

(Continued from page 9)

1990," Wayne points out. "It's been wonderful. I have a Reggie White autographed football that Todd Edlebeck (grounds supervisor for the Packers) got for me. One of the perks of the job.

"The ultimate experience was being on Lambeau Field, looking at the turfgrass with Todd, and having Brett Favre walk across the field, look at us, and ask us what we were doing," he continues. "It was our chance to educate Brett Favre on grass."

During his nearly eight years on the job in Wisconsin, driving was his least favorite and most favorite part of the job. "It's ironic," he admits. "But driving was the worst part because I was away from my family a lot, which isn't easy. It's funny how some superintendents will look at sales reps and think their job is easy because they don't have to work on weekends. But superintendents can go home every night. They're both difficult jobs with their pluses and minuses.

"The best part of the job was also driving," Wayne continues. "Getting around, seeing different people, visiting all types of superintendents with all types of backgrounds. I'd get to know all about their families. Sometimes it was kind of like being a therapist. I'd hear about their problems and issues, whether it would be in their personal lives or dealing with the greens chairman, the crew, or just the golf course itself.

"I really learned to respect superintendents. They put their whole life into something that everyone else takes for granted. For most people, golf is a game you play for entertainment. For superintendents, it's their whole life," Wayne adds.

He also enjoyed the variety of things he'd see while traveling down the roads of Wisconsin. "An Amish buggy one day, a road I'd never traveled on the next day, a new sign I'd never seen before. I used to take a map and put lines on it to indicate, 'Hey, I've been on this road.' Wisconsin is a great place to live and travel because there's so much to see."

His travels led him to "The Surrounds" column because he was always out on the road visiting superintendents. "Monroe is very persuasive," he emphasizes. "He suggested that I owed it to The Grass Roots, as

well as the industry, to provide a service that, in his words, everyone wanted to read.

"I tell you what, superintendents weren't all that helpful in sending me the information," he admits. "I really had to pull teeth sometimes. I think some people saw it as gossip. Others wanted to remain modest. So it was rare when they called me. But I'd hear about their news eventually — from other superintendents or at the association meetings."

Wayne served the industry as president of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association in 1995-96. "That was interesting," he recalls. "It was during the time we were trying to find a replacement for Dr. Frank Rossi. It was a down time. We lost a really good person in Frank, someone who really made a difference in the turf program. We had to keep the ship afloat and try to make it better."

Having traveled to golf courses in other states, Wayne believes the superintendents in Wisconsin are especially friendly. "They're more receptive to letting people come into their shops. It's like letting people into your home," he says. "I don't know if you'd see that in every part of the country.

"And the courses here are great," he continues. "Obviously, the more money available to spend on a course, the better the course. But where I think Wisconsin really makes a difference is with its modest-budget courses which still are able to give such a quality product."

How? "I think it's education," he answers. "More and more education is being provided for superintendents these days. There's also better communication between superintendents. I'm not saying there's not competition out there. But I think that Wisconsin superintendents, for the most part, are willing to share information.

"They're also using better products today, whether it's the equipment or soft goods, like fertilizer and fungicide," Wayne continues. "The unfortunate part of that is that the better equipment sometimes makes the job more difficult. The equipment lets you cut at a lower height, but the turfgrass itself hasn't changed that much. You're trying to have that plant do some things it's not accustomed to doing."

Wayne's favorite courses to play in Wisconsin are the River Course

at Blackwolf Run and Stevens Point Country Club — the former because it's challenging and unique, and the latter because it's such a "great product."

Other hobbies include volleyball, softball, and being a Packers fan. "Probably the most fun I have is with gardening and landscape design," he relates, adding that it was especially fun when his wife's uncle named new day lily hybrids — Little Josh and Little Ben — after their two sons.

Joshua is 5 years old and Benjamin is 18 months. "Fortunately, they look like their mom," Wayne adds. "Susan is a first grade teacher who has been job sharing since the children were born. She won't be able to job share in Ohio, so she won't be teaching for a few years.

"My claim to fame is my wife's dad, Jerry Apps," Wayne says of the celebrated author of textbooks and of Wisconsin history and folklore. Wayne hasn't read all of his books, but he is excited to see pictures of his kids in some of them.

Wayne hasn't convinced his father-in-law to write a history of golf courses in Wisconsin. "He wants Monroe to do that," Wayne points out.

Think Monroe will include a section on when Scotts finally put its golf course products into 50-pound bags, thanks to Wayne Horman? We'll see. 🍀

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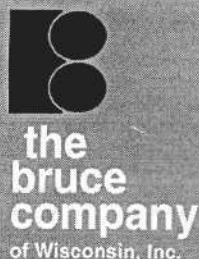
# OCTOBER WGCSA MEETING

The last outing for 1997 was held at Rolling Meadows Golf Club in Fond du Lac. David Brandenburg played host to 56 superintendents and affiliates for the 2-man 666 golf event. Holes one - six were played as a best ball, seven - twelve as a modified chapman alternate shot, and thirteen - eighteen were played as a scramble. Pat Shaw and Ed Witkowski shot a two under par 70 to capture first place. Gary Huenerburg and Lee Reinke shot 72 for second place and Charlie and Dan Shaw took third place with a 74.

Dr. John Stier from the University of Wisconsin Madison was our guest luncheon speaker. Dr. Stier presented an autobiography of his past accomplishments, current programs, and future plans for the university. It was a great opportunity for all of us to get to know more about the man that will be helping mold the future of the turf programs in Madison. 🌿



UW-Madison professor Dr. John Stier gave an excellent lecture at the Rolling Meadows meeting.



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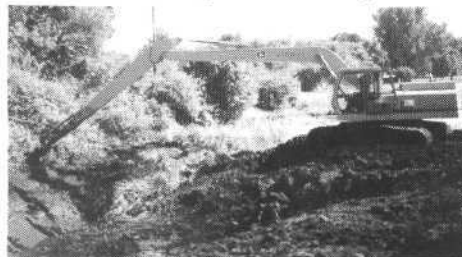
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# *Dried Squid and Raw Eel for Thanksgiving*

By Steve Millett

Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

There was no turkey for the Milletts this Thanksgiving. No stuffing, potatoes, cranberries, pumpkin pie or football game, either. I spent this Thanksgiving participating in the 'International Workshop on Plant-Microbe Interactions at Freezing Temperature Under Snow' which was held in Sapporo, Japan, from November 25th to the 28th. The host city of Sapporo offered many things, including an impressive cold environment research facility. The intensive four-day workshop highlighted work of the world's leading snow mold authorities, including scientists from Japan (40+), Canada (6), Norway (3), Sweden (1), Russia (2), Iceland (1), Finland (1) and, of course, the USA (2). The trip was an important event for me and the turfs of Wisconsin.

An alternative headline for this article could be, 'Big Foolish American Godzilla Spends Thanksgiving at Snow Mold Workshop in Japan.' From getting off the plane in Tokyo, to trying to order lunch at a fish market diner, I felt huge, stupid and definitely out of place. Fortunately, the Japanese people are the nicest, most hospitable, generous and helpful people that I have ever visited. The trip started off on the wrong foot as Debbie (my wife) and I were delayed at immigration and missed our connecting flight to Sapporo. After finding the tiny airline office and practically knocking down their walls with our behemoth suitcases, we were quickly shuttled to another airport for the next flight to Sapporo. I wish that the US could adopt the kind of passionate, professional service that one encounters throughout Japan.



FIG 1. The Old Hokkaido Gov't Building, 'Aka Kenga' (red bricks), was built in 1888 and reflects the Massachusetts State House. Notice bamboo teepees for cold protection.



FIG 2. Odori Koen stretches through Sapporo and is host for the Winter 'White Illumination' and the world famous 'Sapporo Snow Festival.'

Even though we caught the next day's earliest flight, I still missed the opening ceremony of the workshop. "Nice first impression," I thought to myself as I entered the darkened conference room where Dr. Nissinen had just started his presentation. We were all assigned a leather power chair in a long oval configuration with the presenters at the front of the room. In the center of the oval was a huge flower arrangement with national flags of all the attendees.

(Continued on page 14)



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(Continued from page 13)

The whole scene was very intimidating. During the coffee breaks, we could walk around, gab and take in the breathtaking view of the mountains. The 1972 Winter Olympics were held in Sapporo and the ski jump and giant slalom areas are still in use.

The lunch buffets at the workshop offered food that I had only seen on television. I took small samples of almost everything and most dishes were very tasty. Others, like octopus tentacle, just felt funny in my mouth. The Japanese have a passion for cooking and eating that surpasses Americans. Food is a very important part of the modern culture. I first realized this passion when watching TV in the hotel room. There are regular cooking shows, cooking game shows, celebrity and bloopers cooking shows. Even the department stores have an incredible amount and diversity of food. Debbie bought two blemish-free tangerines wrapped in their own styrofoam container for \$4 a piece. Man, those were the best tangerines! Food is big in Japan, with the focus on selection, preparation and presentation.

Sapporo is also big in Japan. Sapporo, with 1.77 million people, is Japan's fifth largest city. Sapporo is located in the Hokkaido prefecture (county) of Ishikari. This is significant to *Typhula* researchers because this is where *T. ishikariensis* ('Ishikari-origin') derives its name. Japanese cite Hokkaido's capital as one of the most desired places to visit in Japan (Figure 1). Although it is large, it is not confusing or congested. American William S. Clark was sent by President Ulysses Grant in 1870 to help build Sapporo at the request of Hokkaido's governor. Clark's influence of an ordinary grid for a city street plan is a rarity in Japan. One beautifully landscaped park is the central Odori Koen (Figure 2) which is where the winter "White Illumination" (Christmas light display) and the world famous Sapporo Snow Festival take place. They were sodding Kentucky bluegrass in trampled areas and a buried plastic mesh was used to reduce foot traffic damage. The long workday didn't leave much time for tourism but Debbie got me out at night. Sapporo is a beautiful place.

The first day of the workshop started with Nissinen's 20+ years of Finnish work on *Sclerotinia borealis* and *Typhula* spp., Gaudet's fructans work and Nakayama and Tsurumi's cold and snow mold resistance in wheat. Some very fine work was presented but I didn't know anyone there. I had only read their research papers or e-mailed them. Just meeting world-leading snow mold authorities such as Now Matsumoto, A.M. Tronsmo and Izumi Saito was probably the biggest highlight of the first day.

The second day highlight for me was presenting my work. It went very well and I stirred up lots of questions, which is always a good sign. Team Canada presented more impressive work including Dr. Hsaing's (Guelf) work with *T. phacorrhiza* as a biocontrol agent. Dr. Now Matsumoto (Japan) also wowed the audience with his presentation and further fueled the debate over *Typhula* taxonomy. The day ended with a tour of the Hokkaido National Agricultural Experiment Station and its Cryotron facility. The Cryotron was completed in 1996 and provides several controlled environments with temperatures ranging from -80 to 30 C. They had a fancy version of the Wisconsin soil temperature tank, a hardening room, an ultra-low temperature room, a rhizotron facility, a vernalization room, an entomology lab, a soil analysis room, a microwave dark room and an electron spin resonance

room. My favorite was the snow maker room. Wow, was I envious. Can you imagine having the ability to make snow anytime of the year? This Cryotron facility will certainly further propel the Japanese snow mold research. It is an unbelievable accomplishment.

A reception with Hokkaido and international dignitaries followed our rainy tour. The gracious hosts served beautiful appetizers, Sapporo beer and saki. Unfortunately, they forgot a bottle opener for the Sapporo bottles so I donated my Wisconsin can opener. They were very appreciative. Drinking is an integral and important part of interpersonal relations in Japan, just as it is in Wisconsin. However, I read that the Japanese drink enthusiastically at certain times and I figured out this was one of them. It seemed that just as soon as I took one sip from my glass there was another Japanese host filling it back up. Japan's traditional drinking toast of 'Kampai!' means something like 'bottoms up!' I heard this very often and soon switched to fruit juice. The scene reminded me of my fraternity party days. Amongst the researchers and dignitaries you could see that some Japanese had beet-red faces. The beet-red faces were those who lacked alcohol-dehydrogenase and are unable to tolerate intoxicating levels of alcohol. However, the Japanese probably imbibed the most with the exception of the clover breeder from New Zealand. The reception was a unique experience.

The third day was Thanksgiving and I greeted the only other American, Dr. Murray from Washington State, and wished him a Happy Thanksgiving. When I wasn't dream-

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ing about eating turkey with my family back home, I learned about the biochemistry and molecular biology of snow molds. Highlights included carbohydrate metabolism at freezing temperatures, the hardening process, *Arabidopsis* as a freezing research tool, antifreeze proteins and the evolution of *T. ishikariensis* into colder environments. A traditional style Japanese banquet ended the day with food and drinking. We were treated to the sound of ancient Japanese folk music while a plethora of exotic dishes were passed around. I got tired of asking what the dishes were and just sampled everything from the dried squid to raw eel to salty fish eggs. Dr. Okuyama told me that my chopstick technique is perfect and that he doesn't see many of the Japanese youth use them anymore. This day will always be remembered as the day we were introduced to squid and eel for Thanksgiving.

Friday we saw the first snow of the season for Hokkaido, but it didn't last long. Canadian and Japanese wheat scientists presented their progress on breeding for snow mold resistance. Current advancements in field and growth chamber protocols will no doubt greatly speed up snow mold resistance breeding efforts. The closing cere-

mony seemed to drag on and everyone looked a little tired. But still, there seemed so much more to talk about and people seemed a bit hesitant to go, not ready to fly off to their corner of the world. We posed for a group picture and congratulated each other for a very successful and educational week.

The workshop was a significant event for me, both professionally and personally. Professionally, I have made snow mold friends around the world and spread the work of the UW and the contributions of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association to a global audience. Personally, I learned I can survive and enjoy navigating through another country without knowing the language or customs. It's a very humbling and gratifying experience. Although I ate an unusual Thanksgiving meal, I still took time out to express thanks for my blessings. There are many things that I am thankful for, including being a Wisconsinite and an American. And I am grateful to the WTA and the Department of Plant Pathology for supporting this effort to help build a snow mold bridge to the rest of the world. I am also thankful for the love and support of my wife, family and friends. It is good to be home. 🙌

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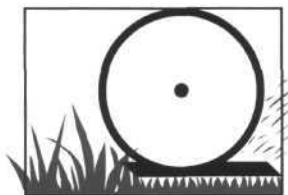
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# THE PRACTICE COURSE

By Derek J. VanDamme

*Editor's Note: Derek J. VanDamme runs VanDamme Golf, a golf course design and construction company based in Sun Prairie, WI. He gained valuable experience working at various golf courses during expansion, addition, renovation, restoration and new construction projects. He is a University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate and has written other pieces for The Grass Roots.*

While visiting my hometown of Superior, WI in the fall of 1996 I met up with the general manager of Nemadji Golf Club, Mark Carlson.

Mark was bringing me up to speed on all of the new developments at the course and some of the problems they were having. Due to the superior playing conditions at Nemadji, in comparison to surrounding courses, they were being overwhelmed with play.

Additionally, there had been a dramatic rise in junior and beginner participation, not only at Nemadji, but nationwide. These factors were slowing play to a dreadful pace for the regular players and negatively impacting revenue on weekends.

He asked me if I could put a 6-acre parcel of land in the middle of the existing 36 holes into a production that would help solve the problem of course crowding and slow play. He had seen several practice courses at the different golf courses he visited over the years and hoped this would be an affordable way to use the land with their limited capital budget of \$50,000 for 1997.

## The Plan

The site was almost dead flat and the soil is the heaviest red clay imaginable. There was a small cluster of trees on the southwest corner, near the maintenance building.

I worked with Mark to develop a layout that emphasized safety, variety, shot value, and landscape interest.



Nemadji Golf Club's third green area on the practice course before construction.

We came up with a 3-hole, par 3, practice course arranged in a counter-clockwise loop around a pond to be excavated. Each hole has three teeing areas and the hole distances vary from 60 to 175 yards. The greens average 4500 ft. sq. and the teeing areas on each hole average 4000 ft. sq.

The individual holes vary in shot value, strategy, and aesthetic appearance. The water hazard, while visible, is not in play. All holes have at least one pin placement to challenge the scratch golfer.

## The Budget

As indicated, the total capital budget at Nemadji for the year was \$50,000. Mark hoped to keep construction costs under \$35,000 for the entire project. I took our plan and looked for ways to contain costs.

The priorities established for construction spending were a function of existing topography, soil conditions, and climate. I wanted to concentrate our spending on activities that would provide for drainage and long-term

maintenance considerations.

We were able to come up with adequate specifications for greens construction, a good earthmoving budget to help with surface drainage, and a very good irrigation budget (10 irrigation heads per hole), and still stay under the budget.

The reasons we were able to do a lot with so little money, was the earthmoving hauls were short and only cost \$1 per cubic yard, and the grounds staff at Nemadji, led by superintendent Steve Flagstad and assistant superintendent Mark Prochaska, is experienced with construction projects and took a great deal of pride in helping with the irrigation installation and finish work.

## Construction

The earthmoving was contracted to a local excavation company. I specified that the earthwork be bid on a per cubic yard basis, rather than an hourly rate. I did this to allow for flexibility in adding or subtracting earthwork as the work progressed.

*(Continued on page 19)*



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The third green shortly after construction (one week).

*(Continued from page 17)*

There were not any maps available to plan the project on, therefore earthwork calculations were done by hand and in the field.

Unfortunately, the contractor who was awarded the work negotiated an hourly agreement with Nemadji against my specs. This had a significant impact on the amount of earth we were able to move.

They started construction during a light rain and soon found out how difficult it is to move heavy red clay when it is wet. The trucks were only able to move half loads at a time without getting stuck. By the time the earthmoving budget was expended, the contractor moved half of the specified volume of earth. This was a disappointment in that surface drainage and shaping was limited, something that could have been avoided by following bid specifications.

Shaping was done by both municipal operators and myself. Considering the limited amount of fill to work with, we were able to give the landscape some interesting shape and build solid golf course features.

The greens specs were a shallow, perched water table. They were very similar to USGA specs minus 4" of greens mix, 2" of gravel, and the plastic liner. Working with Steve, we decided this was a good compromise to the preferable USGA specs considering our budget. Green surrounds were covered with 1-2" of imported, finish topsoil.

The tee specs were native, red clay subgrade with 2" of imported, finish topsoil. The surface drainage was designed as "dome" drainage at 0.5% grade in all directions.

The bunkers were built to standard specs and lined with a fabric to protect the white sand from color contamination by the red clay.

The irrigation system was installed by Mark Prochaska, with triangular spacing surrounding the total green complex and fairway areas, and single row spacing on tees.

### Marketing of the Course

The 3-hole layout will be used as a practice course for juniors and beginners to learn the game. These players will be encouraged to use this facility and attain a certain level of proficiency before using the championship courses.

Accomplished and experienced players will be able to use the course as a warm-up or practice course. The layout allows a player to hit a wide variety of shots in one tour of the three holes.

### Economic Impact

The course is seeded and scheduled to open in June of 1998. Nemadji's internal projections show the addition to be profitable in and of itself and the profits from it will pay off the development costs in two seasons.

As important though, they expect play on the championship courses to be significantly quicker than it is now,

and they will be able to increase revenues by getting more rounds through per day and keeping customers happier.

### Golfer Reaction

There was initial opposition to the project from some of the best golfers. They were in favor of spending the money on projects to make the existing courses tougher. They wanted more fairway bunkers, to rebuild a green or two, and to lengthen a few holes.

As is often the case at golf clubs, these voices are the loudest and speak for the smallest contingency of golfers, single digit handicappers.

Now, there is near consensus the project was the best use of capital funds. The added holes and revenue will give everybody a bit more breathing room, and be able to fund future improvements to appease other interests.

### Looking Back

The project was very successful in that we were able to make a nice addition to the facility within the budget parameters. There are a couple of things I would do differently if I had it to do over again.

First, the earthmoving bid process damaged the project significantly. A stronger stand with the contractor needed to be made. This would have given us the opportunity to build in more surface drainage in some areas I think is necessary and to build more expansive green complexes.

Second, I would have built twice the teeing area. The positive, enthusiastic reaction from many golfers, particularly those with children, has made it obvious that we underestimated the number of golfers who plan to use the facility. I think more tee space will be necessary to accommodate all the traffic.

From my experience with this project, and from other practice courses I have seen, I think this is a concept that will not go away anytime soon. Many new golf courses plan these facilities to open right along with the regulation golf course and some older courses are adding them in "dead" areas of their existing courses.

They are a good way to loosen up play on the regulation course, for parents to spend time teaching golf to their children, and for experienced players to warm-up before a match. ♣



# Observations of Life in Illinois

By Pat Norton  
Nettle Creek CC

At the risk of offending some of my friends, neighbors, and colleagues...I'd like to make a few observations about life here in 'the Land of Lincoln'. These comments are admittedly quite biased, very subjective, and not backed up by lots of fact. They are simply my common man observations and opinions of the subtle differences in living and working between two quite similar, but uniquely different, neighboring upper midwestern states...namely Wisconsin and Illinois.

I am able to make such comments because I've now lived down here for three and a half whole years. That is not a lifetime's worth of experience with which to begin a critique, I readily admit. But it is a long enough period of living here...just outside of Chicagoland...and our past homes in Fond du Lac, Madison and Onalaska.

Most of us have moved a time or two in our adult years to date...either across town...or to another part of the state of Wisconsin. And yes, there are some real differences and some real adjustments to be made with each change.

But moving out of state is a whole new thing. Living in one state since birth...and then moving to a state that I'd really tended to look down upon...as an early middle aged adult...has been a big adjustment for the heads of this family. Children, as they say, adapt and adjust easily.

During the time our maturing family has been here we've all begun to put down some strong roots...especially our children...to the extent that their predominant feelings are of not wanting to return to Wisconsin.

They have many friends and connections that are very positive and very strong here...as does wife Susan. They are, in effect, forcing us to constantly reconsider our mutual feeling for wanting to relocate back to 'BuckyLand' ASAP.

Of all in our family, I probably have the weakest connections to this place and this town...but ironically...it is my

link to the golf course that keeps us here.

And our link to the golf course is, in a way, very weak...considering the age and investment attitude of our ownership group.

Personal and family issues aside, there are some very real differences between the states pertaining mainly to social, economic, educational, governmental, environmental, and agricultural issues...and the interrelationship among them all.

From the standpoint of being a citizen in first one state, and now the other, it becomes rather obvious and easy to notice some of the differences between them. It's from this point of view that I'd like to make a few admittedly biased comments.

Educationally, we're now part of a city that has three elementary school districts...operating independently from each other...feeding one area high school district...also funded and operating independently. Separate school boards...separate school calendars...and definitely separate...and desperate...financial situations.

Susan, my mate of fifteen years, is on the school board for the elementary district that our three children are attending. Her school board is wrestling with a decade old problem of school funding...for almost ten years this district has been operating in the red...and has had the local voters deny a school funding referendum **nine times. NINE TIMES!!!**

So, the school district does the only feasible thing...they watch expenses closely to try and close the annual \$2,000,000 gap between revenues and expenditures...and annually issue working cash bonds that cost the district \$200,000 annually in interest costs.

Funny thing is...the Morris Area High School District has been facing the same situation for the same length of time...and solves it with the same answer...borrowing money through bonding!!! The local voters do not support public education...these

referendums get blown out of the water every time...people here are much more concerned about paying that property tax increase of \$150 per year than they are of supporting public education!

The public educational situation across Illinois has for years replicated that of our little adopted town of Morris. Local school districts have long been denied enough financial support from the state...and been forced to operate by borrowing money.

Sounds like something that might happen in Mississippi or Florida...not the mighty and enlightened state that claims the great President Lincoln as one of its own...I think that he would be ashamed of the general condition of public education in his home state if he were alive today!!

Would such a lack of financial support for the public schools in the state of Wisconsin ever be allowed to happen? To my knowledge, it has almost never been the case in your state.

Isn't that one of the basic underlying concepts of the Wisconsin Idea? That the University of Wisconsin at Madison...and now the UW



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