

## GETTING ACQUAINTED

### ADDITIONAL DATA

by Jack Perron

Computer magazines come in many shapes and sizes, but the most unique today are the ones on magnetic cassette or diskette. If you're curious about these new "electronic magazines," you're not alone.

Recently, I had a chance to look at *SOFTSIDE DV* magazine. *SOFTSIDE DV* (the "DV" stands for "disk version") contains ready-to-run programs from its regular printed magazine program listings.

#### Softside DV

*SOFTSIDE DV* offered five programs on the diskette, including one discussed in the printed version but not listed. It was a special "bonus" program. Each issue includes at least one. It's the kind you can't reasonably type in from a listing. This one was an arcade game, "Robot Battle," which used machine language speed — definitely arcade quality.

Currently, *SOFTSIDE DV* comes without ATARI DOS II, which means you must first insert a Master Diskette, DOS II, in your disk drive before you can load the diskette's programs into your computer (and don't forget your ATARI BASIC cartridge). Once up and running, you replace your DOS II diskette with the *DV* diskette. At the BASIC ready sign, you type RUN "D:COVER" and are rewarded with a graphic title page (animated with sound). It ends by presenting a menu of choices. Select one and settle back.

*SOFTSIDE DV* means never having to type in another long magazine program listing. One of my all-time favorite pastimes, the card game Solitaire, was on the diskette. I'm sure I would have been tempted to spend a

few hours at the keyboard—now I don't need to. Gratification was instant. In a few seconds—colorful, high resolution cards dealt themselves across my TV screen, ready for me to play (alone).

Subscriptions to *SOFTSIDE DV* are \$125 a year, the "CV" cassette version costs \$75, and a regular magazine subscription is \$24. Write: *SOFTSIDE*  
100 Pine St.  
Holmes, PA 19043

#### Briefly Noted

If you missed *Popular Computing's* June 1982 cover story on Atari's "Chris Crawford: Artist as Game Designer," check your local library for a copy. It's a rare look at a programmer whose computer games have been acclaimed around the world... *ANTIC* magazine focused on modems and communications software in its June 1982 issue... *ANALOG 400/800* includes a tutorial on stereo-graphics in Issue #7. It even tells you how to make the 3-D glasses you need. *ANALOG* also offers a diskette/cassette version of their program listings... *COMPUTE!* helps ATARI PILOT fans with its "Friends of the Turtle" column by Dave Thornburg. In the July issue, Thornburg says, "turtle" graphics holds the key to understanding "fractals," those naturally occurring geometric shapes that have started a new geometry for science... *PURSER's* magazine has ceased publication.

If you have media information of interest to ATARI Computer owners, write:

Additional Data  
c/o THE ATARI CONNECTION  
P.O. Box 50047  
60 E. Plumeria  
San Jose, CA 95150

Jack Perron is a Senior Writer with the Atari Home Computer Division.

## Inter Connections

By Earl Rice

One of the more exciting new combinations of technology is the home computer connected to a telephone. Users' Groups, as well as commercial enterprises, have developed electronic "Bulletin Board" systems (BBS) using this new technology. An electronic bulletin board allows people with home computers to post announcements, exchange messages, and just plain have fun connecting with other computerists. An outstanding example of BBS systems is the bulletin board maintained by the Michigan ATARI Computer Enthusiasts.

You may remember that we have mentioned this group before. Their main interest seems to be communications and seeing how fast their group can grow. So far they have 750 members signed up. They not only maintain a public bulletin board system, they are offering their software for the system to the ATARI Computer Users' Group community. They have done a very good job with the program which they call AMIS.

As a service to Users' Groups, Atari's Users' Group Support Program will cover the cost of duplicating the software and sending it to all registered ATARI Home Computer a BBS is like, grab your Communicator kit and call up the Users' Groups.

If you'd like to find out what using MACE board in Michigan. The number is (313) 868-2064. Follow the instructions the system gives you to log on. You will find there is a list of other bulletin boards around the country. If you see one identified as an AMIS board, you can thank MACE for the "connection."

Earl Rice is the Manager of Users' Group Support in The Atari Home Computer Division.