EDITORIAL

Those of you who know me from the VIPER will recognize that I have a hard time keeping my "two-cents worth" out of the material I edit - and this book proves no exception. I'm so impressed by Tom Swan's work that I'm inclined to jump up and down, flap my arms around, and holler at you about how good it is. (Since you're reading this "editorial" however, you've already purchased the book, and there isn't anything I could tell you that you won't find out by yourself in very short order!)

I think PIPs For VIPs will prove to be a "classic" in its field. Not only does Tom tell us what the program does and how we can make it perform, but he goes to some length to let us see how the program works, what we can do to modify it, how to do those modifications (and what to not modify!), and which modifications occurred to him as he was writing the program. He tells us what each CHIP-8 variable is used for; what each 1802 register is used for; where all the important subroutines begin; and even gives us checksum data on the CHIP-8 programs, so we can verify our program entry. What more could we ask? This is truly a model of "ideal" documentation! As most of us are sadly aware, even the best of programs available on the market today are deficient in the documentation department. Perhaps other authors will take their cue from Tom Swan's examples here.

I also think PIPs For VIPs can serve as a sort of "laboratory" for people who are trying to learn CHIP-8. Or 1802 machine code. Or how to use machine language subroutines in CHIP-8 programs. When combined with the wealth of material provided by RCA in the 1802 Instruction Manual, the VIP Instruction Manual, and the VIP User Guide, PIPs For VIPs provides a learning tool that is unbeatable in any other language for any microprocessor!

When all this material is supplemented by user interaction in the pages of the VIPER, I predict that the 1802 - and especially the VIP - will not long remain hidden from the public view.