indeed, that box was larger than the ones the machine itself came in. When we got it open, we found it was more documents than software. Volume after volume of documents, mostly about UNIX. Formidable.

There was, however, a thin thing no more than half a dozen pages long that called itself a *Quick Reference Guide*. I thought that would surely do the trick. Alas, no. It merely tells you, "To turn your computer on, press the switch, located on the back of the computer just above the power cord, to the ON position." Nothing else. With grammar like that, why should I expect information? There was another little packet, but that consisted of pages that I could, if I really wanted to, insert in the spiral-bound *Quick Reference Guide*, after which I'd have a summary of DOS commands. Since my problem was that I couldn't get to DOS, that didn't seem a useful thing to do.

Next thing to do was fish around in the software box. Sure enough, there was a boxed book called *Getting Started With Your AT&T Personal Computer 6300 Plus*. As is customary nowadays, the pages of the loose-leaf book were shrink-packaged separately from the tab cards; it takes a good five minutes to render the thing usable. Eventually I got it together, only to discover that it wasn't much help.

There was a DOS disk in the package with the book. I put it in the floppy disk drive and reset the machine. The 6300 trundled for a while—it makes all kinds of tests for you—but eventually it came up with the A> prompt. So far so good. Now to see what's on the hard disk...

I can't find the hard disk. The system won't believe there *is* a C drive. Not only that, but it thinks B is the same floppy disk drive as A. I suppose there's a reason for that, but I guess I just don't care what it is.

Examining the *Getting Started* book reveals there's a great deal of discussion on partitioning the hard disk. I suppose that's what I'd have to do. That's a procedure guaranteed to scare the liver out of any casual business user, but I expect I could manage it—except that I'm afraid to try. After reading the legalese paper they sent with the machine, I'm afraid to do much of anything with it.

UNIX

When I saw the PC 6300 Plus in Atlanta, the product manager cautioned me: "This is a DOS machine that happens to know UNIX, but please, please, don't stress UNIX. Stress that this is an AT that runs PC and AT programs."

Still, it's obvious that the machine comes up in UNIX when you boot from the hard disk. It does all the UNIX-like tests and demands that you log on. Since

I don't know how to log on, I had to wait for my son Alex who is a UNIX wizard. He managed to log on, I think as "root."

Meanwhile, I tried to follow what he was doing by reading the "Getting Started with the UNIX System" section of the *Getting Started* manual. That's a remarkable document. It shows you a picture of how to turn the machine on and how to insert a floppy disk—this in a section on getting started with UNIX. Foo. Anyone who doesn't know a lot more about computers than how to insert a floppy disk isn't

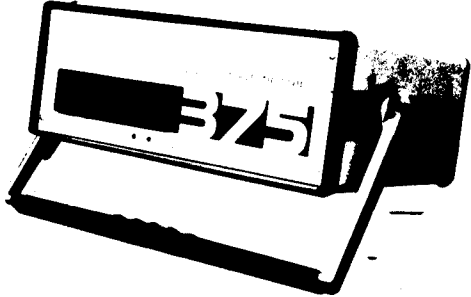going to get anywhere with UNIX. I rather soon gave up on the *Getting Started* document.

Meanwhile, Alex did get UNIX running, and he discovered that this particular AT&T 6300 Plus has about 500K bytes of unused space on its hard disk.

Somehow I don't think I much want a machine that has no more than 500K bytes for me to use. I suppose I could go downstairs and get the little 500K-byte bubble memory board out of our IBM PC (the PC thinks that's a remarkably fast fixed disk

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