

README.DOC

NOVEMBER 1991

ORANGE COAST IBM PC USER GROUP

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WordPerfect!!

for Windows

This month, Alan Ashton, President, and Pete Peterson, Vice-President, of WordPerfect, will be here showing WordPerfect for Windows (which was released on November 11th). Some of the WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows feature list include; conversion between formats (ASCII, ANSI, RTF, etc.), forms fill-in, multiple document editing, context-sensitive help, outline, Dynamic Data Exchange (DDE), and button bar macros. The Button Bar is a feature that allows users to attach icons to frequently used functions or macros to customize the way they work in WordPerfect. WordPerfect for Windows files are 100% compatible with DOS WordPerfect 5.1 files. WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows supports the same graphic file formats as WordPerfect 5.1 for DOS as well as Windows metafile and bitmapped graphics. So...come and see if the new WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows is worth the upgrade or changeover BEFORE you shell out the money.

Kevin Wright of Marstek will demonstrate color scanning and digitizing.

Terry Currier, Program Committee

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PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the ORANGE COAST IBM PC USER GROUP is to provide a forum for members to share information and experiences that will help other members obtain maximum benefit and enjoyment from the use of their IBM PC and compatible personal computers.

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GUIDELINES FOR README.DOC ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

All items submitted for publication are subject to editing. We reserve the right to refuse any material submitted for publication.

Send all submissions to the Editor, on or before the deadline listed below, using one of the following formats:

1. **UPLOAD** to the Bulletin Board, indicating the format by extension, such as: ASCII.TXT, MSWord.WRD, WordPerfect.WP.

2. **5 1/4" DISK** mailed to the Editor in time to meet the deadline: P. O. Box 8224, Newport Beach, CA 92658.

3. **HARD COPY** is acceptable only if typed and double-spaced.

DEADLINE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS WILL ALWAYS BE 12 MIDNIGHT ON THE SATURDAY FOLLOWING THE GENERAL MEETING.

General Meeting Report

Harv Haight

At 8:50 a.m. President Steve Burnside opened the 80th General Meeting by answering submitted queries in a Random Access: Paper often curls with an HP LaserJet because the fuser lamp is set too high or the paper has not been stored flat.

Mouse problems with PCTOOLS 6.0 generally yield to changes in AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS, or Setup. On the video scene: X VGA seems a stopgap; the 16-bit standard is now most popular; the 24-bit driver is a limit. The OPTA "Mona Lisa" board was used widely in displays at COMDEX. VOLANTI used the TI 34020 chip in a graphics coprocessor. PostScript is emphasized over others because commercial printers require it for lower-cost input. LOTUS 123 v2.3 can be zoomed or shrunk on a VGA monitor. Session was closed by Steve's remarks about plans for future meetings.

Nominating Committee Chairman Stan Sabin polled the audience for any additional nominees for office and found none. With but a single nominee for each office, it was moved from the floor and seconded that written ballots be waived. Parliamentary Tom Stolp validated the motion. A voice vote showed no opposition to accepting the nominated slate, to assume office December 1, 1991. Our new officers are Steven Burnside as President, Richard Villa as Vice President, Ginger Buck as Secretary, and Preston Hill as Treasurer. OCIPUG thanks Treasurer George Mefferd (who chose not to run) for doing a fine job during his term of office.

Paper ballots were passed out for the election of four two-year term Directors. No additional nominees were named from the floor. All candidates appeared before the audience, to let members associate names with persons.

A general discussion of COMDEX was started by Steve Dela's show of copies of computer printouts which helped quell the Russian takeover attempt. Generated on a 386 unit using PageMaker, these printouts were the only means available of getting the news out to the Russian people, and Steve showed an original Russian document and its translation. GLOBALNET, sponsored by Borland, Dell, Intel PCED and BT of North America, was instrumental in the distribution of this information to the outside world during the crisis (OCIPUG's past President, Paul Curtis, is World-Wide Systems Administrator for GLOBALNET). At COMDEX, products that impressed some of our members were, the 2-inch 40-MByte drives, the new notebooks with write-on or soft-touch data entry, the new fax/modems, as well as improved printer output in color.

After the break, founding member Tom Sutro shared with us some memories of OCIPUG's earliest days, almost seven years ago. After usual SIG announcements, Tom passed out T-shirts to SIG leaders and to uniquely helpful member Thurman Wade.

Our first technical presentation was by Christopher Dominguez, of the Technical Support Group of Stac Electronics in Carlsbad, Califor-

nia. Stac Electronics, after eight years of business, has 65-70 employees, 18-23 of which are in Technical Support. Chris admitted his formal presentation of STACKER 2.0 followed Marketing's dogma, but his quoted test comparisons with competitive products seemed fair and quite conclusive. He was very open in his answers to the many questions from the floor about new features of Version 2.0. A count of raised hands showed that most OCIPUG members now use STACKER. OCIPUG especially thanks Stac Electronics for its generous donation of STACKER products and T-shirts to the OCIPUG raffle.

Before a second technical offering, Tom Stolp listed newly-elected Directors: Bob Basaraba, Robin Clark, Sunny Lockie, and Terry Currier. Bob and Robin serve in place of present Directors Harv Haight and Jim Petit (who chose not to run). Steve Burnside welcomed Bob and Robin to the Board and thanked Harv and Jim for their services.

Robin Ralston represented Avery-Dennison in a presentation of the many products and services offered. Labels, indexes, and transparencies could be expected, but A-D software, a personal label printer, and a desktop bindery were new to most of us. The latter, "1st Impression," while not exactly inexpensive, creates "book-look" documents whose well-aligned pages stay attached to a single-piece cover, turn easily, and lie truly flat when open. Within

Continued on Page 21...

President's Message

Stephen Burnside

At the October General Meeting, all the incumbent officers were re-elected with the exception of Treasurer, George Mefferd. George chose not to run for re-election. We will miss him. He has done a fine job as Treasurer and as a member of the Board. We have all benefited from George's advice and counsel and I hope he will remain active in the club. Preston Hill, who sought the Treasurer's post, was elected. Preston has been a very active member of OCIPUG and is well versed in the management of finances. We look forward to working with him.

I regret to say that Harv Haight, who has been a great asset to our club, will not be returning as a Director. Harv will, I hope, continue to do a fine job providing README.DOC with a General Meeting Report column, as well as managing the lights and sound equipment at the monthly meeting.

We have accomplished much this past year. Membership increased by more than 150 people. README.DOC not only looks great, but has brought forth some fine contributors who have enlightened and entertained us this past year. We acquired a large TV to use as a monitor at the SIG space and after a lot of effort on the part of Ben LeGare, Jim Petit, and others, we finally have a device from Jovian which provides us with a stable, flicker-free display on it. We have a computer for the SIGs to use at the SIG space and now, with the Jovian device, we hope we have provided every SIG the hardware necessary to conduct a session. Our treasury is growing and the Board was able to come up with its first ever beginning-of-the-year budget. With two months left on this year's budget, it certainly appears that not only will we balance, we may have a surplus at year's end.

In spite of our accomplishments, there is still much to do. At the October Board Meeting I gave a brief summary of the direction I think OCIPUG should follow in the coming year. In addition, member Steve Dela submitted proposals and suggestions for your Board to consider. A lot of informa-

tion and ideas were placed before the Board and it will take us a little time to digest them all. Nevertheless, there are certain things that we all know have to be attended to. The following is a partial list of things we will be working on this year.

Continuing to increase membership through membership drives, PR campaigns, Press Releases, and advertising.

Making README.DOC self-sufficient by soliciting much more advertising.

Improving the SIG space's physical environment, as well as instituting a program to continually upgrade the equipment.

Revamping our General Meetings with much more varied programs, such as how-to sessions, seminars, and a few surprises.

Raising funds for our treasury, as well as the Tim Smith Fund, through some creative fund raising activities.

Improving the BBS hardware and software. The BBS committee is in the process of testing new equipment and software which should make the use of the BBS easier as well as provide many new features.

There are a number of other things we will be working on. Look for some new appointments to some key positions in the club, as well as some new committees being formed. I will be working with the Board to staff these positions and committees and will welcome their ideas for projects to undertake. In the past, members of the Board have provided much of the manpower to keep OCIPUG running smoothly. However, with the ambitious plans we are contemplating we will need a lot more help. Some of you have volunteered in the past and we haven't forgotten about you. We will be contacting you to see how we can work together to make our club stronger and better. If you have some ideas, or would like to help, don't hesitate to let us know. ■

ABCs of the BBS

Bob Ottke

PRIVACY, SECURITY, AND THE BBS....

All of you know (I hope!) that messages on the BBS are not really private. Any open text is completely accessible to anyone with SysOp privileges. On this BBS, that means at least four people. On other bulletin boards there could be more or less, possibly only one. If you send a message marked pR)ivate to another, it can only be read by that person and the SysOps. You could send it as a ZIP file and require a password to unzip. That would give you some modest protection, but chances are that anyone who really wanted that information could find a way to get it.

Of course, the United States Government is quite interested in security from a number of different points of view. First, there is the Privacy Act that protects your personal information, up to a point. It also puts a certain burden of protection on the operators of electronic bulletin boards. That is why we must have a disclaimer advising everyone that private messages are not really private. But suppose that you had a really private message that was intended for one person, and one person only. The best way would be to use some other, more secure method of communication. Could your telephone be tapped? Not likely, unless you are a captain of industry, or a financial wizard. But we have all had those occasions, courtesy of the telephone company, when lines get crossed,

and suddenly a conversation becomes four-way, or worse, they can hear you, but you don't know it! How about mail? Have you ever received anything addressed to someone else? In other words, if you have some truly sensitive information to be passed along to someone else, particularly if they are a long distance away, you may have a bit of a problem.

The Government agencies obviously deal with a lot of sensitive information every day. They have developed their own computer-generated encryption codes to protect their data, but they are understandably reluctant to share that with you and me. Instead, the National Bureau of Standards has developed a Data Encryption Standard (DES) that is included with such programs as SuperKey, PCTools, and others. They don't want those programs to leave the U.S., but of course, they do. Also, according to the experts, it is no big deal to break one of those codes. You and I probably couldn't do it, but any supercomputer could probably do it in a few minutes.

That is just fine for Senator Biden and some of his colleagues who believe that ordinary citizens do not have a real right to privacy. Biden, et al, introduced Senate Bill 266, a supposed "anti-terrorism" measure. Among other things, it specified that "...providers of electronic communication services and manufacturers of electronic communications service equipment shall insure that communications systems

permit the government to obtain the plain text contents of voice data, and other communications when appropriately authorized by law." What does all this say? It says that the Government has the RIGHT to see ANYTHING that we choose to keep confidential. Fortunately, this provision has been removed from the proposed bill, so there is no immediate threat.

But what about encryption methods that are not as easy to break as DES? A few years ago, a "Public Key" encryption method was developed by three electronic cryptographers. But the National Security Agency, and probably several other agencies, didn't want that published, as it is too difficult to break. For all practical purposes, when set at maximum security, it is impossible. Anyway, the good guys won, and the system, including source code, is available in the public domain. (PGP10ZIP and PGP10SRC.ZIP). According to the experts, it offers Pretty Good Protection (PGP).

The best way to think of a public key system is to think of your bank safe deposit box. You have one key, and the bank has another. It takes both to open the box. Let's say that Smith and Jones decide to exchange some hot stock tips. Smith's public key, surprisingly, is SMITH, and Jones is JONES. Smith composes his message, and encrypts it with JONES as the public key. Only Jones has the secret key that fits the

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lock, and allows decryption. Not even Smith can decrypt his own message. This system allows some interesting sidelines. One can compose a plain text message and "sign" it uniquely, or he can send an encrypted signed message that guarantees both the sender and the recipient. Yes, it does sound a bit complicated, but the excellent documentation with the program will make it clear.

With most encryption techniques, DES in particular, both sender and receiver must use the same password. The transmission of that common password is the weakest link in that system. With PGP, though, no secret password must be sent. All the sender needs to know is the receiver's public key, and that can be disseminated widely without any prejudice to the system.

If you are at all interested in cryptography, you have probably read this far. If you are not interested, you have never seen these last lines.....

For those of you who would like to know a little more, see the *BOARDWATCH* Magazine, August 1991. PGP10.ZIP is on our BBS. PGP10SRC is not, but can be if anyone would like to have it. Just let me know.

NEW ON THE BBS.....

All filenames have the extension ZIP, unless otherwise indicated.

For all you techies, all you ever wanted to know about hard drives (and more!), and everything there is to know about Western Digital controllers: THEREF42, ISEAG-ATE, AND WESTDIG.

Adobe Type 1 Fonts - several megs in lots of files. Just Search the Files in the Printer area. You will also find some neat font utility programs: FONTSH40, FONTER40, FONTTABL, FONTOGRA.

Genealogy has not been forgotten. Brothers Keeper and Family Scrapbook are on the BBS in six separate files. Those of you who are

interested will have no trouble finding them in the GENEAL area.

Lots of DOS utilities. Six separate files - XDOS366A-F in the DOS area. Also, the new TSR.COM collection of excellent TSR management utilities is now available.

The new file compressor, ARJ is there as ARJ221.ZIP or .EXE (self extracting). This is a good one, but

probably will not bump ZIP from the top spot.

All kinds of games, and stuff for you WWII buffs. And CAPGNZ22 for those of you who like to play with real money!

Sorry about missing y'all last month. Does anyone out there really know what life is like when your computer is out of action??.... ■

YES, I JUST BELONG

Peg Morell

No, I'm not an active member,
the kind that would be missed.
I'm more than just contented
that my name is on the list.
I never go to meetings,
which is terrible, I know,
but I have many things to do
and places I must go.
It isn't that I rate you low -
there's a limit to my strength.
I love to get your newsletter,
which I often read at length.
My distance has its benefits,
(though you might think I'm lazy)
'cause I never talk with anyone
to say your Board is crazy.
It's true, I do not share a lot,
but I say what the heck.
I always do my tiny part,
which is sending in my check.
So somewhere in your heart please know
we cannot all be heroes.
Remember that with number ones
there's usually some zeros.
Although my time and energy
is spent in other ways,
I send my thanks for your good work
and give you all my praise.

COMDEX 1991 OVERVIEW

Steven Dela

For a change, it was nice to have an October date for the annual COMDEX show this year, rather than just before Thanksgiving as in years past. The atmosphere was more relaxed, with vendors taking the time to discuss their products in greater detail.

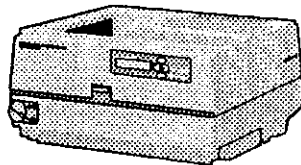
Each year that I've attended, I've tried to pick areas that I'm interested in and find products that meet those needs. This year, interest in color printers, 9600 baud Modem/FAX cards, and notebook computers were my targets. Going through catalogs and literature prior to the show helps in identifying vendors that might have those solutions.

COLOR PRINTERS

In the area of color printer output, technology in color laser printers is advancing rapidly. The thermal wax transfer process is being replaced by dye sublimation and other exotic methods for creating color images. Two companies that seem to be on the leading edge are,

Tektronix with their Phaser III model and Mitsubishi with a very high end model selling for \$25,000. Panasonic displayed a model that produced near photographic quality for \$8,000. The catch was that the only printer driver software developed so far was for Windows, and that cost an additional \$2,500.

My pick for the best *reasonable* color printer was shown by Canon. Their new model, BJC-800, is a color ink jet with separate color cartridges that produces outstanding 360 dpi color images. There was a lot of excitement around the booth



with fifteen of these machines running and everyone wanting samples. The printer won't be available until February 1992. If you're looking for good color output, wait for this one. Retail price is going to set at around \$2,700.

The greatest disappointment in color printers was the new HP-500C color Deskjet from Hewlett-Packard. Although the list price is only \$1,095, the color resolution is poor. Another drawback is the cartridge arrangement. If you want truly black text, you must insert the black only cartridge. Trying to print black with the color cartridge in place yields only *composite* black, which is the combination of all three colors together. That comes out as a black/green. Not very pretty.

FAX/MODEM COMMUNICATIONS

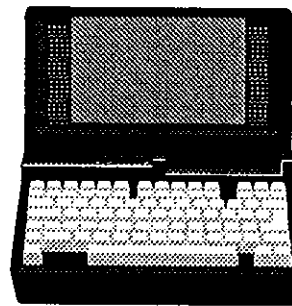
For several months now, I've been watching the market for a combination 9600 baud FAX/Modem. Up until now, the fastest speed for that combination was 9600 baud FAX and 2400 baud Modem. The chipsets that will drive these new products are just coming onto the market, but are expensive.

The good news is, a flood of 9600 baud FAX/Modems will be coming to the market in January, now that the chipsets are coming down in price. All the major manufacturers will have this in their lineup by the first of the year. They incorporate the new V.32bis standard, which will include data compression and error correction from the old V.42 and MNP 5 standards. List prices should be around \$395 to \$695. If you're looking for a 9600 baud modem now, put your decision off for another two

months, if possible.

NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS

Since last year's COMDEX show, there has been quite a shake out in the Notebook computer market. This year, it could be said that the market is dominated by the major players and the also rans. AST, Toshiba, and GRID, dis-



played new and interesting products. Companies like Everex, Tandy, and other clone manufacturers, displayed models that looked like they locked

up all their designers in one room and traded ideas.

The AT&T Safari notebook, which enjoyed rave reviews at Spring COMDEX in Atlanta, has died a quick death, due to poor support from the company at the user level. Compaq Computer was not at the show this year for the first time in ten years. Looking at the products offered and their profits, I can see why both of these companies are having trouble. Reminds me of clone manufacturers pushing boxes out the door, rather than solutions to what customers want and need.

Color notebooks are coming. AST unveiled their new battery powered color 25MHz 386 notebook computer due in January. Priced at less than \$5,000 retail, it should be a hit. Both Toshiba and Sharp had their active matrix screen laptops on display. Both are AC powered, but provide the best looking color displays on the market. Retail prices range from \$8,495 to \$9,995.

MISCELLANEOUS

There were many other new and different items at the show. What I like to focus on is the practical, for the home and small business user. There is not much need for 2.5 Gigabyte hard drives duplexing on a 486/33 EISA computer with 64 Megabytes of memory running a 64 node network using Novell 386 software.

What I do like to find is some innovative products that members may need for a reasonable price. Last year I reviewed a product from Discoversoft named TreeSaver®. I was glad to see them at this year's show with an improved product. TreeSaver® gives Laserjet printer owners the ability to size and scale documents on one sheet of paper. They call it "photo-reduction" software. Printing 2, 3, 4, or more pages on one sheet of paper is a capability worth having.

TreeSaver® will also print Day-Timer or Franklin planner size pages, if needed. The most interesting feature I found is the ability to print in Multi-mode. You can specify the number of pages across one sheet and can print thumbnail size documents. I found that feature handy when preparing a presentation where several documents or graphics can be displayed at one time on a single page or overhead transparency.

Many other features are included in the new 3.0 version. The retail price is still \$89.95. Discoversoft can be reached at 510-769-2902.

COMDEX can be many things, depending on what you expect out of the experience. For me, it gives a view on how the industry is moving, at what pace, and how it will affect our future. Look for other interpretations of COMDEX from other OCIPUG members in this and later issues of *README.DOC*.

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THE NEWS FROM COREL

Stephen Burnside

At COMDEX, I attended a luncheon given by Corel for user group Presidents, at which they brought us up-to-date on their products.

First the bad news...

Corel still has not released the upgrade for version 2.0, commonly called the bug fix. The word from Arlen Bartsch, Director of Marketing for Corel, is that the upgrade should be in the hands of registered users by Christmas of this year.

And now the disappointing news...

Corel did not announce any new software products. It has long been rumored that Corel was working on a presentation program to compete with Aldus Persuasion and Microsoft PowerPoint, but nothing was shown. Arlen Bartsch, responding to a question from the audience, said that Corel was still evaluating the presentation software market at this time. Bartsch also indicated that Corel was taking a close look at Aldus Freehand, a direct competitor which is being ported over from the Macintosh environment. Although Freehand has not been released for the PC yet, Aldus was showing the Beta version of the program and it does have some nice features, including the ability to isolate objects by layer, and floating tool palettes which can be placed anywhere on screen.

Now the good news....

Corel has updated the CD-ROM

version of Corel. This new version contains 10,000 pieces of clipart in either CDR or EPS format. The clipart is supplied by Artright,

Image Club, Lifeart, Totem Graphics, and others, so it's all very good quality. The CD-ROM also includes the OS/2 version of Corel, as well as, the Windows version.

And the Corel-DRAW!! program is provided in 5 languages: English, French, Spanish, Dutch, and German, all on one disk. In addition, there are 50 new fonts included on the disk, bringing the total to 205 fonts. The price of the CD-ROM version is \$100 to registered users, which is a bargain when you consider what it would cost to purchase the clipart outright. If you do not have a CD-ROM player and are a registered user of Corel, you can purchase their CD-ROM Blockbuster package for \$595, this includes a Panasonic CD-ROM player, the full Corel on CD-ROM package, and the SCSI interface for a PC.

Corel now has versions for Windows, OS/2, and UNIX. They are rumored to be working on a version for the Macintosh, which may be ready late next year. Perhaps for a COMDEX roll out? As evidence of a coming Mac version, it was mentioned to me, by some very knowledgeable sources, that Corel has been placing ads for Macintosh Programmers in Canadian newspapers. So let's wait and see what develops. ■



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Terry Currier

Well, here it is November and I don't know whether our membership will reach the 1000 mark by the end of the year as I hoped it would, but we have a good shot at it. Synergy is a word I learned in college, meaning a combined action or force, and that is what we have in OCIPUG. The reason we have grown so much this year is due to the combined actions of so many members.

The three SysOps of the BBS, Robert Ottke, Jim Petit, and Michael Springer, have put in massive amounts of hours. The README.DOC is looking great with MANY interesting and helpful articles by Michael Springer, Herb Huey, David Black, Bob Ottke, and many others. Jean Stevens started the Support Group in the newsletter which was an instant hit.

The two new SIGs, Stan Sabin's Genealogy and Bob Basaraba's GeoWorks, have brought in many new members. (OK, so has the Corel SIG, but don't tell Stephen Burnside and he'll never know I admitted it; he never reads this column anyway....there're no pictures). You have to figure Susan Novak and Jeff Sinn are doing a good job at the WordPerfect SIG, with so many of our new members listing WordPerfect as their choice among word processors. By sharing their expertise, ALL the SIG leaders have been doing a great service in helping to further educate our members.

We have had some really great programs this year and Richard has lined up a great finish for the year. It has also been a pleasure working with Stephen Burnside as President of the group (remember, I didn't say that and nobody tell him). I also have had good help on the Membership Committee, with

Sunny making up the badges, Sharon (what's her name) Raustadt helping me at the meetings and swap meets, along with Michael Springer, Michele Miller, and Jim Dobbs. And I can't forget (or she'll kill me) Robin Clark who sat with me for many months, making sure I was doing it right. All in all that is what makes the club great and keeps it growing.

Richard Baznik works in sales and lives in Rancho Palos Verdes. He has a GDC 286 with EGA, modem and mouse, along with a Citizen 224 printer. He uses Key Publisher, WordPerfect, dBASE IV, Norton Backup and Utilities, and Framework III.

Gail Carr from Santa Ana joined at the Corel Draw SIG.

Richard Derby is a computer network administrator living in Santa Ana. He has a 286 with EGA and an Epson 510 printer. He uses PC File 5.0 and WordPerfect.

Joe Giuliano lives in Newport Beach and is a real estate developer. He has a 286 with SVGA, mouse and Epson LX 800 printer. He uses Lotus, WordPerfect, Windows, C Language, Fortran, Macro Assemblers, VMS, and Unix.

Louis Haselfeld is retired and lives in Costa Mesa. He has a 286 with VGA, modem, mouse, and an IBM Proprinter. He uses Framework III.

Rick Howland is a maintenance supervisor from Newport Beach. He has an Epson 286, VGA, mouse, and uses a Fortis printer. For software, he uses WordPerfect, Xtree, and PC Tools.

Thomas Kopacz from Huntington Beach joined at the Corel Draw SIG.

Peter Kuykendall lives in Santa Ana and is a consulting engineer. He has a 386SX, with EGA and a Canon printer. He use Word-

Perfect, Lucid 3D, Qdos Key Publisher, Orcad, and Microsoft Works.

Benny Maestas is a systems analyst from Midway City. He has a 286 with VGA and uses WordPerfect, Windows, Lotus, Excel, Paradox, dBASE, Procomm, Cross-talk, and PageMaker.

Beverly Mosier joined when her husband, Robert, renewed.

Janis Pasquali lives in Santa Ana and is a lecturer. She has a Compaq 286 with VGA, an IBM Laser printer and uses WordPerfect.

Thomas Pastore is a teacher and lives in Costa Mesa. He has a 386 with SVGA and a Panasonic printer. He uses WordPerfect, Lotus, dBASE III, and Norton Utilities. Joining with him was his wife, Cynthia.

Seymour Spiegel is retired and lives in Huntington Beach. He has a Cignal 386SX, SVGA, mouse, and a Citizen GSX 140+ printer. He uses Microsoft Works.

Florence Stewart, from Moreno Valley, also joined at the Corel Draw SIG.

Rick Sturrus lives in Orange and is a software engineer. He has a 386SX.

Sue Weber, from Santa Ana, has an IBM computer, a Toshiba P321SL printer, and modem. She uses Quicken and WordPerfect.

Evan Williams is retired and lives in Santa Ana.

Lee Zaretsky is from Irvine and is a project engineer. He has a 386 with EGA, and an Epson LQ 850 printer. Software of choice includes Windows, Word for Windows, Excel, dBASE IV, Procomm, Quicken, and PageMaker. ■

LOTUS 123 RELEASE 3.1 PLUS

Herb Huey

Lotus, the recognized leader in spreadsheets, has three new spreadsheet offerings. The first is Lotus 123 Release 2.3 and is the spreadsheet of choice for XT's and AT's. The second is Lotus 123 Release 3.1 Plus and can be considered the industrial strength spreadsheet of choice for DOS power users who need 3-D spreadsheet capabilities. The last major release is the long awaited Lotus 123 for Windows 1.0. The last product is basically Release 3.1 Plus with Windows dressing (pun intended). We will be primarily looking at Lotus 123 Release 3.1 Plus in this review.

A MODEST UPGRADE

Lotus 123 Release 3.1 Plus, released in late Summer 1991, is an enhanced version of its three dimensional spreadsheet for extended DOS environments. Not too much has changed from Release 3.1, but the Lotus add-in Solver, first seen in Lotus 123/G, is bundled along with the Auditor and Viewer add-ins, that are also part of Release 2.3. Release 3.1 Plus continues the interactive WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) environment from Release 3.1. Press the "/" key and you get the old Lotus menu familiar to millions of Lotus faithful. Press the ":" key and you get the WYSIWYG menu.

Release 3.1 Plus supports Bitstream Fontware for good looking on-screen and printer displays. You can use the built-in database capabilities or the DataLens drivers for direct connection to external databases such as dBase III, Paradox, SQL Server, and NetWare SQL. Release 3.1 Plus requires a minimum of an 80286 processor with 1 MB of memory and DOS 3.0 or later. If you intend to make use

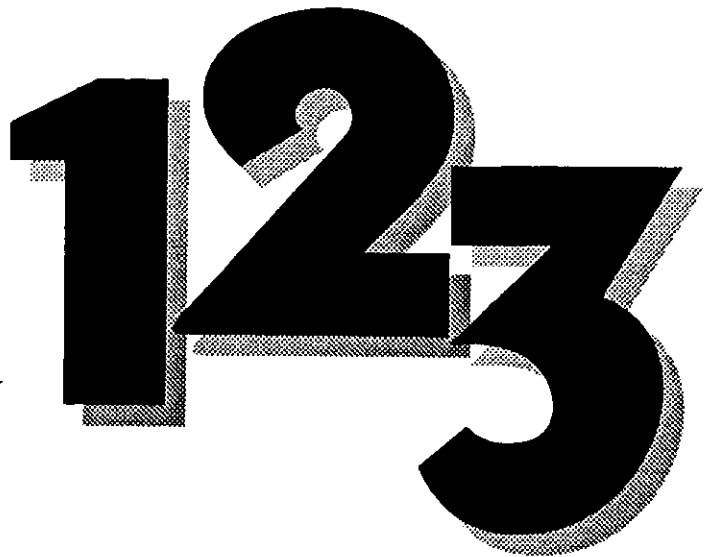
of expanded or extended memory then you are probably looking at a minimum of an 80386 with at least 1.5 MB.

INSTALLATION PROBLEMS

Installation turned out to be somewhat of a problem. You need a minimum of 5 MB of hard disk space and 1 MB of RAM for a successful installation. Load in all the supplied add-ins (Solver, Auditor, DataLens, and Viewer) and it goes up to 7 MB of hard disk space. The manual says you can either install Lotus under DOS or Windows 3.0. I first tried to install Release 3.1 Plus under Windows and followed the instructions as best I could. Lotus installed successfully and the colorful Lotus icon appeared in the Presentation Manager. However clicking on the Lotus icon gave the dreaded system conflict and the recommendation to get out of Windows and resolve the conflict.

After two hours of experimentation I gave up and tried the DOS installation. Installation was successful on the first try under DOS. I later solved the Windows installation problem but I'm afraid that I have the problem of too many programs fighting for limited extended memory resources (maybe I need to get another 4 MB of

RAM). Customizing the AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS files exclusively for Release 3.1 Plus turned out to be the solution under Windows, a poor solution at best since I must reboot my system, which is another 10 seconds of overhead. I'm sure there must be a startup configuration that will satisfy running Release 3.1 Plus under either DOS or Windows 3.0 with-



out any conflicts but I'm basically too lazy (actually frustrated) to find out.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

WYSIWYG really improves the look of the typical character-based spreadsheet. I used the opening WYSIWYG default, which unfortunately increases the time for the opening screen. As I noted in last month's Herb's Hangout, Release 3.1 Plus takes up to 11 seconds to reach the opening screen, 3 of those seconds for WYSIWYG on my 386/25 MHz machine. Excel 3.0 takes only 8 seconds to reach the opening screen which also includes Windows set up time (yes, I learned

how to start Excel directly).

Excel 3.0 WYSIWYG under Windows 3.0 is a slick looking spreadsheet and printouts are beautiful using a dot matrix printer. In comparison, Lotus looks a little rough around the edges and the printer output, while very good, is not quite as nice. Excel 3.0 also seems to be a lot faster in virtually any spreadsheet operation. The October 29, 1991 issue of PC magazine on page 36 confirms that Excel 3.0 is indeed much faster than Release 3.1 Plus. So is Quattro Pro 3.0 and Lotus 123 Releases 2.2 and 2.3. As a matter of fact only Lotus 123 for Windows is slower! Before you charge that I am biased towards Excel 3.0, you must realize that I have been using Lotus 123 for nearly 10 years. As a matter of fact, I still had Release 1A on-line until I got to review Release 3.1 Plus. It's true that I have grown to like Excel 3.0 (see my review in the May 1990 issue of README.DOC) but my roots are still with Lotus.

I successfully transferred all my .WK1 and .WK3 files without any problems. Even the ancient .WKS files from Release 1A were successfully transferred but were first converted into .WK3 files. Talk about file compatibility! However, Lotus has no support for Excel 3.0 file conversions though I understand that Excel 2.1 files are supported. That's ok since Excel 3.0 fully supports all Lotus file formats.

Lotus pioneered the concept of 3-D spreadsheets in Release 3.0. Sadly, there is no improvement in its implementation in Release 3.1 Plus. You still view the 3-D spreadsheets as three stacked pages in a fixed perspective. When you flip between pages Release 3.1 Plus' slow speed becomes painfully obvious. With the advent of separate windows, a la Windows 3.0, surely a better way can be utilized for working in 3-D spreadsheets. Checking out the graph capabilities of Release 3.1 Plus, there is a strong selection of 2-D graphs. However, 3-D graphs are noticeably absent from the graph menus. This is a strange

omission considering Release 3.1 Plus' 3-D spreadsheet capability. This omission has been rectified in Lotus 123 for Windows. Other spreadsheets, including Quattro Pro 3.0 and Excel 3.0, have a richer variety of graphs especially in the 3-D graph arena.

ADD-INS

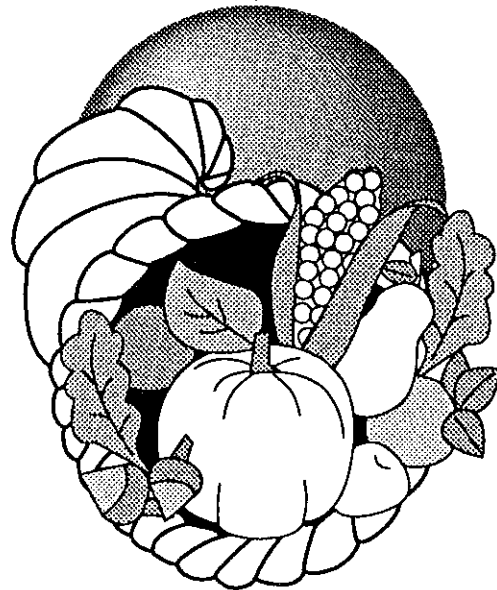
Lotus 123 Release 3.1 Plus features Solver, which first appeared in Lotus 123/G. Solver is a powerful mathematical tool that is used to perform complex what-if trade-offs. Solver can answer questions like, "What is the appropriate mix of products I should order that will maximize my profits for a given level of expenditure." Unless you have impressive skills in solving optimization of non-linear equations (huh?), Solver is what you need for this type of problem solving. Strangely enough a similar tool in Excel is also called Solver.

Lotus also offers Viewer which borrows from Magellan technology and allows you to look into worksheets and text files and build simple links between files just by pointing. Another add-in is called Auditor. This useful utility simplifies the task of checking your formulas in your worksheets,

documenting the formulas, and helps you to track down errors like circular references in your formulas. Finally Release 3.1 Plus also includes the DataLens drivers that permits the user to access external databases such as Paradox, dBase III/IV, SQL Server, and NetWare SQL. Excel 3.0 has an equivalent utility called Q&E to handle external databases.

FINAL IMPRESSIONS

In a head-to-head comparison against Excel 3.0, Lotus 123 Release 3.1 Plus comes out second best. If you look at Release 3.1 Plus on its own merits it would rate as a very good spreadsheet program. If you have Release 3.1 and the add-ins that are included with Release 3.1 Plus there is little reason to switch. For Lotus 2.X users, if 3-D spreadsheet capability and Lotus compatibility is very important then Release 3.1 Plus is a very good upgrade choice. If you can ignore 3-D spreadsheet capability, and want a Lotus product, get Release 2.3 as it is a much faster spreadsheet. Spreadsheets like Quattro Pro 3.0 and Excel 3.0 offer superior alternatives to Lotus but Lotus has some good products here and will continue to outsell its competitors. ■



Happy Thanksgiving!!



Herb's Hangout

Herb Huey

Picture this scenario: You've just bought your brand new Gee Whiz Model 386 computer for under \$2000 and joined OCIPUG after paying your \$36 membership dues. This happened to me just one year ago. I never dreamed shortly after that I would find a new hobby writing for *README.DOC*. It certainly was not intentional. In the past year I managed to write 12 articles, including this column, since joining in November 1990. I get tired just thinking about it. Seriously, it has been a challenge coming up with new ideas.

SO HOW MUCH DID YOUR COMPUTER REALLY COST?

I have a new addition to my *Rules of Insanity* (see May 1991 issue of *README.DOC*), "Your computer is like a cash hog; open its mouth and it'll eat all your money!!" This brings us to this month's topic. Your computer. When you purchased your computer, did you foresee how much it would actually cost you? Have you ever tried to total all your computer related purchases? You just might be in for a big surprise.

I can't speak for you but I will use myself as an example. Back in May 1990, my original computer purchase was a 386/25 MHz machine with 2 MB Ram, 80 MB hard disk, 5 1/4" floppy disk drive, and a monographic monitor. Toss in MS-

DOS 4.01 for a total price that was just over \$2000, including taxes. I quickly added a 3 1/2" floppy drive for \$70 more. I ported over much of my software from my old XT but I upgraded my MS FORTRAN compiler to version 5.0 for \$165, added PCTOOLS 5.5 for \$70, and bought floppies in bulk for \$54 and, of course, I joined OCIPUG for \$36. This was my initial investment.

The following lists my additional purchases.

Hardware:	
Omnitronix Backup Card	\$155
387/25 MHz coprocessor	330
Fax/Modem card	117
Hand Scanner	125
Sony CPD-1304 monitor	610
Trident SVGA card	109
4 MB RAM	225
	<hr/>
	\$1671

Software:	
Windows 3.0/MS Mouse	\$140
SimCity	29
SimEarth	42
MS-DOS 5.0	39
MS Fortran 5.1	214
F-15 Strike Eagle	15
Outnumbered	34
Midnight Rescue	34
Monopoly	29
Print Shop	34
Print Shop Companion	29
Stacker	72
MS Entertainment Pak	29
	<hr/>
	\$740

The total cost for hardware additions is \$1741 and software is \$975, over a period of just 18 months!! Wow, that is a lot more than the original computer purchase price!! But wait, is that all? I didn't add up all the incidentals like OCIPUG dues, printer paper, ribbons, floppies and so on. That is probably about \$200 more. How about computer magazine subscriptions? I subscribe to *Byte*, *PC*, *PC World*, and *Computer Shopper*. I have multi-year subscriptions to all these publications so I won't try to figure an accurate amount; let's say about \$75 a year. Have you bought any computer books? I bought 10 books at an average price of \$25 each for another \$250. Shareware? Oh, about \$250 which includes several registration fees. All of this comes up to.... wait, this can't be right almost \$5500!!! Somebody hold me up, I'm going to faint....!!

I guess I need to reconsider next year's wish list. Let's see, I wanted to get another 4 MB RAM, another hard disk (about 200 MB or so), a Sound Blaster Pro board, CD-ROM, laser printer.... Software? Well, I guess Windows 3.1 or IBM OS/2 2.0 is due to come out.... This is terrible! I still need to get an inexpensive computer for my daughter this Christmas! Let's see complete 286 systems are running for \$700 at the swap meets.

Continued on Page 23...

Introducing Borland's Unified Solution for Paradox, dBASE and InterBase

The future of dBASE

Simply stated, we're committed to revitalizing dBASE: delivering more power, more flexibility and better support to the whole community of dBASE users. We are using our object-oriented development techniques to accelerate releases and add substantial new features. We're adding new SQL server links, event handling and object-oriented extensions to the dBASE language.

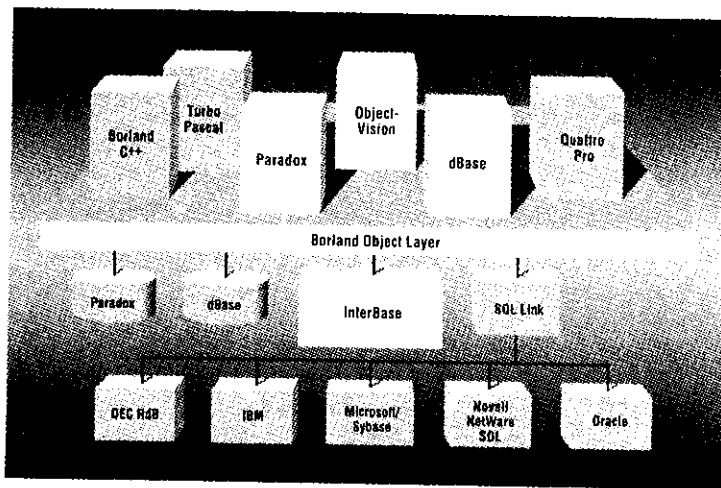
Soon, as quickly as 1992, you'll see a new dBASE for Windows and DOS, as well as compilers that generate fast, tight code. All based on Borland's proven technologies, all compatible with the existing dBASE standard. That's the Borland commitment to the dBASE community!

The future of Paradox

Paradox® is entering the world of objects. We're evolving PAL™ and all the Paradox interactive design tools. Using our leading edge object-oriented technology, you'll be able to visually create sophisticated Windows applications. Instantly. We'll also be introducing revolutionary database-publishing tools as well as powerful new data-modeling capabilities. More than ever, Paradox gives you instant database power on Windows or DOS.

InterBase, the database server of the '90s

InterBase™ is the first relational database server to satisfy the demands of online complex processing. The kind of real-world applications used in finance, banking and manufacturing. Designed for optimal performance in multi-platform networks. InterBase provides features targeted at the needs of highly complex database applications in dynamic, distributed environments. InterBase is the clear technology leader with advances such as true peer-to-peer architecture, highly efficient event alerters, "smart" automatic two-phase commit and rollback.



Borland's object-oriented architecture will allow Windows versions of Paradox, dBASE and Quattro® Pro to work together in enterprise-wide information systems, giving you instant access to more types of data.

Borland, leader in customer satisfaction

J.D. Power and Associates just ranked Borland "Best application software in customer satisfaction in Small to Medium-sized Businesses."™ Company for company, technology for technology, Borland is your best choice.

Borland, your database partner for the '90s

There you have it: the best technology and the best support from the one company that guarantees your software investments now and in the future.

"By bringing two database platforms under one strong management and support organization, Borland is providing a unified solution to our current database needs."

— Carl Hane, Group Leader
Micro Applications Systems
MCI International, Inc.

"Now we know that dBASE will have a bright future in Borland's hands."

— Adam Green

multi-threaded servers and instant recovery from hardware failures. For Paradox and dBASE network users, InterBase will work wonders in helping integrate your data from the desktop to the mainframe. All with unprecedented simplicity.

Borland, the technology leader

Borland is the pioneer of object-oriented technology. We're now at the forefront of 32-bit computing. What this all means to you: more power, more performance and lower support costs. And that's why IBM and Novell have picked Borland as a strategic partner.



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6. LOTUS

Choose Paradox, dBASE and InterBase today and join the thousands of corporations worldwide who have discovered the Borland advantage.

Special offer to database users

Buy either Paradox or dBASE right now, and get your passport to upgrade to the Windows version of the same product for only \$139^{9/11}!

And, to inaugurate the new era of dBASE from Borland we're making this special, limited-time offer. Purchase dBASE from any dealer between October 14, 1991, and January 31, 1992, and get a \$100 manufacturer's rebate.

**See your dealer today or
call 1-800-568-9092 for
rebate information!**

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© 1991 J.D. Power and Associates' Computer End User Satisfaction Study, Phase I: Office-Based Small to Medium-sized Businesses.™ Response from Business End Users at 1,784 business sites. Small to medium-sized businesses were based on office visits with between 1 and 499 employees. J.D. Power and Associates is a service mark of J.D. Power and Associates. † Dealer prices may vary. Upgrade pricing good in U.S. and Canada only. Borland is a registered trademark of Borland International, Inc. Copyright © 1991 Borland International, Inc. All rights reserved. BI 141339

ShortTAKES

David Black

ON THE WINDOWS FRONT....



After weeks of banging my head against my CRT, I finally know how monumental a development Visual Basic was. For the past month, I have been attempting to learn to program in Windows, using C language, an experience I can only describe as a nightmare lasting over a month. Only now, am I beginning to get a small perspective on what it means to be a C language Windows programmer.

By the time the newsletter goes to press, Word for Windows 2.0 should be released, as it was introduced at Fall COMDEX, and even won *BYTE* magazine's Best Application Software award.

Microsoft QuickC for Windows....

A few weeks ago, I was finally able to get a copy of this. In a nutshell, QuickC for Windows is a C compiler, Integrated Development Environment, On-Line help system, and Programming Toolkit, all rolled into one. Along with the program itself, you get the latest versions of Microsoft's Dialog Editor and Bitmap Editor and an interesting, if useless, little program called QuickCase:W.

The dialog and bitmap editors are redone versions of the classic programs from the Windows SDK, with not very much that is new. (The bitmap editor is the best I have seen yet for icons and such). The integrated development environment is standard Microsoft, being rather complete for only v1.0 of the program. There are a few problems, although rather minor, that do exist currently with the program. First and foremost, the compiler itself is SLOW. There are also a few minor inconveniences in the menu structure, but nothing extremely annoying. The one part of this package I hoped would be absolutely stellar was the On-Line help system. While not as intuitive or complete as the one in Visual Basic, it still has a lot of information which lessens, to a small extent, the time spent flipping through manuals.

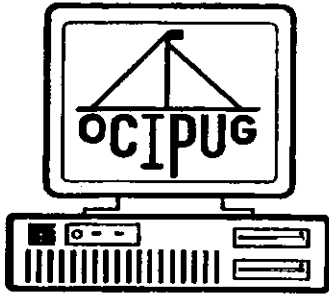
Unfortunately, my best hopes were not realized with the QuickCase:W package, it being a completely different piece of software than I had hoped for. It is a stripped down version of the CaseWorks:W code generator that contains only the most basic functions, (no, this is not another Visual Basic joke). All it really does is create a skeleton of a standard Windows application with a few parameters, although there is a coupon in the box for a small discount on the FULL version of CaseWorks:W. What I had hoped for, from reading early reviews, was a revamped version of the Visual

Basic development environment modified to generate C code.

When you pick up the box, the first thing you notice is how HEAVY it is, with most all of the weight being reference books. You get the latest version of the Windows Programmer's Reference, guides to the IDE and tools, and a nicely done book on C and programming Windows applications. Not mentioned here is the separate debugging tools package you can purchase through MS for an additional \$50. Overall this is a good package, and a VERY good value. I bought my copy for \$160 at my local Egghead Software, which is a bargain compared to around \$700 for Microsoft C and the Windows SDK. You can now purchase it from Programmers Paradise for \$125. Borland C++ v2.0, which can now compile Windows apps, costs more than double, with no documentation on writing Windows apps, and an IDE and compiler that still run under DOS. QuickC for Windows is currently the only C compiler to have a Windows development environment, which certainly gives it an advantage. While it needs some improvement, this package is now the cheapest way to write in C for Windows.

Borland's Resource Workshop....

Are you doing any Windows programming in C language or Turbo Pascal for Windows? Then you need to take a serious look at Borland's new Resource Workshop



Orange Coast IBM PC User Group SIG GUIDE

A Calendar of Meetings & Events published by Richard Villa

For more information on membership, write to OCIPUG at PO Box 6100-211, Costa Mesa, CA 92628. Call Voice - 714/843-2048 or BBS - 714/843-0388

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
NOV		MS Word OCIPUG Board Meeting 6:30 PM	Personal Finance		Thanksgiving Day		
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
DECEMBER			Spreadsheet	Windows 3	Modem		New Users 9 AM DOS 1 PM
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		MS Word	Database	Word Perfect Program Committee	CAD/ Graphics		9AM - OCIPUG General Meeting O.C.C. Science Hall
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14 OS/2 1 PM
		Genealogy	BBS	Office/Basics 10 AM	Corel Draw 6:30 PM @ Graphix Zone		Programming 9 AM Q & A 1 PM
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
	OCIPUG Board Meeting 6:30 PM		Christmas Day				
22/29	23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	

All Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are held from 7 PM to 10 PM at our SIG SPACE, located at 17632 Metzler Lane, Suite 211, Huntington Beach unless otherwise listed.

BBS

SIG Leader: Bob Ottke 714/759-1515

Monthly work party on the BBS. Meet in office area of SIG SPACE.

3RD TUE**CAD/GRAPHICS**SIG Leader: David Carroll 714/775-3130
Designated Guru: Dave Lorenzini 714/496-3050

This SIG covers hardware and software products in both computer aided design and graphics. At the December meeting we will demonstrate AutoShade Version 2 with RenderMan to render CAD & 3D models with photo realistic image quality.

2ND THU**COREL DRAW/VENTURA**SIG Leader: Steve Burnside 714/722-0327
Asst. SIG Leader: Sunny Lockie 714/644-0103

This SIG will cover intermediate and advanced topics relating to both *Ventura Publisher* and *Corel DRAW!* At the December meeting we will be looking at the latest version of Corel on CD ROM. Please come with your questions. Meeting starts at 6:30 PM.

3RD THU

So. Cal. Graphics Resource Center (formerly the *Graphix Zone*), 38 Corporate Park, Irvine - Near Jamboree & Alton Pkwy.

DATABASE

SIG Leader: Bob Schmiedeke 714/536-1178

This SIG discusses various database programs, specializing in *dBASE*. Check the HOT-LINE for December's topic.

2ND TUE**DOS and LANGUAGES**Co-SIG Leader: Chris Lloyd 714/894-4837
Co-SIG Leader: Bob Peringer 714/633-3232
Designated Guru: John Goodman 714/895-3195

This SIG covers DOS, helping you to take command of your PC. Our December meeting will feature George Alstin presenting alternate DOS commands of freeware. Linda Fox will review PC COMPUTE'S 11/91 issue on UMB's in CONFIG.SYS.

1ST SAT**GENEALOGY**

SIG Leader: Stan Sabin 714/968-7307

For beginners to experts. If you know a little about Genealogy or a lot this SIG is for you. Check the HOT-LINE for December's topic. Please bring your questions. Everyone welcome!

3RD MON**GGEOWORKS**

SIG Leader: Bob Basaraba 714/559-6539

This SIG covers the new product *GeoWorks Ensemble*. We will NOT meet in December due to the Christmas holidays. See you in 1992!

4TH FRI**HARDWARE**

SIG Leader: Bob Basaraba 714/559-6539

This SIG is one of the most popular, judging by the strong attendance. We will NOT meet in December due to the Christmas holidays. See you in 1992!

4TH THU**MODEM**SIG Leader: Bob Ottke 714/759-1515
Designated Guru: Rich Sabin 714/965-6734

Reach out and access the whole world of information through telecommunications. Check the HOT-LINE for December's topic.

1ST THU**NEW USER/NEW MEMBER**

SIG Leader: John Lunsford 714/995-0941

This is the best SIG to attend first. The meetings run on a 4-month cycle and this month is number ONE in the cycle. You may start at any point in the cycle.

1ST SAT**OFFICE/BASICS**

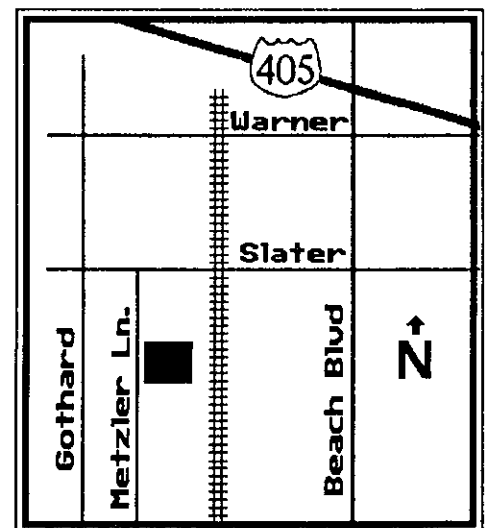
SIG Leader: Anne Fawcett 714/968-5000

DAYTIME SIG for BEGINNERS!

10 AM to Noon: DOS & WordPerfect 5.1

Noon to 1 PM: Lotus 1-2-3 Ver. 2.2

Small Businesses! Free training! Buy memberships for employees to attend on company time. Learn the basics of these "industry standards." Bring any file problems on disk.

3RD WED**SIG SPACE**

**17632 Metzler Lane, Suite 211
Huntington Beach**

OS/2

SIG Leader: Dave Lorenzini 714/496-3050
 Designated Guru: Steve Schiffman 714/531-0376

Come learn about what OS/2 is all about and what this new operating system can do for you. Check the HOT-LINE for December's topic.

PERSONAL FINANCE

SIG Leader: Max Lockie 714/644-0103

This SIG discusses the various financial packages for the PC. We will NOT meet in December due to the Christmas holidays. See you in 1992!

PROGRAMMING

SIG Leader: Wendy Sarrett 714/733-9906

This SIG covers various aspects of programming and programming languages. At the December meeting we will review Windows application generators. NOTE: THIS MEETING IS BEING HELD ON THE 3RD SAT. DUE TO THE CONFLICT WITH THE GENERAL MEETING.

Q & A

SIG Leader: Terry Currier 714/774-2018

Come and learn about this popular database and word processing program. At the December meeting we will continue our setting up a dummy company and learning how to set-up and make changes to a database.

REAL ESTATE

Contact Person: Jim Dickerson 714/960-9691
 Contact Person: Tom Sutro 714/754-7045

Jointly sponsored by OCIPUG and several local Boards of Realtors, this is one of our largest SIGs. CHECK WITH CONTACT PERSONS CONCERNING LOCATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

SPREADSHEET

SIG Leader: John Alesi 714/770-1130
 Designated Guru: Neil Carman 714/964-1901

This group covers Lotus 123 and other popular spreadsheet programs, including shareware products, for both beginners and advanced users. Check the HOT-LINE for the topic for December.

2ND SAT

4TH TUE

3RD SAT

3RD SAT

1ST TUE

WINDOWS 3

SIG Leader: Richard Villa 714/841-6991
 Asst. SIG Leader: Steve Burnside 714/722-0327

This SIG covers software for *Microsoft Windows 3.0* during the first half, and specializes in *PageMaker 4.0* or other advanced topics in the last half. At the December meeting we will have a presentation from Adobe on their product line, including their new product Streamline. Please bring your questions!

WORD

SIG Leader: Winston Jewson 714/544-4330
 Microsoft Contact: Dave Lorenzini 714/496-3050

Microsoft Word 5.5 is a powerful and popular word processing package. We'll work with the powerful insert commands to create masterful text content. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SIG NOW MEETS ON THE 2ND MONDAY!

WORDPERFECT

SIG Leader: Susan Novak 310/594-4144
 Contact Person: Jeff Sinn W-310/491-3081
 714/775-2390

Come and learn about this popular word processing package. At the December meeting learn how to use features found in the format line menu to make document creating & editing more easier. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SIG NOW MEETS ON THE 2ND WEDNESDAY!

1ST WED

2ND MON

2ND WED

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Public Bulletin Board (BBS) - 843-0388
 Private Line (Member BBS) - 843-9248
 Hot-Line - For latest information - 843-2048
 Emergency SIG SPACE number - 843-9678

ATTEND A SIG MEETING THIS MONTH - FIND OUT WHAT'S HOT!

Saturday, November 23, 1991 - 9:00 AM to Noon

WordPerfect for Windows

Alan Ashton, President, WordPerfect Corporation
Pete Peterson, V.P., WordPerfect Corporation

Color Scanning & Digitizing

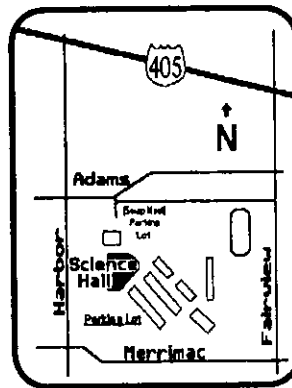
Kevin Wright, Marstek

⇒ 8:40 to 9:00 AM - Random Access!

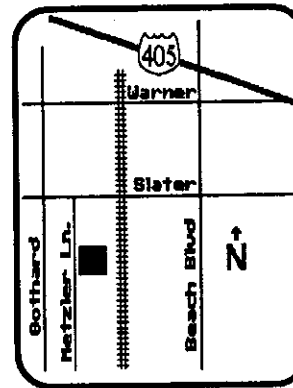
GENERAL MEETING

MEETING LOCATIONS

Orange Coast College
Costa Mesa
2701 Fairview Rd.
General Meeting:
Science Hall (next to
Chemistry Bldg.)
Parking in campus lots
available off Adams or
Merrimac.



SIG Space
Huntington Beach
17632 Metzler
Lane, Suite 211
SIG Meetings:
Take elevator to 2nd
floor.
Parking in lot or on
street



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG) was formed in 1985, and has become one of the largest and most respected User Groups in the country.

OCIPUG, a non-profit corporation, is an all-volunteer organization which provides PC enthusiasts with an opportunity to gain knowledge and gives assistance to those who need it.

Membership includes:

- ✓ subscription to README.DOC, the monthly newsletter published by OCIPUG
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Keeper of the Calendar: Richard Villa - 714/841-6991 - Deadline for January Calendar: Friday, November 29th

software. This is a replacement for Microsoft's bitmap and dialog editors, as well as, packages such as the Whitewater Resource Toolkit. In 20 words or less, a Resource in Windows programming is a bitmap, dialog box, cursor, menu, or other such element of a program. Normally you must write a resource script or use one of the above mentioned tools to create one. At best, I have found this to be a tedious process, time consuming, and devoid of any fun at all. Borland's new product provides you with a complete integrated development environment (try saying that 12 times fast) for resource files. You also get Borland's tools for creating customized window controls such as buttons, check boxes, and radio buttons. Apart from a few annoyances with menu structure and naming some elements, this product has made my programming work MUCH easier, and definitely was worth the price. The Resource Workshop retails for around \$100, and Programmer's Paradise should be carrying it soon. I was able to get in on a special from Borland and purchased it for only \$50, but that offer expired at the end of October.

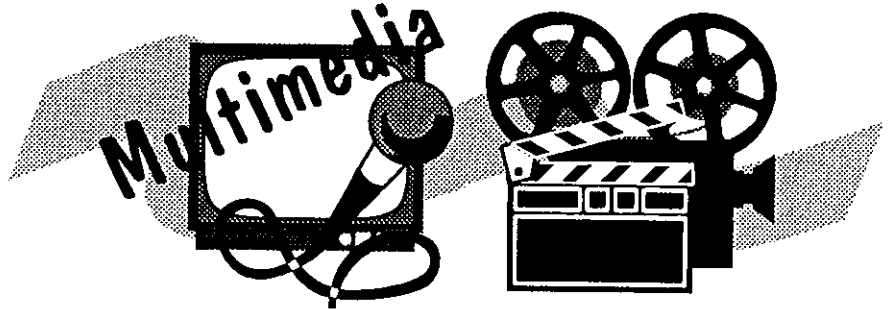
Multimedia Hardware....

Recently we have seen the proliferation of several Multimedia PC (MPC for short) upgrade kits for PCs. Most include a sound board, CD-ROM drive, and a software package including the Multimedia Extensions for Windows. The two kits that I have seen come from Tandy and MediaVision.

The MPC upgrade kit from Tandy includes a SoundBlaster Pro, CDR-1000 CD-ROM drive, and software. The SoundBlaster Pro has been touted as the best sound board on the market, but currently has a few problems. Most notably, it is possible to get background noise from the RF emissions inside the computer. This, in my opinion, is a serious problem that I would like to see fixed before I would buy either this kit, or even

just the board by itself. The CDR-1000 CD-ROM drive has the reputation as one of the cheapest and fastest (in one respect) drive on the market. The drive was designed to slide out of the chassis, and does not require the use of the annoying SONY CD-ROM Caddy. The best

CDU-541. This is one of the best drives in the price/performance ratio, and unlike most drives currently on the market, it does meet the minimum speed requirements for Multimedia Windows Level 1 standard, along with the aforementioned Tandy CDR-1000. The only

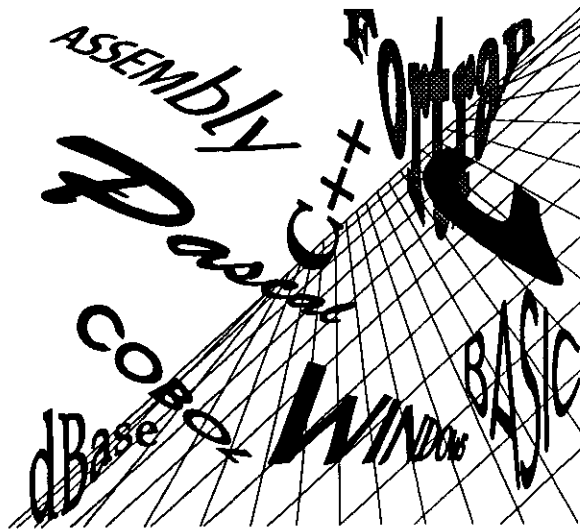


feature of this drive is its transfer speed. Once data has been found on the disk, it is able to transfer it to your computer at speeds upwards of 150 kb/sec. Almost no other drive on the market transfers data that fast, due to the fact that Tandy developed a proprietary interface to accomplish this. But where the drive is fast in transferring data, it is slow in finding it. Its random seek time is around 800ms, making it one of the slowest drives on the market in terms of this. But I have been told that the data transfer speed is the most important of the two, and that any drive with a random seek time under 1 second is acceptable. The drive also comes with a few disks along with v1.0 of Microsoft's Multimedia Windows extensions. The kit with an internal drive will run you around \$800, and you can add another \$100 if you want an external CD-ROM drive.

Media Vision's MPC upgrade kit is built on their own sound card they began marketing a year ago. Compatible with the original SoundBlaster for game software, supposedly this card does not have the same annoying problem with RF interference from the computer as the Sound Blaster Pro has. The CD-ROM drive included with this package is the renowned SONY

disadvantage I can see is the required use of the CD-Caddy. But the annoyance with the Caddy can be overcome by just purchasing a couple of extra CD-Caddys. Also, while the data transfer rate is not quite as fast as that on the Tandy drive, its random seek time is down around 350ms, which makes searching for data on a disk MUCH faster. The software again includes Multimedia Windows, some utilities, and, I think, a sample disk or two. MediaVision's kit will run you about \$900 at CompUSA.

I should also mention that there are quite a few other companies out there marketing MPC upgrade kits, with components of varying degrees of quality. Be warned to research any of these kits thoroughly, especially the comment cards and CD-ROM drives. Not all of these are quite up to standard, and at anywhere from \$700-\$1200 for these upgrade kits, you do not want to get stuck with a lemon. *PC Magazine* had a good article on CD-ROM drives a few months back, which should help you avoid any of the extremely outdated models. For example, you should NOT buy the Chinion CD-ROM drive in an upgrade kit due to its EXTREMELY slow speed, in both random access and data transfer, and other problems. ■



INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAMMING

Wendy Sarrett

This month we will discuss loops. Loops are a means of performing a given task repetitively. There are a number of ways of defining loops; "FOR...NEXT," "WHILE...WEND," and "DO...LOOP" are examples in Basic. All these constructs can boil down to continuing to perform an action until a particular condition is met. The main difference is whether processing of the code inside the loop can effect how many times the code is processed.

The first example is a simple FOR-NEXT loop. In this case the value of *i* (which is called the counter as it keeps count of the number of times through the loop), is added to the value of *j* each time.

```
REM This is a simple example of a FOR-NEXT Loop
DIM J AS INTEGER
CLS
FOR i% = 1 TO 100
    J = J + i%
NEXT i%
PRINT J
```

Note if one could not use a FOR loop the same program would have to be written:

```
i% = 1
J = J + i%
i% = i% + 1
J = J + i%
.
.      (repeat)
.
J = J + i%
```

As you can see, the three lines take many more lines. Furthermore, the above code cannot accommodate the case where the fixed value of 100 is replaced by a variable that is determined when the program is run. Note that one can do just about any kind of processing between the FOR statement and the NEXT statement. The key limitation is that the code inside the loop can not effect the number of times the loop is processed. The number of times the loop is processed is

determined before the loop is processed.

A While Loop provides more flexibility. Instead of processing a fixed number of times, processing occurs until a given condition is met. One example is menu processing. A menu process usually continues until the user provides some kind of input indicating that they are done.

```
REM this is a simple example of a WHILE Loop
CLS
WHILE (j$ <> "q")
CLS
PRINT "This is a Mock Menu"
PRINT "1. First Item"
PRINT "2. Second Item"
PRINT "3. Third Item"
PRINT "q. Quit"
INPUT j$
WEND
```

A DO...LOOP provides the most flexibility. The first difference between a DO...LOOP and a WHILE...WEND is that the DO...LOOP allows the condition to be tested at the bottom of the loop. The second difference, the condition can be specified in terms of a condition that ends the loop processing (UNTIL) rather than a condition that has to be true for processing to continue (WHILE).

This is how QBASIC defines a DO...LOOP with the condition test occurring at the top of the loop:

```
DO [{WHILE | UNTIL} condition]
    [statementblock]
LOOP
```

This is how QBASIC defines a DO...LOOP with the condition test occurring at the bottom of the loop:

```
DO
    [statementblock]
LOOP [{WHILE | UNTIL} condition]
```

Note that the FOR...NEXT and WHILE...WEND loops are sufficient to accomplish any task necessary. So why the DO...LOOP??? The flexibility of the DO...LOOP allows the programmer to write certain loops in a more natural way. For example, suppose the loop should continue until a particular condition is met. The loop can be written as such, rather than continuing to process the loop while the condition is not true. The second advantage is that a few steps may be saved by testing the condition BEFORE going back to the top of the loop.

```

REM This is a simple example of DO Loops
DIM i AS INTEGER
DIM j AS INTEGER
CLS
DO WHILE (j < 1000)
  CLS
  PRINT "Enter Increment"
  INPUT i
  j = j + i
  PRINT j
  SLEEP 5
LOOP
PRINT j
SLEEP 5
j = 0
DO
  CLS
  PRINT "Enter Increment"
  INPUT i
  j = j + i
  PRINT j
  SLEEP 5
LOOP UNTIL (j = 1000)
PRINT j

```

In summary, we have seen three kinds of loops. The FOR...NEXT loop is used when one simply wishes to repeat the code a fixed number of times. In other words, the code being processed does not effect the number of times it is processed. This does NOT mean that the number of times the code is processed is the same every time you run the program. It CAN be determined by input or processing that occurs before the loop is pro-

cessed. The WHILE...WEND and DO...LOOP are used in all other cases. The choice between them is up to the programmer.

This month we have discussed loops. We now have many of the basic pieces for writing programs. Next month we will learn about subroutines. They are important for good code design. In the meanwhile, try to put what we've already learned together to create some programs of your own. To start you off is a small extension of the mock menu program discussed above.

```

REM this is a simple example of a WHILE Loop
CLS
WHILE (j$ <> "q")
  CLS
  PRINT "This is a Mock Menu"
  PRINT "1. First Item"
  PRINT "2. Second Item"
  PRINT "3. Third Item"
  PRINT "q. Quit"
  INPUT j$
  IF (j$ = "1") THEN
    PRINT "Selected First Item"
  ELSEIF (j$ = "2") THEN
    PRINT "Selected Second Item"
  ELSEIF (j$ = "3") THEN
    PRINT "Select Third Item"
  END IF
  SLEEP 5
WEND

```

■

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS!

Jean Stevens

Once again, we come to the close of another year at OCIPUG. The members have voted and the election results are as follows:

OFFICERS:

President - Stephen Burnside, re-elected.
 Vice-President - Richard Villa, re-elected.
 Secretary - Ginger Buck, elected after serving an appointed term.
 Treasurer - Preston Hill

DIRECTORS:

Robin Clark, elected again after a year's hiatus.
 Bob Basaraba
 Terry Currier, re-elected
 Sunny Lockie, re-elected

With so many Officers and Directors re-elected, our members must be pleased with the way our Club has been governed this past year. Much of the credit must go to our President, Stephen Burnside. Steve has proven to be a man of integrity, concerned less with the power of his position and more with how best to serve the interests of our members. He has worked diligently this past year to improve our Club in many ways. I'm confident he will continue to build on his accomplishments, and when he finally does leave office, you can be sure that OCIPUG will be a better Club because of his leadership.

To all the re-elected Officers and Directors, congratulations and continue the good work. To those just coming aboard, congratulations on joining a winning team. ■

OCIPUG SUPPORT GROUP

The members listed below have generously offered to serve as resources for other members in need of assistance with specific hardware or software problems. They are there for you, but please bear a few things in mind:

- 1) The times listed are when these volunteers are available to assist you. PLEASE respect their times by limiting your calls to the hours indicated.
- 2) Your questions should be specific and reasonably brief. Consult your manual, tech support, etc., FIRST, so as not to take up their time needlessly.
- 3) All of our volunteers have expertise in the areas shown, but *nobody knows everything*, so be understanding by not expecting them to know *everything*.
- 4) This service is free, and available to our members only. Our volunteers are not doing this for personal gain, but as a service to benefit their fellow PC users, thereby making OCIPUG a stronger organization.

AccPac Plus			
Donna Fulmizi	8 a.m.-8 p.m.	848-8491	
Lia Varner	8 a.m.-6 p.m.	(213) 987-0632	
Amf Professional			
Mark Burrell	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	777-2130	
Richard Sinor	6 p.m.-10 p.m.	970-1323	
Basic			
Herb Huey	6:30-10 p.m.	525-1608	
C & C++			
Wendy Sarrett	7-9:30 p.m. M-F Anytime Wkends	733-9906	
Clarion			
Mark Burrell	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	777-2130	
CorelDraw			
John Goodman	12 noon-12 midnight	895-3195	
Steve Burnside	11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.	722-0327	
dBase IV			
Preston Hill (Control Center)	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	892-1291	
dBase Programming			
Tom Toner	10 a.m.-8 p.m.	537-9175	
DOS			
Harv Haight	9 p.m.-11 p.m.	546-0820	
Herb Huey	6:30-10 p.m.	525-1608	
Lia Varner	8 a.m.-6 p.m.	(213) 987-0632	
Ann Fawcett (Beg.)	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	968-5000	
John Goodman	12 noon-12 midnight	895-3195	
David Black	3 p.m.-8 p.m. M-F 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Wkends	830-9203	
Excel			
Herb Huey	6:30-10 p.m.	525-1608	
Mark Burrell	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	777-2130	
Fortran			
Herb Huey	6:30-10 p.m.	525-1608	
Genealogy			
Stan Sabin	5-9 p.m. M-F	968-7307	
Preston Hill	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	892-1291	

Hardware			
John Goodman	12 noon-12 midnight	895-3195	
Harv Haight	9 p.m.-11 p.m.	546-0820	
Mike Wierman	6 p.m.-9:30 p.m. M-F Anytime Wkends	894-4040	
David Black	3-8 p.m. M-F 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Wkends	830-9203	
HP 95 LX Palm Top			
Don Lafferty	5-9 p.m.	549-4886	
Lans			
Mike Wierman	6 p.m.-9:30 p.m. M-F Anytime Wkends	894-4040	
Lotus 1-2-3			
Ann Fawcett (Beg.)	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	968-5000	
Lia Varner	8 a.m.-6 p.m.	(213) 987-0632	
Herb Huey	6:30-10 p.m.	525-1608	
PCTools			
Preston Hill (PCShell)	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	892-1291	
PAF			
Preston Hill	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	892-1291	
Stan Sabin	5-9 p.m. M-F	968-7307	
PerForm			
Richard Sinor	6 p.m.-10 p.m.	970-1323	
Q&A			
Mark Burrell	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	777-2130	
Terry Currier	8 a.m.-9:30 a.m. 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.	774-2018	
Quattro Pro			
Preston Hill	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	892-1291	
Mark Burrell	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	777-2130	
Quicken			
Preston Hill	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	892-1291	
Ventura Publisher			
John Goodman	12 noon-12 midnight	895-3195	
Mark Burrell	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	777-2130	
Windows			
David Black	3 p.m.-8 p.m. M-F 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Wkends	830-9203	
Mike Wierman	6-9:30 p.m. M-F Anytime Wkends	894-4040	
Mark Burrell	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	777-2130	
Steve Burnside	11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.	722-0327	
Darren Major	8 a.m.-2 p.m. M-F Anytime Wkends	646-6904	
Word			
John Goodman	12 noon-12 midnight	895-3195	
WordPerfect Products			
Susan Novak	5-8 p.m. M-F	(310) 594-4144	
WordPerfect			
Ann Fawcett (Beg.)	8 a.m.-9 p.m.	968-5000	
Mark Burrell	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	777-2130	
Preston Hill	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	892-1291	
Mike Wierman	6-9:30 p.m. M-F Anytime Wkends	894-4040	
Linda Leydekkers	10 a.m.-4 p.m. M-F	963-8444	
Susan Novak	5-8 p.m. M-F	(310) 594-4144	
XTree			
Richard Sinor	6 p.m.-10 p.m.	970-1323	
Disk & Memory Management			
Harv Haight	9 p.m.-11 p.m.	546-0820	
Mike Wierman	6-9:30 p.m. M-F Anytime Wkends	894-4040	

(Editor's note: If you would like to be listed here as a volunteer to help with any PC-related subject please give me a call at 644-1017 or leave a message on the BBS. We need volunteers in many more software and hardware areas. The success of this program depends on your help. Jean Stevens)

Don't Thank Me

Gordon Eubanks

In my frequent visits to user group meetings around the country, I am consistently embarrassed by the gracious thanks I receive. It should be the other way around. One of the bright spots in our industry—and one of the reasons that our industry is as successful—is user groups.

That was then...

Today when we see the growing number of user group programs around the country, conferences complete with technical sessions and product exhibits, newsletters full of educational information, and professionally produced product demonstrations that reach Comdex-like proportions, we may forget how and why all this got started.

My involvement in user groups began in 1975 when Gary Kildall of Digital Research fame brought together a handful of people in Monterey, California, to talk about computer technology. It was a very technical group, who met to share their knowledge and to brainstorm about creating new products. We debated the relative merits of MITS Altair 8800 computer, various dialects of BASIC, and the newest pocket calculators on the market. We also discussed whether it was possible to write a good computer game in two kilobytes of memory instead of four.

Like the Monterey group, meetings of very technical people occurred in various areas of the country around the electronics industry. They were often simply spontaneous gatherings held in the back room of the local electronics store, a company conference room, and yes, even a garage here and there. These groups became product development forums for many industry entrepreneurs—the Homebrew Computer Club, for example, and many others.

This is now...

User groups have evolved over time from those small, informal gatherings on select technical subjects to an extensive network of groups around the world—from the New York PC Users Group to the International Computer Club in Moscow. Groups' interests range from the company/product-specific, the Symantec Q&A user group for example, to the general, The Boston Computer Society with a worldwide membership of 30,000 computer users. Any every combination in-between. Corporations whose profitability depends on the productivity of its computer users set up internal user groups for training and education.

Membership has diversified from the original base of technology en-

GORDON EUBANKS is president and chief executive officer of Symantec Corporation. He began his microcomputer career in the late 1970s as the developer of CBASIC—one of the first successful languages for personal computers and CB80, a compiled version of CBASIC. As vice president of Digital Research's commercial systems division, Gordon was responsible for development and marketing of all system software products. Gordon left DR in 1983 to found Symantec. Under his leadership, Symantec has become the premier microcomputer utility company and the publisher of award-winning software application products for both the Macintosh and PC.

thusiasts to include a growing number of people looking for solutions to specific business-oriented problems. Often the owners of the PC knowledge in their organizations, these power users or PC coordinators, pass new product information on to larger groups of people in their organizations who can use them.

Once the actual source of entrepreneurship, today user groups are a tremendously effective communication channel between vendors and users. They are a major source of educational information and a wonderfully cost-effective marketing forum.

Many groups operate as full-service organizations with regular newsletters, meetings, and events. Communication spans a variety of media, including print and electronic publishing, electronic mail and bulletin boards, and shareware.

Group activities today also encompass industry issues. Once criticized by some in the early days as the source of software piracy, user groups today are some of the strongest supporters of anti-piracy policies and education efforts.

As a source of candid discussion, there is no substitute for meeting your users face-to-face at a group meeting to get a fresh sense of how they view different products and

where their interests lie.

Rarely do I address a user group meeting that I do not have my eyes opened about some issue. Certainly, I am always asked about how to use computer memory more efficiently. The fact that the question continues to come up even through we have solutions for it helps me to focus our product development efforts accordingly. This feedback is valuable in making course corrections on product development, customer support, and so on.

Many vendors still overlook user groups as a valuable source of influential buyers and as a cost-effective marketing forum. User group publications are an excellent medium in which to communicate to users about new products. Even better, compare the cost of putting demo copies of a new product, a stack of brochures, and a subscription to the company newsletter into the hands

of a select group of interested users with other less-direct promotional efforts. Invite user group officers to company events to encourage understanding of what's going on at a company.

Taken a step further, user groups are an excellent target audience for beta testing software. They are very objective about what they look at, which makes for good solid feedback.

More to come...

While user groups have evolved from a product development focus to a communication and education emphasis over time, they will continue to be a catalyst for innovation in our industry. No one company has a monopoly on bright people and good ideas. User groups are a democratic, leveling force that encourages a competitive market.

They offer small and large com-

panies equal access to a most valuable audience. User groups are a key part of our industry. They are also big business, requiring major planning and budgeting in many cases. We vendors recognize that it is no mean feat to operate a successful user group. It takes committed leadership and active user participation.

The success of the PC software industry depends in large part on user groups as a means of moving us all productively forward. So, the next time I come to meet with you, please don't thank me. Rather, thank you. ■

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BATCH FILE BASICS

Michael Springer

Fasten your seatbelt. We're going to take a fast, but detailed, look at ERRORLEVEL handling. Last time we used the DOS command BACKUP to put a value in the errorlevel variable. This time we will use a small COM utility program to retrieve a keystroke and place its ASCII value in the errorlevel variable.

First, a review of the ERRORLEVEL rule — if the value of the errorlevel variable is greater than or equal to the number specified, the command on the line is executed. This can be inverted with the use of NOT.

Second, a review of the command syntax:

if errorlevel number batch-command
if NOT errorlevel number batch-command

Third, let's construct a summary table for the rule:
let ELV stand for the value of the errorlevel variable

---IF errorlevel number command---

ELV > number -- do command
ELV = number -- do command
ELV < number -- skip to next line

---IF NOT errorlevel number command---

ELV > number -- skip to next line
ELV = number -- skip to next line
ELV < number -- do command

Now let's walk through ERRVL.BAT below using several values of ELV; 255, 254, 99, 98 and 97.

GETYES.COM (discussed later) sets the value of ELV. From there on, the IF lines process the ELV.

When ELV is 255, if errorlevel 255 is satisfied and control goes to :YPRESS. When ELV is 254, if errorlevel 255 fails, but if errorlevel 100 is satisfied, so control goes to :ERRMSG (this applies for all values of ELV from 254 to 100 inclusive).

When ELV is 99, if errorlevel 99 is satisfied, so the message "c pressed" is echoed to the screen. The ELV of 99 will also satisfy all if errorlevel statements with a number of 98 or less, so something must be done to prevent "b pressed" and "a pressed" messages. if NOT errorlevel 99 is not satisfied when ELV is 99, so no "b pressed" message will occur now. The same condition keeps "a pressed" from occurring.

When ELV is 98, if NOT errorlevel 99 and if errorlevel 98 are satisfied, so "b pressed" is echoed to the screen. if NOT errorlevel 98 is not satisfied when ELV is 98, so no "a pressed" message will occur now.

When ELV is 97, if NOT errorlevel 98 and if errorlevel 97 are satisfied, so "a pressed" is echoed to the screen. if errorlevel 97 is also satisfied, so control goes to :MAIN (no more processing in needed for the keystroke and another keystroke is requested).

The reader should work out the explanations for ELV values of 96, 67, 66, 65 and 64.

```
::errlvl.bat  Errorlevel demo
::last revised 10/28/91
@echo off
cls
echo  Errorlevel demo
echo  Y, y, A, a, B, b, C and c are
echo      specifically tested
echo  All other keypresses produce
echo      "invalid keypress" message
echo.
:MAIN
echo  Press a key
getyes
if errorlevel 255 goto :YPRESS
if errorlevel 100 goto :ERRMSG
if errorlevel 99 echo c pressed
if not errorlevel 99 if errorlevel 98
echo b pressed (all one line)
if not errorlevel 98 if errorlevel 97
echo a pressed (all one line)
if errorlevel 97 goto :MAIN
if errorlevel 68 goto :ERRMSG
if errorlevel 67 echo C pressed
if not errorlevel 67 if errorlevel 66
echo B pressed (all one line)
if not errorlevel 66 if errorlevel 65
echo A pressed (all one line)
if errorlevel 65 goto :MAIN
:ERRMSG
echo invalid keypress
goto :MAIN
:YPRESS
echo Y or y pressed
goto :MAIN
```

The ELV values of 99, 98, and 97 are produced by GETYES when c, b, and a (lower case) are pressed. 67, 66, and 65 are produced when C, B, and A (upper case) are pressed.

An utility program called GETKEY.COM has been available from PC Magazine's Utility Disks for many years. A slightly modified version called GETYES.COM treats the "Y" and "y" keypresses specially by assigning them an ELV of 255. This makes asking a question and getting a confirming answer an easy task in a batch file. GETYES.COM and ERRVL.BAT can be downloaded from the BBS as BFB17.ZIP.

You can undo your seatbelt now. Perhaps placing this issue of README.DOC under your pillow will, by osmosis, increase your understanding of errorlevel and its use. Errorlevel testing can really "smarten up" your batch files.



SIG REPORTS

DOS

Audrey Wolden

About sixteen of us were present on October 5th to hear a presentation by the two new DOS SIG leaders, Chris Lloyd and Bob Peringer. They also announced a plan to have volunteers discuss at least two DOS commands per session in future meetings. Next month Kevin Moser will present the various COPY commands, including DISKCOMP, and Mike Springer will discuss XTREE Gold 2.5.

Van Wolverton's book *Running MS-DOS*, 5th edition, was recommended for beginning users. Our speakers for the day made a very thorough presentation, including handouts, on the MODE and PRINT commands. The distinction between external and internal commands was noted for those of us who are novices. PRINT, MODE, BACKUP, and RESTORE are some of the DOS external commands—i.e., they are programs that come with DOS as separate files. (Normally you will store them in a directory named C:\DOS and have that directory on your DOS PATH so you can run those programs from any directory.)

John Goodman commented that you can load PRINT into memory. That will allow you to print in the background while you are using any application program. The reason this can be done is that PRINT is a TSR program, in fact one of the very first such programs. There are various parameters to the PRINT command which were described in detail in the meeting; you can look them up in your DOS manual.

Another interesting suggestion was the use of the F3 key to repeat your last DOS command. This can be used to print more than one copy of a file quite easily.

The MODE command, included with DOS starting with an early version, was the first TSR program (though it need not remain resident in memory in all its different modes of operation). This command now has many functions. Only its video display options were discussed in this meeting, such as changing the number of characters per line from 80 to 40, or switching from a monochrome to a color display.

Other subjects discussed as part of our "random access" were parallel and serial ports, upgrading to STACKER version 2, the difference between 386DX and 386SX computers, ANSI.SYS, and detection and prevention of viruses using SCAN and CLEAN.

John Goodman discussed the latest version of QEMM from Quarterdeck Office Systems (version 6) and the problems he ran into using its OPTIMIZE

program on his 386SX. He did a masterful job of presenting the subject at this meeting. He described QEMM's new "Stealth strategy," which allows it to load programs in places in memory normally occupied by ROMs. There are some limitations to this approach, as it is not compatible with everything you may wish to run. In particular you must get an upgrade to the SuperPC-Kwik disk cache program (or any similar one) or it will be unable to use its most powerful version of disk caching. Also QEMM's Stealth strategy is totally incompatible with GEOWORKS. John discussed the use of programs such as those in the PC-Kwik family which can load themselves high. He recommended allowing them to do that instead of letting QEMM do it, despite explicit instructions to the contrary given by Quarterdeck's technical support department.

John is working on a book which will explain all about PC memory and memory management. Many of those present said they were eager to get copies when it comes out. ■

Q&A

Terry Currier

In December we will continue the process of setting up a new database, showing how to make changes to it, and how to retrieve needed information easily. ■

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SIG REPORTS

WORDPERFECT

Jeff Sinn

The October meeting of the WordPerfect SIG opened to a full house with SIG leader Susan Novak giving a brief look at the Beta II version of WordPerfect for Windows. Kieth Lue, an OCIPUG member and the local WordPerfect Corporation representative, attended the SIG and reported that the product will be released on November 11th, and is scheduled for presentation at an upcoming General Meeting. Susan will also be reviewing the Windows version in detail in future WP SIGs. The Random Access session covered a wide variety of topics including: printing in 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" book format by using labels in landscape mode, and printing on odd and even pages; drawing boxes around existing text (try retrieving the text into a figure box or a table); changing the default thickness and shading of the lines used in figures and tables (Format, Other, Border Options); and the use of relative and absolute tab settings. The main topic for the evening was the use of WordPerfect's Sort function which can be used to sort and/or select lines, paragraphs, secondary merge files or rows of a table. The most common use would be to sort lines which end with a soft or hard return to define records, and tabs to indicate fields. Sort can use up to nine keys and can even sort on words within the fields. Tip: Don't use WP's default .5" tabs - clear, then set tabs only at the proper location. Bring your questions and share your tips at the next SIG, which now meets on the second WEDNESDAY of the month. See you there!

■

PROGRAMMING

Wendy Sarrett

At the October meeting we discussed Object Oriented Programming (OOPs). We saw several tapes produced by Borland that discuss both Object Oriented Programming and C++. Since these tapes covered a lot of material, we will have follow-up discussion at the November meeting. Hope all those interested in programming will be there. All levels are welcome. ■

*...Continued from Page 5
Comdex Report*

OVERHEARD

While shopping at the new Computer City Superstore in Garden Grove, I listened to a salesman responding to a customer's question concerning an HP LaserJet IIIP printer.

The question concerned internal fonts. The salesman stated, "You won't have to worry about not having enough fonts, this model has 35 resident fonts built-in, just like PostScript," which is what the novice customer wanted to hear. (The HPIIP is not Postscript compatible except with an additional Postscript cartridge and memory upgrade, approximate added cost \$600.)

The second incident, with another sales rep, concerned a new user looking for the Memory Manager from Quarterdeck, QEMM 386 Ver 6.0. They were out of stock, but they had QRAM from the same company that would work well on their 386SX computer, "since it was just like a 286." (QRAM is specifically for a 286.)

Well, it was time to run for the door before someone told me that this super duper CGA monitor here could run at 1024x768 resolution with 64,000 simultaneous colors and give you picture in a picture of your favorite TV show, while working on your computer. Geeeeee!

Thank goodness for user groups. Now if we could only get just 10% of those people to join OCIPUG!

■

*...Continued from Page 1
General Meeting Report*

reasonable limits, pages can be removed and replaced. Robin demonstrated use of the personal label printer and "1st Impression" binder, but more importantly she answered member questions of long standing about how and why labels act up.

The meeting closed with a raffle of many products, making Robin Clark and Terry Currier work hard. OCIPUG thanks all who donated raffle prizes. ■

Publisher's Note: The raffle software program contained incorrect information regarding prize winners. OCIPUG congratulates those who won prizes last month and thanks those vendors and individuals who donated prizes.

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OCTOBER 28, 1991

As Submitted by Ginger Buck, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Stephen Burnside, President	Terry Currier
Richard Villa, Vice President	Sunny Lockie
Ginger Buck, Secretary	Bob Ottke
George Mefferd, Treasurer	Jim Petit
Jim Bonacci	Stan Sabin

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

John Goodman, Past President	Ben LeGare
Harv Haight	

MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Paul Curtis, Past President	Steve Dela
Tom Stolp, Parliamentarian	Preston Hill

The regular meeting of the OCIPUG Board of Directors convened at 6:58 p.m. at the SIG Space with Stephen Burnside presiding.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1991

Stan Sabin moved to approve the Minutes with two corrections, Bob Ottke seconded and motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

George Mefferd said we have \$6,880 in a CD which renews on 12/11/91, \$3,923 in the bank, and we are \$2,004 ahead of budget. Stephen Burnside added an addendum to this report regarding the Tim Smith Fund by questioning if Orange Coast College applied for a \$500 check the previous year as no contribution was made this year. We could be \$500 behind. George Mefferd reported a conversation with Mrs. Smith regarding adding additional money and will follow up on her offer. Stan Sabin moved to accept receipt of the Treasurer's Report, Terry Currier seconded and motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee Chairman Terry Currier reported fees collected totaling \$2,637 for this month. He said 312 new members were signed up since December, 1990, we now have 949 in total membership, and 38 have not renewed yet. BBS Committee Chairman Bob Ottke and Jim Petit commented on the publicity and enthusiasm for Wildcat. Jim Petit said PC Board was the second recommendation from COMDEX. Both can also be used for networking. Stephen Burnside said the BBS and README.DOC are the most important tools to reach members and suggested that Jim Petit and Bob Ottke pursue Wildcat. Paul Curtis offered spare parts/systems for the BBS. Publications Committee

Chairwoman Sunny Lockie expressed concern about changing printers and will pursue checking quality of paper, work, etc. Stephen Burnside said the relationship between the Publisher and printer is one of trust and the Publisher should make the decision. Stan Sabin motioned we proceed with the same printer unless our Publisher decides we should change, Richard Villa seconded and motion passed.

APCUG-COMDEX REPORT

Stephen Burnside explained that vendors sponsor meetings/meals daily (Monday-Friday) for officers and others chosen by the President to attend. Vendors discuss their benefits, directions and goals of their companies. He reported the following: 1) Peter Norton of Symantec thinks PC hard/software has failed because it is too business oriented and technical for the average user, 2) Peter Kahn of Borland stressed the importance of notebooks and getting more computers in schools, 3) and Gordon Eubanks of Symantec suggested that OCIPUG distribute our own publication as a service to the community, and as a fundraising project we can market our User Group to the public; make videos and use them as public access TV or rent out to other User Groups; at our General Meetings, have a head-to-head competition with other companies regarding products; and give feedback to vendors regarding their speakers and presentations.

RATIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Tom Stolp announced that the President, Vice President and Secretary were all returning officers and Preston Hill will be our new Treasurer. We have four new Directors: Sunny Lockie, Terry Currier, Bob Basaraba and Robin Clark. Stan Sabin moved ratification, Bob Ottke seconded and motion passed. Terry Currier motioned to retire the Nominating Committee, Bob Ottke seconded and motion passed. Stephen Burnside thanked all for a job "well done." He said the Board also thanks those members for their service who were not re-elected and those who ran but were not elected. Stan Sabin suggested writing a letter and Stephen Burnside agreed.

FUTURE DIRECTION OF OCIPUG

Stephen Burnside said areas of improvement are: increasing advertising revenues, and the BBS is not where it should be as a source of interaction with members. New members are afraid to ask questions and encourage

ment must be given to use the BBS. Bob Ottke remarked that many members do not have modems and Stan Sabin said people are afraid to put modems in their computers. Discussion ensued regarding the General Meeting having a "Communications Day" where we would install an internal/external modem, PRO-COMM software, load it up, call, connect and show members how to use it. We could also have an "Aldus Day" and demonstrate PageMaker, DeskTop Publishing, etc.

Stephen Burnside also announced that the Library was non-existent now as John Lunsford is unable to continue handling it. We need to do more publicity to bring in people uninvolved with or not interested in PCs but who see the future necessity for them.

PROPOSAL FROM MEMBER STEVE DELA

Steve Dela made an indepth presentation regarding improvement of OCIPUG by re-emphasizing group goals, re-establishing a Long Range Planning Committee and a Supplier Ambassador Program, reorganizing the General Meetings and BBS, re-activating the Shareware Library, and a few other ideas. There being a limited number of copies of Steve's ideas, Stephen Burnside asked Terry Currier to make copies and mail them to all Board Members present/not present and those taking office in December for consideration at our next meeting.

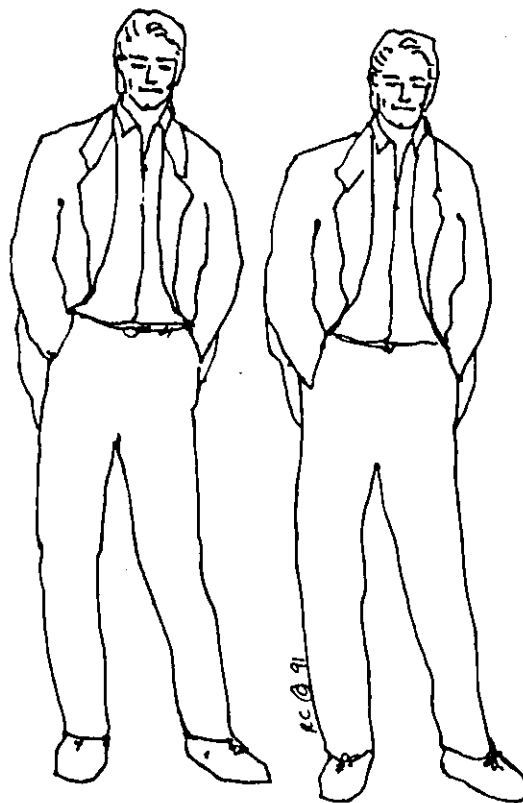
NEW BUSINESS

Stan Sabin discussed the blue and white OCIPUG pins voted on at the General Meeting October 26. The Board voted to use the 3/4 inch size. Discussion ensued regarding gold being cheaper, Stan's vendor waiving set-up charges, quantities to order, and splitting the order between gold and blue and white. Sunny Lockie motioned we allocate up to \$800 for the purchase of blue enamel pins, Richard Villa seconded and motion passed. Jim Petit said the Jovian box dead-line for purchase/return is November 22. The total cost is \$847.50 minus Ben LeGare's trade-in box. It is cheaper than a tablet and would allow graphics presentations at SIGS. Discussion ensued regarding the product not being perfected, the vendor is not local, upgrades, and is it affordable. Bob Ottke motioned authorization for Jim Petit to purchase the Jovian box for a sum not to exceed a maximum of \$875, Stan Sabin seconded and motion passed.

Ginger Buck motioned the meeting adjourn at 9:30 p.m., Terry Currier seconded and motion passed.

(Editor's note: The above minutes do not become official or certified until adopted by the Board at their next Board meeting.) ■

COMPUTIMES by Clark & Harkins



"Well, the manual said it could copy anything, so I decided to start with Kevin Costner."

*...Continued from Page 10
Herb's Hangout*

Well, I was surprised by this exercise. Good thing there wasn't any hardware or software I needed to buy right away or the total would have been even higher! Oh, by the way, before I forget, we need to consider one more item. How about the investment of all your personal time in trying to learn about all this computer stuff?

Well, how did you do? Did you buy a cash hog? All I need to do now is to figure out how to turn this cash hog into a cash cow. I've concluded that I'm badly in need of another source of income. I will gladly entertain all serious suggestions or offers! ■

As a courtesy to OCIPUG members, the memberships up for renewal are published in README.DOC every month.

**IS YOUR NAME LISTED BELOW?
DON'T FORGET TO RENEW!!**

**THESE MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE IN
NOVEMBER**

Rita Botwin	Tom Juengel
Robert Brinkmann	Pat Kennedy
Robert Brown	Donald Lafferty
Doug Campbell	Max Lockie
Jim Cole	Robert Marczy
Monica Coleman	Jonathan Means
Bill Crane	Mary Means
John Despot	Lita O'Connell
Alfred Dodds	James Samuelson
Dona Eley	George Shufelt
Dick Held	Jerry Smith
Richard Herman	Morton Weinberg
C. Ross Jennings	David Wright

**THESE MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE IN
DECEMBER**

Bruce Anderson	Steve Kilmer
Gordon Austin	Klein Lawrence
Fred Baldwin	Si Liff
Bob Biglou	Sanford Mallard-
Randy Boelsems	Kane
Joseph Brugman	Stanley Matsui
Edward Butler	Tim McPherson
Marge Butler	George Mefferd
Maria Cermenaro	Russell Merrifield
Steve Codd	Glenn Nakadate
Rex Combs	Paul Neil
Paul Curtis	Larry Pearce
Dick Dorus	Joe Reednick
Jim Fort	Dean Reinemann
Dick Gerber	Phil Ross
Danny Geter	Philip Saint-Erne
Lowell Goar	Steve Schiffman
William Goldwag	Roger Stumm
Authur Green	Tom Sutro
Bret Green	George Walker
Iva Green	Dale Warnke
Art Green Jr.	Al Weil
Harv Haight	David Weil
Hugo Johnson	Dorothy Weil
George Kashner	Michael Wierman
Roger Keilbach	

**OCTOBER 1991 FINANCIAL REPORT
George Mefferd, Treasurer**

	Unrestricted Funds	Tim Smith Fund
Cash Balance - September 30, 1991	\$10,801.92	\$3,938.41
Cash Receipts		
Interest	\$ 37.32	\$ 18.83
Membership Dues - New	657.00	
Membership Dues - Renewal	1,980.00	
Total Cash Receipts	\$ 2,674.32	\$ 18.83
Cash Disbursements		
Rental - General Meeting	\$ 180.00	
Rental - Sig Space	802.00	
Printing - Newsletter	1,556.86	
Printing - Other	135.28	
Postage - Newsletter	250.00	
Postage - Membership	118.79	
Telephone - BBS	97.83	
Miscellaneous	24.32	
Total Cash Disbursements	\$ 3,165.08	
Net Change in Cash Balance	\$- 490.76	\$ 18.83
Cash Balance - October 31, 1991	\$10,311.16	\$3,957.24

PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

Jean Stevens, Editor

The products listed below are available for review by Club members. If you would like to be a reviewer for any of these products, or want more information, please give me a call at 644-1017.

The ground rules are that the reviewers are required to write a minimum 300 word review for README.DOC within thirty days of receiving the product. Upon receipt of a satisfactory review, the product then becomes yours to keep, subject to the manufacturer's license agreement, restrictions and limitations. These are complete applications with documentation, not demo disks.

SOFTWARE:

LOTUS 123 v1.0 for Windows
IBM's HOLLYWOOD v1.0 (Presentation program)

BOOKS:

Ventura Publisher for Windows by Jesse Berst-Byron Canfield and Paul Henry, Microsoft Press 1991, 682 pp.
Spreadsheet Publishing with Quattro Pro by Christopher Van Buren, Ventana Press 1991, 315 pp.
Power Graphics Using Turbo Pascal 6 by Keith Weiskamp and Loren Heiny, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 1991, 381 pp. ■

1991 OCIPUG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President	Stephen Burnside	722-0327
Vice President	Richard Villa	841-6991
Secretary	Ginger Buck	534-7878
Treasurer	George Mefferd	673-4759
Past President	John Goodman	895-3195

DIRECTORS

Jim Bonacci	1992	650-2922
Terry Currier	1991	774-2018
Harv Haight	1991	546-0820
Ben LeGare	1992	472-0944
Sunny Lockie	1991	644-0103
Jim Petit	1991	841-3699
Robert Ottke	1992	759-1515
Stan Sabin	1992	968-7307

PEOPLE AND NUMBERS TO KNOW

Membership	Terry Currier	774-2018
SIG Chairman		
Program Chairman	Richard Sabin	965-6734
Bulletin Board	Robert Ottke	759-1515
Library Committee	John Lunsford	995-0947
Facilities Chairman		

OCIPUG BBS & MESSAGE LINE NUMBERS

Public Line (1200/2400/9600)	843-0388
Members only (1200/2400/9600)	843-9248
OCIPUG Info & Message line	843-2048

OCIPUG General Meeting Dates 1991

Our General Meetings are held on the last Saturday of each month except when there is a conflict with a major holiday (see asterisk).

November 23*

December 14*

Membership Form

Bring to General Meeting or mail to return address on the back cover

New Renewal Information Update Date: _____

Have you ever been a member of OCIPUG? _____ If so, what is your member number: _____

Individual Membership \$36.00 per year Family Membership \$45.00 per year

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Title: Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr. (Circle One)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Family Members: _____

Address: _____ Unit No. _____

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I consider myself to be: Beginner Intermediate Advanced

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