

I.O.U.

The Newsletter of the Independent Oric Users' Group

ISSUE No. 13 - late December 1986.

EDITORIAL

Hello everyone! I'll take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year and I hope you are all enjoying the Christmas Season!

For those of you who do not know me, I am Trevor Shaw. I originally trained as an Electrical Technician Engineer but I am currently studying for a BSc (Hons) in Applied Science - specialising in Psychology and Computer Science. So you can see how I have been bitten by the computer bug!

I am glad to see there is still a reasonable interest in the Oric computers, indicated by the continuing release of new software and hardware products. Of course this is governed by the number of Oric product purchasers, so if you wish to see new products you ought to show an interest in existing ones by buying those of use to you!

If there are particular utilities or games that Oric users would like available then why not let suppliers know by telling them directly, or alternatively through this newsletter! I personally consider that the Oric computers now have a very reasonable software base, offering most items that people are likely to require, and there is even a degree of choice in some cases! The main shortage is in disc compatible programs.

Thanks to all those of you who have contributed articles for this newsletter; those of you who have not yet submitted any articles, why not have a go? Every item no matter how small may be of interest to other users, and please remember that the newsletter cannot exist without YOU the users. So why not have a go? T.S.

NEWSFLASH

Gary has received over 40 replies in response to a letter he had published in the November issue of 'Your Computer'. This could be considered quite remarkable since it is now 18 months since the collapse of Oric Products (UK).

FGC has released yet more new programs! These are:- 'Goldmine', 'Maze Rally' and 'Fly For Your Life' - arcade games for the Oric-1/Atmos all at £6-95; MCP-40 LORES Dump' (£6-95), 'Function Plotter' (£6-95), and 'Tape Backup' (£7-95) - utilities for the Atmos only; 'Wordworth' - wordprocessor for the Atmos only (see review in this issue); 'Oricomms' - a communications program available in Oric-1 or Atmos versions at £17-95.

W.E. Software now include 15 titles of French software consisting (I think) of 11 games, 3 educational, and 1 utility program.

Following diversification OPEL Ltd. have formed OPELCO to specifically sell all Oric hardware and software. They are also offering a Membership Club with discount incentives for those who join. The fee is £12.

OPELCO now also have their disc system available, and quite different it is to what was originally rumoured! It is not a CP/M system but appears to offer a very similar DOS to the original ORIC DOS V1.1 and is fully compatible with the original Oric Microdisc. However it also comes with another DOS called RANDOS which offers random access filing.

/The steel cased unit contains the power supply for the disc drive and the Oric, as well as all the disc drive hardware including up to two 3in. drives. Price is £160 for a single drive system and £205 for a two drive system. VAT and a £10 delivery charge are extra. For further details contact Steve Hopps of OPELCO.

RESPONSE

Austin H. Meeson would like to get in touch with either D.Beckett or J.Forder (the authors) of 'Shopping Spree' for the 16k Oric, in order to obtain the full program listing and amendments for the Atmos. Contact A.H.Meeson, 41 Roebuck Rd., Walsall, West Midlands WS3 1AH. Tel. Bloxwich 477422.

Austin also requested details of a one line renumber routine that was published in a magazine some time ago. Well the magazine was 'Personal Computing Today' May 1984 issue and the routine sent by Peter Walsh is shown below:-

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A=&501:L=10:REPEAT:POKE(A+2),L:L=L+10:A=DEEK(A):UNTIL DEEK(A)=0
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Alan Riley has been to France recently in search of Oric software. (He says he has a list of over 800 titles from a French Oric owner!). He eventually discovered a specialist outlet. The good news is that they are prepared to supply UK Oric owners by mailorder. He also discovered that there is a dedicated Oric magazine available from French news-stands called 'théoric'. The address for the magazine is:- SORACOM, La Hale de Pan, 35170 BRU2, France. Price is 25Ff plus 7Ff postage.

The address of the shop is :-

ORDIVIDUEL, 20 rue de Montreuil, 94300 VINCENNES, France.

Paul Saunders wants to know if there are any verification programs available for the Oric-1 for tape saving. Yes Paul there are! I have two listings for verify programs published in old magazines, and Oric-1 Extended Basic by Severn Software includes a verify routine. If you would like a photocopy of the m/code listings then send me (T. Shaw) a SAE and 10p.

David Goodrum would like to know which word-processing programs can be used with the MCP-40 printer/plotter. The answer is any of the available ones should work. The only difficulties could be if you wish to control the pen barrel e.g. to change pen colour. This should be possible to program with any good wordprocessor but is made very easy with 'Author' because it comes complete with an MCP-40 printer driver built in!

David Wilkin would like to hear from any Atmos owners who use Telecom Gold. His address is:- 22, Saxonbury Avenue, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex TW16 5HD.

Desmond Yearley has found a couple of irritating bugs in Tansofts 'Oribase' for the Oric-1. He would like help from anyone who may have a solution. The bugs are:-

(a) If the apostrophe is used at any time this produces 11 solid squares followed by P?(?

(b) If data is ADDED in lower case then standard commands like FIND and MACROS are not understood and the program refers the user to HELP.

Contact: D.R.Yearley, Barn Cottage, Malacca Farm, West Clendon, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7UG.

Following a number of queries about converting tape software to run on

