

Only Live Oak Trees Over Century Old Are Eligible for This Unique Society; Its 'President' Is Elected 'By Girth'!

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

THE recent celebration of the fifth anniversary of the founding of the Live Oak Society of Louisiana, unique organization fathered by the late Dr. Edwin L. Stephens, has called attention again to some of the famous trees that serve as living monuments to important events in the history of the United States.

Dr. Stephens, who was for many years president of Southwestern Louisiana institute, originated the Live Oak society while gathering data on the historical trees of his state during 1935. It shortly became famous throughout the world.

Only live oaks with an established age of at least a century are admitted to the society. The president is elected "by girth." The Locke Breaux oak on the Mississippi river in St. Charles parish, Louisiana, has held the office by reason of its size ever since the society was first organized. This oak is said to be the largest in America, having a girth of 35 feet at a height of four feet above the ground and standing 75 feet high with a spread of 166 feet.

It was beneath this moss-draped giant that LaSalle and his band of French explorers are said to have knelt to offer thanks for their safe arrival on their voyage down the Mississippi river in a land "where the fruit trees bear in winter."

High on the list of charter members of the society is the Evangeline oak in old St. Martinville, where descendants of the original Acadian exiles from Nova Scotia still carry on the traditions and customs of their French forefathers. Under this oak the heroine of Longfellow's "Evangeline" met again the lover she had sought through weary months and perilous journeying only to find that he had another sweetheart!

Famous, too, are the duelling oaks in New Orleans. In another era these trees looked down on many gallants who sought to avenge real or fancied insults with blades that flashed in the rays of the early sun. Often the spreading branches of these oaks sheltered a duellist who lay on the field of honor as his opponent strode off victorious.

Pay 'Dues' With Acorns.
Dues of member trees are acorns payable in November of every year. The acorns are planted in the society's own nursery and the young trees, treasured by garden and horticultural societies because of their distinguished parentage, are used for planting highways, college campuses and parks.

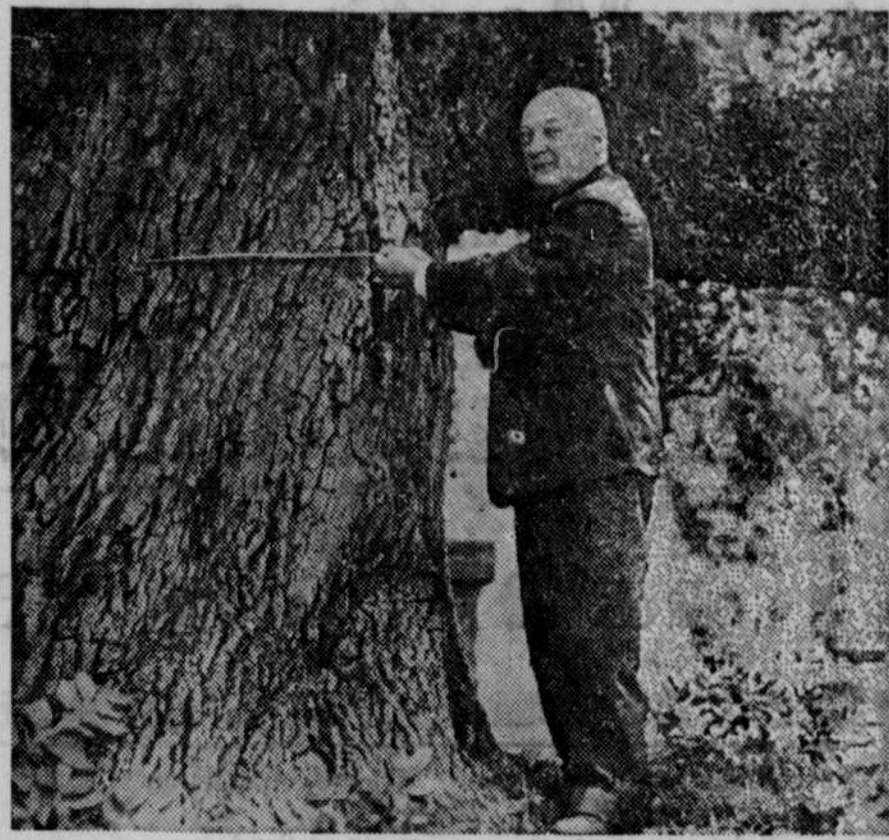
Other offspring of these aristocrats of the live oak family have traveled to many far-away lands. Some of them now stand on estates in South America. Others have crossed the Pacific to take root in the soil of Australia. Still others cast shadows on Hawaiian gardens and so provide a link between tree lovers of this Pacific island and the United States.

Live oaks are admitted to the society upon presentation of their "family tree" by someone who serves as an "attorney." Each new member is inducted with fitting ceremonies arranged by the garden clubs of Louisiana and in which state officials take part.

However, these Louisiana live oaks are not the only arboreal aristocrats of this country having a genealogy rooted in centuries when America was an uncharted wilderness and beneath whose branches have been enacted human dramas that changed the course of the nation's history.

Probably most famous of all historic American trees is the Washington elm in Cambridge, Mass. It was beneath this tree that Washington took command of the Continental army on July 3, 1775. The tree is thought to be a survivor of the primeval forest that once covered the region and in its youth was almost 100 feet in height, with a branch spread of 90 feet. When in 1872 one of the largest of the tree's branches fell as a result of a storm the wood was used for a pulpit in a nearby chapel.

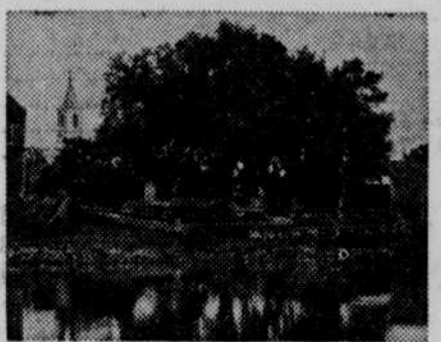
Maryland's Liberty Tree.
Even more ancient is the history of the Liberty tree at Annapolis, Md. This tree, an immense poplar, stands on the campus of St. John's college and is entitled to fame both on account of its great age and size and because of the historic events that took place beneath it. Tradition records that in 1652 a treaty was made under the Liberty tree between white settlers and the Sus-



Dr. Edwin L. Stephens standing beside the Locke Breaux oak in St. Charles parish, La., "president" of the Live Oak Society of Louisiana.

quehannock Indians, thereby assuring the settlers of safety which left them free to develop the land and build homes and communities. When the colonists were discussing problems which led to revolt against England, patriotic meetings were held in the shade of the Liberty tree, out of which arose its name. Later still, General Lafayette was entertained beneath its shade when he visited Annapolis in 1824.

The Royal Oak or Tree of the Lighted Lanterns, near Easton, Md., also stands as a living memorial to this country's fight for independence and the right to her own trade. During the War of 1812, a British ship came to anchor at night opposite the town of St. Michaels in Talbot county and began to shell the town. The townspeople, who were unprotected, hung lighted lanterns in the tops of the high tree and so deceived the enemy into mistaking



Historic "Evangeline Oak" in St. Martinville, La.

them for lights of the town, with the result their shots passed harmlessly overhead.

A stalwart oak at Chesterfield, S. C., which was already a lordly tree in 1852, played a role in the Civil war. The first flag bearing the words "Immediate Separate State Action" was fastened to its branches and fluttered there until General Sherman took the town and ordered the flag down. Even before gaining fame in the Civil war the tree had been marked as one of Chesterfield's historic points of interest as it had served as a place for Indian parleys and their pipes of peace, together with stores of arrowheads, were found buried beneath it.

New York cherishes as its oldest tree, the Inwood tulip tree, on the northern end of Manhattan island. Said to be more than 225 years old, the tree was in its youth when Henry Hudson made his memorable voyage of discovery on the river that bears his name.

Corydon, Ind., claims one of the country's famous trees, the Constitutional elm, beneath which, on June 10, 1816, members of the Constitutional convention met to deliberate on the articles of law to be adopted for the government of the new state of Indiana. This tree is protected by law against depredations.

Roosevelt Oaks.
Even in our own modern eras trees have their place in current history. When the final plans were drawn for the library of President Franklin D. Roosevelt at Hyde Park, in which his papers will be kept for posterity, the President decided to preserve the landscaping of the grounds so that future generations might see the place just as it exists today.

Thus, the landscaping plans necessitated preserving, in appearance at least, the six great oaks which surround the front of the library. These trees have stood for several hundred years and it was because of their beauty the library was erected on the present site. Accordingly, President Roosevelt decided to have young oaks planted next to each of the old oaks, so that when the old ones finally died and were removed, the young ones would grow in their corresponding places. The oaks chosen were a group of 19-year-old trees that

had been planted by the President's daughter, Anna Roosevelt Boettiger.

Of even more historic interest is the use of the trees which grew about the groups of Lincoln's childhood home to flank the white marble walls of the memorial to the Great Emancipator's memory. It was under these same trees that the boy Lincoln spent his childhood summers learning to read and write. Two of the huge shade trees which have been included in the landscaping were those under which two of the historic Lincoln-Douglas debates were held.

A tree which needed neither age nor historical background to bring it fame is the unique "Apple Annie tree" which marks the grave of Mary McGrath, for years a familiar and colorful figure in the theatrical district of Broadway. Mary McGrath walked New York's "Great White Way" for years, selling apples to passersby who included many of the great theatrical names of her era as well as the less great. She inspired a story and subsequent photoplay and when she died a few years ago the Broadway theatrical world mourned her passing. A group who had known "Apple Annie" through the years planned a unique memorial—a tree composed of the seven varieties of apples which had constituted her wares. The tree, which bears Astrachan, Gravenstein, Fall Pippin, Baldwin, Greening, Russett and King apples, now is planted on her grave.

In addition to serving as monuments, historical trees have themselves inspired monuments. A bronze monument marks the site of the old Liberty elm in Boston. The tree was planted by a schoolmaster long before the Revolution and, dedicated by him to the independence of the colonies, was a favorite meeting place for patriots. When at last it fell the bells of all Boston churches were tolled. A monument was erected to the memory of a tree which in its turn had served as a living memorial to the fight our forefathers waged to make this a free and independent nation.

Modern methods of tree surgery have helped to preserve many historic trees which, without man's help, would have died of the ravages of time, storms and insects. The new tree surgery with rubber, originated by the noted horticulturist, George Van Yahres, and subsequently developed by engineers of the B. F. Goodrich company, was used to preserve the life of the old Washington walnut tree in New Jersey. Tradition has it that the first President frequently hitched his horse to an iron ring embedded in the tree when he commanded the American Revolutionary forces. For more than 150 years the tree withstood onslaughts of weather. A few years ago decay set in and it seemed that the tree would go the way of other historically famous trees which have disappeared from the earth.

The Van Yahres method of tree surgery was employed, a new type of interlocking rubber blocks being used to fill up cavities in the tree caused by decay. Whereas concrete fillings formerly used in tree surgery give the tree a rigidity which makes it impossible for the tree to bend with the wind in a severe storm, these rubber blocks have such pliability the danger of the tree cracking when buffeted by a wind was eliminated. In addition, bark grows more easily over rubber as the tree scar heals. After the insertion of the filling, antiseptic wax was injected by steam pressure to kill any lurking decay germs. Today, the Washington walnut tree gives promise of remaining as an historic landmark for another century or so.

M. De Sieyes was a classmate and intimate friend of General De Gaulle at the St. Cyr military academy. They lost touch with each other during the World war and M. De Sieyes has not seen his old friend since he left Paris in 1920. But he cabled the general when the latter made a new base in London and issued his stirring appeal for the support of free Frenchmen throughout the world, pledging unchanged loyalty. The result was his personal representation of the general here.



By LEMUEL F. PARTON

(Consolidated Features—WNU Service.)

WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK
NEW YORK—Joseph C. Grew, ambassador to Japan, got his start by crawling into a cave and getting a half-nelson on a tiger. No wonder he isn't afraid to talk back to Foreign Minister Matsuoka and to tell him that "The American people are firmly determined in certain matters."

Bear-Wrangler, Tiger-Tilter Was Diplomat Grew
About that tiger. Just out of Harvard, the young Bostonian headed for Singapore, to piece out his sheepskin with a tiger skin. He hunted big game for two years in southern Asia, engaging in a great deal of jungle milling before he found the open door in China—the entrance to the tiger's cave which was his gateway to a distinguished diplomatic career.

When the tiger story was published, it caught the eye of President Theodore Roosevelt, but it was a later bear story which really stirred his interest. Young Mr. Grew took three straight falls from an angry bear. Naturally, T. R. saw in the makings of a diplomat. Cables the next day routed the bear-wrangler and tiger-tilter into a lifetime career in diplomacy, starting a post with the Egyptian consulate-general at Cairo.

He was paced steadily on up through posts at Mexico City, Petrograd, Berlin, Vienna, Copenhagen and Bern. He is rounding 60, 36 years in the diplomatic service, tall, erect, weathered, graying. His durable career typewriter has come along with him during the years, and on it he raps out his terse reports to the state department. Bear-wrangling, diplomacy and this and that has left him with only one good ear, but it serves to register a bigger ear than most diplomats get with two.

Mrs. Grew is a granddaughter of Commodore Perry, who opened Japan to the western world—or vice versa. Living with them at the embassy is their daughter, Mrs. Cecil Lyon, with her two children.

VERNE MARSHALL was born and grew up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and for 26 years has been editor of the Cedar Rapids Gazette.

He likes to **Scribe Stays Put, and Believes the U. S. Should Do Same**. S. A. ought to do the same. In New York, he becomes the organizer and director of the No Foreign War Committee, which puts him in the opposite corner to William Allen White, the other sage of mid-western newspapering, who heads the Committee to Defend America. Not that Mr. White wants war, but their ideas are so opposed that they already are pumping large-caliber editorials at each other.

Mr. Marshall lost one war. For his courageous anti-graft campaign in Cedar Rapids, he was awarded the Pulitzer prize, on May 4, 1938. But while the cheers were still echoing, the Iowa Supreme court, the next day, knocked out his graft charges against 31 persons. He kept on slugging, however, and is highly esteemed in those parts as a self-starting, hard-hitting editor.

He was in London in 1911, writing for the London Chronicle, returned home and later left his newspaper desk for a stretch of machine-gunning in the big war. He didn't like it and now says enough is enough. He is the father of six children.

NO CUSTOMER who ever dropped in at Jacques De Sieyes' Fifth avenue perfume shop for a spot of "fleur d'amour" would ever have thought of the elegant M. De Sieyes as a fighting man. But that's the way it is with the French—elegant, but tough, on occasion. M. De Sieyes was a flying ace in the World war, lost a leg, was wounded five times and is now looking for a return engagement as he serves as the personal representative of Gen. Charles De Gaulle, to rally the "free French" in this country. Just now, with three other members of General De Gaulle's American committee, he gives vehement assurance that the present political machinations of the Nazis will consolidate France and steel it for final resistance.

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Operate for Gall Bladder Inflammation

By DR. JAMES W. BARTON

WHEN a patient has an attack of acute gall bladder trouble with severe pain in upper right abdomen going over into the shoulder it has been the custom to wait until all symptoms have disappeared before operating. This would appear to be wise when we think of how "low" these patients are in spirits aside from the exhausting results of the attack.

TODAY'S HEALTH COLUMN

It comes then as a surprise when we learn that physicians and surgeons today are advising early operation in acute inflammation of the gall bladder as they believe that less damage to the patient's general health results from operation than allowing a severe or repeated attack to affect the general health.

Dr. F. Glenn, New York, in Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics, Chicago, records the histories of the 219 patients with acute cholecystitis (inflammation of the gall bladder) who have been treated at the New York hospital in the last six years. Early operation is not difficult, there was not a greater number of complications, nor was the death rate higher than for ordinary or chronic gall bladder diseases.

Dangers of Delay.
Dr. Glenn states that as the outcome of an acute inflammation of the gall bladder cannot be predicted (even as in acute appendicitis), delay in operating may lead to dangerous complications which greatly increase the difficulty of operation and increase the death rate also. The younger the patient undergoing operation, the better the chance of an uneventful recovery and good result from operation.

From his observation of these 219 cases, Dr. Glenn recommends that patients with disease of the gall bladder and bile tubes or ducts undergo operation as soon as it is known that this disease is present unless the general condition of the patient is such that further medical treatment should first be given.

Facts Regarding High Blood Pressure
THERE was a time when the first thought when a patient had a temperature was to give a drug—acetanilid, phenacetin, quinine, or other—to reduce the temperature. Today, the physician takes the temperature and pulse as usual but searches around to find the cause of the temperature. If the temperature gets very high, he may give some drug to reduce it slightly but he knows that the rise in temperature shows that nature is putting up a fight against some invader.

It would seem that the time has come for patients and physicians to take the same stand about blood pressure. A patient learns that his blood pressure is a little above normal and wants to take medicine or follow a diet to bring it down.

Dr. Edward Weiss of Philadelphia in "Practical Talks on Kidney Disease," says:
"Let us take the example of a middle-aged man who has been turned down by a life insurance company because of high blood pressure. He goes to his physician and demands to know the blood pressure figures; on each visit to the physician he waits with anxious concern to hear the latest reading and frequently has ideas of 'stroke,' 'heart failure,' or 'Bright's disease' in the back of his mind."

Why Nature Raises Blood Pressure.
Now, what about high blood pressure? As a matter of fact, nature has raised the blood pressure because it was necessary to raise or increase it due to some condition present in the body. This condition may be a real or organic condition such as hardening of the arteries, or it may be some condition such as eating too much or worrying too much. It is possible that some infection is present which is giving the body processes more work to do and the blood pressure increases accordingly.

All that is necessary in many cases is smaller meals, more rest and relaxation, and not bothering to have the blood pressure taken more than two or three times a year.

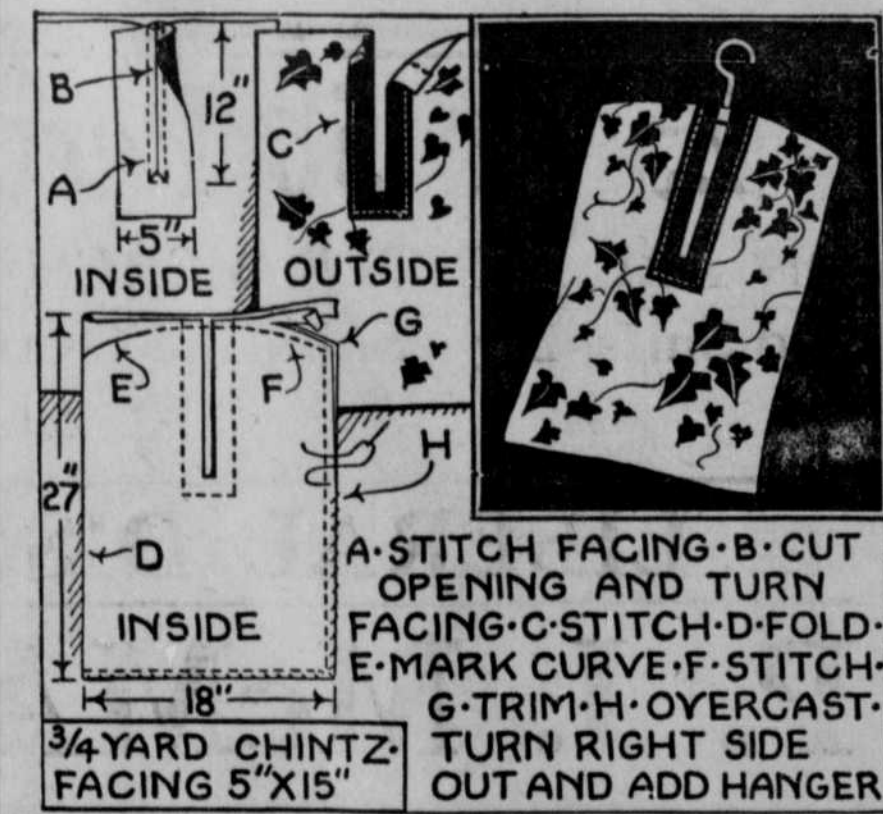
QUESTION BOX

Q.—Could you suggest any sort of ear-plugs to keep noises from preventing me from sleeping? I am having a great deal of trouble.

A.—Rubber ear stoppers used by swimmers to keep water out of the ears can be purchased in most drug stores. Absorbent cotton helps to some extent. A special wax which you can mold yourself to fit in ear canal likewise can be purchased in some stores.

HOW TO SEW

by Ruth Wyeth Spears



A—STITCH FACING—B—CUT OPENING AND TURN FACING—C—STITCH—D—FOLD—E—MARK CURVE—F—STITCH—G—TRIM—H—OVERCAST—TURN RIGHT SIDE OUT AND ADD HANGER

ARE you planning things that will sell well at a Fair or Bazaar? Or is this the season that you catch up on odds and ends of sewing for the house? In either case you will like to stitch up a bag like this one. Everyone seems to have a special use for one of these bags on a hanger. I have one that I use for laundry when I go traveling. Men and boys like them for closet laundry bags too, as they are plenty big enough for shirts. A little girl I know has a small version of one of these in which she keeps doll clothes scraps. I have also seen them used for everything from dress patterns to dust rags.

This green and white ivy patterned chintz with green facing makes a good looking bag. Pictorial chintz will amuse a young-

ster—something with animals or toys or a landscape in the design. I saw a material showing all kinds of rope knots. A boy would like that. Each step in making the bag is shown in the sketch.

In SEWING Book 3 there are directions for still another type of bag on a hanger; also a pocket for the pantry door. This book contains directions for the spool shelves; stocking cut; "The rug that grew up with the family," and many other of your favorites among articles that have appeared in the paper. Send order to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS
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Enclose 10 cents for Book No. 3.

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AROUND the HOUSE to the Housewife

When a splinter has gone very deep into the flesh, try extraction by steam. Heat a wide-mouthed bottle and fill it two-thirds full of very hot water and place under the injured spot. The suction in a few minutes removes both splinter and inflammation. This method is particularly good when the splinter has been in for some time.

Save the peels of oranges and tangerines, dry them in the oven and store in glass jars. They give puddings and custards a delicious flavor.

When making peppermints drop them onto a piece of waxed paper instead of onto a pan. They are more easily removed from waxed paper.

When a sweater is washed the buttonholes will not stretch if they are sewed together before the sweater is put into the water.

Filling the icebox with scraps of left-over food is a waste of room and usually of food. Never allow them to accumulate.

Hard sauce, highly flavored with cinnamon, grated orange and lemon peels and a little fruit juice, gives just the proper finish to hot fruit puddings.

Brass knockers and doorknobs that are exposed to the weather will stay clean and bright longer if rubbed with paraffin after they are cleaned and polished with a soft, dry cloth.

Windows may be kept clean and clear during the winter if rubbed over with glycerine occasionally, then polished with a dry cloth.

Plant bulbs close to the window panes and away from the heat of the room instead of starting them in a dark room. You will get better results.

Pull the Trigger on Lazy Bowels, and Comfort Stomach, too

When constipation brings on acid indigestion, stomach upset, bloating, dizzy spells, gas, coated tongue, sour taste and bad breath, your stomach is probably "crying the blues" because your bowels don't move. It calls for Laxative-Senna to pull the trigger on those lazy bowels, combined with Syrup Pepsin to save your touchy stomach from further distress. For years, many Doctors have used Laxative-Senna wakes up lazy nerves and muscles in your intestines to bring welcome relief from constipation. And the good old Syrup Pepsin makes this laxative so comfortable and easy on your stomach. Even finicky children love the taste of this pleasant family Laxative. Buy Dr. Caldwell's Laxative-Senna at your druggist today. Try one laxative that comforts your stomach, too.

Spark of Conscience
Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience.—Washington.

Ask Me Another

A General Quiz

The Questions

1. Do any birds hold their food in their claws while eating?
2. Article I of the Constitution is concerned with what?
3. At what hour is reveille sounded in the U. S. army?
4. What is the longest verse in the Bible?
5. What is the width of the strip of land composing the Panama Canal Zone?
6. Who coined the phrase: "I am on the side of the angels"?

The Answers

1. Only the parrot does.
2. The congress.
3. At 6:30 a. m.
4. Esther 8:9 is said to be the longest verse in the Bible, and the Gospel of John 11:35 is said to be the shortest.
5. Ten miles wide (5 miles on each side of the canal route).
6. Benjamin Disraeli.

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