

STMA Conference Focuses on Leadership

More Than 150 Converge on Indy!

Leadership and challenge were the focus at the 4th Annual Sports Turf Manager's Association (STMA) Conference and Exhibition, December 13-15, Indianapolis Convention Center and Hoosier Dome, Indianapolis. More than 150 STMA members, speakers and exhibitors attended this year's event.

Key Industry Concerns Addressed

Concerns about the state of athletic fields has risen due to the constant schedule sports turf facilities must endure, which includes everything from rock concerts to tractor pulls.

"STMA members and others engaged in sports turf activity will be severely challenged during the remainder of this century and beyond," said featured speaker Dr. Jim Watson, vice president and agronomist, The Toro Company. "We must all work together to assure the growth of uniform, dense, weed-free playing fields that tolerate the prevailing conditions and will provide an environmentally- and player-safe field."

The 1994 World Cup soccer tournament, which will be played in the United States on nine fields was also a major topic of discussion.

"The World Cup is the world's premier sporting event," says Dr. Gil Landry Jr., STMA president. "It represents an opportunity for sport turf managers to display their skills to the world.."

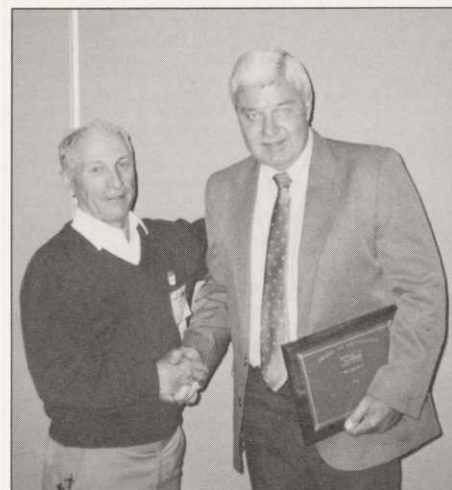


STMA's 4th Annual Conference attracted more than 150 sport turf professionals to the Indianapolis Convention Center and Hoosier Dome this past December. At right, STMA Co-founder George Toma (l) congratulates Chuck Raetzman, assistant director of operations, Arizona Stadium, Tucson, Ariz. Toma won the STMA's Groundskeeper of the Year Award. Arizona Stadium was named the 1992 Football Field of the Year. Pictured above is the Hoosier Dome, home of the NFL's Indianapolis Colts.

Conference and Exhibit Satisfy All Levels of Management

The conference offered five concurrent workshops, dealing with both education and administrative issues. Panel discussions and sports turf managers from across the country offered hints on how to best handle sport turf demands. Educational sessions covered everything from basic turf grass management to athletic field reconstruction, innovations in the industry to seed priming and pre-germination.

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**Join STMA in early November for the 5th Annual
 Conference at Baltimore's Camden Yards!**

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Official Newsletter of the Sports Turf
Managers Association

Volume XI Number 1
January/February 1993

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Sports Turf Manager is a publication of Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). It is published bi-monthly and is free to STMA members. *Sports Turf Manager's* goal is to promote the mission of the association by providing a channel for communication between the representatives of the board and its constituency. STMA is not responsible for the opinions expressed in this publication. Address changes, advertising, photographs, and editorial inquiries should be directed to the executive offices. ©1993 Sports Turf Managers Association. All Rights Reserved.

President's Message

... And Then Some!

by Gil Landry, Jr.
1993-94 President

I wish all of you could have been in Indianapolis to share the experience of STMA's conference. For the more than 150 people in attendance, it was a time to learn, a time to network and develop friendships, and a time to feel the spirit of individuals interested in developing both their profession and their own professionalism. The theme was set by keynote speaker George Toma describing the "And Then Some" of a real professional, which means going the extra mile.

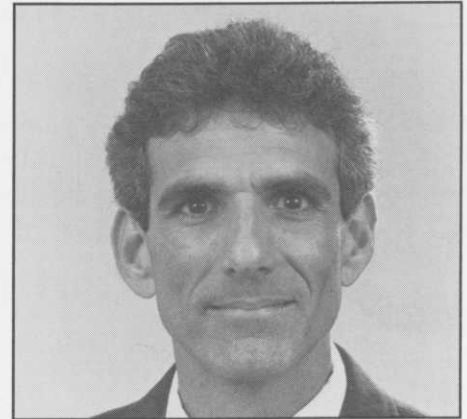
The conference climaxed at the STMA Awards Banquet when Dr. Jim Watson presented the 1992 Groundskeeper of the Year: Harry C. Gill Memorial Award to an emotional George Toma. Between these two leaders there is more than 80 years of sports turf management experience.

The Importance of Unity

Your association is clearing its last big hurdle, the hurdle of unity. Unity develops through communication between all parties, understanding their limitations, and accepting compromise for the group's benefit — in this case, STMA. Unity is also fostered through understanding and a willingness to work for the T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Achieves More), instead of for the individual. Unity comes from members asking, "What can I do?" instead of, "What's in it for me?" Your board has worked hard to improve communication, and the results are beginning to show.

Don't get me wrong, we still have some significant hurdles. Our financial obligations and the need to continue offering quality educational opportunities through articles, institutes, an annual conference, etc., are ongoing hurdles we are continually striving to overcome. However, if you are willing to help your association evolve, your board of directors and executive director are willing to work.

Keep in mind dues only cover about 40 percent of STMA's operating expenses, so



Dr. Gil Landry, Jr.

we are constantly looking for ways to generate additional revenue. For example, Mike Schiller and crew raised more than \$700 by raffling items during the conference in Indianapolis. That effort covered the cost of nearly 1.5 scholarships for the benefit of those working to improve our industry through education.

Get Involved!

Check the list of committees and join the T.E.A.M. by volunteering. Volunteer now — committees are trying to complete most of their work by spring, so you'll be able to take part in the planning process.

We have many other important goals to strive for, but we also know from experience our budget must match our expectations. Every one of these goals requires both time

and financial support, so if you have the time and can get the resources needed, we are certainly interested.

I hope 1993 is a better year for all of us. I encourage you to call a committee chairman, a board member, our executive director Bret Kelsey or myself if you have a question or an idea. That is what STMA is all about — the furthering of our education, professionalism and leadership through quality education, whether it be through formal training, articles or the expertise of our peers. □

◆
*If you are willing
to help your
association evolve, your
board of directors and
executive director are
willing to work.*
◆

Conference Focuses on Leadership

Continued from cover

The exhibit hall highlighted vendors from throughout the sports turf industry, featuring new and improved grasses, procedures for specifying soil texture and techniques for construction and establishment of athletic fields. More than 38 vendors were represented.

At the STMA awards banquet, the Groundskeeper of the Year: Harry C. Gill Memorial Award was presented to George Toma, NFL consultant and STMA co-founder. Other awards included:

- **Football Field of the Year**
Arizona Stadium, University of Arizona
Tucson, Ariz.
- **Soccer Field of the Year**
Northwest Park
City of LaPorte, Texas
- **Excellence in Research Award**
Dr. Henry T. Wilkinson
University of Illinois
Champaign, Ill.

- **Outstanding Commercial Affiliate Award**
John Deere & Company
Raleigh, N.C.
- **President's Award**
Adams Publishing Company
Van Nuys, Calif.
- **Scholarship Award**
John Pridgen
Lake Community College
Lake City, Fla.
- **Scholarship Award**
Patrick A. Sherer
California State Polytechnic University
Pomona, Calif.

"STMA is poised to gain more recognition for its efforts in the turf grass management industry," said Landry. "This year's conference – and the information the attendees received there – was definitely an investment in the future of our industry." □

STMA 1993 Committees

Membership Recruitment & Services

Chair: Rick Johnson, IL Lawn

Vice Chair: TBD

Mission: To develop methods for increasing membership, membership benefits and to assess membership needs.

Chapter Relations

Chair: Ray Flood, University of Maryland

Vice Chair: TBD

Mission: To establish and evaluate chapter/national relations.

Education

Chair: Mike Trigg, Waukegan Park

District

Vice Chair: TBD

Mission: To evaluate education needs, including establishment of regional institutes, dates and locations.

Annual Conference and Exhibition

Co-chairs: Dr. Henry Indyk, Turfcon;

Greg Petry, Waukegan Park District

Mission: To develop the annual conference including: date, location, program and trade show.

Awards/Scholarships

Co-chairs: Mark Hodnick, Pasadena Parks

Division; Mike Schiller, Schaumburg Park District

Mission: To review/establish selection criteria, important dates and financial support.

Public Relations/Communications

Chair: Bob Tracinski, John Deere & Company

Vice Chair: Steve Trusty, Trusty & Associates

Mission: To promote STMA, its members and the profession.

Technical/Standards

Chair: Steve Wightman, Jack Murphy Stadium

Vice Chair: TBD

Mission: To work with an association such as the American Society for Testing and Measures (ASTM) on sports facility standards. To develop a membership network to answer technical questions.

Financial

Chair: Ken Mrock, Chicago Bears

Vice Chair: TBD

Mission: To review the association's financial condition, budget and to explore avenues to generate revenue for the organization.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact STMA Headquarters, 312/644-6610. □

STMA Thanks Conference and Exhibit Sponsors

The following companies participated in the 1992 STMA Conference and Exhibition. STMA thanks all participating sponsors for their role in making the conference a success.

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- PBI/Gordon Company
- Turfgrass Services Company (P.A.T.)

Exhibitors

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Waupaca, Wis.
- **Harmony Products**
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- **Turfcon**
Horsham, Pa.

Why the Baltimore Orioles Put a Soil Scientist on Their Roster

Paul Zwaska didn't learn how to shape a pitcher's mound while at the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, but his soil science degree helps him understand why a particular vein of Maryland clay yields the best mound-building dirt in the nation.

Zwaska doesn't need to know soil physics to operate the state-of-the-art, vacuum-pumped field drainage system at the new Oriole Park at Camden Yards, either — but his knowledge of soil physics tells him why his system works perfectly (his field can be ready for play within a half-hour after a heavy rain, while an identical system 50 miles away can't clear puddles from the surface).

That can be explained, he says, by basic soil physics.

"They tried to put a loam-based sod on a sand-based field. It's common sense," Zwaska says. "Maybe it's not. Maybe it's because I learned it in school. That's something soil physics taught me."

On-the-job experience taught Zwaska how to trim the basepaths, but soil scientists helped him work out the specs for his infield dirt. His "recipe" calls for 20 percent Michigan peat, a compound with properties of a compost-like consistency and dark color, both of which make tracking baseballs much easier.

Zwaska learned the art of caring for a baseball infield from his predecessor Pat Sanderone, long-time groundskeeper for the Baltimore Orioles, who hired Zwaska as an assistant in 1986. He learned the science of turf and soils from specialists in soils, horticulture, plant pathology, entomology and agricultural engineering at the UW-Madison. In particular, he learned his specialty from James Love, who established the turf program in 1960 and ran it until retiring in 1986.

It was Love who also introduced Zwaska to the late Harry Gill, groundskeeper for the Milwaukee Brewers and co-founder of STMA. Gill gave Zwaska a summer internship, and later recommended him to Pat Sanderone and the Orioles.

Zwaska swears this job is the one he knew he wanted the day he entered college.



Above: Zwaska stands above his pride and joy — Camden Yards. *Right:* Only one clay in the entire nation's meet's Zwaska's requirements for the pitcher's mound.

He says he got the "itch" for grounds keeping as a kid growing up in Madison, Wis., and took frequent trips to Chicago's Wrigley Field for Cubs' games.

"In high school, I'd go to games with my friends. They'd be down by the rail taking pictures of the ballplayers. I'd be taking pictures of the grounds," Zwaska said. "I still have those pictures."

Zwaska took over as head groundskeeper last winter, just in time to help with the move from the old Memorial Stadium to the new Oriole Park at Camden Yards. The new park has drawn national acclaim for its carefully crafted, old-time baseball feel, with arched-brick facade, steel trusses and green slat seats.

Zwaska was a part of the five-year stadium design process. He helped Sanderone and consultants work out the field design, and planned the service areas under the stands. He's pleased with both the ballpark and the fact that his club inaugurated it with a winning season.

The only thing Zwaska doesn't like about the whole arrangement is that it's not home



in Wisconsin. "I hate the summers and I hate a brown Christmas." Other than that, Zwaska simply says, "I love this job." □

Paul Zwaska is a member of STMA. This article was reprinted from CA Quarterly, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison, courtesy of Robert Mitchell, Editor. Photos taken by B. Wolfgang Hoffmann, Department of Agricultural Journalism, UW-Madison.

Field Marking Trial Under Way at UC-Davis

by Bob Milano
University of California-Davis

It was the bottom of the seventh in the annual city softball championship when the sports editor reported:

"The arcing pitch was crushed high and deep down the left field line, nearly as high as the new light tower. The left fielder dashed in hot pursuit of this tremendous drive and all that we could see was the name of the team sponsor on his back. The ball sailed over his head and appeared to land on the outside edge of the exaggerated 14" wide foul line. As the home team began to celebrate an apparent victory with the winning run scored, the umpire cried, "FOUL BALL!!" The home team charged onto the field and..."

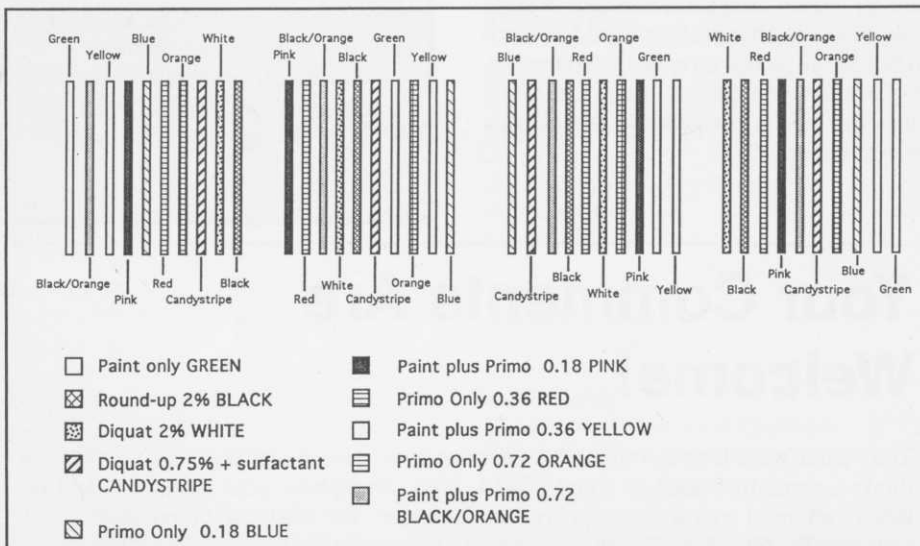
We've all seen field markings for sporting events slip from the ideal, crisp 4" painted white line to an exaggerated trench, sometimes 12" or more wide, and 3" deep. Officiating problems like the one above result from repeated applications of non-selective herbicides that create erosion-prone, vegetationless "trenches." More importantly, these trenches are a real safety hazard to players, recreational users and maintenance staff. A safer, more cost-effective method must be found to reduce hazards and aggravation.

The University of California (UC) Davis Grounds Department, the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), and UC Davis Extension Turf Specialist Clyde Elmore and his staff have collectively begun a field marking trial. The trial, conducted at the UC Davis soccer facility, will examine current marking techniques and explore other alternatives in a realistic field setting.

The trial, established in September of 1992, will evaluate typical marking materials for cool season turf. Diquat, round-up and latex paint will be compared with paint that has been modified with Primo, a plant growth regulator, at three different rates.

The goal of the trial is to gather data about all of the available striping alternatives and to also determine the safest, most cost-effective solution. Preliminary results will be presented at the University of California's Extension class entitled, "Sports Turf Management for Professionals," March 30-31, on the UC-Davis Campus. For more information, call 916/757-8899. □

Bob Milano is an STMA Board Member and is the grounds operations manager for the Department of Grounds, University of California-Davis.



Paint modifications for UC-Davis Field Marking Trial. The trial will evaluate typical marking materials for cool season turf.

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News From STMA Headquarters

by Bret Kelsey, Executive Director

I hope your 1993 is off to a good start. We have a lot of activity to report. Many of the items in this report are from the board meeting held during the annual conference and exhibition in Indianapolis. Your board of directors and staff are striving to make STMA more proactive and in turn more responsive to member needs. Here are some highlights from the meeting:

In 1993 there will be four board meetings, two of which will be full board meetings and two with just the executive committee. This meeting policy saves meeting costs and worked effectively in 1992. February 12 is an executive committee meeting. May will include the full board, and in August the executive committee.

Payments to past creditors have totaled \$25,249.30 through January. The monthly financial statement indicates that the balance to creditors as of April 1, 1992, was \$45,505.07. As of January 21, 1993, the balance was \$20,255.77. That's a decrease of nearly 45 percent in 10 months. The board intends to maintain a prudent fiscal policy in order to eliminate past debts by 1994.

Currently, STMA has nearly 600 paid members. Among the members are 111 new members and eight life members. Currently there 124 past members that have not renewed. The STMA board has divided those names and will initiate personal calls to bring them in. A national membership drive will begin in April/May. In conjunction, many of our professional facilities members will begin a letter writing campaign to bring in their colleagues from baseball, football, race tracks, etc.

An "honorary" contract membership was presented to John Deere & Company for their contribution of public relations and communications efforts. Through the assistance of Trusty & Associates (Deere contracts STMA's Public Relations work to the Trusty's), over 30 articles were placed on STMA's behalf. Deere & Company approved funding for 1993. In addition, an "Honorary" contract membership was presented to Adams Publishing for their contribution to STMA making *sportsTURF*

our official magazine and providing valuable space for association news and events.

Chapter relations was a hot subject at the conference. A special meeting to discuss the structure for the future was highly attended. Those attending (through a vote) were receptive to a unification of national and chapter membership. A booklet outlining the structure and benefits of membership will be sent to each group and chapter prior to March 31, 1993. Any change in membership structure would be phased in beginning in 1994.

STMA will launch a reference library of articles as education materials which would be offered for sale. Look for the listing in future issues of *Sports Turf Manager* and *sportsTURF Magazine*.

STMA will publish its long awaited update of the membership directory. Board member Bob Milano and Bruce Shank of Adams Publishing have offered to help with design and production of the directory. A breakdown of members, affiliates and industry information sources will be included. STMA is offering commercial members the opportunity to advertise in the directory. Plans are to publish by March 31, 1993.

The 1993 Conference and Exhibition site is being nailed down. Co-chairs Greg Petry and Dr. Henry Indyk are meeting in early February with officials from Camden Yards in Baltimore to lock up a date in November. We'll keep you posted. Future meeting sites will be on a rotating basis to each regional chapter. □

Calendar of Events

March 30-31

Sports Turf Management for Professionals

This two-day course provides basic information and scientific background needed for effective sports turf and other high traffic turf facilities. Current sports turf research and maintenance practices will be covered during a field tour of the sports grounds at UC-Davis in cooperation with the campus grounds division and STMA. The program is designed for parks and recreation site managers, athletic turf managers, school and college grounds managers, horticultural consultants, pest control advisors and other professional turf and landscape managers.

For enrollment information, contact University Club, University of California-Davis Campus, Davis, Calif., 916/757-8899.

June 30

Midwest Sports Turf Institute

The Midwest Chapter of the STMA is sponsoring a Midwest Regional Sports Turf Institute June 30, 1993, at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill. The institute offers sports turf operations information for all levels of management, from high schools and park districts to colleges and professional organizations. The morning session includes a panel discussion of leading industry experts, while the afternoon is devoted to a trade show, which features the latest products in turf grass management.

For more information, contact STMA Headquarters, 401 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611-4267; 312/644-6610.

Your Comments Are Welcome!

The written word is a powerful thing. Exercise your power by letting us know what you think -- about this issue or about STMA. You can address your comments to Lisa Bruno, editorial coordinator, *Sports Turf Manager*, 401 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611-4267, call 312/644-6610 or send a FAX to 312/245-1083.

Sports Turf Internship Available

The 1992 Texas League Champion Wichita Wranglers and the National Baseball Congress are offering an internship opportunity to qualified students in Sports Turf Management. This position offers hands-on experience and other benefits of field management in professional sports.

Candidates for the internship must be available no later than May 15, 1993. For application information, contact Mark Schimming or Mark Viniard, 316/267-3372 or write to Wichita Baseball, Inc., P.O. Box 1420, Wichita, KS 67201. □

Welcome New STMA Members

Robert Brower

N.J.S.E.A.
East Rutherford, NJ

Maureen G. Carter

City of Monroe
Monroe, MI

Matthew A. Clement

Howell Park Golf Course
Farmingdale, NJ

Dennis R. Coleman

Millersville University
Millersville, PA

Brad Deyak

City of St. Cloud
St. Cloud, MN

Joe Duncan

Ever-Green Sports
Troy, OH

John Huffman

Huffman's Horticulture Service, Inc.
Florence, KY

Mike Hurd

Pittsburg Pirates
Bradenton, FL

Bradley G. Kendall

Caledonia Golf Club
Fayetteville, PA

Greg Key

Key Landscape and Maintenance Co.
Norman Park, GA

Dave Krupp

Distributor of Fertilizer and Chemical
Plymouth, MN

Mark Lucas

University of California at Davis
Davis, CA

Daniel Madden

Indianapolis Indians
Indianapolis, IN

Robert F. Moeller

Grounds Management Consultants, Inc.
Indianapolis, IN

Gary Oden

Arrowhead Golf, Inc.
Greenfield, IN

Vincent R. Patterozzi

The Cleveland Browns
Berea, OH

Floyd Perry

Strictly Partners Promotions
Orlando, FL

Chris Powell

The Cleveland Browns
Berea, OH

Jim Robinson

Town of Garner
Garner, SC

Robert J. Salak

Texas Christian University
Ft. Worth, TX

Ken V. Sugzda

Elizabeth Board of Education
Elizabeth, NJ

Daniel Sullivan

N.J.S.E.A.
East Rutherford, NJ

Joe Vallery

Ramacher Mfg., Inc.
Linden, CA

Trevor Vance

Kansas City Royals
Kansas City, MO

Steve Young

Distributor, Fertilizer and Chemical
Plymouth, MN

Colorado Announces Directors

The Colorado Chapter of the STMA held its annual meeting in December at Mile High Stadium, Denver, Colo. The meeting, hosted by Field Manager Tom Lujan, included year-end reports and the introduction of the 1993 board of directors. The Board of Directors are:

- **President**
Ron Marten
Falcon School District
- **President-Elect**
Joe Adams
City of Greely Parks
- **Vice President**
Bill Thorton
Toro Industries
- **Secretary**
Dave Rulli
Jeffco School District
- **Director-at-Large**
Ross Kurcab
Denver Broncos
- **Director-at-Large**
Mike Wehrman
Air Force Academy
- **Executive Secretary**
Mark Leasure
Sky Sox Baseball

Dr. James Watson, The Toro Company, Dr. Tony Koski, Colorado State University, and Greg Gandy, CPA, received honorary lifetime membership for their support and contributions to the Colorado Chapter. Lujan received honors for his work as past president. □

On the Move ...

STMA Awards/Scholarships Co-chair Mike Schiller has taken a position as the superintendent of parks and planning at the Schaumburg Park District, Schaumburg, Ill. Best wishes on your new position, Mike!

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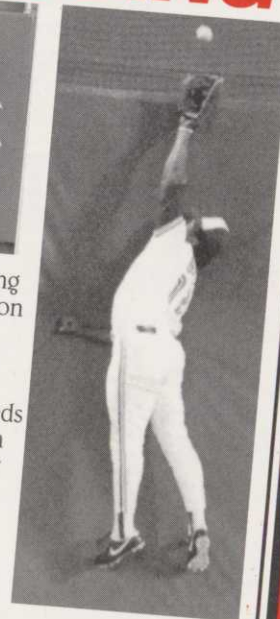


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