



The DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Board for Missions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

May-June, 1994

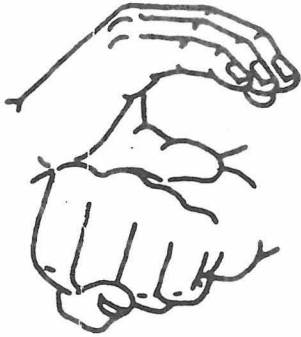
St. Louis, Mo.

Volume 86, No. 3

CENTENNIAL WORSHIP SERVICE DRAWS 269 TO CHICAGO MARCH 6

By Rhoda J. Rynearson

A special deaf centennial worship service was held at First Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Chicago on Sunday afternoon, March 6, 1994. There were many similarities to the



original service held by Pastor Augustus Reinke on March 4, 1894 at the location. Mr. Edward Pahl, a graduate from the Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit, requested such a service in 1894. In 1994 Pastor Mark Anderson, also a graduate from the Lutheran

School for the Deaf and the Northern Illinois District pastor with deaf persons, conducted the service in American Sign Language.

The Rev. James Kellerman, the pastor of First Bethlehem, studied hard to learn to sign the opening greeting to the service just as Pastor Reinke had worked hard in order to sign the first worship service.

A great-grandson of Pastor Augustus Reinke, Rev. E. George Krause of DeKalb, Ill., began the church service by signing "God Is Love."

Dr. Rodney Rynearson, the synodical counselor for deaf missions and a former director of the Lutheran School for the Deaf preached the sermon on I John 4:16. This was the same text used by Pastor Reinke for the first service.

Not only did Pastor Reinke continue to have services for the deaf people in the Chicago area and eventually the deaf congregation, the Lutheran Church of Our Savior was established, but also he began to visit other towns and cities during that first year. To represent this part of the ministry of Pastor Reinke, deaf members and their pastors came from Fort Wayne, Ind.; Milwaukee and Delavan

and Kenosha, Wis.; Peoria, Rockford, Cary, Aurora and other places in Illinois and St. Louis. All of these places had been served during that first year of Pastor Reinke's ministry to the deaf people.

Participating in the service were choirs from the following deaf congregations: Ephphatha, Chicago; St. John's, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Emmanuel of West Allis, Wis., and Holy Cross, St. Louis. A group of deaf people from Cary, Ill., dramatized the Gospel and the members from Emmanuel in Wisconsin enacted the early history of deaf missions. (The service was video-taped by members of Holy Cross in St. Louis and St. John's in Fort Wayne.)

The large sanctuary of First Bethlehem provided a marvelous setting for a deaf worship service. The stain-glass windows, which provided light without glare, and the pews arranged in a half circle made it possible for a large number of deaf people to be able to see well. (The video people were able to make good use of the balcony to obtain clear pictures of the service so that people who were unable to attend the service will be able to experience it also.)

Finding a place to park is a major problem facing the members of First Bethlehem and the Lord answered their prayers. He provided a number of days of sunshine to allow the snow to melt after several large snowfalls and a beautiful sunny 57 degree day. Therefore, many of the neighbors were out enjoying the day, and the 269 people who attended the service were able to find parking spaces.

Other people attending the service included Mrs. Edwin Reinke, the widow of Rev. Edwin Reinke (the grandson of Pastor Augustus Reinke), and her daughter; President Theodore Laesch and Rev. Kenneth Young from Northern Illinois District and Mr. and Mrs. Lester

CONCORDIA, MACAU, NEEDS OUR HELP

Most of us have very little idea of how important our mission dollars are in many of the far flung missions supported by our churches and the Synod itself.

A letter received from Dr. Louis Jasper recently says that it appears that only slightly more than half of the requested support from the Macau government may be received in 1994 for Concordia Special School.

Dr. Jasper states "that the latest word from the Macau government is that it will give the school approximately 1.6 million patacas (\$211,000 in U.S. funds) for the operation of the school in 1994. Except for a grant of \$10,000 (U.S.) in addition to the cost of my support, all the remaining funds must come in the form of donations. The government may also give us some of the money we need to expand the floor space by adding a second level in part of the existing area. We hope to do this during the school holiday between the 15th of July and the end of August.

We are reminded of a similar predicament

being experienced by the school for the deaf in Brazil where some staff have had to be let go due to a shortage of funding.

ILDA mission projects, if fully funded for the 1993-1995 biennium, will allocate \$1,000 for Macau and \$3,000 for Brazil. Your prayerful support is needed.

A BIT OF SAGE ADVICE . . .

Get involved in your ILDA organization! Your support, feed back and involvement are needed. Our ILDA will never be any better than we, ourselves, make it. "If you want to learn how to swim, the first thing you have to do is get into the water."

REALISTICALLY SPEAKING . . . there are basically just two categories of people in all of the world.

First, there are people who believe in Jesus Christ.

Second, there are those who don't.

Rev. A. Mark Wallock
Lawton, Okla.

CONTINUED: From Page 1

CENTENNIAL WORSHIP SERVICE

Ahls and grandchildren (he is editor of THE LUTHERAN); a photographer for the Northern Light and a video crew from the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.

Members of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Chicago provided a meal and the ladies of First Bethlehem provided the desserts which were served after the service. The helium-filled balloons announcing the 100th anniversary of deaf missions, which floated in the air in the International Center in St. Louis on March 4, flew high at this celebration also.

A truly memorable day in the life of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod and its ministry to deaf persons.

* * * * *

"What hath God wrought?" . . . might be the comment one would hear on attending this memorable event, which were the same words sent over the telegraph 150 years ago in 1844. We are also reminded that God has promised that His Word shall not come back to Him with nothing which is surely true when we compare the original service of 100 years ago which saw 17 souls present and 269 at the service today, and with the work spread

out all over North America and in many foreign lands.

Interest in the worship was very evident with many people coming several hundred miles to attend the once-in-a-life time event. Emmanuel, Milwaukee, sent a chartered bus load with members from Delavan (Wis.) joining in.

The Sunday offering was earmarked for mission projects of the International Lutheran Deaf Association (ILDA) which has a current two-year goal of \$23,000. Treasurer Dennis Konkel reports that the fund has received a check for \$1,820.34 from the centennial worship service at the First Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chicago, leaving a current balance of over \$8,200 or approximately 35.7% of the goal set at the last convention in Texas, with over a year still to go.

Some simple math tells us that achieving the goal set for mission projects is not impossible for us to meet. If every person who comes to the celebration in Chicago next year were to give \$28 over the next 14 months to the effort, we could easily put it over the top just by giving as little as \$2 monthly.

Think about it!

WHO CHOOSES WHO?

By Rev. Steven R. Schlund
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Delavan, Wis.

Recently, I saw a T-shirt worn by a young person with the words emblazoned on the front, "I chose Jesus." That got me thinking. Do we really chose Jesus? According to Holy Scripture found in John 15:16, we do not. **HE CHOOSES US.** In this narrative by Pastor Schlund, he will explain this truth. Read on. . . . At the Wisconsin School for the Deaf, students take Lutheran classes because their parents sign them up. But some times, a student does not come to church. I go to the dorm and ask, "Why did you not come to church?" The student answers, "I don't want to come. My choice." I am sad to say that many students do not come because they say, "My choice!"

Many people in our world today have the same attitude: "My choice." We like to be very independent and choose for ourselves. People want to be free to choose not to go to church. People want to be free to choose to have sex with anyone they want (without guilt, of course). People want to be free to choose alternate life styles like homosexuality. People want to be free to kill their unborn children (abortion.)

There is only one problem: all the choices above and many other choices are sinful and harmful. What can we do? Some people don't care. They want to continue to make those choices. They will go to hell. But some people feel guilty. They want to choose to stop doing sin. They know that Jesus died on the cross to forgive sins. They want to choose Jesus and His love and forgiveness.

But you can't do that. You **cannot** choose Jesus. You are sinful and your sins do not allow you to choose a holy God. You cannot

choose God just like a deaf person cannot choose to hear music.

But God's Word, the Bible, has good news for us. Jesus said, "You did not choose Me. I chose you." Notice that **we** could not chose Jesus because of our sins. But **Jesus** chose us. He loved us and died for us even though we were sinners. He chose us to be His people before the world began. He chose us when we were baptized. Every day, He does not leave us and forgot us, but He choses us again and again.

What did Jesus chose us for? Did He chose us so that we could be free to chose sin? NO! Jesus said, "I chose you to go and make fruit." "Fruit" means doing good things. Jesus chose us so that we could chose to do **good** things. He even gives us the Holy Spirit so that we have the power to do good things.

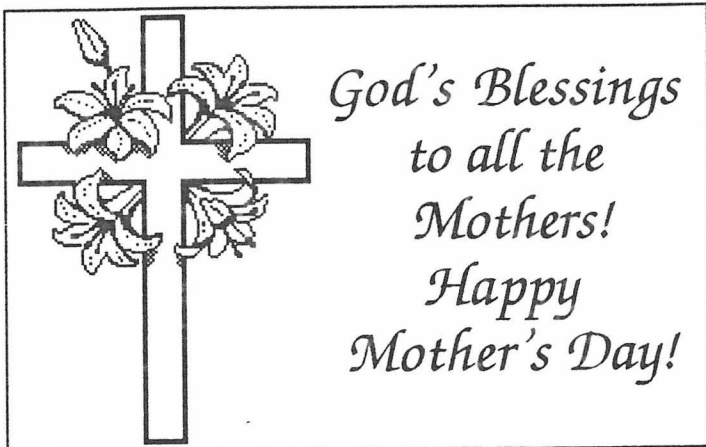
What kind of choices are you making in your lives? How are you choosing to use your time? What kind of things are you choosing to do? How are you choosing to use your money? When you have to make a choice, first remember that Jesus loves you and chose you to belong to Him. Then, ask Him to help you choose to do the right thing. Ask for the power of the Holy Spirit to do the right thing.

The Church's One Foundation

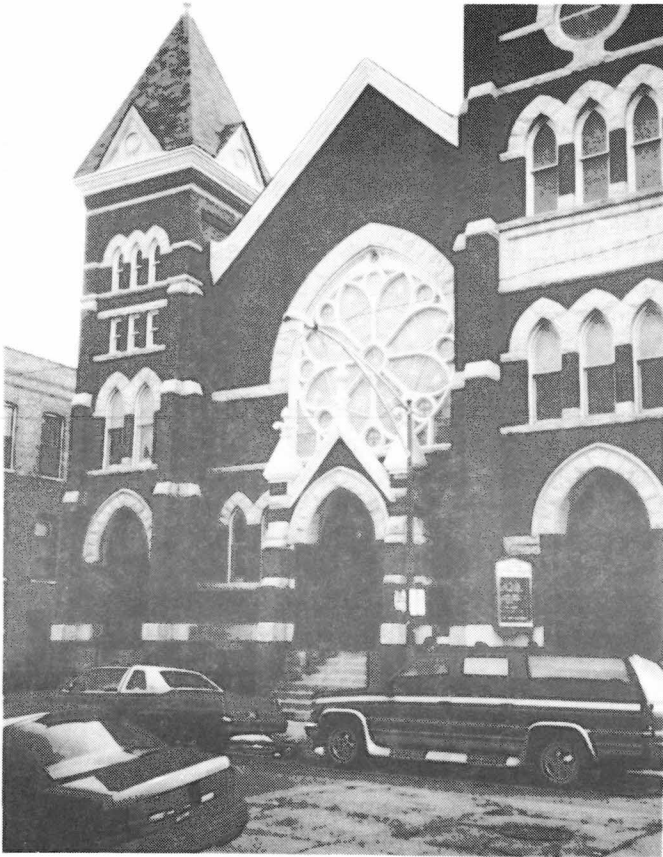
The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy foods,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.

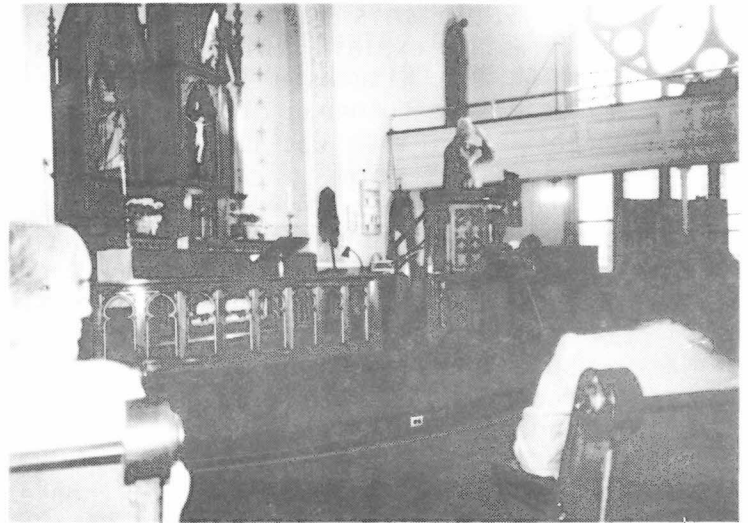
The church shall never perish!
Her dear Lord, to defend,
To guide, sustain, and cherish,
Is with her to the end.
Tho' there be those that hate her,
False sons within her pale,
Against both foe and traitor
She ever shall prevail. Amen.



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FIRST BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH--As it appears today in downtown Chicago. With the exception of the top steeple which was removed about 55 years ago due to deteriorating wood, it is much the same as when the deaf first worshipped there a century ago.



"GOD IS LOVE"--Dr. Rodney R. Ryneanson preached from the same text used by Rev. Augustus Reinke for the first service 100 years ago from I John 4:16.



OPENING THE SERVICE--Layreader Richard Nelson, Rockford, Ill., gives the responses to Liturgist Rev. Mark Anderson, Sterling, Ill. who serves the Northern Illinois District deaf field.



FROM EMMANUEL, MILWAUKEE--These performers, part of a large group from southern Wisconsin are (left to right) Ramona Arneson, Rosemarie Fresh, former ILDA president Ron Byington and Kathy Murphy. Man in the foreground is not identified.

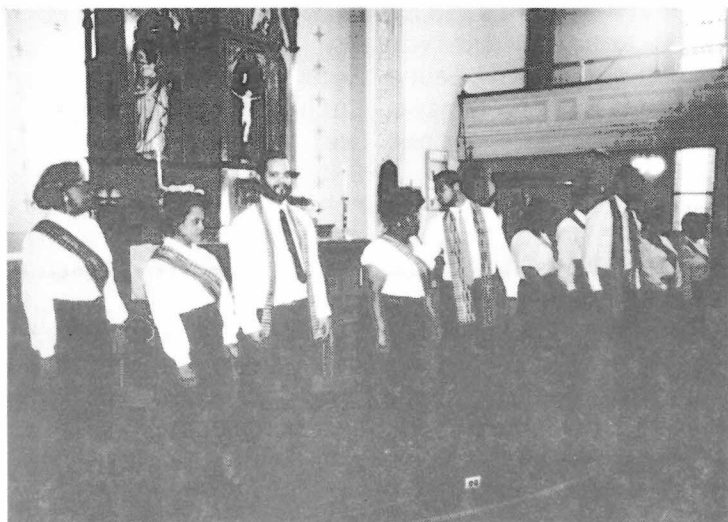
100 YEARS OF DEAF MINISTRY



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CAKE—This very attractively decorated cake was the centerpiece for the delicious dinner served to everyone following the service in the church parlors.



CHURCH SANCTUARY—Except for minor modifications, much of the interior of the church and altar remain as they did years ago. Note video crew setting up equipment in balcony area. The first signed service was in a classroom across from the court yard and not in the church proper.



"ALLELUIA TO THE LAMB"—This group from Ephphatha Lutheran Church in Chicago rendered the opening hymn during the centennial service March 6.



ENJOYING THE FESTIVE BOARD—A delicious dinner was served by the ladies of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Chicago, and dessert by the ladies of First Bethlehem. Only part of the large crowd can be seen here.

NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE . . .

Wanted: A generous individual somewhere in New York State or Connecticut who will make available to **Dr. Louis and Joan Jasper** an RV that they can use while traveling to various congregations who have been supporting their ministry in Hong Kong and Macau. They plan to be back in this country from about mid-May through the last of June. Information should be cleared through the office of Dr. Rodney Rynearson in St. Louis.

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The **Indiana School for the Deaf** will observe its Sesquicentennial (150 years) this summer. It is located in Indianapolis.

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The first **National Hispanic Council of the Deaf** will meet in Boston, Mass. on the dates of Nov. 16-19, 1994 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel. Registration is \$115 per person until Sept. 30, then \$140. Hotel costs are \$90 single or double occupancy. Further information may be had by contacting Lillian M. Garica at (617) 254-4041 TTY/Voice.

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Have you ever heard of "**Command Day?**" We had not, either until it was mentioned in the newsletter of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church for the Deaf of Anaheim, Calif. March 4, 1994 marked the beginning of the second century of the use of sign language in our churches for the deaf. Here is an idea many other churches may wish to adopt: following Jesus' command allowing the deaf (man) to hear, by memorializing it with an annual "Command Day."

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Word of God Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa will observe the 25th anniversary of its founding in August with a celebration of thanksgiving.

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Not many people know that we have an **EAGLE SCOUT** on the ILDA Board of Directors! Active in scouting for over 30 years, Arthur (Art) Harper, president of the Midwest Region, was presented with the **SILVER BEAVER AWARD** from the Cornhusker Council of Boy Scout of America recently. Art is also president of his home congregation, Hope Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Neb. Congratulations!!

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Rev. John P. Reinke, Omaha, was hurt in a snowmobile accident and has had his left arm in a cast for a while! We hope he is doing well and makes a full recovery.

In conjunction with the centennial of deaf ministry, **Cross of Christ Lutheran Church**, Edmonton, Alta., will be hosting a Canada-wide Deaf Youth Gathering/Fellowship Training event in the summer of 1995. The church is also encouraging their youth to join and be involved in the Junior ILDA. In a related matter, chapel offerings from Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton in the amount of \$200 have been presented to Pastor Bob Bauer for use in connection with the planned event.

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The **Deaf Service Center (DSC)** in downtown Spokane, Wash. is establishing a new library to be named after the late Mildred M. (Millie) Francisco, who died Dec. 21, 1992.

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There were some tense moments in the home of **Dennis and Susan Konkel** in suburban Washington, D.C., in mid-January when news of the quake came over the news. Daughter Sara was a resident in one of the collapsed apartment buildings in Northridge and for more than 36 hours, there was no news as to whether Sara was safe or not. Finally, a phone call from her revealed she was safe with some bruises and a cut or two. We are thankful to God she was spared more serious harm.

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Rev. and Mrs. LaVern Mass observed their 40th wedding anniversary Monday, Jan 31 at their home in Laurel, Md. A few of their friends from Christ Lutheran Church where they are members came over to wish them well.

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Silent Lutheran Church, Madison, Wis. is being served by Rev. Mark Willig and his wife, Paula as vacancy pastor, while the congregation presses its search for a full time minister. Pastor Willig and Paula are formerly from Guttenberg, Iowa where he served a hearing church there and Paula was working as an interpreter for in northeast Iowa. Rev. Willig has a campus ministry at Whitewater, Wis.

"If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed nothing will be impossible to you."

The 13th Biennial Convention of the
INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOC.
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of Northern Illinois

JUNE 29-JULY 2, 1995

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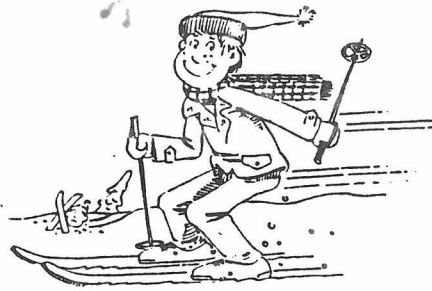
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WINTER RETREAT IN OHIO DRAWS 57

By Larry D. Ginter



Despite some bitterly cold weather (how well we remember it!!) and with the kids getting dismissed from school early due to the snow, we got an early start to Camp Mowans near Mansfield on Friday, Jan. 14. All together about 57 people, including the kids, came from places such as Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus and Pittsburgh. Upon our arrival we were greeted with hot sandwiches with worship following later in the evening, led by

Pastor Lawson.

Saturday, Jan 15 was too cold for anyone to go outside, so most folks stayed inside to enjoy games and skits and singing songs. Playing Tic-Tac-Toe was one diversion which everyone enjoyed and it gave the players a chance to brush up on Bible stories and facts. Roland Emerson dressed up like a clown and entertained the kids, passing out balloons.

Sunday was more of the same and with the temperature outside standing at 10 to 17 degrees below zero. The writer had to give up his plan for a hike, due to the extreme temperature! On Monday, some folks got stuck in new fallen snow, but it was not nearly as cold. Some delayed their departures, to give road crews a chance to clear the highways before starting for home. Next year, the dates will be Feb. 17-20, 1995 with Toledo (Rev. Petzoldt) as hosts.

AFTER EASTER, WHAT?

Rev. David L. Carstens
Hope Lutheran Church
Portland, Ore.

What does this mean for us? Easter celebrates that our heavenly Father has kept His Word. He promised to send a Redeemer to save the world, **AND HE DID!** He promised that the Redeemer would live among us, then suffer for our sins, **AND HE DID!** He promised that our Savior, His Son, would die just so that you and I would be forgiven, **AND HE DID!** He promised that Jesus Christ our Lord would

rise victorious from the dead, conquering Satan and death. **HE DID THAT FOR YOU AND I.**

Job, in the Old Testament, said, "I know that my redeemer lives . . . in my flesh I will see God." (Job 19:25-26). This is more than a belief, it is a statement of fact.

Have you thought about what Easter means for you? It means that God kept His Word. Jesus came, and will come again. "In my flesh (body) I will see God." We can say this with Job, since the promise of endless life in heavenly bliss is ours in Jesus Christ. That is terrific.

The DEAN LUMBERMAN

May-June, 1994

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION AND THE BOARD OF MISSION, THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD, PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY KERRY HOOPER PRINTING OF GALENA, OH 3RD CLASS POSTAGES PD. WESTERVILLE, OH. SUBSCRIPTION FEE: INDIVIDUAL . . . \$6.00 PER YEAR. CHURCH BLANKET PLAN . . . \$5.50 EACH MEMBER PER YEAR.

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