



ADAM'S BYTES NEWSLETTER

is a **GULF COAST ADAM USERS** publication

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Building ADAM'S Future BYTE by BYTE (with you!)

FEB. 1990

ISSUE # 38

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EDITOR'S
TIDBITS

GOOD NEWS...It is always good to be able to start this article with this type of news. As most of you know when Computer Shopper discontinued their Classic Computer section ADAM lost its only big magazine column. Now VULCAN'S COMPUTER BUYERS GUIDE has decided to carry an ADAM article each month. This article will be written, I understand, by Faye Deere who wrote many articles for the other publication. So far I have been unable to find this publication at the local newsstands but have requested of each of them that they begin to stock this publication. I encourage each of you to go by your favorite newsstand and if they do not have this magazine request that they stock it. At this time I am unable to quote a subscription price for VCBG but hope to have this information for you in the March issue. I have enclosed a letter I received from VCBG in this issue to provide you with the information that I have.

Look for some interesting news from The SoftWORKS FACTORY within the next month. I am not at liberty to discuss this other than to tell you some changes are being considered.

ANN The ADAM News Network was started by Barry Wilson of the St. Louis ADAM Group as a means of distributing new articles between users groups. Each month I receive a disk from ANN containing articles I in turn then mail a copy of this disk to 3 other ADAM firms. As you can see this seems to be a very effective method of keeping abreast with ADAM. Some of the articles you read in ADAM'S BYTES are from ANN. If an article is from another source I always try to list the source. This month's issue will contain an article on adjusting the screen width and length from the DEC. ANN. and an article by Barry Wilson in which he awards his Coleco AWARD. Barry can come up with some interesting and entertaining articles. But underneath this humor is a very serious ADAMite. Those of us who know the history of Coleco and the ADAM will understand his award and when we consider the events of the past year most of us will agree with his selection. For the coming year I would like to suggest that we consider all who make promises of items or programs for the ADAM and then do not keep their promises. For 1990 let us all pull together and make ADAM stronger and better.

MARKET PLACE

This section is being added to ADAM'S BYTES as a service to all ADAMites. You may buy, sell, or trade by listing your article(s) in this section. There is no charge for listing in Market Place. ADAM'S BYTES and Gulf Coast ADAM Users does not accept any responsibility for items listed.

Charles Wayman
67-A Outlook Dr.
Worcester MA. 01602

Has the following for sale: Colecovision with driving Module #2, and 10 Cartridges. The cartridges are: Spy Hunter, Donkey Kong, Donkey Kong Jr., Miner 2049er, G-Bert, Zaxxon, Sir Lancelot, Moon Sweeper, Nova Blast, and Squishem Sam.

Price is only \$60 including shipping for everything. You may wish to call Charles to be certain that he still has this before ordering. (508) 792-9747

Jimmy Necaize

7760 Creekwood Dr.

Mobile, AL. Still has 2 New ADAM Disk Drives for sale. Price is only \$170 each. Again you may wish to call before ordering. (205) 633-7750
S & M Video

P.O. Box 313

Dakton VA. 22124

Has 64K expander cards for \$29.95 + \$3 shipping. It should not be necessary to call first as they tell me they have several and can get more.

Let us hear from you if you have items you wish to buy or sell also tell us if you like this column you determine what we put in ADAM'S BYTES.

Public Domain
Library

Included in this issue is a rather in-depth review of some of our PD volumes. Due to a request from some members we will try to include one or two volumes each month. If you would like for us to review a particular volume just let us know. Better yet you write a review of one of your favorites.

THE FOLLOWING IS FROM KEITH JEFFERSON of theSt.Louis AUG.

Your TextWindow

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

SETTING THE SIZE OF THE TEXT WINDOW:

If your television screen seems too small for SmartBasic (because characters disappear off the left or right edge), or if you want to have your text appear in a "Window" on one section of the screen, here is a program that will help.

The program peeks into Basic and finds four important memory addresses. It is written to list these locations on your printer:

```

10 PRINT "Put paper in the printer." : PRINT
20 PRINT "Press any key when ready." : GET a$
30 PR#1
40 seek = 16000
50 IF PEEK(seek) = 1 AND PEEK(seek + 3) = 17 AND
PEEK(seek + 11) = 8 THEN 70
60 seek = seek + 1 : GOTO 50
70 PRINT "Lines Address is "; seek + 1
80 PRINT TAB(5); "Present Value is "; PEEK(seek
+ 1)
90 PRINT "Columns Address is"; seek + 2
100 PRINT TAB(5); "Present Value is "; PEEK(seek
+ 2)
110 PRINT "Top Line Address is "; seek + 4
120 PRINT TAB(5); "Present Value is "; PEEK(seek
+ 4)
130 PRINT "Left Margin Address is "; seek + 5
140 PRINT TAB(5); "Present Value is "; PEEK(seek
+ 5)
150 PR#0
    
```

Explanation: Text displayed on ADAM's screen is actually a map of a portion of ADAM's memory. What you see on the screen is simply copied from that section of memory. The boundaries of the memory section are set by ADAM to 31 columns by 24 rows. You change the size of this "window" by changing numbers in the 4 memory locations.

Caution: While it is possible to put any number (0 to 255) in these locations, you can create a situation in which ADAM is not putting characters on the screen, or one in which ADAM has no place in memory to place screen information. If you do this, you will get unsatisfactory results, and likely wind up re-booting BASIC.

When you RUN the program, it will display the current value stored in each location. This value is called the DEFAULT value (the number stored in that location when BASIC is booted.)

To change the number of lines, POKE a number (between 3 and 23) into the "Lines Address" that you obtained when you ran the program. After you POKE this location, it is necessary to enter the TEXT command. ADAM only looks at the margin addresses when BASIC is first booted up, and after the TEXT command, so you must enter TEXT after changing the dimensions of your window.

P.S. The above program can be used to rearrange the display on the screen. You may find it useful if you find the first column on the left is missing from your display or the last column on the right is missing. When you use the above program it will only make the changes for the time you are using basic on this boot-up. If you wish to make the changes permanently to your BASIC program use EZPATCH from your EZ pd volume. Then each time you boot up the changes will be in place.

The following article is from ANN and was written by Barry Wilson ST. Louis ADAM Users.

COLECO AWARD: WINNER (Adam loser)

Despite being warned by many friends and Adamites that this will not serve to bring Adamites closer together and may indeed cause friction, I have decided to go ahead with an ANNUAL COLECO AWARD.

This award will be given annual to the group, individual, etc. who has by their actions, words & deeds best demonstrated the traits, attributes and attitude of Coleco in doing the most during the past year to help make Adam an extinct computer, to run Adam and Adamites out of business.

I have of course, accepted nominations, but have my own feelings on this subject and I was the person to ultimately make this award. THE WINNER OF THE 1989 COLECO AWARD FOR attempting to fulfill the goals and purposes of Coleco in causing Adam to become an endangered species and to ultimately vanish from the face of the earth....

.....
 .IS:.....

.P E T E R P I R A T E , the Adam software pirate.

Runner ups included: Polly Pirate, his female counterpart;

D.L. Decker for his accusations against so very many of our dealers and AUGS and all done in the short space of less than one page

Running a poor fourth as we still have hopes they will change their ways was Computer Shopper who decided to drop all Adam Coverage.

REMEMBER 1990 IS A NEW YEAR AND ALL ARE STARTING OFF EVEN.

SEND YOUR 1990 NOMINEES IN ON A MONTHLY BASIS AND MAYBE WE CAN GET SOME LIVELY (OR DEADLY) COMPETITION GOING.

PD REVIEWS PINBALL

Pinball Construction Set & Hard Hat Mack is a two program volume that has been extremely popular. Pinball allows you to design your own pinball games with its easy to follow format. This is one of the few PD volumes for which complete instructions are available. Pinball has two built in Pinball Games for demo purposes. You can modify these or construct your own from scratch. The screen is divided into a left and right half. on the left is the Pinball Game area. On the right are the parts you can use in your pinball game. Use the game controller to move items from right to left and place these items where you want them in your game. You are allowed to determine the speed of the ball, the scoring, the sound, and bonus points in your game. A special feature is included that will allow you to design the background. You select a small section of the board and a magnified area is presented for you to use for your design. I have found this feature to be excellent when trying to insert detailed features into the game. The instruction set for Pinball Construction Set is \$2 and is 20 pages long. Our library also has two volumes of games for Pinball that were designed by ADAM owners some of these are great games. No special programming knowledge is required to build your own games as the program itself takes care of this.

Hard Hat Mack the companion game on this volume is an arcade type game with great graphics. Your task is to complete a skyscraper while being on the look out for the evil inspector and escaping the flying rivets. This is not an easy task but is loads of fun. Some of our members have reported enjoying Hard Hat more than most of the other arcade type games. I am reminded of Jump Man Jr. when I see this game in action. I am surprised that Coleco included a game of this quality on the same tape with PBC. This is almost like two hits on one record.

SPECIAL: Pinball Construction Set, Hard Hat Mack, both volumes of pinball games, and the instruction set for \$15. This is getting the instruction set free. **REMEMBER** You can earn either of the volumes by designing a volume of pinball games and swapping them for one of the volumes. Or you can swap them for any pd volume. Each volume of pinball games contains about (7) seven games.

SUPPORT YOUR PUBLICDOMAIN LIBRARY.

JEOPARDY

The most popular public domain that our club has ever had. This program is just like the popular TV show. The graphics are out of this world. And enough different set of questions are included to provide many hours of fun before you ever see the question again. Later I will tell you how you can increase the number of questions by adding additional question packs. The program begins by asking if you are a returning champion. It will then ask your name. After you reply the character that is to be you will be drawn on the screen. If you are not satisfied with the character you can ask for a different character. The fun begins when the board of items appears on the screen. Select the item that you know the most about then select the \$ value from the question. when the question appears on the screen press the space bar if you wish to answer it. If you select to answer the question you must do so within a few seconds but here the SmartKEYS will assist you by typing the first part of the answer for you i.e. What is the-----and you usually have to only type one word. If more than one player is playing then the game controllers are used to signal that you wish to answer. The keyboard is shared by all players for typing the answer. When only one player is involved ADAM generates 2 opponents to play with you. Some of the characters ADAM generates can be quite smart. Once you complete Jeopardy then the programs take you to Double Jeopardy and after Double Jeopardy to Final Jeopardy. If you win the game you can elect to have ADAM print a certificate in your name as the winner. Music, Sounds, Animation, and an entertaining format all on one program. A combination that is hard to beat.

WALTERS SOFTWARE makes questions pack for the Jeopardy game so after you learn all that the program can teach you order a question pack from Walters and you have new games. Or you may wish to write your own question packs for Jeopardy if so order Jeopardy Question Pack Maker from Walters and make your own question packs. Any question packs that you develop can be used as pd. The Walters question packs are NOT public domain.



COMPUTER BUYER'S GUIDE

January 22, 1990

Dear Classic Computer Enthusiast:

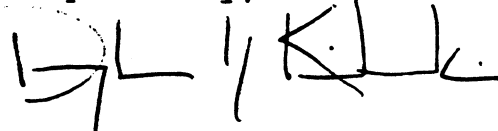
We understand that the last dominion for classic computer information has been discontinued. It is our intention to pick up coverage for this well represented segment of the market, effective immediately.

Computer Buyer's Guide will provide, monthly columns dedicated to the specific issues and products of classic computer owners. Because this announcement affects so many User Group Members and Bulletin Board Users, we thought it appropriate to contact you through your organization.

As you already know, we have continually supported these groups through our monthly publishing of FOG International's Listings. We fully intend to provide coverage equal to the interest developed from this undertaking.

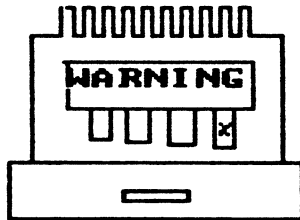
If for any reason you require additional information or merely want to share ideas and interests, please contact me directly. We are confident that the editorial direction of *Computer Buyer's Guide* will meet the needs of your members.

Respectfully,



Douglas E. Kilariski
Editor-In-Chief

Top view of a data drive



DATA DRIVES

In our public domain library is a volume to check the speed of data drives. I have had some interesting experiences with this program and would like to hear from others concerning what they have found out. One time I spent about 2 hours adjusting a data drive until I got it to the point of being what the program displayed as the perfect speed. I never found a data pack that this drive would not read however I began to receive complaints from members that had purchased pd volumes from our club. It seemed that about 1/2 of all the data packs I was sending out would not work. These data packs would be returned and I would place them in the drive and they would work perfectly. I was certain that the problem had to be with the members drives as I knew mine was perfect. About this time I installed a second drive on my ADAM but did not take time to adjust it as I had the other. I recopied some of these programs on the second drive and the members had no problems with them. I finally used the Speed Check on the second drive and found it was off by -3 percent. I then adjusted the perfect drive so that it had the same defect and have had no problems with any programs since that time. If you have had a similar experience please let me hear about it. Could it be that the ADAM writes better if the drive is a little slow?

It seems that I have been lacks in not doing an article on adjusting the speed of data drives. In an effort to rectify this I will attempt to write such an article now. Bear in mind this is not a planned article so if it is not clear just let me know and I will try to explain myself.

Supplies needed:

A very small Phillips headscrewdriver
The PD volume speed check.

Directions:

Remove the snap on cover from your ADAM. Turn on the ADAM. Place the Speed Check tape in the drive to be adjusted. A bar graph will appear on your screen numbered from +6 to 0 and from 0 to -6. An arrow will shortly appear below the bar the arrow will point toward a number. This tells you if your

is too fast or too slow. Notice in the drawing on this page there is an x inside the slot on your right in the top view of the data drive. Turn this screw while observing the arrow under the bar on your screen. You will probably want to move the arrow nearer the center. If the arrow moves in the wrong direction just turn the screw the other way. I have found that the data drives seems to work very good if the speed is between +3 and -3 but have also seen some that worked even if the drive reading was +6 or -6. Let me know the results if you adjust your data drive. Warning this should only be done if one takes proper precaution not to touch the screwdriver to an exposed wire or connection.

COMING SOON

M.A.S.H. This arcadetype game is based on the situations depicted by the popular TV program. I have not seen the volume yet but should receive it within the week. When received it will be placed in the pd library. NOTICE Please do not order M.A.S.H. until it is in the library as we do not accept preorders.

I have also purchased some ribbons for the ADAM and will be able to sell these for \$7 including shipping. This price should be competitive with any supplier.

Would you consider buying a ribbon in which a new ribbon was placed into a used case. If so we have a member that knows how to do this and could possibly sell these ribbons for \$5 exchange

SIGN SHOP

Several months ago I started to review some of the software that was developed soon after the ADAM was introduced. I covered PrintMASTER from Strategic Software the first month and promised to review SignSHOP the following month. Either I forgot or was so rushed that somehow I failed to keep that promise. Better late than never. Before I begin let me tell you how your ADAM must be equipped to use SignSHOP. It must have at least the memory that it came from the factory with and will need an ADAM printer. YES this is one of those programs that were written for the average ADAM owner to enjoy even without investing in a memory expander or a dot matrix printer. At this time let me point out that the ADAM community thought so much of these programs that someone wrote a patch to allow those that have added a dot matrix printer to continue to use the programs.

What will SignSHOP do for you? Print Greeting Cards, Banners, and Signs and use graphics in the printing. These graphics are as good as any I have seen that were generated by a daisy wheel printer and, I might add, as good as some that I have seen that were printed on a dot matrix printer. I must admit that when I first bought PaintMASTER and SignSHOP I found them rather hard to use. The joystick would not move the cursor as it was supposed to, and other features did not operate as I thought they should. Then I made an important discovery. Both Programs were shipped with an instruction booklet. I found out that if you used the #2 joystick as the instruction booklet said it worked fine. Also the other features worked just as they were supposed to if you followed the instructions. Enough about my stupidity. SignSHOP graphics are excellent and the feature that allows you to design your own Greeting Cards lets you put yourself into each card and adds that personal touch. The Sign feature prints a sign that can easily be read even from across a room. Great for boards at work ect. Banners? I have printed a banner 15 feet long for a person who was retiring's reception. They are added attractions at birthday parties ect. I don't know how many copies of SignSHOP Strategic sold but I would bet it is close to one of the best all time sellers. I base this on the fact that any ADAM owner can use the program As I have stated in the past I believe that many producers reduce the size of their ADAM market simply by writing programs that will only print to a dot matrix printer or that must have an expansion board to operate.

I do not hesitate to highly recommend SignSHOP to you even if you have a dot matrix printer. Just tell me you need it and I will send you a patch to use SignSHOP with it. When I first started ADAM'S BYTES I only had programs like SignSHOP to do my graphics printing with any I had no complaints from our members most thought the graphics added to the newsletter. I have a similar program for my Iaensely Big Memory computer that requires a dot matrix printer and I don't see that much difference in the pictures it prints compared to the SignSHOP pictures. Not to slight the ADAM I do have a program for my ADAM with its extra memory and dot matrix printer that does a better job than SignSHOP but it will not work with the ADAM printer. So if you don't have a dot matrix printer you should add SignSHOP to your collection of programs and enjoy printing graphics and sending out your own personalized invitations, greeting cards and so forth. You will be proud of what you little orphaned ADAM will do.

FEBRURARYMEETING

Feb. 10th

2pm.

FEBRURARY MEETING

FEB. 10th

2pm

Cottage Hills

Library

PUBLIC DOMAIN ORDER FORM

Item	Price

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Street _____

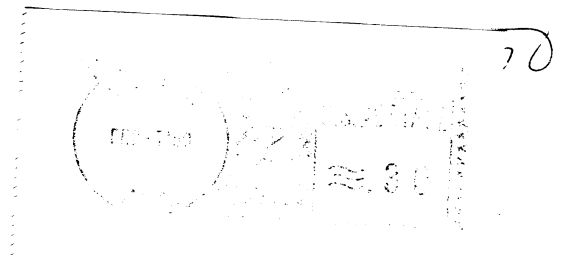
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