

The Computer Rag

newsletter of the Yokosuka Computer Club

News, Gossip & Innuendo from the Western Pacific

Volume 3, Number 6 August 1986

Editor: USNH Box 65-1561, FPO Seattle, WA 98765
or Box 65-1561, 1 Honcho, Yokosuka-shi, Kanagawa 238



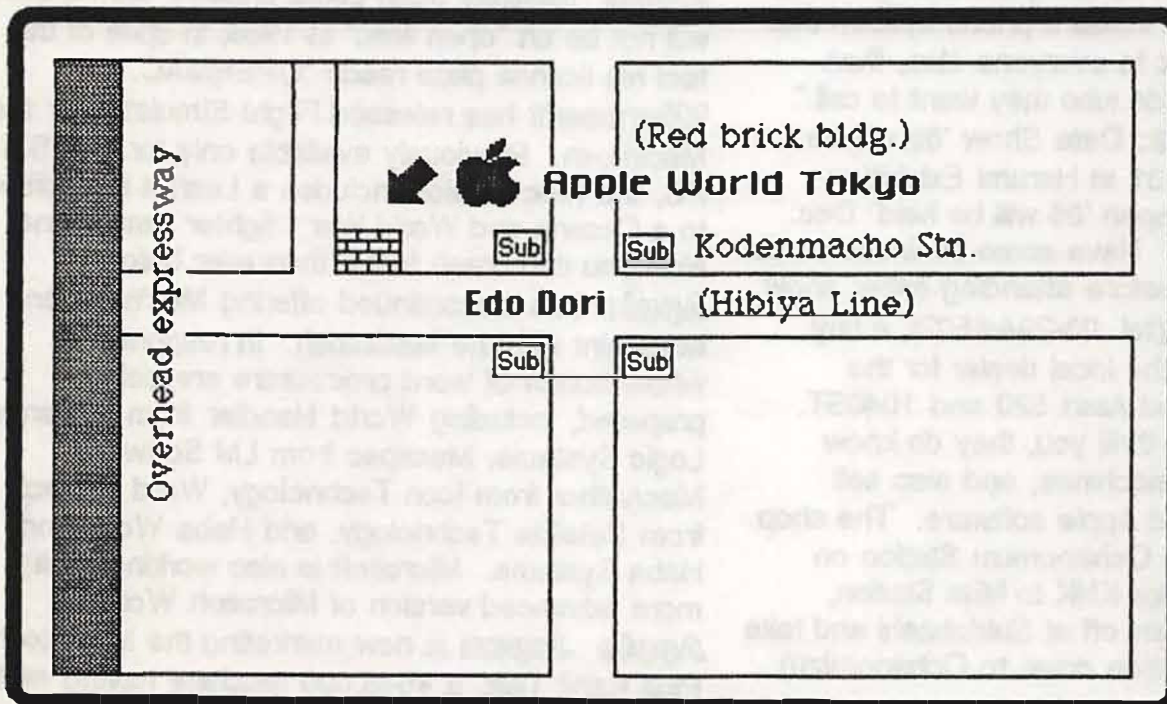
LOCAL GOSSIP

August Meetings: will be held on the second (2nd) Wed., Aug. 13, and the third (3rd) Tues., Aug. 18, both at 6 p.m. in the General Practice Clinic conference room at the hospital. The Wed. meeting will be a general meeting, chiefly devoted to getting new officers as the Pres. and Vice Pres. are fleeing the country. Until further notice, the Tues. meeting will be an Apple-oriented get together, focusing chiefly on items of interest to owners of Apple II and compatible machines.

Missing Newsletters: Some of you may have had trouble getting copies of *The Computer Rag* recently. You weren't alone — the Newsletter editor managed to get really sick, and when he was just short of fully recovered he flew back to the States because of a family illness. This issue is the first newsletter since May.

Contest Winner: If you haven't heard already, YCC member Vern May of Ship Repair Facility's ADP Support Group won the Navy Micro '86 Microcomputer Software Contest. His program, DBCONV, converts dBASE II files to Turbo Pascal files, Pascal files to dBASE II format, and does a few other tricks, too. May was the only winner from the Western Pacific, and after the conference winners total his travel (to Virginia Beach, VA), accommodations, and admission fees, they may write a special rule prohibiting winners from "out there."

Speaking of attendance, very few people from the West Coast or Pacific Region attended Navy Micro. As a result, conference organizers are getting some peculiar ideas about the needs and wants of micro users in the Navy, since they see the Navy as "Navy people in Greater Washington, DC."

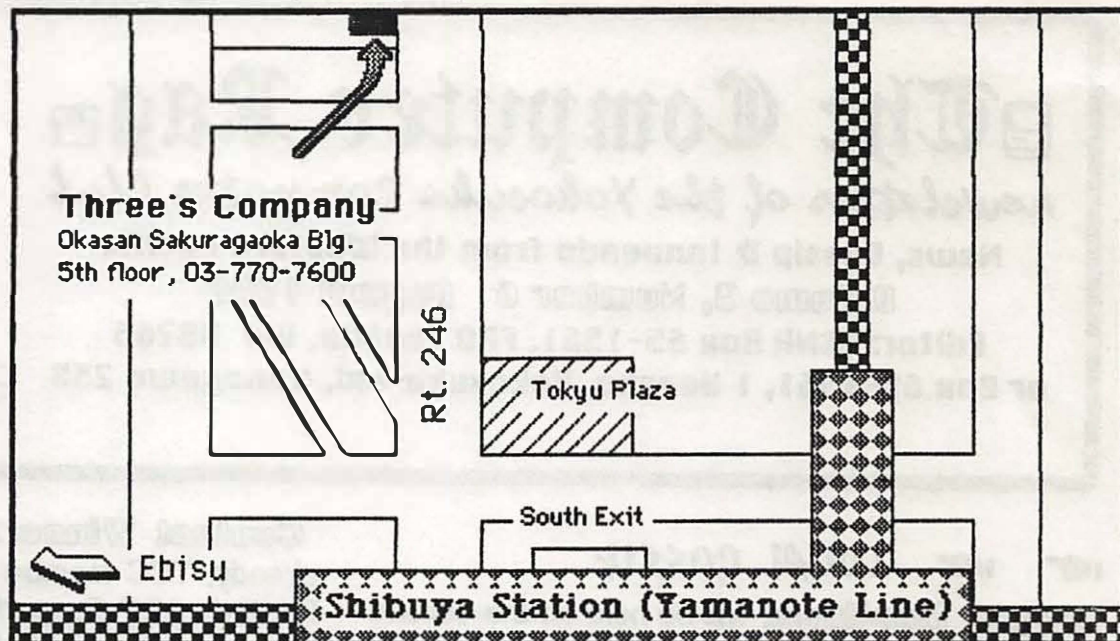


Apple World Tokyo (also known as HI-TECS) is probably the best all-round store for Apple products in all Japan. They have English-speaking sales people and technicians, and a huge assortment of items. Tel. no. 03-669-6800 (ask for Ken Otake).

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Three's Company, a new shop in Shibuya, presently has mostly Mac items, but is working on getting Atari, Commodore, IBM, Radio Shack, Wang, and CP/M products.

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At Navy Micro Robert Conn, Asst. Sec. of the Navy for Finance, blamed poor "management perspective" for the Navy's slow integration of micros into the workplace. "Analysis paralysis" causes an almost perpetual postponement of action, and "the planning process becomes an end to itself." "If planning must be completed before implementation begins, nothing gets done." [Someone in the audience noted, *sarcastically*, that more people seemed to get NAMs for planning projects than for running them.]

Conn also complained about people trying to determine in advance all possible uses for a machine. "You wouldn't develop a phone system by determining who each user might want to converse with and then allowing them only to talk to those persons. You install a phone system that allows everyone to talk to everyone else, then allow the users to decide who they want to call."

Upcoming Events: Data Show '86 will be held in Tokyo Oct. 28-31 at Harumi Exhibition Center. Interface in Japan '86 will be held Dec. 11-13, also at Harumi. Have some business cards made up in advance before attending either show.

Pineapple 6502 (tel. 03-294-6502), a tiny, tiny shop in Tokyo, is the local dealer for the Commodore Amiga and Atari 520 and 1040ST. While the prices won't thrill you, they do know something about the machines, and also sell Commodore, Atari, and Apple software. The shop is located across from Ochanomizu Station on JNR's Chuo Line. (Take KHK to Mita Station, transfer to Mita Line, get off at Suidobashi and take the Chuo Line one station down to Ochanomizu).

YCC Computer Faire: are we going to have a Faire this year? Will it be in October, or some other time? Who will be in charge? Beats me - come to a meeting and enlighten us . . .

☎ Non-Local Gossip ☎

Legend Industries, Ltd. (2220 Scott Lake Rd., Pontiac, MI 48054) has a RAM card for the Apple II, II+, and IIe - big deal. But if you have a II+ and want to use AppleWorks, you may want to get the card, as they will send you a free patch allowing AppleWorks to work on the II+. Exactly how you are supposed to use the "open Ⓢ," "closed Ⓢ" commands is not clear, but it's certainly worth sending them a letter.

Apple boggle Jean-Louis Gasseo claims there will not be an "open Mac" in 1986, in spite of the fact his license plate reads "OPENMAC."

Microsoft has released Flight Simulator for the Macintosh. Previously available only for the IBM PC, the Mac version includes a Learjet in addition to a Cesena and World War I fighter simulations. Now you can crash faster than ever before!

Apple has discontinued offering MacWrite and MacPaint with the Macintosh. In response, a whole bunch of word processors are being prepared, including World Handler from Advanced Logic Systems, Macspec from LM Software, MacAuthor from Icon Technology, Word Perfect from Satellite Technology, and Haba Word from Haba Systems. Microsoft is also working on a more advanced version of Microsoft Word.

Apple Japan is now marketing the Macintosh Plus Kanji Talk, a ¥648,000 machine having all the

regular Mac Plus features but also including a kanji operating system and a giant 256K ROM with a 35,000 kanji character set. Using new utilities, users can add their own special kanji characters, and convert English-language Mac programs to kanji. Japanese words can be entered in hiragana, katakana or Romanji, and converted to kanji in groups of 40 characters. Virtually everyone who has seen the machine claims it is far better than any Japanese-built word processing system on the market, at any price.

Franklin has come out with the Franklin 500, a one-piece Apple-compatible with built-in handle, 5.25 inch drive, keyboard, 256K RAM, serial, parallel, mouse, and RGB ports, all for \$499. The machine can be expanded to 512K, but does not have slots. It allegedly is compatible with the II, II+, IIe, IIc, and III.

Steve Wozniak is co-authoring a high-tech joke book, and inviting people to send him submissions. Write to: P.O. Box 168, Cupertino, CA 95015.

Steve Jobs has said Next, Inc., is two years away from releasing a product. Nasty people are saying he should hire Woz, since Woz designed the Apple II in just a couple months.

Yet more III rumors: Apple may release in Sept. a new member of the II family based on the 65816 chip with 512K RAM standard, 768x512 color display (allowing 128 colors from a choice of 4096), RS-232, parallel, and SCSI interfaces, mouse and disk controller, detachable keyboard and five to seven slots. Prices may range from

\$1400 to \$1600 (note: Apple has traditionally priced machines higher than rumors said they would), depending on what combination of 3.5 and 5.25 drives are used.

Atari Pres. Jack Tramiel has said the new Atari 1040ST will be "rotated" to mass market stores when the company's new 32-bit machine comes out in Jan. 1987. The new machine will run UNIX and use a 68020 CPU. 520 and 1040 machines can reportedly be upgraded to the new CPU and UNIX through an add-on board.

Also, along with its \$199 Emulator board to run IBM PC software, Atari is planning a board which will allow the PC to use ST software.

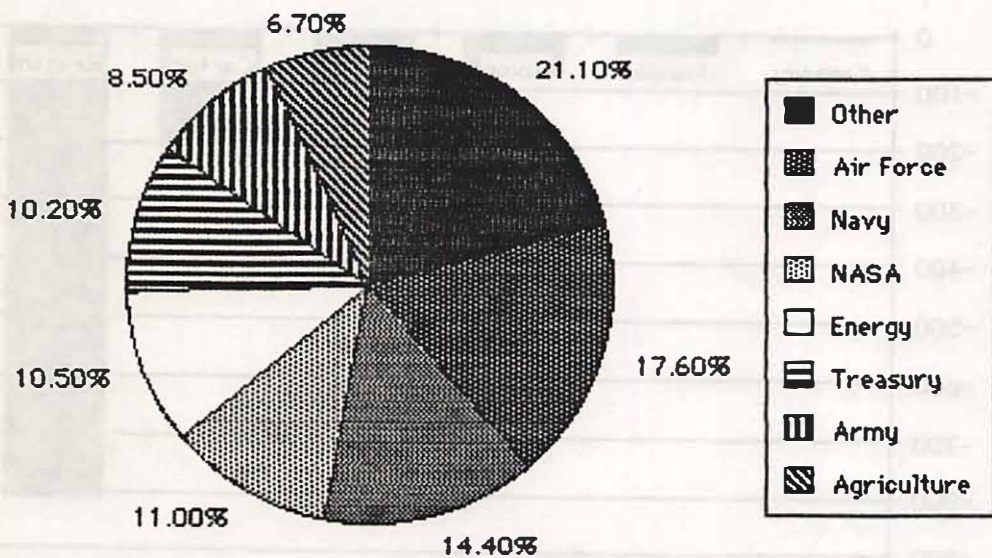
Even if you don't want an Atari, you might want their new modem. It operates at 300 and 1200 baud, is Hayes compatible, and costs \$99. It works on non-Atari computers, too.

Microsoft Write, a cut-down version of Microsoft Word, will be marketed by Atari for the ST line starting sometime this fall. Atari is also looking into selling PC-DOS 2.25 and GWBASIC.

Commodore has abandoned a software-based IBM PC emulation for the Amiga in favor of Sidecar, a \$600-700 box with 256K (up to 512K), an 8088 chip and one 5.25" disk drive. For those who purchased the software emulation, don't count on receiving any updates.

Commodore has also managed to release or

Microcomputer Utilization By Government Agencies



This pie chart, and the charts on the following pages, were produced with Microsoft's Excel spreadsheet on the Macintosh. The figures (taken from government statistical reports) were entered into the spreadsheet, then "pasted" into the graphics portion of Excel. No disk swapping, no rekeying of information -- Excel is slick. For the chart on the left, the total preparation time, including worksheet, was less than two minutes.

drive out almost the entire hardware development group that designed the Amiga (many now work for Apple and a few for Atari), and in May also laid off a third of the software people, including the vice president in charge of software development.

On the other hand, Commodore has announced the Amiga 2000, with slots for up to 2 Mbytes of memory and built-in PC emulation, as well as two built-in 3.5" drives or one 5.25" drive and a hard disk. No date was announced for release of the 2000, nor has a price been mentioned.

Cannon has released a \$1,685 desktop scanner capable of digitizing images and reading typewritten documents written in eight common fonts. Digitized images are scanned at 200 dots per inch (less than the usual laser printer standard of 300 dots per inch), and either a page of text or an image can be scanned in 30 seconds. At present, the software and hardware links only work with the IBM PC.

Centech, which makes very nice colored diskettes, is now offering its "rainbow" diskettes in 3.5" versions, too. These are great for identifying secure data diskettes.

Activision is going to open a new division, Electric Dreams. Fans of the movie can't wait. Other interesting news from Activision includes the purchase of Infocom (Zork, etc.) for a modest \$7.5 million.

NTT has put a phone directory of 1.1 million

Tokyo businesses on a CD-ROM disk. The disk replaces NTT's 4,000 page directory, and will be on sale next year for connection to popular [probably Japanese] personal computers.

Books in Print and Ulrich Periodicals will now come in a CD-ROM version, starting in Oct. Both will automatically format orders (and even transmit them to a wholesaler), as well as automatically prepare catalog cards.

Kyocera has released its first product under its own name, the F-1010 Compact Laser Printer. It prints at 10 pages per minute, and includes 1 Mbyte of memory, 51 fonts, serial and parallel ports, and six printer emulations. It is expected to sell for under \$3,500.

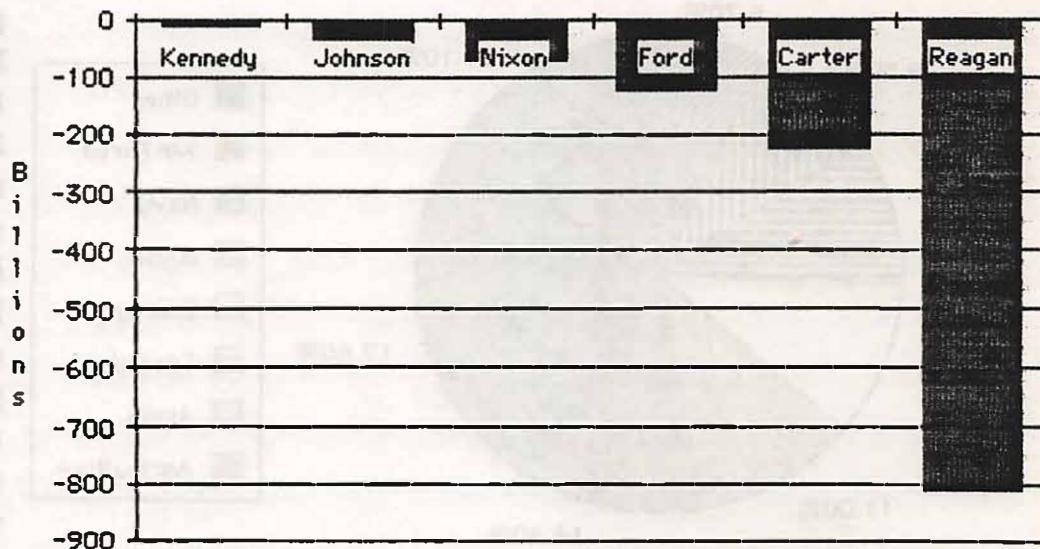
InfoWorld, in the June 30 issue, had a special report comparing the IBM PC-XT and the Macintosh Plus. Generally speaking, they concluded the Mac was superior in ease of use, easier to learn, and more consistent, but the IBM was better for operating on networks. The report, covering nine oversize pages, is nicely done, and worth consulting by anyone considering a purchase of a Mac or IBM.

For those who need it - Culler Scientific Systems Corp. has the Personal Supercomputer (PSC) which operates at one-fourth the speed of a Cray-1S. Operating at 3 to 4 MFLOPS, the machine can do sequential and parallel processing tasks, vector math, and one heck of a game of Star Trek. Don't ask about price.

PC Outline, a "shareware" outline processor from SoftWorks Development (750 Stierlin Road, Suite 142, Mountain View, CA 94043), was

Both the chart to the right and the pie chart on p. 5 were based on the same set of data. Excel has an extensive "gallery" of chart types -- over 40 -- each of which can be modified to suit particular needs. To switch from this column chart to the pie chart took about ten seconds; the chart was then copied to the Mac's clipboard and pasted into this newsletter.

Deficits 1960-1985 by Administration





recently rated one of the best outline processors available for the IBM PC. At \$49.95 plus \$5 for shipping it easily undercuts most other programs, is not copy protected, and requires just 128K and two disk drives. It can run as both a memory-resident "desk accessory" or as a stand-alone application.

[Incidentally, virtually this entire newsletter was written with Acta, an outlining program for the Macintosh. Acta can run as a stand-alone package or as a desk-accessory program operating inside of Microsoft Word, MacWrite, Excel, Multiplan, or whatever. You can use it as a simple word processor or as a traditional outliner, and it can save outlines as either MacWrite files or text files. Outline styles available include bullet format, Harvard format (I, II, A., 1, etc.) format, and "Navy" format (1.1, 1.2, etc.), or no formatting at all. Acta also allows graphics to be pasted into the outline. List price is a reasonable \$69.]

IBM has sold its 81 Product Centers to Nynex, one of the former Bell Regional Companies. One Nynex official, in an excess of enthusiasm, stated this would make Nynex the largest computer retailer in the country, apparently forgetting that, until recently, Tandy/Radio Shack had more stores than McDonald's, and even ComputerLand has a few hundred more locations than IBM.

IBM stopped marketing the Displaywriter word processing system in July. Micro sales have wiped out the dedicated word processor market, which is a big reason why Wang and IBM have both lost big bucks in their office products divisions.

Zenith Data Systems President Robert Dilworth has revealed a spreadsheet 200 cells by

400 cells was used to analyze Zenith's bid for the armed forces micro project. He also said the cost accounting manager, not comfortable with micros, checked the data and submitted a final summary manually.

Zenith's new machine, the Z-181, does everything IBM's new portable does plus much more. While IBM's Convertible is not fully IBM compatible, and shipments have been delayed because of poor quality control and a shortage of the non-Hayes compatible internal modem, the Z-181 is fully IBM compatible and offers a better display and more memory. With 640K of RAM, two 3.5 inch drives, and a backlit LCD screen, the 12 pound Z-181 is just \$2399. It also includes an interface allowing connection of an external 5.25 inch drive.

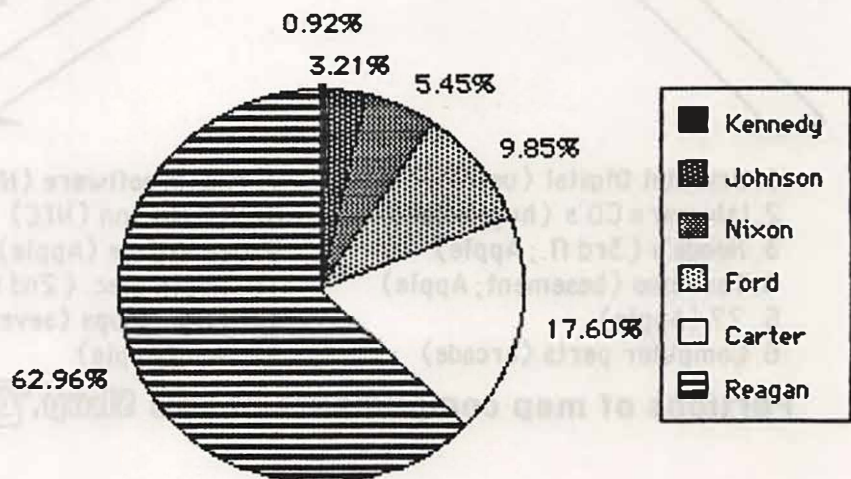
New cadets at the Air Force Academy will be issued Zenith Z-248 machines this fall, theoretically for word processing, programming, spreadsheets, etc. Not Flight Simulator?



Goodies: YCC has added several new disks of Mac public domain software, including Lisp and Modula-2 language packages, an outrageous, huge adventure game, some "computer movies," and lots of music. With luck, the next newsletter should have a listing of the Mac library holdings. [Anyone volunteer to catalog the Apple II, IBM, and Commodore disks?] These disks are available to all active [dues paying] club members - just ask.

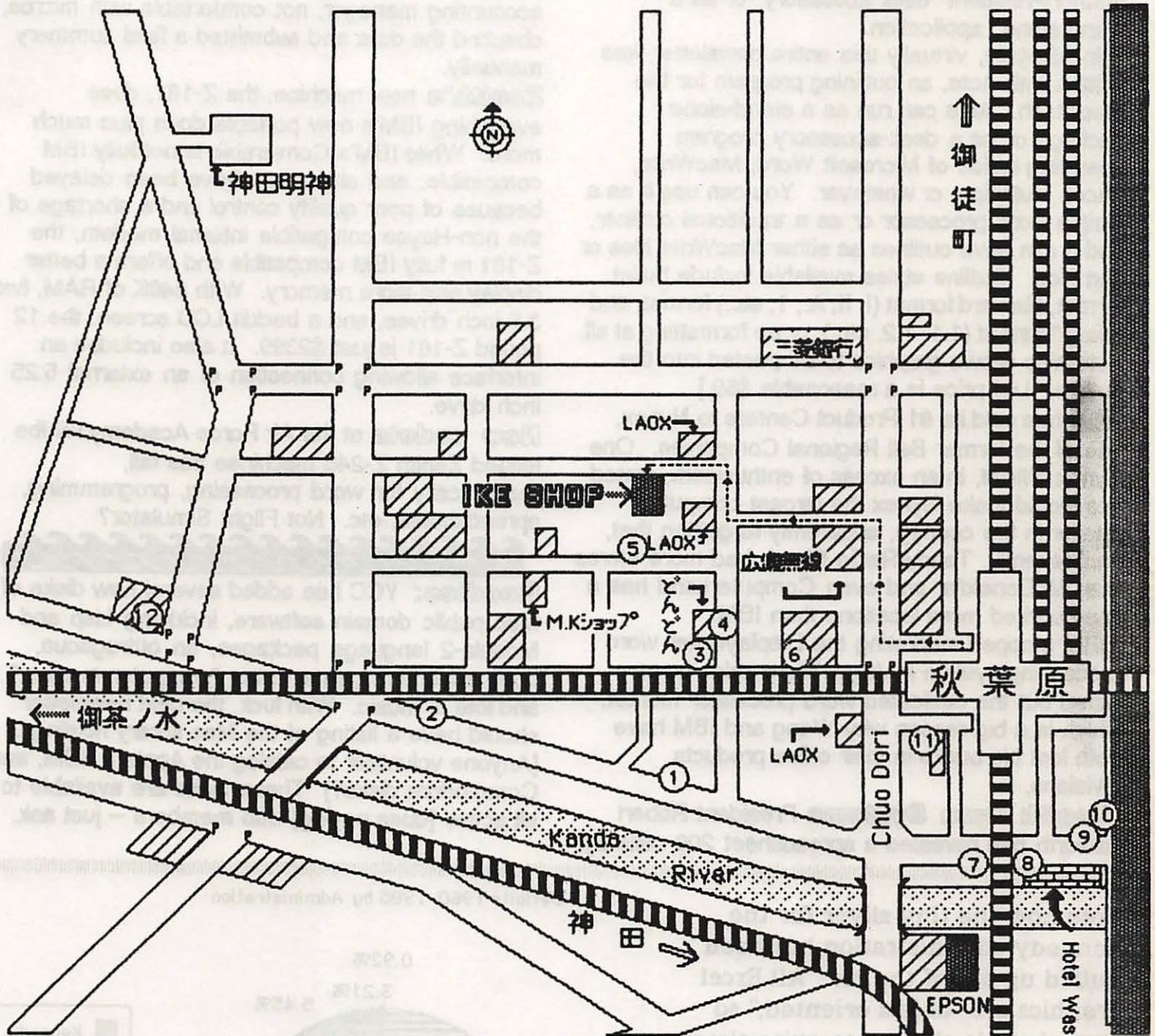
Note how the tiny sliver for the Kennedy administration has been pulled up out of the pie. All Excel graphics are "object oriented," so exploded pie charts are quite simple. Excel also has a nice "preview" function which displays how a (usually much larger) chart will look printed on paper. Excel charts can be modified in MacPaint, but so far no one locally has come up with a good reason for doing so -- as you may have guessed, Excel is one slick piece of software.

Deficits 1960-1985 by Administration



Akihabara, more or less

1. Take red kanji KHK train to Shinagawa.
2. Go to ticket window, ask for "Akihabara."
3. Take Yamanote Line train in direction of Tokyo St.
4. Akihabara is 2nd station past Tokyo.
5. At Akihabara, go DOWN to leave station.
6. Send suggestions, additions to newsletter editor.



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|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Oriental Digital (used) | 7. Micom software (NEC, etc.) |
| 2. Ishimaru CD's (huge selection) | 8. NEC Bit Inn (NEC) |
| 3. Honda's (3rd fl.; Apple) | 9. Oak Village (Apple) |
| 4. Tsukumo (basement; Apple) | 10. Robin Elec. (2nd fl.; Apple, misc.) |
| 5. ?? (Apple) | 11. Misc. shops (several floors) |
| 6. Computer parts (arcade) | 12. Ado (Apple) |

Portions of map compliments of Ike Shop. ☎ (03) 251-4722



To Shinagawa
(Yamanote Line)
Hotel Washington
Expressway