

# HOT NEW SOFTWARE FOR THE

by Jack and Sue Drafahl



It is hard to believe that one day could really make a drastic difference. But, on May 22, 1990, a revolutionary new software program was released by Microsoft Corporation that turned the computer world upside down. Windows 3.0 is a special program that allows IBM personal computers and their clones to run at maximum efficiency. This unique program extends the computer memory barrier from 640 kilobytes to 16 megabytes—a 25× increase. This means that computer users can now run several programs at the same time without running into memory problems.

Do you wonder what all this means to you the photographer? Windows 3.0 allows the photographer to run several photo-related programs simultaneously, so they can interface with one another. For example, we run a word-processing program, a graphics drawing program, a modem for sending stories, and a slide-filing program all at the same time, so we can move data from one program to the next without having to exit each program.

Since the release of Windows 3.0, more than 1000 software manufacturers have released software that runs under Windows. After extensive research, we found two groups of photo-related software making tremendous advances. Not all of these programs were designed to run under Windows, but because of Windows' ability to also run non-Windows programs, we were able to run all reviewed programs under Windows control.

## COMPUTER GRAPHICS

Each of the following computer-graphics programs has hundreds of drawing functions. To review all the functions of each program would require an encyclopedia-size magazine. The "givens" of all these programs are that they use fancy fonts, recall library images, and have sophisticated drawing tools for creating charts, graphs, and pictures. One important given in each of these programs is that the import-export function allows the user to move files from one program to another. In each of the following software reviews, we have selected only

those features that make the program special, and why you would want to use it over another.

**ARTS & LETTERS:** We live in a visual world. Nowadays, people worldwide are called upon to give lectures and presentations. Sophisticated title and lecture slides, which we refer to as speaker-support materials, are commonplace. To help ease the problem of producing lecture materials, Arts & Letters has developed a drawing package that allows the user to pull ready-made images from a symbol library that boasts more than 15,000 images. Many of these images are basic parts that can easily be assembled into more complex objects, while other symbols are ready to use. Once these symbols are brought into the program, they can be scaled, stretched, colored, and edited one vector point at a time. Over 65 typefaces can be used for text, which can be altered to fit various shapes in the slide.

In the graphs-and-charts section, you can use symbols to represent the values of the bars. For example, you may stack cameras in the chart to represent camera sales for that month.

**CORELDRAW:** For the slide-show presenter, the special-effects section of this program is outstanding. Perspective with titles and objects can easily be accomplished, giving the illusion of a third dimension. For example, you could select a title and give it the "extrude" command, whereby the computer automatically adds an extended 3-D shadow behind the title. Next, you could stretch the title with the "envelope" command, which would turn the title sideways, so that the end of the word appears to recede into the screen.

Over 150 typefaces are possible with CorelDRAW, and more can be imported into the program using utility programs. A very large symbol library, image-tracing and icon-searching programs, and an extensive import-export function make this an ideal program for slide shows, lectures, desktop publishing, ad layouts, and even this issue's cover.

**COLORIX:** ColoRIX is a 256-color paint program that allows the user to import photographs from color scanners and video capture boards, or captured images from computer

screens. These pictures can then be edited and exported in an extensive array of formats including Targa and Amiga. A special zoom-in function allows the editing of individual pixels that make up the image. Smoothly graduated backgrounds from one color to another can be produced by adjusting the color palette. The program can operate with programs that display over 1024 lines of resolution on the screen. We found this program useful for editing scanned color photos, which are then exported into other graphics programs.

**DRAWPERFECT:** DrawPerfect is a drawing program designed to run in tandem with WordPerfect, a very popular word-processing program. DrawPerfect allows you to bounce back and forth from text to diagrams, and combine both into one illustration. The program includes a high-quality symbol library to assist in drawing, and an excellent import-export function. A screen-show function allows the user to present images to clients using a variety of screen effects similar to those in slide shows. We found this program ideal for the photographer who wants to put together a mockup of an ad, submit magazine articles, or make overheads and slides.

**HARVARD GRAPHICS:** If working on word processors comes second nature, and you find yourself needing to create text slides for an upcoming lecture, then this program would be your best choice. The overall program operates very much like a standard word processor, except that it displays large text directly on the screen. The program allows you to include bullets, underlining, ASCII importing, and offers a variety of type styles. If you want to add drawings to your text slide, a special drawing screen is provided to combine text and illustrations. We found this program best-suited for lectures requiring a large amount of information to be presented on the screen, with no more effort expended than just typing.

**IMPORT:** ImPort is a special program designed to fill the void of import-export problems between various graphics programs. This program includes over 15 different file formats commonly used by graphics programs. Previewing images is also possible for confirming that the picture transfer was com-

# ELECTRONIC PHOTOGRAPHER



plete and accurate. We found this program very useful for creating files to send to various film recorder service bureaus. These companies, found throughout the U.S., make high-resolution slides from files you send them.

**PIXIE:** Pixie is a chart program that allows direct editing on the screen. With most programs, you switch to data screens to enter numbers, and then switch back to the graphics screen to see how it affected the overall image. In Pixie, you can change the value of a bar in a chart directly. You merely grab the top of the bar with a computer mouse and stretch it until it reaches the new number. Symbols and images from other programs can be imported and added to the final image. An excellent graduated-background function is provided

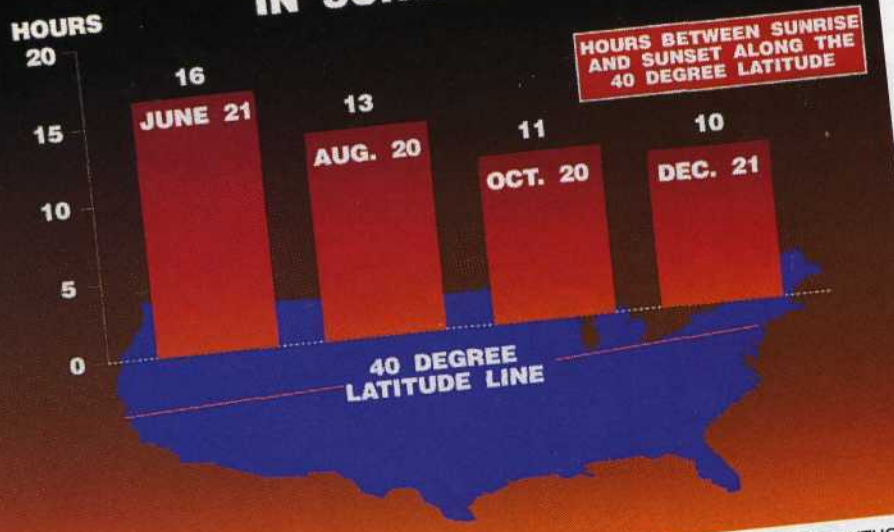
for smooth transitions from one color to the next. We found this program useful when combining images and symbols from a variety of programs. Pixie and Import are companion programs made by the same company, and they work extremely well together.

**POWERPOINT:** The creator of Windows 3.0, Microsoft Corporation, has developed a graphics program that interfaces directly with Windows, and includes some unique functions. The program displays 256 pure colors on the screen so you have an exact visual representation of the slide you are creating. Most of the other programs use 16 colors and black and white dots to simulate 256 colors. Excellent graduated backgrounds that can be vertical, horizontal, or diagonal, help accent your ti-

tle slides. There is even a function that causes the graduated colors to fan out from the main title. If you move the title, the gradation moves with it. We found this program to be excellent for preparing our photography lectures. We used the special handout function to output high-quality handouts that batched several slides onto one sheet, thus conserving both paper and bulk.

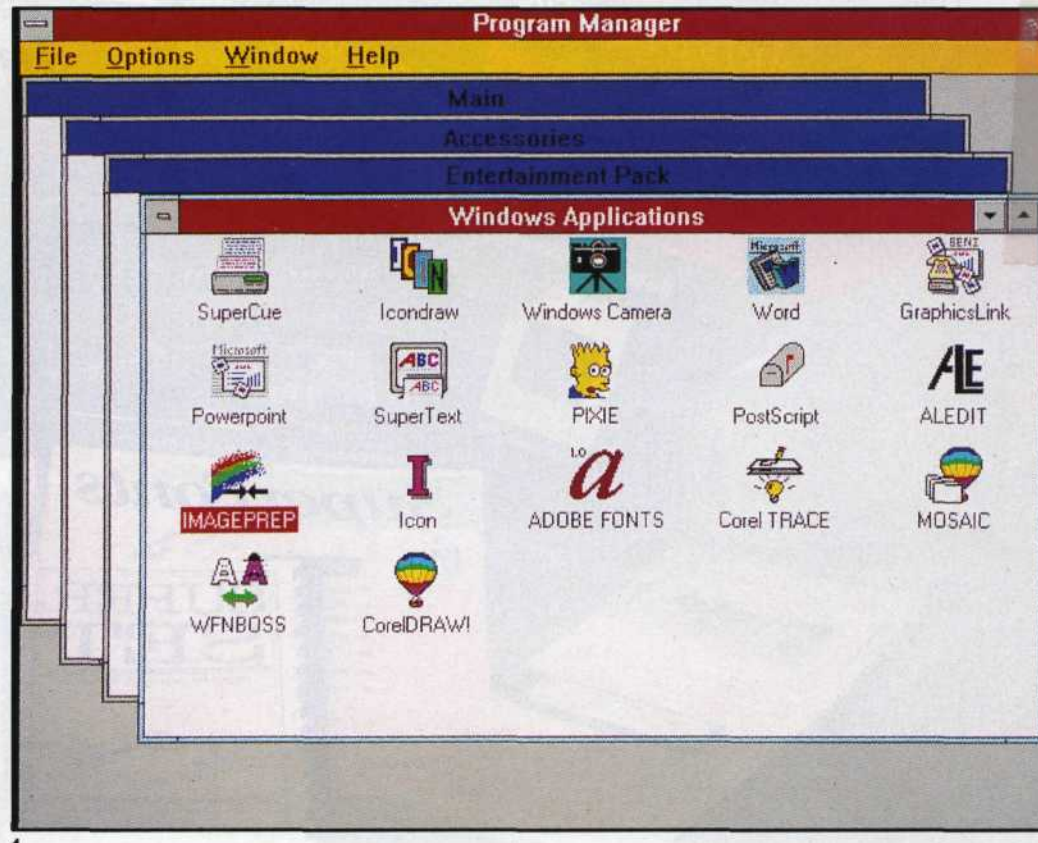
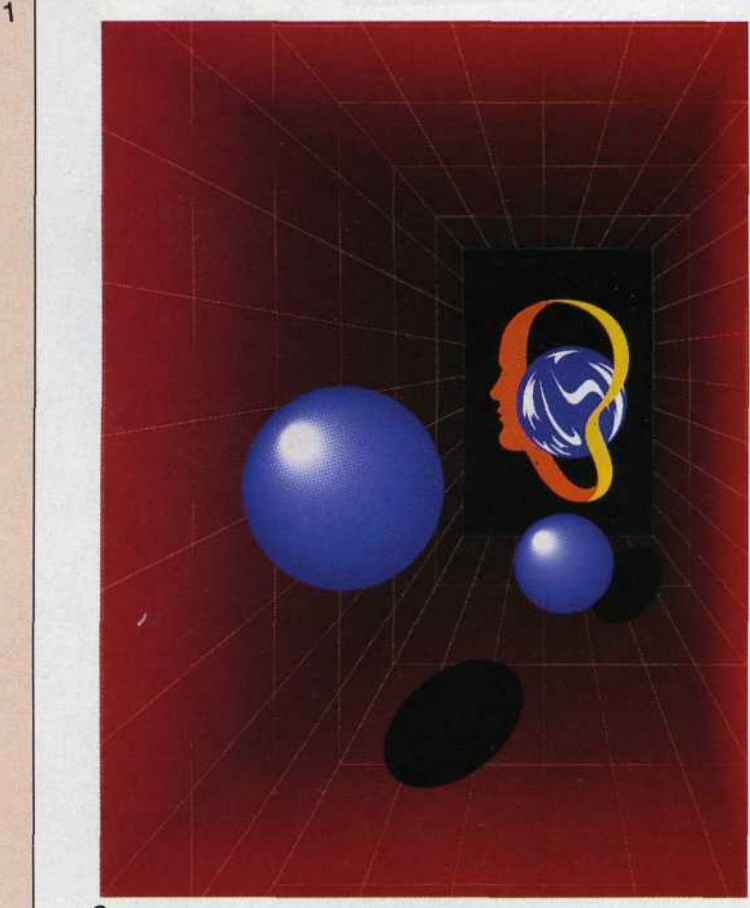
**SUPERPRINT:** SuperPrint is one of the many programs designed to interface between the graphics software and the output device. As a Windows-based program, it works the same with all the other programs that operate under Windows. This program substitutes any low-quality typeface with a higher-resolution typeface, so the final image is of the highest quality. The program

# PHOTOGRAPHY IN SUNLIGHT

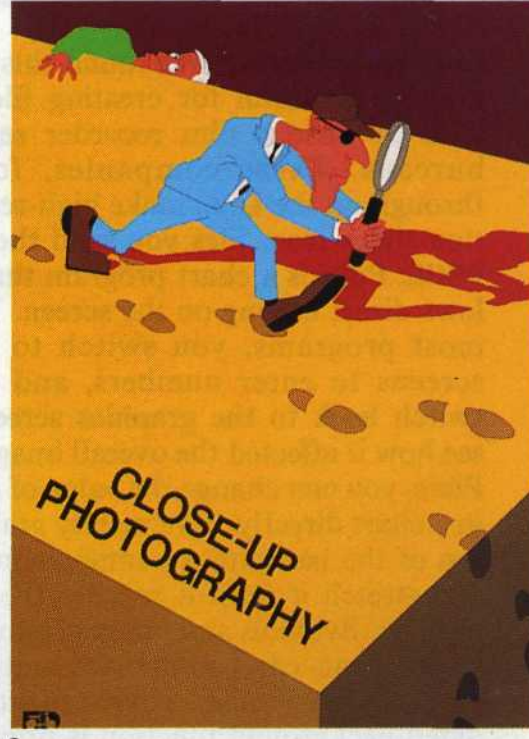


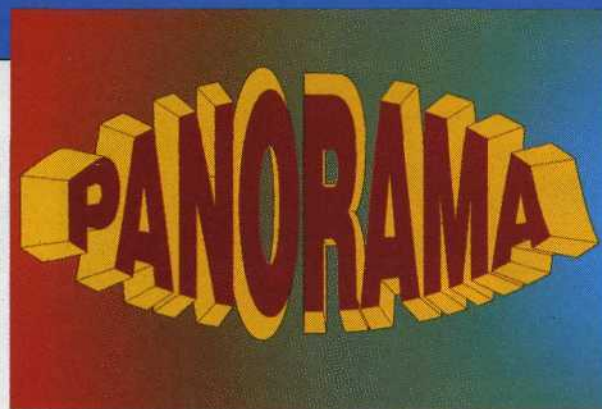
ALL PHOTOS BY THE AUTHORS

# COMPUTER GRAPHICS

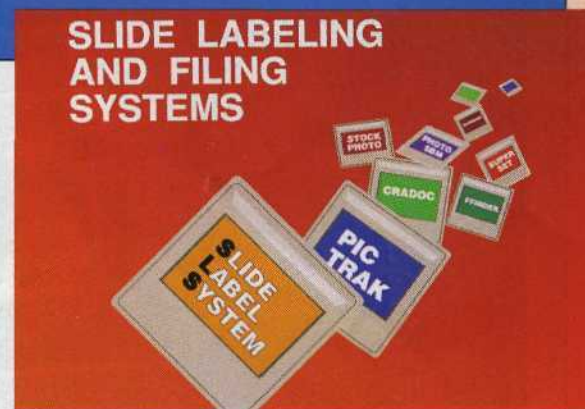


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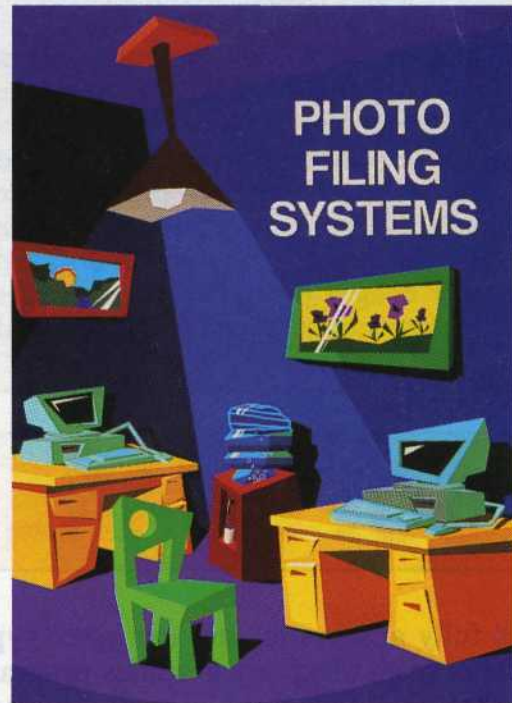
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1. Pixie and ImPort software
2. PowerPoint
3. Arts & Letters
4. Windows 3.0 is the software "clearing-house" for this type of computer-graphics imagery.
5. CorelDRAW
6. Arts & Letters
7. Pixie was used for sunset background; Arts & Letters for fisherman; and CorelDRAW for title.
8. Arts & Letters
9. Arts & Letters
10. CorelDRAW
11. PowerPoint software for slide mounts; CorelDRAW was used for background and text.
12. Arts & Letters
13. Harvard Graphics
14. Arts & Letters
15. CorelDRAW

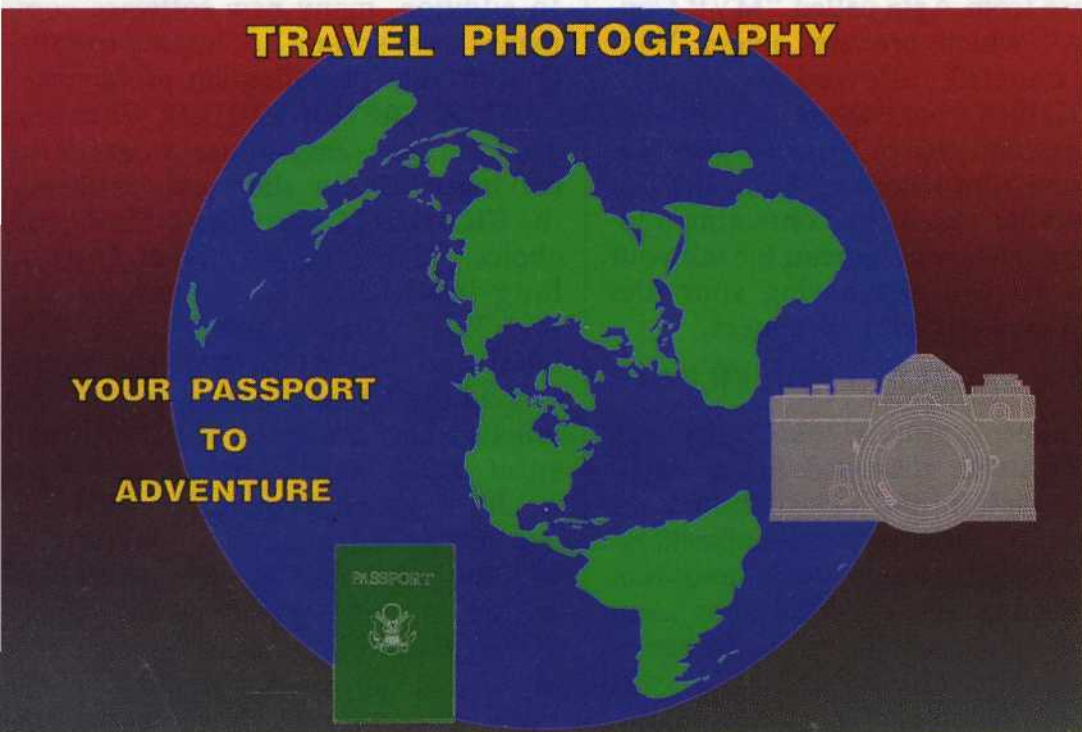


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All computer-generated images were designed using the various software programs reviewed in this article. We wish to thank Agfa Corp. for the use of their Matrix Forte camera. Each image was shot at 8000-line resolution on Fujichrome Velvia 120 and 4x5 films. McLain Imaging services of Costa Mesa, CA provided us with much-needed technical assistance for the many problems we encountered along the way.



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## THE KODAK PHOTO CD

Kodak's newly announced Photo CD system stores digitally scanned still-camera images on compact discs. The stored photos can be shown as high-resolution images on a TV set via a Kodak Photo CD player (manufactured by Philips), printed using thermal printers and paper (made by Kodak), and fed into personal computers.

**HOW IT WORKS:** To have your images stored on a Photo CD, you just take your 35mm film into a photo lab offering the service (a print scanner is also in the works, to transfer prints to the Photo CD). The folks there will be able to put any negative or slide on disc—up to 100 images per CD. These images can be cropped and zoomed, color- and

density-corrected, and arranged in any sequence. You can then have prints made from these images, or take the CD home and show your sequenced pictures on your TV via the Photo CD player (which will also play standard audio CDs with digital-quality sound). Computer buffs can use the Photo CD images with any CD ROM XA-drive computer.

**WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN?** The Kodak Photo CD process should be operational sometime in 1992. This allows software makers ample time to develop software applications, and allows time to maximize the Photo CD's adoption as the worldwide standard for high-quality digital imaging—it's compatible



1. Personal-computer users can access images from Kodak's Photo CDs using any CD ROM XA (extended-architecture) input device. The CD ROM XA technology was jointly developed by Microsoft, Philips, and Sony as an industry standard to integrate audio and video images into computing applications. Because of its compatibility with this standard, Photo CD can be used with virtually any type of computer adhering to common industry standards.

2. Here's a black-and-white knockdown of a high-quality thermal print produced using the Kodak Photo CD system. A 35mm Ektar negative was scanned and the digital image recorded on a Photo CD. The stored image information was then sent to a Kodak XL7700 thermal printer (a currently available device).

with all TV systems worldwide, and image quality exceeds all HDTV standards under present consideration in the TV industry.

For further information on the Kodak Photo CD system, contact Eastman Kodak Co., 343 State St., Rochester, NY 14650; (716) 724-4000. □

## SOFTWARE

is fully automatic, and can trace typefaces from most any graphics program. At the time we went to press, this program could output high-quality text to HP Laserjets, Matrix film recorders, and Montage film recorders. We found this program especially useful for creating high-quality output of the many illustrations we submit to PHOTO-graphic Magazine.

Note: A Matrix Forte film recorder from Agfa Corporation was used to make all the images in this article, as well as this month's cover. The resulting 35mm, 120, and 4×5 images were by far the best computer-graphic transparencies we have ever seen. Special

software from Agfa called "MVP Conductor," which operates under Windows control, allowed us to take SCODL files from each of the software packages and image them on the Matrix Forte film recorder. You, too, can have similar results by contacting a local imaging-service bureau (check your Yellow Pages), and having your files imaged on their Matrix camera.

### SLIDE LABELING AND FILING

As photographers take more and more pictures, the need for in-depth image labeling and classification increases. Of all the software subjects related to photography, we found that slide-labeling and filing systems seem to have expanded the most. Many of the programs already on the market have been completely overhauled, adding many new functions and features.

In addition, many new software companies have sprung up, hoping to satisfy your slide-classification problems.

**CRADOC CAPTIONWRITER:** When you need a simple, easy-to-use program for making labels for slide and vis-sheets, the CRADOC CaptionWriter is a great choice. This program prints a single long label, 3½×7/16 inches, or two 1¾×7/16-inch labels side by side. This label can be cut in half or folded around the top of the slide mount. The function keys are set up so that you can enter information about copyright, model releases, sequential numbers, and subject information. A special utility program helps the user select and set the appropriate dot-matrix printer. **FOTOFINDR:** If you are seriously interested in selling stock photographs, the FotoFindr program should be considered. Data on each photo or series of

photos is entered into a database, and then retrieved using key words or phrases to ID the specific photo. Each photo is cross-indexed, so that maximum coverage of the database is possible. You can also create client files, invoices, inventory sheets, and transaction files. The combination of these files allows photographers to track their photos from the time they leave the system to be reviewed by potential clients, to the time that they return to the system.

The main program uses a colorful menu system that allows you to easily move from one function to the next. A companion program called PRNLBL is used to print captions on standard 3½-inch slide labels. Each label can hold three lines of type with up to 28 characters each. The program prints the copyright symbol with most dot-matrix printers.

**PIC TRAK:** Slides, negatives, photo albums, and loose photos can all be filed under an extensive filing system that uses your present storage system as a part of the filing method. The basic level of Pic Trak is the "library." This is where you separate your storage system into libraries. For example: Library No. 1 could be black-and-white negatives, library No. 2 could be color negatives, library No. 3 could be slides, and so on.

Each Library is then broken down into albums. Each album could be a specific subject in that library. Entry data for each photo includes: month, year, roll number, location, names, and notes. Once this data is entered, searches can be made for specific subjects using a key word or phrase. Reports can be printed that will list albums, photos, and sticky labels. Pic Trak also has a label-printing program that prints on several label sizes, and allows modification of printer settings.

**PHOTO SBM:** The Photo SBM program is designed for those photographers who want to set up a full-featured stock photo agency. The basic program allows you to enter specific picture data, number, date, photographer, and any other pertinent information. You can then search the files for a specific number, category, or phrase. A label-printing program is included, and has options for changing the printer defaults. Once the slide info has been entered, you can then use the submission function to submit photos to a specific publisher found in the publisher database. If you want to use barcodes for photo identification, a companion program called Barprint allows you to select a barcode type which can be printed on

slide labels.

**SUPERSET:** Superset is a photo-filing system that uses categories called Supersets. Photos are grouped in these sets when they have a common theme or purpose. Extensive information can be entered for each photo, and can include photo number, description, date, film type, format, storage location, photographer, model release, caption, and technical information. Once this information is entered, you can then ask for a specific topic and the program will search and pull a category of images that fit the description. When you go back into the filing system to retrieve a photo, a marketing menu will appear, and will track information such as client info, last sale, price, and location of photo at the present time. Reports can be generated on technical or marketing information, or any variation of information stored in the index system.

**STOCK PHOTO:** One of the most powerful database systems in the world is a program by Ashton Tate called Dbase IV. Many of the photo-filing systems on the market base their structure on this program. Stock Photo has gained permission to use the Dbase IV language to operate its stock-filing system. We found that you could actually operate this program with DBase IV. Photo-entry data into this flexible database includes, ID code, category, format, film, date, and description. To find a photo in the database, you can use one of the many dozens of Dbase IV commands that let you quickly and easily locate a photo. The browse function lets you view the entire database, one page at a time. To print photo labels, you can go to the print menu, set up your printer and label format, and start printing labels.

**SLIDEBASE:** The menu-driven Slide-Base program is designed for the photographer who has up to 60,000 slides in up to 60 categories. Data about each slide can include slide number, category, date, descriptors, and any shooting data. Slide tracking is accomplished through a comprehensive search program that locates a single slide or groups of slides using various descriptors. A tracking system reports on the location of each slide, when it is sent out, as well as a complete sales history of the slide. Reports on specific subject categories can be produced through the use of numeric and alphabetic sorting. A label-printing program is included, and will print the recorded data in any order desired.

**SLIDE LABEL SYSTEM:** The primary purpose for this program is to print

## SOFTWARE MANUFACTURERS

**ARTS & LETTERS:** Computer Support Corp., 15926 Midway Rd., Dallas, TX 75244; (214) 661-8960. Price: \$695

**CORELDRAW:** COREL Systems Corp., COREL Building, 1600 Carling Ave., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1Z8R7; (613) 728-8200. Price: U.S. \$695

**COLORIX:** RIX Softworks, Inc., 18552 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 200, Irvine, CA 92715; (714) 476-8266. Price: \$199

**DRAWPERFECT:** Word Perfect Corp., 1555 N. Technology Way, Orem, UT 84057; (801) 222-5000. Price: \$495

**HARVARD GRAPHICS:** SPC Software Publishing, Corp., 1901 Landings Dr., P.O. Box 7210, Mountain View, CA 94039; (415) 962-8910

**IMPORT:** Zenographics, 4 Executive Circle, Irvine, CA, 92714; (714) 851-6352. Price: \$295

**PIXIE:** Zenographics, 4 Executive Circle, Irvine, CA 92714; (714) 851-6352. Price: \$295

**POWERPOINT:** Microsoft Corp., One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052; (206) 882-8080. Price: \$495

**SUPERPRINT:** Zenographics, 4 Executive Circle, Irvine, CA 92714; (714) 851-6352. Price: \$195

**WINDOWS 3.0:** Microsoft Corp., One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052; (206) 882-8080. Price: \$149

**CRADOC CAPTIONWRITER:** Perfect Niche Software, Inc., 7100B East Main St., Scottsdale, AZ 85251; telephone (602) 945-2001. Price: \$69.95

**FOTOFINDR:** Franklin Service Systems, P.O. Box 202R, Roxbury, CT 06783; (203) 354-8893. Price: \$495

**PICTRAK:** Glacier Software, P.O. Box 3358, Missoula, MT 59806; telephone (406) 251-5870. Price: \$89

**PHOTO SBM:** Micro Software Solutions, P.O. Box 851504, Richardson, TX 75085; (214) 276-4347. Price for PHOTO SBM \$595; price for BarPrint \$159

**SUPERSET:** Rock Creek Software, P.O. Box 7892, Missoula, MT 59807; (406) 728-5105. Price: \$89.95

**STOCK PHOTO:** The Wyoming Naturalist, P.O. Box 863, Douglas, WY 82633; (307) 358-4127. Price: \$34

**SLIDEBASE:** Multiplex Display Fixture Company, 1555 Larkin Williams Rd., Fenton, MO 63026; (314) 343-5700. Price: \$89.95

**SLIDE LABEL SYSTEM:** Photo Assist, P.O. Box 50406, Santa Barbara, CA 93150. Price: \$49.95.

slide labels. When you first boot up the program, some questions are asked about your computer and printer setup. From there you proceed to a very comprehensive single data screen, which is divided into three sections. The top third of the screen provides information about keyboard commands. The middle of the screen gives you a visual representation of the slide label, and the bottom of the screen is where you actually enter data for the label. You can enter any kind of data you would like, including sequential numbers.

Printing is accomplished on two types of labels and several types of dot-matrix printers. If your printer is not listed, you can modify the program to work with your specific printer. The labeling system uses a standard database, which can be used for slide filing and retrieval. ■