TROUBLE-SHOOTING THE LCA-1a:

Although it is unlikely that you will need this section, it is included to assist you in case any problem should arise. Except for a few early units, there have been no actual failures other than those due to physical damage. It is because of this low failure rate that the warranty was extended from the original 90 days to a lifetime warranty (i.e. for as long as you own the LCA).

Most units returned have had no problems that showed up in our tests, and no further problems were reported when they were returned to their owners. It is most likely that their problems were due to improper installation. This supposition has been confirmed by a great reduction in the number of problem calls since we started including this guide with each LCA. Several installation errors are possible (see 1 through 4 below), and these account for most problems encountered with the LCA-1.

This document was prepared because the nature of most problems is such that they can be remedied by the store or by the user, thus saving shipping costs and getting your system on the air more quickly. If an LCA fails to operate properly, please check for the following common errors before returning it for warranty service:

1. 16-pin connector assembly installed backwards or in the wrong location. The white dot must be toward the front of the computer (nearest the keyboard). Location B9 is just below the 7th RAM chip in row C (see drawing on back cover).

2. 74LS194 left out or inserted backwards. After removal from the CPU board, the 74LS194 must be installed in the socket on top of the 16-pin connector assembly. The dimple (between pins 1 and 16) should be over the white dot on the connector assembly. Compare alignment with other nearby chips.

3. 24-pin plug offset. Check that all pins are in the socket. It is all too easy to insert this plug incorrectly such that pins are hanging over one end of the socket on the CPU board.

4. Bent, broken, or dirty pin. Check and clean all pins. Use a small brush such as a clean soldering flux brush, dipped in a mild flux solvent. Isopropyl alcohol (91% or higher, available in most drug stores) is also good. Rubbing alcohol (usually 60% isopropyl alcohol) may be used, but be sure the unit is dry before installing it in the computer since this is 40% water. DO NOT use an abrasive cleaner, such as a pencil eraser, because the protective plating is easily removed.