

## 2500 New Tricks for Your 2000, from the Biggest BBS

We have finally broken through to shareware Big Time. Many members have kindly sent us their favorite shareware programs from the modem world — and two have made their own 2000 versions of compatible software for us.

But there was a lot of duplication in these "Best of Elvis" collections, and other problems. I've never been comfortable with the compression methods modem types use to save telephone time. One helpful guy added a READ.ME file to each of hundreds of programs,

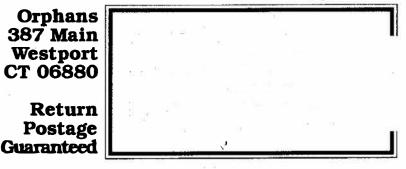
explaining the use of each. Then he ran the full set into compression, and when I tried to decompress them I ran into trouble. PKXARC, the decompressor, kept saying "I already have a read.me file, do you want me to copy this next one on top of it?" Untangling that mess took me weeks of lost time, and I never finished. I should have been putting the disk in another 2000 and renaming each read.me file, then answering YES.

But Orphan Russell Popp has ended the chaos. He has compiled, and separated by subject, Bub Juge's entire 2000 BBS in Houston. Thank you, RP, for a giant contribution. Juge (rhymes with Scrooge) is no longer using a 2000, even on his 2000 bulletin board (it's a 4000). He can afford all the computers he wants, getting them almost free from his brother Big Ed.

#### **Texas Politics**

Other Orphans in Houston promised to do the job, but spoke to Juge instead. Juge, they reasoned, could let them drop over and do two hours of direct disk copying. That would save them two weeks of continuous modern time. What they didn't know (even when I told them) was that Juge hates the Orphans. He no doubt refused when he learned (or suspected) that his BBS collection would go to the Orphans.

Then the Houston types apparently decided they were more Texan than Orphan, and dropped the project (without telling me).



#### Now What?

It took me over a year to screen the incoming pile into our three shareware disks. This delay must not happen again. I will try to break chunks off the huge library RP has sent, so you, will have access to at least one/new disk in September's Whimper. I will avoid duplicating anything in the original three disks. I'll try to add at least one disk a month, and I'll try to do a lot better.

This library has 2500 files. I could give you a one-line description of each (by mid-1990), and let you order them individually, maybe at a dollar apiece (far too much). Instead, I'll just group them by subject and send out a whole category on a single disk.

There is variety. You name it, and it's here. We have a hundred files for the amateur accountants among us, and a disk or two for men who like carelessly-dressed ladies.

Some of this shareware is better than major software, doing all you want with much quicker learning and fewer keystrokes. But expect some of it to be minor league, also. Professional accountants might sneer at the home-accounting programs we have; and those unclad ladies are sandy black-and-white, green-and-white on the VM-1. Still, where else can you get a picture to leave on your 2000 during lunch, which will make people suspect you're not a nerd after all?

If there was anything the modem crowd had that I envied, we've got it now.

Overshadowed by the Popp library this month were the usual half dozen disks of interesting new stuff from members, and thank you. I will try to get them reviewed and available also. Stay tuned in for further developments.



#### King Tut Redux

Headquarters has made an effort to have one of the three volunteers take over the job Envision has been doing - providing 3-1/2-inch drives, raising memory to 896K, adding math chips, and some more.

The best candidate seemed to WHB, a mere hundred eighty miles from Envision so he could sit at the feet of the master. He has retirement time on his hands, a long history of electronic tinkering, and an oscilloscope he built from a kit. But Nechodom of Envision turned him down. It seems that Nechodom wants a replacement who will develop new ideas for upgrades, know how to scope his way (on a big 50-meg scope) through working boards to kill bugs, and put \$10,000 up front for this small operation. Five grand is for the test equipment he wants his replacement to buy; the other five is for his stacked-up inventory, mainly blank green boards with the wiring stamped on them.

I am often reminded of EAAE, the Embalmer's Association of Ancient Egypt, which went to the master mummifier and asked him to pass on his secrets to future pharoah picklers. The master declined, saying none of the trainees came up to his expectations. And as we all know, the secrets died with him.

We had two other Envision volunteers. Of them, PBS says he doesn't feel ne will pass Nechodom's rigorous screening; and PDS is writing Nechodom to try for a working transfer of Envision functions. All three volunteers, predictably, were electronic experts at the age of retirement.

Nechodom has promised me to write up the secrets and send them to headquarters for sale to members at a nominal fee that he would get half of, but he's the type of guy who does things he loves this week, things he sort of likes next year. And I don't think he those retail Shacks are selling!). even sort of likes my request for documents.

analogy privilege for this story, but this million dollars to write and turn on this brings to mind the German ship Graf Spee, a unwieldy training scheme. Tandy managelittle rusty "freighter" concealing stupendous ment is apparently better at retailing than at ship-sinking firepower. Naturally, they called computing. They are unaware that reading in this unique machine the Pocket Battleship. It large doses is far easier on paper than on hung around a neutral South American port screen, particularly the fuzzy gray color after it was damaged in a World War II firefight screen of the store-machine CM-1s.

(by a fleet of cruisers). Allied warships waited weeks for it to try sneaking out. And politics being pressure, the repair visit began looking like it would become a capture.

Finally, in sight of a major city and newsreel cameras, the captain opened the seacocks and scuttled the Graf Spee, making certain that if he couldn't use her unmatched technology, nobody could.

In my opinion Orphan Dave Nechodom, an expired Orphan as of July 17, has pulled the seacocks of Envision Designs.

#### The Back-Room Action

Those orphaned 2000s in the backs of all Shacks are not vanishing on July 1 as Tandy promised. Many stores don't even have their replacement 3000s yet, and the situation is clouded by stores that lease the 2000, and stores that aren't Tandy-owned (about a third of them). Be alert for deals waiting to be made, over the counter and under the counter. The best deal is a \$20 bill changing hands by the dumpster out back.

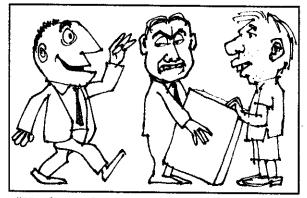
I have found two store machines in my area that are for sale, but the word has come down from Fort Worth that we must pay 600 clams per machine (an absurd price intended not to sell). One awed manager said he saw blood in the eyes of his regional and district manager, and that Fort Worth says their job security depends on their escorting these machines right into the crusher at their local compacting dump. Fort Worth told the PC/Computing lady that they don't know about any silly old Orphan group, but it's obvious we've got the whole executive row in Tandy Towers eating aspirin for lunch.

Here's an odd sidelight: Tandy has informed its 6000 retail Shacks that they must keep that old 2000 in the back after all. The reason given is that they will be running the store "manual" on it. The so-called manual is a 3-ring book four inches thick, which is NOT on disk! We are asked to believe that Tandy will now write indexing and guizzing educational software into that huge text and make the whole thing runnable on the 2000 (but incompatible with the 1000 which all

This seems to end up in two possibili-You may say I have already used my ties: 1- Tandy is willing to spend over a

Or 2— Tandy is lying, hoping the Orphans will blow away and they can then slip the embarrassing machines into dumpsters next year. It should not surprise you that Orphans will continue its death watch on these 6000 endangered machines.

Dumb (1) or dishonest (2), Tandy is acting white-eye panicked by the Orphan bid of \$50 for every one of the 6000 surplus 2000s. And rightly so: half a dozen spare machines will keep each of us in deep computing clover into the next century. Why pay \$500 repair bills when we can throw away \$50 machines instead? And we'll have multitasking that OS-2 can't even dream about.



"Hi there, how's our little lost 2000?"

Keep checking with non-computercenter "stereo" Shacks in your area, and inform headquarters. If you write quickly, Orphans will know about Big Ed's panicky maneuvers almost as soon as Ed gives the orders. Keep yourself ready to grab, and try to stick to the offered price, \$50 per 2000 including CM-1 and the other garbage. The boards in back are HD, graphics and memory tray. Get them.

#### Sorry, I'm All Dumbs Today

Your Feckless Leader makes as many mistakes as anyone.

For example, Paul Swanson of Minnesota paid his annual dues back in March, but I didn't renew him and filed his note under Mark Swanson of Oregon. (Both regions are popular with the Scandinavians.) And poor Mark paid his dues back in February, but the check vanished. He sent another check in May, which I must have lost because it never got deposited, but I did renew his subscription. Then in July, Paul politely inquired about where his March, May and June Whimpers were.

Feast or famine, it never rains but it pours, choose your favorite line. I say, trouble comes in clusters when it comes. It's probably the brain damage I got from eating a thousand consecutive Swanson TV dinners in the seventies.

#### Two's Company, 50's a Crowd

The latest leader in Near You was RST with 50 Orphans on his list, but JWN just edged him with 51. The new record low is zero, for JPC. Along with his \$13 refund he got a free list custom-programmed for 200 miles. It still only got him four Orphans. A flat zero gets the first wider list (200, 300?) the mas an Orphan, and it's free. You people compiling mailing lists, don't bother asking for a wide list. The near-you program is for personal contacts only, and the wide lists are only for wilderness members with zero in the

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Whimper, 387 Main Street, Westport, CT 06880. The Whimper (ISSN 1040-0002) is published every two months by the Tandy 2000 Orphans, address above, for \$18 yearly (includes other member benefits). Second-class postage paid at Westport, Connecticut.

100-list. As a Wyoming member puts it, "Out here, 100 miles is nothing. We have a county that's bigger than most countries."

Anyone who gets two or three names, you get a large refund and no more; I'm sorry. The wide lists are for very special people.

## Up a Zippy River

Most of you, surprisingly, live near the zipcode river's edge. The post office laid us out snakelike. The zeros in New England increase in a strip of states down the east coast. That gets into the 3's. The trail turns at Florida and goes up the east side of the Mississippi River to Michigan, just missing Chicago. Then the zip road 5's swing west along the top of the country, through Montana. The 6's skip like an independent country down through the heartland, from Chicago through Kansas. The 7's pick up in Louisiana and cruise through oil country, including our dear parent in Fort Worth. The 8's spiral around mountain country, from Denver to the California border. The 9's flow up the Coast, with short jumps to Hawaii's 96 and Alaska's 99.

Your Fearless Leader includes a search of the very different zip codes within 100 miles of you. I look up every Near-You Orphan in a zip-code map book, sometimes using a compass arc to be sure. If ex-Orphan Nechodom had ordered a list, he could have gotten guys in Idaho's 83 and Montana's 59.

#### The PC Gets Personal

"Personal Computer"? The term gains new interest as our printing machines get better but more dainty. The best printers make great letters but bad envelopes, or none at all. The TI-2106 at Orphan HQ will do envelopes nicely, but only if you spend half an hour diddling with it. And the letters roll out in half a minute, making the envlope struggle look absurd. There are ways to automate, but they take a lot of relearning every time there's a big mailing.

So why bother? It seems the perfect moment for a computer to get personal. Why not fold that perfect (but cold) print job into a warmly handwritten envelope? Let your reader know he's getting this letter from a real person. And since computers have mostly wiped out the pompous secretarial initials at the bottom, that real person writing the envelope is the same as the real person who wrote the letter.

Now that's the friendly way to do business, and get results in the bargain.

#### Indiana's Floppy

Sometimes, at headquarters, we get a sudden flash of how much good we're doing. Until we started de-protecting major programs, we got a lot of complaints from members who had to stick the original floppy in A: every single time they started work. It was cruel. During July, new member RAS sent his Lotus in with his application, as if he were desperate for his freedom. And you should have seen his Lotus disk. It looked like it had been through a war in Indiana Jones's T-shirt. Copy protection made RAS jump through thousands of hoops, for no good reason.

Every user tries some "stolen" software from time to time, and the thrill wears off quickly when you find out how much of the power is hidden in the manual, and you only have the disks. Nobody wants to spend an hour over a hot zerox machine feeling guilty, and a year peeling through the stapled result. So after a few laughs with the naked disks, even the poorest customer gives them up and buys (or doesn't buy) the full program. The copy protection only slows down this process, giving the protector fewer sales rather than more.

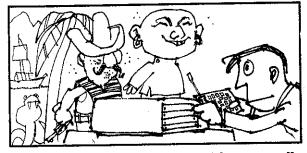
Cancel those calls for RealWorld reviewers. I have plugged in the packages they sent me, and they crash. Their manuals are among the least understandable I've seen. It seems they demand (for version 5) not only close IBM compatibility, but DOS 3.3.

VEdit remains an open possibility for review, but only if they send the review copy they so cheerfully promised. Some marketing guys seem to say yes just to get you off their phones. Not my kind of guys.

Thank you for the cash gifts JWG, DAB and JER. Thanks for the large cash gift, JRS. Don't forget, Orphans has no charity tax status, so we're not deductible.

## The 2000 World Tour

Considering the mosquitoes, drinking water, tourist traps, heat and pickpockets, travel is often more fun if you just read about it, safe at home. Tandy, that famous red-white-and-blue American company, took YFL on such a grand tour while he did mods to the hard drive boards. Their chips tell the



faraway places where the 2000 was really made: Indonesia, Costa Rica, Japan, El Salvador, Taiwan, Mexico and Hong Kong. And that's just the chips with country labels on one board. My spies tell me that well-connected Texans drive across the Rio Grande with carloads of informally duty-free stuff, from stockpiles in anything-goes Mexico.

Our dear company certainly knows where the cheap labor is, so the 2000 didn't cost much to make. The only reason you paid so much was for that fabulous support you aren't getting.

Can we use the Tandy 1000 keyboard, DSG asks. Yes, we can.

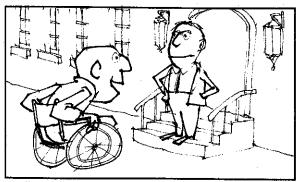
He found an ad for 101-key replacements for the 1000 keyboard in an old PCM. As the mod list we published shows, mod 43 of the 2000 mods is adapting an original 1000 keyboard to replace the 2000 keyboard. Chances are, some others can be adapted the same way. But a lot can't, I fear. I did some unsuccessful tests in a PC store with a 2000 I carried in.





PCM's coverage of the 2000 these days has been summed up by DSG: "I wouldn't actually buy a rag like PCM for 2000 use. There is the occasional tidbit, but no whole tids."

#### **Experience Tattles**



"Do you accept elderly Orphans?"

The long-time guys are starting to find out about the Orphans. In one day we brought aboard hard drive number 32 and DOS disk number 15.

These are the guys who got in on the ground floor. Only later did they notice Tandy was wrecking rather than building.

It seems you don't have to be a novice to be an Orphan. These old-timers of the 2000 can tell us a lot that we ought to know.

#### A Big Ear is Listening

We are supposedly being mentioned in PC/Computing, the September issue I would guess. Their Kathleen Richards called HQ about our latest battle with Fort Worth, over the 6000 surplus machines we want you guys to buy at \$50 each. I told her how much cooperation Tandy gives us (on a scale of 1 to 10, minus 10). I told her to check with Roach and Big Ed. Fort Worth denied everything and probably added that YFL is a liar: the PCC lady called back and asked me for proof. I gave her some names, but I don't know what she found out. You'll see her work as soon as I do, roughly August 20. Stop by the magazine rack about that time.

Tandy marketing sent a review copy of Varsity Scripsit, which ELC helped us with. But it crashes on the headquarters 2000s. All four of them have Envision-enhanced 896K RAM, so I unplugged a few things. Sure enough, Scripsit works on the 2000 when you go back to the original IO.SYS that comes with DOS 2.11.03, even when the Envision memory is in place. Trouble is, it runs very slowly in color about a third as fast as my very ordinary touch-typing. I didn't have the patience to review it, because the lightning-fast big guys have spoiled me. See the Whimper reviews of Word, WordPerfect and FrameWork.

# Hardware Help

#### Flaky Hard Drives

Headquarters got a new hard drive board recently, but "new" is hardly the word for it. BJK sold us, for \$50, one of the old 1984-style trays with no external sockets. I could criticize BJK for not telling me, but it was my fault for not asking.

The Seagate 251 had been formatted and loaded up by the use of a newer HD board borrowed from another 2000.

As soon as BJK's board went in, the drive went bonkers. It reported BIOS errors when the D:E:F: drives from MLFormat were rollcalled at reveille. It sometimes couldn't even find the C: drive from Tandy's HFormat. I recopied usings, but it was little help.

The partial solution: let the old guy run the show! Experimenting, I ran HFormat and MLFormat all over again, thinking I had a bad 251. But now drives C:D:E:F: work fine. The old HD board, apparently, has a style of its own, possibly in its timing. Once it has laid out its own electronic hurdles, it jumps them accurately with less tripping.

There was another problem, which will never be traced. A whole bunch of files from number one computer wouldn't run on and often crashed the number four computer. So I recopied the files (from D: to A: on number one). Then I loaded them into number four (from B: to C:\DOS). Suddenly, they all worked. My guess is that the floppy got near a motor, but I have no idea how. The same floppy carried the good files over later, so it wasn't permanent damage.

There was more trouble. Laying out all four HD boards, I noticed that two of them had a couple of added wires. Reading through the Mods pamphlet, I spotted them in mods 24 and 40, along with a resistor I hadn't noticed. The two modless boards had been saying "unable to read drive D:" and stuff like that. The mods are simple, but not as simple as I thought. I did them, and the boards now seem dead. They're in the local Tandy hospital for post-mortem or surgery.

The general guidance you can get from all this: check the Mods document when something gets quirky. Try doing your preparations all over again: often the problems will vanish or decrease. Keep checking the bad symptoms, so you can get an idea what part of the work was bad after it suddenly turns good. The last resort, a luxury resort: Tandy repair.



#### We're Getting S.I.L.L.Y. Again! Our Software Inventory Long List Yearly Has 547 Entries That Run on the 2000.

1040 Fed.Silver \$995 Comp.Lang.-Ty 90-0516CheckMaster \$29 InfoNapse Micro1986 Tax Estimate \$5 Try-o-ByteCI PROBE Computer Innovations2000 20meg Bernoulli driver, June89 WHCleo 3270 \$980 Tandy 26-5262A-86 \$50 Eric Issacson: BBS 812-824-7990Colo \$595 Ryan McFarland--Tandy 26-5257A.D.Accts.Payable\$600 Tandy 90-0496COH.HLP - PCS-158A.D.Accts.receivable\$600 Tandy 90-0495COH.HLP - PCS-21 DL4 A.D.Gener.Ledger\$600 Tandy 90-0497 A.D.P.O.S.Invent.\$1,995 Tandy 90-0494 A.D.Payroll & pers.\$600 Star Tandy 90-0498 ABC - Consortium Software 200.00 AbStat \$395 Anderson Bell--Tandy 90-0305 ABtab - Anderson Bell 895.00 AbTab \$895 BB7A--Tandy 90-0368 ACAD Adv.Draft.Ext.-3 \$2500 Tandy 90-0361 ACAD Adv.Draft.Ext. \$2200 Tandy 90-0181 Acc'ts Client Syst.\$150 MicroCompBusService Acc'ts Recev.\$495 Certified Tandy 90-0384 Account Client - MCBS 150.00 Acct Mate II accts.pay.\$295 Softech Info AcctMate II payroll (\$?)Softech Info AcctMate II gen.ledg.\$395 Softech Info AcctMate II sales order \$195 Softech Info AcctMate II acct rec.\$295 Softech Info AcctMate II acct rec.\$295 Softech Info AcctMate II POS \$195 Softech Info Systems Acctng Files Quartet \$400--Tandy 26-1146 Acctng.Partner II \$995 Star--Tandy 90-0211 Acctng.PartnerI \$395 Star--Tandy 90-0112 Acctng.PartnerPlus \$795 Star--Tandy 90-0215 Acctng.PartnerUpgr.\$ 400 Star-Tandy 90-0273 Adv.Tng.for Lotus \$100 C-Dex--Tandy 90-0226 Advanced Project 6 Advanced Project 6 AE/Cadd \$1000 Tandy 90-0416 Alpha Toolbox \$59 Alps AmBiz-Pak \$100 F.Bleckman AmortizerIII \$89 Good Softw.-Tandy 90-0238 Analyst Howe Software ANCOM/(TED\_Soft as Software ANCOM/TFD - SciLab Software, Inc. 99.95 Ass.Lang.for Progr. \$39 Cruise Scientific Ass'y. Lang. Primer \$39 Cruise Scientific Audit FBS Systems AutoCAD Standard \$300 Tandy 90-0214 Automenu 4.0 \$46 Magee Enterprises AutoRef - SciLab Software, Inc. 89.95 Aztec C-Compiler+Utilities, Manx BACK1.COM ... Similar to BACKUP.EXE Bas.Scient.Subr.Vol.3,Ch.2 \$230 Computronix Bas.Scient.Subr.Vol.1 \$100 Computronix Bas.Scient.Subr.Vol.3, ch. 1 \$30 Computronix Bas.Scient.Subr.Vol.2 \$130 Computronix Bas.Stat.Subrout. Vol.1 \$100 Computronix Basic Builder Bid Estim \$500 Tandy 90-0351 Basic Builder Payroll \$600 Tandy 90-0350 Basic Builder \$2395 Tandy 90-0349 BBS-PC 3.04 \$150 Micro-Sys.--Tandy 90-0352 BBS-PC - MicroSystems Software, Inc. 249.00 Beta Tool Box \$59 Alps Better Bas.8087 Supp. \$99 Summit Software Better Basic \$199 Summit Sfw.-Tandy 90-0225

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FoxBaseIII+, also FoxBase+ 2.1 Framework \$695 Ashton Tate--Tandy 26-5320

Freeform \$100 Top Software Freeform \$125 TMP Software

Fullback \$88 Alps G.P.H.D.Accts.Pay. \$695 GtPlains-Ty 90-0171 G.P.H.D.Accts.Rec. \$695 GtPlains-Ty 90-0170 G.P.H.D.Gen.Ledg. \$695 Gt.Plains-Ty 90-0169 G.P.H.D.Invent.Mg.\$695 Gt.Plains-Ty 90-0173 G.P.H.D.Job Cost \$695 Great Plains G.P.H.D.Payroll \$695 Gt.Plains-Ty 90-0172 G.P.Rapid Transfer \$295 GtPlains-Ty 90-0191 Gem Collection \$199 Digital Res.-Ty 90-0502 Gem Draw \$249 Digital Research--Ty 90-0343 Gem Desktop 1.2 \$50 Digital Res.-Ty 90-0342 General Ledger Softech Information 395.00 General Ledger \$495 Certified-Tandy 90-0382 General Ledger \$495 Certified-Tandy 90-0382 General Ledger James River Group 125.00 Graphics Scrapbook 1-3 by Epyx Graphwriter4.21 \$395 Graphic Communicatns. Grwrter.Comb.4.21 \$595 Graphic\_Ty26-5276 Harmony Spreadsheet \$99 Uccel-Tandy 90-3004 Harmony Accts Receiv. \$595 Open--Ty 90-3001 Harmony Accts Receiv. \$595 Open--1y 90-3001 Harmony Info Mgr \$195 Tandy 90-3003 Harmony Word Proc. \$145 Uccel-Tandy 90-3005 Harmony Accts.Pay.\$595 OpenSyst--Ty 90-3002 Harmony Gen.Ledg. \$595 OpenSyst--Ty 90-3000 Herd Audit - FBS Systems 495.00 Hip.Packet Helper \$70 Alps Hip-Pocket Helper \$79 Alps Home Budget & Checkbook Analyst-Howe 69.95 In-house Accountant \$180 United--Ty 90-0308 INCOME.WKS - LTS-1998 DL1 Infocom, all their text games Inside 1-2-3 \$50 Hayden Inside Symphony \$50 Hayden Inside Framework \$50 Hayden Integrated Acctg.\$1695 TracLine-Ty 90-0377 Introducing C \$125 Computer Innovations Inventory James River Group Inc. 125.00 Inventory \$495 Certified Software-Ty90-0385 Investment Mgr \$195 IMSI--Tandy 90-0355 Investor III \$249 Good Softw.Co.-Ty 90-0237 James River Demo disk \$18 James River Group James River Payroll \$125 James River Group Kermit Communications, shareware Language Primer(Chin,Kor,Lat,Ger)\$59 Cruise Laserjet \$49 Cruise Scientific Lattice C Compiler \$499 Lattice--Ty 26-5254 Lattice C V1.15A - Lifeboat Assoc.499.00 Le Script - Anitek 129.95 Le Script \$200 LeScript Word Proc.Systems Let's Talk \$179 Good Softw.Co.--Ty 90-0239 Let's Make Carde - Value Time Let's Make Cards - Value Time Let's C \$75 Mark Williams--Tandy 90-0419 Little Brother - Logical Systems 99.00 LoadCalc - MicroDecision Systems 175.00 LOCATE.EXE - finds any file anywhere, FAST Lotus-1,2,3 \$495 Lotus-Tandy 26-5300 Lotus Hal for 1,2,3 Lumena 2000 \$300 Time-Arts--Tandy 26-5281 M-S Access 1.0 \$250 Microsoft-Tandy 90-0474 M.C.B.S.Acct Pay \$15 MicroComp.Bus.Svce. M.C.B.S.Acct Receiv \$15 MicroComp.Bus.Svce. M.C.B.S.Gen.Ledg.\$15 MicroComp.Bus.Svce. M.C.B.S.Inventory \$15 MicroComp.Bus.Svce. M.C.B.S.Payroll \$15 MicroComputer.Bus.Svce. Mace+ \$70 Paul Mace Software Macro Assembler \$100 Microsoft--Ty 26-5252 MAGEE.DOC

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Pertmaster Demo \$50 Westminster

Pertmaster Keeping Tabs \$195 Westminster Pertmaster-2500 \$895 Westminster

Pertplotter Demo \$25 Westminster PFS-Report \$125 Software Pub.-Tandy 26-5306 SplitScreenEditor,\$20,see Power-C SSI Software - Systems Software 595.00 Starting with Phonics - Wise Owl Workshop PFS-Write \$140 Software Pub.Co--Ty 26-5309 PFS-Graph \$140 Tandy 26-5307 PFS-File \$140 Software Pub.Co.-Tandy26-5305 Statist.Spreadsheet \$59 Cruise Scientific Statist.Spreadsheet \$59 Cruise Scientific StatTest \$34 Computronix SteamCalc - Wiley Prof. Software 300.00 Stocker \$300 Engineering Management Super Utility \$90 Powersoft Supercalc \$395 Sorcim--Tandy 26-5302 SuperLog.Superlog TV-The Mgmt.6995.00 SuperZap 2000 \$50 Blue Cat--Tandy 90-0145 Symphony \$695 Lotus--Tandy 26-5304 PLAN TRAC - Computerline 3000.00 Plot 90 2000 Coast Design 99.00 Plot 90 2000 Demo - Coast Des 15.00 Power-C, Mix \$19,95,214-783-6001 Power C, Mix \$19,95,214-785-001 Power Manager \$200 Top Software Powerbase \$349 Powerbase Syst.--Ty 90-0341 PowerText - Beaman Porter, Inc. 49.95 PQF Edit - ADAM Systems 45.00 Symphony \$695 Lotus--Tandy 26-5304 Systat Report Writer 60.00 Systat Extended package 50.00 SYSTAT - Systat, Inc. 495.00 Precedent Docket Cont.Sys. \$245 Ty 90-0266 Precedent Leg. 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I \$80 Writing Consultants WordPerfect 4.2 \$445 W.Perf.Cor.-Ty 90-0100 WordPerfect5, Mar89 WH Smart Word Proc. \$245 Innovative-Ty 90-0320 Smart Softw.Syst.\$595 Innovative-Tv 90-0314 Smart DB Manager \$295 Innovative-Ty 90-0316 SmartKey - Software Research Techno. 49.95 SmartSpreadsheet \$195 Innovative-Ty 90-0318 WordPerfectLibrary, Mar89 WH WordStar 4 MicroPro WordStar5, Mar89 WH SmartSpreadsneet \$195 innovative-1y 50-05 SmartWare, by Informix SNOBOL 4+ - Prentice-Hall Inc. 95.00 Softerm PC \$195 Softronics--Tandy 26-5261 SofTerm3.00.08,\$150,800-225-8590 WPTC-Connect \$200 Sigca Systems WS33X.PAT PCS-29 DL2 Xenix 86 Syst.5 1 \$195 Ventura--Ty 90-0307 XTree 2.0 Sow Audit - FBS Systems 495.00 SPF/PC, by Command Technology XTree 50 Executive Systems ZyIndex - ZyLab 145standard 295pro 695plus

#### Chips Off the Old Block

The Whimper alleged that the 2000 was the only computer that ever used the 80186 chip from Intel, which was stranded when Intel inconsiderately sold a million 80286's to IBM right after the Tandy 186 sale. Unso, reports FBS, who found two more from that era: the A.B.Dick Knowledge Worker and the STM Electronics PC. The former had a chip made by Convergent Technologies, which presumably FBS means was a clone or licensed duplicate of Intel's 80186. Dick said the KW is deep in unrecorded history: STM said nothing, having no more phone number. Something tells me that Wang also made an 80186 machine in the misty, sweet bye-and-bye. Thanks for digging, FBS. YFL likes nothing better than being wrong in the Whimper: printed blunders coax valuable research out of members who know.

The 3-1/2-inch drives interest REF, and he asks if they will support 1.2 or 1.4 meg diskettes. No. The 1.2meg is a 5-inch diskette called HD. There are diskettes in the 3-inch size that run 1.4 megs, but not ours. Nechodom cooked up the improvement by having his software and hardware pretend to the 2000 that this was an ordinary (for us) 720K floppy drive. So that's all it can be.

#### Keeping a Source in Sight

Often you paste some information on the screen, like a wide directory, and then do some selective deleting or copying from what it shows. You try to keep it in sight, but it jumps up two lines for every command you issue, rolling off the top of the screen. What if you could make commands use only one line, and get twice as many on the screen?

You can, by typing the line PROMPT \$E[A <enter>. Just like the command PROMPT<enter>, this will eliminate the C> or A>. But now there will be no blank line between commands. Oddly, when you hit <ENTER> the cursor will stay where it is. If you are already using a fancy prompt in your autoexec.bat, such as the Orphan headquarters prompt in the utilities disk, just add those four characters at the beginning of it. They mean "move up a line."

This compression might make the screen look crowded with a simple A> prompt, but with the two-tone time prompt HQ uses and put on the utilities disk, the screen is prettier and more useful as well. There's a rumor going around that computers are machines, which work or don't work. This is unso. Computers are people, with moods and weaknesses, and whims. Treat them considerately and, like people, they will treat you almost as well.

#### Your Coming Handicap

The blind and near-blind (like CLR, last issue) can find computer help by calling the American Foundation for the Blind, 212-620-2000. You can big-print a note to them at 15 W. 16th St., New York, NY 10011. Replies will be in braille if you so request. In any case, CLR, you're going to have to learn braille. It's best to know this new language before you've completely lost your sight, so there won't be a blank period.

All of us, barring accidents, will compute our way into physical disabilities, so we should use the skills we still have to investigate and develop the devices available. The states now have funding from the feds for pilot programs, and you could get aboard early if you make the right contacts and push a little.

If you chop wood or play tennis for a living, disability will be a major change. But if you're already computing with skill, your coming handicaps may have little effect on the flavor and pleasure of your life.

Check an article on this situation in the July PC/Computing, pp. 82-93.

#### Your Present Handicap

We are "sort of" IBM incompatible. One area where we have no compatibility is our slide-in boards. Our boards are a different size and use different connectors with different information going through. The great 2000 design, sliding boards into the back and cooling them with the air rushing through the cracks, is a better system than the compatibles have. You have to un-box a clone before you can get a board in or out.

You find things like this out by sniffing around PC stores, playing with things, gently holding the greedy salesmen at bay. Orphan JHB had not done the required sniffing when he got interested in somebody's 286 and 386 upgrade boards for PC's. He burned up big bucks with Ma Bell arranging for Orphan tryouts of this technology, and wrote me a long report of his progress. I called the manufacturer's technician, who swiftly confirmed my suspicions: no chance.

8

The VM-3 modification of the monitor plug was avoided by ETB. Instead, he says to buy a 25-pin DIN female connector with a hood, and a 9-pin DIN male connector. All are at Shacks, which remain delightfully handy for small parts. Wire them together into an adaptor that uses our VM-3 instructions for wiring the terminals. This adaptor plugs onto the monitor end of the VM-1 cable. He also did one with a short wire instead of a hood.

#### How Not to Go Public

What action gives a program "public domainhood," DSG asks, and what will prevent others from grabbing it and selling it? There are two answers. First, merely publishing, selling or passing around a program (on modem, by mail order, whatever) puts that program in the public domain, owned by everybody — IF no copyright notice is published in it.

If you publish a copyright notice, be sure to use the circle-© in documents, not just parenthesized (C) which has less legal force. On disk, (C) or "circle-C" is fine because ascii doesn't have a circled C. Always use the copyright notice on later versions you "publish" (give or sell to others). See our Orphan copyright notice on page 1. Once you publish the work with this one line, you have a copyright protected by law. Of course in our legal system, you have only the protection you can pay (lawyers) for enforcing. I once spent \$750 on a copyright lawyer who got me, you guessed it, \$500 in royalties.

If somebody else strips the notice off and redistributes, that's his fault (and crime) and you're still copyrighted. After you publish a copyright notice, especially if somebody is infringing, you should file an application for copyright (with a published copy) in Washington. Many small publishers skip this step, which is no longer legally required.

After you spread a copyrighted program, no one can grab it and sell it, even if he adds things but it remains recognizable. Hiding a few harmless code-symbols among the program instructions will give you this recognizability if it ever goes to court.

Once it's copyrighted, you can sell it or give it away all you want (with the copyright notice in every copy). Giving it away makes it freeware, but still your property. In case somebody sells it for profit, he owes you when you sue. You can also put a request for a donation into the disk or instruction sheet, which makes it shareware. Your work can be shareware or freeware, but it's not public domain when it's also copyrighted.

# Software Support

#### Your Reach Gets Longer

Running Word in a batch file that saves new work to the drive you prefer (I like b:) was revealed last issue, using a PATH= command in your autoexec.bat file. But in the July PC Computing (p.271) I find a better way: put the preferred PATH line in your batch file that calls Word (skipping the = sign). Include in the PATH both the location of WORD.EXE and the place you want work kept. That same batch file should have another PATH line in its end (after the line that says WORD), resetting the path to your regular setup for computing.

The same article reveals a fact of the 2000 undocumented in our manuals and the others I have read. You can change directories from a different drive! If you're in A: and you want C: to shift from C:\ (the root directory) to C:\DOS (one of its subdirectories), you no longer have to type C:<enter> CD\DOS<enter> A:<enter>. You simply type CD C:\DOS<enter>. Egad, computing with the 2000 gets easier all the time. This technique is useful from the keyboard but also in batch files.

#### **Electronic Sermons?**

Those men of the cloth looking for a Bible concordance, that includes LAM, write David S. Green, 111 E. Elizabeth St., Fort Collins, CO 80524, 303-484-2046. He says:

"If LAM can't find a Bible concordance, I would be interested in writing one for him (and any other interested parties) if he were to send me a sorta detailed specification of what he needs. I've been searching for a suitable project ever since I learned C, being unimaginative in project conception, and this seems ideal. Anything I write would be public domain."

All those interested should check out two concordances on page 243 of the July PCComputing. Both companies offer a cheap demo disk. One offers 30-day trial and the other may permit it. Try these 800 numbers if you don't want to go library-crawling: 642-1144 and 888-9898. If they aren't runnable, you can check their documents for what you might aim for. You can try them on a friend's PC. Often, you can use a PC to configure screen display in a copy of the program so it then runs on the 2000.

#### Hidden in ENTER

Here's another PCC tip (July p.253). If you have noticed erratic behavior in your word-processor's formatting, such as one paragraph popping intodifferent type or into italics, the reason is this: All formatting of every paragraph is hidden "inside" the EN-TER at the end of it. This "paragraph mark", which you can display as a backwards P, is really a long chain of bytes on the disk, holding everything you wanted fixed for that paragraph.

This explains why trouble comes, but also gives you an extra weapon. You can move ALL the special formatting of any paragraph — or a title (which is only a short paragraph) — into another paragraph. All you do is COPY the needed paragraph mark (last cursor position before it drops down a line). Then cursor to the new location "on" a paragraph mark and hit INSERT (or your program's equivalent). Suddenly, all the bolding or indenting or whatever is inside the new paragraph. You can skip down through a lot of headings, quotes or such and format them all in a minute or two.

#### Unprotecting a PFS

We have had (and printed) many requests to unprotect the PFS series, particularly File and Write. LER responds as follows:

"I took a beginning course in assembly language programming last semester. Enclosed is my first hacking, PFS Write with an unprotected WRITE.EXE file. It works fine.

"To unprotect PFS Write 1 yourself, type REN WRITE.EXE WRITE.BIN <enter>. Type DEBUG WRITE.BIN <enter>. Tell debug to assemble "JMP 264A" at offset 2644. Next type W <enter> and then Q <enter>, which puts you back out in DOS. Type REN WRITE.BIN WRITE.EXE <enter>. The resulting file should recopy indefinitely."

All this should be put into a one-line PATCH command. I was confused about the sentence beginning "Tell debug," but I responded by typing A 2644 <enter> followed by JMP 264A <enter>. Trouble was, I was doing this with a copy I made of LER's disk, which probably already had such a correction. For whatever reason, his disk and all my copies of it ran fine.

You people who swear by PFS write, try all this a few times (on copies, not originals) and see if it works. If you prefer, send \$10 and I'll send you a 26-410 quad disk with an Orphan dupe of LER's working copy

of WRITE.EXE. It's not in the Souvenir Shop because it's not worth the money.

Maybe I'm snobbish, having reviewed the major word processors, but I find PFS Write astonishingly simple and dumb. It's not much better than COPY CON or EDLIN. Possibly there were depths I didn't see. Anyway, I'd sure hate to write a Whimper in PFS Write, protected or not.

## **Bug Spray for DBXL**

Careful as I am, I still find blank records creeping into the Orphan database we do in DBXL. The same used to happen in the similar dBIII. They are remarkably nasty to deal with, until you do one of the following:

Best solution: Copy your full database, all files, to another disk. Open the original database and (if necessary) close all indexes. Call the blank record by its number (it will finally come when called). Type EDIT and it will roll down the screen, a bunch of empty boxes. Type something into each indexed field. With Orphans, I type BBBB in initials, "Blank" in last name, and 00000 in zip. Then re-index each index you have. I type INDE ON I TO I <enter>. When it is done I try INDE ON L TO L and later INDE ON ZIP TO ZIP. You now have a nice guy named Blank who is always available for revision. When you get a new member or customer or whatever, just call in Mr. Blank and write new stuff all over his record. It works! However, a right-arrow symbol appears in printouts on that line, without seeming to cause any other problem.

An equally effective but more dangerous solution (think of power failures) is to turn off the indexes, call the blank record, and DELETE <enter> PACK <enter>. The first method writes on top of your little indexes that/ can be replaced; the second method wipes out your entire database with a new one, so it scares me.

When you wipe out a whole record, let's say by backspacing over it, be sure to write those dummy entries (rather than spaces, deletes or backspaces) in the fields that will get indexed when you jump out of the record. Then it will stay ready to revise without your going through the painful process above.

#### No Special Sub-Groups

Due to an underwhielming lack of responses from ministers, gays and others, we will not be sending out lists to like-minded members of eachother's names.

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## Souvenirs

Your order— Please order by the short title, like -03 for MS-DOS 2.11.03. All prices include postage, packing and handling to the 50 states. Foreign Orphans, add \$5 per order of any size.

Money— No credit cards and no foreign checks. Only U.S.A. checks (preferably) or U.S. cash. (A foreign check is OK if it it came to you with -dollars(U.S.) and a U.S.A. branch bank address printed on it.) "Tandy 2000 Orphans" or "Orphans" is good on the pay-to line.

#### DISKS

MASTERKEY: A fast, clear, strong set of Norton-like utilities that outplay Norton in its own ballpark. Shareware, reviewed July89. \$10.00.

CACHE: The only program from DOS 3.2 that you haven't already got a better version of in the shareware disks. A Tandy special contribution that works fine; they intended to offer it to you but they just forgot so we remembered. Reviewed July89. \$10.00.

CART: A 20-meg 2000 driver for the Iomega 20-meg 5-inch drives, which also runs all their other drives. It replaces the two disks that comes with your Tandy cartridge board and your Iomega drive. \$10.00.

DIAG: Tandy 2000 Diagnostic Disk, \$10.00. Fixes nothing, but tells you in amazing detail about the health of the mighty 2000.

FLY: Flight Simulator 1, the golden oldie that runs on the 2000. \$10.00 with an Orphan manual by YFL that's better and shorter than the original. Great in color, OK with VM-1, graphics board required. Can't be copied.

03: MS-DOS 2.11.03. If you picked up an older DOS with your 2000, you should have this latest and last 2000 version. It has a newer version of Basic. \$10.00.

UTILS: Orphan shareware, 97 selected utilities to make the 2000 run more efficiently and give more pleasure. A listing of the files and some reviews are in the Feb89 issue. \$10.00.

DIRS: Orphan shareware, 28 selected ways to list and manipulate the files in any drive or directory. Listed and partly reviewed in the Feb88 Whimper. \$15.00 including a Whimper-sized manual by YFL for one humungous program. TOOLS: Orphan shareware, 86 selected tools, gadgets and devices for special tasks and fun with the 2000. \$10.00. Listed and partly reviewed in the Feb88 issue, see pp. 10-11 for all three shareware listings (UTILS, DIRS, TOOLS).

03: MS-DOS 2.11.03. If you picked up an older DOS with your 2000, you should have this latest and last 2000 version. It has a newer version of Basic. \$10.00.

123 (123E if you have Envision memory): Unprotected Lotus123 version1, Tandy 26-5300. \$5.09, send your original program disk and get it back with our copiable version.

FW (or FWE): Unprotected Frame-Work 1, Tandy 26-5320. \$5.03, see 123 above for the way to order.

DB (or DBE): Unprotected dBaseIII, Tandy 26-5353. \$5.11, see 123 above for the way to order

TWIN: Not Windows itself, but the Tandy-written Windows Driver disk which enables the 2000 to run Windows. Formerly their #7002611. This disk slyly erases drivers for non-Tandy printers, but we've added instructions for avoiding this trap. (198K) \$20.07. See Windows explanation in Feb89 Souvenir Shop.

TRAP: MouseTrap, called Locate by its author, which lets our digi-mouse run the arrow keys, the ENTER key and the F1 key, in your starting DOS or any software that lacks its own mouse driver, which means that now our mouse goes everywhere. \$20.19.

BYTE: Creative Byting, a free-to-copy disk on how to write user-friendly software that sells, put out by an apparently out-ofbusiness disk publisher. \$10.00. (183K)

HAMP-I: The Whimper Hamper, 1987 and 1988 Whimpers on disk, useful for wordsearches but less relaxing/than paper copies. \$40.00

HAMP-IIa: The Second Whimper Hamper, Dec88 through Aug89. \$40.00. People who buy this disk can upgrade later to the final HAMP-II in roughly November, by sending \$5 or their boxed, original disk.

#### HARDWARE

BACK SCREWS: Mandatory mod #16, eight fat black screws (Tandy AHD-2974) for the four back panels of the 2000, in an envelope. See Hardware Help, Feb89. Eight dollars from Tandy, \$2.00 from Orphans, \$1.00 for each extra set of 8 in same order. Eliminates many burps and blackouts of the 2000. WARNING: Our 1000 screws are almost gone, and we won't reorder. First come, first served.

#### DOCUMENTS

NEAR: All Orphans (and ex-Orphans) within 100 miles of you, with address and phone plus their mileage from you. \$13.00 for 25 or more names, minus a refund if under 25 are found. You end up paying \$1 for the first, 96¢ the second, 92¢ the third and so on, 4¢ for the 25th. Not to be revealed to others you contact, please.

BACK ISSUES: MarDec87 \$5, MayAugOct87 \$8 each zeroxed, FebAprJunAugOctDec88 and FebMar-MayJunJulAug89 \$5 each.

MOU-MAN: Tandy's clock-mouse installation manual, 16 pages compressed into eight zerox pages, \$6.00. See just above.

MAST: Mastering the Tandy 2000, a compressed 28-page zerox of a 100-page outof-print book mentioned in the February issue. Reprinted with paid permission. \$16.50.

NEWBAS: List and description of extra BASIC commands in the Basic that came with DOS 2.11.03. 24pp. will be compressed to about 12. \$6.00.

MODS: All the mod service bulletins for correcting bugs in those earlier 2000s that have no -M at the beginning of the serial number. Usable by anyone who can read and solder. 48 pages will be compressed to about 24, \$19.00.

512: Instructions for putting 512K (or more) on a Tandy 2000 memory board. 7 pages zeroxed, \$3,00.

VID: List of Tandy 2000 video ports. 3 pp. zeroxed, \$2.00.

VIDRAM: Info on video RAM and attributes by BJK, \$1.00.

VM3: Modifying a Tandy VM-3 to work with the 2000, by MOR, has pictures, zeroxed. \$2.00.

TP3: Making Turbo Pascal 3 run on the 2000, a one-page patch supplied by BJK. Correction in III-4 SoftSupp. \$1.00.

TP3+: The same patch as above, but with more explanation, a two-pager supplied by JAD. \$2.00.

TP4: Using TurboPascal 4 with 2000 by BJK, 4 pp., \$2.00.

SAVBAS: Saving a Basic color screen by HEB, one page, \$1.00.

SOURCE: a hard-to-get list of some or all of the source code for the 2000 BIOS, supplied by LJS. See his letter in What's New at HQ Feb89. 4 pages, \$2.00.

IBMPORT: A book chapter listing and discussing IBM-style hardware ports, useful for assembly-language programmers among us trying to create a -Holy Grail compatibility disk to convert IBM software for the 2000. 29 pages compressed into 16, \$12.00.

#### Sidewalk Salesmen

Clock for those without a mouse board. You can order and solder the clock yourself (July 4, p.9). But if you don't want the soldering you can buy the clock chip and send it to TF with \$5 and he'll solder it for you. You can also send him \$35 and he'll both buy and solder it. Orphan solder-cook Thomas Fox, 95 E. Quackenbush Ave., Dumont, NJ 07628. 201-384-0365 evenings, 6 to 9 eastern (watch it, westerners).

Cables for the 2000, \$20 each for any length to 10 feet, an extra dollar per foot over that. Extensions for VM-1, CM-1, keyboard, mouse and internal drives.

A mouse: a Tandy 25-1040 mouse, \$49.95, and wire it to a 9-pin-grin female plug. Equivalent to the extinct \$99 Digi-Mouse, \$95. Orphan cablemaker Tim Bates, 313-227-7344, before 9 p.m. eastern. Function-key flipchart, ten stiff 1-1/2" by 11" pages in a 19-ring plastic edge-binder (specify ivory/brown or white/blue). Slips into existing slots above the F-keys and displays written or double-face-taped-on key functions for your ten favorite programs. \$5.00 (includes postage, packing and handling). Orphan chartmaker Jack Doerr, 22407 Bayview Drive, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081. This thing becomes indispensable after you use it once, and it's a major hassle to make.

MLFormat, lets us use up to 72 megs per drive in any number of "logical" drives carved out of a real drive. Our HFormat gives us the first 32 megs or less and in only one logical drive. Orphan programmer Bob Spencer, our last surviving major guru. MicroLink, P.O.Box 2666, Sumter, SC 29151. 800-334-9612.



PLEASE NOTE: All entries must be 2000specific items (no printers, but CM-1 and VM-1 monitors are OK), all having all original parts and papers unless otherwise noted (mail-in cards may be missing). Prices include shipping to anywhere in 48-state continental USA. Prices may be negotiable; we don't print hints of that sort.



ON PRICE LEVELS: I have been leaving out offers with ridiculously high prices. But very low prices give you too many phone calls and frustrate the West and South guys who get their Whimpers two days later. And the price picture may be changing.

We have been saying that double floppies are worth \$100 to \$150, single-floppy HD's \$200 to \$300. But I could be becoming wrong. There are so few guys offering to sell, that prices may be creeping up.

If an item is not sold, you can run it again if it has a price cut of 30% or more.

Double-floppy with VM-1, \$350. David, 303-484-2046.

Double-floppy with VM-1, both new in original boxes, 50 floppies, \$300. OpenAccess \$40, FrameWork \$30, WordPerfect 4.2 \$50, Windows w/2000 driver \$50. Orasio, 213-566-7125.