

Preserving Our CLASSIC Heath 8-Bit Machines!

# The SEETHO JOURNAL

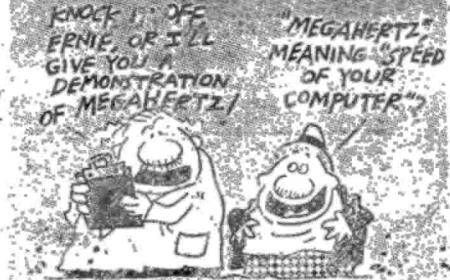
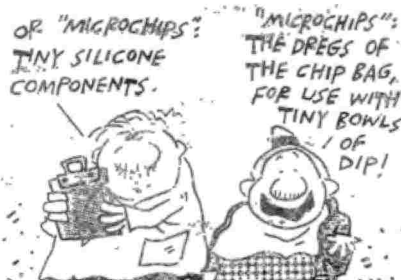
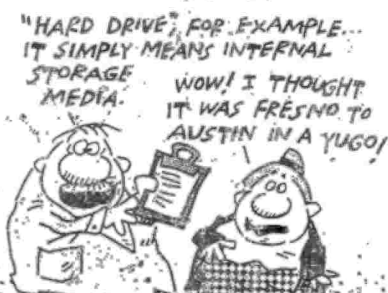
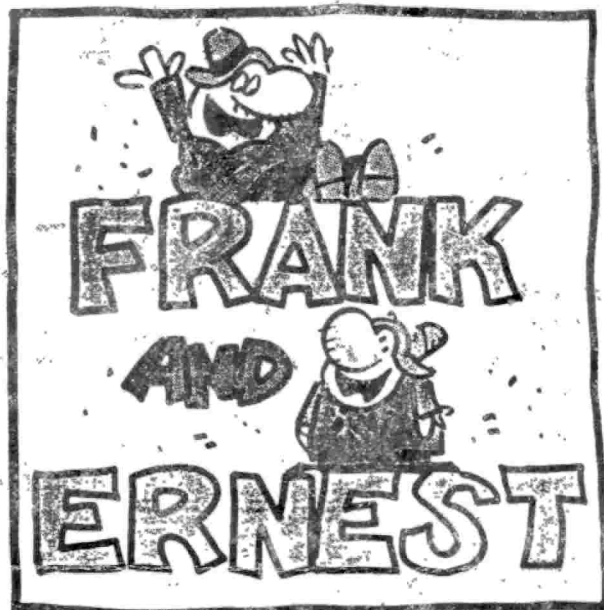
Official Newsletter of The Society of Eight Bit Heath Computerists

Vol VII, NOS 9 & 10

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April & May, 1993

Subscription & Order Form Out on Backside



## READER'S MAILBOX &amp; MISC NOTES

Aloha OM-- [That means "Greetings, Old Man"! -- ed]

And on top of everything else, my Z90 won't boot off the H37! [First] the B: drive got bad, then the A: drive went bad. Bought a new (well, slightly used) 96tpi drive & it won't boot (as A:) either. So I changed the H37 board after cleaning the [drive] heads. Still no workie. The H47 boots (one of those is out too!), so I'm down to a 5.25" 48tpi soft sector and one 8" drive.

Have a line on an H67 hard drive and am heading to Honolulu Monday (3 March) on the USS Omaha (SSN-693) to pick it up and bring back to Hilo with me.

Floppies just can't cut our high humidity and heat...mold grows on the heads and floppy discs! [Hey, that might have been old Oscar Yohai's problem at his Cape Cod and Florida locations! -- ed] Maybe the hard drive will keep me on the Z90....

Will return by Aloha Airlines and will keep you posted.... (PS: My call in phonetics is W6 Old Rusty Submarine, and the other (NNNOORS [NNN-ZERO-ORS]) is my Navy MARS call sign.)

CORKY KIRK W6ORS/NNNOORS, 270 Kapualani St, Hilo, HI 96720

[Hey, Corky! Glad to hear from you, despite your drive problems. From your note I gather that both of your soft-sector interface boards are working ok, it's just the drives which are so flakey. Wonder if any of those wunder laundry-type mildew-ridding agents might work if SPARINGLY applied via a drive-cleaning disc in one of your sick drives? It's worth a try, I'd say. And you might even try putting some on a lint-free non-woven cloth to gingerly wipe onto an old boot disc to see if that will help. Heck, anything that looks as if it'll work is worth a try at least once. Of course, not much will bring back a disc's boxed magnetic domains if it has been subjected to heat much above 150-deg/F. And I suspect that in some cases the stickum which is supposed to hold magnetic stuff on the disc's surface may have lost interest in our world because it got too hot to continue hanging on. If you find time to try out any "mold-icide", drop us a line & tell us if it works or not. Once in a great while I've been able to use CRASH (40 or 80) to recover data from a partially-scrambled floppy. If you need CRASH, I can send a bootable copy to you on a 5.25" disc in HDOS format. Don't fret, HDOS's no big deal; CRASH runs under HDOS but works across systems on CP/M discs without a murmur. About those card-sector Heath discs you mentioned last year (10/7), sure, send 'em along. We can add them to the stuff PS donated to our cause. But, do Write Real Soon Now! -- ed]

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OTHER STUFF

by

Your Editor

Back around the first of this year I said that I was going

to do a Number of Wonderful Things in the coming months. I was so optimistic that I even wrote a List of Things To Do. But I'm still mired in the otherwhen of that Alternate Universe's Alternate Time Stream--way up it--without a paddle or anything.

I did accomplish a few things and crossed them off the original list, but it's still dauntingly long. To really frost the cake, my missus accidentally took a header down our cellar stairs and pulverised the ball of her left shoulder joint, also fragmented her humerus bone. She's left-handed, and the accident has slowed her down greatly. She's now on the mend with a new ball joint end of some rare metal installed, and the worst fragments of her elbow joint extracted. She'll probably be back into most every facet of daily life around the year-end holiday season. Please note: She is most grateful for all our reader's kind wishes for a speedy recovery!

Luckily, our humber two daughter who is temporarily residing with us was on hand when the missus when eh-over-teakettle and called 911 and an ambulance. Talk about good fortune! She also is now sharing many housework chores with me. And our son is sometimes available for heavy work, while number one daughter drops by to help whenever her job schedule permits.

Things could be a Whole Lot Worse!

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\* Everyone knows what YUPIES are, but did you know that we now have YAPPIES?! These are YUPIES who are constantly YAPPING into their Cellular telephones!

\* Our government types certainly are out of touch with reality!

There recently was an enterprising fellow back East who had contracted with a certain ever-so-secret Naval research group in Florida. His job was to go to a locality up along the New England coast and collect large quantities of immature herring gulls, then bring them down to the Florida research station where they were then fed to an experimental group of dolphins. The researchers had found that a diet of gull squabs virtually assured that their dolphins would live forever.

On his latest trip, the Atrack train the enterprising fellow was on was stopped somewhere in the Carolinas by the FBI and police. His cargo of squab was confiscated and he was arrested and charged with "illegally engaging in interstate transportation of young gulls for immortal porpoises".

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## RESOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE & SERVICES

### SOURCES, SERVICES & VENDORS DIRECTORY

-> Latest update, 25 May, 1993 <-

BRADLEY, Lee; sells public-domain CP/M packages, other software. LEE BRADLEY, 24 East Cedar Street, Newington, CT 06111; phone 203-666-3139 voice, 203-665-1100 data.

CDR SYSTEMS, Inc., 7171 Ronson Road, San Diego, CA 92111; ph: 619-560-1272, 9a-5p Pacific Time Zone--ask for Herman....

COMPUTER JOURNAL, The. -- "Foremost magazine in today's CP/M community". Subscriptions start at \$24/yr (6 issues). A free sample issue available. Computer Journal, PO Box 535, Lincoln, CA 95648-0535; phone 800-424-8825

DAVIDGE CORPORATION; manufactures and sells AMPRO Z80 Little Board, one of the last CP/M computers still being made. Prices, information, contact Davidge Corporation, 94 Commerce Drive, PO Box 2664, Buellton CA 93427; phone 805-688-9598.

D-G ELECTRONIC DEVELOPMENTS Co., 700 S Armstrong, Denison, TX 75020; phone 903-465-7805 (Central Time). Bruce Denton, pres. Service & advice available, also H8 and H/Z89 hardware at clearance prices; call for details. "Bruce is A \* Certified \* YOU-BETCHA GOOD GUY!"

DISK MOVERS; 8534 McCormick Blvd, Skokie, IL 60076; phone 708-679-3727 (Central Time)--ask for Miriam. Fair-priced bulk soft-sector discs for H/Z machines. "VERY NICE, VERY HELPFUL PEOPLE!"

ELLIAM ASSOCIATES -- CP/M public domain software & commercial software for most CP/M machines. Hundred-plus page catalogue for \$10.50. Elliam Associates, PO Box 2664, Atascadero, CA 93423; phone 805-466-8440.

HOYLE & HOYLE SOFTWARE, 111 Sparrow Drive, Isle of Palms, SC 29451. No longer in business--SEBHC JOURNAL now carries HDOS, CP/M & MS-DOS versions of QUERY!2 & 3. See our catalogue page for prices....

LINDLEY SYSTEMS, 8139 E Mawson, Mesa, AZ 85207 -- phone: 602-380-9175. Scads of neat 8-bit software. Ask Bob or Bill Lindley for a catalogue. "REALLY FINE FELLOWS!"

MAGNOLIA MICROSYSTEMS, 2818 Thorndyke Avenue West, Seattle, WA 98199; phone 206-285-7266 (Pacific Time). Special memory upgrades and op-systems for H/Z89s & '90s. Leave messages on answering machine....

MICRO COMPUTER REPAIR SERVICE, 2308 Industrial Highway, Ste C Ann Arbor, MI 48104; ph 313-663-3646. FLOPPY DISC DRIVE REPAIRS & SALES. Ask for Mike Morris, "A SUPER GUY!"

NEW ORLEANS DATA GENERAL SERVICES, 7230 Chadbourne Drive, New Orleans, LA 70126; phone 504-241-9388. "Dave" gives H8, H/Z89 colour sound & music board tech advice only.

QUICKDATA COMPUTER SERVICES, Inc., 2618 Penn Circle, Sheboygan WI 53081; 414-452-4172; Henry Fale (Folley), mfr, sales and H/Z computer parts, support, publishes "H-SCOOP" newsletter, 24-hr BBS; "HANK IS A REALLY GOOD GUY!"

SAGE MICROSYSTEMS EAST -- "Sells & supports the best in 8-bit software". For more information, contact Sage Microsystems East, 1435 Centre St, Newton Centre, MA 02159-2469; phone 617-965-3552 9am - 11:30pm voice, MODEM, 617-965-7529 (pw=DDT)

SIGMASOFT & SYSTEMS, 2433 Winterstone Drive, Dallas TX 75023-7818; 214-596-0116 (Central Time Zone)--Clay Montgomery--hardware/peripherals mfr, software publisher, hardware, tech support, RAM drives, Hi-Res grafix add-ons for H/Z89s. Catalog & help; A \*FANTASTIC\* GOOD GUY!

SKYCASTLE COMPUTER PRODUCTS, Box 1412, San Carlos, CA 94070; 415-254-3931 after 6pm Pacific Coast time--ask for Mike. Calligraphy-II, a FANTASTIC dot-matrix grafix printer software utility. Couldn't publish the SEBHC JOURNAL without it! "MIKE'S A REALLY-SUPER GOOD GUY!"

STAUNCH 8/89er, The -- Magazine for users of H/Z H-8 and H-89 computers. Subscription, \$15/year, 6 issues any US Zip & Canada. Sells H/Z CP/M and HDOS software in hardsector and softsector formats--Contact: Kirk L Thompson PO Box 548, West Branch, IA 52358; phone 319-643-7136 (evenings, weekends). "HE'S A SUPER-SWELL GUY!"

TMSI/LEE HART, 323 West 19th Street, Holland, MI 49423; phone 616-396-5085 (evenings, weekends--usually). Misc. 8-bit hardware items, hardware/software support for '89/90 users. Now runs a "Microcomputer Mail Order Library" of books, manuals, & periodicals pertaining to microcomputers in general and H/Z systems in particular. "LEE'S A NICE GUY & TOP-NOTCH ENGINEER!"

Z-100 LIFELINE -- Published 6 times a year, newsletter dedicated to H/Z-100 series of dual micro-processor computers. Subscription, \$24/yr, any US Zip code. Also creates, sells Z-100 software, handles unusual Z-100 hardware. Paul F Herman, Inc, 9317 Amazon Drive, New Port Rich-ey, FL 34655; phone 800-346-2152 "A REALLY GOOD GUY"

NOTE: The above Z-100 listing is included as a special service for our subscribers who have BOTH H/Z89s/90s AND H/Z100s. The Z-100 LIFELINE is a Very Good newsletter!

-----[[8-BITS 4-EVER!]]-----

# SEBHC JOURNAL

Volume VII, Numbers 9-10, Page 4

## NEW NEWS, More READER's MAILBOX

### HOWS ABOUT A COMBINED H/Z-8 BIT AND Z-100 CONFERENCE?!

### COLOSSAL COMPUTER SALE!

Just got a letter from Lee Hart (TMSI) suggesting that all us Z-100 LifeLine and SEBHC JOURNAL subscribers join forces at this year's FOURTH ANNUAL Z-100 GET-TOGETHER. He has also written to Kirk Thompson of The STAUNCH 8/89er and Henry Fale of H-SCOOP in connexion with this proposed joint 8/16-bit venture.

The 4th Annual Z-100 Get-Together will be held this year, Saturday and Sunday, 11 & 12 September, in Oakbrook, Illinois (a suburb of Chicago), at the Hyatt Regency Oakbrook Hotel, 1909 Spring Road, phone 708-573-1234. The conference hotel room rate will be \$69 a night, single or double occupancy. (Slightly higher if three or more to a room; check price with hotel upon registering.) Reservations phone number: 800-233-1234. Be sure to tell the reservations clerk you are with the "Z-100 LifeLine User's Group". (Don't say you're a SEBHCer, you'll just confuse them!)

How To Get There: From O'Hare airport, take I-294 South to Interstate 88 exit (East/West Tollway) West toward Aurora, IL. You'll pay one toll (MANUL LANE ONLY!), then exit just past toll booth at Cermak Road. Take off-ramp into the first intersection, proceed straight across intersection and 22nd Street onto Spring Road. Go the equal of 3-4 blocks and watch for the Hotel immediately on right-hand side of street, opposite Oakbrook shopping center. Twenty minute drive from O'Hare Airport.

Or, make reservation for airport limosine pickup in advance (American Limosine Service), phone 708-820-8888. They'll give further instructions. Rides are \$13 to hotel, \$12 for return to airport. (Taxicab rate is more than double the limo rate!)

Plan on arriving and checking in Friday between noon and 3pm as there will be an informal (Dutch-style) supper at a nearby restaurant. The conference itself will cost about \$10/each and the Saturday night dinner about \$30/plate, payable in advance--call Paul Herman, 800-346-2152 between 9am - 4pm, EDT for more conference details and how to register.

As at previous Z-100 conferences, there'll be an auction of Z100 & other stuff which attendees may display on tables around the conference room. (Here's a GOOD chance for you to sell off some of your surplus stuff!) As far as I know, there will be no charge for display space. Expect to have a Really Good Time!

In my humble opinion, joining the Z-100 crowd's convention is probably the best way we can keep the old HUG esprit-de-corps alive, well, and potent. After all, the '100s came on the Heathkit scene just as our 8-bit machines were exiting (actually, they overlapped somewhat), so we 8-bitners are--essentially--"kissin' cousins" with the '100 users.

Note: Bill Flanagan, 4839 Stonewall Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515, phone 708-960-4884, is another source for information on how to get to the convention hotel, especially if you're driving in from out-of-state.

The Washtenaw County Jewish Community Center is holding their second Colossal Computer Sale of 1993, on Sunday, 27 June, from 9:30am to 4:00pm. As usual, it's taking place in the Washtenaw Community College's Job Skills & Campus Events Building, East Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor, MI.

Hundreds of new and used pieces of computer equipment and software items will be available from scores of Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois vendors. Donated used equipment will also be on sale at bargain prices.

The Colossal Computer Sale is held three times yearly as a benefit for the Washtenaw JCC, and is regularly attended by over a thousand people. General Admission is \$3.00, Vendor's Tables are \$30 each, and miscellaneous refreshments are also on sale. If you have any surplus computer equipment or software you no longer need, donate it to the WJCC and get a nice tax deduction receipt for your generosity! More information? Call "Merle" at 313-971-0990. [Say that Lenny sent you!]

+++++

Dear Lenny,

Hey man! You misspelled my first name; it's STANford, NOT Sanford! And I'm NOT an ex-subscriber, still have many more JOURNALS a'comin'--check my mailing label!

After I advertised my pile of CP/M and H/Z stuff the response was terrific...didn't realise that there were so many die-hard H/Zers like myself around. Got letters from CT to HI, to which I sent lists in reply. But my first response to the JOURNAL ad was from Gus [Bakalis] who wanted the whole batch of stuff, sight unseen. So by the time everyone who responded to my letter/list, Gus had bought the entire ball of wax! What was I to do? It was first come, first served, so I'm apologising to Rick and Corky and Tom, and all you others who wanted some part of the list...It was taking over my limited computer-room space and had to go. And if Gus expects to make a buck or two on some of it, so be it, that's his business.

I'm writing this on my last plain-vanilla H/Z89A, which I shall probably always be using for writing, and lots of other work it can do easier than me firing up the MessyDos machine. I do have some spare parts for it, and a CDR 89 Ram board which I plan to install "when I get time"--funny, funny--.

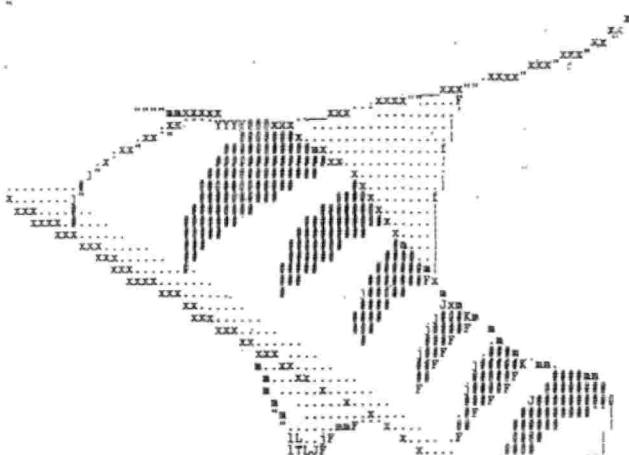
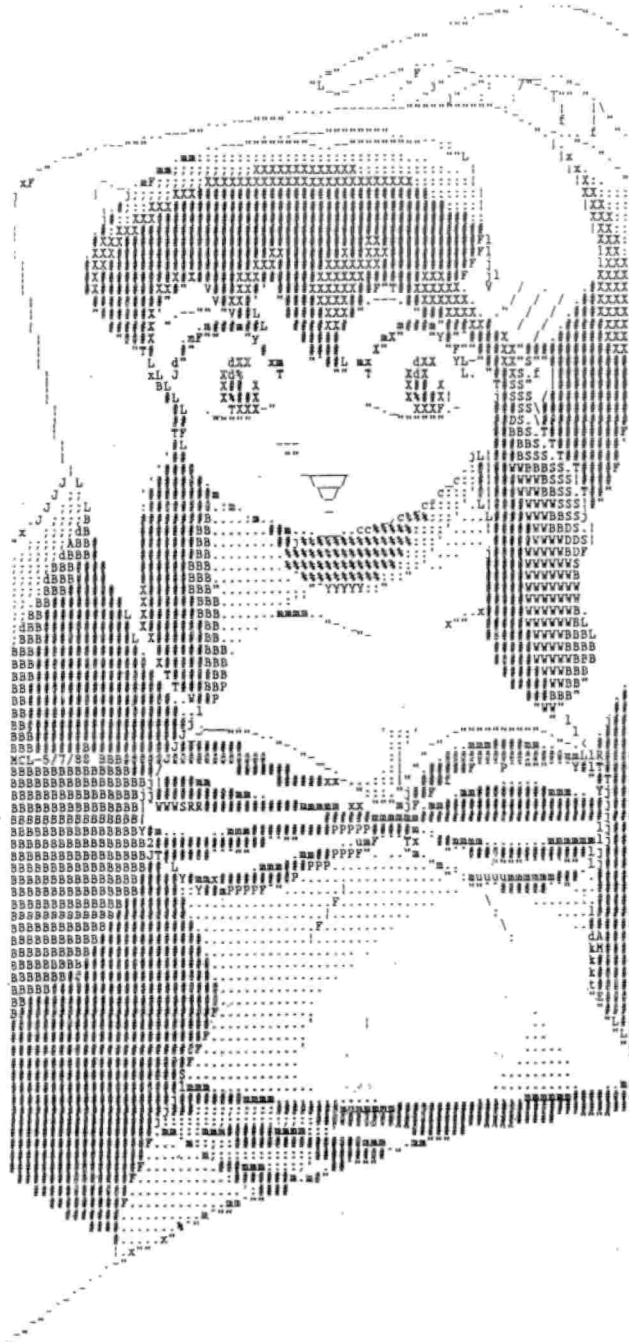
Most of the programs Gus bought came with a spare '89 from a friend who had to change over to an ibm peesee because he worked for them (poor guy, wonder if he still has a job?)....

And if Pete Shkabara reads this: Hey, Pete, drop me a line--I don't have your new address!

STANFORD R EVANS (Bob to everyone), 44115 Palm Avenue, Hemet, CA 92544. (PS--My ham call sign is K6MAC.)

[Oops! Really wasn't trying to "sanfordise" you. Gus bought all your stuff as he's an Inveterate Computer Collector! I'm helping him sort the stuff; may finish Real Soon Now! -- ed]

"Text Art" On Your LPT: Without Graphics...  
Available From CompuServe's "Quick Pictures" Forum (GO QPICS)  
Here's A Challenge to Our Subscribers: Send us YOUR Q-PIC!





# SEBHC JOURNAL

Volume VII, Numbers 9-10, Page 6

## H-e-e-e-r-e's PETE SHKABARA!

Dear Lenny,

It's been a while since my last letter to you. Be sure that while I may not have time to write more often, I still think of you and the devoted community of Heath users.

There seems to be a never-ending question of "why is my computer [called] 'obsolete' when it still does all I want from it"? The answer should be fairly straightforward: If the computer still satisfies your requirements, there is no need to change. CP/M and HDOS software is very difficult to find outside of user's groups, but, at least in many instances it is generally free to be shared. [But] users should continue their efforts to obtain releases from the authors.

Although I still have my original H89, it doesn't get used any more. My motivation for moving to a peesee platform was to get WYSIWYG in word processing and to have graphics capabilities. Other than that, I can't say that I've gained much by switching. Of course, my profession requires that I be familiar with the newer software, so using the peesee platform also serves my vocational needs.

It is a bit disheartening to see that even with 16 Megabytes of memory and 668 Megabytees of disc storage, my 33MHz 486 system is still not fast enough, nor has enough storage capacity. Can you imagine what you could do with 668 Mb disc capacity on an H89?!

The trouble is that peesee software is grossly inefficient [in using] disc space. [Software authors have] no more need to be bound by 64k RAM, so they use whatever they want. You want to run the latest software? Buy the latest hardware!

As is becoming a tradition, my family is once again packing to move. Everything is in boxes; we are down to only three sets of eating utensils, and only a week's worth of clothing. My wife tries to be very organised and prepared. The house escrow is scheduled to close on May 18th and we need to be out by June 18th. She wants to be sure that nothing goes wrong.

The only problem with this whole affair is that we have no idea of to where we shall be going! Several possibilities hang in the offerings, but there have not yet been any concrete offers. You may be next hearing from me from New Mexico, or Oregon, or even Arizona. There even is a possibility of us returning to California...stay tuned on that one.

As part of the cleanup for our [impending] move, I've sent

you the attached package of un-opened, miscellaneous H/Z software I still had around. If you can sell it, it would be nice if you could send a part of the proceeds my way. If there's no market, try to find it a deserving home. Once that software was highly desired...times do keep a'changing!

PETER SHKABARA, 31642 121st Ave SE, Auburn, WA 98002; phone 206-939-9705 [until further notice!]

[Yo, Pete, wherever you are! I've listed your software on this page and in our catalogue section where it may attract more attention. We hope our readers will buy it all and "make you rich". Man, your job opportunities surely have you and the family jumping! And I presume that about three weeks after you settle down in the new location, some other enticing offer will come along, and you'll go through all that fun and hassle again..."deja vu, all over"?! I too have been through that ritual, too many times to detail here! I've changed locations and jobs on an average of once every three years between 1940 and 1982. Some locations and jobs have been quite educational (and entertaining), but most entailed lots of effort on my part to make them work to everyone's advantage. Usually, about the time we'd get settled into what appeared as a permanent situation, my employers would either go out of business, or be "aquired" by another firm, and anyone who knew anything about how the business ran would be "let go".... Reminds me of that old French saying (a rough translation): "The more things change, the more they are the same." All I can say, Pete, is KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! And in connexion with your observation concerning ever increasing memory requirements, it's my own opinion that when big bleu came in on the personal computer scene, their programmers had become accustomed to mainframe computers and their multi-mega-megabyte memories. Most of those guys were too lazy to learn to think and work SMALL, so they just kept bumbling along writing memory-hogging slopware. I'll wager that if you (an accomplished 8-bit programmer) were to duplicate the jobs memory-hog programmes were intended to accomplish, most could easily be written to fit almost any 8-bit machine. With room to spare, and faster too since programmes wouldn't have to wade through miles of excessively-redundant, poorly-written code. Granted, the super-whizzer machines have heaps more Gaw-Lee! Gee-Whiz! graphics, plus sparkling colours, but let's face it, four bits still make a nibble and 2 nibbles make one (8-bit) byte on ALL digital computers, even for the old time city-block-square size mainframes. Those snobs who poo-poo our eight-bit machines Really Are Quite Ignorant! -- ed]

--==<<(((8-BITS 4-EVER!)))>>==--

Disc Number	Program Name & System	Price
900-1001-37	Executive Appointment Secretary CP/M-80/85	(\$29.95) \$10.00
	Copies on hand, 5 only	
885-1221-37A, B	HUG Watzman ROM Source Code CP/M-80 (H19, H89 only)	(\$29.95) \$11.00
	Copies on hand, ONE only	
900-1002-37	DISK SORT/MERGE - HDOS 2/3	(\$29.95) \$10.00
	Copies on hand, 2 only	
900-1003-37	CDR SASISOFT RAM89 Hard Disc software H89 w/H17, H37, CDR. CP/M 2.2	\$10.00
	Copies on hand, ONE only	
900-1004	ZDUMP Screen Utility, Z100 & ZDOS	(\$29.95) \$10.00
	Copies on hand, 2 only	
900-1005	PERFECT WRITER word processor software w/lessons & speller; three 8-inch discs, & instruction manual. "For Standard CP/M", works ok w/CP/M-80, '85	(org price ???) \$15.00
	Copies on hand, ONE only	

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HOW-2 SPEED UP THE U-S-NAIL...
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(As reported in the Bangkok "Thai Rath" News)

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[ ]===== [ ]
[ ] Follow Kuala Lumpur's example [ ]
[ ]===== [ ]
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[illegible]

# SEBHC JOURNAL

Volume VII, Number 9-10, Page 8

## REDUNANT YES, BUT IT'S GOOD!

WE THOUGHT THIS ITEM WAS TOO GOOD TO FORGET!

Our "WHAT SHALL I DO WITH MY OLD COMPUTER?!" Department

From Volume VII, Number 1 (August, 1992)

Ever wondered what to do with a [still-working] computer you no longer are using but hate to throw out because of all the money you've invested in it? Here's the pertinent quote from what Janet Endrjonas recently said in her article: "The Old Gray Monitor Ain't What She Used To Be" (see The COMPUTER MONTHLY, Aug. 1992):

"East West Education Development Fondation (One Exter Plaza, 15th Floor, Boston, MA 02116, 617-542-1234) is taking old computers donated by corporations, dealers, and individuals, refurbishing them and distributing them as requested and needed throughout the world. The Fondation has recently received a \$220,000 grant from Washington's national Endowment for Democracy that directs them to place donations of computer equipment in organisations which promote democracy and reform in the East."

[Note: We haven't had a chance to check out the Fondation's willingness to accept "Old Grey Boxes", but some H/Z-89 owner in the Boston vicinity really ought to call Them Real Soon Now! Be sure to let us at the SEBHC JOURNAL know if anything they say is printable--if so we'd like to pass it along to our readers. -- ed]

The same edition of COMPUTER MONTHLY carried a rather long letter from Charles Emerson which covers some Heath/Zenith history which may be of interest to our readers. [I had to condense it some to make it fit our page format. -- ed]

"I'll bet you didn't know that 1992 marks the 13th anniversary of the year Zenith Data Systems could have launced and established the PC standard. [Instead] they bungled it royally and are still bungling things today. Back in 1979, when personal computers were in their infancy, Zenith Radio Corp. decided to get into the business the quick way. They bought Heath Company from a French conglomerate Schlumberger, who was strapped for cash after buying a Fairchild division. Heath Co. specialised in electronic kits and had a sophisticated all-in-one desk-top computer called the H-89, which was better than anything Radio Shack and Apple had in those long-ago days. More important, at the time of the Zenith acquisition, Heath had a working prototype of a 16-bit computer based on Intel's 8086 microprocessor ready for production.

"But Zenith was intent on maximising its' return on the \$40-million it had paid for Heath and went into full production and national distribution with the H-89 now renamed the Z-89. The 16-bit computer project, dubbed the Z-100, was shelved. Instead, Zenith invested a lot of money designing new

peripherals and enhancements for the Z-89, and arranging for business software, programming languages, compilers and other stuff [to be produced].

"In 1981, IBM came out with its' own 16-bit computer, based on the less complex 8088 microprocessor. This was IBM's 2nd attempt at a small business desktop computer. In 1988-89 it had manufactured a take-off on the H-89, but didn't know how to market it. IBM's quick success caused Zenith management to dust off the Z-100 design it had acquired from Heath, revamp it and put it into production.

"Unfortunately, it was a little too late and not compatible with IBM's graphics. The Z-100 became known as a generic MS-DOS computer, along with many others from the likes of Sanyo, Morrow, Eagle, Columbia, etc., because it ran character-based MS-DOS software. Graphics-based software had to be rewritten to accomodate the Z-100 graphics chip, and that proved to be a fight because the big money was in supporting IBM's PC standard.

"A couple years later, armed with a non-infringing BIOS, Zenith entered the IBM-compatibles market. Along the way it bought a portable computer prototype from Morrow (who was close to bankruptcy) and made a killing selling it to the IRS. Eying big bucks in the government and military markets, it went all-out to capture as many contracts as it could, out-bidding all major competitors. During these years (the mid-80s) it neglected its' dealer base. When the government contracts ran out and other competitors began getting a share, Zenith found itself with rapidly-diminishing sales.

"It took a while to rebuild the confidence of the dealer channel. By updating its' computers and releasing a wide array of laptops, the company managed to keep its' head above water. When Zenith Radio decided to concentrate all of its' efforts on High Definition Television technology, it sold Zenith Data Systems (which included Heath Co. and a nationwide chain of Heath/Zenith computer stores) to French computer maker [sic] Bull for just under a billion dollars [1,000-megabucks - ed]. Since, Bull has revamped Zenith's product line several times. It lost its' substantial market share in laptops, dumped 1200 of its' 1400 Gold Medallion dealers, and is now manufacturing notebook computers for IBM and trying to get back into the good graces of its' corporate customers. What goes around, comes around!"

[Note: Groupe Bull started out as a consortium of COAL MINING companies in France, and later got into computers as part of A Really Big International Diversification scheme. Small wonder that Zenith is now in such a deep, DARK hole! As the old saying goes, "we feel for you but can't touch you"! - ed]

---<<[[ 8-BITS 4-EVER! ]]>>---



## The JOURNAL's Own Catalogue Page

### FIBRE-BOUND SEBHC JOURNAL BACK ISSUE VOLUMES

### ++> The JOURNAL's Own Software Discs <+>

Catalog No	Description	P&H-included Price
V-I (Volume I, Nos 1 thru 12) Aug-86 -- Jul-87		\$22.50
--<<[ Only 7 v-Is left in stock--when gone, that's it!]>>--		
V-II (Volume II, Nos 1 thru 12) Aug-87 -- Jul-88		\$22.50
V-III (Volume III, Nos 1 thru 12) Aug-88 -- Jul-89		\$22.50
V-IV (Volume IV, Nos 1 thru 12) Aug-89 -- Jul-90		\$22.50
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