



Good News



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AA DOES NOT SANCTION. . .

Recently some AA members have received solicitations, or have responded to advertisements for a "Cruise without Booze", sponsored by the "AA Ocean Roundup II", sailing from Miami, Florida. Some ads and solicitations have pronounced this endeavor as "authorized by GSO in New York", or sanctioned by Alcoholics Anonymous".

The Ocean Roundup, or similar endeavors *cannot* be "sanctioned by Alcoholics Anonymous" according to the 6th Tradition. Neither the General Service Board nor the General Service Office has the power to "sanction" anything. That is not their function. It also is incorrect to state or imply that other "official state, regional or world conventions and other types of Round-up" are "authorized by GSO in New York". The fact is that GSO does not authorize *any* kind of AA convention or round-up. The 2nd Tradition states "There is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience". Therefore, at least to this date, there is no "officially approved function" of AA, with the exception of the General Service Conference itself, in which a loving God expresses Himself in the collective group conscience.

From the inception of the Ocean Round-up (or any other convention round-up) GSO has taken the position that AA members have a perfect right to get together for fellowship and sharing in whatever environment they wish, and that except for the cost and setting, there is no essential difference between an AA gathering in a resort environment, one on board ship, or a local gathering with a potluck dinner.

WHERE DID A.A. COME FROM?

Almost nothing in A.A. is, praise be, "official." Yet A.A. did accept the triangle-in-the-circle as the A.A. symbol at the 1955 Convention in St. Louis, and this logo is now our legally registered trademark, appearing on Conference-approved literature.

What does it mean? William H., Ronkonkoma, N.Y., recently asked about it, and our nonalcoholic archivist, Nell Wing, dug up the answer.

The base of the triangle represents the First Legacy passed on to the rest of us by A.A.'s founders — Recovery (the Steps); the left arm stands for Unity (the Traditions), our Second Legacy; and the right arm signifies our Third Legacy, Service. (A

AA NATIONAL SURVEY

Questionnaires for the 1977 Alcoholics Anonymous National survey now have been received and have been distributed to selected AA Groups. This is AA's fourth survey of the membership. AA Groups have been selected based on the AA population in respective communities. Questionnaires are being handled through the Group's General Service Representative, and will be returned to the Area Delegate.

Another factor in selection of Groups to distribute these questionnaires to, is the fact that the Group is as representative as possible of "typical" AA meetings, for example, no hospital prison rehab or other "special" type of Groups were considered.

It is felt there are at least three ways information from this survey will be useful to the Fellowship: (1) We can use it in dealing with non-alcoholics, such as hospital authorities, law enforcement agencies, clergy and others who are in touch with alcoholics; (2) We can use it for news releases, magazines and newspaper articles, on radio and television, and in other public information work; and (3) We can include it in literature for members and 12th Step work.

The survey has taken place from June 19 to July 5. No special effort should be made to get increased attendance, as that would decrease the validity of the survey. All alcoholics attending the meeting will be asked to fill in the questionnaire, *if* they so desire (UNLESS they have done so at another meeting).

All questionnaires should be returned to your Area Delegate no later than July 11, 1977.

fascinating explanation of this appeared in the Sept. 1959 Grapevine.)

Both the triangle and the circle are among the earliest spiritual signs known to man. Both are expressions of the eternal. Being without beginning or end, the circle is a symbol for God or eternal life. To ancient Egyptians, the triangle was a sign of creative intellect, and to the Greeks, it meant wisdom. In general, it represents an upward yearning after higher knowledge.

Bill W. wrote to a Finnish member in 1954 that "a student of such things told me in ancient times the triangle in the circle was used by sorcerers to ward off evil spirits. For us, this could be alcoholism!"

(There's more on p. 139 of "A.A. Comes of Age.")

P.I. FOOTNOTES

Influx of Members From Court Programs and Treatment Facilities.

In the last few years, AA groups have experienced an influx of many new members from court programs and treatment facilities. Some of these prospective members come to AA voluntarily; others, under some degree of pressure. In our pamphlet "How AA Members Cooperate," the following appears:

"We cannot discriminate against *any* prospective AA member, even if he or she comes to us under pressure from a court, an employer, or any other agency.

"Although the strength of our program lies in the voluntary nature of membership in AA, many of us first attended meetings because we were forced to, either by someone else or by our inner discomfort. But continual exposure to AA educated us to the true nature of our illness — Who made the referral to AA is not what AA is interested in. It is the problem drinker who is our concern — We cannot predict who will recover, nor have we the authority to decide how recovery should be sought by any other alcoholic.

Proof of Attendance at Meetings

Sometimes, proof of attendance at AA meetings is required by administrators of court programs and other agencies. The following methods have proved to be satisfactory:

1. With the consent of the prospective member, the AA group secretary signs or initials a slip furnished by the court.
2. The courts furnish the group with envelopes that are available to any participant at the close of an AA meeting. The individual mails the envelope to the court with his or name and address, as proof of attendance.
3. Some AA groups have sheets of paper with the name and address of the group. Anyone wishing to sign the sheet may do so at the end of the meeting, and then the secretary mails this in an envelope provided by the referring court, clinic, employer, or other agency sending people to AA.

This reporting of attendance is *not* part of AA procedure; each attender reports on himself or herself at the request of the referring agency. Thus, no AA member is revealing another's AA membership, and none of this information is available for publication.

Northern Alameda County P.I. meeting changed to the 2nd Wednesday of every month, 6:45pm preceding the area P.I. meeting, at 2910 Telegraph, Oak.

New Meeting, The Professionals, 8:00 pm, East Bay Alano Club, 319 14th St., Oakland. This is a closed meeting. All members working or a volunteer in the field of alcoholism are invited to attend.

SOBRIETY IS A TRIP, NOT A DESTINATION. . .

AA GRAPEVINE

The AA Grapevine, Inc. is a separate, non-profit corporation wholly owned by the General Service Board. The corporate Board consists of nine directors, who meet every three months to conduct corporation business. Responsibility for day-to-day operation and editorial decisions is vested in the staff, an editor, associate editor, copy editor and proof reader (all AA members), and a non-AA editorial secretary. These are the people who, in Bill W's words, "produce a brand-new quality product every month on the dot". May circulation figures show subscriptions have grown to in excess of 94,000; however, the other side of the story is that even now only about ten percent of AA's around the world subscribe to the Grapevine.

The Grapevine started on D Day in June 1944 as a meeting in print", largely as a means of communication with members in the Armed Forces overseas, who couldn't get to meetings. The original eight-page newspaper was sent free to every known AA in Service until the end of World War II. Then AA Groups began to ask that the Grapevine become the national AA newspaper; and in 1948, again at the request of the Groups, the format was changed from the large newspaper size to its present smaller page size.

The question has been asked why the Grapevine is not "Conference-approved". Because the magazine is published monthly, to be "Conference-Approved" would require a monthly General Service Conference. However, the concept of the publication, in itself, as the AA national newspaper is Conference approved.

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining;
I believe in love even when I am alone;
I believe in God even when He is silent.

(From the Silent Rostrum)

H & I BROADSIDE

It is not always easy to overcome one's difficulties or shortcomings even after building a firm foundation on the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. In a good many cases, as it was in mine, because of our mental and physical condition, and the lack of experience, we were unable to handle some of these problems in spite of the help of our sponsors and close AA friends.

They show us love, compassion, and understanding that only another alcoholic can give. Some of these same friends share almost identical experiences, along with their solutions, but some of us just can't seem to comprehend.

This is not to say that everything in our fairly new or adjusted way of life is unsurmountable. On the contrary. Any problem we may face in our AA way of life can be solved if we are *willing* to work on it hard enough. Ask any member who has come to know God.

Some of our friends in the fellowship tell us that sometimes we must "stand still and hurt", or "let go and let God", or "this too will pass", or "more will be revealed later". These words of encouragement may be fine for those who have been around for a long time but what about the guy or gal who can't seem to get a handle on the situation?

Although these cliches are designed to help us over the rough spots and not let us get into any new trouble — while waiting for this to pass or more to be revealed to us, there is no reason why we have to stand still. Wouldn't it be much better to grow? This then would seem to be the dilemma: The lack of growth from experience in the program.

Whether we realize it or not, the program of Alcoholics Anonymous is designed to get us out of our way. What better way is there to keep us from tripping over our own feet, and at the same time, help us grow and gain experience, than getting active IN the program instead of just being IN the program.

There is no better way of becoming active IN the program of Alcoholics Anonymous than involvement in hospital and institution service work. As a first step, we do this by simply making ourselves available. We accept whatever responsibility we are capable of handling. A little at first, then more as we become more experienced.

By making ourselves available for H & I Service work we are automatically put in continual contact with a great many winners in the fellowship. To put it another way, we will be serving with a good number

Dignity is the One Thing that Cannot be preserved in Alcohol.

of people with a lot of experience and growth and are staying sober. It soon becomes evident that we are on to something.

People involved in institutional service work seem to be happy and enjoy the most meaningful sobriety. H & I committeemen try hard to give of themselves and ask only that God grant but one more day of sobriety. People in this type of twelve step service work seem to laugh a lot because they know the true meaning of sobriety and are not all wrapped up in themselves. And above all, these people who are active in hospital and institution work don't seem to ever get drunk.

When we get involved in H & I service, if we can just watch our teachers — and when they take a step — put our foot exactly where theirs was — then we can learn how to walk. It is pretty hard not to learn when the winners are all around us setting an example by walking the walk.

The teachers, the winners, the walkers, all mean the same thing in Alcoholics Anonymous. A happy and contented sobriety.

After being involved in H & I service work, and being taught the meaning of responsibility and learning an awful lot about trust, love, and faith, one day we will realize that we have been growing by leaps and bounds. We have experienced things that might never have been otherwise possible. We become aware that not only are we able to make a decision that is right once in a while, but that our attitudes and motives are a lot better as well.

We now understand that to stand still and hurt is senseless. That to let go and let God means for us to stay out of his way and let Him continue the good work that He has started in us and get off our duff or pity pot and get into the action. That growth does not occur standing still.

Now that we have had a chance to grow and experience a large slice of sobriety, lets see if we can now handle that old problem that caused us so much trouble before we became active.

Hmm. . . Now let me see. What was that problem I had a while back? I know it's there someplace. Don't tell me. . .

God will always do for us what we could never do for ourselves.

— Jack W.

Those who do things are outnumbered by those who just know how things should be done.

SPEAKER MEETINGS

Diamond Link, 3755 13th Ave., Oakland — Last Monday of month, 8:00 pm. July 25 — Tappy M. (Berkeley).

In-Between Fellowship, 4710 E. 14th St., Oakland — Friday, 8:15. July 1 — Woody H. (San Leandro) July 8 — Walt G. (Oakland), July 15 — Carol H. (Oakland), July 22 — Discussion Meeting, July 29 — Chuck H. (Oakland).

Mountain Vista Farm — 3020 Warm Springs Rd., Glen Ellen, July 8 — Mike C. (S.F.), July 15 — John S. (Glen Ellen), July 22 — Lois H. (Tworock), July 29 — Ed O'D (S.F.).

25th Anniversary and Reunion - Surf Group

This celebration takes place on Tuesday, July 19th at the Luthern Church, 20th Ave. and Quintero, S.F. The speaker is Bill G. (Port Orchard, Wash.), one of the original members with another original member, Jim W. as chairman. Coffee at 7:30 and a buffett after the 8:30 meeting. All welcome.

Hayward Fellowship — 16250 E 14th St., Suite D, San Leandro — July 9 — Bill L. (Cupertino), July 16 — Fred A. (Cupertino) — July 23 — Silas P. (San Francisco) July 30 — Dean K. (Oakland).

31st Anniversary — Central All-Groups - San Francisco
The Speaker is Bea J. (Friendly House, Los Angeles) with Jane O'T (Stepping Stone, S.F.) chairing. Note: Bea is Jane's long time AA sponsor. The date is Friday, July 22. Doors open at 7:00 pm — meeting at 8:30. This event takes place at St. Mary's Cathedral, halls A, B, and C combined on the lower level, Gough St. at Geary. After the meeting there will be home made cakes, cookies and coffee.

AL-ANON — San Lorenzo

There will be an Al-Anon speaker meeting at St. John's Church, Community Center, San Lorenzo on Sunday, Aug. 14th at 7:00 pm. The speakers will be Duffy (Calistoga) — AA, Ada (Modesto) — Al-Anon and Rachael — Alateen.

ALATEEN GROUP - Hayward

Meeting at the Eden Congregational Church, 21445 Birch St., Hayward.

El Cerrito Fellowship — 11231 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. The speaker on Sat. July 30, 8:30 will be Robbie D. (S.F.). Especially good arms length AA before and after. Please come share with us on Speaker — Birthday Nite. Tokens, cards and birthday cake.

17th Anniversary — Linda Olivehurst

On July 30, Dr. Earl will give his famous Blackboard Talk at the anniversary meeting at 8:00 pm, Olivehurst Community Center, Olivehurst Ave., in Olivehurst. Potluck dessert and coffee at the meeting at 6:00 pm and a no-host dinner at a near-by restaurant, also at 6:00 pm.

Galt Group — The Galt Group now has a new location. The group was disbanded when their former meeting place was torn down. They now meet, every Tuesday 8:00 pm, at St. Pius Church (little theatre) 9850 Twin Cities Rd., Galt.

Altua Village — Speaker meeting the last Sunday of month. We will appreciate all the participation we can get. Twin Cities Rd. or 104 Alta Mesa, right to Altua Village, or call (916) 456-9342.

Davis Group — First Saturday of month — Speaker meeting will be held at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Sycamore & Hawthorne, 8:00 pm.

Peninsula All Groups — St. Matthews Episcopal Auditorium, Baldwin & El Camino, San Mateo. July 9 — Sister Mary E. (Honolulu), July 16 — Curly H. (Manteca), July 23 — Quint W. (Mt. View), July 30 — Eve T. (Palo Alto Fri.)

Winters Group — First and Baker St., in Winters. This group celebrated their 2nd anniversary on June 30th with a potluck dinner and a speaker meeting with Gene D. as guest speaker.

Eureka

The Speaker meeting to be held on July 23 at 8:00 pm will have Johnny H. (Lakewood) as guest speaker. The location is Eureka High School cafeteria, 1915 J. St.

33rd Anniversary — Vallejo

The Vallejo Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous will celebrate its 32nd Anniversary, Saturday, 27 August, starting at 7 pm with a Buffet Dinner in the AA Hall 445 Georgia St., to be followed with an open speaker meeting at 8:30 pm.

Sam P. (San Francisco) will speak. Sam is the treasurer of the Inter County Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and is well known through out The Bay Area.

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.

— Howie

Old Chinese proverb: He who deliberates fully before taking a step will spend his entire life on one leg.

ALATEEN NEW HOPE GROUP

The New Hope Alateen Group celebrated their fifth anniversary on May 17, 1977. The group presented a skit, "Merry Go Round Named Denial". The seventy people that attended the open house gave the group a standing ovation.

The group has been very involved since the beginning of the year with speaking engagements at twelve schools, three churches, two conferences, and two forums. The group also participated in a four hour seminar for the presiding judge of the domestic court of San Jose and the probation counselors. There has been a follow-up meeting of the seminar, at the request of the judge, for additional information.

The New Hope Alateen Group meets every Tuesday night at 7:45 at 401 Rosita Avenue, in the St. William's School library, in Los Altos.

Veterans Home Group - Yountville

The Veterans Home Group is pleased to announce the revival of Alcoholics Anonymous meetings on Wednesday nites at 7:30 p.m. They will be held in a different Bldg., in a room designated for that purpose only. Convenient parking is available, plenty of coffee and refreshments and your choice of hard or soft seats. All will be open meetings, Wednesday Nites, of 1 hour duration, starting at 7:30 p.m. in Section "A", Room 5, Veterans Home, Yountville, CA.

The 2nd Wednesday of each month there will be an AA member as a speaker, sharing his experience, strength and hope with us. The other Wednesdays will be participation, with all attending being asked to share, within the allotted time. We're looking forward to meeting everyone interested in the problem of Alcoholism whether they be alcoholic or not.

The first meeting will be July 13th, 1977 at 7:30 p.m. Come meet the new Secretary and his helpers while reinforcing your own Sobriety.

- Hal J.

The Tradition Play

The Tradition Play was held at the San Mateo NCCAA conference, June 12th, was well received and becoming more popular with every performance.

The play creates a few laughs and at the same time has a terrific message to the importance of the 12 Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Players have volunteered to put the play on in any area of Northern California. If any group wishes to contact them for a performance in their area, write to: 12 Tradition Play, 134 Nevada St., San Francisco, CA 94110.

Twelve Step Play

If you haven't had the opportunity to see the Twelve Step Play yet, here's your chance. The play will be presented on July 10, 8:00 p.m. at Fairhome auditorium, Fairmont Hospital grounds, 15400 Foothill Blvd., San Leandro.

On July 25, at 8:00 p.m., Homer D. and The Twelve Step Players will help the Island Fellowship celebrate their 17th anniversary. The Fellowship is located at 4710 E. 14th St., Oakland.

Fairfield will host the play on Aug. 13th, 7:30 at the Fairview Elementary School. Try to see one of these informative as well as humorous performances!

3rd Annual Alateen Mini-Conference

When? - Saturday, July 16 from 9:00 to 4:30.

Where? - St. Timothy's Church, 2094 Grant Rd., Mt. View.

Workshops - Videotape: Drink Drank Drunk - a Play: Merry-Go-Round Named Denial - Raffle - Free Refreshments - Come, Learn & Enjoy: Bring your own bag lunch.

Napa Serenity Group

Dean K (Oakland), Area Delegate will give a report of the General Service conference on July 11, 8:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 4th & Franklin St's, Napa.

San Mateo Alano Club

714 N. San Mateo Dr., San Mateo - Potluck Dinner at 6:30 every third Wednesday. Bring your own, hot or cold. There are two meetings at the Alano Club per day except Wed's (None at night).

Sacramento - 4th of July Alcaathon

Meetings every two hours for thirty hours at Group Three, 2104 19th St., Sacramento. The first meeting begins at 7:00 pm on July 3 and the Alcaathon will end at 1:30 am on July 5. What a great way to celebrate Independence Day!

John E.

The angry lady was scolding her husband:

"There are more than a dozen empty whiskey bottles in the closet. Where do they all come from?"
"Don't ask me" replied the husband coolly, "I never bought an empty whiskey bottle in my life."

REPORT ON 5th ANNUAL STATE WIDE H & I CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference of the Hospital & Institution Committee of AA was held at the Sheraton Inn at Fresno in May of this year. It was even more successful than expected with over 1100 registrations. Attending the conference were H & I members, their families and friends, along with many professionals in the field of Alcoholism. Some of the professionals were AA members while others attended showing interest in how AA could assist them in their particular field. This was no problem as the entire weekend was devoted to the different types of facilities we serve with speaker meetings and panels designed for every aspect. The Topic of this years Conference was "Service Through Unity for Recovery". It was obviously a good topic because it was evident throughout the conference that the AA members and professionals were discussing the one goal we all have — to help the alcoholic who is still suffering learn to live a happy, healthy, productive life without the use of Alcohol or other drugs. We Alcoholics in the field of H & I work were bursting with pride as these professionals praised us for our contribution and effectiveness in helping them deal with this problem. Some of the professionals from this area were Dr. Richard Carlson from Redwood City, Dr. Gill A. from Mill Valley, Dr. Sheridan from Norwalk, Thomas Misa from Fresno, and countless others too numerous to name. We thank them for taking time from their busy schedules to share with us.

This was a Working Conference with continuous meetings starting Friday afternoon and continuing through Sunday.

On Friday we heard a panel on "H & I and my Sobriety" followed by a panel titled "My program Inside-Ex-Inmates". This was followed by a meeting titled "Have I Been Accepted?" Young people in H & I. After dinner Friday the meeting was on "Sponsorship Upon Release — AA. Institutional Workers, then a participation meeting on the Third Legacy—Service.

Saturday morning started off with an Al-Anon Mini-Meeting then a panel of Non-Alcoholic Professionals. After lunch there was a panel consisting of "Recent Parolees" followed by another panel consisting of Institutional Professionals. The next meeting was "AA Members Employed in the field of alcoholism".

The Saturday evening speaker meeting consisted of two speakers. Bernie an Al-Anon woman and Rod R. of AA. Both had an excellent message. This was

followed by a dance and another Open meeting. Sunday morning the meeting was on "Military and Government. Would you believe they have a problem there too? We said this was a working conference and as you can see it was. The final meeting on Sunday was a Conference Business meeting in which Jerry G. from San Jose was elected State Chairman for the 1978 Conference to be held at the same location. Suggestions and comments were made from the audience as to any changes for next year. Except for making different arrangements for Hotel reservations, everyone agreed they would like a similar setup. Keep in mind that the program chairpersons pick the speakers and agenda from your suggestions. Please submit names of people you would like to appear as speakers or panelists to your area as H & I representatives.

Many thanks to Les P. this years Conference Chairman and the many others who did such a fantastic job of getting this all together. See you at next years conference.

— Marilyn F. (Millbrae)

— AA is a kit of tools which fits all kinds of nuts. —

NEWS FROM CNIA

On Friday June 3rd Marge K, CNIA Delegate gave an excellent report of the 27th General Service Conference in New York. It was an enjoyable evening. The PI/CPC Seminar on June 4th opened with a warm welcome from hard working chairman Ed K. of Sacramento who then turned the morning session over to emcee Hugh C. who had the pleasure of introducing the Professionals, Municipal Judge Carol Miller, and Alcohol Program Administrator Susan Blacksher, Sacramento Director of Alcoholism Council and Dr. Gil Ayotte of San Francisco Public Health.

Jack B. (Modesto) gave a history of PI/CPC. Jean S. (Modesto) gave a presentation of a PI talk before a P.T.A. or Service Club.

Small groups were set up for informal, get acquainted, buzz sessions to get the people into the action.

The day was topped off with a speaker meeting featuring Dean K. CNCA Delegate who gave his description of recovery through service. Dean has a dry humor that comes across unpretentious and shyness that is a joy to hear.

Sunday June 5th, after a long Friday and Saturday, the CNIA officers trooped to Chico for a Service meeting. We had over 28 DCM's & GSR'S. We all came home feeling — like Bill W. "I want to thank you for all you have done to make our Fellowship what it is".

— Bill S.

STAYING SOBER AND CARRYING THE MESSAGE

Helping others find AA is half of our primary purpose, and an article on reaching the public discusses one way of helping, public information work. The writer says that members who have questions about the difference between attraction and promotion should go to the Big Book and see what our basic text has to say. Another way of sharing with others is by speaking, and a humorous article sheds some light on how to deal with people who speak up at meetings and can't stop sharing.

To round out this month's issue, and get us back to the basics of sober living, there are articles on serenity, Steps Six and Seven, finding a Higher Power, how to pick out the "winners," and getting sober for ourselves rather than others.

A DAILY REMINDER FROM THE GRAPEVINE

An increasing number of members have been ordering the Grapevine Calendar each year, for themselves and for friends. Each month, there is a black and white photo accompanied by an inspirational message, along with plenty of space to jot daily reminders. Since there is no mention of AA or alcohol, the Calendar can be used anywhere, by anyone.

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CALENDAR

- July 3-5 *Alcathon - Sacramento
- July 10 Dean K's Delegates Report, Napa
- July 10 *Twelve Step Play - San Leandro
- July 16 *3rd Annual Alateen Mini-Conf.
- July 19 Fresno All Groups Picnic (see June issue G.N. for details)
- July 25 *Twelve Step Play - Anniversary, In-Between F'ship, Oakland
- July 29-31 1st Yukon Area of AA Conv. -info: Central Office - 982-4473
- Aug. 12-14 10th Annual 22nd District Conv. Santa Maria
- Aug. 13 *Twelve Step Play - Fairfield
- Aug. 28 2nd Annual Al-Anon - Alateen Summer Festival -Fairgrounds Calistoga
- Sept. 2-4 Western Labor Day Weekend - Beaver, Utah
- Sept 21 Unity Picnic - Hidden Valley Ranch Warm Springs
- Oct. 21-23 NCCAA Annual Fall Conference Santa Rosa
- Nov 12 CNCA Fall Assembly
- Nov. 191 CNIA Election Assembly - Holiday Inn, Modesto

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