

# people's computers

\$1.50

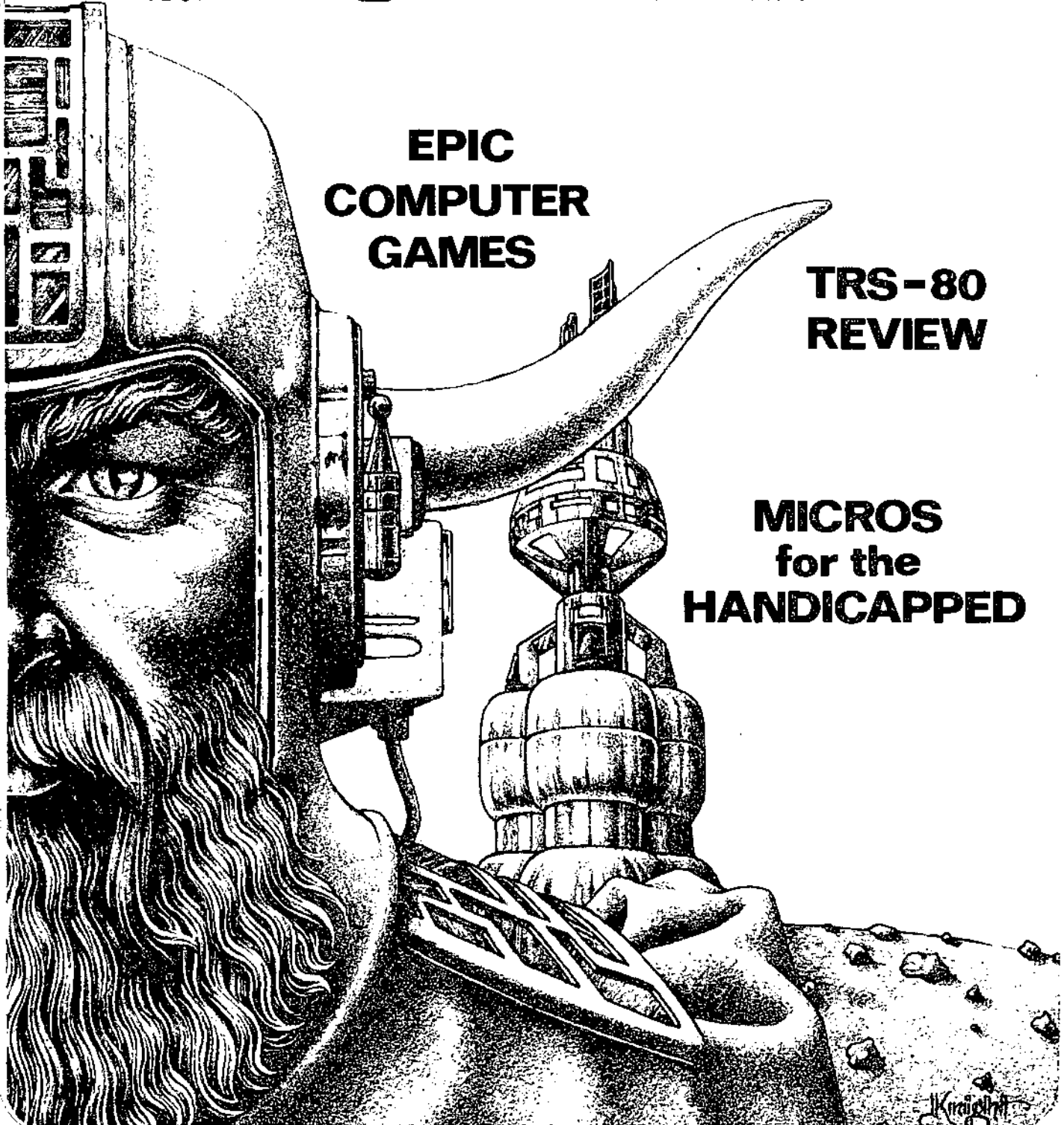
VOL 6 NO 5

MARCH-APRIL 1978

**EPIC  
COMPUTER  
GAMES**

**TRS-80  
REVIEW**

**MICROS  
for the  
HANDICAPPED**



# MICROCOMPUTER COMMUNICATION

## for the HANDICAPPED

BY TIM SCULLY



*This article is more technical than many published in People's Computers, but we believe that the general discussion will be interesting, informative, and thought provoking to all, even those who choose to skip the program listings and discussion.*

*Tim Scully has been designing biofeedback equipment and doing biofeedback research for many years. Tim is a Research Fellow of the Humanistic Psychology Institute; he is now working towards his doctorate in psychology. His dissertation project involves researching and developing biofeedback systems and techniques for use in drug rehabilitation.*

*Tim is also teaching a computer class to fellow inmates at a Federal penitentiary. Although prison resources are scarce and he is not allowed to solicit donations, he is hopeful of somehow eventually acquiring a computer system for the prison.*

*The potential of microcomputers as tools for the handicapped is enormous and exciting: we encourage dissemination of such information. For this reason we are making copies of this article available. To receive a reprint, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope (24¢ for business size, 35¢ for 8½ by 11 inch) to People's Computers.*

How would you communicate if you couldn't talk, didn't have the use of your hands, and could only somewhat control the movements of one knee? This is the problem which Robin, a young lady in her 20's has lived with all her life. She has cerebral palsy.

I met Robin in 1976, and this is the story of how a microcomputer communication

system came to be built for Robin. The general concepts applied in the development of Robin's communication system may prove helpful in the development of microcomputer systems for other handicapped people.

When I first met Robin, her communication was accomplished by use of a word wheel. She could understand speech and she could read, but she needed help in 'talking'. Her word wheel was made from an electric clock motor and a bicycle spoke, with the bicycle spoke attached where the second hand of a clock would normally be mounted. A sheet of cardboard was mounted behind the spoke, with the letters of the alphabet on it, arranged in a circular pattern. The spoke pointed to the letters, one at a time, as it rotated. Robin could move her knee to one side and hit a kneeswitch mounted on her wheelchair, thus stopping the motor so that the spoke would freeze, pointing at the letter she had chosen.

The spoke rotated at one revolution per minute, so spelling proceeded at about one letter per minute! The person Robin was conversing with often had to write the letters down, to keep from forgetting them, as a message slowly built up. To speed up the communication process, a few words were written next to each letter of the alphabet, so that when the spoke stopped it would point at a group of words as well as a letter. The person with whom she was conversing would have to guess which of these Robin intended. It took considerable patience to hold a conversation with Robin, and not very many people took the time.

When I first saw Robin's communication system, I thought of replacing her word wheel with a microcomputer and video

display, using a vocabulary of words stored in the computer's memory in place of the sheet of cardboard. A little over a year later, that system now exists and is being installed on Robin's wheelchair.

## HOW IT WORKS

The present system is an expansion of the word wheel concept which uses a TV display with 16 lines of text. The top line is reserved for the display of a 'menu' of items (words, letters of the alphabet, punctuation symbols or control codes) from which Robin can choose. The second line is kept blank and the bottom 14 lines provide space for the display of a message of about 200 words.

As items are displayed on the menu, Robin can choose one by hitting the kneeswitch mounted on her wheelchair. In some modes of operation several items will appear on the menu at once, in which case the item at the left is the current item, the one which can be selected by hitting the kneeswitch.

On start-up, the system blanks the TV screen and then offers the SPELLING? mode by putting that word on the menu. This item remains on the menu for a time 'T1' (an adjustable time delay). If the kneeswitch is hit during that time, the SPELLING? mode is entered, otherwise the next menu item is displayed: PUNCTUATION?. If that item isn't chosen either, after another delay equal to T1, then the system will begin displaying the names of groups of words: A-BONE, BOOK-CROWN, CRY-FINGER, FINISH-HIDE, HIGH-LOT, LOUD-UGHT, OUR-ROSE, ROSE ANN-STAY, SQUARE-TWENTY and TWO-YOURSELF, one group at a time. Each group of words contains about 120 words in alphabetical order. The name of each group is made up from the first and last words in the group.

If Robin doesn't pick any group of words, the computer then offers an ESCAPE? from the groups of words. If this isn't chosen, the names of the groups are offered again. If the ESCAPE? is chosen, the system returns to near the beginning of the program and offers SPELLING? again. This ESCAPE? to the beginning is offered from every mode of system operation.

If Robin does pick a group of words, HIGH-LOT for example, then the names of subgroups in that group begin being displayed, one at a time: HIGH-HONOR, HOPE-HUNT, HURRY-IMPORTANT, IN-INTERESTING, INTO-I'VE, JENNIFER-JUMP, JUST-KISS, KITCHEN-LAKE, LAND-LEAST, LEAVE-LIE, LIFE-LITTLE, LIVE-LOT and then ESCAPE?. If Robin picks a subgroup, such as LEAVE-LIE, then the words in that subgroup are displayed across the top line of the TV, with two spaces between each word:  
LEAVE LED LEFT. . . LIBRARY LIE

If Robin hits the switch at this moment, LEAVE will be transferred down to the first available space in the message area of the TV screen and the menu will begin all over again by offering SPELLING?. If the first word, LEAVE, isn't chosen, then after the usual time delay T1, the list of words on the menu will shift one to the left, so that LED is on the extreme left and it becomes the current item. This process continues until a word is chosen or until the end of the subgroup, LIE. If LIE isn't chosen, ESCAPE? is offered, and if it isn't chosen, the complete list of 11 words in the subgroup is displayed across the menu and the cycle begins again.

By this system of groups of words, subgroups, and finally words, it is possible for Robin to look through a list of 1200 words in a short time, find the one she wants and add it to a message she is assembling on the TV screen. The computer automatically adds a space after each word chosen, so it isn't necessary for Robin to worry about spacing between words—she can just choose one word after another. All letters and words are upper case, so she doesn't have to shift.

When a sentence is complete, and when she wants punctuation symbols, Robin can select the PUNCTUATION? mode. The first item offered on entering this mode is CONTROL? and if that isn't chosen, then after the usual time delay, the punctuation symbols will be spread across the menu in much the same way that the words in a subgroup were displayed:

. ' ? ; : ! 0 1 2 . . . 9 # \$ % & ( ) \* + -

These items leave the screen at the left, one at a time, if they are not chosen. If one is chosen, the computer backspaces once (to undo the automatic spacing) and adds the chosen symbol to the message on the screen. Then the system starts over by offering SPELLING? again.

The CONTROL? mode offers Robin a few useful commands, one at a time, if it is chosen: BACKSPACE?, ERASE LAST WORD?, SPACE?, ERASE SCREEN?, and NEXT LINE?. These control codes operate immediately if selected. Then the system starts over by offering SPELLING? again.

The SPELLING? mode exists to allow Robin to spell words not found in the 1200 word vocabulary stored in the computer's memory. To speed up the process of spelling, letters of the alphabet are not offered in alphabetical order. Instead they are offered in the order of their probability of use in English. Except at the beginning of a word, the likelihood of a letter appearing in a word depends on the last letter chosen.<sup>†</sup> If we are in the middle of a word, and the last letter chosen was 'A', then the most likely next letter is 'E', the second most likely is 'B', etc.

Robin's system has 27 different alphabets stored in it. The first alphabet has the letters organized so that those most likely to appear at the beginning of a word will be displayed first. This is the alphabet which appears when the SPELLING? mode is first entered. The letters are spread out along the menu line as usual, with the first offering on the left. If no letter has been chosen by the time all of them have moved off the screen to the left, the usual ESCAPE? offering is made and the alphabet redispays.

If a letter is chosen, it is added to the message area of the screen, and ESCAPE? is offered on the menu. If Robin decides to stay in the spelling mode, the computer then displays one of the 26 remaining alphabets—which one is determined by the letter she just chose. When she picks a letter from this new

<sup>†</sup> Mr A Ross Eckler suggested the bigram spelling scheme used in Robin's system. He supplied me with letter use frequency tables which he credited to F Pratt, *Secret and Urgent: The Story of Codes and Ciphers*, Blue Ribbon Books, 1942 pp 258-259.

alphabet, it is added to the message, immediately after the first letter (the system automatically backspaces to undo its automatic spacing). This process continues until she has completed spelling a word. Then she picks ESCAPE?, which returns her to the beginning of the program, which offers the SPELLING? mode, and a space is left after the word she has just completed.

This spelling scheme allows comparatively rapid spelling of words because Robin only has to wait for a few letters to display before the one she wants is likely to become the current item. The automatic spacing also speeds up communication.

Now that we've looked at what Robin's system does, let's examine the hardware and software which do the work.

### SYSTEM DESIGN

Robin's system was designed around the special limitations of her situation and my own situation. I met Robin through a United States Probation Officer, who was supervising me while I was temporarily free on appeal bond. I was waiting for the Court of Appeals to decide if it would uphold my conviction for conspiracy to manufacture LSD (back in 1968 and 1969). As it turned out, the Court did uphold my conviction, and I'm now serving a 10 year Federal prison term at McNeil Island Penitentiary in Washington.

My personal problems limited the system design to the use of a commercially available computer kit because of the difficulty of sending materials into prison. Robin's family had only a limited budget, and Robin's capabilities formed the remaining design limits.

In 1976, the budget we had (about \$1,300) was just about enough to buy a computer kit with keyboard, cassette tape system, video monitor and 8K of memory, so this is the size system we planned on. The average word in English is about 5.5 characters long and we initially planned on a vocabulary of about 1,000 words, which uses up 5,500 bytes of memory. This left about 2,500 bytes for the program to control the system together with storage for spelling and punctuation symbols.

That's not enough memory for the use of a high level language such as BASIC, so the program had to be written in assembly language. Since my previous assembly language experience was with the 8080A, this was the CPU chosen for Robin's system.

We wanted the system to be expandable. In the future, Robin may want to add more memory, a printer, a speech synthesizer or other additional peripherals. For maximum flexibility in expansion, the S-100 bus structure was chosen because of the wide range of commercially available plug-in circuit cards. The computer also had to be small and light enough to mount under the seat of Robin's wheelchair. In order to modify the menu and message areas of the video display independently, the computer needed a memory-mapped video display. These constraints pointed us toward the Polymorphic Systems' Poly 88 System 4 kit.

The Poly 88 uses a 5 slot S-100 chassis, which makes it small and fairly light in weight. The Poly video card is memory mapped and displays 16 lines of 64 characters each—just right for Robin. The features of the Poly CPU card were also useful: it has 512 bytes of RAM together with a monitor program in ROM. A cassette tape interface card works together with tape loading software in the monitor ROM to handle program storage and loading.

The vocabulary for Robin's system is stored in RAM because we expect her vocabulary needs to change once she can communicate more freely. The problem with storing vocabulary in RAM is that RAM is volatile—the memory and thus the vocabulary are erased every time the computer is unplugged. So a battery back-up card was added to the system. This card keeps the program and vocabulary stored in RAM even though the computer may be unplugged for hours at a time while Robin's wheelchair is moved from place to place. Robin's computer uses the Seals Electronics BBUC card with NiCad batteries.

We had, at one point, considered battery powering the entire system, but ended up rejecting the idea. A large and heavy battery would have been required for reasonable life, and this would bring the

total weight of the wheelchair and system up so high that Robin's mother wouldn't be able to lift it in and out of their family van for trips to school and other errands. As it is now designed, Robin's system has to be plugged into a wall outlet to operate, but the battery back-up card keeps memory alive while the system is unplugged so that it is instantly ready to start upon being plugged in.

### HARDWARE MODIFICATIONS

A few additions and modifications were made to adapt the commercially available hardware to Robin's application. The Poly 88 chassis has only two controls: an on/off switch and a reset pushbutton. This is because it is designed to use a keyboard for functions which a control panel might perform. The reset pushbutton starts the ROM cassette tape loading program. I added a second pushbutton which activates a vectored interrupt and jumps to the beginning of Robin's program. This makes it possible to start up Robin's system without the keyboard. A schematic for this simple addition is shown in Figure 1.

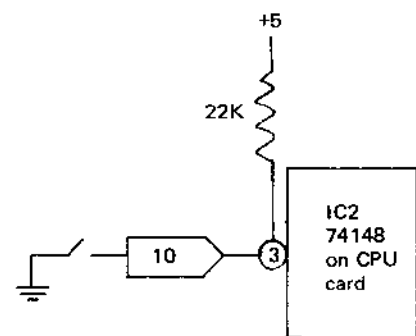


Figure 1

As a computer powers down, it can scramble data stored in memory by sending out false write commands. To eliminate this problem, the memory in Robin's system was partitioned so that an 8K block of RAM, containing the main program and stored vocabulary, could be write protected. This left only the 512 bytes of RAM on the CPU card unprotected (and the memory mapped video display, of course). The small CPU RAM area is used for all scratchpad functions and is one of the features of the Poly CPU card which encouraged its selection.

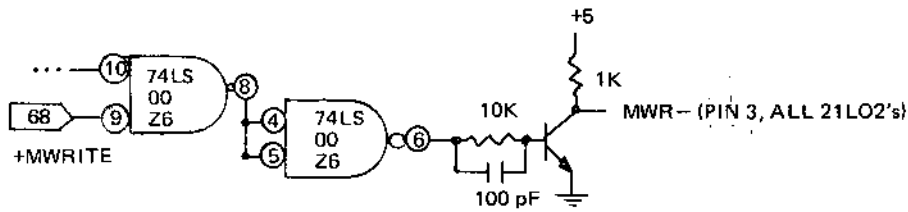


Figure 2

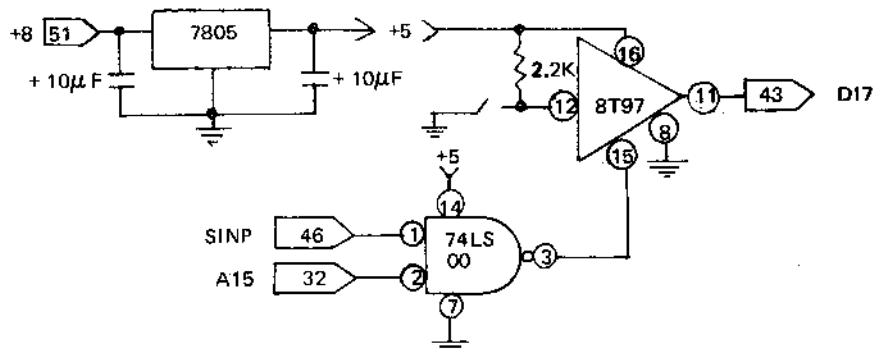


Figure 3

The RAM card used in Robin's system is an Industrial Microsystems IuS #000231 8K card which uses 21L02-4 chips. This card was modified slightly so that a toggle switch could be added to the computer's front panel which protects/unprotects the main 8K RAM. When loading new programs from cassette tape, RAM is unprotected. Otherwise it is protected. A schematic of this circuit is in Figure 2.

The final hardware modification for Robin's system was the addition of an input port for her kneeswitch. Figure 3 shows the schematic for this circuit, which was built on a small scrap of Vectorboard and mounted on the Poly 88 chassis.

## SOFTWARE DESIGN

The program for Robin's system is listed, with comments, on the following pages. It was kept as brief and simple as possible to leave as much space in memory as possible for the storage of vocabulary. The vocabulary is stored as ASCII, with one character per byte of memory. ASCII doesn't use the eighth bit of an eight bit word, so I used the eighth bit as a 'beginning of word' flag. The first character of any character, word or phrase

stored in memory has the eighth bit true, and all following characters (if any) have the eighth bit zero. This scheme allows the words in Robin's vocabulary to be packed tightly in memory. The only extra bytes of memory used are flags inserted at the end of each subgroup (FDH), group (FEH) and at the end of the vocabulary (FFH).

The main program uses one subroutine from the Poly 4.0 monitor ROM. That routine, WH1, outputs a character to the video display. It uses a location in the CPU board RAM, POS, to store the next position it will print into and it recognizes several control codes:

- 0DH = carriage return and line feed
- 0CH = erase screen and send cursor home (upper left corner of screen)
- 0BH = send cursor home without erasing screen
- 18H = erase current line

The starting address for the memory area mapped by the video display is F800H. Thus, if the control code 18H is in the A register when WH1 is called, it will stuff F800H into POS. WH1 saves all registers on entry and restores them on exit.

The monitor ROM on Robin's CPU board is a slightly modified version of the 4.0 monitor: at address 0008H a JMP 2000H

has been inserted so that vectored interrupt VI6 jumps to the start of the main program. This allows a single pushbutton to start Robin's system.

Robin's software was hand assembled because I didn't have an assembler program to run on her system. The program listings were typed by hand and may contain a few errors.

## TEXT AND EDITOR PROGRAMS

The TEXT and EDITOR programs written for Robin's system are both very short. TEXT was used to enter the messages, alphabets and vocabulary into her system's memory from the keyboard. EDITOR is used to modify her vocabulary and to add to it after the original entry. Here is what they do in detail.

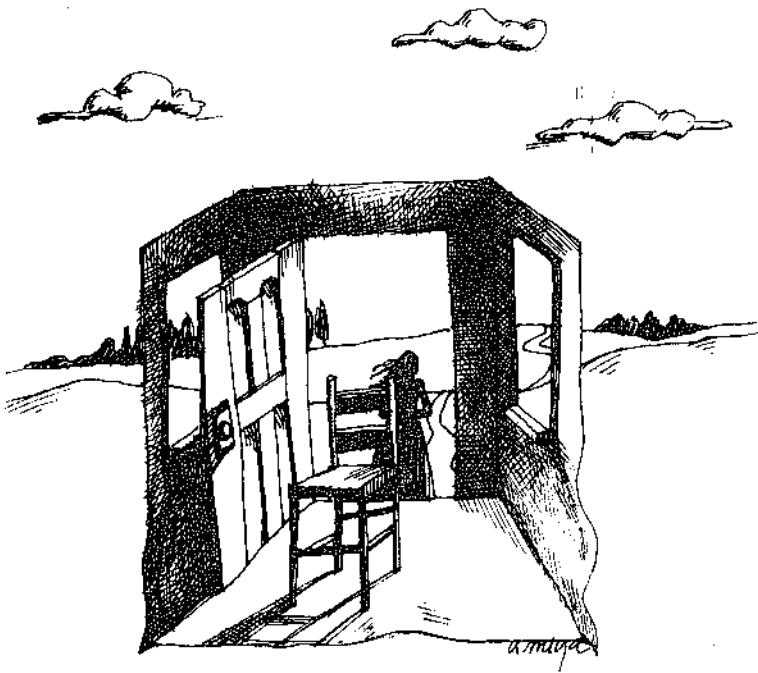
TEXT is entered with a starting address in HL. The TV screen is erased and the system waits for text to be entered from the keyboard. Any unshifted letter is printed on the TV screen as a lower case letter but is stored in memory (beginning at the starting address in HL) as upper case ASCII with the eighth bit zero. The keyboard for Robin's system is a Teletype-like keyboard and does not have lower case letters, so the 'unshifted' letters are actually upper case, but TEXT translates them for display purposes.

Any letter of the alphabet typed while the CTRL key is held down (except Z) is printed on the TV screen as a capital letter and is entered into memory as upper case ASCII with the eighth bit turned on. This allows the first letter of any word or phrase to be identified. The Poly monitor program uses CTRL Z as a command to enter its front panel mode, so this is the one exception to the rule stated above. Shift O jumps to the EDITOR program, at the current address. Rubout erases the last character entered.

TEXT is also capable of inserting the control codes which identify the end of alphabets, subgroups and groups.

- CTRL shift L = insert FBH
- CTRL shift N = insert FDH
- CTRL shift O = insert FEH

EDITOR is a somewhat longer and more complex program which allows the user to examine the text stored in the system's memory. It also allows modifications of



that text by insertions and deletions. If a deletion is made, all of the rest of the text (at addresses greater than the deleted address) is moved down one memory location to close the gap. If an insertion is made, all of the rest of the text is moved up one location to make room for the addition.

EDITOR is entered with a starting address in HL. Upon entry it will display a 'line' of text, beginning at that address. At the left end of the line, the current starting address will appear, in hex, followed by a space. Then the contents of memory are printed, up to and including the first 'control code' found. Any letters stored in memory with the eighth bit high will print on the TV as capitals, while those with the eighth bit low will print as lower case. The control codes will print as special symbols:

FBH = { FDH = } FEH = ~ FFH = ■

The EDITOR recognizes several commands, as listed below:

carriage return = display next line

line feed = display previous line

space = redisplay the current line, shifted one character to the left

NOTE: insertions made by EDITOR will go just in front of the first character on the display. The space is used to move along the current line so that insertions (or deletions) can be made in the middle of a line.

Shift O = jump to TEXT with HL equal to the starting address of current line.

CTRL shift L = insert capital L

CTRL shift M = insert capital M

CTRL shift O = insert FEH

CTRL shift N = insert FDH

rubout = delete first character of current line

any unshifted letter = insert that letter with eighth bit low

CTRL any letter except L, M, or Z = insert that letter with eighth bit high.

The EDITOR and TEXT programs use several more subroutines from the Poly 4.0 monitor ROM. Either program is entered with a starting memory address in HL. The monitor program allows register pairs to be pre-loaded from the keyboard while it is operating in the 'front panel' mode. For a detailed explanation of this procedure, see the Poly system manual Volume 2 pages 58-65. The other subroutines used are:

WHO = fetches a character from the keyboard and returns it in A. No other registers are affected.

DEOUT = print the two byte number in DE as a four character hex number.

MOVE = move -BC bytes from the area starting at (HL) to the area starting at (DE) - only works for moving to lower addresses.

Robin's main program turned out to be shorter than expected. Including the

alphabets and punctuations symbols, it is 1250 bytes long. Even with 1,200 words of vocabulary in memory, there is still room for TEXT and EDITOR to remain in memory so that Robin's family can revise her vocabulary as needed.

## A FEW WORDS ABOUT WORDS

It may be helpful to briefly mention how the initial vocabulary for Robin's system was chosen. The first 1,100 words were supplied by Robin's tutor, from lists of the first words taught in English. The remaining words were chosen by Robin and her family. These include the names of people, places, articles of clothing, foods and other objects which Robin comes in contact with.

As practical experience with the system is accumulated, revisions may be made in the initial vocabulary and possibly in the main program. For example, it may turn out that Robin will feel more comfortable spelling words than looking them up in the stored vocabulary. If this is the case, we may try adding a set of look-up tables for prefixes, roots and suffixes to speed up communication.

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The basic system built for Robin can be expanded and modified to fit a wide range of possible situations. For example, the kneeswitch could easily be replaced by an electromyograph (EMG), an instrument which measures the electrical signals associated with muscle tension. An EMG can easily detect levels of muscle tension which are too weak to control a switch mechanically. This is a practical alternative to the kneeswitch for people who are only capable of very limited movement, such as an eyelid twitch. There are many hospitalized patients who experience extreme frustration because they are conscious but cut off from communication. Microcomputer communication systems of some kind may eventually become standard hospital equipment, and could help to make such patients' lives much more rich and meaningful.

There is a wide range of possible options for expanding Robin's system. It would be easy to add a printer, for example. She could assemble a message on the TV screen as usual, and then select a

# Programs

This is Robin's main program

```

2000 3E0C MVI A,0CH
2001 START
2002 CD240C CALL WH1
2005 CD4922 CALL PATCH
2008 22820C SHLD CM
2008 00 NOP
200C 215622 REENTRY LXI H,SPELM-1
200F C0FF20 CALL MESSAGE
2012 CABF21 JZ SPELL
2015 215F22 LXI H,PUNM-1
2018 C0FF20 CALL MESSAGE
201B CAD321 JZ PUNCT
201E 217F25
2021 11FE00 LXI H,BEGIN
2024 CD8120 LXI D,00FEH
2027 11FD00 CALL MENU
202A 2A840C LXI D,00FDH
202D CD8120 LHLD CI
2030 11FC01 CALL MENU
2033 2A840C LXI D,01FCH
2036 CD8120 LHLD CI
2039 2A840C CALL MENU
203C 7E MOV A,M
203D CD240C CALL WH1
2040 23 INX H
2041 7E MOV A,M
2042 E680 ANI 80H
2044 CA3C20 JZ XMIT
2047 3E20 MVI A,'
2049 CD240C CALL WH1
204C 2A0E0C ELOP
204F C30820 JMP ENTERL

```

The following subroutine is used by MENU to save the 'flags' which start out in DE (the flag in D is 0 unless MENU is asked to display words or individual characters, the flag in E is the indicator telling MENU what to display, eg. FEH = groups, FDH = subgroups, etc.), it also saves the data in HL as its starting address and saves the current value of POS in the 'current message' storage.

```

2052 EB XCHG
2053 22860C SHLD FLAGS
2056 EB XCHG
2057 22800C SHLD CS
205A 2A0E0C LHLD POS
205D 22820C SHLD CM
2060 2A800C LHLD CS
2063 C9 RET

```

The following subroutine erases the top two lines of the video display without disturbing the message displayed on the bottom 14 lines. It ends with the cursor at 'home'.

```

2064 3E0B NEW
2066 CD240C CALL WH1
2069 3E18 MVI A,18H
206B CD240C CALL WH1
206E 3E0D MVI A,0DH
2070 CD240C CALL WH1

```

erase screen

save current message address

offer spelling

offer punctuation

start of vocabulary

set flags

offer groups

set up flags

fetch chosen item's address

offer subgroups

set up flags

fetch chosen item's address

offer words

fetch chosen item's address

fetch character

print it

next

fetch it

check for start of next item

if not next item, keep printing

space after completed item

fetch current message address

go back to offer spelling again

send cursor home

erase current line

go to next line

'print' command which would cause the message area of the TV screen to be copied on paper. This would allow her to write an essay or a letter.

An S-100 compatible card is available from D. C. Hayes Associates (the 80-103A Data Communications Adaptor) which would allow her to select and dial a telephone number and send messages over the telephone to anyone having a computer terminal. A number of computer networks are now being used as communication networks, and it is reasonable to expect a network for handicapped people to develop in the near future.

Computers can be used to generate and control sounds. Several companies now offer S-100 compatible speech synthesis cards. It would be possible for Robin to learn to speak out loud, using one of these cards. Although the necessity of learning a new 'language' of phonemes would initially make this a slow communication process, the potential exists for this to be a very rapid communication mode.

Several companies now offer S-100 compatible circuit boards for music synthesis. It would be possible to write a program which would allow Robin to compose music and instruct the computer to perform it for her. Computer graphics are also possible. With a higher resolution video display, it would be possible for her to draw pictures with fine detail, and with a suitable printer, make 'hard copies' of these on paper.

There are several CMOS microprocessor CPU chips available now. Although CMOS memory and peripheral chips are still somewhat more expensive than TTL and NMOS chips used in Robin's system, it is already practical to build a micro-computer system similar to Robin's which would consume much less power. Such a system would be more expensive, but would be capable of battery operation, increasing portability.

S-100 compatible circuit cards are readily available which allow a computer to control electrically operated devices in its surroundings. It would be easy to expand a system like Robin's to allow her to

turn on and off lights, appliances, etc. A system which can communicate can be a flexible control system too.

If you decide to try to build a micro-computer communications system for a handicapped person, I'd like to hear from you. I may be able to help with advice, and Robin might benefit from your ideas. My mailing address is:

Tim Scully  
35267-136 CH  
P O Box 1000  
Steilacoom, WA 98388

NOTE: Thanks are due to the staff of McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary, whose cooperation made this project possible. The staff of Aquarius Electronics in Albion, California were also very helpful in tracking down parts for Robin's system. Robin's family provided the essential financial support, and Robin, her family and tutors all helped by contributing ideas and suggestions.

*Tim Scully*

McNeil Island December 1977

□

2073	3E18	MVI A,18H	
2075	CD240C	CALL WH1	erase it too
2078	3E0B	MVI A,0BH	
207A	CD240C	CALL WH1	send cursor back home
207D	C9	RET	

## MAJOR SUBROUTINES: SMENU AND MENU

SMENU and MENU, which follow, are the major subroutines for displaying items on the menu (the top line of the video display). MENU is entered with flags in DE and a starting address in HL. The flags tell MENU to display groups, subgroups, words or individual characters. The starting address tells MENU where to find the first item to display. An exit from MENU is accomplished when an item is selected by use of the kneeswitch. Upon exit from MENU, the starting address of the chosen item will be in CI.

207E	11FB01	SMENU	LXI D,01FBH	set flags for spelling
2081	CD5220	MENU	CALL ENTER	save address & flags
2084	CD6420	ITEM	CALL NEW	erase menu
2087	22840C		SHLD CI	save current item address
208A	7E	DISPY	MOV A,M	fetch character from memory
208B	CD240C		CALL WH1	and display it
208E	23		INX H	next
208F	7E		MOV A,M	
2090	E680		ANI 80H	check for msb=1
2092	CA8A20		JZ DISPY	if not, keep printing
2095	AF		XRA A	are we finished with group or
2096	BA		CMP D	are we printing with words or letters?
2097	C26421		JNZ WORD	if so, go on with words or end
209A	14		INR D	otherwise, set flag
209B	3E2D		MVI A, '-'	
209D	CD240C		CALL WH1	print '-'
20A0	2B		DCX H	
20A1	23	SEARCH	INX H	and look for end of group or
20A2	7E		MOV A,M	subgroup
20A3	BB		CMP E	by checking for a flag like E
20A4	DAA120		JC SEARCH	keep looking until found
20A7	2B	BACKUP	DCX H	then backup
20A8	7E		MOV A,M	and print it
20A9	E680		ANI 80H	
20AB	CAA720		JZ BACKUP	
20AE	C38A20		JMP DISPY	

The next four locations store the timing constants for two time delays: T1 and T2. T1 is the time each item on the menu is displayed and T2 is the minimum time the kneeswitch has to be closed before it is considered intentional (so that accidental twitches will be ignored).

20B1	5050	DW 5050H	T1 time constant
20B3	5050	DW 5050H	T2 time constant

## SUBROUTINE: SWITCH

The subroutine SWITCH looks for a switch closure for time T1 and then returns with zero in D if the switch was never closed. If the switch closes, but not for at least T2, the routine just starts over, extending T1. If the switch closes for at least T2, then after the switch is released, it returns with one in D.

20B5	1600	SWITCH	MVI D,0	set up 'never closed flag'
20B7	E5		PUSH H	
20B8	2AB120		LHLD T1	fetch time constant
20BB	E5		PUSH H	
20BC	C1		POP B	put it in BC

20BD	E1		POP H	
20BE	DB80	IN	IN 80H	look at switch
20C0	E680		ANI 80H	it's only one bit
20C2	CADA20		JZ CLOSED	
20C5	22900C		SHLD 0C90H	waste time
20C8	2A900C		LHLD 0C90H	to make timing loop longer
20CB	22900C		SHLD 0C90H	
20CE	2A900C		LHLD 0C90H	
20D1	0D		DCR C	
20D2	C2BE20		JNZ IN	check switch every time
20D5	05		DCR B	
20D6	C2BE20		JNZ IN	keep timing
20D9	C9		RET	time up, no contact
20DA	E5	CLOSED	PUSH H	
20DB	2AB320		LHLD T2	fetch time constant
20DE	E5		PUSH H	
20DF	C1		POP B	put it in BC
20E0	E1		POP H	
20E1	22900C	WAIT	SHLD 0C90H	waste time
20E4	2A900C		LHLD 0C90H	
20E7	0D		DCR C	
20E8	C2E120		JNZ WAIT	keep timing
20EB	05		DCR B	
20EC	C2E120		JNZ WAIT	time up?
20EF	DB80		IN 80H	check switch
20F1	E680		ANI 80H	it's only one bit, the msb
20F3	C2B520		JNZ SWITCH	start over if not still closed
20F6	14		INR D	set flag for contact
20F7	DB80	UP	IN 80H	check switch again
20F9	E680		ANI 80H	
20FB	C0		RNZ	wait until it is released
20FC	C3F720		JMP UP	meanwhile looping

## SUBROUTINE: MESSAGE

The subroutine MESSAGE is used to display a number of short messages on the menu. Message is entered with an address in HL equal to one less than the starting address of the message to be displayed. It will display the message found, up to and including a terminating '?'. Upon exit from message, the zero flag in the PSW will be one if the offered item was chosen and zero if it was not chosen.

20FF	000000	MESSAGE	NOP NOP NOP	I deleted something here
2102	CD6420		CALL NEW	erase menu
2105	23		INX H	
2106	7E		MOV A,M	
2107	CD240C		CALL WH1	print
210A	FE3F		CPI '?'	check for end of message
210C	C20521		JNZ MESSAGE +6	
210F	2A820C		LHLD CM	
2112	220E0C		SHLD POS	restore POS
2115	CDB520		CALL SWITCH	
2118	3E01		MVI A, 1	
211A	BA		CMP D	
211B	C9		RET	

## SUBROUTINE: COMP

The subroutine COMP is used by MENU to check the switch.

211C	CDB520	COMP	CALL SWITCH
211F	3E01		MVI A,1



2121	BA	CMP D	
2122	C22C21	JNZ NEXT	if no contact, offer next choice
2125	2A820C	LHLD CM	
2128	220E0C	SHLD POS	restore main text POS
212B	C9		

**MORE ROUTINES USED BY MENU**

The following chain of routines are used by MENU to find and display the next item, check for the last item in a list, offer ESCAPE? and recycle to the beginning of the list if nothing is chosen. The details of these operations vary depending on what items are being offered: groups, subgroups, words or characters.

212C	EB	NEXT	XCHG	save current address
212D	2A860C		LHLD FLAGS	while restoring flags
2130	EB		XCHG	
2131	7B		MOV A,E	
2132	FEFD		CPI FDH	are we displaying groups or subs?
2134	D24121		JNC CHECK	if so, check for end
2137	2A840C		LHLD CI	
213A	23	FIN	INX H	skip current word or letter
213B	7E		MOV A,M	
213C	E680		ANI 80H	and keep skipping until the
213E	CA3A21		JZ FIN	start of the next, then check
2141	1C	CHECK	INR E	the last item will be followed
2142	7E		MOV A,M	by a flag = to E + 1
2143	BB		CMP E	
2144	D25721		JNC LAST	
2147	1D		DCR E	restore flag in E
2148	FEFB		CPI FBH	if no control code found,
214A	DA8420		JC ITEM	keep displaying
214D	7B		MOV A, D	
214E	FEFD		CPI FD	
2150	DA5721		JC LAST	
2153	23		INX H	skip control code
2154	C38420		JMP ITEM	
2157	CD8221	LAST	CALL ESCAPE	if last item was displayed, offer
215A	2A860C		LHLD FLAGS	escape and then loop back
215D	EB		XCHG	
215E	2A800C		LHLD CS	
2161	C38420		JMP ITEM	and start displaying over again

**SUBROUTINE: WORD**

WORD, the next subroutine, is used by MENU. If groups or subgroups are being offered, it is entered only after the complete offering has been printed and it jumps to COMP to check the switch. But if individual words or characters are being offered, WORD keeps printing words or characters across the menu space, with two spaces between each, until the end of the subgroup or until the end of the line.

2164	7B	WORD	MOV A, E	check flag
2165	FEFD		CPI FDH	
2167	D21C21		JNC COMP	and split if groups or subs
216A	3A0E0C		LDA POS	check position in menu
216D	FE3C		CPI 3CH	if we are near the end of
216F	D21C21		JNC COMP	the line, stop printing &
2172	7E		MOV A, M	split or if we are at the end
2173	BB		CMP E	of the subgroup, split
2174	D21C21		JNC COMP	
2177	3E20		MVI A, ''	otherwise,
2179	CD240C		CALL WH1	print two spaces

217C	CD240C	CALL WH1	
217F	C38A20	JMP DISPY	and add more to menu

**SUBROUTINE: ESCAPE**

The subroutine ESCAPE offers a return to the SPELLING mode and is used often.

2182	C5	ESCAPE	PUSH B	
2183	214F22		LXI H, ESC-1	set up for message
2186	CDFF20		CALL MESSAGE	
2189	C1		POP B	
218A	C0		RNZ	return if no escape
218B	E1		POP H	clean up stack
218C	C30C20		JMP REENTRY	and reenter SPELLING?

**SUBROUTINES USED BY SPELLING MODE**

The SPELLING mode uses this chain of subroutines. The first alphabet offered is different from the other 26, and the routine doesn't backspace before printing the first letter, so there is one routine for the first letter and another for all the others. ESCAPE? is offered after each letter is printed and before a new alphabet is offered. A look-up table is used to pick the right alphabet to offer after the first letter has been printed.

218F	211523	SPELL	LXI H, ASTART	address of initial alphabet
2192	CDB721		CALL FIRST	print first letter
2195	CD5720		CALL SENTER	to restore POS
2198	CD8221	TALE	CALL ESCAPE	offer escape
219B	21C722		LXI H, STAB	start of look-up table
219E	78		MOV A, B	fetch last letter printed
219F	BE	LOOK	CMP M	and look for it in table
21A0	CAA921		JZ FOUND	
21A3	23		INX H	each table entry
21A4	23		INX H	is three bytes
21A5	23		INX H	
21A6	C39F21		JMP LOOK	keep looking, you'll find it
21A9	23	FOUND	INX H	when you find it,
21AA	5E		MOV E, M	get address from table
21AB	23		INX H	
21AC	56		MOV D, M	
21AD	EB		XCHG	and put it in HL
21AE	CDC821		CALL SECOND	offer new alphabet
2181	CDBA21		CALL OOP	print the chosen letter
2184	C39821		JMP TALE	and loop back to do it again
2187	CD7E20	FIRST	CALL SMENU	offer alphabet
218A	2A840C	OOP	LHLD CI	fetch chosen item's address
218D	7E		MOV A, M	
218E	CD240C		CALL WH1	and print it
21C1	47		MOV B, A	save it for look-up later
21C2	3E20		MVI A, ''	
21C4	CD240C		CALL WH1	and print a space
21C7	C9		RET	
21C8	CD7E20	SECOND	CALL SMENU	offer alphabet
21CB	2A0E0C	SECONDS	LHLD POS	get ready to backspace
21CE	2B		DCX H	and
21CF	220E0C		SHLD POS	do it
21D2	C9		RET	

**SUBROUTINE: PUNCT**

The subroutine PUNCT handles offering the control codes (by calling another subroutine) and it offers the punctuation symbols. It uses one of the spelling subroutines to handle punctuation.

21D3	216822	PUNCT	LXI H, CONTROLM-1	
21D6	CDFF20		CALL MESSAGE	offer CONTROL?
21D9	CAEB21		JZ CONTROL	
21DC	21AC22		LXI H, PSTART	starting address of punctuation
21DF	CDCB21		CALL SECOND	offer them
21E2	CDBA21		CALL OOP	print the chosen one
21E5	C34C20		JMP ELOP	go back to offer SPELLING?
21E8	000000		NOP NOP NOP	I took out something here

## SUBROUTINE: CONTROL

CONTROL offers and executes the control commands.

21EB	217322	CONTROL	LXI H, BACKSPACE?-1	
21EE	CDFF20		CALL MESSAGE	offer backspace
21F1	C2FA21		JNZ TWO	
21F4	CDCB21		CALL SECONDS	backspace
21F7	C30820		JMP ENTERL	back to offer SPELLING?
21FA	217D22	TWO	LXI H, ERASE LAST WORD?-1	
21FD	CDFF20		CALL MESSAGE	
2200	C21222		JNZ THREE	
2203	2A0E0C		LHLD POS	
2206	2D		DCR L	back up
2207	2D	MORE	DCR L	back up
2208	3EA0		MVI A, ''	
220A	BE		CMP M	have we reached a space?
220B	C24022		JNZ RUB	
220E	23		INX H	leave the space
220F	C30820		JMP ENTERL	and go offer SPELLING?
2212	218D22	THREE	LXI H, SPACE-1	
2215	CDFF20		CALL MESSAGE	
2218	C22322		JNZ FOUR	
221B	3E20		MVI A, ''	
221D	CD240C	END	CALL WH1	
2220	C34C20		JMP ELOP	back to offer SPELLING?
2223	219422	FOUR	LXI H, NEXT LINE?-1	
2226	CDFF20		CALL MESSAGE	
2229	C23122		JNZ FIVE	
222C	3E0D		MVI A, 0DH	
222E	C31D22		JMP END	
2231	219E22	FIVE	LXI H, ERASE SCREEN?-1	
2234	CDFF20		CALL MESSAGE	
2237	CA0020		JZ START	start all over
223A	CD8221		CALL ESCAPE	
223D	C3EB21		JMP CONTROL	
224D	36A0	RUB	MVI M, A0H	put blank on screen
2242	C30722		JMP MORE	
2245	00		NOP	
2246	00		NOP	
2247	00		NOP	
2248	00		NOP	
2249	2181F8	PATCH	LXI H, F881H	initialize text address
224C	220E0C		SHLD POS	
224F	C9		RET	

In the listing below I haven't typed the hex equivalents for the ASCII (this listing was hand-assembled).

2250	ESCAPE?
2257	SPELLING?
2260	PUNCTUATION?
226C	CONTROL?

2274	BACKSPACE?
227E	ERASE LAST WORD?
228E	SPACE?
2295	NEXT LINE?
229F	ERASE SCREEN?
22AC	.? ; : ! 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 # \$ % & ( ) * + -
22C6	FB DB FBH end flag

## ALPHABET LOOK-UP TABLE

Here is the look-up table for the various alphabets, in non-standard form.

22C7	C13023	A 2330H
22CA	C24B23	B 234BH
22CD	C36323	C 2363H
22D0	C47723	D 2377H
22D3	C59123	E 2391H
22D6	C6AC23	F 23ACH
22D9	C7C223	G 23C2H
22DC	C8DA23	H 23DAH
22DF	C9F123	I 23F1H
22E2	CA0C24	J 240CH
22E5	CB1324	K 2413H
22E8	CC2B24	L 242BH
22EB	CD4624	M 2446H
22EE	CE6024	N 2460H
22F1	CF7B24	O 247BH
22F4	D09624	P 2496H
22F7	D1AD24	Q 24ADH
22FA	D2B124	R 24B1H
22FD	D3CC24	S 24CCH
2300	D4E624	T 24E6H
2303	D50025	U 2500H
2306	D61A25	V 251AH
2309	D72825	W 2528H
230C	D83F25	X 253FH
230F	D95725	Y 2557H
2312	DA7025	Z 2570H

## THE ALPHABETS

And here are the alphabets, once again without the hex.

2315	ASTART	TAOSWIHCBFPMRELNDUGYJVQKZX
232F	FB	DB FBH end of alphabet flag
2330		NTSRLDCIGVMYPBKUFOWJXHZEA
234A	FB	DB FBH
234B		EAOUYRISLJTVMBDWCGHNPFK
2362	FB	DB FBH
2363		OEHATKILURCYSONDZMW
2376	FB	DB FBH
2377		EIUARSOLMDGYNVJQWHEFTPKBZ
2390	FB	DB FBH
2391		RSNDALMCETVFPXIGYOWUHQKBZ
23AB	FB	DB FBH
23AC		ORIFEALTSYWBMGCHNJPD
23C1	FB	DB FBH
23C2		EHROAIGSLUTNYMFDWZJKPC
23D9	FB	DB FBH
23DA		EIAOTURYLNWDSMBHQFPCGK
23FO	FB	DB FBH

23F1		NSTOCMLAREDVGPFBKXUZQIJLWY
240B	FB	DB FBH
240C		AEQUIJ
2412	FB	DB FBH
2413		EISANLYOGFWTURDPMKBJCHV
242A	FB	DB FBH
242B		EIALYODTSUFMRMWWKPCBGNHJZXQ
2445	FB	DB FBH
2446		EAOIPMUYSBLFNTHCDRWGJKVCZ
245F	FB	DB FBH
2460		DTEGSCIAOYNLFVUKMJRQPHWXBZ
247A	FB	DB FBH
247B		NFRUMPLTOWSDCVIBEYAKHJGXZQ
2495	FB	DB FBH
2496		ROAELTSPIHMUYWFGKBNDCJ
24AC	FB	DB FBH
24AD		UIO *
24B0	FB	DB FBH
24B1		EIOATSYDMNURCLVKGPWFHFXQJZ
24CB	FB	DB FBH
24CC		TEIOSHUCAPYKMWNLGQFBDRVJZ
24E5	FB	DB FBH
24E6		HEIOARSTUYLWCFMNBPDZGKVJQ
24FF	FB	DB FBH
2500		TSNRLCGPAEMDIFBOYZXUVKQJH
2519	FB	DB FBH
251A		EIAOYUSRZVKGM
2527	FB	DB FBH
2528		EAHIONRSLTDYKUPFBMZWG
253E	FB	DB FBH
253F		EPTICAHUYOQLNWFVSVGBKMRD
2556	FB	DB FBH
2557		EOSAITPMBLNWCRGDZHUFVXIK
256F	FB	DB FBH
2570		EAZOYIUKTVWHJB
257E	FB	DB FBH end of alphabets
257F	C1C1424C45C1424F	AAbleAbout beginning of vocabulary storage
	5554	

TEXT AND EDITOR

3F00	CD200C	TEXT	CALL WHO	keyboard input
3F03	FE7F		CPI 7FH	is it rubout?
3F05	CA263F		JZ RUB	
3F08	FE5F		CPI 5FH	is it shift 0?
3F0A	CA383F		JZ EDITOR	
3F0D	FE1C	CTL	CPI 1CH	is it a control character?
3F0F	DA213F		JC CONTROL	
3F12	FE20		CPI 20H	is it a control code?
3F14	D2193F		JNC PRINT	if not, print it
3F17	C6DF		ADI DFH	
3F19	77	PRINT	MOV M, A	store it in memory
3F1A	CDE53F		CALL LPRINT	put it on TV
3F1D	23		INX H	next memory location
3F1E	C3003F		JMP TEXT	do it all over again
3F21	F6C0	CONTROL	ORI COH	make eighth bit high
3F23	C3193F		JMP PRINT	for 'capital' letters
3F26	CDE53F	RUB	CALL LPRINT	rubout on TV
3F29	2B		DCX H	back up in memory

3F2A	C3003F		JMP TEXT	go do it over
3F2D	2A800C	RETEXT	LHLD 0C80H	fetch starting address
3F30	3E0C		MVI A, 0CH	erase TV
3F32	CD240C		CALL WH1	
3F35	C3003F		JMP TEXT	
3F38	22800C	EDITOR	SHLD 0C80H	save start of current line
3F3B	3E0D		MVI A, 0DH	
3F3D	CD240C		CALL WH1	start a new line
3F40	2A800C		LHLD 0C80H	fetch start of current line
3F43	EB		XCHG	
3F44	CDD103		CALL DEOUT	print address in hex
3F47	EB		XCHG	restore address
3F48	3E2D		MVI A, ''	
3F4A	CD240C		CALL WH1	print space
3F4D	7E	LOOP	MOV A, M	fetch character from memory
3F4E	CDE63F		CALL LPRINT	put it on TV
3F51	7E		MOV A, M	
3F52	23		INX H	
3F53	FEFB		CPI FBH	was it the end of a line?
3F55	DA4D3F		JC LOOP	if not, keep printing
3F58	CD200C	KEY	CALL WHO	wait until a key is pressed
3F5B	FE20		CPI ''	is it a space?
3F5D	C2673F		JNZ M1	if not, keep checking
3F60	2A800C		LHLD 0C80H	fetch starting address
3F63	23		INX H	space skips one character
3F64	C3383F		JMP EDITOR	and reprints line
3F67	FE7F	M1	CPI 7FH	is it rubout?
3F69	C2873F		JNZ M2	
3F6C	2A800C		LHLD 0C80H	fetch starting address
3F6F	E5		PUSH H	copy HL
3F70	D1		POP D	into DE
3F71	3EFF		MVI A, FFH	end of vocabulary flag
3F73	010000		LXI B, 0	start counting at zero
3F76	2B		DCX H	
3F77	23	M3	INX H	
3F78	0B		DCX B	count one byte
3F79	BE		CMP M	check for end flag
3F7A	C2773F		JNZ M3	keep counting if not the end
3F7D	2A800C		LHLD 0C80H	fetch starting address
3F80	23		INX H	we are moving one space
3F81	CD0001		CALL MOVE	
3F84	C3383F		JMP EDITOR	display edited line
3F87	FE0D	M2	CPI 0DH	is it carriage return?
3F89	CA383F		JZ EDITOR	then display next line
3F8C	FE0A		CPI 0AH	is it line feed?
3F8E	C2A03F		JNZ M4	
3F91	2A800C		LHLD 0C80H	fetch starting address
3F94	2B		DCX H	back up
3F95	2B	M5	DCX H	keep backing up
3F96	7E		MOV A, M	
3F97	FEFB		CPI FBH	look for control flag
3F99	DA953F		JC M5	and keep backing up until found
3F9C	23		INX H	skip the flag
3F9D	C3383F		JMP EDITOR	and display previous line
3FA0	FE5F	M4	CPI 5FH	is it shift 0?
3FA2	CA2D3F		JZ RETEXT	if so, go to TEXT
3FA5	FE1C		CPI 1CH	is it a control character?
3FA7	DABE3F		JC M6	if so, it is upper case
3FAA	FE20		CPI 20H	could it be a control code?

# Prayer Wheel Program

BY EDRID

When I finished building my computer, I wanted to do something far out with it to start off right. Having been a meditator for some time, I thought of a computer implementation of a Tibetan Prayer Wheel. I chose an ancient high mantra for the first thing my computer would do in its present incarnation.

We had the good fortune to meet Sonam Gyatso, a genuine Tibetan Lama. When told of my computer's 'recitations', he beamed brightly and said, characteristically, 'Oh my! Great Merit!'

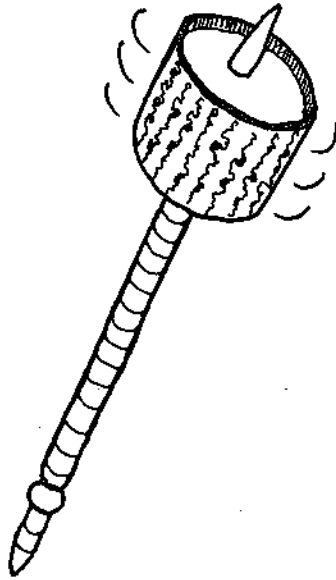
As of January 27, 1978 the number of recitations by my computer was 22,199,184. We encourage the spread of this program, and would like to know of other implementations.

Edrid  
c/o Dynabyte  
4020 Fabian Way  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

```

10 REM **** MANTRA ****
20 REM ** A PRAYER WHEEL PROGRAM **
30 REM ** WRITTEN BY EDRID ****
40 REM ** IN NORTH STAR BASIC ****
100 OPEN #0, "MANTRAF"
110 READ #0, N: CLOSE #0
120 CHR$(12)
130 PRINT: PRINT: PRINT
140 PRINT "MUMBLE... MUMBLE..."
150 DIM M$(18)
160 FOR M=1 TO 1007: READ M$
170 RESTORE: NEXT M
180 DATA "OM MANI PADME HUM"
190 PRINT M$
200 N = N + 1008
210 PRINT "      ", N
220 OPEN #0, "MANTRAF"
230 WRITE #0, N: CLOSE #0
240 GOTO 160
    
```

100-110 gets the number of past recitations of the mantra from the disk.  
 120-140 clears the screen and prints a message to give a hint of what is going on.  
 150-170 prepares a space in memory for the mantra, then puts it in there over and over for 1007 times, one less than the number of petals in the Crown chakra.  
 180 is the mantra.  
 190 prints the 1008th.  
 200 adds 1008 to the number of recitations.  
 210 prints the total number of recitations of the mantra.  
 220-230 puts the new total onto the disk, with the thought that some of the power of the 1008 recitations is within the number.  
 240 goes back to the beginning to do the whole thing over again, endlessly.



```

JNC INSERT
CPI 1EH
JNC M7
ADI B0H
JMP INSERT
ADI DFH
JMP INSERT
ORI C0H
LHLD OC80H
PUSH PSW
MVI A, FFH
LXI B, 0
DCX H
INX H
DCX B
CMP M
JNZ M8
MOV D, H
MOVE, L
INX D
MOV A, M
STAX D
DCX D
DCX H
INR C
JNZ M9
INR B
JNZ M9
POP PSW
STAX D
INX H
INX H
JMP EDITOR
CPI 60H
JNC WH1
CPI 41H
JC WH1
ADI 20
JMP WH1

M7
M6
INSERT
M8
M9
LPRINT

D2C03F
FE1E
D2B93F
C6B0
C3C03F
C6DF
C3C03F
F6C0
2A800C
F5
3EFF
010000
2B
3FCA 23
3FCB 0B
3FCC BE
3FDD 54
3FD1 5D
3FD2 13
3FD3 7E
3FD4 12
3FD5 1B
3FD6 2B
3FD7 0C
3FD8 C2D03F
3FDB 04
3FDC C2D03F
3FDF F1
3FE0 12
3FE1 23
3FE2 23
3FE3 C383F
3FE6 FE60
D2240C
FE41
DA240C
3FED C620
3FF2 C3240C

if not, insert it as is
be sure it is not M or L
if its not, then control code ok
make into L or M
and insert it
make into control code
make into capital letter
fetch starting address
save character on stack
end of vocabulary flag
start counting at zero

move forward

count one space

get back character
and insert it

is it upper case?
print as is
is it lower case?
if not, print as is
make it lower case
and print it
    
```

