM FILE. That is, you may load from EITHER the emulated tape OR from an IBM file that contains the program in DOS form! Hand up? Yes? Sure, Z80 converts the one kind into the other!

You over there? Voce alta, de favore. OK, you have several short tapes or programs and you want to combine them on one cassette. What a magilla on the real Sinclair! Load from one tape; swop tapes; spot it; save to it. Swop for the next tape With Z80 you merely knit together the separate 'tapes' in any order you want and get one consolidated new 'tape'. Yes, that right. Uh, let's continue, please?

These grand goodies so far are alone enough to justify the nuisance of reaching overseas for this emulator. In one weekend you can put your entire Spectrum collection onto disc WITH ABSOLUTELY NO MODIFICATION OF THE ORIGINAL CODE. You 'bung the tape' by specifying the tape's IBM file, do a LOAD and the 'tape' goes ahead and loads.

Please do understand that this is utterly NOT a 'RAMdump', 'memory capture' or 'snapshot'. Z80 does this, too, as an altogether separate function. In the tape mirror each file of the tape is actually in the IBM file and you even use the (included!) header-reader to see them. What's more, the header-reader browses the tape and loads ANY tape file you want. You don't have to let the tape run thru to load the program way off at the tail end. Hmmm, a random-access cassette tape.

The Spectrum keyboard is exactly mapped to the IBM keyboard. You use all the keywords and tokens. Being that the IBM has no Sinclair keytops, you popup a Sinclair keyboard diagram. It's really a rather faithful depiction of the chicklet Spectrum with the corner colorband and all that. There is no such mapping for the Spectrum 128K because this model does not use keywords and tokens. You type in everything litteratim with all the regular IBM keys.

Besides the replicated Spectrum keys, the extra IBM keys are energized. You, for instance, get the <=> symbol by <sym<L>> or by just punching the <=> key. Either the IBM <alt> or <ctl> keys stands for the Sinclair <sym> key. I do see a danger in this convenience! Play with the Spectrum-in-IBM for a while. Then go back to the real Spectrum. Where the eff is that <[> symbol!?

The numberpad is the cursorpad, the Sinclair joystick, or the Kempston joystick -- as you wish by selection. The cursorkeys work, too, for editing the command line. <esc> is the EDIT key, as is <sft<1>>; <bsp> and do DELETE along with <sft<0>>.

The IBM functionkeys are the adit to the emulator's forest of functions, with <F1> being the general 'help' feature and <alt<F1>> popping up the Spectrum keyboard layout.

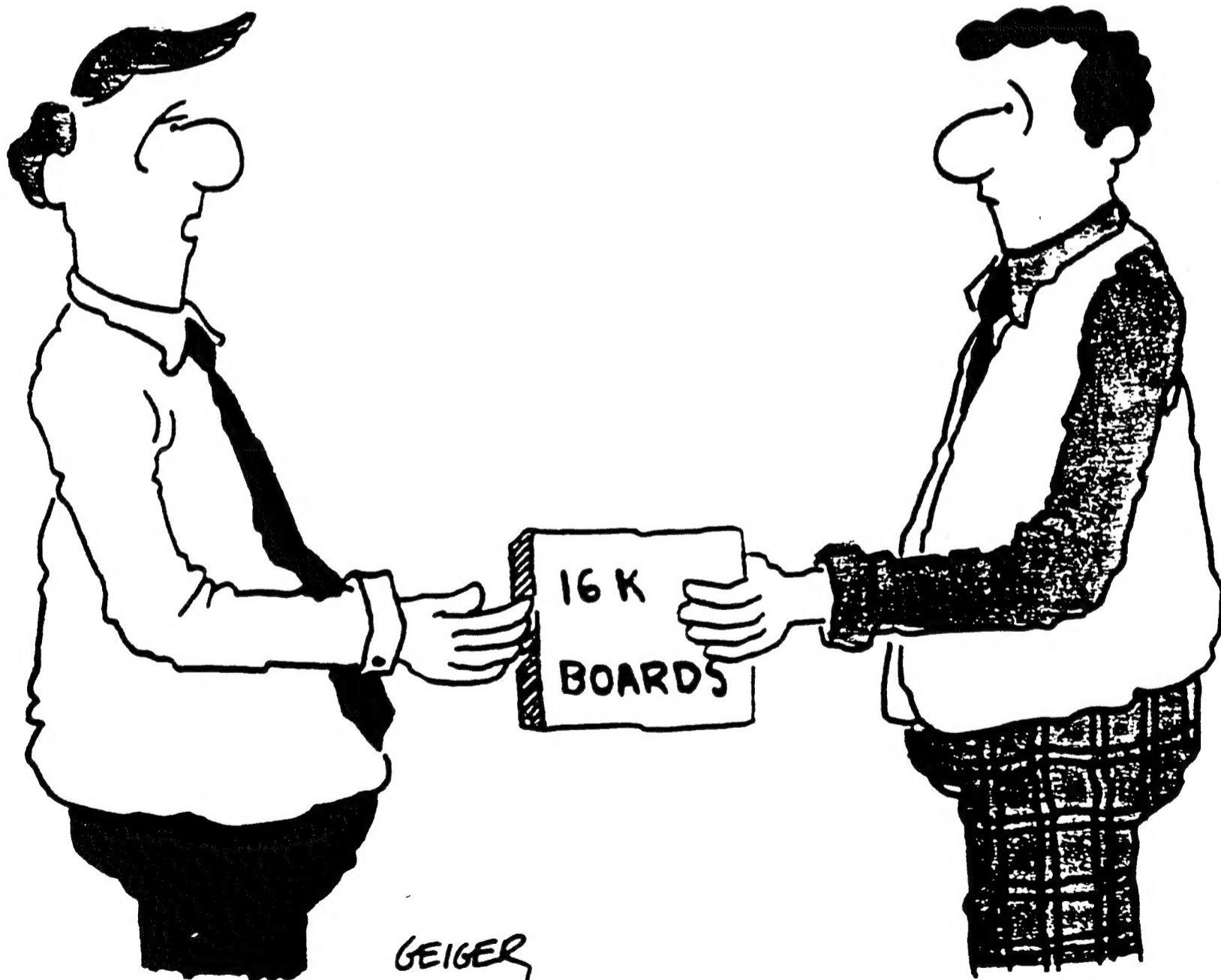
When you do a screensave ("SAVE <name> SCREEN\$"), THE SCREEN\$ FILE CAN BE SHARED WITH OTHER IBM PROGRAMS. What?! Uh, you see, this emulator converts a Spectrum SCREEN\$ file into a GIF or PCX file! You share textfiles, too, with other IBM programs by a conversion

disc system is fitted to the Timex, its own ROM is paged in when a disc command is issued. Well, you can set up a battery of ROM files and let the emulator bank off of them (one at a time).

How? There are two methods. The first is to get the ROM code into an IBM file and then point 280 at it when igniting the emulator. This bypasses the default ROM file. The other is to patch [a copy of] the default ROM file with code for the new ROM and let 280 go and think it's drinking up the same old code.

By now your throat is dry, your glands are leaking, your hairs are dropping out. TELL ME, UNCLE!, UNCLE!, WHERE IS THIS 280 THINGIE!! Send off 15 British pounds to B G Services, 64 Roebuck Road, Chessington, Surrey KT9-iJX, England and ask for the 280 Spectrum emulator for IBM computers. I did this and got my emulator in 12 days flat. To pay from the US I just took my ordinary check and wrote it out for "fifteen British pounds" payable to "B G Services"; it went thru smoothly. Plastic is not [yet?] accepted. B G Services is a Spectrum outlet and it'll enclose a sheet for its other items, too.

& & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & &



Thanks for the memories.

QL Woes
by
N.A. Pashtoon

In Vol. 10-6 (Nov.-Dec.'92), and Vol. 11-3 (Mar.-Apr. '93) issues of SINC-LINK mention is made of problems some of the QL users are experiencing. In the paragraphs to follow I will relate my experience in solving similar problems.

I) In the Nov.-Dec. '92 issue Bill Lawson has mentioned a myriad of symptoms of his malfunctioning QL system. Let me hope that he has resolved and sorted out the problems he was facing. The symptoms he has mentioned, and a few more, applies to approximately a dozen QLs in my user group (CATUG) and my own. These problems invariably surfaced when a daughter board with Minerva or an alternative QDOS EPROM was installed on the QL. To solve these problems, proceed as follows:

a) All the important integrated circuits on the QL are socketed. Computers from LISA to first shipments of ATARI ST and other computers were plagued by unreliable operation because of this. The same is true of QL. Many times the microdrive problems and blanking unreliable video is directly traceable to the ZX8302 and ZX8301 chips. Note that these two ICs are CMOS, and static-sensitive. At least touch a metal object with your fingers before you touch the ICs. When you open your QL, it is advisable to spray the pins and sockets of these ICs, as well as the other socketed ICs with a "tuner cleaner", such as Radio Shack #64-3320, or equivalent. After spraying, use a flat-bit screw driver, or a butter knife to displace slightly upwards, from both ends, the ICs in their sockets. Spray again, and press the integrated circuits back in place. This cleaning should be good for at least a year.

b) As mentioned earlier, many users who had fully functional machines, started having problems when they installed a small EPROM daughter-board inside the QL. So what happens under these circumstances? After carefully studying the problem in about a dozen cases, I concluded that the problem is caused by hairline cracks in the copper traces of the daughter board. How are these hairline cracks caused?

After watching my user group members, and my own practice of how do I normally install the daughter-board on the QL mother-board, it became obvious that we were responsible for causing the problem. To explain, normally we would first install the daughter-board by pressing on the corner of the board, and then press-in the EPROM. Here both the procedure as well as the order in which the task is performed is wrong. Why?

The daughter-boards we were using, (to keep costs down, this is true of all peripheral boards, and the QL mother board), are of a very flimsy construction, with very thin copper traces. As the figure shows, two sockets are installed side-by-side, with approximately 0.2" spacing, one socket used for the EPROM is an ordinary dual-leaf socket, and the other one a machined socket. The pins of the machined socket

protrude, and is fitted in the ROM socket on the QL mother-board. In order to install two sockets side-by-side one has to saw-off the stabilizing plastic bridges (two or three) which every socket has. The consequence of this is that when you want to install an EPROM in the normal socket, it flexes the socket rows sideways, so much so, that some times it is not possible to install the EPROM. This flexing causes the hairline cracks in the copper traces on the back of the daughter-board. Belatedly one discovers that in order to install the EPROM, one has to hold the two rows of the socket pins of the normal socket vertically by one hand, and then fit the EPROM in the socket. We discover this after we have already caused damage to probably more than one trace.

The second mechanism causing the cracks, is the way we normally install the flimsily made daughter-board, by pushing on the corners of the board. This method of installation causes too much pressure on the corner pins of the machined socket, and possible hairline cracks.

As such, the suggested procedure for installation is to first install the EPROM on the daughter-board, while holding the normal socket in a vertical position in one hand, thus avoiding the flexing of the pins of the normal socket. Second, install the daughter-board on the mother-board by pressing on the top of EPROM, thus causing the pressure to be equally distributed on all the pins of the machined socket.

All these hassles could have been avoided if the boards were properly manufactured. For example, metalization both on top and bottom of the daughter-board would have helped. Most importantly, instead of using a low cost machined socket, the use of DIP socket carrier (say Dig-Key #ED6028, \$3.26) would have totally solved the problem. In this case you will have the benefit of machined pins, with the pins flush on top, thus allowing the normal socket straddle the socket carrier pins on top, without the stabilizing plastic bridges being sawed-off. But as you can see, this will almost double the price of the daughter board.

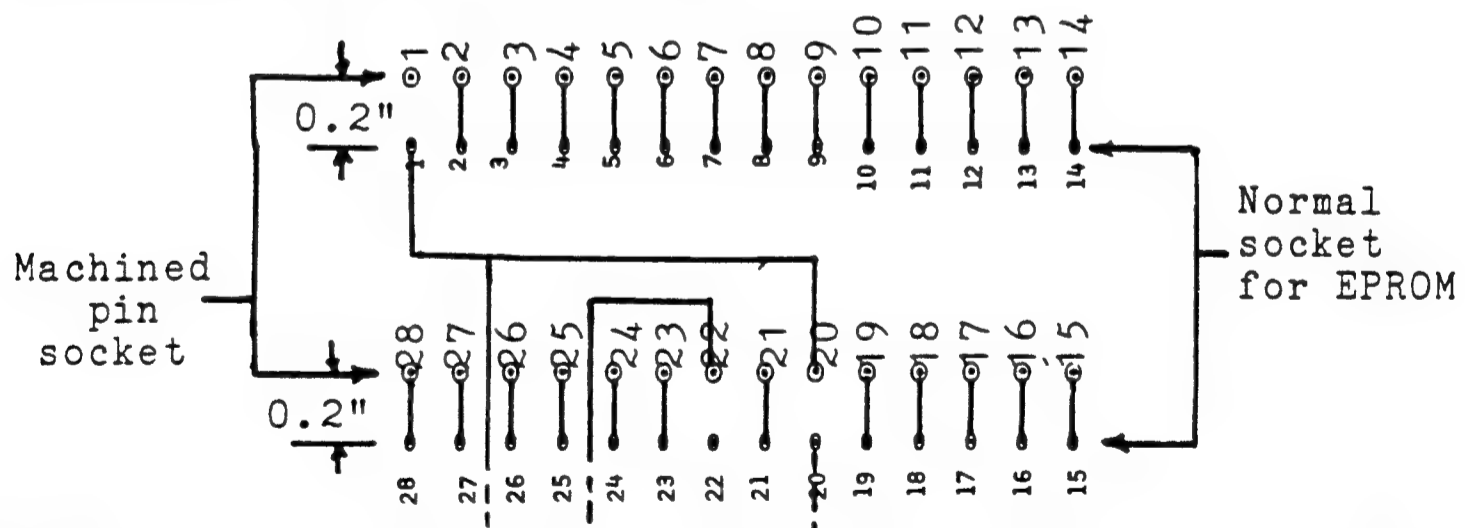


FIGURE: Partial back view of the daughter-board. The decoder IC, which on my board is a 74HCT00, is not shown.

The hairline cracks that I mentioned, are hard to see, even under a magnifying glass. Static testing by continuity measurements (using a VOM) could also be misleading. One can dynamically test by say, using a logic probe. One may even be tempted to cure the problem by putting solder globs on the affected traces. I recommend against it. The only sure method of solving the problem is, to do point-by-point wiring between the pins of the two sockets. This is much easier than it sounds. As shown in the figure, the two sockets are separated by a distance of 0.2", with all the respective pins connected by copper traces, excepts pins 1, 20, and 22. I use bare wire-wrapping (28 gauge) wire. Make a tiny hook on one end of the wire, solder it to the pin, wrap the wire on the corresponding pin of the other socket for half a loop, solder and cut the wire with a razor blade or Xacto knife at the base of the pin. Do all the 25 pins shown in the diagram. This will, with high probability, solve your problem. In the worst case you may have to duplicate all the traces on the back of the daughter-board using wire-wrap wire. Do not use a soldering iron rated higher than 15 watts.

c) A third source of the cracks, is the protrusion of the daughter-board on top of the QL mother-board, and being pressed by the back of the keyboard. On the Samsung QLs, there is a screw on the back of the keyboard, which interferes with the top of the new EPROM that you install. One must remove this screw. Even the removal of this screw does not solve the problem, always. It is suggested that of the eight screws holding the keyboard and the base of the QL together, two screws, one in back and one in front, not be installed. These are the screws which are left of center, roughly in alignment with the ROM sockets. It is worth mentioning, that depending on the height of the daughter-board, even the mother-board can be flexed by the pressure exerted through the daughter-board from the keyboard.

II) In The Mar.-Apr. '93 issue of Sink-Link in an article by Hugh Howie, "NOTES ON QL LOCK-UPS", Hugh says, and I quote: "I know of one person who has four QL's and is only now starting to have some success with one of them. Power Surges?"

Some QLs have exhibited this problem since its introduction into the market place. I have analysed the problem, and I believe I have a low cost solution. I suggest that Hugh inform his friend to contact me, and send me a self-addressed jiffy bag with an IRC, and I will mail his friend my solution in return mail. My address follows:

N.A. PASHTOON
940 BEAU DR., #204
DES PLAINES, IL 60016
U.S.A.

QL LIBRARY REPORT

Page 1

By Hugh Howie

I have spent too much time on too many other things, I have neglected my library, my library - your library, so I will now try to bring you up to date on what has been developing this last few months.

It is just about a year since I last reported on the library, so I think it timely to say something about it.

As a result of our QL membership drive last year, we were fortunate in that we had quite a few new members join our ranks. This might result in some more contributions to the library, and more use made of it also.

There are so many new things happening in the QL world, it is hard to believe that so few have anything to say, or have so few questions to ask. I also realise that many who ask questions do not wish to have their letters published because of one reason or another.

When you write to us, would you mind if we published your comments? In many cases the comments and questions asked are of very valid import to the newsletter. The question you ask may be of interest to others. I for one have had many interesting and learning hours trying to track down someone else's problem. Think about it.

Anyway, I have got away from the main topic - The Library - so back to it.

One of our new members submitted a disk with some very interesting stuff, and it was some time before I got around to looking in close detail at the disk he sent me. John Impellizzeri sent me this disk with a lot of ZIP/UNZIP stuff on it, and I had no idea what it was all about, which just goes to show how little I know about computing. Anyway I eventually got around to doing some serious work with this disk, and a whole new vista was opened up for me!

It would appear that ZIP is a method of compressing long files into short files for the purposes of transmitting them from you to me or me to you in the

shortest period of time and taking up the smallest amount of space on a disk. UNZIP puts them back into normal format.

When working the various BBS's etc., it is essential to get the info across as quickly as possible, costs rise with length of time on the phone.

This disk also has QED, QEM, Qterm (in German) also a Spectrum and ZX81 emulator so that you can run those programs on the QL. Nice with the Gold Card, but slow otherwise. Once again I have not done much with this, but as soon as I can get some programs I will see what can be done. I will be breaking this up into the Comms and Utilities sections.

I found that with ZIPPED files they took up less than half the original space on a disk. The zipping/unzipping takes only a very short time to accomplish - amazing in what it does. Thanks John for the disk, I am only too pleased to place it in the library, and hope that many more can take advantage of it. If you have anything more we would be glad to accept it. Perhaps you will get someone calling you on the BBS sometime.

I should mention that ZIP.UNZIP is a shareware program.

Another interesting thing was that Ron Blizzard sent me a disk with stuff on it for converting (for sake of a better word) a MAC pic file to the QL. He enclosed a few MAC files and it really was astounding what it does. I would suggest that anyone with access to Mac-Print files should have a look at this.

Ron Blizzard has also contributed a number of articles on his QL experiences and promises many more.

Before I forget, Ron is now the Happy Pappy of Adriana, born on the 4th of July. As also was her mother. (that was another year of course!) Some folks take independence too far. Congratulations to all concerned.

Away back long ago when I first started

QL LIBRARY REPORT

Page2

By Hugh Howie

the QL library, I was sent a program called XCHANGE, and as it was a commercial program at that time, I could not do anything with it. As time passed I was given other versions of the same program and still had to abide with my original decision. Now I am pleased to say that XCHANGE has been released to the Public Domain, although Psion still retain the copyright to it, but I have not yet placed it in the library. I do not know which version to use but Ron Blizzard has come to my rescue. Ron has in the past shown considerable interest in Xchange, so I sent him all the versions I had, and he has promised to let me have a really good working copy, incorporating all the various features in the various submissions. He says he will have time to do this. Even with a new daughter?

I was under the impression XCHANGE was a multitasking program, and as I used Taskmaster, I never did investigate XCHANGE too much. It must be remembered that I had not bought it, I just fell heir to it, and such being the case I did not try to do very much with it. But now someone tells me it is not a true multitasking program; yet it does look like one to me. Perhaps someone could tell me the difference.

I went to Newport, Rhode Island, and came back with three disks that looked like a complete set-up to start off a BBS for anyone so inclined. I am not interested in running a BBS, that is not for me. This is the BBS Tony Firshman uses I understand.

I do know Tony was running a pseudo BBS demo in his motel room, and that it was well attended. But I was not in at the beginning, and by the time I got there, there was no room at the inn. I just could not get in. He was running his BBS on two QL's connected by the serial ports. I will be placing this in the library for anyone interested. I imagine there are going to a lot of Comms_ disks before I am finished with this lot.

I would like to get into the BBS somewhere, but the phone bill for me

would be prohibitive, much to my regret. Being on a fixed income does place limitations on ones activities.

As I said earlier, I also have the QEM shareware program which is a versatile communications program, and has been well recommended. Once again I have not spent much time on it, but it has been placed in the library for those interested.

I have just received a disk from Howard Clase with a collection of routines which he has donated to the library. I will get to this as soon as possible as most of his stuff is good.

I have been so very busy of late I have not had time to do more than just glance at much of the stuff coming in, but as soon as I catch up with the back-log I will let you know in greater detail what's new.

Other interesting material has been coming in all the time and I must admit I have not kept up to date with it. Not only that, but I have been inclined to forget about things. I guess that is one of the privileges of old age, but I really should not make that an excuse. There is no excuse for inefficiency, so if I have not mentioned your own submission, please remind me.

This is not a review of those programs it is just to show that there are still things coming in, and to ask you to send more. I hope to be able to spend more time on submissions in the future, and I just ask you to send things in, and if there is anything you want, please ask.

I am going to try and review some of this stuff each month to keep you up to date. As

I say, I have all this stuff and have not done much with it, I will have to change my attitude and get down to work.

Finally, I have an idea that someone far away did not get their order fulfilled. That being the case would that someone contact me? Please?

930831

Howard Clase 1993.08.09

The public domain SuperBASIC routines supplied along with this disk in directory QLW_ were recently published in QL World. For copyright reasons I cannot supply copies of the text of the articles themselves, but I am allowed to give a brief summary of their functions. The programs are organised into sub-directories whose names correspond to the relevant issue of QL World. Programs in these notes followed by * are supplementary material that did not appear in QL World. I hope to find time to add routines from my earlier articles later.

If you are not familiar with the use of directories on the QL the following notes should help you save a bit of typing. To access files in Flp1_QLW_Jun93_ for example, type `DATA_USE flp1_QLW_Jun93_`. After this all file names are assumed to be in this sub-directory **unless** they begin with a recognised device name; so entering `LOAD Epson_driver` will find `flp1_QLW_Jun93_Epson_driver` without your having to type in the device and directory names every time. You can also use `Ftidy` (if you have it - if not, why not it's free!) or `WCOPY` to copy all files in a directory to e.g. `ram1_` without all the directory names and access them from there. You will have to do this to read `_docs` into `quill` or if you have a Gold Card learn how to use `DEV_USE` - but that will have to be the subject of a future article sometime.

At the time of writing, back issues of Sinclair QL World are obtainable from: Arcwind Ltd., The Blue Barn, Tew Lane, Wootton, Woodstock, Oxon., U.K. OX7 1HA, Price £2.50 (UK), £2.99 (Europe).

Oct92_ (p38)

String fisher

This was originally designed to find all lines in the Psion BASIC programs `config_bas` and `install_bas` that contain references to microdrives so that they could be replaced with `"flp1_"`, `"diskdrive"`, etc. to run on a disk system without the use of the cumbersome `mdv_use` command. (It will not actually make the changes; you have to do this yourself, but it tells you which lines to change.) It can be easily adapted to search out any strings (words) from any other listing, or indeed any ASCII QL file; change line 150. N.B. it will not work on compiled or assembled programs.

If you want output directly on your printer instead of in a file type `"ser1"` - or whatever your printer desires when asked for "Device and filename for output".

I have made a minor correction to line 230.

N.B. You can compile both `config_bas` and `install_bas` after you've modified them with `QLiberator`, and probably with DP's compilers too. The compiled versions run much faster of course.

Howard Clase 1993.08.09

Nov92_ (p29)

Code revealer

This was designed to explore a word processor internal file such as a Quill_doc file, to find out what the codes for things like "superscript on", "new paragraph" etc are. (They are not the same as those you put in using install_bas, which are intended for the printer only). It prints text normally, but control characters appear highlighted as their ASCII code values. It can, of course, be used on any other type of file. If you have Minerva and can remember all the special characters you won't need this! As supplied, the QL's second character set characters are also highlighted; if you would rather see their ASCII values omit line 240. A line feed appears both as it's ASCII value (10) and as a new line on the screen (line 235).

Filter ctrls

This was designed to filter out all control characters from an internal format file from another word processor - even an MS-DOS one, leaving just an ASCII file that can be imported into Quill. It also removes multiple spaces, and gives a file name acceptable to Quill, ending with the extension "_Psi" - which you must type in when importing.

You could also use it on a corrupted _doc file or a def_tmp file in an emergency. It will extract the text characters from any file. In any event you will probably find that a bit of formatting of the imported document will be required to set margins, justification etc.

Change serial port

This is an "install_bas" bypass to change the designated serial ports on printer_dat files. I need a lot of different printer_dat files, and I have solved this by configuring Quill, Abacus etc to look for "printer_dat" on ram8_. Each printer driver is stored on my setup disk with a distinctive name e.g. FX85_dat, FX85Ger_dat, LX86_dat etc. and I copy the appropriate one to ram8_printer_dat as required (you can also do this using the "backup" command from within Quill.) One of my QLs prints through ser1 and the other through ser2, this routine will change the port flag in all _dat files on a disk (except install_dat, the master list) a darned sight quicker than doing it through install_bas!

Jun93_ (Vol. II Issue 6 p38)

DIY Printer driver

The first listing in this article was an example of how, in principle, to write a SuperBASIC printer driver that allows you to print most of the characters from the QL's second (or foreign) character set from a quill_doc - depending upon what's available in your printer and your ingenuity in creative overprinting. You should first "print" your _doc to a file using your normal printer driver, then process this _lis file using the routine, which will send it to the printer substituting codes as required. Pay particular attention to

Howard Clase 1993.08.09

line 145 making sure that it is where your printer is and that the flags are correct - if in doubt start with the default "ser1_".

Briefly, the second character codes (128 - 191) are intercepted and substituted by a string of up to nine codes which put the printer in the right mood, print the character and then return the printer to normal.

The next two programs are "full" versions of this using slightly different approaches; they did not appear in QL World.

Epson driver *

This is as full an implementation for my Epson FX85 as I could manage, it should work with other Epsoms, and may work with Epson compatibles. For the few characters I could not manage you will have to make additions by hand.

CGP 220 driver *

In this case all the characters are available in the printer, but with different codes from those used by the QL. All that is required is a one for one substitution, and a simpler array is used; the codes are read in from a series of DATA statements. I have not actually been able to test this one, I found the problem in a US newsletter, which printed my solution - but I never heard whether or not it actually worked! If your printer is in IBM mode you will find that most of the characters are there whatever the brand, if so this approach is the one to use.

Second set *

This is a test set of ASCII code followed by the corresponding character in lines of eight as follows

```

128 ä 129 a 130 å 131 é 132 ö 133 o 134 ø 135 ü
136 ç 137 ñ 138 æ 139 o 140 á 141 à 142 â 143 ë
144 è 145 ê 146 ï 147 í 148 î 149 î 150 ó 151 ò
152 ô 153 ú 154 ù 155 û 156 ß 157 ç 158 ¥ 159 `
160 Ä 161 A 162 Å 163 É 164 Ö 165 O 166 Ø 167 Ù
168 Ç 169 Ñ 170 Æ 171 O 172 α 173 δ 174 θ 175 ½
176 μ 177 π 178 ø 179 ; 180 ¿ 181 ¼ 182 § 183 ¨
184 « 185 » 186 ° 187 ÷ 188 ← 189 → 190 ↑ 191 ↓

```

Use it to test your printer driver.

Exp Paras

For budding QL World contributors, this program arose in response to a statement by QL World's editor that noone had been able to produce from Quill a file in the right format for her to import into her DTP program. It should have no end-of-line markers within paragraphs, no extra spaces, and MSDOS EOLs (CR,LF) at the end of each paragraph.

Howard Clase 1993.08.09

The `_doc` should be "deformatted" first. This involves setting left justification, removing the left margin completely, but leave at least one indent space at the start of each paragraph, remove all footers and headers and set the page length to zero (effectively infinite!) Then "print" the file to a `_lis` file using a special `printer_dat` file with every thing set to NONE except EOL and postamble, which should both be the QL's standard LF. Process this `_lis` file with `Exp_Paras`.

The article also describes another way of achieving the same result directly from Quill, using a translation and a special `printer_dat` file, but a little more massaging of the original file is required.

END OF `_doc` FILE

The above is the `_doc` file from a disk of routines which I have just received from Howard. I have placed this on the `HJC_1` disk which contains a lot of other goodies from him, including the "Ftidy" he mentions in paragraph 2 above. If you would like your own copy of those routines, please send a formatted disk and return Post & Packing to:-

Hugh Howie, 586 Oneida Dr., Burlington, Ont., L7T 3V3.

HHH930902



BEWARE OF GST +

Some time ago I ordered from a supplier in the U.S.A., a software and the price plus the shipping cost was satisfactory even though it was in U.S. Dollars.

As expected when the parcel arrived at Customs the GST was added to the cost of the program. To add insult to injury, the Post Office added another \$5.00 for collecting the GST.

It kind of got my goat !!!!!

Louis Laferriere

I VISITED DAYTON

by Hugh Howie

I went on a short vacation trip a couple of weeks ago, visiting some friends and having a good time, finishing up at Dayton, Ohio, and their annual Computer Fest.

This is held in the Hara Arena which is a huge sports and entertainment centre. The Hara Arena in size is about the size of perhaps four or five hockey arenas. This place is absolutely huge. It has a banquet room nearly the size of a hockey rink.

At the computer fest last year they had about 27000 visitors for the two day show, and this year they were hoping for more than that. From what I saw, I would say they reached their objective with bodies to spare. I was going to say room to spare but there was no room to spare anywhere, the place was packed.

The main arena was called a Showcase display, where all the manufacturers had their latest and best on show. As I lost my notes, and I gave away my Show Catalogue, it is better not to name names in case I miss an important one, but I can assure you that just about all the world giants were there with there glittering showcases and contents. Being strictly a QL man, and not having an interest in any other computer I did not pause long in this section. If I had had a desire to, I could have grown roots there the crush was so massive. In moving it was a matter of push and shove - everyone was doing the shuffle in slow time.

I must mention that many of the various section of this complex are on different levels, but there are no stairs, no elevators, just plain old common ramps. result is that you just sort of glide from one section to another. In fact it comes as a relief to reach a down ramp and sort of just coast along before starting to walk again.

There were about three hundred traders there from all over the mid-west, some even from more distant parts. The traders were grouped in various sections, as also were the flea markets and that was something else again, If there was something you wanted you could get it in the flea market.

The Sinclair section was well represented, and I was surprised by the amount of attention this area was getting. The Sinclair user may be declining, but from the number of people stopping, looking, talking and buying was really surprising. We may be dying but we are not dead - yet.

I arrived in Dayton on Thursday, and on Friday many other Sinclair folks arrived and we all met and got started talking. Paul Holmgren of Mechanical Affinity was there with a wagon load of stuff, and he had more to pick up from Tim Swenson and as I had my station wagon there I was roped into picking this stuff up and taking it over to the arena. Therefore I saw a small part of the show on the Friday night.

When we returned from the arena, we had a little get-together in my room. Paul Holmgren, Frank Davis, Don Lambert of ZXir Clive Alive, Charlie Reise from St Louis, Mel LaVerne (another member) from Oak ridge, Tennessee was there with his son. I may have missed someone, as I say I lost my notes. Anyway we had a good time. I had some cocktail style sausages, and some spare ribs I had saved from dinner in a little box, some beer, some pop, and plenty of gab.

Many things were discussed and generally nattered about. One topic was our proposed Sinclair Fest in Toronto in 1994. Most appeared to be in agreement it would be a good idea, I don't think there were any dissensions, and this is one of the reasons we are asking every member and no-member also, to write and let us know whether or not, they would come to Toronto for Fest next year, so please fill out the form in this issue and mail it to us whether you are coming or not. We need to know to make our decision. Decision day is October 21st 1993.

On Saturday morning I was again giving a hand, and was able to see most of the show before the crowd gathered, and from this was able to see how the tables were loaded. On Saturday afternoon I made a quick circuit of the show, and noted that most of the tables were looking rather bare and bedraggled, and from this observation I concluded that the traders had to be a happy bunch, and that they had to be loaded with green.

On Saturday evening after the show closed for the day, Tim Swenson had a little picnic at his home. I did not go as I had had enough that day, I was a wee bit tired with all my walking and toting stuff around, so I stayed at home. Tim, a Captain in the Air Force, is Project Officer, Communications, working at the nearby Wright Patterson Air Force base. He is also the author/editor of The QL Hackers Journal, an interesting booklet issued every couple months or so for the QL Programmer. My understanding was that a good time was had by all at the picnic. Sorry I missed it, but a picnic is no place for a tired old man!

This was my second visit to Dayton, I was there two years ago, and Jeff Taylor our Editor, and Rene Bruneau our President were there last year. Jeff paid another visit this year, so you will see that there is a certain amount of attraction at this event for us Sinclairites. I guess it is because we meet so many folks from other parts whom we never met before.

One thing which was noticed, and that is that there was nothing I could buy in Dayton that I could not get in Toronto at the same or even better price! The Canadian Dollar is running about 1.30 or thereabouts, with the result that if something costs \$3 in Dayton, it cost \$4 Canadian. Toronto has even better prices in many respects than anywhere I have been in the States. As well as being on a swing through Ohio, I also paid a visit to the fest at Rhode Island a couple months ago, so have had an opportunity to observe prices in a large area. Toronto is as good as anywhere for prices, and better than most. For example, Disk drives in Dayton were \$38 US, I can get them here for \$40/45 Canadian!

No Matter! If you want to have a holiday and look at computers, and see the latest in anything associated with computers, Dayton is the place to go. And if you want to meet Sinclair users you will find plenty of them at Dayton.

I have not mentioned many names whom I met and spoke to, as I did not make a back-up of my notes, just goes to prove that we never learn, we just go on in our own sweet way and never listen to advice. Anyway, who ever heard of anyone making back-ups of notes?

I had a good time. Jeff had a good time. We all had a good time. Hooray!

930901

I M P O R T A N T N O T I C E

A L L S I N C L A I R U S E R S

PLEASE READ THIS

At a time when the Sinclair User is becoming a rare species of animal, when our fraternity is dwindling in numbers, when so many are changing to other methods of fetishism, it is becoming abundantly clear that there are not going to be too many opportunities or reasons for all Sinclairites to get together and worship their objects of adoration. This is why we in Toronto are making what may be the last effort in North America for us all to get together for one last bash.

We have decided to ask you all, each and every one of you, if you would like one last chance to meet your favourite guru in the Sinclair world of computing. We enclose a form which we ask you to take a minute to complete, and mail to us, letting us know what you think about a get-to-gether next year, here in Canada, the target of all those storms that start out somewhere in Texas.

It would be foolish to run something like this if there were going to be no one come, so the decision to go ahead with this affair depends on your answer before October 21st 1993. From the response we will make our decision.

Should we get a good response we are going to advertise this around the world. We are going to ask traders and interested parties from Britain and continental Europe and anywhere they may be, to come visit Canada and all the North American Sinclair fraternity. We are going to ask our own North American cohorts do come visit us here, in Toronto, in 1994. Probable date around the middle of July.

The convention will be held in Burlington on the shores of Lake Ontario, just a few miles west of Toronto, where accomodation is reasonable. Where there is easy access from all regions, and where we can have accomodation and venue in close proximity thus eliminating a lot of cross-city travelling. Good shopping centres also.

The roads to Burlington are all four lane divided highway, no matter from where you come, sometimes six lane. Burlington is near Toronto with a six lane+, divided highway right into the downtown area, such as the Skydome which is the home of the Blue Jays. And the Skylon Tower, the tallest free-standing structure in the world. You might even see a Blue Jays game on their home turf.

If you wish to travel to Toronto by rail or bus there is a regular service. There is an airport bus service from Pearson Airport, and you can be in Burlington, in your motel within half an hour of leaving the airport.

In other words, we have a venue that is of easy access, and easy to move around in.

Please take a few moments to fill out and mail this little form. Arrange for next years vacation to be spent in Canada. Visit us here - where we have the world renowned Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington and Hamilton. Visit Hamilton where you may see one of the only two World War 2, Lancaster Bombers in the world still flying. Visit downtown Toronto where we have the Eaton Centre, a huge shopping centre covering blocks, and in height to the heavens, where full size trees grow under the glass dome a city block long. Visit the Toronto Zoo.

Visit the Sinclair Zoo where there are all sorts of animal from the ZX80 to the QL, and bring enthusiasm to what could be the best (and probably the last) ALL SINCLAIR SHOW in North America.

Come one - Come all - fill out the form saying you will come - then come.....

July 28, 1993

John E. Juergens
18 Bryce Canyon Way
Pacifica CA 94044-3723

Hugh H. Howie
QL Contact
586 Oneida Drive
BURLINGTON ONT.
CANADA L7T 3V3

Dear Hugh,

This is a follow-up to our letter of Jan 9th, reprinted in SINC-LINK's Jan-Feb '93 issue.

First, our continuing Gold Card experience(s): Around the beginning of this month MDV 1 on our main QL went to MDV heaven, requiring: 1. Sending the QL off to Dan Elliot, COMPUTER CLASSICS, RT 1, BOX 117, CABOOL MO 65689, and, 2. switching over to our standby QL for interim use.

Over the years, Dan has kept our QLs running with his excellent service and modest prices; I unhesitatingly recommend his work. Our standby QL has always been a bit flakey, originally overheating until Dan put in a Coleco power supply connector. Even then, it seemed to draw a noticeable amount more current than our main machine but did function acceptably.

This last is mentioned only because, after removal of the Gold Card from the main machine to send to Dan and installing it in the standby machine, the Gold Card screen corruption problem intensified. It got to the point where we were averaging 2 to 3 turn-on-off-on sequences per startup just to get a useable screen.

This frustration led me, again, to write Miracle and ask if they had yet solved the problem. Within 10 days we received a second chip, an Ingot 5 (new version) replacing the Ingot 3 which came with our Gold Card. Miracle's first replacement was an Eprom which did not solve the problem.

The bottom line is that Miracle has solved the problem! No more screen corruptions, period, even on our backup QL. The Gold Card is now an unmitigated pleasure to use.

Secondly, PC Conqueror: Had we not acquired recently an old PC compatible, I would not have known how slow PC Conqueror Gold really is. From the beginning it appeared "somewhat" slow but without the ability to compare, ignorance is blissful. For anyone considering adding PC compatibility to their lives, the rock bottom prices on used machines and DOS applications presents a rare economic opportunity and, in my opinion, overwhelming competition to PC Conqueror.

In our case, US\$200 bought a used 286-16 with a 20M hard disk, 2 floppies

(360K and 1.44M) and CGA, printer and COM port cards in a package that weighs only slightly less than our refrigerator.

My initial objection to buying a PC was space and clutter considerations. Although that still is valid, the machine itself stands on edge out of the way and the cable-clutter is not as bad as I had initially envisioned.

Our QL has been running since 1986 with a Magnavox amber monitor. The challenge presented by the PC acquisition was to use the same monitor for both machines.

A coax cable was run from the PC's CGA-RCA jack to a QL TV game switcher to which I had added two RCA jacks - one for the CGA input and the other for monitor output - having unsoldered the twin-lead TV pigtail. It works acceptably on most applications and switching between the QL and PC, even when each is on, seems to do no harm.

The PC's CGA output and the QL's composite monochrome output are similar. However, the term "similar" is emphasized. There is an intensity difference between the QL and PC outputs - CGA is much brighter, requiring Contrast &/or Brightness adjustment when switching from one to the other. Further, some PC applications - pixel based screens - require a slight adjustment to the Vertical Hold to stop rolling. However, all adjustments are less difficult than the above would make it appear.

Most of the post-1986 software I've tried provide adjustment for the type of card and monitor being used in the applications themselves. However, older applications do not provide for adjustments, eg. with the 1984 Psion PC-4 suite, the prompt and command screens are almost impossible to read due to Psion's arty use of multi "colours" within letters.

Some PC software will change from being barely readable to readable by simply switching from MODE C080 to MODE BW80 at the DOS prompt command line or via a line in the AUTOEXEC.BAT file.

PC-Conqueror Gold produces a good screen once software adjustments, if allowed, are made; the PC-4 suite give readable screens. However, when a screen difficulty does arise, it's a real challenge to get into an application's utility section and adjust the screen when the screen is unreadable in the first place. One must proceed with a finger and one eye on the documentation and a remaining one of each on the screen searching for something remotely recognizable. Of course, a color monitor would probably solve all of the PC screen problems.

Lastly, was it all worth it? Probably not if one puts no value on challenges or learning. But, otherwise, a resounding maybe!

I've yet to come across anything in the PC world that I would regularly use or couldn't be without. The experience has made it clear to me what a real value the QL-bundled Psion group truly is for the home user.



LKDOS Disassembly by Les Cottrell (continued from last issue)

name	Dec	Hex	Instr-Dec	Remarks (13)	name	Dec	Hex	Instr-Dec	Remarks
	4575	11FF	SBC HL, DE		4734	127B	CALL 189		; grow
	4577	11E1	LD A, L		4737	1281	POP DE		
	4578	11E2	CP 3		4738	1282	LD HL, 4794		
	4580	11E4	JR C, 4595		4741	1285	LD BC, 51		
	4582	11E6	LD A, 4		4744	1288	LDIR		
	4584	11E8	LD (13436), A		4746	128A	LD HL, (23631); chans		
	4587	22EB	PUSH BC		4749	128D	LD BC, 45		
	4588	11EC	POP HL		4752	1290	ADD HL, BC		
	4589	11ED	CALL 4979		4753	1291	EX DE, HL		
	4592	11F0	JP 4665		4754	1292	LD HL, (23631); chans		
	4595	11F3	EX DE, HL		4757	1295	LD BC, 12		
	4596	11F4	LD A, (HL)		4760	1298	ADD HL, BC		
	4597	11F5	RES 5, A		4761	1299	LD C, (HL)		
	4599	11F7	CP 87	; W	4762	129A	INC HL		
	4601	11F9	JR Z, 4649		4763	129B	LD B, (HL)		
	4603	11FB	CP 76	; L	4764	129C	PUSH BC		
	4605	11FD	JR Z, 4628		4765	129D	LD BC, 7		
	4607	11FF	CP 68	; D	4768	12A0	ADD HL, BC		
	4609	1201	JR NZ, 4626		4769	12A1	POP BC		
	4611	1203	INC HL		4770	12A2	LD A, 5		
	4612	1204	LD A, (HL)		4772	12A4	LD (HL), E		
	4613	1205	RES 5, A		4773	12A5	INC HL		
	4615	1207	CP 68	; D	4774	12A6	LD (HL), D		
*	4617	1209	JR NZ, 4626		4775	12A7	INC HL		
	4619	120B	INC HL		4776	12A8	LD (HL), C		
	4620	120C	LD A, (HL)		4777	12A9	INC HL		
	4621	120D	CP 34	; "	4778	12AA	LD (HL), B		
	4623	120F	JP Z, 171		4779	12AB	INC HL		
	4626	1212	RST 8 ERR 19	; "Invalid I/O device"	4780	12AC	INC HL		
	4628	1214	INC HL		4781	12AD	INC DE		
	4629	1215	LD A, (HL)		4782	12AE	INC DE		
	4630	1216	RES 5, A		4783	12AF	INC DE		
	4632	1218	CP 80	; P	4784	12B0	INC DE		
	4634	121A	JR NZ, 4626		4785	12B1	DEC A		
	4636	121C	LD A, 3		4786	12B2	JR NZ, 4772		
	4638	121E	LD (13436), A		4788	12B4	DEC HL		
	4641	1221	INC HL		4789	12B5	DEC HL		
	4642	1222	LD A, (HL)		4790	12B6	LD (HL), D		
	4643	1223	CP 34	; "	4791	12B7	DEC HL		
	4645	1225	JR NZ, 4626		4792	12B8	LD (HL), E		
	4647	1227	JR 4665		4793	12B9	RET		
	4649	1229	INC HL		4794	12BA	NOP		
	4650	122A	LD A, (HL)		4795	12BB	NOP		
	4651	122B	SUB 47		4796	12BC	NOP		
	4653	122D	JP C, 4626		4797	12BD	NOP		
	4655	122F	CP 4		4798	12BE	LD D, A		
	4657	1231	JR NC, 4626		4799	- 4802	NOP		
	4659	1233	AND A		4803	12C3	LD E, B		
	4660	1234	JR Z, 4626		4804	- 4807	NOP		
	4662	1236	DEC A		4808	12C8	LD E, C		
	4663	1237	JR 4638		4809	- 4812	NOP		
	4665	1238	LD HL, (23631); chans		4813	12CE	LD C, H		
	4668	123C	LD BC, 20		4814	12CF	NOP		
	4671	123F	ADD HL, BC		4815	- 4817	NOP		
	4672	1240	LD A, (HL)		4818	12D2	LD B, HL		
	4673	1241	CP 128		4819	12D3	LD D, 0		
	4675	1243	CALL Z, 4730		4821	12D5	JR 4841		
	4678	1246	LD HL, 23574 ; strms + 6		4823	12D7	LD D, 1		
	4681	1249	LD A, (13434)		4825	12D9	JR 4841		
	4684	124C	RLA		4827	12DB	LD D, 2		
	4685	124D	RES 0, A		4829	12DD	JR 4841		
	4687	124F	LD C, A		4831	12DF	LD D, 3		
	4688	1250	LD B, 0		4833	12E1	JR 4841		
	4690	1252	ADD HL, BC		4835	12E3	LD D, 4		
	4691	1253	LD A, (13436)		4837	12E5	JR 4841		
	4694	1256	AND A		4839	12E7	LD D, 5		
	4695	1257	JR Z, 4717		4841	12E9	JP 106		
	4697	1259	CP 1		4844	12EC	ADD A, B		
	4699	125B	JR Z, 4721		4845	12ED	NOP		
	4701	125D	CP 2		4846	12EE	RST 32		; next char
	4703	125F	JR Z, 4725		4847	12EF	CALL 144		; evalu
	4705	1261	CP 3		4850	12F2	LD A, B		
	4707	1263	JR Z, 4713		4851	12F3	AND A		
	4709	1265	LD (HL), 41 ;)		4852	12F4	JP NZ, 4554		; err 11
	4711	1267	JR 4727		4855	12F7	LD A, C		
	4713	1269	LD (HL), 36 ; \$		4856	12F8	CP 17		
	4715	126B	JR 4727		4858	12FA	JP NC 4554		; err 11
	4717	126D	LD (HL), 21		4861	12FD	CP 2		
	4719	126F	JR 4727		4863	12FF	JP C, 4554		; err 11
	4721	1271	LD (HL), 26		4866	1302	LD D, A		
	4723	1273	JP 4727		4867	1303	ADD A, A		
	4725	1275	LD (HL), 31		4868	1304	LD HL, 23574 ; strms + 6		
	4727	1277	JP 4499		4871	1307	LD C, A		
	4730	127A	PUSH HL		4872	1308	LD B, 0		
	4731	127B	LD BC, 50		4874	130A	ADD HL, BC		

name	Dec	Hex	Instr-Dec	Remarks	(14)	name	Dec	Hex	Instr-Dec	Remarks
4875	130B		LD E, (HL)			5111	13F7		LD HL, (13438)	
4876	130C		LD A, D			5114	13FA		INC HL	
4877	130D		LD D, 0			5115	13FB		LD (13438), HL	
4879	130F		CP 2			5118	13FE		POP BC	
4881	1311		JR NZ, 4885			5119	13FF		POP HL	
4883	1313		LD D, 6			5120	1400		JP 186	; jpout
4885	1315		CP 3			5123	1403		LD A, D	
4887	1317		JR NZ, 4891			5124	1404		LD (8240), A	; temp1
4889	1319		LD D, 16			5127	1407		LD HL, 5090	
4891	131B		LD (HL), D			5130	140A		LD (8318), HL	; lenth
4892	131C		LD A, E			5133	140D		LD HL, (8236)	; start
4893	131D		CP 41	;)		5136	1410		LD A, (HL)	
4895	131F		JP NZ, 4499			5137	1411		INC HL	
4898	1322		LD A, (8207)			5138	1412		LD (8236), HL	; start
4901	1325		BIT 7, A			5141	1415		CP 249	; name end
4903	1327		JR Z, 4972			5143	1417		JP Z, 5047	; disk full
4905	1329		LD BC, (8318)	; lenth		5146	141A		LD (8221), A	; curtrk
4909	132D		LD HL, 5090			5149	141D		CALL 5169	
4912	1330		OR A			5152	1420		LD HL, 8328	; data block
4913	1331		SBC HL, BC			5155	1423		LD (8316), HL	; destin
4915	1333		LD (8318), HL	; lenth		5158	1426		LD HL, 5090	
4916	1336		LD A, H			5161	1429		LD (8318), HL	; lenth
4919	1337		OR L			5164	142C		LD A, (8240)	; temp1
4920	1338		JR Z, 4936			5167	142F		JR 5082	
4922	133A		LD HL, (8236)			5169	1431		LD HL, 8304	; buffer
4925	133D		LD A, (HL)			5172	1434		LD (HL), 255	; end of track map
4926	133E		INC HL			5174	1436		INC HL	
4927	133F		LD (8236), HL			5175	1437		LD (HL), A	
4930	1342		LD (8221), A	; curtrk		5176	1438		INC HL	
4933	1345		CALL 5169			5177	1439		PUSH HL	
4336	1348		LD HL, (8236)			5178	143A		POP DE	
4939	134B		DEC HL			5179	143B		LD HL, 8226	; progrm
4940	134C		LD (8245), HL	; temp6		5182	143E		LD BC, 9	
4943	134F		LD A, 11			5185	1441		LDIR	
4945	1351		LD (8194), A	; nmiflag		5187	1443		CALL 126	; track
4948	1354		CALL 168			5190	1446		CALL 120	; savebf
4951	1357		LD A, (13440)			5193	1449		RET	
4954	135A		LD (8221), A	; curtrk		5194	144A		CALL 132	; indir
4957	135D		CALL 126	; track		5197	144D		LD A, (8224)	; errnu
4960	1360		CALL 123	; loadbf		5200	1450		CP 10	
4963	1363		LD HL, (13438)			5202	1452		JP Z, 147	; nofil
4966	1366		LD (8326), HL	; totlen		5205	1455		CALL 135	; movdr
4969	1369		CALL 120	; savebf		5208	1458		LD HL, 8260	
4972	136C		XOR A			5211	145B		LD (8236)	; start
4973	136D		LD (8207), A			5214	145E		CALL 5223	
4976	1370		JP 4499			5217	1461		LD A, 64	; e
4979	1373		LD HL, 32			5219	1463		LD (8207), A	
4981	1375		DEC HL			5222	1466		RET	
4982	1376		LD A, (HL)			5223	1467		LD HL, (8236)	; start
4983	1377		LD (HL), 32			5226	146A		INC HL	
4985	1379		CP 191			5227	146B		LD (8236), hl	; start
4987	137B		JP Z, 5194			5230	146E		LD A, (HL)	
4990	137E		CP 223			5231	146F		CP 249	; name end
4992	1380		JP NZ, 6583	; parameter error		5233	1471		RET Z	
4995	1383		LD A, 11			5234	1472		LD (8221), A	; curtrk
4997	1385		LD (8194), A	; nmiflag		5237	1475		CALL 126	; track
5000	1388		CALL 204	; sv#1		5240	1478		CALL 123	; loadbf
5003	138B		XOR A			5243	147B		LD HL, 8328	; datablock
5004	138C		LD (8194), A	; nmiflag		5246	147E		LD (8316), HL	; destin
5007	138F		LD HL, 8207			5252	1481		LD HL, (8318)	; lenth
5010	1392		SET 7, (HL)			5252	1484		XOR A	
5012	1394		LD HL, 8328	; datablock		5253	1485		RET	
5015	1397		LD (8316), HL	; destin		5254	1486		LD A, (8207)	
5018	139A		LD HL, 5090			5257	1489		BIT 6, A	
5021	139D		LD (8318), HL	; lenth		5259	148B		JR NZ, 5263	
5024	13A0		LD HL, 0			5261	148D		RST 8 ERR 8	; end of file
5027	13A3		LD (13438), HL			5263	148FLD		HL, (8318)	; lenth
5030	13A6		LD HL, 8261			5266	1492		LD A, H	
5033	13A9		LD A, 249	; name end		5267	1493		OR L	
5035	13AB		CP (HL)			5268	1494		CALL Z 5284	
5036	13AC		JP Z, 5047	; "Disk Full"		5271	1497		DEC HL	
5039	13AF		LD (8236), HL	; start		5272	1498		LD (8318), HL	; lenth
5042	13B2		LD A, (HL)			5275	149B		LD HL, (8316)	; destin
5043	13B3		LD (13440), A			5278	149E		LD D, (HL)	
5046	13B6		RET			5379	149F		INC HL	
5047	13B7		LD HL, 5053	; "Disk Full"		5280	14A0		LD (8316), HL	; destin
5050	13BA		JP 174	; print message		5283	14A3		RET	
5053			"U Disk Full"	; pointer @5047		5284	14A4		CALL 5223	
5066	13CA		LD A, (16098)			5287	14A7		CP 249	; name end
5069	13CD		BIT 1, A			5289	14A9		RET NZ	
5071	13CF		JR Z, 5076			5290	14AA		XOR A	
5073	13D1		POP AF			5291	14AB		LD (8207), A	
5074	13D2		JR 5082			5294	14AE		POP BC	
5076	13D4		POP AF			5295	14AF		LD D, 255	; end of track map
5077	13D5		CP 165			5297	14B1		RET	
5079	13D7		JP NC, 8075			5298	14B2		CALL 5254	
5082	13DA		LD D, A			5301	14B5		POP AF	
5083	13DB		LD A, (8207)			5302	14B6		POP BC	
5086	13DE		BIT 7, A			5303	14B7		POP HL	
5088	13E0		JP NZ, 5092			5304	14B8		LD A, D	
5090	13E2		RST 8 ERR 24			5305	14B9		JP 186	; jpout
5052	13E4		LD HL, (8318)	; lenth	PRINT	5308	14BC		CALL 156	; gtfil
5095	13E7		LD A, H			5311	14BF		LD A, 32	
5096	13E8		OR L			5313	14C1		LD (DE), A	
5097	13E9		JR Z, 5123			5314	14C2		CALL 5194	
5099	13EB		DEC HL			5317	14C5		LD A, 64	; e
5100	13EC		LD (8318), HL	; lenth		5319	14C7		LD (8207), A	
5103	13EF		LD HL, (8316)	; destin		5322	14CA		CALL 5254	
5106	13F2		LD (HL), D			5325	14CD		LD A, (8207)	
5107	13F3		INC HL			5328	14D0		AND A	
5108	13F4		LD (8316), HL	; destin		5329	14D1		JR Z, 4499	

name	Dec	Hex	Instr-Dec	Remarks	(15)
	5332	14D4	LD A, (16098)		
	5335	14D7	BIT 0, A		
	5337	14D9	JR NZ, 5348		
	5339	14DB	LD A, D		
	5340	14DC	CP 13		
	5342	14DE	JR Z, 5348		
	5344	14E0	CP 32		
	5346	14F2	JR Z, 5317		
	5348	14E4	XOR A		
	5349	14E5	LD (8207), A		
	5352	14E8	LD A, D		
	5352	14E9	RST 16		
	5354	14EA	JR 5317		
INPUT	5356	14EC	RST 32	; next char	
	5357	14ED	LD HL, (23645)	; chadd	
	5360	14F0	LD A, (HL)		
	5361	14F1	CP 35	; #	
	5363	14F3	JR NZ, 4474		
	5366	14F6	RST 32	; next char	
	5367	14F7	JR 5384		
	5369	14F9	CALL 144	; evalu	
	5372	14FC	LD A, B		
	5373	14FD	AND A		
	5374	14FE	JR NZ, 4554		
	5377	1501	LD A, C		
	5378	1502	CP 32		
	5380	1504	JP NC, 4554		
	5383	1507	RET		
	5384	1508	CALL 5369		
	5387	1508	CP 3		
	5389	150D	JP NC, 4554		
	5392	1510	LD (8329), A		
	5395	1513	RST 32	; next char	
	5396	1514	CALL 5369		
	5399	1517	CP 22		
	5401	1519	JP NC, 4554		
	5404	151C	LD (8240), A		
	5407	151F	JR 5420		
	5409	1521	ADD A, A		
	5410	1522	ADD A, A		
	5411	1523	ADD A, A		
	5412	1524	LD B, A		
	5413	1525	LD A, 168		
	5415	1527	SUB B		
	1516	1523	LD C, A		
	5417	1529	LD B, 0		
	5419	152B	RET		
	5420	152C	CALL 5409		
	5423	152F	LD (16061), A	; left	
	5426	1532	LD (16066), A	; Y	
	5429	1535	RST 32	; next char	
	5430	1536	CALL 5369		
	5433	1539	CP 30		
	5435	153B	JP NC, 4554		
	5438	153E	ADD A, A		
	5439	153F	ADD A, A		
	5440	1540	ADD A, A		
	5441	1541	LD (16060), A	; left	
	5444	1544	LD (16065), A	; X	
	5447	1547	RST 32	; next char	
	5448	1548	CALL 5369		
	5451	154B	INC A		
	5452	154C	ADD A, A		
	5453	154D	ADD A, A		
	5454	154E	ADD A, A		
	5455	154F	DEC A		
	5456	1550	LD D, A		
	5457	1551	LD A, (16065)	; X	
	5460	1554	ADD A, 8		
	5462	1556	CP D		
	5463	1557	JR NC, 5512		
	5465	1559	LD A, D		
	5466	155A	LD (16062), A	; right	
	5469	155D	RST 32	; next char	
	5470	155E	CALL 5369		
	5473	1561	CALL 5409		
	5476	1564	LD D, A		
	5477	1565	LD A, (16066)	; Y	
	5480	1568	SUB 8		
	5482	156A	CP D		
	5483	156B	JR C, 5512	; parameter error	
	5485	156D	LD A, D		
	5486	156E	LD (16063), A	; bottom	
	5489	1571	LD A, 1		
	5491	1573	LD (16064), A	; scroll count	
	5494	1576	LD A, (23693)	; attr p	
	5497	1579	LD (16074), A		
	5500	157C	LD A, (8239)	; wind attr	
	5503	157F	LD (16071), A	; wind #	
	5506	1582	CALL 6442		
	5509	1585	JP 4499		
	5512	1586	RST 8 ERR 26	; parameter error	
PAPER	5514	158A	XOR A		
	5515	158B	JR 5519		
INK	5517	158D	LD A, 1		
	5519	158F	LD (8239), A		
	5522	1592	RST 32	; next char	
	5523	1593	CALL 144		
	5526	1596	LD IX, 8239		
	5530	159A	LD A, B		
	5531	159B	AND A		

name	Dec	Hex	Instr-Dec	Remarks
	5532	159C	JR NZ, 4554	
	5535	159F	LD A, C	
	5536	15A0	CP 8	
	5538	15A2	JR NC, 4554	
	5541	15A5	BIT 0, (IX+0)	
	5545	15A9	JR NZ, 5556	
	5547	15AB	SCF	
	5548	15AC	CCF	
	5549	15AD	RLA	
	5550	15AE	RLA	
	5551	15AF	RLA	
	5552	15B0	LD E, 199	
	5554	15B2	JR 5558	
	5556	15B4	LD E, 248	
	5558	15B6	LD (8240), A	; templ
	5561	15B9	LD HL, 22527	; end of d/f
	5564	15BC	LD BC, 768	
	5567	15BF	INC HL	
	5568	15C0	LD A, (HL)	
	5569	15C1	AND E	
	5570	15C2	LD D, A	
	5571	15C3	LD A, (8240)	; templ
	5574	15C6	OR D	
	5575	15C7	LD (HL), A	
	5576	15C8	DEC BC	
	5577	15C9	LD A, B	
	5578	15CA	OR C	
	5579	15CB	JR NZ, 5567	
	5581	15CD	LD HL, 23693	; attr p
	5584	15D0	LD A, (HL)	
	5585	15D1	AND E	
	5586	15D2	LD D, A	
	5587	15D3	LD A, (8240)	; templ
	5590	15D6	OR D	
	5591	15D7	LD (HL), A	
	5592	15D8	JR 5607	
POKE	5594	15DA	RST 32	; next char
	5595	15DB	CALL 114	; evalu
	5598	15DE	PUSH BC	
	5599	15DF	RST 32	; next char
	5600	15E0	CALL 114	; evalu
	5603	15E3	POP HL	
	5604	15E4	LD (HL), C	
	5605	15E5	INC HL	
	5606	15E6	LD (HL), B	
	5607	15E7	JP 4499	
GO TO	5610	15EA	RST 32	; next char
	5611	15EB	CALL 114	; evalu
	5614	15EE	LD A, B	
	5615	15EF	AND A	
	5616	15F0	JR NZ, 4554	
	5619	15F3	LD A, C	
	5620	15F4	CP 5	
	5622	15F6	JR NC, 4554	
	5625	15F9	CP 4	
	5627	15FB	JR NZ, 5633	
	5629	15FD	LD A, 128	
	5631	15FF	JR 5645	
	5633	1601	LD B, A	
	5634	1602	INC B	
	5635	1603	LD A, 1	
	5637	1605	ADD A, A	
	5638	1606	DJNZ 5637	
	5640	1608	PUSH AF	
	5641	1609	RRCA	
	5642	160A	OUT 183, A	
	5644	160C	POP AF	
	5645	160D	LD (8195), A	; dvsel
	5648	1610	JR 5607	
	5650	1612	PUSH HL	
	5651	1613	PUSH DE	
	5652	1614	PUSH BC	
	5653	1615	PUSH AF	
	5654	1616	CALL 5667	
	5657	1619	CALL 6442	
	5660	161C	POP AF	
	5661	161D	POP BC	
	5662	161E	POP DE	
	5663	161F	POP HL	
	5664	1620	JP 186	; jpout
	5667	1623	CP 13	
	5669	1625	JR NZ, 5696	
	5671	1627	CALL 5890	
	5674	162A	RET	
	5675	162B	LD A, (16065)	; X
	5678	162E	LD B, A	
	5679	162F	LD A, (16062)	; right
	5682	1632	SUB B	
	5683	1633	CP 34	; *
	5685	1635	JR C, 5671	
	5687	1637	LD A, (16065)	; X
	5690	163A	ADD A, 32	
	5692	163C	LD (16065), A	; X
	5695	163F	RET	
	5696	1640	CP 6	
	5698	1642	JR Z, 5675	
	5700	1644	CP 8	
	5702	1646	JP Z, 5917	
	5705	1649	CP 32	
	5707	164B	RET C	
	5708	164C	CP 128	

TORONTO 1994 FEST

Would all members and traders please take a few moments to answer those few questions, It would be of assistance to us in deciding whether to go ahead with the proposed ALL SINCLAIR FEST in 1994.

Do you like the idea of an ALL SINCLAIR FEST in Toronto?	Yes	No
Would you come?	Yes	No
Do you think the fest should be of 1 or 2 days?	1	2

How did you learn of this proposal? _____

What traders/gurus would you like to see/meet? _____

Your Comments? _____

Name & Address _____

If there is anyone you know who might be interested, please pass a copy of this form to them, and invite them to send it in to us.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE FOR MAKING A DECISION IS OCTOBER 31ST 1993. IF NOT SUFFICIENT INTEREST IS SHOWN BY THAT DATE - THERE WILL BE NO FEST IN TORONTO IN 1994.

Send reply to:-

Hugh H. Howie. 586 Oneida Dr. Burlington. Ont. Canada. L7T 3V3.

We want to hear from all members, non-members and traders - ALL REPLY please.

Sept/Oct 1993

October 13, 1993

Dear Out-of-Town Members,

This summer I went out to British Columbia for a couple of weeks, and met a couple of our club members, Ken Gamey and Marie Kendall. It was an interesting thing to meet two of our members. I helped Ken a bit (I think!) with his TS2068.

The rest of the summer I have been working on an early vintage PC, a sort of a -286 machine. Except that it has an 8088 chip in it. It uses a DOS version 3.3, I think. Anyway I have been working on a database program for our Scarborough Neighbourhood Watch program. The database is a shareware called WAMPUM, a variation of Dbase. It has been an interesting experience. Anyone else used it?

In fact the experience has been so interesting that I am seriously considering the purchase of a more up-to-date PC for myself. A -386 or a -486, probably. does that sound ominous?

I have not seen this current newsletter yet. But I think it is going to contain an article from the LIST(?) newsletter, about a Spectrum Emulator that works on an MSDOS machine.

At one of our club meetings we installed it on this PC I speak of, and it does look interesting. It is a serious piece of work, and the developer has included 60 pages of documentation (on the disk) to go with it. We loaded it into the 8088 machine I mention. Though the 8088 pc was too slow to be worthwhile, I think with a -386 it would be a marvel.

I really did not give it much of an exercise, so I cannot give a truly critical comment on it, but it does seem to be a well thought out emulation. It has a shareware price of \$30. The remarkable thing about it is that you can load Spectrum tapes into the emulated Spectrum (MSDOS machine) using a very simple interface assembly. Now, the hooker is that the tape loading software is not on the shareware copy of the emulator; you get it when you send in the money. You also get the benefit of any improvement or documentation done since it's release. Not a bad deal, I'd say.

I can send you a copy of this disk, if you are interested, and wish to try it out. There is also an emulator for the MSDOS machine, which makes it behave like a ZX-81/TS1000. It is called XTRICATOR. Ask for a copy of this disk if you are interested. Both disks, of course, will load only into an MSDOS type machine.

A couple of members took exception to my comments in the last newsletter, about what would happen to the newsletter if no one wrote articles for it. Sorry about that, but I think you miss my point. I'm not closing the newsletter, it's simply dying off by itself, as most Timex newsletters have already.

One of our members, Robert Shade, has sent me a copy of a current 4-page catalog from a firm in England, The Computer Games Shop. The catalog is for Spectrum games tapes. Prices range from 2 Pounds and up. Anyone interested in a copy, let me know.

Sincerely,

George Chambers

