

can have card numbers, addresses, and phone numbers at your fingertips to report the loss in minutes. How about a data file of your entire household inventory listing brandname, model numbers, serial numbers, date bought, and dollar value. If you can categorize it, you can probably put it in File Express. By the way ver 5 will be out about April of this year.

3) ExpressCalc: The spreadsheet program of Expressware, can make your spreadsheet problems minimal. This program interacts with File Express database to give you a totally integrated package.

Spreadsheet uses: Computing interest and principal on loans, mortgages, savings accounts, etc. Preparing payroll journals, and receivable / payable journals. Analyzing investments, balancing checkbooks, and keeping a budget. There are many more uses for a spreadsheet, and the ExpressCalc program will not break your wallet.

4) On-side: Expressware's fourth software item compliments ExpressCalc. How you ask??? There are many things you may wish to print that are wider than your printer carriage. Thus if you could print them "on-side" they would print the length of the paper. You are only limited to the length of your form feed paper as to how long your document can be.

5) ExpressGraph: Expressware's fifth piece of software creates line graphs, bar charts, and pie charts. Data to produce the graphs can be entered from keyboard, File Express databases, ExpressCalc, P C-Calc, Lotus 123, and spreadsheets using DIF files.

Expressware has created a BBS for those interested in products and information on-line. (206) 788-4008. For more information you may call or write POUG c/o Herb Soss (216) 744-1301 P.O. Box 508 Youngstown, Ohio 44501.

PENN-OHIO USERS GROUP

**71 ELM STREET
STRUTHERS, OH 44471**



The Floppy Copy

Newsletter of the Penn-Ohio Users Group
Published in the Fall and Spring

Pres: Ed Luptak 755-7691 VP: Dave Tranovich 533-3593
Sect: Frank DePinto 783-0421 Tres: Herb Soss 743-1301

**NEXT MEETING
JANUARY 8, 1990
7:00 P.M.**

**AMERICAN RED CROSS
5TH AND WOOD STREET**

CREDITS

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Editor: Ed Luptak
Asst. Editor: Dave Tranovich.

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INVITATION

Please take this opportunity to challenge yourself. Write an article for the newsletter. Send your copy to Ed Luptak, 71 Elm Street, Struthers, Ohio 44471 or, if you wish to send it via modam, call Ed at 755-7691 to make arrangements. You may write or type but the easiest to handle is an ASCII file made with your favorite word processing program.

DUES

Dues for the Penn-Ohio Users Group are \$15.00 per calendar year for an individual membership, \$20.00 per calendar year for a family membership and \$10 per year for an associate membership. Dues go to the cost of newsletter publication and library expenses.

PRESIDENTS' CORNER

This will be a short spot off as I was waiting for articles for this months newsletter and after getting them I have to cut down on what I have to say.

As you all know this meeting we will have our election so if you want to be heard please attend and express yourself.

I want to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that we will grow as the year get started.

I would like to thank everyone for their help in the past year, and to thank Gary for being such a great host last month. I sure can't forget Don Carpenter for tasty cookies.

MEETING MINUTES

Frank DePinto

The December meeting opened at the Struthers Wast/Water Treatment Plant with Ed presiding. The POUG wishes to express its sincere thanks to Gary Karas for the donuts, coffee, and hospitality at the meeting. Its great to get out to see how the business world functions. By the way, Ron Baker poured (the coffee that is).

Ed discussed several letters that he had received and a software item called Am Tax. This is the soft-

were that he uses to prepare income tax forms; state, local, and federal. Ed prepares income tax forms each year for anyone who wants his service. An Tax prints a firm that is acceptable to IRS, which makes it a valuable program.

Dave requested that each member write a short autobiography describing their computer interests and abilities. These may be sent to Dave on disk in ASCII form or uploaded tom over the phone. The disks may be sent to the following address:

Dave Tranovich
130 High Street
Canfield, OH 44406

Dave's phone number is 533-8593.

He would also still like to have your ideas in posters to possibly "Xtract new members. You may send your ideas or finished posters to Dave. He needs to know that someone still cares. After all TI gave up. (Remember the phone number to have your TI questions answered; 1-800-TI-CARES)

When Ed stepped out of the room, Dave asked if we (the club) wanted to waive Ed's dues for the coming year. We have done this in the past, and Ed has been instrumental in keeping this club together. Ron Saker made a motion that the PDUG waive the 1990 dues for Ed and it was seconded by Frank DePinto. The motion was unanimously passed.

I have to apologize for an error in the minutes from last month. I stated that we would be voting at the December meeting which is incorrect. Our elections are held at the January meeting. Therefore, you still have time to nominate a new secretary or any other officer. Remember, the nominating committee voted to run the same officers for the new year. They are Ed Luptak, President; Dave Tranovich, Vice-president; Herb Sees, Treasurer;

and Frank DePinto, Secretary.

In other business, Ed questioned Herb about the raffle prizes that the club owns. Herb gave a list of items, then made a motion that we continue with the monthly raffle until the current inventory of prizes is depleted. The motion was seconded by Ron Baker and passed unanimously.

Herb reported that the club's treasury has an approximate balance of \$11.51. He explained that since Frank Krautter did not give him the current statement from the credit union, he was unable to add the interest or subtract the service charges, therefore, the balance is approximate.

At this point, the meeting was adjourned and Gary began his explanation of the computers use at the Waste/Water Plant. He explained that since the maintenance schedule for the plant equipment was in the computer, they were able to keep in current file for each piece of equipment. They were also able to communicate with the manufacturer and send the maintenance schedule to them so that they were able to help determine if any of the equipment was having unusual problems that could be changed in the future.

After a short discussion, Gary & Ed demonstrated a program called PC ANYWHERE. With this program, Gary was able to access Ed's computer through the modem and actually run Ed's computer from Gary's keyboard. Gary was able to run any program that was in Ed's computer including a new program called "INTERNIST". Actually, there are two programs that are needed for this interaction; "PC ANYWHERE" and "A-TERM". One word of caution, Don't try to enter the voice communications section if no one is available at the remote computer. It's difficult to talk to someone on the

phone if they aren't there. When Gary tried this with Ed's help), Ed's computer locked up and remained that way until Ed went home that evening.

OK, now that I've finished the minutes of our meeting, I have a few interesting items that I found while reading the newsletters from the other user groups. This first item refers to the transfer of TI-WRITER files to WORD PERFECT files. I could have used this a few months ago when I was transferring all my test school forms. Oh well, maybe someone else can use it in the future so its worth repeating. The article came from the April, 1989 issue of "The Suncoast Beeper". No author was listed, so I guess credit goes to the editor, Roy Moglia. You must make a NUL. CABLE first. You need 1 - DB25 male & 1 - DB25 female connector and a five conductor cable of some convenient length (please read this entire article before you attempt and as always, no-one assumes any responsibility, including me for any problems). You must connect the #2, 3, 6, 6, 7, & 20 pins of one of the connectors, then connect the #2, 3, 6, & 7 wires to the same number pin on the other connector. The #8 & 20 wires will be switched. Now, I know that six pins are being used and only five wires are called for, but the article does state a five-wire cable. The article made no mention of the extra pin. Next, hook the connectors and cables to the respective computers and fire-up both computers using a modem program in each. Be sure that each machine has a line fred turned on. You can check to see if the computers are working by typing 2 - 3 lines to see that they do not type over the first line. If all is well, you can upload your TI-WRITER files to the PC clone by following the modem instructions. A method for transferring TI-Multiplan files was also given in the article. If you are interested, I can get a

copy of the article. Just ask.

As I send magazines, newsletters, newspapers, etc. I will either copy or cut out short sayings, catchy jokes, etc. and save them for future reference. Now is the time to impart a few of these little items. Unfortunately, some of these articles don't have the source nor authors. I apologize to the original contributors. The first, deals with the word ACRONYM. Someone decided that ACRONYM stands for: "A Completely Ridiculous Obscure Name You Makeup". Think about it, in many cases, that's exactly what some of the acronyms are.

Here are a couple that came from one of the education publications that I read some time ago.

"You can be sure that our nation will be in trouble as long as we pay the best teacher less than the worst football coach."

A sign on a teacher's desk read:

"Knowledge is given away here every day. It is free. Please bring your own containers."

A few other items that seem to be prevalent in the U.S. today read: "If all else fails, lower your standards," and "To err is human, to be able to blame it on a computer is divine."

How about those old Burma-Shave road signs that we old timers read along the highway. I found a few that are worth sharing.

His face
was loved
by just his mother.
He Burma-Shaved
and now
oh, brother!
Burma-Shave

Forest fires
start from scratch

st think before
you toss
that match
Surma-Shave

These are just two of the many that lined the highways back in the early forties and fifties. I've run out of time for now, maybe a few more next month.

Once again, THANKS to Gary for his great hospitality and demo. Next meeting is back at the Red Cross Building in downtown Youngstown at 7:00 P.M. on January 8, 1980. Don't forget your autobiographies and posters and/or ideas.

DAVE'S DROOLINGS
By Dave Tranovich

Well, I trust that everyone has had a great Holiday season and is ready to begin an exciting new year and new decade! I myself am still recovering from all the holiday cheer. I had been fairly successful in beginning to lose some weight but I think that the holidays took care of that. Of course, you don't want to hear about all that so I will get down to business.

At the last meeting, I proposed that each of us write a short article about ourselves in relation to computers. That is, to tell of our beginnings and interest in computing. This article need not be anything extensive or elaborate. Just a few paragraphs is all that is needed. It really should be kept fairly interesting but we all know that one of us is a great journalist. All I could say is to try your best.

In keeping with this proposal, I am submitting my story here. I hope that it will give the rest of you an idea of what we are looking for. So, without further ado, here is the Dave Tranovich story...

Back in 1976, I became interested in Amateur (HAM) radio. It was here that I saw my first computer. It was a bulky and slow Intel 8080 machine that a fellow ham has built for use with his ham station. I remember how amazed that I was when I saw all the little lights flashing. At that time, I promised myself that someday, I would have a computer.

It wasn't until 1982 that I bought my first TI99/4A. I ran it off of our television in the living room and used a cassette recorder for storage. This is when I became interested in programming. After typing in all of the programs in the TI manual, I went about changing this and trying that until I had tried just about every possible variation of those few programs. So I went out and bought a book of BASIC programs and set about converting them into the TI BASIC.

About one year later, I purchased the PEB, a disk drive and controller an acoustical modem and RS232. Boy the hours I spent with a few friends using that modem and transferring things back and forth. I had a total of about 12 disks of programs!

That is when I met Ed Luptak. He could not believe that I had so few disks. I went over his house and was floored when I saw his library of programs. That is when I joined PDUG. The rest is history. From playing with the bulletin board (remember 4A Connection) to the conversion to IBM. It has been a most rewarding hobby.

Well, I hope that gives the rest of you an example of how to write your autobiography. Hope to see them coming in for publication soon.

THE LIBRARIAN'S REVIEW
by Ron Baker

QEdit ver 2.08
QEDIT08.ZIP

QEdit is a text editor as opposed to a word processor. This means that most of its features are geared toward creating and maintaining program source code and other text files. However, QEdit can also be used like a word processor to write documents or letters since it includes word-wrapping and paragraph reformatting capabilities.

QEdit was developed with these goals in mind:

FAST OPERATION - More than anything else, QEdit was designed to operate quickly, especially in these areas:

- Initially loading a file for editing.
- Displaying/Updating the screen.
- Moving through the editing window.
- Searching for text.
- Saving a file back to disk.

EASE OF USE

This version of QEdit includes:

- Optional "Pop-Down" menus.
- Customizable Help Screen.
- Complete execution from a single file (Q.EXE).
- Pip-up file directory and picker.

COMPACT PROGRAM SIZE - Every effort was made to keep the program size as compact as possible. Ever though memory is getting cheaper all the time, we didn't want QEdit to require any more memory than absolutely necessary.

Features:

These are just some of the many features you will enjoy while using QEdit:

It is very fast!

It is customizable. QEdit can be easily configured the way you like it. This includes the meaning of ALL special keys on the keyboard (Alt, Ctrl, and function keys; <Home>, <PgUp>, etc.), colors, screen appearance, and many other options.

It utilizes all available memory. With QEdit you can edit files as large as your computer's memory will allow.

It allows true multi-file editing. The number of files you can edit is limited only by available memory.

It enables you to view files through up to eight "windows". You can have multiple views of the same file or view a different file in each window.

It provides up to 99 scratch buffers for cut-and-paste or template operations.

It allows you to exit to DOS for a DOS shell temporarily and use DOS commands from within the editor.

It is easy to use. You can use the optional "Pop-Down" menus to access QEdit's commands, and there is a Help Screen which you can customize for your own needs.

It supports Character, Line, and Column Blocks.

It allows you to create macros which will execute a series of commands and keystrokes by pressing a single key.

It provides wordwrap and paragraph reformat capabilities.

It saves deleted words, lines, and blocks in a deletion buffer for later recall.

It provides "C mode", which utilizes automatic indentation for C language programming.

It locates matching braces and parentheses, a useful feature for programming.

It will load multiple files from the DOS command line, with or without wildcard characters.

It allows you to specify up to six default file extensions for use when loading files and determining tab settings.

It allows you to execute command line compilers from within QEdit, using its macro capability.

It provides line drawing to create diagrams and tables.

It supports enhanced (101 key) keyboards.

It supports up to 200-column and 100-line screens.

It supports EGA 43-line mode and VGA 50-line mode.

It is compact. Even with all these features, QEdit requires less than 50k of disk space.

System Requirements:

QEdit will run on the IBM PS/2, PC/AT, PC/XT, PC, PC/Jr, and on IBM compatible computers including the Compaq, NCR, Tandy, and WYSE PC's. MINIMUM requirements are:

128 KB of memory (although QEdit can utilize up to 640 KB if it is available).

PC-DOS 2.0 or greater or MS-DOS 2.0 or greater.

One diskette drive.

Either a color or a monochrome monitor with 80-column display.

50 KB of disk space.

Q.EXE, the editor program itself.

1980s: THE DECADE OF DECADENCE

By Dan Gutman

Someday we'll bore our grandchild with tales of life before the 1980s...

"When I was your age," we'll wheeze, "we didn't have telephone answering machines. If somebody wasn't home when we called, we would have to call them back later! And there was no word processing then, y'know. We had to use PENNILLS! I'm tell'n' ya, life was tough back in the old days."

"Wow!" the tykes will marvel, wide-eyed. "How did you survive?"

When I reflect on the passing of the 1980s, I don't think of Reaganism or the fall of Communism, or the rise of Michael Jackson. I think about eight things that rooted the world of the average person:

The personal computer. The microwave oven. The compact disc player. The Walkman. The video cassette recorder. The camcorder. The telephone answering machine. The fax machine. These technologies dramatically changed the way we work, play and even the way we eat.

Technology-wise, the 1980s was the decade of decadence.

Our grandparents witnessed the birth of radio, and our parents watched television being born. But has there ever been such an outpouring of revolutionary technologies as there was in the last decade?

It's hard to believe, but in 1979--just ten December ago--most people had never even HEARD of these machines. Today, of the 90 million households in the United States, 58 million have a VCR, 20 million have home computers, 25 million

have telephone answering machines.

There's a video store on every block, and they're sending faxes from the corner drugstore. You can't find anything but CDs in the record stores. It's hard to find a company in the whole country that doesn't run the whole show with computers.

My wife and I are expecting our first child a few weeks into the new decade, and I can't get over the fact that this baby is going to grow up in a completely different world from the one we grew up in.

While I continue to marvel at the wonder of a fax machine, he or she will slip a sheet of paper into it just like we used to put it into a mailbox. This kid will pop a tape into a Walkman without even thinking there was a day not long ago when such a thing didn't exist.

We've become so comfortable with the technologies that became popular in the Eighties that memories of "the old days" are fading even for adults.

Do you remember the hours you slaved over a typewriter--perhaps a MANUAL typewriter--struggling to write a report or term paper?

Do you remember when we could only watch movies when the TV networks decided to show them?

Do you remember when you had to start baking a potato an HOUR before the meal was to be served so it would be cooked on the inside?

Do you remember how the film used to get caught and mangled in those Super 8 home movie cameras and projectors?

Do you remember when you had to sit home and wait if you were expecting a telephone call?

This isn't ancient history. It was just ten years ago. I can't help but be amazed at how much has changed in such a short period of time.

It's hard for us to imagine that the Nineties will give rise to another gust of technologies like the ones we've seen recently. But I hope my baby will be lucky enough to see some incredible new machines being born, the way I did in the Eighties.

And I hope I won't become one of those old, boring fathers who insists everything was better "in my day," and how hard we had it before these machines came along. So other files are necessary for operating QEdit.

It is by far the greatest text editor written and is available from our library. As with any worthwhile program, it should be tried, then registered like all Shareware.

2001: A COMPUTING ODYSSEY

By Dan Gutman

"Yep, I remember laptops," the old geezer snorted as he lowered his brittle bones into the seat. "Ugh! Could barely see the screen! Batteries were dead in a couple hours!"

"No-boo," he continued, pulling his personal computer out from behind his ear. "I can't hardly believe we used to lug that junk around."

I'm sitting in an antique shop, listening to the owner ramble. There are some dusty disk drives in the corner, and loads of other old-time electronic junk. Every so often somebody stops in to poke around and reminisce about the Eighties--the good old days when the Information Age was just getting off the ground.

"We sure have come a ways," he

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

JANUARY 1989

"I hear tell that in those days, folks used to use them things jest for playin' games and processin' words! Heck, now we play games on 3-D holographic projections and when I got my letter to write, it's so simple to thought-process it! I ain't seen one of them keyboards in years."

"It musta been rough in them days before the computer-controlled home. If I had to spend all my time adjustin' the lights, heat and appliances myself, I'd go bonkers! This here computer even calls the police automatically if the store gets robbed."

"Not much chance 'a that happenin', though, now that nobody goes outside anymore. I do my shoppin', bankin', mailin', and buyin' without takin' my face away from the screen for a minute. Of course, I'm legally blind now, but ya can't beat the convenience. Without all that drudgery, there's more leisure time."

"I had a great time yesterday. I watched that old movie Gone With the Wind. It sure was interestin' seein' Atlanta burn from every possible owners angle."

"I'll tell ya, that's one of the best films George Hamilton ever made. Maybe tomorrow I'll program Darryl Hannah in to do the Vivien Leigh parts. And jest for the fun of it, I might get rid of that cornball music and compose some of my own."

"I'm not sure what I'll do this afternoon. Ah really oughta toss out them old bookshelves in the basement. Now that we can put the sum total of recorded human knowledge on a couple of discs, who needs 'em! They're just takin' up space."

"Instead, maybe I'll download the Mona Lisa into my computer and

print out some hard copies for my robots to hang in their livin' modules."

"Those guys are the greatest. They cook up my breakfast, vacuum the house, maintain a 24-hour round-the-clock biofeedback health watch on my galvanic skin response, and it don't cost a red cent!"

"Sure, they took all our jobs years ago, but who cares? It used to be too much like work anyway."

"I figure them robots know best. They're the ones with the million megabyte brains. And if they say that all humans gotta wear red pants on Thursdays, that's line with me. After all, THEY put an end to wars, depressions, poverty and pollution after we messed everything up."

"And besides, these red pants look pretty good, don'tcha think? I look at it this way. If the robots decide that humans shouldn't be allowed to make no more economic, social or political decisions, it must be best for us not to make them no more. They're more intelligent and logical than us. They should be—we built 'em!"

"I don't talk much with other humans no more. It's easier to just loose 'em. Besides, the robots are more fun to have over, and they don't eat nothin'. I just hope they don't ever decide they don't need us around no more."

NINTENDO BATTLES ON SCREEN, IN COURT
By Dan Gubman

Last Christmas, Nintendo was hot. This Christmas, Nintendo is literally exploding.

At Los Angeles International Airport last week, security people spotted a suspicious suitcase on the X-ray monitor. The suitcase

was safely blown up, and it was determined that the "bomb" was actually a Nintendo video game system.

A different kind of bombshell was dropped on Thursday (editor's note: 12/7) when Congressman Dennis Eckart, Chairman of the Antitrust Subcommittee of the House Small Business Committee, issued a letter to the U.S. Attorney General's office detailing "serious antitrust questions" about Nintendo.

According to an investigation by the Congressman's office, Nintendo (which controls 60% of the \$23 million video game market) has created a phony microchip shortage, engaged in unfair licensing arrangements, and punished companies that created games for competing video game systems.

Also, the Congressman's staff has encountered a pervasive atmosphere of fear and intimidation among retailers and wholesalers of Nintendo products.

"Such behavior may represent violations of the Sherman Act and should receive careful scrutiny from your office and other antitrust enforcement agencies," claims Eckart.

The issue is that while American computer manufacturers LOVE it when the software community creates products for their hardware, Nintendo seems to HATE it.

Nintendo's contracts with software publishers severely limit how many games can be developed each year. The publisher must submit the finished game for evaluation, and Nintendo can reject any they don't like.

When a game is accepted, Nintendo manufactures it, not the publisher. The publisher must buy the cartridges from Nintendo, and then sell them to retail stores.

The controversy started a year ago when Tengen, a software publishing subsidiary of Atari, filed a \$100 million lawsuit against Nintendo. The suit centered around the patented "lock-out" microchip on every Nintendo game cartridge. Without the chips, games cannot play on the Nintendo system. No chips, no competition.

Tengen claimed that Nintendo provided only enough chips for one-tenth of the amount of games they could have sold in a free market.

Nintendo argues that in order to maintain the consistency and quality of games for its system, it has to regulate what can be played on it. They deny that they try to control the number of cartridges that reach the market.

Congressman Eckart, as well as many software publishers, don't necessarily agree. "We don't like their practices," says Accolade president Allan Epstein. "We believe in a free and open market."

A year ago Accolade—one of the major entertainment software publishers in the U.S.—applied for a license to create games for the Nintendo system. The request was denied. Recently, Nintendo reconsidered, but only under very specific terms.

Epstein says, "It's awful difficult to enter the market when you can only release a single game a year, when Nintendo determines totally how many cartridges you will get and when you will get them."

The issue over whether or not Nintendo is being a bully becomes sticky, however, because some software companies are HAPPY with the way Nintendo runs things.

"I'm convinced that what they have been doing is good for the market," says Bruce Davis, CEO of Activia-

on, another big software publisher.

Davis claims that if Nintendo didn't limit how many new games came out for its system, software publishers would flood store shelves with new and possibly inferior products.

The first wave of the video game craze collapsed in 1983 for this very reason. There was a glut of games, causing players to get bored and prices to drop to the level where nobody was making money.

Nintendo, by carefully limiting how much software hits the market, keeps demand ahead of supply. That's why it's sometimes hard to find the games you want in the stores. Cartridges sell out minutes after appearing on the shelves. You don't see Nintendo games in \$5 discount bins.

The harder it is to get something, the more status comes to the kids who have it.

THE END OF COMPUTING?

by Dan Gucman

Does the end of the 1980s signal the end of computing?

Earlier this year, foreign policy analyst Francis Fukuyama caused a sensation with his paper titled "The End of History?" Fukuyama's theory--in a nutshell--is that the Cold War is over, the dramatic conflicts that shape the world have pretty much been settled, and that the future will be more peaceful, though a little bit duller.

Fukuyama has been roundly criticized, but the idea of history reaching its evolutionary peak started me thinking about how far the personal computer has come, and where it is heading.

There have been four real "revolu-

tions" since the PC was developed 13 years ago: Word processing, spreadsheets, data bases, and telecommunications. In other words, manipulating language, manipulating numbers, organizing ideas and moving data across telephone lines.

That's it. This is what we do with computers. Hundreds of new products are released every month, but they're pretty much more of the same--variations on revolutions that came before. Word processing, for example, has launched spelling checkers, outliners and grammar checkers. Even desktop publishing is just an enhancement of word processing.

The question is--is there anything left that computers will do in the 1990s that we haven't already seen in the 1980s?

As we close the door and turn out the lights on the decade, a gloomy picture is developing for computing. Instead of innovative new applications, we're seeing updates, revisions, repackaging and petty bickering over who has the best operating system, and who stole it from whom.

Sales of mainframes and minicomputers are flat. IBM and Digital Equipment Corp. recently reported lower earnings. Cray is cutting its work force. Unisys lost \$79 million by October this year. Wang lost \$424.

All the big companies have done their automation, and they're now going to chuck all their equipment for new models. Venture capital money is getting hard to come by.

Though there has been much talk of "connectivity," but competing personal computers are still essentially incompatible. Worse, computers are just as hard to operate--if not harder--than they were

ten years ago.

The computer industry has failed to make the personal as easy to use as a television set or toaster. There's little talk of putting a computer in every home anymore. We have more memory power than we'll ever need, but don't know what to do with the power we have.

It took 17 years for the automobile to get an electric starter, 29 years for the V-8 engine, 37 years for pneumatic tires and 46 years for the automatic transmission. Can it all be over for the personal computer after just one dizzying decade?

I have a secret fear that the 80s was the decade of the personal computer, and the 90s will be the decade of some OTHER technology that may not even be on the drawing board yet.

The challenge for the Nineties will be to stop pandering to power users and bring the power of the computer to the masses. The majority of the population still don't know how to use computers, or even know what they would ever do with them.

It doesn't matter how many megabytes a computer has or how many calculations it can do in a second (my 40-year-old, college-educated next-door-neighbor is afraid to touch one).

But before we call an end to computing, it should be noted that this isn't the first time somebody announced civilization had evolved to the point where history was finished. In the 19th century, it should be remembered, there were those who proposed shutting down the Patent Office--they believed everything the world would ever need had already been invented. Nah, their business practices are sleazy or savvy. Nintendo is play-

ing it smart. The question becomes, is it fair? That will be answered in a legal sense when the Tengen case goes to court on January 29th.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Flash! from Express News... For those of you that do not know about the Expressware / shareware software, let me give you a quick run through. Expressware Corp. produces five shareware software programs, ExpressCheck, File Express, ExpressCalc, On-Side, and ExpressGraph.

1) ExpressCheck: Automatic checking account that flags when your bill are due, prints checks, reconciles your account with your bank statement (in minutes not hours), prints reports on where your "money" is going and how much you have made, and itemizes your tax deductible expenses to make your tax return preparation much easier. Some new features of ExpressCheck ver. 4.

Pop-up Calculator: Shows up anywhere in the program to perform quick calculations using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division by pressing <Alt-K>.

Bill Reminder: Reminds you when bills are coming up for payment, and will automatically print checks if you like.

ATM Deposit: This screen tracks your ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) transactions.

Enhanced Sorting: Enables you to sort by amount, input order, check number, date, and payee.

2) File Express: This fabulous database program is my favorite. Most people use a database for mailing lists. I have found three great uses for File Express. A club membership profile list, credit card information list, (in case your cards are lost or stolen). You