Rumor has it that the newer version 2.2 of Appleworks is now in the final beta testing stage. Supposedly included is a spelling checker of some sort and a cure for the IIgs 768K page crossing bug. It is not clear whether the ability to handle proportionally spaced columnar text in the spreadsheet or data base modes has yet been picked up.

By the time you read this, the new IIgs ROM upgrade should be available. Check your dealer for further details. Among its numerous changes, some of the toolbox utilities now do reside in ROM, rather than being RAM based. Some previous bugs have also been corrected. I think the System Utilities disk, version 2.0 will remain current, at least for the time being.

A board swap really should be made to eliminate nearly all the gruesome noise problems with the sound synthesizer circuitry. It seems the routing on the main circuit board couples far too much digital noise into the sound output. Sorry, but I do not have any more on this.

Meanwhile, my own IIgs has had its third major failure. This time, the second 3-1/2 inch drive gets completely ignored and two non-existent drive entries now get created for slot 6, drives 1 and 2. Wonderful.

Any ideas on this?

Be sure to catch Sculley’s act in the September issue of Playboy. He has some very interesting things to say.

Apple might also end up a victim of the Toshiba flap as their Imagewriter II, the best selling printer in the world today in terms of units sold, is made by Toshiba.

Apple has been penalized five yards for delay of game in their continued refusal to release nearly all of their new Laserwriter goodies. But it ought to be “real soon now”. Hopefully even by the time you read this.

At the same time, AST has entered another laser printer that matches the Laserwriter Plus specs into the fray.

While all the PR and hype people are now proclaiming this new beast an incredibly spectacular major price breakthrough, I do not see how an identically performing printer that is priced some $450 above the current $3500 “low street” price of the Laserwriter is that revolutionary.

Adobe Systems now has two interesting new type fonts available. One called Sonata is used for printing of musical scores, while the Carta font is intended both for maps and cartography. They also have a new and freebie typography poster available, besides their usual free subscriptions to Colophon and their older set of the Postscript Developer Guidelines. Contact Liz Bond at Adobe for details.

Turning to shoptalk, I have moved my Hardware Hacker column on over to the Radio-Electronics magazine. One of the first orders of business will be restoring most of the...