

Post Office Box 1329
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NEWS80S

Issue Number 5

For HP Series 80 Users



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FOUR TO SIX

What looks like betting odds could turn into a sure thing for owners of HP Series 80 microcomputers. NEWS80S, the independent newsletter for owners of Hewlett-Packard Series 80 computers has announced that in 1983 its publishing schedule has been increased from four issues per year to six issues.

"This will allow us to significantly increase our ability to provide timely and comprehensive coverage of Series 80 topics," stated Dale Flanagan, Editor of the publication. "We plan on maintaining our coverage of HP-83 and HP-85 computers, and using the extra editorial space to expand our HP-86 and HP-87 coverage. We will pay special attention to software reviews, Series 80 assembly language and HP Basic programming techniques. Past articles on these three topics have generated the most reader response for us. We'll also continue to publish complete program listings for useful utility and application programs," Flanagan added.

NEWS80S started publishing in February of 1982. In May of 1982 the publication was sold to Joseki Computer Corporation, publishers of Apple, IBM and LIP personal computer software. The publication now covers approximately 10% of the known Series 80 owners in the U.S.

Subscriptions to the publication are \$15 for six issues (\$30 for foreign subscribers). "Our per-issue price remains the same," commented Flanagan, "but we are now supplying more issues per year."

Through its publisher, Joseki Computer Corporation, NEWS80S also sells low cost software to the Series 80 community. For 1983, NEWS80S plans to greatly increase this software line.

The new publication schedule starts with the publication's issue number 5, which will be in subscriber's hands in April. Subsequent issues will appear every other month.

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HP ADVANCED PROGRAMMING ROM FOR THE HP-85 by Dale Flanagan

HP's standard Basic on the HP-85 is quite powerful, and since it did almost everything I wanted it to, I avoided paying the extra money for the Advanced Programming (AP) ROM. That was a mistake.

If you do your own programming, the AP ROM is the most powerful enhancement you can buy for your HP-83/85 for under \$200. It provides a variety of extensions to HP Basic which will make your programming efforts more efficient and enjoyable. It will also greatly increase your ability to control the screen display and operations of most programs.

Probably the most powerful extension is a series of commands which allow you to create and use Basic subprograms. Subprograms are separate Basic programs which can reside in memory along with your main Basic program. Subprograms may be called into memory from the mass storage device, and they may be eliminated from memory selectively or as a group to make room for other subprograms.

Parameters can be passed to subprograms by variable address or by value. Passing parameters by address will return any altered values to the main program. It should be noted that the actual variable names used in the subprogram do not have to be the same names used in the main program. For instance, a main program can "call" a subprogram, passing addresses for "X" and "Y". The subprogram, however, could use variable names "A9" and "C7" (for instance) instead of X and Y. By passing variable addresses, the subprogram changes to A9, and C7 would be assigned to X and Y in the main program. This means that you have complete freedom to call your variables anything you wish in the main program, without worrying what they were called in the subprogram.

An equally powerful feature is the ability to pass parameters by value. In this case the subprogram can perform its functions without affecting the values of variables in the main program. In other words, a subprogram can also have "local variables" which won't interact or affect the variables in the main program.

The ability to call subprograms from mass storage and the use of global (parameter passing by variable address) and local variables is a tremendous enhancement that resembles the "procedures" found in advanced computer languages like Pascal. It means that common program functions such as data editing, file handling, or similar routines need to only be written once. After they are written, you may use them in countless other "main" programs, greatly expanding your ability to write programs quickly and efficiently. You may build a library of common routines, and "call" them from main programs only as needed.

At the end of this article you'll find an example of two useful subprograms to handle data files. It should be noted that the numbering of various subprograms may repeat the line numbers found in the main program or other subprograms, and that multiple subprograms can reside with a single main program in memory.

The new commands that allow the creation, use and maintenance of subprograms would, in my opinion, justify the purchase of the AP ROM, but there's considerably more.

The AP ROM also provides several new features and Basic statements which make programming easier. There's a whole slew of statements that allow you to manipulate the internal HP-83/85 clock (reading time or timers, converting to Julian date, converting hours and minutes to seconds, etc.). There's a way to merge programs together, renumbering the merged program as you do so. There's a very useful way to list all variables or referenced line numbers, and the line numbers where the variable is used or where the line is referenced. There's also a large number of string functions.

Many of these functions seem to have a limited useful application (i.e. one reverses the

order of characters in a string, another wraps the string around on itself, shifting letters to the right or left), but others allow you to highlight a string or trim leading and trailing blanks from a string. To the joy of programmers use to them, the AP ROM provides five commands to define and use string arrays in HP Basic. These are only one dimensional arrays, but they provide a convenient way to manipulate string data when used in combination with the other HP string functions.

Most programs use variables as flags, indicating an off/on or yes/no state. With the AP ROM you can have 64 flags and use up only 8 bytes of memory. A special flag command allows you to set and read these one bit flags individually, and you can even manipulate, transfer or save all the flags as an 8 character string, using additional commands. The ROM also provides enhanced error handling information, giving you the ROM number where the error was detected. There are also many commands involving the entry and display of data with the HP-83/85. My favorite is LINPUT, which allows the input of strings with commas and other "illegal" punctuation not accepted by a normal INPUT statement. The AP ROM also provides comprehensive cursor and text screen control, allowing the programmer to create more sophisticated data entry and information display-screens. Following this article is a short demonstration program that illustrates some of this control. The AP ROM also provides a way to "take over" the entire keyboard of the HP-83/85, making all keys function like the soft keys (i.e. keys K1-K8). A short demonstration program is provided on this capability, also.

The AP ROM provides approximately 50 new Basic commands, so there are other new commands we're sure we haven't uncovered or had a chance to use yet. Despite this, the features we have used have left us suitably impressed. If you do your own programming, the AP ROM is an essential addition to your HP-83 or HP-85. An AP for the HP-87 was announced for release in December of 1982, but latest word from HP is that it will be April before the HP-86/87 AP ROM starts to hit stores. If it provides capabilities similar to the 83/85 AP ROM, this new ROM will be an exciting addition to the 86/87 line.

FILE CREATION SUBPROGRAMS by Bruce A. Wagner

The following are two subprograms I use for creating and/or assigning data - files. They're designed to be CALLED by a program using the HP-85 Advanced Programming ROM, but they both can easily be converted to regular program subroutines, using the following procedure:

1. Delete line 10 in both NEWFL and OLDFL.
2. Replace SUBEND and SUBEXIT with RETURN in lines 110 and 240 of NEWFL, and 80 and 150 of OLDFL.
3. Delete line 220 of NEWFL and line 130 of OLDFL if the AP ROM is not available.
4. Before calling either subroutine, set B\$="buffer number" so the appropriate buffer is assigned.
5. The file name will be returned in the string variable F\$.

SUB NEWFL (B, F\$) : This subprogram will assign buffer number B to the file named F\$. It is used to create a new file and also to open an already existing data file for data storage. If the user tries to create a new file with the same name as an already existing file, the program warns the user, allowing him or her to purge the existing file and create a new file with the same name again. If the user does not ask to create a new file, the routine assumes that a file with the

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name in F\$ already exists and attempts to open a file F\$. If none exists, the program allows the user to create a file with the name assign to F\$ or to define a new file name. Line 70 of the program should be adjusted to create a file of an appropriate size.

SUB OLDFL (B, F\$) : This subprogram simply allows the user to assign an already existing file to a buffer. This routine is used to open a files for the purpose of reading the data, whereas NEWFL is used to open a file for the purpose of storing data. If a file does not exist with the name F\$, the program asks for a new file name.

(** SEE PROGRAM LISTINGS 5-1 and 5-2 AT END OF NEWSLETTER **)

AP ROM SCREEN FORMAT DEMONSTRATION by Edward H. Ball

This program requires the use of the Advanced Programming ROM, and it provides a simple demonstration of how a subprogram (SUBRED) and the AP ROM's screen control features could be used to provide nicely formatted data entry. In addition to capitol letters, the period, space bar, and backspace key are also activated.

(** PLEASE SEE PROGRAM LISTING 5-3 AT END OF NEWSLETTER **)

THE AP ROM by Noel J. Thompson

The Advanced Programming ROM for the HP-85 has a lot of great features. You might be interested in the following use of two of its commands.

The ONKYBD command is similar to the ONKEY# command. It can take over any and every key on the keyboard, except reset. If you run all keys though ONKYBD, then you can deal with a character at a time, and eliminate the ONKEY# problem of stopping the program by touching any key other than K1-K8.

You must deal with ONKYB jumps promptly, to assure being ready for the next key.

The ALPHA command is expanded from the same command in HP-83/85 Basic. An "ALPHA 15,3" will move the cursor to line 15, row 3 of the screen. "ALPHA 1" lines things up at the top of the screen buffer. The expanded ALPHA command allows you to wander around the screen, printing and reprinting things where you like.

The sample program, "KBD", plays with the screen, as though you were going to write a text editor. It takes a full screen of input without the need for an ENDLINE every 95 characters.

First Q\$ is filled with almost every key combination possible, leaving only PAUSE. ONKYBD is now authorized to interrupt when any key in Q\$ is typed, putting its value in I. ONKYBD takes a character at a time into J\$.

Meanwhile, the main loop keeps watching J\$. If a character appears there, we move it into a buffer, I\$, which is as big as the screen.

With the ALPHA command we play games. The typing always appears on line 15. Pointers appear on line 14. Words that won't fit are stripped and saved for the next line. Lines are displayed from the top of the screen as they are completed. BACKSPACE does what it should, even into a finished line.

You can overwrite this routine, because it is written for illustration, not speed. It won't make mistakes, though. Whatever is in J\$ will come chugging out when you pause.

The "KBD" program does nothing but fill the text screen. But when you or I write a text

editor, or our next menu-driven giz-whiz, we could free ourselves from the ENDLINE key with these AP ROM ideas.

(** PLEASE SEE PROGRAM LISTING 5-4 AT END OF NEWSLETTER FOR "KYBD" **)

400 BILLION ERRORS OF DIVISION (I) by Gordon D. Kirchhevel

When the divisor is 2 and the dividend is an odd number above 200 billion and one uses the division operator (/), the HP-85 will display the wrong answer due to rounding. That ".5" error can make some programs ineffective and/or misleading for numbers over 200 billion. The June 1982 issue of "Creative Computing" (p. 107) had a program for factoring numbers that used the division operator (/) twice in the crucial line:

```
80 IF N/F # INT(N/F) THEN 50
```

If you try that program, the HP-85 will tell you with a straight face that EVERY number above 200 billion has 2 as a factor. That's not true.

There's a number base conversion program on page 257 of the HP-85 Owner's Manual and Programming Guide that is likely to interest anyone who hopes to use the Assembler ROM. Before you can use it to convert a 12-digit decimal number to binary and back again, you must change the dimensions of the input and output string variables in line 20 from "24" to "40". The division operator (/) is used in the crucial line:

```
150 N = N/B2
```

If you use that program, the HP-85 will tell you with a straight face that EVERY binary number greater than decimal 200 billion ends in zero. It's not true.

One could amend vulnerable programs to reject numbers above 200 billion, but that would mean giving up all but the bottom 20% of the HP-85's input range. Revising programs is a more useful solution. The line from the "Creative Computing" factoring program could be:

```
80 IF N DIV F*F # N THEN 50
```

The revision to the Programming Guide number base conversion program could be:

```
150 ! Deleted
```

```
160 P = RMD(N,B2)+1
```

```
170 (Unchanged)
```

```
180 N = N DIV B2
```

I also revised two earlier lines:

```
120 N = B1*N_1+P ! Rearranged
```

```
130 NEXT I @ IF N > 99999999999 THEN DISP "TOO LARGE! Please try  
again." @ GOTO 60
```

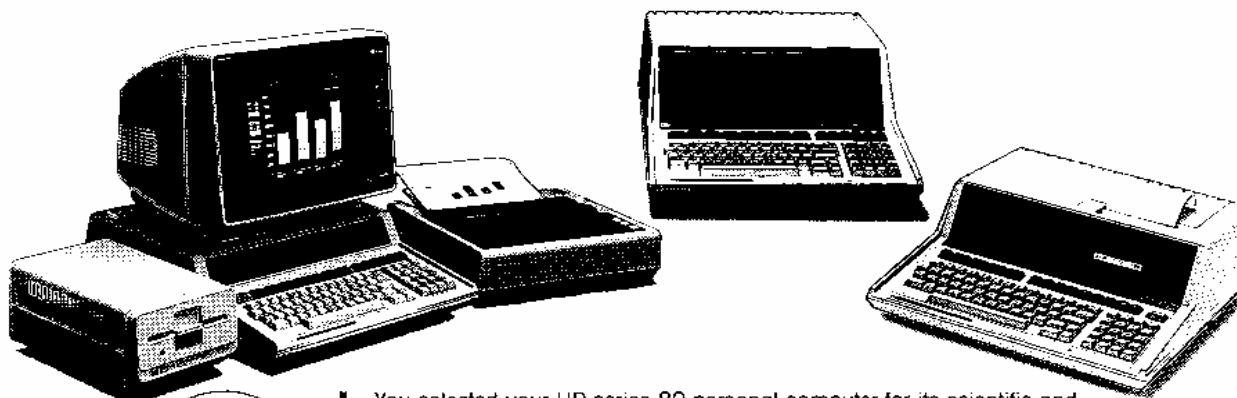
Well, I think you get the idea. Please help stamp out the 400 billion errors of division (/)!

SERIES 80 COUNTRY by Dale Flanagan

Corvallis is the home of Oregon State University. You reach it by leaving the main highway and driving through tiny communities with names like Triangle. All around you the countryside is splashed with the distinctive green of Oregon, and this corner of the world seems to have cornered the market on weathered old barns.

When you get to Corvallis you're greeted by a mixture of 1950's architecture and the kind

word power



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of instant flash that seems to haunt isolated college towns. North of town, off a street with no sidewalks, a modest sign marks the entrance to Hewlett-Packard and the home of the Series 80. If you drive past the wooded pond (!), you come across modern glass and steel buildings that house the HP personnel that design and market the Series 80.

The purpose of our visit was to meet some of the people who have helped us with information about the Series 80, and to gather as much information, data and just plain gossip about "our" machines as possible. Although many of the nice people I wanted to meet were there (Bob Ulary, Nancy Ulman, Chris Wain, Pat Fobes, Dick Siegal, & company), several others were not (they were at the Comdex show). For the second purpose of the trip, I'll list the information and speculation I picked up, identifying my guesses on topics the HP people were too close-mouthed to talk about.

- * There probably will not be any brand new Series 80 mainframes for the next couple of years, however there is the possibility of enhancements or modifications to the existing product line.

- * The HP-85 continues to sell well, much to the surprise of several people I talked to. Apparently HP will continue to sell and improve this model as long as demand stays good.

- * Look for some kind of enhancement to the HP-85 which will make tape-only operations faster and easier. HP wasn't very open on this, but I'm going to guess that they're working on either a bubble memory module or a RAM disk module. The RAM disk concept is what HP does with its Pascal system if you have more than 128K in an HP 86/87. This takes RAM and makes it "look" like a disk to the operating system. Program chaining and data input is naturally much faster than a tape or disk, and it would enhance the HP 83/85 (or 86/87 in Basic mode) in many applications.

- * A large number of 86/87 buyers get the CP/M module, and most get more than one disk drive.

- * HP has thought about a CP/M module for the HP-85, but rejected the idea because the 85's screen format is completely incompatible with most CP/M software.

- * HP has reorganized the entire personal computer line, consolidating the Series 70, 80, 100 and 200 under one division. Series 80 marketing is supposed to get more aggressive, and HP has been running ads and software specials to increase Series 80 sales.

- * HP prevented mail order sales of the HP 86/87 at the end of 1982, and predictably sales took a nose dive. This seemed to be on the minds of many people, because they all brought it up as a topic. Briefly, HP claims that a mail order dealer can't give the kind of support they want provided with the Series 80, so they wouldn't sign HP 86/87 dealer agreements with mail order dealers. This is the same path Apple and IBM have taken. Since my visit Series 80 sales have evidently grown back to old levels but, in the L.A. area at least, I haven't seen any signs of increased dealer support or coverage for the Series 80.

- * Nobody talks about how many Series 80's are out there, but I think 60,000 world-wide would be a good guess. This year HP could increase that to within spitting distance of 100,000 if they get aggressive. I think that the Series 80 sales are around 50% overseas, and that only one in three of the U.S. users are on anyone's mailing list. Remember, these are our (educated) guesses.

- * HP86's outsell HP-87's at a rate of around six or seven to one. As one HPer put it, "For any given configuration, the HP86 will be \$500-1000 less expensive. Unless you need the compact screen or maximum memory, you're better off with the HP86."

- * HP uses tons of Series 80 machines in their business. Almost every desk has one.

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(FROM PAGE 15 - LISTING 5-4)

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```

750  * BACKSPACE 57
760  I#=#L1,LEN,I#)-13
770  ALPHA 15 * DISP I#L+NC+123.1
    " * REDISPLAY
780  RETRN
790  * THAT REALLY WILL BACKSPACE
    AROUND THE CORNER
800  !
810  * ENDLINE 154
820  ALPHA 15
830  DISP "----ENDLINE ---"
840  ALPHA FNC+1 * DISP I#FNC+13
    * MOVE LINE INTO PAGE
850  FOR #=LEN,I#)+1 TO FNC*2+5
    I4(X)= " " * NEXT X  PFD
860  RETURN

```



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3. CADD/87 Computer Aided Drafting & Drawing for 4P-87.....price to be announced

CAGE/87 has been under development since early 1980 and should be available Fall 1982. Some of CAGE/87 features include: LINES, VECTORS, CIRCLES, ARCS, POLYGONS, BOXES, TEXT, SYMBOLS, GRAPHICS CURSOR, PLOTTER OUTPUT, GRAPHICS EDITING...and much more. If interested, contact us to get on our CAGE/87 mailing list.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 4. Nicolet Digital Oscilloscope to HP-85 interface program..... | \$150.00 |
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This may seem obvious, but I can remember visiting a micro manufacturer where everyone was tied into a mainframe computer by a terminal, and the only working copy of their product was a demo machine in the sales department! By the way, HP hasn't found any way to speed up the processing speed of the Series 80, either. Like us, they just adjust to the slow number crunching.

I left Corvallis with generally positive feelings about the operation there and the people running it. I'm curious to see if the HP reorganization and more aggressive marketing stance will finally earn them the kind of market share that the Series 80 deserves. Our guess of 60,000 Series 80 machines sold is impressive until you realize that's about 2 months worth of sales for Apple or IBM. I doubt if HP will ever be a mass market micro, but the features and pricing of the Series 80 line should allow them to do better this year than they've ever done before. An expanding user community is a vital element in today's microcomputer world, so we all have an indirect stake in HP's ability to spread the word about the Series 80 from the tiny town of Corvallis.

MASS STORAGE ROM QUIRKS

When a disk is full and a STORE is attempted for a file which has increased in size, the smaller version of the file will be purged from the diskette before the diskette is checked for sufficient space to STORE the new file. Because of this, it's possible to purge the old file while leaving the new file in memory, but not stored. Make sure you have enough space on a diskette before doing a STORE on a file that can increase in size so you don't lose your data!

RAMBLING by Dale Flanagan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US, HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US, ETC. It hardly seems like one year can be over, but I look at the issue number at the top of the masthead and realize that we're starting into our second year of publication. Looking back at the past year, I realize that we grew at about double what we planned, but we only accomplished 50% of what we wanted. Starting with this issue we're going to six issues a year, which will allow us to bring you news on a more timely basis, plus we can give more coverage to topics which will hopefully be of interest to you. Just as important, you'll know to watch for NEW80S every other month, instead of on the irregularly spaced quarterly publishing calendar our first four issues appeared under.

This, our first bi-monthly issue is about 3 weeks late (not a very good start!). Our trusty Diablo letter-quality printer started doing very strange things as we tried to get this issue printed. We trundled it down to the local Diablo repair depot and waited for a call. After a week, we called them and were told that they hadn't looked at the machine yet. More waiting. Finally, after 2-1/2 weeks, we got a call with the repair estimate. It was astronomical.

The repair estimate was so high that we decided it wasn't worth fixing our 6 year old printer. Then we spent another week or so checking out our options for a new printer. To make a long story short, we bought a new C. Itoh daisy-wheel printer for about \$100 more than it would cost us to repair our Diablo. Thus far we've been very happy with it. Since purchasing the new printer, we found a non-factory repair depot that will fix our Diablo for about 1/2 Diablo's price,

if we ship it from L.A. to San Francisco, but we're seriously thinking of buying another new C. Itoh printer instead (anyone want to buy a Diablo 1620 for parts?).

All this has a point (besides explaining why we're a few weeks late). My two contacts with HP service have been very good. Both took less than two days to resolve the problems. Since both were under warranty, I can't comment on the pricing, but I've been told that HP pricing is very fair. My other experiences with computer companies have been a frustrating and costly travail (compared to Apple, Diablo is a model of efficiency!). When you bought your HP, you probably paid more for it than a comparable model by another company, but if it ever needs service, you'll find that the "HP Investment" was probably a wise one. We sometimes gnash our teeth over dealing with HP or their policies, but service is one area where our teeth have only shown smiles.

IF YOU READ THIS BEFORE APRIL 30, and you have an HP-86 or HP-87, you should go to your dealer and check out a special software deal HP is offering. For \$250 HP will sell you Visicalc, Word/80 and File/80. Normally these packages sell for \$250 EACH, so this is a \$750 retail value for 1/3 of the retail price.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORY

We've come across several commercial programs which won't work if additional ROMs are found in an HP85. This causes a major inconvenience, forcing the user to remove ROMs when running a particular program, and then replace ROMs when running other programs.

Let's face it. Very few programs actually have to squeeze the last byte of memory to function properly. Most will work just fine with a few less records, and do not require the use of memory space that normally would be used by plug-in ROMs. Hewlett-Packard's HP 83/85 ROMs require the following memory at initialization time:

ROM NAME	BYTES
PRINTER PLOTTER ROM alone	373
INPUT/OUTPUT ROM alone	416
Both PP AND I/O ROMS together	556
MASS STORAGE ROM	150
MATRIX ROM	69
ASSEMBLERROM	124
ADVANCED PROGRAMMING ROM	91

The way I read these figures, a "full house" HP-83 or 85 could use 990 bytes of memory for various combinations of ROMS. So, unless It's absolutely necessary, a program in a ROM-less machine should have at least 990 bytes of unused memory, to accommodate any possible combinations of ROMs.

You should try to maintain this "standard" in your own programs (in case you buy additional ROMs at some time in the future), and commercial software developers should try to adhere to this rule, too. Shuffling ROMs in and out of a machine not only leads to potential damage, it also makes for an inconvenience that can hurt software sales.

FEEDBACK from the readers

MILTON R. BEYCHOK (IRVINE, CA) writes to say that he is interested in forming a club for Series 80 owners in the Orange County area. Milton can be contacted at 63 Oak Tree Lane, Irvine, CA 92715 or at (714) 552-0837.

FROM RICHARD H. BAKER (Sparks, NV): Just got the new issue #4, and want to congratulate you on the WP reviews. Excellent. A few comments on Pagewriter on which this is being written. I agree the documentation is not nearly so thorough as it might be, and I hope the author will remedy that (as I also hope he will let me have the proper codes for using the special type on my "A" model printer). I would urge anyone using Pagewriter to store everything on disk or tape before he prints or tries to store in the buffers. Somehow text evaporated for no discernible reason. And you must be careful in ending paragraphs with "Endline" if it is the last character on the screen line--it will delete the character in the upper left hand corner of the screen if you do. But that only happens one in 32 chances so the odds are good. And if you want justified printout, forget the rule to put double spaces at the end of sentences--you may get a blank space at the start of the next line.

I bought Pagewriter not knowing much about word processors, and while I am not entirely happy with it, I'm not nearly so unhappy with it as I have been with HP's text editor. I think the author can square up the documentation and vastly improve the program if he will add a space selector toggle along with the tab and justify toggles, and a page length toggle.

I bought Pagewriter not because it was the least expensive, wishing it had those improvements, along with superscripting and underlining, which Write/Idea and Documate do have, but solely because it is not copy locked. I keep backups in a safe deposit box which is sometimes, because of travel (the 85 goes with me), hundreds of miles away, and always unavailable on weekends. I could put up with certain types of programs being secured, but not ones I may need on short notice. There has to be a better answer than the paranoiac assumption of software writers that every customer is a thief. I am also willing to bet that security codes can be broken. Before I got interested in computers, I was a lawyer (and am still a member of the bar); I am sure I could draft a license agreement that will either stop the stealing or at least make it very unattractive. Then copy locks would be unnecessary. But in general I will not buy copy locked programs. HP hasn't done it to me yet on the programs I have bought from them; I don't think these outside writers need to do it either.

P.S. A tip for those who get the new 3 1/2 disc drives: the discs fit crossways in a standard 4X6 card file and at a price that beats the fancy \$35 storage containers (I paid \$1.37 for mine). And a couple of thoughts on the drives: you can't help wondering why the mass storage ROM will not copy onto the second disc a file that is already on that disc by the same name, but the STORE command in the mainframe will. In fact the COPY command would greatly simplify making backups of data files to be updated if HP engineers could make the assumption that the user won't ruin more files with COPY than he can with STORE.

(NEWS80S: Thanks for the "user's view" of Pagewriter. In our testing for our word processing review we didn't lose any text with this program, but our test cycle is limited, and it's probably a good idea to save the text frequently when using ANY text editor!

(The question of software protection and piracy is an on-going debate in the computer industry, and the amount already published on this issue could fill several books. Although there seems to be considerably less illegal copying with HP software than with other computer brands,

I'm sure that pirating does occur. I feel that software houses have the right to protect their work by whatever means they see fit. The fact that we're a software producer doesn't influence this stand, because none of our software (Apple, IBM or HP) has been sold in a copy protected form. On the other hand, buyers like Mr. Baker have an equal right to not purchase copy protected software. If enough people follow this stand, software producers will find other means of protecting their work, and the disk security will come off (this happened with the CP/M version of Wordstar).

(As a software consumer, a more important issue than disk protection is the availability of back-up copies for secured software. As a rule-of-thumb, I feel any secured program costing over \$200 or so should have a back-up copy provided free as part of the package or sent to you when you turn in a warranty card. Additional backups should be available by sending the damaged original and a reasonable fee (say, twice the retail cost of the media alone) to the supplier. What do you think?)

FROM MARTIN SPERBER (Santa Monica, CA): As an owner of both the HP87XM and the -- HP86, who uses the graphics capability extensively, I immediately refused to go through the scaling conversions required of the HP86 for proper presentation of isotropic graphics. I believe that I have developed a better way for HP86 users.

Although I use the HP 12" monitor, my solution will be as implementible on the 9" monitor and on the NEC versions.

I have modified the display sweep circuits to program a vertically compressed screen corresponding to the HP87 format. This solution allows for switching between HP86 format for alpha and non-isotropic requirements, where a maximum screen size is desirable, and the HP87's vertically compressed graphics format. The switching arrangement utilizes the video high-low impedance matching switch for screen size control. The video port is now terminated permanently with 75 ohms. The loop through, however, is still active and if there is an overriding need, the internal termination may be deleted on order with an external 75 ohm phone jack load. I am offering a modification service for \$39.95 (plus shipping) for the above on standard monitors and will be pleased to quote on alternate displays. (NOTE: Martin can be contacted at Sperber Communications, 313 Alta Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90402 , phone 213-393-5127. This modification will void your HP warranty on the monitor).

D. BEAN of Venice, CA sends the following hints on catalog listings. "After listing a CAT, I scroll back up and enter the date and cartridge name (i.e. '1982 Apr 18/MISC'). I then wipe out CAT, leaving a blank line. I then COPY, scroll, and COPY again, as necessary, to get all the files on the listing. I keep this listing attached to the cartridge box with rubber bands. "I use a file named ' ' that is a file that spans the end and the beginning of the cartridge, to prevent shuffling. I use a file with ' ' so as not to use it.

"I rename old files "DMxx". This way I can determine which blank file to store a new program in, rather than the machine picking the first vacant one. No sense putting an 8 record program into a 25 record space. Where DMxx is used, I then RENAME it appropriately. The "xx" in the file name shows the file size (e.g. DM08, DM25, etc.)."

**** PROGRAM LISTING 5-1 ****
by Bruce Wagner

```

10 SUB 'NEWFI' (R,F%)
20 ON ERROR GOTO 120
30 DISP @ DISP "ENTER FILE NAME"
40 BEEP @ F9=0
50 INPUT F%
60 IF LEN(F%)>6 THEN DISP "FILE
   NAME TOO LONG (>6 CHARS)" @
   GOTO 20
70 DISP "CREATE NEW FILE - Y/N?"
80 BEEP
90 INPUT R%
100 IF UPCASE$(R%)="Y" THEN CREATE
    F%,13
110 IF UPCASE$(R%)="N" AND F9 THEN
    20
120 ASSIGN# B TO F%
130 DISP @ DISP "FILE '%F%' DO
    OPENED"
140 OFF ERROR
150 SUBEND
160 IF ERR#67 THEN 180
170 DISP @ DISP "FILE NAMED '%F%'
    EXISTS"
180 DISP "PURGE THIS FILE - Y/N?"
190 BEEP
200 INPUT R%
210 IF UPCASE$(R%)="Y" THEN 20
220 PURGE F%
230 IF ERR#67 THEN 210
240 DISP "FILE '%F%' DOES NOT
    EXIST"
250 F9=1 @ GOTO 50
260 DISP "Error No. '%VAL$(ERR#)'
    in line '%VAL$(ERRL)%' of
    subroutine NEWFI"
270 ERR#
280 OFF ERROR @ PAUSE
290 SUBEX31

```

**** PROGRAM LISTING 5-2 ****
by Bruce Wagner

```

10 SUB 'C'DATA' (B,F%)
20 ON ERROR GOTO 90
30 DISP @ DISP "ENTER FILE NAME"
40 BEEP
50 INPUT F%
60 IF LEN(F%)>6 THEN DISP "FILE
   NAME TOO LONG (>6 CHARS)" @
   GOTO 30
70 ASSIGN# B TO F%
80 OFF ERROR

```

(CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN)

```

90 SUBEND
100 IF ERR#67 THEN 120
110 DISP "FILE '%F%' DOES NOT
    EXIST"
120 GOTO 50
130 DISP "Error No. '%VAL$(ERR#)'
    in line '%VAL$(ERRL)%' of
    subroutine OLDPL"
140 ERR#
150 OFF ERROR @ PAUSE
160 SUBEX11

```

**** PROGRAM LISTING 5-3 ****
by Edward Ball

```

10 ! SCREEN FORMAT FOR DATA EN-
    TRY
20 ! by Edward Ball
30 !
40 ! This program works with the
    e subroutine 'SUBRED' to han-
    dle data
50 ! how data may be entered in
    on different sections of the
    screen
60 ! Control letters, space, re-
    turn, and backspace are all
    the keys
70 ! Program requires the 'Advan-
    ced Programming ROM'
80 !
90 ALPHA 1
100 C% = 1 END USE FLAG
110 C% = "" INITIALIZE
120 D=12 ! FIRST DATA ENTRY POSI-
    TION
130 CLEAR ! SCREEN
140 OFF CURSOR ! TURN OFF CURSOR
150 ALPHA 5,1 ! ROW 5, COL 1
160 NAME1 "NAME? "
170 ! 17 SPACE NAME
180 ALPHA 10 ! MOVE TO FIRST INP
    UT POSITION
190 CALL "SUBRED" (R%,C%,D)
200 D=D+1
210 IF D=10 THEN 250 ! CHECK FLAG
    FOR END
220 AWRIT B% ! DISPLAY ENTRY
230 C% = C% + 8 ! ADD NEW DATA
240 ALPHA 5,1
250 GOTO 140 ! BACK FOR MORE
260 ALPHA 10,1 ! ROW 10, COL 1
270 AWRIT C% ! DISPLAY DATA
280 END

```

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

```

10 SUB "SUBROUT" (B$,C$,D)
20 DIM A$(70)
30 A$="" : ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTU
   VXYZW$CHR$(154)&CHR$(157)
40 ON KYBD R/P$ GOTO 50
50 GOTO 50
60 IF P=154 THEN 100 ! END OF D
   H-H
70 IF P=153 THEN 100 ! BACKSPAC
   E
80 B$=CHR$(A)
90 SUBEXIT ! RETURN TO MAIN PRO
   GRAM
100 I=I+1 : HANDLE BACKSPACE KEY
110 C=C-I : LEN(C)-1
120 ALPHAB B$B
130 A$RIT " " ! PUT SPACE ON SCR
   EEN
140 GOTO 50
150 C=1 ! FLAG FOR END OF DATA
160 SUBEND

```

** PROGRAM LISTING 5-4 **
by Noel Thompson

```

10 DIM L(100) : TAKEOVER TABLE
20 "KIM'S TAKEOVER EXPERIMENT"
30 " BY M. C. THOMPSON"
40 " M & F 4158"
50 " WARREN DEFEAT 07053"
60 " >>> NO RIGHTS RESERVED <<<"
70 DIM J(400) : KRD IN=BUFFER
80 J1=0
90 R#="08BCDEF3HJKLNMOPQRSTUW
XYZUVW" and (chrisklmnopqrst
uvwxyz).chr"
100 G1=USR# "1#32'(01+)-.0E12345
6789'>012"
110 M#="4#CHR#1343"
120 FOR X=120 TO 173
130 IF X=142 THEN 150 : DON'T TA
KE OVER THE PAUSE BUTTON.
140 G1=04#CHR#(X)
150 NEXT X
160 " THE LOGO HOME IS SLOW TH
US THE PRINTING KEYS WORK FI
T IN DIRECTLY"
170 " ONLY YOU CAN TAKE OVER EVERY
SINGLE KEY ON THE SYSTEM E
XCEPT".
180 GOTO I#C512 : ONE SCREEN
190 DEF FNL = IPLEN(0)/32
200 DEF FNL = FNL*32
210 " THERE ARE FNL FULL LINES
CONTAINING THE CHARACTE
RS
220 " MAIN
230 ALPHA 1,1 @ CLEAR
240 DISP "--begin text please--
--"
250 " MR. WILL SELF-DESTRUCT
260 I#""
270 " NOW IN KRD MODE
(CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN)

```

```

280 ON KEYD 1700 GOTO 320
290 GOTO 340
300 !
310 ! THIS IS A VERY SHORT LOOP
    TO GET BACK FOR NEXT CHARACTER
320 I$=J$%CHR*(1) @ BEEP 1000 @
    RETURN
330 !
340 ! MAIN, TAKING CHARACTERS
    FROM J$ AT A LEISURLY RATE
344 !
350 IF LEN(J$) THEN GOSUB 400
360 GOTO 340 ! END MAIN LOOP
370 !
380 ! IF YOU UNDERSTAND THE LAST
    FEW LINES, YOU GET THE POINT.
390 !
400 ! PUT CHAR IN PLACE
410 K=NUM(J$)
420 IF K=13 THEN GOSUB 750 @ GO
    TO 400 ! BACKSPACE
430 IF K=154 THEN GOSUB 800 @ GO
    TO 400 ! ENDLINE
440 IF K=128 THEN GOSUB 500 !
    PRINTABLE.
450 ! ELSE DONT WANT
460 ! UNDEF INBUF CHARACTER
470 IF LEN(J$)>1 THEN J$=J$EQD B
    I$ J$=""
475 ALPHA 14 @ DISP INT(LEN(J$)/
    32)*LEN(J$) MOD 32
480 RETURN
490 !
500 ! PRINTING CHARACTER
510 I$=J$%J$[1,1]
520 IF LEN(I$) MOD 32=0 THEN COS
    UB 570 @ RETURN ! CAUSE LINE
    TO FULL
530 ! SIMPL CHAR, SIMPLY APPEND
540 ALPHA 15 @ DISP I$FNC+13%*H
    " ! REINPLAY
541 ! TYPING ALWAYS APPEARS ON L
    INE 15.
550 RETURN
560 !
570 ! LINE FULL-SAVE LAST WORD
580 FOR I=LEN(I$) TO FNC-30 STE
    P -1
590 IF I%32=0 THEN 630
600 NEXT I
610 L3=LEN(I$) ! NO SPACES
620 BEEP @ BEEP
630 ! L3 POINTS TO LAST SPACE
631 ! WRITE FULL LINE IN PLACE
640 ALPHA FNC
650 DISP I$[FNC-31,L3-I]
660 Z=FNC+1
670 FOR Y=L3+1 TO FNC
680 I$[Z,Z]=I$(Y,Y) ! MOVE
690 I$[Y,Y]=" " ! TRAILERS
700 Z=Z+1
710 NEXT Y
720 RETURN
730 !
740 !

```

(CONTINUED PAGE 9)

news80s

**The Microcomputer Journal
For HP Series 80**

**News80s ran for 12 issues between 1982 and 1984
(#1, #2, Special Issue and #3 thru #11).**

**It was an independent newsletter edited by Dale Flanagan for:
HP-83, HP-85, HP86 and HP87 Personal Computer users.**

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TEXT85 operates from both softkeys and sensible commands. A command may be as simple as PRINT, or richer such as PRINT PAGES 1-20, 3 COPIES. The program will accept reasonable statement variations. And don't worry about ERRORS or getting lost; TEXT85 is friendlier than that.

Big Screen Friendliness

Text is entered as logical blocks or elements (i.e. paragraph, heading, column). The format of each element, including type font, is easily specified or changed. The WINDOW and SCAN functions, along with the Page Gauge feature successfully provide much large screen convenience.

TEXT85 Documentation

Getting Started introduces TEXT85 with step-by-step instructions for producing a letter. A complete treatment of writing, editing, printing and filing follow, with many screen illustrations and examples. The table of contents and index are thorough, and an advanced applications section is included. Separate Quick Reference Guide. 82 pages.

Writing with TEXT85

TEXT85 makes all formatting easy:

Paragraphs. Continuous typing in to the screen (up to 2046 characters). Auto wrap-around upon printing with the margins you have specified.

Indentation. Automatic with inset symbol.

Literals. For whatever you want printed just as it appears on the screen. Common examples are address blocks and multiple line headings.

Columns. Entered and edited (one at a time) just as they are to appear printed. TEXT85 prints them side-by-side with the tabbing you have specified. Columns are easily re-arranged and otherwise changed just as any other text element.

Some other composing capabilities are:

Forms and Tables: Columns and a vertical line feature provide form graphics. A skip-to-next-input-field capability makes changing form information quick. Forms may be relocated with a single command.

Special characters: Alternate characters (82905B) and user defined characters (82905A/B) such as Greek letters and logos are supported.

Graphics: CRT graphics from any other program may be printed along with your text after it has been converted by the

TEXT85 utility GFILE. The plot may be treated much as any other text element, printed where you want it, compressed or standard density. The plot may be 8 to 192 dots high. (Graphics on the 82905 A or B only.)

Equations: Equations may be composed on the CRT as you want them and printed with half spacing for super/subscripts.

Large Documents

Within the program 2-3 pages of text can reside (columns are compressed; even more can be held). File "pages" of this size can be made part of an extended file by simply using a common name with the page number affixed (i.e. REPORT1, REPORT2, etc.). MERGE provides for moving text between files, and the file pages may be managed and edited with MOVE, INSERT, DELETE and COUNT. Any portion of the document may be printed with a single command, complete with page numbering, "smart" page breaks and head and foot notation. These features allow documents limited only by mass storage size. And important for tape operation, mass storage accessing is minimized.

What about printers?

TEXT85 works with all printers, matrix or daisy wheel, and even plotters. Underlining, right justification, double spacing and double striking are printer independent. (Double strike printing is great for getting nice copy from a tired ribbon.) Additional features such as subscripts, font selection and graphics are available for the following printers:

Group 1: HP 82905A. Also compatible with the Epson MX series.
Group 2: HP 82905B. Also compatible with the 2631B and the 267X series of thermal printers.

Graphics only on the 82905 A and B. Be sure to specify your printer in order to get all enhancements available.

TEXT85 Vocabulary:

ENTER, SET, FORMAT, READ, HEAD, FOOT, TAB, EDIT, MOVE, INSERT, MERGE, DELETE, END, LIST, PRINT, PLOT, TOP, GET, SAVE, JUSTIFY, COPIES, SCAN, WINDOW, REPLACE, COUNT, NEW PAGE, NUMBER, FORM, REMARK

*Our offer:

Try TEXT85 for 10 days. If satisfied, you will be given information for making backup copies. Otherwise you may return the complete package (in good condition) and your payment (minus 10% return charge) will be refunded. This offer good until April 15, 1983.

TEXT85 requires the Advanced Programming and Printer/Plotter ROMs and 32k memory.

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