



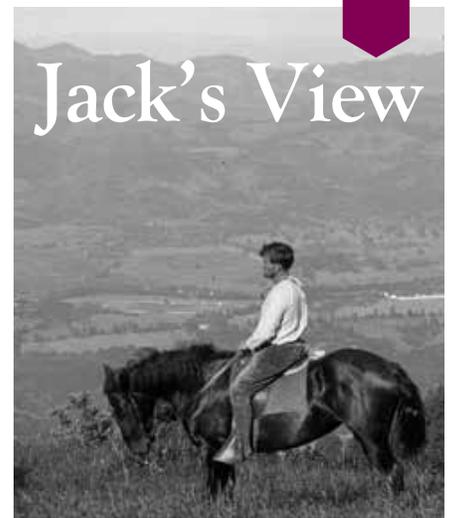
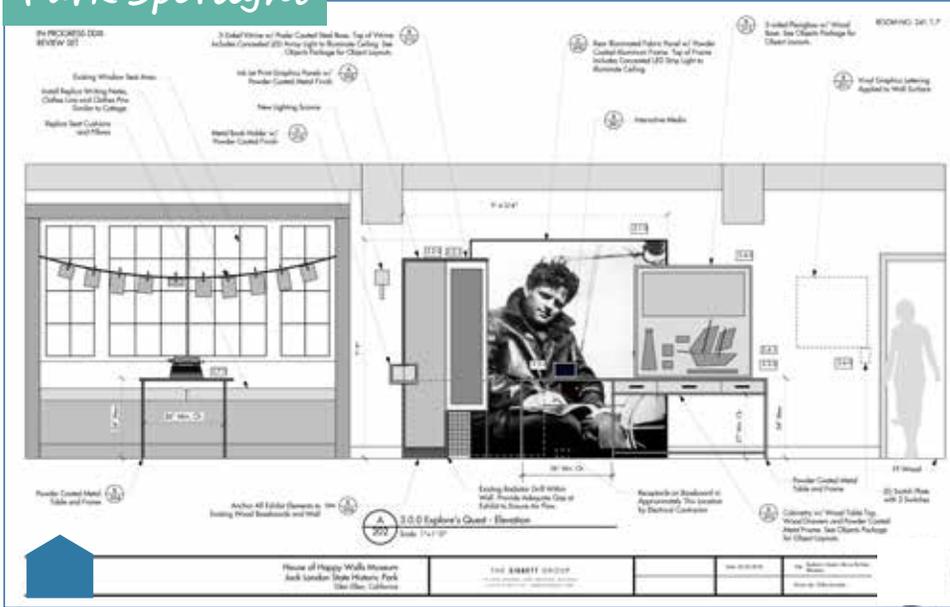
JACK LONDON STATE HISTORIC PARK

Moon Letter

Operated by Jack London Park Partners

Summer 2018

Park Spotlight



Sustainable Farming

In 1905, Jack London decided to settle permanently in the Valley of the Moon. In June, he purchased his first of six ranches — the Hill Ranch, for \$7,000 — *“130 acres of the most beautiful, primitive land to be found in California,”*

When he cleared 40 acres to raise hay, he discovered the land had been depleted by *“old-fashioned methods of taking everything off and putting nothing back.”* The former owners tilled the land for forty years without fertilizing or allowing it to lie fallow, allowing it to erode with the winter rains. London believed *“we must develop scientific methods to turn the slopes into productive areas.”*

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News from the Park

JACK LONDON PARK PARTNERS' VISION IS TO MAKE THE PARK A PLACE OF INSPIRATION — A CULTURAL AND HISTORIC VENUE THAT INSPIRES GUESTS by exemplifying the London's sense of adventure and discovery, Jack's contribution to literature, his pioneering efforts in sustainable agriculture and affection for the land. His story is not complete without a focus on his marriage to Charmian Kitteridge. A formidable team, she helped facilitate his success as his editor, transcriber, confidant and soul mate. In 2016 we took on the ambitious project of re-configuring the exhibit layout for the House of Happy Walls with an end of goal of fabricating and installing new exhibits to create a story line that would portray the London's important contemporary relevance. The toughest challenge was compacting the numerous experiences of the London's packed life in ways that would inspire visitors to dare to dream and realize their passions. Conceptual drawings for new exhibits were completed with input from historians, scholars and docents which informed the organization of objects, artifacts and text for each exhibit. Twenty-two new exhibits are now being fabricated with plans to re-open the museum this summer. Supporting tours, programs and school curriculum are also being developed to encourage immersive and memorable learning experiences.

A Note from the Executive Director

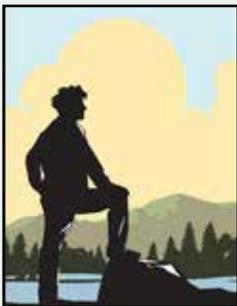


It is hard to believe that it was six years ago when we assumed management of Jack London State Historic Park. What a tumultuous time that was – navigating a new relationship with State Parks, raising the revenue necessary to operate the park, tackling issues related to deferred maintenance – all while at the same time establishing an infrastructure for meeting mission and financial sustainability. We’ve come a long way in a short time. Visitor attendance has doubled, the number of volunteers who support the essential functions of the park has increased from 100 to 450, a talented staff delivers exceptional programming and a stellar Board of Directors governs a strategic vision for the park that has made it a model for public-private park management. Despite the early tensions with State Parks I am proud of how this has evolved into a productive and collaborative partnership. We are in the process of renewing our operating agreement – State parks has recognized that community management results in more relevant and valued programming essential for ensuring the future of parks.

— Tjiska Van Wyk

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Photography: Deborah Large, TTC, Eric Metz

Historic Photos from The Huntington Library

Volunteer Spotlight



Patrolling our Trails

ULI KOLBE HAS 450 HOURS OF HIKING AND REPORTING TRAIL CONDITIONS!

“Having grown up in the Harz Mountains in Central Germany, I have always enjoyed being in nature.

Our park’s 29 miles of beautiful hiking trails and its unique blend of nature, history, and literature is what prompted me to become a volunteer here.

As an avid photographer, I have enjoyed volunteering at the park’s photography workshops and on wildflower hikes. My favorite role at JLSHP is that of a trail patrol volunteer. The majority of my 450 volunteer hours have been hiking the gorgeous trails of Jack London Park, advising visitors, giving directions, and reporting trail conditions. The longer the hikes, the better!

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and a special thanks to...



Jenny Randall has been maintaining and cultivating the Cottage garden for 20 years; a balancing act to preserve the historic plants while combating the voracious appetite of deer. Fortunately, Jenny gets help from a group of committed volunteers who prune, plant, and weed keeping the garden looking its best throughout the year. Thank you!

Jack's View continued from page 1



The six bankrupt ranches represent at least eighteen bankruptcies ...The challenge to me is this: by using my head, my judgment, and all the latest knowledge in the matter of farming, can I make a success where these eighteen men failed?

I have pledged myself, my manhood, my fortune, my books, and all I possess to this undertaking."

London taught himself about farming. *"I adopted the policy of taking nothing off the ranch,"* he said. He rotated crops and used natural fertilizer. London developed a liquid manure system to recycle materials hosed from the dairy barn He also used an ancient technique he had seen as a war correspondent in 1904 in Korea... terracing to prevent soil erosion. As a result, London claimed, *"... instead of one-tenth of one meager crop a year you can grow three rich crops a year."*

He wanted to *"leave the land better for my having been,"* and so more than 100 years ago, he pioneered many of the principles which are the foundation of organic farming today, including controlled animal grazing, use of manures, crop rotation, recycling animal and plant waste via composting and natural fertilizers. Jack London was one of the first true organic farmers in the US.

"Do you realize that I devote two hours a day to writing and ten to farming?" he wrote in his journal

The End of Part 1

Written by Charles Levine ,

PARTNERS IN SCIENCE AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

On May 19th, the Park celebrated the culmination of its new 7th grade ecology program with teachers and students from Adele Harrison Middle School. Called Nature's Design, the 3-part program takes 7th graders on an exploration of local ecosystems to study the diversity of flora and fauna in the wilderness areas of JLSHP and in their own suburban school yard. To conclude, students are asked to analyze and compare their data and apply them to a landscape design project in which they redesign their own school campus to support and increase the diversity of plants and animals there. Ambitious students had the option of taking their assignment to the next level by building 3-dimensional models for entry in the Park's Biodiversity Design Challenge and student exhibition. For this year's pilot program, 5 Adele Harrison students submitted models. Education Manager Kristina Ellis and board member and contest judge Mike Benziger, presided over the competition and awards ceremony. First prize was awarded to 7th grader, Audrey Nelson, for her excellent design which included elements like smaller building footprints for increased habitat area, increased plant diversity, and plenty of shelter for a variety of animals. All the students in the competition created thoughtful models which explored ways people can marry humanity's daily needs with Nature's need for space and resources, allowing for a more harmonious coexistence.



Left to right: Shirley Austin Peeke (teacher), Audrey Nelson, Peyton Rosa, Mia Sides, Mike Benziger, Morgan Phillips, Elizabeth McGrane, and Suzie Silverman (teacher)



First Place winner - Audrey Nelson

3rd Annual Young Writers contest



Winners left to right: *Eva Beatty, Alegria Silva, Rose Williams and Hannah Morgan (Evie Hatrick and Lily Graver are not shown here)* Read their stories at www.jacklondonpark.com/writers-contest-2018.html

JLSHP's third annual Young Writer's Contest received over 40 submissions from elementary and middle school students around northern California. This year's prompt asked contestants to create a fictional story around an environment or natural event, like a winter storm, summer drought, or even meteorites and solar flares, telling us how the event or environment influenced, inspired, and even challenged their story's characters. Students were encouraged to use their own relationship with nature as inspiration. Winners were honored at an awards ceremony and picnic breakfast on April 21st. An audience of excited students and very proud parents enjoyed inspirational words and stories from Elisa Stancil and Chuck Levine and students got to share the inspiration for their own stories. One parent shared gratitude for her daughter's experience; "Thank you for encouraging the writing dreams of her generation!!"

London Lake Update

Maintenance on Jack's lake has begun! Jack London Park Partners has begun work to re-establish a viewing window to the lake that Jack London had built over 100 years ago. Over the last 25 years, the lake has become overgrown with cattails and willow sprouts, and more recently completely covered with Azolla, a small reddish water fern often mistaken for algae. Working with State Parks environmental scientists, a maintenance plan has been approved to begin clearing away some of the encroaching vegetation. This long deferred maintenance clearing includes cutting the cattails and willow sprouts to establish an area of accessible shoreline, as well as clearing away from the historic dam and drainage tower in order to protect these important structures. Additionally, some Azolla (often referred to as duckweed) will be hand removed to create areas of open water. This work will be ongoing, and will allow visitors to better see what Jack London's lake may have looked like.



Cottage Restoration



Restoration has begun on Charmian's sleeping porch! Visitors coming to see Jack and Charmian London's historic cottage on Beauty Ranch will notice a project is underway. A restoration was needed to repair dry rot and other damage that has occurred to Charmian's sleeping porch and with the help of State Parks historians, architects and restoration specialists, plans and recommendations were created to best accomplish this work. This simple porch is of extra special significance being the place where Jack London died in 1916, and Jack London Park Partners is excited to get this project underway. The repair will replace rotting flooring and siding destroyed by water penetration, repair damaged structural members, and completely restore ten deteriorating multi-paned windows. New foundational supports will be added as well to help prevent future damage. Custom removable flashing members will be installed over the exterior flooring so signs of ongoing damage can be found early and repaired before significant damage has been sustained. This restoration will be continuing through the summer and into the fall, but will not affect the Historic Cottage visitation or hours of operation. The restoration work is being performed by Jack London Park Partners staff, and will adhere to the guidelines set forth by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. These guidelines ensure that historic buildings receive the appropriate treatments to protect them for future generations to experience. State Parks historians and district staff will be monitoring the restoration and assisting with any changes to the plans that may arise.



An Evening with the Crowd

On Saturday, April 21st Jack London Park held a fundraiser at the House of Happy Walls museum. An Evening with the Crowd event celebrated in the roaring 20's style with Champagne, Caviar and cocktails as guests swayed to the music of Cole Porter and George Gershwin. Delicious appetizers were provided by Girl and the Fig and Transcendence Theatre raised the roof with their hot performances and live music. For one night only we celebrated Charmian's House of Happy Walls before this beautiful museum enters remodel phase. A special thanks goes out to the members of the Redwood Empire Model T Club who so generously donated their cars for the evening.



Left to right: Buffy Miller and Donna Halow; Chuck Levine and Elisa Stancil; The Crowd on the terrace; Transcendence Theatre Company performing; Jack and Hope Nisson; Joel Hendler and Betty Brachman; Pam and Fred Gilberd; Flapper girls; Dorinda Parker and Bill Blosser

With Gratitude

Contributors February 15 2018 — May 24, 2018

Thanks to all of our generous donors

Jay S. Bachman	David Dexter	Dr. Earle Labor	Caroline and Vince Quilici
Leslie Adler	Ron and Sandy Dodge	Lacy Lang	Lorraine Roshek & Sandy Schwartz
Patti and Kent Anderson	Ted Eliot	William Larsen	Marde Ross
Gerald and Jane Baldwin	Marie Fernandez	Chuck Levine and Elisa Stancil	Stephen Rowe
Henry Beaumont	Terry Flynn	Linda Liscom	George and Jane Rush
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Betty Brachman	Jim Gilmore	Dennis and Susan McQuaid	William Stacy
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Irene Cook	Susan Hoeffel	William Olson	Doug Fenn Wilson
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Ted Cutler and Gemma Gallovich	Andrew Koenigsberg	Pernod Ricard Kenwood Winery	Frank and Janet Zona
Michael and Rosemarie Davies	Melinda and Rob Kruvant	Ruth Pfau	
Sally and Albert Davies	Betsy Kutska and Paul Genovese	Willa Price Mundell	
Lynne Deegan-McGraw	Holly and Steve Kyle	Stephanie Pugash	
Allison Deering			

Now is a great time to become a member of Jack London Park! Join today or renew your membership and you will receive an invitation to an Insider's Tour of the redesigned House of Happy Walls in Summer 2018! Plus there are more great benefits only for members including discounts in our bookstore, invitations to special events and private tours. Check our website to join or for information

<http://jacklondonpark.com/jack-london-be-a-partner.html>

Interview with Stephan Stubbins



STEPHAN STUBBINS CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE TRANSCENDENCE THEATRE COMPANY, TOOK A MOMENT TO DISCUSS THE UPCOMING BROADWAY UNDER THE STARS SEASON OPENING JUNE 15TH AT JACK LONDON STATE HISTORIC PARK.

JLP: It's been 7 years since you first started performing Broadway Under the Stars at Jack London Park. Did you expect it to be such a fabulous success when you started? Tell us how you've changed during those 7 years. How have the performances changed?

Stephan: We've always had a big vision for Transcendence and we founded the company with great optimism, enthusiasm, and aspirational hopes, however we didn't expect this amazing community to embrace and support us as quickly and as warmly as it did. We found a true match for the spirit of our company in the Sonoma County community where we settled.

We've learned so many things over the course of the last seven years and we've truly developed into more experienced leaders and a more mature organization. The shows themselves have developed more depth, originality, and variety. We pride ourselves in being able to upgrade the experience for the patrons in some way each year. The event has blossomed into a more cohesive and professional evening from top to bottom and we've discovered more ways to weave moments of joy, meaning, and "Transcendence" into it all.

JLP: When do you start working on the new season each year?

Stephan: Believe it or not, we begin working toward the next summer season before the current season has even launched. We're already talking about show ideas for next year and in the planning process so that we can keep the momentum going once the current summer season ends.

JLP: What do you do to keep the performances and yourselves fresh each year?

Stephan: Getting to do service projects in the community throughout the year really inspires and motivates us to do more. We crave getting to spend more time with our patrons and getting to share the magic of the park and the Broadway Under The Stars events with them. Each year we eagerly await our next opportunity to connect, inspire, and be inspired.

Our volunteer team, that we call Team Transcendence, is a great inspiration to us as well. We consider them our family and so many of them go way above the usual limits to embody the Transcendence mission and make a difference in the lives of our patrons. Being reunited with them each summer energizes and excites us.

We're also inspired by everything that life entails in our community and world. New Broadway shows, popular music, and musical movies often give us a blast of new ideas and new ways to express. We love reexamining the classics and finding new depth in them. We love finding ways to honor those we've lost, those we've been inspired by, and those stories that hold deeper meanings.

Nature itself is also an inspiration and getting to spend the whole summer in the park reconnects us with our roots, our breath, and that magical energy of feeling that something beyond the ordinary is possible.

JLP: Something that most people may not know, is that in addition to creating Broadway Under the Stars you also take an interest in the community by connecting and giving free performances to those who can't come to the Park. Tell us more about your community outreach program.

Stephan: Yes, our company was really founded on the idea of service above self, and the idea of using art itself to serve. Our first service projects during the founding of our company in Baja, Mexico (working with an orphanage, and working with the underserved community there) were very transformative in our lives and they really set us up to make those moments of connecting and giving back a centerpiece to all we do.

This year our artists are doing projects with Sweetwater Spectrum (adults with Autism), the Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa (children who's families are dealing with homelessness), La Luz (giving underserved children an opportunity to participate in our kids camp), and the Boys & Girls Club of Sonoma Valley.

Our projects have included teaching song, dance, acting, and improv; doing workshops about professions in the acting business and what it takes to put on a production; singing, dancing, and performing; hosting free open mic nights where we encourage community members to share their art; playing and teaching theater games; and letting our imaginations run wild in collaborating with those we're serving.

JLP: Tell us how TTC is supporting Jack London State Historic Park?

Stephan: We're excited about the multiple ways we get to support and spread the word about Jack London State Historic Park. \$5 of every ticket we sell for Broadway Under The Stars goes to the park and so far we've been able to contribute over \$364,000 to the park in our first six seasons.

We're proud of our partnership with Jack London Park Partners and California State Parks, and we continually promote the park through all of our radio, television, internet, print, and social media channels throughout the year.

We've also performed for events and fundraisers that benefit the park, including having performed for a piano concert, a private donor event, and being the featured entertainment for the recent Speakeasy Fundraiser in the House of Happy Walls.

JLP: Incredibly, each year your season includes 4 different programs. What a juggling act to create a new series and transition all the performers. Who is responsible for the logistics?

Stephan: We have a team of dedicated events, and technical staff that work hard behind the scenes to pull off the logistics of the event and make each evening run smoothly. It's remarkably challenging to choose the empty winery ruins into a world class performance space. Our co-Executive Director, Brad, does a wonderful job of managing that side of the company and working with him are some amazing and dedicated employees and contractors including our Operations Associate, Madeline Spencer; our Events Coordinator, Courtney Biryukov; our Sound Designer, Nils Erickson; and our Technical Director, Jeffrey Porter.

JLP :We are all excited about your upcoming season opening June 15th with the first program, Stairway to Paradise. Broadway Under the Stars, in 7 years, has become "not to be missed" summer outing for folks from all over. What are you planning for us this year?

Stephan: We have so many fun, meaningful, and memorable moments planned this summer. We've recently announced on our website (BestNightEver.org) ten of the 20+ songs that are featured in our first show, Stairway To Paradise. The list includes an amazing mix of styles including songs by Irving Berlin, Paul Simon, Rogers & Hammerstein, Van Halen, Kander & Ebb, and more.

Opening night on June 15th is going to be especially exciting this year for several reasons. We're going to be getting red carpet photos during the pre-show picnic with adoptable and dressed up kittens and puppies from Pets Lifeline, we'll be taking a picture of our whole audience shortly after intermission, we'll also be announcing our new season theme (we can't wait to share it with you!).

JLP: What else would you like us to know?

Stephan: We can't wait to see you all in the park this summer for Broadway Under The Stars. It's going to be such a great way to celebrate the strength and resilience of our community in a joyous and meaningful way. What could be better than a summer full of song, friends, wine, food, and the magical energy of Jack London State Historic Park.



Meet the Volunteer Council

The Volunteer Council of Jack London Park Partners and Sugarloaf Ridge exists to enable both top down and bottoms up communications between the management structure and the volunteers. The Council provides feedback to management on topics involving the volunteers, tours, state of resources available to volunteers, buildings needing attention, signage and enrichment programs. We at the Council receive information on the status of the parks, projects undertaken, funding, information of interest to volunteers, attendance and activities on the calendar. Being a volunteer on the Council adds another dimension of satisfaction to one's volunteer activity.

The Council passes this information on to all volunteers by minutes of its monthly meetings. These monthly meetings are open to all volunteers. Most meetings are held at HOHW with two meetings at the RFO Observatory. The Council members solicit input from all volunteers and make themselves available for discussion of any issues

Left to right: Larry Houghton, Rosemary Petersen, Lou Leal, Alice Melillo, Eric Norrbom, Barb Earl, Brad Evans, Kathy Hillback-Ely, Dave Chalk, Bob Reuther and Bern Lefson

Volunteer Spotlight continued from page 2

My volunteering enabled me to teach an entire course about Jack London and the park at a summer academy in Germany - the students loved it.

I have taught German language, English/ESL, and History at schools in Germany, Texas, Pennsylvania, and California and have worked as a flight instructor and ham radio instructor. I currently do editing and translation work. You can find me on the trails of JLSHP whenever possible."

Uli consistently provides park staff with excellent and detailed trail patrol reports, helping us to maintain the trails for our visitors. His excellent support during photography events and wildflower hikes is much appreciated!.

Volunteer Interpretive Training Classes

Learning can be more effective when tours include interactive experiences that engage visitors and embrace the elements of fun and adventure. Led by Kristina Ellis, JLSHP will be hosting three interpretive workshops designed to combine brain-based learning with play-based presentation strategies. Workshop participants will have a chance to engage with the learning material first-hand through an active combination of indoor and outdoor lessons, presentations, and learning games. On June 22nd Optimal Engagement will offer an introduction to effective interpretation and audience engagement strategies. Following on July 27th, Themes and Outlines will explore easy-to-use methods for creating impactful tour outlines led by strong themes. Finally, on August 24th Learning Through Play will offer strategies for creating positive and dynamic learning environments for students on our school tours. Interested docents do not need to take all three workshops to enjoy the benefits of this continued learning opportunity.



2017 Having Fun left to right: Bob Reuther, Bern Lefson and Johnny Graham

Upcoming Events and Activities

see more at www.jacklondonpark.com

Jack London History Classes

Presented by Lou Leal, Park Historian

The second annual series of Jack London History presentations by Lou Leal continues with it's last 2018 series on June 16th. These Docent Enrichment events were hugely popular in their first year, 2017 and will be repeated annually as ongoing education for our volunteers. Here is the schedule of events all on Saturdays 10-11:30 am. Location will be announced prior to each class.

- June 16* *The history of the Cottage*
- July 21* *The history of the Beauty Ranch*
- August 18* *The history of the Wolf House and House of Happy Walls Museum*



MONTHLY FITNESS HIKES

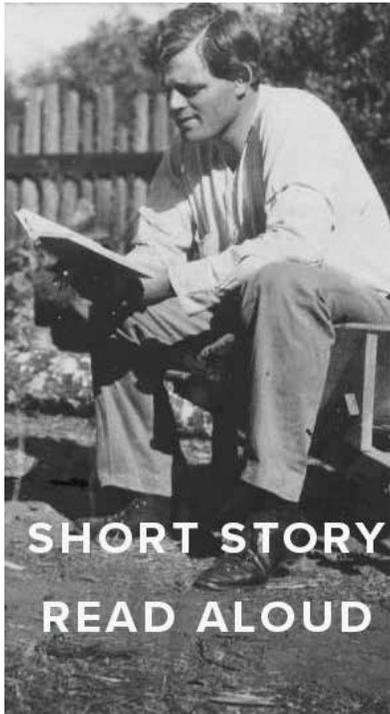


JOIN US...
NATIONAL GET OUTDOORS DAY
JUNE 9, 2018
JACK LONDON STATE PARK

Please come enjoy the beauty of the park for #NationalGetOutdoorsDay on Saturday, June 9th. All entry fees into the park will be complimentary courtesy of Kenwood Vineyards.




KENWOOD



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