

CRYSTAL BALL DEPARTMENT (NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO TRS-80™* OWNERS)

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NEW PRODUCTS

(1) **THE NEW TRS-80 MODEL IV...**Yes, that's right. We just finished spreading our rumors about the **MODEL-III** and are ready to spread our new rumors. **RADIO SHACK** will start advertising its **MODEL-IV** by the end of the year. The new **MODEL-IV** is the next step up from the **MODEL-II**. It is similar to the **MODEL-II** but can be purchased with either a black and white or color video. The price will range from \$6,000 to \$8,000 and will include a hard disk drive. According to rumors we have been hearing, **RS** has scrapped its hard disk drive project for the **MODEL-II** in favor of including them with the new system. The new **MODEL IV** will only be sold at **TANDY COMPUTER CENTERS**. The computer looks very similar to the **TANDY 10** (that was **RS's** first attempt at getting into a large computer...it is no longer sold by **RS** since it was replaced by the **MOD-II**).

(2) **THE NEW TRS-80 MODEL V...**Yes...and still another computer. The **MOD-V** is a full mini computer and will directly compete with mini computers sold by **HEWLETT-PACKARD**, **IBM** and others. The new computer will be sold only at the **TANDY COMPUTER CENTERS**.

(3) **THE APF IMAGINATION MACHINE...**Now **APF** has a personal computer. In case you have never heard of **APF**, they have previously dabbled in the inexpensive calculator market. Their calculators were never very impressive (compared to those of their competitors). The **APF** computer has been around for several months. They have recently decided to increase their advertising budget.

For \$599 you can buy the **APF IMAGINATION MACHINE**...that's the **APF** personal computer. For your investment, you get a 14K BASIC ROM, 9K RAM (8K is user available), built-in RF modulator (to connect to your television set), sound synthesizer, two joysticks, numeric keypad, built in sound speaker and a built in cassette player that loads at 1500 baud. For an additional \$995 you can get their expansion box floppy disk interface and a 72K minifloppy disk drive. The system is not too impressive (and certainly shouldn't be competition to the **TRS-80**)... but all competitive systems will take some sales away from **RADIO SHACK**.

(4) **RADIO SHACK'S NEW COMPUTER CATALOG...**Yes, **RS** does have a new computer catalog. The catalog is in short supply. We have tried to obtain extra

copies from several local RS stores. We do have two copies in-house so we do know that it exists.

(5) **MODEL II OWNERS...THERE IS A 1.3...**We did mention that RS will soon be distributing a 1.3 DOS for the **MODEL-II**. We have obtained a copy of the new operating system and do know that it exists. The new computer catalog lists some of the features on the 1.3 DOS. It should be available to all **MOD-II** owners shortly.

(6) **HARD DISK DRIVES FOR THE MODEL-I AND MODEL-II...**H & E Computronics, Inc. is planning on selling hard disk drives (starting this month). You will have to call to determine availability and price. We will probably be selling the **CAMEO** system. The system is a 10 megabyte system (5 fixed + 5 removable). The idea is to store your information in the 5 megabyte fixed storage area. You back this data up onto a 5 megabyte removable cartridge (the backup procedure takes 4 minutes). By exchanging the removable cartridge...you have virtually unlimited storage space (its like have 5 megabyte floppy diskettes! The system sells for \$5995 and is supposed to be very easy to use. The software modifications were written by **RACET COMPUTES**. To use the software, you just instruct your programs to store information on the hard disk (instead of Drive 0, 1, 2 or 3).

(7) **THE NEW RADIO SHACK POCKET COMPUTER...**as stated last month is actually manufactured by **SHARP**. **SHARP** has two versions of their pocket computer. They are currently selling a \$125 version (in the United States). There \$175 version is currently only available in Japan (that's the version that is equivalent to the **RADIO SHACK** version).

(8) **VIDEOPRINT** is a new device that will copy the contents of your video screen onto **POLAROID SX-70** or **POLACOLOR 4" x 5"** films. The device is capable of copying full color displays (or black and white displays on the **TRS-80**). For more information contact **IMAGE RESOURCE**, 2260 TOWNSGATE ROAD, WESTLAKE VILLAGE CA 91361 or call (805) 496-3317.

(9) **NEW QUASAR COMPUTER SYSTEM...**Last month we mentioned a new pocket computer from Panasonic. Our latest issue of **KILOBAUD** contains a picture of the new computer (to be marketed under the **QUASAR** label). Several months ago we spoke of the new computers coming from Japan and the keyboard set-up. The new **QUASAR** pocket computer does not use the standard typewriter keyboard set-up (the keys are in alphabetical order). The new pocket computers will sell at \$200 and up. The pocket computers have the potential of being attached to many peripherals and can eventually add up to a 48K system with disk drives, printer, diskette or cassette (and can all be placed within an attache case...with a telephone interface).

(10) **NEC, COMMODORE PET, CASIO AND SHARP** all have new color computer systems under \$500 on the way (to compete with the already announced **COLOR TRS-80**). According to the experts, the **NEC** is the system to watch for.