



# News Letter

July 1988

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All the News that Fits, We Print

Sam'I Bassett, Editor

William D. Smith, Assistant Editor

## Aladdin is back

For you Aladdin and Adimens fans who were left out in the cold, John Rolfs of Strategic announces that his company is providing support and updates for full multi-user Aladdin systems with record locking and many other enhancements. He avers that he has a full source license and worldwide distribution rights from ADI in Germany, and would be happy to hear from anyone who is/was using Aladdin. He can be reached at

6/7 Benjamin Street  
London EC1M 5QL  
01-608 0818  
Telex 22206 SAS G

## The More Things Change...

No sooner did we get directions for uploading stuff quickly from MUSUS published than CIS went and changed the software on us. Rats! The directions in the last issue will still work, if you do one of two things:

- 1) Add ";OLDF" after your PPN when you log in -- I use "71735,1776;OLDF" when CIS asks for my user number; or
- 2) Type OF<Return> at the Forum! prompt.

Either of these will work for the time being, but CIS does not promise that they will work forever. After a couple of years, they may go away.

Fortunately, Alex Kleider, who did such an excellent job of putting together the program for our June meeting at Lake Tahoe, came up with an equivalent way of doing the same thing under the new software:

Here's my suggestion as to how to adapt to the new forum software: Upload your text file at the Forum prompt using the following format: (See figure 1) The first line should

consist of the word "COMPOSE". Then follow with your message. Then on a new line put "/EXIT". Then on yet another line put "POST" if you want it on the bulletin board, "MAIL" if you want it EasyPlexed. Then on another line put the name of the recipient and his/her PPN. The next line is to contain the subject. If it is for the bulletin board, use another line to enter the section number. Last, a final line for a "Y" to confirm that everything is in order.

Fig. 1 New message file template
COMPOSE
<your message>
/EXIT
POST or MAIL for EasyPlex
<name> or ALL if for all members
<subject> 25 chars max
<section number> not needed with MAIL
Y

A few more comments are in order. My experience has been that you can place several bulletin board messages into one file for sending in this way. (i.e. several messages, each in this format, one after the other) but that it doesn't seem to accept the "Y" when "MAIL"ing to EasyPlex so when using the latter, I send only one message at a time and don't include the "Y" and simply type in the "Y" later when prompted to do so.

Thanks, Alex!

## Tahoe Meeting Report by Alex Kleider

The June 14th USUS Meeting held in conjunction with Stride Faire '88.

Many USUS members arrived the night before. (On a personal level, LaCheminee in Kings Beach: 916/546-4322 is a recommendation to those who enjoy

excellent French cuisine presented in a labor intensive manner; not inexpensive!)

Registration began at 7:30am after many congregated for coffee, OJ and donuts in the lobby before hand. Hays Bush tells me that in all, 19 people registered.

The meeting opened with a two hour workshop by Jon Nevins, covering PowerTools. Absence of an overhead projector hampered his presentation for the first hour, but the history behind the development of this project and the developers' hopes for the future proved to be interesting and might not have been presented otherwise.

This collection of utilities, including direct wire or modem/telephone file transfers, is an example of the way USUS members could get together and jointly develop software for the benefit of the organization and its members. Hopefully we'll hear more on that directly from Jon Nevins and Bob Clark.

It might be appropriate at this point to mention that volunteers are needed to write REMUNITs for other machines. During the presentation Tim Coslet indicated that he was interested in writing one for the Amiga. Anybody else interested? There is also a move afoot to develop a PowerTools SIG and a MUSUS section devoted to PowerTools.

Bob Spitzer's first talk was a fast moving, polished, and very exciting presentation covering a subject that, as he pointed out, is a method of computing that is not widely known and yet which has amazing applicability in the field of pattern recognition. His example had to do with the separation of various wave forms (specifically electromyographic muscle fiber recordings) occurring randomly and thus interfering with each other.

The last talk of the morning was by Dennis Graham, who is responsible for WORD7 and the other "XXXX7" line of products that run under the UCSD p-System. He very clearly delineated the six areas of hardware and operating system dependencies that have to be solved in order to maintain machine independence. These, together with brief

comments as to the specifics of each problem or the approach to its solution, are as follows:

Instruction set: overcome via the Power System with its virtual machine p-code instruction set and the run time support including memory allocation, I/O mapping and code management.

Data Storage: problems of byte sex, word sex, real number representation, etc.

File System: (I don't remember the elaboration on this subject: presumably the Power System helps here as well).

Keyboard, terminal and printer differences: use of table driven configurations.

I hope he will write a Journal article reviewing these subjects in greater detail, since they are all issues that every programmer should ponder (and, of course, it would be good for users to appreciate when these problems are satisfactorily addressed).

Hays Bush gave a very brief outline of USUS activities. The membership breakdown by hardware was of interest with a large number of members using Apples.

Eli Willner indicated that Pecan was clearly surviving, although its growth had been less rapid than he would have liked. The major item of interest to the audience was the announcement that a new sister corporation called LIAISON was being formed to support the serious Power System user/developer who needed and could afford the initiation and maintenance fees associated with this support. The main benefit would be a contact person at LIAISON who would be available to provide support as required. There was some concern in the audience about the plight of the "little guy" without company resources but in general the announcement was favorably received.

Bob Spitzer's second talk was an impressive example of software engineering in Modula-2 using the modular features of the language to bring generalities to the surface and hide specifics deep within the hierarchical modular structure. Having for a

long time been interested in the development of generic utilities, I found this to be the most sophisticated example of all those so far encountered. Bob clearly has given a tremendous amount of thought to the design of his software system and will undoubtedly be rewarded for his efforts by the flexibility, portability and especially the power he's provided.

There then followed a Board of Directors meeting attended by Sam'l Bassett as Chair, Eli Willner, Bob Spitzer and Jon Nevins on the Board and many other members. Some MUSUS issues were discussed but I missed much of the meeting because the Stride officials wanted the exhibit hall booths set up during this time and that kept me busy.

*Editor Note: We were there, and the main items of business were that Eli Willner resigned as Journal Editor, mainly due to the press of other business (he got a hand of applause and three cheers for the work he's done over the past several years); Arley Dealey harassed the Board into declaring the precise relationship between USUS, MUSUS, CIS, and the SysOps (i.e. it mostly goes through the Chief SysOp); the Board, in turn, harassed Arley about coming up with a written plan for re-arranging the MUSUS sections to make them more attractive to newcomers and "old hands" alike. In general, a good time was had by all.*

Many attended Stride's welcoming party at 7pm Tuesday. A few stragglers were still there at about 9:30pm (when June and I returned from the Wild Berries in the Country Club Mall in Incline Village: also a nice little restaurant with French cuisine).

Wednesday morning was Micro-Sage's big moment to present "StrideMan" who was to fight ignorance and other evils but unfortunately the stage lights couldn't be turned on so the audience only saw shadows of his wonderful escapades. In the evening MicroSage hosted the BBQ for all attendees: a very generous gesture.

The afternoons, both Wednesday and Thursday (15th & 16th) were busy at the USUS booth as members copied library

volumes and watched demonstrations of the powers of Power Tools. Both Jon Nevins and Bob Clark were there much of the time fielding the constant stream of interested visitors wanting to see PowerTools in action. Thursday, William Smith got his very powerful alternate filer running on a Wyse terminal: the membership should try to use some influence to make it available to them. It would be worth it even for a price. He and other USUS members were kind enough to help with the boxing of the computers late Thursday and Friday morning they were loaded into the car for the trip home. The boat ride was Thursday evening but I didn't attend.

On a more personal level, I found the meeting very rewarding. The USUS formal presentations were of a high caliber and potentially of interest to every member. After they'd had a few get-togethers, the Board members and other officials seemed upbeat about the direction of USUS and I expect there'll be some rejuvenation of the organization. I'm sure that the experience of many was the same as mine in that new friendships were developed and plans for future projects were made. My only regret is that more members didn't attend and reap the benefits.

USUS owes a debt of thanks to MicroSage for helping us in our meeting, providing the room, equipment and the booth on the exhibit floor. Mary Schaffer was the coordinator and deserves our gratitude on a personal level.

### Chaircritter's Soapbox

by Sam'l Bassett

At the Tahoe meeting, Eli Willner announced that a separate corporation, called "Liaison, Inc." is being formed to provide in-depth technical support for Professional developers of Power System products. This service is not cheap -- the announced price is \$5,000 up front, and \$1,200/year -- but in terms of the amount of work necessary to do a good job, it is reasonable.

A good programmer can easily earn \$25k per year. An excellent one can easily double that, and one who can talk to customers and trouble-shoot over the phone is next to priceless. The \$5k "initiation fee", as I understand it, is partly negotiable with "long-time" clients of Pecan (and SofTech MicroSystems & UCSD) who have "grandfather rights".

The \$1,200/year works out to \$100/month, which is certainly a reasonable fee for the right to pick up the telephone and bend the ear of a given individual (that's part of the deal -- your own dedicated tech supporter) and get a direct answer in a finite amount of time.

The other side of the coin, however, is that Pecan will no longer be doing much (if any) tech support -- and they can't afford to, at \$80 to \$130 per package. Think about it.

How does this effect USUS? Very nicely, we think. USUS is chartered and has the expertise to answer the questions that the novice and average user ask: "How do I get the @#\$%&\* thing to talk to the printer?", "What's a UNIT?", etc. We are a USER group, after all, and user groups grow (or don't, as we have discovered) on the basis of the services they provide to their members. The Board (or at least most of it) has started moving towards negotiating a contract with the new company, Liaison, to get access to the support and information that is available there. In turn, that information will be available to USUS members.

Obviously, there is going to be a bit of a hierarchy on which members get what kind of response, and when. Present thinking goes like this: We want to set up a Technical Support Committee, of 7 or fewer members who are technically astute and not p-System vendors to provide an interface between Liaison and the membership. Professional Members (\$100/yr) who are not Liaison clients (the one- and two-person shops in garages out there) obviously get first priority, and telephone service (i.e. USUS calls Liaison, then calls the Professional member back with the

information). General Members (\$35/yr) get best-effort response (the TSC will not guarantee to call Liaison, but will search out the best answer available, we DO have a lot of experts around, after all) and provide a written answer either on MUSUS or in "hard copy" in some reasonable time frame, which might work out to be two or three weeks. Student Members (\$25/yr), due to the level of their questions, may actually get slightly better service than someone who asks a complicated technical question (most of us can answer that sort of thing off the top of our heads). Student questions, too, provide a convenient source of copy for the NewsLetter.

*Note, however, that for some questions, there IS NO answer, and we won't be shy about saying so.*

All this is not set in concrete, however -- the Board is always amenable to membership input. (*Hint, Hint!*)

### Apple SIG Doings

by Frank Lawyer

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Frank Lawyer and I am the new Chairman of the USUS Apple SIG. I own old original Apple2 SN#2006, purchased in 1978, which still works. (Let's forget those Roman numerals folks -- the Romans died trying to use them). Nowadays, I do most of my work on an Apple2e and a Mac. I also have an Apple3 which I don't use as much, but regard highly.

Perhaps you are aware that the Apple users are a large subgroup of USUS. With your help, we can make this a very strong segment. No one person is going to do this alone, but if we work together, we can do wonders!

We sent out a bulletin to the Apple SIG members before July 1 with some ideas of what needs to be done and how to do it. I would like to hear your constructive complaints and ideas. My address and telephone number are below. I only ask that you don't call after 9:30PM Eastern time. I am also willing to address specific problems or questions on the Apple versions of the

p-System and Pascal. I don't know everything, but I might be able to find out.

Please tell me what you need in terms of resources. If you are experienced, and know your way around the p-System, then you can give us your knowledge.

On the other hand, if you are a beginner, you probably joined USUS to get some help. We are in the process of making a "Resource list" which will list some worthwhile Apple oriented books on the UCSD p-System, Pascal, Modula-2, etc. Also a list of software, vendors, and prices.

The first thing I feel needs to be done is to wade through the 36 or so volumes of the USUS Software library, and find out what works on Apple and what doesn't. Probably some of you have already done some of this, and can help. Probably others have looked on this task as roughly akin to cleaning stables. But I think there is a pony in there somewhere! If we can find it, we can come up with 8 or 10 Apple disks which work. That will be more valuable to Apple users than each of us wading through the 36 disks.

The original Software Library will stay as it is, and if you want to go through it to find hidden ponies, that's fine. The programs on the standard library will have to be re-compiled, tested and (maybe) documented. Some may have to be changed to work properly on an Apple.

Also, I would like to be able to take new contributions that are Apple specific and add them to the Apple specific disks as well as the regular library. Then some of the whizzes in the other SIGs can figure out how to translate them to work on other machines.

Although I want to start on the Apple2, Apple3 fans will benefit, because most vanilla p-System stuff should run on the Apple3 with few modifications. If we have to make special Apple3 libraries, then so be it.

I'm not quite sure what to do in the case of the Mac. Although the vanilla UCSD p-System library programs should run on it, they won't use the full capabilities of the machine, and it will probably not be

satisfying to a true Mac user. However, the Power System for the Mac allows calls to the Toolbox routines, so the programs could be enhanced to use the full capabilities of the Mac. After enhancement, they would no longer be very useful in the standard library but could become a foundation for a Mac library. Let me know if you have some ideas on this.

Of course, we need volunteers. I'm trying to work out some incentives like free library volumes of your choice, etc. I will expect some good quality work, but I don't expect it without some rewards.

If the NewsLetter Editor lets me (*LET HIM? I'll blame well ENCOURAGE him!*) I intend this to be a regular column. I have enough Apple specific stuff to fill a column for a couple of issues. After that, I'm going to need help from you. Write (Frank Lawyer, 126 Demott Lane, Somerset NJ 08873) or call me ((201) 828-3616) with your Apple UCSD p-System experiences. I don't want to hear about your best game scores, unless the game runs under the p-System.

#### Administrator's report

by Hays Busch

*Hays Busch, our Administrator, has a great deal to say about how USUS is run. The Board listens, and decides, as they are required to do by law, but would like some input from the membership. Herewith Hays' latest statements on issues facing USUS.*

#### Elections. The Time is Here!

USUS presently has a full Board of Directors (5) and its officers include:

- 1) A President
- 2) A Treasurer

Staff functions include:

- 1) An Editor and Assistant Editor for the NewsLetter
- 2) One MUSUS SysOp and two Assistant SysOps
- 3) An International Coordinator
- 4) An Administrator
- 5) A legal consular

USUS is managed by a Board of Directors elected by secret ballot by the total active membership. And it is now time for you to take an active part in nominating people who can serve as your next Board. There are five Directorships to be filled as soon as possible. All members are encouraged to submit the name and qualifications of any member they feel would be a good choice for this responsible position in USUS.

#### What is Involved?

Board members must be willing and able to devote up to 4 hours per week, about 20 hours per month, or more as need be, to this position. In addition, Board members need to participate in monthly BofD meetings on MUSUS, and when possible attend in person the once-a-year USUS General Membership Meeting. This is held in various cities throughout the USA. Term of office is now a two-year period. This year only, the retiring Board of Directors will select two of the newly elected members of the Board to serve a one-year term. This will begin a system of "overlapping terms" to help maintain a continuity on the Board from year to year. (The present system of one-year terms has not provided this continuity.)

Each member of the Board also has one or more areas of USUS activity as their direct responsibility. These areas include Member Services, Membership Development, Software Library, Publications, Meetings, etc. While much of the work in each area can be done by a committee of volunteers, the Board member is responsible for organizing the committee, and is the leader and motivating force behind the group.

#### What are the Costs?

Board members are reimbursed by USUS for certain expenditures which include: Telephone, CompuServe and postal communications cost which are related directly to USUS business and purchase of materials and services needed to conduct USUS business or provide member services, after approval of such purchases. Board members are NOT reimbursed for their time, travel, entertainment, lodging or

meals incurred in the conduct of USUS business. These latter items relate primarily to attendance at USUS meetings.

#### What are the Rewards?

Mostly the satisfaction gained by being "involved", "contributing" and "getting something worthwhile done". Board members also get to meet and know other USUS members who work on the various USUS committees, attend meetings or serve as officers. If your nominee works for or owns a company involved in computing and/or software he/she can often enhance their knowledge and skills through these contacts. Most employers look favorably on such activity. And for the "ego", Board members become something of an "important person" in the eyes of the general USUS membership.

#### What to do about it?

It's very simple to make a nomination. Send the name, address, telephone number and business affiliation of your nominee to the USUS Nominating Committee. *(Be sure to get your nominees OK before making your nomination!)* Include a brief statement (not more than one or perhaps two pages) indicating why you feel your nominee can help USUS by being part of the Board of Directors and what qualifications he/she has for such a position. Send this to the USUS address, attention Nominating Committee. And **please do it promptly!** Because of the time lag in printing and mailing Newsletters, it is tough to set a specific date as a deadline as this is being written. But, the deadline will **NOT BE LONGER THAN 30 DAYS AFTER YOU RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER.**

USUS is only as valuable as the sum of the contributions made by its members. Without dedicated, enthusiastic participation by members, USUS can not survive and grow. As a Board member, your nominee can help create such dedication and enthusiasm and direct the rebuilding of this organization. It is a vital and important job. **NOMINATE SOMEONE TODAY, EVEN NOMINATE YOURSELF!!!!**

### Institutional Member Policy

USUS is following a membership plan for these members that is 3 to 5 years old. In the Summer of 1987, the Administrator recommended a review of this plan and any revisions or enhancements that the Board might suggest. This has not been completed.

USUS Institutional Members are: MicroSage Computer Systems, Pecan Software Systems and MicroFinancial Corporation. MicroSage and Pecan have renewed for the period from March 1988 thru February, 1989. MicroFinancial's membership expired in November, 1987. To date this company has not been contacted about renewal or its status as a USUS MUSUS member. (The Administrator had occasion to speak with this company on another matter recently and there was some interest expressed in continuing USUS MUSUS membership.)

The Board needs to take action on any revision to the Membership Plan for Institutional Members and to accept or assign responsibility for soliciting renewals from existing members and recruiting new members for this group.

### Professional Member Policy

This new membership class was established in February 1987. A number of early memberships were obtained from existing USUS members who had a desire to "help USUS out of a short term financial difficulty". However, as recently as April of this year, USUS has enrolled new Professional Members. These new members have joined since they were in fact "professionals" in the computer and software industry and felt this was their correct classification. The Board must establish a membership program for this new class of members. Failing to do this promptly will at best result in these members reverting to General Memberships, or at worst in a loss of these members entirely.

### Accounts Receivable

As of 5/88, approximately \$7,670 remains to be collected from present and past USUS

Members who used the GTE TeleMail services sponsored by USUS. Amounts due, dates of use, and clear and precise invoices have been provided in individual correspondence and documentation mailed to and received by the thirty-four individuals and companies involved in this past due balance.

It is the Administrator's opinion that, with some exceptions, further written efforts to collect these amounts will not produce the desired results. Thus the Board needs to decide on other collections methods, including the use of attorneys and small claims actions, or collection agencies if further results are to be expected. This is most specific to the few large debts that remain.

In the case of smaller amounts due USUS from individuals, the Board, Officers and Members (if willing) could provide an effective collection effort by making personal and direct contact with the individuals involved.

There are other amounts that may be due from individual members that also need Board action and decision.

### Accounts Payable

As of 5/88, USUS shows accounts payable to the following companies in the amounts shown:

PECAN SOFTWARE SYSTEMS, INC.  
\$2,000 plus interest.  
For clerical services.  
Due 6/30/88 and 9/30/88

GTE  
\$1,785.52 without interest.  
TeleMail use by USUS Members.  
On an "as collected" basis for now.

MICROSAGE COMPUTER SYSTEMS  
\$1,330.83 without interest.  
For USUS Sage IV computer.  
Handled as a "due-bill".

### Publications

A schedule of at least four "NewsLetters" and possibly two magazine format "Bulletins" was discussed as possible within the calendar year 1988. Deadlines have

been missed and new deadlines are imminent. The Board needs to discuss these publications and their schedules with the objective of getting back to a regular, predictable and affordable publishing schedule.

Without such a schedule, it will be almost impossible to obtain advertising or the benefits of 2nd. class (periodical) mailing rates.

### Membership Development

Given the historical statistic of 20 to 50 percent loss of membership in any association in any year's time, the Board needs to formulate a plan for recruiting 250 to 300 new members each year. Without such a plan, USUS membership must be expected to decline.

Possible avenues to new members include:

- 1) Mutually effective promotion in cooperation with companies and individuals who are active in the development of UCSD Pascal and various applications.
- 2) Increased Public Relations activity regarding USUS Activities.
- 3) An effective plan to recruit students in high schools and colleges where UCSD Pascal is taught.

The Board needs to set reasonable goals for this effort and then assign the responsibility for their execution. It also must monitor the results and modify or enhance each effort as appropriate, based on those results.

### In Conclusion

There may be other items the BofD should discuss and set policy for. All USUS Members are encouraged to list items they would like to have the Board consider. While it may not be possible for all suggestions to be included in an agenda for any given meeting, this should not discourage input from the membership at large.

USUS can prosper only thru the cooperative efforts of all members. Nominations for BofD Members are open to all. USUS needs a Secretary, a number of Software Library

people who can be linked with Special Interest Groups for specific machine formats. It needs members with various machines who will volunteer to edit the existing library volumes for their machine. USUS needs people who will write and submit articles for both the NewsLetter and the Journal.

It also needs people who will help build new members thru PR and Promotion. If any members wish to so volunteer for any position, feel free to post a message to the Board of Directors on MUSUS stating what you will be willing to do, the time you can invest and your qualifications. *Or write the Administrator at the USUS address.*

### Q & | A? ...

*A question we often get is about back issues of the Journal and NewsLetter.*

Here is the status on back issues of the Journal.

PRINTED COPIES REMAINING			
Volume-copies			
#1 - 7,	#5 - 1,	#9/10 - 0,	#13 - 0,
#2 - 0,	#6 - 0,		#14 - 8,
#3 - 6,	#7 - 0,	#11 - 0,	#15 - 30,
#4 - 1,	#8 - 1,	#12 - 4.	

As long as supplies last, printed copies are mailed. After that, photocopies of editorial content only is provided. Cost per copy is \$5.00 for USA, Canada, Mexico and \$7.00 for international. This includes handling and postage. Specific editorial content can be provided by photocopy. Cost is \$5.00 plus \$0.50 per page (2 sides) of material copied. Add \$2.00 for International. Photocopies of indexes for all volumes are available. Cost is \$2.00. Extra copies of NewsLetters at \$0.50 each as long as the supply lasts. Add \$1.00 for international. No photocopy service for NewsLetters. Any member who wants to order, send your name and address to the USUS address, attention Journals or post a request on MUSUS for the order form.

*A question from Alex and answered by William,, "How do you use TeleTalker to upload to a data library on MUSUS?"*



To use TeleTalker to upload to a library do the following: Create the file you want to upload. This file contains no commands to CIS, just text. Create a second file which contains the description and the keywords (see figure 2). There should be no blank lines in the description, one blank line between the description and the keywords line (the keywords must all be on the same line and total less then 80 characters) and one blank line after the keywords line. The last line should contain a "Y".

<p>Fig. 2 Description and Keywords file template</p> <pre>&lt;description&gt; less then 500 characters  &lt;keywords&gt; one line up to 79 characters  Y</pre>
--

Run TeleTalker. Set the ThawChar in TeleTalker to be a <return>. Log onto MUSUS and get in the library you want to upload to. Type "UPL<ret>". Type the file name you want on MUSUS. Choose number 4 DC4/DC2 CAPTURE protocol. Answer yes this is an ASCII file. Answer no for prompts after each line. Now send the first file. When the file is sent, type a control-Z. Now send the file that contains the description and keywords.

*The following is a description of how to create a file to send as a reply to a message with the new CIS software.*

Send your text file at the Forum!. Message!, or Read! prompt using the following format: (See figure 3). The first line should consist of the word "REP" followed by the message number you want to reply to. Then follow with your message. Then on a new line put "/EXIT". Then on yet another line put "POST SAME" (the space between POST and SAME is needed)

<p>Fig. 3 Reply message file template</p> <pre>REP &lt;message number&gt; &lt;your reply&gt; /EXIT POST SAME</pre>
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*Frank Lawyer asks what the NewsLetter was prepared on (hardware and software).*

This NewsLetter was prepared on a Mac II using MicroSoft Word 3.02. The header of the first page and the top part of the back page were drawn using MacDraw and imported into MicroSoft Word for printing. The final document was printed on a LaserWriter Plus.

### We Get Letters...

Dear Editor:

Help! I would like to purchase a copy of Apple Pascal v1.2 which is a few years old. I would like to have as much of the original stuff as possible. Since v1.3 is now available from APDA for the bargain price of \$75.00, I would only be willing to pay \$25 or so. I want it for testing purposes to make sure that software I develop on v1.3 will also run on v1.2. If anyone is interested in selling me a copy, please drop me a line at 126 Demott Lane, Somerset NJ 08873 or call (201)-828-3616. Please don't call after 9:30PM EST.

Questions:

1. If Board members only serve through June, 1988, will USUS members be getting ballots to vote for new Board members soon? How does the election of Board members take place?

*The Chaircritter answers: The Board is elected by vote of the membership annually -- we send out ballots in the mail, which you mark and send back. The Administrator (Hays Busch) counts the ballots, tells the Board the totals, the Board certifies the results, then announces the membership of the next Board.*

2. When are the usual planned dates for the National meetings? There was nothing in the last NewsLetter about this. Where is the next meeting being held? When will details be available? Who should be contacted etc? Who is the meeting chairperson? (NO, I'm not a volunteer).

*National meetings happen when someone does the work of arranging them (i.e. volunteers to be the host). In the past 3 years, we have had 4 National meetings --*

one in Greenwich CT, arranged by Eli Willner, and 3 in conjunction with Stride Faires, hosted by Stride/Sage Micro in the Reno NV area. We would like to have more -- 2 or more per year, hopefully one on each coast, so that members don't have to travel 3,000 miles to get to a meeting, but volunteers haven't been forthcoming, and USUS finances don't extend to hiring it done. Alex Klieder was the meeting chair for the Tahoe meeting and is willing to advise and help anyone who wants to host a meeting. He can be reached at 1651 Stone Pine Ln. Menlo Park CA 94025 (415) 327-7916

3. How about some information on software development plans by Pecan? I hear they are developing 'C' to run under the Power System. What else are they working on? Will this just be an add-on compiler? When will it be ready?

*We hear about the same as you do -- our main source of information is Pecan's newsletter, titled SYSTEM.MISCINFO, and desultory discussions on MUSUS. The general answer we've gotten has been "Real Soon Now"*

4. I see from the last NewsLetter that Harry Baya gave a talk at the Phase3 show on the USUS PowerTools. Is there anything available on this, or was the write-up in the last NewsLetter pretty much the same thing? What is the latest status? Is the Apple2 version ready? Will the same version run on both the Apple2e and the Apple2gs?

*The NewsLetter write-up was a general overview of PowerTools by their developers: Jon Nevins & Bob Clark, who can be reached through the National Fertilizer Development Center of TVA (the Tennessee Valley Authority), M/S F213 NFDC, Muscle Shoals AL 35660; (205) 386-2763. More information (and the PowerTools software itself) is available from our Administrator, Hays Busch, at the USUS Address.*

5. I hear rumors about a Stride Faire. Who what when where why? What usually happens at these? Is it useful for

someone who doesn't own Stride hardware? Will some USUS member take some notes so we can get to hear about it in the NewsLetter?

*Stride Faire is put on annually by Sage Micro, makers of the Stride line of 68000-based super micros, to get users and vendors of their products together to talk about what is available, and stir up enthusiasm. In their former incarnation as Sage Computer, they were early and enthusiastic supporters of the UCSD p-System, and have stayed friends with USUS and USUS people. They generally announce new software and hardware products at the Faire, sponsor technical presentations, and encourage a good time. They see USUS as a resource for the (often small) VARs and OEMs who are their customers, and feel that cooperating with us is good business.*

*Yes, coming to Stride Faire is valuable for non-Stride owners -- the level of technical discussions, both in the formal presentations and the informal bull sessions, is very good, and I, personally learned more about the inside of the p-System from talking to people at shows than I ever did in reading books or debugging programs. Besides, it's fun!*

Sincerely,  
Frank Lawyer

### Tips

by William D. Smith

Here is an ASE macro which I include in all my files. It changes the date in my header line every time I edit the file. The first line in all my text files looks something like this:

```
{ ... --- 01 Jan 88 } { |xjm$d|nx|f8|e. }
```

You set a marker "\$d" at the first character of the date. You set another marker "\$profile" at the first vertical bar in the macro. When ASE first starts editing the file, it looks for a marker called "\$profile". If it find it, it jumps there and takes up <function key 1>. What does the macro do? The first command "|x" says to execute the macro immediately after taking it up. This means the macro will run automatically without you the user needing to type the function key. The next six

characters "jm\$d|n" do a J(ump M(arker "\$d" <return>. ("|n" is the same as typing the <return> key.) The "x" puts ASE in the eX(change mode, "|f8" executes <function key 8>. One of the reason this macro works is that ASE puts the current date in <function key 8> when first starts. "|e" is the same as typing the <accept key>. It accepts the change and returns ASE to the command mode. "|." signifies the end of the macro.

This next tip is a fast way to do initialization of arrays of records which are larger then one byte in UCSD Pascal.

Given the following declarations

```
type R: record
        { some stuff }
      end { R };

var A: array [Min..Max] of R;
```

most programmers do the following

```
for I := Min to Max do begin
  { initialize A [I] }
end { for };
```

to initialize the array. What follows is a faster way (executes faster) to do the initialization on almost all p-Systems. (Important: For documentation and portability reasons, what is done above should be included in the source as a comment, all pascals do not support moveleft.)

```
{ initialize A [Min] }

moveleft (A [Min], A [Min + 1],
          (Max - Min) * sizeof (R));
```

The moveleft here copies the first element into the second, copies the second element (which is a copy of the first) into the third, etc. The first element (which you initialized) is propagated to the right the number of elements in the array minus one (Max - Min). Since moveleft moves bytes, (Max - Min) must be adjusted by sizeof (R).

**From the Assistant Editor**  
by William D. Smith

Let me introduce myself, my name is William. I have been a member of USUS since 1981. My first experience with

microcomputers was with a Terak running the p-System. I have since then worked with LSI-11s, PDQ-3s, IBMs, and Sage IVs all using the p-System. The most recent machine I purchased was a Mac II which is why I am now the assistant editor. At the Tahoe meeting I volunteered (mostly to get the learning experience) to do the final layout for the NewsLetters.

At this time articles, letters, questions, etc. can be submitted for publishing in the NewsLetters on MUSUS as a message (preferred for short stuff) or uploaded to a library, on the following disk formats: IBM (dos or p-System), Sage (p-System), Mac (Mac OS or p-System) and Apple (ProDos, or p-System). Letters and questions can also be sent hardcopy (please keep them short). Send all the disks and letters to the USUS address, attention editor.

The following format rules makes the layout easiest for me. Put one line between paragraphs. No indentation is needed. Don't break words at the end of a line (I'll do that if needed). Special characters: You may use "\_underline\_" to get "underline", "\*\*\*bold\*\*" to get "**bold**", and "??to ask for something special like a box??" . I won't guarantee I will or can do it, but ask anyway and I'll try.

With this NewsLetter, I have started two columns which will need support from the readers. The first column Questions and/or Answers? (**Q & | A?**) is a column to publish the questions and answers (if available) to frequently ask questions. The questions should be about USUS, the Power System, Pascal, Modula-2, etc. If the answer is not published, then we don't know the answer and would like to here from anyone who does. The second column, **Tips** will contain short tips which make the life of the programmer and user easier. They can be about programming, the p-System, or any programs which are generally available for the p-System.



# NewsLetter

July 1988

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Sam'l Bassett, Editor

William D. Smith, Assistant Editor

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NOTE: The USUS Administrator, who handles almost all of our business, and especially new memberships and renewals, is Hays Busch. He can be reached at the USUS address in La Jolla, or at 2193 Montane Drive East, Golden, CO 80401-9125; (303) 526-0057.

**Next NewsLetter coming in August**

Fold

**USUS  
P.O BOX 1148  
LA JOLLA, CA 92038**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED