PAARA

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AUG. 1986

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PALO ALTO AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION AND

The menlo park C.D. Amateur Radio Club

PAARAgraphs is the official newsletter of the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association & the Menlo Park Civil Defense Radio Club

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Club Net 147.45 MHz, Monday at 8:30 p.m. local time

PAARA Policies

Membership in PAARA is 6 dollars per calendar year (payable in January) which includes a subscription to PAARAgraphs. Make payment to PAARA, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026.

Wa6BRM (Paul)

will be speaking on

Touch Tone Decoding Circuits

Surprises !!!

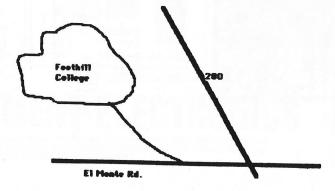
Demo's

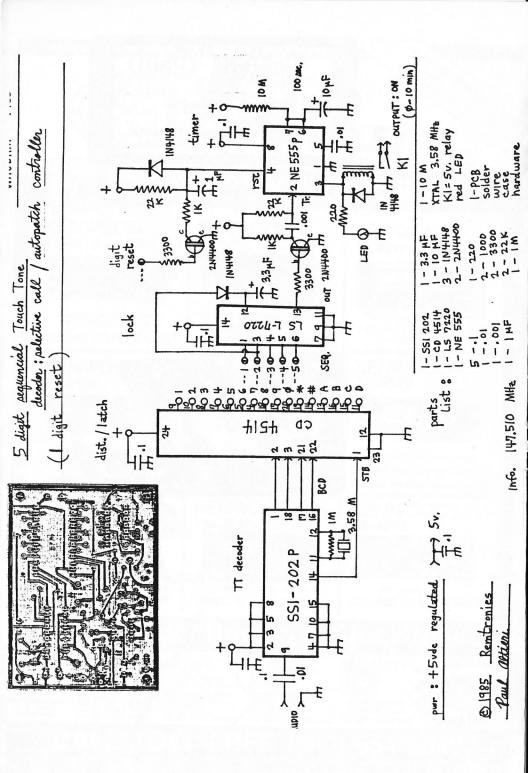
Sample Circuits !!



August 9, 1986

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association





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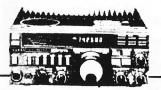
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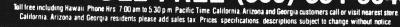
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The Babbage Language (CONT.)

 DO WAH - Used to write timing loops for computer-generated music (Rag Timing).

Every self-respecting structured language has a case statement to implement multiway branching. ALGOL offers an indexed case statement and Pascal has a labeled case statement. Not much of a choice. Babbage offers a variety of case statements:

- The JUST-IN-CASE Statement For handling after thoughts and fudge factors. Allows you to multiply by zero to correct for accidentally dividing by zero.
- The BRIEF CASE Statement To encourage portable software.
- The OPEN-AND-SHUT CASE Statement No proof of correctness is necessary with this one.
- · The IN-ANY-CASE Statement This one always works.
- · The HOPELESS CASE Statement This one never works.
- The BASKET CASE Statement A really hopeless case.

The Babbage Language Design Group is continuously evaluating new features that will keep its users from reaching any level of effectiveness. For instance, Babbage's designers are now considering the ALMOST EQUALS SIGN, used for comparing two floating point numbers. This new feature "takes the worry out of being close".

No language, no matter how bad, can stand on its own. We need a really state-of-the-art operating system to support Babbage. After trying several commercial systems, we decided to write a "virtual" operating system. Everybody has a virtual memory operating system so we decided to try something a little different. Our new operating system is called the Virtual Time Operating System (VTOS). While virtual memory systems make the computer's memory the virtual resource, VTOS does the same thing with cpu processing time.

The result is that the computer can run an unlimited number of jobs at the same time. Like the virtual memory system, which actually keeps part of the memory on disk, VTOS has to play tricks to achieve its goals. Although all of your jobs seem to be running right now, some of them are actually running next week.

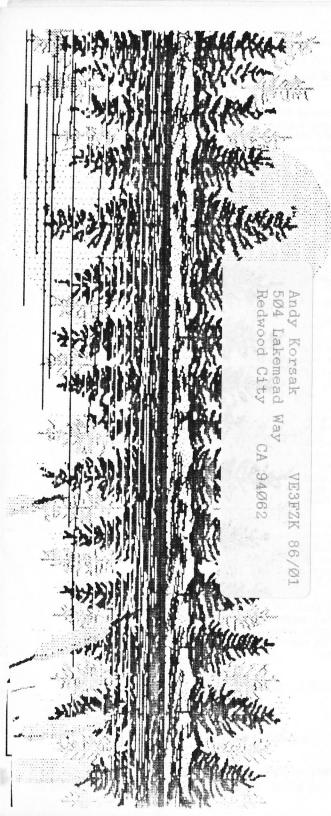
As you can see, Babbage is still in its infancy. The Babbage Language Design Group is now seeking suggestions for this powerful new language and as the sole member of this group (all applications for membership will be accepted), I call on the data processing community for help in making this dream a reality.

-Tony Karp Jamica, New York

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