Yard Sale

On Sunday October 2nd, The Computer Museum held its first cash and carry indoor yard sale to sell duplicate items from the Museum's collection. With the help of many volunteers, the sale was a success as well as a day of hard work for those involved.

After the first hour, it became clear that the buyers did not want the big old machines, just their parts. Members, Don Gaubatz, Bill Ricker, Ian MacLennan, Dave Koogler, Armando Stettner, and Dick Rubinstein, along with the staff went to work with screwdrivers and pliers and took everything apart. Every core memory stack that could be salvaged was sold; along with every old name plate and console panel.

It was the hackers version of "Let's make a Deal." Members set prices and made deals all day. Susan Kaelin, the cashier, sold more than a thousand dollars worth of bits and pieces and one whole PDP-8.

A number of children came with their parents and went off with piles of components: clearly the next engineers tinkering at home—perhaps to the consternation of a parent—but also getting a feeling for the technology.

The yard sale brought the staff and some members closer together. At the suggestion of the participants, the Museum now plans to have some work parties in order to prepare for the move to Boston.

Checking It Out

Rummaging

Making a Sale