The Tandy 2000 Orphans' WHIMPER
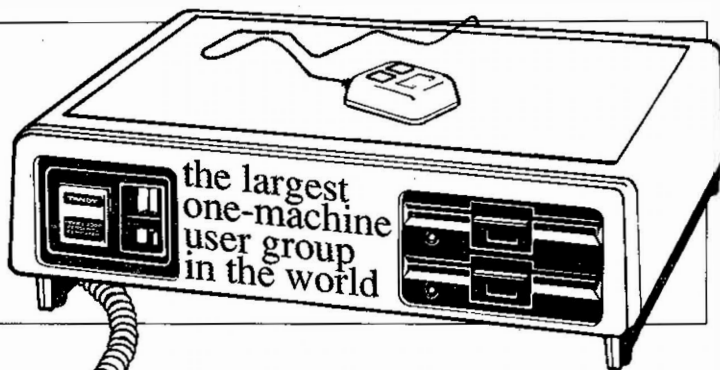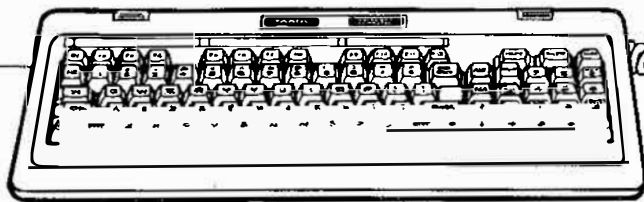
the largest one-machine user group in the world

You've Come a Long Way, Baby, But Here's Your Teddy Bear

With this issue, Orphans gets a lot more helpful. A whole world of nearly free software is ready for you, on the first three Orphan shareware disks.

This stuff makes our DOS 2.11.03 look just sick. These tools bring us up to and past the versatility of DOS 3. You will soon find that your favorites on our utilities, toolbag and directories disks have become indispensable for you.

About 30 members pulled software off the wire with their modems for us, and they were wonderful to do so. Some heroic Orphans rewrote code. Thanks, guys, from all who benefit.

We do need someone with a modem to sweep clean the 2000 parts of the Compu-Serve and Juge bulletin boards, about 50 megabytes each, before they drop their 2000 stuff. Write HQ a note to volunteer for an all-weekend download. You need some real cash for CompuServe rates or calling Texas, or a Houston phone number (MSG,RCS1,JPT,FR, RJN,MM,RLM) to download Juge without toll charges. Your leader lacks time, funds, modem and expertise for the job.

You guys are used to being 25% compatible with the IBM-clone world, and shareware is no exception. We bombed out of half the programs sent in. Among several thousand programs that ran, only about a thousand were not duplicates.

Then came judgment time. Was a program good, or was it weak or dumb? I skipped programs that did nothing useful or fun. I also had to dump anything that did well, but was outshined by another item in the shoebox that did the same job better.

What's left is 207 excellent programs that run on the 2000, put our DOS to shame, give you powers you never had or thought you'd get, and put sunshine in your window.

What's Free and What's Fair

A note about shareware. Some people are so proud of their stuff that they put it on the wire without trying to sell it. Others, you can call them greedy or sensible, ask you for money in a text that runs with the program. They warn about a copyright with doubtful validity, but their talk of obligation is right.

They **did** work their tails off, and you **will** get great benefit from their work. So if you find yourself using a certain item on the Orphan disks again and again, and the author has a plea for $15 or $25 in there, please be fair. Send him a card or letter first, to see if he's still getting his mail. When he answers, fire him his check. In the same mail, send a note to Orphan HQ. We will publish an honor roll (initials as usual) of members who paid when they didn't have to.

Let's open this brass-bound leather chest we found in the pirates' cave and check out the heap of treasure inside. Egad. It's all so dazzling that there's no gem to pick up first. Let's just grab a handful.

The most exciting items, in my opinion, are 13 new screen fonts (onscreen typestyles) for the 2000. You could always get a louder font while using Windows, or Gem, and their fonts are included in the group. Our own 2000 font is included for when you feel homesick. But the other 10 fonts are both different and delicious. Described in SHOWFONT.DOC and displayed in TRYFONT.BAT, they stand in any time for your hard-wired 2000 font.

Your screen will have a whole new look as soon as you pick your favorite, and you can switch as often as you can type SHOWFONT FONTNAME.

Shake Free of DOS .03

We now have awesome software that totally replaces EDLIN, CHKDSK, DIR, COPY, DEL, ERASE, COPY CON, PATH, SORT, TYPE and especially DIR. You'll never use those turkeys again.

Drop Edlin fast! Edlin is not worthy of either you or the 2000. We now have TED, short for TinyEDitor. It does the work that Edlin and Copy Con have been stumbling through, so well that it insults them.
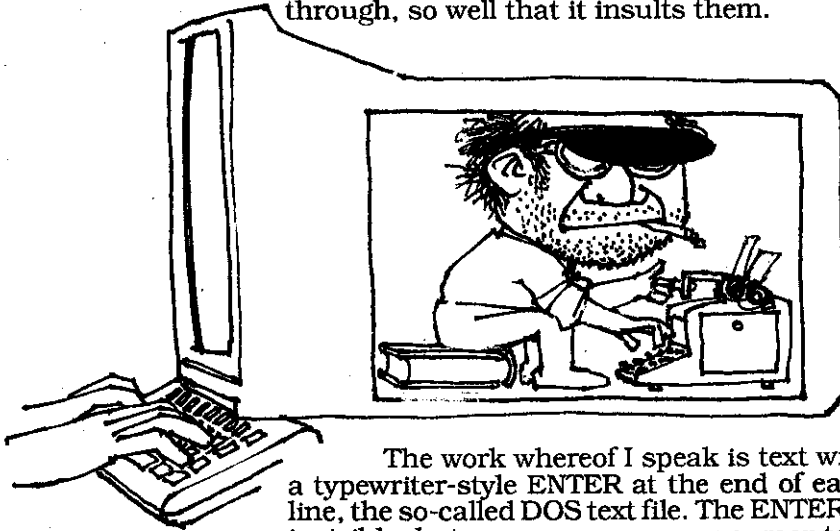
The work whereof I speak is text with a typewriter-style ENTER at the end of each line, the so-called DOS text file. The ENTER is invisible, but you can move your cursor to a blank spot at the end of each line where you know you didn't put a space.

If you sneak into hex code and look at that spot, you see an odd thing about ENTER: while a letter uses one two-digit hex code, ENTER shows up as two, 0D 0A, which mean "go back to far left, then go down one line."

Every list of commands, from your shortest two-line batch file to a 50-page Basic program, is in this "DOS text" style. Articles, letters and the Whimper are a different game called word-processing. In them, every paragraph is one gigantic "line" with a paragraph mark only at the end. The invisible mark ending each line is nothing but a space you typed. The major word processors like it that way, and gently word-wrap these four-foot paragraphs to fit on screen and printer.

You could type your short command files in a word-processor, but TED is quicker and easier.

Every day, if you're the average 2000 user, you have to pull some little file onto the screen and fix one line. Your config.sys and autoexec.bat, for instance, nearly always need a change or two when you bring in major software. Edlin is a pain for this, because it's controlled by secret codes and you work in the dark, one line visible at a time. COPY CONning the file is even worse, no chance to retype a mistake above your position — you kill the whole job with CTRL/C, or eat your errors with CTRL/Z.

TED is way out of their league, with the power and simplicity of a hammer. It lets you go to and correct anything, even gibberish symbol files. And it loads in half a second; try THAT with your 375-pound word processor.

SuperDIR and SuperDOS dominate our treasure-chest like egg-size emeralds. SuperDir doesn't do a lot that DIR doesn't, but it boxes, compresses, sorts in any order, and shows only as much detail as you need. And it's beautiful. After you start with it, you'll never stop. This one great directory is what made me suspect that our DOS is a dud. The guy who created DIR must have screamed when he saw the beauty of SuperDIR. Try SUPERDIR C:/6 (or your longest directory) after doing a SHOWFONT HEADLINE. It's a sight you'll never forget.

Your Fearless Leader is too lazy to type SUPERDIR a hundred times a day. When you start depending on a piece of software, rename it with one or two letters. Orphan HQ made this one merely D, by typing REN SUPERDIR.COM D.COM.

Step carefully among these short names. You might forgetfully name another file D later on, with confusing or disastrous results.

We have, in the DIRECTORIES disk, a whole group of devices that not only list files, but do a range of DOS jobs on them, in groups with check-the-box convenience.

The daddy of them all is SuperDOS. It's like DIR with a 747 control panel. SuperDOS runs the directory of your dreams. It obeys all the unbelievably detailed instructions you could possibly want to give.

SuperDos came with one of the worst manuals I've ever seen, a hundred foggy pages by a dead-tired technician who flunked third-grade English. But the program is so powerful that I couldn't bear to reject it. So I spent two weeks rewriting the manual, much shorter and in clear English. This was service above and beyond the call, so I'm charging $15 instead of $10 for the disk that the better manual is on.

You might ask SuperDOS for all the files you did in early February a year ago, as long as you finished them between 5:15 and midnight; to list all times in American style, everything in lower case, five columns wide, stopping at the end of each screen, using your favorite colors, and doing only files that have either Q or X in the name or Y and E, either one first, in the extension. Tell it to add all files with DOG in the name, and skip all files with CAT. You give all these instructions in one stupendous command of up to 256 strokes, in any order with or without spaces.

This will be a toy for a while, but when you get into a big project that has you DOSsing files all over, SuperDOS will find its giant commands in your batch files and serve you like a whole roomful of key-punchers.

SuperDOS will not only list, but also copy, delete, move, print, screen, put into action or otherwise process the specified files.

Another gem, replacing your TYPE command, acts faster and nimbly snaps up or down to any part of a document. No itchy, rolling screen: BROW hangs steady until you ask it to move. When you hit ESC, the whole DOS screen you had snaps back.

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Here's another golden trinket: CAP-TURE gobbles up an entire screenful of information, any time you want. Later you can PAINT it with different colors or new words, and when you hit its hot-key (even if you're deep in software), all these HELP screens pop up ready for paging through, like a book that you don't have to reach for.

Are you tired of retyping DOS commands that have small errors? Redoing DOS that you typed five lines back? Giving earlier commands with one word changed? Both CED and NDE (but not at the same time) remember all you've typed beside your DOS prompt, allowing you to snap each line back and even alter it, with word-processing agility. NDE is easier to learn, but CED has more power when you're ready.

Lay Out the Welcome Mat

If you're bored with the old A> or C: that waits for your DOS commands, you can use the same prompt that Orphan HQ uses, a two-tone time-and-directory box. It is stored in the one-line text file PROMPT.HQ, and can be added to your autoexec file with this:

copy autoexec.bat+prompt.hq autoexec.new
Look at your "new" file with BROW and alter it with TED if you like. Then type:
copy autoexec.new autoexec.bat<enter>
When you reboot your machine you'll see your new prompt. If it doesn't satisfy you, type *ted autoexec.bat*<enter> and kill that strange last line with F9, F7.

Check this perfect pearl: CURSOR lets you change your regular DOS cursor to underline or box, blinking or steady, or nothing at all. Big software does it, but now you can control your own DOS cursor.

All of these many changes, except when you find one fighting another, can be written into your autoexec.bat and loaded every time you turn on the 2000. Always be ready for new brawls when software (big or small) joins the party. It's wise to "save" your first sentence or data entry, just to see if your major software likes its new companions.

Okay, your hard drive died but you're safe, you made backups. But no, your backup floppies are unusable! Until UPS brownly delivers your replacement hard drive, you can't compute. No presentation for that big prospect, no labels for the mailing. Catastrophe!

When BACKUP isn't safe enough, you need DOWNLOAD. It does the same job as BACKUP, but leaves real live files, not code clumps, on (more numerous) floppies.

Little Key Opens Monster Door

Look here, somebody stole the crown jewels of England—macros for the 2000! With MKEY, you can hide 50 keystrokes of commands, text and special keys under a single key! You can put a crowd of stuff under a function-key like F12, or under an ALT or CTRL combination of two keys pressed together. You can even make all your capital S's into dollar signs, or store the name and address of your company inside the wiggle (~).

Sometimes this tricky software gets in the way, like in a quick letter to Aunt $ally. The macros above can be switched off with one "hot" key. In fact we have a program that switches off and on ALL the hot-keys from all the tricks you're using.

Do you like to know when the 2000 is using its hard drive? The floppies show their red lights, and a hard drive will do the same with a lamp circuit that member LJS invented, but USE-HARD shows a smiling-face symbol at upper right on your screen whenever a hard drive gets read or written.

If you and someone else have the skill and vigor to play checkers with *numbers*, MAXIT will give you a few minutes of friendly fun and a lesson on the value of planning ahead. The machine will play you if other players aren't available.

The 2000 now plays CHESS, also.
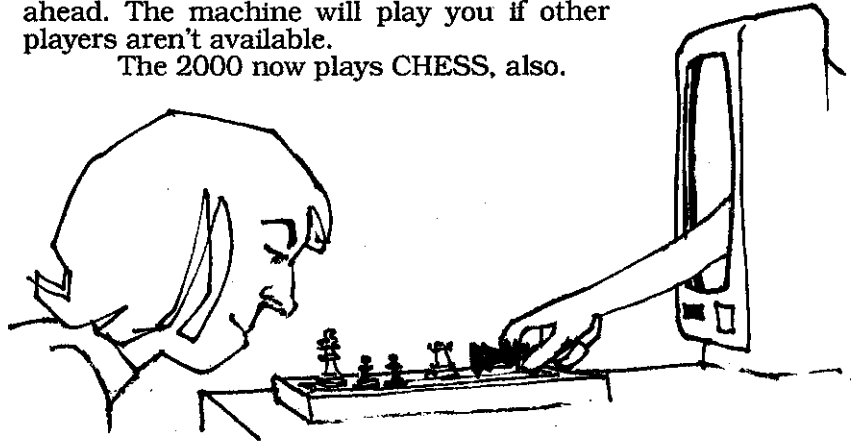
You have a clock-radio for waking up, but what greets you at computer time? You can have a friendly greeting, plus a reminder of time and date, with TODAY (1 line) or GREETING (the same in 3 lines). A list of your appointments or needs, today or this week or whatever, rolls down automatically with REMIND.

Does ASCII give you a pain? The TOOLBAG disk has seven files about ASCII which take the mystery out and even make it sort of fun.

Here's an attractive big coin, let's check the amount: "Any number you want." CALC beats all the credit-card miniatures that computers like to pop up. It does statistics, finance, and science. Pull in a standard deviation, compound interest, or a helpful hypotenuse. This supercalculator branches into half a dozen control screens. It stays "on" while you tour your software, so you can come back to your last result and even review the whole day's "paper tape." Now that's the way a marvel like the 2000 is supposed to calculate.

BANK gobbles a day or a year of "checks" and "deposits" (or any pluses and minuses). It converts them to final balance, total deposits and total checks. It's all done on the number-pad at right without decimal points, clickety-clack like a professional accountant. The monthly booboo is now much easier to isolate.

If you're tired of scrambling to find a phone code or state abbreviation, type AREA and a name or number. You can forget flipping through the phone book for city area codes, and stop frowning about MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT.

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If you want to know the secret, sacred duty Tandy 2000 Orphans has assigned to you, type MISSION<enter> and it will point you to your noble destiny. It uses FRAME and WAIT, so have them within reach.

If you have a computing friend who deserves a few unflattering remarks on his screen the next time he hits a key, sneak INSULTS into a floppy slot and watch him react. Its limited capacity: twenty million of the awfullest nasty garbage-skunky things you'd ever say to anybody.

There's one trouble with kids, charming as they are: they fight. Your new shareware friends are the same.

Any shareware has its favorite spot in memory and jumps into it as soon as you call. If something else (like other shareware) is already there, a fight ensues. Big software often kicks out your small-fry friends, but the big guys can stumble instead. At best, one program might refuse to run when you call it. At worst, your darling 2000 will let its mouth fall open, drool, roll its eyes up and topple slowly forward. Only its little front buttons (the black or even the red) will revive it, and by then it will have forgotten everything you typed in today.

You want to use both the programs that were fighting, but first try loading them in a different order. If they still fight, you must choose only one for today's cruise. Shareware is nice but nasty. Take the bitter with the very, very sweet.

The Orphan shareware-freeware list is in the centerfold; ordering info is in the Orphanage Souvenir Shop. Now that you've got access to the Orphan shareware library, your 2000 will become a whole new computer. Using it will still be work, but work with a friend.

What's New at HQ

Room at the Top

There's an empty office at the top of Tandy Towers, a not-very-towering 15-story office block over the "Tandy Center," a shopping center (more of an eating center) sizzling with fast foreign food and not much else. You can take the elevator from Big Ed Juge's corner office down to Japanese, Italian, Texican or Greek food; you can snack at Wilson's Convenience or pig out at the ice cream place; the hot dog place and the cafeteria do it quick; you can drink lunch at Duffy's Tavern or Uncle Charlie's. If you have time after lunch the leftovers are even stranger: two barbershops, a drive-in dentist, a birthday balloon shop, a fan shop (Fort Worth gets hot), the Happy Stork Baby Shop, and the year-round fly population.

Back up the elevator, pardon the digression, a disenchanted Tandy executive departed recently, calling up the Orphans. He deeply admired the 2000, he said, and it seems his primary beef with Big Ed (they call

him Stonewall) was Tandy's dedication to bad customer support. Yes, it's as we have been suspecting: Tandy's boast about magnificent support is the mirror opposite of their corporate policy. This bothers the few ethical people they have left. I will reveal the name of the absent executive right before they pull my second fingernail.

Here Comes That Line Again

Big Ed once ran Ed Juge Amateur Radio Supply in Fort Worth. He was the only nationwide ham supplier who ever sold at retail price. His back-cover magazine ads claimed his high prices were justified by his unusually excellent support and service. Does that line sound familiar?

Hams don't buy retail, so Juge Amateur went belly-up and Tandy got a marketing manager. If any of you knows an enraged customer still looking for the legendary "support" of Juge Amateur, tell him he can join the Orphans without a 2000. All he needs is the sales slip with that retail price on it.

John Roach's rise to the presidency was less glamorous than Big Ed's to vice-president. Roach is an accountant.

The granddaddy of the company, Charles Tandy, was a very sweet guy who was delighted that his leather company grew into computers. He used to go to the computer trade shows and they loved him. He was that rare guy who filled the room with charisma, but loved people at the same time. He died not long ago.

We have a complaint (again) that we should quit knocking Tandy. First, PDS, we print the news. If we get a hot story from an ex-exec, we print it. Second, we actually need the "vitriol," as you call it, for a practical reason you might not guess. When an Orphan is reading page after page on how to hook up a printer or rescue a paralyzed word processor, TV and the kids begin to seem interesting. We need the gossip to keep you guys reading.

PDS was unaware that there are two Juges on the Orphan horizon. Ed Juge of Fort Worth is the boss of selling Tandy computers. He's the one who refuses to let 2000 owners get our address from Tandy. He suggested I call his brother Bob, who runs the biggest 2000 modem bulletin board, out of Houston. Bob won't let his guys know our address either, and he's the one we knocked in December.

PDS adds a defense of John Harrell, also blasted by us in December. Yes, we have many reports that Harrell is a sweet guy and knows a lot, but we at Orphans fight for our 2000 owners, not the angels. Harrell has been avoiding us for years, and that's where he got his Orphan support score: zero.

Another new member sends the standard one-page letter about Tandy support. After 25 ways of saying lousy, RWC adds, "And God help us if they ever answered a letter with anything significant. I wouldn't buy another Tandy product if my life depended on it." Sure guys, you're right. But have you

ever tried to get a five-year-old car repaired by dealer service? A lot of business operates that way, including computers, no matter what brand you buy. Just make sure that next time you pay for what you get, not for promises.

I keep telling you guys that there's no reason to jump to a clone yet, even less a Tandy clone. Sad new member RK reports: "I was one of those who fell for Tandy's ploy. I wanted the new WordPerfect, so I bought the Tandy 1000TL to run it. Now I wonder why I wanted either the 1000 or 5.0 as I sit at the end of my office away from them and write this on our 2000 in WordPerfect 4.2, much easier to use." What the Tandy guy forgot to tell you, RK, is that 5.0 runs on the 2000, without page preview and faster cursor.

If I were to start right now with 2000 ownership, knowing what I know, I would do exactly what JKH is doing: "The newsletter has been handy: I discovered MSWord 3.1; I discovered Envision and equipped both of my 2000HD's with extra floppy drives and 640K memory boards; I plan to replace the 10-meg drives when they crash." One hint, JKH: if the 10-meg drives get too awfully crowded, you might replace them sooner. You can now do 140 megs with the space and money the 10-meg took.

A nice thing about upgrading the 2000 is that you can move the goodies over to a 286 or 386 clone if you ever abandon your 2000.

Now a Mod for Our Mods

A member we will call the Cat-Burglar has dug up the best of four mod sets sent in by members. The Cat-Burglar mod set is even "completer" than the other three. He has uncovered some previously unknown mods and some illustrations we didn't have.

The mods are selling rapidly, especially among our foreign and wilderness members. It seems there are a lot of machines out there without an M at the beginning of the serial number. Thanks again to the members who sent mod sets. We will not thank you by initials, because Big Ed would Texas-barbecue the Tandymen who let the secret out. It gives years more to the unsinkable 2000. You are great operatives, all four of you.

People often say they were able to buy 2000 hardware or software "from a store that had some." JTS did that. Please, guys, if you locate goodies, quickly write to headquarters about where (with phone) they are, how many, and how much they cost. There are Orphans out there who are desperate to get what you didn't need.

"Goddammit, don't stop publishing one issue after getting my paid subscription like PC Companion!" writes a new member.

Your letter was well written, CJR, and you should consider writing for the Whimper. You're almost on target. I will stop publishing one of these years, closing up the Orphans. Each Orphan will probably get close to an exact refund of his unspent membership

money (try that one on PC Companion, Soft Horizons, and 80 Micro).

WE Support US

Making you an effective 2000 user should cost hundreds of dollars a year, not the $18 we charge. That's why computer and software manufacturers provide weak or no support: there's no way to pack that cost into a retail price without killing sales.

You can give Orphans that hundred dollars or more a year—not in cash but in time and skill. You already know a lot more than all other members! Another user will know useful subjects ABCEJK; you might know ABDEFGLM. You feel ignorant about the 2000's capabilities, but so does everybody else in the club. Not one other member has your skill in your range of subjects.

We just got, as I should have known we would, the perfect member letter. Ordinarily I chop a letter up and distribute its parts to the appropriate sections of the Whimper. But this one is just too good to scatter.

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He even got the length and style right: long enough to avoid guru Greek, short enough to read in five minutes of YFL time; clear English and clear daisy-wheeling. LJS, you have shown us the way.

That's a Windmill, Don

The Grail is very far away, says WMK with details. Not only is it nearly impossible to rewrite big software for the 2000. "There's a lot more involved than just video addresses and input/output ports." For one thing, the 80186 has several other chips inside it beyond its improved 8088/8086.

Like Don Quixote on his Quest, all those overdressed Crusaders galloping down the gangplank on seasick plow horses into the Holy Land didn't find the Holy Grail. We have a persuasive letter from LJS about our Grail, another magnificent letter like the one reproduced above. His news is bad.

First, he tells of his agonizing adventures in changing little PCMagazine programs, one-pagers. He has reached a plateau of learning, where he can convert such a program to run on the 2000. But he can't find the keyboard buffer memory address, and is baffled by "an undocumented interrupt." He can beat down most of these little bugs, but his final versions are "riddled with inefficient code and inconsistencies."

This is, he says, "a far cry from modifying programs like Lotus, dBase, WordPerfect, etc., for which the source code (unlike those in PCMagazine) is not available." And creating an automatic Grail disk to do the modifying would involve teaching it complex rules of the "grammar" of assembly language.

It's Bigger Than Big

Is he proud of how far he has gone toward the Grail since he began adapting programs in early 1987? "My lack of knowledge then was even more appalling than it is now." It's Chinese boxes in reverse, as every scholar and researcher can tell you: You get out of your little box of knowledge into a bigger box, and a bigger. Finally you break out to what you know will no longer be a box: this is it! And "it" turns out to be the limitless horizon, impossible to reach. You're standing in a nest of little open boxes in the middle of an endless desert of things you will never know. When a scholar breaks out, often during postgraduate studies, it's a frightening moment. LJS is there.

Sure, he says, The Grail can be done, but it won't. "The only two motivations for doing it are monetary reward and personal need. The already small 2000 user base which might buy the grail is too small to make the work profitable, so there can be no monetary reward. Those who are bright enough to do it are aware of this." They also know that doing it for themselves would be far more expensive (in time) than new hardware and software. "So they just go buy a compatible machine and software, sit down, and get their jobs done. There is no personal need either."

I can't play music, but I know when a performer is on key. LJS's logic is as powerful as a trumpet solo; you know that sound. We can do a lot on our marvelous 2000s, but we're not going to get the Grail.

No problem, troops. We're doing just fine on the 2000 already.

The Grail disk might be available with the help of "a spec sheet" about the 2000, which JHB feels Tandy must have supplied to software manufacturers making 2000 versions. I agree that such a sheet (book?) must have existed. But I have dug deep and found none. The original crew doesn't answer my letters and calls; Big Ed's stiff-arm boys say all the ports were written by independent contractors, and won't say who, or what specs Tandy supplied. (A stiff-arm in football is a ball-carrier pushing the face of a player trying to tackle him. It isn't fair. Tandy support is usually given with the stiff-arm.)

The software manufacturers refuse to look in the files and claim to have lost their memories. People like us call them all the time. The guy who ported Word 3.1 for the 2000 did say it took a man-year, with much too little help from Tandy. Other software places say the same: your computer company has a go-to-hell attitude.

Class With Claws

"Help!," writes new member SAS. "I've just inherited a Tandy 2000 with the general disposition of a Siamese cat. I understand they can be endearing if they want to be, but otherwise they have a particular view of the universe that their owners must understand if there is to be peace in the house (with cat or computer)." Unlike mongrel cats, the noble Siamese is one more reason why it's harder to be rich than be poor.

Siamese are nasty, selfish, and probably stupid, but tall, muscular, dignified and beautiful to behold. They take over the house
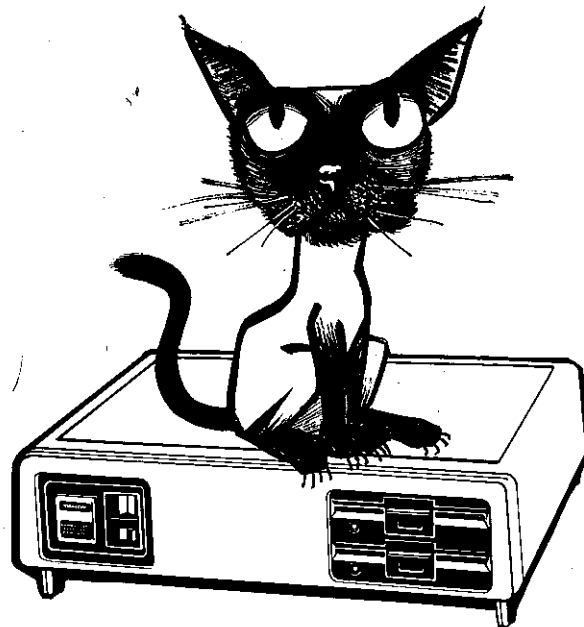
and snarl at everything that breathes, clawing it if it moves. If that sounds to you like a Tandy 2000 working with with IBM software, you understand cats and computers.

Thanks to the people who say keep the change, and thank you for the cash gifts, GCW and JHW. Still resembling cash gifts are those absurd two-year extensions. The new record holder is TEB, July 1991.

There is one member with a "lifetime" subscription. Like those lifetime guarantees, it's for the life of the product, not the user, so it isn't much of a "lifetime". But could you refuse? BN sent us a large cash gift, and added this well-turned remark: "The way Tandy orphaned the 2000, I wouldn't ---- on them if they were on fire."

The 1988 Profanity-Philanthropy-Philosophy Cup was to be awarded in the October issue (see Feckless, page 4), but the yellow card vanished until now. To BN, the winner, belated congratulations.

Members contributing work find that headquarters is generous with little gifts, and it helps if your Santa Claus list is packed with your contribution. But we don't make deals. Check this line from WKY: "I would like to have the HAMP diskette and you would like to have the missing issues typed, so maybe we can work out some kind of trade or compromise." He later said he'd do the work with no strings attached. Orphan HQ believes every member should contribute work and expertise for nothing, as part of a membership fee that's really much more than $18.

Getting Misty

Finding the Orphans, says new member WCS, "brought tears to my eyes. I was beginning to think I was the only orphan of the 2000 in America." Thanks; we like people to cry as they come aboard. Tandy junkie WCS bought each of their computers as it came out, including two loaded 2000s for close to $15,000 the pair. But "My good times (read $$$) ran out in 1986, so I'm still computing on both 2000s." Your timing was perfect, WCS: you couldn't have chosen a better machine to settle down with. He has kept his 2000s humming in a nearby repair center, "no major problems other than paying Tandy service prices."

You've Got a Date

Your only renewal reminder is that date above your name on the front cover. Another year costs $20 USA; $25 APO, FPO, Canada, Mexico; $30 other countries. Checks should be payable to Orphans or Tandy 2000 Orphans, but Whimper or (blank) gets the job done. Canadians, I hate your deadbeat banks. Don't send a check unless is has the name and city of a U.S. branch of your bank, and "dollars (U.S.)" — all this printed on it before you got your checkbook. Otherwise, send a Canadian Postal U.S.-Dollars Money Order. No more credit card payments are accepted.

Two Westerners are tired of finding Flee-Market stuff sold two days before they call, to Easterners. As JTS puts it, "If you want to be fair, as you claim in your last Whimper, maybe you should start sending them out to the West a day or two in advance."

You're right, JTS, I really should. But I won't. When I unload that back seat at the post office, I get a tremendous feeling of relief that makes the previous two months seem worthwhile. I won't give up that feeling of relief. I would ask the post office to delay the East a couple of days, but they're already mad at me for knowing the DMM (domestic mail manual) better than they do.

So you guys will go on getting a raw deal on the best Flee Market deals. But I suggest that you low-price guys go a little higher, so it sells in a week rather than an hour. I repeat this in this issue's Flee Market introduction.

An Orphan Near You

Our project to send out names of members near you, so you can exchange war stories and goodies, is stalled. I just haven't had the time to pull out SuperCalc3 or 123 or FrameWork and figure out how to run the numbers through. We now have a list of every Orphan town with latitude and longitude, thanks to member PDG. Can one of you spreadsheet fans tell me how to generate a database from it? It should contain, for each member, a list of every other member within 100 miles, including a mileage for each. Machine time is no problem: there's always an extra 2000 around headquarters; but only machine #1 has an 8087, so its use must be no more than 12 hours at a stretch.

I'll be using the hypotenuse-distance system, and please, no more suggestions to use zip code instead. It's an obvious idea that I had had, and dropped for administrative reasons.

In the meantime, since I'm ashamed of not getting the list done, any California Orphan near Huntington Beach give new Orphan SLB a call at 714-840-9750. If a bunch of you do, she can found a regional Orphan outpost. The present outpost list includes Puerto Rico, Ottawa and Australia.

A helpful move when running mongrel floppies is to slide your hard drive board half an inch out the rear, disconnecting C:. Then if a virus tries to scramble your life's work, the 2000 innocently denies having it. The handy write-protect switch on Iomega cartridge disks does the same thing, even while you're using (reading) the drive.

Another Database to Try

A software note that belongs on page 14: A fine runnable database is Powerbase 2.1, $179 from (somewhere in) Computer Shopper. It runs right out of the box with a friendly menu, no need to glom the manual. And when you want to get tricky, like personalized payment reminders on the mailing labels, the manual is helpful. It's $349 retail in the 1988 Orphan software list (August). Thanks for the review, DB (really his initials).

7

Hardware Help

Use Only Square Floppies

Ask any doctor or lawyer a question, and he tells you "It depends on the individual case." That proves only one thing: You're wasting the cash you spend on professionals. The bottom line on disks now seems to be, try them all.

It seems that the most marvelous chinchilla-lined platinum diskettes fail sometimes, and back-alley crudfloppies fail sometimes, so our frantic changes of brand, supplier and price look silly to RLS. He sounds right. We have members who swear by DSDD, DSQD and HD, and now we have a member who uses anything that's five inches wide.

"I used the Tandy DSQD on Shack advice against hub rings, but one night I ran out and had to use school-discount CoCo disks. No problem. Curious, I tested the expensive ringless Tandies and the others side-by-side for a year, doubling every disk I created. The result: not one byte lost from either kind.

"I have now decided to use whatever style is available at the best price, with back-ups (the only smart way to go) of everything."

There is another clue from RCF, who returned DOS.03 on our best HD disk as unreadable. He suggests that maybe some 2000s have a different drive from the standard one, and that makes sense. Contrasting Orphan experiences and reports are not your imagination. Manufacturers are always substituting things to get product out the door. RCF has used hub-ring stuff for years with nary a glitch, but this first hubless disk played dead on his 2000, reading well when it got back to HQ. The kids' 2000 at headquarters is also very snotty about HD disks, although it couldn't care less about hub rings. It looks like every 2000 is an individual.

You'll Get the Point Some Day

That classic western, "Stagecoach," has a dapper little man riding on an inside seat who gets a huge arrow in the chest in mid-conversation. Whether it's coffee, burglary, age or archery, disks do fail you. Like the actor (who wore two inches of pine under his suit) you need a protective routine.

A tip for you crowded-desk specialists: Don't squeeze disks. When you're tempted to slip 50 disks into a cardboard tray in which 40 are loose enough to tip back and forth, don't. It causes steady pressure on the folds of the liner where the disk slides against them (at 3, 6, 9, 12 on the clock). Soon the disks will begin to say "cannot read— retry, ignore, abort?" If you have already done this, we have suggested (December 88,p.6) that rubbing the middle of three edges (the slotted bottom edge is too weak) against a desk edge can free up the spin.

We suggested that clocks were obtainable by people without the clock-mouse board, but incorrectly. The piggyback chip-clocks don't fit on our ROM chips, and now JKH reports that the floppy-cable clock he bought (what brand, JKH?) does not have the right wiring for the 2000. But we do have a one-stroke keyboard solution called SNAP-DAY in the Orphan toolbag disk, for those without clocks. See the lead article this month.

Hard drive installation was easy (10 minutes) for HJB, with a Quantum 38-meg drive. He suggests we would be wrong to take out the card cage to get more finger space. Your leader has done all such installations without removing the card cage, but it is tight.

There's a CM-1 available for $100 in a Joplin, missouri Shack, 417-623-7170. Ask for Rodney the Repairman. Thanks, LAM.

Two 2000 mice are for sale at a Utah computer center, 801-394-1667, ask for Darwin. $20 each.

A:B:C:, Lazy Me

Laid-back keyboarders, this is for you. So you want to use a program you've stored in drive C: to massage a data file in drive A:? And you're in drive B: with a friend right now? No need to copy the program to A:. No need to skip over into C: to call the program. No need to rewrite your path command and reboot. No need to issue a new path command now. All you have to do is tack clues on your command, like this one at the B> prompt: B>C:PROGRAM A:DATA.FIL<enter>. And it happens! This assumes that your C: file is called program.exe, and your data file on A: is called data.fil. The computer was created by energetic people for lazy people. On behalf of the latter, I say thanks.

Why wrap a diskette in aluminum foil? It makes a "Faraday box," according to a member who wishes to remain anonymous. When a motor or whatever has a strong magnetic field, the interior of a nearby metal container will not receive that magnetic excitement, protecting the magnitized rust that is the memory of a floppy.

An external 10meg drive he got was not modern enough for REM, who put a Seagate 225 in. He had to solder one connection and plug in extensions to both the HD power cable and the two ribbon cables, no big deal he says, and "works great!"

Your Hi Jumpers

A "secondary" hard drive refused to work for DVH when he installed it as the only HD in his 2000 (removing the Tandy 10meg). No format, no hello to the user, just an empty drive bay (according to the 2000 screen). The trouble is resolved as simply as pinching an aspirin, but figuring out the right move is harder than doing it.

Our controller board always asks the drive, are you the first hard drive? The dumb board ought to know, since the signals are coming down the first-drive ribbon cables, but our HD board craves reassurance. The answer it needs comes through a little clip like a square aspirin called a jumper, which is pressed onto two of about six pins visible at the back of the circuit board of the hard drive. You can bet that the jumper is on the pins that mean "second drive."

Look at the drive installation directions if you have them. They may show a picture of which pins to "jumper" to dress the drive as a "primary" (first or only) drive. If you have no picture, set the drive on the power supply, 2000 top off, and move the jumper to the nearest pair. Turn on the computer with a DOS disk in a: and type HFORMAT. If it's a second-hand drive, type DIR instead. There's no reason to throw away the goodies that came on the drive. When the screen says forget it, turn the machine off and slip the jumper onto the next pair.

After a few tries you should get a warm hi from the screen. If you have two jumpers on two groups of pins, do the trials on the first jumper and finish up with it in its original position; then try all positions of the second jumper. This (again) should get you success, but nothing happens just right. Have courage.

All drives have these sneaky jumper clips, even floppies.

Make Your Servant Whisper

Volume control? Headphone jack? LJS tells us how to drill two holes in the black panel at left front and install a headphone jack (Shack #274-296) plus a volume control (1000 ohms: Shack #271-261 plus a knob is OK). The speaker is under any hard drive at the bottom of the 2000. At the speaker end of the black wire from the motherboard, he solders on two more 12" wires. He solders the other end of one to the common* ear of the headphone jack, the other to the common* ear of the volume control. (*On both devices, the screw-threaded tube is connected to the common terminal, as eye or meter confirms.)

Then he cuts the gray speaker wire near its motherboard end. He solders the long speaker end of the wire to the "unmoving" terminal of the headphone jack. He solders a 12" extension on the motherboard end of the gray wire, and solders this longer wire to either remaining terminal of the volume control. From the last volume control ear, he runs a soldered wire to the last terminal of the headphone jack, the "movable" terminal that sends "hot" signals into the headphone tip when it's in. With no plug, this springy stick snaps back against the "unmoving" rod and sends the "hot" signal to the speaker.

Try everything "dry" before soldering, using a software routine (usually a blunder) that you already know beeps the speaker. A hard drive runs nicely sitting loosely on the open top, or you can unplug its three cables; but stay out of the 120-volt box in the corner by the wall cord, whenever the 2000 is on.

Don't Fear the Friendly Dark

What printers work with the 2000, SLB asks. That's one question I used to be scared about, particularly because salesmen kept telling me many printers were incompatible with the outcast 2000. Horse plop. The 2000 will work with every printer ever made. Those printers, however, get awfully nasty about what signals the software disks are sending them through the cooperative 2000. With ours as with every computer, printers will not run until their owners go from weeping rage to persistent effort.

Some software has no "drivers" (which send coded orders to printers it knows about), or not yours, and most printers have secret button settings. So the printer prints garbage or nothing. It's not the 2000's fault. Usually it's not even the software's fault. It's the fault of the miserable, moronic manuals, which fail to tell you the keystrokes and switch settings that get the connection running.

With printers as with life, the only way to do it right is to do it wrong again and again, and keep trying. In case you haven't noticed, life also comes with a bad manual.

Down Memory Lane

The original 1984 2000 had a mere 128,000 bytes (letters or numbers) of RAM (random-access memory). That 128K of RAM was put in 18 little black chips soldered onto a little 2-by-6-inch memory board piggy-backed on the 10-by-17 motherboard at the bottom of the 2000. Tandy at first tried to sell an extra 2x6 memory board to give that day's "power user" 256K RAM in all.
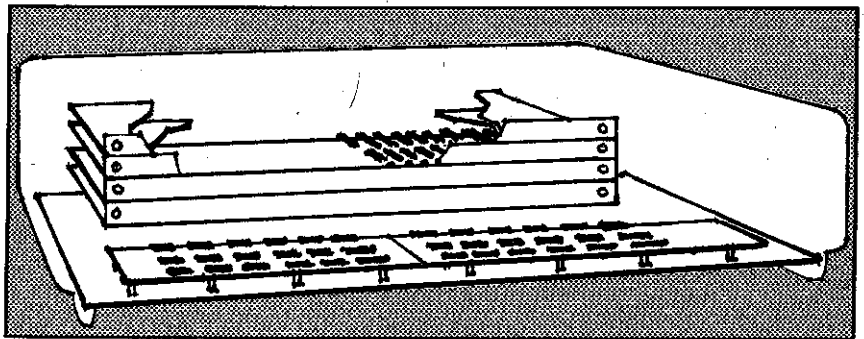
Then Tandy got embarrassed and started selling the 2000 with the whole 256K on its mezzanine. Orphan Dave Nechodom sells a mezzanine with 896K on it.

Tandy sells a slide-in memory tray with 128K, again selling a separate kit to boost it to 256K. With all the options upstairs and down, the original 2000 could have 512K of RAM. Nechodom (Envision Designs) sells an upgrade to that tray that gives it 640K.

Here's What's On the Orphan Shareware Disks: Utilities to Give You Muscle, Toolbag for Your Versatility, Directories to Retire Your Silly DOS

disk 1, utilities (98 files)

orphan-1 doc this text file, tells about the other 96 files at one line each
again   exe do 10 files in a row,arms folded? This one repeats its own orders
again   txt explains the unsung automation of again.exe
allkeys com a tidy way to disconnect gadget hotkeys so software can use them
allkeys txt explains the very switchable unswitcher of your special switches
allo4k txt reduce hard-drive sectors: tiny files take 4K instead of 8K space
astaire   after SHOWFONT, diginified delicacy from the gentleman giraffe
attribs com changes any file(s) to protect them from blunders and viruses
attribs doc explains the use of ATTRIBS.COM to protect your files
broadway after SHOWFONT, billboard capitals for DIRectories and CAPS lock
brow   com reads any text file fast, forwards and backwards
brow   doc explains brow.com
capture com grabs any screen you see, any time, for later snap-back
capture txt explains CAPTURE's snapshots of any screen, redisplayed with HELP
carnival   after SHOWFONT, screen letters with character from Munchkin-Land
ced   com edits and remembers DOS-line commands
ced   doc explains ced.com
chop   exe neatly divides a text file into handy sections
chop   hlp explains the controls of chop.com
clockget exe put in startup disk and also in autoexec.bat (see clokmous.txt)
clockset exe put in startup disk,type CLOCKSET to set clock (see clocmous.txt)
clocmous txt everything about our clock and mouse, even if you don't care
cursor com changes DOS cursor to box, underline or nothing, blinking or not
cursor doc explains cursor.com
diploma   after SHOWFONT, calligraphic capitals for DIR (and CAPS lock)
download com backs up files as real, usable files; does only those you revised
download doc explains how DOWNLOAD.COM packs up with real, usable copies
fileinfo fi where these comments are hidden until you turn on Norton's FI
flapper   after SHOWFONT, a screen that's curvy, delicate and old-fashioned
floppy txt for floppies with many tiny files, smaller clusters (=less waste)
free   com fast chkdsk without garbage: space left on disk
free   hlp explains free.com
global com makes command after GLOBAL process all directories (except root)

global hlp explains working of multi-directory command-brancher GLOBAL.COM
gorbacev   after SHOWFONT, a wild screen to leave on for all those peekers
headline   after SHOWFONT, an 8-column banner on the Times front page
help   com snaps down one of up to 14 information screens you CAPTUREd
hide   com changes FIL.NM to (or unhides) hidden; wildcard groupings allowed
hide   hlp explains use of hide.com
klok2k com puts a six-digit clock (alt-K hides) on screen upper-right corner
lovenote   after SHOWFONT, a personally perfumed pink screen (but a bad DIR)
mission bat alerts you to your sacred and secret duty
mission doc explains about two files that mission.bat uses as helpers
mkey   com macros for the 2000! hide many commands under a single keystroke
mkey   key storage for stock MKEY macros you load every time with MKEY.COM
mkey   txt detailed way to hide limitless commands and text under a key-pair
mouse   sys put in startup disk and config.sys (see clocmous.doc)
nde   com amazing command editor; never retype commands! remembers, alters
nde   doc careful, full explanation of nde.com
noburn com blacks out screen after 5 minutes' inactivity; no premature aging
only2000   after SHOWFONT, returns you to your regular screen font
page   com squeezes 50 lines(not 25) of text file on screen, controllably
page   doc explains page.com's workings
paint   com alters the CAPTUREd screen, letter by letter, and colors, etc.
peek-dir com snaps a disk directory box into any screen you're working in
peek-dir txt explains the use of peek-dir.com's window-in-screen directory
peterpan   after SHOWFONT, your screen whispers to the little people
piano   bas near BASIC.EXE, pops up a beeper piano (see clocmous.doc)
piano-m bas runs like piano.bas if you have no color chips in graphics board
popdir com after pushdir, pops you back where you were before (batch) call
prompt hq a 2-tone time/directory box:add to your autoexec.bat with COPY(+)
push-pop hlp explains rubber-band action for going on errands and returning
pushdir com before leaving a drive, leaves door ajar for quick return
readonly com sets file (or wildcard group) so it can't be changed or erased
readonly hlp explains how to set and unset attribute with readonly & readwrit
readwrit com changes file (or wildcard group) to writable, erasable

rendir com ever need to rename, not a file, but a directory? RENDIR does it
rendir hlp explains the workings of rendir.com
reset   com before a DOWNLOAD, marks for copying files not recently changed
rkey   com snaps off all the macros installed under key-pairs by mkey03.com
search com forget PATH, this guy grabs anything it needs anywhere, fast
search doc the intricacies of using SEARCH instead of clumsy old PATH
showfont com Who says the 2000 is dull? This one gives your screen personality
showfont doc background on 13 distinctive letter styles for your 2000 screen
starship   after SHOWFONT, a screen from the Starship Enterprise
sweep   com forces command following "sweep" to process all subdirectories
sweep   hlp explains working of multi-directory control panel, sweep.com
switches doc explains switches.exe's many buttons and levers of file control
switches txt explains file changes files in many ways automatically, in groups
tree-dir exe TREE-DIR C:(for example)gets an outline of every file on drive C:
tryfonts bat rolls out 13 screen typefaces for you, including the regular one
ts   exe searches disk for phrase(even erased!); reports cluster addresses
ts   hlp explains ts.exe briefly
unhide com changes file to not hidden: erasable, changeable
unhide hlp explains operation of unhide.com; see also hide.com, hide.hlp
use-hard com pops a happyface when your hard drive(s) are reading or writing
varsity   after SHOWFONT, a letter-sweater screen for your husky 2000
vdel   com deletes like DEL with wildcards, but (V)verifies each delete
vdel   hlp explaining vdel.com (replaces DEL and ERASE also)
viewdisk exe you select disk,track,sector for instant English and hex rollout
viewdisk hlp explains how viewdisk won't work for us, but it does
volchang com changes or creates a title for a diskette or a hard "drive"
volchang txt explains use of volchang.com
vtree   com quickly draws a tree of all subdirectories on a disk
vtree   hlp explains use of vtree.com
whereis com searches all directories on the current disk for a filename
whereis hlp explains whereis.com; finding duplicates; finding lost files
windows   after SHOWFONT, the font used in Microsoft Windows

disk 2, toolbag (87 files)

orphan-2.doc this text file, tells about the other 85 files at one line each
8087test exe checks your 8087 for connection, accuracy, strength
8087test txt explains what the 8087 test is aiming for
area   exe you name state(New*York),abbrev.(NY)or areacode(212);get the rest
area   txt explains how to get New*York,NY,New York City,212 from eachother
asciiall bas with BASIC.EXE neaby, type BASIC ASCIIALL; shows all 224 symbols
asciibig com shows BIG! all 256 ASCII in rows of 32 (0-31,32-63); pixels clear
asciiwhy doc your first (and best) class in that scary language, ASCII
asciiwin com pops up a boxed ASCII chart any time; no reaching for that manual
asciiwin txt explains the thrill (and occasional agony) of typing oddball ASKY
askywhat bas type ASKYWHAT<enter> and any key, for its ASCII equivalent
askywhat doc the ins and outs of ASKYWHAT, including through the looking glass
bank   bas nifty three-finger monthly checkbook whiz,nicely matches the bank
bank   doc explains how BANK.BAS works better than brain and calculator
cal   com snaps up a calendar of this month
calc   com an onscreen calculator as simple or complex as you want: powerful
calc   txt detailed explanation (almost a math course) of calc.com
chess   doc explains chess.com
chess   exe quick,pretty,accurate coffee-break chess game;best with MouseTrap
chess   zap part of the chess program, I think
chk4bomb doc checks program file for viruslike dirty tricks, before running it
chk4bomb exe explains chk4bomb.com
code   c   a C-language list of what code.exe does
code   exe buries text file in extremely deep code;re-use password to decode
code   txt explains how code.exe writes and reads near-unbreakable code
control com a quick and clean way to send those "Greek" orders to a printer
control doc explains the use of control.com to send orders to a printer
crypt   cod a sample of coded text; see crypt.hlp to decipher it
crypt   exe puts any text file into deep code, password controlled
crypt   hlp how to code (decode) a text file (original stays, but hidden)
easytime com type easytime for real casual time in a Tandy Texas twang
envinuse com tells how much environment memory is currently being used
filedump com pours out a file in hex and text, quick as a flash, for reading
filedump hlp explains filedump.com
fileinfo fi where these comments are hidden until you call Norton's FI
findword com searches entire disk for phrase, listing the finds by file
findword hlp explains use of findword.com; type: findword Word series
frame   com a cute trick that pops up to 67 characters after "frame" into one
grafdemo com another demo of a 2000 graphics poster, this time without Basic
greeting com when you boot up, gives greeting with date and time (three lines)
greeting txt explains greeting.com and today.exe, the 2000 that says HI
insults exe how can your friend's PC say such awful things to him? a good gag
insults txt explains how harmlessly to put a badmouth bomb in a pal's PC
liberty doc Patrick Henry's floppy; sounds like the Orphan creed

lotusfix doc directions to make 123 runnable on hard disk with no 123 in A:
maxit   bas using latest Basic, play chess with digits; good for all ages
mission bat type mission<enter> to learn your secret and sacred duty
monograf bas a demo of basic 2000 graphics that makes sense in monochrome
numlet exe type NUMLET 234-5678 for 2187"words"from a phone number(no 1s,0s)
parse   com quickly tells the density of a text, in words, sentences, etc.
parse   hlp explains parse.com and its relevance to clear writing
pasc-fix pas BJK's 2000 fixes for TP4 programs: file 1 of 4
pasc-fix exe BJK's fixes for TP4 programs: file 2 of 4
pasc-fix fix BJK's fixes for TP4 programs: file 4 of 4
pasc-wrt pas BJK's fixes for TP4 programs: file 3 of 4
patches txt how to improve Basic and IO.SYS, by hand or (nearby) .BAT files
patch_ba bat run this (read it first) this command to patch the 2000 Basic
patch_io txt MicroLink (Orphan RLS2) fixes your IO.SYS speed and capability
patch_io bat run this (read it first) to patch the 2000 IO.SYS (uses ATTR.COM)
pkx35a35 doc explains what archiving is and how to decode an .ARC file you get
qbas-bat bat rolls Microsoft QuickBasic through a startup fix for 2000 use
qbas-fix txt explains how to patch QuickBasic so its programs run on the 2000
qbas-fix exe makes the required changes in QuickBasic for making 2000 programs
ramview com a vital (for gurus) and awesome (for all) guided tour of our RAM
ramview txt explaining what the tour of RAM is like, and why it's useful
remind com good for start-up time, lists your obligations for next 7 days
remind hlp explains how to post appointments that remind.com will flash up
snapday com no clock board? with this one you change date with one keystroke
snapday txt explains how SNAPDAY.COM beats the nagging what's-today DOS query
speed   com takes your 2000's temp & pressure (and that of other machines)
speed   doc explains what the speed.com test is all about
stor2000 doc how to modify a store-accounting 2000HD back to normal circuitry
suitcase com type SUITCASE;packs HD(s)w/heads on last sector for bumpy travel

sympatch com lets you load Symphony without the pain of keeping its disk in A:
sympatch doc explains the use of sympatch.com to make Symphony easier to run
ted   com marvelously handy quick-writer that shames Edlin and CopyCon
ted   txt explaining and praising Tiny EDitor Ted.com
time   bas snaps on a screen-high digital clock
today   exe when you boot up, gives greeting with date and time(all one line)
videoseg bas a peek into the heart of 2000 incompatibility, your video segment
videoseg txt using VIDEOSEG.BAS to find where your own video segment is hiding
wait   com stops the 2000 dead in its tracks while you read or relax
wait   doc explains the usefulness of wait.com, and selecting how much time

disk 3, directories (29 files)

orphan-3 doc text file telling about the other 27 files, one line each
attir   com have this file nearby when you do what PATCH_IO.TXT tells you to
cdir   com adds or displays an explanatory comment for every file name
cdir   txt explains the workings of cdir.com
dircomp com list 2 directories side-by-side with duplications nicely shown
dircomp txt explains the usefulness and use of dircomp.com
dirsort com this one sorts a directory 5 ways, and LEAVES it sorted
dirsort txt explains the use of dirsort.com, and its permanence
doalldir com superfast directory with multiple controls and grouping
doalldir doc explains the 747 of group directories, best of the lot
dubledir com fast, indispensable, beautiful directory listing (try DUBLEDIR/h)
dubledir doc how to flash down two directories at once, scrolling each at will
fileinfo fi where these comments are hidden until you call Norton's FI
listkind com a laid-back list of the "subjects" of your files, in categories
listkind txt tells how to get an easy-going scribble list of any set of files
move   com takes a truckload of wildcard files to other disk—w/name changes
move   hlp explains the many twists of move.com
notthese com delicately performs mass actions WITHOUT the group of files named
notthese hlp explains how no.com hides files to exempt them from mass changes
page-dir com flip through a directory that can snap in full-text file display
pcboss com a popular, versatile DOS shell with good directory management
suitcase com type SUITCASE<enter> to park HD heads; turn off,transport,turn on
superdir com fast, indispensable, beautiful directory listing (try SUPERDIR/H)
superdos xxx holding a place for superdos.com
superdos yyy holding a place for superdos.doc when it gets written
twinlist doc explains the many functions of twinlist.exe
twinlist exe windows two directories for comparison and group processing

The Orphanage Souvenir Shop has instructions for a 512K upgrade to the slide-in board, wires to solder on and "traces" (printed wires) to scrape gaps in, which enable our members to tease out the thirty-six 7K chips from the slide-in board and replace half of them with 28K chips, giving the board 512K and the whole computer 768K. .

Memory in the 2000 is very confusing, as JHB points out. We have our real memory in black chips. Some of those chips can act like a disk drive, a "virtual" disk or "vdisk" (as in "He's virtually the boss."). Of course this pretended disk drive reads and writes much faster than the real disks nearby. It makes programs you store on them go like lightning. It's great for software that's safe on floppies, but putting data (new words and numbers) on a vdisk is usually foolish: it's too easy to lose it when you turn off the 2000.
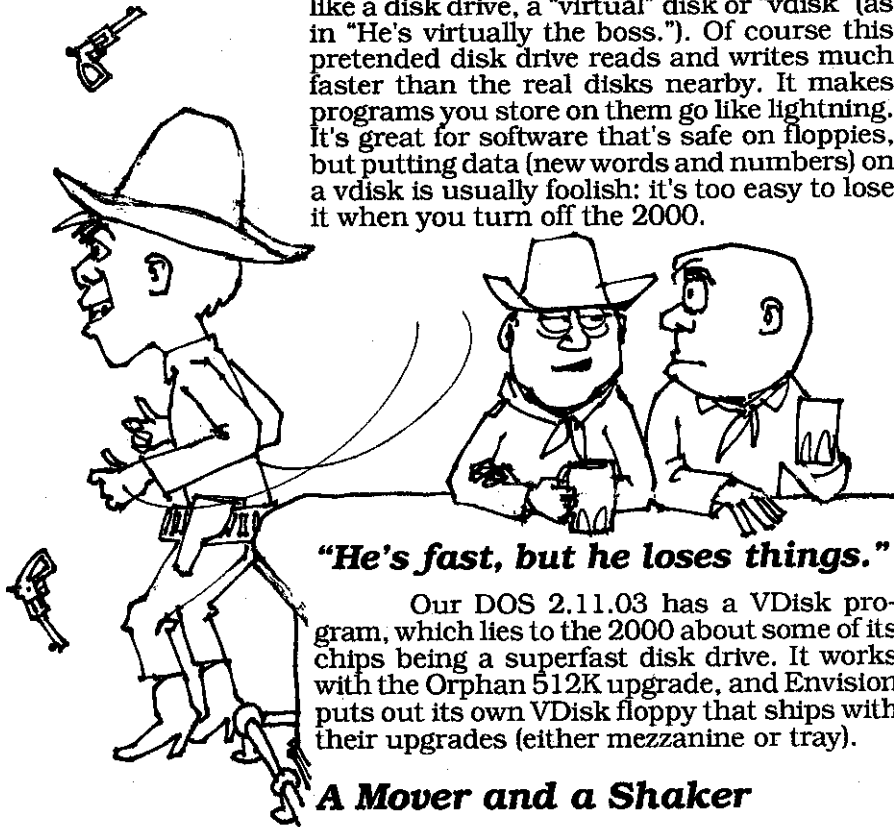
"He's fast, but he loses things."

Our DOS 2.11.03 has a VDisk program, which lies to the 2000 about some of its chips being a superfast disk drive. It works with the Orphan 512K upgrade, and Envision puts out its own VDisk floppy that ships with their upgrades (either mezzanine or tray).

A Mover and a Shaker

RFH confesses "that I am virtually computer-illiterate." But he apparently does well enough in Word 3.1 to get Bill Gates's attention by letter, to a problem with the Tandy DWP510. Considering your results, RFH, HQ would like a copy of your letter(s) to Gates so the members can see how you did it. His DWP would not print in Word until (at Microsoft's suggestion) RFH threw a hidden printer switch from CR+LF to CR ONLY, and put MODE LFON in his 2000's autoexec.bat. "The printer is now working fine. Why? I have no idea, but I'm pleased because I like the updated version of Word very much." No, RFH, Grammatik III won't run for us.

In your laser printers, paper selection is almost as important as printer selection. Ordinary bond paper and fancy textures are death to laser, producing cloudy, blotchy text. Super-smooth "laser" papers are black enough but too clear: they show steps up the side of a V or an A. Standard (cheap) 20-pound zeroxing paper gives the best print quality, smooth enough to get satin blacks, but rough enough to break those steps into random (and therefore smooth-looking) wiggles caused by paper texture.

Get Screwed for Two Dollars

There are only two (out of 46) mods which call themselves "mandatory" for the 2000 main box. Both of them are better screws to keep everything grounded. The most important of these two is number 16 (and 17 repeats it). The other screw mod is 30, which gets a tighter connection between the main logic board (the 10x17 basement board, often called the motherboard) and the actual motherboard (the 5x5 vertical card that receives the slide-in tray connectors).

Orphans has obtained the means for every Orphan to perform mandatory mod 16, easily. All it is, is eight big black screws.

Pry out the eight black plastic plungers that hold the slide-tray back panels to the 2000. Ground your fingers and tools. With the tray (or blank panel) out, get a good grip with a pliers on the pin, and roll the pliers over the outermost edge. The pin bends into a U and pops out. Slip a knife under the remaining plastic doughnut and slice it off. The tulip end will fall off the other side. Wiggle each tray when it's half way in. Out-of-track trays bending pins are the biggest cause of 2000 repair jobs. Screw in the eight black screws with a phillips driver, firmly.

Then your 2000 will be freed from "intermittent operation of the computer" and "random problems with a hard drive," as the mod instructions put it.

Orphans has just bought 1000 of the little guys (Tandy part number AHD-2974) from national parts, for $110. That permits 125 Orphans, or more accurately 125 2000s, to get relief from some of their gas pains and blackouts. Make that 121, because the headquarters machines just grabbed the first four sets.

At $110, the screws cost Orphans 11 cents each, 88 cents a set. (I'm selling sets of 8 even if you need 6 or 4.) Tandy used to charge 35 cents apiece, and now gets a dollar per screw, the bandits. I'll send your eight in a bumpy stapled envelope for two clams, add one clam for each extra eight in the same envelope. See the Orphanage Souvenir Shop.

A Remote Control for Disks

Many of us hard-drive users have been leaving A: empty at night, because the 2000 looks for a disk in A: before it looks at C:, and can go kaleidoscopy if it finds a disk it doesn't like in A:. But you CAN keep a disk in A:, all the time.

Tandy and the software makers are always telling you to make your software "bootable" by doing a "SYS B:" on the blank floppy before copying the programs onto it. Fine, but they forget that almost all users get a hard drive after a while. With a new C: drive, unless you want A-drive phobia, copy all those "system" floppies onto blank floppies. The two hidden .SYS files (IO. and MSDOS.) will stay behind and get formatted out of existence when you recycle the floppy.

Then you can leave any floppy in A:, except for four: your original DOS.03 disk, the DOS.02 that you're saving because some

shareware needs the old Basic, and a write-tabbed compdupe of each one. On those scary days when your hard disk dies, you just put your trusty DOS in A:, turn the key in the ignition, and reach for your backups of the hard-drive contents. Hard disk mortality is the only reason the 2000 insists on checking A: first.

When the 2000 wakes up and finds a floppy with no "system" in A:, it says "thanks anyway" and jumps over to C: for its instructions. Only a couple of seconds are wasted. You know it's doing A: and then C: because you hear b-buzz, b-b-buzz, chirpadee chirp chirp!

He Dared and Won

We are getting our money's worth out of 512, but only if we try. Reading the inquiry in the December Whimper, LJS gave 512 a try.

Like many of you, he was pleased at finding specifics in pages 1-4 but displeased about the unsettling conversation in pages 5-8. He ignored 5-8 and went ahead, exactly as instructed in pages 1 through 4.

At first it didn't work. The 2000 booted with the untrue comment "Memory Size=256k." LJS decided that the machine was totally ignoring the memory tray and reporting only the memory downstairs on the motherboard mezzanine.

"I began troubleshooting by going through the instructions step by step, testing the continuity of wires I had added or circuit traces I had cut."

[Y.F.L.'s comment: He was testing continuity with either a lamp-and-battery gadget or the ohms part of an ordinary Shack-type $20 multimeter. Its 1.5 volts isn't going to burn a chip, which moves 5- and 12-volt signals all day. A solid connection measures zero ohms, and a weak one from 1 to 12 or so, and no connection shows infinity, the meter staying on its highest number. A "trace" is a silver stripe printed on the memory board's green surface, easy to disconnect with a knife point by digging a tiny trench across it. When you're adding a wire instead, it's called a "jumper". You heat the designated solder pimple with the hot solder-pencil's tip, with the new wire's bare end pinched between, like a finger on the string while you tie a knot. You do have three hands, don't you? When the pimple suddenly goes shiny and soft with a puff of smoke, you take away the hot tip but keep the wire end down. In two seconds it's frozen in. You do the same at the other end of the wire, and your jumper is in.]

"I was lucky. My measurements produced a puzzling result at step 2. This step connects an address circuit, at U46-5, to ground at U61-14. My measurement showed good electrical continuity along the wire I had installed between U46-5 and U61-14, but a small resistance between U61-14 and J1-3C, a ground at the board connector."

[YFL comment: LJS knows that "ground" is the metal tray, and that every point allegedly (in the diagrams) grounded ought be zero ohms from the tray. You might not have the problem LJS had, but if your

board was also printed with that weak line from U61-14 to J1-3C, LJS has your solution. U61-14 means pin 14 of chip U61, "U61" printed on the board next to it. J3 is three rows of solder pimples that connect with L-shaped jumpers to the long socket in back, which pushes onto the 2000 motherboard. Rows A, B and C and pins 4 and 8 are labeled, so 3C is easy to find and jumper.]

"My board had been functioning previously, so I did not investigate further. Instead I connected the address circuit directly to J1-3C. Essentially, this changed step 2 page 2 of the 512k mod instructions to read, 'Connect U46-5 and J1-3C.' This change worked: I got the hoped-for 'Memory Size=768k' message."

"I should also mention two other things. First, I used chips rated at 150 nanoseconds rather than the 120 nanoseconds recommended. I am unable to comment on the need (or lack thereof) for the faster 120ns chips. Second, I ran the mod without the 27-ohm resistor mentioned in steps 15-17 for about an hour without harm (U24-1 and U29-3 directly wired to eachother)."

"The mod has been in for about a week of two-hour days with no apparent problems — I'll call it a success. So I now consider the two dollars for the 512K instructions well spent."

Machine Mysteries

Graphics.com refuses to print a graphics screen for JKH on a DMP130A (unless you like solid black). Who can give him a hint? He says he could write a Basic routine to analyze and screen and print graphics, but he doesn't want such a slow method.

Last time we had WordPerfect 4.1 holding DLJ's Tandy daisy printers to one-directional printing. Now 4.2 is doing the same to JFM's DWP230. Who's got the answer? Does RFH's breakthrough with his daisy (above) shed any light? Will a dip-switch and mode-command work?

Hardware Hints

The Logitech mouse does not work on the 2000, no matter how you wire it, according to MAG. He did not report on whether his experimenting was with a bus or serial mouse. They're different animals.

Our floppy drives were the Mitsubishi 4853, which of course is a collector's item today. Mitsy tells HOL that their newer number 504B312U is a perfect substitute. No harm in ordering one and plugging it in for tests. If it flunks, hardware companies are lots nicer than software places about returns. Do it with a credit card and they have no choice.

When we told Orphans the piggyback chip-clocks would fit on our main logic board downstairs, we mistook the 28-pin video control chips for EPROM chips, which the clocks require. Our EPROMs are 24-pin, meaning that the 28-pin chip-clocks won't help us.

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Software Support

Perfect Patching Party

Our batch file for WordPerfect 5 in December (p.13) was wrong in using the title WP.BAT. This would throw you right back into frozen WordPerfect, without ever activating the batch file. Better would be a title like P.BAT or (for safety) PERFECT.BAT.

That long line of switches we quoted from John Harrell ended with MT=0 (a zero, I think), which puzzled an alert KIH. It's not in the manual, Harrell admitted to her, and tells her it puts the 2000 in 80-letter 25-line black-and-white "color while it really is mono." His language is unclear, but the general aim of MT=0 is evident.

"Now, instead of guessing," Harrell continues in his letter to KIH, "you can get easy control of blink, underline, etc." Sorry, John, I'm still guessing. Which switches, typed how, give you that control? KIH says that the full set of switches we quoted brings WP5 up looking just like WP4. WP has not sent our review copy (apparently a policy change), so I must ask: If all that work gives us something like WP4.2, why should we blow two Benjamins on version 5?

There is disagreement (apparently between Harrell and Harrell, but a member could have misunderstood) about making WP5 print. One way is: tell WP5 that the name of your printer is B:, and when you have it safely "printed" to a disk file, "copy" that file to a print port like LPT1:. The other method, told to KIH: Just tell WP5 the name of your printer is PRN:, although the 2000's parallel port likes to call itself LPT1:. Possibly both methods work, but if so the PRN: method is better.

Printers will stop and stutter with PRN:, Harrell told KH, unless you go into DEBUG WP.EXE (I think) and enter something like this key sequence:
```
MOV AZ,0040<enter>
MOV E5,AX<enter>
MOV AH,1E<enter>
MOV ES:BYTE PTR[00DB],AH<enter>
INT 20<enter>
```
Sorry to be so vague, but as we point out earlier in this issue, Harrell is not keeping in touch with us.

In December we said to ask Harrell for a disk of his function-key-display program in PCM, or type the huge thing yourself. You can get it (and other programs of each issue) from PCM on a disk, I think. But after searching two recent issues for price and how to order, I must say that PCM is keeping the secret well. KIH says she got it for $12. Try an inquiry to PCM at 502-228-4492 and P.O. Box 385, Prospect, KY 40059.

These Guys Aren't Tandy

WordPerfect continues to shine brightly in support. KIH asked them for a Tandy driver (for the 2110). She got it, although with margin trouble, and WP found her a user-supplied driver for the old DWII.

I've Got a Little List

How is an Orphan to database? DBII, if you have it, is not upgradable by the Orphans to either dBIII or the Orphan copy-free dBIII. You might buy a dBIII 2000 version you rescue in a Shack, or buy the excellent dBXL, reviewed and debugged in previous Whimpers. Other recommended databases for us have been Cornerstone (dirt cheap and nice) and RBase's various versions (expensive, but probably the best database runnable on the 2000— who will review it for us?). These options range from $30 to $500 on the street, and probably all do what you need, LCS. Orphan HQ relies on dBXL 1.1, and 1.2 when we get around to installing it.

Vaccinate Thyself

Chances are you'll never catch that trendy thing called virus, but there's no harm in feeling safe. You don't wreck your car or burn your house, but you must admit it's a comfort to have insurance.

Viruses are variable beasts, usually entering a computer hidden in a trojan horse
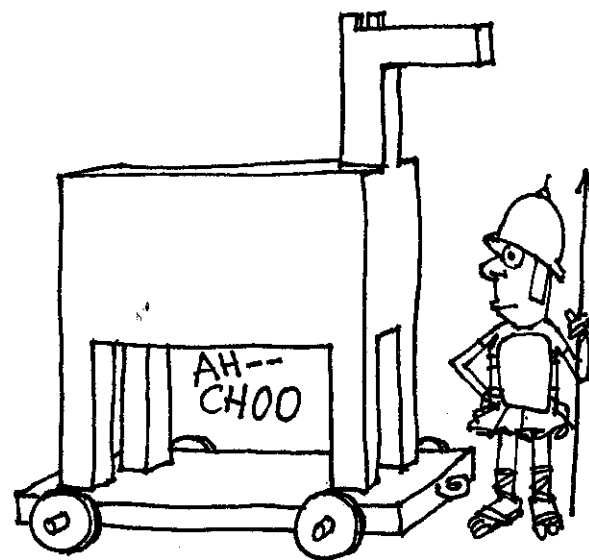
(a piece of free software). When you fire up the program (such as tricky.exe) by typing TRICKY<enter>, it puts a pretty face on your screen. At the same time, it swiftly finds and rewrites your command.com, inserting buried instructions to destroy other files.

The now-dangerous "alien" version of command.com keeps turning up in every computer that tries out tricky.exe; this often rapid spread to a lot of command.coms is the meaning of "virus." Command.com springs into action every time you type at the DOS prompt, so it has lots of chances to wreck whatever disk contents is within reach.

The smartest thing you can do, right now, is quarantine all copies of command.com in or near your computer, hard or floppy.

A virus can theoretically undo your quarantine and then do damage. But that's a lot of instructions to pack into a 15K file that's

pretending to be command.com; you would soon notice a bigger size in a directory listing. A virus can even remodel the directory, so you see the possibilities are endless. The best we can do is cope with the probabilities.

To do the quarantine, you need Norton or the utilities in the Orphan disks. Seek out each command.com and change its attributes to "hidden" and "read-only." Command.com will no longer show in DIR, but the fancier directories in Orphan shareware tend to keep showing it.

When the virus says, "Copy this bomb into the good command.com," your baffled computer will answer this way: "Sorry, virus, but command.com doesn't accept mail or even live here any more, so I can't do as you ask." And if you (not a virus) stupidly ask your computer to erase *.*, the computer won't be able to see command.com and will leave it alone. Then you can (realizing your error) boot back to the wreckage area and use a utility (Norton, etc.) to "unerase" what you erased.

When the 2000 erases a 10,000-word file, it really erases nothing but the first letter of the file's name. The next file you put in will destroy the "erased" one. But if you go in there quickly with Norton to unerase FILE.NAM, unerase will find _ILE.NAM and ask you to type its first letter. Then its space is reserved again, "unerased."

Our Own Assembly Line

MASM enables the programmers among us to convert English instructions to lightning-fast machine gibberish.

It now seems to WMK that the 2000 version of Microsoft Assembler ("MASM") does not even make programs for our chip, the 80186, and that other versions of MASM don't run on the 2000. MASM 1.0 won't perform for DJS (Dec88p.13).

This is contradicted by the experiences of RCS2 and HJB. RCS2 responds that 1.0 checks your 2000's memory and jumps to an "out of memory" message if your 2000 has over 512K (maybe over 640). He has written a fix for the problem, but says hassling with it is less sensible than buying MASM 5 at $84 (PCMagJan31p.89) and similar street prices. He has worked with versions 1, 3 (which he calls absurdly buggy) and 5. He says 5 is much faster than the others, and works like a dream, bug-free.

HJB sends a quick fix for DJS: "Use the assembler directive '.186', and for specialized coprocessor instructions, use an '.8086' directive."

Pack Up Your Troubles

Suitcase: when you invoke it, it makes the 2000 park the hard drive heads on the last track. This means that the last track will be the one damaged if you drop the computer while moving it. Fine, since the last track is only used by the absolutely full hard drive you have once a year before heavy housecleaning.

Tandy only sold a that 10-meg drive for the 2000 with a mere 305 tracks — is Suitcase parking heads on 305 halfway through an 820-track Seagate 251? HJB wants to know. No, Suitcase asks the drive the number of its last track and then parks on it. But the 251 doesn't get any use from Suitcase: it last-track parks automatically whenever it stops a read or write. So does every Seagate and MiniScribe workable on the 2000 except the S225 and M3650. The M8425 has no autopark but claims safety through its shock-mounts.

Suitcase is probably specific to the 2000; my source has lost contact. A member reports that when invoked, it reports parking both his C: and D: drives, so you don't have to use it twice.

Secrets of PageMaker

You'd never suspect it, but the first thing PageMaker does for you is make your publication look worse. Take the December Whimper as an example.

Smaller points: editing in PageMaker is indescribably clumsy — bring stuff in clean! But there is a sweet undocumented trick for replacing a word. PM would have you mark the word or passage and reach up for the delete button. Finally, type the new part. But if you mark the bad part and immediatly start typing the new part, the old part gets offended and deletes itself, no delete key! This can get gory, though. Mark a huge section for a typeface change and accidentally hit an A, and it all disappears! (An undo button is available.)

PageMaker has a hidden advantage for you perfectionist publishers. It allows you to type your whole magazine using your word-processor's "dumb quotes," the straight parallel lines ("). Then, you can get true quotes, the ones that look like a little 66 or 99 (or 6 or 9), automatically when your articles flow into PageMaker's columns. It's an undocumented trick called "smartquotes=yes" which you should type (no spaces, no quotes marks) at the very end of your win.ini file, right after the line that says "Defaults=C:\PM\PM.CNF."

Then PageMaker looks at each arriving quote mark and makes it a 66 (or 6) if there's a space before it; a 99 if there's a space after it; unchanged if there's a number just before it (feet, inches, etc.). PageMaker will pretend it understands, if it's none of these, and make a guess that you'll have to spot and correct.

PageMaker has a documented way to (laboriously) type in true quotes, but the automatic way is far better.

Our Man in Moskva

Russian language in MS Word? On the 2000? Not on your tintype, NB. Foreign fonts don't load into an English word-processor, not at least the ones that run on the 2000. Your only hope is to use a Russian-language version (they're made) of a major word processor that runs (in its IBM version) on the 2000. That means WordPerfect or WordStar, nothing else. Software can install new fonts, as the Orphan shareware out this month proves.

That shareware has a neat "Russian" alphabet (a few letters missing) that is a lot of fun around the office. It's oddly easy to learn.

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Is there a "Sideways" printing program available for the 2000? No. You can command the Orphan laser, and some other printers, to do single sheets (even 14-inch legal size) sideways, called landscape mode. And on 14-inch fanfold spreadsheet paper, using 15-per-inch daisy or dot type, you can cram a lot of columns.

DELETE doesn't work on the 2000, and the DOS manual says to use ERASE instead. But DEL works. Why type five strokes when three will do?

BASIC Bedlam

The BASIC on our 1986 DOS, version 2.11.02, is called Tandy 2000 Basic 01.03.00; the BASIC on our newer DOS disk, DOS 2.11.03, is called both Tandy 01.01.00 and also GW-Basic 2.02. Is that confusing enough for you?

This becomes important when you try to run Basic programs (those that end in .BAS) downloaded by modem from bulletin boards; it seems about 1/4 of them run only in the DOS.02 Basic, 1/4 only in DOS.03's Basic, and the rest run under both Basics. Keep a copy of each Basic handy, to be able to run anything. A neat trick would be to label your new Basic NEW.EXE and your old one OLD.EXE. Then instead of having to rename or recopy a whole Basic every time you hang up, you just shift gears in a program called DOTHIS.BAS by typing NEW DOTHIS<enter>, and if that doesn't work, try OLD DOTHIS.

Old Windows at the Dump

Those who need a duplicate of Windows for the 2000, keep writing in to get on the list. (Right now we have RST,MSS,SWR,JE, FJS, and SEP unless I lost somebody.) We're getting some members willing to dupe it, and I'll be figuring out how many disks with what on them will be required. It will cost about $10 to $15, just material and mailing costs. Microsoft can sue me but I'm waiting for them: I consider the copyright law invalidated by the first amendment (free press) whenever the product is taken off the market (like Windows 1) and the abandoned customers can't buy the replacements (they won't run on the 2000).

Windows is big and tricky: you will be crippled in it unless you get bookstore help: the helpful members won't dupe the documentation. Beware: books covering Windows 1 are vanishing fast.

Your Windows Whimper

The Whimper comes to you through Windows 1, with PageMaker, after being written in FrameWork I, cleaned in WordPerfect 4.2, and edited in Word 3.1. The delightful TI2106 eats the resulting electricity and coughs up camera-ready copy.

There is a FrameWork I (384K RAM needed) and Symphony I (512K) for the 2000 for sale at Ogden, Utah computer center, 801-394-1667, ask for Darwin. $40 each.

The TurboPascal3 patch for CM-1 needs you to command, MODE BW80<enter>, before calling TURBO.

Now You Can Batch a Batch

Sometimes you want to work on several levels, running a batch file that has another batch file inside it. HKF has discovered that this undocumented trick is possible on the 2000. You just call it with an extra pair of commands around it. Let's say your batch file has to have MEANWHIL.BAT inside of it. If the batch file's other commands are DIR A: and DIR C:\DOS, here's the whole file MAIN.BAT:
```
DIR A:
COMMAND /C MEANWHIL
EXIT
DIR C:\DOS
```
The COMMAND calls command.com and tells it you have a special, unexpected job for it, and I presume the /C means that job is a command. The exit line says bye-bye to the borrowed copy of command.com and gets you back into the original batch file, MAIN.BAT. Congratulations to HKF, who was browsing in the fat Jamsa DOS book and decided to get creative on his 2000.

Software List Update

PrintMaster 2.0 CCS Designer (CAD)
Microsoft Project 3.00
Roots III (hard to install)
EZWare Tax (with MultiPlan)
Sales Edge

Program Problems

"Please print what it takes to run IBM Flight Simulator and Dac-Easy Accounting 2.0 on the 2000," says HSG. Would it were so easy, HSG. But as usual, it will take an act of God or a man-year of guru time to do what you wish, and I have access to neither.

"I would dearly love to get Flight Simulator for the 2000. Tandy's quit supplying it." Sorry, LAM, it cannot be copied on the 2000 by any technology I know.

We do have a member who copies the Tandy 2000 version on an (ugh) PC using a controller board that breaks copy protection, so FlightSim 1 is in the Souvenir Shop.

MultiMate refuses to do line-and-a-half spacing on RDW's DMP2100. A Shackman said to set 88-line pages and double-space, but it didn't work. Picking a TTYCRLF printer instead of the 2100 in MultiMate installation gives the right spacing, but won't print "enhanced". Who has the solution, such as proper line feed codes to write into the MultiMate utility disk?

Dac-Easy is Dac-Difficult for CEW, who reports not only that 3.0 crashes, but that earlier versions have a glitch that refuses to go back into 6-month-old records and make changes. Has anyone beaten this problem?

PC-Write and the whole family of Buttonware products were sent to us for review, but none of the big ones run. Earlier Buttonware ran on the 2000, but his stuff has gone

into screen-addressing, giving us a dead screen every time. The clue to a 2000 crash is Button's "+" in the name, such as PC-File+. Only the $60 PC-FileR 1.0, $60 PC-Dial 2.0, and PC-Calc 3.0 (no longer sold), among a dozen programs Button sent us, would run on a headquarters 2000.

Some small Button stuff runs, including about half of his Baker's Dozen and Extended DOS, utilities outshined by Norton and Gem. The runnable PC-Stylist, which tells you the average lengths of your sentences and words, looks weak next to Readability, reviewed favorably last April (page 11).

Open Access is far from a closed question. RGH says that at "the fourth step in the tutorial instructions the dear thing locks up and refuses to go any further."

Software that won't start has filled us all, at times, with rage. Yours, RGH, is a perfect reason for having a user group. You should have a long talk, on your nickel, with all three members who have said they love it. They may not have the same taste as you, but it's obvious they know something which you (and I) don't. We gave you two of the phone numbers on page 11 of II-4, and you can also call George at 801-254-6253. You should be using version 1, the only one workable on a 2000, which Tandy sold as item 90-0114.

WordPerfect Library runs with no special tricks or switches, HJB repeats, everything but the Beast game. But he still doesn't reveal the version number he's using.

Prodigy, a new wire service, demands 512K memory, but crashes on a 2000 which has 512K, HJB reveals. Prodigy insists that your 512 is only 505. If you have 640 or more, Prodigy presumably runs.

Reviews

There are two kinds of writers, those who do it and print it; and those who do it, do it, do it some more, and print it. Since writing is only as good as its reading, the first kind of writer is wasting his time. Writing is just trash unless most readers understand it, and enjoy it enough to go all the way through it.

Trouble is, the good writers have had to re-type (re-pen, re-quill, re-stylus) every time they revised, so writing has always been hard. Then came the computer, which made cut-and-paste writing easy. You no longer face an obstacle course when you want to move a phrase, right? Wrong.

Star Truck

WordStar was our and everybody's first word processor. It goes into this review the sentimental favorite, its only competitors on the 2000 being MS Word 3.1 and WordPerfect 4.2.

Now comes WordStar 5, the last 2000-compatible upgrade from a major maker. But WordStar still requires a major effort to move a letter, a word or a phrase. Does WordStar 5 edit well? Definitely not.

Take the paragraph above, for example. You decide to tighten it up by moving "WordStar 5" to the end after "major maker." First you move " WordStar 5," its starting space and comma included, dropping it on the period after "maker". (It will push into the crack before that period.) Then you have to move right, and backspace over the comma. Finally, you snap on the new space after "maker" and type a new comma.

It seems like a simple change, doesn't it? But the difference among our wordprocessors here is shocking.

WordStar5 takes 30 keystrokes to do the three maneuvers, 16 of them using an added CTRL-key press. If you elect to avoid the WordStar codes and arrow through their new pull-down menus, you're up to 40 keystrokes. You can more easily retype the whole sentence.
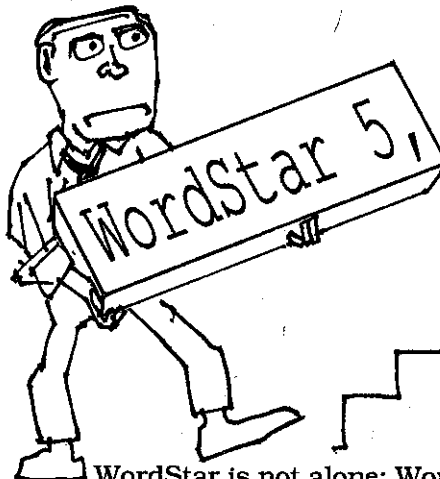
WordStar is not alone: WordPerfect is worse, taking 32 keystrokes, 15 of them with the CTRL-key and 2 with the awkward ALT-key. The folks at MicroPro and WordPerfect

will argue that careful planning could take several keystrokes off the staggering total. But if you're going to stop work and have a strategy session before every edit, you're just making things worse.

The only sane way to do this minor edit is in Microsoft Word. It takes 3 keystrokes and 3 skid-clicks of the mouse, one with CTRL. You're done, way ahead of Star and Perfect.

Wordstar5 is a friendly program to learn, as long as you don't mind having clumsy friends. If you don't rearrange your work because you don't expect it to get read, WordStar is the best word-processor around.

Norton Goes North

Norton sent us their latest utilities to review, 4.5 Advanced, and we have been left at the dock again. Norton no longer runs on the 2000. Their marketing guy Steve Koschmann called back, admitting that Disk Doctor, the heart of 4.5, addresses the screen directly. He was apologetic, but I told him it was a wise marketing decision. He's the only marketing guy I've talked to who has an engineering background.

The moral of the story is very clear: Those of you who hope to have any power with the 2000, buy version 4.0, preferably the advanced version at $75 street price, NOW. Within a month or two, you won't find anyone stocking it. Norton HQ will stock it for a year, but bye-bye street discount. A Norton staffer suggests, since the full-page resellers charge half what Norton does directly, you persuade the reseller to special-order it for you at an agreed price. Expect to pay more for this extra service, but nothing approaching retail price.

Norton Utilities is 911, even if you find yourself typing NU/D1. When you need it, you
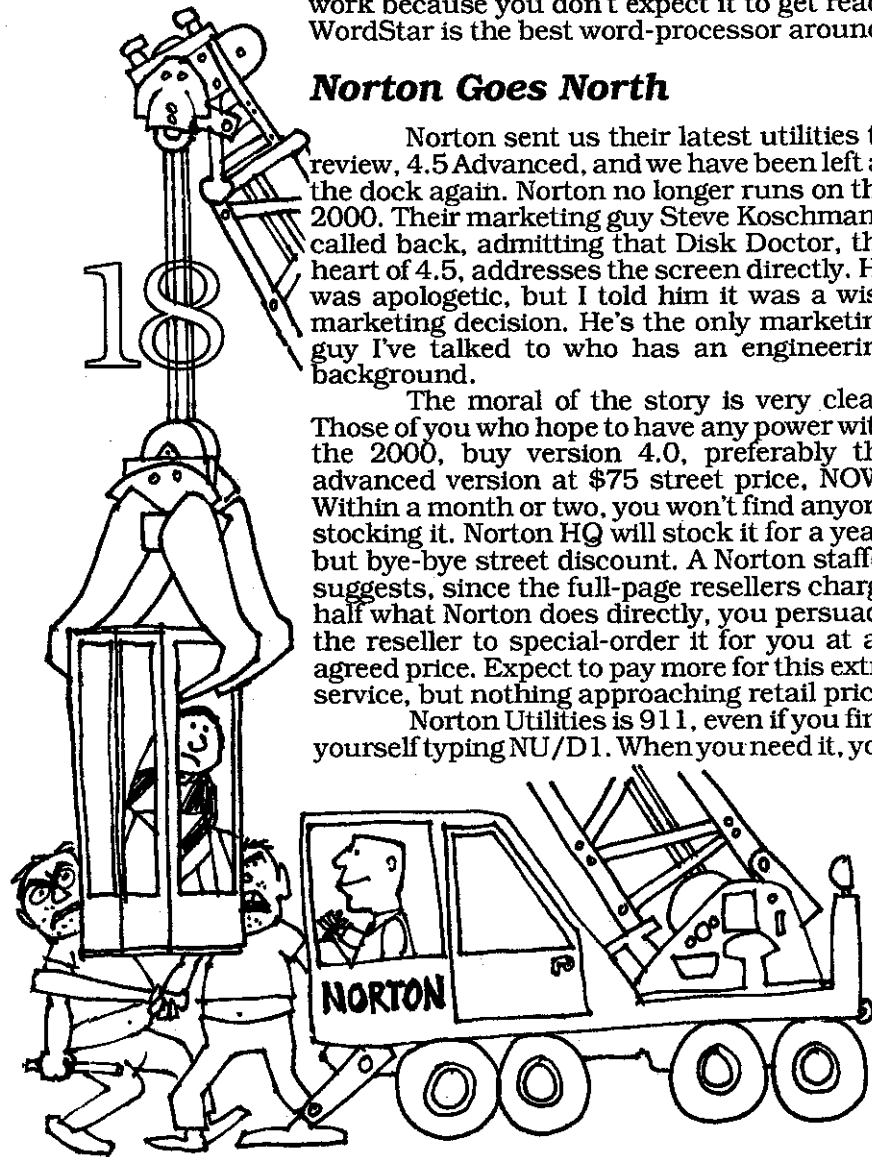
need it bad. It's best to have it around before your next disaster. There are a lot of little utilities floating around including some in the Orphan disks, but no single purchase can give the 2000 the rescue power that Norton can.

The Norton 4.0 package also has toys, but they are less important than its basic NU. In FI (file info), for instance, if you get tired of confusingly short names such as the dense COLPGMWH.BAT, Norton lets you keep a 63-space description with the file name. When you call up a "long" directory by typing FI/L<enter>, Norton gives each file a line of its own like this: "COLPGMWH.BAT PageMaker w/CM1 for doing the Whimper: black type, colored tools".

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. Only U.S.A. checks (preferably), U.S. cash, or US-dollar postal money orders. A foreign check is OK if it came to you with "dollars(U.S.)" and a U.S.A. bank branch address printed on it. "Tandy 2000 Orphans" or "Orphans" is fine on the pay-to line.

You may notice that PCBOSS, SYM-PATCH, SUITCASE, and MOUDIS are missing. They are now in Orphan shareware disks.

COPY-FREE: 123, dBIII and Frame-Work in their 2000 versions enrage members who want to load them onto hard disks and back-up floppies, because they do not copy. Orphans sells versions which do copy and run from any drive you've got. In you have Envision-expanded memory, you can order the E version (such as 123-E), although either version adapts to Tandy or Envision memory.

When you order copy-free 123, dB, or FW, you have to send your original program disk to HQ in a mailer, so Tandy can't get me busted for copyright. I ship it back unchanged, with our better version.

"Windows" disks are confusing. The only version of Microsoft's Windows that can work on the 2000 is 1.0 (through 1.3). It's an IBM-style version with six 360K disks, no longer available in stores or from Microsoft, and Orphans is currently arranging for members willing to dupe it at cost. Send in your name to get on the list of those wanting it, or the list of those willing to dupe it.

The Tandy "Windows" disk modifies Windows 1(only) to run on the 2000. They don't offer it any more, but Orphans does. This disk is not Windows, just a needed accessory.

All the programs now advertised as running on or in Windows, such as Page-maker3 and Excel, do not run in Windows 1 and therefore are beyond our reach. The hard-to-find PageMaker 1 does run in Windows 1, as do the Windows "desk" accessories like Write, Draw, clock, calendar or calculator. And ALL programs that run on the 2000 can be run from Windows as a button-pusher, allowing you to run two or three at a time without losing your place. With 896K RAM (probably only 640K of it seen by Windows), Word 1 and dBaseIII (2000 versions) run together, but the fatter Word 3.1 and dBxl don't fit.

DISKS

Orphan shareware-freeware disks, containing the programs shown on pages 10-11 (centerfold) of Feb89 issue:

UTIL - selected utilities, programs to make the 2000 work more efficiently and give more pleasure while doing so. $10.00.

DIR - selected directory utilities, which list the files in a disk or one of the disk's directories, in a helpful and pleasing way, often permitting the user to select DOS actions to perform during the action of the directory program. $15.00.

TOOL - selected gadgets and devices which do special jobs for special needs, and for fun. $10.00.

123 version 1, $5.01 (see COPY-FREE).
FrameWork 1, $5.02 (see COPY-FREE).
dBaseIII, $5.05, (see COPY-FREE).

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) $20.09.

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.

FLIGHT: Flight Simulator 1, the golden oldie that runs on the 2000. No manual, sorry, but I'll try to add a one-pager to get you up in the air. Remind me in your order: "FLIGHT, one-page doc please!" Great in color, OK on monochrome (you need the graphics board and probably need color chips). $10.39.

BYTE: Creative Byting, an interesting disk on how to make software user-friendly, put out by an apparently out-of-business disk publisher (183K). $5.00.

03: MS-DOS 2.11.03. If you picked up an older DOS disk with your 2000, you should have this latest and last 2000 version. It has half a dozen new utilities and a newer version of Basic. $5.31.

HAMP: The Whimper Hamper, old Whimpers on disk, useful when you're searching for a subject. Also for those who would rather read at the screen. This disk is your personal copy of copyrighted material, so don't even think of loading it onto the wire: I'm tired of cheap modem groupies who want Orphan help for nothing. Mar,(May missing), Aug,Oct,Dec 1987 and Feb,Apr,Jun,Aug, Oct,Dec 1988. Parts of early Whimpers are not in the Hamper. (Any typists? When a volunteer has disked the missing parts, that disk of additions goes free to any Hamper owner writing a request for it.) $40.00.

DOCUMENTS

Back issues: 1988 issues (FAJAOD 88) of the Whimper are $5.00 each. 1987 issues (MrMyAOD 87), out of print, are supplied as zeroxes for $8 (March $4). 1986 issues were 1-page pep-letters with no technical help, and are not available.

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

MAST: Mastering the Tandy 2000, a compressed 28-page zerox of a 100-page out-of-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. compressed to 8. $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. 70 pages compressed to 32, $19.

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 page, $1.00.

VM3: Modifying a Tandy VM-3 to work with the 2000, by MOR, 4 pages zeroxed. $2.00.

TP3: Making Turbo Pascal 3 run on the 2000, from BJK, 1 page, $1.00.

TP3+: The same patch as above, but with more explanation, from JAD, 3 pages, $2.00.

TP4: Using TurboPascal 4 with 2000, from BJK, 4 pages, $2.00.

SAVBAS: Saving a Basic color screen by HEB, 1 page, $1.00.

SOURCE: a Tandy 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 to run on the 2000. 29 pages compressed into 15, $12.00.

HARDWARE

BACK SCREWS: Mandatory mod #16, eight fat black screws (Tandy AHD-2974) for the four back panels of the 2000. See Hardware Help, Feb89. Eliminates many burps and blackouts of the 2000. I'll get as tired of packing these up as I did with mouse batteries, so the first thousand (for 125 machines) is likely to be the last. My guess is that they'll be gone in a month, but if they're gone in a week I'll reorder. Eight dollars from Tandy, $2.00 from Orphans, sets of 8 only. $1.00 for each extra eight: that's $3.00 for 16 and so on.

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Sidewalk Salesmen

A new pushcart, extension cables for the 2000. He wants $20 for each custom cable, which sounds fair — ten for one-at-a-time custom labor and ten for materials, no charge for his research and preparations. Do a 2000 cable yourself, or search the stores and catalogs for it, and you'll be out fine hours plus $15, even if you score. Name any length to 10 feet, an extra dollar per foot over that. Orphan cablemaker Tim Bates is at 313-227-7344, call before 9 p.m. eastern or you'll wake somebody up.

1. VM-1 cable or extension, or CM-1 extension. Specify ends (M, F; round, D-9).
2. Hard drive ribbon-cable pair.
3. Keyboard extension cable.
4. Mouse extension cable.
6. Mouse! He will buy the Tandy 25-1040 mouse, $49.95, and wire it out to a D-9 female plug. This equivalent of the Digi-Mouse will cost you $95, worth it if you have a mouseless mouse board.

Other 2000 cables are available generally or from Tandy: printer and modem cables, data-ribbon for floppies, power cables to floppies and hard drives, and wall-outlet power cords. Note that D-9 "grin" connectors have five "teeth" on top and four on the bottom. In the dark behind a desk, remember that all odd-number sockets on hardware (9-pin, 25-pin, and others) "grin" at you, longest row on top.

Nearly indispensable function-key flipchart, ten 1x11 pages (ivory or white) in a 19-ring plastic edge-binder (brown or blue). Slips in above the F-keys; you write or stick on key functions for your favorite programs. Orphan Jack Doerr, 22407 Bayview Drive, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081. $5.00.

Software, boards and upgrades, send for latest catalog. Orphan boardmaker Dave Nechodom, Envision Designs, 1539 West Pearl St., Pasco, WA 99301. 509-547-1139.

Software and upgrades, send for latest catalog. Orphan programmer Bob Spencer, MicroLink Technology, P.O.Box 2666, Sumter, SC 29151. 800-334-9612.

Flee Market

All items are 2000-specific, work fine, have all original parts and documents, and include shipping to anywhere in 48-state continental USA. Prices may be negotiable.

High prices: Buy with care. "I am fed up," ECM writes, "with all the price-gouging, speculation and other bad actions by members of the Orphans. One fellow was going to sell me a used clock/mouse board for "only" $100 (Tandy's new price today). Another fellow user offered to sell me a graphics board (monochrome) for only $325."

Low prices: There's no harm in your getting the stuff out the door fast, but the guys on the west coast are getting shafted. They see a double-floppy for $75 and leap to the phone. Sold two days ago, the seller replies, to somebody from Maryland. Second problem, low prices get you 100 phone calls, no fun. Price down the middle, not low or high.

We gave this one a wrong phone number last time, my apologies. Double-floppy 2000 $195. Boards: memory 128 $145, memory 256 $195, graphics w/color $145, clock/mouse board 40. Multimate 35, PFS File+Report 25 each, Offix 20, Scripsit 1000/2000 50, — programmer's and tech ref manuals 15 each. Elton at 213-432-4039.

Elton called the wrong-number people to apologize, and they were not about to forgive all the bother they got. I called them, but by then the line was disconnected. Never underestimate Orphan power.

MYRON'S SECOND-HAND SHOP:
Doubleflop 199, doubleflop with VM-1 299, singleflop 15megHD w/8087 and CM-1 749, HD board 129, 128K board 129, 256K board 179, color board 129, mouse board 49, digimouse 35. AutoCad 2.17 349, Framework dBIII 123 or Symphony 99, dBII 59, DRGraph DRDraw or DacEasyAcct 39, VersaCadEntry HomeAcct or MultiMate 29. Less for groups. Myron at 817-649-4436 days, recorder 817-465-5736.

Listen, guys, that's the last time I spend an afternoon rewriting and typing a mountain of software. Myron sent me three solid pages! Condense, hit only highlights, but keep it in 3 lines (240 spaces) or I'll chop or drop it. Fair warning?

Digi-Mouse 25, Tim at 313-227-7344. Two, one per customer.
Double floppy with keyboard, unused but works perfectly, 165. Jim, 614-891-9680.
10-meg hard drive (full height), the unit used in Tandy's 2000HD, perfect condition with whatever goodies were installed by Harold, 714-771-1517. $75.

Windows 1, requires TWIN disk from Souvenir Shop to run on 2000. Still in box, Heath packaging but it's the real IBM version. Needs 512KRAM and graphics, hard drive makes it acceptably fast. $50. Jack at 313-777-1313.

Double floppy 150, VM1 90, DigiMouse 50, memory board 150, floor stand 50, desk stand 15. Books, software, parts. Ed at 619-561-8306.
Double-floppy 512K w/VM1, 575. Double floppy w/color board (no monitor) 325. Parts and software. Paul, 203-744-3053.
OpenAccess and Windows1 (with the TandyDriver) 50 each; Tech Manual, Programmer Manual, Videotex 10 each. Custom fonts disk for DMP2100 20. John, 317-642-3807 after 5 eastern.
10meg hard drive, word and programming software on it. 80. Ray, 504-293-5837, day or evening central time.