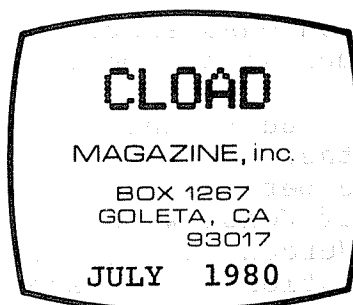


It's a July!

Pardon me if I figit a bit, but this chair is worn in all the wrong places. Oh, let me introduce myself: I'm Dave Lagerquist, editor-turned-EDITOR of this rag (string?). Ralph bequeathed this chair to me on his departure with this word, "Enjoy"! Although I did think that it was in rather poor taste for him to cross out his name on the back of the chair and write mine in with a felt tip pen. So much for assuming the gavel gracefully...



*****				
*				*
*	Level	Title	Turns Count	
*				*
*			CTR-41	CTR-80
*				*
*	*****	Hand Cover	17 & 260	10 & 152
*	**	Mystic Calender	96 & 319	56 & 188
*	**	Stock Instructions	159 & 368	93 & 216
*	**	Stock Exchange	207 & 406	122 & 238
*	*****			*
*				*
*				*
*	*****	Hand Cover	12 & 254	7 & 149
*	** **	Stock Exchange	57 & 288	34 & 169
*	** **	Scramble Solver	122 & 337	72 & 198
*	** **	Hurricane	148 & 357	86 & 210
*	*****	Lprint	247 & 437	145 & 257
*		[32515] System Conv [/32516]		*
*				*
*****				

The "Hand" cover allows those TRS-80s out there without voice synthesizers to speak to their masters using the language of the deaf. Those of you who have some trouble loading this program might teach your computer another sign language expression.

The "Mystic Calender" has you choose a month from the years 1900 to 2000, then performs a number trick using the calender for that particular month.

In "Stock Exchange" you are given an imaginary \$2000 to play the stock market with. You then have ten years to amass your fortune in those same imaginary dollars (Of course, in ten years those imaginary dollars may be just as valuable as the crinkly wallet kind). There are ten stocks to choose from, each with their own special characteristics. Some stocks are of the boom-bust variety, while others are fairly stable. Unlike the real world, you have a good chance to make a profit since the odds on a bull (upward) or bear (downward) market for each year is 50-50 and inflation is non-existent.

Use "Scramble Solver" to win that trip to Tahiti from your local daily. You just give the program a four to seven letter word and it spits out every possible permutation to a printer or to your video. Now you just have to look through all those "words" to see which are legit. Which of the 5040 permutations of the word "compute" are also words?

Which ones should be? How about "cputome" as the clockpulse a CPU is timed with. Dear Webster....

"Hurricane" gives you a graphic idea where the latest tantrum of Mother Nature's is located. You give the program your location and all the pertinent data associated with the storm and you get a map of the Gulf Coast with the storm's position plotted on it. Also, you are shown a Hurcon rating from one to five, depending on your location and the location of the storm (Hurcon 1 for a hurricane in your bedroom!). Note: keep the hurricane's latitude between 11 and 34 and the longitude between 55 and 99 or it can't be plotted.

And finally, last month's mystery program - "Lprint". This system program lets you change all the "Print"s in your program to "Lprint"s and vice-versa. You just have to type "System", answer the \* with "Conv", and load the program. It then auto-executes and asks you whether to change "Print"s to "Lprint"s or "Lprint"s to "Print"s. If you wish to use the program over and over, you can save it in high memory by setting the Memory Size to 32515. After the program has been loaded once, you can call it by typing "System" and answering the \* with "/32516".

By now you probably have noticed that the Level II side of the cassette is slightly different. Yes, we put one copy of each program back-to-back, then put a backup copy of each program after all of the first copies. Many of you have requested this for a while, but did we succumb to pressure? NO!! It's because we just (believe it or not) added disks to our Level II system. Some custom software was developed for us by Bryan Mumford that finally made it possible for us to go to disks without introducing any extra bugs in the magazine. Let's hear it for disks!

And speaking of disks, we have often been asked whether we plan to offer disk-based programs now that we are planning to drop Level I (only three letters of complaint on that score so far). Well, I am pleased to report that we had that in mind all along. Not only did we plan to offer occasional disk-based software, but we are going to publish one next month! It will allow those users of disks to run those Level II only Basic programs in Level II, yet save them and load them from disk (as long as you have 48K of RAM). Note: this month's "Hurricane" will not run in DOS Basic - but I load it from disk and run it in Level II using the program you will receive next month.

Now that the cat is out of the bag, I can foresee being swamped with requests for programs to do real neat things (let's hear it for the old "accounts receivable package" request!). But I repeat, the programs are not written here! They are written by TRS-80 users out there and submitted to me for possible inclusion in the magazine. So if I get a good, bug-free, and well documented "accounts receivable package" from someone crazy enough to sell the rights to it to us...

Ralph's leaving gave us a few (hundred thousand) extra things to do this month, so those of you who have sent in programs for me to look at have not been forgotten, just set upon a back burner until we get this issue out.

30 9 85  
One of the things Ralph left me was a correction to last month's publitorial. Jack Bayha wrote him (now me) to let him know that a friend of his, Dr. Theo Starr of Brussels, Belgium actually designed the tape cassette and SOLD the design to Philips. I just took over writing these sheets and there's bugs in the system already!

Just another warning: Prices are going up as of October 1st. You can renew early before October 1st under the old price (be sure to say somewhere that it is a renewal to help out our overworked subscription staff, Robin). Also, you Level I'ers now have the excuse you've been looking for to run out and get that 16K Level II mod your machine has begged for, since we will no longer publish Level I programs after October 1st. We will, however, continue to carry 24 back issues and two Best Of compilations with Level I programs on one side and Level II programs on the other.

This month's feature article - "Ralph McElroy: The Man Behind the Man". Note: Although this may sound somewhat like a eulogy, it is only reminiscing on my part. Ralph is definately alive and happy in Texas (happy in Texas??).

It was Ralph's idea in early 1978 to find a way to make a buck with this new-fangled Radio Shack bit-manipulator. At the same time he also wanted to do something with it that was beneficial to all the computer users out there. But instead he concieved of the idea of a monthly program magazine on a cassette.

Despite his best efforts, it wasn't long (a year and a half) before Ralph halfway acheived both goals: he was getting a (small) monthly salary and he was providing cheap (but not neccessarilly beneficial) software to users all over the world. So he decided to go into semi-retirement.

One of the jobs he couldn't quite shake was the publitorial. Once a month, starting about the 1st, Robin and I would start asking about the next publitorial in order to get one from him by the time the issue was ready to send out. It wasn't that he hated writing them (it was actually very satisfying) but that they were a pain. Here I sympathize...

We also chained Ralph to the maintainance and repair of our equipment. Well, "chained" is not really the right word. He just loved to tinker. I would often come into the shop to find our copier in an expanded mode on the floor with Ralph reigning supreme with a screwdriver as his septer.

Matter of fact, Ralph tinkered with anything tinkerable. There were always five or six projects in various stages of completeness lying around the shop. If something interesting (especially computer related) caught his eye, it wouldn't be long before it found it's way here to be dissected or experimented with.

A lot of his tinkering had a definate purpose. Cload Magazine itself was financed originally by a product he created (the electro-mechanical device would give some indication to a manufacturer where a breakdown in a manufacturing process originated). He also designed and built our tape duplication system, a major accomplishment. That is how we overcame the major stumbling block in putting out a cassette-based computer magazine.

Some of you might now have the impression that Ralph worked all the time. Well, it was true that I could come to the shop at almost any hour and find him here. But Ralph was not a hard worker so much as a hard player. He enjoyed what he did so he did a lot of it. Even so, he also had some outside activities. For instance, he loved to cook and he loved to drive. Unfortunately, he loved to drive to a local restaurant, so I never heard of him cooking anything except toast.

Even with those other interests, Ralph always claimed that his main interest was money. His heart of gold was the only one I knew of that could be weighed in troy ounces. Since gold is one money that does not devalue, he preferred that to Federal Reserve (what reserve?) Notes. But he, like the rest of us, usually had to settle for devalued and taxed green in his wallet, but not without a few sermons directed to us who would listen on the merits of pure Capitalism.

Those of you who read his yellow sheets know that he never really held anything sacred (I did wonder about the altar to the bullion god, though). His sense of the ridiculous was always in gear and his humor always stood out like a banana split on a hot day. A little off-the-wall, but always a treat!

One of the things that made these sheets such a pleasure to read were the little known facts and figures that he threw in. He hardly ever had to look them up! He knew them! You can imagine how frustrating it was to argue against Ralph about something that you knew to be right, only to have him counter your arguments with Facts!

On top of everything else that Ralph was, he was also a good egg. He was a firm believer in the "help yourself" method of living, but in practice he was always willing to lend a hand to those who could benefit from his expertise. The shop was usually crawling with local junior high and high school kids, and he always had time to talk, teach, and assist them. People would call him for advice all day and he would not only talk, but often go and give them a hand. I myself did more than my fair share of screaming "Ralph!" when I was at a loss.

Lest his new neighbors get riled at a "California radical" moving next door, let it be known that Ralph is a Texan at heart (with all that implies). He may be only slightly to the right of Ronald Reagan now, but give him time and his politics will be such so that, as he put it, "Attila the Hun looks like a flower child".

Just a couple reminiscence from the other two remaining people here at Cload...

From Tom Marazita (as he "borrows" a couple more parts for his mostly "borrowed" homebrew computer): "He was always generous with his material items and his knowledge (he taught me all I know about digital electronics) while never asking for anything except for me to 'do it right', 'take out the trash', 'clean the bathroom', 'get to work', ....".

From Robin Sager: "Save the Whales".

Ralph, when do we get our first "guest" editorial (or should it still be a "publitorial")?

All for now,

*Dave*