



TONY SLEEP



**Under The Bonnet**

Almost any business can benefit from a computer. When your car goes in for its MOT, the computer displays the list of checks that have to be made. The mechanic works his way down the check list, entering each spare part as it is used and the time taken for the job. Once every safety check has been made the computer will calculate the bill and invoice the customer for parts and labour.

Computers take care of the routine chores and leave you free for more creative work

**A SLICE FOR ALL**

One day at Gilson's Bakery in Colnbrook, a computer moved in. Nothing sinister, though. The owner realised that the ready mix of standing orders: 20 rolls here, 400 loaves there, could best be dealt with by a computer.

The new machine also took over weekly invoices, payroll, and calculations of delivery patterns, recipe costings and discounts.

Gilson's played safe with a small order of hardware consisting of PET 8096s, 8050 floppy disk drives, and Mannesman Tally printers.

The tough part was entering 350 standing orders on the files. But once this chore was finished, the micro could work unattended over the weekend.

followed on the delivery route and states what has to be put through each letterbox. At the end of the month the computer calculates every householder's bill and prints out an accurate invoice. Profitability comes back, through the computer, to a highly labour-intensive business.

Many other business programs are available in software packages. Word processing programs are among the first to appeal to businessmen. All the corrections on a word processing program can be painlessly carried out on the screen. When they have been completed, a perfect copy is printed over and over again. Although repetition would be tiresome for the businessman, the computer never tires.

Word processing is one area in which the computer excels. But as technology advances more and more people will have computers available at work or home. Direct communication between

**A BYTE TO EAT**

Brown's restaurant in Oxford seemed successful enough; it was usually full of diners. But its management were worried about how much overheads, and wages were eating into the takings.

A computer provided some answers. By recording and despatching orders, and providing accurate bills, it minimised errors. Closer monitoring of customer demand also led to a profitable adjustment in opening hours.

The company wanted to maintain a bonus scheme, and that required an analysis of staff productivity, so Brown's invested in an Apple II. They also bought software including a payroll package, that saved two days a week in accounting, and VisiCalc for stock control and recipe costing.

**FRINGE BENEFITS**

At the smart Schumi hair salon in London, a personal computer asks some personal questions. The client is quizzed on hair condition, colour treatment, and perming.

The hairdresser keys in the responses, and works to precise instructions from a computer printout specifying a product, and how to use it. The client also takes away a personal hair-care program.

The diagnostic programs are simple to operate and take a few minutes to run. Schumi leases the system, based on a 10 Kbyte DMS 80F micro, from Goldwell, a cosmetics supplier.

Heinz Schumi views the system as a good training aid. In his opinion, it enables the hairdresser to colour hair to a high standard.

computers will eventually replace the posting of invoices and the ordering of stocks by letter. The business computer will be as indispensable as the telephone is today.