Notes on the back story (1979) of this letter:

This is the very first letter I wrote back in 1979 to John McGechie (Australian *PPC Melbourne Chapter*) when I was a very young adult and still at High School. At the time, I was but a fledgling HP-calc user with rudimentary self-taught English, but already bitten to the core by the HP bug.

I was naive enough to ask questions non-stop to poor Mr. McGechie, who in his reply letter was kind enough to answer most of them as best he could, using his time and perhaps his money (no Internet or email then, and regular mail letters from Australia to Spain were pretty expensive to send and took too long to arrive) to enthusiastically welcome me, a total stranger, to the flock and to heartily provide good advice, such as encouraging me to join *PPC* as soon as possible, which I promptly did, starting *Jan, 1980*.

A lesser man would have ignored my letter altogether, but not John. May he rest in peace.

Valentin Albillo, 31-08-2021

J.E. (John) McGechie (3324)
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Valentín Albillo
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Dear Sir:

My name is Valentín Albillo, and I recently got 2 issues of the PPC Journal; in fact , they were mere photocopies of the V6N6 and V6N7 , which were given to me by a friend of mine who is working at my local HP Sales Office here in Madrid (Spain) : he was in Switzerland, taking part in a training course about the Capricorn,and he got there the issues.

After reading both I was so impressed that I decided to join PPC as soon as possible, so I send a letter asking for information about the club, etc, as well as some money to cover postage.

Now, I'll try to explain the purpose of this letter: I've read carefully your work about NNN's bibliography published in V6N6 pages 18,19 and V6N7 pages 43,44 ; you mentioned there that: "... if any member can't wait for latter notes on the HP-19c NNN behaviour - not very different from that of the HP-67 ... he could write to me - at the address below ..."

Well, I am not a member (yet), but as I don't know if I will ever receive the "latter notes" , I'll take the liberty of asking you to please, send me some information about some aspects about NNN's keyboard generation on the HP-67, taking into account that I - haven't read no issues of PPCJ other than the two ones mentioned before, and therefore all information I have about NNN's generation & behaviour is self-developed.

I own an HP-25 , an HP-67 , and an HP-41c (including the card reader, 2 memory modules and the Math Pac I) which has all known bugs, and through some experimentation about bug 2, I was able to reproduce in the display the following non-standard characters: (16)

many of them have some applications in programs (specially for demo-programs: I'm introduced too in the local HP Sales Office, and I made a great use of this and other features in demonstrations at conventions, etc) . However, this kind of tricks for the 41c are not of my interest. On the other side, I'm most interested in NNN's keyboard generation in the HP-67 : the only method known to me to generate - NNN's in my HP-67 is as follows: (this method is self-developed, thereby chances are 999 to 1 you'll known all about it in advance)

```
001 LBL A
002 GSB B
003 R/S
... ...
221 R/S
222 LBL B
223 MERGE
224 PAUSE
```

load the following program ; press A , and let 3 (or more) pauses pass by, then insert the 2nd side of a two-sided program: an Error display shows up ; clear the error pressing any key, and select SCI 9 mode : a NNN is in - the display, of the form: 0.52 52 52 00 . This NNN can be stored and recalled at will, and after some re-scaling (squaring it repeatedly,then multiplying by an adequate-power of 10) it can be used in games or otherwise, that require a count-down timer (dividing some number by the NNN will generate a count-down timer, leaving the keyboard locked) . Modifications of the above program , of the form: LBLA , SPC , SPC , ... , GSBB , SPC, SPC , ,... , LBLB , SPC , ... GSBC , SPC , ... ,LBLC MERGE , PAUSE , and so on , will generate various NNN , of the form 0.23 E7d5rC 00 , for instance , and the like , that can be controlled to produce some words displays, but it's quite difficult and unconvenient. Those NNN are apparently the return addresses.

This is all I known about NNN and hidden features of the HP-67. But in your articles and in many other parts of PPCJ mention-is done to such things as "Block 0" , "Block 1" , etc. ¿What are those Blocks? ¿How are they accessed? ¿Have they any application? ¿Is - the P⇄S related to them in any way? I am really interested in know

ing as many as I can about those amazing features. Moreover, another
interesting topic is that of the "unused" codes . In page 43 of V6N7
appears the following: " ... it is important for understanding the -
keyboard generation of the unused codes of the HP-67 and HP-97 requi
red for obtaining all the possible NNN's on those calculators when -
in Block O ... ". This may be one of the most misterious and promi -
sing paragraphs I've ever read . ¿What does it means? ¿How are those
codes generated? ¿How are they related to the blocks? ¿How to get NNN
from them?

      Following with the article, you mention "ghost keys" and-
multiple key pressing . I have pressed most combinations of 3 keys -
simultaneously in my HP-67 and nothing happened . ¿How is it done?
¿What are the keys that must be pressed simultaneously , and what is
the result? ¿ How is the code for f LBL i generated?

      This is all I have to ask. I hope it will not be excessi-
ve, and I wonder if you would be so kind of expending a little of -
your valuable time in giving me some answers.

      Now it's time for a little introduction of myself: I am a
Spanish resident (bet you a nickel that you've never received a letter
from any country that is most distant from Australia than Spain is) ,
I am   years old , and am studying the th course of Superior Engi-
neering, Mechanical Branch. I am a member of the HP User's Library -
Europe, to which I have submitted 27 programs up to date. I am also-
introduced in the HP Sales Office here in Madrid,
      . I own the 67 Pacs about Math, Statistics, Bussiness-
E.E. , and have access to almost any other Pac, as well as collec -
tions of programs (more than 500 programs from the User's Library) ,
and the like. I also have access to the Library Solutions for the -
HP-41c , and most of its Aplications Modules. Even got some informa-
tion about the Capricorn (In fact, I have worked with one of this -
marvelous machines) . If any of those things is of any use to you ,
don't hesitate to ask me for it, either material or information.

      Giving you thanks in advance, yours sincerely:

P.D. My complete address is :   VALENTIN ALBILLO
                          PADRE RUBIO , 61 - 2º C
                          MADRID   29
                          SPAIN

I include an adhesive label for your convenience