

# Good News



AUGUST 1977

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Vol. XXI

# COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

Published reports show that alcoholism now is epidemic in the United States. Up to now AA has sobered up a very small percentage of the overwhelming total. Millions still are sick, and other millions will be. With these facts in mind, we should be grateful for every agency or method that tries to solve the problem of alcoholism — whether of medicine, religion, educaiton or research. We can be openminded toward all such efforts, and as individual AA's, we can and should work with those that promise success — even a little success. Today we do just that through Committees on Cooperation with the Professional Community.

It hasn't always been so. In the beginning AA thought it had a monopoly on the drunk-fixing business. Yet in 1930 (five years before AA's birth) Dr. H.W. Haggard of the Yale University faculty began the first significant research to explore the drunk's chemistry. His associates were so amused that no funds were forthcoming. Haggard underwrote his own project, with the help of friends, and he and an associate began work.

In 1937 a group of scientists formed the Research Council on Problems of Alcohol. Some of the early New York AA's went to their meetings, sometimes to applaud, but more often to scoff. Presently this Council took on Dr. E.M. Jellinek. Early AA's called him a "dry drunk" because he could identify with us so well. In 1940 Drs. Haggard and Jellinek began to publish the "Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol"; and in 1943 they organized the Yale School for Alcohol Studies. It was soon realized these projects could not get far unless a wider audience was found. The idea was advanced that everyone who had contact with drunks or the alcohol problem should be represented, and this eventually led to the founding of "other agencies".

With the establishment of the General Service Conference in 1951, concern began to be expressed about AA's efforts in the field of public relations. In 1957 there was founded the Committee on Re-

lations with Other Agencies. In 1966 the name was changed to Conference Committee on Public Information. In 1970, by action of the General Service Board, the Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) was authorized — a spinoff from the PI Committee. A corresponding Conference committee was formed in 1971, and over the last few years AA members in local areas have been responding to local needs by forming CPC Committees. By 1976 twenty-five such committees had been set up in Areas across the United States and Canada, most often in metropolitan areas. In other Areas CPC functions are part of Public Information Committees.

Today AA is considered by professional persons, almost without exception, to be the Number One resource for alcoholics who want help. When there is a good working relationship between AA members in the community and paid alcoholism workers, the professionals usually give AA credit, the AA members return the compliment, and the sick alcoholic is the winner — he gets the help he needs from both.

We are not in competition with these non-AA's We simply have a message to carry about a program of recovery for alcoholics that has worked for over a million who wanted it. But the professional can help the alcoholic WANT it — by education, counseling, and rehabilitative treatment.

With increasing activity in the field of alcoholism, and with more people becoming involved in it (some having little or no understanding of AA), open communication in a spirit of friendly cooperation is more important than ever. There will be misunderstandings, but they need not detract from our intention of cooperating with others in the field of alcoholism — remembering our Tradition of non-affiliation, and also mindful that the only inventory we take is our own.

Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is contained.

than to anything on which it is poured.

# THE LINK California Northern Coastal Area

Those of us who have heard Coastal Area Delegate Dean K's 1977 conference report were given a fine example of how a group of AA members in Northern California can do something for the fellowship as a whole, through use of the conference structure.

In this instance, the group was the area public information committee. During 1975 and 1976 the PI Committee became concerned about the need for a very low cost pamphlet or flier for distribution to students when making talks at schools. There is a great deal of this kind of PI activity conducted by local PI committees in Northern California; each year AA members speak to hundreds of classes. It is, of course, helpful to have some kind of written information about AA to furnish to those in the audience who show an interest. Our General Service Office has published pamphlets about AA for public information purposes, but the members involved in PI work here felt that the available material was not really suitable for their work in schools for two reasons; it might be a little too lengthy and detailed for student consumption, and more importantly, it was simply too expensive in view of the number of classes they were speaking to.

To meet the need, the PI Committee composed an excellent one page "flier", containing information about AA for the public, that could be printed in volume at very low cost. The Committee then asked the Northern Califonria Area Committee to furnish funds to print the flier out of the Area Treasury. After quite a bit of discussion, and referral to the districts, the Area Committee voted against doing so. The Area Committee felt that since the pamphlet was of a very general nature, it made sense for G.S.O. to meet the need rather than expecting local public information committees in the United States and Canada to write and print their own. It was also felt that it would not be advisable to encourage the proliferation of local AA literature unnecessarily. The Area Committee felt that although we had a PI committee who had put together a very good flier, and we had the money to print it, other public information committees might lack both the experience and the funds to do it themselves, therefore the need should be met by AA World Services (GSO).

At this point, Dean, who as Alternate Delegate at the time was chairman of the PI Committee, wrote to GSO suggesting that they print a low cost flier similar to the one that we had drafted. The suggestion was referred to the Trustees public information

committee, but at their quarterly meeting they voted against printing the flier, feeling that this was something that could best be done by local committees.

Having been turned down locally by the Area Committee and at the World Service level by the Trustees committee, one would have expected our people to have become discouraged and given up. Not so. Dean and the then Delegate fired off protests to GSO asking that the Trustees reconsider. Pacific Region Trustee Stan W. became involved. The Area letter to the conference secretary proposing agenda topics for the 1977 conference requested that the question of the flier be included on the conference agenda.

As Dean told us, the idea was taken up by the conference and upon recommendation of the conference public information committee, the conference recommended that GSO print a low cost flier similar to the one prepared in Northern California. It is expected that the flier will be available for AA everywhere before the end of the year.

The Area public information committee, which is composed of local PI chairpersons and interested members, meets the second Wednesday of every month, at 8 o'clock, at the Oakland Central Office. All interested members are welcome. Of course, the point of this story is that the patience and perseverance of this small group of AA's paid off, not only for our area but for the fellowship as a whole, in our effort to reach the alcoholic who still suffers.

- George D.

The trouble with a hangover is that you don't get it until the anesthetic has worn off.

POSITION AVAILABLE – 11-1-77, Manager Orange County Central Office, Santa Ana, California. Submit resume of employment history and accomplishments plus history of AA service.

QUALIFICATIONS — Must have 5 years continuous sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous; knowledge of office procedures and administration; thorough knowledge of traditions; good health. State income requirements. All applications returned or destroyed. Mail replies only accepted.

Write to: Central Office Committee, 2712 South Grand Ave., Santa Ana, California 92707.

Dick W.Central Office, Orange Co.

# H & I BROADSIDE

Sponsorship today, seems to be directed solely in helping the new member dry out and get a handhold on sobriety through a lot of meetings. All of us on the Hospital and Institution committee would quickly agree that this phase of sponsorship is vitally important and should come first. But, what about sponsorship after the drying out period and the person is into the steps and begins to experience a little sobriety.

What about the people we sponsor who complete the steps and begin to drift? What about the not so new people who complain that there are not enough wet ones to go around and become complacent? Why are we as sponsors failing to indicate that because of our service activities we will have by far a more meaningful sobriety? and what about the side benefits, too numerous to mention, because of being in the action?

A large number of sponsors don't seem to be telling their people that the happiest and most meaningful sobriety comes through service to others. That God doesn't provide us the means and experience to stay sober unless we are willing to share it with others — That people who are active in service work almost never drink. — That over ninety percent of the people who become active and stay active in institutional service stay sober — That being responsible in Hosptial and Institution Committee work is one of the best ways of repaying the debt of gratitude we say we owe the fellowship — That being active in service is getting out of our own way so that we can continue to grow and stay green.

If we can put aside the baseless arguments that service work is dry, full of power drivers, expensive, political, and too time consuming, then we can see that only good can come from service involvement. Sponsors ought to say these things. We have no right to deny our people these wonderful benefits.

Finally, all of us that sponsor new people ought to ask ourselves just one important question: Am I preparing the people I sponsor for a more meaningful sobriety and seeing to it that they are prepared to accept their fair share of responsibility in the fellowship?

- Jack W.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GRAPEVINE

#### Those Depressions. . .

The program works, and in "Overcoming Depression," a member describes the AA tools used to deal with this all-too-common problem. A moving article about making amends illustrates the rewards of working the program, no matter how hard it may be. In other articles, you'll meet a mother who finds greater joy in her children now that she's sober, and a bachelor whose dog likes him better now that he's sober.

# Keep It Simple - But Not Too Simple

Serenity and long life are the rewards of a simple, God-centered way of living for the residents of a small village in Ecuador. An AA who visited there compares their lives with the lives of AAs who actively and continuously work the Steps in all their affairs. A thought-provoking article, "AA Myths," examines some AA truths that the writer believes can be oversimplified, even distorted.

In the rest of the issue, you'll meet an AA who learned to be responsible and another who found that competition with others is not the name of the game in this program. You'll read about the start of a new group and learn some surprising facts about how our common illness was regarded as early as 1838.

# AA Service, Local and National

Two pages of news from "Around AA" will catch you up on the actions of the 1977 General Service Conference, along with other significant events in the Fellowship. And the center spread highlights the functions of that all-important local service, the central office.

In Memoriam:

On July 20th, the Eastbay AA Membership suffered the loss of two of its members:

Bill H., newly-elected member of the Intergroup Service Committee, and Lee C., former Montclair secretary. Our loving thoughts and prayers are with their familys and many friends.

# SPEAKER MEETINGS --

Eastbay Group - 5201 Park Blvd., Oakland 8:30 pm. Aug. 30 - Patricia G. (Santa Clara)

Friday-All Groups – 414 Grant Ave., San Franicsco 8:30 pm. Aug. 5 – Jack B. (Modesto), Aug. 12 – Bob A. – (Marin Center), Aug. 19 – Kathy S. (S.F. Fellowship), Aug. 26 – Roger G. (S.F. F'ship).

Beginners Meetings — 1755 Clay St., San Franicsco on Monday and Thursday. 8:30 Thursday Beginners — Aug. 4 — Jack B. (Walnut Creek), Aug. 11 — Patty (Sacramento), Aug. 18 — Guy C — (Woodland), Aug. 25 — Roxanne (Sacramento).

Grapevine Speakers Group — 1948 The Alameda, San Jose, 8:30 Aug. 5 — Jack M. (Santa Cruz), Aug. 12 — Bill M. (Morgan Hill), Aug. 19 — Bill R. (Los Angeles), Aug. 26 — Pat W. (San Mateo)., Sept. 2 — Pete C. (San Jose).

Hayward Fellowship — 16250 E. 14th St., Suite D, San Leandro, 8:30 Aug. 6 — Joe K. (S.F.), Aug. 13 — Harvey E. (Woodland), Aug. 20 — Gene D. (Calistoga), Aug. 27 — Harry S. (San Diego).

In-Between Fellowship — 4710 E. 14th St., Oakland, 8:15 Aug. 5 — Diamond Dick (Oakland), Aug. 12 — Rose H. (Hayward), Aug. 19 — Jim H. (Palo Alto), Aug. 26 — Charlie S. (Redwood City).

Island Fellowship – 1828 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 8:30 Aug. 6 – Harriet T. (Martinez), Aug. 13 – Stan W. (Fairfax), Aug. 20 – Jim O'T (San Mateo), Aug. 27 – Sue C. (S.F.)

Peninsula All Groups — Auditorium, St. Matthews Chu. ch, Baldwin & El Camino, San Mateo —Aug. 6 — Larry W. (San Carlos — Walnut) Aug. 13 — Ed. A. (San Jose) Aug. 20 — (Modesto) Aug. 27 — Bob L. (Stockton)

## San Francisco Alano Club

Dances — Parites — Games — Prizes — Fun — Fellowship. Saturday, Aug. 6 — "Quite Time" — Aug. 13 — Rock Dance, 10:00 pm. (Donation 1.00) Aug. 20 — Dance — Live Music by the "Dry Notes" — (2.50 donation). Aug. 27 — AA birthday Dance — Big Band sound. . .Smooth and FREE. Come and share with us.

The heart that gives. . . gathers.

# EAST YOLO FELLOWSHIP

The East Yolo Fellowship of AA invites everyone to its monthly speaker meeting, held on the last Friday of each month.

The meetings are held in the Fellowship building, located at 823 Merkley Ave., in West Sacramento. (turn South off West Capitol Ave. at Merkley — close to the El Rancho Motel). Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.

The East Yolo Fellowship holds meetings every night of the week, all open with the exception of Tues., which is closed womens. There are two meetings on Fridays, with a 10:00 p.m. candlelight meeting following the regular 8 p.m. open meeting.

#### SAN CARLOS - 30th

The San Carlos Awareness Group will celebrate it's 30th Anniversary with Red K. (Calistoga) as speaker on Wednesday, Aug. 17 at 8:30 pm. Many people from all areas of Northern California are expected. Everyone will feel welcome here. Please come and share at the Community Church, Arroyo and Elm Sts., San Carlos.

# AA WORKS FOR THOSE WHO WORK FOR AA

#### **Davis Groups 11th Anniversary**

Saturday Aug. 6, we will celebrate our 11th Anniversary on the "regular first Sat. of the month Speaker meeting" night with a special Pot Luck dinner at 6:00 pm. Bring your favorite dish. Our guest speaker will be Gil A. (Mill Valley) at 8:00 pm. Be sure and join us, for a wonderful time. St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Sycamore & Hawthorne, Davis.

#### Tracy Fellowship - Anniversary Dinner

Sybil C. (Los Angeles) will be the speaker at the roast beef, spagetti dinner, on Aug. 27th. (5.00 donation). Come join and enjoy the fellowship. Call (209) 835-5311 for more info.

Meetings are now every nite at 8:00 pm., Wednesday at 1:00 pm. and Sunday's at 4:00 pm. Speaker meetings on the first and third Thursday's of the month.

See you there, Ed P.

#### **Twelve Step Play**

Fairfield will host the play on Aug. 13th, 7:30 pm. at the Fairview Elementary School, near First St. and West Texas St.

#### El Cerrito - Disco Dance & 10th Anniversary

A Disco Dance will be held after the regular Friday nite 8:30 meeting on Aug. 26 from 10:00 pm to 1:00 am. Finger food, coffee, etc. and good music.

We are celebrating our 10th Anniversary on Saturday Aug. 27 with a pot luck dinner at 6:30 pm., followed by speaker Patty K. (Sacramento). Come and share and enjoy the fellowship at 11231 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito.

- Nadine M.

# Marin Alumni - Terra Linda Groups

These Groups wish to announce that their August meetings will be held in the Parish Hall of St. Isabella's Church on Manuel Freitas Parkway, Terra Linda, at 8:30 pm. Gene D. (Calistoga) will talk on "Blocks for Blockheads" (Aug. 4), Where Does Alcohol Tolerance End? (Aug. 11), Facts, Not Statistics! (Aug. 18) and "Sought Through Prayer," (Aug. 25). Why not bring a new-comer of a "slipper"?

#### 32nd Anniversary - Vallejo

The Vallejo Fellowship will celebrate its 32nd Anniversary on Aug. 27th starting at 7 pm with a Buffet Dinner in the AA Hall at 445 Georgia St., followed by an open speaker meeting at 8:30. Sam P. (S.F.) will be the speaker.

The public is invited. A special invitation is extended to anyone having a personal or family drinking problem. Members are urged to bring a guest. There is now an Early Bird meeting at the Fellowship on Mon., Wed. and Fri's. at 7:00 am. Also, Al-Anon meets at 8:30 pm. on Sun's.

- Howie

#### Meeting Moved - The Lavender

Hill Group which meets on Tuesdays at 8:30 has moved to 160 John St., Oakland.

# AREA 6 PICNIC TIME AGAIN:

The Annual Hospital and Institution Committee of AA will hold its picnic at Morton Hot Springs in Kenwood, CA on September 10. Everyone is welcome. Bring the family and friends to this day of fun.

It's a beautiful spot with a nice lawn area reserved for this event. Also available is baseball facilities, volleyball, swimming, horseshoes, barbeque pits and entertainment.

Contact your local H&I representative for further details.

— Marilyn F.

#### **CNIA MEETING**

California Northern Interior Area Committee will meet in Visalia on Aug. 6. The committee is comprised of Area Officers and District Committee Members, and not only encourages participation by General Services Representatives and the group members, but needs the input from everyone during this eyeball-to-eyeball sharing session.

Topics will include a continuing discussion of area finances and the role of the General Service Representative (GSR) in carrying the group conscience into the Area Assemblies and on to General Service Office (GSO) in New York, but in also carrying the service message back to the groups for discussion and use as the group sees fit.

Other items to be discussed are the Fall Election Assembly (Nov. 19 in Modesto) a possible Regional Forum for the Pacific Region (suggested date, May 1978), review of election procedures, how to take care of "handout" literature which is expensive for individuals and groups carrying the message to non-AA gatherings; inclusion of reports from Central Offices and Hosptials and Institutions Committee at Area Assemblies, and other topics from the floor as time permits.

All service meetings in the Interior Area are open to members, and the more who attend, the better the quality of sharing.

Mark your calendars and get to the Visalia Committee Meeting on Aug. 6. The meeting will convene at 9:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn, near the new Visalia Airport. Every effort is made to complete the business session by 3:30 p.m.

For further information, contact an Area Officer or your DCM and GSR.

#### 2nd Anniversary - Fruitvale Latinos

1500 34th Ave., Oakland.

The group will be celebrating their 2nd Anniversary at their Speaker meeting on the last Sunday of the month at 7:00 pm.

(Speakers name not available at this time).

#### 2nd Annual Al-Anon/Alateen Summer Festival

Last years Festival was such a success we're going to do it again! A super afternoon for Al-Anon, Alateens and AA's. The guest Al-Anon speaker will be Karen A. (Laguna Beach). A country style chicken dinner will follow. Come one, come all to the Fairgrounds at Calistoga on Sunday, Aug. 28 at 3:30 pm.

# 28th Anniversary - Grass Valley

The Gold Quartz Group will be celebrating their 28th Anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 3rd at the Veterans Memorial building on South Auburn St., in Grass Valley. A pot luck dinner will begin at 6:00 pm. Bring your own table service and a hot or cold dish or both.

Bruce G. (Long Beach) will be the guest speaker at 8:00 pm. After the meeting there will be dancing to the music of Wally Brooks and his band until midnight. The first meeting of the Gold Quartz Group was held in a private home in the center of Grass Valley on June 30, 1949. Two of the persons who attended that meeting are still sober and living in Los Angeles (Tom and Nancy O.).

— Bud T.

## Stockton Alano Club

See the miracle of AA at the Stockton Alano Club on Sept. 10 at 1812 Mt. Diablo Ave. Faye Marie (Orange Co.) will be the speaker at 8:00 pm. Dinner preceding at 7:00 pm. (\$3). Please let us know how many will come from your group. Phone (209) 463-2855.

# Central Calif. F'ship Picnic - Sacramento

Pass the word! – All day fun on Aug. 14th from 9 am to 6 pm. – Elk Grove Picnic Grounds, Area 9 (Elk Grove off ramp, follow the signs). Giant raffle – Plant booth – Bake goods contest – "White elephants" – Bingo – Lots of food. Everyone invited!

# Have Message, Will Travel

We had a very pleasant moment with your recent cartoon, "Drop a Lion" – so thought I would.

Diana and I just returned from a 40,000 mile journey that took us to three continents and AA meetings in Portugese in Brazil, Afrikaans in the Republic of South Africa, Zulu in Rhodesia and Swaheli in Kenya. We were the first Americans to participate in the Naitonal AA Convention in South Africa since Wesley P. (Pompano Beach, Fla was there in 1973, he spoke at the NCCAA conference in Stockton last March) and they stuck me on a speaking "circuit" — sixteen consecutive nights in all the major South African communities. They still use the old form of Preamble, citing an "honest desire" to stop drinking on an "all time basis".

We traveled in armed convoys in Rhodesia and carried the message at an intergroup meeting in Salisbury. They shall have the 19th Annual Rhodesian Convention of AA there in July and expect 100 people to attend.

While in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, a newcomer, originally from London, England, arrived, speaking only English and since we were the only English speaking members there at that time, we evidently were in the right place at the right time.

We visited loners in Kenya but missed several contacts in Egypt. However, we did enjoy the Scottish Convention at Renfrew and a Mini-Convention in North London.

The trip added four new countries where we've attended AA meetings, making a total of 26 AA countries, which isn't bad when you consider I was jailed in 17 countries during my "wet" geographics.

-Jack P. (Carmichael Group, Carmichael)

# From The Mail Bag.

. . . My 10 copies of the July issue reached me Saturday, July 16. – Were all the copies late?

- Virginia W. (S.F.)

Yes, Virginia, all copies were late. Due to delays all along the process of getting the issue printed and sent to the readers, the paper was not mailed until July 5th. Unfortunately, the U.S. Mail service does move very slow sometimes. Sorry you received your copies so late. We'll do our best to avoid this happening again.

All of you can help us get the issue out on time by sending your news items early. REMEMBER – DEADLINE – the 15th of each month for news to be printed for the following month!! Thanks to all of you who contribute items to Good News!

# - Dorothy L., Editor

Be patient. . .God isn't through with me yet! (He's only just begun). . ."And when we were wrong, promptly admitted it". . .I do make mistakes.

Harold H. from Eureka took the time to type a nice letter to GN announcing the 6th Anniversary of Myrtletown Alumni AA Group on July 16th, which arrived in time to have been included in last months issue. The article was misplaced and the omission not discovered until after the paper was mailed. I am sorry Harold and Myrtletown Group, and do hope a good time was had by all and that your celebration was well attended.

- Dorothy L. - Editor

# Planning a Vacation?

Why not include some of the special festivities listed in Good News in your travels! Share with old and new AA friends.

Here are more weekend events: Aug. 12-14 10th Annual 22nd District Conv., Santa Maria Convention Center, Stowell Rd. & Thornburg in Santa Maria. Marathon meetings beginning at 1:00 pm. on Friday. For lodging info call (805) 925-2404. Reg. \$1, Barbecue \$5.50, Al-Anon luncheon \$4.50. Send to 22nd Dist. Conv., 8495 El Dorado Rd., Atascadero, CA 93422.

20th International Conf. of Young People in AA. Shamrock Hotel, Houston, Tex. P.O. Box 55788, Houston, Tex. 77055.

2nd Annual Beaver Meeting — Sept. 2-4, Beaver, Utah. Motor Home (\$5.50), Camper, (\$5.00), and tent sites (\$4.00). Regs.: \$3.00 for AA, Al-Anon, other, \$1.50 for Alateen.

Tahoe Fall Festival — Sept. 23-25, Stanford Sierra Lodge, Fallen Leaf Lake. \$75 includes lodging and 6 meals. Reservations limited. Deposit required of \$37.50. Send to Tahoe Fall Festival, P.O. Box 9819, So. Lake Tahoe, CA 95731.

Happiness is not having what you want, but wanting what you have.

The material published in GOOD NEWS represents the experience and opinions of AAs and others interested in the field of alcoholism. Opinions expressed herein are not intended to represent the opinion of Alcoholics Anonymous, nor does publication of any information imply endorsement by either Alcoholics Anonymous or the GOOD NEWS.

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# CALENDAR

Aug. 6	*CNIA Area meeting – Holiday Inn, Visalia	
Aug. 6	*11th Anniversary – Davis	
Aug. 12-14	*10th Annual 22nd District Conv. Santa Maria	
Aug. 13	*12th Step Plan - Fairfield	
Aug. 14	*Central Calif. F'ship Picnic - Sac.	
Aug. 17	*30th Anniversary – San Carlos Awareness Group	
Aug. 27	*32nd Anniversary - Vallejo	
Aug. 28	*2nd Annual Al-Anon – Alateen Festival – Calistoga	
Sept. 2-4	*Western Labor Day Weekend Beaver, Utah	
Sept. 2-4	*20th International Conf. of Young People in AA – Houston, Tex	
Sept. 3	*Quartz Hill Group 28th Anniversary Grass Valley	
Sept. 10	*Annual H&I Picnic – Morton Hot Springs	
Sept. 21	Unity Picnic — Hidden Valley Ranch Warm Springs	
Sept.23-25	*Tahoe Fall Festival	
Oct. 21-23	NCCAA Annual Fall Conf. Santa Rosa	
Nov. 12	CNCA Fall Assembly - San Mateo	
Nov. 19	CNIA Election Assembly	

<sup>\*</sup>See write-up elsewhere in this issue.

Happiness is somewhere between too much and too little.

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