Wolfensberger

Newsletter of the WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

May 2000 Vol. 6. No. 2

1999 Storm Damage Will Delay Start of Swiss Family Memorial

NE DAY after Christmas 1999, a serious winter storm — one of the worst of the century — crippled most of Europe, causing wide destruction across most the continent.

Not even the foothills of the Alps, ancestral home of the Wolfensberrger family, escaped unscathed. Winds ranging up to hurricane strength felled trees and destroyed the wooded uplands where the family's castle once stood near Bauma in northern Zurich canton.

As a result, the planned

memorial to the site where the family originated has been post-poned to 2001, acording to Peter Wolfensberger. Peter is chairman of the Bauma-based organization that negotiated with the Verkehrsverein Bauma, a tourist organization, and the Zuercher Wanderwege, a cantonal hiking organization, to build the hiking path, barbecue and picnic area on the site of the long-vanished castle.

Finished in 2001

"The damage to the area was simply too great," said Wolfensberger. "But we expect the site will be completed next year after all the damage has been cleared."

The family memorial project was brought to reality by a special WFA committee comprised of Swiss family members and a Bauma historian.

Under the leadership of
Peter Wolfensberger, chief executive of the Wolfensberger foundry
in Bauma, the committee was
comprised of Heini Wolfensberger,
a lifetime honorary member of the
WFA board, Robert Wolfensberger,
his brother and Peter's father, and
Max Wolfensberger, the first
elected Swiss member of the WFA
board. The historian, Walter
Sprenger, is an authority on local
history.

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Texas Couple on Swiss Sightseeing Tour Sample The Sites and Swiss Fondue With Equal Gusto

By Gretchen (Wolfenbarger) Doll

It all Began as my husband Ken
and I were planning our spring
break vacation. My father, W.

Frank Wolfenbarger, suggested that
we study the Wolfensberger Family
Association web site to learn the
history of the family. There I came
across Rudi and Sylvia
Wolfensberger's web page and
emailed him to ask his recommendations for sightseeing.

Rudi was very helpful with the planning of our trip, including arranging a private tour of the International Watch Company. Once we mentioned that we would like to come through Solothum, he invited us to a homemade Swiss cheese fondue dinner.

Ken and I arrived in Zurich and took the train to Solothurn, where Rudi was waiting for us at the station. He wrote that he would find us because one minute after the train arrived, we would be the only ones left standing on the platform – and that's the way it was.

Together we toured around Solothurn, dropped off our baggage at Hotel Krone, and visited the nature museum. At Rudi's office we emailed my father, sending pictures he had taken of us with his digital camera.

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INSIDE STUFF

'99 Winter Storm Plays Havoc

Storm Damage Delays Memorial

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The Bauma memorial will include a plaque in English and German that acknowledges the historic importance of the site.

A pathway with stairs and a bridge will allow hikers to walk from the road leading to the peak of the Wolfensberg to the castle site, located a few hundred yards off the road.

The facility will resemble a similar picnic and rest area just north of Bauma on Alt Landenberg, It is part of a network of hiking paths and picnic areas built across areas of rural Switzerland.

Texas Sightseers Sample Sites, Fondue

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At dinnertime, we were warmly welcomed into the Wolfensberger's beautiful home above their office in the historical part of Solothurn. Sylvia had gone to great lengths in preparing appetizers and traditional Swiss fondue. After dinner, we met Patrick, their son, and his girlfriend for ice cream at a local restaurant. We did not go to sleep until 12:30 that morning — but I was having such a great time I didn't mind the lack of sleep.

The next day we met Rudi in the lobby for sightseeing. We began by visiting the Old Arsenal Museum, which houses one of Europe's largest collections of weapons. The amount of medieval armor displayed in the museum was

unbelievable. At midday we drove to Berne, touring the pits housing the famous Berne dancing bears, the city's clock tower, and parts of the old town. We finished our afternoon by visiting the Waldegg Castle and the Fine Art Museum in Solothurn. For dinner, Rudi and Sylvia invited us to dinner at Pintli. It was a wonderful ending to our stay in Solothurn. The next day we took the train to Montreux for three days. We toured Chateau Chillon, parts of Geneva, and took the cogwheel train to the top of Rochet de Nay.

By way of Interlaken, we traveled to Zurich for the last three nights of our trip. Upon arrival to our hotel, we received a fax sent by

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WILLIAM TELL OVERTURE. WFA members Ken and Gretchen Doll of Texas meet a heroic figure of William Tell, the famed Swiss archer, in a visit to a Swiss museum. Guided by board member Rudi Wolfensberger, the Dolls toured the country's most scenic locales.

Want to attend a family reunion?

Family Reunions on Tap in Five States

Texas Couple Sample Swiss Sites, Fondue With Equal Gusto Continued from page 2

Rudi and Sylvia giving instructions about the tour of IWC (International Watch Company) the next morning and a proposal to meet for dinner the last night of our trip. On Friday morning we traveled to Schaffhausen to tour IWC. Ken thought he was in heaven! Luckily, for our budget, they did not sell watches at the factory. On Saturday, we took the train to Lucerne to see the city's famed wooden bridge.

Saturday evening, we met Rudi and Sylvia in the lobby of our hotel in Zurich and walked to the medieval bar, Opfelhammer. We shared a bottle of wine while enjoying the atmosphere. Traditionally at Opfelhammer, if you swing up over the rafters and drink a glass of wine while hanging upside down, you can carve your name somewhere in the bar. Ken gave a valiant attempt, but to no avail. Afterwards, we dined at Zunfhaus zur Schmiden, a trendy restaurant with outstanding traditional cuisine located in old Zurich.

Throughout our visit, we were overwhelmed by the graciousness of our hosts Rudi and Sylvia. We truly felt like family and look forward to seeing each other again. Our trip would not have been nearly as memorable had we not met our distant relatives.

PIVE WOLFENSBERGER family reunions are on tap this summer in five states.

A typical family reunion may include a get-acquainted period, discussions of family history, games, singing, awards, recognition awards, a short business session, and a covered dish dinner.

As a courtesy, anyone planning to attend a reunion should contact the coordinator to inform them of your intention to attend and to obtain additional information on the reunion.

July 4, Wolfenbarger

Knoxville, Tennessee

Tuesday, July 4, Knoxville, Tennessee. This reunion will be held in Fountain City Park in Knoxville, about one mile north of Interstate 640. Registration begins at 11 a.m. A covered dish dinner is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Coordinator is Robert Lee Wolfenbarger, 6017 N. Broadway, Knoxville, TN. Phone (865) 689-5433.

July 26, Wolfinbarger

Irvine, Kentucky

Saturday, July 26, Irvine, Kentucky. Will be held in the Masonic Lodge in downtown Irvine. Registration will begin at 10 a.m.with a covered dish dinner at 1:30 p.m. Coordinator is **Ora Kirby**, 84 Reese Street, Irvine, KY 40336. Phone (606) 723-4073.

August 27, Wolfenberger

Weatherford, Texas

Sunday, August 27. Will be held in the Zion Hill Community Building, about four miles northwest of Weatherford. Registration will begin at 11 a.m. with the covered dish dinner at 1:30 p.m. Coordinator is Lorene Rothrock, Weatherford.

August 27, Sparger

Galax, Virginia

Sunday, August 27. Starts at 1 p.m.. Coordinator Guy Mitchell Sparger, 338 Sparger Road, Mount Airy, NC 27030. Phone 336-786-6906

Sept. 10, Wilkinson-Wolfenbarger Blue Springs, MO Sunday, September 10 - Wilkinson - Wolfenbarger - Blue Springs, Missouri - Begins at 1 p.m. in the Women's Club House in Blue Springs. Coordinator Olen Wilkinson, 900 W. "B" Street, Blue Springs MO, 64015. Phone (816) 228-4183.

In Memoriam

Martin Wolfenberger of Pleasanton, CA passed away suddenly on August 16, 1999. He was the son of the late Josef Wolfensberger and Ida Eberhard of Arth, Canton Zurich, Switzerland, who emigrated to Calixco, CA, after World War I.

Martin was born June 28, 1923 in Calexico, CA. His family later moved to Pleasanton in the 1930's, where he lived until his death.

His wife Verna
Wolfenberger of Pleasanton
survives him. He is also survived by
his daughters, Marsha Wolfenberger
Waller, of Sunnyvale, CA and Shari
Wolfenberger Anderson, of Elk
Grove, CA.

Also surviving him is a brother, Joseph Wolfenberger, of Pleasanton, CA and a sister, Ida Wolfenberger Nelson, of Oroville, CA. He is interred at St. Augustine's Cemetery in Pleasanton. (Members of the WFA include the family of Martin's brother, Joseph, and Sheri, Martin's daughter) Shari provided this information.)

Marcia C. Spargur, 78, of Kettering, OH, died June 16, 1999. She was a 1940 graduate of Girl's High School in Atlanta and a 1943 graduate of the University of Georgia with a degree in Business Administration. She was an active member of Alpha Omicron Pi Alumna Sorority in the Dayton

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WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION 2000 Board of Directors

Lawrence "Larry" Jones, President Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Robert J. Wolfenbarger, First Vice President Summit, New Jersey

Myrna Liddell, Second Vice President Langley, Washington

William F. Spargur, Secretary Palmdale, California

Richard L. "Buzz" Evans, Assistant Secretary Houston, Texas

Albert Creasy Tryon, North Carolina

Jim Lay Wolfenbarger Clatskanie, Oregon

Robert Lee Wolfenbarger Knoxville, Tennessee

W. Frank Wolfenbarger Irving, Texas

Virginia Wolfenberger, PhD Houston, Texas

Bill Wolfinbarger Palo Alto, California

Max Wolfensberger Stafa, Switzerland

Rudolf Wolfensberger, PhD Solothrun, Switzerland

Wolf Wolfensberger, PhD Syracuse, New York

Heini Wolfensberger, Honorary Life Member Bauma, Switzerland

Five Deaths Reported in '99, Early 2000

Recall Wolfenbarger, Sparger, Perin, Bruner

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Mrs. Spargur was employed by U. S. Army Intelligence in Panama during WWII, where she met Vendrell L. Spargur, her husband of 54 years,. She was a member of Christ United Methodist Church and the Officers Wives Club at Wright-Patterson AFB.

Retired from the Pension and Group Consultants, she was an avid bridge player. Marcia is survived by her husband; Vendrell, and the families of two sons, Richard C. and Ginnie Spargur of Dayton, and Thomas L. and Suzanne Spargur of Dayton and a granddaughter, Sarah Lynn Spargur.

She is also survived by a .ster, Ann C. Pregnall of North Carolina, and three nieces.

Jean S. Perin, 80, of Oxford, OH died September 9, 1999 at her home.

She was born September 2, 1918, the daughter of Lyne (Letcher) and John C. Spargur of Hillsboro, OH. She graduated from the Bishops School in La Jolla, CA in 1936 and was regarded as an "honorary" member of the Hillsboro High School Class of 1936.

As a child Jean attended school in Florence, Italy. She received her bachelor's degree (1940) and master's degree (1941) in botany from Vassar College.

She married Charles T. Perin Jr., also of Hillsboro on December 7, 1941. During the war the Perins tived in Cleveland, Dayton and Washington, D. C. In 1947 they moved to Oxford, OH where her husband was a professor of psychology at Miami University, (OH). Dr. Perin retired from Miami University in 1976 and subsequently died in 1996.

This year, 1999, Jean was honored as a 50-year member of the Hillsboro Presbyterian Church. She contributed over 2,000 hours as a volunteer at the McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital Auxiliary in Oxford.

She is survived by one son, Charles T. Perin III, and his wife, Susan Goodwin, of Washington, D. C.; one daughter, Nancy Perin Axmacher and husband Bruce, of Wyoming, OH; and one grandson Daniel Perin Axmacher of Wyoming, OH.

Jean was a member of our family association. Her membership has been taken over by her daughter, Nancy. This obituary was provided by Nancy through Vendrell Spargur..

Margaret Louise Wolfenbarger Bruner passed away March 25, 2000.

She was born November 12, 1923 in Union County, Tenn. Margaret was the daughter of Henry Elmo Wolfenbarger and Stella Rosetta Berry and was one of nine children by Henry and Stella.

She is survived by a son, Gary Bruner of Maynardville, TN; and a daughter Brenda Bruner Kelly of Dallas, TX. She is also survived by her brothers, Joseph Vaught Wolfenbarger, and Glen Edward Wolfenbarger, both of Maynardville.

She is also survived by three sisters, Marie Wolfenbarger, Bobbie Wolfenbarger Knouff and Hazel Wolfenbarger Ridenour.

She was predeceased by her husband, Ralph Bruner of Maynardville.

Margaret was a great, great grand daughter of Peter Wolfenbarger, who was born in 1752 and is buried at Miland Church Cemetery in Maynardville.

More Revealed About the Baseball Hall of Famers, the Waner Brothers, Icons of Oklahoma Spargur Family

The January 2000 issue of the Wolfensberger newsletter published an article about two famous Sparger sons, baseball Hall of Famers Lloyd and Paul Waner.

As ballplayers, they played for the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 1920s and 1930s. Both Paul, known as "Big Poison" and Lloyd, nicknamed "Little Poison" were elected to Baseball's Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

Additional information on the two famous baseball players has come from WFA member J. S. Kennerly. He writes, "To see the grave of Lloyd Waner, go to this web site, www.findagrave.com/pictures/4653.html. To see the grave of Paul Waner, go to www.findagrave.com/pictures/5960.html."

After six years as President and founder

Larry Jones to Leave WFA Presidency

ARRY JONES, who conceived and organized the Wolfensberger Family Association in 1994, has asked the WFA Board of Directors to be relieved of his responsibilities as the unpaid Association president, citing family pressures.

At the same time, a special committee of the board headed by WFA Second Vice President Myrna Liddell of Langley, Washington, is looking into a restructuring of the association that will expand and enhance its support of the organization and membership.

The recommendations of this committee will be presented to the Board of Directors at its next meeting. A future issue of Wolfensberger will report on the recommendations.

Under the organization's bylaws, members elect members of the Board of Directors in a Fall election. The board then elects its officers in December for the new year.

Below is the letter of resignation submitted by Larry Jones to the WFA board before its April 8 meeting.

"It was over six years ago that I began the task of organizing what turned out to be the Wolfensberger Family Association. A board of directors was selected in the Fall of 1994. Our first board meeting was held in December of 1994 and our first newsletter, Wolfensberger, was published in January of 1995.

We still have four directors who are charter members of our board: Bob Wolfenbarger, Myrna Liddell, Bill Spargur and me. Over the years, our Board of Directors has done a great job and given me every support. For this I shall ever be grateful.

"I have certainly enjoyed having served as your president for these years and we can all be proud of the thing we have accomplished for our family and members during this time.

I think that all of you are aware of the tremendous pressure that I have been under for many years with a wife who is critically ill. Now most of the hours of the day and night are taken with her care. That pressure has forced me to make the decision of requesting to be relieved as your president.

"I am sure that this change in administration will go smoothly, but it will take several months to get organized as your new president will like, and I am sure that your Board of Directors will make a wise choice in selecting the new president and modifying the duties of the officers and board.

I have selected Myrna Liddell as the chairperson of the committee for the job of making these changes. With Myrna on that committee is Bob Wolfenbarger, Bill Spargur and Richard "Buzz" Evans. I will also serve on this committee as a nonvoting member.

I will continue to serve until the search committee has made its selections and its recommendations are approved by the board."

Lawrence M. Jones, President

Association Member Seeks Parents of Sparger Kin

Albert Brown, a member of the association, is searching for the parents of **Harrison Sparger**, born in 1822 in Virginia. He married Mary Penrod, b 1822 in Ohio.

The 1880 U.S. Census listed Harrison as born in Virginia, but the 1900 Census listed his birthplace in Ohio.

The 1850 Census listed him living in Randolph Township in Tippecanoe County, Indiana.

Harrison and Mary had four children: William C., James W., Addison Price b 1864 and Mary Alice b 1868. Alice is believed to have married Richard Delaney. Addison Price Sparger was my grandfather. He married Ina Elizabeth Morgan on 28 June 1886. William C. married Harriet Nora Morgan in Crawfordsville, Indiana, in 1881. They had four children.

Please contact:

Albert Brown, RR 1, Box 31A, Darlington, Indiana 47940 Phone (765) 794-4057









 Charles Woodie WOLFENBERGER, resides in Houston, TX. Charles is a son of Charles Pierce Wolfenberger and Lula Mae Voigt, the son of George Gladden Wolfenberger, the son of Charles Wolfenberger, the son of Samuel Wolfenberger, the son of Benjamin Wolfenbarger, born 1758 in Lebanon County, PA.

On right Mavis Wolfenbarger WALKER, on left her spouse James WALKER, they reside in Knoxville, TN.
Between them is their twin 15 year old grand daughters. Mavis is the daughter of Lloyd Wolfenbarger and Ruby
Wilmouth. Lloyd is the son of John G. Wolfenbarger, the son of John Wolfenbarger, the son of Peter Amos
Wolfenbarger born 1796 in Greenbriar County, WV.

3. Varnell WOLFENBARGER, resides in Knoxville, TN. He was born in Luttrell, TN the son of Horace Vinyard Wolfenbarger, the son of John Henderson Wolfenbarger, the son of John Melton Wolfenbarger, the son of William Wolfenbarger, the son of Peter Amos Wolfenbarger born 1796 in Greenbriar County, WV.

4. Mary Russell Wolfersberger PETERSON, with husband Ira Raymond PETERSON. Mary was born in Shelby, OH the daughter of Brainard A. Wolfersberger, son of George Patchel Wolfersberger, son of John Frederick Wolfersberger, son of Philip Wolfersberger, son of John Wolfersberger, son of Jacob Frederick Wolfersberger born in the Alsace in 1727.



Ora Wolfinbarger KIRBY, resides in Irvine, KY where she has lived all of her life. She is the youngest of 10 children of Peter Abraham Wolfinbarger and Susan Elizabeth Parrett. Ora has been very active in the civic affairs of the town of Irvine. She has served as coordinator of the Wolfinbarger family reunion in Irvine, KY for several years. Her father was Peter Abraham Wolfinbarger, the son of Peter Wolfinbarger, the son of Joseph Wolfenbarger, the son of Peter Amos Wolfenbarger born 1796 in Greenbriar County. WV.

Peter Amos Wolfenbarger born 1796 in Greenbriar County, WV.

2. Trula Wolfenbarger Berry, resides in Knoxville, TN. Trula is the daughter of Noah Wolfenbarger and Anna Edmonson. Noah was the son of William Wolfenbarger, the son of Joseph Wolfenbarger, the son of Peter Amos Wolfenbarger, born 1796 in Greenbriar County, WV. Trula was the assistant coordinator of the Wolfenbarger family reunion in Knoxville in 1999.

3. James R. MAY, resides in Amarillo, TX, the son of Cynthia Thompson May and Donald William May. Cynthia is a daughter of Lois Blanche Spargur and Leo Holden May. Lois is the daughter of William McCullen W. Spargur, son of John Carson Wolfer Spargur, son of Phillip W. Sparger, Sr. son of John Wolfersberger Sparger born 1754 in Lebanon, PA.

4. Robert Joseph WOLFENBARGER and Lawrence (Larry) M. JONES

Robert Joseph WOLFENBARGER, resides in Summit, NJ with his wife Dawn. Robert is the son of Dr. Daniel Ous Wolfenbarger. Daniel was the son of Peter G. Wolfenbarger, the son of Sterling F. Wolfenbarger, the son of Joseph Peter Wolfenbarger, the son of son of John Wolfenbarger, Jr. born 1730 in the Alsace. Robert has served as the First Vice President and the editor and publisher of our newsletter since the inception of the WFA. Robert is retired from AT&T. He is now President of Summit Communications of Summit, NJ. Robert is a great great grand son of Joseph Peter Wolfenbarger.

Lawrence (Larry) M. JONES, resides in Oklahoma City, OK. Larry was born in Cement, OK a village in southwestern OK. He has lived in Oklahoma City, since 1927. He has been retired from AT&T since 1990. Larry is a great great grand son of Joseph Peter Wolfenbarger, the son of Peter Wolfenbarger the son of John Wolfersberger, Jr. born in 1730 in the Alsace. Larry was the founder of the WFA and has served as President of the WFA since its beginning.

After 6 months of rigorous training

In Los Angeles, They Call Him Sheriff

By Bill Spargur

Fun, travel and adventure with a paycheck too! That was what I was interested in when I joined the United States Army back in 1970. For much of my adult life I worked, lived and traveled in many countries and different states within the United States.

I retired from the Army and began my current profession in Civil Service with the Air Force in Los Angeles. With the routine of the long daily drive, the routine of my work, both boys doing their own thing, and my completion of a master's degree, I needed greater challenge.

My next spare-time project was to work with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department as a civilian volunteer until I was accepted into the Sheriff's Academy.

My primary interest was to work with the Search and Rescue Team. Joining the department required that I become a Reserve Deputy Sheriff and complete rigorous academy training.

My training lasted almost six months and was the most difficult I have experienced since basic training in the Army. We attended class every Tuesday and Thursday night from 5:30 P.M. to 10 P.M. in Santa Clarita, an hour's drive from home. We also attended class most Saturdays and many Sundays for ten hours. This was Iso done while attending our regular jobs.

My day began then, as it does now, with my alarm ringing at 3:30 a.m. Then the carpool arrives at 4:20 a.m. At that point, we begin a 90 minute drive to work, which starts at 6 A.M. All of this while undergoing a daily regimen of physical training.

Physical training is a key to surviving the Academy. There are six physical fitness tests — one to get in, and five more during the Academy.

That's in addition to studying for all the academic tests, including the California State test for peace officer certification. Needless to say, at graduation I was one tired person.

Personally, I find public service very rewarding. Our family is service oriented. I completed twenty years of active service in the U.S. Army, then entered Civil Service with the United States Air Force. My wife, Marta C. Spargur nee Tobinson, is also a Civil Service employee in the Air Force.

My oldest son, John, served in the U.S. Army in the Combat Engineers and now serves with the California National Guard. My youngest son is in the Army serving in the Infantry in Fort Stewart, Georgia. He recently returned from six months in Macedonia on the border with war-wracked Kosovo.

I now have peace officer status as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff and I work as a member of a Search and Rescue Team. Although I live in the desert, we also serve the adjacent mountains. I plunge down mountains or drop from helicopters when we're unable to reach an injured or lost individual on foot.

At age 49, and after losing 56 pounds, I graduated from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Academy as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff.

I still get my fun, travel and adventure. And I earn the grand sum of exactly one dollar a year as a member of the Los Angeles. County Sheriff's Department.



SHERIFF'S DEPUTY. After six months of rigorous physical and academic training, Bill Spargur, age 49, became a Reserve Deputy Sheriff of Los Angeles County, Calif., last year. Salary? \$1 a year.

WFA Membership Application



Memberships are for a calendar year. Annual dues ■ are \$10 per person. Memberships expire at the end ■ of each calendar year, regardless of when you join. Send this completed form and a check for \$10 to: Members who re-join later in the year will receive all Wolfensberger Family Association four quarterly issues of this newsletter. 6400 North Ann Arbor Terrace Oklahoma City, OK 73132 New members receive a six-color embroidered family badge based on the Wolfensberger coat of arms. Absolutely free! Name_ Address Membership is open, but not limited, to members of these families: WOLFENSBERGER WOLFENBARGER WOLFINBARGER WOLFERSBERGER Telephone _____ WOLFERSPERGER WOLFENBERGER Date WOLFENSBERGER SPARGUR SPARGER

Please send us a photo of you and your family.

WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

6400 North Ann Arbor Terrace Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73132 Lawrence M. Jones, President

Phone: (405) 721-4383

Richard L. EVANS 279 M2000 10903 Holly Springs, Houston, TX 77042

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