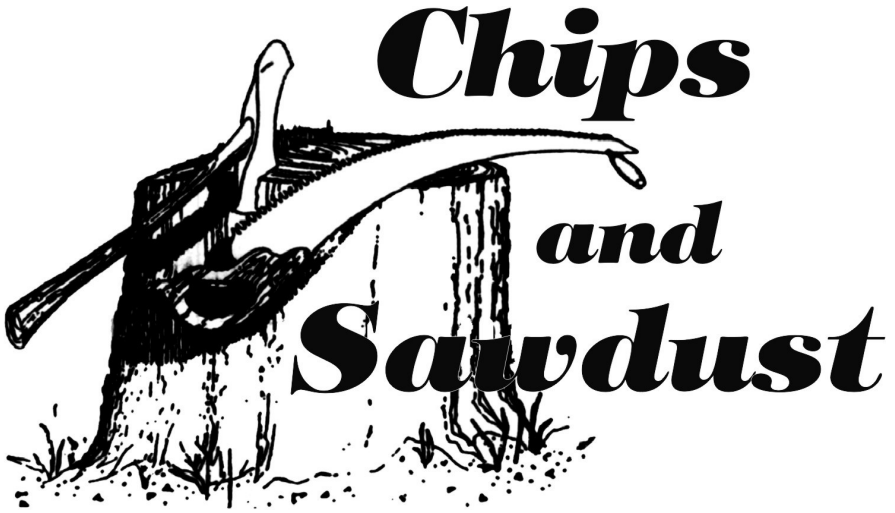


Volume 49

Number 2



A quarterly newsletter from the

**Forest History
Association of Wisconsin, Inc.**

P.O. Box 186
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Summer 2024

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Save the Date

Forest History Association
of Wisconsin

49th Annual Fall Conference

October 10 - 12, 2024

Menominee Casino Resort
N277 Hwy 47/55
Keshena, WI 54135

Online Registration at

Foresthistoriyassociationwi.com

Chips and Sawdust

Volume 49, Number 2

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*Dedicated to the discovery,
interpretation, and preservation
of the forest history legacy of the
State of Wisconsin*

From The President's Chair



Greetings all,

In crafting this note at the end of summer and the beginning of fall, I am reminded of other “Beginnings and Endings.” My membership/association with FHAW began in the summer of 1976. FHAW was brand new, and I was a mere 34 years old. I was employed as the Forester/Ranger at Keshena by WDNR. Now 48 years older, I am working on the Fall FHAW Conference at Keshena. Working on the conference, is like going home again?!

This is the third time I have been a member of the FHAW Board of Directors, and the last time I can serve in that role. For a variety of personal reasons, I can no longer commit to serving on the board. Most recently I agreed to join the board in 2018 for a three-year term, to work on a bit of ‘renewal’ of purpose and direction. A group of board members aided by facilitation help from UWEX in Wood County made us look at who we were and who we served. The mission elements of “Inform, Educate, Archive and Publish” had been in place for many years but we had not really defined a “public” we served in the process? We knew of course that we were to serve “members” of our Association. Who are they???? What are their interests/needs? Given that the mission elements seem logical, how are they to be ‘operationalized’ in the work to be done by our Association? The fact that we had a school forest educator, a UW School of Forestry professor and the executive director for the Great Lakes Timber Professionals available to help pose questions and offer suggestions resulted in a great start on moving forward on change. A huge first step was to consider the teachers and kids in the Wisconsin school forest program as a key ‘target population’ for our education mission. After a couple of initiatives involving books and associated webinars, the positive feedback from the school forest program directed us into efforts to formalize our archival mission. As a result of all this, we now have several books that are tied to video recordings on our website to support classroom learning. We are developing a collection at the UWSP Archives based on the life work of the members of the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame. We have a member of the school forest leadership team on our board of directors, and another

member on the archive committee. We have the president of the board of directors for Wisconsin Greenfire, the Environmental Education Association on our board and part of the two-man team leading our slate of webinars. We recently launched a two-year program to bring all the 50+ members of the Forestry Hall of Fame into the archives to support National History Day projects by school kids. Currently our website is experiencing 10K hits a month! We've got a model exercise template for teachers to use with students to learn about "Historic Logging Tools" that is supported by local historical societies. A recent addition to our expanding board "Team" includes a feature writer for several newspapers and other publishers. We plan to have her help us operationalize that "inform" mission element, and perhaps help us develop a marketing/outreach team?

Lots of good news on "beginnings" to talk about. As far as good news on "endings," not so much? I left the board in 2020, at the end of my normal 3-year term. I came back in 2023 to lead the Board once again for an announced two-year stint, with a focus on recruiting individuals willing to become part of a 'successive' leadership team. It is common for organizations to have a trio of individuals to lead them, i.e., past president, president, president elect. That design can share workload a bit and make transitions fairly seamless. We do not have enough board members available to set up such a team. Health issues had driven the need for my predecessor to leave, without an identified board president. We lost our board secretary almost a year ago and have laid the recording responsibility on others who are already overloaded. In the past two years I have reached out to several individuals 'experienced in organizational leadership' to have them sit through board meetings to familiarize themselves with the work to be done and consider joining us to "lead" and to help guarantee our future? Capable talent is often too busy? The cost of everything is going up, but membership (and dues income) is lagging and creating fiscal along with volunteer worker availability concern. To summarize, while we've enjoyed many reasons to smile over the last several years, there is serious concern on the horizon for the viability of the Association.

I will leave the board at the end of 2024. I plan to remain a worker on the Comprehensive Archival Project for the projected two-year life of the effort, in support of my board colleague Jim Kerkman. At age 82 this only seems reasonable to me. I welcome ideas from all on how to engage capable leaders from within the Association to ensure a future for the Association. Please contact me via thefhaw@gmail.com email address to discuss.

Best regards,

John Grosman

FHAW Committees and You

Like many other nonprofit organizations, the Forest History Association of Wisconsin relies on its board members and volunteers to offer what it can in the way of services for its members. In recent years, the list of activities, programs and services the Association provides has expanded. While the list of members' benefits has grown, those keeping the operations running smoothly and providing those services are getting older, tired and just plain "stretched too thin."

A few years back, the number of board positions was increased, which allowed recruitment of additional expertise and provided for more workers. Despite that increase, some board members have family and work commitments preventing them from taking on more than they already do currently for the Association. That's reasonable, but with no staff members to lean on and an already overtaxed board, there are tasks that need to be delegated to our committees and the important volunteers that fill their membership.

The Association's bylaws provide the board with the authority to create necessary committees and define their functions. Over the next several months, the board will look at those existing committees, the charges of each one, and the necessary organizational support needed to accomplish their tasks. The bylaws state that committee membership need not be members of the board of directors – only that all committee members be appointed by the president.

Once the review is completed, committee goals and objectives reaffirmed, and structure redefined, will come the big ASK! Can you help the Association meet the key pillars of its mission, to Inform, Educate, Publish and Archive, the forest history legacy of the State of Wisconsin by becoming a committee volunteer? The Association's continued success depends on dividing the work so that big tasks become easier and lighter with multiple people helping. Your willingness to say, "Yes, I can do that," is key to the Association's future.

**Agenda—Annual Meeting of
FHAW Members
October 12, 2024
About 12:30 pm
Neopit, Wisconsin**

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting, Tomah, Wisconsin (published in Chips & Sawdust, Vol 48 Number 3, pages 13 & 14)
3. Reports of Officers and Committees
 - Treasurer's Report – Audit Report
 - Membership Committee Report
 - President's Report
 - Nominating Committee Report
4. Old Business
 - Past Proceedings – in the works
5. New Business
 - Election—for three-year term ending 2027
 - Tom Jerow
 - Koleen Kralick
 - Beckie Gaskill
 - Vacant
 - Election—Filling Unexpired term
 - Matt Carrothers ⁽²⁰²⁵⁾
 - Vacant
 - Consideration of an Amendment to FHAW Bylaws – To Define Standing Committees
6. Award Presentations
 - Fixmer Awards
 - Connor Award
7. Any Other Business
8. Adjournment



From the Newspaper Archive



Indian Bureau Against 8 Hour Law for Reserve

Commissioner Says Move Would Threaten Profits of Indian's Sawmills

By Ruby A. Black (State Journal Washington Correspondent)

WASHINGTON -- The Bureau of Indian Affairs opposes the establishment of an eight-hour day in the logging and lumber mill operations on the Menominee Indian reservation.

The 10-hour Day Now Prevails

Indian Commissioner C. J. Rhoads, with Secretary of the Interior Ray Lyman Wilbur concurring, says that the Neopit mill on the reservation is now making a profit, and that it could not do so in competition with other mills in Wisconsin if the eight-hour day should be required by law, as proposed in a bill introduced by Rep. George J. Schneider of Appleton.

In a letter addressed to the house of representatives committee on Indian affairs recommending that the Schneider bill not be passed, Commissioner Rhoads said:

"Logging and milling operations were begun at Neopit early in 1908. During the earlier construction period the working day consisted of eight hours because of a belief that the federal statute prescribing an eight hour day for government work applied to Menominee. It was soon found that the costs were unreasonably, high when compared with costs at similar private enterprises and it became evident that the Menominee Indian mills could not successfully compete with other commercial lumbering enterprises on the eight-hour basis.

Federal Law Doesn't Apply

"The situation was presented to the attorney general, and a ruling asked as to whether the logging and milling enterprise at Neopit was within the purview of the federal act restricting the employment of labor on government work to an eight-hour day.

"In a decision of Jan. 13, 1909, by the attorney general, it was held that, while the logging and milling business of the Menominee reservation was to be conducted under government auspices, it was in fact a non-governmental business conducted with the funds of the Menominee Indians and solely for their benefit and that for this reason the federal act limiting the hours of labor was not applicable.

"Subsequent to that decision the eight-hour law has not been observed at Neopit, but the same hours have been observed as are customary in similar enterprises operated by other private capital in Wisconsin. Operating generally on a 10-hour basis, the Menominee Indian mills have been successful and

over a period of 22 years have produced an operating profit of approximately \$1,700,000 in addition to the realization of more than \$2,000,000 in stumpage returns.

"While the reduction of the working time of employes to four-fifths of the present schedule might not operate to decrease the output by one-fifth and thus reduce the profits by 20 per cent, it would certainly so materially reduce the daily output and place the Menominee mills at such a disadvantage compared with competing commercial enterprises as to seriously threaten the future success of the Menominee mills." (from the *Wisconsin State Journal, Madison, Wisconsin, Sunday, Apr 27, 1930 Page 31*)

Green Bay Man Wants to Clarify Indian Situation

Louis W. Kemnitz, Green Bay, who is interested in the Menominee Indian on the reservation north of Shawano, take exception to several statements made in a recent article by B. A. Clafin, published in *The Press-Gazette* entitled "Early Logging Day Tales, Wild Times on the Menominee" and today issued the following statement in an effort to clarify the situation:

"Have rather enjoyed reading *The Early Logging Tales*, by our friend B. A. Clafin, and 'tales' they certainly are.

"But must take exception to his article, 'Wild Time on the Menominee', published in your issue of Aug. 13.

"Presuming that under a caption of tales anything is permissible, still it is unfair to create false impressions as to a tribe or nation; one ought to stick to facts when assuming to be historical.

"No harm done, Bert, when you glibly speak of the erection of the first mill just across the river from Mag Laws and the Beauprie place, even if the mill and site lay 15 miles from there on another river.

Conducted Large Store

"As long as you so nicely called the public's attention to the early athletic incidents in the life of Neopit's most prominent merchant, Mr. Peter Lookaround, why not continue and tell that since 1908 he has conducted a large general store and meat market with a success unequalled by many merchants in other cities. In fact, the character you portrayed in Mr. Lookaround's school and college days continued to develop all through his career as a successful merchant.

"There are among the 2,000 enrolled Menominee an equal number of strong characters, as can be found under the same number of any other nation.

"History as early as 1763 records their dependability, when despite the number of white men and other tribal Indians located here. Lt. Gorrell, when ordered to evacuate the British garrison and go to the aid of Mackinaw, called a council of the Menominee and turned over to their care the possessions of the English.

"Why was the first Masonic lodge in the west organized here about 110 years ago called the Menominee lodge?

"The exception we take to your article is the impression that might be formed from your description of the burning of the tribal sawmill erected in 1908-09, which you state was burned a few years later during a drunken orgy of tribal members and of their dancing around the fire, etc.,

"The mill burned in 1925, a rather recent date to become confused over and to miss by a guess of 16 years. The Menominee Indians had in that mill, village, and logging operations an investment of over a million and a half dollars of their tribal funds. Instead of dancing in a drunken orgy they worked with a frenzy to stop the spread of the fire and did confine it to the mill and warehouse, saving their planing mill and other properly.

Ordered Off Reservation

"There were a few white employes holding positions there at the mill who were drunk at that time, and they were later ordered off the reservation, outside of these, you. Mr. Claflin seem to be the only party with knowledge of a bootleggers' spree

"In order to place the Menominee and their logging operations in the correct light, permit me to quote the history as to the same.

"As early as 1850 history records white profiteers' encroachment in this territory of the Menominee, who erected sawmills and cut the pine in utter disregard to ownership or anything else. There was a large mill near Keshena Falls and several on the Oconto river.

"Authentic active logging began by the tribe in 1881 under H. Pierce. I. J. S. commissioner's instructions so to do, to E. Stephens, Indian agent at the Green Bay agency.

"These instructions permitted tribal members to cut and haul to the river and offer for sale on the banks, dead and down pines. The superintendent was instructed to supervise these sales and to deduct 25 cents per thousand for costs of scaling, etc. balance of sale price was paid to the individual who had logged the timber. This method of authority continued for 10 years and there are tribal Indians on the reservation still enjoying the profits that they made under the method.

"Later congress deemed that under such an arrangement certain individual Menominee were acquiring wealth out of assets belonging to the tribe as a whole, and the act of 1890 was passed.

"Under this act the amount of timber permitted to be logged in any one year was set at 20 million feet. Every male adult member was allotted his portion of this total if anyone of them did not care to log his quota, he sold his right to other tribal numbers.

Superintendent Set Price

"The superintendent set a price to be paid for cutting and delivering the logs to the riverbank, where they were sold to the highest bidder. After deducting the cost of logging paid to the different Indian jobbers from sale price, the balance was deposited to the credit of the tribe in the U. S. treasury, the government agreeing to pay the tribe 5 per cent interest on all funds thus deposited. (Later when these deposits had amounted to over a million and a half dollars, the government reduced the rate of interest to 4 per cent). The interest on this fund was used to defray the expenses of their agency and schools.

"By 1908 the Menominee had accumulated from the proceeds of such sale in excess of the cost of logging, approximately three million dollars to their credit in the U. S. treasury and congress termed them "timber Indians' who had

proven themselves to be successful loggers.

"This is the approximate date given in that article on the supposed drunken orgy. Compare the two comments, before forming your opinion.

"The act of 1908 was compiled by the late Senator La Follette in consultation with the business committee of the Menominee Indians, with the intent and purpose of permitting the Menominee to erect a business of their own, out of their own funds, whereby they might educate and perfect themselves and their children in the manufacture of lumber and milling operations, as they had proved to have done in logging.

"The act of 1908 calls for the conserving of tribal timber and is uncanny in the foresight shown, calling as it does for the cutting of only dead, down and fully matured green ripened timber, and holding the U. S. forestry service, department of agriculture responsible for the carrying out of these restrictions.

"Unfortunately, despite the protests of the tribe, the Indian bureau totally disregarded the conditions expressed in the act and until recently they rather assumed the position of guardianship over an incompetent ward, even totally disregarding the plain language of the act as to what timber could be cut, quantity of same and under whose supervision or by whom same should be logged.

Recognize Tribal Rights

"The present commissioners, Hon. Charles J. Rhoads and J. Henry Scattergood, now recognize the right of the tribe and the intent and purpose of the act and the tribe are confidently expecting definite changes under present commissioners.

"In 1925, when their mill, a double band and resaw equipment was destroyed by fire, the Insurance received approximated \$160,000.

"The tribe protested against the rebuilding of another large mill and favored the taking of only sufficient of said insurance money to erect a small mill of approximately eight to ten million capacity, asserting their ability to successfully conduct such an operation themselves,

"The bureau overruled their objections and erected a large electrically operated mill of modern type.

"It is claimed that the operation of same since its reconstruction has not paid into the tribal funds a profit to exceed 50 cents per thousand for the stumpage cut and manufactured.

"At a general council held Aug. 9, the tribe asked that the annual stumpage cut be reduced from twenty million feet to a cut not to exceed from eight to ten million and petitioned that so far as practical, the tribal members be permitted to conduct said operation as prescribed by the act of 1908.

The present Indian commissioners are assisting the tribe, but congress is not, having recently objected to the passage of a bill permitting the tribe to employ for a term of two years at a moderate cost, out of their own tribal funds, the services of such a firm as Hughes-Schurman-Dwight, of New York, to assist them in solving their problem before all their assets have been wasted.

Can't Be Approved

"This bill will be presented again at the next session of congress but at pre-

sent there are representatives who can see no necessity of a tribe owning approximately thirty-five million of assets being permitted to hire out of their funds eminent counsel for consultation and advice. Terming as some congressmen have, this is a new-fangled idea which can't be approved.

"The tribal delegation sent to Washington to present their grievances pointedly inquired: Is there any firm, individual, or community owning thirty-five million of property who would not consider it essential to employ counsel?"

"Surely this is unanswerable.

"Are the Menominee not entitled to your correctly stating their standing and position in the community? Remember they were right here in Wisconsin before Columbus sailed for America and have never cost the federal government one penny for support.

"They fought our wars, bearing the brunt of citizenship and have never received its protection." *(from the Green Bay Press-Gazette, Green Bay, Wisconsin, Saturday, August 16, 1930, Page 9)*

Neopit Sawmill is Destroyed by Fire

INDIANS HELP FIGHT FLAMES IN BIG BLAZE

Loss of Buildings Include also a Warehouse and
Two Dwellings In Village

Neighboring Cities Save Town By Sending Fire Apparatus to Rescue

Fire, the origin of which is undetermined, Sunday afternoon destroyed the sawmill, a warehouse and two dwellings of, the Menominee Indian mill Neopit, Wis. Indian employes and others from the Menominee reservation helped fight the flames.

The loss is estimated at close to \$200,000. The blaze was discovered at 12:30 p. m., 30 minutes after Mill Superintendent Harry Conliff had made a tour of inspection. The fire made rapid headway under a strong wind that was blowing.

The mill's firefighting apparatus was made useless when flames attacked the fuel house and the building in which the pump is contained. Lack of water pressure caused a general feeling of alarm and for a time it was feared the fire would devastate the entire village.

All Village Turns Out

Telephone calls apprised Antigo and Clintonville of the danger and both towns sent firefighting apparatus over the North Western and Soo line railroads. By 8:30 the flames were under control.

Efforts were concentrated to prevent the blaze from spreading to the planing mill, the lumber yards and adjoining buildings!

Bucket brigades worked heroically while the arrival of reinforcements was awaited. The sawmill stood in the heart of Neopit and the entire male population turned out in a body to fight the flames. All women and children in the village stood at a distance and watched the progress of the battle. Neopit has a population of 700. *(from the Baraboo News Republic, Baraboo, Wisconsin, Monday, Oct. 6, 1924, Page 1)*

The Beginning of Change — Tribal History, Tribal Treaties and the Menominee Forest Story

2024 FHAW Fall Conference October 11-12, 2024

Keshena, Wisconsin

Schedule at a Glance

Thursday, October 10, 2024

- 1:00—Board Meeting — Menominee Forestry Center Conference Room 1031
Hwy 47, Keshena
5:30—Dinner— Forest Island Restaurant, Menominee Casino
— Ordering off menu (Dutch treat)

Friday, October 11, 2024 – Welcome, Tours, Posters, Banquet

- 9:00—Welcome and Orientation to the Conference and Tours
9:30—Tour Menominee Logging Camp and Cultural Museum
11:30—Lunch at the Logging Camp
12:30—Forest Tour—Current Forest Management Prescriptions/Silvicultural Practices in Application
1:45—College of the Menominee Nation – Tour Applications in Sustainable Development Institute Program/Forest Gardening/Phenology Trail
4:00—Return to Conference Center – Free time.
5:00—Cash Bar/Social – Poster Session
6:00—Banquet
7:00—Banquet Speaker “*Building Connections and Relationships through the Menominee Theoretical Model of Sustainability*”. Jennifer Gauthier, Director, Sustainable Development Institute at the College of the Menominee Nation.

Saturday, October 12, 2024 - Conference Presentations

- 9:00—*Menominee Before European Contact* - Dr. David Overstreet, Archeologist, College of the Menominee Nation.
10:00—*Ancient Gardening – Living Sustainably with the Landscape* -- Jeff Grignon, Archeologist on Staff of the College of the Menominee Nation.
11:00—*Termination and Restoration of the Menominee Tribe* - Doug Cox, Director of Land Management for the Menominee Tribe.
Noon—Lunch and General Membership Meeting
1:00—*Applying Chief Oshkosh’s Vision to Modern Forest Management Practice* – Ron Waukau, Forest Manager for Menominee Tribal Enterprise.
2:00—Panel Discussion – with the day’s speakers and pre-conference webinar presenters
3:00—Closing Remarks.

Conference Lodging

Menominee Casino Resort

N277 Hwy 47/55
Keshena, Wisconsin 54135

Call to Make Your Reservation

To check availability, rates and to make your reservation: call the hotel directly at

800-343-7778

Other Options—No Rooms Blocked

Quality Inn & Suites, 104 Airport Rd,
Shawano, 12 minute drive - starting \$111
(715) 526-2044

AmeriVu Inn & Suites, 211 S.
Waukechon St. Shawano 13 minute drive
– starting \$65.
(715) 526-6688,

FHAW 49th Fall Conference Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

	Number	Amount
<u>Conference Registration</u>		
	Attending	
FHAW Members \$20/person	()	\$ _____
Non-Members \$40/person	()	\$ _____

Thursday Evening (*Forest Island Restaurant—Menominee Casino*)

Informal dinner (Dutch Treat)

Attending [Yes] [No]

Friday Field Tour (*Box lunch included*)

\$40/person () \$ _____

Friday Evening Banquet (*Menominee Casino Resort*)

Dinner (Roasted Chicken)

\$22/person () \$ _____

Saturday Conference Lunch

Lunch (Soup and Sandwich Buffet)

\$17/person () \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

Any special dietary considerations?

Note: All prices include tax and gratuity



Please Register by September 27, 2024

Make the checks payable to FHAW

Send to: Jim Kerkman c/o FHAW

P.O. Box 186, Bangor, WI 54614

Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member and participant in the Association's program of developing the educational and historical aspects of Wisconsin's forestry and logging industry. Attached is payment for:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| _____ Student Membership (\$10.00) | Other Contributions: |
| _____ Individual Membership (\$20.00) | |
| _____ Family Membership (\$30.00) | \$ _____ Student Awards |
| _____ Non Profit Membership (\$30.00) | \$ _____ Capital Fund |
| _____ Corporate Membership (\$55.00) | \$ _____ Operations |
| _____ Individual Life Membership (\$250.00) | |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Detach and mail this application with payment to:

**Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Inc.
P.O. Box 186, Bangor, WI 54614**



49th Fall Conference Committee

- Jim Kerkman
- John Grosman
- Ron Waukau, MTE
- David Grignon, THPO-MITW
- Cindi Stiles
- John Berg
- Jim Bokern

Membership Committee

- Bob Walkner
- Tom Jerow
- Jim Kerkman

Finance Committee

- Jim Kerkman
- Bob Walkner
- Arno Helm
- Ed Forrester
- Don Schnitzler

Nominations Committee

- John Grosman

FHAW Website Committee

- Scott Bertz
- Don Schnitzler

Archives Committee

- Jake Bonack (chairperson)
- John Grosman
- Jim Bokern
- Ricky Kubicek
- Don Schnitzler
- Brad Casselberry
- Steve Schmidt

Exhibits & Annual Proceedings

- Don Schnitzler

*Always looking for members to help
with our Committee Work!*

*Interested — Reach out to us at:
thefhaw@gmail.com*



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