

QLUI

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The QUANTUM LEAP Newsletter of the Q.L. USERS INTERNATIONAL

Dedicated to Useful Applications Use of the QL

(ED NOTE:) DUE to the fact, that this article is not the stand type of article written about the QL computer. I do feel that this article written by Bill Woodward should be in this newsletter. I think that after you read it, you will also feel the same and that it should have been printed and also featured on the front page. It will be done in two issues. WF.



COMPUTER THERAPY

by BILL WOODWARD
LAKE BUTLER, FL.

IN the spring of 1980, I suffered two brainstem strokes. The legacy of this apoplexy was very little physical damage, but mostly mental, e.g., aphasia, apraxia, ataxia (impairment of speech, coordinated movements, and involuntary muscles), and loss of equilibrium. I spent thirteen days in the local VA Medical Center and six weeks convalescence at home which prepared me to return to my work as a teacher in the Florida State Prison.

IN October 1980, a fellow teacher purchased the world's first computer for under \$200 was the ZX-80 for me. My condition would not let me make the purchase myself. This was the start of putting my mind back together.

AS time and money dictated, I acquired the ZX-80 upgrade, a 64K ram pack, then followed the ZX-81, the Spectrum, the TS-2068 and other goodies ever seeking for THE COMPUTER. In January of 1983, the stress of the job finally disabled me with "Poststroke Syndrome" and I had to quit my work.

I was learning computing to communicate. Word and Math games were a must for me. Over the years they have "rewired" my brain. Word processing seemed a must too. I searched high and low for information, for programs, for anything that would aid in my recovery.

MY attention was taken up by a short math program in 'SYNC' magazine. I toyed with it, I dreamed about it, and played with this program through the ZX-81 up and finally on the TS-2068. I developed a program for the 'SUM' magazine, i.e., "SMILY FACE ARITHMETIC".

I purchased several Word Processors (?) as they were being developed for the ZX computers. Most left a lot to be desired, but Bob Fingerle's processor was the best up to that time. As a matter of necessity, in a term paper in December of 1982, I used LPRINT and the statement for each line to print a two page term paper for my college class. It was slow but it worked.

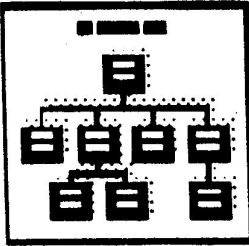
THEN Tasword II, with its' embedded printer commands, made its' debut, it became my mouth piece. When Sir Clive made the Quantum Leap, that was Ice Water to a thirsty man. Unless you have been deprived of use of some of your faculties you will never understand how exuberant I became with my new QL and with its' Psion software; out of the world.

WHEN I was elected Editor of the 'Stroke Club Bulletin', I said "You are all out of your trees." The first one page bulletin took me three months and looked like the first letter a grade school student wrote. I edited the Stroke Club Bulletin for four years, each one was an improvement over the previous one. I made a minor data file of the member's name, addresses, phone numbers, spouses, and birthdays.

WHEN it came to making address labels, it was easier for me to figure out how to print the three across label from QL Spread Sheet, than it was to figure out how to DUMP the works to the QL Data Base. So I print all our mailing labels by using the QL Spread Sheet.

I also needed a good Checkbook Balancer. To me the only near good one was the one for the ZX-81 after I had modified it. Don't get me wrong. I am not a programmer. All I know about computer is what I have learned from necessity since I had my strokes. My brain does not always give me the information I need for the job at hand. I have to keep the manuals handy so I can refresh my memory on how to or what does the present job require. I am not crying over spilt milk. I am proud of the fact that the Good Lord gave me enough gumption to get in there and scratch for knowledge to make these computers do as I say do.

2 AFTER eight years of digging I am still digging and thankful to have the energy to keep at it. I am glad that Bill Fischer has given the room in his QLUI (formerly QLusa) to let others know about what has happened to me. End of part I, continued in the next issue.



EASEL IN DEPTH

by EDWARD SNOW
ORLANDO, FL.

AS a long time fan of the products of Sir Clive Sinclair, it gave me a great pleasure to introduce a State-Of-The-Art Aerospace company to a State-Of-The-Art Sinclair QL. As we all know, it is not often that an American business will commit itself to any data processing equipment which, at very least, doesn't emulate the products of the I.B.M. Corporation. However, sometimes quality and economy can overcome the Big Blue mindset as we shall see.

THE story begins in November of 1987. The company for which I am currently on contract as a micro-computer systems specialist, developed a need for an assembly-line approach to quality control graph of their production (if there is one thing our government is good at it is report generation!). A manual system was tried, but even a good draftsman could only at his best produce about six graphs per day, at a cost of about 18 dollars each. The demand was for about fifteen graphs a day.

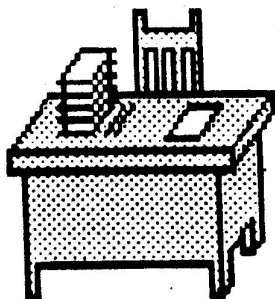
CURRENT PC packages, such as Lotus 123 and Harvard Graphics, were tried, but these were too limited in the amount of text which could be placed on a graph. Also, the price of the software alone exceeded the amount remaining in the department's equipment budget. What was needed was an inexpensive package that could be purchased now.

AT my insistence, the Quality Control Engineer allowed me to demonstrate the Business Graphics software on the QL. To say they were not enthusiastic would be an understatement. After all, the QL was not IBM compatible; it didn't even look like a "real" computer; and didn't even come with a disk drive, for gosh sakes!

NEEDLESS to say, the little black box changed their minds, but fast! A call to A+ Computer Response soon brought a QL, Monitor, and graphics printer to our door. Now a department clerk produces over six graphs per an hour at an average cost of \$1.30 each. The quality and intricacy of the graphs far exceed what was produced by hand, and the cost of the entire QL system was less than the cost of the Harvard Graphics software alone!

SINCE that time the QL is in constant use producing not only graphs, but also tracing rejected parts (a database application), and a second QL has been put to work in the word processing mode (via Quill).

IN the weeks to come I will be discussing various graphs that we are using; how they were set up; problems that had to be overcome; how they were overcome; and proposed future uses for the machine. In the meantime, feel free to address any questions to: Edward Snow, 2136 Churchill Downs, Orlando, Fl. 32825 or in care of the QLUI newsletter.



FROM EDITOR'S DESK

THE NEW FACES

by WILLIAM E. FISCHER

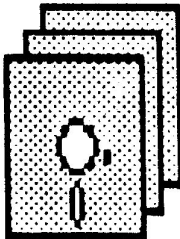
(ED NOTE:) WELCOME to the new face lift of the QLusa Newsletter. Due to the increasing number of inquiries from outside the United States. As Editor/Publisher, I felt that it was time and necessary to make a change in the QLusa Newsletter. When I first had the idea and during the development of the QL newsletter, I didn't see it as going worldwide. However since that time and the first two trial sample issues have gone to press. I have found that there are QL owners from Canada that also are very interested in additional material on the QL and wanting to correspond. So for the few Subscribers I have so far and hopefully many more new ones. I am real pride to present the new QLUI newsletter which stands for Q.L. USERS INTERNATIONAL. It will be replacing the QLusa newsletter.

THE rest of the newsletter generally will remain the same. This is not to say that there will not be more improvements as it becomes necessary. I hope that this will increase the subscribers from the United States and all over Canada and around the world. I am looking forward to hearing from all QL owners.

AN additional note, the QLUI newsletter is no longer affiliated with the North East Florida T/S Users Group. I now serve as both the Editor/Publisher and hold all of the right to both the QLusa and QLUI Newsletter. WF.

DEFINITION:

program / pro' gram /: a schedule of events; plan of action; a list items in an entertainment.



IF

by BILL WOODWARD
LAKE BUTLER, FL.

THE real beauty of the QLSS is the fact that you only have to fill one square at a time. It is very easy to see what you do as you modify the 'Program' and you can also see the results of each change as you make it. More on this later.

THE QL with Quill and Abacus became my work horse. All my correspondence is on the word processor and all my doodling is on the spread sheet. From what I have heard no other computer has all the ease of operation as the QL with Psion programs. Now here is another area in the use of QLSS (Abacus) which with the little word and the big meanings.

HAVE you ever wondered just what you would do if the command IF was suddenly obliterated from the computer languages. If IF was not available to the computer hobbyist, it would have had to be invented.

IN the Check Book Balancer I needed a way of differentiating between debiting a check amount and crediting a deposit amount. QLUG ABACUS page 44 IF (Expression,true,false). Remember, in its' native tongue, binary, the computer speaks only two ciphers, 1 & 0, true and false, or as a switch on and off. In cell B10 we placed the formula IF(B10,E9+D10,E9-D10). Translated into English this reads IF cells B10 contains a number add the amount in cell D10 to the total in cell E9 and put it in E10, or if cell B10 does not contain a number subtract the amount in cell D10 from the total in E9 and put it in E10. In ABACUS you can link together or concatenate many IF statements to make the computer choose among many alternatives, e.g., IF(B10,E9+D10, IF(C10,E9*D10, IF(A10,E9/D10,E9-D10))).

IN basic this expression, IF..THEN..ELSE, also gives us a way to program the computer into making a choice. The statement reads IF, the statement is true, THEN the computer will do this; IF the statement is false, it will do ELSE.

WE have one more IF statement, QLUG ARCHIVE page 44 IF n,exp :...[: else :...):endif. Without ELSE IF the expression is true the following statements are excuted. IF false excution transfers to the statement following endif. With ELSE IF true the statement between if and else are excuted. Otherwise the statements between else and endif are excuted.

THESE are a few of the ways this little insignificant (?) IF can be used. I have only started to scratch the surface and to show you that with a little ingenuity and perserverance you can work wonders with the PSION software.



MAKE COFFEE

by WILLIAM FISCHER
ORANGE PARK, FL.

NOTE first, there was a TYPE-O in the Boot program from my last article. In line 50, it should have read: 50 PRINT #0 \\ ' HIT ANY KEY TO SET TIME / DATE' \\ ' ESC TO ABORT'; AS = INKEY\$ (-1). Please make this change to your Boot Program if you are already using or planning on using it. I will deal with it a little more later in this article.

IN my first column, I explained about putting a visual clock into your PSION program. They were ARCHIVE and ABACUS programs and what it does for you. I now would like to spend a more of your time explaining how to get it to work.

FOR many of you, you have already entered the boot program in your computer and are using it with all speed. So I know that you may not need this section of my article. So please just bear with me and while I go over this section. Now for those of you who are not sure on just how to install the boot program into your PSION programs and how it should operate. I will adventure to explain these phases.

INSTALLATION:

1. Copy all sections of ARCHIVE or ABACUS to a new disk or a micro cartridges (which ever type you are using, mdv & flp.)
2. Delete the existing boot program from the new devise (mdv or flp).
3. Type in the new boot program and then save it to the new devise. Besure that the proper boot program goes with the proper program.
4. Now you will have to transfer the clock program from toolkit I to the new devise. Now your ARCHIVE or ABACUS should be ready for you use.

OPERATIONS:

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1. Press reset, then place the cartridge in mdv1_ or flp1_. Then press either F1 or F2 to start the boot program or use lrun mdv1_boot to start the program.
2. You will be now asked to set the time. HIT ANY KEY!

3. Now enter month, day, hour, and minutes. The seconds will be automatically started at 00 and the year is set from line 200 and you need only change it once a year.

4. Now is up and running and will provide you will the normal screen display except for now you will have your clock located in the lower right corner. It will remain there so long as the program is in use and not reset.

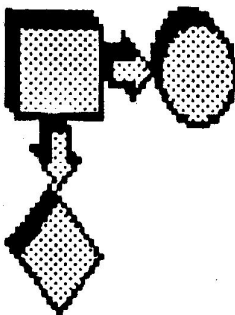
SO good luck and happy computing with these programs. This is not really the end of this boot program. I am going to go into use of a checksum generated program to ensure your entering of a program written in Basic or Superbasic from any program that is printed in this N/L.

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COMING IN SEPTEMBER

WELCOME to the first issue of QLUI and enjoying all of the articles. The following are some of the articles and items that are to appear in the next issue of the QLUI Newsletter. So I hope that all subscribers and readers will be looking forward to seeing them roll off the press about SEPT. 28, 1988.

COMPUTER THERAPY part II
LISTER'S PROGRAM w/checksum numbers
AMORTIZATION'S PROGRAM w/checksum numbers
MAKE COFFEE will deal with the use of Checksum Generated No.



LISTER

by TIMOTHY SWENSON
LAUGHLIN AFB, TX.

MANY times I have listed a program on the QL and had a line be printed on the perforation, so that if I wanted to pull the listing apart I would lose one entire line.

HAVING used a listing program with TurboPascal, I decided to write a short lister program for the QL. The program will read in any ASCII file. This means that you can list SuperBasic programs, Pascal programs, Quill print files (with no footers), etc.

ONCE the program starts running it will ask you for a file. It will handle any file with a proper drive name (MDV, FLP, or RAM). It will then ask you what typeface to use for printing. If you need to make copies of the program Bold Face will produce copy dark enough for most copiers. You can also get NLQ output for nice looking results.

YOU will then be asked if you want line numbers added in. This is for listings from languages that do not use line numbers, like Pascal. The program will then start printing.

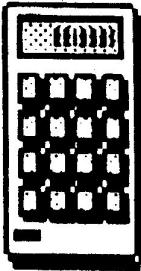
THE name of the file is printed at the top of each page. The page number is printed at the bottom of each page. On the last page the file name, file size, and total page numbers is printed out.

HOPE you can find the program useful.

THE program will follow in the next issue and will also have the checksum generated numbers for it.

A program you can use for picking LOTTERY NUMBERS.

```
10 PRINT RND ( 1 to 49 );" ";
20 GOTO 10
```



AMORTAZATION

by GEORGE WIGGINS

JACKSONSVILLE, FL.

THIS article will deal with a program that is a full featured amortization program. It will figure the monthly payments and optionally print or display an amortization schedule complete with the name of the person for whom it is for. The program is self prompting and should be fairly easy for just about anyone to use. It will calculate monthly payments and print or display a complete amortization table giving the interest rate, principal amount, starting date and either the duration of the loan or the monthly payments.

NOW for a little information concerning the program. The Name has a limit of 22 letters to it. The Principal can have commas or not, so 5000 or 5,000 is acceptable. The interest rate must have any fractional amounts represented as decimal, so 8 1/2 percent must be entered as 8.5. If you know the monthly payment, then enter it otherwise, the program will calculate it for you by entering "0". If you choose to have the program calculate the payments, then the program will ask you for the Number of years. If you want to enter months then press "0" otherwise enter the number of years. The program will then print a monthly payment figure. The program will ask you if you wish to recalculate the payment, if so then you will be prompted with every thing except the Name prompt.

IF you want to make an amortization, then press "F" at the recalculate monthly payment prompt. The program will ask for the starting date. Enter starting date in Month, Day, Year format, 7 <ENTER>, 25 <ENTER>, 1988 <ENTER> for July 25, 1988. The program prints year end totals, and the name at the bottom. It will then ask for another amortization. Answer Y or y for a new data. Answer N or n to stop.

This program is written in SuperBasic and will appear in the next issue of this newsletter along with the checksum generated table numbers for it.

A program is a problem that can not be solved with just one phone call.

Q.L. USERS INTERNATIONAL
APPLICATION FOR QLx NEWSLETTER

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

OCCUPATION _____

Types of Computers do you have? _____

Do you have a Modem? _____ Type and Model _____

Do you have a Printer? _____ Type and Model _____

How did you find out about the Newsletter? _____

Signature

QLx completes this section:

Paid dues by _____ Dues recorded by _____

Mail the above section with your check for \$15.00 for
your membership, to William E. Fischer at 419 Parkwood
Drive E., Orange Park, Fla. 32073

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