South Bay Users Group

DYNAMIC MEMORIES ™

AUGUST, 1986

SOUTH BAY USERS GROUP

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LOOK--PAY ATTENTION**--the next SBUG meeting will be held at the Cupertino library. Time: 7:15 P.M.

The next 3 meetings will be held on August 19, September 16 and October 21

Certain discerning minds have discovered that if the proper calculations are made it may be determined that our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each calender month.

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MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to become a member of SBUG and start receiving our newsletter "DYNAMIC MEMORIES", then send $20 (check or money order) to the following address;

South Bay TRS-80 Users Group
P.O. Box 60116
Sunnyvale, Ca.94088

or come to one of our meetings. If you also wish to communicate with our bulletin board system (SBUG-80) then include an additional $25 (a one time fee) for an account on the system. You must be a member of SBUG to have an account on the system. Please include your address and phone number.

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If the need arises, give anyone of us a call.

THE EDITOR'S BYTES AND BITES

The news is out, the terrible secret is revealed. Tandy has for the first time given out sales figures on its microcomputers, and the Model 4 is at the bottom. Way at the bottom. The two surprises on the list were just how far behind the Model 4 had fallen (even though schools are still buying them), and the strong showing of the CoCo.

Go clone young man (or old man or in between man). There is an oddity here. It is well known that a small business, a small office or even a medium sized office can do very well indeed with a Model 4. 6 Mhz. or 8 Mhz. is not going to speed up the work to any really appreciable extent. I have applications on my 4 that run faster than similar applications on any of the clones. Disk I/O is certainly faster with an HD, but if I really needed it I could put in an HD also. Wherefore then IBM compatible?

Part myth, part ignorance, part practicality. The myth is Big Blue looming and eternal like the sky. The ignorance is the new user who knows only of IBM and distrusts anything else. The practicality is the experienced user who realizes that even though 8 bits will do the job well that those 8 bits are doomed by progress.

What does it all mean? As soon as I can save the money I'll buy an AT clone. With a hard disk. Yeah, maybe a color monitor.

SBUG Financial Statement

JuLY 26, 1986

Receipts:	July	Y-T-Date	% Used	Budget
Members dues	40.00	669.00	66.90%	1000.00
SBUG BBS Dues	0.00	0.00	0.00%	200.00
Disk Library	26.00	88.00	73.33%	120.00
Load80	48.00	264.00	132.00%	200.00
Documentation	0.00	0.00	0.00%	40.00
Interest	2.14	17.43	58.10%	30.00
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Total Receipts	116.14	1038.43	65.31%	1590.00

Disbursements:

Phone	17.39	271.58	113.16%	240.00
Utilities	30.00	70.00	26.52%	264.00
Printing	63.29	429.77	119.38%	360.00
Postage	0.00	116.00	77.33%	150.00
P O Box	0.00	29.00	111.54%	26.00
Bank charges	8.00	16.00	0.00	
Disk Library	0.00	204.97	409.94%	50.00
Documentation	0.00	0.00	0.00%	80.00
SBUG BBS	0.00	0.00	0.00%	200.00
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Total Disbursements	118.68	1137.32	83.02%	1370.00
Beginning Cash Balance	353.81	519.62	100.00%	519.62
Net Receipts	-2.54	-98.89	-44.95%	220.00
Ending Balance	351.27	420.73	56.88%	739.62

CP/M...IS IT STILL RELEVANT?

An article by Henry Schulze

CP/M is a disk operating system for microcomputers, originally produced by a company named Digital Research. It was designed for use on 8080 and Z80-based microcomputers. By the way, CP/M stands for "Control Program/Monitor". Versions of CP/M are available for a wide variety of microcomputers using both 8-inch and 5-1/4-inch floppy disk drives. A few implementations like Montezuma Micro's CP/M 2.24 version are available for hard-disk operations.

A SHORT HISTORY OF CP/M

Gary Kildall developed CP/M in 1973, when he was a software consultant for Intel. The earliest version was written for his own experimental system, which included one of the first 8-inch disk drives built by Shugart Associates. It was a shopworn drive that had been used for equipment life tests before it was passed on to Gary Kildall.

By 1975 a number of companies were marketing microcomputers. Most of these companies preferred to develop their own disk operating system. Had these pioneers (Altair, Polymorphic and Processor Technology, etc.) been able to get their products to consumers quicker, CP/M would not have become the quasi-standard operating system of its day.

Several small microcomputer manufacturers eliminated this costly research and development stage, and adopted Kildall's CP/M operating system for their products. One notable exception, of course, was Tandy Radio Shack which decided to develop their familiar TRS-DOS. However, some smaller companies, like Tarbell Electronics and Digital Microsystems, were among the first to ship working disk systems. Because these firms manufactured "add-on" components, owners of compatible equipment were at last able to install drives, sidestepping the primary manufacturer of their equipment, who had not shipped drives yet. Another microcomputer pioneer, IMSAI, had been shipping disk systems and promised to ship an operating system shortly. This operating system turned out to be IMDOS, which was really a disguised version of CP/M.

Another important element in CP/M history was the enthusiasm of its first users. These hobbyists tackled seemingly insurmountable problems in their pursuit of new knowledge and experience. Theoretically, CP/M could link any 8080 or Z80-based microcomputer with any disk system. A group of these hobbyists with "mix-and-match" systems emerged to test Kildall's product. They subsequently developed a number of refinements and, more importantly, a strong and visible users' group.

After manufacturers delivered reliable disk drives, software developers launched the next vital phase of CP/M evolution. The key to make software development financially possible was to write programs that could run on many different microcomputers. CP/M made this possible, since it was one of the few operating systems that could run on virtually any 8080 or Z80-based microcomputer, using any disk drive.

The first programs available were development tools, or programs that generate other programs. Among these development tool programs were CBASIC, Microsoft BASIC, and other languages used to write programs such as General Ledger and Word Processors.

The popularity of the CP/M operating system thus became part of an escalating pattern: CP/M-spawned programming languages and development tools, which in turn led to application programs.

FUNCTION OF CP/M WITHIN A MICROCOMPUTER SYSTEM

A typical microcomputer system consists of the following: the microcomputer itself, a display unit, a keyboard, a pair of disk drives, and a printer.

Microcomputers spend a lot of time transferring information between the microcomputer and the other components of the system. They must also control operations of these other components. This they do by executing programs, which are referred to collectively as an OPERATING SYSTEM. CP/M is such an operating system. By using appropriate CP/M commands you can transfer data from a disk to the computer, print out the data with a printer, or perform any operation which the microcomputer is capable of handling.

In order to perform these system functions for a wide variety of different configurations, CP/M (and all other operating systems) ignore the "physical units" of the computer system, dealing instead with "logical units". In other words, rather than addressing a printer, the operating system assumes a "listing device" is present, etc.

The manufacturer of a particular microcomputer system will ensure that the system's actual physical units connect properly to the logical units CP/M uses. These program modifications are invisible if made correctly, but if the improper changes are made, CP/M will not work correctly.

An operator may occasionally be concerned with physical and logical units. For example, he may want the option of sending output to a printer or a display. Likewise, he may want the option of either typing input at a keyboard or receiving input over a telephone line. These physical unit choices can be made easily by using the appropriate CP/M command.

CP/M was initially written for the 8080A microprocessor. Since the 8085 and the Z80 also execute 8080A programs, CP/M will run on micros containing these two microprocessors. A later version of CP/M is CP/M-86, which runs on the more powerful 8086 microprocessor.

TYPES OF CP/M

Despite CP/M's capability to be usable on many machines of different manufacturers, all CP/Ms are not equal. Mainly, CP/M varies with the input and output programs (I/O) peculiar to each machine.

The different types of CP/M also reflected the large number of manufacturers using CP/M. They added utility programs or refinements to CP/M to improve performance on their particular machine.

As stated, there are several versions of CP/M. These versions are identified by one number to the left of the decimal point, which refers to the overall version number, and one to the right of the decimal point, which refers to a revision within a version. A second number to the right of the decimal point, as in 2.24, identifies subtle machine-dependent modifications. Versions of CP/M include:

1.3 The original release version of CP/M.
1.4 A more error-free version of CP/M release 1.
2.0 The original release version of CP/M release 2.
2.1 A field update of version 2.0.
2.2 Another revision of CP/M version 2.

Version numbers can vary from vendor to vendor. Some CP/M vendors released several different CP/M revisions, with the subsequent change in the second decimal indicator, either by number or by character (1.42 or 2.2e, for example). Generally, only the first two numbers in a version number indicate changes to CP/M by Digital Research.

Digital Research CP/M Products

Since Digital Research wrote CP/M they will support the following products:

Single Density 8-inch--uses a predefined (IBM 3740) format for storing information on the diskette. This is the original CP/M format.

Double Density 8-inch--stores more information on a diskette than single density 8-inch. Caution: there are a few double-density implementations of CP/M that are not directly compatible. A disk produced by one manufacturer's drive may not always be inserted and directly read by another manufacturer's drive. Only 8-inch single density IBM format CP/M diskettes are interchangeable.

MP/M--a multi-user form of CP/M. Instead of just supporting one terminal, MP/M supports several.

CP/NET--a multi-computer form of CP/M which allows one computer to use the resources of another (printers, disk drives, etc.).

Lifeboat Associates CP/M Products

Lifeboat Associates has altered the part of CP/M which contains instructions to the disk drives and other devices. Their CP/M products are available for the Radio Shack TRS-80 Models I and II, Micropolis, North Star, Altair, Heathkit and a number of other systems.

SOME OTHER CP/M PRODUCERS

Omicron CP/M: CP/M for TRS-80 Model I.

Pickles & Trout CP/M Products: CP/M versions 2.2e and 2.2m for TRS-80 Model IIs (disk and hard-disk versions, respectively).

Montezuma Micro Products:
Their CP/M version 2.30 is for the Model 4/4p. It offers about 70 different CP/M versions accessible through Montezuma Micro CP/M.

STARTING UP CP/M

When CP/M is loaded into a computer several things happen. First a "cold start loader" moves into the computer memory from the disk. This loader varies from machine to machine and may differ between CP/M versions, but its function is always to load CP/M.

After the cold start loader brings in CP/M, a number of things happen in this order: 1) CP/M is loaded into the computers memory. 2) Program execution is passed to CP/M, which 3) performs various initialization operations, and 4) places a "sign-on" message on the screen, followed by 5) the prompt A>. 6) Finally, CP/M waits for a command to be typed.

CP/M COMMANDS

CP/M has two types of commands: built-in and transient commands.

A "built-in command" is executed immediately by CP/M without disk access, since all are short programs that are present in memory at all times.

A "transient command" is a program stored on disk and will be loaded at the time it is called upon and then executed by CP/M.

Both built-in and transient commands are invoked by typing the command name, such as LOAD or DIR, in response to the CP/M prompt.

Built-in Command Summary:

DIR   x:filename.typ
                Displays a directory of the file names on a disk.

TYPE   x:filename.typ
                Displays the contents of a disk file on your console screen.

ERA   x:filename.typ
                Erases a file from a disk.

REN   x:newname.typ=s:oldname.typ
                Renames a file on a disk.

SAVE   x:filename.typ
                Saves a file on a disk.

x: Changes the currently logged disk.

USER nn   Changes the currently logged user number (0-15). It is a form of
subdirectory.

Transient CP/M Commands:

STAT (Short for STATISTICS)
Provides information about a file or files, the amount of free space. and physical and logical devices.

STAT x:<cr>   (displays amount of free space on disk).
STAT x: filename.typ <cr>(displays size and attributes of file(s).
STAT DEV:<cr>
(displays physical devices currently connected to the four logical devices).

PIP -- Copying Files
PIP,   Peripheral Interchange Program, copies files from one disk to another.
PIP B:=A: filename.typ(V)<cr>

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(will copy a file from drive A: to drive B:).
Note: the usual convention is destination=source -- the location one is copying to is listed first and the location one is copying from is listed second.

There are many other PIP variations with specifiers to accomplish many different copying tasks.

ED -- Context Editor
ED x: filename.typ <cr> (invokes the Editor, which then loads filename.typ from drive x and creates a temporary file, x:filename.$$$ to store the edited text.)

One can now use ED's built-in commands to:

> Delete or change any part of the original file.
> Insert new information into the file from the keyboard or another file.
> After the editing session is finished ED will rename the temporary
x:filename.$$$ to x:filename.typ and rename the original x:filename.typ to
x:filename.bak.

DUMP -- Displaying the Contents of a File

DUMP x: filename.typ <cr> (displays byte contents of a file in hexadecimal form).

SUBMIT   -- Batchfile Command
SUBMIT   filename <cr> (will call a file created with the extension .SUB which contains commands that will be executed by CP/M as if they were issued via the keyboard).

XSUB   -- User Input Automation: A subset of SUBMIT
XSUB is only used in a SUB file. It must be the first word in this file. It provides the link necessary when one SUB file is called from within another SUB file.

CP/M UTILITY PROGRAMS

FORMAT   -- Preparing a Disk for Use
                x:FORMAT <cr> (this starts an initialization routine).

There are many different names for this program in CP/M: FORMAT, INIT, IN, DSKFMT, FMT, CREATE, INITDSK, FORMT#, FORMTHD, MFORMAT

COPY   -- A Disk Transfer Program
                x:COPY <cr> (this starts transfer routine for a whole disk, rather then just a file).

MOVCPM -- Adjusts CP/M to Memory Capacity
                x:MOVCPM nn <cr> (prepares a new copy of CP/M which uses the "nn" Kbytes indicated [64K max], and gives control to CP/M, but does not save it to disk. To make it permanent it will have to saved with SYSGEN or SAVE).

SYSGEN   -- Placing the CP/M System on a Disk   x:SYSGEN <cr> (starts the system generation transfer routine).

HIGH-LEVEL LANGUAGES USED ON CP/M COMPUTERS

The following list gives some of the most commonly used languages on CP/M computers: EBASIC/CBASIC, MBASIC, C, COBOL, FORTH, FORTRAN, Pascal, and PL/1-80. By the way, these are all compiled languages in contrast to the interpreted BASICs used under TRS-DOS.

SUMMATION

After its initial heyday and flourishing CP/M suddenly lost influence and started to decline soon after the IBM PC in 1981 began making inroads on all the other computers already in the marketplace. It seemed as though the world was clamoring for PC-DOS/MS-DOS.

Partially I believe this trend developed due to the fact that there were too many variations in CP/M implementations and the incompatibilities of the other operating systems. It seems to me, the computer users were trying to tell the manufacturers that they wanted a standard operating system rather than the tower of Babel that had developed. Another thing was CP/Ms inherent limitation of being able to address only 64K of RAM.

Ironically, CP/M seems to have survived in a somewhat new form even if the name has changed to PC-DOS/MS-DOS. If one looks beyond the name change and of course the different originator Microsoft, the program bears more than just a passing resemblance to the old CP/M. It starts with the familiar A> prompt. Also the logged disk drive identifiers and specifiers are identical as is the list of utility programs shown earlier in this article. The most cursory perusal will show the similarity to the "new" MS-DOS commands.

This similarity and to a degree, compatibility between the two system is further enhanced by the fact that the V20 chip in conjunction with an emulator program will enable a PC user to run certain CP/M programs. Then, of course, there are a few manufacturers who have produced CP/M plug-in boards for the PCs, so that any CP/M can now be run on an IBM PC or compatible.

To paraphrase Gary Kildall, the inventor of CP/M, when he was asked at the West Coast Computer Faire, what he thought of MS-DOS, he answered: "I believe CP/M is alive and well!"

Editor's note: The following as I faithfully promised you is the balance of the MSDOS files present on our glorious bulletin board..
DIR10

================= MISCELLANEOUS UTILITIES DIRECTORY
====================

NAME	EXT	SIZE	EFF.DATE	DESCRIPTION OF FILE
======================>09-23-85 Miscellaneous Utilities				
NWCLOCK	BQS	9471	04-10-84	Time in BIG chars.
IPLTIME	CQM	2513	09-16-84	Set date/time with up/dwn crsr/pgup/dwn
DDATE	ARC	1259	10-30-84	Easy way to set the date in
AUTOEXEC.BAT				
REMIND	COM	1792	10-30-84	CLOCK/REMINDER places clock in
upper/right				

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QT	COM	640	10-30-84	CLOCK Using words.. Gives Approx. time.
HC2	ARC	4694	12-06-84	New hexconverter program.
CORELOOK	CQM	2359	01-03-85	Look around in memory.
PCUTIL	LBR	9728	01-25-85	Package of 12 PC Utilities.
CLCK	COM	1024	02-21-85	Clock shows status of Caps, Numlock, Scrlock.
WARMCOLD	LBR	512	03-04-85	Warm or cold reboot.
WORDCNT	EQE	11441	03-04-85	Counts words,letters,lines,etc in files.
DIPSET1	BQS	6435	03-04-85	Set/Reset DIP Switch Configuration
COMSW1	ARC	1352	03-07-85	Switches the Serial ports.
SCROLL	COM	384	03-07-85	Make scroll lock work.
PARINT	COM	640	04-09-85	Parity Insurance Pgm. PCMAG 1/22
NPAD	COM	1280	04-09-85	RAM resident notepad PCMAGAZINE BBS
BOOT-AT	LBR	2560	04-09-85	AT warm boot from BAT file. (untested)
KEYSPEED	EQE	6139	04-14-85	PC/AT DOS 3x Typematic rate&½delay /help
IBMERRS	TQT	5089	04-22-85	Decode those IBM Diagnostic Code messages.
RTIMER	COM	512	04-22-85	Test your system clock speed.
SILENCE	CQM	3944	06-06-85	Shortens beeps from PC's speaker.
PTIMER	COM	640	06-10-85	Check Clock Speed of your processor.
DOSCALLS	TQT	3268	06-17-85	Some DOS Function Calls. (unverified)
PCWNDW22	ARC	19860	06-17-85	Utility similar to SIDEKICK.
8080	ARC	10146	06-17-85	Allow PC to run CP/M80 using CP/M86.(untested)
KINDCHIP	COM	128	06-27-85	What's your CPU? 1=8088-1, 2=8088-2
DESKMATE	ARC	111K	07-03-85	Like the Super SIDEKICK.
CGCLOCK	ARC	2708	07-08-85	Color-graphic clock display.
HCALC	CQM	15872	07-17-85	Perform comprehensive calculations.
DEBUG	TQT	20992	07-25-85	A Debug Tutorial.
CFC	ARC	6339	07-20-85	High speed encryption program.
CRYPT	LBR	6656	07-25-85	Another Encryption Program.
MAP	ARC	10496	07-30-85	System Storage Map.

ASSEMBLER INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MULTITUDE

Editor's note: These come to us via VOICE OF THE '80, in a column written by Alan Abrahamson. They are from FURTHER ADVENTURES OF THE TBBS TID BITS and are contributed by John Krause.

Mnemonic	Instructions
AIB	Attack INNOCENT Bystander
AWTT	Assemble With Tinker Toy
BACB	Blow All Circuit Breakers
BAF	Blow All Fuses (for older computers)
BCIL	Branch Creating Infinite Loop
BDC	Break Down and Cry
BED	Bulk Erase Diskette
BEHD	Bulk Erase Hard Drive
BEW	Branch Either Way
BF	Belch Fire
BH	Branch and Hang
BOB	Branch On Bug

BOD	Beat On the Disk
BOI	Byte Operator Immediately
BPO	Branch on Power Off
BOS	Branch On Sunspot
BOW	Branch On Whim
CDIOOAZ	Calm Down It's Only Ones and Zeros
CH	Create Havoc
CML	Compute Meaning of Life
CNB	Cause Nervous Breakdown
CPPR	Crumple Printer Paper and Rip
CRB	CRash and Burn
CS	Crash System
CSL	Curse and Swear Loudly
CVG	ConVert to Garbage
DBTP	Drop Back Ten and Punt
DC	Divide and Conquer
DDC	Dally During Calculations
DMNS	Do what I mean Not what I Say
DOC	Drive Operator Crazy
DPMI	Declare Programmer Mentally Incompetent
DPR	Destroy PRgram
DTE	Decrement Telephone Extension
DW	Destroy World
ECO	Electrocute Computer Operator
EFD	Emulate Frisbee using Diskette
EMPC	EMulate Pocket Calculator
ENF	Emit Noxious Fumes
EP	Execute Programmer
EPI	Execute Programmer Immediately
FLI	Flash Lights Impressively
FSM	Fold Spindle and Mutilate
FSRA	Form Skip and Runaway
GCAR	Get Correct Answer Regardless
GDP	Grin Defiantly at Programmer
GFD	Go Forth and Divide
GFM	Go Forth and Multiply
HCF	Halt and Catch Fire
IBP	Insert Bug and Proceed
IOC	Ignore Operator Commands
ISC	Insert Sarcastic Comments
JP	Just Playing
JTZ	Jump to Twilight Zone
LAP	Laugh At Programmer
LDIR	Load Data In Reverse
LPA	Lead Programmer Astray
MBF	Multiply and Be Fruitful
MLR	Move and Lose Record
MW	Malfunction Whenever
MWAG	Make Wild Assed Guess
MWT	Malfunction Without Telling
OML	Obey Murphy's Laws
PD	Play Dead
PFD	Punt on Fourth Down
PNRP	Print Nasty Replies to Programmer

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RA	Randomize Answer
RDA	Refuse to Disclose Answer
RDB	Run Disk Backwards
RPB	Read Print and Blush
RPM	Read Programmer's Mind
RSD	on Read-error Self Destruct
RSTOM	Read from STore Only Memory
RTS	Return To Sender
RVEM	Read Voice of the '80 Every Month
SAI	Store All Instructions
SAS	Sit And Spin
SCCA	Short Circuit on Correct Answer
SFH	Set Flags to Half-mast
SFT	Stall For Time
SHAB	SHift A Bit
SHABM	SHift A Bit More
SMR	Skip on Meaningless Result
SOS	Sign Off Stupid
SQPC	Sit Quietly and Play with your Crayons
SRDR	Shift Right Double Ridiculous
SRSD	Seek Record and Scar Disk
SRZ	Subtract and Reset to Zero
STA	STore Anywhere
TARC	Take Arithmetic Review Course
TDB	Transfer and Drop Bits
TAN	Take a nap
TPDIY	Tell Programmer to Do It Yourself
TPO	Turn Power Off
TPON	Turn Power ON
TTA	Try Try Again
UP	Understand Program (usually doesn't work)

ASKEE/BAS (From CODEWORKS)

Editor's note: I attempted to upload this to the bulletin board but apparently unsuccessfully. I seem to get along better with madams than with modems.

```
10 A$=INKEY$:IF A$=""THEN GOTO 10
20 B=ASC(A$)
30 PRINT "YOU PRESSED "; A$
40 PRINT"ITS ASCII VALUE IS";B
50 GOTO 10
```

This can easily be turned around to input the number so that you can find out what character it represents. A handy little thing to have on your disk.

EDITOR'S (ALMOST) INFINITE WANDERINGS

As I begin wandering around the microcomputer world as it exists today. I find a much more finite world than existed a few years ago. There are fewer computer manufacturers than there were five years ago, but a lot more assemblers. We might begin with the major operating systems.

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CP/M At work on tens of thousands of machines but dwindling steadily
COMMODORE Still alive but in trouble.
AMIGA A brilliant conception. Will it last? No.
ATARI Jack Tramiel is a hard man to beat. However hard men have been
beaten before this.
APPLE It is here to stay. The IIE gets up after each knockdown and fights
on. *The Macintosh is the answer to dozens of special needs that other*
machines do not or cannot handle.
MSDOS Almost (see above) the only game in town.

The clones proliferate. It is a little amusing to see that IBM's own power to create a standard has also created its competition. Of course the dozens of clones are fleas on an elephant's back but there are signs that they irritate the elephant.

Let us take a stroll through clone-land via the ads. First, some comments. As in any wide open field like this there is a mountain of junk and semi-junk. How can you tell the difference. You can't very well. Even when you buy from the large, long-established manufacturers you can stub your toe. (Or bruise your nose, possibly both at the same time.)

The Tandy 1000 is the biggest selling XT clone. Most of us are aware of its failings, but these don't keep it from being a very good machine, especially at the price. *Not much is said about the 1200HD. At least, no one is saying anything bad about it. The* Tandy 3000 is generally recognized as being one of the best of the AT clones at an excellent price.

Kaypro's main representative is the 286i, an AT compatible. It is generally agreed that it is in the Kaypro tradition, sturdy, built for the long haul and a great deal cheaper than the IBM AT. It is as close to absolute compatible as possible.

The AT & T clones get mixed reviews, mostly on the down side. They are certainly not cheap.

A number of the reviewers are in agreement that the Sperry is the BMW of micros. It runs at 10Mz and is highly compatible. The BYTE reviewer found that it had trouble using non-Sperry hard drives. I guess that's what happens when you put Cadillac wheels on a BMW.

NCR also gets mixed reviews. It's price is high and it's compatibility suspect.

COMPAQ has built itself a fine reputation in portables. Their prices are reasonable, their machines well built and highly compatible. They are one of the three big players in the MSDOS field.

For appreciation of IBM I refer you to Gertrude Stein. The principal note on IBM is their slavish acceptance by the business world. If IBM built nothing but black computers, Fortune 500 companies would buy nothing but black computers. You might send IBM a letter thanking them for not building black computers. IBM can get away with huge mistakes. The Jr. was a mistake from beginning to end. There is no one in this club that could not have told them the mistakes they were making with that draggle tailed afterbirth. The chiefs at IBM are of course, smart, sophisticated businessmen with their fingers on the pulse of the economy.

SOUTH BAY USERS GROUP

The PC came out and MSDOS, never mind it's a klutz, a woebegone, a misborn, became a standard. The XT and the AT came out and everyone began building clones. It's enough to make you want to bite into an apple and ignore the worms.

Zenith is building good clones. Zenith has always built good stuff. Their big triumph in taking away the federal contract for portables from IBM has made everyone take a closer look at Zenith. The worst that can be said of them is that they build things well but they build them their way. If you buy a Zenith clone you won't have many compatibility problems, but when you do have one there's no way out.

Hewlett-Packard builds high priced, high performance, high quality machines. They have a very faithful following in the scientific/engineering community. Their unique contribution has been the touch screen, useful in certain special circumstances but hardly a best seller.

UNCENSORED MAIL

ETERNAL EDITOR'S NOTE: The mail has to be read backward. That is, inversely to their order in this, your newsletter. That's because I don't know how to go straight to #1 (or whatever). The bulletin board puts me where it wants me and I slog along as best I can. If you have any problems, just reread THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS (from ALICE IN WONDERLAND if you're so old you've forgotten.)

#28 6 23 Jul 86 23:38:25
From: William Cooper
To: Sysop
Subj: 999th

Since I'm the 999th caller, do I win a prize? Maybe you can let
me go to other message sections.

Ever vigilant Editor's note: He didn't read the documentation carefully. That was 999E+6

#27 12 22 Jul 86 16:59:38
From: Jim Gonsalves
To: All
Subj: DATE ??

YEP, THE DATE IS STILL NOT WORKING !!!! TRIED TO GET HELP ON THIS
PROBLEM, BUT NOBODY SEEMS TO HAVE CLOCK PROBLEMS OR
MANUFACTURERS DO NOT CLAIM TO UNDERSTAND WHAT TIME AND DATES ARE
! FUNNY, HEARD THAT ONE BEFORE!
GERRY HAS THE SAME 'OL PROBLEM LAST TIME I CALLED HIS BOARD... I THINK
WE BETTER CHECK OUT THE SOFTWARE.... ANYONE KNOW HOW WE CAN
FINDUS THIS OUTUS????

OH YEH, I WAS ON VACATION, SO THE CLOCK
WAS NOT RESET EACH MORNING AS USUAL.

South Bay TRS-80 Users Group
P.O. Box 60116
Sunnyvale, Ca 94088

FIRST CLASS MAIL