



Figure 6.1  
Pygmalion, computing Factorial of 6. (From Smith 1975.)

were no backups. I believe I am the last person (other than Smith himself) ever to actually see the program live. (See figure 6.1.)

But I got the idea. And it transformed me.

### Pygmalion's Innovations

Pygmalion innovated in so many ways, it's not funny.

It is generally credited as the first system to introduce the modern notion of icons. At that time, the author even felt the need to explain what an icon was: "Communication between human being and computer is by means of visual entities called 'icons,' subsuming the notions of variable, reference, data structure, function, and picture" (Smith 1977).