



Don Pochinko advises assessing your needs before investing in a home computer unit.

Computer fear under attack

By Shelley Kesselman

No, it won't bite when you touch it, but that hasn't stopped the spread of the "fear syndrome," says Don Pochinko of Video Concepts.

With computers being used as educational tools beginning as early as kindergarten, Pochinko says many parents wonder, "What happens if I don't understand what my child is doing?"

The fear of being left behind in a rapidly electronic society isn't confined to parents. People from all walks of life are purchasing computers for their businesses and homes in an effort to keep up with the times. Many computers are now within the price range of video games and that is an added value, says Pochinko.

At Home Expressions '83, Video Concepts will try to alleviate some of the fears and doubts about computers, with displays ranging from a \$400 basic home model to a \$10,000 personal bus-

ness system. Pochinko says consumers should seriously consider their computer needs before making the investment. He says the software — the available programs — is an important factor in deciding what you want the computer to do and which model is best suited to your needs.

With rapid technological advances in the computer field, Pochinko says obsolescence isn't a factor.

"If you buy the right system, be sure to ask about compatibility for years down the road. A good system will have the ability to adapt to new software."

He warns that most systems can expand only to a certain degree and "you can make it reasonably sophisticated." After that, a new system may be necessary.

While Video Concepts will be featuring the Apple, Atari and Texas Instruments line of computers, Pochinko admits "There is no such thing as a

perfect computer." Each have their positive and negative points and we try to match the appropriate model to your needs."

Video Concepts will also display a selection of video equipment, movies and games. Shelley Kesselman is a Winnipeg freelance writer.

Sawatsky demonstrates painting, burning methods

Virtually unknown in his own province, yet acclaimed across Canada and throughout the world, Peter Sawatsky continues to perfect the art of wood-carving.

The Glenboro native has had one-man shows across Canada and his carvings are sought in international centres. Sawatsky's wildlife carvings sell for \$2,000 to \$3,000. Recently, his carving of a prairie chicken fetched \$2,300 at a Toronto fundraising auction

for the Canadian Wildlife Fund. He will be featured in a one-man show in Cochrane, Alta. in May.

Sawatsky is currently at work on two life-size pheasants. These carvings and other works can be seen at the Canadian Woodworker's exhibit at Home Expressions '83. On Saturday, Sawatsky will be at the Convention Centre to display his carving, wood-burning and painting techniques.

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Deck proves easy do-it-yourself project

By Denise Dale
Copley News Service

Need more living space, but lack the money for a room addition? You can add extra living space to your home easily, inexpensively and beautifully — by adding a deck.

A flat wooden deck is one of the easiest do-it-yourself projects and requires very little experience and just a few basic tools for construction. For most decks, a crosscut saw and hammer will do the trick.

There are a number of do-it-yourself deck-building guides available, or you can make your own design to suit your lifestyle and your home.

Depending on the weather in your location, you can choose redwood lumber or pressure-treated wood for your deck. Either choice will provide a low-maintenance deck.

Be sure to avoid any potential moisture problems by allowing for air circulation under your deck. Provide a little space between deck boards, also, and treat all cut ends with some type of preservative.

Hot-dipped, galvanized nails and non-ferrous metal fasteners will avoid rust streaks that could mar the beauty of your wood deck. But don't worry about protecting your wood from ground contact. One of the major advantages of pressure-treated wood is that it is highly resistant to decay and termites, just as redwood is.

The pressure treatment is applied to a variety of softwoods, like pine and hemlock. Preservatives are forced deep into the wood fibres, so the lumber can be used safely in direct contact with the ground.

You can stain or paint pressure-treated wood, but you don't have to. Depending on the preservative used,

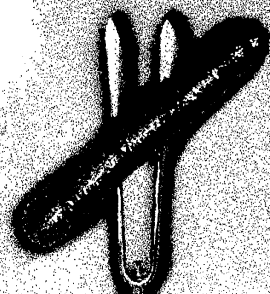
pressure-treated wood ranges from natural wood tones to various shades of brown and green.

Let your imagination be your guide in designing and building your deck. Add trees, shrubs, screens or other attractive view-blockers to accent your addition and provide privacy for dining or relaxing. In colder climates, you may want to add walls of some sort so

you can enjoy the out-of-doors living space for a longer period of time.

A deck-building party is a delightful excuse for a gathering of family and friends. You can do all the work yourselves, but if you have problems you can check your local advertisements for a carpenter. Many can be hired for an hour or a day and can lend expertise where needed.

We'll tell you a mouthful about outdoor cooking... this year at the Home Show.



Free Samples

This year the emphasis is on backyard cuisine with all the advantages of Natural Gas. We're supplying the kabobs, plus recipes, hints, and how-to's for everything from breakfast right through the day to desserts. All on your Gas Barbecue.

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Fri. March 11
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Sat. March 12
2:00, 3:30, 7:30 and 9:00 p.m.
Sun. Mar 13
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To help you spice up your cooking, a representative from Lawry's Foods and our own Home Economists will be helping to spice up the show. You'll get tips on flavouring from the company that made seasoning simple. Margaret Howard of Lawry's Foods will be giving advice, not to be sneezed at, from Wednesday to Saturday afternoon.

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