



Newsletter

Volume 10 Issue 2

February 1997

NEXT

February 15 is our next meeting date, at HMC as usual, starting at 8:30. Stay for raffle and more talk after the program. Various methods of uninstalling programs without causing problems will be described.



LAST

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon Computer Club was held on January 18, 1997, at the Hunterdon Medical Center. About 40 people attended. President Rick Williams called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. New members welcomed included

Nora and Nick De Clario, veteran computer users from main frame days
18 Seven Springs Road Lebanon 08833
735 8249

Thom Sauter 491 Shasta Dr Apt
101 Bridgewater 08869 5263811

Ken Jones 630 E. Hill Road
Glen Gardner 08826 832-2784
krjones@sprynet.com

Walter Bordens rejoined us after being away too long. 2856 Debra Way, Union NJ 07083. 908-964-7245.

Rick pointed out that each member's renewal date appears on the newsletter label. One letter only will be sent after that date, until dues are paid.

We were asked to vacate the meeting room by noon. HMC offers 6 places in Family Medicine, and there was to be a luncheon meeting for all new applicants. (ED: One of the current Family Medicine students saw me using my laptop when he dropped in to see my husband and he really said, "You're the

first person over thirty that I've seen that knew how to use a computer."...)



Rick thanked Marge Gelegonya for taking notes at the December meeting, and thanked everyone for bringing party food. (Ed: The secretary forgot to thank Marge for doing the December mailing.)

Rick read a release from AOL, noting that they are cutting their marketing in half in an effort to decrease delays. Users logged 30 million hours in a recent month, 60 million hours in November, 100 million in December. There are 500,000 new members. Rick asked how many at the meeting used AOL, and three hands were raised. Joe Burger commented that it costs AOL \$200. to send each disk.

Treasurer Jac Carroll reported a balance of \$585.10

Secretary Stewart noted show dates in Somerset Jan 25, Cherry Hill Jan 26, Freehold Feb 1, Edison Feb 15-17. She reminded members that *The Secret Guide to Computers*, 22nd edition is available for \$9.

Senior computer classes for the fourth semester have ended. The new semester starts in late February, with offerings of the beginner survey course running 13 weeks, and a 6 week course in Windows 3.1 basics. Members are invited to teach any topic that interests them, and need not commit to a long course. Members who are making the Senior program work are John Warsinski, Gert Ewing, Jean Simber, Julia Waugh and Evelyn Stewart.

Rick reminded us that HMC is very

interested in our community service work, relative to our use of the great meeting facility.

Another guest, **Robert Marinaro**, explained that he was looking for help in setting up a web page for the Flemington Baptist Church, and this has been added to our volunteer project list. His email address is rrmetal@worldnet.att.net but he was too busy meeting our web page experts to sign in, so his address is missing.

Vice President Joe Burger reported progress on a club data base.

There was a detailed discussion of the relative virtues of incorporating the club or gaining non-profit status. Jac Carroll has the forms for non profit status and thinks it may take years.

In new business, Evelyn Stewart moved that dues be increased to \$25 for an individual membership and \$30 for a family, effective February 1, 1997. Ed Matko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

In a discussion of putting the newsletter on our Web Page, to save postage, the secretary asked how many people are using the Internet. About 25 said yes. There was further discussion about having a club newsgroup or sending group e-mail for club notices such as canceled meetings. Lon Hosford offered help and advice on this.

Rick announced a tentative change in the May meeting date, to May 24, because of room availability.



Jim Russ took over ways and means.

Thom Sauter and Nora DeClario were winners. Bill Hannula donated a new copy of WordPerfect Office, which he won elsewhere, to be raffled. Several tickets had to be drawn to find someone who wanted it. The Secretary offered an evaluation copy of ShortCut in exchange for a review but there were no takers, so it went on the take or trash pile and disappeared. It appears that veteran users have all the shelfware they can find room for, and new users get machines so loaded they'll never see all they own. Is this on-diskware?

The Program

Librarian Art Gerke had a whole system set up in the auditorium. He demonstrated a program he has written called Clasware, which loads programs from the CD ROM disk to the hard drive. When you look at a directory of the CD ROM disk, files that have been loaded to the hard drive are shown in one color, those that have not are in another color. The program allows teachers to control which programs are available to students, using a key disk.

Art showed directories of a few of his large collection of CD ROM disks. He has done a vast amount of work sorting programs from many disks into categories. He plans to refine the program further by separating DOS and Windows programs. The new directories have all the information you need to ask for a particular program, on one line, starting with ID for the disk, through the program name and size. He demonstrated the entire process when a member asked for a program by name, and in a few minutes received a floppy disk with the requested program on it.



Liz Dunbar gave her annual report on computer lab life in a big city school, City College High School in Baltimore, a magnet school for the humanities and social studies. People laughed when Liz

said parents choose this school because their kids won't get shot there, but she meant it seriously. They have a TI line Internet connection. Liz is in charge of the school network, but there have been continual problems with the network wiring installation, so the network is not operative yet..

The lab has 36 Gateway 486's. Three classes a day use them (the school adopted the 4 period day this year, with an hour and a half for each period). In addition the lab is open from 8 AM to 5 PM for the whole school. About 300 students a day drop in to write papers or learn programs.

Liz was out with the flu for two weeks, and returned to find six "cadavers", five other machines "seriously dead" and the rest with a variety of viruses, missing C:\> prompts and other failures. Instead of the planned lessons for January the students have been learning diagnostic and repair techniques. Game disks from home carry the viruses and are not allowed when Liz is there.

Of eighty teachers in the building, six are using e-mail. Teachers are still using handwritten hand outs and work sheets for students.

City College is part of the 1.5 million dollar state project "Virtual High School". Two students have been trained as Sysops.

Currently there are no working phones in the building except in administrative offices. For tech support calls Liz goes to the office and a student runner sprints 1/16 of a mile to the computer to carry out the instructions coming over the phone. There are 7000 teachers in the city system, all of whom are supposed to be learning to use computers, but there is no maintenance program for any computers except those of city administration.

50 % of City's students get free lunch, 95 % of them start college. Very few have

computers at home. Teachers across the line in Baltimore County get \$6000. more pay in parallel jobs. Why stay at City? Because these kids deserve a chance to compete when they get to colleges where everyone is using computers, and they're great kids.



HELP WANTED: COMPUTER VOLUNTEERS UPDATE

We have been helping non-profit groups with computer problems for five years now, but we're not done.

ARC (Association for, Retarded Citizens) of Hunterdon is about where we left them. The directors of the group homes still need instruction, and now they have more donated machines which need to be matched up with software. At the eight group homes you can help in the evening. At the two daytime Training Centers you can help from nine to three. You can go one time or many times. You can work with hardware or with people or both. Call Janet Keltgen at 730-7827. She will give you directions to each location and even go with you if you like. Harmony Waldron spent some time at the Clinton home. Harvey Schramm and a few others helped a little several years ago. ARC's current address is 1322 Highway 31, Suite 5, Annandale 08801-3127. There are group homes at Frenchtown, Milford, Stanton, Clinton, Hampton, Sergeantsville, and Flemington.

Bill Brewer has donated a machine to the Senior Center, which John Warsinski is updating, on its way to Jean Simberg, who will use it to practice what she is preaching in her third semester as a teacher for the Seniors. Jim Russ has donated several machines to the Center and has more waiting. There are several Seniors on the waiting list for machines.

If you want to join the faculty at the

Volunteers continued

Senior Computer Room, call Dottie Hartsell at 788 1359 and tell her what you'd like to teach and when. This is all daytime work, and lots of fun. Teaching people who want to learn is a great experience. There's hardware work there too. Talk to John Warsinski about that. If you'd like to try teaching but need help with "lesson plans" Dean Stewart will help.



The newest request for hardware and help comes from Eileen McKay who runs the SWIM program at Deerpath. Phone 730 9660. The SWIM program provides rehab water therapy on Friday mornings, with a lot of volunteer people in the water. You can help at the office and stay dry.



We haven't done anything about Interfaith Hospitality or Catholic Charities. Interfaith Hospitality is a program shared by many churches which offer shelter for the homeless, on a rotating basis. The Director wants help with Wordperfect 6 and Win 95. Call Linda Gordon at 782-2490 from 8 to 4:30. She is able to work with you evenings or at your pleasure.



Catholic Charities also wants help with WordPerfect 6, but in DOS. Call Tia Holt at 454 2074, Wednesdays and Thursdays. She feels that a single session would be a great help.



The Spina Bifida Association at 7822-7475 wants general training.



If you would enjoy working with adults who have returned to school to earn the GED certificate, call Norwescap Family Outreach at 782 5161. You work with one student at a time in a friendly classroom in the Old Egg Auction office building on Park Avenue. There is a problem with student attendance and

continuity of computer use, but you can choose your own time. Monday to Thursday 9 to 4, and can at least introduce each person to the computer. There are two quite new computers for student use. If nothing else you should go and look at the building, inside and out. This must be the most extreme architectural change ever accomplished.



Computer class at the County Jail is in limbo. Nick Wowchuck taught it, and can tell you more about it. It is disconcerting to try to teach a continually changing enrollment. When Nick was there the prisoners pooled money to buy the computer.



Don't wait to be coaxed. Pick a number, call, spend one hour, and let us know what happens.



A DUNBAR DOWNLOAD Subject: Top 20 reasons dogs don't use computers!

>>20. Can't stick their heads out of Windows '95.



>>19. Fetch command not available on all platforms.



>>18. Hard to read the monitor with your head cocked to one side.

>>17. Too difficult to "mark" every website they visit.

>>16. Can't help attacking the screen when they hear "You've Got Mail."

>>15. Fire hydrant icon simply frustrating.



>>14. Involuntary tail wagging is dead giveaway they're browsing www.pethouse.com instead of working.

>>13. Keep bruising noses trying to catch that JPEG frisbee.

>>12. Not at all fooled by Dogmore Screen Saver.

>>11. Still trying to come up with an "emoticon" that signifies tail-wagging.

>>10. Oh, but they WILL... with the introduction of the Microsoft Opposable Thumb.

>>9. Three words: Carpal Paw Syndrome

>>8. 'Cause dogs ain't GEEKS! Now, cats, on the other hand...

>>7. Barking in next cube keeps activating YOUR voice recognition software.

>>6. SmellU-SmellMe still in beta test.

>>5. SIT and STAY were hard enough, GREP and AWK are out of the question!

>>4. Saliva-coated mouse gets mighty difficult to maneuver.

>>3. Annoyed by lack of newsgroup, alt.pictures.master's.leg.

>>2. Butt-sniffing more direct and less deceiving than online chat rooms.

>>and the Number 1 Reason Dogs Don't Use Computers...



>>Drum roll please:

>>1. TrO{gO DsA|M.bN HyAqR4tDc TgrOo TgYPmE WeljTyH P:AzWqS.. *

SHORTCUTS v 1.1 a review

by Evelyn Stewart

based on a free evaluation copy sent to the club

The program runs with Win 3.1 or 95. It installs itself to start when Windows opens. It is "always on top" which means it is shows through any window that would otherwise cover it up.

To use the program you click on its icon or Hold Control and ALT and press S. Installation was simple and Uninstallation is provided.

This disk is a sampler. Separate ShortCuts programs for Access, Excel, Office, Word, Power Point, Works or WordPerfect cost from \$14.95 to \$29.95.

When I clicked the **ShortCuts** icon while running Word 6 in Win 3.1, I got a screen full of short cut commands labeled Shortcut Guide for Word95. The individual program for Word has commands for Word 2.0, Word 6.0 and Word95. A great many of the commands are the same as those on the pull down menus, and it is no easier to learn them from a full screen than from the menu. You only learn the ones you use frequently anyway. You shouldn't need to buy a whole program to learn that the Home key takes you to the beginning of the line. Our Seniors learn that free. Some of the commands shown are given in the daily tip window, then lost to view. Finding them on these screens would be easier than finding them in the manuals. e.g. Hold shift and Alt and D to insert date. ☐ date ☐ 01/31/97 ☐ . Works every time.

Another screen has General Shortcut Keys for Windows Program Manager 3.1. Is Alt+F, Shift+X and faster to Save Settings than clicking Options Save Settings?

If you like templates of commands, **ShortCut** is probably easier to use than a

collection of printed cards to fit on your keyboard. You could install the **ShortCut** program for each of your major software applications and the right one would pop up as needed. This would definitely be easier than shuffling keyboard templates, and only a little more expensive. Personally, I can use pulldown menus and manuals just as easily. I find the sight of all the commands together overwhelming.

The Uninstall function turned out to be a Write file of instructions to use with various shells. I chose File Manager, but of course it couldn't delete the main program because the whole point of this product is that it is always open, so Windows couldn't delete it because Windows was open. So back to DOS. Del *.* Then CD\ then RD Shortcut

To order or ask questions call 1-800-521-9414 or write to Shortcut Software, P.O. Box 986, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272-9855.



PAUL GLATTSTEIN'S BACKUP SYSTEM

Question by e-mail:

>>>When you say backup everything, do you mean all the apps and files on Windows? Egad. What backup method do you use? I am very good about saving files on floppies and have not lost anything crucial. I don't worry about backing up programs because I have the disks and my configs are not sophisticated enough to worry about doing them over.

Paul's Answer

>I mean EVERYTHING. Re-installing programs is a bore and I can never get the configuration just the way I had it.

My current system has 3 drives. Drive C is a 210 MB IDE drive with essential programs on it. Drive D is a 52 MB IDE drive stacked to 100 MB and has essential

data stored on it. The third drive is a 1.75 GB SCSI drive partitioned as drives E thru I, some of which are stacked. Overall I have about 3.1 GB of storage.

My current backup strategy is as follows:

1- I have a set of batch files which automatically copy critical files such as config.sys and win.ini to a subdirectory the 2nd time I boot up on Sundays.

2 - I have a batch file which creates a zipped file containing a directory listing of every drive and subdirectory in my system. I run this file rarely, but from it I could (in theory) rebuild any set of programs from the original disks.

3 - I have another manual batch file which copies the entire contents of drives C and D onto drive I. I run this file about once a month.

4 - I have an Iomega Ditto 3200 tape drive which holds about 3.2 GB of compressed data per tape. I use this to backup my entire system (drives C thru H) about once every 5 to 6 weeks. I keep the most recent backup tape in a fireproof security box outside my computer room. I keep the previous backup tape on a shelf in the computer room.

Sounds like overkill doesn't it? In reality it takes very little effort to maintain this system and I'm secure from almost all problems including accidentally wiping a disk in a fit of stupidity. Item 1 above runs automatically most Sundays. I run 2 and 3 when I happen to think of it, they only take a few minutes each. The full tape backup is the only time consuming one and I tend to start it running and then go and do something else for a few hours.



WWW URL'S FROM JOE BURGER

(World Wide Web Uniform Resource Locaters)

<http://www.speedtrap.com/speedtrap/> A state by state speed trap database.

<http://www.travelocity.com/> Complete travel planning.

Weather sites and info

<http://www.atmos.uiuc.edu/> Lots of information.

<http://rs560.cl.msu.edu/weather/interactive.html> Pick your area.

<http://www.intellicast.com/weather/phl/> Radar images hourly.

<http://www.earthwatch.com/SKYWATCH/skywatch.html> Just like TV.

http://www.weather.com/weather/us/cities/NJ_Trenton.html Local updates.

If you need to fill your bookmark file this will do it.

<http://www.chem.swin.edu.au/members/bookmark.html#22> (Margrets Bookmarks)



"INNOCENT" SURVEY TARGETS YOU

(downloaded and forwarded by Liz Duinbar)

The following message was sent to my working group by one of our colleagues. It was sent to her by her husband, who works for ATSC, a subsidiary of Allied Signal. Not wanting to be part of yet another Internet false chain reaction, I asked her if she would give me its pedigree. Her response is about as good as one could ask:

Message was generated by home office of Allied Signal (the ATSC is a subunit of Allied). His company and department are

taking this very seriously since members of the home office (in New Jersey) have already been burned.

So, since most of you have reason to have computers and want free software, you probably should read this and be forewarned....

Date: Thu, 23 Jan 1997 14:09:33 -0500

ATSC has been alerted to another scam being perpetrated within our industry, and we all need to be aware.

A person calls and states he/she is conducting a computer survey from "a company". The company name that is provided is usually a well-known software firm, and the reward for participating in the survey is free software. The caller is very convincing, sounds very genuine, and asks when would be a good time to visit you at your residence, and install the software on your home PC. By supplying this information, you have alerted them to when you are not at home, what kind

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Frequently Asked Questions About Health Care

By David Lubar

forwarded by **Paul Glattstein**

Q. What does HMO stand for?

A. This is actually a variation of the phrase, "Hey, Moe!" Its roots go back to a concept pioneered by Doctor Moe Howard, who discovered that a patient could be made to forget about the pain in his foot if he was poked hard enough in the eyes. Modern practice replaces the physical finger poke with hi-tech equivalents such as voice mail and referral slips, but the result remains the same.

Q. Do all diagnostic procedures require pre-certification?

A. No. Only those you need.

Q. I just joined a new HMO. How difficult will it be to choose the doctor I want?

A. Just slightly more difficult than choosing your parents. Your insurer will provide you with a book listing all the doctors who were participating in the plan at the time the information was gathered. These doctors basically fall into two categories -- those who are no longer accepting new patients, and those who will see you but are no longer part of the plan. But don't worry -- the remaining doctor who is still in the plan and accepting new patients has an office just a half day's drive away!

Q. What are pre-existing conditions?

A. This is a phrase used by the grammatically challenged when they want to talk about existing conditions. Unfortunately, we appear to be pre-stuck with it.

Q. Well, can I get coverage for my pre-existing conditions?

A. Certainly, as long as they don't require any treatment.

Q. What happens if I want to try

alternative forms of medicine?

A. You'll need to find alternative forms of payment.

Q. My pharmacy plan only covers generic drugs, but I need the name brand. I tried the generic medication, but it gave me a stomach ache. What should I do?

A. Poke yourself in the eye.

Q. I have an 80/20 plan with a \$200 deductible and a \$2,000 yearly cap. My insurer reimbursed the doctor for my out-patient surgery, but I'd already paid my bill. What should I do?

A. You have two choices. Your doctor can sign the reimbursement check over to you, or you can ask him to invest the money for you in one of those great offers that only doctors and dentists hear about, like windmill farms or frog hatcheries.

Q. What should I do if I get sick while traveling?

A. Try sitting in a different part of the bus.

Q. No, I mean what if I'm away from home and I get sick?

A. You really shouldn't do that. You'll have a hard time seeing your primary care physician. It's best to wait until you return, and then get sick.

Q. I think I need to see a specialist, but my doctor insists he can handle my problem. Can a general practitioner really perform a heart transplant right in his office?

A. Hard to say, but considering that all you're risking is the \$10 co-payment, there's no harm giving him a shot at it.

Q. What accounts for the largest portion of health care costs?

A. Doctors trying to recoup their investment losses.

Q. Will health care be any different in the next century?

A. No, but if you call right now, you might get an appointment by then.

INNOCENT SURVEY - continued

computer equipment you own, and other pieces of information that provide a convenient profile for a subsequent robbery from your home. This has occurred already to employees at other Allied-Signal locations.



FLASH! THIS JUST IN!

We have a new job for **Computer Volunteers**. One or more tutors are requested, teaching one or two adults at a time. Wednesday evenings, working at one program long enough to learn it. You will be using a Gateway 2000, with Win 3.1, current software, and the inevitable WordPerfect.

The clients here are serious students anxious to get into, or back into, the job market after years of home making.

This request comes from (deep breath here) The Career and Life Planning Center for Displaced Homemakers, part of the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission, located in the "little yellow house" on the campus of Sandhill School, which is very close to the Extension Services Building and the Senior Computer Room, left off Route 31 at the next light north of HMC.

For more details, please call 788 1453 and ask for Gillian.

The Youth Corps, where member Carol Gbur teaches, has moved to West Amwell. When we were helping them they were located in the yellow house.

If you give any time to any of our Volunteer callers, be sure to let us know. It's big news.



A DUNBAR DOWNLOAD

Subject: A Parable About Path Dependence (fwd)

Can anyone out there comment on whether the following yarn has any historical basis? If it does, it sure makes a good story that could be used in a lot of classrooms. If it doesn't, please deep-six it I'm sure there are enough legitimate examples of path dependence that we don't need to resort to so-called urban legends.

Tim Carr, U.S. General Accounting Office (carrt@gao.gov)

How Mil Specs Live Forever

The US Standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and the US railroads were built by English expatriates.

Why did the English people build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

Okay! Why did the wagons use that odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing the wagons would break on some of the old, long distance roads, because that's the spacing of the old wheel ruts.

So who built these old rutted roads? The first long distance roads in Europe were built by Imperial Rome for the benefit of their legions. The roads have been used ever since. And the ruts? The initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagons, were first made by Roman war chariots. Since the chariots were made for or by Imperial Rome they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing.

Thus, we have the answer to the original

questions. The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches derives from the original specification (Military Spec) for an Imperial Roman army war chariot. MilSpecs and Bureaucracies live forever.

So, the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's ass came up with it, you may be exactly right. Because the Imperial Roman chariots were made to be just wide enough to accommodate the back-ends of two war horses.

Thanks to Paul and Liz for writing or downloading most of this issue. How about a word from somebody else? Just tell about some program you use that you like or one you tried and didn't like. Or what froze your machine. Or how to play old DOS games in WIN95. Or send questions. Or download some crazy thing. Or tell how you use a computer at work. Woody's busy these days and doesn't post messages for me to copy. It's your turn.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Clinton Holiday Inn Feb 8 Tri-State
Edison Expo Center Feb 15-17
Ken Jordan
Allentown PA Days Inn Feb 15
Peter Trapp.

TRADING POST

This issue is so full of nonsense that the Trading Post has to fall in line. Maybe you're old enough to have lost your copy. Maybe you're a new user who never had one. Anyway, one disk: Mr. PacMan, Mrs. PacMan and PAKO. in 3 subdirectories. (Beginners: type CD space and a directory name. Then type DIR and find an EXE file, and type its name to run the game.) It was PACMAN that caused me to buy a computer that would run it at home where I could try it without any supercilious teens around, and without any quarters. In reality, the \$3000. paid for the Apple IIe around 1984 would have provided a lot of quarters, but there would still have been the teens to cope with.

Please leave an empty disk in the Trading Post Box if you take one of these treasures, or if you owe disks from other months. Thanks.



MORE NONSENSE FROM PAUL GLATTSTEIN

A helicopter was flying around above Seattle yesterday when an electrical malfunction disabled all of the aircraft's electronic navigation and communications equipment. Due to the clouds and haze, the pilot could not determine the helicopter's position and course to steer to the airport.

The pilot saw a tall building, flew toward it, circled, drew a hand-written sign, and held it in the helicopter's window. The pilot's sign read "WHERE AM I?" in large letters.

People in the tall building quickly responded to the aircraft, drew a large sign, and held it in a building window. Their sign read "YOU ARE IN A HELICOPTER."

The pilot smiled, waved, looked at his map, determined the course to steer to SEATAC airport, and landed safely.

After they were on the ground, the copilot asked the pilot how the "YOU ARE >IN A HELICOPTER" sign helped determine their position.

The pilot responded "I knew that had to be the MICROSOFT building because, similar to their help-lines, they gave me a technically correct but completely useless answer."

AND THEN THERE WAS THE
STORY OF THE COMPUTER
REPAIRMAN WHO
SWALLOWED MORE THAN
HALF A DOZEN MEMORY
MODULES, THEN DIED. THEY
WERE THE SEVEN DEADLY
SIMMS.

from Liz Dunbar

HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB

Next Meeting - Saturday, February 15, 1997
Coffee 8:30 AM Meeting 9:30 Program 10:00

Raffles, Q AND A SESSION, 11:00 - 12:00

Hunterdon Medical Center Main Entrance
Rt 31 North of Flemington
Program: Uninstalling without pain

Guests Welcome - all ages all interests

HCC NEWSLETTER

HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB
Evelyn Stewart, Secretary
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Milford, NJ 08848



Renewal date 6/97
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