ORIC USER MONTHLY

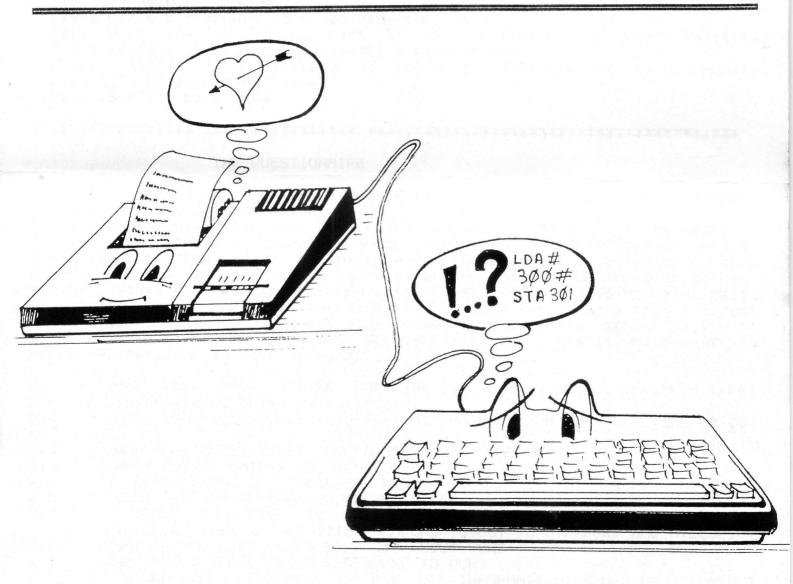### with Oric Enthusiasts

Europe's longest running Oric magazine

Number 42
February 1991

THE EDITORIAL

HELLO,

AND WELCOME TO ANOTHER PACKED ISSUE. I AM NOT JUST OFF DOWN THE PUB AND THE KIDS ARE NOT ON THE RAMPAGE. (See TIM Way's article). February 9th. is almost upon us, which is when the next ORIC meet is. If you still haven't bought your ticket and want to come - RING ME ON: 0296 26050

The new JED from the CEO has just arrived. As previously muted, no articles on it,but plenty of software,including the excellent COBRA PINBALL. Our Jon H has typed up an instruction sheet to go with the cassette/disc. A splendid job he's made of it too. Well done Jon.

ISSUE 42

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THE QUESTIONAIRE

I would like each and every one of our readers to send in their answers to the questions set out below.

It is not a waste of time. By meeting and writing to some of the members, I have been able to ascertain which people are strongest in each area of computing for the Oric. We have people who are really genned up on such diverse topics as : Machine code, Adventure solving, Modems,Disc drives, arcade games,RTTY,electronic projects, music,graphics,design aids,basic programming etc. This is very helpful when I get a query that I cannot answer as I can get someone else to solve it directly without having to wait a month or so until the next QUM is published. This is why I want you ALL to please send in your answers.

Q.1 - WHAT DOES YOUR SYSTEM COMPRISE i.e - model of Oric,Printer type, Cassette/disc drive type etc.etc.

Q.2 - DO YOU SEE YOURSELF SUPPORTING THE ORIC FOR THE NEXT YEAR OR SO?

Q.3 - HOW MANY HOURS A WEEK DO YOU SPEND ON YOUR ORIC?

Q.4 - WHAT DO YOU MAINLY USE YOUR ORIC FOR?

Q.5. - WHAT TYPE OF SOFTWARE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE FOR THE ORIC?

Q.6 - WHAT TYPE OF ADD-ONS WOULD YOU LIKE?

Q.7 - WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE LOCAL USER GROUPS SET UP - IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR OUR SCOTTISH READERS TO GET TO STAFFORD AND AYLESBURY

Q.8 - WHAT DO YOU LIKE LEAST AND MOST ABOUT QUM?

Q.9 - WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ADDED TO QUM?

Q.10 - WOULD YOU BE PREPARED TO HAVE YOUR INFORMATION ISSUED ON A CONTACT LIST?

Q.11 - IN YOUR OPINION, WHICH ISSUE OF QUM HAS BEEN OF THE MOST INTEREST TO YOU SO FAR?

Q.12 - NAME YOUR FAVOURITE 3 TITLES OF SOFTWARE IN : ARCADE,ADVENTURE, STRATEGY,BUSINESS AIDS,UTILITIES,SIMULATION AND BOARD GAMES.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR ANSWERS A.S.A.P
I REPEAT PLEASE PLEASE DO IT

THE SERIOUS PAGE

In view of the amount of non-serious content that has been Printed in recent editions of O.U.M , for example: Dissssasembley of yer tum, Basic Pro-gum fractures, Oric data transfer by blinking etc., it was thought that it was about time that we had some really serious stuff. With this in mind, TIM WAY (younger brother of Alistair) has come up with his own 3 Page version of 'OUM/THE ROBERT COOK GAMES GUIDE'. Extracts of that tome are now re-Produced below.

REVIEWS

        FOOTBALL - Well all you footy fans,if your fav game is football and there's nothing you would rather do than kick a ball then,DON'T buy this game.
SOUND: 4/10   COLOUR: 5/10   OPPortunities to make silly Jokes: 2/10

        ESCAPE   - Just when you thought you were safe from useless graphics,dreadful sound,horrible colour,and no addictiveness,along came ESCAPE. The game itself is rubbish,you might like it,well done Aluster!!

        BIG BRENDA - Guide Brenda through several different caves .... many monsters. I liked it but got some funny looks from the wife when I said "I've got BIG BRENDA turned on in the bedroom.

COOK's CORNER
                        Well HI fans,it's your old friend Robert Cook here once again. For those of you who have got LAND OF ILLUSION loaded,you may find this command rather useful: CALL #F82F
Well,that's all folks,see in the next COOK's CORNER

DAVE's BITS
                        Well the footy's on the box,the KID's are on the rampage, Bill from Walsall is on the Phone etc.etc.etc.
Hang on,i'll Just give Mr.Haworth a ring to see if the Venezualean version of TETRIS ('TETRIZ') is out yet.....
   Well,sounds like he's been down the Pub (- RAMBLING IN THE RUM- more like!!!). Anyway,he says that it isn't yet ,but the Spanish,Italian, PERUVIAN,Costa Rican and Welsh versions are!! BUY IT!!!

He also tells me the next CEO should be out within a couple of years hoPefully,now they have drawn up the club rules,held leadership elections, registered their Pet hamsters under French law etc.etc.

HINTS 'n' TIPS:
                        this one is from Bert in Huddersfield:
Avoid being killed by 'Tim's Bear' in galactosmash by NOT BUYING THE GAME AT ALL!!
more HINTS N TIPS
                - avoid sweets and fatty foods - Thanks to 'Raz' for those!

SORRY!!!
        Sorry! the address of Datastar software last month was wrong - it should of been %5- Green Road,Thi7stleb not what was written- Sorry

Well thats all folks from your favourite,longest running,mag for another month. I'm off down the Pub!
   Cheers! - d.Dick

                        By... TIM WAY
===
Well thanks TIM - don't exPect a xmas card; Just a SCUD missile!! - ED

TEKDATA

I have just taken delivery of a 5.25" drive from TEKDATA. The 25 Pound
turned out to be 33.63 with carriage. I now have to case it and KIMBO said
he would set it up to my system for me. Then I should be able to offer
MIRAGE software.
Who is KIMBO - is he the one who wrote articles for the 'ORIC COMPUTING'
magazine.

MIRAGE SOFTWARE

Robert Cook has had to stop running MIRAGE because of work commitments.
All is not lost however, as my eldest son Simon has agreed to to take it
over. TETRIX is already being despatched and all other titles will be
available again just as soon as we get the master tapes. Of course disc
versions are readily available anyway.
All orders for MIRAGE titles should now be directed to me at O.U.M.
GRENDEL is still proving popular and we still have a few left in stock.

ASTRONOMY

Look out for a program soon on Astronomy. It took a year to write.

YUGOS

Steve Hopps informs me that 5000 Orics were sold to Yugoslavia. He is to
fax the agent to see if we can make contact with the users.

FINLAND & AUSTRIA

In the past week I have had letters from Oric users in both Finland and
Austria. Apparently my adress was published in B.I.T magazine, which I
believe is a German computer tome. If it was Andre who got the plug in - TA

THE WELSH WIZARD

Brian Kidd has sent me a CAD program which he has written. It looks good.
It is currently being modified to run on disc. When complete,both disc
and cassette versions will go to the Public Domain.

SOFTBACKS

I have almost finished negotiations with Chris Harding at Softbacks.
They published PICTURE BOOK,STORY BOOK and ACCOUNT BOOK. The rights for
all 3 titles will pass to O.U.M.
As we already have permission from Geoff Phillips to use ORIC CALC; we will
shortly be able to issue Pete Weisners disc version of ACCOUNTS/CALC.
A modified manual will be drawn up and it is planned to release it through
Alan Whitaker's SHAREWARE scheme.

PRINTERS

Peter Bragg informs me that SM Engineering of East Sussex (TEL:0323 766262)
have printers reputed to be the same as Tandy CGP115 (likewise MCP40
compatible). The ALPS mechanism was certainly the same. Price was 85 Pound.
A little expensive compared to the SHARP - see last issue - THE ED.
Also Peter learnt that DED Ltd of Mill Road,Lydd,Kent. IN29 9EJ have
stocks of the DPG 23 printer mechanism,which is apparently the reference
code for the "Alps" machanics used in the Tandy/MCP40 printers. They also
stock the pens and paper.
Also of interest is that Hanimex (the photographic firm) supply the same
pens for overhead projection systems.

THE POSTBAG REALLY IS GETTING QUITE HUGE THESE DAYS. I EVEN GET ELASTIC
BANDS AROUND MY BUNDLES.

DAVID GOODRUM

Writes to say that Peter Bragg's article on 'ORIC DATA TRANSFER/LINKING'
was interesting,but there is an easier way of transferring BASIC Programs
to the ORIC from a wide range of other computers - using BASICODE 2+ from
the BBC Radio 1 Chip Shop. 'The Business' (available on Public Domain) and
the Oric Area/Cyclone BB's demo were transfeered using this Program.

NOTE FROM THE ED.

___ ___ ___ _ - I have just unbundled today's Post and there is an
article from David giving more detail - it will be Published next issue.

CHRIS HEARN

Would like to know what the 'ORIC/ASN LIGHT PEN' as advertised in the
JEO Mag actually does.

JOHN McENROE

Wants to know where he can get hold of that great tennis game; 'ROLAND
GARROS'.
Note from the ED. - Well John just send me an S.a e. for full details.

ADRIAN WESTLEY

1) How can I go from a HIRES screen to a TEXT screen and then back to
HIRES without losing any HIRES graphics.?
2) Also does anyone know if an ORIC can be used with a PHILIPS 8833 colour
monitor? At Present I use a GRANADA TV/RGB monitot,but I also want a
monitor I can use with my ST (leggo-brick city...). All help will be
gratefully recieved!

THE TIPSTER

To alter the angle of the javelin in 'ZOOLOYMPICS', use the up/down arrows.

THE ADVENTURER

ROBINSON CRUSOE was reviewed as a nice graphic adventure some time ago in
O.U.M. Has it been issued yet; if not when will it be.
NOTE FROM THE ED. - Probably FRIDAY (MAN)!!!

GOODRUM GOODIES

David was looking through the REGISTER of COMPANIES and gleaned the
following: OPEL have not sent latest annual report/accounts to COMPANIES
HOUSE for the last year or so. ORIC PR. INTL.LTD. are still listed -
---- Strange World!!!

THE GAMESTER

Wouldn't it be nice if there was a list of software allied to which work
with which joystick interface.
NOTE FROM THE ED. - How lucky you are; David Utting is working on the
Project. I have added to his list and it will be Printed soon. If you have
info on the subject then Please write.

THE EDITOR

___ ____ - The drive I got from TEKDATA is in fact 40/80T switchable.
REF. is FD-55FR-510R

RAMBLING IN THE ROM - 23

Matters arising

Firstly, what a cracking issue Number 41 was - well done, Dave! Like Rob kimberley I've invested £25 in a 5¼" drive from Tecdata. It's excellent value, and with discs at 75p or less, a real saving. Those contemplating a 'B' drive should ring Tecdata on 0782 577677.

It was good too to see the old I.O.U.G. typeface in action again, welcome back Allan! And to the Terry family, Monopoli does allow you to dispose of your choice of buildings/properties when you owe a debt - it happens automatically. What you can't do is opt to sell when you've got money in your pocket! You can also, of course, sell properties to other players at any time. Nick is working on extending that option to selling to the bank at half-price at any time.

By the time you read this the February meet will be close, I'm looking forward to a relaxing day rather than the hectic time we had at the AMS in November. A new word processor will be unveiled....

Club Europe Oric

The decision has now been taken to commit the Club's resources to the printed word, so there will be no more JEO disc magazines. However, in addition to the JEOmag, the usual software on disc/cassette will continue to be sent out. It's intermittent, I'm afraid, but you will understand that I can only distribute what I'm sent from France. 'Tetris' is now available on cassette at £3.99 including p.& p. Also, don't forget that back numbers of the JEO are always available, on disc to 1989, on disc and cassette for the two issues of 1990. All Club software is also now available on 5¼" disc - deduct £1.50 from 3" disc prices.

P.D. Library

'Scrivener', the word processor on tape or disc is proving very popular, as is 'Patience'. A new list is now available which identifies which programs are Atmos only. This I hope will be distributed with the March O.U.M., and of course will be at the meet in February. Do keep the programs coming in - it may sound trite, but it is your library!

The Saga

The ROM disassembly continues this month on the following pages. The current listings give some useful information in that you have the start address of each Basic command routine in ROM. Some of these can be called from Basic, although many do require parameters setting up in the registers and are therefore of use only to machine code programmers. As Peter Bragg said in his article last month, we know more about the Oric than many home computers, and the in-depth information that the disassembly contains will, I hope, enable those like him to write even better programs for the rest of us.

So straight in........

Jon Haworth

```
COB4    COB4      BYT    #D81C/#D8D7        ;VAL
COB6    COB6      BYT    #D7FA/#D8B5        ;ASC
COB8    COB8      BYT    #D75B/#D816        ;CHR$
COBA    COBA      BYT    #D8EE/#DE77        ;PI
COBC    COBC      BYT    #DF00/#DF0F        ;TRUE
COBE    COBE      BYT    #DEFC/#DF0B        ;FALSE
COCO    COCO      BYT    #DA4F/#DADA        ;KEY$
COC2    COC2      BYT    #D9B4/#DA3F        ;SCRN
COC4    COC4      BYT    #E9CD/#EC45        ;POINT
COC6    COC6      BYT    #D76F/#D82A        ;LEFT$
COC8    COC8      BYT    #D79B/#D856        ;RIGHT$
COCA    COCA      BYT    #D7A6/#D861        ;MID$
```

ADDRESS TABLE OF OPERATORS

The command addresses are stored with their value -1 because they
are called by an RTS.
Reminder: A and Z must be set in accordance with the exponent
(first byte) of the operand in ACC1.

The following is the order of priority of execution (first to
last):
        ', sign change, * or /, + or -, >=<, NOT, AND, OR.
The priority codes could just have well been from 1 to 10, for
example, without disturbing the system. The numbers chosen are
rather mysterious....

```
COCC    COCC    00  BYT    #79
COCD    COCD        BYT    #DA9A-1/#DB25-1        ;+
COCF    COCF    03  BYT    #79
CODO    CODO        BYT    #DA83-1/#DB0E-1        ;-
COD2    COD2    06  BYT    #7B
COD3    COD3        BYT    #DCBA-1/#DCF0-1        ;*
COD5    COD5    09  BYT    #7B
COD6    COD6        BYT    #DDE3-1/#DDE7-1        ;/
COD8    COD8    0C  BYT    #7F
COD9    COD9        BYT    #E234-1/#E238-1        ;'
CODB    CODB    OF  BYT    #50
CODC    CODC        BYT    #D05A-1/#D0E6-1        ;AND
CODE    CODE    12  BYT    #46
CODF    CODF        BYT    #D057-1/#D0E3-1        ;OR
COE1    COE1    15  BYT    #7D
COE2    COE2        BYT    #E26D-1/#E271-1        ;Sign change
COE4    COE4    18  BYT    #5A
COE5    COE5        BYT    #CFB0-1/#D03C-1        ;NOT
COE7    COE7    1B  BYT    #64
COE8    COE8        BYT    #D087-1/#D113-1        ;>=<
```

2- Table of Keywords

TABLE OF COMMANDS

Presented in the order: V1.0 address, V1.1 address, keyword token
code in hexadecimal, and then the keyword itself.

```
CO48     CO48     BYT    #E9A9-1/#EC21-1      ;TEXT
CO4A     CO4A     BYT    #E9BB-1/#EC33-1      ;HIRES
CO4C     CO4C     BYT    #F415-1/#FAB5-1      ;SHOOT
CO4E     CO4E     BYT    #F418-1/#FACB-1      ;EXPLODE
CO50     CO50     BYT    #F41B-1/#FAE1-1      ;ZAP
CO52     CO52     BYT    #F412-1/#FA9F-1      ;PING
CO54     CO54     BYT    #E889-1/#EAFC-1      ;SOUND
CO56     CO56     BYT    #E889-1/#EAFC-1      ;MUSIC
CO58     CO58     BYT    #E889-1/#EAFC-1      ;PLAY
CO5A     CO5A     BYT    #E87D-1/#EAFO-1      ;CURSET
CO5C     CO5C     BYT    #E87D-1/#EAFO-1      ;CURMOV
CO5E     CO5E     BYT    #E87D-1/#EAFO-1      ;DRAW
CO60     CO60     BYT    #E87D-1/#EAFO-1      ;CIRCLE
CO62     CO62     BYT    #E87D-1/#EAFO-1      ;PATTERN
CO64     CO64     BYT    #E87D-1/#EAFO-1      ;FILL
CO66     CO66     BYT    #E87D-1/#EAFO-1      ;CHAR
CO68     CO68     BYT    #E889-1/#EAFC-1      ;PAPER
CO6A     CO6A     BYT    #E889-1/#EAFC-1      ;INK
CO6C     CO6C     BYT    #C93F-1/#C971-1      ;STOP
CO6E     CO6E     BYT    #CA78-1/#CAC2-1      ;ON
CO70     CO70     BYT    #D89D-1/#D958-1      ;WAIT
CO72     CO72     BYT    #E7AA-1/#E85B-1      ;CLOAD
CO74     CO74     BYT    #E7DB-1/#E909-1      ;CSAVE
CO76     CO76     BYT    #D401-1/#D4BA-1      ;DEF
CO78     CO78     BYT    #D894-1/#D94F-1      ;POKE
CO7A     CO7A     BYT    #CB61-1/#CBAB-1      ;PRINT
CO7C     CO7C     BYT    #C96E-1/#C9AO-1      ;CONT
CO7E     CO7E     BYT    #C773-1/#C748-1      ;LIST
CO80     CO80     BYT    #C738-1/#C7OD-1      ;CLEAR
CO82     CO82     BYT    #CCBA-1/#CD46-1      ;GET
CO84     CO84     BYT    #E80D-1/#E946-1      ;CALL
CO86     CO86     BYT    #CC89-1/#CD13-1      ;!
CO88     CO88     BYT    #C719-1/#C6EE-1      ;NEW
```

ADDRESS TABLE OF FUNCTIONS

```
CO8A     CO8A     BYT    #DF12/#DF21          ;SGN
CO8C     CO8C     BYT    #DFA5/#DFBD          ;INT
CO8E     CO8E     BYT    #DF31/#DF49          ;ABS
CO90     CO90     BYT    #0021/#0021          ;USR
CO92     CO92     BYT    #D3D6/#D47E          ;FRE
CO94     CO94     BYT    #D3FA/#D4A6          ;POS
CO96     CO96     BYT    #D917/#D9B5          ;HEX$
CO98     CO98     BYT    #02FB/#02FB          ;&
CO9A     CO9A     BYT    #E22A/#E22E          ;SQR
CO9C     CO9C     BYT    #E34B/#E34F          ;RND
CO9E     CO9E     BYT    #DC79/#DCAF          ;LN
COAO     COAO     BYT    #E2A6/#E2AA          ;EXP
COA2     COA2     BYT    #E387/#E38B          ;COS
COA4     COA4     BYT    #E38E/#E392          ;SIN
COA6     COA6     BYT    #E3D7/#E3DB          ;TAN
COA8     COA8     BYT    #E43B/#E43F          ;ATN
COAA     COAA     BYT    #D87D/#D938          ;PEEK
COAC     COAC     BYT    #D8C8/#D983          ;DEEK
COAE     COAE     BYT    #DDDO/#DDD4          ;LOG
COBO     COBO     BYT    #D7EB/#D8A6          ;LEN
COB2     COB2     BYT    #D4D8/#D593          ;STR$
```

THIS IS THE CONCLUDING PART OF THE INTERVIEW I DID WITH GEOFF; WHO HAS
TOLD ME TO FEEL FREE TO CONTACT HIM ON ANY QUERY REGARDING EITHER THE ORIC,
6502 OR ANY OTHER ASPECT OF THE INDUSTRY. WHAT A NICE MAN - A VERY VERY
NICE MAN.

Q.7 - What impressions were you given by the June ORIC MEET?

A.7 - I was delighted to meet many whom I had only previously communicated
---   by letter. It was interesting to see new products still be developed
and also nostalgic in the discussions of the Oric 'heyday'.

Q.8 - Is there any truth in the rumour that ORIC INT. was set up by BRITISH
---   CAR AUCTIONS as a loss company for tax purposes?
A.8
---   - This is not a point that I could answer,since I didn't ever work
directly for Oric or Tansoft.

Q.9 - Which way do you see the software industry moving? Is there a trend
---   away from arcade to strategy games or is the mix as it was?
A.9
---   - There is quite a difference now in the games in comparison with
say 1984. There are various criteria to say what game is best to write. For
one thing, if you plan to sell to America,your game should be of high
strategical or puzzle-type nature,and not bland shoot-em-up. If you plan to
sell to Europe,be aware that a text based game is going to be problematic.
The best games are those which have a totally new idea behind them,have
perfect graphics,excellent gameplay,almost no text (i.e. icon based),good
sound effects (digitised where possible) and music soundtrack at least in
the titles. In general,games have to contain a considerable amount of depth
these days. You cannot issue a 10 level blast-everything-in-sight game
where on each new game you go back to level 1 & start again.Sadly products
like 'THE QUILL' which let you create your own adventure games took the
bottom out of Text-only adventures.
My favourite games of recent years are POPULOUS & DUNGEON MASTER,each of
which would be worth buying an ATARI ST or AMIGA for.

Q.10
---- - Please give a brief resume of your career to date and include
         anything of interest that happened to you whilst with the world
         of ORIC.
A.10
---- - Since the Oric days,I stayed at Orpheus ,initially freelance,then
employee,until its demise in 1988. During thistime I worked on many
conversions & products,including about 10 Spy versus Spy conversions on
different machines. I was also involved with MSX and converted two very
popular MSX titles;BOULDERDASH & ELIDON. Boulderdash was done just as the
Oric was reaching its last legs. The last Oric program I wrote was a
fragment of Boulderdash - Just for fun!
After Orpheus, I set up self employment again,and am still attempting to
make a living out of this games lark. This year I converted UBIsoft's
Zombie to Spectrum and Comodore. For the rest of 1990 and the start of '91,
I have a conversion from PC to Atari ST and Amiga to occupy my time.
   The oddest product I ever did for Tansoft was a German version of
ORICMUNCH. The oddest person I met was Mike Gruneberg while I was doing
the Linkword language courses.
   In conclusion,I remember most of all the fantastic enthusiasm that
existed in the first half of the 1980's, replaced now by a stark
professionalism.

+++

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR
---- ---- --- ------
NEXT - the Paul Kauffman interview or don't you like interviews.?

ORIC ENTHUSIASTS

INTRODUCTION

Well, I hope that everyone had an enjoyable break over Christmas (not to be taken literally) and feel ready to delve into matters ORIC once more.

I am close to finishing off a new price list so that should be appearing soon.

Let me take this opportunity to apologise to those ORIC users waiting to hear from me. In particular, Judy Simms, Nicol Blount and Jim Rollitt. I haven't forgot you and I promise that I will answer you in due course.

This month I would like to write about the layout that I intend to adopt in future issues of ORIC ENTHUSIASTS along with some discussion on last month's issue of OUM and the continuation of the article on printers.

SECTIONS WITHIN ORIC ENTHUSIASTS

I have looked at those areas of ORIC computing that interest me most and I drawn up the following categories that I would like to cover in my writings. Time will dictate whether all appear in each month's issue but I will try and achieve a balance each month. So here are the categories ...

DATA EXCHANGE - I have received quite a large amount of correspondence over the six years that I have had my ORIC so I will delve into that postbag in order to bring to the surface any topics that may still be of interest to ORIC users in general.

DISC ACCESS - One aspect of ORIC computing that has been neglected in published articles is the use of file handling using disc drives. I will be writing on this and comparing the pros and cons of each of the disc operating systems.

PERIPHERALS - This will be where I write articles on add-ons that would be of use to your ORIC, much like last month's article on printers.

PROGRAMMING TECHNIQUES - Geoff Phillips has given me permission to serialise his splendid book on the the ORIC computers and I will be looking into the programming techniques that he used.

PROJECTS - I hope to look at projects for the ORIC which will cover both hardware and software, and I hope that we can create a good cross-fertilisation of ideas.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS - I will be publishing results from the questionnaire that I circulated at the end of 1989 and the beginning of 1990, which should prove to be interesting as over 250 active ORIC users throughout the world replied.

REFLECTIONS - This section will look at previous issues of OUM and perhaps other ORIC publications and expand on what has previously been written.

SHAREWARE - I will also include details on the software obtainable from the shareware catalogue.

WHERE TO NEXT? - I also hope to promote discussion on where ORIC computing should develop over the next few years. As Peter Bragg stated in the last issue, even when users upgrade to 16 or 32-bit computers there is still a use for the ORIC, and many will not part with their trusty wedge.

So, I think that you will agree that I have sufficient topics to make a decent start for future articles within ORIC ENTHUSIASTS. So I will finish off this month's

jottings with a few of the sections mentioned above.

PROJECTS

Just to start things off I will list the projects that could be dealt with and I would appreciate some assistance on them in order to make reasonable progress during the next year. I would also welcome any correspondence on the following items.

1 . Using the ORIC for model railways.
2   Using the ORIC as a printer buffer.
3   Building a printer interface tester for the ORIC.

Any other suggestions would be welcome.

PERIPHERALS

Printers

Continuing on from last month's article, I have now received the Sharp printer/plotter which is similar to the ORIC MCP40, except that it is intended as a peripheral for the Sharp MZ800 computer. Consequently it does not have the standard Centronics interface but it is close enough to work with a little modification and its power is intended to be derived from the host computer. This will mean connecting it to a +5v supply. It does use the same APPS mechanism, pens and paper as the MCP40 so you may consider it for spares if your MCP40 is broken. Whereas the graphic commands are identical to those of the MCP40, the text commands are indicated as being different in the manual. I will be working on this printer in the near future. I understand, from Dave, that Chris Hearn has bought the same beast so perhaps you may be able to help Chris?

REFLECTIONS

ORIC ATMOS BASIC Program Structure by Jonathon Bristow

I would like to expand on the Jon's article that appeared in last month's issue.

First of all, I think that it is important that programmers should always consider having two copies of their BASIC programs when developing programs for speed. The 'source' copy should be structured so as to readable, self-explanatory in terms of REMarks and the program laid out in a logical fashion. This copy can then be compacted in order to produce a copy that would run faster.

Over the years, I have seen a number of short utilities that strip REMarks and spaces from lines and also reduce the number of lines in a program so this guideline should be possible to put into practice. Certainly, if there are no such utilities available in the public domain catalogue we will have to see about obtaining them.

Jonathon recommended shorter main loops. This can be achieved by the use of sub-routines, but a subroutine only really comes into its own when there is a section of code that has to be repeated several times or is shared by other parts of the main program.

Using the ELSE statement is fine on the ATMOS but beware of obscuring the program's clarity and, of course, the bug that exists with colons (:) that appear after the ELSE command.

'?' can be used as a substitute for PRINT but be warned that this can be also tedious if your lines contain more than 80 characters, which they can do if you use '?' often on the same line. If you have to edit a line created using '?' you will find that you cannot just use CTRL-A over the whole line without filling the input buffer. This is because the interpreter expands the PRINT token back to its full characters when listing a program. This means using '?' all the time and moving the cursor over the unwanted characters that make up PRINT. Not the end of the world, but it can be irksome if you are editing a large number of print commands.

Using decimal instead of hexadecimal is only beneficial if the decimal number is less than 100. Once the number is higher than this you may as well use the hexadecimal notation as the number of characters are the same or even less for high numbers such as used to denote high memory locations (e.g. £B800 instead of 48000) which I find more readable for programming purposes.

Using low numbers for the main loop is mainly applicable when there are no sub-routines. The golden rule is to have all your sub-routines towards the front of your program, especially those that are used most frequently. It is also advisable to declare those variables that used the most at the start of your program as their early declaration means that they are placed at the start of the variables area and are accessed soonest when the interpreter searches for them when referenced from within a program. I will include further techniques in future articles. Hopefully, you will too.

ORIC Data Transfer/Linking by Peter Bragg.

Thanks to Peter for a very interesting article. I am considering a new computer this year so that my son and daughter can keep up todate with the educational software (but don't worry I won't be dropping my ORIC). So Peter's article was very interesting. I will no doubt be in touch with Peter when the time arises.

However, it did make me think about data transfers between PCs and RANDOS. In theory this could be possible as RANDOS is formatted to 9 sectors per track. Let me see...

Also a friend of mine is looking into an ORIC emulator for the ATARI ST so that could be interesting.

WHERE TO NEXT?

One direction that I would wish to see ORIC users follow is that of standardisation. This would apply to the BASIC ROM version, peripherals and disc operating system (where possible).

This has the benefit of ensuring that programs will run on all machines without modification, that development times for new software are shorter and that technical details are clearer such as in the ROM disassembly in Jon Haworth's excellent article last month.

The majority of users have ATMOSs so it shouldn't require too much effort to achieve standardisation on the BASIC ROM. Certainly, it is likely that new software will tend to be written solely for the ATMOS or V1.1 ROM.

It may be possible to develop the ROM further, using EPROMs, and eliminate known bugs such as the TRON and ELSE bugs mentioned in Jon's article and above. It may be feasible to transfer DOS from disc to EPROM so that it is readily available at power up. All sort of possibilities exist if we have to will and the resources. What would you like to see?

Written by : Allan Whitaker
Using Author (disc version 1.1) and a Panasonic KXP1080 Printer

THE GERMAN LISTING

John Hurley has been busily learning German for the holidays and has been using the LINKWORD series.

As a refresher, John has come up with the following little program which is reproduced over the following 2 pages. A well presented program that you could easily change the data lines and improve your French or Hebrew.

```
1 POKE #26A,10
2 CLS:PAPER 0:INK 2
4 GOSUB 1000
10 N=117
15 SC=0:GO=0
20 FOR I=1 TO 4:READ A:GOSUB 260:NEXT
50 DATA 46856,34,28,34,34,62,34,34,0
60 DATA 46968,34,28,34,34,34,34,28,0
70 DATA 47016,34,0,34,34,34,34,30,0
80 DATA 46864,20,26,18,22,18,17,30,32
90 DIM E$(N):DIM D$(N)
100 FOR I=1 TO N:READ E$(I):READ D$(I):NEXT:PRINT CHR$(17)
170 K%=RND(1)*N+1:K=K%
180 J%=RND(1)+.5:J=J%
185 GO=GO+1
190 IF J=0 THEN 222
192 CLS
194 I%=RND(1)*6+1:I=I%
200 PLOT(38-LEN(E$(K)))/2,13,CHR$(10)+CHR$(I)+E$(K)
202 PLOT(38-LEN(E$(K)))/2,14,CHR$(10)+CHR$(I)+E$(K)
204 FOR X=0 TO 18:PRINT:NEXT:INPUT"TYPE IN ";A$
210 IF A$=D$(K)THEN PRINT:PRINT"DAS IST RICHTIG !"ELSE PRINT"NIEN !     "+D$(K
212 IF A$=D$(K)THEN SC=SC+1:PLOT 20,2,STR$(SC):PLOT 20,4,STR$(GO)
214 PLOT 19,3,"------"
215 WAIT 300
220 GOTO 170
222 CLS
224 I%=RND(1)*6+1:I=I%
230 PLOT(38-LEN(D$(K)))/2,13,CHR$(10)+CHR$(I)+D$(K)
232 PLOT(38-LEN(D$(K)))/2,14,CHR$(10)+CHR$(I)+D$(K)
234 FOR X=0 TO 18:PRINT:NEXT:INPUT "TYPE IN ";A$
240 IF A$=E$(K)THEN PRINT:PRINT "CORRECT !"ELSE PRINT "NO !     "+E$(K)
242 IF A$=E$(K)THEN SC=SC+1:PLOT 20,2,STR$(SC):PLOT 20,4,STR$(GO)
244 PLOT 19,3,"------"
245 WAIT 300
250 CLS:GOTO 170
260 FOR J=A TO A+7:READ D:POKE J,D:NEXT:RETURN
300 DATA THE HOUSE,DAS HAUS,THE DOG,DER HUND,I SEE,ICH SEHE,GOOD DAY,GUTEN TA(
310 DATA GOODBYE,AUF WIEDERSEHEN,TO SLEEP,SCHLAFEN,OH,ACH SO
320 DATA MERRY CHRISTMAS,FROLICHE WEINACHTEN,I DON'T KNOW,ICH WEISS NICHT
330 DATA OVER NINETY,uBER NEUNZIG,UGLY,HAESSLICH,ANGRY,BOESE,CHEERIO,TSCHuS
340 DATA THE LOBSTER,DER HUMMER,THE SPIDER,DIE SPINNE,THE PIG,DAS SCHWEIN
350 DATA THE GOOSE,DIE GANS,THE DUCK,DIE ENTE,THE BULL,DER BULLE,HI,HALLO
360 DATA THE MIDGE,DIE MuCKE,THE MOTH,DIE MOTTE,THE CATTERPILLAR,DIE RAUPE
370 DATA THE CAT,DIE KATZE,THE MOUSE,DIE MAUS,THE ELEPHANT,DER ELEFANT
380 DATA THE HORSE,DAS PFERD,THE WORM,DER WURM,THE BEE,DIE BIENE,PLEASE,BITTE
390 DATA THE DEER,DER HIRSCH,THE SALMON,DER LACHS,THE TROUT,DIE FORELLE
400 DATA TIRED,MuDE,QUICK,SCHNELL,NOISY,LAUT,BIG,GROSS,EMPTY,LEER,SMALL,KLEIN
402 DATA HEAVY,SCHWER,LATE,SPaT,IS,IST,WAS,WAR,THE FURNITURE,DIE MoBEL
405 DATA THE CARPET,DER TEPPICH,THE CURTAIN,DIE GARDINE,THE BED,DAS BETT
410 DATA THE CUPBOARD,DER SCHRANK,THE ARMCHAIR,DER SESSEL,THE SHELF,DAS BRETT
415 DATA THE PIANO,DAS KLAVIER,THE CLOCK,DIE UHR,THE PICTURE,DAS BILD
420 DATA BLACK,SCHWARZ,WHITE,WEISS,RED,ROT,GREEN,GRuN,BROWN,BRAUN,GREY,GRAU
```

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425 DATABLUE,BLAU,ORANGE,ORANGE,AND,UND,BUT,ABER,OR,ODER,ROOM,ZIMMER
430 DATATHE ROOM,DAS ZIMMER,THE BATHROOM,DAS BADEZIMMER,THE HOUSE,DAS HAUS
432 DATATHE BEDROOM,DAS SCHLAFZIMMER,THE KITCHEN,DIE KuCHE,THE ROOF,DAS DACH
434 DATATHE WINDOW,DAS FENSTER,THE WALL,DIE WAND,THE FLOOR,DER BODEN
436 DATA THE LIGHT,DAS LICHT,GOOD MORNING,GUTEN MORGEN,SORRY,ENTSCHULDIGING
440 DATA THE HAT,DER HUT,THE SHOE,DER SCHUH,THE TROUSERS,DIE HOSEN
442 DATA THE SKIRT,DER ROCK,THE GIRL,DAS MaDCHEN,GOOD EVENING,GOOTEN AHBENT
445 DATA THE SHIRT,DAS HEMD,THE DRESS,DAS KLEID,THE TIE,DER SCHLIPS
450 DATA THE SOCKS,DIE SOCKEN,THE COAT,DER MANTEL,THE BLOUSE,DIE BLUSE
455 DATA THE FATHER,DER VATER,THE MOTHER,DIE MUTTER,THE BROTHER,DER BRUDER
460 DATATHE SISTER,DIE SCHWESTER,THE HUSBAND,DER MANN,THE WIFE,DIE FRAU
465 DATATHE SON,DER SOHN,THE DAUGHTER,DIE TOCHTER,THE BOY,DER JUNGE
468 DATA THE GIRL,DAS MaDCHEN,GOOD NIGHT,GUTE NACHT,SEE YOU,BIS DANN
470 DATA ONLY,NUR,VERY,SEHR,YES,YA,NO,NEINE,ALSO,AUCH,NOT,NICHT,IS IT,IST ESS
475 DATAQUITE,GANZ,THIS,DIES,THAT,DAS,THERE,DA,I,ICH,AM,BIN,YOU,DU,ARE,BIST
480 DATAYOU ARE,SIE ZIND,HE,ER,SHE,SIE,IT,ES,WE,WIR,
1000 PRINT:PRINT SPC(10)+CHR$(142)+CHR$(129)+"EASY GERMAN "
1010 PRINT SPC(10)+CHR$(142)+CHR$(131)+"EASY GERMAN "
1015 PRINT:PRINT"This little Program is a refresher"
1020 PRINT"course to test your ability to"
1025 PRINT"translate German to English,or"
1030 PRINT"English to German and,of course,to"
1035 PRINT"spell corectly..."
1040 PRINT" 1,2 or 3 words will be displayed on"
1045 PRINT"the screen,and you have to type in"
1050 PRINT"the correct translation,then Press"
1055 PRINT"RETURN..."
1060 PRINT" 90% of the words used are included"
1065 PRINT"in the GRUNEBERG LANGUAGE COURSE by"
1070 PRINT"TANSOFT,and this Program is a quick"
1075 PRINT"way to refresh your memory..."
1080 PRINT" Words will be chosen at random from"
1085 PRINT"data statements..."
1090 PRINT" A simple scoring Pattern is shown to"
1095 PRINT"give an idea of how many were correct"
1100 PRINT" German words using UMLAUT accents,"
1105 PRINT"such as a,o,u,b must be accessed with"
1110 PRINT"the LOWER case CHARACTER SET.."
1115 PRINT:PRINT"  PRESS ANY KEY ONCE ALL UNDERSTOOD"
1120 GET A$:CLS:RETURN
```

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR - DON'T FORGET THAT YOU CAN GET THE GRUNEBERG
LINKWORD SERIES VIA 'O.U.M' FOR THE CHEAPO PRICE OF 5.25, INCLUDING
A BOOKLET AND AN AUDIO CASSETTE TO GO WITH THE PROGRAM.

JUST TO FINISH OFF, I SEE THAT JON GETS A MENTION:

                        SIE ZIND HAESSLICH

^^^vv^^
ADVENTURE HELPLINE

MANY OF YOU WHO ARE INTO ADVENTURES, HAVE PROBABLY ACQUIRED SOME OF THE MANY FRENCH ONES THAT ARE OR WERE AVAILABLE THROUGH W.E etc.

LOOKING THROUGH SOME OF MY OLD CLUB DISCORIC JEO's , I HAVE COME ACROSS A LOT OF SOLUTIONS TO THEM. SEND AN s.a.e IF YOU NEED HELP ON THE LIKES OF : TRESOR DU PIRATE, D'ATLANTIS, RETOUR DU Dr GENIUS, DERNIER METRO, WAYDOR (The French version), LE MYSTERE DE KIKEKANOKI, CITADELLE or ARSENE LUPIN.

MEANWHILE, SET OUT BELOW IS THE SOLUTION TO "THE CRYPT SHOW", WHICH WAS SEND OUT AS FREE SOFTWARE BY THE CEO LAT YEAR.

```
C.D.O.        CLUB DISCORIC      C.D.O.
                                      3
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  bc     RE       )*+,-./0      AV      feefe
        UR        12345678      VE      h9fe
       TU         9:;<=>?@      EN      h9fe
      NT          ABCDEFGH      NT
     EN           IJKLMNOP      TU
    VE            QRSTUVWX      UR
   AV             YZIEØ∧'_`     RE
   A                                   E
   aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
   k   solution de CRYPT SHOW    k
   nnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnn


   N,N,N,N,E,Prend bague,O,S,S,S,
   O,N,N,E,N,Prend croix,S,O,O,N,
   N,abaisse manette,1,N,N,E,N,N,
   E,N,ouvre cercueil,Prend carte,
   S,O,S,S,O,S,S,S,S,E,S,S,E,N,N,N,
   O,N,N,O,O,O,S,S,E,N,aPPuie bouton,
   entre téléPorteur,O,Prend trésor,
   O,Y,U,W,T,barre d'esPace...  FIN



            Page suivante >>--->>>
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××GAY PARIS××

THE FRENCH TRIP

ON SATURDAY JUNE 15th 1991, THERE IS ANOTHER MEETING OF THE CLUB EUROPE ORIC IN PARIS. VINCENT AND ALAIN CAME TO AYLESBURY LAST JUNE, SO I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE TO VISIT THEM. THE FAMILY AND I ARE OFF TO PARIS FOR A WEEK TO COINCIDE WITH THE MEETING. WHY DON'T A FEW MORE OF YOU TAKE TIME OUT TO SEE THE SIGHTS AND MEET OUR FRENCH BUDDIES.

IF YOU WISH ANY QUERIES ANSWERED WHILST I AM THERE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW WELL IN ADVANCE.

FOR SALE

STEVE HOPPS HAS AVAILABLE 6 GREEN/BLACK MONITORS - PHILIPS 12" IN GOOD
CONDITION......THEY COST 80 Pound each when new.
Also for sale is an AMSTRAD PC512

CONTACT STEVE BY LETTER AT THE 'OPELCO' ADDRESS OR PHONE HIM AT HOME.
****

A PLEA ANSWERED

   Some time ago,I Put out a Plea for someone to call in and see a senior
citizen in IPswich who had a Problem with loading cassettes on his ORIC 1.
Well, Rob Kimberly came uP trumPs. He has visited the guy a couPle of times,
sorted out the Problems and had an interesting chinwag.
The man from IPswich is 92 years young;has 2 ORIC 1's, a DRAGON and a
COMMODORE. He also does embrodiery.
A sincere thank you to ROB.

****

A NEW PLEA

Steve HoPPs has sent me a list of a couPle of hundred Oric users as at
late 1987. I have contacted those near to me. Jon H and David Wilkin are
doing likewise with users local to them.
If you would like to helP, then Please send me the names of the towns in
your local telePhone directory. and I will send you a list of names/
addresses. I would then like you to make a local Phone call to see if you
can get them into the grouP.
Remember - the bigger the grouP - the better the chance of survival.

This leads me onto the next Point. By getting articles and answering ads.
the membershiP at OUM has grown considerably recently. Some very good
information is being Passed onto others from the likes of Peter Bragg and
Jonathan Bristow etc. WE need to keeP finding PeoPle with knowledge to
Pass onto others.
With this in mind and as I cannot give 100% to all asPects of the ORIC, I
have decided that we should have a PRESS OFFICER, whose role will be to
keeP the comPuter mags uP to date with regard to our machine and also to
find new subscribers and send them literature. The funds at OUM will allow
us to reimburse Postage costs.

WE NEED A VOLUNTEER - THE ORIC NEEDS YOU !!!!

APPlications should reach me by FEB. 18TH.

****

BULLETIN BOARD DIRECTORY

Alan Whitaker has sent me his typed-uP 2 Page sheet on Bulletin Boards
and services which can be accessed by the ORIC. The info was gleaned from
David Goodrum and Scott Davies.
FOR A COPY - JUST SEND ME 2x22 Pence stamps.

###

Articles for the next issue to me by 20th Feb - PLEASE
NEXT ISSUE : VORTEX,BASICODE 2+, MACHINE CODE AND LOTS LOTS MORE