

# An 80-column Board for Ye Olde Pette

by **Tom G. Bartoffy**

A friend of mine recently had an 80-column board installed in his Fat Forty. While he was extolling its newfound virtues, I was struck by something that could only be called jealousy: here I was with my old fashioned PET 2001, still using WordPro 3+, stumbling along with a 40-column monitor and a 60-column printout.

The obvious course of action was to get in touch with Comspec, here in Toronto, who performed this trick of electronic wizardry, and see if they would upgrade my PET. Alas, there is apparently too much difference in the video controllers for a simple adaptation, and they have not yet devoted any R & D time to developing a new one for us 'old timers'.

However, there may yet be an answer! I was informed that if sufficient interest

was expressed among the PET owners - coupled with a willingness to part with somewhere around a hundred-and-fifty or two hundred dollars, Comspec would be more than willing to expend the effort.

It would obviously be premature to describe the final 80-column board, but if it is like the one for the Fat Forty, it will have to be wired-in by Comspec, and will consist of several ICs and probably a couple of extra circuit boards. As on the Fat Forty, an external toggle switch should enable the user to select 40 or 80 columns. This gives the best of two worlds: 40 columns for the graphics and games modes, and 80 columns for word processing and spread sheets.

Now for the 64 thousand (or is it 32K) dollar question. Who cares?

If you are among the earlier TPUG members who own a PET and find it dif-

ficult to justify the expense of another (or a new) computer, and you feel that this is just the thing you need, please send me a short letter stating your interest, the BASIC version you have, and the amount you would feel comfortable in paying for the modification when it becomes available. There is obviously no obligation to buy at any time.

The address to send it to is: 97 Regina Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M6A 1R5.

The responses will be collated and presented to Comspec. Letters and names will be kept in strict confidence and under no circumstances be released to Comspec or anyone else.

In order to expedite this survey, please send your responses as quickly as possible. I expect to present my findings to Comspec six weeks after you receive this magazine.