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H8SCOOP

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INTRODUCTION--WELCOME

I would like to welcome all of you to the more complete role of the H8 computer. This is it! I realize there has been little support for those faithful few who supported Heath in their H8 venture, only to get their money taken away and to hear for the rest of their lives, "sorry, we can't help you", or "that can't be done!". More on this in the editorial section.

Why am I doing this? Maybe my problem is that I have too much money stuck in my H8 to go out and junk it, or maybe it's because I really like the features like the front panel, keypad, disk operating system etc. I can't put my finger on it, but I want to keep my H8 and make it more useful every day. If you are like me in any way, and share any of my feelings for the H8, or if you just want to get more practical use out of your H8 computer, this will be THE newsletter for you. It is not intended to replace other publications(you'll have to be the judge of that), but to suppliment them and provide you with lots of practical useful information and ideas.

If you expect a newsletter formatted like a slick magazine, you just purchased the wrong newsletter. If you are concerned about grammar and correct syntax, you also purchased the wrong one. I say what's on my mind, and I call it like I see it. No fancy frills, no nonsense, just the plain truth.

Those of you that are familiar with my H8 goodies techinal article series already know that I mean business. Those of you who have had the opportunity to consult with me have found out I am willing to do all I can for fellow H8 computerists. I don't talk out of empty space in my head, I have had daily hands on experience with the H8, hardware and software, ever since I received my system, and that was right after they began rolling off the assembly line at Benton Harbor. I have 2 complete H8 systems including floppies and all, with well over \$10K invested. The computer bug really bit me hard. In other words I care, and have a good deal of experience with the H8, and electronics in general.

Now about myself! I am including a short synopsis of myself here, not because I am vain, but because in the past many of you have already inquirea as to my background and life. I have always had a love for computers, but until recently, the average person could not afford one. Once the modern technology of the LSI and the 5080 struck, that was it.

I have an AAS degree in computer engineering technology, and a BS degree in electronic engineering, from Milwaukee School of Engineering, ranking in the top 10% of my class in both. I have worked as a design engineer in the past for a stored software processor controlled electronic telephone system company. I have in the past built, owned, and operated a burglar alarm installation company and an audio recording studio. In the past years I have built a small computer business using my H8 and related equipment. Besides computers, my hobbies include video photography, music, electronics, and reading(the Bible especially). I am 32, married and have a 3 year old son. Now that you know a little about me, I'd like to get to know about you, from your contributions to this newsletter, general chat, or whatever.

Naturally, this newsletter will start out small, and hopefully grow as I get organized and you all help contribute. I'd like to here from you as to what you are doing with your H8, current projects, unique software and hardware. There will be a monthly section on who's doing what with the H8. That way, you'll have names and addresses of those doing similar things if you would like to exchange ideas and information. As time goes on, I hope the format can be improved upon, but like I stated before, I want to concentrate on content, and not on frills. That's why Chrysler went sour, and I saw that comming long ago.

CLASSIFIEDS

There will be a monthly classified section. If you are looking for something or want something for your H8, let me know and I'll print it. A word of warning! H8 equipment is low in value, especially things like 8K

memory boards and H9 terminals. If you want to sell something to upgrade, don't be greedy! If you ask a reasonable price, you should be able to sell it. Let's use this section to help each other, not to screw our neighbor! Only classified word adds will be printed, for the time being anyway. No display adds will be accepted.

FOR SALE--H17, assembled and tested. Seek time of 10ms. Used only to run through the tests. \$525 includes shipping. Call first as to availability. Henry Fale, 2918 S. 7th. St. Sheboygan, WI 53081 (414) 452-4172.

WANTED--8K MEMORY board for H8. Earl Albin, 4314 Granada Dr. Valley Station, KY 40272.

FOR SALE--One GODBOUT 12K Memory Board. Make offer over \$150. One Heath 8K memory board. Make offer. Upgrading to single board memory. James Czebiniak. 199 Vly Road Extension. Schenectady, NY 12309. Phone (518) 869-8723.

FOR SALE--8K Static Memory Board-Assembled, tested, and burned in for over 200 hours. \$125. H. Adams, POB 5052, Albuquerque, NM 87185 (505) 821-7829.

WHO'S WHO

This section will deal with who's doing what with the H8, and what their area of interests are. This way you can keep track of who has similar interests as you do, and keep in touch. Chances are good that you can help each other out. Get as much out of your H8 as you can, that's the name of the game. Why reinvent the wheel? Maybe someone's done it already!

Let me know what you are doing with your H8, or the area you are interested in using your computer, and I'll compile similar listings and print it.

FEATURE

I will try to run a monthly feature section that will be a how to do it type section on a hardware or software item. I'd like to cover such things as "Know your H8-5 board(parallel board)", "The Secret HDOS", "What's in that Forbidden Secret Code", and the like. Again, I will depend on your help to keep interesting articles comming.

NEW STUFF

There will be a section on NEW STUFF, which will include new projects developed by fellow users, and what other companies have on the market compatable with Heath, and interfacable to the H8. Of course, in this section I will keep you up to date on any of my new projects and developments. And don't forget, as a subscriber you are entitled to as many of my H8 goodies project articles as you desire, including new up and comming ones for 25% off the list price. This alone will more than pay for your subscription by purchasing a few articles.

Because this newsletter is only for the H8, you get what you want! Every page will be filled with goodies for you. You won't have to page through the H-11, H-39 or ET-3400 stuff mixed in, as found in other newsletters. So you get top value for your dollar, something rare nowadays. My reputation in the past on H8 support speaks for itself! I'm here to help and promote the use of the H8.

Don't expect to find here such absurd projects like turning the H8 into an alarm clock. A \$10,000 alarm clock I don't need. And unfortunately REMARK and even some computer magazines have already carried articles like that. And don't expect me to tell you what Heath has available, just read their catalogs!

To start you thinking, James Czebiniak, 199 Vly Road Ext., Schenectady NY 12309; wants info on the 32K memory boards on the market. Of course the one needing the computer for refresh is OUT. Anybody out there having experience with non-Heath memories, let me know. I'm sure lot of our readers would appreciate that info. Anyone have problems with any of the new memories? Can anyone highly recommend one? If you have any especially hot info, write James direct.

GOOD GUYS and BAD GUYS

This section will let you know who is dependable to deal with and who is not, and why. One thing I will not tolerate is when calling a company and being told the item you want is in stock and will be shipped out at once, and you get it a month or so latter. Deception of this type, especially to make a sale, is totally against my nature. The bad thing is, it seems to

be happening more and more these days.

*% BAD GUYS--j.r. conwell corporation's Q KIT'S---I am not sure as to the quality of their kits yet, because I haven't figured it out. Q KIT's from the short form catalog, sound pretty good. They come in a variety of kits, from A/D converters, Temperature sensors, People detectors, etc. I called the company February 2 to order a people sensor after they assured me they have the unit in stock and will ship imediately. After 2 weeks I called to find out why I haven't heard from them. They had no idea what happened, but said my order would go out Monday February 18th. Finally I received my order on February 22, and was missing 4 parts! They had no idea what happened, but would mail me my parts which I should get by Tuesday, February 26th. Well of course, that never happened. I finially received the missing parts Monday, March 3rd. Going through the scant manual, I assembled and tested the unit. The manual has no complete schematic, only a sketch without pin numbers or voltages, you have to deceiver it and figure out what's going on.

The pin designations on the schematic are incorrect and the tests procedure and results are incorrect. In other words, you walk into this thing blind, and come out the same way. I've screwed around with this unit for many hours, and still haven't figured it out yet. But justice prevails, I stopped payment on my check to the company, and neither of us has anything! I don't know about any of you, but I'll never buy another Q-Kit. The company should either get their heads together, or close down, because right now, their no good to anybody!

* GOOD GUY--BARRY WATZMAN of Heath Company. I've run into lots of bad guys from Heath, but Barry is definitely a good guy. I had the priviledge of speaking to him on the phone about some problems I was having on a program and he really helped me. I had the feeling he really cared. A few more guys like this in Heath, and we'll be in much better shape than now. Incidentally, I haven't had lot of chance to speak to many of the Heath guys, and there may be many more good guys out there. I'm not trying to say Barry's the only one. I'll let you know more about that as it happens.

PEEKING & POKING

A section I consider most important will be the editorial section, "PEEKING AND POKING". I feel in the past Heath has given it's users the shaft, and I'll tell you what I know. Anybody been treated rotten by Heath? Let me know, and Heath will see itself in print! Somebody's got to keep them straight.

The editorial section is where I really speak my mind and tell it like it is, sometimes with fear someone will send a hit man after me. And what should this first editorial be about? Naturally, the H8 computer!

Taking my articles and comments in BUSS for face value, someone out there actually may get the impression that I dislike the H8. I don't know what ever could give them that idea. The fact is, I really dig the H8, or I wouldn't have spent the time and money to support it with the H8 Goodies Article Series, or this newsletter. In fact, I like it so much, that's why I do these things. To keep the interest in the H8 up, and try to make it more competitive with other computers.

I learned long ago, to be heard, you have to make lot of noise. I don't want to cut Heath to pieces, I just want to keep them straight, and some of the guys there agree with what I'm doing, so I guess I'm not too far out.

Presently I am doing the H8 GOODIES ARTICLE SERIES, and now this newsletter on a part time basis, but real soon, I hope to be doing it full time. That will depend a lot on the response of this newsletter, but if I can swing that, I'll have a lot more time to devote to making a better newsletter, and doing up more project articles for the H8. To come in the near future are a poor mans parallel I/O for the H8 buss which will probably be featured in this newsletter, and the talking H8, my dream for quite some time. More on that next month.

I feel Heath did us early goers a great injustice. Like many of you, I purchased my H8, H9 and 8K memory boards at the very start when there was nothing else available from Heath. We were the ones that helped them launch their computer trip and really get them going. What thanks do we get? 3K memory boards are practically obsolete, the H9 is very fast loosing value. I feel the least they could have done was to continue the

classifieds in REMark. The thanks we got(get) was a kick in the rear! I understand some of the stores are giving a trade in price for the H19 toward the H19, but it's a ridiculous amount.

I strongly feel if Heath would have cared more about their customers and less about their new trip, the H3 would be a very strong and popular going computer. But instead of supporting the H3 to any great extent, they went to the H39 all in one, and here we sit with our H3's. I don't know how this is going to effect future support of the H8, but I hope they continue to support it much better than at present. The only thing that's half good about the whole situation, is it created a market for guys like me. In fact, there's about a dozen or so individuals out there supporting the H3 in hardware or software, although some of them have dollar signs for brains. Some of the outrageous prices I have seen for software and simple hardware for the H3 totally frustrates me. I know how it is. I've been in this market for well over a year now. You have to charge more, because you're catering to a small group, not the 100,000 many are. But there's a limit to sanity in a situation like this, and I feel many have jumped overboard.

All in all, to be fair to Heath, I definitely see they have been improving in the past year. They seem to care a little more than before, and I sense a little more willingness to help the user. We'll sit back and watch for a few months, and see how things go.

Well, that's enough for now. If you have comments, criticisms, or suggestions, feel free to write or call and I'll help any way I can. If you've been burned or treated really nice by Heath or anybody else selling H3 stuff, again, let me know, and we'll let the other H3ers know about it. But the important thing is to keep the ideas and suggestions comming. I can't do all the work! I'm depending on you to help. I want this to be the best H8 newsletter. I want to do what REMark started out to do before they got messed up somewhere. A true user exchange.

Be patient with me. As the months go by, this will get better and the format will drastically improve. This was not a good sample of what I intend for the typical newsletter, but only a sort of introduction that we may get to know each other.

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PHONE HOURS: 4PM-10PM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday. No collect calls!