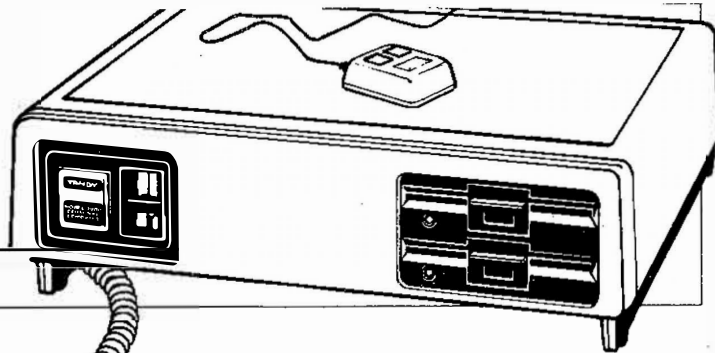


# The Tandy 2000 Orphans' WHIMPER



FEBRUARY 20, 1988  
YEAR 2, ISSUE 4  
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## GETTING COMFORTABLE

## Complimentary Copy

You are finding fewer and fewer goodies that you can run on your darling machine, and that makes you a little sad, but there is a hidden benefit in your growing loneliness, one you could never go get by yourself:

We are all foolish enough to believe that it makes sense to spend weeks learning a program that provides only a 10% improvement in efficiency over the previous one. Then we use it for six months, and do the whole rollover again, and because of learning time, we just about always spend more time for the same results than we would have spent in staying with the old program. We try so hard to save time that we lose time.

So along comes nasty Tandy and says we're not converting any more software for you and you're about as compatible with generic IBM programs as a sick rhino at a debutante ball.

You have done us a favor by isolating us, Tandy. We can get some real work done in these restful years before we jump back into the never-ending ambition/upgrade/learn ratrace.

## A NOTE FROM HOME

Tandy likes nothing more than making easy big bucks from people who have already been their customers.

So to follow Tandy's crippled thinking (which many Tandy execs have explained to me), they expect you guys to get tired of your 2000 and buy their 3000 or 4000. But they have noticed, with displeasure comparable to a Doberman's greeting to a burglar, that a certain Tandy 2000 Orphans has been polluting their future easy sales with the idea that the 2000 is great, let's keep it.

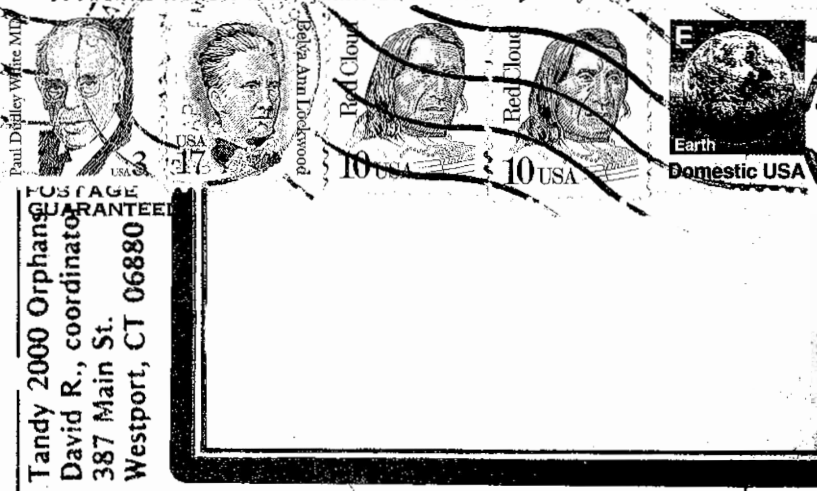
*Our new lasergirl has a machine that thinks two lower-case P's are a capital P. No harm, because you can still get the gist, but it brings even more pressure on the Orphans to convert to laser at HQ.*

Of course they finally got in touch last month, threatening civil and criminal war if I would not apologize in writing and promise never again to mail anything to their darling store managers about giving the Orphan address to people needing it. They also are sending their legal hit men to dismember us for the crime of using their trademark "Tandy" in our name and Whimper. Possibly they feel we should announce our suPort for a 2000 made "somewhere in Texas" and leave potential members guessing.

Our barristers inform us that U.S. law 15-1114 forbids us from using "Tandy" only where those reading it might think we really work for Tandy. Really now, is there anyone out there who thinks that? Get serious, Ed.

Of course Tandy will sue anyway, because lawyers are fond of the idea that even if a suit is frivolous, you can bleed most defendants to financial death by suing and suing forever. It's the same feeling most of us get from watching Schwarzenegger or Norris or Stallone movies, but lawyers do it in real life. Stay tuned for news on how much we're bleeding.

**PAY ATTENTION** to that date after your name on your address label! Renewal is your responsibility, and if your check gets CASHED after the date on our next issue (cover date, now estimated to be about April 15), you don't get that issue without renewing anyway AND paying \$5 for it as a back issue. Sorry, but I don't like to spend half an hour on one member's problems unless the trouble is my fault. Good luck in your first year as a



## GOOD OR BAD, SHE'S MOMMY

After thanking us for "a very special and needed organization," WRH asks, "Why do you hate Tandy so? ...Yes, I know they left us, but this did bring a lot of us 2000 users together."

Check the back issues you ordered, WRH. You'll find that Tandy is pushing every exec, every employee, to strangle the Orphans before we get too big to stop. Tandy could, they fear, become the first major computer dumper to find itself toe-to-toe with its enraged orphans, watched by the trade press, slugging it out. Let's hope we're starting a trend in the computer market.

## ANOTHER NOTE

*Orphan HQ is flooded with sunshine when a message like this one from RJL arrives:*

*"Oh, how lucky it was to find you. It was almost too late. I had gotten belated news of the Tandy 2000 sale and stopped by to see if there was any cheap software left that might make my machine a little more SELLABLE, and I spotted your display in the back room with the leftovers that they were about to send back. I got a copy of Microsoft Word for \$25, and your postcard that brought me a copy of your wonderful newsletter.*

*"Now I's sold. I keeping the machine (it is an excellent all-around machine). And I'm motivated. I intend to do all I can to assist in the fight for our survival."*

*You know, a note like that makes all the days and nights of work worthwhile.*

*Don't be surprised next week when you see the chain and the guard dog barring you from the back of your Shack. Tandy reads these things too.*

Tandy 2000 Orphans  
David R., coordinator  
387 Main St.  
Westport, CT 06880

## WORD THIS, WORD THAT, AND WORD: A RAINBOW OF POSSIBILITIES FOR WRITING, COMPLETE WITH

The software companies are coming out with what they swear are the last versions they will port to the 2000. WordPerfect 4.2 is the last, AutoCad 2.65 is it, VersaCad is rumored to have quit us in its next release. Microsoft, as many of you have heard since the last Whimper, just released their final Word for the 2000, 3.1, and they were kind enough to send us a review copy. Their guy running this project assures me they will never again port to the 2000, having blown a man-year on this thankless (Tandy lacks warmth in its dealings) task. I took the precaution of ordering an evaluation copy of Word 4, and it lived down to Microsoft's promise: it crashed.

WordPerfect IBM 4.2 works on the 2000, DB finds, with only one tiny change: when installing a printer definition, he changes the "lpt1" line to "PRN." If that's all the later WordPerfects need, we're all set without their help.

The main benefits of Word 3.1 over our version 1.0 are billed as outlining, thesaurus and speller. Fire the program up, and it looks exactly the same on-screen as our charming 1.0. For me as a writer, the thesaurus and speller don't mean much because I am set in my language. My big hope: outlining, with which I would combine the think-tank muscle of Framework and the mighty-mouse editing that makes me so comfortable in Word.

Bottom line: I'm writing this Whimper in Framework. I'll drop it into Word for editing, but first I'll get the facts and the organization down in our first edition of Framework.

(Second bottom line: I'm just droPing in, from the end of your Whimper (my flight took less than a second), to sing a song about Framework. Because its delightful big handles pull on a Whimper that floats entirely in my 896K memory, it moves anywhere I want to go, guided by road signs in ordinary English, before my finger has the key all the way down. Framework is that rarity among programs, pleasant plus powerful -- the sexy genius.)

Framework has two a little tricks I told you about last year: it saves everything to disk when you hit CTRL/ENTER. It also moves you to any chair in the city with four arrow keys and the underrated ZOOM (F9) key, which whips you between text and outline at a touch.

It has a queer prejudice: it likes you to double-space after periods, as the old-time typists did but print shops do not. Like an elf, it sneaks in a second space every time you shake up a line by making a change higher in the same paragraph. I can live with that: I just load it into one of the big guys later, and run search-replace to put a single space in place of every double space it finds.

The sad news is that the Word 3.1 outliner is hopeless. It takes half a dozen two-key, random-number commands to make moves that Framework flashes up with two logical pokes.

Microsoft boasts that you can put a copy of your outline in a second window and use it to keep an eye on the big picture. But every time you manipulate your big text window, the little outline window at the right fills up with great globs of text. Then you have to go over and repair it. So the second-window theory is a bust. In just your single Word window, you can flip back and forth from outline to what you're writing, but not nearly as well as in Framework I. All the commands in Word are double-key stretches that break your thinking; they do not simply reverse as in Framework. They sometimes require half a dozen moves to get back; some moves destroy work if you're in the wrong "mode"; and worst, there are three illogical "modes" that require constant double-key selection, also not fully reversible.

The documentation, as usual, smells, but I'm discounting the learning difficulties as a reviewer must. After the learning, the outlining is still a lemon in full-speed use.

If all you want is a speller and a thesaurus, you will do better in WordPerfect 4.2 (also the last of the Mohicans) or Wordstar 4 (they don't yet know if 5 will support us).

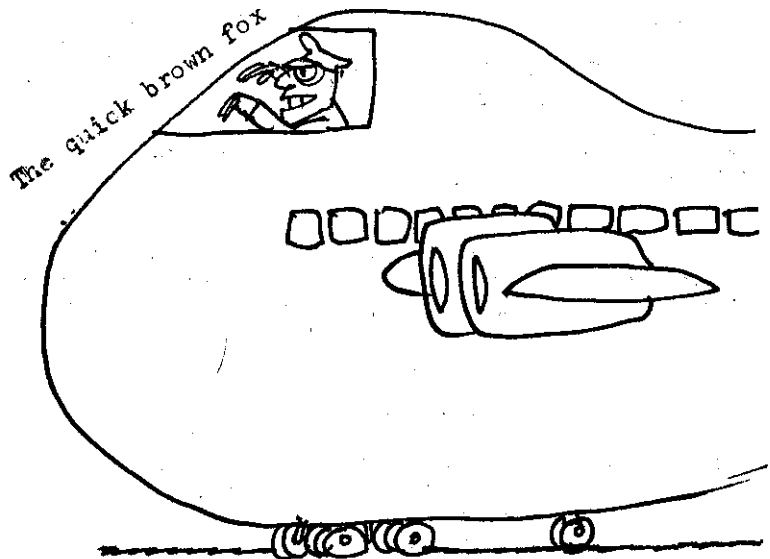
If you want a speller and thesaurus plus the easy-mouse editing that only Microsoft provides, then Word 3.1 is for you. If you share my love of mouse-writing but don't need the thesaurus and speller, our old Word 1.1 is enough for you. Grab one if any store still has it. (It should cost \$10 or more.)

An open frontier for us is the mousification disk we just got in from an able member, which is said to put every game in town under mouse control. Review soon.

The story of our Word 3.1 is an odd one. You have noted that Word 4 is already out, so why 3.1 now? It seems Tandy, red-faced about all the promises its salesmen made, tried to get 3.1 ported when it was new. Microsoft took things slow, and judging from the tips I got, because Tandy was unwilling to pay a fair price or keep its commitments. Our dear company as a foul reputation among software makers.

Anyway, a guy from Microsoft tiPed me about 3.1 (too late to let you know last issue), and since Tandy wouldn't pay for any printing, Microsoft is using its last 1000 manuals for version 3, off the back-room shelf. No problem, because Tandy only got back 700 owner cards from 1.0 before the October sale, so they won't run out. Those of you who bought at the sale may notice that you didn't get offered 3.1 by Tandy. It looks like they didn't bother typing in the owner cards mailed in after the sale. Just write Microsoft for decent service. The update cost is \$100, cheap if you love 1.0 and want the built-in reference books.

Orphans also received review copies of WordStar 4 and WordPerfect 3.2. Both of them are big and muscular, suited to anything I can think of in wordcrunching, except that Perfect has more laser drivers than Star. The major difference is style: one is for you guys who like a square yard of music controls on your den wall; the other is for you folks who would rather check the multiple-choice box to run things. Both programs allow you to outgrow their control panels and use two-finger pokes. Here are the styles of these two musclemen:



WordPerfect feels like the cockpit of a 747, with 48 switches laid out above your function keys -- best fit is with the homemade function-key flipfile described in issue II-3.

Now a 747 pilot really just sits there chatting with the other guys, reaching for a handle or button every few minutes. So having all those controls is not a problem -- your plane flies without anything but touch-typing, a skill so handy that you would be a fool to use a computer without it. (Oddly enough, Microsoft added an even bigger 747 cockpit to Word 4, which you can safely skip for the reasons we mention about WordPerfect. A lot of software is being ruined these days by jealous imitation.)

WP is a problem when you can't do the things you do often,

## A POT FULL OF SUGGESTIONS AT RAINBOW'S END

without carefully hitting two keys identified on the big control panel. WordPerfect, however, has "everything," and you can (after a lot of reading) put anything you do often on an easy one-hand two-key "chord" as a macro -- a command or set of commands and characters that run when you hit the chord. If you want to "squish the paragraphs," some combination of operations you're fond of, WP lets you label it CTRL-S (for squish) so you'll remember it easily. Only trouble with macros: you have to hit the ALT or CTRL a split second before the other key, or your machine mischievously prints the letter and smiles.

Wordstar 4 has a little more warmth to it. Sure, the 48 controls are still in front of you, but they are on your screen, and their labels run about twenty characters instead of WordPerfect's ten. That means more words, fewer abbreviations. You lay off the function keys and jump into the screen-top control panel with a simple CTRL-letter jump. From there through all the menus, it's just type a letter, and when you get fast you type both letters with your CTRL. It's easier to get fast, because the letters are all clues to meaning. There's no clue in the WordPerfect key combinations.

MicroPro, whose phone system got a jolly roasting in our May Whimper, has discovered something about manuals that the hotshots at Microsoft and WordPerfect should study: MicroPro has one fat manual with one index, instead of two books labeled "reference" and "learning." It is asinine, MS and WP, to force your customers to look up the same problem in two books, wondering whether you consider it a reference topic or a learning topic. In fact, you both could learn things about clarity by hiring MicroPro's writers (or me).

There are some other word processors that run on our machine, such as MultiMate and VEdit, but almost no members swear by them. Among the also-rans, my favorite is Framework, because of its unsurpassed way of turning your rough outline into finished text, writing on any part of it with instant jumps across thousands of words. And its manual is a joy to read.

How do the majors compare in documentation? I am not a programmer, I am a user. Documentation should move quickly, but tell me every keystroke and show me frequent pictures of what to expect on my screen. Framework does all of this, beautifully. The manuals for Word do none of it. WordStar does it all except for showing enough screen displays. WordPerfect does it all except that it reads slowly, is dull, and seems a little disgusted with us kindergarteners.

If you're going to write things, you ought to have all four. Surprises, like getting a laser printer your favorite program won't use, are always happening. If you want to use just one word processor, they are all four tied for first, with the nod going to Word if you love a mouse, Framework if you write from notes and lists, WordStar if you like a friendly dashboard, and WordPerfect if you like gadgety, cold efficiency in controls.

You may think your choice is limited by your present and future printers, but it is not. First, all printers refuse to work with all programs until you have wept a little. Second, fixes for printer-program marriages come from many sources: borrow a driver (a thousand or so bytes on a disk) for the needed printer from a later version of the software, even if the main program is incompatible; diddle with printer switches and cable terminals; or write your own driver, helped by the manual for the software and the manual for the printer. These last two maneuvers, if they seem impossible to you now, will not seem so a year from now.

When things are at their incompatible worst, you can always convert your writing to ASKY (really ASCII, just letters, numbers, punctuation and spaces with paragraph breaks) and shift it into another word processor. Often, the other program will do exactly what you have spent a week trying in the first program.

## What's New at HQ

KH supplies this remarkably fair comment on Tandy, which we print unchanged:

"I do have one suggestion. I have no real complaints about your descriptions of your ongoing wars with Tandy. In the first throes of my developing computer addiction, I visited Radio Shack stores all over the United States. They varied from merely lousy to absolutely unbelievable: they've stolen my money, lied to me, been totally ignorant, and had no idea how to use the machines they were selling. But there ARE exceptions. And that is my suggestion: maybe you could compile an "honor roll" of stores that have given truly excellent service. I have been very fortunate to find two who made sure I was never in any way cheated, who fully compensated me for any mistake they made, and who made sure I got the most complete and rapid possible service on any problems. They are the Computer+ stores in Helena, Montana and in Macomb, Illinois. They are run by really good people."

That says it perfectly.

Let's take KH's suggestion. I've heard a lot of complaints, true ones I'm sure, but very few compliments for Tandy -- except from people who sound so goody-goody that they believe Reagan knew nothing about the hostage-contra deals.

If you are a hardnose, if you think a lot of service at stores is crummy, but you still think a certain Tandy store is giving excellent service, please let us know. We will publish their name and recommend that people shop there.

One problem, however: You'll be pretty much buying "aftermarket" stuff like printers and paper from these good guys, because it is not wise to buy computers at prices inflated by nearly-nonexistent "service"--meaning stay away from the majors and buy clones by mail.

A second problem, even with buying clones: The 2000 is so all-around superb that you don't have any business buying any other computer until the Compaq-IBM war is over, the 386 has a full set of software and hardware, and the Tandy 2000 Orphans rides off into the sunset.

*Modem users, the Orphans don't have a club bulletin board and possibly we never will, but we would be delighted to publish your number and other data in the Whimper, for any BBS that is exclusively 2000 country. Send us your publicity.*

TB's BBS is 602-849-2811, and his office is 602-265-1101.

## YOU CALL IT SENILITY, I CALL IT SERENITY

Don't be surprised when your leader gets confused. Some time ago both members named Bill Lyons, 1500 miles apart, ordered back issues March and May during the same hectic week. I sat there for half an hour before my head stopped swinging.

*Long ago, the Whimper said you should write down all your keystrokes when you break (or are attempting to break) through a software barrier. Well, we don't read our own stuff enough. Our joyful victory in Windows (Oct. 15 p. 12) was not repeated after the issue went out. Word started burping instead of saving, and when we moved to a cartridge disk, dBase completely stopped answering the alt-tab bugle. One of these days, Orphan HQ will try to grind through it all again, persnickety PIF files and all.*

Two Tandy spies called to correct our December estimate of Tandy pay for salesmen, 10% of sales plus state minimum wage. Hardly, they snarled. They get 6.5% of sales, and only 4% during the Christmas rush, and that state minimum wage (about \$100 to \$200) is not added at all; it's just a backstop weekly minimum for the guys who pull in less than that in commissions. Obviously, a salesman has to lie his head off to earn as much as a dishwasher.

Some of you can remember a bit of resentment you felt when I told you you had to cough up a serial number or U.S. dollars check or street address, and I don't blame you, I would have felt the same way. There are little purposes behind our many little requirements, but as I learn this operation by doing it, I gradually become aware that there is an unexpected benefit: we keep out members who would demand much and perhaps contribute little.

Every month or more often, some guy wings off a letter full of screaming rage at our requirements and announces he's quitting. He also yells some more when he gets his partial refund in the mail, after expenses of recruiting and servicing him are deducted.

It's a mixed-emotions process for me, but the 99% we are left with -- you, for instance -- are those who can take a little hassle and not feel the urge to attack. My feeling is that you are the most deserving and most helpful 99%.

*PRK, thank you for your cash contribution. It really made my day. We're sewing your name on an orphanage pillow.*

*GAG, thanks for the attempted contribution which we returned. We can't accept restricted-purpose contributions.*

Tandy, you have a store manager in Lakewood, Colorado that deserves at least a vice-presidency for her brains and her rigid loyalty to the Tandy cause. She called Orphan HQ to ask for support for a customer, and I asked her what she had done for us lately. Name it, she said. Give the customer our address and give your other 2000 owners the same benefit. No chance, she shot back: letting those customers get comfortable with their 2000s would deprive her of live ones who might eventually want the 3000 or 4000. It's too bad you're Texans and corporation men, or you might realize that this lady is better at your job than you are.

*We have a new, unpleasant Orphan rule. If you move without sending your address change in time, and we have to pay first-class postage for the return and to re-send your issue, plus the inquiry card we send for your confirmation, plus hassle, plus the post office always mangles returned mail, then and therefore you pay us a dollar with your late address notification, to get your missed issue and the issues after it. Fair enough?*

#### **AUTOTANDY**

You think you're getting suPort from Tandy? Get this gossip from a senior member: While Autodesk told your leader that there was no thought of suPorting the 2000 in AutoCad 9, it seems that until two months ago we were on the list! But (according to a tip from AutoDesk and a leak from Tandy) Tandy refused to pay a cent in royalties and refused to notify its 2000 list that they could upgrade to 9. So naturally, Autodesk dropped the already-written 2000 version, and no wonder the high AutoDesk execs I spoke with sounded so bitter toward Tandy. This is your computer company, guys, you picked it. But you voted for Nixon and bought a used car that fell apart, didn't you? We live and learn.

*Most of the functions in organizing this club and creating its interactive newsletter are well under control. Where we have serious need is our lack of information, both elementary and advanced, on how to operate the 2000 and its software.*

*Now, many of you have written letters offering, vaguely, your "time" to the cause. Well, there's only one kind of time that we need from you -- the time to write and research a different kind of letter, a letter that takes time rather than offering it.*

*Ask yourself, what has been a big, painful push for you in getting your 2000 to perform? Did you crack Windows? Did you wish upon a WordStar? Or did you fix what ailed you with just the right DOS? Write up your experience and your breakthrough, and send it in for the rest of the Orphans to read.*

*There is, of course, one preliminary little letter that makes sense. If you wonder whether we want your story, just write it up in one ten-line paragraph and try it out on us. There's about a 50-50 chance I'll write right back (yes, contributors do get answers) and ask for your full-length story. Full length should be 1 to 3 pages, which I will probably condense and beautify to some extent.*

## **YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD**

Why are you computing? The answer is not as obvious as you might think. Sure, you've got jobs to do that a computer does well, but there's more.

For one thing, it is a new kind of expression of the "American dream" of being able to do remarkable things and get out of whatever "ghetto" we're in, to change our lives with success and the resulting comfort. A computer is the new equivalent of an office staff. Ten years ago, if you wanted to start a small business, you had to hire a team of secretaries and assistants to push all the paper around. Today, that keyboard on your desk can do it all, so you can skip that \$1000 a week in salaries a small business would have cost you. Your puter still won't manufacture hard goods, but it will provide all sorts of service products, plus do all the office work of either a service or manufacturing company. One person now has ten times the power that he had in 1980.

Another use for your computing: It is a reserved ticket for the future, like a superbowl ticket for your team just in case they win the playoffs. Seeing that computers are seeping into everything in this decade, you are putting in the hours and dollars that will keep you near the top of this new wave of making a living and styling a life. You don't know for sure you would be left behind, but you're like the guy who prays, to be on the safe side just in case there is a God.

We have more than our expected share of people isolated from mainstream activity by farming, old age, poverty, femaleness, and all the other things that allegedly disqualify people. Yet we are active and strong. Often we are as far from the big-city business world as we would be with a chess machine, but we have the satisfaction of being ready to roll when the chance comes. Here I am running a huge club and publishing a newspaper, both impossible ten years ago, and tomorrow I might be making a living in a related field. It's not the "real thing," but it's closer than it could have been before.

The final goal of computing is something you'd never guess, something distilled from your hundreds of letters and the amazing variety of your places in life. We are stuck in a society that regards intelligence as vaguely shameful, something to be exercised in private like sex. It's frustrating. Where can we stretch our powerful brains in private? Chess machines and college books are basically dead ends after a while.

The answer is computing. Whether you program, or simply try to make a program work in spite of its badly-written manual, you are deep into mental calisthenics that sharpen you as no regular job can. Let your neighbor sweat on his pipe-and-springs contraction; you can exercise your brain.

### **IS THERE A PATCH ON YOUR SOFTWARE?**

*A dozen or so members have noted that certain software runs on their 2000s "with a patch from (source)". That software is being held off our master software list, until you can send us a copy of that patch, on disk or (if short) on paper. Please do send it now. You'll help lots of people.*

Are you curious about when your next late issue will arrive? Our deadline presently floats nervously on the 15th of every odd month, such as today, February 15. Then the pasteup, printer, and that crazy bulk mail that takes from two weeks to a month, but it is the only sensible way to go. Regular postage is three to six times as much. That real-stamps first-class October extra put us in a deep hole that we haven't climbed out of yet. I never think I can do it all two months later, but I've hit on deadline three issues in a row. Guess I'm getting used to it.

If you get this by March 5, you're very lucky. Those who get it after March 15, please make a zero of your postmarked front page and write on it the actual date you got it. I want to use your responses to bug the post office.

## TANDY FOOT IN TANDY MOUTH

There's a man in Fort Worth doing everything within his considerable power to make you want a 386 machine NOW, and to make you believe you should be loyal enough to Tandy to buy theirs, the 4000. But what does this man really say when a savvy InfoWorld reporter backs him into a corner of his corner office? Check this passage on page 26 of the Jan. 18 IW:

Even some vendors of 386 machines are wary of endorsing the 386 as a practical move for average computer users. ... "The 386 won't make sense before OS/2 and more programs are added. Why buy a \$5000 machine to use old programs?" said Ed Juge, director of market planning at Tandy Corp., in Fort Worth, Texas. "It will be a couple of years before the 386 is worthwhile to the average user," he added.

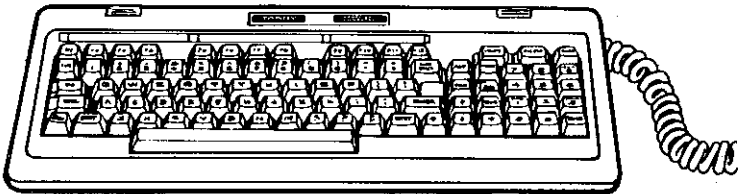
Although some don't think upgrading to a 386 makes much sense yet, Juge said that if people bought cars the way they buy computers, they would be driving 18-wheelers just to commute to work.

He'll hate himself when he reads it here, but Ed hit the nail on the head. You don't need a tux for the movies or an 18-wheel tandem rig to get to work.

Forget that sly disclaimer about "the average user." You don't think your applications or abilities are average, and neither does anyone else in this club. In fact, the average user denies that he could possibly be the average user. Sorry, dear reader, but in that sense you are the average user, just the guy who Juge says would be a jerk to buy a 386 this year or next.

Let's even suppose you're not the average user, but the mythical "power user" that we fear and worship because we have never seen one in the flesh. (There is no power user. There are just users.) This "power user" would reread Juge's criss-cross logic and note that "the 386 won't make sense before OS/2 and more programs are added" over "a couple of years." No wealthy genius "power user" wants a big computer to run a small program.

The moral of my tale: The very man trying to sell you a Tandy 4000 says you'd be a jerk to buy it. Keep your 2000.



### WHAT TANDY THINKS OF ITS CUSTOMERS

Tandy salesmen and ads promise warmhearted, intelligent "suPort" while they're ringing up your sale, but even this Tandy spy, another 2000 victim, has this to say about you when you call in their marker:

"A typical customer (you talk like one) thinks they buy a product and therefore own the company. [I'm leaving his grammar unchanged.] What, pay for suPort? I bought a computer from company "X" for \$2000 and therefore I am entitled to 50 hours of free suPort for as long as the computer is running. At \$40 an hour cost to the company that equals the \$2000 you paid for the computer. Dream on! [The customer]...is too damn lazy (or stupid) to open his operator's manual and find the answer for himself. After 8 or 9 calls from these idiots during the course of a day, the one customer with a valid problem, deserving of some help, can easily get pushed aside, unfairly. Well, I'm glad to get that off my chest."

Stop acting so surprised. You know your salesman was thinking that. And economically, he's dead right. Tandy, paying all those store rents and commissions, can't afford any more suPort than you get from mail order. My only beef is that they charge \$2000 for what is selling on the street for \$1000, and carefully make you think you'll get \$1000 worth of suPort for the overpayment. In a way, he's right: you were too "lazy" to explore the open market, and too "stupid" to see through the salesman's promise. But you're not any more, are you?

Tandy stores are being careful these days to convince you that their goodies are nice and there's nothing quite as disgusting as the creaky old 2000 you own. But if you look carefully into the office at the rear of about a third of the computer centers, you will notice that they have kept their "store" 2000 that they use to do the retail accounting. They can use the program on a 3000 or 4000 any time they want, but they don't want. They have learned a thing or two about computers since leaving their restaurant jobs, and they know a whiz machine when they see it.

Back in 1984, Tandy didn't know they had a whiz machine, and they were ashamed that IBM had outflanked them with the new PC. So they decided to do a little faking with sales figures, and they commanded every store to buy and pay for a 2000HD and the new accounting program. Tandy is a lot like the army. The stores resented the 2000 at that time, they said to me, but now they love it. Shouldn't you?

### HERE'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING

Some new members order all the back issues, which cost \$5 apiece, just to be on the safe side, but most don't. And we get lots of questions that have been answered in other issues. We can't either compile or print a big index, but here, for what it's worth, is a quick sketch of each available back issue:

March 87 -- reasons for staying with the 2000 -- tips on Word and Framework -- a software writer's guide offered -- shop at the franchises, not the stores -- Envision's great add-ons -- the mouse ran down the clock (battery) -- all our printers stink, stay tuned for a good one -- WordStar 4 and its Thesaurus -- the secret Tandy Windows disk -- a neat prompt to replace that drab A: --Gem (2000 version) is great -- Whole Earth Software Catalog a must-buy now.

May 87 -- our vanishing hardware and how to buy it -- which monitor to get, you live with your choice -- list of franchises for best prices -- the secret 2000 mods and the bigger secret, they're temporarily free -- Tandy tries hard not to help us -- the truth Tandy hid, how many 2000s they sold -- WordStar, PhoneBum -- IBM lays an egg with PS-2 -- mega disks and gigafloppies in our future -- more reasons for hanging on to your 2000 -- long tech section on hardware and software bugs -- Tandy Window disk assassinates other makers' printers -- the secret 2000 Diagnostic Disk -- why Word crashes on VM-1 and how to fix it -- people cooking IBM connectors -- glasses for computing -- how to buy floppies -- the \$2 mouse battery Tandy wouldn't buy for us, and where to get it -- Envision hardware that makes Tandy's best look sick and costs less -- a color Monopoly that Tandy wants and hates.

August 87 -- 350 pieces of commercial software for the 2000, most of them unknown to Tandy -- another monitor beats the CM-1 -- much news from a spy we found in Tandy, and why I don't agree with most of it -- the modern crowd we're not joining.

October 87 -- a 386 board? -- adjusting our clock -- the big blowout sale -- embarrassed Tandy does its mods -- many hardware and software bugs and some bug spray -- how to protect yourself in open-market buying -- red-faced IBM does the PS-2 shuffle -- the how's and why-not's of our IBM compatibility -- more on modems, none of it appealing -- a good modem setup -- the word "puter" -- one sharp razor -- review of "OkayZap" -- details on the big sale -- how to buy and install a hard drive -- making Windows do it all.

December 87 -- how the sale went, and how we used it to our advantage -- what it's like to run this club -- our main complaint about Tandy -- adding a math chip to our little ship -- laser printers almost here -- the versatility of the 2000 and its meaning to us -- a handy function-key flipchart -- the cartridge disk option -- three kinds of software for our machine, and where we'll get it

Don't get all bent out of shape when you notice that the back issues you get are zeroxes. Most of them are out of print, so when your check arrives, I have to climb on dobbin and ride down to the riverside zerox post. I really ought to get a zerox for the Orphans, but chances are you guys don't feature a buck apiece to give me more convenience. Heck, I lie around too much as it is, and the horse could use the exercise. However, if a big-business member is anxious to dump a small one for taxes and technology, buzz HQ.



## BUYER BEWARE AND VAPORWARE

Orphans shouldn't be screening out advertisers that we feel funny about, EAS complains. Anyone offering real things for fair prices, or free beta copies (things to try) can advertise, but in my opinion a few members have offered vaporware (you newcomers, that's products that people fully intend to develop as soon as a hundred impatient people have sent checks). Two people have even (I feel) lied to me about their cost, while wanting high prices for big groups of used stuff.

EAS calls those people sending checks or making long-distance calls "feedback" which would "motivate the developer." Much as I want to see the 2000 grow, I'm not going to permit such growth when it threatens unreasonable taking of people's time, energy, hope or money.

Two members, maybe more, have suggested that our mouse problem is solvable by any so-called "bus" mouse. It seems that while the so-called "digital" mice send numbers to the RS-232 port (which the 2000 software ignores), the bus mouse is much the same as our Digi-Mouse, incorrectly labeled -- it is just a switch box which turns one of seven wires on or off when a mouse button is pressed or a roller-wheel operates an attached switch. Question is, who is going to try it? We haven't got the time here at HQ. All you volunteers, line up right over there.

## DOLLARS TALK, BUT PENNIES WHISPER

You folks who read the whole damn Whimper remember we were gathering "a few hundred dollars" to advertise in the puter press. We should have known it was a joke. It costs \$1000 for a black-and-white in the little guys, and \$15 grand for one splash in PC or PC World. Right now we're looking into the editorial approach, writing the story of the Orphans so interestingly that the sympathetic and amused editors will run it, even though their salaries are paid indirectly by orphan-hating sellers of new computers.

## NICE GUYS FINISH LA-- DON'T EVEN RUN

This month's complaint about your snotty editor is from DAD, who finds it "irresponsible of you to print stuff which is unverified...makes me wonder about the rest of the newsletter content." You are right about the content, DAD--it's just about all unverified, because it is a pile of gossip intended to inform our many desperate members when it turns out to be right, and pull in disagreements like yours when it is wrong, which I then print and become, by saying "I was wrong," 100% right. I'll take the front door to truth, and the back door even when it annoys people, just so long as the desperate users out there don't have to wait forever, I said forever, for the scientific verification that your Tandys and Microsofts seldom do, and this overworked user can't even shake a stick at.

You're getting more and better information than any other user group in this unjust world, DAD, for less than nothing if you subtract my publishing costs and phone bills (Orphans owes me \$1163.13 at this moment), and if you think you deserve even more work from someone drawing no salary, then you're just plain spoiled. Like you, DAD, I can give countermen and vice presidents world-class grief, but like any heavyweight, I realize that most workers, magnates or midgets, don't deserve my artillery. Find out what's really happening in your unsatisfactory world, and forgive most people for sharing it with you. And thanks for the new information you sent.

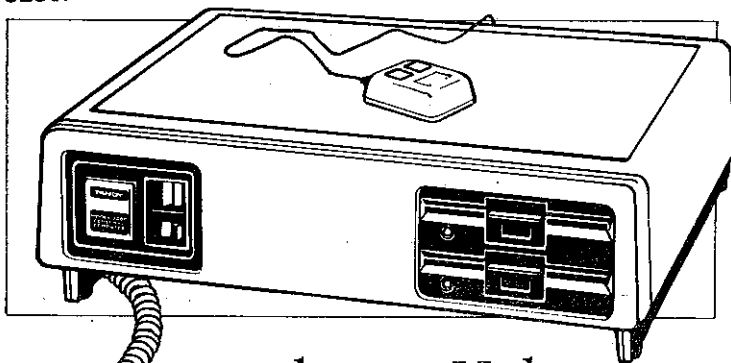
MC has a cute idea for you new people from the final sale, who noticed that the computers were cheap but the software was priced higher than it's been for years: "I guess they thought with all the cheap machines they were selling, people would have to come back for full priced software when they discovered how few programs their new machines would run. Oh Well!"

# Machine Mysteries

AW asks whether the 2000 serial port runs all modems, and about mice, does any mouse but our own work on the 2000? Who knows where to debug and how to change mouse calls of our software so they will run with other more usual mice that use the serial port?

TK spilled coke on his keyboard and wants a fix. Easy, TK, those things never happen when you drink pepsi like regular people.

WTB wants to adapt the Quadram Quadjet to emulate the extinct CGP-220, and wants a CGP manual. HQ has one but is too busy to go zeroxing. We don't consult, answer, etc. except in the Whimper. Who has a manual for him? 803-632-3280.



## Hardware Help

This may sound like a little tech note, but it could be the first beam of sunshine in our incompatible cave.

The main barrier to our running the major IBM-style programs is that their codes are so compressed and ambitious that they ignore good practice and write to the screen. That means that if the IBM screen is in apartment 5 and our 2000 screen gets its messages in apartment 7, the big guys like dBIII+ and AutoCad 9 run their flashy messages straight to apartment 5, instead of using a slower delivery service called the BIOS ("bye-ose," the basic input-output system). If they sent the pixel (one of our quarter-million screen dots) to the BIOS with a "screen" label, both the 2000 and the IBM clones would understand and show it on video. WordStar 4 does this, for example, and therefore runs on both ours and the others.

Given the bad practice of writing pixels directly to the screen, which freezes the 2000 out of most major software, the programmer types among us (we have hundreds at all levels) can convert programs to run on the 2000 if they go through the thousands of instructions and replace "apartment 5" with "apartment 7" every time --substituting the screen calls the 2000 understands.

Well, programmers, HB has provided HQ with a three-page list of the Tandy 2000's video ports. It is available free to every one of you who shoots me a note telling me what the hell a video port is. I know half a dozen of you have asked me to find out what they are, so here (perhaps) is half your answer. The other half is an equivalent list of IBM screen calls.

Now if one of you is really sharp, you will whip up a program that searches an IBM .EXE or .COM file and replaces every video call with its Tandy equivalent. At that moment, every \$100 machine we're sitting on will be worth \$1000, and the Orphans will be a proud group. I'll also attempt to get you a fair price from members for your miracle.

But don't get your hopes up, orphans. It's a long and probably vain quest. Chances are we're out of luck. As Jesus might have said when an overworked waiter forgot the water goblets, "There is no holy grail."

## CORWIN BOARD

WCC has finally sent us an evaluation copy of an expansion board, but he was so irritated with us that this was his entire owner's manual: "Call Alpha and ask them what this is." I did.

*Member WCC sent his prototype slide-in board for use with the A-Bus, a control system. If you want to turn things on and off, either 125 volt stuff up to 3 amps (too little for coffee) or tiny signal control currents, and do it subject to messages received from various sensors -- thermocouples, switches, thermistors, you name it -- then this is the way to do it with the 2000. You plug the basic A-Bus into Corwin's tray, slide the tray into a 2000 backslot, and you're ready. A cable from the A-Bus people leads to a nearby mothercage, which accepts up to five little A-Bus cards. These little cards either receive or send electrical currents to/from the stereo wall, lab or factory you wish to control. The 2000 adapter, which I have but have not used, is from member William C. Corwin, 312-244-5772. The A-Bus guys, Kevin and John, say the proto is a slick job, but doesn't have as many terminals or as much room as their latest (IBMPC) basic A-Bus needs. Surely Corwin will provide a good fit if you order. The A-Bus guys are in their own little lab/office building at 242 West Ave., Darien, CT 06820; 203-348-9436; 203-656-1806; 203-656-1806 (technical questions); and 800-221-0916 (orders). Alpha Products. They are enthusiastic techies but weak in marketing. They have nothing in the place that tells in plain English what their stuff does. Also, you have to learn a few words of Basic to get the boards operating, such as the Basic words for, "Take a reading of the pool thermometer every five minutes, and whenever it gets below 35<sup>o</sup>, turn on the heater; when it gets below 33<sup>o</sup> turn on alarm number 2 for ten minutes."*

*Kevin and John sat me down in their lab and used the A-Bus to turn things off and on. They attached a variable pot (just a radio volume control knob) to an input board, and I watched the screen on their Tandy Model 1 (they have several) flash out the twist of my wrist ten times a second. It was a working system.*

We finished our math-chip installation article in December by saying OOPS because we couldn't read or understand what Nechodom wanted us to do on top of the board. He later told us that the little fixes on the board top were all existing Tandy "mods," so if your machine has ALL the mods, you're home free. I intended to crack open one of my modded boxes to check on this, but I haven't had the chance.

One thing I have done is check Tandy for the infamous inter-board, and they sold it (via my store) for \$79.95, much less than Nechodom is asking. He may have an explanation for us next issue.

*There is an error on page 6 of the December Whimper, wiring for the math chip. We left the poor chip with no juice. (Chips and juice always go together, ask any Californian.) I'm not quite clear on the exact how and where, but there has to be a jumper soldered to each end of the "double header," the math chip socket, from nearby solder dots that conveniently carry 5-volt power for anybody needin' to juice up. Ask Nechodom, and I'm sorry I screwed up. Somebody send HQ an exact map and description, please, for publication later.*

*WHB on the clock: he put a frequency meter on it and found that he could vary about half a turn either way from the factory setting, but turning farther turned the darn thing off. He also found that there is no fast-slow correlation to the turning, even though it's a trimmer pot. Believe him, he adjusts quartz watches professionally. "You just have to diddle it," he says, to various random positions -- but make sure you leave a sticker on the board recording each turn so you stay within your safe 360 degrees. After several random settings with 1-month-or-less trial runs, you should be fairly close. Bear in mind that our boot-up grabs a time of 18:42:00 whether it's reading 18:42:01 or even 18:42:59 on our clock. If worst comes to worst, find one of those add-on clocks that rides on top of a memory socket under the memory chip, or in the wiring behind a floppy disk drive. If you do, and you don't use a mouse, you'll get an extra backslot. If you're curious or have a meter, 32,768 is good vibes.*

## LOOK LOOK, A BOOK

In the last issue Orphans demanded quick copies of two books a member claimed to have written on the 2000. Sorry, he replied, but the books were written WITH the 2000, not ABOUT the 2000. So much for the precision of English.

But another member has sent us his copy of a book that's really ABOUT: "Mastering the Tandy 2000" by Dan Keen and Dave Dischert. I called the publisher and they have no copies left, nor could they lead me to a retailer with a pile. So I asked them if I could zerox them for our members. For a fee, they said, but with a 50-copy limit! A strange limit, but I was not about to argue. They will be confirming in writing, but with two months between newsletters, it could get frustrating for you. Those members sure they want a copy send \$6.50 for a zerox version. That includes the publisher's fee, paper, photoreduction, zerox cost, about a buck an hour for the work, and mailing costs. It cost \$10.95 when it came out in 1984. If we get too many orders, I'll mail your check back or drag an increased limit out of the publisher. I will do six back-to-back 11x17 sheets for each of you, and cash your check when I mail it. Oddly, Orphans never send bad checks. It will come as a folded 8-x11 24-page package, maybe stapled, with four 7x9 pages compressed onto each typewriter-size page. Not elegant, but informative. You'll need your glasses. The book also has a 48-page small-print Intel description of its 80186 chip, which I'm leaving out, but it's a reprint from aPendix A of our tech ref manual, Tandy 26-5404.

"Mastering" was written by a couple of enthusiasts, and their aProach is on the level of fairly elementary programming, in basic. They spend their time discussing the graphics mostly, plus some other ways to milk usefulness out of the hardware, like making the beeper play simple music. It's all a bit tedious, they admit, but they don't apologize.

Possibly the best parts are about the language of DOS in its unique 2000 version. Much of this may be duplicated in the three manuals of the 1000/1200/2000 by David Lien (25-1500, 1506 and 1507) and the tech books on 2000 alone (26-5403, 5404)(all Tandy numbers, probably discontinued), but it seems valuable.

## 80386

The call for an 80386 board has been faint. Only eight or ten members sent their willingness to HQ, which bodes ill for the guy who proposed the work. It seems that those of us who are willing to stick with the magnificent 2000 don't have much of an itch for hardware with more reputation than record. Face it: the 386 is tomorrow's weightlifter but today's child.

## VM-1

MOR has the same predicament twenty other new members report: no monitor! The VM-1 is now extinct and the CM-1 is fuzzy, so what do you say to an invisible puter? The same thing you say to a naked lady, of course, "Put this on."

MOR works in a den of programmers infested with techies, and "we think we have found a way to get another monitor (TTL), with a slight mod, to perform as well as a VM-1. If it works and you want the info [we do, we do], we'll be glad to pass it on."

*TB says he's using a Tandy CM-5 in place of the extinct VM-1, with no problem. Are the cables compatible? Somebody check it out and let us know his (her) results, please.*

There is a rumor going around that you can get graphics on the VM-1, using a strange cable I have that plugs into the color output of the graphics board. Many programs put graphics through the regular VM-1 socket on the lower chassis, but AutoCad for one leaves the VM-1 blank, while teasingly showing the menu. Who knows the substance behind this smoke?

BMY points out that the \$100 Tandy printer interface (26-2820) has a special pair of connectors for the 2000 only. Seems odd -- isn't the parallel output on the 2000 a standard one? I haven't been able to inspect one of the interfaces.

### SOME UNEXPECTED COMPUTER GRAPHICS

Both LM and your fearless leader find that our habit of watching television and our monitors at the same time leads to some cruddy TV (and wiggly VM-1 for me). We have both tried a Shack filter plug in vain, but one move that works for me is to plug in TV and computer at least ten feet between their wall receptacles. Whether this is straight-line radio interference or some conflict in the power lines at the wall I don't know, but distance works.

### P.S. ON POSTSCRIPT

I promised you guys a comparison review of the three \$4000 PostScript lasers (street price \$3000), but you can't believe everything you hear, I keep telling myself as the three manufacturers talk UPS on the phone but talk OUT when I call back. We may still get them to cough up review loans, but until then I'll be looking at PS clones and other end runs.

The ability of PostScript and PageMaker (which we WILL review because they found the UPS man), to put pictures and artsy print on the page, is of little interest to me, which is going to bias our reviews. To me, the promise of PostScript is the gorgeous printed word, any style, any size, needle sharp. Later on, I may get the urge to get graphic, and it doesn't hurt to have the drawing board handy--but not if it's going to cost an extra \$1000; there are cheaper ways to produce good art work.

If we locate a way to produce big print (36 point, half-inch-high) in many faces on a laserjet clone, we'll go that way. That big type is not only great for newsletter headlines and quasi-typeset body text when photoreduced. It also has other uses. Are you making a speech at the office or downtown? Take a lesson from those big-time politicians who seem to turn a page every ten seconds: they are reading giant half-inch type so they can leave off their reading glasses and convince their audience with eye contact.

Part of the system we seek must be great puter printing; but the other part is getting a page ready for the printer, who still photographs it in his stat camera or platemaker, reducing its size by almost any proportion you want. Clean pasteup art done the old-fashioned way is fine for the printer, and art is not needed for our stay-at-home printouts.

### THE INVISIBLE WORD

EFK has a Microsoft Word 1.0 with paralysis. As we reported in the May and August Whimpers last year, Word 1 has a strange habit of crashing to a feeble blink in blackness when it boots up -- IF you have installed color chips according to the directions on your graphics board, cutting trace 1. So far, we have been able to find no evidence that cutting trace 1 does any program any good, but to be safe, we install (with delicate soldering and surgically clean drilling) a trace-1 mini-toggle switch on the back panel, with two little wires leading back to the two solder spots around trace 1. Then, for Microsoft Word (and aParently all other software), you close the switch, "uncutting" the trace. At last, Word pops onto the screen.

The new Word 3.1 does not have this difficulty; it loads nicely whether the trace-1 switch is closed or open.

### THE INVISIBLE BASIC

Members have noted that on our latest DOS, 2.11.03, the basic screen goes black. RNB reports, "I can, however, get the Basic screen to appear by typing SCREEN 2 (ENTER). You can't see what you are typing!"

Elsewhere in this issue we discuss the invisible dBIII+, and invisibility in general of programs using IBM screen calls. We have a very shy computer here.

### STAYING COMFORTABLE

The major packages, like AutoCad, are dominant only until you get deeply into a field. WJT is in naval architecture (that means boat design), and was on the fringes of the America's Cup winning design team. His AutoCad "is presently gathering dust, as it is waaaaay inferior to ... ProDesign II as my primary 2D [and] DesignCad 3-D by the same developers for 3-D rendering and wire frame modeling." He depends on his math chip, but "in case you are wondering, I have been living quite nicely without a hard disk. I hate book keeping whether paper or ferrous oxide, and I have a hard enough time keeping a neat and orderly floppy, never mind the beckoning expanse of a mega-storage hard disk. With my hectic pace and all that nice room to quickly shove stuff away, I'd find myself throwing files on it with reckless abandon until sooner or later I'd have to face up to sorting the mess out. No, the thing would be impossible. And backing the thing up? I just couldn't do it. I don't need any more fuss and bother."

In computing as in life, the game is half won when you know yourself.

### OUR MAN IN HAVANA

One of our Tandy spies (let's skip his initials) has further word on the "mods," the 29 little shop modifications your machine requires to work properly. Tandy quietly stoPed doing them free last September, as we promised you they would, but they have put out a memo that the mods are still free when you ask for them, IF you get other repair work. So if you bring in your puter to tune up a drive or replace a light bulb --some cheap job-- just say you want the free mods also. Your retailer will tell you you're wrong (you're not), his back-room bench jockey will grumble, and Fort Worth will nastily reimburse their labor and parts.

The same spy complained that Envision isn't a big outfit, long ago, and I told him on a Whimper front page that they still make Tandy's products look sick. Now he confesses that he's raiding his measly Tandy salary to buy the Envision 640K board.

Our man slid another note from his trenchcoat: Tandy and Autodesk are very friendly, he argues; it's just that they don't exchange Christmas cards now because Tandy limits itself to IBM clones. True, but why? Because when Tandy had to deal with the software makers in 2000 land, Tandy's cheap, nasty aProach won them enemies from coast to coast. They've stoPed buying non-IBM conversions because no one will tolerate their aProach any more. I hear bad news about both IBM and Tandy from my softmaker contacts, but IBM rates as a snobbish, egotistical tough guy. Tandy gets called unfriendly, undependable and stingy. Oddly, no one complains about Compaq, although they share the overpriced market with the other two.

### FAKE DISK, REAL SPEED

It's a shock to see our little machine flashing through big jobs like a 386, PO tells us. He installed an Envision board to complete our 896K memory option, and asked a few hundred thousand bytes of it to pretend it was disk E: This "virtual" disk or VDISK has no motor, only some electricity, so when you read from it or write to it, the job is done in less than a millisecond. (A superfast hard disk takes 20 milliseconds, a floPy 100 to 500 milliseconds.) PO asks his Cornerstone and MultiMate to store their research files on VDISK while he settles in his chair. Then he gives orders and that computer flies. (Envision sells those dandy boards from 1539 West Pearl St., Pasco, WA 99301. Their answering machine is at 509-547-1139. Ask for Dave Nechodom, and tell him DR of the Orphans is watching him for quickness. Report back to us if he takes over two days to return a call, or two weeks on a letter.



## WHERE IS THE STREET?

That seems like a dumb question, but if you're not buying from your friendly corner Tandyman, where do you find these famous "street" prices we talk about? Your answer, for computers (but stick with your 2000), peripheral hardware pieces, and software, is this: subscribe to, and riffle through all the small-print full-page ads of, Computer ShoPer, PC, and PC World. Your \$60 a year will pay itself back with dividends. You can skip the other magazines you're thinking about, because good deals are rare in their ads.

## SPUD WEBB OR KAREEM JABBAR?

Tandy proudly sold a board which added 128K to your memory, and it offered "power users" another 128K in chips to stick on that board. Power users, however, sneered and went down the road for Envision's less expensive board with 640 stupendous K in its wall-to-wall silicon carpet. Now comes HB with a beautifully detailed set of instructions for using the basic Tandyboard to build a 512K board. Sorry, HB, I don't foresee much interest in your 512 when Envision is putting 640 in the same space. And for an encore, Envision packs the underboard up to 896K without even USING a memory board.

However, HB, if you can alter your nice guide to cover the full 640 board --no harm in peeking at Nechodom's work-- we will gladly pass it on in the Whimper. Many thanks for the fine work. Your three pages is more than the Whimper can run, but that length is the best possible basis for the brutal surgery I perform on member writing. Your final piece will be sweet, clean and short, with all the original information intact.

## DOES YOUR COMPUTER SAY HELLO TWICE?

Many of us load the clock with a batch file so we don't have to answer silly questions when we sit down at the computer. But it is annoying that when the prompt comes on, it comes on twice. WHB eliminates the stutter by putting his control-Z, which wraps up a copy con session, as the last character (invisible) of the last command line in the autoexec.bat, rather than doing the standard ENTER followed by control-Z. This works in copy con, but it doesn't seem to work in Edlin.

*More from WHB: you can alter your Autoexec.bat from edlin also, by typing the control-Z as the last character on the last command line, and then hit ENTER. On the next line, type control-C, ENTER, and then on the next line type E. This works because control-Z says to DOS "end of file," control-C says stop whatever you're doing (in this case, an edlin edit), and the E says to edlin, "file this version and toss the previous one you had."*

JY sends hard drive installation tips on formatting, with more information than our October article, which was also wrong in saying HFORMAT will do 70 meg; it will do up to 32.

Your selected hard drive must be "ST506 compatible," he says, citing the tech manual and a repairman, but how do we find out if it is?

To format your new hard disk, boot DOS in A as usual and type HFORMAT C:/P/B/S/V. The P gets you a Prompt asking you for number of heads and cylinders (use the spec sheet or call the dealer), and interleave factor (hit ENTER for the default value). For the common ST225, for example, these items are 4, 615, ENTER.

The /B is undocumented: enter the bad sector number pairs you'll find on a sticker on the new drive (most drives have bad sectors), such as 2,18 with no spaces, followed by an ENTER after each head-and-track pair.

The /S makes it a system (bootable) disk, so your screen will fire up to a C: or D: prompt when you don't have a system disk in drive A: to grab control. The /V makes the puter ask you for a volume label. Express your feelings; try "EASYDOESIT!"

A public domain program called SCAVEN (eventually the Orphans will offer it) can, at this point, find bad spots that HFORMAT let slip by.

## LOAD TEN MEGABYTES IN ONE SECOND

The friendly folks in Utah who make removable 5-inch disks that hold 20 megabytes were kind enough to send the Orphans an evaluation unit of their latest double-20, and the bad news is that for us, it's a double-10. Our disk cartridge board and/or disk will not admit there's anything bigger than a 10, so it cheerfully formats a mere 10 on each cartridge.

The good news is that although Tandy swears its board will not run the new small cartridges, and Iomega promises the same bad news, they are both wrong. You do, however, have to make a small change in the main drive (the one with the most hardware stuck on it). You ease off the case (a good excuse to buy your new Torx-driver set) with a size T-15 driver -- its business end is shaped like an asterisk.

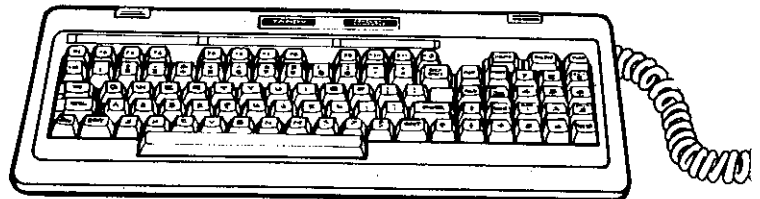
You'll find the six-switch box on top of the more cluttered drive with a factory setting of 1,2,4 up and 3,5,6 down. Push 1 and 2 down, and suddenly the software that had kept reporting "failure" fires up and formats. But you only get to use 10 megs per disk.

The cartridge approach is an attractive approach to storage, because while the Seagate crowd holds more and costs much less, it is a huge pain to have to back up, restore, or houseclean your hard drive in the middle of a big project. The process, aside from being frustrating and scary, eats up an hour of doing and reading, with the certainty that the mess will happen again. You do have to houseclean your cartridges too, because they cost \$60 street, but you can do it when you please. Also, a cartridge can be backed up to another cartridge or a HD in three minutes flat, or backed up in three seconds if you consider sliding it out of its slot, a backup. And you don't face that half-hour grind with 30 floppies, either, when "restore" time comes. You just grab the needed cartridge and slide it in.

Expensive, yes, but this amazing convenience proves you don't have to hunt for a new computer to get performance: you buy peripherals. Check street prices if you want one, but notify me if you're looking. Half a dozen serious buyers, and I'll score a group from Utah at *alley* prices.

Geniuses take note: We do need a patch on the drive or the disk to make the system a double-20, so give it a try, OK? The first fix was so easy that I suspect the second will be a matter of mere trial and error. I did an ASKY search of the Tandy disk and came up with "20" in two places, but I didn't have time to try changing it.

Tandy has later versions of the disk that comes with the DCS (disk cartridge system) board, but of course they keep making excuses, like the disk is too heavy to mail, you know the routine. Iomega sent me a couple of versions to try, but no 20 megs would appear with anybody's disk. There are some other switches on the drives, more like jumper caps, but I haven't had time to toy with them, with Whimper/deadline and all.



## MOUSE JUICE

MJM wants us to send him a mouse battery, but we no longer have any at HQ, except the one our HQ mouse uses. We gave the address in the August Whimper. Send \$2.95 to Calculex, P.O. Box 10, Orangeburg, NY 10962, and specify the Toshiba CR2320, or an equivalent from a company that doesn't cheat America for money. Since you're foreign, MJM, add a couple bucks for the extra postage and their trouble in finding how much it is. Tell them I sent you.

# Software Support

## READ ALL ABOUT IT

*Finding out about Tandy software for the 2000 is a heavy chore these days, with half of it out of "print" and the other half marked "PC compatible" in the current catalog. 1986 was the peak year for 2000 programs: before then there were few, and after then many were dropped. I have compiled a 24-page montage from the 1986 software catalog, every program labeled as running on 2000 or having a special 2000 version. Xeroxing and mailing costs will run about \$3, and the hassle of doing all that will cost you another \$4, so any member can have a complete 1986 catalog of 2000 software by Tandy, with descriptions and numbers, for \$7 total.*

*This catalog won't help you much with Tandy, which has trashed most of it and offers you its leftovers at full original retail price, a joke. But it is valuable for learning about items you see in a dusty "\$10-is-fine" pile in the back of a Shack, or which another member wants to sell you for cheap. Eventually, all of us survivors will have empires of software that will do nearly any job required.*

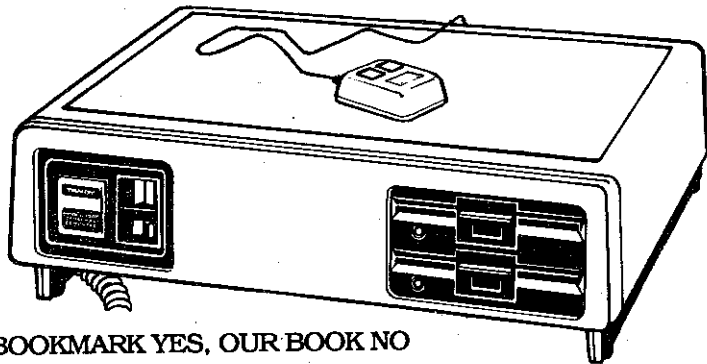
### DOS

We have a lot of new 2000 owners coming aboard with very old 2000s that have been on the shelf for four years. If you find a DOS 2.00.00 or anything less than 2.11.03, bug your local shack until they cough up an .03. 6 Software SuPort 6.1

Does anyone know how to rescue BRL when a save in Word 1.0 overflows the disk and the program crashes?

### WINDOWS 2

SE sent for Windows 2; it's free if Tandy ever sent your registration to Microsoft. But it refuses to run on his 2000 -- loads up obediently and then says, "error: Can't open WIN200.OVL (FILES= may be too small or disk full)"--although he's got files=20 and 25 free megs on D:. Does anyone here have a clue to rigging Windows 2 without using a DOS higher than our 2.11.03?



### BOOKMARK YES, OUR BOOK NO

If you are curious about the new crash-saver named Bookmark, with which PC types can regain every keystroke of work lost in a crash, forget it for now. Its trick is pulling back automatic saves from hard disk, after you reboot. I buzzed them for review copies of their 1.1 and 1.2, but they don't even show a title screen to our machine. I have asked their tech people for help, but without response. I'll report if things change.

The bug is our usual one, our graphics board understands only 2000 commands; their title screen is probably in graphics. Their graphics are necessary, because the crashed program, on reboot, kicks you right back into your previous screen, with whatever graphics it had, a minute or so before the crash. Something I did not at first understand: Anything besides letters and numbers, styled like those you get on your opening screen, is graphics, the great barrier between us and the mythical state of Compatibland.

## THE ORPHANAGE SOUVENIR SHOP

This is the itty-bitty first edition of a list that promises to be huge: 2000-running disks (and a small book) available at cost to members.

Let's make the first item a biggie: Tandy has stoPed selling its \$10 Windows patch, item #700-2611, because Windows 2 doesn't fit it and Tandy isn't about to adapt its patch for us. But all of you have (or had better grab RIGHT NOW, or you'll hate yourself) the vanishing first edition of Windows, which opens up a new world of software to our machine.

Now Tandy would rather go back to tanning meatless cattle skins as the Dandy Tanning Company, than authorize the Orphans to sell you this disk. Therefore, we will sell it anyway. Tandy is welcome to their \$10 per disk, if they ask for it, are you listening Ed, but they will naturally sue instead, and the pre-trial settlement two years from now will be that same \$10-per-disk royalty for Tandy. So we are charging \$10 to save for Tandy, \$5 to help with the court hassle, and our usual \$5 disk charge.

The reason we can beat the criminal and civil copyright actions is our planned defense of unconstitutionality: copyright law can properly be applied to protect the profits of the copyright owner, but is unconstitutional when used merely to suppress dissemination of information already made public, when said profits are offered as they are herein, marked copy mailed certified to John Roach. Our First Amendment (combined with copyright law) says we can make public even copyrighted information, as long as we guarantee the copyrighter's profits.

Be sure to order before the temporary injunction arrives at HQ, which we must obey. At least one sneaky member is sending his Whimper to Fort Worth, and he would certainly want to show them a post-injunction postmark on his Windows disk.

Your check will be cashed only after your disk is in the post office.

1. Tandy-written Windows Driver disk, formerly their #7002611 and presently our #1, \$20 postpaid continental US, others inquire. This disk slyly erases drivers for non-Tandy printers, but we'll add instructions for avoiding this trap.

2. "Creative Byting," a free-to-copy disk on how to write user-friendly well-selling software, put out by an apparently out-of-business disk publisher. \$5 postpaid conUS.

3. "Suitcase," a hard-disk packing-up utility which pulls the reading heads away from the disk surfaces to protect both when you bump your puter while trying to lower it into one of those open-pit car trunks. \$5 postpaid conUS.

When our list lengthens (next issue?), we'll establish a smaller charge for several numbered items which fit on one disk, but for now it'll have to be a flat price per item. I can't do everything at once.

4. "Mastering the Tandy 2000," a compressed zerox of an out-of-print book mentioned elsewhere in this issue. \$6.50, postpaid conUS.

### DOS 3.2

About twenty members wrote in to say they'd be glad to pay a reasonable amount (\$30 was an average offer) for a DOS 3.2 ported to the 2000. As they correctly pointed out, such an operating system would open the 2000 to Gem 2, Windows 2, and many other goodies. BUT twenty is not enough! First, it's way, way under the 10% that Orphans requires to start a push; second, 20 times \$30 is a mere \$600, not enough pay for the guy offering the port to spend a month of days and nights doing the job. I agree that \$30 seems a fair price, but we'll need a couple hundred members to get the project started. Keep writing and I'll try to keep score. Since first offerers are the most helpful, I'll try to make their price "discounted" by charging all the late-askers 50% more. The techie and the Orphans will split any surplus beyond a fair wage for his hours.

## MOUSIFICATION

That software alleged to put a mouse in our house for ALL software that uses the arrow keys (and th-that's all, folks) came to headquarters a month or so ago by the usual express mail our software suppliers use, as ever mocking your coordinator's feeble attempts to find his desk under the swaying piles of software boxes. Now I know how Charlie Chaplin felt with that pile.

This little mouse disk sounds like the most promising thing to happen in the 2000 in its whole four years, four months of life, and it is at the top of the pile. When this whole whimper is writ, if it seems like there's time, I'll run the tests. But it doesn't look good right now: our deadline is just two days away.

## WINDOW WATCHING

KH reports that Windows formats disks the way the mob neutralizes witnesses. Slip back into ordinary DOS for your formatting, which politely asks for help when there's no disk in drive B to format. Windows responded to that error by destroying her booting disk in A, and she suspects it would just as happily attack a hard disk or a cartridge.

## OPEN ACCESS

Open Access is not quite a closed issue. Although RGA also dislikes it, he has milked good value from its word processor, spreadsheet and database. He welcomes a call from RGH and any other frustrated OA user at 215-933-8888, ask for Mr. Alexander.

DAD also responds to the RGH complaint, calling OA flexible, powerful in its database, friendly (to his presumably ordinary 13-year-old), speedy in its virtual mode (memory impersonates a disk), and nicely supported by the maker. DAD also had some good comments about my "wise-ass" reporting, which you can find rebutted in the HQ's News section. People wanting advice from an Open Access fan can call DAD at 217-636-8803, and RGH, he says you can call collect.

## MODEM SOFTWARE

JY reports that the best communications software he can find is CrossTalk XIV. Microstuf makes a special 2000 version. Next best is Tandy's Videotex Plus, less power and only downloads ASKY.

## PERFECT WINDOWS

A strange thing happened when KH looked through her Windows--WordPerfect 4.2, which snubs the CM-1, came up on it in outdoorsy blue, green and yellow when it was called under Windows. I can't try it out, because my CM-1 has been pushed beyond cord range by the heaps of software I have to review for you guys.

## A WELCOME MAT AT FRAMEWORK'S DOOR

Those who find Framework's copyright screen a bore --it makes you hit ENTER if you're a good boy-- can eliminate this step and whistle right through to your disk list, with this patch by MF, which requires the Norton Utilities. (This is a good time to buy the new edition, "Advanced" version, for \$70 street. If you can get along without Norton, you are also happy with an outhouse instead of a bathroom.)

Copy the Norton disk into the same disk (and directory) where your Framework (FW.EXE) file is. If your Framework is nicely de-protected, put both it and Norton on a new floppy. Otherwise, be super-careful not to wreck your only Framework. Type NU (and ENTER) to ignite Norton. At the main Norton menu hit ENTER three times. Move the cursor to FW.EXE and hit ENTER. Move the cursor to SEARCH and hit ENTER twice. Hit TAB and then (noting spaces) CD 21 F8 CB F9 CB B4 00 and ENTER. Then, hit ENTER twice to get the search underway. If Norton fails to find what you're after, quit Norton and live with your different version. If Norton finds the 21-to-00 passage, cursor over to the B4 00 and change it (Norton tells how) to EB 06. To get the change into the disk, hit ENTER twice. Then quit Norton, type FW and see if things have changed.

PEOPLE SENDING PUBLIC PROGRAMS: I whined in December about getting archived programs, and half a dozen members showered me with de-archiving utilities. So now, like the dumb lady with the glasses on Saturday Live I say, "Never mind." Archived files are welcome.

## DBXL

The day is gone when a manufacturer can get \$500 retail, or even \$200 street, for a great database or wordmaker with a gobbledygook manual. Ashton-Tate, which wisely bought the stupendous Framework when its writers needed money, is still trying to charge five claims for dBIII+, a dumb idea. It doesn't run on the 2000 anyway, and the 2000 version of Cornerstone is reviewed favorably elsewhere in this issue. Another great database, DBXL, is a clone that fits dBIII+ like paint on a statue, even as to the pidgin-Sanskrit manual, but they realistically charge a clam-and-a-half (\$90 street). WordTech has finally coughed up our review copy, and we will be reviewing it almost as fast as their half-asleep marketing people responded to us, maybe in the next issue.

## REVIEWS TO COME

Some of you are waiting for our reviews of AutoCad's and VersaCad's last 2000 versions, and of PageMaker. Those goodies are waiting while we continue to push on the PS laser makers for evaluation units. The whole system, to change our paper output from ugly to beautiful, will work together and should be reviewed together.

## DB III

Thank you to the three members who sent us original dBaseIII disks, but as I understand it, the disks alter themselves while you're loading them on your hard disk. Would you three please tell me the load-status of the disks you sent? Maybe I can poke into the machine language and find a fix for any kind, the untouched, the once-loaded, and the loaded-but-unloaded.

Meanwhile, WRH is sending to HQ what sounds like an ingenious way to load DB on a hard disk as often as you want, even if you have a dozen HD's. It involves starting with one disk until it complains, switching to another disk, I'm all confused so he's sending written instructions which I will try and pass on.

MF says "Transec Unlock D+ was able to strip the copy protection from dBase and FW on my machine," and offers it to members. MF, if that's a public program, please send it fast and we'll list it; otherwise, don't. MF explains that these two Ashton-Tate programs use either the Softgard or Prolok protection, and that D+ striped Softgard for him. Softgard cripples the main disk while the first copy is on your hard drive; Prolok refuses to deal with the hard disk during your work unless the main disk stays in drive A.

More on the dB III situation next time, from your overloaded and unashamed leader.

*Watch out for a trap in dBIII: If you are "appending" new records and you decide not to use the blank screen of your next record, use the ESC key to get home; if you use the CTRL-END pair that memorizes a record, your puter will crash to black, and in rebooting you will lose all the previous records you typed in, in that particular work session. Even then, that record will be polluted and unusable until you have spaced or typed through it in ways I haven't figured out, although succeeding.*

## BLIND AS A DATABAT

As we all were expecting to hear, a member took the plunge for dB III+ and found that it works fine, if you have good enough eyes to read the display on a totally black screen. It executes commands noisily, displays the function-key functions, but literally leaves you in the dark. MF wants to know if a knowledgeable member can dig out the screen call codes in the disk, and alter them so dBIII+ can find the screen. Of course, if one of you volunteers to try, we'll ship you a disk to repair.

"Well, what's the catalog number?" says the Tandy salesman, nervously looking over your shoulder at the live one eagerly looking at the 3000. He sniffs nastily and begins to walk past you, letting you know that a request without a number is not an order, it's a disqualification.

Well, if you want software, there's a list of 2000 Tandy software offered in this issue. If you want hardware, here are the catalog numbers, in numerical order, of all 2000 hardware ever offered over the counter as a catalog item. If you want just part of an item, like just the controller slide-in tray from the 10 meg internal drive kit, just use the main item number and ask the unwilling salesman for the "part under that catalog number."

26-1197 -- the digi-mouse, an emphatically un-digital bus mouse that will not run without the clock & mouse board below. It is almost extinct, and Tandy is asking \$100 each for the rest, an unfair price. \$25 to \$50 is fair, \$25 for the hardware and up to \$25 extra for scarcity.

(each of)  
26-1220 -- vianet (also called arcnct) board, special 2000 version, on a slide-in tray. If you buy some cables and an "inactive hub," you can put one of these in a group of four machines and have all four use the hard disk(s) or cartridge disk(s) of one or more of the machines. You can thus give an office its little network. With the expensive "active hub," you can cable out to eight inactive hubs, and each inactive hub can branch out on its three remaining wires, making a 24-machine network possible. Unfortunately, the system seems to be limited to sharing disk storage, rather than letting the operators interact with each other on-screen. Each computer also needs its own mouse board, its own graphics board, its own memory board -- the 2000's four slots are not enough for this usage.

26-1245 -- disk cartridge system, a huge box by today's standards that holds a 10-meg drive for those giant 8x12-inch cartridges of the olden days. The darn thing is bigger than our whole computer. Now there is another box, apparently exactly the same size and shape, that has a 20-meg drive that might easily run with our cartridge controller card. That single-20 box is 25-4064,5,6 and the 25- is a clue that it might not work with the 2000.

26-1246 -- a second 10-meg drive to put in the big box above, replacing a blank plate.

## ALL THE CATALOG NUMBERS AND ALL THE STRAIGHT POOP ON ALL THE HARDWARE THAT DEAR

26-1372 -- a phonebook-sized 10-meg removable disk that goes in the cartridge drive below. You can work with petite new-style cartridges the size of three piled-up floppies, if you prefer, as described elsewhere in this issue.

26-5111 -- the extinct VM-1 monitor, a very clean green machine for which HQ and many monitor-blind sale buyers are seeking a substitute, be it amber, white or green screen. More on this is also revealed elsewhere in this issue.

26-5112 -- our CM-1 monitor in color, now also extinct. It was a marvel in its day, but outflanked by the industry leader, the NEC MultiSync (version 1, now replaced and maybe dropping in price for leftovers). The NEC works fine with the 2000, giving its full available 640x400-pixel clarity a good display, says a member. He adds that any so-called multi-sync monitor will do the same. For any job except one demanding color, the color of the CM-1 is partly wasted, and the clarity is miserable compared to the VM-1. For a demonstration, type "db" after your A: prompt, and you'll find that CM-1 (whether in color or mono) leaves a fuzzy gray trench between the letters, making them seem a bit like one letter instead of two. Try it on VM-1 and you'll find a velvet-black stripe in there, no doubt about the separation. And if you're planning to spend a whole morning or evening word-processing, a fuzzy image will fuzz your brain. Go for monochrome.

26-5103 -- the Tandy 2000 double-floppy, still the best all-round computer ever made.

26-5104 -- Tandy 2000HD, only one floppy and a hard disk that, at 10 megs, is a joke these days, but it will run until you install your Seagate(s). The good part is that it has the power and signal cables that your next hard drive will need, and the nearly-extinct hard-drive controller board on a slide-in tray. With that tray in your top slot, the sky is the limit for storage, and it has (except for the old 1983 version) an external cable output for a second (external) hard drive; you can snake the cables back in and over the tray to install that second drive inside as one of two half-heights.

26-5115 -- sounds like a dumb gadget, but it does wonders for the clutter-space at center desk, where the current work really needs to repose. It lifts the foot-square VM-1 (doesn't fit CM-1) four inches above ground zero on a four-inch-square column; its base is eight inches square but only a quarter-inch thick -- fiberglass-reinforced plastic and rugged. Almost extinct.

26-5116 -- another desk-clearer, and this one gets the fat main box out of the way at the side (or, with crowding, in the knee-hole) of your desk. That clears enough space for an in-box, an out-box and two smaller piles. The reason you don't hide it completely, using its included six-foot-cord to monitor and keyboard, is that you have to insert floppies at the top, and use the switches at (grunt) the bottom. Luckily, the 2000 thinks if you hit the three-finger CTRL-ALT-DELETE, you must have leaned all the way down and pressed the black reset switch. Fiberglass-reinforced plastic, again, color matches 2000. One problem with these: The screw-holes are an eighth-inch out of sync with each other, so you have to be both delicate and brutal to get the screws all the way in. I'd blame that Mexican labor if I weren't quarter-Mexican myself.

26-5125 -- the 10 meg hard drive kit: drive, cables and board; added to a double-floppy it makes a loaded machine. See more discussion under 26-5104 above.

26-5127 -- hard drive control board, something every 2000 will be lost without when its owner gets productive. Part of the items 26-5125 and 26-5104 above.

26-5140 -- monochrome graphics board on the usual slide-in tray; it won't converse with a CM-1 until the color chips below are pushed into it by you. Many of the bigger, flashier programs (exactly the ones needing 2000 versions because IBM graphics calls crash) will not run for us until that graphics board is in. However, many do, in their "non-graphics mode."

A non-graphics mode is a screenful of letters and numbers, with in some cases boxes and gray rectangles. Framework looks almost identical in graphics and non-graphics modes. Word looks fine in graphics, and simply vanishes without a graphics board. Generally, though, the difference is that boxes and minor ornaments are added to the mere letters, by going into a graphics mode.

26-5141 -- color chips in a cigarette-pack-size plastic box, which you must delicately but forcefully press in according to the clear instructions enclosed in the bigger carton. Many used or surplus graphics boards have the chips already in. The directions also say to take a knife and scrape a cut across "trace 1," an eighth-inch-long line of printed solder. If you don't, no harm seems to come; if you do, all is well except that Microsoft Word refuses to run on the VM-1 and crashes your puter. (Word 3.1 runs fine both ways.) Many of us, wary of other bugs that may arrive with other software, install a switch for trace 1 in the backplate of the tray, with two wires leading back to the trace-1 solder spots. See page 8 of the May 1987 Whimper for instructions and cautions.

## MORE POWER FROM PETER

Mike Ferro sends us a brief review of Norton 4 Advanced, which you can afford to skip buying if you can build a house without a hammer.

He keeps some of Norton on board always, such as a path command that lets him call Norton from any disk and any program's DOS window. He keeps the time-mark on, which marks all his work so he can prove what part of his computer use is tax-deductible. He keeps three Norton tasks (NU,NI,DS) in batch files with a "/D1" switch after the Norton name, required to milk pretty graphics out of the 2000. The /D1 is also handy with NCD and SD, but not in batch files. Here's the batch you run when you type NU: NU.BAT (ENTER) ECHO OFF (ENTER) CLS (ENTER) NU \_2K/D1.

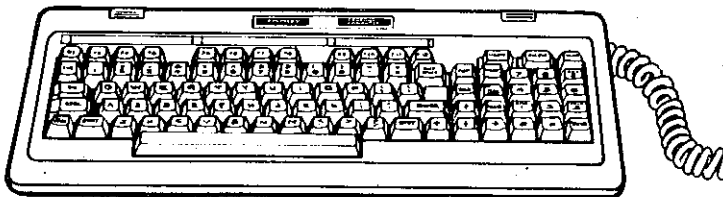
Of course capital letters are never necessary in a computer command, except in a phrase you're searching for: "find usa" won't find USA. MF finds the SI file only half-helpful on our machine, and gibberish if you haven't got ANSI.SYS on your Norton disk and in your CONFIG.SYS file.

Another thing one reviewer always loads is an autoexec.bat file running part of FR, which steals a copy of your hard disk table of contents every morning and hides it in a safe place, in case you accidentally hit keys that wreck its main directory.

Interestingly, Ferro never pauses to say Norton is good. He seems to think that's like thanking your heart for beating. Norton has that much acceptance. He does zerox some reviews, which I will now raid for extras:

NI, if you call it at the keyboard, gives a good menu and examples of the rest of the Norton tricks. There is an on-disk tutorial also. DS does the same sorting that Gem and Windows do to your disk's table of contents, but with a marvelous twist: you can replace the front-to-back directory DOS feeds you with your own custom-sorted version. FI expands the nine-letter file names you're used to with a paste-on note, 63 spaces long, that you can use to explain the item or just write love notes. One reviewer deliberately gouged a floPy, and DT rescued all the scarred information. Norton shares some cute tricks with the unsung Show/Edit, reviewed in this issue.

TS searches an entire disk for a word, doing a 10meg disk for one reviewer in 15 minutes. Possibly the major use for Norton is rescuing files you have wrongly erased (provided you didn't write over their space later), and you can even unerase a directory with UD. (Notice how the initials tend to be easy clues?) If you're in the spy business or organized crime, WD will clean a disk so well that no hacker can dig information off it. Others shouldn't even keep this part handy, because it makes a frantic unerase useless. In fact, many parts of Norton are so destructive in a slip that they must be kept as isolated as loaded guns.



PC World starts its Norton review with a good line: "If you've ever tried to copy files from one disk to another by typing DEL \*\*, you know why Peter Norton is such a popular guy." He also has a great smile. After you're used to the menu of NI, don't forget that you can quickly turn on any part from your A: prompt also.

Wage slaves love work stations because they ask you clear yes/no questions when you sit down. The 2000 will also, after you've primed it with ASK. Taken all together, Norton is kind of like a wife and a sweetheart combined: useful enough to be almost required, and still full of fun when you least expect it.

26-5143 -- math co-processor kit. This kit has a lot of installation required, for which they want you to pay extra, but we began a description of doing it in the December 1987 Whimper. The kit has, besides a few wires used by the installer, two pieces: the 8087-1 (watch that 1) chip, which has a 10 megahertz clock speed capacity and is more expensive and rarer than the other 8087's. Tandy wants the Intel list price of \$330 if you buy this as a "part" of the math kit, but street prices in the major magazines (see elsewhere, this issue) run from \$200 up. The other main part is a strange interboard, part number AX-0129, about 4 inches square. It has a long double-row of female pin-sockets on both sides, both sides female but in different styles. Envision reports that this board is first impaled by the math chip on its "top," and then pressed onto the waiting pins of the main logic board, the heart (better, brain) of the 2000. It plugs on right next to the big square 80186 chip that runs everything.

26-5144 -- The clock & mouse board, not very expensive because it's not crowded, but just about extinct. The mouse plugs into it, and its clock tells the 2000 what time it is anytime the 2000 asks. The clock stupidly calls ten p.m. 22:00, which you know is dumb because the army agrees with it. The clock often runs fast or slow, but the Whimper is giving scraps of information on adjusting it. The battery is the worst part, a CR2320 (any brand) which very often pretends to be dead because of finger oil on the clip, or weakness of the clip after you bend it while installing a battery. Tandy kept promising to "back-order" this battery, but the Whimper found out Tandy was strenuously avoiding it; we figure the double-cross was part of the effort to kill off the 2000.

26-5147 -- disk cartridge controller board. There's lots to say, and it's all elsewhere in this issue. This could be a valuable board.

26-5160 -- long extinct, 128K of extra memory for those dead days when the brand-new 2000 has only 128K inside. Later, all models got a basic 256K on the main logic (hidden) board.

26-5161 -- 128K "external" memory, and the confusing term means that it's on a tray, "external" only until you slide the tray in. This board is now worth its weight in gold, because you can send it to Envision in rural Washington state and get it boosted to 640K, with an add-on floppy disk and directions that make our silly 2000 recognize and use the whole 896K of memory (remember the basic 256K in the bare computer), for \$195.

## DADDY MADE FOR US BEFORE ABANDONING US

26-5162 -- 128K of chips to boost that external board to what dear dumb Tandy thought was Nirvana, but these chips are not worth even a penny apiece with Envision souping things up. Envision simply throws out the chips, coffee-cans full of them, with a standing offer to give them free for aquarium bottoms.

26-5164 -- a "serial expansion" board, this odd duck slides into a slot and reveals four big RS-232 sockets on its back panel. It might once have appealed to people with many printers, in the days before the "centronics parallel" socket took over. It might also be handy for guys with bulletin boards using four modems, four phone lines all night for electronic gossip nationwide.

26-5266 -- check this, kids -- a funny board with one or more coaxial cable outlets (like cable TV or stereo components) on its backplate, intended if you can believe this to connect to an IBM 3270, which memory tells me is a mainframe computer about the size of an upright piano which companies invite each other's executives to visit in their wars of status. I'll bet they only sold two of these in four years of the 2000.

26-6504, 6508, and 6510 through 6513 -- vianet (arcnet) parts, all those cables and hubs I told you about under 26-1220. There is a rumor that this system can interconnect with ordinary clone compatibles with their own vianet boards, but I can't pass it on to you because PC and clone are dirty words around here.



HKF provides reviews of three 2000 programs. For details, see our full software list (August Whimper).

**Lightning**--A useful disk cache program for operations requiring frequent disk use. Using any desired amount of memory, it acts as an instant-access ramdisk holding only the most recently used material, new work pushing old out of the assigned memory, back onto your hard disk. It is free of the usual ramdisk risk, lost overflow data. Great for speeding up database work, it's basically a carpenter's assistant that holds ready the materials you've most recently been using.

Order the Tandy 2000 version, from Personal Computer Support Group, 11035 Harry Hines Blvd., 206, Dallas, TX 75229, 214-351-0564, \$90.

**Hip Pocket Helpers + --44 extra DOS commands** for those long periods typing to the A: or C: prompt. It compares and finds things in many ways, but will not delete a file. A gem collection that might be called MS-DOS 2.11.03.4,5.

**Filepro 16--As muscular as DBIII, but with a readable manual and a friendly, flexible menu system.** It won't display multiple records or search, but you get started easily and complex reports are a snap to produce.

#### **EASY WORK FOR HARD CACHE**

A new frontier that you've been asking for, the disk cache (pronounced cash), is now available. CC reports that even Tandy has it for us, on DOS 3.02.03 for the 3000. Your only route to this today (with Tandy leaning on me) is to sweet-talk your favorite salesman or repairman into running a copy of this tiny file on a PCMAKER-formatted (360K) blank disk you bring in. Make it easy on him by going for his lunch or something. Disk Cache version 1 on that DOS disk works fine on the 2000 for CC.

CC adds that Lightning by Personal Computer Support Group (he gave no address) comes in a special 2000 version. Check it out; I have not had time to call them for a copy.

JNW bought "Flash" from Software Master, 6532 Guilford Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46220, and says it caches well in his week of use.

Disk caching makes your puter work quite a bit faster, by remembering which parts of your current program or your data you have been using this morning. Even though your silly program wants to drop them to conserve memory, the cache insists your machine remember all the most recent stuff (up to the memory limit of your machine, which should be nearly a megabyte if you shop at Envision). Much of the time you have to sit, fingers poised, while your puter grunts (floPies) or beeps (hard drives), the time is being wasted while your puter is reading from disk. When you have extra memory and caching, most of this waste is eliminated.

Disk caching uses the well-worn carpenter's principle that if you use a hammer, a bag of nails, and then a drill, you should hang them on your belt rather than walking over to the tool box to put them away. You'll probably need them again soon.

#### **SPOOLER**

CC adds that the same recent Tandy DOS disk has a file SPOOLER.SYS that provides the print spooler you guys have been asking for. Much like a cache, a spooler gives your puter some time to repond to your commands while it's printing. Otherwise, you have to wait until the print job is done. Like caching, it uses spare memory to pile up the text to be printed, and feeds it to the printer as often as the printer asks for a batch of words.

The problem is that this only works in DOS, meaning when you want a disk directory, a basic program you wrote in DOS, and so on. When you're in Word, WordStar, dBase, and so on, forget it, but some of the big programs do their own spooling. WordPerfect 3.2, CC reports, does accept the help of SPOOLER.SYS.

#### **CORNERSTONE**

We called for a review of Cornerstone; members Tim Wright, Nathan Williams and R.C.Perrussel answered. As we suspected in this world filled with dBase and its clones, with manuals and screens that only faintly resemble the language our parents taught us, all requiring months to get them turned on, there is a database which starts easily, treats you politely, explains itself, and still has muscle when you need it. Say our reviewers:

Cornerstone "was and is a real bargain," (RCP) "the bargain of the decade," (TW) at \$99.95. It's a moderately easy, multi-file, disk-resident, very flexible, no-programming-needed database. The controls are "not very intuitive" (logical and therefore easy to learn), said NEW, but he got over that.

RCP had a crash when he tried to do a global update and ran out of disk space. He called helpful Infocom, which directed him to the "reorganize" command in their "back up" utility. I'm not sure whether his data stayed "bent" from the crash.

Memory-residents like Sidekick will also cause a crash, NEW reports; let Sidekick run alone. As you would expect, it does big jobs much faster with a hard disk on board.

Stone does your math. I select "column" and name the fields in the order I want them. It gives me number of sales per department, discounts, freight, total tax, grand total, and totals for month and year. It does the same for expenses.

The easy and fun report generator designs forms flexibly right on the monitor and prints them just as they looked onscreen: invoices, activity summaries, data pages on one customer (a special client-tracking system) or one product, purchase orders (just like invoices, doing your suppliers as if they were customers), mailing labels.

The mailing labels export easily to a wordmaker like Multimate (RCP found both manuals on the money), for doing personalized form letters. If you sort by zip before exporting, your mailing will be stacked in zip order for bulk rates.

The output selects, groups, calculates, sorts and accepts constant text as you direct. You can save these forms and use them again. You can also save a series of keyboard commands you find yourself using often --a macro or (cringe) a little program-- which will be obeyed when you hit one two-finger keystroke. You can change field lengths on the fly without losing data, with a 4000-character maximum for each one.

You can have several lists working ("files open") at one time, and if they have a common element like the customer's names or your product names, you can print reports using parts of all of them. (It's "relational" because each file can have a relation to another through a shared field.) When a price or quantity or address changes, it changes all the way through the various active lists, to the extent you require.

The IBM and Tandy versions seem to be the same, except for Tandy's changes in the manual and erasing of all printers except their own. Infocom, aware of Tandy's habit, ships the erased drivers for nothing, and their \$14.95 "Building Applications With Cornerstone" is a jewel. Infocom's phone support is good or bad, depending on whom you're believing.

*Our patch for Basic to produce a slow scroll (Dec. 15, p.4) is wrong, says R.S. Sorry.*

#### **OUR PRIVATE BURN UNIT**

We need an automatic screen blanker, because when we wander off with a hurt child or a hurried vacation, the screen of our dear machine can literally burn a hole in its glow-coat, which shows up as a scar and makes you want a new puter. We (that is, HQ) have one, in one of the public domain packages that are beginning to arrive at HQ. We will offer it, probably next issue. It turns your screen black, five minutes after you stop typing and the assigned work stops happening. When you start working again, the screen flashes back with your first keystroke. We are indebted to MR for the kindness.

## HOW YOU CAN FIND OUT WHAT RUNS ON YOUR MACHINE BY DOING A LITTLE RUNNING YOURSELF

We all are frustrated by seeing programs advertised and not knowing whether they run on the 2000. The Whimper has given some guidance here, including this issue's discussion of the BIOS route that well-behaved programs take.

When you read the ad or package, look for "and compatibles" after the PC,XT,AT. If it says "100% compatibles," forget it. If it has a list of strange computer names -- Sanyo, DECRainbow, TIPro, Wang and so forth, it's also for us.

CC has sent to headquarters a refreshing catalog of software from the Programmer's Shop, whose prices are not great, but it has the first list of major software that plainly tells whether a program will run on the 2000. It calls each one "PCDOS" or "MSDOS." If you read this catalog (available from 1-800-421-8006), you will get a glow as you recognize old enemies that froze your screen (labeled PCDOS) and friends that ran (labeled MSDOS). With your now clearer vision, you can read the rest of their catalog for a feel of what's out there for you in the open market. Later you can cross-check magazine ads with the ProgShop list and quickly get a feel of how to recognize ads for software that runs on the 2000.

You're not cheating ProgShop --I told them we'll use their catalog as a research tool, and Dave said fine. He said their "MSDOS" rating comes from actual use by their guys, and from information that manufacturers only admit to distributors. Buy a package from them if you find their list very helpful. P.S.: They just called back and offered me a crate of their catalogs, which I could have inserted in this Whimper and kept within my four-ounce bulk limit. But there's something creepy-commercial about a non-profit club sending catalogs, and they said they'd be just as haPy to mail them when you call.

Something nobody tells you (until now) is that many of the big programs have a "graphics mode" that crashes on 2000 and also a plain-Jane mode (just letters, no boxes) that will run for us. Look for this clue in ads, manuals and phone calls, and try "loading" your tryout disk with a plain-Jane command. For example, at the A: or C: prompt you type something like SUPERDO/PJ, and a program which would have crashed to a black screen gives you a big green hello in plain-Jane type. You don't need a flashy dresser, just a good worker.

Another source of the vital answer we seek has turned up. By the merest accident, Egghead Software opened a store next to my closest Shack. Since a member had crowed about their cheap modems, I poPed in when it was just a rug and sweaty guys working late. They have an odd policy that reminds me of the record stores of the 1940's, when anyone with clean clothes could take a new record into a glass booth and play it before he bought it.

Egghead, the local store says, will let you try the program you find on the shelf, in the store (on a PC)--although not helpful with our compatibility worries. They will let you buy it, try it on your 2000, and return everything but the cellophane if it's incompatible, no restocking charge. A nice feature is that you can get your answer and your money the same or next day, because there are 115 Egghead stores. Call 1-800-344-4323 for addresses.

If you return two without having bought one you're on their poo-poo list, but still given this courtesy: you can stagger in with your 2000 and go back to the car for your monitor, and try more programs right there. I would do it myself if I had time; they said I was welcome to live there if I would send you my results.

Their prices are quite good, well below list and only a shade more than the desert warehouses you find in the big magazines. Naturally, you can copy a program and wing it without the manual, and I do this sometimes among friends, but if you get the great service that I've described, you've got to respect their honor system with both low- and high-priced programs. Go in there looking good and treat them right. If you keep buying what runs and only return crashers that smelled runnable in the ProgShop test (above), they'll probably ignore the two-limit and let you keep it up for years.

Tandy has a good point when they say good service justifies higher price. Use that principle by buying from Egghead. From Tandy, buy paper and disks when you're desperate.

Windows is alleged (November PCM, letters) to make some IBM-style programs 2000-compatible. Untrue, as JWS has been told by software companies, PCM, and his Tandy locals.

If a program is advertised as running "in" Windows, it will run on either the IBM Windows (on a PC or clone), or on the 2000 with an IBM Windows patched by the \$10 disk Tandy used to sell, which Orphans now sells (see disk list, this issue).

If a program doesn't run "in a window" (movable, shrinkable, copiable to another window), you can still call it into action while you're in Windows, either clone or 2000, by double-clicking its name on the disk directory Windows shows you. But then Windows politely turns itself off and you're alone with the program, just as you would be without Windows. If it wouldn't run outside Windows, it still crashes your puter when Windows calls it. [But see the note on WordPerfect 4.2 by KH elsewhere in this issue.]



### THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A GOOD READ

There's been a lot of talk about computers replacing paper, but it just isn't so. When you're putting out the work, sure, you'll get more done at the keyboard, and there's no harm in taking the keyboard to a big, soft chair.

But when you're reading instead of writing, no computer can replace the comfort of looking down at a white page near a big window, shifting its ¼-ounce weight with two fingers. And you can praise PageMaker all day for convenience, but no computer can quite match the display I have right now, your Whimper in clip-scrap form spread all over a ten-foot table. When I want this story to move back two pages, I don't have to press seven keys just right; I just pick it up and lay it down.

If somebody invented paper in a world where there was nothing to read except on computer screens, he would be famous. Next time you curl up in a deep chair with a poem, a love letter, or a computer magazine, imagine yourself in a postureback chair reading one of those on a screen (they all have been tried that way). Even the versatile Tandy 2000 can't beat paper.

## DISK DEXTERITY

Our regular DOS and even Gem and Windows operate with less style and power than Show/Edit, a fifty-dollar program that PO ran across in his research -- "one of the three best pieces of software I have ever used on any computer."

If you have ever tried to manipulate a batch file with the helpless DOS utility called Edlin, you know how it feels to use a pocket calculator in the dark with mittens on. Lord knows why Tandy or Microsoft dared to put it in MS-DOS.

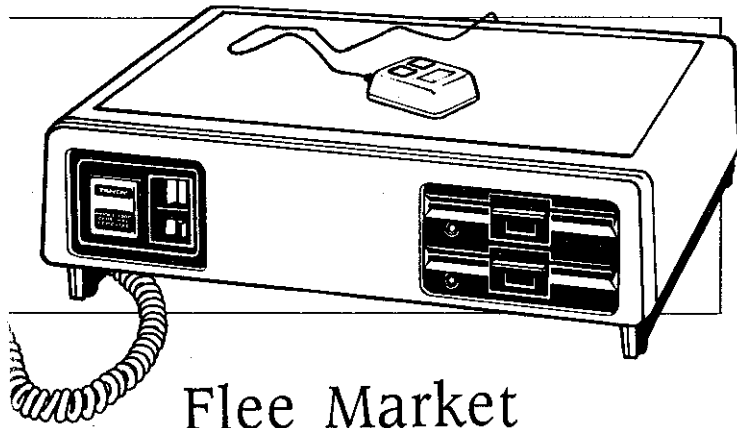
Riding to the rescue from the plains north of Dallas comes Show/Edit, a file-handler with brains and big, strong hands. It copies with or without archiving, the 50% compression that hackers use when they exchange disks. It lists all your files as DOS, Gem and Windows do, but with extras.

Have you ever wanted your list to show those arrogant "hidden files" that show up in a CHKDSK? This Show/Edit does. Did you ever want to select a group of files by hand for group processing? DOS will let you select all the \*.BAK files, for example, but that's clumsy. Gem and Windows limit you to one file at a time. But S/E lets you asterisk any combination from the whole disk, and then take them as a group through one of the usual manipulations: print, copy, backup, delete and so on. It's all done with easy-clue single-letter commands, with an on-screen menu that shares space with the list of files on your disk.

You can even show and change the "attributes" of one or many files--whether they are hidden, read-only, archived, or system. Gem and Windows never heard of all this, and DOS permits it only through the risky torture of DEBUG. It's all done with easy-clue single-letter commands.

Bypassing the moronic TYPE and COPY CON commands and the laborious, helpless EDLIN, the little menu item EDIT opens up an ASKY (letters) file that's a complete little wordprocessor. Imagine a "type" command where you can say, "Hold it, go back a page or two, change that letter only, make a print copy but keep working."

Some, but far from all, of these things can be performed by the latest Norton, reviewed in this issue. This unheard-of disk-organizing tool comes from a source the Orphans have never heard of, L.Kroeker, 2717 Glen Forest, Plano, TX 75023.



## Flee Market

WTB says (among less compelling ideas) that I should run all ads, regardless of price or not being for hardware. Two answers: first, we run so few software ads because few members are offering software, unless bundled with puters; second, it is true that a market asserts itself despite high asking prices, but to some extent your leader is asserting himself here. It is my determination to make survival easy for those of us who hang on, and so I cheerfully trash ads with high prices. Those prices will have to drop, because the Whimper is the only game in town.

Several members will notice that their ads aren't running. As it now says on our new-member applications, dumb high prices won't run in the Whimper. We have a guy who wants \$2500 for a nicely-equipped 2000 and a no-more-than-

average pile of software. Get serious! The market price for a bare double-floPy is about \$100, \$200 for a hard-drive machine, and software goes for about \$10 or \$20 among friends. So if your ads are not equivalently "friendly," I'm not running them. This is a lifeboat, not a democracy.

Another guy sent in a three-page single-spaced ad for one puter with about fifty items, none of them any big deal. How much Whimper space did he think he could get for free, or even for \$15 a year?

NOTE TO SHOPERS: Everything here is standard 2000 issue stuff unless otherwise noted.

*There goes that laserbug again. Blame it on Apple, it's a Laserwriter. Now it thinks two capital P's are one.*

NOTE TO SHOPERS: Software advertised is full package. We will eventually try again to start a rent/share/tryout market with copied disks, but for now it is too complex for little me, and newly dangerous since Tandy is trying to sink our ship.

NOTE TO SHOPERS: All prices include shipping to anywhere in continental USA. All prices are firm. Often a member will say "or best offer," but we have no room here for whining. You are free to negotiate of course --it's your nickel. (Pay phone calls cost a nickel in the olden days.)

Double floPy 512K w/VM-1 and HD controller, graphics, mouse w/board, floor stand. Hardware: external 10meg, DCM-5 modem, Epson HS80, cables. Software: PSF's, DR's, VCad, 123, WPerfect, SCalc3, MAILedger, and others. \$950. 302-328-6891.

26-5161 memory board w/256K, \$145; 123 with unprotected copy, \$95. Mike, 802-763-8575.

Hayes 300 modem, \$45; DR Fortran 77, \$175. Ask for Earl at 805-733-3657 after 5:00 PST.

Offered last time at \$800 and not one call: \$700 for a three-drive (2 floPies and 10meg) with CM-1 and presumably color graphics, some small software. Call Charles, 615-528-8795 collect after 5:00 CST.

WordPerfect printer drivers for J-6100, FX-80, TI-855, NB-24-10, DMP-130; his versions do return and linefeed properly where the WP drivers don't. FREE, just send formatted disk, note and return postage inside a disk mailer. JY, 4413 Durango Lane, McKinney, TX 75069.

Double floPy in its box w/Deskmate \$250; another with graphics board and color chips \$350; MMate \$40, dBIII \$80, dBII \$30, SCalc3 \$40, MWord \$40.

Multimate 3.02 \$50, Multiplan 1.10 \$40. Bob, 703-435-6028.

Double-floppy \$1050, but it has color board, CM-1, 896K RAM courtesy of Envision, clock/mouse, and some minor software. Tom, 205-347-5008.

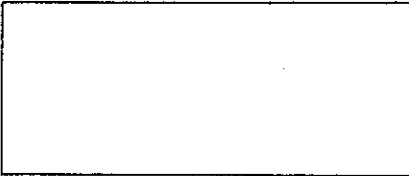
Memory board with 256K (usable by Envision for \$100 discount on their 640 board), \$100. Color chip set \$50. Call Terry at 602-790-7254.

Three surplus loaded machines from headquarters, roll your own from these ingredients (I'll assemble): basic box with one floppy, motherboard, regular guts \$85. Add a hard drive controller board \$80. Add a second floppy \$35. Add a Tandy 10 meg, \$50. Add hard drive controller cables (without a drive), \$25. Power cable for same, \$5. Add a graphics board, \$55. Color chips, \$25. Cartridge disk system controller, \$105. Get it all for the total, \$435, or pick and choose. The individual parts that people don't ask for are available at those prices. Write HQ. Add \$10 shipping.

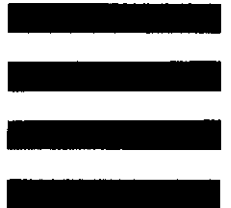
Desk pedestal for VM-1, neat design that returns the place of honor to your papers by rising above the competition. \$15 (with the shipping, of course). We have ten. Floor stand: this one really clears your desk, and I couldn't live without it. \$40 with a cable for VM-1 or CM-1 and keyboard 6 feet away. Specify your monitor.

no staples -  
just an inch of  
tape, please  
↑

Tandy 2000 Orphan: You ought to put your return  
address here in this box, just to be on the safe side.



NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES



**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 34 WESTPORT, CT

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

**Tandy 2000 Orphans**

387 Main Street  
Westport, CT 06880



no staples - just an  
inch of tape, please  
↓

**NEW MEMBERS:** Please fill out, fold on lines and mail this sheet. The 45¢ business reply postage will be paid by the Orphans. Attention: this is an interactive club, so headquarters or another member may contact you occasionally. You must, repeat must, include in your answers the following four facts: the real name of a person who uses your 2000, including a first name (or middle, like "T. George"; second, the serial number of at least one 2000 owned by you, 7 digits from the big-box bottom plate that says "Tandy 2000;" third, the phone where we can contact you, a shared phone is okay but not a service or machine; and finally, your actual street address, home or business, where people and packages can come to your 2000. The farm crowd can give a rural route number, but those living beyond mail must describe, such as "4th log cabin on south bank of Yellowknife River." [A second space, at right, does NOT satisfy the address requirement. This mail-only address (ONLY) may be a P.O. box or shared mail drop, APO, anything like that.] IF YOU OMIT one or more of those required four facts, your payment below becomes a much-appreciated contribution to the organization which buys you no member benefits and will not be refunded. So be careful!

member's real name  member's real phone  home  office   
 (include area code)

serial number of your 2000(s)

member's real address \*  **FOLD** preferred mailing address if different \*

\*You (or I) will condense your address to three 25-space lines: 1.name (which can include Ms., Jr., Ph.D., Pres., c/o Johnson, c/o Acme Co., and such stuff); 2.address (street, box, apartment, suite, building, APO, and so on); 3. city, two-letter ST and five-digit zip (I spurn the longer zipcodes). Outside USA, a fourth line will be added naming your country. Your address label will also have a "line 0" with your member expiration date and a mail code. Try to mention both when writing headquarters.

**PAYMENT:** \$15 USA, \$20 Canada, \$25 all other countries. (USA military APOs and FPOs are \$15) Either fill in the credit card info (Master or Visa only) (Orphans lose an 8% bank fee), or attach your check (preferred method) face down with one inch of tape, right about here. No personal checks outside USA, I'm tired of deadbeat Canadian banks. No overpayments--separate checks labeled "contribution" may be included (definitely not a requirement).

MASTER  VISA           EXPIRES

CREDIT-CARD ORDERING SIGNATURE (PRINT IF NOT NAME SHOWN AS MEMBER)

**WHAT YOU'RE BUYING:** 1.You get each Orphans' Whimper, our every-two-months newsletter, which is published on a date during the exact year after I deposit your payment. Depending on luck, that should be five or six issues. Your renewal or rollover is up to you, guided by info on your mailing labels. 2. You get free classified ads to sell hardware, or full-package software, but few people are selling now. Give exact description, exact price including all USA shipping (your gamble), and contact info. Beware, you could get hundreds of calls, or none at all. Just your own **FOLD** personal equipment--people selling as a business must send samples to HQ for review and possible rejection. Keep all prices cheap. Ads with dumb high prices will not run. 3.Send questions about making your hardware and software perform, and send your answers to questions if you know the solutions. 4. A FEW GET: low-price deals when I can get them from manufacturers, which will be offered in the Whimper. People with good contribution records (answers and articles) get first grab, and others get the leftovers by random choice. 5.NO ONE GETS: me on the phone or answers to letters (except in the Whimper). I'm doing 20-hour days, and you guys aren't paying me a dime, so I'm not answering those 20 daily letters or those 40 calls I'd get if you knew my number or last name. Besides, I'm just another ignorant user--the Whimper is mostly by smart guys who contact me.

**WHAT YOU NEED SUPPORTED:** List below, or on an insert sheet, your hardware (boxes, boards, gadgets) and software (bought or borrowed), to give Orphan HQ a picture of which items affect over 10% of members and therefore deserve support in the Whimper's expensive, hard-to-write pages. David R., coordinator