SOUTH BAY USERS GROUP

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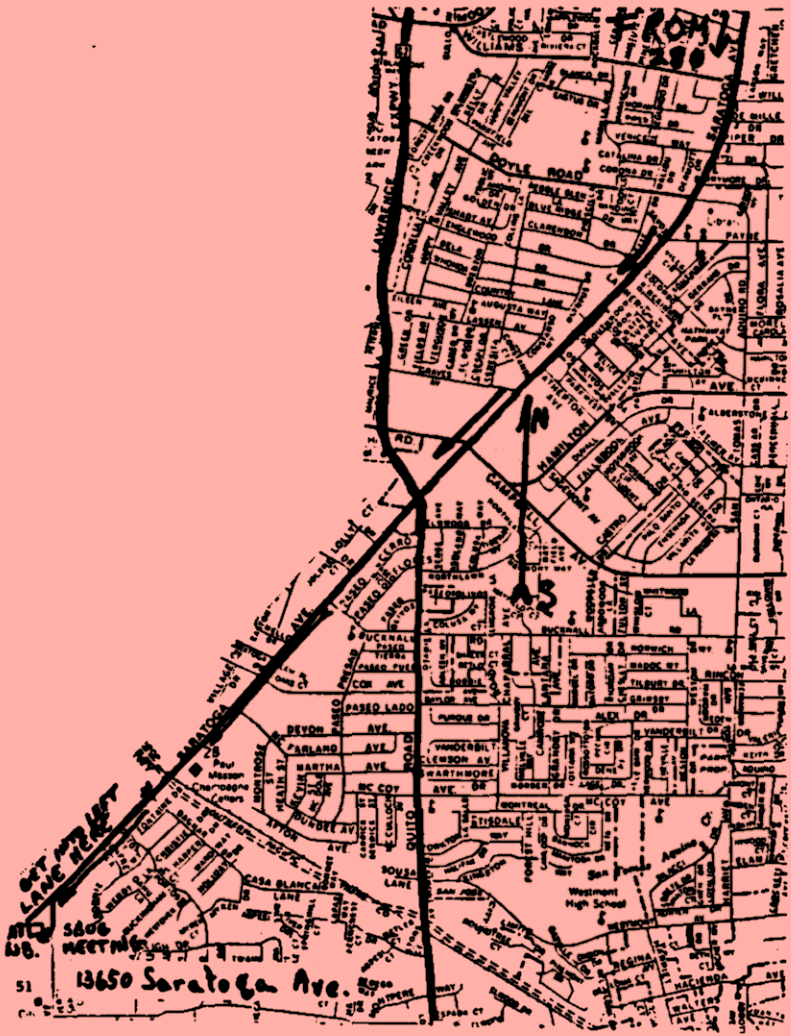
DYNAMIC MEMORIES™

MARCH 1987



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LOOK!! PAY ATTENTION ** The next SBUG meeting will be held at the Saratoga Library. The address is 13650 Saratoga Avenue. (In Saratoga)

Our next three meetings will be on: March 10, April 14, and May 12

The time in all cases is 19:15 (7 15 P.M.)

The theme of the March meeting will be TAXES!! This fragile and frightening subject will be dealt with by Bernie Thompson and our fearless leader Chris Oman. Don't miss this, your only opportunity in 1987. You may not have any money in 1988.

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MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to become a member of SBUG and start receiving our newsletter, DYNAMIC MEMORIES then send $20.00 check or money order to the following address:

SOUTH BAY USERS'GROUP
P.O. Box 60116
Sunnyvale CA 94088

Or come to one of our meetings where you will be welcomed as a fellow slave of the micro. No charge for the welcome. If you become a member you will have access to our bulletin board.

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If the need arises feel free to give anyone of us a call.

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THE EDITOR'S BYTES AND BITES

The standardization imposed by Big Blue has been a blessing. Why a blessing? Because so many prolific and inventive minds have gone to work in the same field. Doldrums might have been the result, instead we have had a benign and fruitful tradewind.

The number of application programs, of utility programs, commercial, public domain and shareware, measures in the tens of thousands. The increased RAM available plus the speed of the now common hard disk has challenged the imagination of the programmers. They have certainly responded. No end is in sight.

There will be better spreadsheets, better database programs, better word processors and better integrated programs (a la Lotus 1-2-3). Prices on this software will come down.

SBUG Financial Statement

February 20, 1987

Receipts:	February	Y-T-Date	% Used	Budget
Members dues	70.00	170.00	17.00%	1000.00
SBUG BBS Dues	0.00	.00	.00%	120.00
Disk Library	12.00	18.00	12.00%	150.00
Load80	44.00	60.00	20.00%	300.00
Documentation	0.00	.00	.00%	24.00
Interest	1.29	1.29	12.90%	10.00
Total Receipts	127.29	249.29	15.54%	1604.00
Disbursements:				
Phone	8.53	8.53	8.36%	102.00
Utilities	0.00	.00	.00%	150.00
Printing	70.50	70.50	15.67%	450.00
Postage	0.00	.00	.00%	144.00
P O Box	0.00	.00	.00%	26.00
Bank charges	4.00	8.00	66.67%	12.00
Disk Library	0.00	.00	.00%	120.00
Documentation	0.00	10.00	20.00%	50.00
Load80 Subscription	0.00	.00	.00%	200.00
SBUG BBS Repairs	0.00	.00	.00%	100.00
Misc. Expenses	94.00	94.00	75.20%	125.00
Total Disbursements	177.03	191.03	12.92%	1479.00
Beginning Cash Balance	422.31	314.31	100.00%	314.31
Net Receipts	-49.74	58.26	46.61%	125.00
Ending Balance	372.57	372.57	84.81%	439.31

MICROSOFT WORD AN INVENTION OF THE DEVIL

This newsletter is being written with MICROSOFT WORD. In its complexity and in its obscurity it reminds me very much of WORDSTAR which I studied briefly and abandoned without paying alimony. Let me give you an example of WORD'S obfuscation.

I make up a weekly menu for the kitchen. All the lines are centered. Had I been using ALLWRITE I would have typed:

';ce on'. Had I been using ELECTRIC PENCIL for MSDOS I would have typed: ';cl on'.

I looked for center(ing) in the WORD index and was referred to page 175. This is what greeted me on page 175.

"alignment

choose an option. This attribute determines the alignment of the text between two tab characters or between a tab character and the end of the line. Consider for example, the following sequence of characters:

...TAB this is text TAB...

Left etc.etc.

Center: Text is centered around the tab stop.

------this i[s text"

Got it? Word does not stop with the manual. It has a quick help and a tutorial on disk, both of which I have on my hard disk. The quick help, which is frequently a quick help, has nothing on centering. I went to the tutorial which is simple and detailed (my kind of tutorial).

This is how you center with MICROSOFT WORD. Type in the material you are going to center. Then you must select it (character, word, paragraph or document) with various combinations of the function keys. To select the entire document you would press shft-F10. Then: ESC, FORMAT, PARAGRAPH, CENTERED. Now that didn't take long did it? I told you it wouldn't hurt much. Of course with ALLWRITE you would just type ';ce on' in the margin and ';ce off' when you were finished.

Three facets of WORD soon become apparent. In general, text is entered, then formatted. It is paragraph oriented. If a single letter stands by itself it is a paragraph and the commands that apply to it are the paragraph commands. It is anything but intuitive. If you want to learn WORD, be prepared to sit down and study it. You aren't going to make many good guesses about how it works.

If WORD is so difficult then why is it such a big seller? It is produced by Microsoft a prestigious, long established company in the software business. Microsoft has a reputation for producing excellent, innovative products. WORD seems to me to be the type of program purchased by large companies in lots of 1000. Some VP in charge of purchasing compares WORD to other word processors, decides that its power, support and price fit his company's needs so they buy a thousand. Then a thousand secretarys buckle down to learning it.

Some of them will be bright and capable and they'll make WORD look great. Every time the VP in charge of purchasing software looks at them working he'll feel great too. And bright and capable. Of course he'll have to be careful where he looks. A lot of those secretaries will be laboring heavily up the mountain like I am now.

WORD has a quick help facility, as I said before, a tutorial on disk and a written manual. All of this is well organized. It has to be, given the complexities of WORD. With PENCIL there is a help screen with most of the commands listed on it. Hit F 1 and the screen appears at any time from the text entering process. Hit escape and you're out. There is a tutorial, but I never use it. Occasionally I consult the manual for a little used function.

Formatting the document is extremely complicated in WORD. I think that it is apropos here to warn you that the rest of this document is a paean of hate. Aside from the disk tutorial, which because of space constraints is incomplete, I have not found one good thing about WORD.

I used the search facility. It's all right, but PENCIL and ALLWRITE do it faster and more simply. I used the spelling checker. Alongside PENCIL'S really excellent checker, it's a clunker. It does the job, but it's unimaginative and clumsy.

I just printed out this document to see what I had up to date. Something is wrong with my headers and my page numbers.

Got that straightened out. I'm getting faster. Only took me two days. About now some of you are asking "And what happened to the 3 manual approach." Alive and flourishing.

I just bought the second manual entitled "Advanced Microsoft Word" by Mark Brownstein. I am sure the 3rd manual is close behind.

Now hear these words of faint praise from the author of a book on MICROSOFT WORD. Remember, he is not a critic or reviewer. I quote from the introduction.

"As I continued to use Word, I was sometimes frustrated by the user interface. When I wanted to save a file, I wanted to tell the system to do just that, not to have to select Transfer Save and then type in a name. Using a mouse this took three steps. I was used to hitting a single key combination and having the save performed for me.

Many of Word's menus are two or more levels deep. If you use a mouse, you have to click the buttons a lot. I'm not a mouse person. I like to keep my hands on a keyboard. Taking my hands off the keys, finding a mouse and then carefully moving it around my cluttered desk was a chore I preferred to avoid. Although my mouse was hooked to the system, I barely used it at all; I found it faster to press the keys to select a command and almost as fast to use the function keys to highlight text."

He goes on to say "--All but the first chapter of this book was written using Microsoft Word exclusively." What's that? I leafed through the first chapter. A couple of diagrams of Word screens figured there. They would be easy to reproduce with an IBM compatible printer and most word processors. They would be a nightmare to make with Word.

Further on Brownstein says:

"After using (or at least trying) dozens of word processing programs, I realized that a few actually surpassed the dedicated machines I was used to."---- "Microsoft Word is an excellent word processing package; don't feel apprehensive about leaving a dedicated system, because Word will work for you." What's he going to say after writing a book about it?

But enough of joy and sweetness. Let me continue my whining and complaining. Contemplate the following:

October 11, 1985Tammy and Dave Homen1535 Marburg Way Apt. D 8San Jose, Ca. 95133Dear Tammy and DaveYou are keeping a cat in your apartment. Your lease agreement, a contract which you signed and accepted, expressly forbids you to have pets. Please get rid of any animals you may have, or legal measures will be taken.Thank you for your cooperation.;clJoel Mgr.;skcc PropertyManagerccfiles

I have about 45 form letters that I constantly use. When I brought these from ALLWRITE to ELECTRIC PENCIL on MSDOS using TRSCROSS, all I had to do was to clean up a few control codes, a matter of seconds and they were all ready to print. As you can see by the above, which was brought from PENCIL to WORD, I would be better off writing them all over again if I had to work with WORD.

I will end this diatribe here for this month. I intend to produce your newsletter one more month with WORD, so I will have another article next month about the various features and some of the strengths. Oh yes, it does have strengths. It takes a long time to learn them, and they are clumsily implemented. A secretary who was told to learn WORD could do so and become very handy at it. It's difficult to believe that anyone would make it his word processor of choice if he were familiar with others and had a choice.

MODEL 4 CORNER

The Model 4 is a good, solid machine proven by time and capable of doing most of the things that the sixteen bit machines will do. Going to the sixteen bitters doesn't in itself give you a lot more speed except with certain specialized applications.

Let us take a look at your options with the Model 4. As far as software is concerned, you have excellent choices and at much more moderate prices. There are only two areas where the Model 4 falls short. It's poor on graphics and whatever may be your genius, I don't think you're going to make a Macintosh out of a 4.

There is only one integrated program for the 4, T-MAKER. It has gotten mixed reviews but so have most of the integrated programs for MSDOS. Everything else you're likely to need for any type of work is available in excellent, reasonably priced programs.

You have some options with the 4 that are interesting to contemplate. Let us drive through the country side. It's no problem and it's inexpensive to hook up 4 double sided drives. This will give you 1.4 megabytes of storage space. Of course this is trivial beside the 20 meg hard disk. Isn't it? Not really. Why?

Rarely does anyone work with more than 1.4 meg of storage space-- or even that much. So when you change from your word processing to your spreadsheet you just change your floppies. You have to have a lot of floppies for that? Yes you do. The owner of a hard disk had better have his HD backed up on floppies too. So who has more floppies?

When the HD goes down, it goes in for repair. The computer is down because controller and all has to go in. When one of your 4 floppy drives on the 4 goes down you've still got 3 to work with and a small repair price besides. What do you lose with the floppy drives?

Time. The difference in computing time from 8 bit to 16 bit is frequently hardly noticeable. The difference between floppy drive and HD is almost startling. Of course there are hard drives for the 4. We are talking rather earnest dollars here. The March 80-MICRO has an ad from MicroSmart Inc. for a 20 Meg HD (external) at $679.95. Where ever you go, that's about what you'll pay.

Extra memory is also available-- and important. If you have enough RAM available you can compete-- you can beat the hard disks. Just fire up your Memdisk. Memory is not that expensive and there is more than one company to choose from. For an idea of prices, we may look at XLR8er who will supply you with 256K RAM AND 8Mhz speed on a plug in card. Other companies offer up to a meg of RAM.

What does it all mean, daddy? If you're interested in running applications in an efficient and modern way, you can invest some money in modifying your Model 4. You can configure it in a number of ways. According to what you do and what you spend you will be a close competitor with the 16 bitters as to storage, speed and convenience. It will cost you some money but not nearly as much as an XT or AT. You won"t have to relearn a whole new library of applications and utilities.

Best of all you'll be working with a machine you know to be reliable.

ODDS AND ENDS

In the mail a very flossy brochure etc. etc. for "Shakespeare" a word processor from England. It was all as English as Devon clotted cream but there was a minor disappointment. The price was quoted at 295 pounds sterling. I would have preferred 293 guineas, wouldn't you?

It has been pointed out to me that my Xavier Tarragon was originally Xavier Taiwan. He changed his name when he became an American. Tarragon of course in deference to California's Spanish heritage.

We have a letter from Electronic Repair Service, whose president is Michael Fratus, brother of Pete Fratus formerly a member of our steering committee and still a member of SBUG. ERS is offering an Hitachi chip for the Model 4 or indeed any Z80 based computer. I think the technical material worth quoting, especially in view of my remarks

above on those who wish to stick with the Model 4 but might like a little more pizzaz.

"The V80-CPU is a module for upgrading a Z80 microprocessor system to the new Hitachi HD64180 High Integration Micro-Processor.

INSTALLATION: Remove the Z-80 from its socket, insert the V80-CPU module in its place. One wire to the clock circuitry is the only other connection.

FINE TUNING: The board has provisions for adjusting timing and clock phase if the proper clock cannot be found. In addition, the software provided allows adjustment of wait states for both memory and I/O.

FEATURES: In its fastest mode the processor runs with NO WAIT STATES at a 30-40% speed increase in throughput with no change in the system clock speed. It executes all the Z-80 code with some added instructions as follows:

MLT	Fast hardware multiply
OTIMR	Block output, increment and repeat
OTDMR	Block output, decrement and repeat
TST	Non destructive bit test (AND)

The processor is labeled a "microsystem on a chip" by Hitachi. It contains an NMU for 2 DMA channels, async and sync UARTS, and can address 512K of memory (RAM not included.

Here is what you get for $149.00:
1 V80-CPU module
1 disk of software for adjusting the wait states for your computer (choose CP/M, TRSDOS 6.x, LDOS 5.14, MULTIDOS or DOSPLUS 3.4) Installation instructions.

Extra disks for other operating systems for $14.50 each plus $2.00 handling (include sales tax if ordering from Texas),

order from: By mail

Electronic Repair Service
118 1/2 North Dallas Highway
Waxahachie, TEXAS 75165

By Phone: 214-937-7017"

Editor: And so Models I, III and 4 leap another tall building. It's a lot cheaper than the cheapest XT.

SOME ODD ODDS AND ENDING ENDS

Do you remember when your budget for diskettes was closely watched? And do you remember the difference in price between the single sided and double sided diskettes? I'll bet you do! All my so called single sided diskettes are happily working earning their keep as double sided diskettes. Xavier Tarragon doesn't seem to care that Radio Shack et al said they were single sided.

The expensive word processors (Microsoft Word, Word Perfect etc.) are always revising their product-- upgrading? Each time there is a revision they have a long list of printers that they NOW can be used with. "SCRIBBLEAWAY now supports the Junk 4, the Whirligig 20-20 and five other unknown printers." Outstanding! On the other hand ELECTRIC PENCIL doesn't give you a list of printers it will support. It'll print on anything. If you hooked it up to Gutenberg's original press it would print. What does PENCIL know that the rest of them don't?

DYNAMIC MEMORIES PRESENT AND ?FUTURE?

Now that I have Xavier Tarragon I will be evaluating different applications every issue. This brings up some interesting points. When you read an evaluation, a review written by a professional in INFOWORLD, in 80-MICRO etc. you are getting an expert analysis. It is wise to respect the professional in any field until it is proven that he is not worthy of that respect.

Therein lies the problem for the amateur, the aficionado computerist. The professional gives an accurate critique from his point of view as an expert. It is valid from the point of view of another expert. How valid is it when you're an occasional user, a beginner, a person whose skills may be legend in his own field of expertise but just doesn't have it where computers are concerned?

Enter Joel R. Lee arm in arm with Xavier Tarragon. For those of you in the club who do not know me, a little bit of background. I have worked with computers for four years, starting with a Model III, then a Model 4, and now an XT compatible. Let us take a ranking scale on computer expertise from 1 to 10. Give me a 4. Bernie? Chris? Henry? Gerry? Silence. None of them wishes to comment. Leave it at 4.

When you get a review, an appreciation of a program from me, you get it from the user's point of view. It is almost certain that if I find a program hard to learn and ydifficult to use that you will too. Of course the reverse is also true. It is also true that in dealing with the professional reviewer there will be a little axe grinding going on. Sometimes. In my case there may be some caprice,

but you know that DYNAMIC MEMORIES is not corrupt. Nobody ever gave us chance to be.

If you think you have cancer of the liver, get two opinions before you have a transplant. If you're going to spend a large chunk of what you haven't got for a program you shouldn't buy but *can't do without, read an expert's* opinion and mine as well. Your decision will be the better for it.

I think it apropos here to appeal to all the members of our club to send in anything about anything that might appeal to the other members. If you have BASIC programs, tricks that you have learned to maniuplate the III, the 4 or the MSDOS machines, send them in. You'd be surprised at what will interest your fellow club members.

MAKER.BAS FROM CODEWORKS

```
90 REM * CODEWORKS - 3838 S. WARNER ST. TACOMA, WA 98409
206-475-2219
95 REM * PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THESE CREDIT LINES.
100 REM ** MAKER.BAS * CREATED FOR CODEWORKS MAGAZINE **
110 CLEAR 5000:'USE ONLY IF YOUR MACHINE NEEDS TO CLEAR
SPACE
120 PRINT CHR$(12):REM-CLEAR SCREEN-CHANGE TO SUIT YOUR
MACHINE.**
130 PRINT STRING$(22,"-");" The CodeWorks ";STRING$(23,"-")
140 PRINT"                    D A T A   M A K E R"
150 PRINT"          Automatically generates data
statements."
160 PRINT STRING$(60,"-")
170 PRINT"  This program will generate DATA statements
without the need"
180 PRINT"of entering line numbers, the word DATA, or the
commas"
190 PRINT"between elements.This is handy since numerical
keypads usually"
200 PRINT"do not contain the comma."
210 PRINT
220 PRINT"  The program generates an ASCII file of these
data statements"
230 PRINT"which can be merged with any other BASIC program.
Limits are"
240 PRINT"set in lines 290 and 380."
250 PRINT"  Start your line numbers high enough to insure
they will not"
260 PRINT"crash into existing numbers when you merge
programs later."
270 PRINT
280 DEFINT I,L,N,Y
290 DIM A$(1000),Z$(100)
300 INPUT"WHAT STARTING LINE NUMBER DO YOU WANT";L
```

```
310 INPUT"WITH A LINE INCREMENT OF";IC
320 INPUT"HOW MANY ELEMENTS PER LINE";LL
330 LINE INPUT"WHAT IS YOUR SENTINEL CHARACTER? ";S$
340 PRINT"Use < ";S$;" > to end input - it will"
350 PRINT"also be recorded as the last data element."
360 PRINT
370 A$=" DATA "
380 FOR I=1 TO 1000
390  PRINT"Enter data item #";I;"> ";:LINE INPUT A$(I)
400  IF A$(I)=S$ THEN GOTO 420
410 NEXT I
420 N=I-1:Y=1
430 FOR X=1 TO INT(N/LL)+1
440  Z$=STR$(L)+A$
450   FOR Q=Y TO Y+LL-1
460    IF Q=Y+LL-1 THEN B$="" ELSE B$=CHR$(44)
470    IF A$(Q)=S$ THEN Z$(X)=Z$+A$(Q):GOTO 520
480    Z$=Z$+A$(Q)+B$
490   NEXT Q
500  L=L+IC:Z$(X)=Z$:Y=Y+LL
510 NEXT X
520 PRINT CHR$(12)
530 FOR I=1 TO X:PRINT Z$(I):NEXT I
540 PRINT
550 PRINT"You may (S)ave the file on disk or,"
560 PRINT"abort and (R)erun the program."
570 PRINT"        (Enter S or R)"
580 INPUT"Your choice ";X$
590 IF X$="R" OR X$="r" THEN GOTO 100
600 IF X$="S" OR X$="s" THEN GOTO 620
610 GOTO 570
620 PRINT"What name will you use for this file?"
630 LINE INPUT"I'll append DAT for the file type. ";F$
640 OPEN"O",1,F$+".DAT"
650 FOR I=1 TO X
660  PRINT#1, Z$(I)
670 NEXT I
680 CLOSE 1
690 PRINT
700 PRINT"DONE, NOW LOAD YOUR BASIC PROGRAM AND"
710 PRINT"ISSUE THE COMMAND TO MERGE ";F$+".DAT"
PRESS RETURN/ENTER WHEN READY
```

#5 19 10 Feb 87 21:35:52
From: Joel Lee
To: All
Subj: CUPBOARDS

Mother Hubbard was a piker. This cupboard is really bare. Anyway, your newsletter is in good shape and will be in your sweatty little hands well before the March deadline. Microsoft Word has really given me a workout. DYNAMIC

MEMORIES will feature a two part review of Word. Then I'd like to go on to Word Perfect. I have MACE which has some interesting utilities for hard disks. It is supposed to be capable of recreating a crashed hard disk. Behave yourselves reasonably well until we see each other at the next meeting.

MIDWINTER MAIL

From: Sysop
To: Joel Lee
REPLY TO #6 SEE ALSO #9
Subj: PROCOMM CONCERN

NUMBER 1 ---- DON'T MESS WITH SUCCESS.

NUMBER 2 ==== SEE NUMBER ONE.

#8 15 12 Feb 87 10:00:37
From: Jonathan Fader
To: All
Subj: Freelance work

I am looking for a freelance programmer to work on converting some Apple ProDOS BASIC programs over to the TRS-80 Model III/4. If interested, call me at Addison-Wesley Publishing Company in Menlo Park at 415-854-0300, ext 512.

#9 16 12 Feb 87 23:37:10 (RECV'D)
From: Don Rhodes
To: Joel Lee
REPLY TO #7
Subj: Procomm

Most likely your modem was not initialized by Procomm... did you turn your modem on after bringing up Procomm? Procomm sends the modem an initialization string to counteract any previously software set parameters. Just turn on your modem BEFORE bringing up Procomm.

#11 14 14 Feb 87 20:08:37
From: Brian Prows
To: All
SEE ALSO #15
Subj: audio/tape decks

Mr. Audio just read Ian Master's column in the March issue of Stereo Review. For those of we audiophiles who use timers to record off-the-air, there's a suggestion from Masters that may save our cassette decks/recorders from the "wow's." Make sure, Masters advises, after a recording that the roller and pin disconnect; in other words, the

record mechanisms are apart. Otherwise, our rollers may develop an
uneven surface, giving us more wow and flutter that we're accustomed to. Mr. Audio finds this advice quite sensible. Doesn't it seem that audiophiles quite often forget the basics of our audio systems, as our eyes open wide over the new sound technologies?

#12 13 14 Feb 87 20:48:29
From: Ian Webb
To: All
Subj: F O R S A L E

I have completed the assembly of an AT Clone. I have an XT Clone for SALE as a unit, partial unit, or parts thereof.

XT motherboard, non-turbo, with V-20 processor, 8087 coprocessor AST 6 pack clone board, game port, RS-232, memory, etc. 360 K floppy
1.2 Mbyte floppy (works as 360K, 720K, or 1.2 M)
20 Mbyte Hard drive (Tandon 3 1/2 inch with Western Digital ctrl)
Tall Tree J-Diskette (Fry's sells it for $199)
Tall Tree J-RAM 3, LIM/EMS board WITH 2 Megabytes of 150 ns RAM
(Fry's sells for $199 with NO RAM)
Hercules CGA (not a clone board) card
NEC color monitor (I need to work on it since after a while at high line voltage it loses stability...run it on a VARIAC!) --- If you prefer would talk about the Hercules clone monographics card and Amdek Video 310A which I moved to my AT clone --- Also have a regular floppy controller if you only want 360K drives.
The 1.2 M drive is great for hard drive backup and will write 80 track double sided (720K-800K) on regular diskettes. I normally run 704K of main memory (not 640K) by using some of the EMS board to fill memory. Run an 800k+ RAM disk and leave about 1 Megabyte for EMS memory for programs like 1-2-3, etc.This is a solid system that has been in use for a couple of years with no failures, so it is well-burned in and very reliable.

Call me at (408) 867-9533 if you are interested or want to make me an offer. I am in no hurry for a fire sale, but would be willing to talk about any fair offer.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL