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NEVADA STATE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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State Publications



A scene from a portion of the Coin Show that took place in the former U.S. Branch Mint Building in the top photo. All wasn't business, however, as Karl Wikstrom demonstrated the fine art of hands-on gold panning in the bottom photo.—Photos by Scott Klette, NSM Photographer



Crowds Enjoy Mint Building Coin Show

The Carson City Mint Coin Show weekend, July 4 and 5, drew over 2,500 visitors to the Nevada State Museum in Carson City, Nevada.

Twenty-three dealers occupied the second floor of the Mint Building trading, selling and displaying their rare coins and documents, the first show of its kind ever to be held in a former or present U.S. Branch Mint. Participants came from as far away as New York, Oregon, Utah, and California, as well as Nevada.

Don Schmitz of the Nevada City Mint, Nevada City, California, and operator of old Coin Press No. 1, could not keep up with the public demand, striking two new 1 oz. silver and bronze commemorative medallions all bearing the famous CC mintmark. Making its debut, a Shreve and Company drop hammer belonging to Schmitz was also in operation on the premises producing numbered and dated silver bars. The newly struck collectible bars and Warren Engine Company No. 1 medallions are sold through the Nevada State Museum Store and are available through mailorder.

Karl Wikstrom entertained both young and old alike with his setup for gold panning.

"The show was one of the finest and best-managed small shows I've ever attended. Definitely a 'dealer's show,'" commented Doug McDonald, owner of Gypsyfoot Enterprises of Reno, Nevada.

"The coin show was an excellent vehicle for bringing attention to our historic mint building. We are contemplating another for May 1993 and are presently working out the details to make it even better," said Judy Hendrix, Acting Director of the Nevada State Museum.—Janine Sprout, NSM Public Relations

Views Of The Past

Carson City Brewery

In 1864 the Carson City Brewery erected a two-story brewery building on the corner of South Division and West King Street. The first floor was used for brewing purposes and storage. The Masonic Lodge rented the second floor from 1865 until 1919.

The Carson City Brewery specialized in steam beer, a bottom-fermenting brew produced without the constant cold temperatures that true lager requires. The water used in the brewing process came from King's Canyon Creek, hops were imported from California, and barley was freighted into Carson City at 20 cents per pound. The copper brew kettle was of seven barrel capacity (217 gallons). In 1863, the Carson City Brewery sold over 500 barrels of beer at \$3 per gallon.

In 1912, the brewing process was converted from steam beer to lager beer. To finance the change owner Max Stenz sold stock in the Carson Brewing Company and named his product Tahoe Beer, "Famous as the Lake."

The brewery resumed the production of beer after prohibition ended in 1933. A large new sign painted in 1934 on the east wall of the building advertised the brewery's main product, Tahoe Beer.

By the 1940s, large brewing companies were expanding and taking over the beer business throughout the country. Many small breweries were being bought up and closed at this time. In 1948, it was decided to shut down

Celebration Set For Pony Express Trail

Hoofbeats of the Nevada Division of the National Pony Express Association will be heard when they celebrate the inclusion of the Pony Express Trail into the National Historic Trails System.

On September 12, in association with Rockport's America Discovery Trail-Blazer Day, the Pony Express will have a special commemorative ride of approximately 100 miles round trip from Virginia City, Nevada to Sand Springs. Five hundred Limited Edition commemorative letters will be sold and relayed by horse and rider with the mail arriving in Virginia City at the Camel Race Arena at 4:00 p.m., where it will be turned over to the Postmaster for special cancellation.

Further information may be had by contacting N.P.E.A. Division President Mike Ryan at (702) 885-9352.

operations at the Carson Brewing Company.

In 1950 the property was purchased by the Donald W. Reynolds for use as a printing plant for the "Nevada Appeal" and "Carson Chronicle." In 1974 the newspaper operations moved to a new facility on Bath Street.

Through the efforts of the Carson City Centennial-Bicentennial Commission, the old brewery building was acquired from the Donrey Media Group. Today, it is the site of the Brewery Arts Center. Plans are underway to restore the old brewery building.—*Robert Nysten, Curator of History, NSM*



Carson City Brewery as it looked around 1865.—Carson Brewing Company Collection, Nevada State Museum

Gerry Donahoe

Active Charter Docent

By **SUE SHIELDS**
Docent Council Publicity Chairman

It was twenty-one years ago that Gerry and Frank Donahoe of Alameda, California, celebrated Frank's retirement by taking a three-month tour across the entire United States.

Wishing to leave the Bay Area, they moved to the Carson Valley Country Club Estates, just south of Gardnerville, Nevada.

Gerry had visited the Carson Valley as a child, when she accompanied her father on buying expeditions for livestock, mainly sheep. She was born in Stockton, California, in the fertile Central Valley. As a youngster she moved to Piedmont, California, a distinguished community across the Bay from San Francisco.

After establishing their new Carson Valley home, Gerry



GERRY DONAHOE
Scott Klette photo

read an article in a local paper about the formation of a new group of volunteers for the State Museum. Joining in May of 1972, Gerry soon found herself in the company of Grace Bordewich, Marge Cordain, Ellen Couch, Pam Crowell, Gloria Gunn, Nancy List, Carolyn Opitz, Mimi

—Continued on page 4

59 Historic Sites On Kit Carson Trail

The Kit Carson Trail officially opened on August 1st with some 350 to 400 people walking the trail. There are 59 historic sites and homes along the 2.5 mile long trail. A blue painted line marks the trail along its entire course and it takes approximately two hours to walk it. At least three times a year special tours will include: open house at different historic homes and churches, historic presentations by actors portraying such characters as Hannah Clapp, Mark Twain, and brewmeister Jacob Klein, minting demonstrations, and demonstration of the old pumper truck by the Warren Engine Company No. 1.

Trail maps are available at the Museum Store for \$2.50. The net proceeds from the sale of the maps are applied towards further improvement along the Kit Carson Trail, downtown Carson City, and the Carson City historic district.

The Bender Home, one of the beautiful homes on the Kit Carson Trail walking tour. Photo shows graduates from Carson High School at the Bender house, ca. 1895. — Photo from collection of Nevada State Museum.



Gerry Donahoe

—Continued from page 3

Rodden, Maria Romaggi, and another eighteen ladies who became the Founding Members of the Docent Council of the Nevada State Museum. It was decided that anyone joining before September, 1972, would be considered as a Founding Member.

There were only two office staff members, Bertha Martinoni and Marion Shipler; the Director was Jim Calhoun. Then, as now, the Docents assisted the staff in literally everything connected with the museum and exhibits.

Gerry recalls such projects as polishing silver, washing recently acquired Indian baskets, refurbishing and labeling antique dolls. She also assisted Pam Crowell, who was in charge of acquisitions, in numbering countless varieties of glass bottles from the Old West. The book shop, a forerunner of our present museum store, was manned by the Docents. Gerry and the other members did, then as now, whatever was needed with verve and enthusiasm.

Parties? The ladies dressed in formal gowns for the annual members' reception, and were joined by the First Lady of Nevada — the Governor's wife — who presided over the U.S.S. Nevada's silver punchbowl. Gerry remembers the annual letter which had to be written to the Governor's Office for permission to serve alcoholic beverages on state-owned property. Serving a glass of punch or champagne wasn't as easy then as it is now. Neither, it would seem, was providing the food for the reception. Each docent was responsible for preparing one hundred handmade hors d'oeuvres.

Unique Displays/Unique Locations? Gerry says there was a display of antique hatpins in the ladies' lounge.

Docent Uniforms? Marie Romaggi designed and drafted patterns so each Docent could create her own uniform smock. Gerry, who still has hers, recalls the fabric was blue Indian cloth; the smock was sleeveless, of a wrap-around style. Gerry states they were very practical.

Marie, always very involved with costumes, became the head wardrobe mistress for the Reno MGM Grand Hotel (later Bally's, now the Reno Hilton). She staged the "Hello, Hollywood, Hello" show which featured costumes from early MGM movies.

First Docent Historian? None other than our Gerry. Take a look at her efforts for the history album of 1972-73. There are some wonderful pictures and souvenirs of the first year of the Docent Council.

Computerized Cash Registers? Ask Gerry for a description of the wonderful antique cash register originally used in the book shop. Be sure to ask her about the highest number the machine would record ... you won't believe it!

Challenging Tours? Gerry found little children greatly concerned about the birds and animals in display cases in the galleries. "Who shot the birds?" or "Who killed that animal?" were typical of their inquiries. Gerry reassured the youngsters, and pointed out, as an example, that the

white mink was found drowned in the swimming pool at the Bowers Mansion.

Interesting People? Well, Gerry's daughter-in-law has an interesting relative. Her grandmother, a Mrs. Baker, was the first elected Regent for the University of Nevada. Incensed when gambling was legalized in Nevada, Mrs. Baker left the state forever!

Not all of Gerry's time is given to the Museum, although she is on duty in the museum store every Monday afternoon. She and Frank continue to travel.

Frank is an avid golfer, and Gerry is an avid reader preferring books with historical subjects. Gerry has also found, as have many of us, that gardening in Nevada is unlike gardening anywhere else. She stays very busy with their beautiful lawn and flowers.

As if all of these activities weren't enough, Gerry and Frank keep pace with their six children, five boys and one girl, their fourteen grandchildren, and one great granddaughter.

We all owe a vote of gratitude to the ladies who, twenty years ago, answered newspaper articles and went on to establish our Council, our constitution and our group spirit. Thank you, Gerry Donahoe, for then and now.

Las Vegas NSM&HS Director Moves To Montana Museum

Arthur H. Wolf, Director of the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas, has been appointed Director of the Museum of the Rockies at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. The Museum of the Rockies features a world-class planetarium, high profile research programs in paleontology and paleo-Indian archeology, a living history farm and active state-wide educational programs. Wolf left his current post July 31 and begins his new duties in September.

Wolf has been director of the Las Vegas museum facility since January, 1988. Previously, he was director of the Millicent Rogers Museum in Taos, New Mexico, a private museum of Native American and Hispanic art and culture. From 1977 to 1979, he was curator of collections at the School of American Research in Santa Fe.

He is currently president of the Nevada Museums Association and a board member of the Nevada Arts Alliance. He is an accreditation visiting team member for the American Association of Museums, and serves also as a member of the Museum Advocacy Team. He has been active in the Las Vegas community, and is a past graduate of Leadership Las Vegas and a former member of the Las Vegas University Rotary Club.

"I am extremely sorry to lose Art as the director of our Las Vegas museum but am also pleased for him in landing the Bozeman job. It is very unfortunate that we will be unable to fill the Director's position; however, I have faith in the staff's ability to carry on the agency's mission," said Scott

—Continued on page 5

Ann Pinzl Attends World Symposium On Conservation

The Nevada State Museum's Curator of Natural History, Ann Pinzl, attended the International Symposium and World Congress on the Preservation and Conservation of Natural History Collections which took place in Madrid, Spain on May 10-15, 1992. The event, the first convocation of its kind to ever be held, focused on the preservation of natural history collections.

Some four hundred participants from seventy countries attended including directors of some of the world's leading natural history museums. Resolutions pertaining to facility and resource needs in conserving collections, museums and education needs in developing countries, the need to escalate research and development of preservation and conservation techniques, the need for more trained conservation specialists, the need for databases, education and public awareness issues, and postal systems rules and regulations were taken to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, "The Earth Summit," which took place in Rio de Janeiro last June.

Peter H. Raven's words in the *Australian Biologist* summarize the value of natural history collections to the world: ". . . collections have been assembled over several countries, in many parts of the world, where they often document regionally characteristic organisms. Collections can document invasive species that increase in abundance or range over time. Likewise, collections can document the decline in so many species, and may, even come to be the only places where extinct species exist."

Ann personally took care of her own travel expenses for this trip which also included sidetrips to Portugal, eastern Spain and southern France. In June, Ann attended the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections annual meeting in Nebraska, again at her own expense.—*Janine Sprout, NSM Public Relations*

Las Vegas Facility

—Continued from page 4

Miller, Administrator of the Nevada Department of Museums and History.

Wolf will not be replaced, and his position is being deleted from the museum's budget to assist in making the current 20 percent cuts in state budgets. Boulder City native and UNLV biology graduate Shirl Naegle has been appointed as Acting Director, effective August 1. Naegle has been employed by the museum since 1982 and has been Director of Exhibits since 1987.

NSM NEWSLETTER

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Jan's Boutique

Gowns Preceded Underwear

By JAN LOVERIN

Nevada State Museum Curator of Clothing and Textiles

In order to provide you with the background for the development of underwear, we need a little history and perspective. Contrary to moral assumption, not everyone has worn underwear.

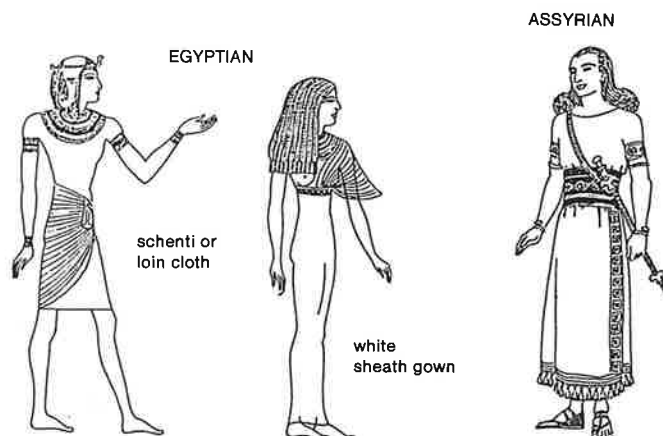
As western civilization evolved, the use of clothing was primarily worn as a means of class distinction and adornment. In the earliest recorded history (3000 B.C. to 525 B.C.), the Egyptians wore very lightweight sheer linen garments. For men, it was a loin cloth wrapped around the hips, called a shenti and for women, it was a full length gown, fitted under the bust, called a kalasyris. These two items were embellished for the upper classes and simplified for the lower classes. Nothing was worn underneath.

An interesting aspect of Egyptian adornment (although not related to underwear) is their use of wigs. Egyptians shaved their heads for cleanliness and religious ordinance. Completely bald, the Egyptians wore wigs constructed of wool, palm leaf fibers or felt.

Other cultures in the Middle East also wore long gowns. The people of Assyria and Babylonia (Syria and Iraq) wore a more fitted garment with set in sleeves, known as a kandys. Again, emphasis is on the exterior of the garment, rather than any undersupport.

These two basic garments, the kalasyris and the kandys, are draped on the figure with little shaping. Because of this unconstructed form, the use of underwear as a support device is insignificant. Since the focus of the individual was on one's visual presentation and because that presentation was simply constructed, it is not surprising that the use or possible use of underwear was lacking in significance - it was not outwardly visible. With the warm climate of the Middle East, and nudity commonplace (slaves were clothes-less, and no need to support the outerwear, underwear was irrelevant.

Sources: C. Willet and Phyllis Cunningham, *The History of Underclothes*; R. Turner Wilcox, *The Mode in Costume*.



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Next Newsletter Deadline

The next deadline for the *Nevada State Museum Newsletter* will be Monday, Oct. 5. Mailing will be made on Oct. 29. Please address all communications to Newsletter, Nevada State Museum, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710.

Artifact Inventory Developed At NSM Indian Hills Annex

Registrar Gloria Harjes is causing quite a stir at the Nevada State Museum's Indian Hills annex. Under her supervision a major transformation has taken place, one that is sure to please the Department's Board of Trustees, Institute of Museum Services consultants (who recently surveyed our collections), and her supervisor, Curator of History Bob Nylen, who often has to track artifacts down in a hurry.

Gloria began her work on February 22, 1992 and estimates it will take an additional year to complete the operation. Her job has involved cleaning, photographing and wrapping the artifacts for storage in addition to developing a category and inventory control system. The information will eventually be entered into the History Department's computerized cataloging system. There are over 2,000 artifacts stored at the annex facility. Docents Carol Hendricks and Ann Storey spent time cleaning and covering the sewing machines.

Recent Accessions Listed

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM

George Ecclesfield, Redding, CA—Coiled basket fragment. **Jan Lovrin, Reno**—Hat; 2 pair of shoes. **Robert Laxalt, Reno**—Red fire axe. **Amy Dansie, Carson City**—Pair of wire rim glasses and case. **Eleanor Scofield, El Toro, Ca**—Advertisement from Bellas, Hess and Co., 1910; *The Modern Priscilla*, 1908; *Young Ladies Journal* supplement, 1883; *Butterick Fashions*, insert, 1900; *Harpers Bazaar*, 1872, 1888, 1870; *Young Ladies Journal*, pattern supplement, 1886; *McCalls*, 1976; 2 piece black silk woman's suit, ca. 1900-1910. **Sally Rasmussen, Washoe Valley**—2 dresses. **Bruce Alder, Child and Family Services, Carson City**—Bible; bronze plaque; painting of Henry Wood.

Clayton A. Huffine, Lancaster, CA—8x10 photo of *U.S.S. Ormsby* victory flag; copy of *U.S.S. Ormsby* ships reunion booklet. **Stanley Stanford, Milpitas, CA**—Chinese stoneware; rose wine. **Francis Humphrey, Reno**—*Tonopah Past, Present, Future* brochure; 11th Annual Report, The Tonopah Mining Co. of Nevada, Feb. 28, 1913; *Nevada State Builder*, Aug. 24, 1951; newspaper clipping, *Nevada Appeal*, Aug. 24, 1951; Humphrey Supply Co. advertising section, *Reno Evening Gazette*; pair of spurs; quirt; small leather whip (on handle: "Las Vegas, Nevada"). **David Millman, Las Vegas**—Paper "Sanitary Dairy" Buttermilk cap/lid. **Mr. and Mrs. Bill Harper, Reno**—Book, *Rejoice Comstock Memoirs*. **Arlene Price, Carson City**—Kneissl skis and ski poles. **Joan Shelton, Fallon**—*The Daily Independent* supplement, Virginia City, Nevada, Oct. 31, 1874; *N.A.C. Green Book of Pacific Coast Touring*; The Virginia City Water Co. business forms (pad); Dayton Consolidated Mines Co. commercial blanks—bill heads No. 20 (one pad); Sutro Tunnel Coalition, Inc. Crown Point Division, requisition forms (2 pads); 21 ball point pens (misc. Nevada businesses). **Ethel V. & L. Marvin Swiger, Yuba City, CA**—1862 Territorial Map of Nevada. **Diane Wirtjes, Minden**—Picture of George Washington. **Bruce Alder, Child and Family Services, Carson City**—7 trophies; plaque. **A.M. "Dink" Cryer, Reno**—2 cross-cut saws.

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

Luther Boller, Carson City—Seth Thomas station/wall clock. **Larry Cunningham, Carson City**—Limited edition print of V&T Water Tower & Franktown Depot done by donor. **Daun Bohall, Carson City**—8x10 photo of Engine #8 and two RR cars on Memorial Day Weekend, May 25, 1992. **Constance B. Olson, Berkeley, CA**—1927 S.P. station map. **Daun Bohall, Carson City**—38 color negatives. **Mike Meyer, Santa Rosa, CA**—V&T abstracts of "way bills." **Marjorie K. Stout Menke, Sparks**—V&T baggage trunk. **James H. Richardson, Reno**—Collection of *Railroad Magazines*, 1932. **Ted Wurm, Oakland, CA**—3 b/w photos of V&T excursion train trip, 6/5/1938. **Best Western Town & Country Inn, Cedar City, UT**—Freight house scale.

In The Museum Store

Western Lore For Everyone

Books in the Museum's Store are also available by phone or mail from the Nevada State Museum, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710. Visa and MasterCard are accepted in telephone orders at (702) 687-4810. Postage and handling is \$2.00 for the book order. Membership discount of 15% applies.

Reviewed by MARY CRAWFORD
NSM Docent and Former Librarian

COWBOY COOKING. *Compiled by Tom Watson. Cowboy Artists of America, 1991. Ring binder format, 162 pages, \$14.95.*

This cookbook is food for hearty appetites either on the trail ride, by the campfire or home on the range. There are recipes for Bloody Basin Burgers, S.O.B. Brisket, Burnt Meat Marinade, and much, much more. The book is profusely illustrated by various members of the Cowboy Artists of America when they participated in the group's various activities and trail rides. Sprinkled throughout the book are accounts of member trail ride adventures which contribute to the "old west" spirit. This book is a fun read, too.

CARING FOR YOUR COLLECTIONS. *By The National Committee to Save America's Cultural Collections, Arthur W. Schultz, Chairman. Abrams, 1992, and printed in Japan. Oversized hardback, 216 pages, \$37.50.*

This book fills a need for practical, authoritative advice, invaluable to anyone who collects, and includes specific tips and insights about conserving and collecting. It features chapters on Paintings, Library Books, Photographs, Furniture, Clothing, Decorative Arts, Metal Objects, Musical Instruments and Security, Appraising, and Donating Your Collections. In addition this book is easy to read and use, and includes so much more information that I suggest you look at this book if you are a collector.

LOVELOCK CAVE. *By Llewellyn L. Loud and Mark R. Harrington. Falcon Hill Press, 1991. This book is a republication of a rare 1929 Nevada Classic. Oversized paperback, 250 pages, \$25.00.*

This report of the excavation of Lovelock Cave which was done in 1912 and in 1924 yielded some of the richest archaeological treasures ever found in the American West, and was originally published by the University of California in 1929. The cave was inhabited several times in the last 2000 years. The book has maps and many interesting drawings and pictures. (Ed. note: The duck decoys presently on display in the museum are from the Lovelock Cave.)

BODIE. *By Douglas McDonald. Nevada Publications, 1988. Paperback pamphlet, 48 pages, \$4.95.*

Bodie — Boom Town — Gold Town, and the last of California's old time mining camps. It is now a State Historic Park. The book is full of old photographs and gives the history of the town, and if you are planning a visit, this is the perfect guide book.

COWBOY AND WESTERN SONGS. *By Austin E. and Alta S. Fine. Crown Publishers, 1982. Oversized hardback, 372 pages, \$7.95.*

This large book is a comprehensive anthology of 200 songs with music lines and guitar chords. This book also dramatizes the West for the authors have spent three decades gathering their songs from many sources, and many are accompanied by illustrations. The book is divided into different subjects; there is a lexicon of words used and a good index. This is a remarkable book, and the price is right.

JACK LONGSTREET. *By Sally Zanjani. Ohio University Press, 1988. Hardback, 172 pages, \$9.95.*

This book is a biography of Jack Longstreet, often called the Last of the Desert Frontiersmen. His life was a genuine frontier saga entwined with the history of one of the harshest regions in the American West. He first appeared in northern Arizona in 1880, a mysterious stranger who carried a notched gun and wore his hair long to conceal a severed ear. For the next fifty years he roamed Nevada and Arizona deserts as a rancher, prospector, saloonkeeper, trail blazer, and hired gun. Jack Longstreet found friendship with the Southern Paiute Indians, and identified with their cause. The author has thoroughly researched the story of Jack Longstreet, and there are pictures, an index and bibliography. The author does a good job of making the character of Jack Longstreet reflect the life and times in which he lived, and while he was villainous, you feel sympathy for him.

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LAPIS NEVADA JEWELRY NOW AVAILABLE

Lapis Nevada, an exciting gem material, was discovered in 1954 in the Four Clover mine of Western Nevada. A rock rather than a mineral, it is truly a stone of many colors, composed of thulite, scapolite, sericite, diopside and epidote, with minor amounts of feldspar, quartz, zoisite, clinozoisite, actinolite and apatite. The material is found in five deposits, two predominantly pink and rose, two with tints of pink and green, and one with pink, green and lavender. With all these delightful colors, a myriad of exotic patterns adorn the material. A typical cab might contain five or more minerals.

Many of the choice patterns are flower-like, with the pink (thulite) and green (diopside epidote) combination being the most popular. Scapolite adds a touch of lavender, while apatite furnishes a rare contrast of blue. Snowy quartz and red feldspar continue the color varieties.

Lapis Nevada is available in finished forms at the Nevada State Museum Store. We maintain a fine selection of Lapis Nevada earrings, pendants, bolo ties, etc. Stop by soon to see them.

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