

nibble

THE REFERENCE FOR APPLE COMPUTING

Disassembly Lines

Volume 2: ProDOS

Sandy Mossberg

Produced by:

John Snape, Brian Wiser & Bill Martens



Apple PugetSound Program Library Exchange

Nibble – Disassembly Lines: Volume 2, ProDOS

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About Sandy Mossberg

I was born in New York City and lived in Westchester County, NY, for most of my 75 years. Married for fifty years to the same saintly woman, we have two daughters, two comical grand-daughters, and two fine sons-in-law.

Among my longstanding pastimes have been golf and baseball. One of the saddest days of my young life was when the Dodgers moved from Brooklyn to Los Angeles in 1957. Da Bums did bad by Brooklyn. Suicide was a viable option for all denizens of Ebbets Field. I'm still not sure if I made the correct decision.

After more than forty years of practicing gastroenterology and publishing research articles in professional journals, I retired in late 2000. Apart from medicine, I have had several major avocations.

In the 1970s my primary interest was photographing people, buildings, and other sights in the five boroughs of NYC. The Battery, Chinatown, the South Bronx, Coney Island, and Sheepshead Bay were among my favorite haunts. Because I did not avoid the worst crime-ridden areas of the city, I carried protection which saved my integument on several occasions. When the concealed weapon laws of NYC made one who defended himself more likely to be arrested than the criminal who attacked him, I packed up my OM-2 and Nikon F2 in 1979 and considered what my next hobby should be.

Fortunately, the advent of household computers began in 1979 with the introduction of the Apple II. Immediately I became fascinated and rapidly taught myself assembly language programming. Authoring utilities became my passion and I produced and marketed several applications, the most popular of which was GALE, a word processor for writing BASIC programs.

Concurrently, I wrote articles for just about all of the Apple II programming magazines, including a regular column in *Nibble* magazine entitled "Disassembly Lines." During the eight-year life span of the column, I decoded the proprietary operating system (DOS) of Apple as well as the Applesoft language code. Rather than become upset or litigious, Apple Computer incorporated many of my recommended changes into DOS and ProDOS and suggested that I become an Apple developer. With the advent of a Macintosh-like, graphic, desktop interface for the Apple, I assisted in Tool Box development. By 1988 I foresaw the demise of the Apple II. Discontinuing my column and my software development, I again sought a new interest.

At an early age I began reading science fiction, an interest that has continued to the present time. In 1990 I became active in the purchase and sale of rare first editions of science fiction and fantasy. I bought books at auctions or from collectors and sold them via private mailings of catalogues and over the internet. Because my knowledge of the genre was solid and I had read most of the books I sold, the business burgeoned.

Among my favorite antique volumes were *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift, *The Gormenghast Trilogy* by Mervyn Peake, *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lost World* signed by Arthur Conan Doyle, *Brave New World* signed by Aldous Huxley, *Through the Looking-glass and What Alice Found There* signed by Charles Dodgson (aka Lewis Carroll), *Dracula* by Bram Stoker, and countless others including books by H.G. Wells, Arthur C. Clarke, Robert A. Heinlein, Ray Bradbury, Philip K. Dick, and William Gibson. When it came time to retire, I did not want the obligations that were part and parcel of this endeavor, so I terminated the business.

On moving to South Florida in 2001, I again gave thought to how I would occupy myself. In early 2002, after perusing nature sites on the web, I became interested in bird photography and have been hooked on it ever since. I now post my images regularly on the NatureScapes.Net bird forum.

My trips through Florida have been numerous and have produced the images on this site. The two photos on this [web] page were taken at Blind Pass, Captiva, Florida. The long lens was a present from my good friend, Alex Calzadilla. Unfortunately, he constructed it in *Photoshop* rather than in an optics factory.

—Sandy Mossberg

Dr. Sanford M. Mossberg, of Boynton Beach, FL died on Tuesday, June 27, 2006 at New York Presbyterian Hospital. He was formerly a resident of Scarsdale and Rye Brook, NY. Born in Bronx, NY on March 27th, 1930, he attended Trinity College in Hartford, CT where he achieved Phi Beta Kappa in his junior year. He practiced gastroenterology in New Rochelle for over 40 years, publishing many research articles in professional journals. His skill as a physician was matched only by his care and compassion toward his patients.

Apart from medicine, he had several major avocations including photography, software application development and an avid interest in science fiction, including the purchase and sale of rare first editions. A self-taught programmer of assembly language, he contributed the longest running regular column in the history of *Nibble* magazine entitled “Disassembly Lines.”

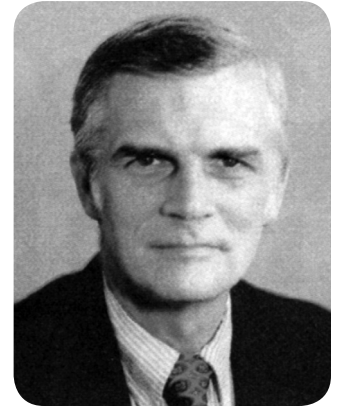
Upon retirement he moved with his wife Phyllis to South Florida in 2001 where bird photography became his passion. His award-winning images are featured on the naturescapes.net bird forum, as well as his own avian photography site, sandymossberg.com. *Book Editor's Note:* Sandy's site is offline, but is available at <https://web.archive.org/web/20060610113830/http://sandymossberg.com>

— Published by *The Journal News*, June 29, 2006

About Mike Harvey

Mike Harvey, the founder and publisher of the long-lived *Nibble* magazine, had a career spanning major companies in the computing and financial realms. His professional life began with IBM in 1960 while working for an MBA at the University of Chicago. Little did he realize that computers and management philosophies would become a passion that carried through his career for the next 55 years.

In the years that followed, he worked for Burroughs, Xerox, and served as president in several companies. Mike studied management philosophy, systems, and methods voraciously and developed many principles that were to become extremely valuable.



Mike spent five years in sales with IBM and had the top sales record in the company his second year. He was recruited to head up marketing and planning for a new diversification division of Xerox. During his six years with Xerox, he had planning and product management responsibility for laser printing, facsimile, word processing and micrographics. He recalled seeing the first mouse-based graphics at Xerox PARC in 1972 – nearly 12 years before Apple introduced the Macintosh. He recognized that software, not hardware, was the way of the future and wrote a number of white papers trying to persuade Xerox to build that business. He went on to become president of University Computing Company, a \$35 million Dallas-based software company. In 1978, he became president of Inforex, a \$70 million Boston-based data entry company.

In February 1980, he published the first issue of *Nibble* while simultaneously accepting a job as president of Verbex, a voice recognition subsidiary of Exxon Enterprises. In the late 1980s he added a magazine for the PC and another for the Macintosh. And *Nibble* grew to a circulation in excess of 100,000 readers. The company was operated using a comprehensive order processing and subscriber fulfillment system, running on a network of 20 Apple II computers, that Mike personally developed along the way. *Nibble* magazine eventually grew to a \$4.5 million business publishing Apple magazines, product disks, and books with more than 30 people in the company.

After 13 years of publication in 1992, Mike painfully concluded he could no longer compete in the markets that had become dominated by mega-publishing companies. So he wound down *Nibble* and transferred his subscriber base to the *Open-Apple / A2-Central* journal for fulfillment. He sadly likened the winding down of *Nibble* to “a death in the family.”

Mike decided to reengage the mainframe software business as a consultant. One of his clients was Sterling Software, a very large multidivisional company in Dallas. Twenty years earlier at UCC, he had managed several executives who went on to found Sterling, and among them was Sterling Williams the CEO.

In 1996, Sterling put Mike on retainer as a consultant, and in 1997, Mike played a lead role in Sterling’s acquisition of the software division of Texas Instruments. At that point, the company asked him to join Sterling as the group president to manage the combined companies. In the next two years, he accomplished six company acquisitions and grew revenues 40% from \$205 million to \$290 million, while maintaining 40% profit margins.

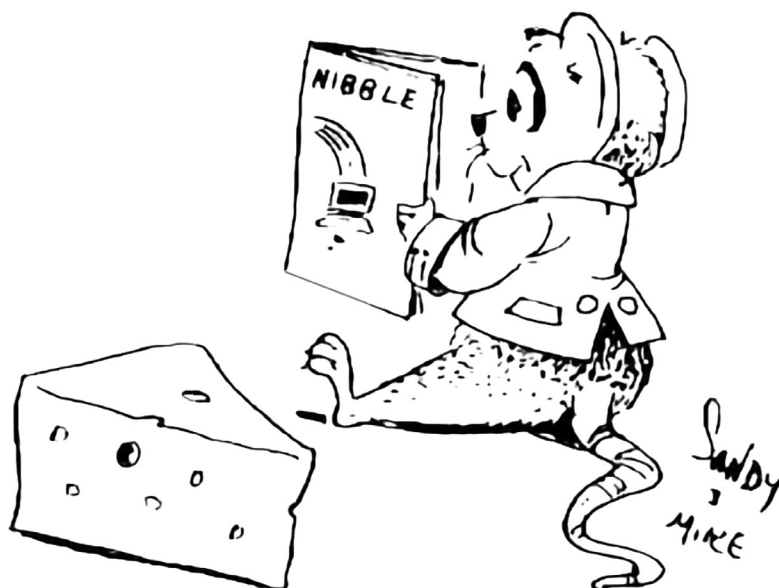
In that brief time, he logged more than a million travel miles traveling around the world for direct hands-on management of his enterprises.

In early 2000, Sterling Software was acquired by Computer Associates and Mike's group played a pivotal role in the acquisition. The acquisition enabled Mike to comfortably retire, but he continued to work part-time as a consultant. He and his wife have traveled the world to more than 30 countries. Additionally, he became expert in Internet marketing and computer graphics, and taught a monthly *Photoshop* seminar for retired business executives. He also created unique 3D computer art.

In 2016, Mike's book *Nibble Viewpoints: Business Insights From The Computing Revolution* was published by Apple Pugetsound Program Library Exchange (A.P.P.L.E.) – envisioned by Brian Wiser who collaborated with Mike over many months, and produced by Brian and Bill Martens. The 500+ page book is an enhanced compilation of over 180 "Viewpoint" editorials by Mike that appeared in *Nibble* and his other magazines from 1980 to 1992. The "Business Advice" section contains articles in these categories: Starting, Marketing, Service, Development, and Growth. The "History" section covers: Apple, Piracy, *Nibble*, and *Nibble Mac*. In 2025, a new color edition was published containing 45 pieces of Mike's art, over 80 magazine covers, plus an interview with Mike, a historic presentation, and stories of Brian's friendship with him. Also in 2025, *Navigating the Business Maze* was published, focusing purely on Mike's business advice.

Mike's preface from *Nibble Viewpoints* begins with, "This book is a chronology of events, philosophy, and management models that guided the birth and growth of *Nibble* magazine. It starts with the history and the seeds that became *Nibble* using the editorial pages from each issue. The management models evolved from my experience running large corporations, but became capsules of experience that guided the strategy and growth of *Nibble* through the years. They have universal relevance to business operations, planning, problems, and opportunities in business . . . and in life."

Mike last resided in Huntersville, NC and passed away in late 2019. You can learn more about *Nibble* magazine and Mike Harvey at nibble-magazine.com and callapple.org.



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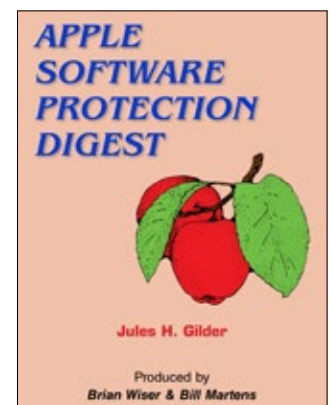
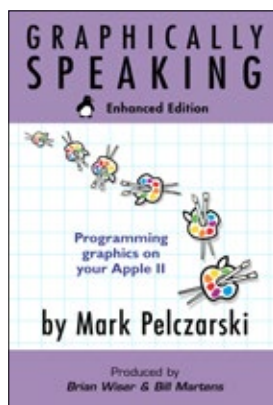
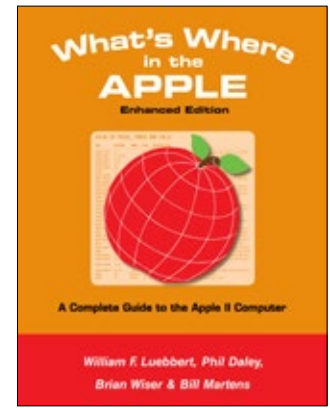
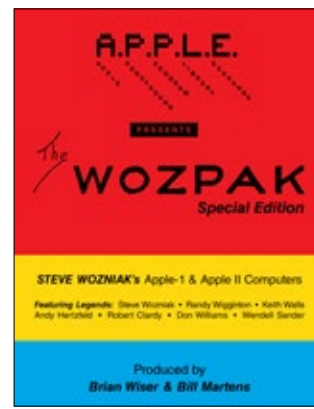
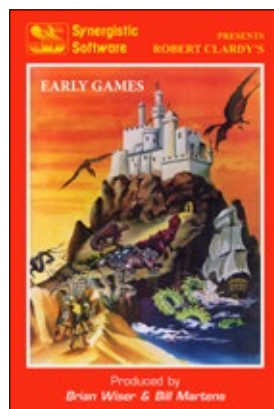
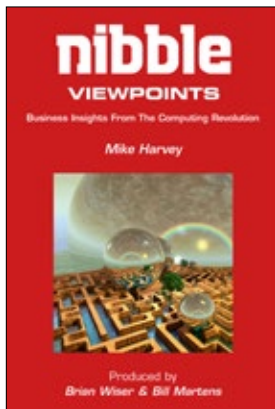
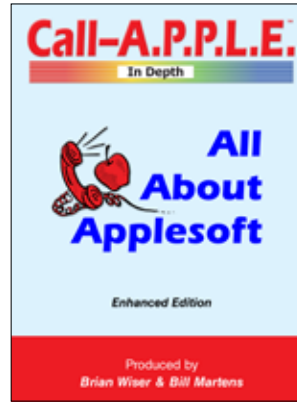
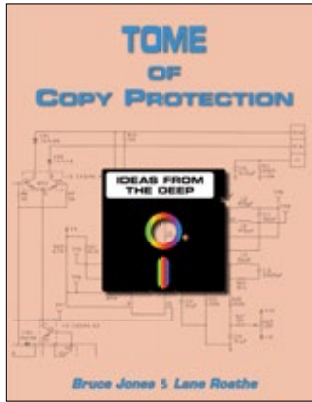


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Apple Pugetsound Program Library Exchange (A.P.P.L.E.) was one of the first official Apple User Groups in the United States. Founded in February 1978 by Val J. Golding, A.P.P.L.E. grew to almost 50,000 members by 1985. Since many of our members have been Apple users since the first computers were produced, we have one of the most knowledgeable groups in the world that has contributed content to our magazines and website.

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- And many more items coming to the A.P.P.L.E. website as we receive them.

