
❖ Tennessee Geographic Alliance News ❖

CHAPTERS: Cookeville * Clarksville * Chattanooga * Knoxville * Memphis * Nashville * Northeast

Volume XII Issue 1

Fall 1997

Alliance co-founder, Dr. Sid Jumper, retires from UTK

Dr. Sid Jumper, former head of the Geography Department at the University of Tennessee and a long-time member of the faculty, retired from teaching after over four decades in the classroom. He still retains his position as coordinator of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance.

A retirement dinner was held in Dr. Jumper's honor on Saturday, May 3. Approximately 130 alumni, faculty, students, teachers, and other honored guests attended the ceremonies. Robert Sims, Senior Vice-President of the National Geographic Society, and two other special friends from National Geographic, Mary Jo Dunnington and Karen Gibbs, flew down for the occasion. Also present to honor him were various UT administrators. The master of ceremonies was Tyrel "Tink" Moore. During the festivities, Dr. Jumper, a famous prankster, was both honored and "roasted".

Dr. Jumper earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of South Carolina in the early 1950's. He received his doctorate from the University of Tennessee in

1960. His long, distinguished career includes teaching assignments at three major universities - the University of South Carolina, Tennessee Technological University, and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. At both Tennessee Tech and UTK, he served as department head. His tenure at UTK alone was 30 years, with 18 of those as department head.

"We are all beneficiaries of Sid's vision and of the effectiveness of his leadership for geography in Tennessee."

Dr. Carol Harden, UTK

Twenty-nine articles, 20 professional papers, and one book have been authored by this remarkable man. He also served as the editor of three professional publications. Among his

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Tennessee teachers, are you ready for the Challenge?

Tennessee teachers, you are challenged to enter a world of wonder, learning and fun that will change the way your students and their families view the world...the Family Geography Challenge!

What is the Family Geography Challenge?

The Family Geography Challenge is an easy, FUN, family-oriented activity that encourages parents to harness the power of television to help their children learn about geography and the world. It is sponsored by the National Geographic Society Education Foundation nationwide and the Tennessee Geographic Alliance.

How does a school get involved?

Funding for the Challenge may come from grants, parent/teacher organizations, business sponsors, or other donors. The program is designed for individual families to participate at no cost, so funding must come from sources other than the participating families. Schools order materials for a minimum of 20 families at a cost of approximately \$200, depending on the administrative costs and orientation and training expenses.

To take the Challenge, your family will...

- Attend a FUN, one-hour orientation session to learn about the Challenge. (In order for a family to participate in the Family Geography Challenge, the student and at least one parent MUST attend the orientation session.)
- Watch the news together once a week for six weeks
- Use a world map (provided FREE to each family) to locate events in the news
- Discuss the news events once a week for six weeks
- Keep a brief log of discussions
- Return the log to receive a certificate and a beach ball inflatable globe for each family that completes the Challenge!

What will each family receive completely FREE?

- A large WORLD MAP from the National Geographic Society
- Outline maps of the world and the U.S. to use for optional activities
- A journal/log form to record what families learn from watching the news
- A beach ball inflatable globe and certificate of achievement

To find out more about the Challenge in Tennessee, contact Catherine Kelly, 469 Rochelle Dr., Nashville, TN 37220. Ph. (615) 333-9656.



UPCOMING TGA WORKSHOPS

Native Americans . . . Archaeology

The Global Population "Bomb"

Nashville - Thursday, September 25

When: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
 Where: The Teacher Center at
 Rutherford Co. Bd. of Education
 Exit 80 off I-24 (Murfreesboro)
 Speaker: Dr. Doug Heffington
 Topic: Native Americans: Who, What,
 Where, and Why

Light complimentary dinner

Northeast (Tri-Cities) - Thursday, Sept. 25

When: 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
 Where: Liberty Bell Middle School
 Little Theater, Johnson City
 Speaker: Denee Mattioli

Knoxville - Wednesday, October 22

When: 4:30 - 8:00 p.m.
 Where: Room 223, Student Center,
 University of Tennessee

Speaker: Dr. Theodore H. Schmudde
 Topic: The Global Population Bomb: An
 Uneven Explosion

Free Parking and Dinner

Chattanooga - Tuesday, October 21

When: 4:15 - 7:00 p.m.
 Where: UTC Catholic Center
 Speaker: Lawrence Alexander
 Topic: Archaeology of Chattanooga

Free Dinner and Door Prizes

NEXT YEAR

Nashville - Thursday, April 30, 1998

"End of the Year Energizers"

Presented by teachers from various grade levels. Creative, fun, and practical. Teaching strategies, learning activities, and materials will be shared to help "energize" your social studies or geography classroom during those last few weeks of the school year.



**Don't forget the TGA 1997 Statewide Meeting:
 Saturday, November 8, 1997**

REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 4

(JUMPER RETIRES — Continued from page 1)

unbelievably long list of accomplishments, perhaps the most noteworthy are his various positions with the Association of American Geographers, his receipt of the Distinguished Geographic Educator Award from the National Geographic Society, his appointment as Tennessee State Geographer by Gov. Sundquist, and his position as Alliance coordinator.

Begun by Dr. Jumper in 1986 with the assistance of the National Geographic Society, the Tennessee Geographic Alliance has grown from a small handful of educators to over 4,000 members. The alliance he and Dr. Ted Schmudde founded has chapters in Knoxville, Nashville, Chattanooga, Memphis, Clarksville, and the Tri-Cities area. Through a series of workshops and summer institutes, Dr. Jumper, Dr.

Schmudde, and others have restored geography education to Tennessee's curriculum, and have trained thousands of teachers to teach geography to Tennessee's youth.

In retirement, Dr. Jumper plans to devote more time to the Alliance. He will also spend more time with his wife Mickey and the "apple of his eye", granddaughter Alex. The Jumpers will soon take a train trip to the Grand Canyon — a gift from the many friends he has made over the years.

"We are all beneficiaries of Sid's vision and of the effectiveness of his leadership for geography in Tennessee," says Dr. Carol Harden, current head of the Geography Department. "Sid works with quiet persistence, without fanfare. We are only gradually realizing the magnitude of his efforts and the lasting importance of his achievements."

Final two contestants go through multiple tie-breakers**Brighton homeschool student wins TN Geography Bee**

Joshua Bergen, an eighth-grade homeschool student from Brighton, defeated one hundred other students in this year's Tennessee Geography Bee. Bergen, the son of Leonard and Mary Kay Bergen, fought through round after round of tie-breaking questions with runner-up Evan Sparks, a seventh-grade student at Westminster Academy in Germantown.

The duo used up all of the pre-planned tie-breaking questions and forced officials to go to unused questions from previous rounds to finally determine the winner. By winning, Joshua and his teacher (his mother) were flown to Washington, DC so that he could represent Tennessee in the National Geography Bee.

The state bee began with the top 100 students in the state of Tennessee. They were divided into five groups of 20 students. The students in each group went through eight rounds of questions. The top two students in each group advanced to the televised final round at WDCN studios in Nashville.

Besides Bergen and Sparks, the other finalists were Eric Brown, a fifth-grader at St. Nicholas School in Chat-

tanooga; Allen Daniel, a fifth-grader at Northeast Elementary in Clarksville; Vincent Malic, a sixth-grader at St. Ann's in Bartlett; Samantha Schulz, an eighth-grader at J.T. Moore Middle School in Nashville; Darren Langley, a seventh-grade student at Cherokee Middle School in Kingston; Adrian van der Velde, a seventh-grade homeschool student from Morristown; Ryan Linger, a sixth-grade Whitthorne Middle School student; and Austin Kimbrell, a homeschool student from Hendersonville.

The Tennessee Geography Bee was directed by Brenda Whitsell. Whitsell has directed the state bee since it was founded in 1989. Ruth Ann Leach, a columnist for The Nashville Banner, was the moderator for the televised final round. This year's nationwide sponsors were the National Geographic Society and the Sylvan Learning Center. Many local sponsors also helped make this year's bee possible.

NEW CD-ROM: UTAH GAP EDUCATION

The Utah Gap Education CD-ROM is an easy-to-use CD that displays a wide variety of maps, texts and photographs of the state of Utah. Featured are many thematic maps highlighting precipitation, climate, physical features, satellite photography and much more. All 13 designated wilderness areas in Utah and several proposed sites are featured in vivid photographs. A variety of photos, text, and maps display Utah wildlife and their habitats. Several video clips taken from the Images of Utah computer animated flyover are included.



To order, send \$19.95 in check or money order to:

UGA-Gap CD-ROM, c/o: Dr. Cliff Craig
Department of Geography and Earth Resources
Utah State University
Logan, UT 84332-5240

Need Kentucky pen pals?

Walter Mayer, a teacher at Newport Middle School in Newport, Kentucky, has requested pen pals for students in his 6th grade class. Any teachers wishing to exchange letters between Tennessee and Kentucky students may contact Walter at Newport Middle School, 30 West 8th Street, Newport, KY 41071-1352. Walter can be contacted by phone at (606) 292-3018.

"Explore the World! Geography Takes You Places,"

is the theme of this year's Geography Awareness Week - November 16-22. Thanks to sponsorship by the National Geographic Society, DuPont, Mott's and Sea World, GAW packets full of posters, activities and terrific lesson plans are available for \$2.50. To request a packet, contact the Tennessee Geographic Alliance, 408 Geography and Geology Building, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-1420.



**GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS
WEEK
NOVEMBER 16-22**

When you join teachers across the state in celebrating Geography Awareness Week, please take the time to write to the Tennessee Geographic Alliance and tell how you and your students honored this week. If your activities were featured in a newspaper (even the school newspaper), radio, or television, try to include copies of the coverage you received.

TENNESSEE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE
Second Annual Statewide Meeting

Saturday, November 8, 1997
Cumberland University, Lebanon, TN
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

THEME: "OUR NATURAL HERITAGE"

FEATURING

- * Tennessee State Naturalist **Mack Prichard** as keynoter
- * Approximately 40 presentations, workshops, and poster sessions on cultural and environmental topics, educational technology assessment, the national standards, and other topics
- * Free teaching materials, door prizes, free lunch, and much, much more!

REGISTRATION FEE: Before Oct. 15, 1997: \$15, or \$ 7.50 for presenters
After Oct. 15, 1997: \$ 20 (for all)

EVERYONE MUST REGISTER!



Name _____ Home Phone (____) ____ - _____

Home Address _____
Street and Number City State Zip

School Name _____ E-Mail Address _____

School Address _____ School Phone (____) ____ - _____
Street and Number City State/Zip

Will you need disability access? ___ Yes ___ No Would you be willing to chair a session? ___ Yes ___ No

FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO PRESENT:

I wish to ___ Present a paper ___ Present a Workshop ___ Participate in a Poster Session

Title of paper, workshop, or poster (as it should appear in the program) _____

Grade level for which your presentation is most applicable _____

Amount of time needed to present (15 minute max. for presentations, 45 min. for workshops) _____

Circle if needed: Slide Projector Overhead Projector VCR/TV Other _____
(If you need other equipment, call Monty Pope 1-800-467-0562, Ext. 270 before October 15!)

Please include a 50-word abstract with this application. Abstracts will be published separately from the Program, and will be included in the registration packets.

Blues and beignets to burial grounds and buffalo burgers! **Teachers report on this year's TGA Summer Institutes**

By Catherine Kelly

Twenty-six K-12 teachers from across the state of Tennessee participated in the "Geography of the South: Lessons from the Delta" two week Tennessee Geographic Alliance summer institute at MTSU, June 16-27. Directed by Dr. Doug Heffington, this institute provided a foundation in the geography of ethnic landscapes along with a delightful variety of field experiences and instructional materials.

The unique learning experience began with an informative overview of the physical geography of the "Delta" that stretches all the way from Cairo, IL, south to the Gulf of Mexico. The highlight of the institute was a four day field trip starting with Mud Island in Memphis (unfortunately, no confirmed sighting of Elvis?!) moving on down "Blues Highway" 61 through casino-clad Tunica, MS, and spending the first night in Helena, AR, where unnamed institute participants (teachers, no less!) were not so lucky at "Lady Luck". The ethnic landscape was the focus of this excursion through the Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana "Deltas" with the Delta Cultural Center (Helena, AR), cemeteries, architecture, food, toponyms (look it up!), fences, local residents, oral histories, rest stops, and a variety of ethnic imprints all serving as teaching tools and textbooks for the region's natural and cultural heritage.



The final stop of the field experience was the "Big Easy" itself where custom tours of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park, the French Quarter, and the Cabildo Louisiana State Museum were the official conduits of enlightenment. Some participants, who will once again remain nameless, explored alternative means of instruction on the topic of ethnic landscapes. Ask

the three Morristown representatives what they learned in New Orleans, and ask the McMinnville gals what T.V. stars they hobnobbed with in the shadow of Andrew Jackson's statue! Beignets and blues were enjoyed by all.

The remainder of the "Geography of the South" institute

(Continued on page 6)



LESSONS FROM
THE DELTA:
Sorry, no Elvis.

By Charlie McRorie

Nineteen Tennessee teachers got the experience of a lifetime by venturing across the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains on a 13-day trip. Directed by Dr. Ted Schmudde, the trip concentrated mainly on land use. Participants crossed western Kentucky, the southern tip of Illinois, across the Mississippi River lowlands of Missouri, and into the Ozarks, where the teachers spent their first night at a hotel on the banks of the Current River. While in the Ozarks the teachers found Success (the little town of Success, MO).

Then they began crossing the Great Plains. Due to recent abnormally high rainfalls, the land was much greener than usual. Participants spent a day conducting field studies (literally) in the small community of Concordia, KS, a typical Great Plains town that has managed to preserve much of its pioneer past as it has modernized. The bus then took the teachers to the geographical center of the "lower 48" states near Lebanon, KS, and then to the southwestern corner of Nebraska before venturing to Greeley, CO.

The group spent six nights in Greeley on the University of Northern Colorado campus. From Greeley, they made daily trips to a variety of sites, including local farms and feed lots, the vast loneliness of the Pawnee Grasslands (where lots of antelope roamed), and the majestic snow-covered Rocky Mountains. Along the way, they studied how such a dry area



could survive by storing and diverting snowmelt from the mountains. They also got to sample such delicacies as buffalo burgers and "Rocky Mountain Oysters" (don't ask!!!). A restaurant called The

Smiling Moose became a favorite eatery.

After a brief pass through Denver, the group visited the mining town of Leadville, and then ventured south to the Great Sand Dunes National Monument. Some of the teachers actually made it to the top of the dunes.

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GREAT PLAINS /
ROCKY MOUNTAINS
The Smiling Moose
became a favorite.

The Visiting Geographer . . . Bringing Geography to Life



(Reprinted from the *National Geographic Society UPDATE*, Spring 1997 issue.)

By Mike Klesius

There's no substitute for getting geography straight from the source. The children at Sumner Academy in Gallatin, Tennessee, know this firsthand, thanks to a pilot project called "Visiting Geographer" conceived by Brenda Whitsell, a fifth-grade teacher at Sumner.

The project, funded by a teacher's grant from the National Geographic Society, has brought Sally Horn, a physical geographer with the University of Tennessee, into the classroom at Sumner to relate her rich field and research experience. "For the children," says Whitsell, "it's more than just the knowledge they've gained; they now know a true geographer and understand the value of research. It has become a very personal thing for the kids."

Whitsell came up with the idea a year ago, and approached Sid Jumper, Tennessee alliance coordinator and then chairman of the geography department at the University of Tennessee. He suggested to Whitsell that she work with Horn, who liked the idea.

Whitsell used funding from the Tennessee Geographic Alliance to travel to Costa Rica last summer. She took part in geographical field studies there with Horn and other researchers.

When Horn first visited Sumner Academy a few months later, during Geography Awareness Week, she brought topographic maps, field equipment, and microscope slides. All 250 students at Sumner examined pollen Horn had collected on earlier trips to the Dominican Republic, and they learned about the rigors of fieldwork. Horn also showed them slides of

(ROCKIES —Continued from page 5)

After spending a night at Alamosa, CO, the crew journeyed to Capulin Volcano in New Mexico. The bus wound its way up the steep face of the volcano only because all other traffic on the road was stopped. At the top, teachers were able to journey into the crater of the volcano and climb around the rim.

"It was an awesome trip to awesome places with an awesome group of educators," said Patricia Twilla of Dyersburg. Clark Walker of Clinton commented, "When I look at the plains states, especially eastern Colorado, it is now from a different perspective. The institute successfully combined professional people as instructors and guides who made field experiences interesting and relevant."

"Having never been in the Great Plains / Colorado area of the country," wrote Janet Wehner of Cordova, "this opportunity to

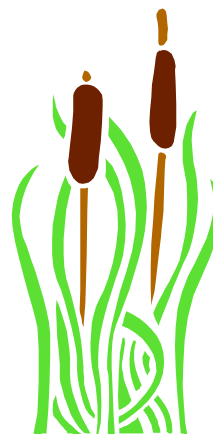
her research on climate history in the Dominican highlands. This research is funded by the National Geographic Society and the Moscoso Puello Foundation. The children began asking sophisticated questions about field supplies, weather, geology, logistics, and travel.

Next, Whitsell got the school in touch with Horn and one of her graduate students, Lisa Kennedy, via e-mail, so that the students could ask questions about their fieldwork in March 1997. "The questions we got were just fantastic," says Horn. "Their level of understanding surpassed anything I had expected. They asked detailed questions about whether we had evidence of glaciers from thousands of years ago. They also remembered little details from last fall, like dealing with our mules and running out of sugar."

Back home, the Sumner students had written a book called *Sally Horn, Biographer*, reporting everything from where she was born to what kind of work she does. Spanish classes learned place-names in the Dominican Republic, and social studies classes mapped them. On May 6, Horn and Kennedy returned to Sumner with tree ring samples, sediment cores, and a water filter.

The future of this partnership looks bright. Says Whitsell, "I want other teachers to say, 'I could get a research geographer to come to my class.' There's a benefit to the geographer as well: You're leaving a legacy. You may not be around down the road to see one of the students become a geographer, but it could happen, thanks to your positive influence."

(DELTA — Continued from page 5)



provided fascinating discussion and exploration of ethnic landscapes closer to home (i.e. Middle Tennessee). Teachers learned how to "read" the landscape wherever they live and teach. Caneta Hankins of the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation provided ready-to-use lesson applications for cemetery studies, architecture, and ethnic imprints on local landscapes. Hint: If you've seen one cemetery, you haven't seen them all!

The moral of this story is: If you've never been part of a Tennessee Geography Alliance Summer Institute, you've missed something really special... namely, an experience that will impact your teaching beyond your wildest dreams! ... just ask the twenty-six teachers who attended "Geography of the South: Lessons from the Delta."

Henry wins more converts for Tennessee geography

Professor Jim Henry at Tennessee State University reports that he is "certain he made some new converts to geography" at a recent summer teaching institute.

This year's Dwight Eisenhower Summer Institute for Teachers was directed by Professor Hoyt King, a political science professor in TSU's Department of History, Geography and Political Science. Its title was "New Methods and Innovations in Teaching Government, History and Geography for Teachers in Grades 7-12."

The stated goal was to train and retrain teachers in the content and methods of teaching and learning these subjects, so they will (1) learn to appreciate and understand their interconnectedness, and (2) integrate common subject matter into other social studies courses.

Seventeen teachers from the Mid-State area participated in the institute. Thirteen guest scholars and resource persons gave lectures, presentations, and demonstrations.

Prof. Henry's presentation was entitled "New and Innovative Ways of Teaching Geography." All participants were provided with a copy of *Geography for Life: National Geography Standards 1994*, and many other handouts, including a list of eight geography educational organizations — and information about the Tennessee Geographic Alliance, which several participants said they planned to join.

Although emphasis was given to the Standards, there was also discussion on how to incorporate the Five Themes into the "New Geography."

If you would like further details about the handout materials or any other aspect of the presentation, please contact Jim Henry at TSU, (615) 963-5515.

Return of a Classic! The American Geographical Society's Around the World Program

The Around the World Program is a series of small books, each of which describes the geography, economy, history, politics, and contemporary society of a different country.

Each book is 64 pages in length, full color, authoritative, and up to date. Titles now available include Japan, Switzerland, Fiji, Malta, Australia, and Madagascar. Brazil, Scotland, and Oman are in production, and the other countries of the world will follow.

Activity guides are available for each book.

Books: individual copies — \$13.95 softcover, \$18.95 hardcover. Activity guides: \$4.00 each.

Order from: The McDonald & Woodward Publishing Company, P.O. Box GG, Saltville, VA 24370. Phone: 1-800-233-8787.

Mapmaker, Mapmaker. . .

<http://loki.ur.utk.edu/ut2kids/maps/map.html>

Teachers looking for safe, educational Web sites on geography will absolutely love this site, designed for young explorers. Cartographer Will Fontanez (who directs the Cartographic Services Laboratory at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville) takes the students on a fascinating tour of the world of maps.

The home page includes a pirate map, the "yellow brick road" to Oz, and a series of more serious maps illustrating different kinds of maps and projections. Students from all levels of K-12 education will enjoy this page, but it is designed primarily for those in the elementary and middle school grades.

Fontanez became interested in making maps when he was in college, but he liked to do a lot of artwork when he was in high school. When he was a student at East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania, he became a geography major. At Ohio University, he combined his artistic skills with his geographic talents and started specializing in mapmaking. Will's maps have received widespread attention, especially when he created a series of thematic maps on educational funding in Tennessee.

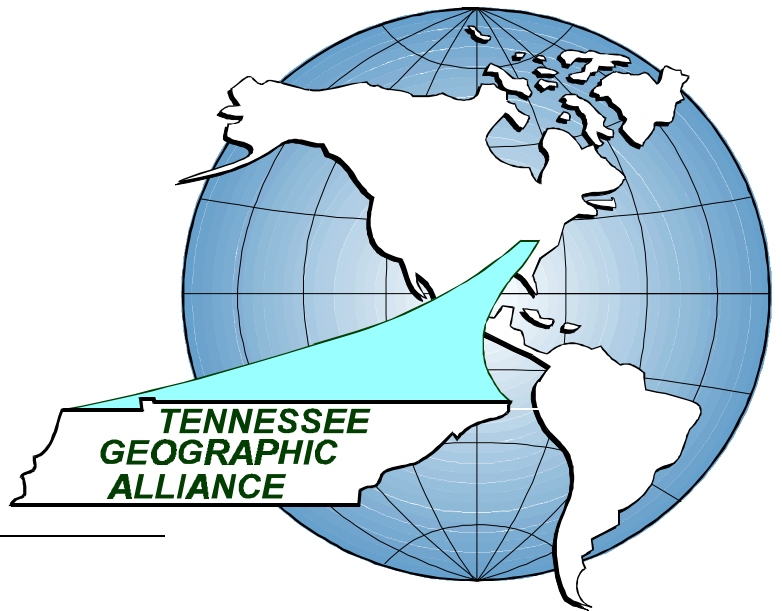
The home page was written by Tina Jones, and the artwork was created by Hugh Bailey. Visit this site and explore the world of Will Fontanez.

Knox teachers learn GIS skills, get free software

Approximately 20 teachers from the Knox County system attended a two-week summer institute featuring GIS software. The main software package, Idrisi, permitted teachers and others to enter data about locations and then to look at the location from many different perspectives. One of the most fascinating activities occurred when the teachers were able to create 3-D relief maps and then rotate the images to view them from different directions and elevations.

Directed by Kyle Rector, the institute was funded by the Tennessee Geographic Alliance, the Eisenhower Foundation, Knox County Department of Education, and the National Geographic Society.

In addition to learning how to operate GIS software, the teachers got to surf the Internet, visit the UTK map library, and experiment with a wide variety of easy-to-use software that could be used in the classroom. At the end of the institute, the teachers were given copies of Idrisi and were allowed to select \$250 in additional software. Other software was donated to the teachers throughout the institute, including two CD packages, a grade management system, and a package to help students review for tests.



Inside This Issue

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with this year's TGA Summer Institutes**

Sign up for 1997 Statewide Alliance Meeting

New software, newsmakers, and more!

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