

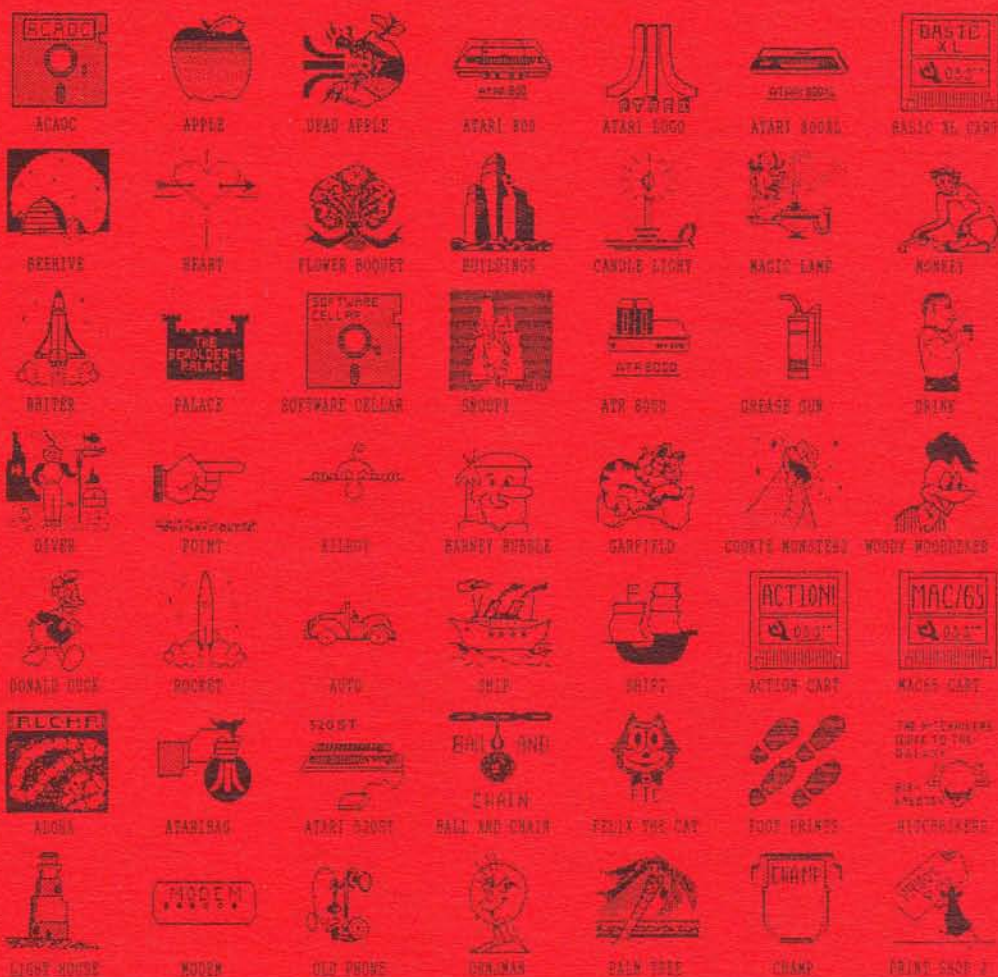
SLCC

JOURNAL

SAN LEANDRO COMPUTER CLUB

APRIL 1989

DISK 5 FRONT



Using PrintShop Icons
Big Bad Wolf
MortVille Mystery



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Membership provides access to the club print and magnetic libraries,
subscription to the Journal and participation in club activities.

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SLCC JOURNAL

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FULL PAGE FOR 3 ISSUES \$100
FULL PAGE \$50. QUARTER PAGE \$18
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The '89 WCCF

They did the West Coast Computer Faire in Brooks Hall this year. Or, rather, they did something like the Faire. I don't remember exactly seeing a lot of booths selling electronic easy-chairs at the old Faires. Maybe I just never noticed them. Maybe I was too busy looking at really neat computer stuff to notice before. Get my drift? Maybe I just missed Dondra from Spectrum Holobyte.... Whatever it was, I missed it. I got a couple of 3.5 inch drives for the 1200XLs for \$50 each. Ho-hum.

It's easy to be negative about the Faire, I suppose. Good Things never last. Everybody knows that. Looking back, the real problem is that the Nerds have stopped participating. Strange as it may seem, they were the heart of the Faire. Seems like there isn't much left now but the feet. Two left ones.

Keep your eyes and ears open. Those Nerds gotta be somewhere. That's where the action is going to be. It certainly isn't at the Faire anymore.

R.I.P.



8-Bit Oath

I was "talking" to an Atarian on CompuServe the other day and realized that 8-bit users generally follow three guidelines:

BUY YOUR OWN - If a piece of software is worth owning, it is worth paying for.

SHARE - What you create may be of interest to others. What you have learned may help them.

EIGHT IS PLENTY - Plenty of software is available, plenty of power to get the job done, and plenty of help if you need it.

I'll buy that.

REW

ELECTION TIME!

The April and May meetings both have time scheduled for nominations from the floor. The is how the Club gets it's Officers, we don't find them under cabbage leaves, OK? Consider what kind of leadership you want and be prepared to voice your preferences. The Officers get to have all the fun - don't be left out!

Don't miss this
month's raffle:

Road Raider (ST)
Micro league baseball
(800/800XL)

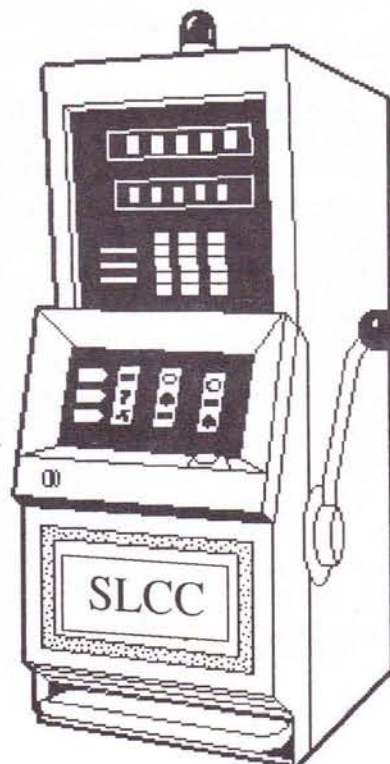
buy your tickets at the
main meeting

Thanks to Winner's
Circle
for the donations

Items for
Sale:

Heroes of the Lance (new \$40)
with hint disk (new \$20)
both for \$35.
call Ken 339-8055

Wanted: 300 baud modem,
call editors, Jennie or Frank
536-7431



Game Review

Abbreviated review from *Puget Sound Atari Newsletter*. The **Mystery of Mortville Manor** by Beverly Freeman. December 1988

...a new game out by Lankhor (a'la France), called Mortville Manor goes one step further by adding digitized sound to its characters!

The game is played by using drop down menus except for the use of a few function keys, you move from room to room, search the manor and talk to people, all using the point and click method and never having to type a word!

The most entertaining feature of Mortville Manor is talking to the characters. For instance, let us say you want to talk to Max the butler, (you know they are constantly under suspicion!) then you click on Max in the menu and instantly his face appears. The screen lists 30 topics you can discuss. Each person will answer differently to your inquiries from the list, but if you get too nosy and ask too many questions, they will inform you "You are too curious!" in no uncertain terms and end your conversation. ...They all have French accents and speak quickly. Luckily, Lankhor put in the function that

allows you to repeat the phrase. Sometimes you need to hear it four or more times to figure out what they are saying.

To help you know who to talk to in each scene, a scroll at the right of your screen informs you who is in the room with you. Also it tells you the mood of the scene and what time it is presently. I haven't yet discovered the amount of time you are allotted to complete the mystery but watch out when "you are alone" is on the screen. Also don't knock on too many doors with too many questions, something else will happen.

No Agatha Christie novel could be more engrossing or more fascinating than the mystery of Mortville Manor.

Just Say NO!

by Bob Woolley SLCC

There have been a number of words written recently about the decline of the 8-bit computer, not only at Atari, but in every manufacturers line. (You do realize, don't you, that the three pioneers, Apple, Atari and Commodore, still support 8-bit machines? Even Radio Shack has a 6809 system still for sale). In my opinion, the 8-bit ebb is a result of the mature population that that owns these computers, not a measure of the extra value inherent to a more powerful system. But, this article is not about why 8-bits are fading from center stage, nor what to do about it. What I want to discuss is the state of our response to that decline. Or something like that. More like I'm going to talk all around what I want to say, because the position that I am taking is maybe built on straw. And you know how well the Straw House stood up to the Big-Bad Wolf. And this Big-Bad Wolf is Larry Flynt Publications.

Let me fill in a little background here.

Back in the Boom Days, ANTIC and A.N.A.L.O.G. were both required reading for Atari folks. As much as any other factor, these magazines contributed heavily to our 8-bit's success. User Groups provided vital support to thousands of the faithful, but Moose Jaw, Wyoming could only count on ANTIC or A.N.A.L.O.G. Although many readers of both publications would express a preference for one or the other, there were really few serious weaknesses in either mag. We needed them and they both came through for us.

Happy Faces all around.

Then came The Slump.

Atari, along with all of the other

personal computer companies, was hit hard by the end of the public's facination with home computers. The Checkbook closed on the Second Computer Explosion. So did a lot companies. And magazines. Somehow, Atari managed to stay afloat along with A.N.A.L.O.G. and ANTIC and a lot of that how came from the ST computer line. As an ST resource (and advertising platform), our duo returned to robust health, with issues chock full of both Atari offerings. In the beginning, when the ST could not support it's own publication, the 8-bit line added enough income to produce a viable issue. This was good for both systems, since it allowed them more "coverage" than they could muster on their own. Of course, the ST grew into a self-sustaining product, while the 8-bit continued it's slide, and now we must face the fact that the 8-bits are a negative asset to an ST monthly. I wish that the ST could repay the favor and carry our 8-bits and I wish that the magazine publishers were not concerned with making a profit. But that is not the way it is.

ANTIC has become an 8-bit publication once again and I have no doubts that it will be required to stand on it's own two feet. Have you noticed how little advertising they are getting lately? These feet may be hurting. A.N.A.L.O.G. is also an 8-bit effort. They also have very little visible means of support. In fact, they missed a few issues while ownership changed a while back. This is not good. There just isn't enough money being spent by the Atari 8-bit users to sustain two national periodicals. Potential advertisers cannot justify the expense of placing ads in both Atari8 specific magazines unless they receive a reasonable return on their investments. And, the magazines

survive on their ads, which means somebody is going under.

Not a pleasant conclusion.

Which somebody? Who decides? ? ?

We do.

Are we going to make a decision to send our dollars to Larry Flynt?

There, I said it. In case you haven't heard, LFP has aquired A.N.A.L.O.G. magazine. This announcement is invariably met with snickers and comments on the next issue's centerfold, but it represents much more to Atari 8-bit users than the possibility of spicy graphics. It means that the shrinking amount of identifiable 8-bit sales will force advertisers to limit their budgets to only one or none of the current national magazines. When I mention the decreasing 8-bit market, I am not talking about people throwing away their 800s (there may be more 8-bit keystrokes today than ever before). What is shrinking is the amount of money being spent on 8-bit products. Imagine, if you can, the DeskJet printer from HP. After building up my specific 8-bit hardware inventory, what am I apt to do? Buy a fourth (or fifth) 800XL? A sixth disk drive? No? How about a DeskJet? Now, when I buy that printer, how does anyone know whether or not it should be counted as an 8-bit sale or a 16-bit sale? ***** Off the subject a little there..... Back to LFP.

When I heard that A.N.A.L.O.G. had been sold to LFP, I made a decision in my own mind that it would no longer have my support. Once my subscription ran out, I would not renew it because the fact that LFP would receive some small fraction of my payment is personally distasteful to me. Even though I feel very strongly about this, I

could not justify getting on a Soapbox and going on Crusade about this without sounding somewhat Puritanical. After all, Larry Flynt doesn't really hurt anyone with his trash. People should be free to express themselves without being branded as immoral and totally without any redeeming qualities....

Bull.

We are where the rubber meets the road, friends. ANTIC is going to lose it's battle for the remaining 8-bit forum to LFP, which is enough justification to get on a thousand soapboxes. Some 8-bit users may enjoy Larry's brand of slop and they can stop reading now. The rest of the group probably can take it or leave it. If I could just convince you that LFP is a slime, the 8-bit community would make the right decision (but if I were that good at persuasion, I'd sell real estate for a living - besides, there is always some small [vanishingly small] chance that LF is really a regular guy). We ARE making a decision, you know. A.N.A.L.O.G. is probably not being carried by the ST readership at this point. LFP is holding it up - waiting for ANTIC to crash and burn. I almost decided to do nothing about LFP beyond not renewing my subscription, but this is really a decision in his favor. ANTIC is dying. LFP will "win" if we do nothing.

I'm going to demand the remainder of my A.N.A.L.O.G. subscription be refunded to me. I'm going to send in a disk subscription to ANTIC for the next five years. I'm going to write to advertisers and ask that they support ANTIC. And, I'm going to ask all of you to do the same. Don't try to argue the virtues of a free press. Don't agonize over the morality of his source of income. LFP would like to be your Atari8 magazine publisher. While you still have a choice, stand up and be heard. Just say NO.

Oh, my Gawd.... There has to be maybe 75 diskettes piled all over my computer desk. Some even have labels on them..... One of them has the PrintShop conversion program I just spent two daze writing on it, even. Would the real PSFCNV please stand up? Wiggle a little?? Ahhhhh. On with the show!

Working With PrintShop

Last month, I managed to produce an adequate tool for incorporating PrintShop graphics into DTP text files. The major flaw in the system is that the data must be in DOS 2.0 format, not the oddball PrintShop configuration. For this, I suggested ShopTool from CompuServe. Only problem is that you must specify each filename to be converted. We're looking at hundreds of files here - how long will this take?? Then, I have to convert them all to my ASC format??? I should live so long!!

No problem. How about a program that converts all the programs on a PrintShop disk to the DOS 2.0 ASC format that I use in my DTP? Like that? I sure did. Converted all my PSF files in no time! Here's how it goes:

```
100 Rem PSFCNV.BXL 3/25/89
110 Dim A$(640),S$(128),T$(128)
120 Dim F$(15),D$(15)
130 S$="":S$(128)=S$:S$(2)=S$
140 T$=S$
150 Drive=2
160 Rem
170 Rem ** LOAD M/L **
180 For X=0 To 30
190 Read D
200 Poke 1536+X,D
210 Next X
220 Rem
230 Rem ** MAIN **
```

```
240 For Dsectr=362 To 393
250 Gosub 300
260 Next Dsectr
270 End
280 Rem
290 Rem ** PROC DIRS **
300 Dest=Adr(S$)
310 Sector=Dsectr
320 Gosub 750
330 For D=1 To 97 Step 32
340
Start=Asc(S$(D+16))+256*Asc(S$(D
+17))
350 If Start=0 Then End
360 Rem
370 Rem ** FIX DIRNAME **
380 F$=S$(D,D+7)
390 D$="D1:"
400 For C=1 To 8
410 V=Asc(F$(C,C))
420 If V<65 And V>57 Then 450
430 If V<48 Or V>90 Then 450
440 D$(Len(D$)+1)=F$(C,C)
450 Next C
460 D$(Len(D$)+1)=".PSF"
470 Print Start,D$
480 Rem
490 Rem ** LOAD PSF **
500 A$=""
510 Sector=Start
520 Dest=Adr(T$)
530 Gosub 750
540 A$(Len(A$)+1)=T$(1,126)
550 Rem
560 Rem ** NXT DSECT **
570 L=Asc(T$(127,127))
580 H=Asc(T$(128,128))
590 Sector=256*H+L
600 If Sector<>0 Then 520
610 Rem
620 Rem ** STOR FILE **
630 Gosub 830
640 Put #1,104:Put #1,11
650 For X=0 To 51
660 Y=(X*11)+1
670 Print #1;A$(Y,Y+10)
680 Print #1;A$(Y,Y+10)
690 Next X
```



```

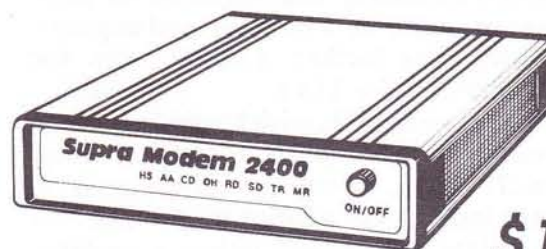
700 Close #1
710 Next D
720 Return
730 Rem
740 Rem ** DISK READ **
750 X = U$ (1536, Dest, Sector, Drive, 82)
760 Return
770 Rem
780 Rem ** OPEN D$ **
790 Trap 790
800 Close #1
810 Print "INSERT NEW OUTPUT
DISK"
820 Input R$
830 Trap 790
840 Open #1, 8, 0, D$
850 Trap 40000
860 Return
870 Rem
880 Rem ** M/L DATA **
890 Data 104, 104, 141, 5, 3, 104, 141, 4
900 Data 3, 104, 141, 11, 3, 104, 141, 10
910 Data 3, 104, 104, 141, 1, 3, 104, 104
920 Data 141, 2, 3, 32, 83, 228, 96
    
```

End of an Era

You look at the pile of Journals on the shelf and you think to yourself "How many have we done?". You sometimes get the feeling that it is one too many, but it is hard to let something go that means so much to you. The answer is: 25. And the conclusion is: it's time to go. I can't believe how hard it is to write this.... I never realized how often I kept putting off the inevitable. I knew that I couldn't afford to spend the time it takes to do a really good job on the Journal almost from the beginning. It's like one more ride on the Merry-Go-Round when it's time to go home. Had the best Horse in the house. Got a Gold Ring.... Time for a new rider.

REW

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Non-Minutes for March

Due to a bad cold I was unable to attend the March 7th meeting, so there will not be minutes written for that meeting. The reason they won't be written is not because of my absence, rather it seems I am the only one who owns a pen and no pen no minutes.

Seeing as I have been threatened by one of the editors I will just have to ramble on and fill my section of the Journal, minutes or no minutes.

As it is now late in the month there have been many other happenings that can stand a little writing such as the ST SIG, Beginners SIG and the West Coast Computer Faire (WCCF). First the ST SIG which featured Mike Jack who showed the E-Z RAM II memory expansion kit for the ST. This expansion kit is a simple plug in board that just needs chips to complete. Mike stated that chips were slowly coming down in price and were presently at \$18 each and expected to go down even further. (chips were for sale at the WCCF for \$14)

The Beginners SIG, which meets the last Wednesday of the month, is coming along very well with a steady attendance of members looking for a bit of help. The SIG is not a class as such but rather a problem solving session for those little things that drive all new computer owners nuts. The item that seems to cause the most problems is printer installation for word processing programs. The Beginners SIG is open to all members and not just new owners, if you are having problems give the SIG a try.

And now to the Faire. The WCCF has always been the biggest and best show in the country and when attending it took more than a day to walk around and see all the exhibits. In past years it almost filled Moscone Center in San Francisco, this year it had more than enough room at Brooks Hall also in the big city. It still is an interesting show that is fun to attend and fun to work the club booth at. One item that is worthy of

note for this year's show is the increased interest in 8 Bit software. The past two years there has been almost a total lack of interest in our 8 Bit disks. This year we were not swamped with customers but there was a definite increase in interested customers. Many thanks to all the members who worked the booth and also that stopped by and visited us during the show.

By the way the error in reporting that Mike Jack and the E-Z RAM II would be at the regular meeting instead of the ST SIG has been traced down and I finally have the full story. First when I talked to Bob Woolley he immediately assured me that not only had he not made the mistake; he had never made any mistakes. This of course narrowed the guilty one down to one of the assistant editors so I talked to Frank Klierer as soon as possible and of course he checked all his records and notes and after this exhausting search he assured me that the mistake was not his. Of course that narrowed the search for the guilty one down to the other assistant editor. Not wanting to listen to her denials of guilt I didn't bother to talk to her. I guess that's what we can expect for being kind and letting her work on the Journal Staff.

The only other item that should be mentioned here is our annual election of Officers which will take place at our June regular meeting. We will have nominations at both the April and May regular meetings. The offices up for election for a one year term starting with July 1st 1989 are, President, Vice President, Treasurer and Most important of all SECRETARY. The only requirement is that you must be and stay, a member in good standing during the election procedure.

Submitted partially in jest
Jim Moran - Secretary



(Those are fighting words, Jim. I think we will raffle you off this month... JK)

April 1989

SLCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 MAIN MEETING 8PM	5	6	7	8
9	10 ST Meeting 8PM San Leandro Public Library	11	12 Executive Board Meeting	13	14	15
16	17	18 Telecomm SIG 8PM	19 ST Software SIG 8PM	20	21 JOURNAL DEADLINE	22
23 30	24	25 Pascal SIG 7PM Business SIG 8PM	26 ST Beginners SIG 7:30PM	27	28	29

Now That It's Plugged In.....

The SLCC has two SIGs (Special Interest Groups) designed to introduce members to the operation of their Atari computers. System set-up, DOS, keyboard functions, and other introductory material is discussed. The ST group meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month, while the 8-bit sessions are scheduled on an as-required basis. Contact the appropriate SIG leader for information and directions.

Sig leaders and their phone numbers are located on page 3.