

# Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



Fall 2015  
Vol.28 No.3

*We must hear and listen to all of Quabbin's many Voices. Voices of the Past, as well as Voices of the Present and of the Future. Voices of the Trees, the Sky, the Rain that falls, and all the Wild Things; Voices of the People who depend on this valuable resource for their daily needs of clean water, and Voices of those who draw upon it for deeper needs of the Soul.*

—Les Campbell

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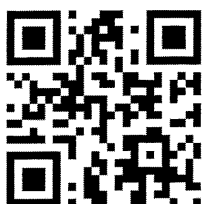
## 90th Birthday of Les Campbell

**F**our score and ten years ago there came  
 A new being, Les Campbell by name.  
 Now, four score and ten's a lot of years;  
 Happy years, sad years, laughter and tears.  
 He worked and played and studied and learned  
 And soon a reputation he earned.  
 A brilliant mind was put to good use.  
 "Can't be done" was never an excuse.  
 Photography was never the same  
 For it now bore the mark of his name.  
 He photographed, he lectured, he taught.  
 Of things he couldn't do, there was naught.  
 With his camera he's shown us our world  
 And many of nature's secrets unfurled.  
 He's the reason some things came to be  
 NECCC, FOQ, QPG.  
 Few people know more about Quabbin  
 Or how to photograph a robin.  
 He's so generous with his knowledge,  
 A one man photography college.  
 Glad I've taken some of his classes;



Hope my grade is one that passes.  
 Thank you, Les, for all you've given us  
 All your ninety years have been a plus.  
 This's been a long-winded way to say  
 Les, happy four-score-and-ten birthday!

—Anne Ely





Gene Theroux

## President's Message

Fall 2015

It was a busy summer and it went by far too quickly. A most enjoyable event that I look forward to each summer is the Dana Reunion, but I was unable to attend this year due to a family vacation in northern California. Nevertheless, my heart and spirit were on Dana Common on that special Sunday (July 26th). I understand the Dana Reunion was well attended and people came from quite far. I will not miss it in 2016. Congratulations to Suzanne Martin daughter of Earl & Lois Cooley who recently retired after a long and distinguished career as a Special Education teacher. Suzanne is the President of the Dana Reunion Committee; she accompanied her parents to the Tuesday Tea picnic.

Speaking of 2016, next year will be the former town of Enfield's bicentennial. Enfield was incorporated on February 15, 1816. The citizens of Enfield had voted to have the centennial celebration to be held in conjunction with Independence Day in 1916 instead of a cold wintery February. The town of Enfield, Massachusetts sent invitations across the country to former residents and natives to celebrate its centennial during July 2–4, 1916. Private contributions supplemented the \$500 appropriated by the town for festivities that included a parade of "floats, automobiles, horrors, etc."; religious services, sports events; a band concert; and fireworks. Members of the Executive Committee included R. Willard B. Segur, R. W. Hewitt, J.W. Flint, D.W. Howe, and Charles W. Felton. Donald W. Howe had a movie filmed in Enfield during 1915-1916 for his Enfield Gala Theater which was located in the Enfield Town Hall. The movie

contains many clips from the centennial celebration. It's important to note that this is the only extant film from the former Swift River Valley (courtesy of the Roger Lincoln Collection, Northeast Historic Film). The program for the 2015 Friends of Quabbin Holiday Party scheduled for Sunday December 6, 2015 will include a presentation of the 1915/1916 Enfield Gala Theater movie produced for the 75th Year of Remembrance Ball (special thanks to Pete Lincoln).

It's interesting to take a look back in time to Enfield in 1916 by reviewing the town reports from that year. Can you imagine that in 1916, the entire electric bill for the town of Enfield was less than what a homeowner pays for their bill in 2015? The appropriation for electric lights was \$1,250.00 of which \$1,200.00 was for street lights and the remaining \$50.00 for the town hall. At the end of the year, there was a balance of \$2.86 from the town hall appropriation for electric lights. The Public Library Report in the 1916 town report had an entry, "An instructive book "The Art of Looking at Pictures," had been initially published in 1916 and presented to the Library by the author, Carl P. Thurston, son of the late Rev. Philander Thurston of this town." This particular book has been reprinted a number of times, as recent as 2015, and is available for purchase at Amazon.com; the original can be viewed at [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org) (Internet Archive). It was clear in the town reports that there were problems with the Elm tree beetle (an invasive species) as each year, \$100.00 was appropriated for suppression of the Elm tree beetle. In the 1915 annual town report, H. Clifton Moore, who was the Moth Agent, reported the expenditure of \$42.50 to pay two men and a team for the hunting of brown-tail and gypsy moths for the duration of 8½ days.

I was intrigued by the School Committee report on the expenditures for transportation and tuition to High School. For the year 1915, the total school transportation costs were \$1071.57. Tuition paid to Athol for Enfield students to attend Athol High

School was \$773.00; tuition to the town of Belchertown for Enfield students to attend Belchertown High School was \$131.25 for a total of \$904.25. Each Enfield high school student was identified in the reports with the cost of their tuition to the right of their name. In other years, high students went to Palmer, Springfield and to the New Salem Academy. The town reports contained a report from both the school committee and from the superintendent of schools each year. A common thread between the school committee and the superintendent's report was the urging of parents to



A group of clowns at the Enfield Centennial (courtesy of the SRVHS).

cooperate in helping to educate and shape their children. Tardiness was an issue; parents were urged to emphasize punctuality to their children. Some reports emphasized state law on vaccinations and requirements of aged children for mandatory enrollment and attendance of school. The town appropriated an annual salary of \$5.00 for the part-time truant officer. The truant officer also served the town as the constable and earned another \$5.00 minimum annual salary for that position.

Those residents who worked on the state roads were identified and their pay fully documented. The Enfield town reports also contain detail on real estate taxes, property taxes on farm animals such as fowl, pigs, cows, horses, vehicles and the poll tax. In 1915, Enfield appropriated \$800 for the care of paupers and spent \$1495.88. Doctor Willard C. Segur served the town in many different capacities during that year: school physician, chairman of the school committee, selectman, and chief of the Enfield Volunteer Fire Department. Dr. Segur was clearly a man who provided great service to the community throughout his many years as a resident of Enfield.

The town reports from the former towns of the Swift River Valley were digitally scanned in 2013 and placed on the [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) website by the Massachusetts State Library prior to the 75th Year of Remembrance Ball. If you have ancestors from the Valley, you may want to visit the state library website to review the town reports for the former towns of the Swift River Valley. The town reports are critically important in learning the history of the people of the four towns up until 1938. The town reports are the only recorded history of the four towns; no museums or historical societies existed in any of the towns. A link to the website with the various town reports of the former towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott is provided on the Friends of Quabbin Links & Resources page. Alternatively, one may go to: <http://www.mass.gov/anf/research-and-tech/oversight-agencies/lib/annual-reports-for-former-towns-of-swift-river-valley.html>

On the topic of Enfield, the Department of Conservation Quabbin Interpretative Services, the Friends of Quabbin, the Swift River Valley Historical Society and others will be collaborating to plan and provide a bicentennial observance (celebration) of the former town of Enfield in 2016 to be held on the Quabbin Park Reservation. The initial planning has just begun and there will be information and advertising done well in advance of the event to be held in the summer of 2016.

The Tuesday Tea picnic originally scheduled for August 25th was rescheduled to September 1st due to thunderstorms and the potential of lightning. The weather was absolutely perfect on September 1st and my wife and I had the opportunity to take the morning boat ride on the reservoir. Our admiral and tour guide was Bill Pula, the Regional Director of the Office of Watershed Management for the Quabbin Reservoir and Ware River Section. Friends of Quabbin member and former director Linda Morse was on the boat with us and it was indeed a pleasure to see Linda again.



*Bill Pula explaining the operation of the reservoir to the "crew."*

On the tour of the reservoir, we went over the former locations of the town of Enfield and the northern villages: Smiths Village, Greenwich Plains, Greenwich Village and North Dana. Along the journey, Bill would stop the boat and explain in detail, the engineering details of building Winsor Dam, and the two baffle dams in the former town of Greenwich Village and how they serve in the water purification process before the water leaves Quabbin via the shaft 12 aqueduct on its journey to Wachusett Reservoir.

Bill explained the eagle restoration program and located an Eagles nest for us. Seeing an eagle's nest for oneself, one is struck by its sheer size.



*Eagles nest located on boat tour. (photo: G. Theroux)*

# *Photography by Les Campbell*



*Samples of some pictures of Ware taken by Les and used in the new Ware Historical Society Calendar to support restoration of the bell*





## Interpretive Services Report

Fall 2015

By Clif Read

From my office window the Quabbin landscape is beginning its transformation from the rich green of summer to the patchwork of yellows, red and orange appearing in increasing intensity and coverage. It is always surprising how quickly the transition to fall occurs, but this year is really little different from the timing of other years. While I eagerly anticipate the next season that New England has to offer, I am never quite ready to leave behind the previous season. But who is not excited about the spectacle of fall foliage and the incredible display that Quabbin has to offer. The blend of trees on watershed lands always provides a most beautiful show attracting visitor from far and wide. In fact the busiest stretch for visitors occurs from late September through October when thousands of folks travel to Quabbin to view the beautiful scenery.

*[Editor's Note: Although we have beautiful foliage pictures, the Newsletter is in black and white. Without color, beautifully colored foliage isn't so impressive. But please visit our website for the full feast for the eyes.]*



Alan Sax of Amherst interviews (L to R) Marianne Theroux, Lois Cooley and Suzanne Martin at the Tuesday Tea Picnic as part of his research on New England heirloom apples. (photo by C. Read)

The inclement weather on the original date of the Tuesday Tea Picnic postponed the event a week to September 1st, but the wait was well worth it! Bright, sunny skies and calm weather greeted picnic goers on the rescheduled date treating former residents, their family members and other participants to a spectacular late summer day. For nearly two decades the DCR has offered former residents the opportunity to take a special interpretive boat tour on the reservoir, visiting places



FOQ President Gene Theroux looks on as the Howe boys (L to R: Alan Marty and Ed) delve into a family photo album of pre-Quabbin pictures of the valley. (photo by C. Read)



Quabbin Regional Director Bill "The Admiral" Pula talks with former Dana resident Earl Cooley at the Tuesday Tea Picnic prior to the boat tour. (photo by C. Read)

normally restricted to public access. For some people it is the closest they have come to their former homesteads since the late 1930s. These are powerful experiences that remind us of the importance of home and the sacrifices made by Swift River residents eight decades ago. From the Interpretive Service staff's perspective, it is gratifying to be able to provide this experience and to follow through on the commitment of the DCR to honor former residents and their families.

In late September the Quabbin Section hosted the quarterly meeting of the Water Supply Protection Trust (WSPT) Board of Trustees. Created by Chapter 149 of the Acts of 2004 that was crafted by former Senator Stephen Brewer, the WSPT was designed to enhance the ability of the DCR Office of Watershed Management (DCR-OWM) to maintain the drinking water supplies of the water system by creating a more efficient mechanism for funding from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). The MWRA is the DCR's co-manager of the drinking water system and is responsible for the transport of water from the reservoirs, the treatment of

water and the wholesaling of drinking water to the 51 user communities, whereas DCR's authority lies in the management of the reservoirs and the watershed lands. Funding to the DCR–OWM comes from revenues the MWRA generates in sales to user communities and is managed through the WSPT.

There are five trustees on the WSPT who are responsible for approving the DCR-OWM's annual work plan and budget and are represented by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs office, the Executive Director of the MWRA, a representative of two of the Quabbin fishing groups, a representative of the Swift River Valley Historical Society and the Chairperson of the MWRA Advisory Board. With so many organizations involved with the water system, it can become every confusing as one tries to sort out the how they all relate and figure out the alphabet soup of acronyms. But the bottom line is that the WSPT oversees the DCR - OWM budget that comes indirectly from the water users, which has greatly improved the funding stream and expenditures for the agency.

Visitors to Quabbin Park over the summer may have noticed the tree clearing work conducted from the Boat Cove near the Spillway Wall to the east. A 100' swath was created to bring a power line to the dock area of the Boat Cove and minimize damage from falling trees along the edge of the cut. As the staging area for most of DCR's on-water Gull Harassment Program, the dock area never had electricity, requiring generators to provide lighting. Since the boats involved with this effort during the later fall, winter and early spring do not return until after dark has fallen, the lack of adequate lighting and other infrastructure/equipment which require electricity makes the operation more dangerous. This upgrade will be of great benefit to the DCR, the State Police and the Environmental Police which all maintain boats used for patrolling, operations and emergency response from this site.

The power line cut is adjacent to some of the red pine plantations that were established in the late 1930s and early 1940s to provide vegetative cover on open watershed lands. The boat cove area to the east of the Administration Road was used as a quarry site for material used in the construction of Winsor Dam, particularly the rip rap on the reservoir side of the dam. This angular rock and boulder covering protects the earthen dam from erosion, especially from waves that break along the shore of the dam. It is still possible to find cables and other pieces of metal from some of the equipment used in the quarrying process scattered through the woods.

While red pine is native to New England, it is at the southern limits of its range and is an uncommon naturally occurring species. Due to its benefit as an easy to grow coniferous species, red pine was the tree of choice for Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission that oversaw the Quabbin Project construction. A number of large nurseries were established in Belchertown and the former town of Enfield. Most of the trees grown were red pine, although white pine, spruce and a few different hardwood species were also grown in these nurseries. Young seedlings were transplanted from the nurseries to fields above the flood line which eventually covered 6,760 acres. While red pine grew well in the nurseries, transplanted easily to the fields and grew well in their early years, the trees were susceptible to diseases such as *Fomes annosus* which rots root systems of the trees and to insects,



*Dead stand of red pine near boat cove. (photo by Paul Godfrey)*

like the Red Pine Scale that has decimated plantations in recent years.

One effort of the Quabbin forestry program over the past 40 years was to slowly thin and replace the red pine plantations with naturally regenerated stands of trees better suited to the site conditions of each location. By the late 1990s, the number of red pine plantations had been reduced to 1,550 acres. In an effort to remove all of the plantations, most of which would most likely succumb to the Red Pine Scale in the near future, the DCR is planning to systematically cut all of the remaining red pine in the Quabbin Reservation. This will include several of the remaining stands in the boat cove area as well as some behind the Quabbin Administration Building near the Visitor Service Loop Trail. Further details of these proposed forestry operations can be found at the Quabbin Visitor Center as well as from the DCR-OWM website, [www.mass.gov/dcr/watershed](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/watershed).

Have a great fall and I hope to see you at the Friends of Quabbin Annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 6th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

## ***President's Message***

*Continued from page 3*

Bill also stopped at the Gate 8 fishing area and spoke in detail about the Loon nesting platform there.



*The loon nesting platform sitting at the water's edge at the Gate 8 fishing area. (photo: G. Theroux)*

Bill described the Special Olympics two-day fishing derby. Bill has been the venue director for the last 14 years and is, rightfully, very proud of it.

I'd like to thank Bill Pula, Cliff Read, Nancy Huntington, the DCR rangers who were just superb hosts of the Tuesday Tea Picnic at Hank's Meadow.

The Tuesday Tea picnic was also postponed a week due to very nasty weather on the originally scheduled date. That created scheduling conflicts where there had been none before and prevented some picnic regulars from attending. We missed them. However, in spite of the weather postponement, there

was beautiful weather on the new date and a good showing. A wonderful time was had by all. Among the former residents of the Swift River Valley in attendance were former Dana residents: Earl Cooley, his wife Lois and their daughter Suzanne Martin. Deanna Doane Krusiewicz, the last recorded birth in former town of Dana, was there with Eugene Carney. Former Smith Village (Enfield) resident Bob Wilder shared stories and his good hearted humor. Former Enfield residents Al and Ed Howe were there with their nephew Marty. And there were several descendants of former residents of the Swift River Valley such as Ann Ely, Gene Theroux. Other former residents/descendants and their guests who had partaken in the boat ride in the morning were unable to stay for the picnic.

The Tuesday Tea picnic is scheduled for the fourth Tuesday in August (weather permitting) and for planning purposes, mark your calendar for Tuesday, August 23, 2016 for the Tuesday Tea picnic and add a rain date one week later.



*The second boat from the Tuesday Tea Picnic was piloted by a DCR ranger who provided a significant amount of information on the two hour boat ride. (photo: G. Theroux)*



*View from the DCR boat of Mt. Zion. (photo: G. Theroux)*



## Meetings & Events

### Holiday Party

The Board of Directors cordially invites you to join them for an early celebration of the holiday season at the Friends of Quabbin Annual Holiday Party on

**Sunday, December 6th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM**  
at the **Quabbin Visitor Center**

Refreshments will be served.

A video of the 1915/16 Enfield Gala Theater Movie will be shown.



## Prepare to Celebrate!

By Nancy Huntington,  
DCR Visitor Center Staff

Here at the Quabbin Visitor Center, we regularly play the Chronicle video, “Exploring the Quabbin”. At least a few times a week, I have to hear the narrator refer to the Enfield Centennial Celebration, followed by, “...not knowing there would never be a Bi-Centennial.” It has always annoyed me, as I would think to myself, why not? A large part of the former town of Enfield is still a beautifully landscaped area, visited by thousands of people every year, and with several thriving “businesses” (DCR, MRWA and State Police). Why shouldn’t there be a Bi-Centennial Celebration? It turns out, others agreed with me, and I am delighted to announce that next summer, 2016, there will be an Enfield Bi-Centennial!

Most of the details are yet to be worked out. Here’s what I can tell you: The event will piggy-back on the annual Tuesday Tea picnic, in August, and it will be a result of the combined efforts of the DCR, Friends of Quabbin, Swift River Valley Historical Society, and the Ware and Belchertown historical societies, but any ideas and suggestions are most welcome.

There will also be a new Quabbin cookbook, to coincide with the bi-centennial, full of recipes submitted by YOU! We

are looking for any recipes, old or new, that people who have a connection to the Swift River Valley would like to share. Former residents and their descendants, Tuesday Tea participants, members of any of the afore-mentioned historical societies, and DCR staff are all encouraged to submit something. Instructions for submitting recipes will be in the next newsletter, and eventually also on the Friends website, so keep an eye out for it. What a great thing to be thinking about, with all the upcoming holiday cooking and baking!

## Tuesday Teas

Visit with us on the first Tuesday of each month. The next dates are November 3rd, December 1st, and January 5th.

## Photo Club Meetings

The **Quabbin Photo Group** (<http://www.quabbinphotogroup.org>) meetings are on the 4th Monday at the Quabbin Visitor Center beginning at 7:00 pm. **The Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists** (<http://www.pvphotoartists.org>) meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. at the Visitor Center. Check their websites for more information.

*Meetings & Events continued...*

## Fall/Winter DCR Programs

**Saturday, October 31, 2015, 11am–12pm**

### **Quabbin Park Cemetery Tour**

What better way to spend Halloween than to go on a cemetery tour? Join us for an in depth look at this unique burial ground, and some of the interesting stories of its inhabitants. While most local people know why this particular cemetery was built, many don't really know how—you may be surprised at what you learn! Meet at the Civil War Monument in the cemetery. Please dress appropriately for the weather. (Call 413-323-7221 for directions and reservations)

**Saturday, November 14, 2015, 11am–1pm**

### **Hike to Dana Common**

Easily reached on foot, Dana Common is a microcosm of the towns lost to the Quabbin Reservoir. Join us as we hike 1.8 miles along the Dana Road to the Common and discover what life was like before 1938 and how the landscape was transformed to build the Reservoir. Meet at Gate 40. Please dress appropriately for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. To register and for directions, please call 413-323-7221.

January–April (tentative schedule)

All programs listed will be held on Sunday afternoons. 2:00–3:00 pm at the Quabbin Visitor Center

**January 31**

### **Are There Mountain Lions in Massachusetts?**

Tom French, Assistant Director,  
Department of Fish and Game

**February 14**

### **A History of the Military Use of Quabbin Reservoir During World War II and the Cold War**

Maria Beiter-Tucker, DCR Staff

**February 28**

### **Eastern Coyote in Massachusetts**

Emily Stolarski, Department of Fish and Game Staff

**March 13**

### **Search for Quabbin Houses**

Jackie Tuthill

**March 20**

### **Quabbin Seasons and Wildlife**

Dale Monette

**April 3**

### **Celebrating Enfield's Bicentennial**

Nancy Huntington, DCR Staff

## *Photo Corner*

**Guest Photographer, Anne Ely**



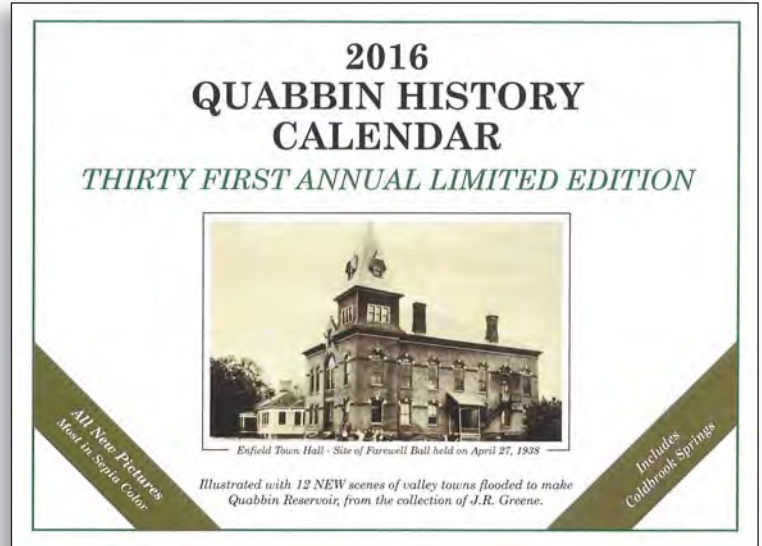
# VISITOR CENTER STORE

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## 2016 Calendar

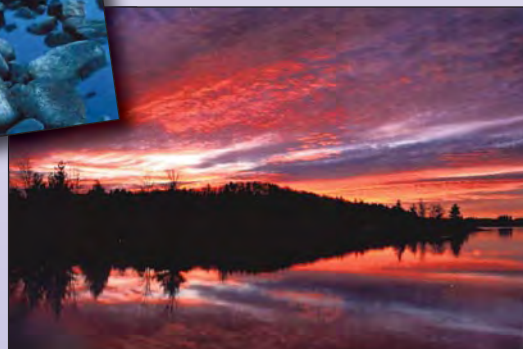
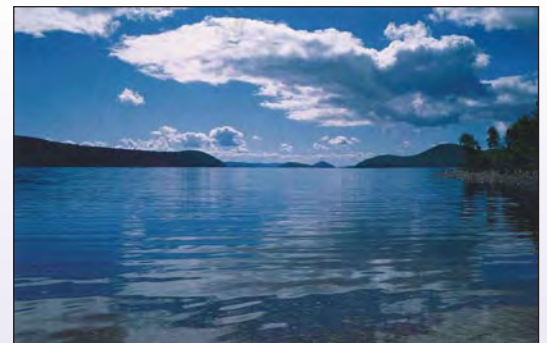
It's never too soon to think about the future, particularly when it comes to having a place to note that appointment six months from now. So, appropriately and hot off the press, we have a 2016 calendar from J.R. Greene.

The Visitor Center Store has carried his calendars for years; we are pleased to carry that on for the coming year. It is, of course, filled with old pictures from Quabbin Valley's drowned towns.



## New Postcards!

We also have some new postcards, very useful to send envious friends. To see the fall colors in these postcards, visit our website: <http://www.foquabbin.org/>.



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## Call for Member Submissions

This is your newsletter. We invite members to submit stories, articles, or reminiscences about the human or natural history of the Swift River Valley and Quabbin Reservoir.

Please send e-mail to Paul Godfrey at [godfrey@tei.umass.edu](mailto:godfrey@tei.umass.edu), or mail items to: The Friends of Quabbin  
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## Quabbin Voices

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of Friends of Quabbin, Inc.

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