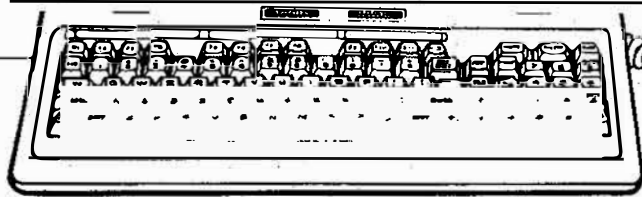


The Tandy 2000 Orphans' WHIMPER



year IV, issue 4: October 1, 1989
© 1989 by Tandy 2000 Orphans
David R., coordinator

Let the Buyer Be Bored: The Best Deal is a Dull Deal

We have almost a member a day drifting off to compatibles. Often, they are buying the wrong machines. The cutting edge will cut a hole in your pocket. Stay away from it. "State of the art" is for suckers. If you have learned anything from your years of low-cost 2000 computing, it is that yesterday's marvel is today's best deal.

When you finally plunge into compatible computing, scout the 8x11 glossy magazines plus Computer Shopper. Pick the "part of the art" that is getting the most play in the ads, the most different models for sale. Today, it is a 386 machine using a 16mhz chip, VGA graphics in either color or mono (you choose: clarity or excitement?). Buy the box bare and install your own hard drive. Another strong contender in value for the money: the crowd of 286 machines with 20mhz chips.

The reason for buying "downtown" is that the prices are much better. Pause and study before you act: you could buy a cheap one that gives you a thousand dollars worth of pain before it works right.

Buy every computer you will ever buy, in the center of the market. Get your loaded 286 when the system (with monitor and hard drive) is \$2000. Get your loaded 386 after it also is down to \$2000 total, and the trendy money-wasters are going broke on 486 machines.

If You Care, Compare

Try for a machine advertised by several distributors at different prices. Stay away from the bandits (Tandy, Compaq, IBM). Watch out for the one-store factories (Dell, for instance). They tend to price higher or be worse than their discounted competition. Buy on the open market, and buy only what does NOT excite you. Then you'll get the best value possible for every dollar.

**Orphans
387 Main
Westport
CT 06880**

**Return
Postage
Guaranteed**

Being New Is Not New

The Whimper is here to help **ALL** members: people who change the hex code of major software every day, and people who are amazed when their keystrokes flash up on that little TV screen.

Our advice will often be badly-written from a beginner's point of view. It will scare him off, rather than giving him an understandable peek into his computing future.

The average Orphan is a guy who bought a dirt-cheap 2000 as his first computer, as many of us bought a dirt-cheap car for our first years on wheels. As with the jalopy, these are years of pain, joy and the

fastest learning of the subject we will ever do.

Keep me serving you properly by writing your questions, even if you think they're dumb. I made all the same mistakes you're making, and I still make them.

Check the 2000 DOS manual and the software manual, before you write for help in the Whimper. That's best for you because Whimper help takes two months to get back to you. By then your answer will help not you, but somebody else coming up.

Haunt the computer sections of bookstores, grabbing whatever \$19.95 door you wish to open.

DOS 3 or 386?

We have everything we need," writes CC2, "for a long time to come. I've just started using DOS 4.01 at the office, and our utilities disks have everything it has, and they run faster. I don't intend to give up my 2000 until there's an 80486 machine for under \$2000. Such a machine will be four times as fast inside (33/8 mhz), but the speed difference will only show in high-performance graphics — not the ASCII I work in. Our 2000 is buying us valuable time (cheap) while the market matures."

Headquarters agrees about the market maturing. Let's not overlook that we, the potential buyers, are also maturing. This positions us with a double advantage later on.

2

The Night Crew

There may be no BBS's that specialize in Tandy 2000 programs except Juge's board in Houston that we raided, but here is HGG's list of five bulletin boards for the 2000.

202-547-2543 (no answer)(Bernie S. Koch), 318-445-7408 (BBS 2000) (no answer), 707-557-1096 (answers with a modem squeal)(MX 2000), 713-980-9671 (busy line twice)(Juge), 916-872-3124 (no answer) (West Coast BBS). All my experimental calls were made about 7:30 p.m. Eastern with an ordinary phone.

What's New at HQ

More Gurus

We have two new Guru Gang members, RCF and LER. Congratulations, guys. I am sending a complete GG list to you, but the other members won't know your address until you drop them a note, or they ask HQ for the latest list.

Guru Gang, we expect great things from you, but work at your own pace. I hope you can stimulate and assist each other in your projects.

Grail Race, Snail Pace

One of our new gurus is calmly Grailing every IBM program he wants to use, and CC2 asks headquarters to light a fire under him. "He will either have to do a pile of them himself, or tell everyone else how he does it."

CC2 has a bad idea and a good idea there. I won't light that fire, because RCF made slow-and-easy his first ground rule. But think about the second idea, RCF. Can you write a guidebook on Grailing IBM programs? It would have to give enough simple stuff to jump-start a member who never used Debug and never programmed. I couldn't get you a big profit for it, but if you need payment, I will price it for a maximum of total sales dollars. (Does \$20 sound right?) How about that plan, RCF?

Do We Index ?

Indexing Whimpers has interested a few members, and as our back-issue file swells, the job gets both harder and more needed. JDE offered to do automatic indexing with Microsoft Word 3.1 and the Hampers. But there are two problems with this, that I wish members could solve for us:

The only Whimpers you can index automatically are in the Hamper. These electronic Whimpers are not identical to the printed ones. Many minor changes were made in Page-Maker.

Another problem is that Word is basically a "hand" indexer. You cruise until you find the words "chip clock." A good indexer would let you drag a mouse-highlight over the two words and hit a single key-code to drop that page number into the index next to those words. But Word makes you go through about ten complicated key-strokes for every word you select to index.

WordPerfect is harder to write with but much better at difficult tricks. Version 5 or even 4.2 will let you make a macro. I predict that you can "block" mark a word (or phrase) and then smack one code to pop it into an index. That still doesn't solve the first problem: Hamper pages are not Whimper pages.

For now, indexing is on hold. I can't ask the heroic RST to produce another job like last year's, twice as big by this time, all by hand. You can do word searches in the Whimper Hamper, preferably with a "disk" searcher that races through all the files (Whimpers) on a Hamper disk. Research is the Hamper's forte.

2000s to Be Buried Alive

Here's a new wrinkle in the saga of the six thousand 2000s that are out there in non-computer-selling Shacks.

ANM stopped by his favorite Shack and found that the manager and the salesman (small place) had been mid-night-massacred. Two new faces were there, and of course not a whisper about where the bodies of the old crew were buried. So ANM had a chance to start fresh:

"Hi. What's new with your 2000?"

"We don't sell a 2000."

"No, the store operating 2000."

"I understand the 2000 is discontinued."

"No, I mean what about the 2000 that was used here to run the store accounting and all that."

"We don't have any 2000. I don't know what you mean."

"I mean the Tandy 2000 that you have over there in that back room, a computer named the Tandy 2000, right there in back, out of sight, over on the right side. Let's go look at it."

"Oh, that 2000. We have orders to box it up and ship it back to Fort Worth."

"When do you have to ship it?"

"What?"

"Ship it. When will you be shipping it out?"

"I don't know anything about it."

"Well, what are you going to do with your 2000?"

"We will be running the store training program on it."

"Which is it? Are you going to send it away or use it for training?"

"I don't know anything about it. Why not ask Tandy?"

"Thanks a lot."

The Texas Two-Step

Thanks for the detailed reporting, ANM. This typical bit of Tandy/Shack conversation reflects late-August policy, quick changes as the Whimper has been predicting. Here's the latest Tandy policy on the store 2000s, shown above:

1. The machines will ship to Fort Worth or hit the local dumpster. A do-it-today instruction from area managers will be the store managers' only clue.

2. Store managers are ordered to deny having or knowing about the store 2000s, and keep them out of sight in non-public parts of the store.

3. When an Orphan firmly states that there is a 2000 on the premises, store personnel must say it will be used to run training software (which does not exist).

4. No information (except the training story) shall be given to any Orphan.

Orphan policy remains the same: Get on good terms with the stereo-Shack store managers in your area. Keep a low profile with no name and no flashy clothes, so managers won't discuss you in their weekly coffee meetings.

Offer \$50 for the whole store 2000 system. Offer separate deals for the CM-1 or the boards in the back. They are HD, RAM, and graphics w/color chips. Nag a little, always in person with your eyes on his, never by phone. Say a deal by the dumpster will remain confidential, and keep your word. Out at the dumpster, an even \$100 for the whole set is fair. Good luck!

If the manager must ship elsewhere, find out where. Find out when. Even find out why if you can. Then write the Whimper the same day and mail it the same day! When I get the news I can get on the phone and start operatives moving. We can score groups, instead of the one you were after. Those we get will become available to you at a low price.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to the WHIMPER, 387 Main Street, Westport, CT 06880. The Whimper (ISSN 1040-0052) is published monthly by the Tandy 2000 Orphans, address above, for \$24 yearly (includes other member benefits). Second-class postage has been paid at Westport, CT.

3

Envision, Rest in Peace

Envision Designs, which was really a guy with a desk and lab bench in a room of his house, is apparently dead. Dave Nechodom, when I called him with two reasonable (if nagging) requests, told me this:

"I've got priorities. I have other things to do. My work takes me all over the western states. What you are asking for is just a low priority, a very low priority."

I wanted him to answer PDS and JC2, who wrote him months ago with solid offers to manufacture the hardware goodies that Envision has given up. And I want him to type (and draw) instructions for those jobs so that members can do them themselves.

I explained once again to Nechodom that letting another guy do the manufacturing could pay Nechodom nicely with very little effort.

For whatever reason or reasons, it seems you aren't going to get the fair-priced big memory and other hardware Envision used to sell. And as for paying Tandy prices for hardware upgrades, don't do it. When things get so bad with your 2000 system that you're tempted to buy retail at Shack, it's compatible time.

But keep haunting local Shacks for dirt-priced 2000 hardware and software they found in back.

He Hears No Echo

We have gotten (and used) several contributions from HS2, for which we are grateful. He sent in another one this month. His letter begins with this comment:

"Dear Unknown: It's very unpleasant to continually have a one-sided conversation, but I'll try one more time."

Others may feel that way, but there is no way one YFL can chat or correspond with the hundreds of people who write in questions and answers every month. The system is that you speak by letter, not phone, which is why I am known as David R.. You receive your reply strictly in the *Whimper*, and not even there if the matter seems to have no interest to 95% of members. Sure, once a week I call a member and ask for more information on some hot tip, but 99% of information letters get only *Whimper* answers. (Membership letters, like "where are my *Whimpers*," do get replies.)

This is the only system of 2000 support that can work, so let's work with it. Your alternative is Tandy support. Write *them* a letter and find out what real loneliness is!

His IOU to Iomega

We have a hard time prying support out of manufacturers. We pushed Iomega with aggravating persistence for over a year before they gave us our 20-meg patch disk. JDE decided to thank them, and you can bet that his letter will get passed all over Iomega:

"I have learned through the Tandy 2000 Orphans that Iomega has taken the trouble to write a device driver for the 2000 which allows full use of the 20+20 Bernoulli Box as its mass storage device.

"Please convey my appreciation to all of the good people in your company who may have participated in the project.

"Although virtually abandoned by Tandy, the 2000 is a good computer for professional use within the limited range of the old software packages, which had to be written or adapted for its peculiar but superior video display. I have several computers at home equipped with the necessary interface boards. If and when we can afford to make the purchase, we will be looking to buy additional Bernoulli Boxes.

"Your work makes it possible for us to stay with our computers and yet have the advantage of the best possible data storage system."

Magnificent letter, JDE. There's a man who knows the right moves.

Hardware Help

Digging into DOS 3.2

Orphans is now distributing CACHE from Tandy's version of DOS 3.2, but we have a report from JDE that some other parts of 3.2 run on the 2000. I might have overlooked them. Those that run are: CACHE, DC (disk compress), and DISKOPT (unify files on hard drive). Also DISKTYPE (shows disk drive capacity), LABEL (change title, volume label, of a drive), and LF (line feed suppression for a printer). Finally, RCRYPT (put data in code), SHIPTRAK (park hard drive heads) and TREE (display all directories). We already have all of this on the first three shareware disks, and a heckuva lot more, with two exceptions.

First is a disk optimizer. You know in the movies, when the hero comes home and finds that his place has been ransacked by the bad guys? Drawers emptied on the floor, books cut apart, pictures ripped off the walls? Your hard drive looks like that right now. The *Whimper* has reviewed and recommended a bigger optimizer, *FastTrax* (July, p.12, \$50 retail), which does all the usual tricks and quite a bit more that even its competition neglects.

Another thing we left off the shareware disks is a disk compressor, and again we have reviewed favorably a heavy-weight program that does it beautifully, *NewSpace* (March, p.13, \$90). Whether you use the commercial versions or equivalents lifted off DOS 3.2, back up your hard drive before the first few times you run programs that change it.

4

Screw Thyself

Orphans has stopped sending out sets of 8 back-screws for the four slide-trays in back of the 2000 (mod #16). Tandy still sells them for a buck a screw. But JDE points out that any big hardware store will sell the same thing, pan-head (birthday-cake shape on top) sheet-metal (no taper except at the end, threads all the way up, hard temper) screws in size #12. The length, 3/8" or 1/2". Tandy chose phillips head and painted them black.

After you move a dozen boards in and out, you have worn-out screw holes. Change to a #14 screw for only the widened holes, aim straight, and force it in.

You've Got a Floppy Problem

Tandy is tightening that rope around your neck. For years the price of our quad floppies has been dropping, both market price and the double price that Tandy charges for all its hardware. But now that price has gone back up! In computers, that's an amazing event.

Our quad floppies from Tandy (26-410) have come slowly down from \$80 for ten in the 1984 catalog. They were \$50 in 1985, then \$40 and \$35 in the two 1986 catalogs, \$25 in 1987, and \$20 in the 1988 and 1989 catalogs. But hello! Tandy has now raised the price back to \$25. You now feel that legendary Tandy support, given with the flying toe of a Texas cowboy boot.

5

You've Got a Floppy Solution

Forget the two suppliers of quad floppies we named in the July Whimper. I tried both and didn't like them. McGiga was demanding a check payment (or COD, which is check), which violates mail-buying rule #1: Always use a credit card, which you can bounce up to 120 days later; you only have a day or two to bounce a check.

ComputerGear was reasonable about the credit card and took an order: in stock, out the next day. And after a month of no delivery, I called and told the same nice guy to cancel the order. If you have better luck, no problem.

There are three other places:

If you insist on Tandy 26-410s, which like all Tandy stuff is overpriced, call MaryMac at 1-800-231-3680. At least they get the price down from \$24.95 a box (10 disks) to \$18.70. Make that 17.50 if you order a carton of ten boxes. There's a twice-yearly Tandy floppy sale on, so until November it's \$14.95, \$13.95 in cartons of ten boxes. All prices include shipping, but add 2.5% for credit card. Their Richard Sharpe gave the prices. Tandy ten-packs come in beige plastic boxes, which look nice but are klunky to use for filing.

For limited stock but quick service at a fair price, try Lyben in Michigan, 313-589-3440. I was able to order and quickly get BASF and Dysan quads at \$12.50, reduced to \$10.63 by the 15% cut they have until October 31. They run these cuts in their catalogs about half the time.

As with all phone and mail orders, don't order anything unless they say it's in THEIR ware-

house (not "the" warehouse) right now, and use a credit card. Forget that for MaryMac, which gets orders from Tandy fast and is trustworthy enough for checks.

You will find the best quad-floppy stock I know of at Richard Young in Florida, 1-800-828-9949. Ask them to mail a catalog. They have seven brands of quads in their local stockroom ready to ship, an amazing stock level.

Their Connecticut guy wheeled and dealt me down to prices even better than catalog for 100 disks at a time. Their minimum is \$50, and there is a handling charge on orders under \$100. Here's the list: Maxell#1580, 86 \$17. That 86 is the number of ten-disk boxes on the shelf in back.

BASF#54310 0 (all out) \$11;
Nashua #922 5300 6 \$8.75;
3M #01240 57 \$17.50;
Memorex#5420 126 \$9.75;
Dysan#802067 47 \$11.75;
Verbatim#18239 27 \$17;
Precision#814233 130 \$8.50.
They also stock, sometimes, an

expensive Fujii, a cheap Data-Tech and a mid-price Xidex. UPS delivery for me was nine days after I called.

I called in an order September 12, they gave it to UPS the 18th (Monday), and I got it the 21st.

If the switchboard lady asks where you're from, say Connecticut so she'll give you Tony Toriello. Say you're an Orphan (he pays me nothing), to get those prices.

If all your 2000s have the same version floppy drive, remember that you can score much cheaper disks, generic DD's for the 4853-112U or generic HD's if you have the 4853. See previous Whimpers.

The best deals tend to come from people who send *you* catalogs. People you find in Computer Shopper have low prices but can be good or bad. That's *you* if you subscribe to computer magazines and buy mail-order things. These guys sell lists to each other, about a buck a name.

When you walk in a Tandy store, be aware that you'll be paying the highest prices in the world for hardware. Tandy sells to only two customers. First is the never-before computer buyer, who doesn't know he's paying 200% of market (150% during sales). Second is the "duckling" customer, bought his first computer there and keeps coming back. A duckling thinks the first thing it sees moving after it hatches, is its mother. It follows that "mother" from then on, even if it's a snapping turtle.

An example of Tandy doubling:

**Duck
Is
Short
for
Dumb
Cluck**

Tandy sells the consumables for its laser printer for \$28 (toner) and \$100 (waste toner bin). They get \$200 for the light-sensitive green roller that attracts toner dust where the laser lit it (includes a toner bin).

By comparison we find these prices at a distributor (Richard Young, 800-828-9949). For IBM, they get \$27, \$94 and \$188. The products and boxing are identical, just a different company name on the box. Ricoh (which makes the printer) is \$18, \$69 and \$149. Okidata sells for \$14, \$45 and \$103. You'll get better prices for quantity.

Pie in the Sky

So you want a mouse that sticks its tail in the serial port, RDP? So do others who can't find a mouse board. But no one has written a mouse driver that uses the serial port of the 2000, and probably no one ever will. It's 100 hours of work by an expert with no pay and no sure success. Would you blow \$5000 worth of time when you can get a clone and mouse for \$500?

I'm tired of members asking me to get these huge jobs done for nothing. Next such suggestion, please include your check for \$5000, and I'll make the calls.

It's Fun to Hear We Helped

"The motherboard modification list really saved my system!" reports RDP. "One of my 2000s was completely unreliable. Two motherboard mods later — both having to do with parity detection — and everything runs fine. Similarly, the diagnostic disk allowed me to discover a flaky board, solving months of frustrating problems."

Trouble in the Fast Lane

We have a negative report on FastTrax. It worked fine for him (initials lost) three or four times, but then he began losing data and getting sector errors. FastTrax worked fine once for me, but you can be sure I'll be backed up for its next few runs.

Said member also ordered the Mods document, "because I'm tired of the power supply rebooting at inconvenient moments." The Whimper suggests that those files may have been messed up by interruptions of writing to them, instead of by FastTrax.

There is a relatively new graphics language called GIF. RCM has kindly sent a disk of astronomical pictures to HQ for me to check. This disk is the first one which rolled color photos out on the CM-1; all the others that have come in do monochrome (even on CM-1). He wants to know who can enable him to print the GIF files out on his DMP 430. While we're at it, why not go for color on the CGP-220 as well? Send your solution(s) to RCM, 11522 Dolan St., Garden Grove, CA 92641, with copy to the Whimper, please.

RDP asks for "the Windows 1 FontWare installation disk, I assume you have one." There is no such animal, RDP. BitStream wasn't even thought of when Windows 1 and the Tandy 2000 came out.

6

Tweaking Grail

New members should know that we of the 2000 seek what we call our Holy Grail, a disk that will convert IBM software and/or the 2000 so they will work together, making the 2000 "compatible." Last May's Whimper announced a disk that converts the 2000 screen to showing words sent to it by IBM-style software. It works, as we say elsewhere in this issue. But it only works for ten minutes, and then turns itself (and your 2000) off.

The text grail program from RDB won't do anything unless your config.sys file has ANSL.SYS in it. The text grail apparently uses the paintbrush of ANSI to create its screen pictures of text.

Having less than 768K of memory (meaning a 512K memory board) is a "fatal error" according to a screen message in the program. You don't really need all that extra memory. RDB decided to limit his patch to high-memory machines. I

On page 230 of the 2000 Programmer's Reference (Tandybook 26-5403), they say that interrupts 19 or 49 (hex numbers that mean 25 or 73)

will reboot the system. Since RDB is doing this after the program runs ten minutes, I looked through the guts of the program for a 19 or a 49. Finding 19's at addresses 0343, 03b2 and 041C, I tried changing a copy of PC_MDA.COM to other numbers at that address. There was some change: the program quit rebooting, but still always failed in some way (an "interrupt" happened) when the ten minutes was up. Is all that a clue for one of you programmers?

Who among you can defuse RDB's bomb so it keeps in control? A double refund on your MAY or MAYO disk (where RDB's program is) to the first three winners. This crippled Grail may be RDB's last hurrah, so let's uncripple it.

The mysterious RDB has dropped out of sight, sending no progress reports to headquarters for six months. The grapevine says he's still trying to create new ROM chips for us. Use caution, RDB: If your new hardware starts rejecting those tailored 2000 programs we all use, it won't sell. It has to have a keyboard switch to move between 2000 and IBM modes.

Subway Squish on C:

"I've tried the instructions in the file ALLO4K.TXT (Orphan Utilities disk), and they work," RDP writes. "But here's the sneaky part." ALLO4K gives you different opportunities on different-size drives.

On the old Tandy 10-meg fat boys, you can (only) change down to a 4,000-byte cluster (minimum file size). On a C: drive that's 17 to 32 megs, you can't get 4K clusters, and have to be satisfied with 8K. That's because the 2000 hard-

ware won't talk with more than 4096 clusters on a C: drive.

This limitation becomes a special gift if your C: drive is partitioned down to a "logical" C: of 8 megs or less: you can specify 2K clusters! RDP even uses a 4meg C: that's broken up into 1K clusters. This Whimper article is that long. 1K is perfect for packing four thousand short files into only 4 megs (they would use 32 megs on an ordinary drive). The ALLO4K routine should be called ALLO1,2,4K.

Good Stuff Is Not Worth Fort Worth's Money

SAA's power supply kept rebooting the machine, so he gave it to his local Shack for repair. As can happen in the best families, they screwed up the repair first time around, wrecking a floppy drive without curing the power supply. When he nagged the regional manager they gave him the "power supply mod" and a new floppy drive. SAA asks us what's so bad about the 2000 power supply.

The 2000 power supply was always a little bad, with a habit of rebooting for no apparent reason. It also blew fuses on some machines, even after years of good operation. Tandy could have avoided all this hassle by buying a Japanese 150-watt supply. But they apparently preferred to grab a 95-watt deal from some sinking freighter off Malaysia. Tandy knows how to save money.

The fuse-blowing turned out to be simple. The wires from the power and reset switches nestle right against a hot heat sink as soon as they come into the 2000. A heat sink is a stack of metal plates to get something cool in a hurry, like a car radiator or a baseboard

heater. The hot metal burns through the 2000's 120V power lines near the switch, and shorts them. Bye-bye fuse. The solution (mod #18) is to put in a spacer or collar so the wires won't touch the heat sink.

Fuses also blow for another reason. The starting surge of a loaded 2000 is more than the 4 amp fuse can take. They shipped the 2000 with the wrong fuse; it needs to be replaced (mod #15) with a 4 amp "slow blow" fuse that will tolerate a split second of high current.

That heat sink also likes to rub against the wires from the reboot switch, which are sometimes wrapped in a metal braid sock. The braid grounds the heat sink, which makes the computer appear dead. The metal braid should be wrapped in tape and bent away from the heat sink. That's mod #11.

But the big guy is mod #42. The power supply has to put out more juice when there are boards in back and hard drives in the middle. This weakens the 5- and 12-volt power coming to the working 2000 from the power supply box. When those voltages drop to

maybe 4 and 10, the 2000 reboots itself in a panic. The old 30-watt hard drive aggravated this. (Modern drives are less than 10 watts.) Tandy had used a couple of variable pots (known to most people as volume controls) in the power supply, so the shopman could twiddle the pots up to keep voltage right with the new board(s).

The trouble was that they also got cheap pots (potentiometers), which wobbled up and down in voltage during use. That's the Tandy motto: Buy cheap, live cheap. Rebooting was a constant problem in the 1984-5-6 2000's — including some that Tandy unloaded in 1988.

The solution Tandy finally tried (after 3 years) was to put a set of (three) resistors in there. The shopman chooses his resistor sizes based on what his voltmeter shows on the outgoing wires, with the computer running and "ALL of the customer's expansion boards installed."

Tandy's M label before your serial number doesn't mean you got all the mods. You got all the mods already set up when your machine was boxed — maybe.

7

We Just Can't Please Iomega

You can forget an Orphan project to supply cheap (under \$100) slideboards to run 20-meg and 32-meg Iomega cartridges in your 2000. Iomega has told us to stuff it. Their reason: They are irritated at me for the polite nagging I did monthly during their 18-month creation of the 20-meg driver disk.

Iomega's Rick Johnson was the spirit behind the stalling, and he no doubt reflects the tone of higher management there. Whenever I talked to him, he danced along the ragged edge of rudeness. He seemed to want me to tell him to forget it.

When I asked him by phone to make good his year-old promise to let Orphans make the boards, he confessed to me that "the frustration level still runs high here" over the gentle, persistent way I milked the disk out of him. Three days later Johnson's letter arrived: "We

will not be able to participate in the development ... Brad spent a great deal of engineering time and resource ... This is a tremendous level of support to a discontinued system."

Orphans were not asking for more work from Iomega, only a floppy copy of the programming code hidden inside the two obsolete "PAL" chips on the cartridge board. Johnson has all along told us we should do the manufacturing if the quantity were less than 500. I believe people. Although no one will ever again manufacture those two obsolete chips; although each set earns Iomega another \$500 profit; Johnson's letter said: "It is against Iomega policy to distribute source code to any third-party manufacturers, we can not make an exception in this case."

Of course I never give up. I have asked Johnson to

manufacture us 25 pairs of PALs at low or no cost. He replied with his usual negative snarl that stops short of a NO.

So you have only about a 5% chance of connecting the marvelous Iomega idea to your cherished 2000s.

Keep an eye out for the rare DCS (disk cartridge system) board. It's part 26-5147, which popped into the 1987 catalog for a brief shining moment, and vanished. It was not in the 1987 "new updated edition" catalog two months later. It retailed for \$350. Iomega sold 1000 to Tandy, but Tandy apparently trashed most of them. National Parts (800-442-2425), National Parts Outlet (817-870-5709) and the Terminal Road Outlet (817-624-1196) have seen no 2000 DCS boards for years. As we said in September, these outlets haven't seen much else of ours recently, either.

Software Support

JDE tried "every which way I could" to make AutoCAD 9 run on the 2000, but no success. I did get a tip from inside AutoDesk that they wrote a Tandy 2000 driver for 9. Tandy was reportedly so rotten (a common situation, manufacturers tell me) that AutoDesk dumped it. Possibly the driver was not finished when the falling-out came; we'll never find out. My source said he thinks the big gap between 2 and 9 was selected to distance AutoCAD from the 2000, its first love. Anyway, the 2.xx versions are plenty powerful enough.

When you install CACHE, some program that was running before may say "insufficient memory" and refuse to work. WordPerfect did this to RHA's 256K 2000, but not to his 123 or VersaLedgerII. His solution: instead of loading CACHE first thing in his autoexec.bat, he puts it in batch files that load his 123 and so on. Of course those batch files finish up with a line that unloads CACHE.

Computers are stupid when the software is telling them stupid things. Microsoft Word gets a dumbness attack when you try to save a file to a disk that has a write tag stuck on it. Instead of saying "take the sticky tag off the disk, dopey," Word says, "Type Y to retry access to MW1234.TMP." So you sneak into DOS and get a directory list of the working disk, and there isn't any such file. I've clacked keys for ten minutes and quit, losing work, because of this confusion.

You have to understand how the software feels. It's stuck inside a black domino called a memory chip. With no eyes or ears, it hasn't the faintest idea that there's a sticky tab over there on a floppy, getting in the way. If you hear your software whining about ERROR THIS and FAILURE THAT, do a little detective work to help the poor guy out. In this case, Sherlock, you pull out the disk and look at it. Oops, there's a tab stuck on the notch. Problem solved.

RDW needs a working SnapDay. Why not a chip clock?

Graphics can be converted among Windows (.MSP files in Paint), PrintMaster and Printshop. DWC has a utility for the job. Who wants it? (As usual, fewer than 5 get his address/phone; more than 5 cause Whimper availability.)

"We have concluded that the DOS backup/restore programs do not work reliably, after some experimentation." This comes from new applicant JH. He asks "which hard drive backup program(s) your members have found to work on the 2000."

This one is up to you guys. Here at headquarters, all the daily backups are full-size, in case a hard drive dies and makes RESTORE impossible (except on a very similar drive).

We have tried several big backupppers, which crashed on the 2000. Who knows?

8

I Hit ENTER and Yea, I

In actual use, our time-limited text grail opens up about one-third of the incompatible programs that manufacturers send to headquarters. These are the ones that are only calling the IBM screen, rather than other IBM gadgets like printer sockets and the keyboard. The same programs bomb without the text grail disk. It's truly delightful to see a program flash onto the screen, when it was dead-black a minute earlier.

PC-Index 1.1, for instance, died at birth on the 2000 screen; but RDB's disk lit it up. The RDB disk works for 10 minutes, but Index roars through an entire Whimper, indexing every word, in a minute. After the Grail is home in bed after its ten-minute workout, you can roll the index through a word-processor and snap out the useless words like yesterday, casserole and so on.

Members have often said that big programs will run on the 2000, but only after "you install them on an IBM." They mean you stick the program disk (the one with the huge .EXE or .COM file) into a borrowed compatible and type INSTALL or some word

Fast Getaway from Basic

In September we asked who could enable members to back out of a Basic game (or program) without the irritating chore of hitting CTRL/BREAK and then typing SYSTEM and hitting <enter>.

ELC's answer came after press time, so we report it without trying it. Using Debug or Norton or whatever, put sector 126 of BASIC.EXE up on your screen. Halfway down on the left half of the screen, you will find these hex pairs in lines 9-12 and columns 1-3. A group of 4 digits and a group of 14 digits (underlined> have been changed, as you should also change them. The first group gives F11 the power to end a Basic game, as if it were <break> <enter>. The group of 14 acts as SYSTEM <enter>.

```
4B455920 00000000 00000000
2C302C30 0D000000 030D0000
53595354 454D0D00 00000000
52C74F80 52C74F80 E400BC3A
```

If you are weak in debug, now is a rewarding time to get some exercise in it. But for us guys who know nothing and don't have time to learn, who can lay the patch out for us in exact keystrokes? I think using PATCH is the best bet.



like that that you find next to an .EXE extension in the directory. You then get this series of questions about what kind of computer and screen you're using. Answer with lies — a 2000, CM-1, whatever you have that resembles the items on the list you see. Then the installation program says "Thanks, your installation is complete." You take the disk to your 2000 and egad, it runs.

The text grail saves you the trip. ProDesign II, famous for IBM installation, installs nicely on the 2000, as long as you finish up within ten minutes. I was done in three.

We can at least SEE the IBM world on our screens. No longer must Orphans type with perfect accuracy and great courage to a black screen. Our "video cripples" can now perform normally. The 2000 is a bit more compatible. Thanks, RDB.

Saving What You Never Could

Preserving PageMaker

PageMaker 1 operates out of Windows 1 on the 2000. It's nice, a fun way to make a good Whimper. It's hard to edit text in PageMaker, so I try to get the editing done in Word. Still, some corrections and lots of headlines are done in PageMaker. And guess what? You can't save text out of PageMaker!

You can save a publication in a .PUB file, but that doesn't count. It's a huge file that seems to have no words. So if you want an ASCII (letters and numbers) record of what you published, you're going to have to hang the silly publication on your overhead clip and retype it all into the 2000.

Little Guy for Delicate Job

Now we have a way to save, and Whimper IV-3 used it. You load up your Windows (not the backpack Windows that PageMaker comes with), your PageMaker, and your publication. Then you load in Windows Write, by double-clicking it on the list that shows in the "executive" screen. Write is a little putt-putt word-processor that came with the regular Windows 1 package.

Write can "paste" (import) anything that's in a Windows holding area called the clipboard. And of course PageMaker, running as a child of Windows, can "copy" its work into the clipboard. That's the route to a plain ASCII save of a PageMaker publication.

After starting the publication, I dragged the executive icon to the bottom of the publication window and let the button up. Its list pushed half way up the screen.

The 2000 kept crashing when I called WRITE. I still haven't cured the trouble, but I was able to click-load a copy of WRITE.EXE (with the required WRITE.PIF by it) that I put over in drive A:

When I double-clicked the WRITE in A: it popped into the screen, taking a bottom third. PageMaker and Executive then had the other thirds. Arrowing up into Executive, I pulled down its left corner box and clicked ICON. PageMaker and Write then expanded to half a screen each.

I "selected" (highlighted with the text

tool) the first chunk of Whimper IV-3, which happened to be the date block. The highlighting refused to go further on the front page, because the date block is a separate "story." Then I moved the arrow to the EDIT menu and selected COPY. That put a copy of the date block on the "clipboard" of Windows, no longer in PageMaker. That's not the same as the broad PageMaker cutting table: I looked and it wasn't there.

Then I arrowed down into the Write half of the screen and pulled down its EDIT menu. Since the Write document was still a blank, all the EDIT options were grayed out except PASTE, which I clicked. Suddenly, the old Whimper date block appeared onscreen in Write. It was in "typewriter" type instead of the proportional typeface it had in PageMaker. I was, like the firefly who backed into the candle, de-lighted, no end.

I kept carrying loads across. I kept zooming in, because small stories and headlines have a way of slipping into the cracks without being moved. Write gets nasty after a page and a half, refusing to deal with any more. So I save one Whimper page at a time, labeling each save whim.one, whim.two etc.

Then I dropped out of Windows into DOS and gave DOS a long command: COPY IV-3.ONE+IV-3.TWO+(and so on)+IV-3.TWE IV-3.TXT. That made a final-draft Whimper in ASCII.

As is, this file shows poorly in BROW and TYPE, although it loads nicely into any word processor. Some word processors (like our FrameWork) will do a save in "text" or "DOS" format, which has a carriage return every 70 strokes without dividing words. So it reads nicely in TYPE or BROW.

You non-PageMaker-users can skim the above as an example of how programs and DOS can be twisted and tweaked to give us unexpected benefits.

Rescuing PFS Write

DAC asks how he can save a PFS Write document in ASCII. CJR sends in the answer (thanks!), which demonstrates one of the following:

1. If you pay \$100 for a program and use it without reading much of the manual, you're getting \$10 in results.

2. If you steal a program and don't read the manual because you don't have it, you're getting \$10 worth of results and paying over \$10 in guilt feelings and groping for the handles.

All DAC does is send a zerox from the manual. First, go into DEFINE PAGE and set all margins zero (but left=1). The final step is a widely-used trick:

Tell a Lie

This last part is valuable in many programs at panic time, when they refuse to save your hours of work. You enter the program's print controls and select a printer. And exactly what printer? B:\ARTICLE.TXT, how's that for a printer? So the dumb program sends all those nice letters to a disk file disguised as a printer. Your work is home, safe in bed!

Unprotecting the PFS Series

We have a way to unprotect all the PFS series programs now, developed by the kind and accomplished LER. He has only Write, File and Report, but he believes his solution to those three will apply to the other PFS programs.

Any members with other PFS programs that they don't use now, please send disks and manuals to headquarters labeled "for LER", for his testing and maybe compensation. Here is the LER report:

For programmers only, here is what I'm doing to the disk: Each program does an INT 13 sector verification test. An original PFS disk gives the computer different data and different flags, from what a copied disk does. After the INT 13 is completed, the disk checks the flags and (if sector verification comes out right) jumps to the working part of the program.

My scheme replaces this conditional jump with an unconditional one. Many a program will crash if a mechanic changes the number of bytes in it, but the changed PFS jump is the same size, so only the use of DEBUG is needed to make the alteration.

Make a copy of your PFS disk. (Never alter the store copy of any software! It's dangerous in many ways.) The copy, of course, will not be runnable until we work a little magic on its guts.

Put the copied PFS in a floppy drive and type DIR (or a shareware directory if you prefer it). Find the .EXE file and write down its size in bytes. Type REN B:FILENAME.EXE FILENAME.BIN<enter>.

[This is because debug is afraid to disturb program files, but will play with others. The .BIN means "binary," a reminder to you that the file is just symbols and squiggles if printed out, not words. —ed.]

Down Into the Cave

Type DEBUG FILENAME .BIN<enter>. Type R<enter> to see PFS's "registers." You should see IP:0100. The BX and CX registers show the size of the file FILENAME.BIN, which should

be the same as the size you copied from the directory.

Now we search for any occurrence of an INT 13 command, by typing S O 1F00 CD 13<enter>. That's a letter O after the S, and two zeros after F.

Debug now shows you where the INT 13 is hiding, a twin number like 0AB7:39F3 as an example we'll use. The two parts are called segment:offset (which is like street:number). Write down the offset (last part).

Type R IP<enter>. This says, put the next number into the IP (interrupt processing) register.

Type that offset you scribbled, 39F3<enter>. Now the IP register has the 39F3 in it, instead of the 0100 you found earlier. Type R <enter> and see.

Going In

Now you reach in and do the surgery, changing "get to work if INT 13 is okay." to "get to work whether INT 13 is okay or not."

Type U 39F3<enter>. The U stands for unassemble. Programs are originally written in phrases like "go down the hall," but they are "assembled" into much shorter (therefore faster) groups of hex digits. We have just pulled the INT 13 command, and several that come after it, out of hex code and into the abbreviations the programmer wrote.

The screen replies with a short list of commands, one per line. Each line gives the location first, starting with 0AB7:39F3. Next come an even number of hex digits, the assembled command as the computer remembers it. If there are six digits that's three hex pairs.

(The first pair is at 39F3, and the other two are at 39F4 and 39F5.) Finally, the line shows the programmer's abbreviation in our deepest language, a tick away from the hex code that the 2000 reads.

The second line is the one we will fix. It starts with a segment:offset like 0AB7:39F6. Write down its offset. Then read the command at the right, which should be JNB, space, and another offset which we'll call 5AA3.

Type A 39F6 <enter>. The A stands for assemble, meaning change the next thing you type into hex code and put it in there at 39F6.

Now you type a jump, JMP 5AA3 <enter>. You have replaced JNB (jump if everything is okay) to JMP (jump). Your PFS program will, hereafter, jump into its work without complaining about some misplaced blip on your copied disk.

The debug routine is waiting to assemble the next instruction you type into the third line of code, but you're all done assembling for today. Hit <enter> again to get out of the assembling process.

The change you made is only in the PFS program the computer has memorized from disk. You can write the changed program to the disk by typing W <enter>. Finally, quit debug with Q <enter>. Out at the DOS prompt, you have an unusable .BIN file, which you change back to a PFS tool by typing REN B : F I L E N A M E . B I N FILENAME.EXE <enter>.

The resulting PFS file will run from drive A: [and I suppose other drives — ed.]. It can be copied now, and its copies will run just as well.

Three New Disks

Many thanks and a big cheer to members who send public programs they collected — and stuff they wrote themselves. You are very patient about the months it takes me to get them out to members. You're also very polite about the stuff that doesn't go out at all, because I don't think it's good enough or general enough.

This month I have loaded some long-held items into two new Orphan disks, Mayo and Big Guys. Here is what they hold for you:

The Big Guys Disk

The Big Guys disk has no "big" power, but is broken into several big directories. Some disks are unseparated miscellany, but this one fell into several big slices.

The files in one directory are from Orphan JMDY. They range from technical to easy, but all are helpful. The ASK and CHECK routines enable you to have your 2000 stop in the middle of a batch file, even your start-up autoexec.bat, and ask you a question.

The usual choice is yes or no, you want to do a certain routine or not. But it can get into a bunch of possible answers, which is a menu. One keystroke will let you branch the batch file to one of many choosable parts; and if you like to stay in the menu, that part can have a last line which pops you back on the menu for another choice. Of course escaping to DOS should be one of the choices you offer.

Giving yourself choices in a batch file is called "setting the error level". This is an extreme example of language invented by professionals to make real people feel unwelcome. The smoke is to hide the embarrassing simplicity of an idea. What you're really doing is just picking a number, like 1 for no and 0 for yes. Once the silly computer knows what you've picked (you type it), the action starts down the road you chose.

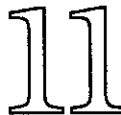
REPEATS does almost the same thing as FINDDUPE in the main directory. It searches through a whole "drive" like C:. It gives you a list of every file name which is duplicated on C:, with size, date and location. This saves you from tragedy later, when cross-copying STORY.TXT onto another STORY.TXT can wipe out a finished novel by pasting a two-line joke over it.

RED is a nifty cross-copying routine that doesn't even copy! You tell it to move FILE.NAM from the WORDS directory of drive C: to its OLDSTUFF directory. Rather than

copying the file and deleting the old one, the lazy (and brilliant) RED REDirects FILE.NAM by opening the glass front on both directory boards. RED then lists FILE.NAM in the OLDSTUFF directory, and pulls the same listing out of the WORDS directory. Dumb DOS would do all the copying instead.

The popular but costly SIDEWAYS uses an ordinary dot printer to roll out very wide printouts. It's especially handy with spreadsheets, and fun with anything. 2000 users have long wanted a Public Domain SideWays(PDSW). PDSW will print up to 48 lines the long way on a sheet of paper, and the next sheet, and the next... If you have continuous-feed paper, it will roll out up to ten pages (1000 letters or numbers or spaces per line) in a single "page" of room-width printing.

FINDDUPE does what JMDY's REPEAT does. The printouts look different, but the information coming out is the same. REPEAT lays it out with white space and a pleasing design; FINDDUPE compresses it to one line per file and a blank line between each pair (trio) of duplicates. FINDDUPE has 35K and little REPEATS is 1K. I can't explain it. Maybe FINDDUPE does things that I didn't find out about: eliminate or compare or whatever. It does put its list into a file you name. Thanks, DWK.



The QuickBasic group of four files is Orphan DEB's way of making IBM-style QuickBasic run on the 2000. We had a way to run already-written programs on the 2000, but this routine changes QuickBasic so you can do its programming on the 2000.

The files give the author's name and how to contact him. Please write a report to the Orphans on your success with this patching procedure. DEB must know something. He used to do Envision Designs software.

Of course you have to get the QuickBasic package, and run DEB's patch safely on a working copy of it.

TODAY starts out the same as the Today we have on the Toolbag disk, but you'll no-

tice that its size is much greater here. The reason is that after giving the time, day and greeting we are used to, it goes on. It lists birthdays of famous people that were today, and then famous events that happened on this day of the year. You can also type TODAY 07/18 if you want to find out who, beside YFL, was born on July 18. Try your own birthday. You've got a whole year in storage, plus a cheery greeting for your morning start-up. We owe this expanded version to the collecting ability of Orphan DLR, who also gave us Tutor (below), Origami and Muzak.

TUTOR is what you must know before you go any farther in computing. It's a good job. Try to ignore the icky title page, the only dumb part. It will take you an hour if you've been computing a month, and fifteen minutes if you've been computing for a year. If you're a five-year veteran, you might know everything it has, but don't count on it. If you type READ, a batch file will trot you through four pages of copyrights and cautions, fairly dull. Try typing TUTOR to get some meat to chew on. If TUTOR bombs on your machine, read TINSTALL.DOC and then run TINSTALL. TUTOR ran just fine without modification on the headquarters VM-1.

This is typed September 21; the first copy of this 3/4-full disk won't go to an Orphan for another month. The master disk is now only 3/4-full. By the time your disk is sent out, there may be more goodies on it that aren't listed here.

The Abe Disk

A varied bag of excellent games and utilities was sent by SAA(braham=Abe):

ED-WIN is a powerful text EDitor with Windows, best suited for writing programs, not prose. It may do much that the commercial VEdit (discussed this issue) does. Program writing is full of numbers, odd abbreviations, and significant spaces. EDWIN has windows and marking tools for moving code around. Programmers often have to make "global" changes, like removing NO from NOGOTO in a hundred places. The story-writer programs can do all this, but not with the ac-

curacy and speed a programmer needs. It's a big program.

For those who like a complicated game, EMPIRE pits you against the computer. You have lots of rules and weapons. The struggle is both military and political, strategic (the big plan) and tactical (attack, shoot, retreat). The screen is mostly words, but positions show up as x's and so on. I didn't try it; it's for those with hours to kill (and empires to build).

FILER shows two directories in side-by-side windows. Be sure to call the monochrome mode with F32 M <enter> if you're on VM-1, or it won't work quite right. The advanced features in this program has are (1) it will roll out the text of any file, in either ASCII (letters, numbers, and symbols) or in hex digits (with ASCII squeezed in at the right). (2) It will protect a file, hide it, or the reverse of these. These read-only and hidden "attributes" are the ones most often needed for your wanderings through DOS (file control). With the copy/move/delete you usually find in these directory managers, this is a very good directory that's so simple to use, you know it already.

MENU is a tight, efficiently-run intersection where you can branch out to any of 26 programs or other jobs you might want to work on, with a single keystroke. Its tightness and efficiency are just what you'd expect from an intelligent military mind. Navy Lieutenant Commander John P. Harrell has done all this in a very pretty screen. Harrell is a great supporter of the 2000 who has been tripping all over himself to avoid helping the Orphans. We all change our list of applications, some of us daily, and the Harrell menu lets you go right in and type the new information. Today your B can put you into WordPerfect, and tomorrow your B can give you Microsoft Word. This menu is best called first thing in the morning, from an autoexec.bat. But you can get to it later by typing MENU. It lets you cruise out in DOS and return to its warm haven automatically — almost like those dependent children who use Apples and Macs.

This version of HANGMAN is big, sophisticated and smooth. You can get a blast from it whether you're a professor or a preschooler. They give

The Mayo Disk

Mayo could mean mayonnaise because it makes your 2000 more tasty. But actually it means MAY/October. Some of it went out as MayMiscellany, back in May, but most of it is new.

MISSION was on the Toolbag disk, but it uses WAIT and FRAME, which got left off early Toolbags by accident. So all three are on here, and I suggest you type MISSION <enter> to see what your Orphan mission is.

CHESS is there because, again, it was wrong on the Toolbag disk. A corrupted copy went out in early mailings.

12

CRCK4 computes a four-digit value for any file or group of files. You type something like CRCK4 C:\DOS*.exe. The reply you get is a list of four-digit numbers (hex digits, 0 through F). This is followed by the total of all the files you're tagging. This CRC (cyclic redundancy check) is useful for seeing if files got changed (even slightly) by an electric shock, a friend, even you, or a virus. If any file (or group of files) has the same CRC it had a week ago, it's almost certainly (.999 chance) unchanged. This can be run automatically every morning if you work in a germ environment.

The CURSOR programs change the CM-1 cursor to a blue rectangle, and back to white. They may have more options than that, but I didn't play with them for long.

DGM is a fancy CHKDSK with lots more information, plus a pretty bar graph or pie chart of used, unused and total space. The pie chart has the jaggies because it's IBM software, which never learned to use the double precision of the 2000 screen. You'll see what you've been (luckily) missing in ugly CGA and EGA.

FRAME is a neat routine, especially nice in batch files, to put one word or line of text into a double-line frame on the screen. You just type

FRAME HI THERE! <enter> and the computer says HI THERE! in a pretty frame.

AGAIN got left off the Toolbag by accident, for the first few disks sent out. It was really called LOCATE when it came to headquarters, but that confuses it with our program MOUSTRAP, which is also called LOCATE on our disk of it. Reviewing AGAIN, I decided it did several jobs badly. Type AGAIN <enter> to see what they are. But it does one job (X) better than anyone else, one-key repeats of any program on any group of files. If you type AGAIN -X BROW *.DOC, the silly 2000 will roll your first DOC file down the screen. When you jump out of BROW with the ESC key, you find the second DOC file rolling down the screen. AGAIN cuts right through the keystroke madness of doing the same thing with a lot of files.

FTREE is like our other TREE program, but instead of just showing all the directories on a drive, it shows all the files in each one, again connected by the straight-line branches of the tree. It is helpful only if you put few files (5 or 10) in each directory; big directories just keep on rolling, like Ole Man River.

GRAIL, WHATAMI and PC_MDA are the RDB attempt at a text grail, with comments from YFL. Our Holy Grail, new people, is the translation of IBM-style programs so that they run on the 2000. Much of our incompatibility is that IBM programs tend to send their messages directly to those RAM chips the screen reads its image from. Since our dear machine reads its image from different chips, it shows us a blank screen from that software.

Some of those lost images are detailed pictures painted in dots, and some are just letters on our 25x80 screen page. It is these letter-screens (in businesslike software) that RDB's text grail finds and displays. Some of the thrill of seeing the program fades if the program fails to work, but some programs go all the way after you see them (and see what you're typing to them). That is really a thrill.

The only problem with the RDB text grail disk is that he installed a time bomb: it reboots the machine after ten minutes. I have located his bomb (three 19's in the hex code), which is discussed elsewhere this issue.

HDIR is nothing but a later-dated repeat of the Orphan program SUPERDIR. A new trick is added here by HDIRCOL, which enables you to change or add "extension colors." On a CM-1, your COM files show in one color, your SYS files in another, and so on.

They only use about three colors and the 2000 has 15. HDIRCOL lets you assign other and more colors. Is your series of detective stories very important? Give them a .DET extension and a pale green color on HDIR! That should make them pop out at you.

KLOK2K44 is an updated version 4.4 of our KLOK2K, sent to us by new Orphan Doug Fogg. I put the 44 on so you won't be able to cross-copy them, instantly destroying one or the other. It seems to have a bit more controllability.

The MUZAK directory, sent in by Orphan DLR, has been announced earlier as part of the MAY disk. If you don't mind the sound of a computer just learning to play the clarinet, you will enjoy dozens of long musical solos.

The new ORIGAMI directory, also from the artistic DLR, is paper sculpture. There are many examples, drawn and animated clearly with the graphics board you must have for this one. Color is not necessary, but adds one-color highlights.

PCSTAT tells you about your computer, as if you didn't know. It's interesting, but I am suspicious when it tells me I have 64 megabytes of RAM in there. Envision was good, but not that good.

PKFIND will look through a whole drive and find every file that fits your specification, which can use the * and ? that DOS allows. Be aware that DOS permits *FILE.NAM and FILE*.NAM, even *FILE.* — but when you say *FILE*.NAM, DOS goes berserk and gets every file for any name within reach. That's bad with PKFIND, but ghastly with DEL *Q*.DOC. You can PKFIND that missing tax file, or dig up a whole group of .TXT files to combine them somewhere else.

PKZ092 is so special in its significance to us that it is covered separately at right.

POKER4-1 was another card game, I thought, but it turns out to be a dozen poker hands at once, with you as the only player. You lay cards where you choose in a square of 36 spaces. You can build your pairs, flushes and straights across each other, and it gets exciting. Like the best games, it lets you plan and then wipes out or rewards your planning with

lightning bolts of luck.

TYPE is a typing tutor, announced earlier as part of the May disk from which Mayo grew. It isn't really a tutor like the big typers: it drills you with retyping sentences, and tells you how you're doing. That's all. It's a little nicer in color, less clear but flashy.

SETCOLOR lets you choose a whole rainbow of colors for your DOS typing. In the CM-1 world, going from a colorful program out to black-and-white DOS is like leaving your girl by her warm fireplace and walking home in the rain. But after a session with SETCOLOR

“buzz-a-
buzz
buzz
with a
floppy,
breepa-
deep
with a
hard
drive”

(which is so easy it's fun and you'll do it some more), DOS is as bright as a Chinese parade. 2000 computing continually gets better.

WAIT, which came aboard just to help MISSION, tells a batch file to sit around for a few seconds (you choose) before doing its next trick.

The Mayo disk has, in filling up, gotten enough power to attract buyers of the May disk. But anyone who bought May can send two dollars less than the price of Mayo. Just mention that you're a May buyer.

13

ZIPping for Everybody

A new kid named ZIP has appeared in the modem neighborhood, and he has pushed ARC out of power. For years, modem types have been using ARC to compress their files by 50% before buying (half as much) phone and wire service time. The receiver just unpacks the file after getting it.

ZIP on the Mayo disk does the same thing as ARC, but does it better. A text file that went down 50% in ARC will lose 60% of its bulk in ZIP. With symbol-packed files, it might improve a 30% to 40%. And ZIP works twice as fast when it compresses or expands.

If you do a big job on your 2000 every day, you need ZIP. We include the whole ZIP system on our Mayo disk, ready to unpack. You don't have to call ZIP: the file unpacks itself, another neat trick that ZIP and ARC do. Copy PKZ092.EXE to an empty (or big) drive so it will have room to expand. Then type PKZ092 <enter> to find a pile of ZIP utilities jumping out, like the puff-suited midgets coming out of that little circus car.

You need ZIP if you find, during your day's work, that you are pausing to listen to your big program playing with a disk, buzz-a-buzz buzz with a floppy, breepa-deep with a hard drive. That wasted time will vanish when you store your data on a RAMdisk (or your program, whichever is using a disk the most). The RAMdisk is a phony disk, a bunch of black memory chips in the back convincing the 2000 they are a disk drive.

It's a hundred times as fast as any drive. A RAMdisk is dangerous, however: you have to have a routine (it can be the end of a batch file) for copying new work to a real drive. Do frequent saves to a real disk during work. When chance or stupidity turn off your computer, your RAMdrive loses what you've done.

You can copy your data or program to a RAMdrive when you start work, but if you keep it ZIP-compressed on a real disk, your autoexec.bat can copy the ZIP file to RAMdisk, taking half as long as a regular copy. Then autoexec can expand the file to full size on the RAMdisk, in a flash. That keeps your waits short.

ZIP is not only for the footloose modem freaks: it's the future of solid-citizen, big-job computing.

Souvenir Shop

Software List Update

OrCAD Draft, version 1.25
DesignCAD version 2.5
Ventura 1.1 (says WV!)

14

VEdit: Programming the Easy Way

VEdit Plus finally came to headquarters, their biggest and latest job, VEdit Plus 3.14. It has gone out to DSG for review. Along with the program disk and manual, they sent a disk labeled DEMO. I nearly threw the demo disk into the basket, because they have been sending me demo disks yearly and none of them would run on the 2000. But someone must have tweaked it, just as DSG learned to do on his own. It ran. Delighted, I worked this demo/tutorial all the way through (about an hour, plus all the experimentation you wish at each step).

Unlike most demos, this one has the complete program in action behind it, no slide show. So after you do what they show, you can run any of the other commands also. You're actually using VEdit to change the text of the demo disk, so blame me for any weird spacing or transposed words.

They say the only "crippling" the disk has is that it won't edit very large files. They

claim the regular program can edit a file as big as any hard disk, up to 8 million lines long and 8000 strokes in a line.

Who wants to play with this programmer's editor? I'll put the demo disk in the Souvenir Shop for this issue.

It shows many windows and does unlimited macros. It can UNDO up to 1000 edit steps back. It has more bells and whistles than the New York Police and Salvation Army combined. I have DSG comparing it to WordPerfect Program Editor and Black Ship, which is elite company.

You should understand that this word processor understands programming languages. You tell it to use your MASM or C-Compiler and it then "learns" the vocabulary and syntax well enough to point out your programming errors. In many ways, it makes the major word weavers look weak. You can even modify VEdit to include your favorite features from other word processors.

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 and Puerto Rico.

FOREIGN ORPHANS— add \$5 per order of any size. All orders go air mail. The \$5 pays for the major problems that money transfers and shipping give us. It also pays for the painful back-and-forth correspondence with foreign Orphans who ignore this.

MONEY— No credit cards. Only U.S. checks (preferably) or U.S. cash. "Tandy 2000 Orphans" or "Orphans" is good on the pay-to line. A foreign check is okay only if, repeat **ONLY IF**, you received it with "dollars(U.S.)" and a U.S.A. branch bank address printed on it. In Canada, Canadian Postal U.S. Dollar Money Orders are the best choice. Even "good" Canadian checks often crash, and three Canadians have been fired for excesses of this problem.

DISKS— We use quad disks, Tandy 26-410 or their equal with another brand name. Currently we are using BASF quads and will soon be on Dyan quads.

Renewal

No reminder will be sent to you, but that date on top of your Whimper mailing label is a fairly heavy hint.

Don't renew at the last minute, because the mail piles up while I'm doing a Whimper. Your effective date is the day I key your renewal in from the mail pile, whether your check has been cashed or not (usually not). Sorry, no "retroactive" renewals. Whimpers cover-dated during a gap in your membership are available as back issues, which are offered below.

Extending your membership for a year costs \$24 if your Orphan mailing address is in the U.S. or its territories, but it's \$27 for the military APO's and FPO's. We charge \$33 for Canada and Mexico, \$40 for all other countries. People in U.S.A. renewing or joining just to dump their 2000 systems in the Flee Market can get a non-Whimper membership for \$12. People who pay the wrong price, if it seems an honest error, get an exact fractional-year membership (don't send correction money).

Standard Disks

All "standard" (no price shown) disks are \$10.00. **BUT** in a single order, any second and further standard disks are \$5.00 each. This is because multiple-disk orders are easier and less costly at headquarters.

G-1: The first Orphan games disk. The Orphan games disks are listed and reviewed in the Sept. 1989 Whimper.

G-2: Orphan games, a big text-game Dungeon set and a flashy menu-driven group called FriendlyWare.

G-3: Trivial pursuit, lots of it. Tests your memory and experience.

G-4: More Orphan games, plus an alleged IQ testing program and a nifty black-jack tutor.

KEY: Professional Master Key, a fast, clear, strong set of Norton-like utilities that outplay Norton in its own ballpark. Shareware, reviewed in the July 1989 Whimper.

CART: An Orphan-owned 20-meg (yes, 20) Tandy2000 cartridge driver for the Iomega 20-meg 5-inch drives, which also runs all their other drives. It replaces the disk that comes with the Tandy cartridge board, which could only run 10 megs of a 20-meg cartridge.

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

UTILS: Orphan shareware, 97 selected utilities to make the 2000 run more efficiently and give more pleasure. See pp. 10-11 in the Feb88 issue for listings of UTILS, DIRS, and TOOLS.

[For DIRS see "special" disks below.]

TOOLS: Orphan shareware, 86 selected tools, gadgets and devices for special tasks and fun with the 2000.

123 (123E if you have the Envision 640K memory upgrade): Unprotected Lotus123 version 1, Tandy 26-5300. PLEASE NOTE: Send your original program disk in a sturdy 6-faced (not 2-faced) disk box with your order, and you'll get it back unchanged with our copiable version on a separate disk. Standard-disk pricing (see above).

FW (or FWE): Unprotected Framework 1, Tandy 26-5320. See 123 above for the way to order.

DB (or DBE): Unprotected dBaseIII, Tandy 26-5353. See 123 above, how to order.

BYTE: Creative Byting, how to write software that sells, put out by an out-of-business disk publisher. It's more about marketing and user-friendliness than about programming.

VEDIT: A demo disk of an incredibly powerful word processor that edits programs, runs them, and points out errors. The real program is on the disk, limited only by not doing huge files. See a review of this disk on page 14 of the October 1989 issue.

Special Disks

"Special" disks are priced as marked, and will not count as a "first" standard disk. We pay an agreed share to an author, owner or other helper for these disks.

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

DIRS: Orphan shareware, 28 selected ways to list and manipulate the files in any drive or directory. Listed and partly reviewed in the Feb88 Whimper. \$15.00 including a Whimper-sized manual by YFL for one colossal program that does just about anything you want in a flash.

TWIN: Not Windows itself, but the Tandy-written Windows Driver disk which enables the 2000 to run Windows 1. Formerly their #7002611. This disk slyly erases drivers for non-Tandy printers. But the detailed Orphan instructions include avoiding this trap. (198K) \$10.00. See Windows explanation in Feb89 Souvenir Shop.

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

CACHE (small**): The only program from DOS 3.2 that we haven't already got a better version of in the shareware disks. It's a Tandy special contribution that works fine on the 2000. They intended to offer it to you but they just forgot, so Orphans remembered. Detailed Orphan instructions are included. Reviewed July89. \$10.00.

TRAP (small**): MouseTrap, called Locate by its Orphan author. It lets our digit-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. Detailed Orphan manual is included. \$20.00.

[**A "small" disk is a lot shorter than the 720K our disks can hold, so you may find it in (and on the label of) another disk you ordered.]

HAMP-I: The Whimper Hamper, 1987 and 1988 Whimpers on disk, useful for fast word-searches but harder to read than paper copies. \$40.00.

HAMP-IIa: The Second Whimper Hamper, Dec88 through Oct89, so far. \$40.00. Anyone who buys this disk incomplete can upgrade to the final HAMP-II in roughly November, by sending \$5 or his boxed, original disk.

Documents

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

BACK ISSUES: MayAugOct87 \$8 each zeroxed. \$5 each for MarDec87, FebAprJunAugOctDec88 and FebMar-MayJunJulAugSepOct89.

MOU-MAN: Tandy's clock-mouse installation manual, 16 pages compressed to 8 zerox pages, \$6.00. See above.

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 new Basic that came with DOS 2.11.03. 24 pages 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 reads and solders. 48 pages compressed to 32. \$19.00.

512: Instructions for putting 512K on a 2000 memory board. 8pp. zeroxed, \$3.00.

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

VIDRAM: Video RAM & attributes. 1 page, \$1.00.

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

TP3: Making Turbo Pascal 3 run on the 2000, a one-page patch from BJK. \$1.00.

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

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

SAVEBAS: Saving a Basic color screen, 1 page, \$1.00.

SOURCE: List of some or all of the source code for the 2000 BIOS, supplied by LJS who pried it out of Tandy. 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. It's useful for assembly-language programmers trying to create a Holy Grail. This dream compatibility disk would convert IBM-compatible software to the 2000. 29 pages compressed into 16, \$12.00.

Sidewalk Salesmen

Myron's Second-Hand Shop: Myron didn't get his stock list to us this month. Try Myron at 817-465-5736 days; you might get a wife or an answering machine.

Clock for those without a mouse board. You can order and solder the clock yourself (July89 p.9), or send TF \$35; he'll buy and solder it. Orphan solder-cook Thomas Fox, 95 E. Quackenbush Ave., Dumont, NJ 07628. 201-384-0365 evenings, 6 to 9 eastern (watch it, westerners).

Cables for the 2000, \$20 each for any length to 10 feet, an extra dollar per foot over that. Extensions for VM-1, CM-1, keyboard, mouse and internal drives. A 2000 mouse: the Tandy 25-1040 mouse (\$49.95), wired to a 9-pin-grin female plug. Equivalent to the extinct \$99 Digi-Mouse, \$95. Orphan cable-maker Tim Bates, 313-227-7344, before 9 p.m. eastern.

Function-key flipchart, ten stiff 1.5x11 pages in a 19-ring plastic edge-binder (specify ivory/brown or white/blue). Slips into the slots above the F-keys and displays written or taped-on key functions for your favorite programs. \$5.00 including postage, packing and handling. Orphan chartmaker Jack Doerr, 22407 Bayview Drive, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081. Indispensable after use once, and a major hassle to make yourself.

MLFormat, lets us use up to 72 megs per drive in any number of "logical" drives carved out of a real drive. Our weaker HFormat can do the outside 32 megs (or less if you like) in only one logical drive. Orphan programmer Bob Spencer, MicroLink Technology, P.O.Box 2666, Sumter, SC 29151. 800-334-9612.

Flee Market

PLEASE NOTE: 2000-specific items only (no printers). All original parts and papers unless otherwise noted (mail-in cards may be missing). Prices include shipping to anywhere in 48-state continental USA. Prices may be negotiable; we don't print hints of that sort. An item not sold can run again if its price is cut 30% or more.

Amazing! No Flee Market offers have come in this month! This was a short month, however, since the September issue was a week late and this one is on time.

You people who drift off to compatibles (I know you're out there): Please sell your stuff here. It won't make you rich, but it will make a more faithful Orphan very happy. Be a good guy.