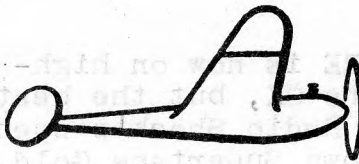


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~~MMMMM~~ Tuesday, July 31, 1979

Bob Fabris
ARCADIAN
3626 Morrie Dr.
San Jose, CA 95127

812-
424-0134

Dear Bob:

Just got the new ARCADIAN today, and I thought I should respond to your front-page questions right away. As for me personally, the answer to all three questions is an unqualified "yes". I want and need a keyboard badly.

As a matter of fact, it may not be too terribly long before I can provide one. The owner of ABC Hobbycraft, Ken Ballard, has commissioned an expert professional hardware/software man to develop a keyboard/64K memory expansion to be sold commercially. The unit is still in the planning stages, but we hope to have it ready by December. We expect to make it available as a semi-kit and as a fully-built unit. No firm price yet, but it should be around the \$350 you mentioned.

Anyone out there who is interested in obtaining more information about this unit should send their name and address to me at the address in the letterhead above. When the unit is ready, I will be glad to send them full specifications, price information, etc. We had not planned to have BASIC-in-ROM, but if anyone out there has worked this out (and knows where to get the ROMs), let me know SOONEST, and perhaps it can be added to the design. If not, 64K gives one plenty of room for a cassette BASIC to be loaded into RAM.

Three cheers for Chuck Thomas's synthesizer TUTORIAL! The two accompanying programs are very useful. (I wonder how Bell Telephone will feel about them, though, since if you add buttons A thru D to the touch-tone dialer you have a semi-efficient "black box"...) The touch tone dialer doesn't seem to work in my area, though. I think Indiana Bell has an acoustical filter that prevents Touch Tone signals from being input through the microphone in the handset. More later on this.

By popular demand (I'm getting calls from as far away as Pennsylvania!) ABC is accepting mail orders on Bally hardware, W&W software, Stocker Software, Skyrocket Software (my company), and C-10 blank cassettes. Send an SASE for our complete list. (I enclose one for your perusal...)

By the way, tape quality on a lot of stuff listed in the ARCADIAN ads is pretty crummy. The Bally is much more forgiving of cheap tape than the TRS-80, but some brands just don't make it. All my own software, and that



sold by SKYROCKET SOFTWARE is now on high-quality C-10 cassettes. Some commercial brands are OK, but the best is Audio-Visual quality or data tape. DON'T use Radio Shack's special data tapes, as they are inferior to the Shack's own Supertape Gold, which is much cheaper! Our W&W Software is on Concertape, which is OK. (Stocker Software-- Dave Stocker, that is,..-is also now on Microsette or other high-quality tape.) Even with the cheap tape problem, I have had less trouble loading tapes from other Arcadians than I have putting in commercial TRS-80 programs! Still, good tape is worth using, and is sometimes CHEAPER than the discpountstore stuff.

I have been pleasantly surprised by the amount of response I received to the listing of my FANTASY GAMES # 1 package in the ARCADIAN. Despite the fact that it is a limited-use program designed only for those persons familiar with fantasy role-playing games such as DUNGEONS & DRAGONS, the program sold remarkably well! Phenomenally well, in fact, given an audience of relatively few people. (Yes, I know how big the ARCADIANS is, but a very small percentage, statistically, are also gamers...) Thanks for the listing, and I'll keep you informed of new releases. As I have alluded earlier in this letter, I am operating under the name of SKYROCKET SOFTWARE now. My partner Greg Poehlein and I intend to produce top-quality software with full documentation for Bally, TRS-80 and eventually other systems. We won't be turning it out fast, but we'll be turning it out GOOD, paralleling Bally's own stated policy of producing fewer, top-quality VIDEOCADES as opposed to Atari's more-is-better philosophy.

More later when I've had time to try some of the new stuff.

Sincerely,

Guy
Guy W. McIlmore, Jr.

SKYROCKET SOFTWARE

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