

I.O.U.

The Newsletter of the Independent Oric Users' Group

ISSUE No. 18 - late November 1987

EDITORIAL

It appears that we subscribers to IOU have been lulled into a sense of security by Gary's determination and loyalty in continuing publication and distribution of the Newsletter against all the odds. However the great shortage of material available for this Issue does give me serious cause for concern as to whether we really want this particular Oric-dedicated support network to continue. Small publications do not have the luxury of staff reporters and feature writers, and so depend entirely on contributions from all their subscribers. After just over two and a half years in existence it would be sad to see IOU go, but if interest in making it work is showing signs of drying up then it's continued existence must be in serious question. I confess I speak as a guilty one in terms of not sending material in, and it is only when I come to compile an Issue that the situation hits me.

Though I am not a subscriber to Ken Thompson's "Your Oric" I know that some of you are and perhaps you are telling us that there is no longer a need for IOU - that Oric owners are better catered for by Ken's Newsletter. If this is the case then let's have it out in the open with the rational arguments as to why "Your Oric" is more worth supporting. Remember that IOU has always been extremely low cost and good value as a result. This is achieved by means of content without fancy design combined with personal effort by those who produce it, especially Gary.

Please write to Gary with your views and wishes regarding IOU.

Little change on the Oric hardware/software front. While computer technology seems to gallop ahead in the hands of Sugar, Tramiel and others the Oric scene remains fairly stable and unchanging. I can see little prospect of Eureka being interested in the UK market and indeed as Gary remarked in the last issue "... the state of the UK computer market is such that a new 8 bit home micro is unlikely to more than moderately successful". Yet another commercial interest in the Oric system bit the dust with FGC's decision to pack it in (see Issue 17) but WE (Software) seems determined to continue (see News Section this Issue), while the odd individual is still pressing ahead with developments (see reference to Blackpool Oric Supporters Group's disc interface in Issue 16).

With apologies for my part in the late distribution of this Issue while I waited patiently for contributions, let me wish you all a very Happy Christmas!

Arthur Jackson

NEWS

IOU Compilation

Gary is planning to produce a compilation of old material for newer members. Details on how to order will appear in Issue 19.

Homebanking

Readers of Issue 17 will recall Gary's reference to a call from the Business

Development Manager of the TSB about their Speedlink banking-by-phone system. You may like to know that whereas TSB make a charge for the use of their Homebanking facility, the Nationwide Anglia Building Society offers an almost identical Homebanking service for no charge whatsoever! Apologies and congratulations TSB if you have dropped the said charges since I last enquired. I can speak personally for the Nationwide Anglia service which appears on the whole to work well.

WE (Software) Bargains!

Some of you may, like me, have seen advertisements in Microp Computer Mart and elsewhere for a range of business software and hardware by a firm called Abbot in Foley Bank, Malvern.

Since this is the same address as our friends WE I wondered if Oric enthusiasts had been abandoned by Mark Willis. So, I phoned to find out...

Not so, I was told by Mr. Willis Senior. They own both companies and WE is still very much in business for Oric goods. At present they have a range of games bargains ranging between £1.50 and £4.50. Mostly old favourites I fear, but over 30 titles. If you're wondering whether there are any you haven't got why not contact Mark who hopes to keep the bargain prices going over Christmas.

I was also told that the English translation of the Sedoric manual is nearing completion. Unfortunately they had it all entered in their wordprocessor, being finally edited when some "employee no longer with us" accidentally deleted most of it! So it has all had to be re-entered.

WE (Software) is at Foley Bank, Worcester Rd., Great Malvern, Worcs. WR14 4QW. Tel. (06845) 69059. Prestel MBX 684569059.

Kit Cammell Financial Software

"Computerise your Share/Unit Trust Portfolio on your.....Oric Atmos 48K.....".

Did you see this ad. in "What Investment" magazine or elsewhere. Well, the sad news is that Mr. Cammell has died and the supply of the software has had to die with him. I discovered this on phoning the advertised number which was answered by a lady whom I took to be his widow. She told me that her husband a retired man had developed the software himself and it relied heavily on his availability on a telephone HelpLine basis. Since he was no longer available the business has folded and the software will not be available.

Unfortunate that an interesting business software development is not going to be available. Had anyone been in touch with Mr. Cammell and sampled his work before he died?

RESPONSE

Rob Plant has two queries:

First, he is having trouble with the Orion print function program published in Issue 16 - he can't get it to run! Can anyone help?

Second, he has discovered a Microdisc bug as follows:

With the drive connected and a Basic program loaded, if either LLIST or LPRINT are used (directly or within the program) then any subsequent editing of

