

# THIS & THAT

by  
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Let's see here now, I'm writing this in October for the November Bulletin which you will probably read in December. Happy Holidays to you one and all. And that, my dear friends, is exactly how time seems to fly in my life.

This time, I am not going to suggest any computer type gifts for the holidays; and maybe you won't want any after I relate the story of what happened to me when I bought a Screen Saver.

A good friend of mine, and a big time, energy, and talent contributor in the Computers for Seniors program, Dick Houston, showed me a screen saver he had found at: <http://www.3planesoft.com>.

Screen savers are those things that pop up on your monitor when your computer has been idle for a period of time. They used to be important for preventing image burn in the old days when the phosphors on monitor tubes wore with use. Today's monitors don't suffer from that problem.

The Screen Saver Dick showed me was titled *Watermill 3D Screensaver v1.1*, and it is both visually wonderful, and psychologically restful. In short, I really liked it. So I ordered it. Installed it. And looked at it. My copy of the screen saver did not look like the one on

Dick's computer.

Ah, ha! I thought. I got a bad copy of the screen saver program.

Not so. My copy was good.

Ah, Ha! I thought, I better read the program requirements, which I had ignored until then. I read the requirements. They said I needed a Video Accelerator with 64 MB of RAM. I didn't have one on my machine. That's why the visual effects were not working right.

Okay, I'll buy one, after all they only cost about a hundred bucks. A HUNDRED BUCKS!?! Yep. I liked the screen saver, what can I say.

So I bought one over the 'net. It came. I put it in. That's when I discovered that my old Pentium II computer, with a built in video card on the system board, refused to recognize my new \$100.00 video accelerator.

Not to fear, my wife Barbara said. We can swap computers. She had a newer and faster one than mine. Now you see why I've loved that women for over forty five years.

I put the Accelerator in her computer and it worked. Wonderful. End of Story? Nope.

My old computer had more hard drives and CD drives than her computer's chassis would hold.

Not to fear, my son Bob said. I have a larger chassis that you can have. We can take everything out of mother's computer chassis and put it in the spare one I have.

So with son Bob in the driver's seat, we gutted one chassis, and put everything in the bigger one.

It all worked! We're done, right? Nope.

Son Bob comments, "There are two video ports on your new Accelerator card. You can

have two monitors on your system if you want.

“I COULD,” I said, with stars in my eyes.

“Yep,” he responds, “and I just happen to have this seventeen inch monitor over here that you can use if you want.”

See, there’s another reason why I’ve loved that boy all thirty nine years of his life.

So, after all that, and a considerable amount of time spent reorganizing my work space, I have my Screen Saver...and it looks just like it should...and I’m as happy as a pig in slop (that’s a southern expression, I’m told)...and it only took \$12.95 for the program, \$100.00 for the Accelerator card, my wife’s computer, and a new chassis to hold everything. The second monitor wasn’t necessary to make the screen saver work, as if the screen saver was ever really necessary either, he says with tongue in cheek

And what did I learn from all this? I discovered again for the umpteenth time, that, at times, life can get a bit out of hand? But I love it, every single minute of it...even though those minutes go by so darn fast these days.