

THE EAGLE



SPEAKS

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2013

www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

"OLD ABE"

Inside this Issue:

Calendar	4
Committee Members	7
Did Your Dad Take Time for Teaching.....	1
Donations.....	7
Featured Artifact	2
Heard & Seen About Town ...	8-9
Historical Marker CD.....	7
Lake Wissota Centennial	3
Newsletter Sponsors	6
Officers & Directors	5
President's Letter.....	4
Volunteer Profile.....	5

This isn't a picture of Arley and Gene Engle, but it is a shot of a couple other hard-working boys preparing to bring wood home for Ma. 🐿



Did Your Dad Take Time for Teaching?

ARLEY ENGEL

As we were lucky enough to grow up on a farm, my older brother Eugene and I were involved in many of the operations required to keep us healthy and happy during the four seasons. Winter was the most demanding. We were lucky to be involved in the process of making firewood about one year in advance, in order to allow the wood to dry enough to burn efficiently. We had a wood cook stove in the kitchen of our house with a fuel oil burner in the dining room. We also cut fire wood for our grandparents house where they used a wood cook stove and a wood and coal furnace.

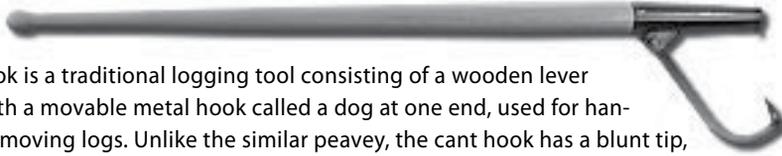
We had cleared all the land on our three 80-acre plots except for a 2 maybe 3-acre chunk on the Badman farm. We had cleared all the woods from this land in about 1947, with only the stumps remaining. At this time Dad purchased 10 acres of woodland on the Wall Brothers farm just to the north of our farm. We did a select cut on this land, cutting mostly fire wood with an 8-inch base at the stump. This was all done with hand tools, including a 2-man crosscut saw, a buck saw, and single and double bit axes. We also carried along 3

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 🐿

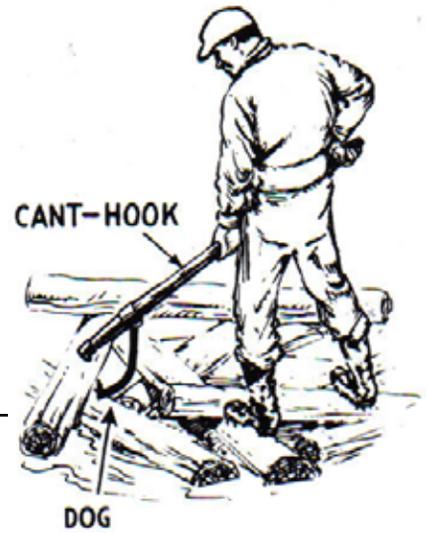
The Area History Center will be
Closed for the Holidays

Tuesdays
December 24 and 31





A cant hook is a traditional logging tool consisting of a wooden lever handle with a movable metal hook called a dog at one end, used for handling and moving logs. Unlike the similar peavey, the cant hook has a blunt tip, often bearing teeth.



FEATURED ARTIFACT

NANCY SCHUH

Christmas came early to the Chippewa County Historical Society thanks to Joan Larue. Joan recently donated a large collection of her child size furniture that she used as a little girl. This collection includes the pint size granny cupboard and chairs in the photo below along with a roll top desk with matching chair, a wooden ironing board and iron, a child's vanity and chair, a wood table and chairs, a rolling doll crib, a doll bed, a doll swing and other items too numerous to mention.



Did Your Dad Teach? *continued from cover*

wedges to make the tree fall in the right direction and 2 cant hooks to help roll some of the bigger trees up on the sleigh. We just trimmed off the branches with the axes or the buck saw and left the trees full length. We made sure to leave some nice large brush piles, so we could go rabbit hunting later in the season.

Our horses were Prince (white) and Roy (black)—not a matched team like most of our neighbors owned, but they pulled well together. On a Saturday morning after the barn chores were done usually near the end of January or early February, we would harness up the team, hook them up to the sleigh and head up into the woods. This ride was fun but usually quite cold, so when we got to the woods we had to start working right away to stay warm. We wore chopper mitts, mackinaw coats, scarves and ear lapper caps, plus snow pants and high top leather boots with mud rubbers (and our feet still got cold).

This is where the learning began, the saws were laid on the sleigh, the cant hooks and wedges were placed in a nail keg that was wired to the floorboards of the sleigh to keep them from slipping off. As we got to the woods, Dad would tell brother Eugene and I to notch a tree so it would fall into the ravine to the north. We either checked the sun or the mossy side of the tree to find the north. At this time we would notch about 1/3 of the way into the stump with the saw, then knock the notch out with the single bit axe. Dad did not let us use the double bit axe at this time, as they were a bit more dangerous. Then we would take the saw to the back side of the tree and start sawing into the stump toward the notch. If the tree did not appear to be going in the right direction, we would get the wedges and drive them into the saw groove to get the tree falling where we wanted it to go. This was usually necessary on a windy day.

As soon as the tree hit the ground, Dad and Uncle Ford started cutting off the branches while Gene and I would move to the next tree. They would have the branches all cut off and piled by the time we got the next tree cut down. Some of the trees were large enough that the 4 of us could not lift them onto the sleigh, so we had to use the cant hooks to roll them onto its bed. The amount of time we spent cutting a load of 8-12 trees was between 3 and 4 hours, a long time to be out in the cold. Sometimes Dad would start a little fire about noon. Just to help warm our hands and feet. We would maybe have a cold roast beef sandwich at this time with hot chocolate for us boys and coffee for Dad and Ford. The thermos bottles were not the best in those days so everything needed to be reheated in its metal cup which was a little tricky on a fire with no grill, but we managed.

After loading up and heading back to the farm, Gene and I would sneak in the house to warm up before coming back outside to help unload. The logs were placed in piles so we could get at them with the Farmall F20 tractor and the saw rig. The logs were cut into 18-20-inch chunks for splitting. This making firewood is not all that it is cracked up to be, I think we got heated up at least 6 times before it ever got in the stove.

That's all for now from Engel's Little House on the Wheaton Prairie 🍷



Old Paint
Creek Dam



Lake Wissota Centennial Celebration

JIM SCHUH

From 1913 through 1918 Lake Wissota went from concept to completion. The harnessing of the waters of the Chippewa River, Yellow River, O'Neil Creek, Paint Creek and Stillson Creek resulting in the creation of Lake Wissota has had an enormous positive impact on western Wisconsin and Chippewa County. The increase in recreational and sporting activities has made this body of water a destination to visitors and a relaxing and scenic home to residents.

During the next four years our newsletter will review this process and progress. Xcel Energy has provided the Chippewa County Historical Society and Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association with written materials and approximately 1,000 images of dam construction in Chippewa Falls. We greatly appreciate their support of sharing this information with residents and members of our non-profit organizations.

The following was taken from The 7-9-96 Determination of Eligibility for National Register of Historic Places, for the Wissota Dam Historic District, Chippewa County, Wisconsin.

“Electric service in the Chippewa Valley was controlled initially by A. E. Appleyard, who sold his holdings in 1904-1905 to the Chippewa Valley Electric Railway and Light Company, owned by a powerful group of lumbermen. When they acquired the Chippewa Valley Company, its principal source of power was a lease for 650 horsepower of the output of the Eau Claire Dells dam, plus a small lighting plant in Menomonie, powered by a hydro plant at their lumber mill there. The lumbermen planned to expand until both the Chippewa River and its major tributary, the Red Cedar River, were fully harnessed for hydroelectric power. But unlike many other hydro promoters of the time, they adopted a cautious approach, developing relatively small hydro sites, one at the time, and building a market for the new power as they proceeded.”

“They began with the Red Cedar River, reconstructing the lumbermill dam at Menomonie into a 1,200 kilowatt hydroelectric plant in 1906, then, in 1910, developing an old sawmill dam on an 8,000 horsepower site at Cedar Falls. The next logical step was to develop the small but powerful Chippewa River. However, when the lumbermen learned that developing the single site on the Chippewa would cost as much as they had previously invested in the entire venture, they hesitated, and a promoter offered them \$5,848,000 for the Chippewa Valley properties. The offer was accepted in the spring of 1914.”

Stay tuned to this series of articles for further developments. Next time we will discover how this aggressive promoter aligns properties and begins rapid development to create more hydroelectric power than local markets could utilize. ❖

Little left . . .

When the picture (above left) was taken there was little left of the “Old Paint Creek Dam” that had been built in the 1870s. It stood in lower center where rapids rush through. Paint Creek entered the Chippewa at the right of the picture. Looking northwest upstream are two sets of jam piers. There were, no doubt, others which had washed away by the time this photo was taken. Piers were used to slow up progress of logs and to create a holding area for logs to be sorted as they came down stream from north. After sorting they were shunted into the holding pond and when logs were needed by mill workers, they were released. This area today is covered by Lake Wissota and the current dam is a short distance to the left downstream.

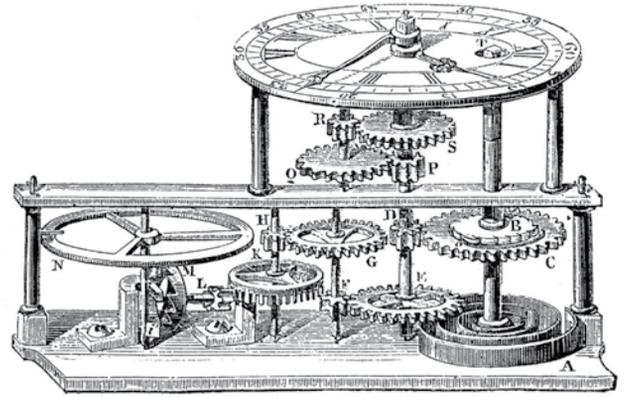
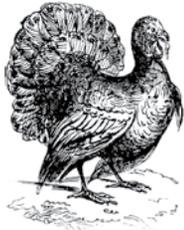
The Lake Wissota Centennial Celebration logo (above) was created and donated by Elly Rochester Graphics 715-577-8356.

The Eagle Speaks is published quarterly by the Chippewa County Historical Society, a non-profit organization established to promote and stimulate historical interest in Chippewa County, Wisconsin.

Mail any comments or future articles to 123 Allen St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729. 715-723-4399.

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CALENDAR

Nov. 19

9:30 a.m. CCHS Board Meeting

Noon Area History Center Birthday
Lunch

Nov. 23

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Museum Open Fourth
Saturday

Dec. 17

9:30 a.m. CCHS Board Meeting

10:30 a.m. Historic Marker Committee

Noon Area History Center Birthday
Lunch

Dec. 24 & 31

History Center Closed for the Holidays

Jan. 20

1:30 p.m. The Past Passed Here
Planning Meeting

Jan. 21

9:30 a.m. CCHS Board Meeting

Noon Area History Center Birthday
Lunch

Feb. 10

6:30 p.m. CCHS Bi-Annual
Membership Meeting

A Message From Your President

In my message in the last edition of the Eagle Speaks, I told you about the exciting things that happen in the summer months. Well as you will see in this edition exciting things seem to becoming a habit.

Dave Jankoski, Stanley Historical Society President, called Jim Schuh to ask if the Chippewa County Historical Society would make a presentation at the Wisconsin Historical Society 2013 West Central Regional Meeting at Stanley. After talking with Arley and myself we decided we had enough information to give a presentation about Lumbering in the Chippewa Valley.

I was confident about this until I saw the description in the registration form sent out for the Regional Meeting. "Three knowledgeable historians will tell the story of an industry that left a significant mark on the history of the Chippewa Valley". While the description fit Arley and Jim, I wasn't sure I fit the description. Well Jim, Arley and I decided we had several weeks to become lumber historians. Our topics included impacts of lumbering on the Chippewa Valley today, lifestyle of lumberjacks, tools of the industry and the sawmills on the Chippewa River. We put our three sections together and used the September Membership Meeting to practice the presentation. The use of Jerry Way's lumbering songs added a real polish to the slides. After some adjustments we were ready for September 21. The forty-five-minute presentation went very well. Comments at the meeting suggested making this presentation available on a DVD. We will be recording the program in December at Chippewa Valley Community TV.

The completion of the newly revised Lumbering Exhibit by intern Trent Sobeck with the help of Jim Schuh and Jake Jacobson and Grandma's Kitchen by Mary and Jim Erickson gave us a good reason to have an open house. So we turned our fourth Saturday open hours into an open house. We showed the Lumbering presentation several times during the day and made the Lumbering Exhibit and Grandma's Kitchen highlights on the tour of the museum for 40 visitors. Once again we have Jim Hebert of Chippewa Valley Cleaning to thank for a clean facility for the open house. Also thanks to United Way's Day of Caring, we had six employees from United Health Care scrape and prime the first floor windows of the History Center. Jim Schuh, Steve Rasmus, Russ Champion and I put the final coat of paint on the windows the day before the open house.

The Valley Art Association has decided not to hold the Solstice on Grand Art Faire next year. Instead they will display their art at Spring Fest. We had a display at the Fest and plan to have an exhibit next spring at Spring Fest. We'll miss being a part of the Faire.

Well that's enough from me for this issue. Lots going on at the History Center so don't miss out. Join the fun. *Dave*



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Chuck Card timing the student sawing competition

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2013-2014

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

A VOLUNTEER PROFILE

MARY MCKENNA

Chuck

Chuck Card has been involved in improving our community for many years. He helped create The Past Passed Here, which is our historical re-enactment of the early days of Chippewa County. Chuck's grandfather was the sawyer at the big sawmill so he is the perfect person to explain the important role lumbering had here. Chuck runs the sawing competition for hundreds of children every year. He has literally instructed and entertained thousands of 4th grade students during the last 10 years. Chuck is also the head camp cook and his buffalo burgers are a taste sensation. And in early September Chuck donated a box of his mother's aprons that was very timely for us. We used them in our historic kitchen/laundry display for Oktoberfest.

This community minded volunteer is on the Lake Wissota Improvement & Protection Assoc. board and is an active committee member. As a member of the Friends of Lake Wissota State Park, he's been involved with the Candlelight Skiing event, kayaking demonstrations and fund raising. He's on the Xcel Energy Lower Chippewa River Settlement committee and is a citizen's advisory liaison member who shares information with other groups. He has been a Monday building improvement volunteer for the Heyde Center for about 16 years.

For over 23 years, Chuck has been our beloved Santa Claus in the Main Street Assoc. Christmas Parade. He not only sits atop the float he helped design and build, but can be seen at the Rutledge Charity Building, while interacting with children and posing with them for a picture with Santa. He visits downtown businesses preceding the Christmas holiday, greeting visitors and enchanting little children, passing out his signature candy canes. He can be seen in nursing homes and other public spots in costume giving his famous smile and recognizable chuckle that warms the hearts of those lucky to encounter him during the Christmas season. During the Pure Water Days celebration, Chuck was the "Pure Waddle Duck" and helps with other Fun Fest activities. He has helped plan and co-ordinate the Boat Swap Meet. As if all this weren't enough, Chuck enjoys swimming, canoeing and biking. He biked from Coast to Coast during the year 2000 and canoed from International Falls to Winnipeg in 2007.

Chuck grew up in Chippewa Falls, the son of Lester and Barbara Card, and was raised on the shores of Lake Wissota. He graduated from McDonell High School and attended college in Eau Claire. He married his late wife, Charolene in 1956 at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Chippewa Falls. Char was also an active community volunteer. Chuck and Char had three children: Greg Card, Kim Stoll and Aimee Fasbender. Chuck is our "gift" year round. We are grateful for his involvement and deeply appreciative of the time and generosity he continues to give our community. Thank you so much, Chuck! ♡

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- ✧ **Vice President**
Jim Schuh, 5432 178th St.,
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- ✧ Steve Rasmus, 936 N. Bridge St.,
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- ✧ Jerry Way, 257 Dwight St.,
Chippewa Falls 723-2097 (2015)
- ✧ Nancy Schuh, 5432 178th St.,
Chippewa Falls 726-2376 (2015)
- ✧ Teri Stahr, 7493 County Hwy K,
Chippewa Falls 723-9007 (2013)
- ✧ Arley Engel, 5294 90th St.,
Chippewa Falls 723-5124 (2014)
- ✧ Marge Hebbbring, 7361 203rd St.,
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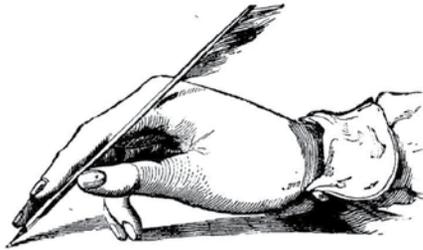
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Donations



Lumberjacks



COUNTY NEWS

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Other Donations:

Visitors	\$64.00
Anne Welke.....	100.00
Arlyce Eide.....	15.00
Barbara Meredith.....	10.00
Loyal Order of the Moose.....	100.00
Open House.....	46.00

Contributing Membership:

Russell Champion	50.00
Donald Cardinal.....	50.00
Gary & Judy Gaier.....	50.00
Patrick & Bridget Kurtenbach.....	50.00
Mary Lynne Shimck	50.00

Lifetime Membership:

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Dennis Mickesh	125.00

Stanley Area Historical Society

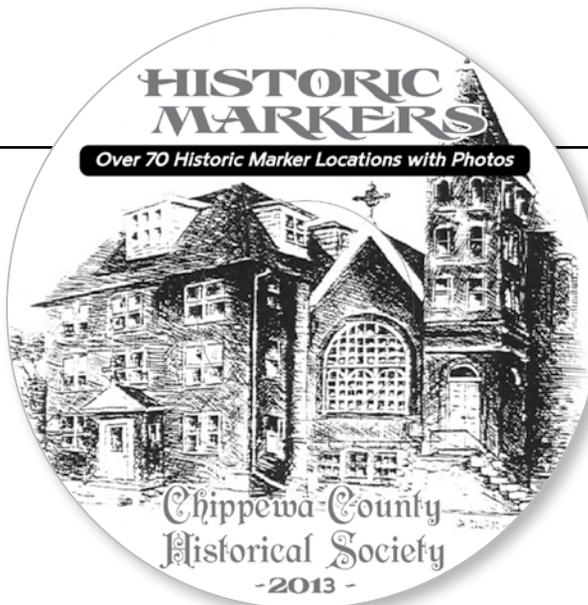
DAVID JANKOSKI, REPORTER

As I write this report, fall is already upon us and we are able to reflect back on the last half of our museum season. In August, we hosted an Edson Reunion. Our major exhibit this year was on the Town of Edson. It featured many photographs of the schools, businesses and a church that once thrived in the Chippewa County crossroads known as Edson. The fodder provided by the photographic gallery and family histories gave participants a chance to reminisce. Jerry Way provided music for an enjoyable program.

In September, we hosted the West Central Regional Meeting. The day began with a workshop entitled, "Caring for Photographic Collections." Janet Seymour, the Wisconsin Historical Society Field Services Representative, provided a wealth of information on technologies for caring for photographs that have been entrusted to historical societies. The Regional Roundtables focused on the challenges faced by historical societies, the solutions. Attendees toured our museum and conversed with others about mutual issues germane to museums. The concluding program, "Lumbering in the Chippewa Valley" was provided by Dave Gordon, Jim Schuh and Arley Engel members of the Chippewa County Historical Society. After a day packed with activities attendees journeyed home with a wealth of information to be shared with those who didn't attend.

We have now resumed our winter work schedule and will be working most Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. We regretfully also need to report that our Secretary, Janet Solie passed away on October 8 and will be greatly missed.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.



The Historic Marker Committee has completed a CD which includes a PowerPoint slide show of our 53 historic markers, a Word document with marker text and photos, and a listing the 542 Wisconsin Historic Markers and locations. The CD package is Microsoft Office compatible and is available for \$10 at the Area History Center and other local retail locations including Country Treasures and Foreign 5.



Heard & Seen About Town



 October-fest

Chetek  Visitors

 RWH/S

 Log Home

Octoberfest: Jim and Mary Erickson volunteered to create a display at Octoberfest with the theme Monday Wash Day.

Norwegian Group Tour: On Sept. 12 we hosted a group of about 40 Norwegians from Norway and the mid-west who were on a field trip to learn about Norwegian history in Chippewa Falls. They enjoyed a Norwegian lunch at Goldsmith Coffee Bar. Then presentations at the Area History Center included **Evalyn Wiley-Frasch** about her grandfather, U.S. Senator Alexander Wiley and the Norway House; **Peter Lea** about Norwegians serving in the Civil War; and **Robin Fossum** who played her Hardanger violin and shared the history and

significance of this instrument that was once made in Chippewa Falls by the Heland Brothers. Then the group toured the Leinenkugel Brewery and the Bjerke Log Cabin in Irvine Park. This Norwegian group tour was part of a conference in Eau Claire titled Romerikslag/Solorlag Stevne.

1881 Log Home: John Bjerke spoke about the history of his great grandfather's log cabin and his family's genealogy to a group of visiting Norwegians. The Bjerke log home is pictured above. During February 1979, a great grandson of, Ole Pederson Bjerke, the builder of this 1881 log home, donated the building to the Chippewa County Historical Society (CCHS). It was then moved to

Irvine Park, restored to pioneer standards, furnished by the CCHS, and donated to the city park. The building is open for tours during the summer. During the Norwegian visit roof problems were discovered. The City Parks & Recreation Department had the cedar shake roof replaced during the first week of November. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to help with this cost it may be made to the Irvine Park Fund. Call 715-723-0051 for more information.

Open House: On September 28 the Area History Center featured two new exhibits and a new Chippewa Valley Lumbering PowerPoint. Our Granny's Kitchen exhibit



 Robin Fossum



 Moose Lodge

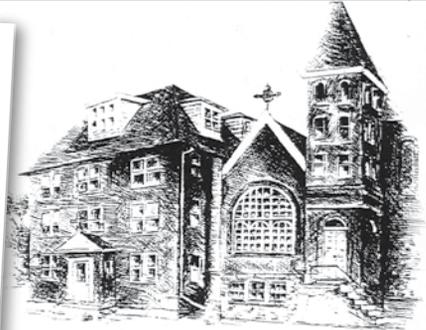


 Open House



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was created and hosted by Mary & Jim Erickson. The Lumbering Exhibit was hosted and created by UW-EC Intern, Trent Sobeck with help from Allan (Jake) Jacobson, who built the log stamp hammer display and Jim Schuh who helped create the window shades featuring images of local lumbering in the above photo.

RWHS Meeting: Ten volunteers from the Chippewa County Historical Society attended the September 21 Regional Wisconsin Historical Society meeting in Stanley. Pictured from left are: Teri Stahr, Arley Engel, Marge Hebring, Nancy Schuh, Jim Schuh, Jeff Prichard, Dave Gordon, Lucy Ann Le Cleir and seated Kathy Forsgern and Mary McKenna.

Moose Lodge: The Chippewa Falls Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge 243 held a special meeting at the Area History Center October 3. CCHS President, Dave Gordon, welcomed the group and shared a history of the CCHS, our building and hopes for a new museum location in the future. Tom Schultz narrated a PowerPoint slideshow "Homes of the Moose" about the history of locations the lodge has been since it was established in 1925. A tour of the museum was enjoyed by 41 people.

Chetek Visitors: The Chetek Historical Society Board toured our museum Oct. 29 to get ideas for their new museum's home.



Chippewa County Historical Society

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