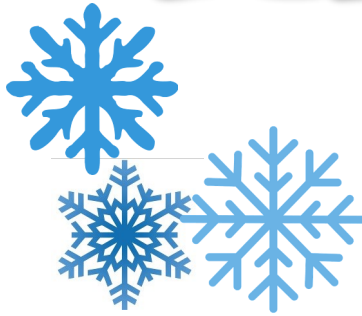


WASHAKIE MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER

MAMMOTH



NEWS

Winter 2024

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**The Museum is a
great place to
VOLUNTEER**

Front Desk Greeter
(welcome visitors)

Collections Database
(data entry of artifacts)

STEAM Saturdays
(help kids learn)

Special Events
(set-up and take down,
food service, centerpieces)

Training provided!

Details online at
washakiemuseum.org or
give us a call at 347-4102

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

January 25, Feb. 8, and Feb. 22: Museum Trivia at the Other Store

January 26-27 - Talent Show Auditions

February 10: STEAM Saturday - Light-Up Valentines

February 29: Speaker Series: All About Leap Year

March 16: Missoula Childrens Theater: Jack and the Beanstalk

March 15-16: Big Horn Basin Talent Show Performances, 7 pm

For details visit www.washakiemuseum.org or call 347-4102



WASHAKIE MUSEUM
& CULTURAL CENTER

Letter from the Director

Not just another pretty building...

Our museum building is a key community asset



*Marian Bender,
Executive Director*

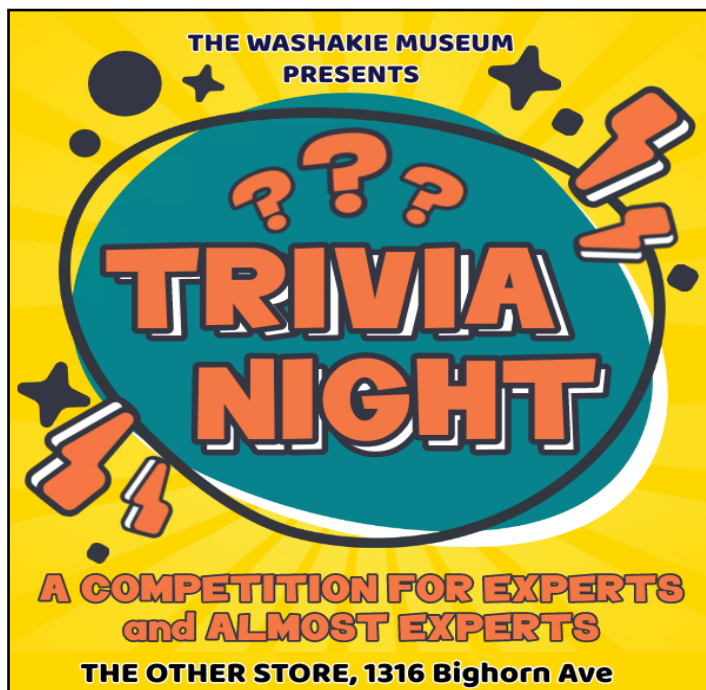
I've worked for non-profit organizations for many years, and at each of my previous jobs, the whole focus was on the mission, and our physical office space was usually less than ideal. But at the Washakie Museum, every day I walk in, I think of how lucky I am to work in such a beautiful building.

The generosity of Newell B. Sargent and local donors, as well as the dedication and planning of those early board members and staff, resulted in a beautiful asset to the Worland community. Beyond the educational and interesting exhibits, and beyond the programs that the museum staff offers, this building serves as an attractive and comfortable place for local business to hold meetings and trainings; for local groups to host banquets; and for the community to gather to honor retirees, award winners, or even loved ones who have passed away.

Offering the museum building for rent is an important benefit that the Washakie Museum provides to our community. Museum Event Manager Chloe Stine has been receiving more and more rental requests, and we strive to accept as many as we can while still offering our museum and programs.

Recently, the museum building has started hosting conferences, which bring in out-of-town visitors and showcase our town. Last spring, the museum was the site of the Wyoming Archeological Society's annual meeting, with participants from across the state. This May, we are honored to host the annual meeting of the Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums (CWAM.). This event will bring museum professionals from two states to Worland.

The museum staff is working with the event planning committee to incorporate factory tours and other local businesses into the conference program, so that our guests will get to learn more about our town during their visit. We offer our guests town maps and information on local lodging, dining and entertainment. We are happy to help build our community by sharing this beautiful building.



THE WASHAKIE MUSEUM
PRESENTS

TRIVIA
NIGHT

A COMPETITION FOR EXPERTS
and ALMOST EXPERTS

THE OTHER STORE, 1316 Bighorn Ave

ITS BACK!!

**Join us on Thursday nights
at 6pm:
Jan 25 - Feb 8 - Feb 22**

**Bring your team of 4 for your
chance to win CASH PRIZES!**

Food & Drink Specials

\$5 per player

Proceeds support the Museum

EDUCATION STATION



Museum Educator
Angela Reddick

This spring we will once again host Missoula Children's Theater for a production of "Jack and the Beanstalk!" Through a partnership with the Worland School District, visiting actor/directors Oscar Jaimez and Rochanee Myles from MCT will spend the week of March 11th leading the program with two performances on Saturday March 16th at the Worland Middle School.

We are also happy to announce a new program designed to promote "Creative Aging" in our community. Creative aging programs offer a method of learning that incorporates art, creativity, and exploration to encourage mental and social engagement. Engaging older adults in creative projects has been shown to provide improvements in health and wellbeing. Assistant Curator Jacquelyn

Dennis and I will be hosting a Creative Journaling class on the first Wednesday of every month beginning on March 6th from 10:00am-12:00pm. This free program will encourage artistic expression, observation, planning, and creative writing, with plenty of flexibility and options. Participants can bring their own journal, or purchase a discounted journal and pen at the class.

We are also building our existing programs, including our free **STEAM Saturdays** for grades K-8. In November, David Kissner taught a fun lesson on the Fibonacci Sequence; our December STEAM saw nearly 30 students learning about chemistry and creating their own unique snowflakes, and January had kids creating 3-D geometric puzzles with origami! In the coming months, we plan to continue to find new ways to engage children in fun projects connecting Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics and already have plans for Light-up Valentines on February 10^t, and a lesson in Printmaking with Sarah Miller on March 2nd.

This past year we have hosted many great people in our **Speaker Series** Program. November saw a wonderful talk by Bill and Susan Pennington on their local hops farm, and on January 18th Amy Phillips from the Draper Museum spoke about her research on Bison in the Bighorn Basin. Then on February 29 I will present a fun topic that could really only be covered this year: the History of Leap Years! And on March 21, we'll host Annika Dechurt, a Shoshoni native from the University of Oregon, who will share her research on volcanoes.



Scarlet McIntosh and others learn about chemistry and create paper snowflakes at STEAM in December.

Volunteers Needed!

Do you enjoy helping kids learn?

We're looking for one or two volunteers to assist with **STEAM Saturdays**, to provide extra help to kids who need it and provide general support to the instructor.

One Saturday per month, 9:30 am - noon.

If you can help, please contact Angela at areddick@washakiemuseum.org or call her at (307)347-4102.

Upcoming Community-Led Exhibit Features

Worland-Hyattville-Bonanza Connection



Stefanie Kowalczyk
Curator

There are a lot of new things happening at the museum in 2024. Not only is there a new permanent exhibit in the mezzanine, but our new temporary exhibit *Worland Works* is opening in January too! And if that's not enough, we have one more surprise up our sleeve. Opening this spring is a (still untitled) mini exhibit which will be on display in the museum's lobby and is set to run all year. It will be focusing on the early days of Big Horn County - of which Worland was once a part - and the Bonanza oil field which attracted many settlers to the area. One of these settlers was Albert "Pap" Conant. While Albert would play a key role in founding and developing the town of Bonanza outside of Hyattville, his nephew, Edwin, would move to Worland during its infancy and serve on the first city councils, act as city clerk, and run a successful mercantile.

Not only is the exhibit topic completely new—we have never told the story of Bonanza and the early settlers to the Hyattville area—but it is also the very first of what I hope to be many community-led exhibits. In early 2023, I was contacted by Hyattville resident, Kate Moore Henrichsen, who was interested in looking at some of our artifacts related to the Conant family. These things had been donated by her grandmother many years ago and she was trying to gather information for research she was doing on Albert Conant and the Conant family. A few months later Kate contacted me again to let me know that she had finished her research and had put together an exhibit which was on display in the Hyattville Community Center. She asked if I would be interested in going to look at it and see if I would want to potentially display it here at the Washakie Museum.

What I discovered in Hyattville was great! Kate had managed to track down vast amounts of information including newspaper articles, plat maps, photographs, and so much more. She had also painstakingly traced the Conant family from their arrival in America and their efforts in the Civil War, to the family's move west and their roles in developing Big Horn, and later Washakie, County. As soon as I returned to my office, I emailed Kate, set up a meeting with her, and let her know that I was very much interested in displaying all her hard work. As a result, this exhibit will purely be Kate's work, reformatted to fit our display cases. The museum will also be displaying some of the Conant family's heirlooms which she has graciously loaned to us for this exhibit.

I am hoping that this exhibit inspires visitors, museum members, and the public to come to us with their ideas or passion projects regardless of whether they are finished or not. It's hard work coming up with new exhibit ideas every year and

I am not nearly as well versed in Worland's or the Big Horn Basin's stories as others are. We are also striving to be a more inclusive museum and find ways to highlight and tell everyone's stories. To do that, we do need your help and participation. Because of Kate, I learned so much about a part of the area's history that I had not even heard of before. I hope that everyone who comes through the museum will take the time to read through the wealth of information we will be displaying and recognize what a labor of love it was. We are proud to be sharing Kate's work with our visitors.



Bonanza, Wyoming (date illegible)

Art Happenings

By Jacquelyn Dennis, Assistant Curator

Sagebrush Artisans Exhibit Planned

In our continued work with Sagebrush Artisans we will be hosting another art show in April. This is a great way for the museum, and for you, to connect to the art community. Sagebrush Artisans is mostly made up of artists from Worland and Thermopolis, but there are artists from other towns as well! The artisans have been busy at work throughout the community. Similar to the last exhibit, we are expecting over 20 artists to participate in the judged show.



Artwork by Laurie LeMere, Sarah Lefevre, and Marty Cross.

Gilding In the Golden Years

During November and December the Museum hosted a gilding workshop run by artist Barrie Lynn Bryant. Gilding is the art of applying a thin layer of gold to objects. During this “Gilding in the Golden Years” workshop, Barrie led a group of about 10 people in learning how to gild and exploring different mediums and objects to gild. By the end of the class, each artist had their own collection of gilded art. Barrie will be doing another gilding workshop starting at the end of January on “Printing on Hand-Gilded Paper.”



Quick Draw Art Exhibit

Quick Draw Art remained on display at the museum through the new year. We love being able to showcase local talent and are grateful to our artists who participate in our events!

Creative Journaling Class to Start in March

Join us for this monthly gathering to work on a creative journal and learn something new. It's easy to start at any time!

First Class: Wednesday, March 6th | 10am-12pm
at the Washakie Museum

Ages: 55+

FREE with optional supply purchase

No preregistration necessary. Call 347-4102 if you have questions.



Museum Happenings, Autumn 2023

**John Lowell & Randy
Rieman Concert,
October 26**



Award-winning western singer-songwriter John Lowell performs with noted cowboy poet Randy Rieman at the museum on October 26



Stained Glass Out of Pasta!

November 4

During an art-focused STEAM Saturday class in November we created stained glass pieces out of pasta. We also learned about the history and construction of stained glass.

Left: Griffin Bishop shows off his stained glass chicken ghost “poultrygeist”.

12th Annual Quick Draw, November 10



Auctioneer Ed Keller keeps the bids going up.



Long-time Quick Draw artist Diana Scranton talks with attendees about her beadwork



Greybull Artist Deanna Skillman puts finishing touches on her oil painting

350+ people enjoyed the 12th Annual Quick Draw fundraiser for the Museum and Worland Rotary. 33 artists created or finished pieces in one hour which were then auctioned off to the highest bidder. Guests also enjoyed a gourmet dinner, musical entertainment, a silent auction, and a playing card raffle.

Soup & Cookie Fair, December 9



More than 50 volunteers baked cookies, made soup and served over 230 people who attended our 2023 Soup and Cookie Fair.

Above: Museum member Crista Ley looks over a table of homemade cookies. Right, top: The Christmas Belles choir conducted by Sherryl Ferguson sings carols for the crowd; Right, bottom: Museum member Bill Allredge serves up homemade Chicken Quinoa Chili.

Jack and the Beanstalk



MISSOULA

CHILDREN'S THEATRE

A PRODUCTION OF MCT, INC.



WASHAKIE MUSEUM
& CULTURAL CENTER

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: green; font-size: 1.2em;">Auditions</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-style: italic;">Open to anyone in grades K-12. Many roles available!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday, March 11, 2024 3:30pm–5:30pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: green; font-size: 1.2em;">Rehearsals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday March 11 6:00pm–8:00pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, March 12 - Friday, March 15 3:30pm–5:30pm & 6:00pm–8:00pm</p>
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at the Worland Middle School Auditorium

Presented by the Washakie Museum & Cultural Center
With generous support from
Washakie County School District #1, The Newell B. Sargent
Foundation and The Wyoming Arts Council

WWII Prisoner of War Camp In Worland Provided Labor; Generated Headlines

On June 22, 1944, Worland Wyoming made front page news on The Union City Times-Gazette in Indiana, with the headline “Nazi Prisoners of War in U.S. Go On Strike”

Our small town made national news when a group of German prisoners interned at a branch POW camp in Worland refused to work and appealed to Adolf Hitler in demand of benches for the truck that transported them to and from the worksites, to fix a leaky roof in one of the cabins at the camp, and an athletic field to be put in the camp compound.

The strike lasted only five days, after rations were reduced to a meager bread and water diet. It is unclear whether the appeal made it to its intended receiver or whether they got their benches and sports field in the end.

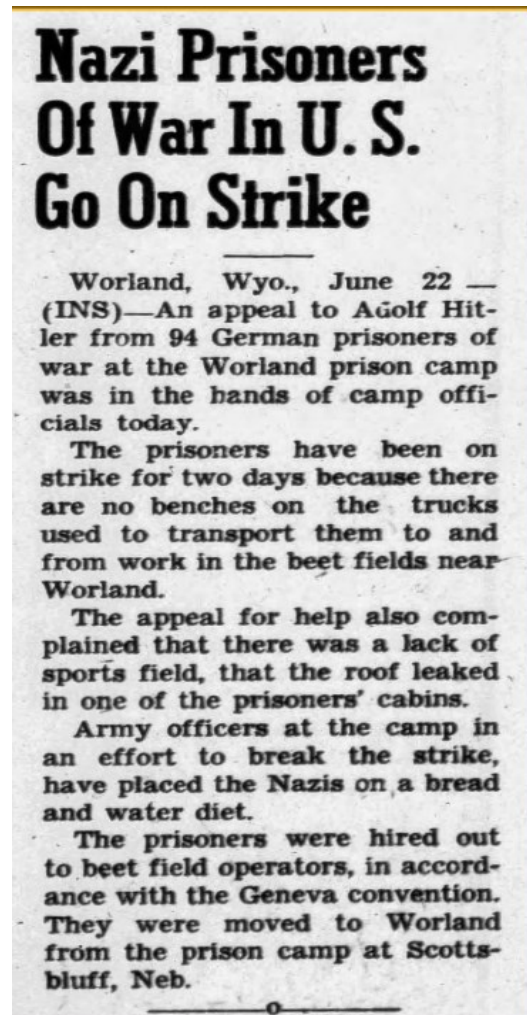
The Worland POW camp was originally built as a Civilian Conservation Corps camp. These camps were set up by the federal government during the Depression to house men who were given jobs working on local conservation projects. After the attack on Pearl Harbor and United States entering the war, the CCC program was discontinued and many of the camps were converted to POW camps. The Worland camp officially saw its first interned residents in September of 1943. Prisoners held at this camp were contracted by local farmers to help with the thinning and harvest of sugar beets.

While not much is known specifically about the living conditions in the Worland camp, information on similar camps in Wyoming can be found in the book, *World War II POW Camps of Wyoming* by Cheryl O'Brian (available in the museum gift shop.)

Barracks in the camps were typically set up in an ‘open bay’ style with bunks along the walls and an open space in the middle. Geneva Convention guidelines regulated that POW housing be the same in size and quality as was used by the ‘captor nation’ troops. In addition to the barracks, camps also usually had a mess hall, chapel, canteen and some form of jail. While base camps were operated and financed by the Army, all the cost of building and maintaining branch camps was funded by local contractors.

The only monetary involvement of the Army in branch camps was cost of caring for the prisoners.

Prisoners wore Levi fatigues, conspicuously marked with a large, white ‘PW’ on both the front and back. They were issued all the other necessary items of clothing but things like winter gloves and parkas were issued only for work and had to be returned each day to discourage escape. A monthly stipend of \$3 dollars was given to each prisoner, with officers receiving a bit more based on rank, to spend at the camp canteen for cigarettes, candy, cards or other non-essentials not provided by the army.



Article from The Union City Times-Gazette, Union City, Indiana. Thursday, June 22, 1944

Worland WWII Prisoner of War Camp (continued)

POWs who were willing to work were paid 80 cents a day for the labor they provided, although it was not issued as physical currency; their pay was deposited into a savings account to be paid when they were returned to their countries.

Recreational activities provided to the prisoners was cause for some debate. Some believed it to be an unnecessary expense, but the intent was to deter prisoners from causing trouble. Activities provided to the prisoners ranged from sports, to concerts and plays, to educational activities. While much of the equipment was provided by the military, local church and social groups also offered music, instruments, costumes, and more.

Barracks were furnished with wooden benches and tables to play chess or card games (gambling was strictly prohibited) after nightfall when it was necessary for prisoners to be indoors before lights out. Also provided were desks, pen and paper, books printed in their language, magazines, newspapers, and radios.

Many of the prisoners were fascinated with the freedom of press that was allowed without consequence, as it wasn't uncommon for criticism

or questioning of leadership to be published or broadcast. Italian and Japanese prisoners who had never had the right to vote were especially interested in the election race of 1944.

In 1942, the Army concluded that a guard force of one guard for every three prisoners was needed. As the number of prisoners increased and the available guards decreased due to reassignment, that ratio gradually lessened to one guard for every ten to fifteen internees. Nearing the end of the war, security relaxed even further and the POW camps became largely self-guarded, with some officers even being allowed to leave the camps to visit a library, chapel, or doctor. They simply had to pledge not to try and escape and be back by nightfall.

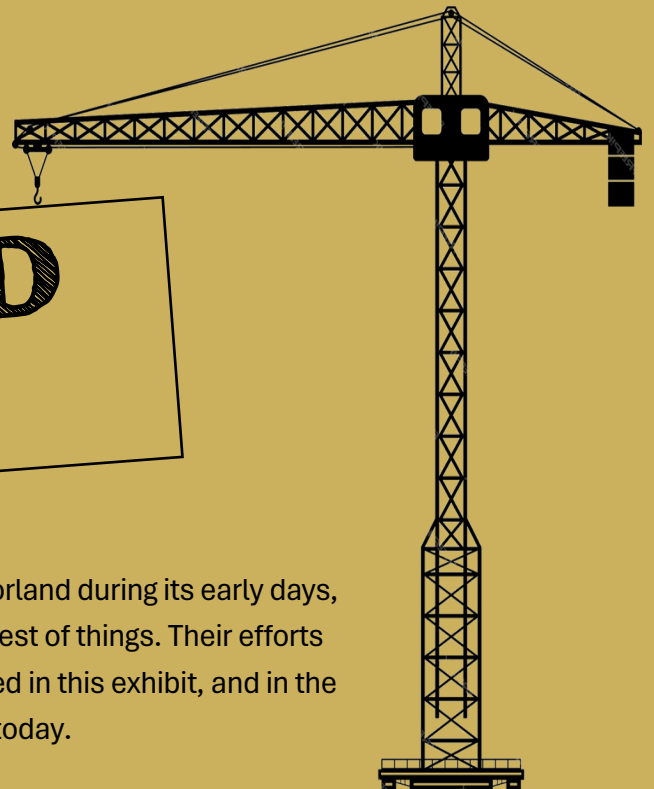
One unique thing about American POW camps was their willingness to reunite family members. If a POW could cover the cost of the transfer of a relative also interned in the US, the Army would arrange to do so.

One positive aspect of the POWs in Worland is the lasting friendships that were formed between prisoners and the farm families they worked for. Look for details on those relationships in the next issue of *Mammoth News*.

ON DISPLAY JAN. 19 - APR. 12

WORLAND WORKS

Worland Works is the story of the people who lived in Worland during its early days, who picked up their tools, went to work, and made the best of things. Their efforts live on in the photographs, artifacts, and stories highlighted in this exhibit, and in the bustling community that is Worland today.



Thank you, 2023 Donors!

We would like to extend our warmest thanks to all who contributed to the Washakie Museum in 2023. Your generosity ensures that our community will continue to enjoy our quality historical exhibits, educational programs, and cultural events.

AAA Water Damage Restoration
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Worland Kiwanis
Worland Pharmacy, Inc.
Worland Ten Sleep Visitors Council
Worland Vision Clinic
Wray, Jim and Kay
Wright, Amy
Wyatt Molzahn Construction
Wyoming Arts Council
Wyoming Community Fdn
Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund
Wyoming Energy Authority
Wyoming Gas Company
Wyoming Humanities Council
Wyoming Sugar Factory
Wyoming Whiskey

BIG HORN BASIN TALENT SHOW

See amazing acts by your friends and neighbors!
Top acts receive cash prizes, determined by audience votes!

AUDITIONS

Fri., Jan. 26 5:30-7:30
Sat., Jan. 27 10am-noon

PERFORMANCES

Fri., March 15, 7 pm
Sat., March 16, 7 pm

VIP Tickets:

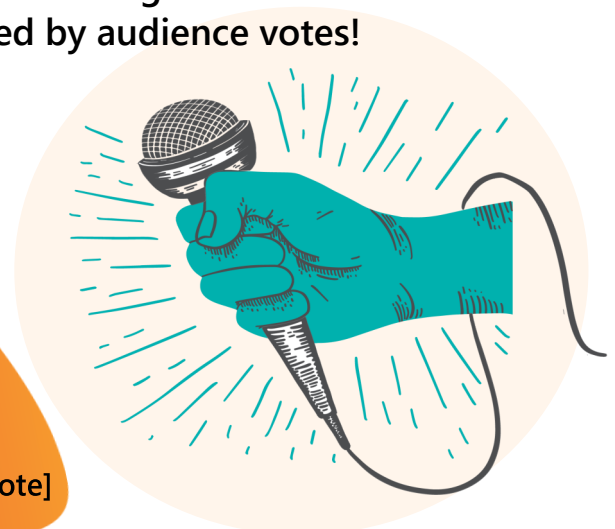
(includes pre-show VIP party, Friday only)
Members \$40, Non-Members \$45

General Admission:

\$12 Members, \$15 Non-Members

\$500
prize for
top act!

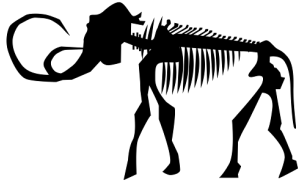
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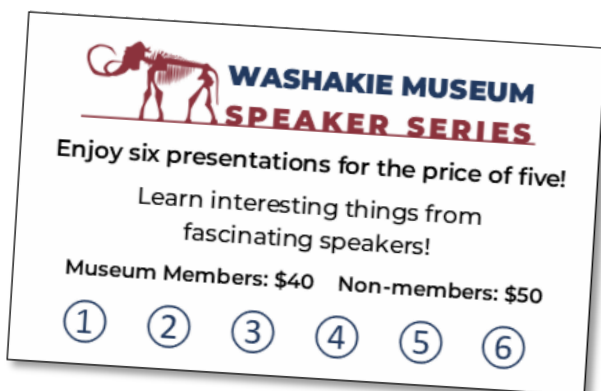
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