# CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 19: NUMBER 3 APRIL 2009

## A Decade of Art at the Dump

April has arrived in Cornwall, and that means Rick Stone and his town crew will soon be preparing the sand shed for *Art at the Dump*, celebrating its tenth anniversary over the weekend of April 25–26.

It was a decade ago that Jeffrey Jacobson walked into his house on Valley Road after a trash drop-off and told wife Gail that he had just talked to "Art at the dump." Jeff meant he had chatted with Art Brean, now the Transfer Station's emperor emeritus. But Gail was thinking, hey, what a great name for an art show. Thus was born our annual gathering to view objets d'art made from recycled items and discards lying in a corner of the garage or attic. Forgive me if I wax superlative, but her creation was truly brilliant. Art at the Dump has since developed a special reputation in the area. Recently, when a lady from Kent was asked at a fancy party about her brooch, her eyes sparkled proudly as she announced that she always bought her best designer pieces at the Cornwall dump.

Richard Griggs took over running the show from Gail last year. I caught up with him at the Prentice barn/workshop where he was bubbling with Griggsian enthusiasm for this year's anniversary show. "It helps a lot when your town shows the support we get in Cornwall," he said, smiling.

The imagination and ingenuity of local artists never ceases to astonish me. In past years my particular weakness has been the animals made from recycled paper and cardboard by Marilyn Olsen, and my collection of Olsens now includes a giraffe, cat, dog, rhino, zebra, and cow. But there is something for everyone at this annual gathering.

I remember Debby Jones's alligator made from bubble wrap and Skip Hunt's sock monkey paintings on scrap wood. Then there is the annual invasion of Don Hain's menacing robots made from tin cans. And could I (or anyone else) forget such Barbara Stone epics as her Tyvek wedding dress or her majestic patio umbrella-turned-giant martini glass?

There are usually as many as 50 artists presenting their works. The prices are very reasonable, and of course 30 percent of the take is always donated to Diane Dupuis's art department at CCS. I couldn't end this piece without mentioning the great help Richard gets from his co-curators, the aforementioned Ms. Dupuis and Karolene Carlson of the CCS Parent-Teacher Organization. —John Miller

#### Reality TV Hits Cornwall This Fall

The New York media company currently developing "Talent Show," the TV reality show that will showcase real-life performances by small-town residents all over America, has

scheduled Cornwall for one of their early segments.

The show's backers at Fortuna Media hope to draw a portrait of small-town America today by tracking a talent show's organizers as they identify potential performers and coax them into appearing live in front of their neighbors and peers. The cameras will then follow them through rehearsals, backstage jitters, and the actual performances. Filmed footage of local audience reaction will be an integral part of the production.

Show creator Tommaso Cinquemani said that Fortuna Media has not yet found a network to produce or air the show, but he is currently in talks with one cable TV network and already has signed up other small-town talent shows in rural Ohio, Nevada, and Texas. Fortuna originally had two other New England towns under consideration, but a visit to last November's Cornwall production at the invitation of yours truly convinced him that Cornwall was the place to be.

"Television and the talent show have been partners since the very first days of the industry," Cinquemani told me the other day. "We aim to present a picture of a simpler, less complex age, to go back to the roots, which only seems appropriate during these difficult economic times."

As in "Block Party," the new CBS reality TV show that is currently recruiting cast (continued on page 2)

#### **SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY** WEDNESDAY **THURSDAY FRIDAY** Every Week This Month: 3 4 2 APRIL FOOL'S DAY Mondays: Jam Session, 7:30 p.m. Call 672-0229 for Location; Men's Adult Basketball, 7 p.m. CCS Gym Solar Design Lessons Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball, 7 P.M. CCS Gym from Mexico Wednesdays: Stretch Class, 5 p.m. Town Hall; Women's Adult Basketball, 7:30 p.m. CCS; 11 A.M. Library † Tai Chi, 6 P.M. CCS Gathering Room Family Contra Dance Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers, 1:15 P.M. 672-0229 to confirm 7 p.m. Town Hall † Sundays: Meditation Group, 1–2 P.M. 672-0229 to confirm 5 PALM SUNDAY 8 9 PASSOVER ('Ľ) 10 11 GOOD FRIDAY CCS Spring Break Begins CCS Spring Break Sourdough Starters CCS Spring Break CCS Spring Break CCS Spring Break Workshop 10:30 A.M.-Region One Bd. of Ed. Park & Rec. 1:30 P.M. Call 672-0229 † Library Closed 6 P.M. HVRHS 7 P.M. CCS Library Talk on James Henry Inland Wetlands Bd. of Selectinien 7:30 p.m. Town Hall Bd. of Selectmen Moser 4 P.M. Library † 8 PM Town Office 18 Cornwall Association Deadline: May Chronicle Copy Kindergarten 17 Kinderyanten Registration CCS † 14 12 13 16 EASTER SUNDAY 15 **Blood Pressure Screening** Housatonic River Comm. Kindergarten Registration Child/Parent Playgroup Story Hour 1:15 P.M. Library † Income Taxes Due Noon-1 P.M. UCC † 7:30 P.M. CCS Library CCS † 10:30 а.м. Library † Affordable Senior Housing Kindergarten Registration Obama on Supreme Court 4 P.M. Library † Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Library Democratic Town P&Z CCS † 4 р.м. Town Hall † 7:30 р.м. Town Hall Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. Committee Picturing Books (First CCS Library Iraq Moratorium Meeting Family Round Sing 7:30 P.M. Town Hall 7:30 P.M. Library Session) Library † 7 р.м. †

Art at the Dump
10 A.M. (See Insert.)
ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall \*

20

27

28
Red Cross Blood Drive
1:30-6:15 p.m.
UCC Parish House †
P&Z
7:30 p.m. Town Hall

Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 p.m. Town Hall

21

29 Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department 8 p.m. W. C. Firehouse

EARTH DAY

CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M.

22

30

CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M

23

Story Hour
1:15 P.M. Library †

25
Art at the Dump
10 A.M. (See Insert.
Child/Parent Playgroup
10:30 A.M. Library †
Sen. Chris Dodd, Rep.

Chris Murphy 3 P.M. CCS

\* Check with Zoning Office-672-4957

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(continued from page 1)

members nationwide, "Talent Show" will emphasize the "neighborhood bonding experience" of families who live in close proximity showing off their special gifts. But unlike "Block Party," there will be no cash prize to stoke competition among the performers. Instead, says Cinquemani, "Talent Show" will bring to light the remarkable shared community spirit that animates even the smallest village.

—Bob Clohessy

#### The Real Stuff

Visit Irene and Buddy Hurlburt's Hautboy Hill Farm and you'll see an old ambulance next to the farm stand; it's the "Milkbulance" that rescued the dairy operation. Well, that's not exactly true, but it helped. Like many local farmers, Buddy has gone out of traditional dairying. "When you're getting \$10 a hundredweight for milk that costs \$16 to produce, you can't survive," says Buddy. "There's more money in plumbing. But my heart is in farming—the family has been here since 1748—so I had to figure out a way to pay the bills." In coolers inside the stand are jugs of creamline milk, tubs of ricotta and yoghurt, cartons of eggs. The Hurlburts will also have blueberries, raspberries (transplanted from Marty Rubin's patch), maple syrup, honey, vegetables, fresh poultry, pork and beef, Christmas trees. "We have customers from Bethlehem, Waterbury, Seymour. When they leave with their dairy or produce they say, 'This is the real stuff.' And of course everybody is really supportive in Cornwall."

That's what I keep hearing as I talk to farmers: Cornwall is supportive. "Look at what's happening in the Village!" says Debra Tyler of Local Farm and Motherhouse. "Dan Gracey's dream was to return cattle to the valley, and he's doing it. He's got his Milking Devons on the hill behind the Library, and he's working with valley landowners about pasturage. Donors made Stone Wall Dairy possible. The Farmers' Market is well attended. I'm here because I have the world's best landlord. And our first selectman has pushed us to be aware of agriculture."

Indeed, agriculture was one of the reasons Gordon Ridgway first ran for office. And 18 years ago, he told me, the state recommended two formal ways for towns to encourage farming. Cornwall implemented both. It created an Advisory Agricultural Commission, one of the few in Connecticut, and adopted a "right-to-farm" clause as a component of zoning regulations. Farmers and the town-needed protection from residents who complained about farm machinery or manure in the road, whining sawmills, the whiff of irrigation. The clause reads in part, "No agricultural or farming operation shall be deemed to constitute a nuisance provided such operation follows generally accepted agricultural practices." Says Gordon: "So if you live in Cornwall, that's the deal."

Bill Dinneen, chair of the Agricultural Commission, regrets that they can't do more for local farmers: "The system seems to be wrong. It kills me that we couldn't prevent the Scovilles from going out of dairying." Nonetheless, the commission, which has 13 members and two student advisors, is very active. Its main focus is on the Ag Fair, which was brought back from the old days of Grange sponsorship and had its best year in 2008. "We're also very involved in education," Bill says. "We have the Cornwall Agricultural and Land Fund (CALF), and we're proud that an anonymous donor has given \$10,000 for agricultural scholarships. Some of those funds are helping Charlie Russ up at SUNY Cobleskill, where he's studying mechanics."

Members of the commission can also be proud that they provide mutual aid. Donna Larson noticed a grant opportunity in *Yankee Magazine*, and they are all working on it to help Buddy Hurlburt restore a historic barn. Ted Larson tells me that Wendy Kennedy is helpful with state grants and farm bureau programs.

One of their duties is to meet yearly with farmers to oversee operations on eased lands such as the Lorch Farm. After Art Lorch sold development rights to the state ("He had great vision," says Cilla Mauro), Chris Hopkins bought the farm (now Stone Wall Dairy Farm), and the town came in with over a hundred donations to buy the east 100 acres. "Chris has been a model tenant," says Gordon. "He's fixed up the barns, too."

Chris sells raw milk from his 21 Jerseys, who produce 65 gallons a day. Speaking of proposed legislation that calls for more testing, additional labeling, and the prohibition of raw milk sales in retail stores, Chris says, "I'm not sure the bill will make it out of committee, but the issue has certainly brought us producers together."

"And kicked up a lot of support and publicity," adds Debra.

There's more than milk at Stone Wall Dairy. In one end of the greenhouse, Chris gathers eggs from the hay-lined nests of his multicolored flock, 130 Rhode Island Reds, Barred Rocks, and Buff Minorcans. When he opens the door, they burst outside to frolic in the sun and leap the low fence onto the grass. Soon they'll be grazing on the hillside across Route 7, housed in a coop on wheels (unless they end up in the freezer).

And Chris has help from Jonathan Kirschner of Stone Wall Vegetables, who has started flats of onions and herbs inside the other end of the bright warm greenhouse, and from Ken Gladding, who ran the farm in the past.

Chris envisions his farm as a welcoming community place for both farmers and their customers. "Look at that view! I'd like to build a local food system, perhaps on a countywide scale. You'd have to be strategic; is this interest in local food just a fad? Will it last? The 'food shed' would need to be big enough, but not too big, and be tied together with

some kind of marketing piece. This farm might, because of its roadside location, be a logical selling place for others."

Ted Larson (who produces eggs, tomatoes, green beans, and honey) isn't so sure that "strong-backed, hard-willed, and independent" farmers would buy in to such a collaboration. "We market on our own," he said. And yet, once upon a time, Cornwall farmers did buy in to cooperative dairying. Only that, as Chris warns, it got "too big," and then, as Bill Dinneen lamented, the system no longer fit the need.

Whatever their views on how to run the farm or fulfill the mission, these farmers are the real stuff, in this for the long haul over the rocky hills. As Will Kennedy says of his Lineback veal operation, "You have to be in the business seven years before you might see a profit."

"It's a peculiarity of our town that we do more on worse land," says Gordon, "because we're stubborn and have a commitment to the land."

"We're so proud of ourselves for being first in the state in energy efficiency," says Debra. "Maybe we can be first in sustainable agriculture, too."

—Ella Clark

#### Welcome

Haylen Alexis to Jennifer and Bradford Sincovic Jules Parisi to Olivia Prud'homme and Stefan Parisi

### Good-Bye to a Friend

Judy Gates

#### **Land Transfers**

Stone Brick House, LLC, to U.S. Bank, foreclosure on property at 378 Kent Road.

Federal National Mortgage Association to Brian J. and Jennifer Moore, 7.386 acres and improvements thereon at 268 Great Hollow Road for \$210,000.

Elizabeth Van Doren to John C.L. and Sarah V.C. Van Doren, 2.857 acres and improvements thereon at 399 Cornwall Hollow Road for \$174,000.

#### A Scoville Connection

It's been said that half of Cornwall is related to the Scovilles. While this may no longer be true, among that half is a fairly well-known artist, James Henry Moser, whose work will soon be on display in the Library.

So, who was James Henry Moser? The Scoville connection starts in April 1877, with the 23-year-old Moser living in Toledo, Ohio. Needing extra income, he accepted students, among them two young women from Cornwall, Mrs. Lydia Hubbard and Miss Martha Scoville, in Toledo at the time for an extended visit with relatives. Before their visit ended in June, Mr. Moser had proposed marriage to Miss Scoville.

Martha did not say no, but she did return to Cornwall. James came to visit when he could as his career blossomed and his work

appeared frequently in magazines. They finally married in 1883.

The couple lived first in Atlanta, then made their home in Washington, D.C., in 1887, where Moser's work was seen in exhibits. He taught at the Corcoran School of Art and served as president of the Washington Water Color Society. Cornwall called the Mosers north in the summers, and they built a studio and home on a parcel of Scoville land. Descendents of their daughters Grace and Lydia continue to live in Cornwall.

Moser's relatives treasure the works they have inherited, and they have offered a definitive selection to an exhibit presented by the Cornwall Historical Society. Moser's talent can be seen at the Cornwall Library from April 7 to May 2. On Saturday, April 11, at 4 P.M., Moser's grandson Ralph Fetherolf and great-grandson Jim Longwell will give a talk about the life of the artist. Refreshments will be served. —*Ginny Potter* 

#### Cornwall Businesses Exchange Ideas

The Board of Selectmen held a Business Improvement Initiative meeting at The Wandering Moose on March 10. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway and Selectman Richard Bramley attended the gathering of 16 other Cornwall business people representing a total of 16 local businesses, mostly retail.

One purpose of the meeting was for the selectmen to bring local business owners up to date on initiatives such as the Façade Improvement Program; the establishment of visitor centers in West Cornwall, Cornwall Bridge, and the Four Corners area; a long-term goal to change one-acre zoning regulations in villages to allow for development of local buildings as business venues; improving business signage on state roads; and using the successful West Cornwall Farmers' Market as a tie-in for events to draw customers to local businesses.

A second purpose of the meeting was for citizens to put forth their own business development ideas. Among these were a sidewalk on the south side of Route 128 in West Cornwall from The Wandering Moose to The Wish House to provide both safety and convenience (Priscilla Miller of Bain Real Estate); listing local retail businesses on GPS navigational systems to draw new customers (Russ Sawicki of The Wandering Moose); advertising on the Millerton Movie House prescreening slide show (Bianca Griggs of The Wish House); promoting the Housatonic River as the biggest attraction in West Cornwall and coordinating advertising with towns and businesses "up and down" the river from Kent to Canaan (Christopher Garrity of Bain Real Estate).

Most people present felt these communication meetings were a good opportunity for dialogue between the selectmen and business owners as well as providing a venue for businesses to exchange ideas. —Asher Pavel

#### Winter of Our Discontent

Cornwallians concerned about global warming may take heart from this winter's statistics. Twenty-six snowstorms each deposited over one inch on the ground, and three ice storms also required the town to sand its roads. By mid-March the weather had closed

### Letters to the Chronicle

HELPING CORNWALL

The Cornwall Foundation is pleased to announce its latest grants: \$3,000 to the Cornwall Housing Corporation as the first portion of a \$10,000 matching grant for infrastructure in connection with the development of their parcel program property on Route 7, \$1,000 to the Chronicle for costs in connection with a future fundraising appeal, and \$500 to Greenwoods Counseling Service for their ongoing work with the Cornwall community. Since its inception in 2002 the foundation has granted \$18,500 to 17 organizations.

The Cornwall Foundation is dedicated to enhancing life in Cornwall. Requests for grants are accepted throughout the year.

—Paul Baren, President

CORNWALL MINOR POETS AWARD

The Cornwall Hollow Union of Minor

Poets is pleased to announce the results of

the competition for the best sonnet celebrating real-estate developers. The winning sonnet was submitted by the Real Estate Developers' Glorification Association, which strictly observed the Shakespearean rhyme scheme:

When in disgrace with conservationists,
We're solaced by our lucrative endeavors;
We love to serve those privileged vacationists
Who'd rather ruin land than save the beavers.
Oh why are we so oft reviled as villains
When we're the ones who really have the Vision?
We should be praised by you and all your chilluns,
Not targeted with insults and derision.
Just think! A nice casino in the Village,
Some neon billboards rising in the Hollow,
And after just a little forest-pillage,
Hotels and spas; rock festivals to follow.
Let's first propose the plan to Donald Trump:
To honor him, we could re-name the Dump.

—Franny Taliaferro

down CCS on four days, and eleven days had two-hour delays, but still counted as full days of instruction. Four days will be tacked on to the end of the school year.

Mohawk Ski Area reports having had "a pretty reasonable winter." Business is largely consistent from year to year, says President Carol Lugar, because its primary market is families with young children. March was a great month for Mohawk because there was more light, but still good snow, and over 60 inches of snow remained at the top at midmonth, most of it man-made.

Roads are the big-ticket items. Some winters in the past have produced under 20 storms, but lately we have had over 30. This year the Town Crew used 600 tons of salt and 1,800 tons of sand in clearing our 69 miles of roads. The cost of materials has gone up; nonetheless, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway says the town's goal is to spend less than last year by using different materials, which means more of the cheaper sand and pure salt and less of the expensive salt with additives. This year's expenditure is 10 percent less than last year's, but it's still over budget, so the overrun will come up before the next town meeting. With luck, we have seen the last winter storm this season. —Ann Schillinger

#### A Many-Voiced Tribute to Dr. Fitz

At the end of this, her sixth year as principal of CCS, "Dr. Fitz" is moving on from the field of educating the minds of the young to nourishing the spirit of all ages as a minister of the Gospel. Her new venue will be in Maine. In the words of some of those who know her well, she has been "a beacon," "a storyteller," "one in a million," and a "very special principal."

"A defining characteristic of Dr. Fitz's six years at CCS has been her storytelling, which she employs to make a point, teach a lesson, or set an atmosphere. If one were to turn the tables and narrate the story of her leadership at Cornwall, the lesson would be the impor-

tance of relationships in the education process. Dr. Fitz has encouraged, guided, and loved her students; she has mentored, nurtured, and challenged her staff; and she has welcomed the community into the school (and to her dining table), all with integrity, grace, and a sense of humor. CCS has flourished under her stories and leadership; all of us shall miss her." (Barbara Gold, Chair, Board of Education)

"After hearing Dr. Fitz was leaving Cornwall for Maine, we gave her a picture of the Portland, Maine lighthouse. Kathleen has been a beacon and her office a safe harbor for the kids at CCS. Although no big fan of standardized testing, she embodied the ideal 'no child left behind.' I am sure as a good friend, she will take part of Cornwall with her to Maine and some of her spirit will remain at 5 Cream Hill Road." (First Selectman Gordon Ridgway)

"Six years ago I was on the Search Committee for the CCS Principal. The letters of recommendation and pages of experience describing Dr. Kathleen Fitzgibbons screamed out from the crowd. Now I know why. She is one in a million. Kathleen leaves an indelible mark on me, my family, our school, and our community. For that we are forever grateful." (Becky Hurlburt, Board of Education)

"Dr. Fitz was my principal for five years. She was a great principal and she was always cheerful and loved having us come in to talk to her in her colorful office. She always wore some type of pretty flower. She



cial principal who offered very special things to her students, including a Bible class and letting us go on special trips, like visiting an injured classmate." (Elizabeth Ridgway, former CCS student)

We dearly love thee, Dr. Fitz Your leaving us will be the pits, But this we know in heart and wits, We dearly love thee, Dr. Fitz —Organized by Scoville Soulé

#### **Events & Announcements**

A Contradance with Still the Homegrown Band and Jim Gregory calling will be held on Saturday, April 4, from 7 to 9 P.M. at the Town Hall. Call 672-0550 to learn more.

#### At the Cornwall Library:

- Earthships: Solar design lessons from New Mexico to be presented by Kate Freygang on Saturday, April 4, at 11 A.M.
- James Henry Moser: Ralph Fetherolf and Jim Longwell will talk about their artist ancestor on Saturday, April 11, at 4 P.M.
- Obama and the Supreme Court: Norman Dorsen offers his predictions on Saturday, April 18, at 4 P.M.
- Saturday Children's Playgroup begins April 18 from 10:30 A.M. to noon and will meet through the end of the school year; recommended for ages 3-6. For information call Amy Buck at 672-6874.
- Story Hour for pre-K and kindergartners resumes Friday, April 17, at 1:15 P.M. and runs for eight weeks.
- Donate Your Books: Please drop off gently used or new children's and young adult books, the focus of this year's Memorial Day weekend book sale.
- Donate Food-Related Items for this June's Food Glorious Food fundraiser, from cookbooks to kitchen gadgets and other unusual, prized items.
- Picturing Books: A foursession afterschool program focusing on drawing and painting for grades 3-5 begins Wednesday, April 15. For details/registration, call 672-6874.

#### Sweet April

The skies may be gray, but the agreeable smell of earth foretells the gardening season ahead. Some of us will be digging out the flower garden to plant vegetables this year, a thrifty response to current economic woes. Whatever seeds are in your planting basket, don't forget to plant a check in the mail to the Chronicle. Thanks!

Art in Cornwall: Beginning April 7 the Library will host a show organized by the Historical Society of works by Cornwall artist James Henry Moser (see article "A Scoville Connection"). The show runs through May 2.

The Cornwall Iraq Moratorium will meet on Friday, April 17, at 7 P.M. Please call 672-0183 for information and location.

Free Blood Pressure Screening offered in Cornwall the second Monday of each month from noon to 1 P.M. at the UCC Parish House. For details call VNA Northwest at 567-6000 or 1-800-752-0215.

Motherhouse Activities. For more information, ticket prices, and to reserve places, call Debra Tyler at 672-0229. Also see www.motherhouse.us.

- April 11, 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Old Style Life Skills Series Workshop, Sourdough
- April 18, 7:30 P.M. Family Round Sing at the Town Hall.

Affordable Senior Housing is the topic of discussion at a meeting on Friday, April 17, from 4 to 5 P.M. at the Town Hall. Input into the planning process for ten rental units proposed for construction in Cornwall for low-income seniors is welcome from the community, especially potential tenants. Need a ride? Call 672-6261.

> Kindergarten Registration for the 2009-2010 school year will be held on April 15, 16, and 17. Any child turning five on or before December 31, 2009, is eligible. Parents need to bring the child's immunization

> > record and birth certificate. To schedule a time for your child to visit the kindergarten room and meet Mrs. Stiewing, call the of-

fice at 672-6617.

Artists, Musicians, Performers, Merchants are needed to fill the calendar of special events at this summer's West Cornwall Farmers' Market. Call Bianca at 672-2969.

What Is Washington Doing for Cornwall? Ask your senator and representative on Saturday, April 25, at CCS from 3 to 5 Р.м. Christopher Dodd and Chris Murphy will talk about the economy and what can be done for small towns like Cornwall. A Q&A session and reception will follow.

The Tenth Annual Art at the Dump will take place at the Transfer Station on Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26. (See insert.)



A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at the UCC Parish House on Tuesday, April 28, from 1:30 to 6:15 P.M. Walk-in donors welcome, or make an appointment at 1-800-GIVELIFE. Minimum age is 17; no maximum. Good food and conversation, too!

The Cornwall Child Center's eighteenth annual auction, Pig 'n Jig, will be held on Saturday, May 2. (See insert for details.)

The Cornwall Food Pantry is now staffed by volunteers and open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 A.M. to noon. Located in the building behind the Town Hall, with its own entrance on the far right, the pantry is intended for any Cornwall resident in need. Information at cornwallfood@optonline.net or 672-0595.

#### **CORNWALL CHRONICLE**

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