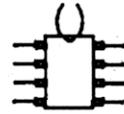


# South Bay Users Group

Contents Copyright SBUG 1986



## DYNAMIC MEMORIES

DECEMBER

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ALASKA SPEAKS!!

ELECTIONS

**SUPPORT YOUR FRIENDS! DEFEAT YOUR ENEMIES!**

REPORTS ON: RETRIEVE, WORD PERFECT, NICE PRINT





## SBUG STEERING COMMITTEE

TITLE	NAME	USERNAME	PHONE
Chairman:	Chris Oman	OMAN	(408) 985-9460
Treasurer:	Henry Schulze	HENRY	(408) 866-5731
Editor:	Joel Lee	EDITOR	(408) 926-3999
Librarian:	Bernie Thompson	BERNIE	(408) 867-7455
Sysop:	Jim Gonsalves	MANGR	(408) 241-9347
Technik:	Frank Vanslager		(408) 257-3647

OTHER KEY INDIVIDUALS Cover designer: Wright Huntley

Host computer: SBUG ALL (408) 249-8259

If the need arises feel free to give anyone of us a call.

=====

#### THE EDITOR'S BYTES AND BITES

Recently I saw an advertisement in COMPUTER SHOPPER by DYNA COMPUTER INC. the people who made my present computer, for "a new SX motherboard, you can protect your XT computer investment. This is because the SX386 transforms your XT into a high performance 386 system that is compatible with current and future software."

A call to the company got me the price. \$1,700.00. Not much if you say it in a hurry. So I got on the 'phone to my father confessor, Bernie Thompson. Bernie was a little bemused, perhaps even a little frightened at the thought of me playing in all my innocence with the pure power of a '386. He kindly asked if I really needed such power.

The answer of course is no. Let us start from the beginning. A typewriter and a calculator are not enough to run this office. The model III was a big help and the Model 4 was just about at the measure of necessity given the excellent software that came out for both these models.

Currently I have an XT (Xavier Tarragon to his friends) I can say that the hard disk and the truly wonderful Word Perfect certainly contribute to my happiness. Then why a 386? The only practical reason I can give is the two megabytes of memory. If you want to run memory resident programs as I am just beginning to do, then 640K doesn't get you far. But most of all I just want it. Imagine me the first boy on the block with a '386!!!

SBUG Financial Statement  
November 24, 1987

Receipts:	November	Y-T-Date	% Used	Budget
Members dues	80.00	530.00	53.00%	1000.00
Disk Library	2.00	54.00	36.00%	150.00
Load80	28.00	409.00	136.33%	300.00
Documentation	0.00	.00	.00%	24.00
Interest	2.58	18.30	183.00%	10.00
Miscellaneous	70.00	319.80	159.90%	200.00
Total Receipts	182.58	1331.10	79.04%	1684.00
Disbursements:				
Phone	9.04	87.07	85.36%	102.00
Utilities	0.00	90.00	50.00%	180.00
Printing	0.00	231.69	42.91%	540.00
Postage	0.00	88.00	61.11%	144.00
P O Box	0.00	29.00	111.54%	26.00
Bank charges	0.00	38.00	158.33%	24.00
Disk Library	0.00	.00	.00%	120.00
Documentation	0.00	10.00	20.00%	50.00
Load80 Subscription	0.00	149.95	74.98%	200.00
SBUG BBS Repairs	0.00	.00	.00%	100.00
Misc. Expenses	0.00	150.12	120.10%	125.00
Total Disbursements	9.04	873.83	54.24%	1611.00
Beginning Cash Balance	598.04	314.31	100.00%	314.31
Net Receipts	173.54	457.27	626.40%	73.00
Ending Balance	771.58	771.58	199.22%	387.31

XMAS 1987

Subjects of the moment

Snow by G.

Franklin McKee



NO FOOLIN, IT IS SNOWIN, here in the BIG NORTH SKY. I guess that  
 'Times-a-wastin', Really don't know why. I cannot see the need, so soon, to turn  
 white, sky and ground. The flakes, as big as dimes, I guess, fall making nar' a  
 sound! Went out into the teeth of storm, got wet and shook, a bit. The shopping  
 went quite quickly, once we got the hang of it.

To Price Club for adjustment, to Elmendorf for food, We made the stops as  
 planned, by gar, not bad, for this here dude. The day glows dull, the sky the  
 same, it's typical, I guess. It does a number on each one, a bummer, I confess.

Of course the neighbor kids are thrilled, they're poised with ski and sled,  
 Put roadblock (or your foot down,firm) and view their ire, instead.

I had a day of yard chores planned, to pacify the wife. Though somehow, for  
 the life of me, would cut thru like a knife. It doesn't seem so urgent now, to  
 start that mower up. Snow blowers seem a real good buy, like second coffee  
 cup! Am I confused, is sky more bright, the snow's still coming down. From  
 somewhere there's a brighter side, could be it's just this town!

True, Anchorage is great, made with the best of stuff. The Airport is our last  
 resort, should all become enough! We're building one fine theater, for which  
 we need a name. Electorate found, without a doubt, proposed one was too  
 tame. Perhaps it's more appropriate, to term it the 'Last Stage. Better yet,  
 perhaps I'm wet, lets call it 'Golden Cage.

The attributes of this great state, in size and people too, are numerous and  
 imponderable, a bit complex, it's true. They're tough and tender realists, and  
 durable of course. Artificial, hardly, contending well with force.

## SANTA'S LATEST VESSEL

by G. Franklin Mc Kee

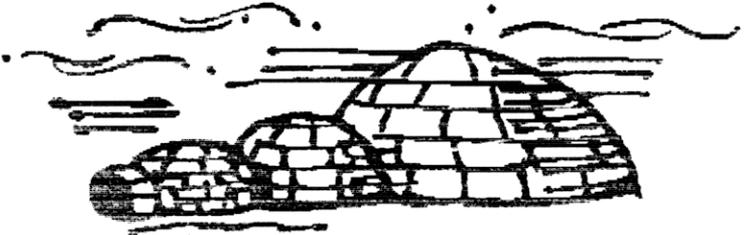
'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,  
 nary PC computing, by keyboard or mouse.  
 The software was skimpy, not nearly enough,  
 hoping St Nick was bringing good stuff.  
 The children were nestled all snug in their bed,  
 dreaming Candy Computers as 'want-lists had said.  
 The Mrs was tucked in, I'm on my first lap.  
 The silence we cherish sound sleep is a snap,  
 when the silent alarm gave forth with a scream,  
 I lifted one eye lid scanning video screen.  
 There by the sensor, I saw it quite plain.  
 A chopper soft landing, a banger, I'd claim.  
 Now the scene was well lighted fresh snow, and all that.  
 The full moon a glowing, coulda seen a black cat!  
 No doubt in my mind, Saint Nick had arrived,  
 Still, this stuff is straight "Science Fiction" type ive.  
 Could this be the Santa I knew as a kid?  
 Delayed that one visit, cause he knew I had hid?  
 Had a miniature sleigh, eight reindeer too,  
 some little old fella, and great driver, true.  
 He revved up the engine, of a banger fame,  
 lifting up to the housetop, his words were the same:  
 "Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen!  
 On, Comet! On, Cupid! On, Dancer and Blitzen!  
 He cut power then, and dropped out of sight,  
 appearing beside me, in a quick flash of light.  
 Now he had lots of toys in equipment bag,  
 hardware and software, must be worth lots of swag.  
 He's slimmed down a bit, from his image of old,  
 white fur trimmed, red flight gear, a sight to behold.  
 His eyes-still atwinkle! His dimples are cute!  
 His cheeks touched with red, that matches the suit!  
 The drab little mouth, in a pucker, of course,  
 Whistles Christmas carols, with skill, I'll endorse.  
 He made me feel safe, as I watched him perform,  
 out spreading good will, since the day he was born.  
 I don't see his pipe he used to hold tight,  
 His breathing is firm, a much healthier sight!  
 His broad little face and his little round belly  
 still shakes when he laughs, (or spots Hope on the telly!)  
 He is dapper and sharp, a much jollier elf,  
 He still rates a laugh, (I had one myself).  
 Still doesn't say much, has too much to do.

Filling stockings and boxes; (left something for you).  
There's a system for Susan, Disk drives for Ma too,  
a printer and paper, Publishing software for you.  
He's finished just now. His gesture, "so long",  
In silence and big flash. Old St. Nick is gone!  
The chopper is revving, he's up, and away,  
before out of sight, though, I heard him then say,  
"Merry Christmas to all, from the world of today!"  
The B banger whump, whumped, and took him away.

Inspired by the original 'The Night Before Christmas



S  
 BUG  
 by  
 Gerry  
 Mc Kee  
 Merry Xmas  
 SBUG Loyal. You  
 Fine people impress  
 as Royal. Miss you-all  
 like all get-out. Drop-in  
 sure-thing, there's No Doubt!!  
 See you on the BBS, messages I look  
 for, Yes-Yes-Yes. Keep the faith, and  
 Spirit too. May the future bring to you,  
 Fine Computing, full of Joy. Christmas gifts  
 Boy-Oh-Boy. Use new Modem, get on board. Lotsa  
 Good news, to be heard. Lets use the System, collect  
 our share. Send SBUG message. Computing's there!  
 A Gift to  
 the SBUG Member  
 ship from the  
 \ ARCTIC /  
 \ Group /



WE HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE  
 IN OBTAINING THIS PICTURE  
 OF GERRY'S NEW HOUSE!!

Editor: Now you know where to go when you arrive in Alaska.

The A.R.C.T.I.C. Group

P.O. Box 203265

Anchorage, Alaska 99520-3265

ARCTIC stands for "Alaskans Recruiting Computer Types Into Communicating."

### Q U E S T I O N A I R E

Please fill in the blanks, and strike out the word, or words which do not apply. The ARCTIC computer users group will be in touch with you soon! We will be tailor the group to meet your needs, and to utilize your skills, from the information you furnish here! Thanks. G. Franklin Mc Kee, ARCTIC SYSOP.

I (Name)..... am interested in meeting other computer users, in order to share knowledge, solutions, and/or problems related to the art of computing. My phone number Home( ).....Work( )..... Address .....City.....

I have (never) attended a computing group meeting. I have (my own)(at my disposal) one or more of these:

(Atari).....Model Computer(s).  
 (Commodore).....Model Computer(s).  
 (Compac).....Model computer(s).  
 (Epson).....Model computer(s).  
 (Gavilan).....Model computer(s).  
 (H.P.).....Model computer(s).  
 (IBM/IBM clone).....Model Computer(s).  
 (Osborne).....Model Computer(s).  
 (RadioShack).....Model Computer(s).  
 (Tandy).....Model computer(s).  
 (Victor).....Model computer(s).  
 (Other)(None).....

Note: ALL of you are welcome to join, however, full membership and privileges will accrue to those who are equipped to enjoy them to the fullest!

With the indicated computers above I have a:

(300)(1200)(2400) baud Modem/(NONE).  
 (Dot Matrix)(Daisy Wheel)(parallel)(Serial) Printer/(None).  
 (Hard Disk)(3"/5"/8")Floppy disks/(NONE).

I (can)(cannot) program in the BASIC language.  
 (can)(cannot) program in the PASCAL language.  
 (can)(cannot) program in the COBOL language.  
 (can)(cannot) program in the FORTRAN language.  
 (can)(cannot) program in the FORTH language.  
 (can)(cannot) program in ASSEMBLY language.

Circle any you wish to learn.

If training were to become available at a reasonable cost. I am (not) interested in participating in group purchases of computer related products/software at a savings.

I would (not) share success/failure assessment information on software which I have used.

I (would)(could)(could not) serve in some capacity on the board of the ARCTIC group, if needed.

This questionnaire may be left with the Manager of this establishment, may be brought to the next meeting of the ARCTIC group, or mailed to:

P.O. Box 203265, Anchorage, AK 99520-3265

Editor's note: The motto of this is; wherever there's a Gerry McKee there's a computer club.

Editor's aside to Gerry; Whatever happened to all those machine language programmers happily driving their dogs across the frozen tundra? They are ignored in your CAN YOU PROGRAM IN: section.

#### IT'S CHRISTMAS IN ALASKA

by G. Franklin Mc Kee

Snow and cold are IN here, with Mountains pearly white.  
 Long-johns flapping in the breeze, for those who prowls the night.

We heat the Den with Hard Disk, a spinning night and day.

The BBS is cheery, computering and play.

Fireplace and the stockings, each has a job to do.

We hope each does it's duty, the New Year's good to you.

Know, now, why dear Santa, goes South, with so much Speed!

Night's so long, bed's so cold, the trip's to fill his need.

We hope you all enjoy life, your cup to fill, good measure.

The good Lord make it worthwhile, computing with your treasure.

#### MY DYNAMIC CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

by G. Franklin Mc Kee.

Around the Christmas Hearth, Been browsing through the past.

The years of SBUG Memories, from which the die was cast!  
 The Christmas covers special, the thought behind each plate.  
 The wishes filled by Santa Claus, Computer gifts, are great!  
 The SBUG members come and go, good friends, who need us still.  
 Some stumble in, long overdue, enjoy again the thrill!  
 We faithful come around each time, to fill our cup, anew.  
 Good cheer, tidbits, and answers, to questions, not a few!  
 That SBUG still is special, we know you will agree.  
 I miss her too, believe it. Enjoy, and think of me!

Dedicated to Joel Lee, long suffering editor of the best Newsletter in the business of computing, Dynamic Memories, and the Southbay Users Group, from the Editor of the new ARCTIC Users Group's "Aurora Bytes", soon to be released.

#### WHY A NEWSLETTER EDITOR?

Some of the humanists amongst you wonder from time to time why anyone should offer to be a newsletter editor. Editing DYNAMIC MEMORIES consumes an inordinate amount of time and it is permissible to say that it's work, sometimes routine, slogging, boring work. As with most of what we do there are multiple motives.

There are amongst us tens of thousands of greater or lesser talents. They are usually referred to as frustrated or discouraged. There are editors, writers, actors, musicians, painters, scientists and even yeal verily, even programmers. Frustrated isn't quite the word. Most of us find someway to foist our illusions upon an uncaring world. It might not have occurred to you that Carlos Williams and Grandma Moses are two of us.

And so with me. You are my captive audience and once a month, if you want to know what is going on in your club, you have to read my scribbling. True enough I never aspired to be an editor, I would be happier just writing, but faute de mieux I seize the opportunity offered me.

I said multiple motives. By my scrivening I earn my way in the microcomputer colony. I have no talent for computers per se but they have a fascination for me. I sometimes have the feeling that the likes of Bernie Thompson, Chris Oman and Pete Fratus, to name a few, look on my efforts vis-a-vis computers with the same horrified attention they would give to a four year old who had seated himself at the keyboard of a main frame, chocolate bar, coke and all.

And that is the story of how newsletter editors are made. Did you get what you deserve?

Of course more goes into the production of a newsletter than the writing and the editing. Bernie Thompson is now doing the printing, collating, stapling and mailing. That's all very time consuming and not really the kind of work he would be likely to put on a resumé. Believe me, you don't do a great deal of whistling when you do that kind of work.

You may bow, Bernie.

THROUGH THE BARBED WIRE  
OR  
ESCAPING FROM ESCAPE SEQUENCES

I have always been reluctant to learn certain technical details of the computers I have worked with. I know people who can [mentally] build a Tandy Model I from the tiniest resistor through the entire microprocessor. I admire their expertise and dedication to the art but-- what good is that expertise now?

Everything is subject to change and in learning anything one runs the risk that the knowledge accumulated on a specific subject may soon be outdated. For the specialist who works in a given area the solution is ongoing study to remain abreast of current developments.

For the aficionado that solution is hardly available. His time is limited by other obligations, if he learns one phase of a technical subject thoroughly he does not have the time to turn around and learn something completely new when what he has learned becomes passé.

For these reasons I never attempted, for example to learn SVC calls in TRSDOS. I have been equally reluctant to become thoroughly familiar with MSDOS.

I have this vision of myself dying, lonely and forgotten, in Fresno or Bakersfield or Manteca, (somehow these valley towns seem appropriate places to die lonely and forgotten) dying I say sometime in the year 2080, the last human being who speaks MSDOS. Imagine the sadness of it! No one in all this wide universe who speaks the language it cost one so many hours to learn!

Circumstances are obliging me to learn more than I really wish to know. Recently I have been working with escape sequences. I had two pressing motives.

I recently bought a program called Retrieve. Something about the installation bat file fouled up my autoexec.bat file so that it no longer put the colors on the screen. I have a program called colorset that did the job but the colors were frequently lost when changing directories and it made a terrible hash of some of the programs that had their own color set up.

I also wanted access to the Spanish accents and letters (ñ, ñ.) on my Epson. I worked and I struggled and I studied and I sweated and avail was what I had none of. I would copy sequences directly from the book making sure that each period, comma, bracket and space was correct. Nothing in an escape sequence worked under any circumstances.

Then I went to the SBUG meeting. I was showing someone how the escape sequences did not work-- and they did. Suddenly they did! They have worked ever since with no problems.

Here I should come to the aid of anyone who may have puzzled over last month's DYNAMIC MEMORIES, page 8 where I attempted to print the e in Jim Gonsalves name as it was originally spelled. It printed on the screen but came out Gonalves on the printer and I didn't catch it in the proof reading. I will escape from Jim Gonsalves wrath by escaping in an escape clause.

The mystery here is why the sequences didn't work and why suddenly they began to work. I don't know and know that I will never know. Some things we are not meant to be known.

#### RETRIEVE

This is a program I purchased because I have a hard disk and frequently forget where I have filed things. Retrieve will look up any given word or phrase. Retrieve has three failings. The manual comes on disk and must be printed out. I haven't done that yet. It is copy protected and will give you just five copies off the original. Finally, about the third time I used it I ran out of memory (on 640K).

It indexes the files you are searching through, and that is where the memory goes if you aren't careful. I've ordered another, similar program called Gofer that does the same thing without indexing. I'll compare the two programs and report back to you.

#### NICEPRINT

Nice print is. It works beautifully with Word Perfect, with

print screen and can be used with some other programs with a certain amount of care. It is meant to work with word processors and ASCII text and it does all it is supposed to do. What is it supposed to do?

It will print in 8 fonts all of which may be italicized, bolded, big, expanded, condensed, and the list goes on. It is memory resident, super easy to use and I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to do a little bit of distinctive work with practically any dot matrix printer. I have used it extensively in this newsletter and will continue to use it in the future.

There are 512 combinations possible with NICEPRINT. It's a little pricey at \$95.00, but it delivers. In what is called Native mode, NICEPRINT returns control to the current program. The only problem I have had is with SIDEKICK which always gives me problems.

It does not work in most cases with graphics programs. My Epson has (in common with some other printers) a mode called "quad density". Quad density delivers very high quality printed graphics. NICEPRINT will not work with quad density.

#### MORE ON WORD PERFECT

Word Perfect has a very nice page numbering scheme. It can be used so that one may customize the page numbering mode. One may put, for example; PAGE [ctr/b] and the page number will appear. This is done by imbedding the commands in a footer. Word Perfect's ease of use and power is simply not matched, in my estimation, by any other word processor. I woke in a cold sweat the other night from a nightmare involving putting out a ten thousand page newsletter with Microsoft Word.

I am juggling quite a few things here in your newsletter, Word Perfect, the graphics programs and Niceprint. There have been and will be glitches but I am sure that in the end you will be getting a superior product.

For the technically curious, most of this newsletter has been written with Word Perfect using Niceprint Roman/bold. The graphics are by Fontasy with the exception of the calendar on the front page which is from Instant Pages. The two santas on the front page are by Printmaster.

The last great frontier for me in my use of Word Perfect is the shell and library programs. This consists of:

Calculator

Calender  
File manager  
Notebook  
Macro editor  
Program editor  
Shell

I hope to get started with these some time before Christmas. They are memory resident. Their utility to a dedicated editor (no blushes) is obvious.

It is apparent that I have learned approximately 50% of what I need to learn about Word Perfect. It's worth it.

#### ON DOS

Now that escape sequences work for me I am acquiring some familiarity with .bat files. I have envisioned a super autoexec.bat file. There are two items I am very interested in learning. I have to find some way to pass the time and date from the clock/calender to the system clock. It isn't very obvious in the manuals I have. This should be done of course in the autoexec file.

The other important item, perhaps even more important is to reboot without going through the entire autoexec file. Reboots are frequent in my life (could I say I might soon need a new pair of reboots? no? O.K.) There are two types.

On the first type alt-ctr-delete gets me back to computing. Much less frequently this won't work and I turn Xavier off, wait a few seconds, then turn him back on again. I understand that these are facts of life for all who use large memory/hard disk systems. It seems to be a result of the complexity of these systems and/or at times a lack of complexity in the brain of the human who dares to drive these machines. In my case the reboots have become less and less frequent as my knowledge grows. I don't expect it ever to disappear completely though.

Thus the desire to write an autoexc file that will run through all the desired commands on first bootup. After that I would like to skip disk check, system information and directory. This is covered by my manuals, but it's a little complicated. When I learn how to do it I'll publish this world (computer world) shaking autoexec file in DYNAMIC MEMORIES. You will be the first to know!

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE EDITOR

South Bay TRS-80 Users Group  
P.O. Box 60116  
Sunnyvale, Ca 94088

FIRST CLASS MAIL