   The Indiana TSU reports that a new version of the program by Stan Lemke, Pixel Print Plus (ver.4) has been released. It was almost finished when Lemke Software Dev. got out of TS2068 market and Steven Spalding of Sting Graphics has completed it. It no longer supports the TS2040 printer but has substitute a Greeting Card design facility in the space saved. The Indiana n/l is planning a review of desktop pub. progs. starting with their next issue. The writer recently talked to Larry Kenny of Larken, who is currently working on a TS2068 desk top publ. program with spell-checker, etc. This useful area of use for Sinclair computers happily continues to grow in support. ....The Indiana n/l also has a 2 p. advert. for the Oliger, TS2068 disk system specifying 395K disks, 5¼ inch and they are also selling their system in bare pcb form (no chips, two boards needed) for the hardware hacker to assemble. This system has had a long evolutionary course of upgrades and improvements. It is double-density, uses the WD1770PH-00 f.disk controller chip and is Spectrum ROM &OS64 compatible. John Oliger Co.,11601 Whidbey Dr.,Cumberland,IN,USA 46229....Larken El.,RR#2,Navan,Ont.,Can.K4B1H9 and Aerco, Texas, sell TS2068 disksys. too....Sincus,1229 Rhodes Rd.,Johnson City,NY, USA13790 is working to mate the Linger Board(RS232 terminal bd.)to TS2068.This makes use of TTL mon. &IBM keybd. possible with TS2068. 80col.TS2068 BASIC ROM mod.coming.

→MagazineNews:SyncWare News/Quantuum Levels is selling back issues for US$3 until exhausted (@602 S.Mill St.,Louisville,OH,USA 44641)-losses of about $5000 put them out of circulation a year ago....Vol5No2 of Time Designs is out,29722 Hult Rd., Colton,OR,USA 97017(BBS-503-824-2658,8/1/n)....Update the disk system magazine is US$18/yr,1317 Stratford Ave.,Panama City,FL,USA32404(904-871-3556).It has 2068, QL & Z-88 material.(4xper yr)...Byte Power,TS2068 mag-on-a-cassette, demo US$3,1 issue $6, 6 issues$32-also TS1000 progs.$10;fast load for TS2068-$20;LKDOS util.v.2.0-$30,'DUS' ==================== @1748 Meadowview Ave. Pickering,Ont.,Canada L1V 3G8==========

→Mailing List Changes: add to your list the following contacts for Sinc SIG's ----- G. Granger, 812 Hedwick St.,New Carlisle, Ohio,USA 45344; Another Sinclair SIG is in Pittsburgh Area Computer Club, Sinclair SIG, R. Vasko, One Virginia Dr., Donora, PA,USA 15033 -Note both of these addresses are contacts reported by SLIX and are not necessarily the contact persosn that are officially representing the Sinclair SIG's in these groups, but they are probably leads worth following up....As yet no address here for Boston TSUG, said to have separated from Boston Comp. Soc.(as SIG)

→Supplier File: TK Computerware (QL Software),Stone St.,North Stanord, Ashford,Kent, England CT25 6DF;---Lloyd Dreger, P.O. Box 101, Butler, WI,USA 53007 (3 books on using machine code with the TS2068);---Pyramid Electronics, 2174 Gulf Gate Dr., Sarasota, FL,USA 34231 (813-922-9574)(TS1000 & TS2068 software);---Bottle Cap Software, 1284 Brushwood Ave.,Cincinnati,OH,USA 45224 (OS-64 software, TS1000, TS2068, including Checkbook Balancer, Credit Card Payer,Index Card Printer for Cassette Boxes are three examples of their OS-64 programs for US$6 each);--- TS(1000?) progs. available, 10 for $15, $3 each, 36 titles to choose from, $25 min, order from, A T Software Liquidators, 2640 S. Harbor Blvd.,Santa Ana,CA,USA 92704(714-751-2667) ....Wm.l.cKelvey,744 Wall Rd.,Spring Lake Heights,NJ,USA 07762 is making heavy duty power supplies for the TS2068....

→Bugs,Fixes & What You Can And Can't Do,(Maybe): Can you interface a Commodore 64 disk drive to a TS2068? Maybe, SLIX reports that a group out of Ohio once worked on a project to do this....Can you use CASE with LONGINT in TurboPascal ver.4.0to 5.5 ? Probably not due to a bug in the compiler, the fix is to use IF..THEN...ELSE instead....Can you use MS DOS version 3.0,3.1, 3.2 happily with all compiled programs (as with the QL The Solution emulator?), maybe the odd bug will appear, since MS DOS only fixed a particular bug in its versions 3.3 and later....Is there a simple program, available preferably in source code, to read CP/M disks with an MS DOS computer?-if there is anything out there in the public domain the publisher of this newsletter would like to know....Can you read MS DOS disks on a Radio Shack CoCo with OS-9 Level I? If so, Michael Furman, of Calif. GUTS group would like to know and wants to try to write a program to do so. Contact SLIX if you know anything.... Are BASIC programs,written in the dialect of your interpreter, convertible to a compiled program? As often as not no. Most compilers will load in interpreter created programs but only a few will compile them without editing/changes.-------

→→MAN WHO SAY IT CAN'T BE DONE SHOULD NOT GET IN WAY OF MAN WHO IS DOING IT.-Old Proverb ←

AMATEUR PROGRAMMERS'

LINE: A Column by Bill Harmer

BASIC is still being used in the real world out there (MS DOS, Atari ST, Apple Mac), by amateur programmers, but not as much as the newer, more in-fashion languages like C language or even the newest entry, Modula-2, by the inventor of Pascal. Probably more amateur programmers have moved up to Pascal than any other language, when casting around for substitutes for BASIC. In the Sinclair world, that usually means HiSoft Pascal on the Spectrum-Rom-equipped TS2068, although the QL has a version of Pascal (or more than one) and even the lowly TS1000/ZX-81 had a version (of partially integer Pascal) called Partial Pascal, on cassette. For the IBM (&CP/M)crowd, Turbo Pascal by Borland still is the standard although some public domain/shareware versions of Pascal do exist, like Mystic Pascal. Trouble with most compiled languages is that you have to go through a tedious set of steps to get your source code program compiled so you can test it to see if it will work. The alternative, not testing until you have added a lot of lines of code, may mean that when the routine bombs, you have a lot of possibilities to look into, as to the bug's cause.

The writer once, rather grandly thought of establishing a BASIC codeworks operation to revive the dying art of distributing the source code for BASIC programs, since once the programs are compiled, you lose the source code and then the user loses the educational value (if any) of tracing how you did this or that function. I still say, that reading others' source code is the only way to improve your own programming quickly, and with compiled programs, that is hardly possible, since they tend to get disseminated, without their otherwise, accompanying source code files (if for no other reason than to save modem time and disk space). A few programs were added to the file of such BASIC source code, but it is amazing how much work there is to writing even a simple program, and getting it running. Time perhaps better spent, on learning another language, or something, was sort of begrudged to the BASIC code writing project. Of course, another source of BASIC code remains, that of Sinclair programs converted over to MS DOS, but then that is another story. Simpler programs for the simpler computers like the Sinclair orphans, do however tend to look a little sick and their graphics rather pale, when uploaded to MS DOS or even uploading TS1000 programs to the capitals and lower case, milieu of the TS2068 and QL. Anyway, treat your store of original BASIC programs as a treasure trove, since there is no way of knowing if you or another might be able to gain by converting them to another computer's format. The best way to do it would be probably to have a building block program in the new computer's BASIC, which provides the sort of essential title page display, menu display, 'Press enter to turn a page' sort of routines already tricked out, in form and elaborateness suitable to the new computer and then upload the old BASIC program (or key it in) to that block, and with a bit of splicing and editing, most of what works in say, ZX-81/TS1000 BASIC, will also work in the more fully-featured BASICs of the bigger computers around. Maybe, the newer computers require you to put variables in brackets (for SQR X use SQR(X), square root, for example). Some BASIC's use LOCATE or PRINT @ instead of PRINT AT, and often the easiest way to solve the problem is, instead of using PRINT AT 9,14;"MENU" to centre the word, just a bunch of PRINT statements to get to the middle of the screen, and then PRINT"   MENU", with as many spaces in the quotations ahead of the word, 'MENU' as are needed to centre it. Most computers have fancier ways of doing that, but the simpler method will solve the problem until you get into the fancier ways (perhaps, as is often as not, never even mentioned in the users' manual for the new computer).

Theoretically, the amateur can stick with BASIC for ever, as all computers sooner or later have a BASIC made for them. (The exception, IBM AT clones running Windows by Microsoft, offers a chance for the ambitious amateur programming language designer). I would think that anything worth doing on a computer can be done with BASIC programs, perhaps running a little machine language in sub-routines from within the BASIC programs. The BASIC compilers around also offer the choice of going that more sophisticated route without learning a totally different language anyway. The TS2068 has the Timemachine BASIC compiler and even the ZX-81 had at one time MCODER (an integer BASIC). Of course for those running CP/M on the Sinclair computers, the regular CP/M BASIC compilers are perhaps another option.

There are just too many BASIC programmers and BASIC programs for BASIC to die as a language, at least not in the next ten years, for sure.