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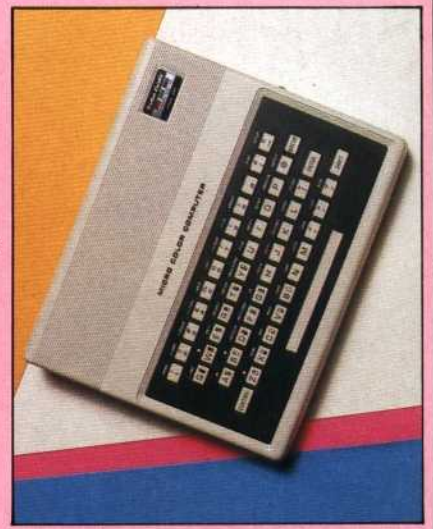
Next Week

- Continuing our occasional series on portable computers, we compare lap-helds from Olivetti, NEC and Tandy — different versions of the same basic computer.

- Our robotics series investigates and simulates the robot arm.

- We introduce you to the dynaturtle, in a LOGO-based guided tour of vector algebra.

QUIZ

1) What does 'hard-sectored' mean?
2) Where would you expect to find a MIRROR command?
3) What is 'commonality'?
4) Where do you find 'metal collar workers'?

Answers To Last Week's Quiz

1) 'Elektro' was an early robot, built by Westinghouse. It was seven feet tall, and could count, walk, talk and distinguish colours.
2) 'Stubs' are sections of an uncompleted program that simulate the action of as yet unwritten routines, permitting testing of other parts of the program.
3) A 'high-pass filter' is an electronic filter. It passes only those signals whose frequency is higher than a pre-set lower limit.
4) 'CMOS' stands for 'complementary metal oxide semi-conductor'. These 'field-effect transistors' take less power than conventional chips, so are often used in battery-powered computers.