

ATOM 20

By Ray Bander

Notes by Bill Martens

This program appeared in the February 1979 issue of Creative Computing magazine. While there were several adventure games already available, this program had a particular appeal in the fact that it played on the cold war fear of nuclear holocaust.

The program was simplistic when compared to the other programs of the time, but it still had a fun side in the fact that there really was only one way out and it was tough to get there unless you were quite patient. This was one of the first programs that I typed in from a magazine and played. One problem with the program that I ran into was the fact that I was typing it into a PDP 11/40 and the original program was written in standard basic. I also only had 13K to play with which led me to cut down the version I typed in.

The version of the program supplied on the disk was typed by Fes Cannady and modified in January 1980 to replace all of the INPUT statements with GET statements. This allows the program to flow a bit better and also eliminates needless errors on the input from the user.

One note for those of you who think that Oregon Trail was based on this game; That is not possible as Oregon Trail was developed long before Atom 20 was even thought of.

The gist of the program (from the internal documentation:

THE TIME IS THE YEAR 2000. AN ATOMIC WAR HAS TAKEN PLACE, WIPING OUT A MAJOR PORTION OF THE POPULATION.

YOU HAVE BEEN LIVING WITHIN YOUR BOMB SHELTER FOR THE LAST TWO MONTHS.

YOUR FOOD RATION SUPPLY HAS NEARLY BEEN EXHAUSTED. YOU MUST NOW GO OUT INTO THE NEW WORLD AND FIND ANY FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS WHO HAVE SURVIVED THE WAR.

THE FATE OF MANKIND LIES WITHIN YOUR HANDS.

YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING FEW REMAINING SUPPLIES:

*THREE DAY FOOD SUPPLY.
SEVEN DAY WATER SUPPLY.
A RIFLE WITH 50 ROUNDS.*

THE DANGERS THAT LIE AHEAD ARE MANY. YOU MAY FALL VICTIM TO RADIATION POISONING, A STROKE, ACCIDENT, POISONOUS FOODS, WILD

ANIMALS, OR EVEN CRAZED PEOPLE.

DURING YOUR VOYAGE YOU MUST USE YOUR RIFLE TO HUNT OR TO DEFEND YOURSELF. WHEN ASKED TO SHOOT, TYPE IN THE WORD 'BANG'

BE CAREFUL HOW YOU USE YOUR BULLETS, YOU ONLY HAVE 50 AND YOUR LIFE MAY MAY DEPEND ON IT.

BY THE WAY, YOUR CHANCE OF SURVIVAL IS NOT GOOD.

Anyone who has contact information for Ray Bander, magazine copies of the program, or other information about the program, please feel free to let us know at the Virtual Apple support BBS.