

County Native Died Last Friday After A Few Days' Illness

Funeral Held Here Yesterday Afternoon For Joseph Walter Hardison

Joseph Walter Hardison, native of this county and known to many as Sam Hardison, died in a Washington hospital last Saturday morning at 9:05 o'clock following a few days' illness. Employed by a Richmond firm, Mr. Hardison came here on the evening of Saturday, March 23, to spend the week-end with relatives before proceeding to Greensboro the following Monday. He called on his brother, Mr. Luther Hardison, had dinner with him and then went into his old boyhood neighborhood in Griffins Township to spend the week-end with his sister, Mrs. J. J. Roberson. He seemed to be feeling very well while here, and talked with relatives and friends in his sister's home until almost 10 o'clock that evening when he started to retire. He had partly undressed when he suffered a stroke from which he never rallied. He was removed to the hospital last Tuesday.

Mr. Hardison was born in Griffins Township on June 22, 1887, the son of the late Seth R. and Frances Louisa Griffin Hardison. After spending his early life on the farm he went to Washington where he worked in a clothing store, later going to New Bern and then to New York. He traveled in nearly every section of the country for various clothing manufacturers a number of years and was traveling out of Richmond at the time of his death.

When a young man he was married and his widow, Mrs. Dolores Hardison, of Pittsburgh, survives. Also surviving are three brothers, Messrs. Luther and John A. Hardison of this county, and Henry D. Hardison, Tarboro attorney, and one sister, Mrs. J. J. Roberson of Griffins Township.

Funeral services were conducted in the Biggs Funeral Home on West Main Street here yesterday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock by Rev. W. B. Harrington, and burial followed in Woodlawn Cemetery here.

Seniors Sponsor Spring Festival

The Senior Class of Williamston High School is sponsoring a Spring Festival on April 5th, at 8:00 p. m. Fifty-three business firms of Williamston are sponsoring fifty-three beautiful girls. From these girls, out of town judges will select Williamston's prettiest girl.

In the ugliest man contest, Meyer Levin is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club; Roy Ward is sponsored by the Lions Club, and Wallace Tarkington is sponsored by the Jaycees. Votes are being sold for a vote. The man having the most votes will be declared Williamston's ugliest man and will be presented a box of cigars.

The Seniors wish to thank the business men, civic clubs, and the public for their cooperation. The admission is 25c, one price for everybody.

The following is a list of the girls and their sponsors:

Laura Frances Peele, McClees Grocery; Alice Wynne, Central Cafe; Dorothy Peele, Virginia Electric and Power Company; Doris Cullipher, Mickey's Inn; Doris Rogers, Hardy's Grocery; Jean Stinnette, Harrison and Carstaphen; Elizabeth Manning, F. C. X. Edna Hadley, Pioneer Shop; Lola Peele, Sinclair Service Station; Edna Thomas, Willard Shoe Shop; Jeannette Andrews, Peele's Jewelry; Julia Laughinghouse, Ward's Florist; Lucille Quinn, Quinn's Motorcycle Shop; Ruth Shaw, Shaw's Grocery; Letha Gardner, Pittman's Clothing Store; Sally M. Harrison, Farmers' Supply Co.; Cheryl, Woodard Furniture Store; Shirley Jones, The Flower Shop; Helen Howard, Ayers Electric Shop; Lucy Andrews, Martin Supply Co.; Betty A. Baldree, E. & W. Tire Builders; Marceline Johnson, Em's Beauty Salon; Doris Hart, Green Oil Co.; Thelma Carrow, Belk-Tyler; Jeannette Myers, Charles H. Jenkins and Co.; Jessie Long, Blue Star Cleaners; Joan Peele, York's Florist; Nelda Stubbs, Williamston Supply Co.; Louise Griffin, Courtney's Furniture Store; Melba Revels, Roanoke Chevrolet Co.; Dorothy Rogerson, Harrison Oil Co.; Mary Neil Lindsley, Williamston Packing Co.; Polly Manning, Roberson's Cafe; Ella Faye Rogerson, Roses 5 & 10 Store; Burnell White, Sam's Bargain Place; Barbara Margolis, Margolis Brothers; Gertrude McLawhorn, Dixie Motor Co.; Gertrude Holloman, Hildreth Moberly, Insurance; Eleanor Banks, Central Service Station; Lucy Robertson, Throver Appliance Co.; Dorothy Leggett, Davis Pharmacy; Truliah Ward Bailey, Martin & Elliot; Elizabeth Hopkins, Clyde Manning, Insurance; Louise Hines, Modern Beauty Shop; Anne Mizelle, Israel's; Elizabeth Taylor, Clark's Pharmacy; Vivian Hudson, Easo Service Station; Margaret Ward, Moore's Grocery; Joyce Taylor, Bus Station; Mary Lou Coltrain, Red Front Grocery; Sally Elizabeth Hardison, Lindsley Ice Co.; Elizabeth Parker, Alpha Cleaners.

Name Robt. L. Coburn County Vice Recorder

LT. COMMANDER



Recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, Miss Jessie Mae Holloman, daughter of Mrs. Jessie Smith of Williamston, is the first young woman from this county to attain that high position in the U. S. Navy. A graduate of Sinai Hospital's School of Nursing, Baltimore, in 1940, Commander Holloman took post-graduate work in contagious diseases and joined the Navy on May 5, 1942. She first served at Charleston, going to Shoemaker, Calif., eighteen months later, and then on to Hawaii, where she served for eighteen months. Returning to the States, she was stationed at Fort Eustis, Va., until the hospital was decommissioned there and she transferred to the Naval Dispensary, Washington, D. C., where she recently received her promotion.

Painfully Hurt In Automobile Wreck

Miss Lissie Pearce, supervisor of Martin County elementary schools, was painfully hurt early last Saturday afternoon when her car, a DeSoto sedan, turned over on Highway No. 11 near Greenville. Suffering a scalp wound and a back injury, Miss Pearce was carried to a Greenville hospital for treatment. She was removed by ambulance to the home of her sister, Mrs. Durward Creech, in Smithfield, where she was reported yesterday to be getting along very well.

Few details of the accident could be learned here immediately, but one reported stated that the car skidded on wet pavement and turned over in a ditch where the railroad crosses the highway a short distance this side of Greenville. Miss Pearce was on her way to Princeton to spend the week-end with relatives.

Local Lions Build Up Blood Reserve

Following the regular meeting last Thursday evening, seven additional members of the local Lions Club reported to the local hospital and had their blood typed to increase the Lions Club blood bank. Every member of the local volunteer fire department and most of the Lions have volunteered to supply blood for little Miss Peggy Harrison who has had 141 transfusions.

During the last Thursday meeting, the Lions held a spirited election. Lion Roy Ward was elected as the club's nominee in the local Senior Class' contest for the town's ugliest man. Lion Jule Harrell is to serve as campaign manager for the Lion's party. Announcements were made pertaining to the forthcoming annual Ladies and Charter Night banquet and dance to be held on the evening of April 11th. Thursday night's meeting was presided over by Lion Bob Tarkenton, second vice president, in the absence of the president and first vice president, and music at the piano was provided by Lioness Kenneth Lindsley. The ladies of the local Christian Church served the dinner.

ROUND-UP

The drunks went on another rampage in this section last week-end, records showing that nine were arrested and jailed during the period. Four were detained for drunken driving and five were charged with plain ole drunkenness.

The recent arrests boosted the total for the month in this county to 64. Of the 64 arrested and jailed, 34 were charged with public drunkenness and ten with drunken driving.

Several other persons were arrested last week-end but managed bond without going to jail. It is also reported that warrants are pending against two or three young men for allegedly participating in a fight at Sunny Side last Friday night.

Attorney Agrees To Serve As Judge For A Short Time Only

Judge Smith Continues Ill, But General Condition Reported Improved

Robert L. Coburn, Williamston attorney, was appointed by the Martin County Commissioners in regular session Monday to serve as vice recorder of the county court until Judge J. Calvin Smith is able to return to the bench. Judge Coburn, subscribing to the oath of office administered by Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne, immediately entered upon his new duties. The first defendant to face the newly appointed judge pleaded guilty of drunken driving and drew a \$50 fine with the costs and license revocation attached. The sentence was imposed in a low voice but without a twinkle of the judge's eyes.

Attorney Coburn accepted the position of vice recorder with reservations. He pointed out that he would not consider remuneration, that he could serve as vice recorder only for a short time. The new judge faced a docket literally packed with cases, charging just about everything in the crime book.

Judge Smith, confined to his home most of the time since early last month, continues ill, but reports received here yesterday indicated that his general condition was possibly somewhat improved, that he hoped to be able to return to the bench within a short time. He has filed his candidacy to succeed himself on the bench, it was announced this week. No other aspirants have filed for the position subject to the wishes of the democratic voters in the May 25 primary.

Judge Coburn, back in the early forties, served as vice recorder, first substituting for his brother, W. Hubert Coburn, on the bench and later finished his brother's unexpired term on the bench.

The duties of the county court judge have been greatly increased during recent months, and there is an apparent need for an increase in the salary. At the present time, the position pays only about \$100 a month. Last year the court turned into the county treasury approximately \$20,000.

Solicitor Paul D. Roberson has filed to succeed himself as prosecutor of the recorder's court. No opposition has been offered and as far as it could be learned none will be offered.

Plea To Set Aside Divorce Is Denied

A motion to set aside a divorce granted in this county some months ago was denied in the Martin Superior Court last week by Judge Walter Bone after he had studied a large number of affidavits supporting claims and counterclaims in the case. Dr. John W. Smith, formerly of Virginia, came to this county and was given an absolute divorce from Mrs. Harriett Smith, the action having been based on two years separation. Following the death of Dr. Smith last year, Mrs. Smith moved to have the divorce set aside, claiming that the divorce action was taken at the direction of her daughter-in-law and without her (Mrs. Smith's) knowledge. The plaintiff also alleged that her husband came to this county for the divorce so she would not learn about it until action had been taken and the separation decree had been granted. The defense maintained that Mrs. Smith had deserted her husband when he fell ill.

However weak the grounds may have been in the divorce case, Judge Bone maintained that it was legal and denied the motion.

Missionary Union To Meet Thursday

The Woman's Missionary Union of the Roanoke Baptist Association will hold its annual meeting in the local Baptist church on Thursday of this week. It was announced today by Mrs. C. A. Harrison, president of the local unit. The first session opens at 10:00 o'clock that morning.

An interesting program, featuring talks by Mrs. Florence Lide, missionary from China and Mrs. John Wacaster, state representative, has been planned for the meeting. It was announced by Mrs. Chas. Daniel, associate superintendent of the Union, of Weldon. Special music will be furnished by the local Baptist choir.

The Martin County-Plymouth division, comprised of churches in Plymouth, Robertsonville, Everetts, Hamblintown, Piney Grove, Riddicks Grove, Cedar Branch and Williamston, will entertain the approximately 300 visitors for the day. Lunch will be served the group in the Woman's Club room.

Advertisement Of Delinquent Taxes Ordered By Board

Commissioners In Short And Uneventful Session Monday Morning

The advertisement of all delinquent tax accounts as of May 1 were ordered by the Martin County commissioners in their regular session held here yesterday. An estimate of the number of delinquent accounts could not be had immediately, but according to Tax Collector M. L. Peel's monthly report taxes are due in the sum of \$15,709.83. It is fairly certain that the amount will be considerably reduced by the first of next month, that possibly the delinquent list will be about the smallest if not the smallest the county has had in many years. A last appeal is being directed to property owners to pay their tax accounts and escape the final penalty and added costs. The delinquent accounts will be advertised the first week in May for sale on the first Monday in June. The original 1945 tax levy amounted to \$188,759.65.

Reporting a bit earlier than usual to take action on the appointment of a vice recorder to pinch hit for Judge J. C. Smith who continues ill at his home in Robertsonville, the commissioners held a fairly short and certainly an uneventful session. Routine matters were handled and delegations of citizens interested in better roads were received before the officials adjourned for the day about lunch time.

Robert L. Coburn, Williamston attorney, was appointed vice recorder and he entered upon his new duties immediately after subscribing to the oath of office. Mr. Coburn is the first vice recorder to be appointed by the commissioners.

A delegation headed by Carl Griffin appealed to the board to use its influence in having another mile added to the one mile now being prepared for surfacing on Highway 171 out of Jamesville. The request received favorable consideration. It was explained that highway workers are grading one mile of road out of Jamesville on 171, that another mile added to the project would give an all-weather road to the Manning road.

Representatives from the same township appealed to the board to have the Warren Neck Road in Jamesville Township added to the State system. They asked that the several hundred yards of road running from Dock Hardison's home in a northeasterly direction via Aubrey Hardison's, Seth Davis' and on to Bruce Gee's home be maintained as a community road.

First Dog Clinics Well Patronized

The first in a series of dog clinics scheduled during the current month in this county were well attended at Dardens and Angetown yesterday. Tax Collector M. L. Peel stated late yesterday that 129 dogs, mostly red hound dogs, were vaccinated against rabies at the two stations.

Mr. Peel pointed out that forty more dogs were handled at the two clinics than were vaccinated in those two areas last year. Possibly a few owners did not get their dogs to the clinics, but for the most part the people there cooperated splendidly in the drive to stamp out rabies.

Today the campaign is under way at Jamesville. Other clinics for the week follow: Wednesday, 11 to 1 p. m., No. 90 Station; Thursday, 11 to 2 p. m., Hardison's Mill; Friday, 11 to 1 p. m., Eason Lilley's store.

County Young Man Given Discharge From The Navy

Grover M. Nicholson, seaman, 3-c was discharged from the Navy at Charleston last Sunday. He entered the service on October 7, 1943, and wears the Asiatic-Pacific victory and Philippine Liberation ribbons.

Ernest L. Daniel, steward's mate of Robertsonville, was also discharged at Charleston last Sunday.

CANCELED

With an insufficient number of cases on the calendar to keep the judge busy, the first week of a special two-week term of Martin County Superior Court has been called off, it was learned this week. The court was to have convened on Monday, April 15, for the trial of civil cases only, but the opening has been delayed until Monday, April 22.

Jury men, litigants and witnesses have been notified that no sessions of the superior court will be held during the week beginning April 15. A calendar is being prepared, and it is understood that all important cases can be cleared from the files during the one week.

It is not certain at this time whether a session of the county court will be held on Monday, the 15th. The docket in the court is so badly crowded that a session on that date is being advocated by court officers.

Date Fixed for Special School Vote in District

Open Registration Books In Precincts Here On April 6th

Plan To Add Four Courses To List Of Studies In The Local High School

A proposal to supplement present school funds for the creation of additional courses in the Williamston High School will be submitted to a vote of qualified electors in a special election to be held in the two Williamston precincts on Saturday, May 4. It was announced this week by the office of the Martin County Board of Education. Registration books will be opened for three Saturdays beginning next Saturday, April 6. All persons, 21 years old or older, are invited to register, the officials pointing out that to participate in the special election one must register. The books will be opened on Saturday, April 27, for challenge. Officials also point out that the election scheduled for May 4 is not to be confused with the regular political election scheduled for May 25.

The registration books will be opened for Precinct No. 1 by Registrar Joseph Gray Corey in the Williamston Motor Company offices and by Registrar Oscar S. Anderson in the insurance offices of Harrison and Carstaphen on Main Street in Williamston. Registrations will be in order on April 6, 13 and 20, or by special appointment on other days between the 6th and 20th of this month. The special school election calls for a complete new registration and for one to participate in the vote on May 4. He must register during the specified time.

The election will be held between the hours of 6 a. m. and 7 p. m. on Saturday, May 4, in the regular precinct voting places, in the Williamston Motor Company building for Precinct No. 1 which includes all that territory lying southeast of Williamston's main street and the Everetts Road to Beaver Dam bridge, and for Precinct No. 2 in the Williamston fire station for all that territory lying northwest of the main street and Everetts Road.

The proposal, calling for a special 20-cent tax levy on the \$100 assessed property valuation, will, if accepted by a majority of the voters in the May 4 election, provide courses in physical education and health, public school music and band instruction in the Williamston High School. The election is limited to the Williamston School District which comprises the following territory:

Beginning at the mouth of Conoho Creek; thence along the Williamston Township Line to the intersection of Maury Branch with Reedy Branch; thence south up Maury Branch along the R. L. Perry line to a pine between the R. L. Perry lands and the Lassiter lands, along a ditch to a pine, following the line between the W. A. Perry lands and the Jesse Rogers lands; thence along the line between the H. C. Green-N. J. Cory lands and the Peele and Sheppard land to the head of Africa Swamp; thence south along Africa Swamp to the Bear Grass-Corey Store Road; thence along the road across U. S. 64 to Little Creek; thence along Griffin Township line to Sweeten Water Creek; thence down Creek to the Irving Robertson lands; thence along the line of the Irving Robertson and Howard Hopkins lands to the Jones road; thence along the Jones road to the Bell Town road; thence along Bell Town road over railroad to U. S. 64, across U. S. 64 along the line between the Lanier Land and the W. A. Robertson land to Big Pond; thence down Big Pond Branch to Peters Swamp; thence down Peters Swamp to the mouth of Conoho Creek.

The election is being called by the county board of education at the request of the district school committee and large numbers of citizens interested in the advancement of education, in general. The proposal has the pledged support of various civic organizations and hundreds of other citizens in the district.

New Sanitarian For Health Department

W. B. Gaylord, a certified sanitarian who until recently was with the Edgecombe County Health Department, following his return from overseas, has accepted a position with this county.

This is the first time since war began that Martin County has had a certified and trained man and from now on food-handling establishments can expect regular grading by a competent man.

"No favors will be showed; if high grades are made, they will be displayed, and if too low, places will be closed until they do meet requirements," Health Officer J. W. Williams said.

Gaylord succeeds Andrew J. Holliday, Jr., of Jamesville, who resigned a short time ago to try out with the Raleigh baseball club.

UNDER WAY

A nation-wide drive to raise twelve million dollars in support of one of the most extensive cancer research and prevention programs ever known in this country, is rapidly gaining momentum. Several communities in other states where the citizenry is conscious of the cost of cancer are said to have already oversubscribed their quotas.

Martin County is being asked to raise \$1,000 as its part in financing the fight against cancer. Quotas have been assigned the various townships, and leaders in most of them are already appealing for funds.

Governor Cherry is scheduled to issue a state-wide proclamation tomorrow in support of the fund drive.

Mrs. P. B. Cone, president of the Williamston Woman's Club, is commander for the county, and Robert L. Coburn is chairman of the drive.

Retires After Long Period Of Service

Miss Clyde Hassell, after nearly thirty-four years of fruitful and untiring service as a telephone employee, retired from active duty last Saturday. Her retirement marks the end of possibly one of the greatest service records ever established by any employee in this section. In addition to her service record, Miss Hassell was most thoughtful and considerate of those whom she served, willingly and often devoting much extra time to accommodate and help others down through the years.

On September 28, 1912, Miss Hassell entered the employ of the old Williamston Telephone Company and from the start she took a personal interest in the company's service and in its patrons. She was made chief operator and held that position when the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company bought out the exchange about twenty years ago. In time she was made collection clerk and during the past nine years she had served as the company's cashier in the office here.

She leaves her post of duty to enjoy a well-earned rest, and she carries the warm respect and high regards of all with whom she worked and worked for, including the company's patrons.

Miss Hassell plans to catch up with her visiting first and then map her plans for the future.

Fish Catches Are Somewhat Larger

While the season is far from its peak, fish are being taken in greater numbers from the Roanoke this week than last, according to reports reaching here yesterday afternoon.

Taking about 200 herring in the first haul yesterday morning, the commercial fishery at Jamesville dipped up as many as 500 at a time later in the day. Goodly numbers of rock were being caught there, the report added.

Fishermen at this point stated that the fish were coming up the stream in greater numbers this week, that the season should be nearing its peak within the next ten days or two weeks.

Pender's Reopening Modern Store Thursday, 8:30 A. M.

Undergoing a complete remodeling, Pender's Store will reopen here on Main Street Thursday morning of this week at 8:30 o'clock, featuring self-service. Introducing the latest in merchandising, the store today is being packed with one of the largest grocery stocks ever seen in this section.

RED CROSS

According to a virtually complete report, the Martin County Chapter raised \$4,081.25 for the American Red Cross in the annual fund drive recently completed. "It is possible that an additional \$100 will be received when two or three of the late canvassers make their reports," Fund Drive Chairman V. J. Spivey announced yesterday.

The fund was materially boosted over the week-end when the Watts Theater reported \$300.23 received in free will offerings. At the present time, the collections stand, by townships as follows, the first figures being the quotas assigned: Williamston, \$1,940 and \$2,437.75; Jamesville, \$325.00 and \$341.87; Williams, \$60.00 and \$67.44; Griffins, \$300.00 and \$306.40; Bear Grass \$300.00 and \$222.03; colored citizens, \$675.00 and \$705.76. The chapter quota was \$3,600.

Victim Of Accident Died Last Friday In Local Hospital

Funeral Service Held Last Sunday Afternoon For Jas. Russell Cherry

James Russell Cherry, young Martin County farmer, died in the local hospital last Friday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock from injuries received late in the night of last December 14 when his car went out of control, ran into a ditch and turned over in Bear Grass. His back broken and crushed, he had been an invalid patient in hospitals here and in Raleigh since that time, doctors explaining that little hope was ever held for his recovery. He underwent an operation in the Raleigh hospital and returned here about five weeks later. Up until about two weeks ago he was hopeful of himself, but his condition became worse rapidly during the ten days prior to his death.

The son of W. J. Cherry, formerly of this county but now a resident of near Conway, South Carolina, and the late Ida Powell Cherry of the Gold Point community, the young man was born in Gold Point on February 24, 1909. In early infancy he moved with his parents to South Carolina, and following the death of his mother a few years later he returned to this county to make his home with an aunt, Mrs. G. A. Peel, in the Bear Grass Community. In early manhood he was married to Miss Euzella Harris and located on a farm in his adopted community.

Surviving are his widow, father, step-mother, eight children, Dillon Cherry, a student in a Raleigh school, Willie, Elizabeth, Margaret, Patricia, Richard, Jerry and Jane; a brother, C. C. Cherry, of Conway, South Carolina; six half-sisters, Mrs. George McCoy of Conway, Mrs. Albert Jordan of Morel Inlet, S. C., Mrs. J. D. Bullard of Whiteville, Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas of Conway and Misses Edith and Vera Cherry, also of Conway; and three half-brothers, Albert and Tom Cherry, both of Conway, and Earl Cherry, stationed with the Seabees in China.

Funeral services were conducted at the home of his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Harris, in Bear Grass Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Elder A. B. Ayers and Dr. Ira D. Knight. Burial was in the Robertsonville Cemetery.

Commissioners In Long Session Here

Holding their first regular meeting since early February, the local town commissioners were in session until well after 11 o'clock last night handling work accumulated over a period of two months. In addition to hearing delegations, the authorities considered and approved extensive improvements in several departments.

J. A. Sallee and H. H. Woolard, purchasers of the Matthews Cafe on Main Street, were granted a license to sell beer.

Discussing the opening of the alleyway along the Geo. Reynolds Hotel property and leading into Smithwick Street, the board suggested that it be kept open, and instructed the town attorney to consult with the property owners and see if some arrangement could be effected whereby the best interests of the public and property owners could be served.

Representing the Lions Club, K. D. Worrell, chairman of the club's scout committee, appealed to the board for a lot for the construction of a scout hut. Messrs. R. T. Griffin, N. C. Green and Attorney R. L. Coburn were instructed to investigate titles to several possible sites for the building which Mr. Worrell said would cost around \$6,000 in normal times. He also stated that the Lions had raised about \$2,000 and that the Kiwanians had pledged \$1,000 for the building.

Rev. John L. Goff appeared before the meeting and explained the functions of a community planning council.

Boot blacks were ordered off the sidewalks, the authorities adding that with the permission of property owners the "shiners" could carry on their trade in doorways and alleys. The officials frowned down upon the 15-cent shine fee.

The officials discussed the possibility of erecting an elevated water tank for the storage of around 300,000 gallons. Costs range from about \$20,000 to \$24,000. No action was taken.

J. H. Allsbrooks, former member of the local police force, applied for his old job. The board took no action since no opening exists at the present time.

Water lines were ordered extended out Houghton Street to Pine Street and out West Main to a point beyond West End. A minimum of \$150 for the first 2,000 gallons of water was fixed as the fee for water customers outside the town limits, the increased price to go into effect July 1.

Approximately 120 street signs, costing approximately \$9 each installed, were purchased, and delivery is expected within ninety days. A street light was ordered installed at the corner of Warren and Pearl Streets.

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