# Пews from the Rpple Barral 

May, 1979

PREZ SEZ

You may have noticed there was no newsletter last month. That was my fault. I was taking up the slack time between Bob Collin's leaving and Ed Seger's taking over as editor of the Apple Barrel.

During March we had several assembly lanugage classes taught by David Black. Those of you who attended these classes know how fine a job David did. If you couldn't attend or didn't know about these classes, hang loose, we'll repeat them this summer.

Our next meeting will be May 9. Larry Shurr will be leading the seminare. His subject will be PASCAL. It's very possible that he will have PASCAL on an Apple! However, don't count on it. Larry is currently working on the PASCAL compiler of one of Apple's upcoming rivals. He should have lots of good things to tell us.

Several people have asked me about changing our meeting schedule to allow for two meetings per month. I have been agaist this idea for two reasons:
1.) our membership size did not warrent a 2nd meeting
2.) I have not had enought time to devote to one meeting a month much less trying for 2

The second reason still holds, but the first reason is no longer valid. We have grown an average of 10 people a month since January. I expect this rate to continue through the summer. As an organization we can not afford to continue thinking in terms of a limited membership. Multiple meetings per month is an excellent idea. There are also other things that can be done to increase the information flow to our members.

One other way is by creating sub-groups (or special interest groups). These groups could arrange their own meetings and activities using the centeral group for whatever general support is neccessary.

To futher the special interest group idea, I will have at the next meeting a roster listing which includes the top three interest areas for each member. There are many mistakes in this list, so as you are reviewing the list please make any corrections to your entry that are neccessary. For those of you who will not be at the meeting I will either call you are send you a letter requesting updated addresses, phone numbers, interest inventory, etc.

Before Larry's seminare on PASCAL, we'll spend about 45 minutes discussing the multimeeting month and the special interest groups ideas.
see you at the meeting


Dewayne Van Hoozer

## * * * STEMS \& SEEDS * * *

** A number of new programs for the Apple II have appeared in recent months and are available through Houston area Apple dealers. "Bridge Challenger" is an assembly language program which offers numerous options for taking on the Apple at cards. Set up your deal from the bridge colum out of the Houston Post if you like!
** "Dr. Memory" is a word processor, available on disk, and would have been used to set up this issue of "News from the Apple Barrel" had a printer been available. Although the Apple you buy off the shelf does not display lower-case characters, "Dr. Memory" (and other available word processors as well) uses control characters to instruct a printer to print lower- or upper-case. The program searches for a word string, inserts into text, formats, justifies, changes lines, and in general does what you'd want from a basic text editor.
the "Disc Utility Package" gives access to your diskettes at the track and sector level and puts you on intimate terms with your files. It will reveal the starting address and length of binary files whose parameters may not have been saved in the file name, spies on hidden control characters, collects tokens and trades them for hexadecimal data, and even knows how to bring deleted files back from the dead! It also draws a map of disc space and leaves no question whether or not you have room left on any given disc to squeeze on one more file. And if you're desperate for space, it will strip the DOS right off your disc and leave breathing room for one more 9 K program.

What is a DATA BASE? It's a great big heap of data.
In order to give you a better answer I'm going to go back in time to the early computers and explain the evolution of data.

Data, some times called information, started out in the cave man days as socialised sounds. One kind of grunt meant "KEEP AWAY FROM MY WOMAN". Another kind of grunt meant "MUCHO BIG CAVE MAN EATING BEAST IS HEADING THIS WAY". Slowly the grunts became words. The words were formed into phrases. The phrases were forced into complete sentences. Soon after that came speeches. The first filibuster is usually credited to a politican debating the negative on a resolution to move from the path of an on coming flood.

Data processing on computers evolved in much the same way. There was first only one kind of data being acted upon. We started by summing a column of numbers. Then we moved on to using two kinds of data. Then three kinds, etc. Today automatic data processing involves many different kinds of data.

The relationship of one kind of data to another kind has not changed. We now have more data and hence more interrelationships. The ways of storing these relationships and accessing them has undergone a change for the better.

One of the early storage media was the punched card. It became common place to assign groups of columns on the card to represent certain kinds of data. It was much easier to let one card contain data that was related than to allow any kind of data to appear together. This collection of data under a specific relationship gave birth to such things as: TIME CARDS, PAYROLL CARDS, PROJECT CARDS, ORDER CARDS, INVENTORY CARDS, FRENCH POST CARDS, etc. A box of time cards was refered to as a time file. Groups of project cards became a project file, etc.

A time card usually contained such information as employee's name, date, and number of hours worked. A payroll card usually contained in addition to the employee's name his rate per hour, total number of hours worked this month and the total amount paid to him to date for tax purposes.

The use of an employee's name on the time card and the payroll card became unmanageble. Computer's back then couldn't tell that Mr. Jones, B. Jones, and Bob Jones, Jr. were the same person. So, a new card was developed which had an employee number, the employee's name, his address, city, state, zip code and other static information about the employee. The names on the time card and payroll card were replaced with the employee number.

In order for the computer to process the monthly payroll the time cards and the payroll cards had to be combined. Here's where the computer people started to get really uptown with their programs. For a given employee you had to add all his
daily time cards to get the total number of hours he worked this month. Next you would multiply this sum by his rate per hour to get the amount for his pay check. You also had to create a new payroll card for him to show the latest data. Not only did the time cards and the payroll cards have to be together but the time cards had to come first in front of the payroll card.

This sorting of cards based upon employee was done by hand until someone invented a machine to sort cards. There were all sorts (no pun intended) of problems which had to be resolved. What if there are time cards for an employee but no payroll card? What happens when an employee has two payroll cards? And so on... It would have been much easier if you could put the time card data on the same card as the payroll card, but there were only 80 columns on a card. Gee, wouldn't it be nice if you could have a card with 160 columns?

At some time in the past a Rice grad with a time machine peeked into the future. He saw all us computer hobbiest using tape recorders to store information. When he got back to his own time this Rice guy built a big tape drive machine which was hooked up to the computers in much the same way as the card reader machines had been.

In place of using cards with holes punched in them to store data, the programmers could now use magnetic regions on tape. They still had to keep there data together by relationships so they invented records. A record, like the card, is a collection of related data items. There was no excuse anymore to be limited to 80 columns of data. Of course on a tape record there are no such things as columns. They call them characters or some times bytes. I would have thought the programmers would have started using 160 character or larger records. For some reason the programmers continued to think of records as cards and hence were limiting themselves to 80 character records. Would you believe that even today there are still programmers out there who think in terms of 80 column records??!!

As time went on the size of records grew past the self restricted 80 characters limit. The concept of files was harder to leave behind. There still exist with the tape drives time files, payroll files, project files, order files, inventory files, etc. To process the monthly payroll still required the sorting of the time file and the payroll file together. Now with tapes computers could do the sorting themselves, so the monthly processing went faster.

When disk drives were invented the concept of files was still firmly installed in most programmers.

When we went from cards to tape the amount of data that was stored was increased. Same thing happened when we went from tape to disk. The increase in data was mainly due to the greater capacity of the storage media. We could store more so why not pile more data into the big gray beast. All computers were gray back then.

This mountain of data which was shoved in was spread out over hundreds of files. With so many files hanging around it was very hard to get anything done. Every file contained a data item which was also contained in another file. Duplicate data abounded. No programmer was ever sure which piece of data was the latest, most up to date version. There just has to be a better way!!

At coffee break one afternoon not too many years ago several aggie computer programmers were discussing data relationships, French post cards, and what sad shape the world was in. It occured to one of the programmers that if they could some how dump all the computer files out onto the floor into one large heap of data that they could write their programs easier. For a program to produce a report all it had to do was to go over to the data heap and extract by its root anchor point the data items needed for the report and throw them out to the printer.

That's how data base theory was invented.
Next month, unless I'm caught, I'll send the editor the next installment of this data base series. In the series we will get deep into data structures and how these structures are used in the three basic kinds of data base management systems.

BOMBS FOREVER!!

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#### Abstract

** For any of you who have been intrigued by the "Superchip" advertised in BYTE, Ed Sesger and Jack Turner have each sprung for one, and we hope to review the chip next issue. If you haven't seen alphanumeric characters on your hi-res screen, and can't see $\$ 100$ for the firmware, take heart! Apple itself (herself?) will shortly release Software Bank vols. 3, 4 and 5, and there is in there a good hi-res character generator for Integer Basic. Also out is the "Screen Machine" program, which accomplishes the same. Ed is working on creating the whole Hebrew alphabet and has DeWayne's assurance it really can be made to print out from right to left on the screen.


** Also in the newest Software Bank is the hi-res kaleidoscope that was rumning during the last users group meeting. Beautiful on a 6-color Apple. Requires the Programmer's Aid 非1. Maybe on a giant Advent screen?!
** Look for a new version of the DOS, which will be accompanied by a manual of some 200 pages! Apple has decided to tell all concerning its Disc Operating System at last! An interesting feature of this release, which can, by the way, be incorporated onto your existing discs, is a Renumber-inApplesoft. Even takes into consideration every GOTO and GOSUB address. Has 16 video pages of instructions, too, A thorough job and worth getting.

## 43 OR NOT 43

For those of you who understand number systems, the title of this article is in decimal. However, Shakespeare always wrote his famous quotes in hexidecimal(a little know fact.). Seriously, his famous quote brings me to the point of this article which is to review where we've been and where we are going.

Since the introduction of the Apple II we have all heard of the fantastic growth of the apple Company. We have seen the advent of new gimmicks, gadgets and accessories. Software for the Apple has multiplied to a staggering volume and the level of sophistication has gone from low-res shoot 'em up games to compilers and data base packages. This rapid growth has been somewhat similar to what IBM has experienced in the last 10 years. However, we have done ours in one year.

Parallelling the growth of the apple II, we have seen a growth in our club membership. Every meeting brings new faces to our club as more and more people find enjoyment in home computers. Although this growth has been good for the club in many ways, it has presented us with new problems and challenges. No longer can we assume that the full membership has an intimate knowledge of computers in general or that they have programmed other computers before. This wide disparity in knowledge makes it extremely difficult to conduct a general meeting which appeals to everyone. At the last two meetings I asked for suggestions which might improve the club and make it function better for all of us. I was disappointed in the number of responses I received. However, the quality was excellent. One suggestion could be the answer to a couple of problems. David Novak suggested that we hold two meetings each month; one during the week and one on a weekend. This would give us more time to concentrate on software exchange, answering personal questions and holding talks geared to the beginning apple user. This suggestion will be talked about more in our meetings so think about what times and days would be best for you.

I don't know how many of you have ever written articles for a newsletter, but let me say that the worst thing that can happen is for there to be no news to publishl!! When it comes to the point where no one submits articles and the few of us who are responsible for this publication must sit down with the instruction to "write two pages about anything", then there is no reason to waste money publishing. We are now seeing these symptoms appear. What I am saying is that we need more input from you. Give us an article or some information you came across which you want to share with your club. I'll make it even easier, just give us a topic you would like us to write about. What about this? If we had a "Ask Doctor Apple" column to answer your questions, would you give us questions? Please think about it.
A lot of people have come to our meetings one or two times and then never show up again. This indicates to me that we could be doing more. We will try to do more but we must have your help. So, do what you can for the club and take
an active interest in it. With your help, by this time next year the Apple experience could be bigger than IBM.

-- Bruce Barber<br>Vice President



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DISK YOLUME 094
I 605 HELLO
I 604 TIR
I 005 ADD
I 905 DELETE
I 605 UFDATE
*I GES CRT

* 1605 MENH
*I 024 Exhmine
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*I G19 SPEECH TONERS
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: 1034 Engine
*E GQG INTEGER HI-RES
*G 693 FILE CABIMET

* 1037 KRLEIDNSCOPE
*I Ge6 OHHSER
*I 293 ORIVER'S TEST

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*A 841 RISK
:*E 014 RISK2
*I Ge COLOR \& SOUND 16394
*I 624 FHULS SONGNRITER
: FA G12 MATCH STICK GAME
*F G21 CRHPS DICE GAME

* F GUG FACTOR GAME
*A 925 STAT 20
* 622 SWARNS INSTRUCTIONS
* 947 Sharms
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Pascal programs
    Labels
    Constants
    Types
        Scalar types
            Enumeration types
                Pre-defined
                        Integer
                            Boolean
                User defined
                Ordinal values
                Real
        Structure types
            Array
            Set
            Record
            Pointer
    Variables
    Nested routine defintions
    Program code
        Statements
            Simple statements
                Simple expressions
                Expressions (adds boolean operators)
                Set expressions
                    The dreaded semicolon
                    The empty statement
                The assignment statement
Routine calls (procedures and functions)
                GOTO
            Structure statements
                BEGIN ... END (the compound statment)
                IF
                    WHILE
                REPEAT
                FOR
                CASE
                WITH
I/O
    Stream I/O
    Text
        Formatted and unformatted
        READ
        WRITE
    Binary
        File pointer
        GET
        PUT
    Storage
        The stack
        The heap
Why Pascal
    Block structure
    Language and thought
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This is the approximate outline of Larry Shurr's talk on PASCAL, scheduled for the users group meeting Wednesday, May 9th. Many
in the computer field believe that PASCAL will in time achieve eminence as a widely-used programming language. It is true that the Apple will be running PASCAL, and is in fact doing so in demonstrations.

Larry Shurr has been working on and in PASCAL for five years now, and has been in compiler development for Texas Instruments for a year.

He is eager to get more involved. with HAAUG as member and software consultant.- ImplementationThe $P$-machine
gSome disadvantagesSyntax restrictions : imposed by original 1 - pass compilationHardware and software requirements
Your favorite language costruct may not be there
The UCSD system
A Pascal operating system
Disk based 0. S. with its own file management
P - code interpreter
Pascal compiler
Basic compiler
Utilities
Demonstrated code quality
Most of the system is written in Pascal
Full subscription gets you a copy of the source

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$\therefore$ FIRST CLASS MAIL $*$ * $\%$

* *access to the $700+$ program software library, newsletters, and voting rights. Membership does not require ownership of an Apple, but just an interest in the system and in learning more about it. The club roster has reached 80 and continues to grow.

EDITOR'S This issue of "Apple Barrel" is long on prose and short on NOTE programs. Thanks to joe Bloxon for sharing his Appen-1 mod. And a pox (a hex?) on all you Apple Phreaques who have written something you're proud of but haven't said so. Every program in our software library was created by a programer who wasn't too bashful to let the rest of us in on the good work. So if you're POKE-ing on the keyboard these days, how about letting the club take a PECK at what you've accomplished? Someone out there needs what you have written, and you can use what others have created. Fair deal? Go to it?

