

The Zero Page

*The newsletter of the Commodore Users of Wichita
After the sharing, learning and love of Commodore computer*



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 e-mail. 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!

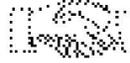
☺ Don

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 gobbledygook 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 crash! Frequently! One crash resulted in an error 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 better. It makes me glad to get home to my 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 to clean the mirrors, she asked 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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