

Pinole Historical Society Newsbriefs

Fall 2010



P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564

www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org



NEW PINOLE LIBRARY EXHIBIT

The Pinole Historical Society's new exhibit at the Pinole Library honors local military veterans — and includes a special display about the history of U.S. military war dogs.

The exhibit highlights former Pinole Mayor Tom Cutino, longtime Pinole resident Stan Clark (both members of Pinole Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2798), and Jim Ross, father of Pinole's Kathy Bradshaw. Gail Snyder provided the information on the U.S. War Dogs Association.

Library hours are Monday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.), Wednesday (2 to 8 p.m.), Friday (Noon to 5 p.m.), and Saturday (Noon to 5 p.m.). The exhibit will run through the end of January.

FUNDRAISING DINNER NOV. 12

Tickets are on sale for the Pinole Historical Society's November 12 fundraising dinner at La Strada in San Pablo. There will be a no-host bar, a sit-down dinner, and raffle prizes. The featured speaker will be Kathleen Brown, museum consultant to the City of Pinole, who will speak about the importance of museums to small towns.

Tickets are \$45. Please send a check to the Pinole Historical Society at P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564. Include your name, address, and phone number — and the number of tickets you want. The tickets will be mailed to you.

For more information, call (510) 724-9507.

Published quarterly by the Pinole Historical Society

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It's also posted on the PHS website.

FOR ADVERTISERS: More than 2,500 printed copies of *PHS Newsbriefs* are distributed every quarter, generating readership among thousands of Pinole residents. Hundreds more receive the newsletter directly from the PHS via its database and website. If you're interested in advertising, please contact Jeff Rubin at info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org or call him at (510) 724-9507.

PHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MEETINGS

November 18: Quarterly membership meeting. Alex Clark Room, Pinole Public Safety Facility, 880 Tennent Avenue, 6:30 to 8 p.m. **Program:** "Digging Up History Without a Shovel." George Vincent will demonstrate the use of primary sources in uncovering local history. There will also be a hands-on history activity designed to move one's personal history from memory to paper.

EVENTS

November 11: Veterans' Day Memorial and Flag Retirement Ceremony. Fernandez Park, 11 a.m. Annual event honoring veterans, with Pinole Boy Scout Troop 86 retiring flags.

November 11: Veterans' Day Luncheon. Pinole Senior Center, 2500 Charles Avenue. Noon. Tickets available at senior center.

November 11: Downer Mansion Tours. 2 to 5 p.m. Phone (510) 724-9507 for reservations.

November 12: Pinole Historical Society Fundraising Dinner. 6:30 p.m., La Strada, San Pablo. Sit-down dinner, speaker, raffle prizes. Advance tickets required. Phone (510) 724-9507 for tickets.

November/December: Pinole History Programs. Programs for fourth-grade students in Pinole elementary schools, plus videos on Pinole Community TV Channel 28.

ONGOING

Pinole Library history exhibits. Two exhibits at the library, 2935 Pinole Valley Road. Library hours: Monday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.), Wednesday (2 to 8 p.m.), Friday and Saturday (12 to 5 p.m.).

PHS booth at Pinole Farmers' Market. The society will have a booth on these Saturdays through the end of 2010, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.: October 30, November 13, November 27, December 4, and December 18. We'll be on hiatus from the farmers' market the first quarter of 2011.



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President's Message

Marcia Kalapus, President, Pinole Historical Society

FARMS AND GARDENS PART OF PINOLE'S HISTORY

This was a disappointing summer for our many gardeners; there was not enough sunshine to ripen all those garden wonders.

I imagine many of you my age remember our grandparents' or parents' lush produce, and spending the summer or fall "putting food by," as they called it.

Seasonal canning was a major part of our daily lives. We canned everything we could and as many different ways possible. We smoked meat, made our own sausages, made pickles three or four ways. All kinds of fruit were made into jellies, jams, preserves, chutneys (relishes and chow-chow), fruit sauces (for ice cream), dried, spiced, brandied, sliced, diced, whole for future pies, cobblers, and other desserts.

Many vegetables and corn were prepared much the same. And we planted lots of tomatoes.

GaGa (my grandmother's nickname) would string and dry them and then hang them behind her stove. Never knew why. Her German mother did it this way. We canned them whole, diced, made tomato juice, tomato sauce, and our special "hot sauce" with lots of Louisiana peppers in it.

Seasonal fall squash was stored on newspapers in a dark closet for winter. Apples and pears were wrapped individually and stored in boxes or barrels in the dark. My uncle built my grandmother a large walk-in pantry and every year when we were done, those jars of food were a vision of beautiful colors on display.

The majority of our children/grandchildren today will never know about those times, unless those of us who experienced them opt to share the stories.

I continued this family tradition for many years, and until about 1980,



Marcia Kalapus

I averaged about 500 jars a year.

In the spring and summer my children and I went to all the farms nearby, and out to Brentwood "food gathering," as they used to call it. Took a picnic. They helped pick the food, the fruit, and they loved it. They helped prepare and can it.

You may have noticed I referenced canning "chow-chow." Many years ago, a woman in Rich-

mond wrote to the *Contra Costa Times* looking for that recipe. I sent it in along with a story about it. It was published.

This recipe shows how to use up green tomatoes, cabbage, red and green bell peppers, and onions in August as a relish. It's a Southern treat, and was a family favorite.

Pinole history tells us that many of our past families lived on farms and grew hearty gardens. Some sold their produce door to door, and sold extra to the local general store and "put some by."

The Pinole Historical Society will be having several special events in November honoring veterans. In preparing for them, I thought of all the Victory Gardens during World War II.

During the war there were many Sundays when my family shared meals with our servicemen after church. We would pick

Continued on page 4

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FARMS AND GARDENS PART OF PINOLE'S HISTORY

Continued from page 3

them up and bring them home for dinner. We served many cobblers and pies from those canned fruits to them. Precious memories for me, for some of those boys never came home.



I heard a recent story of how most of the families living on Quinan Street in Pinole during that time period dug up their front yards and driveways to plant Victory Gardens. And, in fact, some of the residents living there today have bountiful gardens of their own.

With the three major holidays coming up, it would be a good time for all of you to talk to your family members and document their stories of what kinds of special dishes, entrees, and

desserts they remember having as traditional holiday meals.

Ask for recipes. I read every week in the paper of folks asking for and looking for old recipes that were family or traditional. Old recipes are a treasure, and if you have some, preserve them on special paper, or scan them into your computers, make a cookbook for your children. Many years ago, my daughter copied my grandmothers' and aunts' recipes, and she still uses them.



History comes in many ways, shapes and forms, and it isn't always in a history book. Take the time to remember some of the great times of your own past and tell those stories to your families, especially the children.

Every day I am more concerned about our

educational system, as they just keep chipping away at American history. There is a lot of it, I grant you, but as individuals we can support local historical societies,

museums, and libraries to keep American history, and our local history, alive and vibrant.

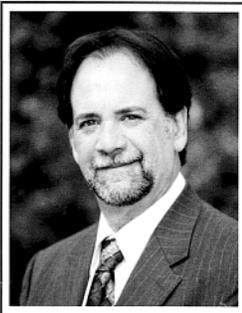
You may reach Marcia Kalapus at (510) 724-1166.

PHS PRODUCTS FOR SALE

We have a supply of postcards, greeting cards, and refrigerator magnets—featuring photos from our book, *Images of America: Pinole*. They are gorgeous!

They're for sale at the PHS booth at the Pinole Farmers' Market; we're there every other Saturday.

We have an order form on our website: www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org. Because of the cost of credit-card processing services, we accept only checks via mail order. To order on-line, print the order form and mail it with your check to the Pinole Historical Society, P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564.



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OUR FLAG—WHEN ‘DAY IS DONE, GONE THE SUN’

Fly the American flag every day possible and particularly on special holidays” is good, patriotic advice. Retrieving—taking down—the flag and its storage till next display is often an obscure procedure.

We’ve often seen the school custodian, the postal worker, nighttime store clerk or security persons struggling, alone, to lower, unhook and respectfully gather in the flag for overnight storage.

There is a more formal procedure if two or more people participate, or the occasion deserves public observation. The military services have an even more formal, dignified, and most impressive ceremony. One seeing this done at a memorial or funeral service will never forget it.

First, the flag, when taken down, can simply



be rolled around the staff and stored indoors until next displayed. This is respectful care of your flag.

Next, two or more people are assigned to raise or retrieve the flag. At some schools this is regarded as not only

instructional, but a special honor.

Folding the flag—the memorable triangle fold—is usually followed. The process is essentially that followed by the military. It goes like this:

- Two people begin by holding the flag horizontally, waist-high.
- Fold the lower half—striped section—over the field of stars.
- Next, fold the striped section again over the field of stars.

• With the field of stars showing above and below, begin the folding at the stripes end; a triangular fold begins from the folded edge.

• Triangular folds continue until only the final field of stars remains; any remaining portion is carefully tucked in. After inspection, the fold is complete.

— Jack Meehan

Flag holidays

New Year's Day (January 1), Martin Luther King's Birthday (January 15), Inauguration Day (January 20), Lincoln's Birthday (February 12), Washington's Birthday (February 22), Easter Sunday, Mother's Day (second Sunday in May), Armed Forces Day (third Saturday in May), Memorial Day (May 30, half-staff until noon), Flag Day (June 14), Father's Day (third Sunday in June), Independence Day (July 4), Labor Day (first Monday in September), Admission Day (September 9), Citizenship Day (September 17), Columbus Day (October 12), Veterans' Day (November 11), Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday in November), Christmas Day (December 25).

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Back in the day

By George Vincent

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The history of Pinole is carried in the names of its streets.

One early pioneer family, the Ellerhorsts, arrived in Pinole in 1872. Pinole was then a fledgling community with a small downtown of clapboard homes surrounded by ranches. There were no railroads; a stage line ran through Pinole, and the town had a rural character.

Chris and Christina Ellerhorst settled on a leased ranch in Pinole Valley where Ellerhorst School is today. In 1881, they moved near to the downtown when they purchased the nine-acre Kate Tennent Cousins ranch near San Pablo

Bay, now a part of Hercules. The home was remodeled in a Spanish-style, as it remains today.

It was here they raised their family of six children and operated a farm and dairy. Each day families from Pinole journeyed just outside the city limits to buy fresh milk and vegetables. They would bring their containers and fill them at five cents a quart.

The Ellerhorst children contributed much to the fabric of Pinole society. The oldest daughter, Frances (nicknamed "Pansy"), was born in 1874 and schooled in San Francisco. She became a teacher at 21 and first taught at Sheldon School in El

Sobrante. She earned \$65 a month. She had to travel by pony cart over poor roads each day from Pinole to fire up the school stove and sweep floors, as well as prepare lessons for students from first through eighth grade in one room.

By 1886, Pinole had a new one-room downtown school called the "Plaza School" (near the current post office). Frances and her sister, Alice, both taught there in 1901. Frances was school principal, and in 1906 became the first principal of the new, and much larger, Pinole-Hercules School, on a hill east of Pinole.

The school was built on Ellerhorst land and the site graded in 1905
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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

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by Miss Frances's brother, Henry Ellerhorst. Frances served as teacher and principal there until she retired in 1940 and passed her teaching duties to one of her former students, Margaret Collins.

Frances and her faithful canine companion, little "Buddy," were the last surviving family members. Frances passed away at the family ranch in 1973, just shy of her 99th birthday. She was fond of saying she was "deaf as a post but still had all the teeth she was born with." She was loved by many generations of Pinole's children.

Alice Ellerhorst was also a long-time teacher in Pinole and had beautiful penmanship. Emma Ellerhorst was the youngest sibling; she loved children and was a dedicated church worker. Annie Ellerhorst was a private secretary for the superintendent of the Hercules Powder Company. Dora Ellerhorst was a homemaker and wonderful gardener at the ranch. Henry Ellerhorst, a big man, did the heavy chores on the ranch and



Ellerhorst siblings (L-R): Alice, Dora, Annie, Frances, Emma, and Henry.

was known for his cheerful personality and prized pumpkins.

All lived and worked together at the Ellerhorst Ranch and were devoted members of the Pinole Methodist Church. A stained-glass window in the new church built in 1925 was dedicated to the Ellerhorst family.

Today, Henry Avenue is the main road running east up to homes in the

Linda Heights subdivision. Named after the hard-working Henry Ellerhorst, the avenue is the workhorse for traffic flowing in and out of the area.

The homes were built in the early 1960s, but before that it was Ellerhorst land with Ellerhorst cattle where Pinoleans were welcomed to hunt mushrooms in the winter. Children would pick and

picnic under the oak and bay trees in the poppy- and lupine-covered hills.

The names of the other Ellerhorst children are also remembered in the streets that crisscross the hillside homes. However, strict teacher Frances Ellerhorst would be miffed and the first to point out the misspelling of her street's name with the boy's spelling of "Francis Street."

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BIRDS' EYE VIEW OF PINOLE, CAL. 1909

The Pinole Historical Society thanks Detective Sergeant Matt Messier, of the Pinole Police Department, who found this photo on eBay and purchased it for our archives. Matt has helped put together an impressive display of police memorabilia at police headquarters.

POLICE DEPARTMENT EXHIBITS CELEBRATE PAST TOP OFFICERS

Detective Sergeant Matt Messier has put together exhibits of two law enforcement icons in display cases at the Pinole Police Department.

One display honors Township 11 Constable Arthur (Jerry) McDonald, the first Pinole peace officer killed in the line of duty. He was machine-gunned to death by the Fleagle Gang during a robbery of the Rodeo branch of the Bank of Pinole on September 25, 1929.

The second display case honors Hugh Young, Pinole first police officer, who was police chief from 1950-1967.

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Display honoring Arthur (Jerry) McDonald includes the gun that killed him.



Display honoring Hugh Young includes his badge, nightstick, and several photos of him, including some with his wife and children.

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PHS REPRISES HISTORY PROGRAM IN SCHOOLS

Volunteers from the Pinole Historical Society—led by Director Emeritus and longtime teacher George Vincent—will again present Pinole history programs to fourth-graders in our elementary schools this year.

Last year we visited Ellerhorst, Shannon, Stewart, and Collins elementary schools, and St. Joseph School. George prepared an interesting, interactive program that featured a little history mixed with

information on what school children's lives were like in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The program was very well received and we were invited back to the schools this year.

The program is offered to fourth-graders because it is in this year that they are introduced to California history.



George Vincent instructs a fourth-grade class during a PHS history program last year. The society will offer the programs in Pinole elementary schools again this year.

MIKE REI DONATES BOOK TO SOCIETY

The Pinole Historical Society thanks lifetime member Mike Rei for his donation of a hardbound copy of former Mayor Edgar Vovsi's master's thesis, *Ignacio Martinez and the Rancho El Pinole, 1823-1868*.

We are very pleased to add this volume to our archives.

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PHS interviews on city of Pinole website

Miss one of our programs on Pinole Community TV?

Not a problem. The city's website now has a dedicated section devoted to PINOLE HISTORY on its "Videos Online" page.

You can view the numerous PHS programs right

on your computer. Go to www.ci.pinole.ca.us/about/videos.html and scroll down to PINOLE HISTORY. You'll find our interviews, Veterans' Day programs, George Vincent's Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Pinole, and the very fine PCTV-produced, 12-part series based on the Historic Walking Tour brochure. It's great TV!

Nov. 11 VETERANS' DAY EVENT IN FERNANDEZ PARK

The Pinole Historical Society and the City of Pinole will co-sponsor the third annual Veterans' Day Memorial and Flag Retirement Ceremony, on Thursday, November 11, at 11 a.m. at the barbecue area in Fernandez Park.

Pinole Boy Scout Troop 86 will handle the flag retirement duties. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2798, West Contra Costa Girl Scouts, St. Joseph School, El Sobrante Christian School, the Pinole Valley High School Marching Band, Pinole Youth Commissioners, and professional singer Ginger Hohm (Amazing Grace), will be featured.

If you would like to retire a worn U.S. flag (for a tax-deductible \$25 donation to the PHS), e-mail the PHS at info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org. Put "Flag Retirement" in the subject line. Or, bring your flag to the PHS booth at the event. People retiring flags will



VFW Post 2798 Commander Carl Petersdorf addressed the 2009 attendees.

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WHERE HAVE ALL THE JAYCEES GONE?

The Pinole Jaycees. An endangered species? Or an ancient civilization of some sort? Think "Leadership training through community development" and you're back on the right track.

Yes, it's still the nationally active organization started back in St. Louis in 1918 as an energetic group of young men who found encouragement for their goals in the local chamber of commerce. Thus, befriended and sponsored they became, however briefly, the Junior Chamber of Commerce—JCs, or simply Jaycees.

And off they went, nationwide, preaching their mantra, but more—much more—importantly putting into practice their goal of training.

As times changed, so did the Junior Chamber, becoming in 1965 officially the United States Jaycees. Then, in 1984, the U.S. Jaycees formally expanded their membership opportunities by allowing women ages 18-35 to be full voting members. Age ranges changed slightly until in 2004, the local chapters' member ages ranged from 18 through 40.

Local chapters sprang up everywhere there was a need, usually in new or growing communities like Pinole in the late 1950s and 60s. California was experiencing an immigration tide from every state. New families meant new communities, fertile ground for a new chapter of the Jaycees.

There was already a chapter operating in El Cerrito. Like missionaries, they extended a chapter to Pinole with a core group consisting of Bill Sanders, Andy Poirier, Roy Swearingen, Chuck Smith, Sam Lewis, and Gil Rosson (Smith, Lewis, and Rosson are now deceased). The Pinole Jaycees was chartered in 1964 under President Chuck Smith with about 30 charter members. By 1970, under President Mike Rei and membership chairman Jerry Cates, the group reached membership of 100.

Unique, perhaps, to Jaycees, they earnestly sought deserving projects, making member assignments in accord with the organization's mottoes. They

said, "You don't learn to swim by observing from the sidelines!"

What kept this vigorous group occupied in the 1960s and 1970s? The new Pinole Valley High School was a regular focus, the group having installed (1969) the Spartans sign still displayed on the gym wall. Fundraising was done for work on the new athletic field and bleachers in the gym, and for exchange student programs, International Night honoring exchange students, the Miss Pinole pageants and participation in the California Junior Miss Pageants (1966-1975), Orange Crate derbies, golf tournaments, and civic endeavors that included

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The Pinole Historical Society promotes awareness and appreciation of history through preservation and education, and chronicles the city's heritage for current and future generations.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE JAYCEES GONE?

Continued from page 12

the Fiesta del Pinole and the Fiesta parades (1968-1975). The chapter won numerous statewide awards and acknowledgements.

Throughout this active period the Pinole Jaycette auxiliary organization provided vital assistance to the Jaycees preceding the 1984 U.S. Jaycee revision welcoming women members.

Active in promoting local government actions (city management, redevelopment, etc.), members served on city commissions, and several

became mayors of Pinole—Jack Meehan (1964-1965); Dick Bannon (1972-1973); Ed Vovsi (1973-1974); Mike Baer (1981-1982), and Roy Swearingen (1988-1989). Swearingen returned to the city council in 2008. There is little evidence that the Pinole Jaycees survived much beyond the 1980s.

Now, you ask, "Where have all the Jaycees gone?" As expected, most have retired from their respective professions and businesses, and several have passed away. With an "aged-out at 36" rule in effect dur-

ing the 1970s, there was a constant turnover, and the "Exhausted Roosters" was formed. That term recently has given way to the gender-neutral "Jaycee Graduates," as the Jaycees formally allowed women to be full voting members.

Although the Roosters are scattered among the states of Nebraska, Oklahoma, Nevada, Arizona, Texas, and Oregon, and in California from San Diego to Sacramento and Santa Rosa, eight members still claim Pinole as home, and the Internet keeps all 25-30 in touch via Jerry Cates ("JC the

Jaycee").

You can still hear some of them voicing opinions, advising, and urging the younger generations to "do a better job than we did," and "leave the place a little better than you found it."

Maybe it's time for a rebirth of a Pinole Jaycees chapter—and there are still two dozen old Roosters who would drink to that.

— Contributing to this article were Dick Bannon, Mike Rei, Jerry Cates, Chuck Davis, Roy Swearingen, Jack Meehan, and Wikipedia.



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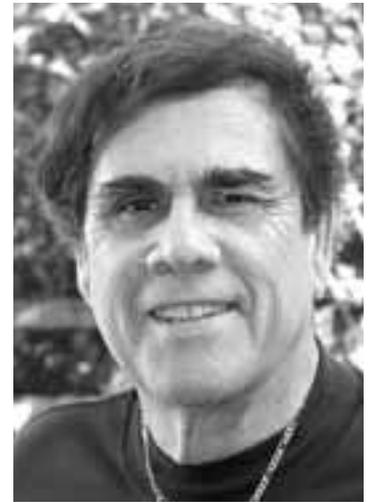
GEORGE VINCENT WINS ROTARY AWARD

Pinole Historical Society co-founder and Director Emeritus George Vincent was the recipient of Rotary Club of Pinole's Community Service award at the organization's 15th Annual Recognition Dinner Thursday, October 28, at the Pinole Senior Center.

George, who co-founded the society with Joe and Gretchen Mariotti in 1974 has remained active in the society for 36 years, is a retired educator. He spent most of his teaching career at Frances Ellerhorst School.

The society congratulates George for receiving this well-deserved honor. Anyone who has been involved in the society knows how much time George has spent preserving—and teaching—the history of Pinole. The society would not be in existence without him.

George Vincent



YOU'VE GOT A QUESTION? WE'VE GOT AN ANSWER

Pinole has a long and interesting history. Is there something you'd like to know about the city or its people?

Send the Pinole Historical Society a question and we'll not only answer it, but we'll print it in the next issue of *Newsbriefs* so everyone will be informed. And, if we don't know, we'll find out.

For example, perhaps you ran across a photo at a garage sale and want to have the people or buildings in it identified. Or, maybe you're wondering about that light-green, two-story house on San Pablo Avenue, opposite the post office.

Send your photos and questions to us at info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org.

THIS QUARTER'S QUESTION:

Q: What happened to the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe depots in Pinole?

A: The Southern Pacific depot was built in the 1880s at the end of Tennent Avenue, by the shores of San Pablo Bay. It was demolished in 1958. The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad came through Pinole south of the Southern Pacific and built a depot at the northeast corner of Charles Street. It burned down in 1944. The next Santa Fe depot, built in 1945, was demolished by the railroad in 1958.



Southern Pacific depot, 1940s.

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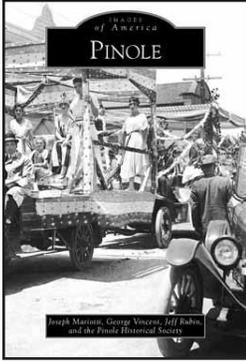
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