

THE APPLE THREE USERS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
MINUTES OF THE USER'S GROUP MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 21, 1985

The meeting was held at the offices of Gensler & Associates, an architectural firm located at 550 Kearny Street in downtown San Francisco.

President Chuck Schreiber brought the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. 38 people were present.

The speaker for the evening was Bob Consorti, editor of On Three magazine, who came mostly to demonstrate his new board that expands the RAM of an Apple /// to 512k. This board does not currently have Apple][emulation, but later in the year Bob hopes to have a 512k+128k 2e board for the /// available for under \$1000, if the demand is there.

As far as Bob knows, On Three and Titan are the only two companies still developing for the /// now that Quark has abandoned the field. The Titan board does have emulation, and can go to 192k in that mode, but according to Bob the extra 128k is usable only as a RAM disk, leaving only 64k for Apple][programs. There seemed to be a strong interest in the group for a board that would offer both 512k native and 128k in emulation (for Pro-DOS programs). Pro-DOS is a subset of SOS. It is possible that the][will eventually be expanded to the level of a ///. Apple currently has an internal program to change over from ///s to Macs and is selling off its used ///s for \$450, but Consorti mentioned that of six that he recently received, four were bad. The price of the On Three 512k board has recently been lowered from \$949 to \$599 due to lower chip prices, but On Three is apparently willing split the difference with anyone who bought one at the old price. There will be no boards available until the current production run of 500 becomes available at the end of March. Although installation instructions come with the board, Bob recommends that you have your dealer do it. With the new board BASIC has 460k available, but Pascal is still limited to 64k. On Three has been working with Dr. Wendell Sanders, the father of the Apple /// (mother unknown), to ensure that their board will be compatible with all current software. All programs will have to be run through an update program (included with each board) to make use of the expanded memory. Apple refused to license 3EZ Pieces to On Three for upgrading because they are afraid that it would make Appleworks look bad, so On Three is disassembling 3EZ to get it to use the expanded memory. Bob was asked how Apple feels about him, and he responded that since there is no longer a /// group at Apple, there is nobody to get upset with him. Quark has "not been cooperative", so Word Juggler users will not benefit from the new board. VisiCalc can use the extra memory, but the memory remaining indicator will indicate this only by starting over after the first 256k is used up. There is a new version of Applewriter called Super Applewriter 'I' that will make use of the new board. Catalyst works directly with the new board, often eliminating the need for dynamic driver loading with big programs such as BPI accounting. A RAM-disk driver is included.

On Three also has two hard disks available called Trustors, they will work with both the][and /// and, with a card, the IBM PC. The 10mb version costs \$1299, the 34mb \$2299. They both use Backup /// and have an advantage over the ProFile in that they have a special area for sparing out bad blocks.

One bad block on a ProFile means a trip to the repair shop, since reformatting is done by simply writing a new blank directory (that's why it happens so fast). John Leininger of Apple said that you can probably use an Altos to completely reformat a Profile and that if the Profile takes more than one minute to warm up, it is probably bad.

There are special versions of Draw-On Three for Epson printers and for Apple][digitizer pads. Apple prototyped things on the /// for the Mac, such as the mouse-controlled cursor. There probably will not be a 68000 board for the ///. Catalyst 2.1 is out, it doesn't trash your disks and it includes Discourse. One club member has been having problems with getting Draw-On /// to work with the Grappler+ printer interface card and Orange Micro has not been cooperative. Apple may be coming out with a /// packet which will have the source code for SOS, drivers, pinouts, etc. There are 25,000 Apple /// owners who own an average of three each and a couple dozen /// user's groups still in existence. A collection was taken which netted \$29.00.

Elliot Fabric, /// enthusiast and strong supporter of the ATUNCs, was injured in an automobile accident recently and it was suggested that messages could be left for him on the Apex Bulletin Board.

- C. Coles, Secretary