

OUT AND ABOUT

MASSIVE NEW INVESTMENT IN GRASS SEED CLEANING AT JOHNSONS

A massive new grass seed cleaning plant, the only one of its type in the country, has been installed by Johnsons Seeds at their Boston headquarters.

Costing over £150,000, the new plant was designed, supplied and installed by a Danish manufacturer primarily for cleaning fescue seed but is equally capable of handling any other variety of grass seed.

Uncleaned seed is taken straight from bulk bins or sacks by a belt feed intake on the ground floor and conveyed to the top floor into a bulk holding bin. From there it passes into the pre-cleaner and on into a large screen cleaner and indented cylinders, with a special brushing machine incorporated in the flow line.

The seed then passes into the 'cleaned seed' hopper where it undergoes automatic sampling. Finally the seed moves in to the 'weighing off' machine and is then bagged, labelled and stitched as it passes along the slatted conveyor to be palletised.

Michael Goodliffe, Johnsons production director, said "The new plant is several times more efficient than previous equipment and has a greater capacity. This one will break down the 'doubles' and re-clean the 'overs.'"

NEW NATIONAL 84" PTO GANG MOWER FROM ALLEN

Built for users of compact tractors is the new National PTO driven triple mower: by Allen Power Equipment.

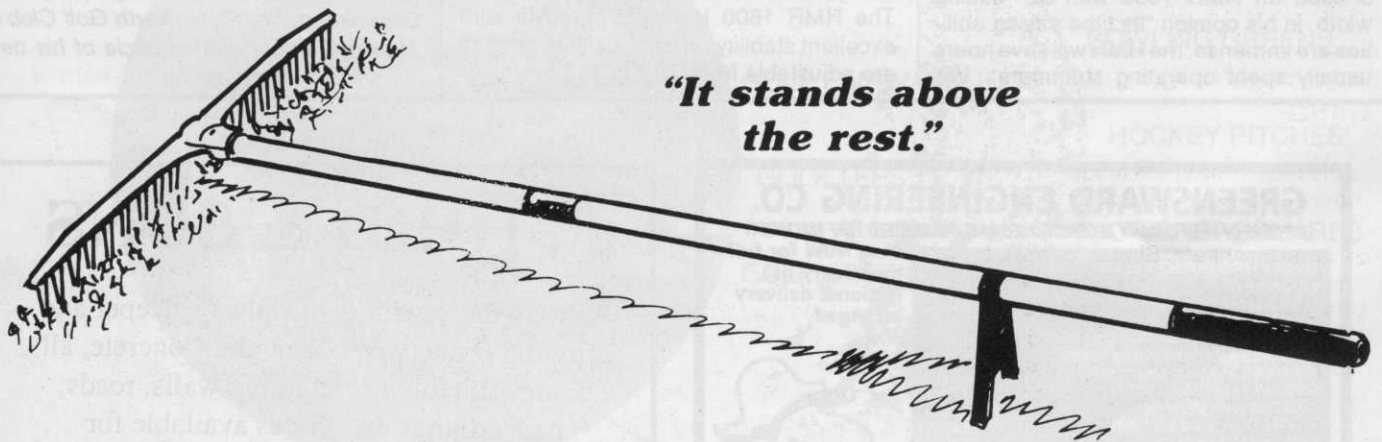
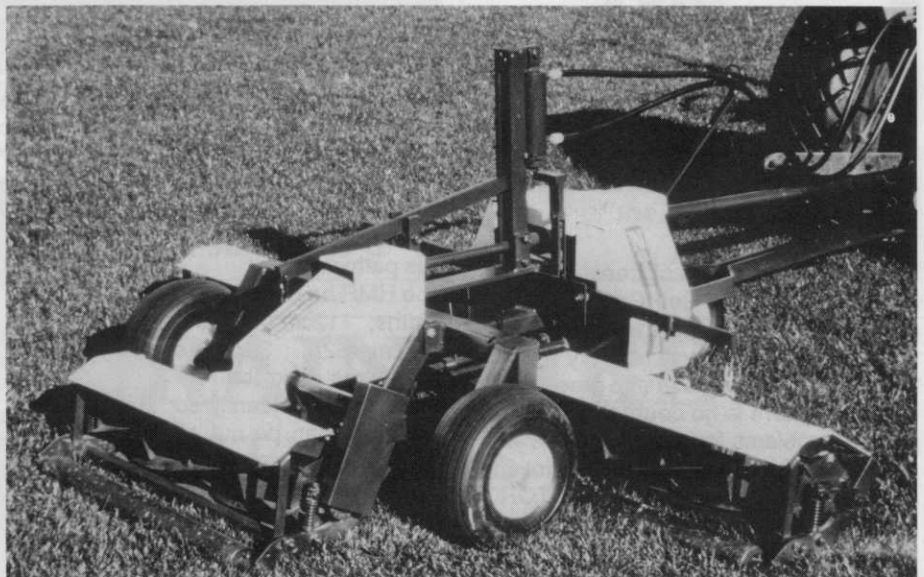
All that is needed is a minimum 15 PTO hp tractor unit hooked up to this high performance cutter and you are ready to mow an 84" swath at a rate of up to 3 acres per hour.

Equipped with a high efficiency drive system, heavy-duty right angle gear boxes and final belt drive engage/disengage the mowers via the PTO clutch.

Because the cylinders are belt driven there are no wheels to lock and scuff the turf, if a foreign object becomes jammed in the reel. With no outrigger wheels, cutting units reach out over kerbs and sand traps to minimise additional trimming.

This new addition to the Allen range has hydraulic raising and lowering of cylinders, six bladed 8" diameter cylinders running on adjustable Timken bearings and joins the highly successful National 68" and 84" triple mowers already established in the U.K. market place.

The price of the Allen National PTO Gang Mower is £3995.00 + VAT.



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OUT AND ABOUT

ROYAL DUTIES FOR A HUXLEY THREESOME

The Royal Parks Division of the Department of the Environment has bought three items of professional turf equipment from Huxleys Grass Machinery to help look after formal grass areas within the Royal Parks and gardens.

The Huxley 358 Greensmower, has been supplied to maintain Royal Lawns' together with a three wheel Cushman Turf Truckster vehicle fitted with a tipping Long Box with detachable sides and tailgate.

Supplied and equipped with a rear-mounted Huxley H44 Fine Turf Scarifier, the combination is used for regular aeration of Lawns, removing thatch and other material to encourage healthy grass growth



Edward Huxley (left) with area sales manager, Ron Rose, checking the new machines prior to delivery to London's Royal Parks.

ROUGH CUT ROTARY SAVES STRIMMING TIME

Trees, trees hundreds of trees! Just the thing to enhance a Golf Course. Many golfers would argue there is no finer sight than a tree lined fairway, all very well for the player but what about the greenkeeping staff. There is no doubt that trees do present problems for greens staff as well as the occasional wayward drive. Not any more though, the new HMR from TORO has the ability to leave uncut circles as small as 8" diameter.

Don Major, Head Greenkeeper of Bletchworth Park Private Golf Club has purchased an HMR 1600 with 52" cutting width, in his opinion "Its time saving abilities are immense, the HMR will save hours usually spent operating strimmers. We

can use the machine around 200 or so trees on our course and on numerous pathways."

The HMR has two cutting widths; 112cm (44") and 132cm (52:). Separate gearboxes drive the rear wheels independently so that drive can be cut off from the inside rear wheel when turning sharply. This prevents scuffing or marking the turf and because speed is automatically reduced on sharp corners the operator can cut to edges more easily. The HMR 1600 is highly versatile with excellent stability on hills. Cutting heights are adjustable from 37.5 to 112.5mm.



Picture above shows Don Major (left) Head Greenkeeper of Bletchworth Golf Club is shown the tight cutting circle of his new Toro HMR 1600.

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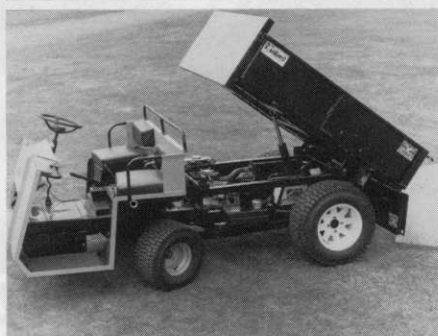
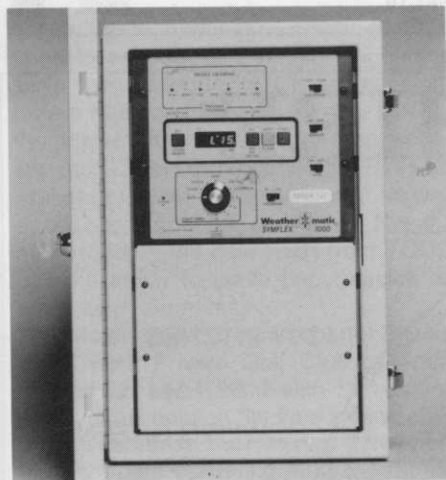
OUT AND ABOUT

WEATHER MATIC LAUNCH NEW WATER CONTROL SYSTEM

Weather-matic has introduced an affordable and versatile irrigation water management system designed specifically for golf courses.

The new Command Satellite system features MK12C Command units and MK12S Satellite units. The communications link requires only 24 V.A.C. with 2 wires common from each Command to all associated Satellites.

The Symflex System also features a pump interrupter circuit which provides remote sensing of mainline pressure and flow to assist in pump protection; a system shut-down alert circuit to prevent pressure surge damage caused by rapid valve closure; and a remote sensor circuit to monitor special water management conditions such as wind, rain, soil moisture and temperature.



KUBOTA ENGINE FOR MALLARD TRUCK

A new Kubota air-cooled diesel engine has been chosen to power a new British built all-terrain light truck.

The engine has a remarkably low fuel consumption, using some 40 per cent less per hour than an air-cooled petrol engine of the same power, and is much quieter. Until now all Mallard designs have had front-mounted engines located between the seats for the driver and his mate, but truck designer David Brown was searching for an engine which would be compact enough to fit under the load body of his new Mallard Mark V so as to give less noise for crew and bystanders alike.

David Brown said, "Our Mallard Trucks are produced as true multi-purpose vehicles and can have 3 point hydraulic linkages fitted at front and rear to carry a wide range of equipment - so the engine has to be able to drive an hydraulic services pump as well as deliver sufficient power to the rear wheels. The OC 60 does this comfortably, it just 'sets its teeth' into the load and keeps going".

GOLF COURSE EUROPE 1989:

On 4, 5 and 6 October 1989 a new trade exhibition will take place in the Rhein/Main Halls in Wiesbaden, West Germany: Golf Course Europe '89, also known as G.C.E. Golf Course Europe is the only European Exhibition and conference to specialise on the viability research, the design, construction and maintenance of golf courses and on golf club management.

GCE will be the central marketplace for anyone involved in the rapidly expanding market of golf courses in Europe. In the next decade between a 1000 and 2000 new golf courses will be added to the existing 4,500, while the number of golfers is expected to triple.

Because of the mid 70's recession many golf projects ran into serious financial difficulties. The main causes of failure were mismanagement and inadequate research into a project's economic viability.

The range of expertise required in a large golf estate project is formidable. Many disciplines are involved in building a golf course. This is why at the GCE '89 conference a large number of topics will be addressed by more than 25 speakers from various countries.

The exhibition will be visited by exhibitors from all over the world. There will be between a 100 - 150 exhibitors, mainly from Europe and the USA. They will exhibit all products and services needed to plan, design, construct and maintain a golf course. The visitors of GCE '89 will find the latest developments in irrigation techniques, drainage systems turf care, mowers, equipment and many other products. The exhibition is only for visitors who professionally deal with golf courses.

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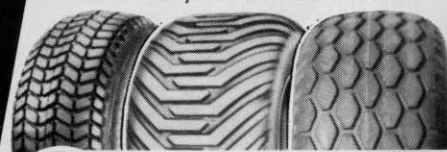
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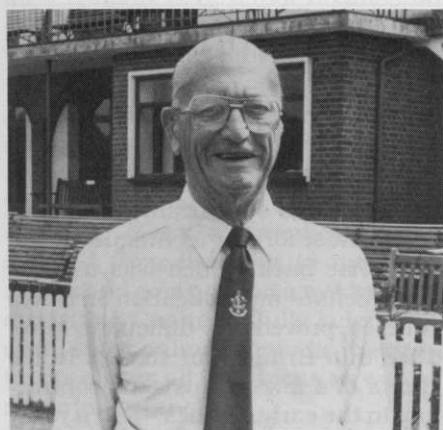


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OBITUARY

MR WILLIAM H, BOWLES, BEM, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF GROUNDSMANSHIP



William 'Bill' Bowles, Founder and President of the Institute of Groundsmanship, died at Wexham Park Hospital, Slough, after a short illness, on Wednesday, 19th July 1989, at the age of 89.

Bill Bowles founded the National Association of Groundsmen in 1934 whilst working as Head Groundsman to Westminster Bank in Norbury. In 1916 Bill moved to Eton College on his appointment as Head Groundsman and retired in 1985, after having served 72 years as a turf care expert of great repute. In 1947 Bill was invited to serve on the National Playing Fields Association's prestigious Ground and Layout Committee. He has given talks and practical demonstrations at the request of the MCC, with the aim of improving the standard of wickets generally and in all his working life never declared a pitch out-of-play due to inclement weather. An acknowledged expert in turf culture, Bill's expertise is known throughout the world and is best summed up in an extract from an article in the Eton College Chronicle, printed when Bill retired in 1985 aged 85 *"Despite his eminence in the profession, he always put Eton first - no man in the history of Eton College can have given longer or more devoted service than Bill Bowles. We may be sure that if he ever dies... that W. G. Grace himself will at once appoint him Head Groundsman of the Elysian Fields."*

This sentiment is carried through in the work Bill has tirelessly carried out for the Institute of Groundsmanship. His aims to bring groundsmen together, give opportunities for training, hold examinations and courses, raise standards of sportsground

**FIRST GOLF COURSE FOR POLAND
(A Golf Course - Exclusive)**

An 18 hole golf course with a driving range is to be built in the grounds of luxury hotel, converted from an Old Bishop's Castle at Pultask, a medieval town some 60km north east of Warsaw.

The project has reached the design stage to plans drawn up by the Swedish architect, Jan Sederholm who has been responsible for a number of golf courses in Scandanavia.

It is understood that the finance is to be provided by a group from Sweden with Polish connections backed by a Polish Government Agency, to cultivate links with those of Polish origins, but living abroad. The hotel with a recreational complex opened last month, the course will follow, constructed by a local civil engineering firm under the management of Richard Gacke, a Pole who has worked in Nigeria for 15 years, where he acquired his golfing interest as a member of the Ikoyi Club in Lagos.

Richard confesses to be a "lousy" golfer, but says that he is keen and does at least know something about the game!

Once the course is finished, there is an

option to build a further 9 holes.

It seems there is an immediate demand for at least 20 golf courses in Poland just to cater for the tourists who take their clubs to West Berlin and Vienna and then move on into Poland to continue their holiday. That takes no account of the local population, who are at present unable to take up the game.

Estimates point to over 40,000 people waiting to join a club in Stockholm, many quite prepared to join the new club at Pultusk and fly in to stay at the hotel.

In fact the Swedish partner has already reserved a number of membership cards and when ready, the course will also be available to hotel guests.

Once constructed, Richard Gacke will take over as Course Manager and will then be faced with the task of training a greenkeeping crew. Purchasing the right equipment for course maintenance is likely to be a major problem as there is nothing of suitable manufacture in Poland.

However as one of the current subscribers to 'the Golf Course', he is sure to pick up a great deal of the information he requires.

maintenance and to improve the status of groundsmen and the profession have all been achieved and the Institute will carry on his good work. The sell-out of this year's annual IOG Sports & Leisure World Trade Exhibition to be held at Windsor Racecourse in September with 450 exhibitors is fitting tribute to his memory.

Bill Bowles was an extremely popular, highly respected and much loved figure. His contribution at local, regional, national and international level, his vast experience and wonderful personality will be sadly missed by the entire turf care and leisure industry.

Deepest sympathy and condolences are conveyed to all of Bill's family.

4 WHEEL DRIVE FOR JACOBSEN FAIRWAY MOWER

The Jacobsen LF-100 5 gang fairway mower is now available with four wheel drive. This option allows the LF-100 to climb hills without damage to the turf caused by wheel spin and slippage.

At the touch of a knob, the operator can go from two wheel drive to four wheel drive and back, without stopping.

The 100-inch cut and mowing speeds of more than five mph mean high productivity. The up-front placement of the outside reels allows the operator to see the trimming edge without looking behind, for a cleaner mowing line.

The LF-100's five 22-inch reels deliver a tournament-quality cut. Pedal-operated reel lift helps the operator cross-cut fairways effectively. A tight turning radius and power steering provide extra manoeuvrability and comfort.

ICI DONATION TO AQUATIC WEEDS RESEARCH UNIT

HRH The Duke of Gloucester has received a cheque on behalf of the Aquatic Weeds Research Unit for (1318) from ICI Professional Products.

The cheque, presented by Patrick Goldsworthy was a donation based on the sales of the ICI publication 'Aquatic Plants - A Guide to Recognition' by David Spencer-Jones and Max Wade.

The book is still available at a cost of £7.50 inc p&p from Borcombe Printers Ltd., Publications Department, Unit 6, Budds Lane, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 OHA.

THE DUTCH INVENTION THAT HAS TAKEN OVER FROM THE FORK

Jim Arthur extolls its virtues but warns it is not the complete answer to compaction



The Verti-Drain is in regular use at St. Andrews

THE Vertidrain, invented by the de Ridders in the Netherlands specifically to emulate the old raise forking technique – insert and prise back, which was used on golf greens at my instigation on Dutch courses, proved very difficult to introduce into Britain but thanks to the efforts of a few enthusiastic contractors in the early eighties – and it really is a contractors' weapon unless more than 18 holes are involved, it has been regarded as the answer to all compaction problems.

Of course, it is not! Only where there is a permeable situation, within the reach of the tines will it improve drainage and persistent use on wet sticky clays aggravates problems, as has been discovered on some poorly drained football pitches.

Timing is also vital if disturbance is not to be intolerable. This naturally does not just mean avoiding Vertidrain-ing a few days before Captain's day, but primarily choosing a time when surfaces are firm enough to avoid wheel marking and subsurfaces dry enough to be friable and so break up on lifting. The use of flotation tyres initially eliminates wheel tracking even (or especially) with the larger models.

Depth is as vital as lifting. There is no point in Vertidrain-ing 6" deep with no lift – we have cheaper machines with less potential for disturbance. It is vital to go down to the drier less compacted areas and to penetrate any pan formation.

Closer spacing avoids the rippled effect and this means slower operating speeds. Since the whole green (or tee) is lifted, hopefully uniformly, some settlement is inevitable.

Many greenkeepers have found it saves many grumbles to run a hand machine over the greens immediately afterwards, with the reel set up and

MANAGEMENT

the box weighted with sand bags. It is definitely a very bad idea to sand greens after Vertidrain. If it is desired to keep the holes open to provide a pattern of vertical drains, then use clean uniform 4mm screened 'gravel' screenings from sand quarries. It is available! This either goes down the holes or is swept off. The sand layers, even under dry conditions and we do not want to resurrect the heresy of shallow tining and massive sand dressings, causing severe root breaks and layering and reduced drought resistance and in consequence gross over watering.

Above all, if in doubt leave the holes open. Only if the weather is suitable and there is still growth to absorb it use the normal (mid seasonal) top dressing. Many a greenkeeper has suffered from listening to members moans and going out on a wet winter's day with a Cushman fully laden with sand, putting almost ineradicable deep tracks across all the greens as well as smearing greens.

Timing is therefore vital and in consequence early booking with Contractors, who naturally want to spread their contract season. I would rather see greens Vertidrain in July and August than in November, but the weather is the final arbiter.



Above: Weather is the final arbiter as damage can occur, but this is unlikely with an operator with proven experience.

Left: The forks enter the greens surface and then whilst under ground move laterally.

Vertidrain only where there is a drained or potentially drainable layer below, though this can include uncompacted dry friable clay! Vertidrain only under suitable 'soil' conditions, which includes weather! Vertidrain must be backed up by regular aeration, deeper in winter but frequent in the growing season (to encourage penetration of rain and irrigation).

Do not fall into the trap of thinking that this is the solution to all problems it isn't, but it is a very valuable weapon and greenkeeping owes the de Ridders a vast debt of gratitude.

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ROUND UP AT TROON

New Zealand Greenkeeper

Course management at Royal Troon had an international flavour this year with a twenty-three year old New Zealand greenkeeper as the team's twelve man for the preparation of the Ayrshire course for the 118th Open Championship.

Last year Morgan Henton, from Hamilton on the North Island, did a six month stint at Muirfield and expressing interest to become involved with an Open Championship came to an arrangement between the two Scottish clubs to join Norman Fergusson's staff.

He returned home for three months at the back end of last year and arrived back in Scotland with his wife at the beginning of the season.

Accommodation was impossible to find in Troon on a greenkeeper's wage so they moved down the coast to Ayr travelling in six miles each day on the bus, Morgan to the course and his wife to her job in the nearby Marine Hotel, so both were close to the action.

Talking to Morgan in the greenkeeper's sheds during his lunch break, he told me that New Zealand almost rivals Ireland in the number of courses per head of population. Every town has a golf course. His home town, Hamilton with around 100,000 people has five. There are no links type course, most are parkland based on the American design, with bent and fescue greens and some pennecross, though they also have their fair share of poa.

Training for greenstaff is a mixture of the British and American style. They serve an apprenticeship of 4,000 hours, combined with a correspondence course and block release at a technical college, extending over three years.

Each year the student has to sit two exams and pass before moving on to the next stage. The final examination will provide the trainee with a Trade Certificate in Golf Course Greenkeeping.

If successful there is the opportunity to study for an advanced course to qualify for a Diploma in Turf Culture.

Morgan said he started as an appren-

tice and when he left Hamilton Golf Club after four and half years at the course, he had obtained both his Trade Certificate and his Diploma.

He intends stopping on at Royal Troon for a few months after the Open Championship and then continue his working holiday in Britain until the end of the year, perhaps breaking his journey in New York where he spent a couple of weeks last year with an American Golf Course Superintendent.

For recreation he plays a little golf over the Royal Troon links and the adjacent Portland course. "Its mainly in the evening", he added, "keeping well clear of the members".

This young man is typical of the younger breed of greenkeeper now coming into course management. Ambitious, realising the advantages of world wide travel, he knows his experience in Scotland will pay handsome dividends when the time comes to settle back in his home country.

Another recruit to 'Arnie's Army'

A lonely figure walking up the par five 16th carrying a single wood was recognised immediately as Arnold Palmer on his way to find a wayward shot.

As he passed a middle aged lady leaning against the fence, Arnold smiled, raised his hand to his forehead and said "Good Afternoon".

She looked in stunned silence for a second or two, then rushed across to her husband and said "He spoke to me - he actually spoke to me - Arnold Palmer said good afternoon!".

Arnold has made a great many people happy over four decades of competition. He has just added another fan for life.

Smoothing the sand in the dunes

Greenkeepers from all parts of the country came to Royal Troon to assist with bunker raking. This year, on the drought stricken Ayrshire course their duties were totally confined to smoothing the sand, unlike last year at Royal Lytham when it was all hands to the pump to make the course playable, following hours of torrential rain.

It was so dry, at Troon the wispy rough was like a tinder box and it was inevitable someone would drop a lighted cigarette into the dead grass and start a fire.

When it happened at the Prestwick end of the course, spectators were quickly evacuated and the fire brigade were on the scene within minutes to bring the blaze under control.

Cheers!

Events such as the Open Championship always produce a captive gathering of people with money in their pockets. Hand in hand there are those with the sole objective of getting it out.

Although one can understand the necessity of covering the cost of the stand rents charged by the R & A, the prices demanded by some of the food and drink suppliers were quite obscene.

No names, but the two organisations to whom we will raise our glass in a grateful toast are the Golf Club Stewards Association for their friendly welcome and bar prices equal to those charged in most clubs.

Coupled with those thanks is one to the members and committee of Royal Troon who also dispensed hospitality, without inflation, in the club bar.

"Gentlemen, in every sense of the word - Your good health".

J.E.L.

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