

## 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:-

```
A=&501:L=10:REPEAT:POKE(A+2),L:L=L+10:A=DEEK(A):UNTIL DEEK(A)=0
```

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 Clandon, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7UG.

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

disc, Gary is making available again the article by Dave Cheeseman on this subject. For a copy please send 30p plus an A5 or A4 SAE to Gary Ramsay.

### ISSUE 13

Gary is aiming to distribute issue 14 between the 14th and 28th of February. Please allow at least one week (and no more than three weeks) after the latter date before querying about non-receipt of your copy. Expected cost is 40p. People ordering it individually should send payment - cash (2 X 20p pieces, please) or cheque/P.O. - plus an A5 s.a.e. to reach him by February 7th to:

I.O.U.G., c/o Mr G. Ramsay, 1 Kingsway Crescent, Burnage, Manchester. M19 1GA

Issue 14 will be prepared by Arthur Jackson. If you are not sending any payment then you may prefer to write directly to him:

I.O.U.G., c/o Mr A. Jackson, 56 Driffold, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B73 6HP

### SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS

First class postage - £2.90  
Second " " - £2.65

In both cases also send five A5 self-addressed (no stamp) envelopes. Covers a maximum of five issues, production costs permitting.

N.B. An A5 envelope is approx. 228 x 162 mm or 9 x 6.5 in.  
Cheques/P.O.'s payable to I.O.U.G.

### RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscriptions of those of you for whom the first issue of your sub. was no. 9 are now finished. Unless otherwise informed first-class subscribers have a zero balance and second-class subscribers one of 5p. Details of renewal are as above.

### IOU EXCHANGE

FOR SALE : Programmable joystick interface £15, Oric joystick £5, Atari joystick £2, Books & software from £1 each, postage & packing extra.  
Patrick Browne, 19, Starts Hill Rd., Orpington, Kent, BR6 7AR.

### SUPPLIERS

Below is a list of the main software and hardware suppliers for the Oric computers.

FGC(Mailorder), 20 Meadowcroft, Euxton, Chorley, Lancs. PR7 6BU.  
Tel.02572-70088.

W.E.(Software), Foley Bank, Worcester Road, Great Malvern, Worcs. WR14 4QW. Tel.06845-69059.

OPELCO, Imperial Court, Station Parade, Virginia Water, Wentworth, Surrey GU25 4DH. Tel.09904-4557.

Phildata, 8 Richmond Terrace, Pudsey, West Yorkshire LS28 9BY.  
Tel.0532-578851.

O.J.Software, 273 Mossy Lea Rd., Wigan, Lancs. WN6 9RN. Tel.0257-421915.

## PROGRAM

### Epson printer Hires dump for the Atmos.

The BASIC loader below generates and saves to tape the machine code for a HIRES screen dump for Epson compatible printers. The main limitation is that only the default screen colours can be used. Any colour attributes will produce solid vertical lines.

Once the program below has been run and a copy saved, using the routine is simply a matter of loading the code (which is stored between \$400 and \$4E4) and calling \$400.

This is my first real attempt at serious m/code programming - so I don't want any rude comments! It should be quite easy to modify for use on the Oric-1. I am willing to offer whatever help that I can to anyone wishing to do this.

Pete Canning : Tel. 0462-730067.

```
10 AD=#400
20 REPEAT:READ DT$
30 DT=VAL("#"+DT$)
40 POKE AD,DT
50 AD=AD+1
60 UNTIL DT$="--1"
100 DATA9,1B,20,C1,F5,A9,41,20,C1,F5,A9,0B,20,C1,F5,0B,4B,8A,4B,9B,4
B,A2,00
110 DATA9,00,9D,02,9C,EB,E0,F0,D0,FB,A0,00,A2,00,A9,0B,B5,00,BE,00,9
C,BC,01
120 DATA9C,BE,E1,02,BC,E3,02,20,DA,F1,AC,01,9C,AD,E1,02,C9,FF,F0,05,A
9,00,4C
130 DATA9,04,A9,01,B5,01,A5,00,B5,02,C6,02,A9,00,C5,02,D0,03,4C,5D,0
4,1B,06
140 DATA01,A9,00,C5,02,D0,EC,AE,00,9C,A5,01,1B,7D,02,9C,9D,02,9C,C6,0
0,AC,01
150 DATA9C,CB,BC,01,9C,A9,00,C5,00,D0,B1,AE,00,9C,EB,8B,8B,8B,8B,8B,8
B,8B,8B
160 DATAE0,F0,D0,97,CB,CB,CB,CB,CB,CB,CB,BC,01,9C,A2,00,BD,E0,04,2
0,C1,F5
170 DATAEB,E0,05,D0,F5,A2,00,BD,02,9C,20,C1,F5,EB,E0,F0,D0,F5,A9,0D,2
0,C1,F5
180 DATAA9,0A,20,C1,F5,A2,00,A9,00,9D,02,9C,EB,E0,F0,D0,FB,AC,01,9C,C
0,CB,D0
190 DATA07,6B,AB,6B,AA,6B,2B,60,4C,23,04,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,1B,2A,04,F
0,00,-1
200 CLS:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT"Now set up a new tape to record the"
210 PRINT"machine code."
220 PRINT"PRESS ANY KEY WHEN READY....."
230 BET A$
240 CSAVE"HIRES DUMP",A#400,E#4E4
```

## 7 A Look at FGC's WORDWORTH Word-processing Program

As mentioned in issue 12 I have been sent a copy of the new word-processing program, Wordworth by one J.C. Huggon which is being distributed by FGC Distribution. This is for the Atmos only and can be used with the MCP-40 printer-plotter as well as the more normal printers.

Unfortunately I have not had the time to help in the testing or indeed to produce a comprehensive review. The main reason for this is that I have been quite busy at university but a subsidiary cause has been the manual. Computer related manuals have a tendency to be obscure and Wordworth's is certainly no exception. All the information that you are likely to want seems to be there so once you get used to the program and the format of the manual it should prove to be very useful for reference. The problem is getting started. Most people will find that it will take two or three readings before they can get anything useful done and becoming proficient in the use of Wordworth will probably take a relatively long time.

~~The obvious question is is it all worth it?~~ Judging by the facilities offered the answer is probably yes. One particularly useful feature is that the beginning of each printer line is marked in the screen. Since the number of characters per line on your TV/monitor is less than the 80+ normally used for A4 paper this enables you to work out the format of your text more easily. The more or less obligatory word-wrap is provided and other important features include:-

a) right justification - spaces can be inserted between words to give a "balanced" line of uniform width such that a straight right hand margin is produced whilst keeping a format acceptable to the eye. Judging by the manual, which was written using Wordworth, this works very well.

b) two or three columned text can be selected.

c) search and replace string, ignoring the distinction between upper and lower case letters.

d) tab settings - predefined points to which the cursor moves when the tab operation is selected (by pressing <ctrl> B in this case). These are user defineable and are very useful for paragraph indentation and general formatting.

e) automatic page numbering including the option to set the first page number to be used (useful for sections of a long text).

f) string centering.

g) moving marked blocks of text.

h) top and bottom as well as left and right margins.

i) save text to and retrieve text from tape.

In addition the various other features that your printer may possess can be selected by using control codes and a useful list of codes for Epson compatible printers is included.

Particularly neat is the way that important values for the screen and printer such as margins, tabs and lines per page are dealt with by a couple of very easy to use menus.

Well this is just a brief introduction to the program. The real test will be how it is received by its users and so I would like to hear the opinions of anyone who has experience of this program or indeed any of the word-processing programs currently around.

Wordworth is available from FGC (Mailorder) for 12.00 .

Gary Ramsay