EVERYMAN'S WORD PROCESSOR

Some people are just hard to convince, and if you're one of them, you may read this word-processing buyer's guide and say, "I just don't think I'll ever need one of those programs."

If that's the case, you can still use your computer as a text editor. The nice thing about personal computers is their versatility. There are probably infinite ways you can get text into and out of a computer. You may have trouble getting the text formatted in a nice fashion for printing, but for a lot of people that's not important. If all you need is to put text onto paper for reminder purposes, say, or for internal memos whose appearance is inconsequential, then the following method might work for you.

• The BASIC Editor Trick. BASICs have text editors for editing programs. Some of these editors, like Applesoft's, are awfully tough to use. Others are easy. In any case, if you wanted to use a BASIC editor as a text editor, you would need to enter each line of text preceded by a line number. BASIC doesn't care what you input to it in deferred execution mode (that is, statements preceded by a line number, as are program statements) until run time. If you try to run a "program" that consists of a memorandum to the sales staff, all you'll get is SYNTAX ERROR. But if you list it, you'll have no problem. What follows is an example of using Applesoft as a text editor.

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]THESE ARE THE TIMES THAT
TRY MEN'S SOULS—THE SUM-
MER SOLDIER
?SYNTAX ERROR
]AND THE SUNSHINE
PATRIOT.
?SYNTAX ERROR
]OH, I SEE. THE COMPUTER
WILL PRINT SYNTAX ERROR
IF THERE'S NO
?SYNTAX ERROR
]PROGRAM LINE NUMBER.
?SYNTAX ERROR
]TRY THIS
?SYNTAX ERROR
]10 THESE ARE THE TIMES
THAT TRY MEN'S
]20 SOULS—THE SUMMER SOL-
DIER AND THE SUNSHINE
PATRIOT.
]LIST
10 THESEARETHETIMESTH AT
TRYMEN'S
20 SOULS—THESUMMER
SOLDIER AND THESUNSHINEP
AT RIOT.
]OH, I SEE. THE APPLE EDITOR
LIKES TO PARSE EXPRESSIONS
TO SUIT
?SYNTAX ERROR
]ITSELF. WELL, TRY THIS.
?SYNTAX ERROR
]10 "THESE ARE THE TIMES
THAT TRY MEN'S SOULS—
]20 THE SUMMER SOLDIER
AND THE SUNSHINE PATRIOT.
]LIST
10 "THESE ARE THE TIMES
THAT TRY MEN'S SOULS—
20 THESUMMERSOLDIER AND
THESUNSHI NEP AT RIOT.
] I FORGOT THE QUOTES IN THE
SECOND STATEMTNT. TRY
AGAIN
?SYNTAX ERROR
]10 "THESE ARE THE TIMES
THAT TRY MEN'S SOULS"
]20 "THE SUMMER SOLDIER
A N D  T H E  S U N S H I N E
PATRIOT."
]LIST
10 "THESE ARE THE TIMES
THAT TRY MEN'S SOULS"
20 "THE SUMMER SOLDIER
A N D  T H E  S U N S H I N E
PATRIOT."
]30 "AS YOU SEE, YOU CAN USE
THE APPLESOFT"
]40 "EDITOR TO GENERATE
SIMPLE MEMOS TO YOUR-
SELF. BUT IT'S TOUGH."
]LIST 30-
30 "AS YOU SEE, YOU CAN USE
THE A PPLESOFT"
40 "EDITOR TO GENERATE
SIMPLE MEM OS TO YOUR-
SELF. BUT IT'S UGH."
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