

## How the Computer Has Changed My Life

*by Hap Hansen*

When I think about something that changed my life, the first thing that comes to mind is the dad- gummed computer! I have said to you before that I am only about one inch above computer illiteracy. But I am trying hard to get two inches above! Through the computer, an information super highway has been constructed. I'm one of the many who doesn't yet have a roadmap for that highway, so I'm trying to thumb a ride. As time goes on, there will be a dramatic increase in traffic with no stop signs or caution signs. It will be full-speed ahead and damn the uninitiated.

We are already inundated with information. Some of it is useless. Our computers are constantly being invaded, but if we don't learn how the system works, we'll be run over, around and through with information. Much of which I neither want nor need.

The future came with blinding speed. And for me, it's way ahead of schedule. Right now, our personal computers can be interfaced with our telephone, iPad, fax, answering machine and television set. Want to order a diamond ring from a merchandising channel? Punch in the appropriate numbers on your iPad and have it delivered to your door tomorrow just in time for the big dinner party. Need a pizza? Reach for the iPad, punch five numbers, speak into the blasted thing, order the thin crust, pepperoni, sausage and mushroom delivered to your door in 30 minutes, while your credit card has automatically been charged for the pizza, including tax, tip and delivery charge. All this continues to try to change my life.

More life changes? Tired of watching a paltry 35 channels on your TV? Punch in a sequence of numbers on your remote and receive 100 channels or more, some with automatic charges to your pre-approved credit card if you happen to watch more than ten minutes of the big game. Can you imagine the frustration of flipping, or watching someone flip, through 100 TV channels? And then discovering that there's nothing worth watching. The television industry can't fill 35 channels with intelligent programming now. What will they do with 100 or more channels? More soaps? More all-star wrestling? More reruns of *Leave it to Beaver*? Or will there be more opportunity for million dollar players to become champions in the tiddlywinks game of the century? Have we entered a future world of convenience and pleasure? Or are we nearing a faceless, cashless, uncaring society? I hope it's the former, but whatever it is, it's here and it has changed my life.