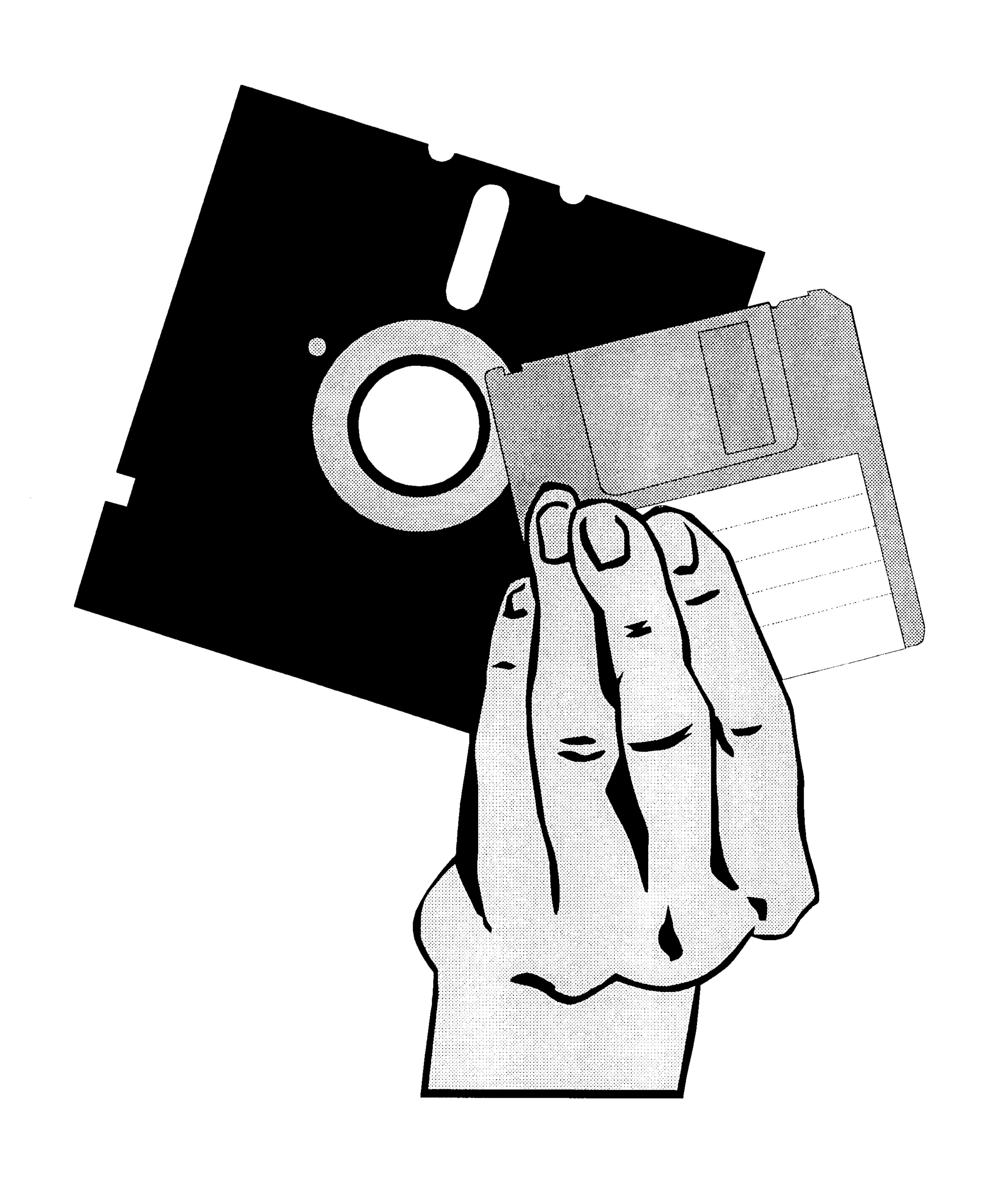


Number 1 04

April 1996

Keeping the
Oric alive

SEDORIC 3.0



MOV/...

THE EDITORIAL

1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 11

"MAD COWS AND ENGLISHMEN GO OUT IN THE MID-DAY SUN" - NOT QUITE THE ORIGINAL SAYING, BUT QUITE TOPICAL, THOUGH NOT 'ORICAL'. AS WE HAVE NOT HAD MUCH SUN LATELY, THEN PERHAPS OUR BRITISH COWS ARE NOT SO MAD!

NOW TO MATTERS ORIC - PLENTY HAPPENING, MANY INTERESTING ARTICLES IN THIS BUMPER ISSUE, SO TUCK INTO A BEEF SANDWICH; READ AND ENJOY THIS ISSUE,

THEINS

Made 1 - THE COVER - from Jon Haworth.

严语问题 温 — 丁川區 區)工门院工科...

Page 3 - NEWS . . NEWS . . NEWS

Page 4 - THE 8-81T 'A to Z' - Steve Marshall runs through the NEWBRAIN and the ORIC-1.

Pages 5/6/7 - CRYSTAL GAZING ON THE ORIC - Peter Bragg has a break from his Machine Code articles.

Pages 8/9 - THE CHIP FAMILY TREE - Steve Marshall.

Pages 10/11 - DISC CORRUPTED DURING USE - John Hurley looks at the ORICDOS situation.

Page 12 - BRIANs FAGE - The Welsh Wizzard with more posers.

Page 13 - BITS 'n' BOES

严嵩公德 14/15 - 民国公D国民岛 LET国民岛。

Page 16 - NEW - an ORIC MIDI interface - Trevor Shaw reveals all.

Page 17 - RAMBLING IN THE ROM (Ft.79) - we give Jon a bit of a break.

Fage 18 - ITFA - Yes folks - It's that Frank again - Mr.Bolton with more on English Grammar.

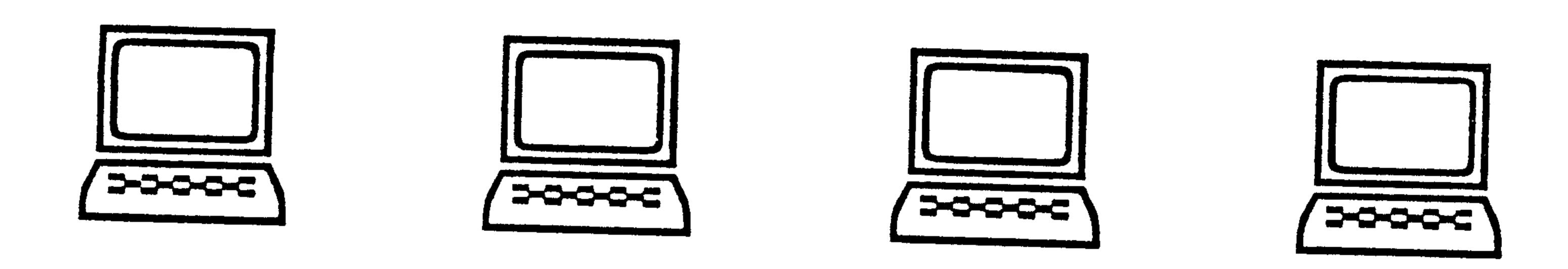
户部(I) 19 - THE BACK FAGE

MESSAGE TO ARTHUR CRAWFORD FROM TREVOR SHAW

Thanks for the SONY monitor which I won at last year's MEET. My son said he would write to you but seems not to get around to it, and has now unfortunately lost most of his enthusiasm for the ORIC. Anyway, I wired the Monitor. It works very well, powered from an old Scalextric transformer! The only problem was getting the colour balance right for the composite video input so that all INK/PAPER combinations show up. It's more or less right now, but if anyone has a good composite video circuit (mine simply involves 3 resistors to mix the RGB outputs together) then I would appreciate hearing of it.

MESSAGE TO ALL PROM TREVOR SHAW

Best wishes to all OUM readers, and perhaps you can help regarding the circuit mentioned in the above message to Arthur.



NEWS ... NEWS ... NEWS

FRESTEL SOFTWARE

IN DAVID GOODRUM'S REVIEW OF ORIC PRESTEL SOFTWARE, HE COMPLAINED ABOUT BEING ONLY ABLE TO SAVE TO TAPE. TREVOR SHAW INFORMS ME THAT HE HAS A VERSION THAT ALLOWS ONE TO SAVE TO DISC. IT IS NOT 100% BUG FREE, AND WILL ONLY WORK UNDER ORICDOS. IT WAS DEVELOPED BY GEOFF PHILLIPS.

TREVOR HAS FROMISED TO SEND ME A COPY. ANYONE INTERESTED SHOULD SEND ME AN ORICDOS FORMATTED DISC AND I WILL DO THE REST.

ISS TIGHT TO THE TOTAL THE

AYLESEURY ORICHET

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW FOR SATURDAY JULY 20th. PRICE IS 2 POUND EACH (HALF PRICE FOR JUNIORS AND UN-EMPLOYED),

RAFFLE TICKETS ARE 1 FOUND EACH.

ACCOMODATION DETAILS ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE,

15401 15515 15515 15505

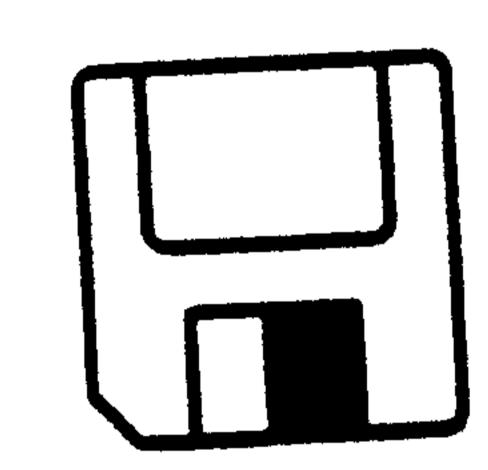
MUNCHAM

ARTICLES FOR INCLUSION IN THE MAY ISSUE SHOULD REACH ME BY APRIL 23rd AT LATEST PLEASE.

3" DISCS

I HAVE NOW FOUND A SUPPLIER OF BRANDED (MAXELL/AMSOFT) 3" DISCS. YOU CAN ORDER DIRECT FROM O.U.M.

PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE ARE:

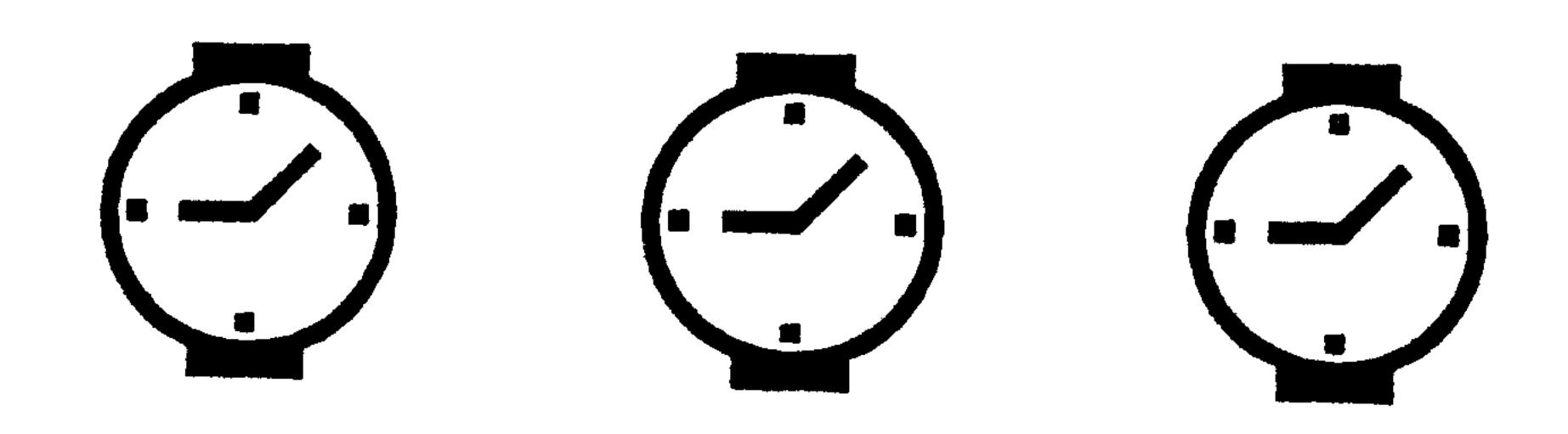


WILL ME ON WON'T ME

I have recently been looking at upgrading my old FC-XT.By upgrading I mean a new machine that will allow me to run the ORIC Emulator and eventually to get onto the Internet.

After reading numerous adverts, making phone calls, and visiting shops, I am still no nearer deciding.

By the time I decide, then the prices will have dropped even further, and the original machines that I have looked at will be obsolete.



The 8-bit A to Z

Part 12

As I type this I am still recovering from a fabulous Deep Purple concert, and a cold I caught a few days later. Any CEO members not familiar with Deep Purple should note that 'Highway to the Stars' is in fact 'Highway Star' and go and but the excellent 'Machine Head' album from which it was taken. (The new 'Purpendicular' CD isn't half bad either !!!)

* NEWBRAIN A / AD This is another British built machine. The only difference between the two models is that the AD has a built-in one line display. I vaguely remember some claims about the machine being 'semi-portable' which would explain the inclusion of this small display unit.

This machine had some great features but a distinct lack of style. There was something about the machine which cried out for a middle aged suit clad user with briefcase and polished shoes. The 80 column screen and ability to expand the machine up to 2Mb showed they had some idea of what computer buyers of the time were after; but a mono screen meant that it wasn't quite the right idea.

If the Newbrain had been released with a proper keyboard and as a business machine I think it would have sold like hot cakes. As it was, it sold like chocolate flavoured crisps.

SPEC. Z80 CPU. 32K RAM. SCREENS 80 x 30 text, 640 x 220 graphics. PORTS 2 x RS232/V24. 1 expansion port. Provision for extra memory. Cassette (1200 baud rate) and TV sockets. 62 calculator type keys. Single line LED display (in AD model)

Various disk drives under C/PM control were available. All the usual software was available but there wasn't a lot of it!

Generally a nice machine with some good features but not recommended.

* ORIC-1 According to the various reviews I have of this machine it is:- A 16 colour machine with a Prestel port. Available in 16K, 32K or 48K models and supplied with an instruction leaflet and a cassette that doesn't work. (In fact the cassette interface is completely old fashioned and full of bugs as is the ROM chip).

All the software that was produced had to be sent back because none of it will load. With the new software which should load, only the slow side will work which takes about 23 minutes.

It looks quite nice, (and has two blue stripes !!).

There is no software available, and there is no sign of the promised modem and disk drives. They cost more than a Sinclair Spectrum and the keyboard isn't any better than the Spectrums.....

Obviously this machine is just not up to scratch and you should buy a Sinclair Spectrum instead. In reality the Oric was a good little machine. OK it had some problems in the early stages, but what computer didn't suffer in this way? Once the main problems were sorted there was not much that was 'wrong' with the Oric. There were a <u>few</u> bugs in the ROM and some people might have preferred a proper keyboard but many found the Oric-1 keyboard with it's key-click sound to be perfectly acceptable. (See 'Kimbos Komment' in Oric Computing).

For me there were several points that drew me to the Oric. The design: The thing just looked like the manufacturers cared about their product. Things like the cursor keys being placed down by the space bar so they could be used in games was an excellent idea and great to use. Sound: The sound capabilities were good but those four preset sounds seemed like an excellent idea. (PING!) Modem: Oric made a big fuss about the modem although it took a while for it to arrive. The idea that you could connect up to this electronic world and browse through the different Prestel pages was fascinating. Today with the world captivated by the internet I think it can be said that Oric had the right ideas to bring about success.

I firmly believe Orics failure in the market place was not because of the products. Almost ever review of the Oric I have read has some inaccurate point, which can't have helped. Every issue of Oric Computing introduced you to a new member of the management team. Talk about too many chiefs !!!

Sadly the Oric scene came tumbling down about the time that software writing standards shot up and we saw some classic titles being released which will never see the light of day on our beloved little machine. Thankfully however, the Oric scene is now in the hands of people who just want to enjoy the Oric for what it is. Long may this continue!

To be continued

Crystal Gazing on the Oric

Peter N. Bragg

Having covered most of the aspects of programming in machine code in the series, "Machine Code for the Oric Atmos" the question is, where do we go from here? Yes, there are topics that we haven't covered yet and I hope to be covering some of those in future issues. However, I do often wonder how much the OUM readers get out of the series. Are the articles useful, or just a good cure for insommnia? Dear Reader, what do you do with your Oric and the other computers you may also have? and what do you expect to get out of them in the future?

The inspiration for those questions, came in part from an article by Fabrice Frances in the January edition of CEO Mag, where he looked at the future for the Oric. Fabrice is one person who has done a lot to extend the lifespan of our favourite machine.

I suppose that the above questions could be directed at me too. There has been plenty of advice on programming technique in the series, but not everyone practises what they preach, so you may well ask how much I still use my own Oric and what for. So for a change, I will tell you a little bit about what I am using the Oric for, at the present time and what sort of future might be possible for it.

The Oric system that I use, is an Atmos, equipped with Sedoric and 3.5" Cumana disk drive plus an expansion port. Like other Oric users, I also have another computer system. The Oric accounts for at least half of my computing activity, the remainder is done on the Acorn Archimedes system. Strictly speaking that Archimedes system now includes the A5000, but that is simply a later edition of the Archimedes.

Nearly all of my programming is done in machine code/assembly, on both the Oric and the Archimedes. Some of the code listings for the Oric are done on the Archimedes and some are done in pencil. When I am computing, the key element for me, is the ability to switch between the Oric and the Archimedes and back again, in a matter of seconds. Spare time is limited. If I had to dig a computer out and set it up each time it was needed, it wouldn't get much use.

Computing itself, is one of two main interests that occupy my spare time. I never had to conform to the "PC format" at work. The poor performance of those machines outside the office environment left a permanent impression, which is why I have not yet bought a standard "PC" machine, for my own use.

I have noticed that computers are often junked for trivial updates. I have always preferred to save up and buy really good machine, that will run for a long time. The longer you keep a machine, the easier it becomes to operate. A great advantage of the Oric, is it's simplicity. You get an idea and you can just switch on and go.

The Archimedes has a BBC Micro emulator and with a little modification, the Oric can do a good emulation of the BBC's User Port as well as the very popular "Teletext" Mode 7. As a result, my old BBC Micro has more less been retired. Oric's main limitation is it's HIRES display, which is not bad in monochrome, but somewhat restricted in colour. Even then it is surprising what can be achieved by the likes of Jon Bristow and Co.

Obviously, there is little point in trying to upgrade the Oric to "Pentium" performance. However, there are other possibilities.

It might be possible to make use of discarded equipment from outdated machines to improve the Oric. Such equipment should be much cheaper now, than when it was first put on the market.

For a start I have often wondered whether it would be possible to upgrade the Oric by wiring sockets into the Oric bus to produce an expansion card unit, which could be used for plugging in items such as an Apple colour card. If memory serves correctly, the Apple colour cards carried some RAM and all the necessary monitor connections.

Come to that, there are other possibilities such as RAM expansion cards. There was a 256K RAM card available. There must be a fair number of these Apple cards sitting around gathering dust in the older Apple machines. Are there any electronics experts out there who could comment on this idea.

Basically, the Oric is a nice machine to use and I have used it to write quite a bit of software, some of which has been for professional use at work and some for less serious projects. It is one of those less serious items that is my current project at the moment. The National Lottery has been the focus of public and press attention for the last year or so. Inevitably, there has been quite a bit of computer software around to help you win those millions. Why anyone should need to sell successful Lottery software, is an interesting question? but there you go! However, providing you keep within reasonable limits, the Lottery is an interesting project for the Oric.

We had a look at the subject of Lottery software, in Part 43 of the series, about a year ago. Since then, I have had several sessions of writing Lottery software. The initial routines were tried out in Basic. They were pretty scrappy looking and very slow. Later efforts used machine code/assembly which improved the operation considerably.

What was needed for the software was a random number generator. The Oric has one, but the random sequence is repeated every time the Oric is switched on, so I am not quite sure if that is strictly random. There are ways of getting around this. However, there is another and more appropriate source of random numbers and that is the Lottery itself. There is a certain amount of logic to using winning Lottery numbers to produce more winning numbers.

So the first job was to get hold of some Lottery results. This was done with the aid of a video recorder. The aim was to get all the winning numbers, before they are "tidied up" into numerical order, so they are truly a random set. The "Bonus" numbers are also noted down, but ignored for the moment. Later it might be a good idea to use the "Bonus" numbers to modify and control Oric's own random sequence, to make it even more random, but I haven't really thought about that one yet. I now have a complete list of all the results from 28 Jan 95 to the present date and all bar three sets, are the numbers as they "fell", before being put into numerical order.

This truly random collection of numbers is used as the data and the Oric's random function is used to pick a new set of numbers from a database set within that data store. If the database is always kept to the same size, it will gradually change in a random way, each week, as one set of numbers is deleted and the rest are moved up, to make room for the next weeks results.

I reckon on a maximum size database of 64 weeks, a total of 384 winning numbers. However, the number of weeks used, as a database when the program is actually running is adjustable. The data itself, is loaded separately, so it is possible to load alternative data collections and try many variations.

The software is set up so that the start and end of the database can be pre-set to any week and the week that follows those settings is then automatically displayed as the "Winning Line". When the software is run, the program picks out six new numbers from the database and displays them alongside the "Winning Line" and in addition marks out any numbers that match those on the "Winning Line".

So far, the program can be set to run continously and counts each new set of numbers, by adding "£1" to the counter. It was quite amusing to see my wife Anne's reaction to the announcement that I had just spent over £1000 on the Lottery! The current software can go up to nearly £10,000, which should be rich enough for anyone, even Apple Mac owners!!

At the moment the controls are rudimentry and the only other information displayed is the total of numbers matched and the total number of "wins", that is to say, three or more matching numbers on a line.

Even so, the first results were quite interesting. The initial setting for the database, used weeks 28 Jan 95 to 8 Jul 95 inclusive, to predict the winning numbers for week 15 Jul 95. For £1000, the prediction routine produced a total of 907 single number matches, 33 three number matches for a £10 prize each, plus one four number match. Don't forget, this is a genuine prediction that would have produced the same result if it had been done on the 9th of July 1995.

Obviously, it's not a winning hand, but how does it compare with the odds. A simple calculation, will tell you that the chances of matching just one number in any line is nearly 73.5% or 735 in a £1000. The official Camelot line is that the chances of winning the smallest prize (£10) is "1 in 57", which would get you about 18 three number matches (£180), for £1000. Four number matches odds are "1 in 1033", so the Oric's result is quite an improvement on the odds. However, don't forget that this is just one result and I certainly wouldn't risk any money on it.

I haven't touched the program since the New Year holiday, but I hope to get the time to do some more soon. I would be interested to hear if anyone else has had a go at this sort of thing. The software does not have to cost anything. You don't have to have to buy a ticket to try it out. In fact, it is better not to. After all, if the software works, you should be able to test it on past results, to see how well it works.

However, there are two golden rules. The first rule is that if you are going to buy a Lottery ticket, decide at the start what you can afford to lose and never go above that limit. The second rule is even more important. If you are not going to buy a ticket, NEVER EVER try and forecast next weeks result. Believe me, "Murphy's Law" is alive and well and you could hit the target and not have a penny on it. There are those who have done just that and as a result, ended up chewing lumps out of the carpet.

So thats just one project for the Oric. An obvious question is, wouldn't the project be more effective on the much faster and better equipped Archimedes? The answer is no. This is basically a "fun" project, not a serious one and anyway, technique is more important than speed and megabytes, in this case.

Thats just one project, there are other ideas if I ever get the time. The VIA expansion (see the "Advanced User Guide") can do more than just operate cameras. It can be adapted to servos, stepper motors and all sorts of electric and electronic circuits......and that's just for starters!

THE CHIP FAMILY TREE

At the heart of your Oric lies the central processing unit (CPU for short) which is the 'chip' that does all the hard work. In the Oric this chip is a 6502 as used in the BBC, Atari and the Apple and PET computers. The other main CPU used in home computers was the Z80 - as used in Speccies, MSX and Amstrad machines. But the chips that the design of these CPUs were based on came about almost by accident.

Way back in 1972 a company called Intel was asked to develop a chip to replace the large number of TTL (transistor-transistor-logic) chips needed in the huge computer systems of the time. What they came up with was the 8008, an 8-bit chip which would have been great but for its slow speed. Engineers and hobbyists had spotted the potential as a general purpose CPU and thus an affordable desktop computer. Intel soon realised the limitation of the 8008 and soon replaced it with the 8080. At about the same time Motorola launched an 8-bit - the 6800 - but although they were equally efficient CP/M had been designed by Digital Research to run on 8080 machines with the new Shugart disk drives and the 6800 fell into obscurity.

Zilog was a company formed by ex-Intel designers. They saw that the 8080 had not made use of all the spcace on the chip, so they designed the Z80. This retained all the old 8080 instructions and so was compatible with existing software, but had added more instructions to improve performance considerably.

The 8080 chip needed a special clock generator chip as well as a system controller but Zilog managed to combine all the logic needed onto the Z80. The fact that it could replace several chips made it atttractive to manufacturers.

The 6800 was not so popular as the 8080 but was favoured by some designers and programmers so Motorola set about designing a sophisticated version - the 6809. However, a company called MOS Technology had brought out their own enhancement called the 6502, the most popular of a series of chips known as the 6500 series. These have the same instruction set but differ in powers and compatibilities.


The 6502 was not compatible with the 6800 like the Z80 was with the 8080 but offered an instruction set that any 6800 programmer could cope with, and has slightly easier interfacing requirements. This alone would not have made it very popular, but Apple and Commodore adopted the chip and brought it into favour. Acorn also used it in the BBC computer. The Beeb had wanted a Z80 originally, but only Acorn could come up with a suitable design in the time limit. Atari also used it in their computers, as did a small company called Tangerine which became Oric.

While the 6502 was showing its poularity in the 8-bit market, 16-bit computers began to emerge. Intel offered the 8088 and 8086, the former being initially more poular because of compatibility with earlier chips; but the 8086 soon became more dominant. Motorola produced the 68000 and Zilog the Z8000. Fortunately for Intel, Digital Research and Microsoft came up with operating systems for their chips. (CP/M-86 and MS-DOS respectively). The 8086 was used in the IBM which became an industry standard because of Microsoft and the 8086 was succeeded by further designs:— the 8286, 8386, 8486 and the 8586 or Pentium chip.

The 68000 was used by Apple in their ground breaking Apple Lisa. This Machine featured a mouse driven operating system with icons and windows. Digital Research copied the whole thing and sold it to Atari who used it on their ST machines. Apple sued and Bill Gates of Microsoft who wrote MS-DOS laughed at mice, and IBM said there was no place for windows in the office (!)

The 68000 was also used by Commodore in their Amiga computers, and both Atari and Commodore used the later (32 bit) 68030. The poor old Z8000 didn't get a look-in.

Today we have a computer market dominated by machines using the 8*86 chips with the only alternative being Apples, Amigas, Ataris and Achimedes which all use 680*0, somewhat like 10 years ago when the Z80 Spectrums faced up to the 6502 Orics.



Disc Corrupted during use. ORIC DOS.

This can happen at the most unlikely time and for no apparent reason, making all files unaccessible for loading. Well, have no fear, most, if not all files can be recovered if a little time and care is used.

My theory is that the problem occurs when using a disc that holds many files, perhaps in excess of 50, and had also been used many many times to delete filenames when updates to files on disc were required. This necessitates deleting the original and then saving the latest updated file, as you are unable to Save-Overwrite to disc from a file in computer memory. This I believe causes chaos on the disc if done many many times and throws the disc's pointers into confussion.

Well, here goes.

Purchase the program 'NIBBLE' from Public Domain Software and get organized straight away before anything goes wrong.

As soon as you are up and running load 'NIBBLE' and select any other disc from your collection which is fault free, and holds many programs, and has had little use with deleting files. Call up SECTOR 01 TRACK 00 and print this page to printer to be stored for such a time as you may need it. You could also call up SECTOR 04 TRACK 00 and again store for information purposes only. Sleep well now!

OK! you now have a corrupted disc to salvage.

Before risking anything bootup 'NIBBLE', have a look at both of the previous pages on the corrupted disc to compare with the layout of the stored pages. If errors are obvious then merely overwrite the page to resemble the original printout and select 'W'=write the ammended page back onto disc. However, should the page be a load of rubbish then a lot of hard work will be required to recover files, especially if you have no previous printout of the corrupted disc. Hopefully you will have a listing of what was on the disc originally. Now draw yourself out a grid with the same columns and lines as on the printout, with space to write legibly, and fill in the known filenames and extensions in HEX as per example printout.

Now the searching starts.

You will have to view all Sectors and Tracks on the whole disc, and identify the Location/Start of all the files, re:Sector/Track. Copy these details onto your grid plan for later on. When satisfied all files have been located go back to Sector 04 Track 00 and copy/overwrite all the detailes you have collected.

As you will not know every detail, some squares will be empty, (ie) program length, file protection, other used sectors. You can use #20 space or #00 dot to fill in these squares.

Now 'W'write this page back onto disc.

Reboot up your system and, just-for safety, format another disc to copy your recovered programs onto. Call up the 'DIR' on the corrupted disc to view how successful you have been. If all looks good load a file. View the file for errors. Now save back onto the new disc. If all goes well, continue with the others.

I have been 100% correct on the two occasions I had to use this method when it all looked hopeless.

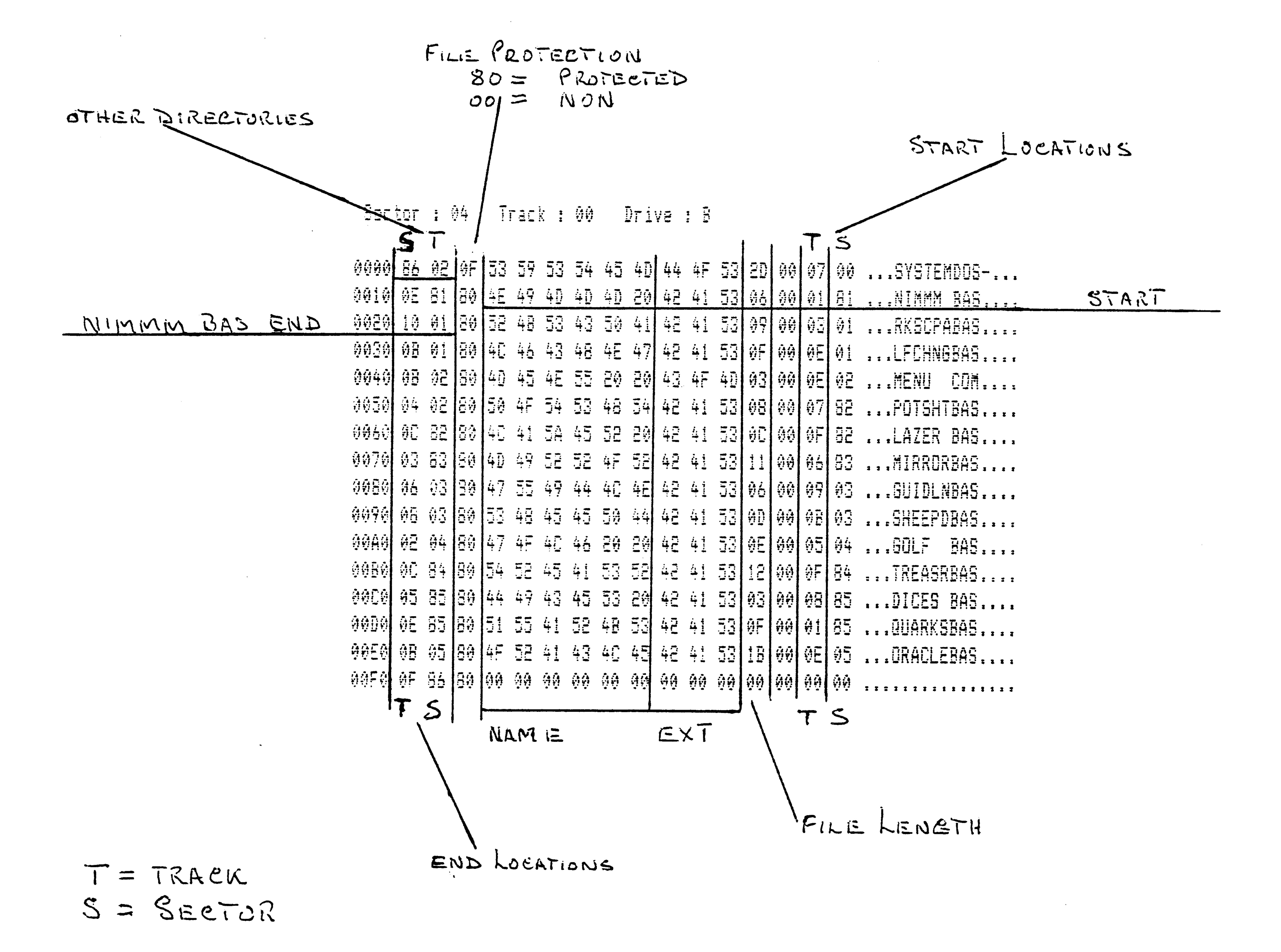
[also have the 'UNERASE' program which works well for SEDORIC formatted discs, but will not work on ORIC formated discs, so NIBBLE is the only way out.

Hoping this doesn't sound too simplistic, as it is very time consuming but rewarding if it does work.

Further directories may be found on the corrupted disc whilst searching, but not in any specific location as Sector 04 Track 00 is the Master Start location. If any are apparently intact then print them out immediately as they hold the secret to completing the task of recovery more simply. The Top first two columns indicate the whereabouts of any other directories. If the numbers are both zeros then no other directories. But, if they hold numbers that indicates Track and Sector of other directory pages. So have a look and print them out also. This location can also be entered into the correct area of the initial master menu page, so making recovery more easy.

I have also found that starting any file with the first line being REM 'Filename' helps when searching through a corrupted disc, in identifying the start location, as this gets printed to screen in the CHR\$ columns.

Good luck but remember this screed is for ORIC DOS recovery only, as SEDORIC DOS uses a slightly different layout.



BRIAN'S FAGE - ORIC USER MONTHLY 03/96

BRIAN KIDD , 32 KIER HARDIE CRESCENT , NEWPORT , GWENT . NP9 9DQ.

TO START OFF THIS MONTH , LAST MONTHS ANSWERS , WHICH GO AS FOLLOWS ;

THERE ARE 1296 COMBINATIONS OF THROWING THE DICE (Incl DUPLICATES : 6*6*6*6) WHEN THESE COMBINATIONS ARE USED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MULTIPLTY THEN AD RULE - THE FOLLOWING VALUES ARE PRODUCED :

- A) EVENS 390 = 30.09 %
- 周) (DD) 第 (D) 第 (69) 91 1/4

SO IT REALLY WAS A CON AND NOT THE 'onest wager'!

2) MATHS NUMBER

THE COMPLETED NUMBER WAS 75865543

AN OLD ONE THIS! - YOU CAN'T DIG HALF A HOLE!

4) AVERAGE MEH

AGAIN A TRICK QUESTION. HOW MANY OF YOU THOUGHT THE ANSWER TO BE 90 MPH. ?
BELIEVE IT OR NOT THE ANSWER IS INFINITE SPEED ie IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
AS PROOF, FOR EXAMPLE: LET'S SAY THE DISTANCE TO WORK IS 30 MILES
THEREFORE TRAVELLING AT 30 MPH, RESULTS IN A JOURNEY TIME OF ONE HOUR.
NOW, SINCE THE TOTAL JOURNEY DISTANCE IS 60 MILES, IN ORDER TO AVERAGE 6
MPH, HE WOULD HAVE TO RETURN HOME IN NO TIME AT ALL.

NOW FOR THIS MONTH'S SELECTION OF FOSERS - DON'T FORGET TO LOOK OUT FO ANOTHER TRICK ONE .

- 1) A TWO-DIGIT NUMBER , READ FROM LEFT TO RIGHT , IS 4.5 TIMES AS LARGE A THE SAME NUMBER , READ FROM RIGHT TO LEFT . WHAT IS THAT NUMBER ?
- 2) WHICH NUMBER WHEN ADDED TO 5/4 GIVES THE SAME RESULT AS WHEN MULTIPLIED B 5/4 ?
 - 3) TWO ENGLISH COINS ADD UP TO 55p . ONE IS NOT A 50p PIECE. WHAT ARE THEY ?
- 4) TAKE THE NUMBER 2519 NOT A VERY UNUSUAL NUMBER IS IT ?
 WELL YES IT IS , ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU DIVIDE IT BY THE NUMBERS 2 THROUGH TO 10 FOR YOU SEE IF YOU :
- A) DIVIDE BY 2 YOU GET A REMAINDER OF 1
- B) DIVIDE BY 3 AND GET A REMAINDER OF 2
- C) DIVIDE BY 4 AND GET A REMAINDER OF 3

WELL "MATS ALL FOR THIS MONTH - TARA

AND SO ON - EACH TIME YOU GET A REMAINDER 1 LESS THEN THE DIVISOR. NOW, CAN YOU FIND TWO OTHER NUMBERS WITH THE SAME PROPERTIES?

WINNERS AND LOSERS....

ADDITIONAL WINNERS OF SOME OF THE PRIZES I HAD ON OFFER ARE:
STAN HOLDEN, KEN DUDDLE, PAUL SCHOLFIELD AND FINALLY JOHN HUGHES.
THANKS TO ALL OF YOU, ESPECIALLY STAN WHO KEEPS ON SENDING ME THE POSE ANSWERS. THE LAST TWO ISSUES ANSWERS BEING SENT FROM USA AND SPAIN.
LOSERS - ALL THOSE WHO COULDN'T BE BOTHERED TO CLAIM
THE REMAINDER OF PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN TO DAVE, TO BE USED AS GRAND DRAPRIZES, AT THE NEXT MEET (WHO KNOWS - I MIGHT FIND THE VENUE THIS TIME!).

BITS 'N' BOBS

BULL ECTRICAL

The latest Newsletter from BULL ELECTRICAL is packed with bargains - some of which are very odd.

EXAMPLES:

CHIEFTAIN TANK LASERS - originally about 60,000 pounds - NOW only 349 pounds.

1.44mb, 3.5" drives (refurbished) - 12.50.

ATTACK ALARMS - 130db personal alarms - 5 pounds.

AMSTRAD GX4000 Games Consoles - a bargain at 4 pounds.

MULTIMEDIA CD ROM TITLES - various at 6.95 each.

SWITCHED MODE FOWER SUFFLIES - 5V, 4.5 and - 1.99.

GYROSCOPES — & pounds.

BULL ELECTRICAL are at: dept.896, 250 FORTLAND STREET, HOVE, SUSSEX.BN3 50T. TEL:01273 203500. FAX:01273 323077

WEBSITE: http://www.pavilion.co.uk/bull-electrical

EMAIL: bull@pavilion.co.uk

1797 CT 1898 1889 1888 1889 1888 1889 1888 1889 1888 1889 188

思思D 温竹出 图形层高层高温

For those wishing to stay overnight during the Aylesbury ORIC MEET, I have been getting the facts.

BAY LODGE GUEST HOUSE, 47 TRING ROAD, AYLESBURY. HP20 1LD (Tel:01296 331404) is cheaper than the others that I am about to quote you, but did not come up to standard for this years local Tourist Guide - they may of just had an off day. Those who stayed there last year were quite happy.

Those recommended by the Tourist Board include: Manor Villas - Tel:435841, G.Canover - Tel:27980, Mrs.Ion - Tel:84465, and 331 Tring Rd. - Tel:24012. Dialling code for each is 01296. Prices are around 15 per person per night. Recently under new management is a pub called the HOP POLE. Sharon and Steve are friends of mine and charge 15 per person per night (they have 7 rooms). The pub is near the town centre. Tel:01296 82129

Spotted in some old CB radio magazines by Robert Crisp was an advert for ORIC-1 Eprom Programmer plans for 8.50.

The company were GISO and they resided at: 40 Baker Close, Southgate, Crawley, Sussex.

Robert is trying to contact them. Do you know if they still exist?

MESSAGE TO BRIAN KIDD FROM ROBERT CRISP

May Welsh Wizzard - at the end of last year, you offered to send me a copy of the start-up disks for a Macintosh. I haven't recieved them yet, I hope they haven't got lost in the post.

FEADERS LETTERS

DEAR DAVE

my City and Guilds course is officially finished. I recieved the exam certificates at the end of January. To celebrate, I went out and got myself a new toy. It's a CB radio. This second hand CB is used in the car, but is not properly installed yet. At the moment I just listen. I've heard some weird things, including WINDOWS tutorials transmitted in the evening and some dodgy CB gear being offered for sale at 4 a.m. on a Saturday morning.

I have got some more Computer hardware. A couple of Compaq Deskpro 386s, and enough spare parts to convert my mono 86 into a colour machine.

To cut a long story short (the EDITORS words, not Roberts), the 2 Compaqs were not identical and did not contain the same software. After about 5 weeks of my spare time, I have finally got a computer than runs WINDOWS 3.1 and MS-DOS 6. Unfortunately I can't use it much because my COBOL Compiler won't work with MS-DOS 6. Isn't progress wonderful!

On a lighter note - re-issue 100 of DUM. If the ORIC Employment Agency has been in operation for 14 years prior to 1995, then it started in 1981. The ORIC-1 was launched in January 1983. Does this mean that the Computer was really named after an employment agency?

(Meanword),

DEAR FOREINT

thanks for another interesting letter.

Congratulations on the exam results.

I wonder who now has most Computer software. It must be close between you, Peter Thornburn, and Simon Ullyatt,

Good point about the ORIC name. Are there any Computers around named SKY FERSONNEL, or ALFRED MARKS????

---- DAVE

DEAR DAVE.

I have written two letters to Steve Hopps about disk interfaces and Atmos machines, but I have not recieved any reply. I would like to buy 2 disk interfaces and 2 ATMOSs from him. Can you forward my request and tell me how much I must pay and how?

I would also like to have some information about ORIC USER MONTHLY and how to subscribe.

- HAKAN KARLSSON (Vara, SWEDEN).

DEAR HAKAN,

it is great to hear from another ORICIAN from Sweden. I'm sorry to hear that Steve has not replied. I have had a couple of letters like yours recently. I will 'Bo..ock' Steve - can I use that dodgy word - yes O.K., the censor says that 'Steve' is O.K to use!

I know that Steve has been very busy -aren't we all!

O.K - here is the latest: I have just spoken to Steve, who is still extremely busy. He now hopes to start building ATMOSs and interfaces at the end of May. He has promised to write to everyone that has contacted him.

On a brighter note – I am sending you this issue of ORIC USER MONTHLY and details of how to subscribe.

--- DAVE

MORE READERS LETTERS

I thought I would just drop you a line as thanks to Alan Bosworth I now have a PCW9512 system working. I also managed to obtain an Epson FX1000 dot matrix printer, which is connected to the Oric at present. Have you got some printer utilities or info on software that could make the most of this type of printer? I noticed that Oric Cad has printer options for the MCP40, can this and other such programs be adapted for the FX1000?

Do you know of anyone who might have some documentation or info on the MSX (Toshiba) computer, as the School I will be teaching at has three computers with synthesiser interfaces and full-size keyboards with control panels on. They seem to just work as synthesisers with screen display (there are also three B/W portable televisions), but I am hoping that there is a record feature so that they will be of some use, rather than just another computer for me to collect. I'm finally running out of room here, as my dad keeps reminding me; only enough room for 4 monitors now!

I am also after Beeb info/software so that I can utiliseone of the two BBC 128k Masters that I now have.

One day I will get a Telestrat, but at the moment I have a 1974 American Jeep to worry about, which I hope to travel to the MEET in, if the weather is fine. It is good fun off-road, and will out-accelerate an XR3i - so watch out Aylesbury!

FETER THORNELIEN (Brant

Emalling hating

I believe when we spoke on the telephone, that you said that the FX1000 was a wide carriage printer. I will look and see what I can ascertain, but it will have to join the queue of numerous other jobs I have to fulfill. Perhaps someone else can help on this one.

Regarding the TOSHIBA MSX - I suggest you turn to page 4 of last monts O.U.M. Not only is this computer looked at, but you'll see that Steve (Muso) Marshall owns one.

We have quite a few Beeb users, and perhaps they could write to you direct - you do not state what info you want. As for software - try checking the Alternate Micros pages of recent OUM issues - I'm sure there is a shop in Marlow that does software for the BBC, and indeed most machines.

Good to hear that the Jeep is good fun off-road. Is that because you can't keep on the road when you've sunk too many cannies, or is it that you're trying to have your wicked way with the new lady in your life!

- DAVE

MESSAGE to JON HAWORTH from BRIAN KIDD

Can you send me TELESTRAT RGB/Scart schematics, as I can't get a decent picture when hooked up to a scart socket on my video (dark + b/w only).

MESSACE to JONATHAN BRISTOW From PETER THORNBURN

You rang recently when I was out - was it important? If you have time before your voyage either phone again or stop off at my house,

MESSAGE to FETER THORNBURN from DAVE DICK

J.B. rang me for Speccy contacts and so I gave him yours and other Speccy owners telephone numbers, as he is always losing his Contact List.

NEW - AN ORIC MIDI INTERFACE

- TREVOR SHAW

NEW - an Oric MIDI interface. Yes, designed three years ago by myself, and finally built design over last Christmas (was it really that long ago!). Amazingly my design worked first time and passed all the initial tests without problems, which is of course not only unusual but very pleasing!

The interface can be used to control a piece of MIDI equipment, and should also be able to receive information from them (e.g. to record the notes that you play). I say "should" because this is the part which I am having some difficulty with. The input and outputs of the interface both work, but the input does not seem to be able to read the high speed MIDI data unless sent from the Oric and received from its own output.

Its a great shame that just as I have completed this project Jonathan Bristow has decided to disappear! I had hoped that he would produce the software for it. I am not much of a machine code programmer, but I can certainly write some routines in BASIC which allow the interface to control MIDI equipment. It is when using the interface to receive MIDI data that machine code is much more important (essential). Nick Haworth's experience at writing serial interface software could also be valuable for developing this project further.

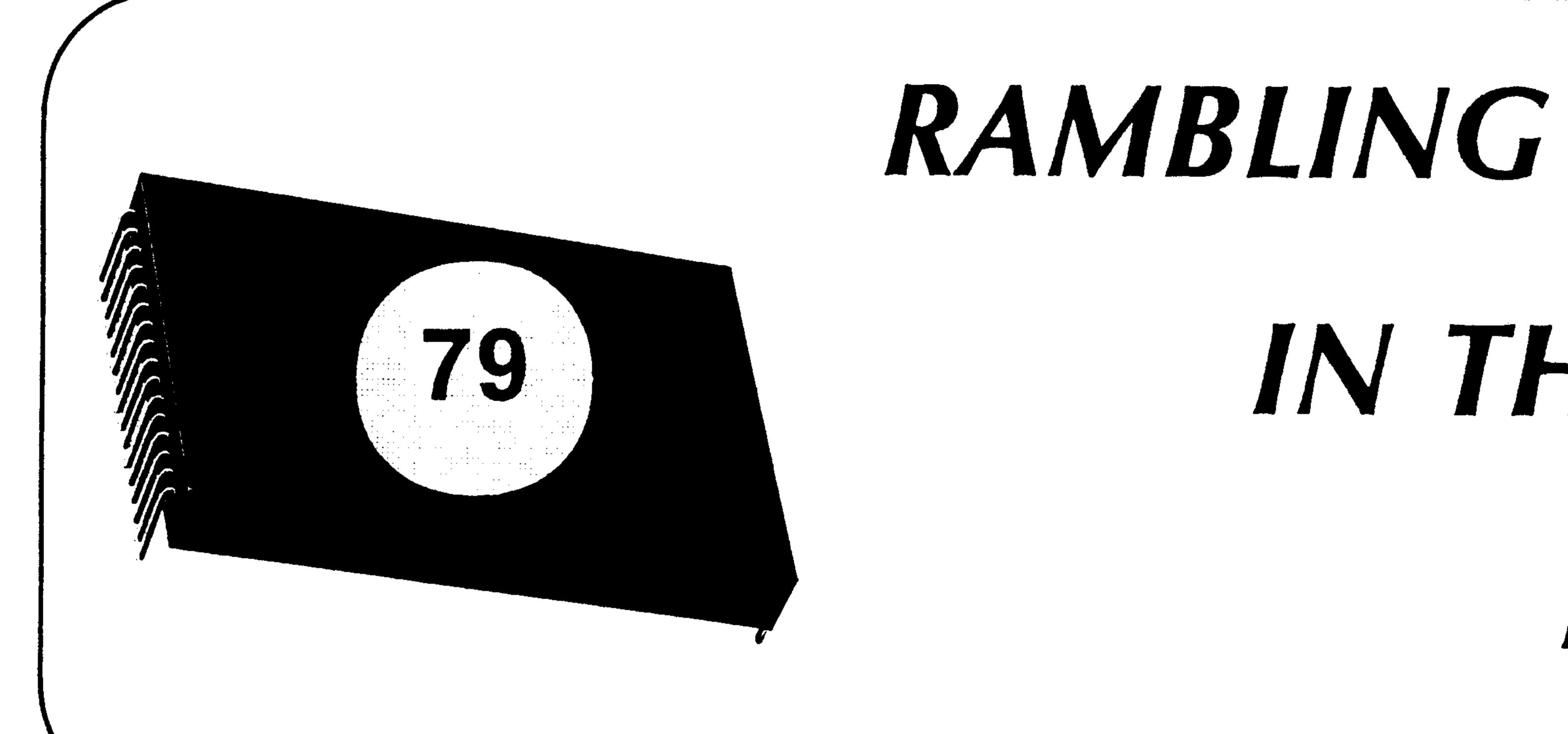
So why did it take three years to build? Well unfortunately, just after designing the interface I started a part-time degree course. I sent a copy of the circuit diagram to Jonathan Bristow with a suggestion that he get someone else to build it, and also a copy to you I think. Then Jonathan Haworth discovered a French design, so I thought there was little point building mine - until I heard that he could not get his to work. It took three years to complete my degree, which I heard I had passed just before Christmas. Studying for an MSc whilst working full-time with a family too leaves very little time for anything else. I hoped I would have more time now, but my wife decided it was her turn to do a degree, so she 'left the kitchen sink' and became a full-time student, starting at Salford University last October. So I have had to take on extra family and household responsibilities which leaves me with little energy for much else! However, things are not quite so tight as when I was studying.

What I would like to know is how many Oric users are interested in this development. I shall certainly use the interface myself, but if others are also interested it would give me some incentive to get writing - both an article or two and software! Therefore could Oric users please let me know, either directly, or via OUM.

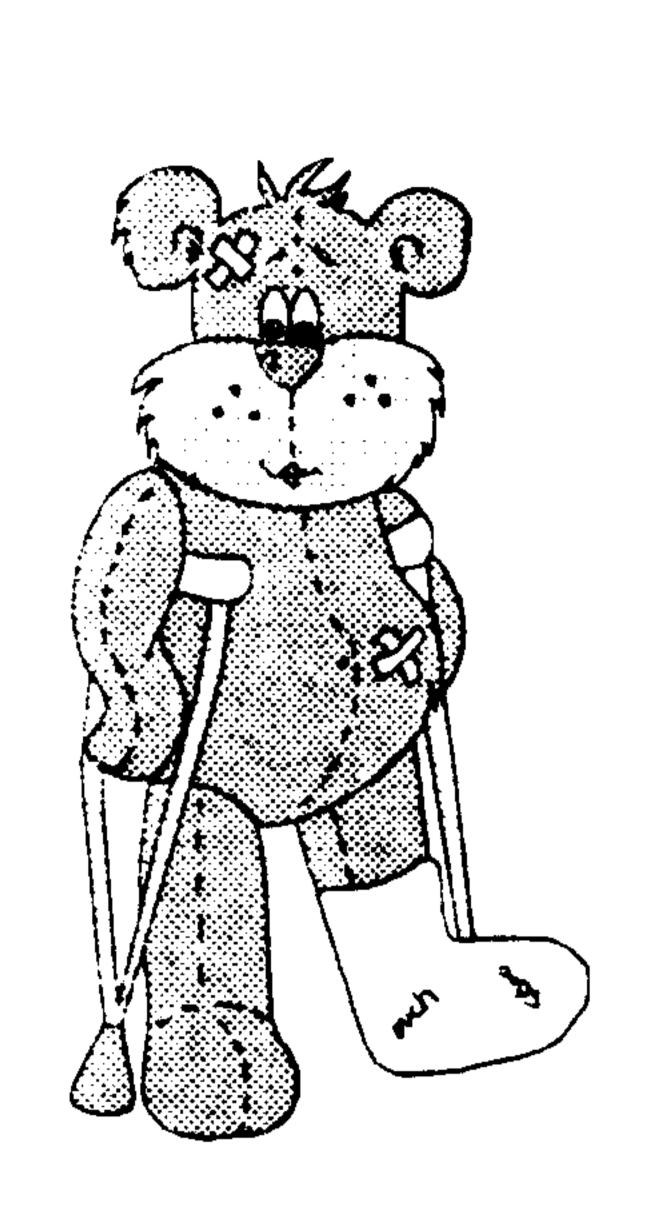


3 Lingley Road, Great Sankey, Warrington, Cheshire, WA5 3ND.

Tel. (Home) 01925 791577



ROM



Yet more on Sedoric v3.0

Dave's let me off this month, so here are the details of the two new Sedoric commands from the latest v3.0 manual (now available for £5.00 (£1 to OUM) from me at the address below):

CHKSUM NFA (,AUTO)

An extended DIR command that lists the filenames on the disc in the default or specified drive together with their start, end and execution addresses, their file type and a checksum of all the bytes in the file. The latter is useful to see whether two files are identical or not. See LOAD, V on page 7 of the manual for an explanation of file status information.

If the AUTO parameter is omitted, a key must be pressed for the next file to display. If it is included, all relevant files will display automatically, but may be halted by pressing SPACE and restarted by pressing any other key. ESC exits at any time.

> CHKSUM "PROG. BAS" CHKSUM "*. TXT", AUTO

VIEWHIRES NFA (,AUTO)

View all HIRES screens on the disc in the default or specified drive. The command benefits from the use of the convention that all HIRES screens are saved with the .HRS extension.

If the ,AUTO parameter is omitted, a key must be pressed for the next file to display. If it is included, all relevant files will display automatically, but may be interrupted by pressing SPACE and restarted by pressing any other key. ESC exits at any time.

> VIEWHIRES "SCREEN.HRS" VIEWHIRES "*.HRS", AUTO

Email: jon@cam.dungeon.com Oric Mailing List: oric@cam.dungeon.com Jon Haworth 3 Madingley Road Cambridge CB3 0EE

First, on a personal note, I must apologise for lack of contact recently, and blame ill health. Spain is out of the question. I'm now classified as disabled to the extent of needing care both by day and night. It seems my arthritic spine no longer wants to support my ever increasing weight and has come out on strike. Although Spain might give me a few extra years of mobility, it would mean my losing so many benefits that I couldn't afford to live abroad. So England (and OUM) are stuck with me as long as my mind and spirit stay "able".

In the next set of articles I'll try to redress our failure to teach grammar for at least two generations. I hope to show how firm rules, because of shoddy speech and writing, are being undermined, leaving ambiguity where there was precision and anarchy where there was rule. I'll begin by discussing two parts of speech; a conjunction and a preposition.

Conjunctions (words like AND, BUT and SO) are used for joining things of equal status. It might be two nouns: "a book AND a pen" or two complete statements: "He came in AND we shook hands".

Prepositions, on the other hand, are not links between two things. They are normally used to introduce an INDIRECT OBJECT, so we'd better stress the difference between a DIRECT OBJECT and an INDIRECT OBJECT.

If I say 'Peter kicked THE DOG' then the action passes DIRECTLY from Feter to the dog and THE DOG is the DIRECT OBJECT (what Peter kicked). But If I say 'Peter wrote to Mary' (Or as the Yanks say 'Peter wrote Mary', then MARY is not the direct object. The thing that Peter wrote was A LETTER, and it was this LETTER (which would be the DIRECT OBJECT) which passed TO MARY, making MARY the INDIRECT OBJECT. I will explain this more clearly when I deal with Transitive and Intransitive Verbs in a future article. But prepositions mostly follow verbs and introduce INDIRECT OBJECTS.

OF, TO, FROM, FOR, BY, THROUGH, WITH; these are all prepositions and it would be absurd to use them as CONJUNCTIONS to join two sentences. Compare "It smells of onions" with "It smells of late it". The latter is senseless.

The word FLUS is a preposition. It means WITH THE ADDITION OF. We can say, "It pays a good salary plus commission", but it would be ridiculous to write or say "She came in with the addition of we shook hands". Yet for decades in the United States and increasingly over the last ten years here, people have said things like "She came in plus we shook hands".

Radio Times printed recently: "Pebble Mill.the drama begins next Saturday on BBC1... PLUS...Emma Norma reviews forthcoming videos.

I saw an advert last week saying: "It is an excellent offer, including it is guaranteed for 2 years". I cringe at the meaningless senselessness of what is happening to our language. It isn't enough to say, "Oh, it's all right as long as we can understand it." We can understand Moo-moo and Chu-chu talk to babies, but we don't accept it as the norm in adult speech. So, when we hear public speakers using PLUS as a conjunction, the best way to counteract their influence, if it is not already too late, is to laugh them to scorn and point out to our children why we are mocking the so-called "erudite" for the misuse of our native tongue.

Next month I want to deal with tautology and clarity more parts of speech.

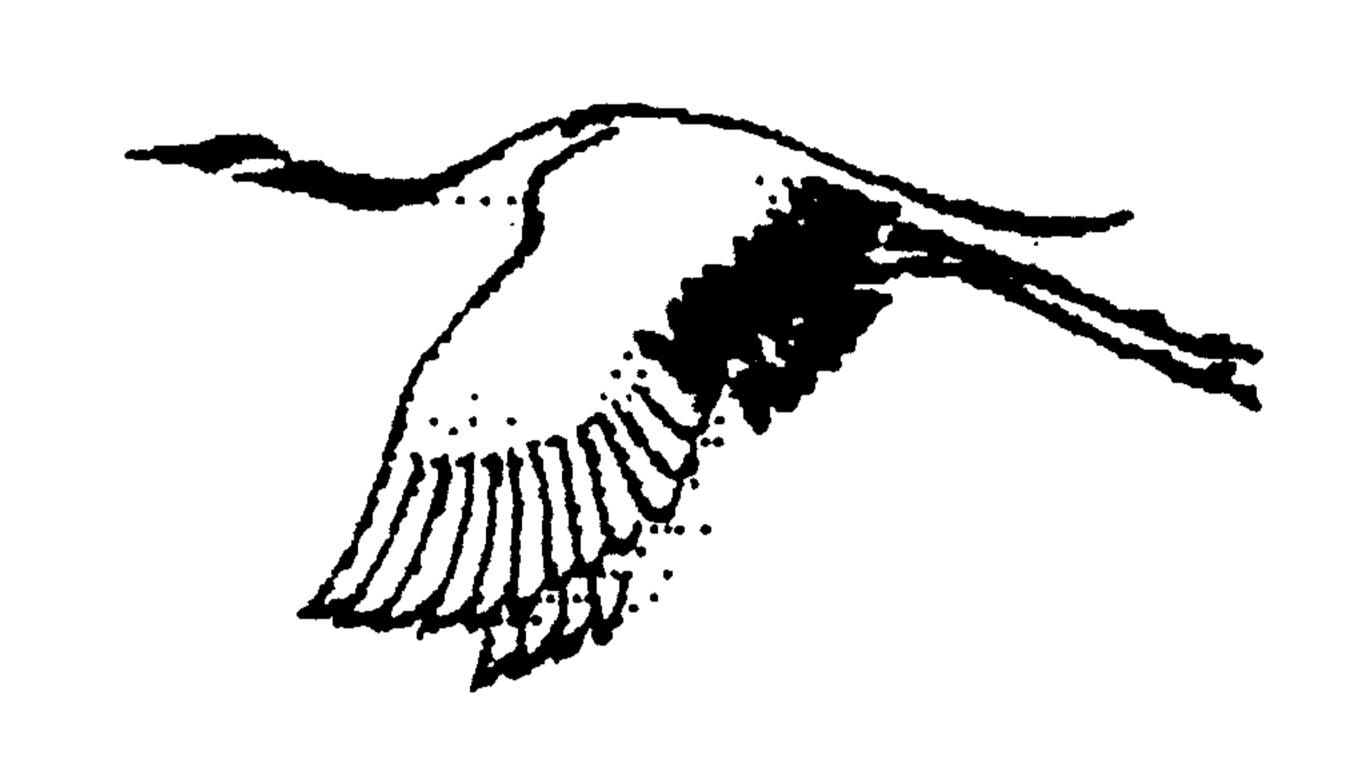
NEXTISSUE

JON HAWORTH WILL BE BACK TO HIS DISSASSEMBLY OF THE ROM. WE PUBLISH THE RESULTS OF OUR LAST COMPETITION -ONLY 2 OF YOU INTO THE WORLD OF THE C64, WITH PLENTY OF INFORMATION FOR COMMODORE USERS. BRAGG, FRANK BOLTON AND THE

RONKEY TAKES US AND OF COURSE WE WILL HAVE ALL THE USUAL FROM PETER LIKES. ORIC USER MONTHLY YOUR FAVOURITE READ GET YOUR

TICKETS NOW FOR THE JULY ORIC MET

ISITABIRD?



AND WHAT IS IT DOING HERE? I HAVE BEEN PLAYING WITH MY NEW TOY! I WILL GIVE YOU A CLUE. "PENTIUM" I BOUGHT IT ON A SATURDAY. BY THE MONDAY AN ENGINEER WAS OUT. BY THE WEDNESDAY I HAD TO HAVE ANOTHER MACHINE. ALL WILL BE REVEALED NEXT MONTH. NEEDLESS TO SAY THAT I HAVE BEEN TRYING OUT 'EUPHORIC'. I HAVE AN EARLY VERSION, WHERE YOU 'CLOAD' IN THE GAMES. AFTER A COUPLE OG GAMES OF 'ZORGONS REVENGE', I SETTLED DOWN FOR A SESSION ON 'PSYCHIATRIC'. I DON'T KNOW IF IT IS BECAUSE I HAVEN'T PLAYED THE GAME FOR A LONG TIME, OR PERHAPS

IT WAS GETTING USED TO A NON-ORIC KEYBOARD, OR PERHAPS I AM JUST GETTING SLOW IN MY OLD AGE. WHATEVER THE REASON - MY SCORES WERE PATHETIC. IREALY MUST GET INTO PLAYING THESE CLASSIC ORIC GAMES. THEY SAY ON THE BIG BREAKFAST THAT IT'S JUST FOR FUN AND NOT TO WRITE IN; BUT WE WANT YOU TO WRITE IN WITH YOUR HI-SCORES AND GAME TIPS. TIPS TO ME, AND HI-SCORES TO STEVE MARSHALL. THAT'S ALL FOR THIS MONTH. I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING UP WITH YOU ALL AT THE MEET IN JULY, AND MAYBE IN A FEW MONTHS WILL BE COMMINICATING WITH SOME OF YOU ON THE INTERNET.

MY ORIC SYSTEM HAS NOT BEEN STASHED AWAY. THE PC IS IN THE LOUNGE, AND THE ATMOS SYSTEM HAS A NICE LOCATION IN YOUNG MATTHEWS BEDROOM. A LOT EASIER FOR ME AS I WAS FOREVER DISMANILING IT WHEN NOT IN USE.