Inspector Clew-So

BY RONALD J. CARLSON

For you budding detectives, here is a game to test your powers of deduction. However, the game does present some difficulties. The suspects are Bill, Mary, Suzy, John and Paul. With names like those, they all sound guilty. — RZ

Inspector Clew-So is a computerized detective simulation loosely patterned after the detective board games. However, there are several unique and challenging twists in this game.

The program was written in BASIC and run with Digital Group MAXI BASIC. Only standard BASIC statements were used to insure portability to other versions of BASIC.

Even if the game is not played with hard copy, the user will need pencil and paper to keep track of the times, places and alibis of the suspects in the house.

A murder has occurred in the guest house. One of the guests (random) has killed the host during the time 1-9 p.m. (random). The great homicide detective, Inspector Clew-So, is allowed to ask the suspects, Bill, Mary, John, Suzy, or Paul, for their location in the house at a particular time. The suspects will answer and also say who was with them and who they saw in adjacent rooms.
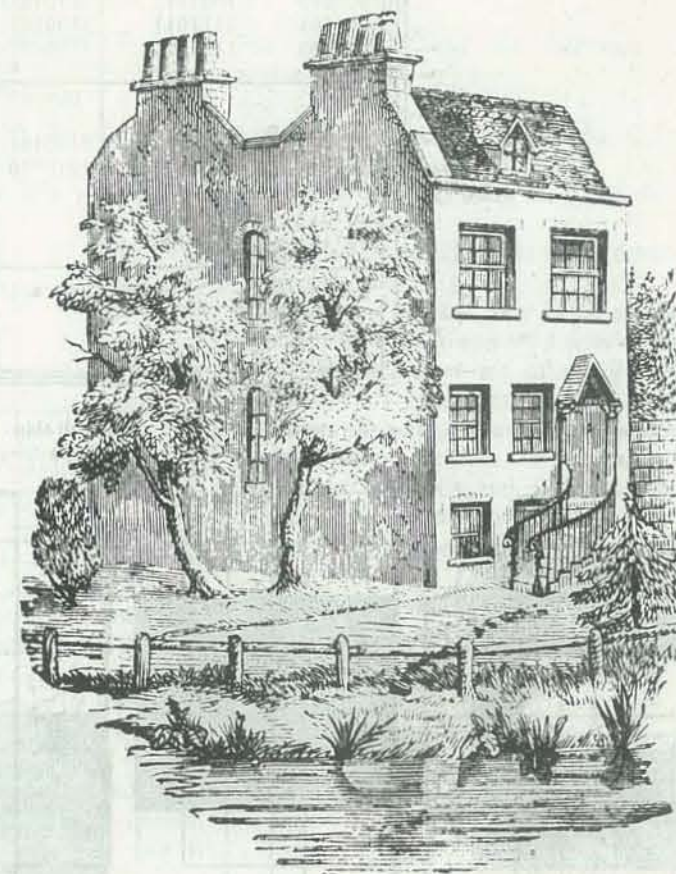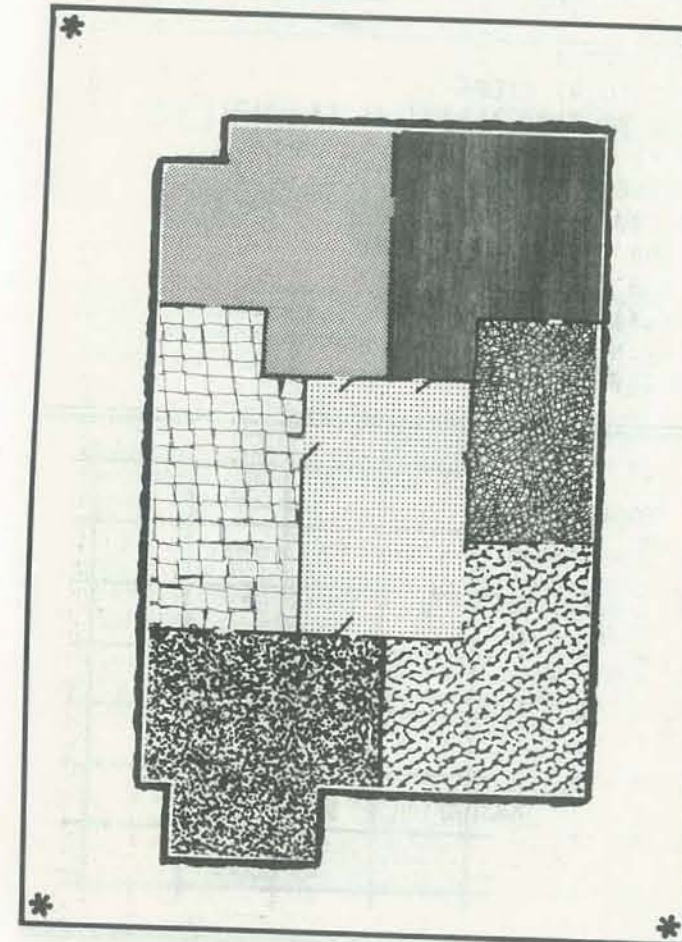
As a further check, or as a different approach, the inspector may ask the suspects, at what time(s) they were in an individual room. The suspects move from room to room each hour. The guilty person will lie (randomly) about his/her whereabouts and the condition of the victim.

The inspector must collect and analyze enough answers to determine who is lying and thus, the guilty person. Then the inspector has to narrow down the location and time of the murder. When the inspector has part of the crime solved, (suspect, room, or time), this may be confirmed or rejected with a direct confrontation. If the inspector is completely flabbergasted and resigns, then the facts that eluded the inspector during the questioning are displayed.

MAJOR VARIABLES

C	Keeps track of the number of questions
C1	Keeps track of the number of confrontations
P(5,9)	Represents the position in the house for all five suspects for the hours 1-9 p.m.

THE NEXT THREE VARIABLES ARE RANDOMLY ASSIGNED

M	Killer (1-5)
T	Time (1-9) of the murder
R	Room location (1-6), determined by P(M,T)

S$ = "BILLMARYPAULSUZYJOHN" ... 5 four letter names
R$ = "LOUNGEATRIUMLIVINGDININGTROPHYGARAGE" ... 6 six letter rooms

FNA$	Suspect number	→ Name
	or	
	Room number	→ Name
FNB	Name	→ Suspect number or room number

Listing

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10DIM S$(20), R$(36), A$(3), P(5,9), Z$(36), Y$(36) , M$(36)
20REM**************************************************
30REM*                                               *
40REM*         INSPECTOR CLEW-SO                      *
50REM*         BY: RON CARLSON                        *
60REM*         FEB. 1979                              *
70REM*                                               *
80REM**************************************************
90S$="BILLMARYPAULSUZYJOHN"
100R$="LOUNGEATRIUMLIVINGDININGTROPHYGARAGE"
110DEF FNA$(M$,P,Q)=M$((P-1)*Q+1,P*Q)
120DEF FNB(Z$,Y$,L,H)
130FORA=1TOH
140IFZ$<>FNA$(Y$,A,L) THEN170
150P=A
160EXIT190
170NEXTA
180P=0
190RETURNP
200FNEND
210PRINT"BILL, MARY, JOHN, SUZY AND PAUL ARE HOUSE GUESTS.THEIR HOST "
220PRINT"WAS MURDERED BY ONE OF THEM BETWEEN 1 PM. AND 9 PM."
230PRINT"YOUR JOB AS INSPECTOR CLEW-SO, IS TO FIND THE KILLER,TIME & ROOM."
240PRINT"YOU WILL BE GIVEN A HOUSE DIAGRAM AND A SET OF QUESTIONS"
250PRINT"FOR THE SUSPECTS.BUT THE GUILTY PERSON MAY TRY TO MISLEAD YOU."
260PRINT"BY LYING SOME OF THE TIME."
270PRINT"IF ONE OF THE SUSPECTS CLAIM THAT THE HOST WAS ALREADY DEAD."
280PRINT"OR THAT THE HOST WAS STILL ALIVE, THEN YOU HAVE FOUND THE"
290PRINT"ROOM WHERE THE MURDER TOOK PLACE."
300 PRINT
310H=0
320C=0
330C1=0
340PRINT"   |-----------------------------|-"
350PRINT"   |               O GARAGE      |-"
360PRINT"   |           O TROPHY          |-"
370PRINT"   | DINING  |---|---|    --     |-"
380PRINT"   |                             |-"
390PRINT"   |--O---------------|     O  (WINDOWS)"
400PRINT"   |                             |----."
410PRINT"   |                             |-"
420PRINT"   | LIVING  ---|               |-"
430PRINT"   |--                          |-"
440PRINT"   |     O  ATRIUM      O LOUNGE |-"
450PRINT"   |-----------------------------|-"
460FORK=1TO5
470P(K,1)=INT(6*RND(K))+1
480NEXTK
490FORL=2TO9
500FORK=1TO5
510A=INT(6*RND(K))+1
520IFA=P(K,L-1)THEN510
530P(K,L)=A
540NEXTK
550NEXTL
560REM ESTABLISHED SUSPECT'S MOVEMENTS
570 REM RANDOM ASSIGNMENT OF KILLER,TIME AND ROOM
580M=INT(5*RND(1))+1
590T=INT(9*RND(2))+1
600R=P(M,T)
610INPUT"INSPECTOR CLEW-SO WHO IS YOUR SUSPECT ? ",S1$
620S=FNB(S1$,S$,4,5)
630IFS=0THEN610
640PRINT
650PRINT"DO YOU WISH TO QUESTION "S1$" ABOUT :"
660PRINT"   1  - THE SUSPECTS WHEREABOUTS AT A PARTICULAR TIME"
670PRINT"   2  - WHAT TIME THE SUSPECT WAS IN A CERTAIN ROOM"
680INPUT"   3  - THE CRIME IS SOLVED ---",A
690IF A<1 OR A>3 THEN650
700C=C+1
710ON A GOTO 720,990,1200
720PRINT S1$,
730 REM TIME SECTION
740INPUT "WHERE WERE YOU AT ",T1
750IF T1<1 OR T1>9 THEN740
760R1=P(S,T1)
770IFS<>M THEN860
780 REM LIAR SECTION
790IFRND(2)<.5THEN910
800R1=INT(6*RND(3))+1
810IF RND(4)<.5 THEN 840
820PRINT"THE HOST WAS ALREADY DEAD."
830GOTO910
840PRINT"OUR HOST WAS STILL ALIVE."
850GOTO910
860IFR1=RTHEN880
870GOTO910
880IFRND(5)<.5 THEN910
890IF T1 < T THEN PRINT" THE HOST WAS STILL ALIVE."
900IF T1 > T THEN PRINT" THE HOST WAS ALREADY DEAD."
910PRINT"I WAS IN THE "FNA$(R$,R1,6)" ROOM."
920FORK=1TO5
930IFK=S THEN960
940IF P(K,T1)=R1 THEN PRINT"I WAS WITH "FNA$(S$,K,4)
950IF ABS(R1-P(K,T1))=1 THEN PRINT"I SAW "FNA$(S$,K,4)
960NEXTK
970GOTO610
980REM ROOM QUESTIONING
990PRINT S1$,
1000INPUT " WHAT TIME WERE YOU IN [ROOM] ",R1$
1010T1=FNB(R1$,R$,6,6)
1020IFT1=0THEN1000
1030IFS<>M THEN1110
1040IFRND(5)<.5THEN1110
1050T1=INT(RND(5)*6)+1
1060GOTO1090
1070IF T1=F THEN PRINT"I WAS NOT IN THAT ROOM."
1080GOTO610
1090PRINT"I WAS IN THAT ROOM AT "T1
1100GOTO610
1110K=0
1120FORB=1TO9
1130IF P(S,B)<>T1 THEN 1160
1140PRINT"I WAS IN THAT ROOM AT "B
1150K=1
1160NEXTB
1170IF K=0 THEN PRINT"I WAS NOT IN THAT ROOM."
1180GOTO610
1190REM CONFRONTATION SECTION
1200C1=C1+1
1210PRINT"INSPECTOR DO YOU THINK YOU KNOW :"
1220PRINT"   1   KILLER"
1230PRINT"   2   ROOM"
1240PRINT"   3   TIME"
1250INPUT"   4   TOTALLY BAFFLED ----",A
1260 ON A GOTO 1270,1420,1350, 1550
1270INPUT" THE KILLER IS ? ",S1$
1280X=FNB(S1$,S$,4,5)
1290IFX=0THEN1210
1300IF S1$<> FNA$(S$,M,4) THEN 1530
1310PRINT" YOU HAVE THE KILLER, ISPECTOR CLEW-SO."
1320H=H+1
1330IF H=3 THEN 1500
1340GOTO610
1350INPUT "TIME OF THE MURDER ",T1
1360IF T1<1 OR T1>9 THEN1350
1370IF T1<>T THEN 1530
1380PRINT"INSPECTOR YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TIME."
1390H=H+1
1400IF H=3 THEN 1500
1410GOTO610
1420INPUT "ROOM OF THE MURDER ",R1$
1430X=FNB(R1$,R$,6,6)
1440IFX=0THEN 1420
1450IF R1$<>FNA$(R$,R,6)THEN 1530
1460PRINT"INSPECTOR , YOU NOW HAVE THE ROOM."
1470H=H+1
1480IF H<>3 THEN 610
1490 REM CONFIRMATIONS
1500PRINT"YOU ARE BRILLIANT INSPECTOR CLEW-SO."
1510PRINT"IT TOOK YOU "C+" QUESTIONS AND "C1" CONFRONTATIONS."
1520GOTO1590
1530PRINT"INSPECTOR CLEW-SO YOU ARE A BUMBLING IDIOT,TRY AGAIN"
1540GOTO610
1550PRINT"TOO BAD INSPECTOR CLEW-SO"
1560PRINT" THE FACTS ARE:"
1570PRINTFNA$(S$,M,4)" KILLED THE HOST AT "T1" O'CLOCK IN THE "
1580 PRINT FNA$(R$,R,6)" (ROOM)"
1590INPUT"DO YOU WANT A NEW CASE INSPECTOR ? ",A$
1600IF A$="YES" THEN 210
1610END
READY
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