The Zero Page

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Number 71 August 1999

Commodore Users of Wichita will meet on August 14th, at our regular meeting place 1411 South Oliver, from 1 to 5pm



Your steering committee hard at work...

Don's Digest

By Don McManamey

Here I sit contemplating the last Zero Page and its contents. I had planned to write an article for it but just as so many times before, I had my hands full with other things. I guess we find time for the things we think are really important. There are many personal things I will not go into now that keep me plenty busy. There are also things that I don't mind sharing here and will.

Some months back my 128 bit the dust. Fortunately I had my 128D to fall back on. I have been wanting to do at least one more Disk O'Quarter but have had just about as much help as Jerry or even less. For the longest time Dale Lutes was the only contributor. Fact is that he provided the entire GEO Side. Now I am not even sure that I could count on that. He spends just about as much time on his Commodore as I do on mine. Most of the things that are D.O.Q. able are games and I don't really have time for games anymore. Now I am sure that Jerry understands what I mean when I say that most of my submissions were receive like someone giving him a disk full of articles with no connection to the club. It might be good stuff but perhaps not relevant to the club. And to wade through it all, WOW! I don't have time to just play so where do I find time to play the game and write the instructions and test it and make sure it works?

So what have I been doing with my time? Well, when family and church have what they need and I have a little time to myself I have learned how to turn my old records into compact disks! I have been doing some for other people too. Believe me, it is very time consuming. I have noise reduction software, which will cut down on the number of scratches and their severity. It really is time intensive. If I really want to play games I have a multitude of choices. I can emulate a C64 or nearly any game machine past or present. This machine also has games that are made for it that I don't have time to learn as well as old stand-by's such as solitaire. I can scan both paper and transparent materials. I recently sent a copy of a grade school picture to sever friends that I haven't seen in over 30 years. These are people I have known for over 40 years! I have spent too much time on the net with email. I have spent more time writing to my own family in the last year or less than I have in the previous 16 years I have spent 1000 miles or more from them. I do some ICQ as well as some See You See Me. I think I have finally made an upgrade that will last me for many years. Not to say I won't add to it 'cause I know I will. With a new system there are so many things to learn. Not just the system but the new software it is capable of supporting. You may remember that I cut tons of grass last year. Not this year! However, Raytheon still demands too much of my time and I see no end in sight. We did slow down in recent weeks but recently I talked to someone in the company who has a better view of the big picture and he affirmed my biggest fears. We are very, very behind schedule and we will be working much overtime after the vacation is over

So Jerry, I sympathize with you but have my hands full myself. If I could be sure I would not have to work and if people wanted, I would bring my computer and show how the emulators work. Let's all keep in touch. I'll em you later!

🙂 Don



Moe's Soup Box By Morris Shouse

The experts now think that the Y2K thing may not cause as much trouble as first thought. They now think that instead of very wide spread trouble it will be limited to just spots here and there. But if you a Commodore computer user, I think the troubles you have will be much less. However it is thought by some experts that these troubles could start as early as this as this summ thing is not to panic. In most cases a quick recovery will be possible. But in some it will take much longer. I am just happy that this Y2K thing can not in anyway cause trouble on a Commodore. Perhaps we have become too dependent on computers, but let's not underestimate our flexibility, our ability to improvise, our patience and especially our good humor. By these traits is civilization truly measured?

Moe :-D

It looks as if Moe fell victim to the Y2K bug do you think it is because he uses a Super CPU?

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Random Access

By Dale Lutes

I hope that at least *some* of you noticed that my column was missing from last month's issue of The Zero Page. Jerry's reminder that articles were due arrived in my e-mail box as I was getting ready to depart for vacation - always a hectic time around the Lutes household. As the former editor, I can empathize with Jerry's frustration at the lack of material for the newsletter.

While on vacation, I took my family to Kennywood amusement park near Pittsburgh, PA. A couple of games in the arcade (formerly the "Penny" arcade) caught my attention. The one that fascinated me most was equipped with a bicycle seat, pedals, and handlebars. While seated, the player faces a large-screen monitor and pilots a pedalpowered flying machine. The object is to follow a course, popping large balloons as you go. In the arcade, there was also an assortment of "virtual" skateboards, motorcycles, and jet-skis, each with its own unique, and very realistic input device designed to mimic the real thing. While a lot of people ooh and ahh over the quality of the graphics in today's video games, it amazes me how far we've come from the days of simple paddles and joysticks.

"Client-server", "web-enabled", and "Java applets" are among the most over-used buzzwords in the computing industry today. Managers read this gobbledy gook in trade magazines and figure the if it sounds this good, then it's gotta save the world. I recently got a good dose of this in a new time keeping application called **People Time** at my place of employment. A couple of months ago, I wrote about "bloatware." Well, People Time is the epitome of bloatware. When I absolutely have to use a PC at work, the one that I have access to is a 50Mhz Intel 486. It's not the latest and greatest, but still packs a considerable amount of horsepower. But People Time (which requires Microsoft Internet Explorer 5, by the way) is so bloated; it brings this poor machine to its knees. It took me 30 minutes one day to log on, change my password, and enter three charge numbers - an operation that I could complete in 30 seconds using our old punch card system. Multiply this by 7000+ employees and you can see why some of us call it People Crime. Oh, and can this thing One crash resulted in an error crash! Frequently! message that led me to deduce that this program is the front end for a DB2 database running on our IBM mainframe. All of which goes to prove, once again, that IBM and Microsoft do not necessarily mean bigger and It makes me glad to get home to my better. Commodore...

Quick Fix

According to a radio report, a middle school in Oregon was faced with a unique problem. A number of girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the bathroom. That was fine, but after they put on their lipstick they would press their lips to the mirror leaving dozens of little lip prints. Finally the principal decided that something had to be done. She called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the maintenance man. She explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the custodian who had to clean the mirrors every night. To demonstrate how difficult it was clean the mirrors, she asked to the maintenance guy to clean one of the mirrors. He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it into the toilet and then cleaned the mirror. Since then there have been no lip prints on the mirror.



The Helping Hand

This column lists those users willing to share their experiences and knowledge with other club members.

Robert Bales 831-0008 Telecommunications, Internet, CMD HD and FD drives

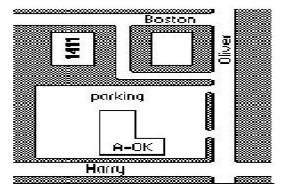
Dale Lutes 721-0835 GEOS, Programming, Word Processing, Desktop Publishing, CMD FD drives and RAMLink

Don McManamey 265-2560 Word Processing, Print Shop, Printing

Jerry Shook 776-2683 Databases, Label Making, Word Processing, Printing

Carl Poston 776-0735 Commador Plus 4

Let us know if we may include your name in future Helping Hand listings. If we don't have a category for you already, we'll add one!



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