# SPOT

The Society of PET Owners and Trainers

EDITED BY PHYLLIS COLE

PET photo courtesy of Utter Chaos

Commodore's PET is a factory assembled personal computer based on a 6502 microprocessor. The $795 system includes a keyboard, cassette tape unit, built-in TV screen, some graphics, upper and lower case, and extended 8K BASIC, and 8K of user memory. Each bimonthly issue of People's Computers *since the September-October 1977 issue has included an article on the PET. —PC*
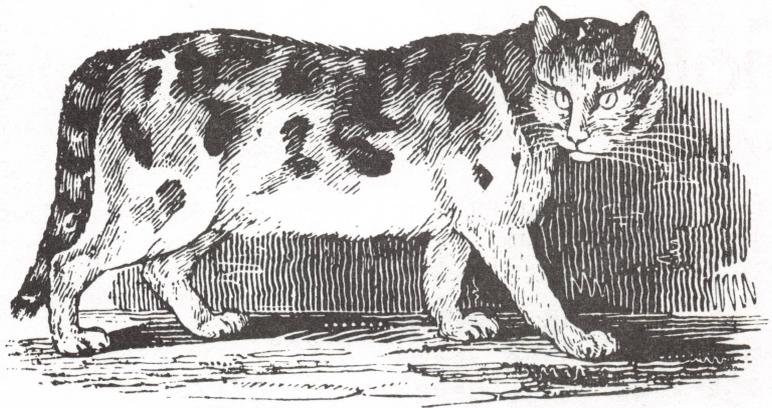
PET PEEVES

CONLEY'S COMMENTS

On December 16, 1977, the Reverend David M Conley sent a letter to Commodore detailing a variety of problems that the Universal Life Church of the Pacific was experiencing with its PET, and attempts to set up an appointment to have it repaired. They were understandably reluctant to ship their system back to the factory for an unknown period of time, and they were hopeful of finding some other way of getting their PET to function more satisfactorily. Copies of the letter were send to 5 publications and an attorney.

Six months later, a second letter was sent by the Reverend Conley to Commodore, pleading for some response. We sincerely hope that by now Commodore has dealt with the problems. One of the most discouraging items in the letters was the fact that Commodore had not, in a 6 month period, even sent out its instruction booklet.

DOCUMENTATION DILEMMA

As indicated above, documenation — rather, the lack thereof — is a severe handicap for PET users. Many purchasers open their new PETs to find not a scrap of information, despite the fact that since last November various booklets, however slim, have in fact been available from the company. One reason given for the lack of documentation was that all copies of the previous booklet had been shipped; and, rather than print more of the old version, the new version would be shipped to these customers at a future date. This sort of explanation is hardly acceptable. As more and more publications try to fill the gap Commodore has left, some users will find that with time, effort and money the desired information can be accumulated. But the process is often slow and painful, and for those unsuspecting persons who buy a PET thinking they're getting an appliance, the process may be next to impossible to initiate. After all, if you've never used a computer, never read a computer magazine, and there's no computer store in your town, just where do you begin?

COMMODORE CORNER

At last, the long-awaited guidelines for submission of software for publication by Commodore are available. When/if they reach the hands of those of you who've submitted software is another question. Personally, we've had, at best, erratic responses—usually none—in requesting information. One example: last November, *People's Computers* wrote to Commodore offering to compile a booklet of articles, programs, etc., that could be sent to new owners to provide some pointers about PET usage, since almost no documentation was available. We were prepared to do this at no expense to Commodore, as a way of getting some free advertising and also offering what we saw as a valuable

service. We received no response to the letter.

As indicated in the PET PEEVES section, others have been similarly frustrated in dealing with the company. One reason for this may be the very rapid turnover of personnel. We know of several employees who lasted only a few months; among them is Adrian Byram, the Software Manager whose name appears on the guides to software publication that we've seen.

We're discouraged with the company, though we still enjoy our PET. Perhaps the 'COMMODORE CORNER' can be summed up in a single word: confusing.

PET POINTERS

PRETTY PRINTING

The PET left-adjusts print functions, which is not very neat when printing columns of dollars and cents. The following few lines inserted in a program will print the value of the variable, A, right-adjusted with the decimal point in the 25th (or any) column.

```
120 A$=STR$(INT(A))
125 IF INT(ABS(A))<1 THEN A$="1"
130 PRINT TAB (25-LEN(A$));A
```

also

```
 10 A=INT(100xA+.5)/100
```

will round off A to dollars and cents.

P.S. We love our PET. James Standley, Hastings College, Hastings, Nebraska 68901.

SHARP TAPE DECK

In the Mar-Apr issue, page 55, TAPE TIPS suggests short tapes to find programs easily. The Sharp 1155 tape deck has an automatic program search system that looks for blank spaces between programs in either rewind or fast forward. By saving a computer program, then using the Sharp deck pause control to insert 10 secs of blank tape, the next program can be saved and any program can be found by counting the stops due to blank spaces. It takes only seconds to find the 9th or 10th program on a tape. Jack Clark, Oxton Hill, MD

PET-HAM INTERFACE

Ron Lodewyck, co-author of Commodore's Basic BASIC tutorial tape (a nice job, from what we've heard) is offering a PET-Ham interface called the M-65. It allows you to send and receive Morse code as well as radio teletype code; it is also a Morse code trainer. The hardware plus software package is available in kit form for $69.96, or $99.95 assembled. For more information, write Microtronics, 5943 Pioneer Road, Hughson, CA 95326. Or telephone (209) 634-8888.

MICROSIGNAL CATALOG

Another company offering PET peripherals and software is Microsignal, PO Box 161988, Sacramento, CA 95816 (see earlier issues of *People's Computers* for additional sources). Their catalog lists a voice input device, a sound generator, and a device that allows you to use a Teletype as a printer for the PET. Software for the most part exercises the peripherals offered by the company.

RS-232 PRINTER ADAPTER

Connecticut microComputer announces the first in a line of peripheral adapters for the Commodore PET. The PET ADApter model 1200 drives an RS-232 printer from the PET IEEE-488 bus. The PET ADA 1200 allows the PET owner to obtain hard copy program listings, and to type letters, manuscripts, mailing labels, tables of data, etc., using a standard RS-232 printer.

The PET ADA model 1200 is available assembled and tested, without power supplies, case, or RS-232 connector for $98.50 (plus $5.00 for shipping and handling) or complete for $169 (plus $5.00 for shipping and handling). Specify baud rate when ordering. (300 baud is supplied unless otherwise requested.) Contact: Connecticut microComputer, 150 Pocono Rd., Brookfield, Ct; (203) 775-9659

LIGHT PEN

A self-contained light pen which plugs directly into the Commodore PET 2001 user port has been announced by the 3G Company. This light pen makes it possible to bypass the PET's keyboard and interact directly with the information displayed on the CRT screen.
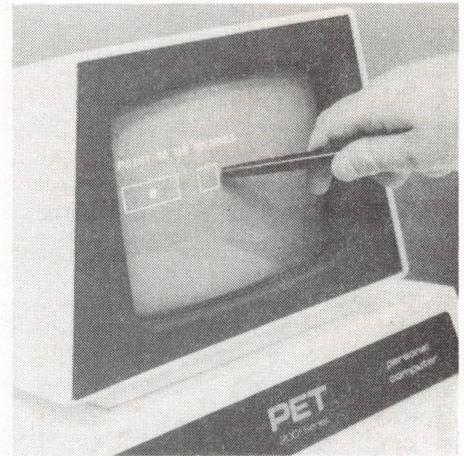
The light pen adds versatility to most graphics programs and is valuable as a teaching aid for young children. It also adds unique capabilities for application programs aimed at the non-computer oriented person. The light pen is complete and ready to plug into the PET. A sampled program and programming instructions comes with the pen. The entire package sells for $24.95 and is available from 3G Company at Rt.3, Box 28A, Gaston, Oregon 97119; (503)985-7176

PET LISTING CONVENTIONS

PET Program listings in *People's Computers* employ the following conventions to represent characters that are difficult to print on a standard printer: Whenever square brackets appear in the listing, neither the brackets nor the text they enclose should be typed literally. Instead, the text between the brackets should be translated to keystrokes. For example, [CLR] means type the CLR key, [3 DOWN] means [DOWN, DOWN, DOWN] i.e., press the first CRSR key three times.

PET BLOOPERS

Woops! Several readers have informed us that the PLOT program by Philip Gash which we published in last issue's (V7, No.1) SPOT section will not run correctly as published. Indeed, lines 560 and 620 should be corrected as follows: (the underscore marks the corrected error):

```
560 X=D
620 INPUT "MAX VALUE OF
    Y(X)"; Y4
```

HORSES
BY ANDY STADLER

This horse-race game was written by 12-year old Andy Stadler, of Albany, California. I met Andy at a local PET User's Group meeting; thanks for letting us share your program with People's Computers' *readers, Andy.*

HORSES lets from 1 to 9 players bet on one of 10 horses. Odds start at 10 to 1. If a horse wins, its odds go down by 1; if a horse loses, its odds increase by 1 (see lines 1140 and 1150).

As published, the 'track' for each horse prints across the screen from left to right. If you prefer a faster track (heh heh, she said, in fair imitation of ye honorable editor Kahn) 500 PRINT "[RVS, 40 SPACE, OFF]";
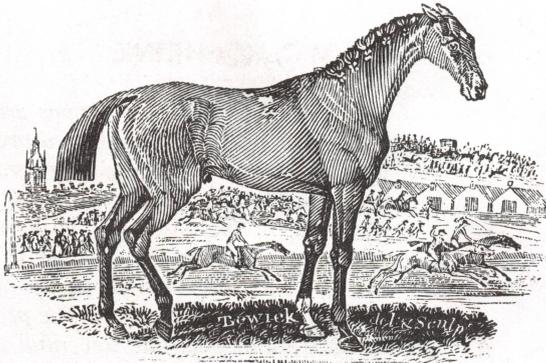
One friend who tried out the game insisted upon whistling the traditional 'they're off and running' music once the horses were at the gate. To allow time for this, you may wish to insert a pause at the appropriate time by including the line:
605 FOR X=1 to 500: NEXT X
in your program. — PC

HORSES

```
10    POKE 59468,14
20    REM ***HORSES***BY ANDY STADLER***
30    FOR X=1 TO 10: A(X)=10: NEXT X
40    PRINT "[CLR]"; SPC(10); "HORSES"
50    PRINT "[3 DOWN]HAVE ALL PLAYERS PLAYED BEFORE?";
60    GET A$: IF A$="" THEN 60
70    IF A$<>"Y" AND A$<>"N" THEN 60
80    PRINT CHR$(ASC(A$)+128)
90    IF A$="Y" THEN 230
100   PRINT "[UP] THIS IS THE GAME OF HORSES.  IN IT,"
110   PRINT "[DOWN]YOU BET ON ONE OF THE 10 HORSES. EACH"
120   PRINT "[DOWN]STARTS WITH ODDS OF 10:1. IF A"
130   PRINT "[DOWN]HORSE WINS, ITS ODDS GO DOWN BY 1."
140   PRINT "[DOWN]IF A HORSE LOSES A RACE, ITS"
150   PRINT "[DOWN]ODDS GO UP BY 1. YOU START WITH 200"
160   PRINT "[DOWN]DOLLARS. EACH TIME YOU BET, THE "
170   PRINT "[DOWN]ONLY LIMIT IS YOUR BANKROLL!"
180   PRINT "[2 DOWN] DO YOU UNDERSTAND?"
190   GET A$: IF A$="" THEN 190
200   IF A$<>"N"THEN 220
210   PRINT "n": PRINT "THEN FIND SOMEONE WHO DOES,
      YOU $8\#": GOTO 1120
220   PRINT A$
230   PRINT "[CLR]"; SPC (10); "HORSES"
240   PRINT "[3 DOWN]HOW MANY PLAYERS (1-9)? ";
250   GET B: IF B=0 THEN 250
260   PRINT B
270   PRINT "[DOWN]": FOR X=1 TO B
280   PRINT "PLAYER #";X;"NAME: ";: P$(X)=""
290   PRINT "[&,LEFT]";
300   GET XX$: IF XX$="" THEN 300
310   IF ASC(XX$)=13 THEN PRINT "[2 SPACE]": GOTO 340
320   LET P$(X)=P$(X) +XX$: PRINT XX$;
330   GOTO 290
340   LET B(X)=200: NEXT X
350   PRINT "[CLR]"; SPC (10); "HORSES"
360   PRINT "[2 DOWN]THE HORSES ARE: [DOWN]"
370   RESTORE
380   FOR X=1 TO 10
390   READ A$
400   PRINT "#"; X; ": ";A$;TAB(25);"ODDS:";A(X);"TO 1"
410   NEXT X: PRINT "[DOWN]";
420   FOR X=1 TO B: IF B(X)<=0 THEN 470
430   PRINT P$(X);", # HORSE, BET";:INPUT C,D
440   IF C<1 OR C>10 OR D<0 OR D>B(X) THEN 460
450   LET Z(X)=C: LET Y(X)=D: GOTO 470
460   PRINT "[UP]"; : GOTO 430
470   NEXT X
480   PRINT "[CLR, 2 DOWN]";
490   FOR X=1 TO 11
500   FOR Q=1 TO 40
510   PRINT "[RVS, SPACE, OFF]";
520   NEXT Q
530   PRINT "[DOWN]";
540   NEXT X
550   PRINT "[HOME]"
560   PRINT "[2 DOWN]";
570   FOR X=1 TO 10
580   LET C(X)=1
590   PRINT X; "[2 DOWN, 3 LEFT]";
600   NEXT X
610   PRINT "[HOME] ";
620   REM***THEY'RE OFF!***
630   PRINT "THEY'RE OFF! [4 SPACE, HOME]";
640   LET W=INT (10*RND(1)+1):IF C(5)=5 THEN
      PRINT "[HOME, 13 SPACE, [HOME]";
650   FOR X=1 TO (W*2)+1
660   PRINT "[DOWN]";
670   NEXT X
680   LET C(W)=C(W)+1
690   PRINT SPC(C(W)-1); W; "[HOME]";
700   IF C(W)<39 THEN 640
710   PRINT "THE WINNER:";:RESTORE:FOR X=1 TO W
720   READ A$: NEXT X: PRINT A$;" (NO.";  W;")":
      FOR X=1 TO 5000:NEXT X
730   REM**COMPUTE WINS AND LOSSES**
740   PRINT "[CLR]";:FOR X=1 TO B: IF B(X)<=0 THEN 810
750   PRINT "[DOWN]";P$(X);",YOU ";
760   IF Z(X)=W THEN PRINT "WON";
770   IF Z(X)<>W THEN PRINT "LOST";
780   IF Z(X)=W THEN PRINT A(W)*Y(X);
790   IF Z(X)<>W THEN PRINT Y(X);
800   PRINT "DOLLARS."
810   NEXT X
820   FOR X=1 TO B:IF B(X)<=0 THEN 860
830   IF Z(X)=W THEN LET B(X)=B(X)+(A(W)*Y(X))
840   IF Z(X)<>W THEN LET B(X)=B(X)-Y(X)
850   IF B(X)<=0 THEN PRINT "[DOWN]"; P$(X);
      " YOU BUSTED!"
860   NEXT X
870   FOR X=1 TO 5000:NEXT X
880   PRINT "[CLR, 6 SPACE] THE STANDINGS: [DOWN]":
      LET Q=0
890   FOR X=1 TO B: IF B(X)<=0 THEN 920
900   PRINT P$(X); TAB (10); "$";B(X)
910   GOTO 930
920   Q=Q+1:GOTO 940
930   Z9=X
940   NEXT X:IF Q=B-1 AND B>1 GOTO 1110
950   IF Q=B THEN PRINT "YOU'RE ALL DEAD!": END
960   PRINT " [DOWN] ANOTHER ROUND? ";
970   GET A$: IF A$="" GOTO 970
980   IF A$<>"Y" AND A$<>"N" GOTO 970
999   IF A$="Y" GOTO 1130
1000  PRINT A$: GOTO 1170
1010  DATA "FIREBALL"
1020  DATA "SEATTLE SLOW"
1030  DATA "ZAPPING ZING"
1040  DATA "FRED'S FOLLY"
1050  DATA "WORRYSOME WART"
1060  DATA "HELL'S ANGEL"
1070  DATA "HEAVEN'S DEVIL"
1080  DATA "TELLY'S SON"
1090  DATA "WHAT A HOPE!"
1100  DATA "KEEP WISHING!"
1110  PRINT "[3 DOWN]"; P$(Z9);",YOU WON!!! WITH $";
      B(Z9); "!!"
1115  PRINT "JOLLY GOOD SHOW!!"
1120  GOTO 1170
1130  FOR X=1 TO 10
1140  IF X=W THEN A(X)=A(X)-1
1150  IF X<>W THEN A(X)=A(X)+1
1160  NEXT X: GOTO 350
1170  PRINT " [3 DOWN] COME AGAIN SOON!!!":END
```

M U J E B L

BY M.C. HOFHEINZ

M.C. Hofheinz' 'kids' programs are definitely for kids of all ages. In a previous issue, we published several short graphics programs; here's a word-oriented one. Note that in lines 2000 and 2002, various numbers of blanks are inserted to keep words from being printed partly on one line and partly on another. The program requires more than one screenfull to display all the combinations for 5- and 6-letter words. You may wish to study some of the combinations before they scroll out of sight: just press the STOP key. To continue, type the word CONT then press the return key. — PC

```
20        REM: PROGRAM NAME "JUMBLE"
30        REM: WRITTEN BY M.C. HOFHEINZ
40        REM: STOCKTON CALIF, MAY 1,1978
50        REM: ASSIGN A Z(Y) VALUE TO EACH LETTER
100       PRINT "TYPE ANY WORD OF 6 OR FEWER LETTERS"
150       INPUT N$
200       FOR Y=1 TO LEN (N$)
300       Z$(Y) = MID$(N$,Y,1)
400       NEXT Y
500       REM: START NESTED LOOPS TO INTERCHANGE LETTERS
600       FOR A=1 TO LEN(N$)
700       FOR B=1 TO LEN(N$)
710       REM: LEN(N$)TESTS FOR WORDS SHORTER THAN 6 LETTERS
715       IF LEN(N$)<3 THEN 1000
800       FOR C=1 TO LEN (N$)
805       IF LEN(N$)<4 THEN 1000
900       FOR D=1 TO LEN(N$)
905       IF LEN(N$)<5 THEN 1000
910       FOR E=1 TO LEN(N$)
915       IF LEN(N$)<6 THEN 1000
920       FOR G=1 TO LEN(N$)
990       REM: SORT SO THAT EACH LETTER IS PRINTED ONLY ONCE
1000      IF A=B THEN 2300
1025      IF LEN(N$)<3 THEN 2000
1100      IF A=C OR B=C THEN 2200
1225      IF LEN(N$)<4 THEN 2000
1250      IF A=D or B=D or C=D THEN 2100
1450      IF LEN(N$)<5 THEN 2000
1500      IF A=E OR B=E OR C=E OR D=E THEN 2070
1800      IF LEN(N$)<6 THEN 2000
1820      IF A=G OR B=G OR C=G OR D=G OR E=G THEN 2050
2000      PRINT Z$(A); Z$(B); Z$(C); Z$(D); Z$(E); Z$(G); " "; :IF LEN(N$)=5
          THEN PRINT " ";
2002      IF LEN(N$)=6 THEN PRINT " ";
2005      IF LEN(N$)<3 THEN 2300
2010      IF LEN(N$)<4 THEN 2200
2020      IF LEN(N$)<5 THEN 2100
2030      IF LEN(N$)<6 THEN 2070
2050      NEXT G
2070      NEXT E
2100      NEXT D
2200      NEXT C
2300      NEXT B
2400      NEXT A
```

Another program for the kids. This one takes any word (or number) up to 6 characters and prints out every possible combination of those characters. The program was originally designed to help my kids solve the JUMBLE scrambled word puzzle which appears in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and other papers.

A peculiarity of the PET makes it necessary to use A, B, C, D, E, and G (not F) since 'F OR' merges into FOR and produces a SYNTAX ERROR (see line 1820). This is due to the fact that FOR is an instruction word. ☐