

# ADAM'S ALIVE

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY  
ADAM NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1987

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**NOTE:** This issue is a re-creation from a text file. The original issue was not available to PDF. The above graphic was not on the original issue. Page numbers in the index have also been changed to reflect the article's proper location in this re-creation. We suspect the issue is probably missing many graphics as the original was 18 pages in length.

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# ADAM'S ALIVE : DECEMBER 1987 ISSUE #1

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NOTE: If you have some information about the ADAM that you would like to pass on to other members, please write. We will welcome your contributions to ADAM'S ALIVE, any information such as: articles, programs, reviews, comments, hints, complaints, etc. With your help, we can help other ADAM owners to get full use from their computer.

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From the Editors Desk:

Winter is finally here, and Christmas is just around the corner. As I do every year, I probably will wait until the last minute to do my Christmas shopping. For those of you who plan on ordering ADAM software and hardware for Christmas presents, you will need to place your order early enough to allow for shipping time. We want to see that you get your order in time for Christmas morning.

With all the new products available for our orphaned computer, some customers may get a little confused with what products to purchase. In this issue, we will give you a list of what we consider VERY good buys, and the reasons why we like them. We will help you make some of those very important buying decisions by having several in-depth reviews of some very good new programs for the ADAM. We will give you some idea of their strengths and weaknesses.

This is your newsletter. Your advice on what you would like to see covered will be a tremendous help to us. To give you an idea of our planned format, we will gear this newsletter toward the average ADAM user. We understand that most of you are NOT programmers, and that some newsletters get a little technical. Considering this, please let us know what changes, if any, you would like to see.

We wish to than all of you for your support. It is dedicated ADAM users like you " that have kept the ADAM alive and well.

We wish to welcome the following new ADAM'S ALIVE members:

John Woodyard  
David Heron  
Hector Sanchez  
Peter Williams  
James Klauck  
Tony Rasmussen  
Parside Photo & Video  
Barry Wilson  
Lee Strickland  
Steven Jajor  
James Killingsworth  
Manual Apodaca  
Jay White  
Barbara Howell  
Sean Phillips  
Joan Ritchie  
Mark McDonald  
Harold Luedtke  
Charles Harbin  
Paul Guion  
Walt Berry

Carla Wilkins  
James Valley  
Richard Markus  
William Kirby  
Michael Smith  
Mike Jones  
James A. Rice, Jr.  
Ronald Pepin  
Rober Keller  
Rober Murphy  
Ray Cruthers  
Richard Fustino  
David Willits  
James Biggs  
Paul Pappas  
John Harris  
David Kennedy  
Christopher Matt  
Gary Hulbert

MORE NEW MEMBERS NEXT MONTH

ADAM NEWS:

This month we will have reviews of Uncle Ernie's Toolkit, BIG memory boards, MegaDisk, XRAMpack I, Alcazar, Rock'n Bolt.

With the wealth of high quality ADAM software now available,, the ADAM owner has much to choose from. Thanks to such high quality software developers as Strategic Software, Walters Software Co., Digital Express, and MMSG, ADAM software just gets better and better.

MMSG has recently reduced the price of all their software tiles. See our discount product list for a list of the new prices. MMSG has also recently informed us that they would consider upgrading their popular Backup+ 3.0 program, if there is a good response from you the ADAM owner. Some of the new additions they have planned are: The ability to copy multiple directory tapes/disks, double sided disk support the ability to print to either the standard ADAM printer or a dot matrix printer, and more. If they get enough response to warrant the required work to make these great changes, they will start to work as soon as possible. Let us know if you would consider purchasing this upgraded product.

The new upgraded Business Pack 1 and Softpack 1 are now available from us. We have recently discovered how to use random access files with SmartBASIC 2.0. This new understanding has allowed us to increase the file size for

ADAMNEWS CONTINUED.

each program. To give you an example: The Softcheck program (Softpack 1) maximum file size was 150 records, now up to 650 records can be put in one file. We have also included two programs for checking your tapes/disks for bad blocks (bad spots). For those of you who have purchased these two products, and would like the new upgrade, send us your original (as proof of purchase) with \$7.50 for each. Since the new versions WILL NOT work with your old files, send us a COPY of your files with \$3.00 for each tape/disk, and we will convert them for you. This offer applies to those of you who may have purchased our product from other vendors as well.

Strategic Software has just released a Desktop Publishing program for the ADAM. Complete details on this fantastic new product are elsewhere in this issue. We will have a complete review next month.

Walters Software Co. is working on a program that will work like the popular PrintShop available for most all other computer systems. Their new program will allow you to create banners, posters, letterheads, etc. You will be able to import hi-res pictures into your creations. (Unlike the popular SignShop from Strategic Software, this new program will require a dot matrix printer for printed output.

For those of you who would like a spelling checker with a VERY LARGE dictionary. Walters Software Co. is working on just that. We will keep you informed on their program.

Digital Express has informed us that they will be shipping their new title PowerPAINT by November 18th. We will have a complete review in the next issue.

With all the fantastic new software that is now available for the ADAM, expansion to some extent is an absolute must. "How much do I need to expand?"; you may ask. For starters, you will need two things: The first is either a 64K or a BIG memory expander, next is a parallel printer interface with a dot matrix printer. These very essential items are needed to take full advantage of the new advanced ADAM software that is available, and now being produced. For most applications, the 64K memory expansion card will suffice, but to use the new BIG RAM DISK programs (including XramPack 1) you need at least a 128K memory board. Four sizes of memory boards are now being manufactured by Orphanware. These are: 64K, 128K, 256K, and 512K. If enough ADAM owners request them, Orphanware will produce a 1 MEG memory expansion board.

#### EXPANDING YOUR ADAM

To use your ADAM with any business type application

programs, a dot matrix printer is highly recommended. Even though the ADAM printer produces letter quality output, the speed is simply too slow for most applications. If speed is not your concern, then the ADAM printer will suffice for your needs.

The next two items you may wish to purchase are: An ADAM Disk Drive, and an 80 column card. For much faster access time, a Disk Drive is a MUST. When using your ADAM for business applications, the tape drives can be a little slow. The other piece of hardware is an 80 column card. This card will allow the output of 80 columns or monochrome monitor. This will allow you to use CP/M to its full extent, thus running such programs as WordStar, DBASE III, SUPER CALC, etc. Your ADAM will then be a full fledged business machine.

Orphanware is working on a low priced 80 column card (\$100.00 approx.). This new model will not contain the RS232 interface, but will allow a full 80 column output via CP/M 2.2. One other piece of hardware you might consider, if you don't already own one, is a monitor. A good monitor will save your eyes from the glare of a TV screen, and an 80 Column Monitor Will Work great with an 80 column card. A 40 column Tv color monitor can be purchased for around \$135.00, and a good 80 column green screen are available for as low as \$80.00. If you need a good monitor, send us a self addressed stamped envelope and we'll forward you a good source.

For those of you that are really serious about your computer, Orphanware is working on a Hard Disk controller. This will allow you to use an IBM compatible Hard Disk Drive. I can't hardly wait for this one.

#### OFFICE COMPUTING

Many thousands of Americans are now working out of their home. With the increase of unemployment, the American dream is coming true in the home rather than in the workplace. What about your ADAM? Have you ever thought about using it in a home based business? If not, you might give it a little thought. With all the available software now available, a home business with the ADAM is a real possibility. Except for professional Desktop Publishing programs, like we used on this newsletter, there is a lot of very good software out there.

This month we will talk about your home computer office. What you need as far as hardware, etc.

Make no mistake, setting up a home office should be as serious a commitment as opening your door for business.

The environment in which you work must be conducive to building your business. You should have enough desk space



## OFFICE COMPUTING CONTINUED.

so there is enough room for your ADAM, Disk Drive(s), papers and other materials. Cramped work quarters lead to mess, and from mess to stress.

If you don't have a very large office area you can use, there are several things to give you more space. Basically you need to stack your equipment so to make better use of your space. One solution is a good computer table that has a monitor shelf.

Computer desks can run about \$150.00 to \$400.00 depending on materials used and supplier chosen.

Another thing to consider is seating. Is your chair soft and comfortable? Or is it a straight-backed kitchen special. Studies have shown that bad seating can cause back pain and even strain the muscles in your legs. Get the best chair you can, without hurting your starting business account.

Now that you have everything ready in your office, what about the required software? The following is a list of very good business choices:

**ADAM CALC:** This is a very good spreadsheet that you can use for checkbook balancing, bookkeeping, inventory, etc. One disadvantage to this package is that it requires a lot of study before creating your spreadsheet files.

**SMARTFILER:** This is a good data base program from COLECO. It can be use to keep track of your business clients, and print out mailing labels. One downside is in the printing routine. Smartfiler will only print about 10 addresses before you must press the return key again, this can be a real pain. All in all though, most users will like this program.

**CP/M 2.2:** This program will allow you to use literally thousands of business related programs on your ADAM, This given you a very large choice of good software to choose from. The disadvantage to this program is that to use it at it's fullest, you will need an 80 column card, and the other thing is that most of the commercial software (i.e. WordSTAR, DBASE II, etc.), is very costly (up to \$350.00 each).

**MicroWORKS:** This is business package that includes several program modules that all integrate together. Includes: MicroWRITE, MicroFILE, MicroCALC, and MicroGRAPH. Although not an powerful as SmartFILER and ADAM CALC, this package allows your to create your address data base) and then printout form letters, create a spreadsheet and printout a graph of the data. The disadvantage to these programs is the limited file size possible under each module.

NewsMAKER: Info on this new program is contained elsewhere in this issue.

MORE NEXT MONTH..

## LETTERS FROM MEMBERS:

This will be a monthly column for all members to send in their questions, suggestions, ideas, etc. We will try to print an many letters in each issue an possible.

If you have a question, idea, comment, etc., send them in. This is your chance to help other ADAM owners by giving them your suggestions, as well as having your questions answered.

"My wife and I purchased our ADAM two years ago as a Christmas present for our children. At the same time we also bought several of the games, and tapes with the idea of computer education for them. However, the source for more software quickly dried up, not to mention hardware. Since then I have been the primary user. I have made up several programs that I use regularly, but nothing that I would have to have a PC for, although the word processor has come in handy several times. All that was before I found Family Computing and all the ads in it for ADAM. I now feel that I can go as far as my checkbook will allow me. But now I come down to my real problem, I don't know much about computers. What are the advantages of disks over tape? Do I need SmartBASIC 2, SmartLOGO, CP/M 2.2? What is CP/M 2.2? Do I need more memory than the 80K I already have? My children have friends who can make invitations and banners on their computers. What type of printer interface do I need to do graphics on regular paper? Any information you can give me or recommend to me will be greatly appreciated...."

Mark McDonald  
Dresden, OH

## RESPONSE:

When COLECO dropped the ADAM, all the commercial 3rd party software developers stopped production on their titles for our orphan. Since that time, not much in educational software for the young child has been produced. However, high quality home/business software is now being produced at an astounding rate. Support for the ADAM has never been greater than it is today. This has happened because of the thousands of loyal ADAM owners that will just not let their system down.

If speed is important to you, then a Disk Drive in a MUST. With a Disk Drive, file access time is greatly reduced. If

## LETTERS FROM MEMBERS CONTINUED.

you are interested in learning how to use random access files in BASIC, then you should get SmartBASIC 2.0.

For the serious ADAM user, you need CP/M 2.2. The reasons for having this package in explained in the CP/M article in this issue.

You could use SmartLOGO to create some very impressive color screens, and then import your creations into the new program PowerPAINT (from Digital Express).

You can create banners, signs, etc., with the SignSHOP program from Strategic Software. This program uses your standard ADAM printer to create some very good printouts. You could also use the new NewsMAKER program for creating invitations, presentations, newsletters, etc. As with SignSHOP, NewsMAKER uses the standard ADAM printer. If you wish move advanced printouts (hi-resolution), then you will need a printer interface, dot matrix printer (like the Panasonic 1080i), a 64K memory expander, and the new PowerPAINT program.

Due to the cost of thermal paper on color printers, we suggest you use color ribbons with your dot matrix printer, if you wish color pictures.

## ALCAZAR/ROCK'N BOLT by Ed Jenkins

For some months now, it has been near impossible to find video games for the Adam. Since Coleco dropped the Adam, games have become very scarce, and new titles have been out of the question. Because many of you purchased your Adams for entertainment, this turn of events has not been very good news. But thanks to TeleGames U.S.A. this is no longer the case. Due to some very hard work and dedication, TeleGames U.S.A. has acquired the world wide distribution rights to ALL Activision products for the Coleco Adam. They will be distributing ALL the Activision titles, even some previously unreleased, on data pack and disk. Because of their dedication and hard work, new life is being given to our orphaned computer. This month we will review two previously unreleased Activision titles and a great new action game by FIRST STAR SOFTWARE called Bolder Dash.

## ALCAZAR:

This is, a great graphic/adventure game. You play the role of an explorer en route to the ancient castle, Alcazar. Along your way, you must gather implements to succeed in your journey. Your goal is to enter Alcazar, find your way to the throne room and sit on the fabled throne. The graphics in this game are very well done, and the sound is limited to the

creatures that pursue you, and related to your actions as the explorer. The first thing you will see is a large Strategy map. This map displays a countryside dotted with castles connected by paths. To enter a castle, you move the joystick to choose which castle you wish. Each castle has implements you will need to be successful in your journey. These are: guns, raw meat, a ring, oil, bleach, a raft, and water. Each object has a very important function in the game. The rope is needed to cross a broken bridge, you will need a raft in order to cross the lake, and a ring is required to use either of the two flying carpets. Creatures that will try and stop you are: tiger, griffin, amoeba, guard, genie, tarantula, and flies. Some creatures require only one defense, while others can be stopped by two different types of defenses. Combining strategy with arcade action, this is one of the best graphic/adventure games I have seen for any computer.

RATING - A+

## ROCK'N BOLT:

This is an exciting arcade-strategy game for the entire family. You are a construction worker who's job is to build a 100 story building from a puzzle of moving beams. You jump from girder to girder, bolting all of them down in the proper pattern, then return to the elevator and move on to the next floor. Some floors (up to three screens wide) contains blueprint of the required floor plan. On these screens, you must bolt the girders in the correct position in order to move on to the next level. On some levels the blueprint is blank, in this case bolt down the girders in any arrangement you would like. In any case be sure to get back to the elevator before your time runs out. As with any real job, you earn wages for your work. As you progress to higher levels, you receive a wage increase. Beat the clock and earn as much money as you can. As you progress in bolting down the girders, flashing gold bolts earn you bonus money if you land on them, and flashing green bolts earn you an extra man if land on them. If you have to undo a girder, you will lose precious wages so think carefully before you secure Any girders. Just what I need, another addictive game from Activision.

RATING - A

## BIG MEMORY BOARDS:

Orphanware has been a long supporter of the ADAM by manufacturing high quality memory boards, printer interfaces, and software. Now, Orphanware released three versions of BIG memory boards. These are 128K, 256K, 512K. At long last, we ADAM owners can have as much memory as the BIG BOYS.

In order to use these new boards, you must have the

## BIG MEMORY BOARDS CONTINUED.

orphanware printer interface, or you must also purchase an addresser (\$17.50). If you already have an Orphanware interface, you need to send it to us so we can attach the addresser wire from the memory board onto your interface. If you don't have an interface you can order a BIG memory board already attached to the required addresser board.

What advantage are these boards to you? You can use these boards as LARGE RAM DISKS under CP/M and SmartBASIC. Included with each board is the proper software to use them under CP/M. To use them under SmartBASIC, a ram disk program is required (such as RAMDSK-256 from Walters Software Co., or Megadisk from Digital Express.

When using these boards as a high speed ram disk, you won't believe how fast you can load from your expansion board. It just has to be seen to be believed. I wouldn't do without mine.

Our 256K board was very easy to install, and has been used without a glitch. If you want more memory, we highly recommend these boards from Orphanware.

## RATING - A+

## MegaDisk:

This new product from Digital Express will allow you to use the BIG memory boards as super fast ramdisks. The two main programs on this package are: shortdisk, and fulldisk. The 'fulldisk' program will give the largest possible ramdisk size that your memory board will allow. Thus, fulldisk can even be used for those of you who only have the 64K card. The 'shortdisk' program MUST be used with the larger memory boards (128K, 256k, and 512K). When using 'shortdisk' the upper 64K of your memory board. is reserved for program such as ADAM CALC. Thus you can use any program that uses the 64K card, and not loose any files/programs that you may have at stored on the lower and of your expansion memory. With this great function, you can store your SmartBASIC programs onto your ramdisk, and then you can even play a game like BUCK ROGERS, and then re-install your ramdisk without losing any programs on your expander.

Several other programs, all public domain, all also contained an this great package. These programs include:

QuickDISK: This is a public domain program that allows you to create a ramdisk capability while using only standard ram. The size can be from 3 to 20K. When using this program, you cannot use shortdisk, or fulldisk, but it will not alter any files you may have stored on your expansion ram card.

SB1.0fixes: This is a SmartBASIC program that will correct several bugs in SmartBASIC 1.0. These include: fix BSAVE to work correctly, fix the DATA/REM extra space bug, resets the POKE limit to 65535, etc, etc.

SQUEEZE: This program will free Your tapes/disks of 'deleted' files, thus giving you more room for storing your files and programs.

EZfileXFER: This is a simple file copy utility that allows you to copy your files/programs from one medium to another. It requires two drives (tape, disk, or ramdisk).

EZkeysII: This patch adds several functions to SmartBASIC.

As with all Digital Express software the instruction manual is very well done. Each program is explained fully so every ADAM owner, regardless of his/her experience, can start using these programs right away.

This is an excellent package that no ADAM owner should be without.

## RATING - A+

## EXRAMpack I:

For those of you who have one of the Orphanware expander boards (64K, 128K, 256K, 512K)and MegaDISK, or you were thinking about purchasing these, this new program from Digital Express just may help you make your decision. NOTE: This program requires MegaDISK from Digital Express and at least a 64K memory expander (a BIG expander is recommended).

As amazing as it sounds, this set of ramdisk utilities allows the use of a memory board as if it is a HARD DISK. What this means is that you can store several COLECO programs, such as ADAMCALC, SMARTBASIC 1.0, ADAM LINK (I OR II), as well as several of your own favorite SmartBASIC programs on the expander, and then switch to either one in just seconds. Sounds good? You bet it is.

Two programs called PACK and, UNPACK are used to put all your favorite programs/files onto the ramdisk for you. First, you use the EZfileXFER program and copy your files to the ramdisk. The program PACK will then pack all your ram based programs/files into one large file and save it to Disk or Tape for you. The next time you use the system, boot SmartBASIC, and then run the program called UNPACK.

UNPACK will separate all your programs/files from the packed file and very quickly save them to your ram disk for you.

EXRAMpack I Continued.

If you have put ADAM CALC, SmartBASIC, and ADAM LINK (I or II) to your ramdisk, you then insert the XRAMpack I package and pull the reset. You will then be given a menu to boot these COLECO programs (SmartWRITER is included) all in just 3 seconds. For those of you who use these four COLECO programs several times in a session., the XRAMpack I package can be a real time saver.

Not only can you do the above, but this package also contains a program called XRcopy, which is simply the fastest and best copy utility ever created for the ADAM.

While it will not copy your individual programs or files (that can be done with EZfileXFER contained on MegaDISK), XRcopy is simply amazing. It allows the use of all the available area above what you have used for your files. In other words, you can use this program after you have stored several files to your ramdisk, and your files are not disturbed.

If there is enough room in your ramdisk, XRcopy will read the entire contents of your medium into the buffer., and then make your copy in one pass.

What a time saver this is. It's great!

One feature of XRcopy., that we have found indispensable, is the repeat function. This multi-copy function will allow you to make multiple copies just by pressing the RETURN KEY. For users groups, ADAM retailers, or anyone who wishes to make several copies of a package, this will save you much needed time.

One other feature that we found indispensable is the block check function. This option allows you to check your Tapes/Disk for bad spots (or blocks).

When you have finished using XRcopy, you can then "GET" a directory of another Tape/Disk and then "RUN" another program. You can also rename or delete files with this same function.

Please remember that it is illegal to distribute copies of copyrighted software.

One last note on using this package. Even though Digital Express always supplies excellent instructions; some of us just go right ahead and try to use a software package before we have studied the documentation.

With XRAMpack I, I strongly suggest that you read the instructions thoroughly before proceeding. This will help prevent you from encountering any potential problems.

One sour note to this package is that it WILL NOT work with the RAMDSK program from Walters Software Company. This incompatibility problem can cause some software duplication.

With the above complaint aside, this is a fantastic package which we highly recommend.

RATING - A

UNCLE ERNIE'S TOOLKIT:

One of the most important utilities that all ADAM owners MUST have is some kind of backup program. If you have not already experienced the low of an important software package because of a bad block, sooner or later you will.

This first thing you should do after purchasing a new software program, is to make a backup copy, and then store your original in a safe place. Failure to do so, could cause you to buy that important software title twice, or you could lose hours of work you done on SmartWRITER, thus having to start all over again.

One of the better backup utility program packages available for the ADAM is Uncle Ernie's Toolkit. This series of programs will allow you to copy nearly all of your most important software such as SmartBASIC, ADAMCALC, SmartFILER, SmartLOGO, etc.

The main program on this package is the toolkit program, with it you can copy your software, scan your tapes/disks to determine what is stored on each block, find/restore lost/deleted files, modify your software, and check for bad blocks. The "Toolkit" does all this, and does it using very easy to use menus.

In doing all of the above procedures, the "Toolkit" uses a six block copy buffer. This small buffer size will require the user to swap media several times when copying with only one drive. Thus, when using one drive, the copy process can be rather slow.

If you need a faster copy program, Uncle Ernie's Toolkit provides a faster block-only copy program called Quickback. This copy program uses a 20K copy buffer for much faster copies. Unlike the "Toolkit", you will need to know the correct blocks you need to copy in order to use this program correctly, or you can just copy all the blocks on the medium.

Supplied with the package is a 30 page instruction manual that fully explains how to use all the programs. The author spent a lot of time on the the documentation so you will be able to understand how to use all the features contained on this package.



UNCLE ERNIE'S CONTINUED.

Two features that are lacking on this package is the ability to copy individual files, and the other thing that this program WILL NOT do is copy some of the Super Games such as Donkey Kong Jr.

For many of you, the first thing to consider in a software program is it's usefulness VS price. This is one feature this package has over some others. At only \$10.95, this is a real bargain.

All in all, this is a good software utility package.

RATING - B

BEGINNING SmartBASIC

Beginning with this issue, we will be studying how to program in SmartBASIC. For many of you, this series should help you to understand the fundamentals to Basic programming. We will start with the very basics, and work up in our study with each succeeding issue.

Before we start, "boot" (or load) SmartBASIC. To do this, insert your SmartBASIC data pack and pull A computer reset. When a black screen appears., and you see a blinking cursor, we are ready to begin.

Using the Adam's keyboard., type the following and press <RETURN> after each line:

]NEW

]100 PRINT " HERE IS AN EXAMPLE"

] 110 PRINT "OF A PROGRAM IN"

] 120 PRINT "SMARTBASIC."

There is our first SmartBASIC program. Remember to press <RETURN> after each line. Each time you entered a line, and pressed the return key, ADAM responded with a right square bracket. The right square bracket (]) is ADAM's signal to us that the computer is ready for our next instruction. Unlike some other computers, ADAM will tell you. when you make a mistake in entering an instruction. When this occurs, you can either enter the line again, or move the cursor with the arrow keys) under the entire line, making the changes where needed, and then pressing return. This procedure will save you much needed time when you need to edit a program line.

The first thing we did with our program was to prepare ADAM for a new program. New erases any SmartBASIC program in the ADAM's memory. Naturally, you should never type NEW unless you really mean it.

The old program is NOT recoverable. So, use the command NEW with great caution.

Our program consists of three statements. Each statement is labeled with a line number. The ADAM will accept line numbers up to 65535.

After the second ], we typed:

100 PRINT "HERE IS AN EXAMPLE"

and pressed the RETURN key. The ADAM responded by showing a blank line and then another right bracket. We then typed the next two lines in the same manner. Each of these three statements is an example of the PRINT statement, When a program is RUN, each PRINT statement

### **VOLUME I NUMBER 1**

#### **Copyright 1987 Strategic Software**

Today, a United States software company unveiled a bold new program for the ADAM Family Computer. Strategic Software, the largest and most innovative developer of Coleco ADAM software products, released NewsMAKER.

NewsMAKER, the first true desktop publishing program for this system contains many powerful features. As powerful as it is, NewsMAKER is incredibly easy to use. There are no commands to remember, everything is displayed in simple English right at your fingertips.

NewsMaker is not the first product to bear the Strategic Software name. Their other quality products include the very popular SignSHOP, ProofREADER, MultiWRITE, MicroWORKS, PaintMASTER, and TurboLOAD.

As stated, NewsMAKER contains many powerful features. It allows you to design very complex documents containing precisely placed text and picture elements. These elements are referred to as blocks. These block's may be positioned anywhere on an 8/12 x 11 page. They may be resized and justified as well. If desired, NewsMAKER will automatically flow your text from block to block. A feature usually found in desktop publishing systems costing hundreds of dollars more. Actually, at \$26.95, NewsMAKER, may be the lowest priced software of its kind on the market today.

NewsMAKER's picture capability is quite extensive as well. Picture blocks are treated the same way text blocks are. They may be resized and repositioned at any time. A powerful picture editor is included with NewsMAKER which lets you create your own pictures and headlines (in two different type styles) or it can convert any SignSHOP picture file for use with NewsMAKER. Strategic Software has provided several graphic and newsletter samples to get you started.

BEGINNING SmartBASIC Continued.

is an instruction to the computer that something is to be printed out to the screen of the TV monitor and/or on the paper of a printer.

↓ RUN HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF A PROGRAM IN SMARTBASIC.

Next, we typed RUN and pressed the RETURN key. In this case, as with the NEW instruction, we did not give a line number to the instruction. The presence of a line number label means that the current line is to be stored for later use by ADAM. The absence of a line number label means that ADAM will immediately process whatever is on the line as an instruction. The RUN instruction may also be followed by a line number that names a line in the program where the run should begin. For example, to get our little program to display "SMARTBASIC", simply enter RUN 120 (and press return).

As with all other computers, the ADAM is really not very smart. A computer can only follow the instructions given it. Thus the old saying, "Garbage in, garbage out". This means that a computer can only respond to the information it has been given.

Note the difference between the letter "oh" and the digit zero. The ADAM uses an oval with a slash through it for the digit zero and an open oval for the letter "oh". You might type "oh", zeros, and eights so that you can study them on your monitor. You will find the zero key between the "9" and "-" in the top row of keys, while the "oh" is in the second row from the top between the "I" and "P" keys.

We call the process of carrying out the instructions of program statements execution

Thus, when we type RUN, we are telling the computer to "execute" the program.

To look at our entire program in memory, we must use the command LIST.

↓ LIST

```
100 PRINT "HERE IS AN EXAMPLE"
```

```
110 PRINT "OF A PROGRAM IN"
```

```
120 PRINT "SMARTBASIC"
```

The instructions NEW, RUN, and LIST are commonly called commands because they are used to command the computer to manipulate the program as an entity rather than perform a program instruction.

What happens when we make typing errors? That depends upon the error. If we type LOST instead of LIST, SmartBASIC will display the following message:

```
? SYNTAX ERROR
```

No harm has been done; merely correct the request and proceed. If we type:

```
100 PRINT a
```

instead of:

```
100 PRINT a
```

ADAM will display an error message such as:

```
SYNTAX ERROR IN 100
```

The line 100 will thus not be accepted. We will have to retype the correct command line.

We can look at a single statement by using the LIST command.

```
LIST 110
```

will display only line 110 of our program, if it exists. LIST 100-200 will display all of the lines in our program from 100 to 200, inclusive. Now retype the line and re-execute the program. If we type

```
100 PRINT b
```

instead of

```
100 PRINT a
```

we have a different kind of error. which the computer will never find for us. The value of b will be displayed where we expected to see the value of a. It is very important to evaluate our results for correctness.

## SUMMARY

A computer language is a defined set of instructions that have specific meaning to the computer. In SmartBASIC, each instruction of a program must begin with a line number. The PRINT statement is used to display a message on the computer screen.

The NEW command prepares BASIC for a new program. LIST displays your program on the screen. LIST 100 displays the line 100, while LIST 100-200 lists all the lines from 100 to 200.

MORE NEXT MONTH....

EXPLORING CP/M - by James Greer

This is the first in a series of continuing articles dedicated to the CP/M operating system. The purpose of this column will be to acquaint you with CP/M in a painless manner as possible.

The first question I asked was, Why CP/M?". Well, as I found out, many application programs are available in CP/M. This gives the ADAM owner access to thousands of high quality programs and utilities. Some examples are, WordStar., SuperCalc, Multiplan, Money Maestro, DBase III and many others. Some of the above programs are sometimes a little hard to find with all the emphasis on MSDOS or PCDOS machines. However., for the good scrounger, many "goodies" are available if you know where to look. Some hints on scrounging will be given in this column from time to time.

The CP/M manual furnished by Coleco is a pretty good starting point for the beginner. Most applications on CP/M are not self booting like most SmartBASIC programs, but this small disadvantage can be overcome with a little patience. A neat public domain utility called AutoBoot can be used to produce quick booting disks/datapacks with a selected application, whether the application is a game or something serious.

CP/M gives the ADAM quite a few features that is not available in SmartBASIC such as the ability to have very large random access files. In fact, with DBase III a total professional accounting system is within your reach.

Well, enough of the chatter. Let's get on to more serious matters. For those of you Basic fans, we also have a pleasant surprise. Nevada Basic or MicroSoft Basic can be quite powerful under CP/M. Nevada Basic can be found for under \$40.00. I am not certain about MicroSoft Basic. I did find a copy for another system (on 8 inch Disk) and then transferred it to the ADAM.

The first thing really necessary in terms of equipment for the ADAM is at least one Disk Drive, two Disk Drives if You possibly can. If you are using just Tape Drives, things are going to be a little slow. ADAM Disk Drives are available from ADAM'S ALIVE for \$225.00 each.

These are NEW Drives which have been fully tested. Two other pieces of hardware are an 80 column card (which usually contains an RS232 interface for an external modem), and a parallel printer interface. Of course, all these hardware items are optional, they are not needed to use CP/M with your ADAM. For those of you with tight budgets, you can simply just use the standard Tape Drive system. As a matter of fact, my copy of CP/M came on a Data Pack. I used it on tape for several months until I purchased a Disk Drive.

You can copy your CP/M to Disk by using a good copy program such as Media-Aid, or Backup 3.0.

A very recent development of the large expansion ram boards (128K, 256K, and 512K) can give your little ADAM the speed of a supercharged IBM. In some cases, even faster than an IBM. Yes, you read it right. The ADAM can be faster than the IBM in running some C'P/M programs.

To boot (or load) CP/M follow the instructions given, in your owners manual. Use the directory command to look at the files included on your CP/M Tape/Disk. Some files are executable (can be run), while some others are not.

Some of the files you will see are PIP.COM, STAT.COM, and others. To execute a COM file, simply type in the eight character name to the left of the period (before COM) and press the RETURN key. After a few moments, the program will load and execute. Remember to ALWAYS make a backup copy of any new Disk/Tape before executing any program on the medium.

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH.....

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