

THE STATE LINE NEWS

Serving The Lower Monadnock Region

Volume 40 No. 22

Wednesday, December 18, 1985

24 Pages

'Providence' lends a hand in successful re-dedication

After getting a little "Divine Providence," the rededication of the Jaffrey Meetinghouse went off without a hitch Saturday.

1993

Mary Payson, president of the Village Improvement Society said due to what she called "Divine Providence," the just renovated building escaped a near disaster when a worker discovered the motor which ran the building's clock had almost started a fire. Payson said when she got to the building Friday morning at 7:30, she talked to a worker who said he had entered the belfry. At first, he thought the belfry was awfully dusty until he realized it was smoke. What had happened was a cog had gotten into a gear in the clock causing the electric motor to burn. The worker quickly turned the clock off at 6:15 a.m. to avert the disaster.

The highlight of the re-dedication activities was a speech by former Jaffrey resident P.J. O'Rourke, well-known author and foreign affairs editor for "Rolling Stone" magazine.

O'Rourke said when the Meetinghouse was originally built over 218 years ago, townspeople had followed one of the founding principles of the nation, "Have a good time." Noting that one of the early builders, John Eaton stood on his head in the ridge hole during construction. O'Rourke said he was sure the forefathers had had more fun building the Meetinghouse than the assembled were having re-dedicating it.

"The next time we rededicate this building, the organizers should follow historical precedence and have a barrel of rum here — or at least, a gin and tonic on the speaker's podium."

O'Rourke cited the history of Jaffrey which noted that the Battle of Bunker Hill could be heard from the Meetinghouse which left the speaker to ponder if perhaps the boom residents had heard was Eaton falling off the Meetinghouse.

"It might be possible to hear the Battle of Bunker Hill from the Meetinghouse," O'Rourke said. "If the weather's right, awful noises from Massachusetts can be heard in New Hampshire — Ted Kennedy for example."

"While Jaffrey has not been the scene of any national or international dramas, the Jaffrey of today is pretty much like it was then — peaceful, calm with pretty much law-abiding citizens unless you count sending signals to Germans subs off Mount Monadnock or loitering on the bridge.

"Jaffrey's not Heaven," O'Rourke said, "but it's comparable compared to what people experience on Earth and what some will experience — period."

O'Rourke also addressed the money needed to reconstruct the Meetinghouse. While the money could have been used for other purposes such as giving it to the poor, O'Rourke said the money might have been enough to help a couple of people, but in the end, they would be poor again, and the Meetinghouse would be in shambles. "No one comes to Jaffrey to look at the poor," O'Rourke added.

He discounted the argument that the reconstruction was a "frivolous expense." Calling the Meetinghouse a "beautiful place to relax and reflect," he added it was also a great place to laugh at the funnypressured tourists out looking at the leaves.

The builders of the Meetinghouse did not have much in terms of money either, O'Rourke said, but they spend the money to build a place to worship and to govern their community.

"Maybe the future residents of Jaffrey will let the Meetinghouse fall down around or sell it for condos," O'Rourke noted, "but we're giving them the option."



George Cox speaks during ceremonies for the re-dedication of the Jaffrey Meeting House.

The cost of the Meetinghouse is "middling" compared to the gifts God has given New Hampshire. Saying what the Meetinghouse stands for cannot be summed up in a phrase, O'Rourke noted the structure might stand for nothing.

"The nothing that stands between us and our dreams," O'Rourke said. "Let's vow to protect this wonderful 'nothing' and, that said, let's find a barrel of rum."

Friends and neighbors of Jaffrey's Meetinghouse, raised on the day of the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775, gathered in Jaffrey Center on July 3 and 4 to celebrate the completion of a \$155,585 renovation project begun in the spring of 1970.

At the program of re-dedication, Peter Davis, chairman of the Jaffrey Board of Selectmen, declared the Meetinghouse "restored, rededicated to the people of Jaffrey and open for business." He announced that all bills had been paid with the \$89,094 raised publicly and \$66,491 from private funds. Mary Payson, President of the Village Improvement Society, particularly noted the contributions from the families of the Bean, Blaine, Greene,

Ohler, and Wesselhoeft whose names appear in the Book of Records, beautifully calligraphed by Eleanor McQueen. Dr. Ted Greene, direct descendent of Laban Ainsworth, Jaffrey's first minister, moderated the Program of Re-Dedication.

George Cox, the third member of the permanent Meetinghouse Committee, acknowledged the work of architect Conor Power, Sara Chase, Preservation Consultant, Colonial Renovation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Abet Construction Company. He formally thanked the members of the Meetinghouse Committee who had planned and executed the Celebration Weekend and expressed appreciation to the many individuals, families, businesses, institutions and organizations that generously supported the efforts to restore the Meetinghouse through their donations of time, money and materials.

The restored spire of the Old Meetinghouse glowed in the sunset as the Celebration Weekend came to a close with strains of "God Bless America."

CHRONICLE

Serving The Communities Of Rindge And Jaffrey, New Hampshire 50¢

WORCESTER COUNTY NEWSPAPERS

Gift for Jaffrey, Rindge, Fitzwilliam

Dear State Line News Readers:
Within the next few weeks, the State Line News will have a new name. The State Line News will become the JAFFREY-RINDGE CHRONICLE.

1985

The JAFFREY-RINDGE CHRONICLE will service the towns of Jaffrey, Rindge, and Fitzwilliam. If there is an operating statement by the publisher, Jo Savage, it is "Keep the weekly paper local, local, local. Any features, photos, and columns should relate to our local readers."

Assistant Editor, Jeanne Prevett says, "There has been in this area a demand for more local news coverage. The new Jaffrey-Rindge Chronicle can fill that need.

We seek ideas on what members of the community would like to see featured on the pages of our new paper. Correspondents are still welcome to join our growing staff, and we welcome new columns, column ideas, wedding, engagement, and birth announcements, and press releases on all the goings-on in these quiet, but active towns.

We hope you will join us in making the Jaffrey-Rindge Chronicle your own hometown newspaper."

D.D. Bean and Jaffrey: A match made in Heaven

Pick up a matchbook, any matchbook. Chances are it'll have D.D. Bean Sons Co., Jaffrey N.H., printed on it, just below the phosphorous strip.

1992

For 54 years, Beans have been manufacturing paper matchbooks at their factor on Route 202. That's a little more than half as long as paper matchbooks have been in existence.

The company that's now the world's largest producer of matchbooks started with a share of the business in 1938, when Delcie David Bean spotted a trend in paper matches: lightweight and compact, they were less bulky and easier to carry around than wooden matches, and women, who were taking up smoking in record numbers, preferred them.

It was Bean's second foray into the business: as a young man, he sold lumber to the Diamond Match Company to produce wooden matches, and in 1921, he founded the New Hampshire Match Company. He sold out to Ivar Krueger, the "Swedish Match King," in 1928. Krueger's dynasty would soon crash along with the stock market, but Bean's dream of manufacturing would be re-kindled within a decade.

The dream began in a 110-year-old mill recently abandoned by White Brothers, owners of a number of textile operations. The building had once served as a grist mill and a pulp mill; White Brothers wove denim for overalls there.

D.D. and his two sons, D.D. Jr. (Jack) and Vernon bought the mill and set up operation there. In those days, power was supplied by the Contoocook River and workers staffed the production lines 24 hours a day.

Paper manufacturing was still in its infancy at that time; the process was completely different from the manufacture of wooden matchsticks. The Beans not only had to invent a method for machine-producing matches, they had to invent the machines.

But the biggest revolution in the industry was not in the matches themselves, but in the covers. Matchbooks had been used as advertising to a limited extent up to that point, but for the Beans, it was a way into the national market in an already growing industry.

"It's like billboard advertising," the elder Bean told the New Hampshire Sunday News in 1946. "To make billboard advertising pay off, you must use it in the mass, not hit or miss. String out your billboards coast to coast — all the way from Portland, Maine to Portland, Oregon.

"We'll do it that way with matches. We don't just put out a few here and a few there. We'll plan metropolitan, regional and national campaigns with our biggest distributors, and hit the biggest cities, even the whole country, all at once."

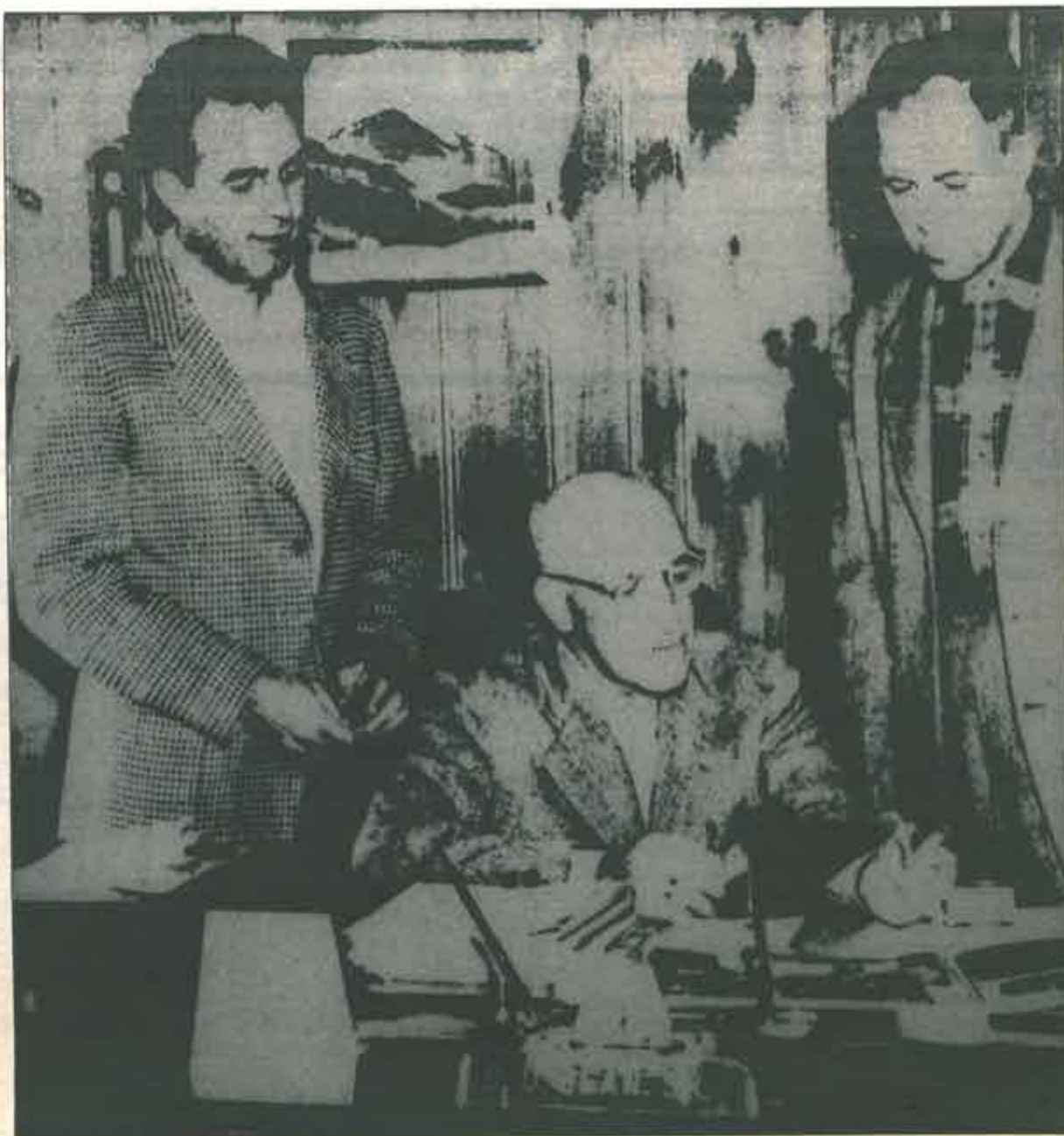
Following that strategy, D.D. Bean & Sons outlasted any number of competitors, advertising products like Pepsi Cola ("5 cents"), Tangos candy, REM "for coughs," Quinsa, a new two-way powder for athlete's foot, and any number of hotels, motels, inns and resorts. They survived the 1970's which saw dramatic decreases in smoking as well as the advent of the disposable lighter.

The company which now runs a paper matchbook company in Winston-Salem, North Carolina and a wooden match plant in Kingston, Jamaica, employs 250 people and produces 20 million matchbooks a day which amounts to close to four billion matchbooks a year. You can tell where a Bean paper match was made by its tip: Jaffrey matches have white tips and Winston-Salem matches have red tips.

Currently, 70 percent of the company's business is comprised of making matches for cigarette manufacturer R.J. Reynolds. Bean workers produce millions of matchbooks each day that sport the likeness of Joe Camel, the pool-playing, sunglasses-wearing character who pollsters say has better sight recognition among children than Santa Claus.

The company has branched out in recent years to make up for the decline in demand for matches. They operate Jaffrey Fire Protection, which supplies firefighters with valves and fittings for hoses; W.W. Cross, a manufacturer of nails and fasteners; and fireworks producer Atlas Advanced Pyrotechnics.

The guard at D.D. Bean has changed as well. Vernon still presides as chairman of the board, but the company is now managed by the third and fourth generations of Beans. Jack's sons, Delcie and Mark, serve as president and vice-president respec-



Jack, D.D. and Vernon Bean in a photo taken in the 1940's.

tively. Vernon's son, William, runs the plant in North Carolina. His son-in-law Bob Bennett is in charge of production at the Jaffrey plant.

Six of D.D.'s great grandchildren are also in the family business: William's sons, Bill Jr., Ben and John work at the North Carolina plant and son Jim manages the company's California sales office. Delcie III's daughters, Lisa and Tracy, serve as sales administrators in the Jaffrey office where Tracy's husband, Ian Walton, is public relations manager.

In anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the matchbook, D.D. Bean & Sons, along with match producers Diamond Brands, Atlas Match Corp., Bradley Industries and Lion Match Corp. recently established the American Match Council. Headed by Mark Bean, the council is located in Jaffrey.

The paper matchbook appeared in 1892, cre-

phosphate, a chemical that extinguishes the flame four seconds after it's lit. The match stays lit for those four seconds because it's been dipped in paraffin wax which creates the candle effect.

The match tip contains potassium chlorate and yellow sulfur which are combustion agents; diatomaceous earth and ground glass, which control the rate of the burn and glue which holds everything together.

Here's how the manufacturing process works at D.D. Bean: Paper match stems are die cut and fringed into individual match strips by stripping machines. The stems are then dipped first into paraffin and then into match head composition. The matches are air-dried on miles of conveyor belts, after which they're cut into individual sections of 20 to 30 matches. Two sections are stapled together

"It's like billboard advertising. To make billboard advertising pay off, you must use it in the mass, not hit or miss. String out your billboards coast to coast — all the way from Portland, Maine to Portland, Oregon.

D.D. Bean to the New Hampshire Sunday News in 1946 on advertising on matchbooks

ated by Pennsylvania lawyer Joshua Pusey who also, incidentally, invented the roller coaster. Pusey received a patent for the matchbook on Sept. 27 of that year. In 1895, he sold the patent to Diamond Match Company.

Diamond Match Company also invented the first non-poisonous match in 1911. They donated the patent for that match to the American public, paving the way for future matchbook companies.

With a few minor changes, book matches have remained pretty much the same ever since. The striking surface has been moved twice, first in 1895 by Diamond, which put the phosphorous strip on the outside, rather than the inside, of the cover, and then by the entire match-making industry in 1970, when the strip was moved from the front to the back of the cover.

Paper matches are manufactured to work like miniature candles. The paper itself is actually fire-retardant, having been treated with ammonium

for each matchbook.

Short of rubbing two sticks together, paper matches are about the most environmentally-conscious way of producing flame. The matches themselves and the boxes that hold the matchbooks are made of recycled paper as are many of the covers.

D.D. Bean & Sons recently introduced an "Earth Day" matchbook, which is not only made entirely of recycled paper, but is also printed with water-based inks. Environmental tips for consumers are printed inside each matchbook. In addition, Bean is donating a percentage of sales of the matchbook to Earth Day, USA.

So the next time you pick up a matchbook, take a look at the small print on the bottom of the back cover. It may have been produced right in your neighborhood. Then before you light the match, take heed of the small print at the bottom of the front flap, said to be the most printed words in the history of the printed word: "Close cover before striking."

Saying farewell to Marian Houghton

Shakespeare wrote that "parting is sweet sorrow." However, for us, there is nothing sweet about saying good-bye to Marian Houghton who is retiring from the Jaffrey-Rindge Chronicle and Winchendon Courier to devote more time to her family and the writing of a book.

Although we've only known Marian for six years, it seems a lifetime ago that Joe Savage decided to transform the State Line News into the Jaffrey-Rindge Chronicle and hired Marian as a correspondent for the new paper. However, it was quickly apparent that we had someone special in Marian, and it wasn't long until the Chronicle started to be known as Marian Houghton's paper due to her personality features and her column, "Ear to the Ground" which brought a humorous (and somewhat jaded) perspective to every day living in New England.

In the years that followed, Marian would earn acclaim not only on a local, but on a national level, when she was featured in March 1991 in an article in the "Wall Street

Journal." That article pushed Marian into the limelight as radio and magazine interviews quickly followed including a feature spread in a Japanese women's magazine.

Just this summer, "Our Times," Channel 7 in Boston's news magazine, did a feature on Marian to be aired sometime this September. Marian told us she felt bad that Channel 7 was going to be running the feature even though she would be retired at that point. Luckily for New England television viewers, her family convinced her that she, not her job, was the focus of the story.

We've been asked a number of times what made Marian so special, and why she has received so much attention. One's first inclination would be to say that Marian was special because she was still working in her 70's in a profession where many people in their 30's are professing job burn-out and are looking to get out.

However, that would only touch the surface of Marian's popu-

larity which, we believe, stems from her personality which combines her love of people, especially children, with her unwillingness to put up with phonies or hypocrites. We feel safe in saying that Marian Houghton is one of the most honest people we've ever met. It was an honesty that showed to anyone who knew her or read her articles.

Marian used to tell us that one of the great things about her age was that she could say exactly what she thought, and, as those of us who have been on the receiving end of Marian's honesty knew, it was not a gift she was going to give us. However, we do wonder if there was ever a time when Marian was reluctant to let people know exactly what she was thinking.

Recently, when Channel 7 interviewed us about Marian, they asked if there was any stories we wanted to tell that would give their viewers an insight into Marian. We're still kicking ourselves for not telling about the time Marian was invited

to a co-worker's wedding, but insisted on taking photographs and writing the wedding story herself, so the couple wouldn't have one of those "announcements written off a form."

To say we're going to miss Marian as a person and as a writer is an understatement. To many people, us included, Marian was "The Chronicle." However, we're also going to miss Marian walking into a staff meeting complaining about wasting her time when she could be doing something important like writing a story. We're going to miss her ability to think up nicknames for people that summed up their personalities in four words or less. We're going to miss reading about family outings and Miss America contests in Ear to the Ground.

Marian recently told us while she was going to miss her job and her co-workers, it was "time" for her to retire. While we know in our heads, she's right our hearts tell us she should still be with us.

This weekend is set for gala Bicentennial events

RINDGE — The passage of the Pennsylvania Bicentennial Wagon Train through Rindge Monday was the first in a series of three events planned in Rindge to celebrate America's 200th birthday. The celebration will get into high gear with four days of activities planned for the upcoming Memorial Day weekend. Beginning this Friday, May 28, and running through Monday, May 31, the weekend will feature square dancing, a movie presentation, a supper, band concert, fireworks, and Memorial Day services and other activities. The third event, a bicentennial parade and firemen's muster, is planned for Sunday, June 20.

1976

The Rindge Bicentennial Committee had selected Memorial Day weekend as the date for the town's celebrations because of the double significance May 30 holds in the history of Rindge. In addition to being Memorial Day, traditionally a day of commemoration in honor of the sacrifices made for our nation by the men and women of the armed forces, May 30 is also Association Test Day in Rindge.

On this day in 1776, the men of Rindge joined with their fellow colonists in New Hampshire and in the other 12 colonies to pledge their loyalty to the principles espoused by the Continental Congress. All the men living in Rindge in 1776 signed the Association Test.

Activities will begin on May 28 with a program in the Rindge Memorial School. At 6:45 p.m. the winners of the D.A.R. essay contest will be honored and prizes awarded. This will be followed at 7:00 p.m. with a showing of the movie "These States". The movie, which has been featured in Bicentennial events abroad, will be narrated by Anthony Tremblay. There will be no admission charged for the movie. Following the movie, an evening of square dancing will be held featuring the Sunshine Twirlers Square Dance Club. A collection will be taken for club caller Bob Leslie of Keene, N.H.

On Saturday, the Hospitality Center, staffed by volunteers from the Rindge Woman's Club, will open at

9:00 a.m. The Rindge Historical Society has prepared booklets to allow townspeople and visitors to go on self-guided tours of historical sites in Rindge. The booklets, as well as other information concerning the weekend's events, will be available at the Hospitality Center. In addition, the Historical Society's museum in the Ingalls Memorial Library will open Saturday afternoon from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday evening, the Rindge Men's Club will hold the first in a series of three suppers this summer in the Town Hall. To insure that all will be served at this first supper, three separate sittings have been scheduled for the popular all-you-can-eat roast beef dinner. The first sitting will be at 5:00 p.m. followed by sittings at 6:15 and at 7:30 p.m.

The evening's activities will continue with an outdoor band concert at 8:00 p.m. at Franklin Pierce College featuring the United States Army Band. In the event of rain, the concert will be held in the Field House at Franklin Pierce. Following the concert, a fireworks display will be held beginning at 9:30 p.m. with a rain date set for the following night.

On Sunday, the Hospitality Center will open at the Town Hall at 9:00 a.m. A special Ecumenical Service will be held in the First Congregational Church. The Reverend Raymond Putnam, pastor of the First Congregational Church, will be joined by other members of the clergy in this service. Walter R. Peterson, president of Franklin Pierce College, will be the guest speaker.

A town picnic will be held on the grounds of the Rindge Memorial School at 12:30 p.m. At 2:00 p.m. the U.S. Army Special Forces Team will present a demonstration at the school, and at 3:00 p.m. the afternoon will feature games.

The Historical Society museum will also be open on Sunday from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Monday the Hospitality Center will open at 9:00 a.m. At 12:30 p.m. ceremonies officially dedicating the town's bicentennial projects—the restoration of the Old Cemetery, the Town Hall, and the Horse Sheds—will be held. At 1:00 p.m. the traditional Rindge Memorial Day Observance will begin with the assembly of parade units in Rindge Center.

Services will begin at 1:30 p.m. with the laying of a wreath, an invocation, gun salute, and the playing of taps at Old Cemetery. These services will be repeated at the Minuteman Boulder on the Common, at Hillside (New) Cemetery on Goddard Road, at Rindge Memorial School, and at the World War I Boulder in front of the Town Hall. The observance will close with the benediction and playing of the national anthem. Refreshments for the marchers will be served at the Town Hall at the conclusion of the services.

Col. David R. Crocker will serve as marshal for the parade which will feature color guards from the Jaffrey-Rindge VFW Post and Fort Devens, veterans groups, school children, Rindge Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and groups.

The weekend will come to a close at 3:00 p.m. that afternoon with services at the Cathedral of the Pines where representatives from all areas of the country will join in services honoring American veterans.



The re-attachment of the repaired steeple to the Jaffrey Meeting House was a welcome and much-photographed sight in Jaffrey.

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