# go-devil



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1974

## Four Divisions Formed

# Pipe Operations Reorganized

Eight pipeline operating divisions of Shell Pipe Line Corporation and Shell Oil Company have been consolidated into four major field divisions to create a more autonomous field organization.

Shell Pipe's Rocky Mountain and West Texas Divisions have been consolidated into a Central Division, with headquarters at Midland, Texas. R. W. Guthrie is division manager.

Shell Pipe has also formed Gulf Coast Division, comprising the former Texas Gulf and Southern Divisions. Division headquarters will be located at New Orleans, and T. A. Orner is division manager.

A Shell Oil Mid-Continent Division, headquarters at Indianapolis, Indiana, will operate Shell Oil's Products Pipe Lines, and will render advice and services to Shell Pipe's Wood River District (formerly Northern Division), and Cushing District (formerly Oklahoma Division) and will continue to render advice and services to Shell Pipe's

Central Michigan District. W. E. Walker is manager.

Shell Oil's West Coast Pipe Lines has been renamed West Coast Division, but is otherwise unchanged. W. J. Grillos continues as manager.

Frank Poorman, manager Pipe Line Operations for Shell Pipe, notes three purposes for the reorganization: to realign the divisions for more autonomous operations; to align division operations to correspond more closely with the operations of the customers of the pipelines; and to reduce administrative overhead.

"The purpose is to reorganize the divisions to an appropriate size and level of activity to where they can be staffed with the quality and quantity of staff personnel for more autonomous operations in day-to-day business," Poorman said. "It is also desired to have the operations decision-making closer to actual

(See Pipeline, page 6)

# Reorganization At-A-Glance

Briefly, here is the reorganization of the divisions:

Central Division comprises the former West Texas and Rocky Mountain Divisions;

Gulf Coast Division comprises the former Southern and Texas Gulf divisions;

Shell Oil-Mid-Continent Division comprises the former Products Pipe Lines and will render advice and services to the former Northern Division (renamed Wood River District) and the former Oklahoma Division (renamed Cushing District).

Shell Oil's West Coast Pipe Lines has been renamed **West Coast Division**. It is otherwise unchanged.



R. W. Guthrie Central Division



T. A. Orner Gulf Coast Division



W. E. Walker Mid-Continent Division



W. J. Grillos West Coast Division

## Letters

Movin' Mountains

Dear Sir:

I read with great pleasure the article "How To Move Mountains, Missouri Style" in the May, 1974 issue of the Go-Devil.

Most of the residents of Diamond who know Wilbert Schaffter still call him "mayor," and even though he has a few years on him—I would not be a bit surprised to see him become mayor again.

We have several ex-Shell employees in this congregation and they are fine Christian men and speak well of their days of working for Shell.

I have been a resident of Diamond for one year and I can see a healthy growth in the town and there are still greater days ahead for the "Gem City of the Ozarks." Not all people will be as uninformed as I was that Diamond, Mo., exists. It is a city on the move.

Paul Ingram, Minister Diamond Christian Church

Dear Mr. Young:

I enjoyed very much your article in the Go-Devil in the May issue

in which you featured the Wilbert Schaffters. Over the years we have enjoyed the acquaintance of Mr. and Mrs. Schaffter. They are unique people dedicated to a small community.

Thank you for honoring them in this way. As one who lives in their community, I express appreciation for this thoughtfulness.

> Dell Reed, President Crowder College Neosho, Mo.

## On Retirees

Gentlemen and Ladies:

I have a suggestion to make. I find since I have retired that many things happen to my old friends that I don't find out about until it is too late to do anything about.

I am speaking specifically about deaths, illnesses, and other occasions that are special.

My suggestion is this: list names of retirees with their address and what they are doing. You might list them alphabetically from A-G in the first issue then progress H-M etc. I realize that the only thing you have in your records is addresses but I would bet a good hat that if a request were made for information from the retiree for this pur-

pose you would get a good response.

Cecil Galbraith 2922 Rice Blvd. Houston 77005

Editor's note: Any retiree is more than welcome to send in his name and address and his current activities for publication in the Go-Devil. See the address below.)

### Gross Error

To The Go-Devil Editor:

Even a proof-reader or a type setter should have caught the gross error in your March-April issue under the heading "Send Grads Photos."

You state the Go-Devil would be pleased to feature **he or she** in the June issue.

My God man, don't you know this should be him or her?

Take each one singly and see how it sounds.

Yours for better grammar.

Anonymous Shell Retiree Mesa, Ariz.

(Editor's note: Sir, you are indeed correct. My apologies.)

Send your letters and correspondence to: Glynn Young, Go-Devil Editor, One Shell Plaza-Room 1581, P.O. Box 2463, Houston, TX 77001

# Milt Eichler Named Cushing's Father Of The Year

Seven-year-old Deanna Eichler thought her dad was the best dad in Cushing, Okla. So she entered his name in Cushing's "Father of the Year" contest with the explanation, "He tickles me a 'woole' lot. He loves me and he likes me."

The contest judges apparently agreed with Deanna. They selected M. J. "Milt" Eichler, district super-intendent for Cushing District, Mid-Continent Division, as Cushing's "Father of the Year."

The local contest is sponsored by the Cushing Daily Citizen and numerous merchants in the town. Deanna won \$25 for first place prize and Milt received several gift certificates and gifts from participating stores.

Milt blushes when congratulated on the honor. "It is quite thrilling that she was thoughtful enough to nominate me," he says.



The Eichler family: Deanna, 7; Milt; Joan; and Milt III, 4.



From left, White, Papadopoulos, Poorman, and Grillos

## West Coast Receives Award

Shell Oil West Coast Pipe Lines (now West Coast Division) has received the Award of Honor of the National Safety Council, the council's highest order of recognition for outstanding occupational safety records.

The award was given in the category of Group A, pipeline operations-crude. Vincent Tofany, president of the National Safety Council, said in a letter of congratulations, that any company qualifying for the honor "has reached a level of success in safety that is exemplary."

Fewer than five out of 100 award applications qualify for the honor, Tofany noted, and it is estimated that less than five out of 1,000 of the nation's total number of work units meet the award's requirements.

W. J. Grillos, manager of West Coast Division, accepted the award in Houston from M. N. Papadopoulos, president of Shell Pipe Line Corp.; Horace White, former manager of Pipe Line Operations and now on special assignment; and Frank Poorman, manager of Pipe Line Operations.

# Deepwater Pipe Study Discussed At Meeting

Sixty-five oil industry representatives met in Houston this month to discuss potential participation in Shell Development Company's deepwater pipelay research program.

The meeting was conducted by Elmer Milz, manager of the Shell Pipeline Research and Development Laboratory. He explained the history, developments, and projects of the pipeline research laboratory since 1965 and outlined the terms of participation in the deepwater project.

Doug Broussard, project manager for the deepwater study, outlined the technical aspects of the program, including route survey, design criteria, pipe selection, handling of the pipe during construction, contingency plans, and laying vessels.

Broussard explained that the program will establish the range of environmental factors involved, weight and protection requirements, and coating schedule. He

noted that the pipeline program to be studied will involve pipe protected by weight coating rather than by burying it beneath the sea floor. The pipe will be five feet above the sea bottom, he added.

He outlined the approximate allocation of efforts in the program as follows: environmental criteria, 3 per cent; pipe selection, specifications, and welding, 24 per cent; coating and jacketing materials, 11 per cent; pipe handling systems, 28 per cent; contingency plans, 6 per cent; evaluation of laying vessels, 20 per cent; alternative laying methods, 5 per cent; and pipeline connections and terminations, 3 per cent.

Milz, in explaining the terms of participation, said Shell will handle the design study. The program will begin in September and terminate in February, 1977. Cost of the project is estimated to be \$750,000, including an escalation factor for inflation. Shell is seeking at least six participants.

## SHELL WELCOMES

Texas Gulf Division and Southern Division will continue to be referred by those titles rather than Gulf Coast Division until consolidation is completed sometime in the fall.

## Central Division

W. L. Langley, Pipeliner

## **Texas Gulf Division**

S. R. Horton, Pipeliner
T. F. Witt, Communications "A"
M. A. Burton, Electrician "A"

## Mid-Continent Division

- J. Byington, Electrician "C", Cushing Dist.
- J. M. Hess, Sr., Clerk, Oil Movements

## West Coast Division

J. T. Cornett, Roustabout, N. Dist. E. J. Goodwin, Utility Man, S. Dist.

## **Head Office**

- J. E. Hachen, Jr., Engineer, Tech.-Engr.
- T. J. Heard, Analyst, Oil Move-
- D. R. Funke, Engineer, Tech.-Engr.
- R. L. Britton, Engineer, Tech.-Engr.
- A. J. Snead, Engineer, Tech.-Engr.
- D. W. Haim, Engineer, Tech.-Engr.

Once it pumped oil from the Coalinga fields to the refinery at Martinez. Today it is being dismantled and used in new pipelines and for irrigation.

The dismantling of the Valley Pipeline system represents the passing of an era of dormitories at the pump stations, card games that lasted well into the night and what was known as the "company town." It was the time of \$7.00 per day wages and of maintenance crews that fixed broken screens on houses as part of their duties.

In the early 1900s, Shell Oil of California built a 160-mile pipeline from Coalinga to Martinez, Calif.,

to provide crude oil for the refinery there. This combination 8-inch and 10-inch threaded and coupled pipeline was laid through the arid San Joaquin Valley, through the foothills of the Diablo Range, along Marsh Creek Canyon and then to Martinez on the south bank of the San Joaquin River.

The system was known as Valley Pipe Line #1 and became operational Aug. 11, 1915. Twelve pump stations were located along the line to transport the ever-increasing oil production around Coalinga. (An interesting sidelight is how Coalinga got its name. It was originally a train station called Coaling

Station A. In time the "station" was dropped and the "coaling" and "A" were combined to form Coalinga.)

In 1923, the five intermediate pump stations at Cantua, Panoche, Romero, Sandport and Marsh Creek were idled. In 1936, to accommodate the increasing production near Bakersfield, a line was built from Bakersfield to Coalinga and a second parallel line from Coalinga to Martinez. This line also was 160 miles long and composed of 10-inch and 12-inch welded pipe. It was called Valley Pipe Line #2.

During the system's peak, each pumping station was a small Shell community, complete with lease houses, boarding houses and often dormitories, tennis courts, and recreation halls. The normal station



The Shell refinery at Martinez about 1916.

Sincere thanks to A. R. Kelso, senior inspector for West Coast Division; to L. B. "Brownie" Hildreth, Hank Lamonthe, W. W. Williams and others who contributed their memories; and to R. A. Ewing, senior project engineer for West Coast Division, who assembled the information for this story.

crew consisted of five engineers, five firemen, a gardener, and a roustabout.

The chief engineer was responsible for the operation of the entire station and the remaining engineers worked 24-hour shifts, seven days a week. Each shift had one engineer and one fireman.

The roustabout performed numerous cleaning and maintenance tasks in addition to providing relief for firemen during vacations. His duties included hauling ice made at the stations, buying groceries for the wives, and taking the children to meet the school bus.

Each station had a boarding house to provide food for single men in the pipeline crew when they were performing maintenance work on location. A man-and-wife team, living at the station, ran the boarding house and charged a nominal fee for meals. In return they received a rent-free lease house and

could retain any profits from operating the boarding house. Lease houses were rented to families for \$15 a month.

Two dormitories at the Corral Station and each at the other stations were used to house the pipeline crew while they traveled down the line to repair leaks and perform other maintenance duties. These dormitories were a haven from the day's work with a pick and shovel, used to dig out the pipeline to fix leaks.

On more than one occasion the men "with the hot hand" prevailed at dice and cards. The winner, however, usually became the target of pranks the next night.

The wages paid in 1936-1937 are a sharp contrast to today's wages. Engineers earned \$8.04 a day; firemen, pipeliners and line riders earned \$7.24 a day; and the roustabout earned \$6.44 a day. The highest paid personnel were the chief machinist and the welders, who earned \$9 a day.

The pipeline crew at the Corral Station would travel down the line for two to three weeks at a time to repair leaks, recondition pipe, and clean tumble weeds from the oil sumps. The crew schedule was nine days work, five days off. There were usually six to eight men in the maintenance crews.

and shovel to remove the dust from the front porches of the lease houses.

There were also occasional invasions by hoards of grasshoppers in the western foothill area that stripped all the foliage from plants and trees. Rattlesnakes, desert ground squirrels, and large hatches of crickets still frequent the pipeline right-of-way.

In 1949, firewalls were installed between the engine room and boiler room at each station. The feedwater systems for the boilers were automated. Station crews were thus reduced to the chief engineer, three engineers and a roustabout to provide relief for the engineers. The gardener's job was also eliminated.

As the San Joaquin Valley developed into a productive farming area with the completion of the Delta Mendota Canal, small towns like Lost Hills, Devil's Den, Crow's Landing, Firebaugh, and Three Rocks were established. In 1950, the boarding houses were discontinued since food and lodging were available in these towns along the pipeline route.

In 1951, the lease houses were dismantled and removed at the stations. Some houses were purchased by station employees who moved them to neighboring towns to use as permanent homes.

The last major change in the

system occurred in 1968 when Getty Oil Company built a 20-inch pipeline system replacing their own two 8-inch lines which paralleled the Valley Pipe Line System. Shell agreed to move Getty's crude oil from Bakersfield to Caliola and Shell's oil was to be shipped via the 20-inch Getty line to Martinez.

On Feb. 27, 1968, the #1 line was taken out of service and flushed with water. On April 17 the boilers at each pump station on the #2 line were shut down. Light oil was still pumped from the Vallecitos line at Cheney station until 1971, when the #2 line was flushed with water and idled.

Over the years, irrigation changed the dry San Joaquin Valley into a large agricultural area and all but the first ten miles of the pipeline north of Caliola were in cotton, barley, bean, and tomato fields. By this time San Francisco had become a major metropolitan area, spreading residential development into the northern end of the Diablo Range. The last 30 miles of the system now follow a winding pattern of streets through Clayton, Concord, Pacheco, Vine Hill, and Martinez.

These lines remained idle until 1971 when each was displaced with polyurethane pigs. Nitrogen was used to displace the lines in

(See Valley, page 6)



The crews had other duties besides line maintenance. If the plumbing wasn't working properly in the lease houses or if the porches needed new screens, the pipeline crew would fix it. Since several of the pipeliners were single, the engineer with the prettiest daughter had the best kept lease house.

Each pump station was like an oasis, since much of the land along the pipeline route was still desert. The wind storms would whirl up tons of dust in the summer along with thousands of tumble weeds. After some of these storms, it was necessary to use a wheel barrow



The oilfields at Coalinga about 1913.

## **Pipeline Operations** Reorganized

## (Continued From Page 1)

operations with the overall objective being increased efficiency and the eventual reduction of cost to the customers."

"As far as is possible," he added, "it is desired to have the divisions aligned so that they are closer to other Shell corporate entities and, in Shell Pipe's case, closer to its customers and more closely corresponding to their operations."

"The reorganization of operations also will somewhat reduce the number of people involved in staff activity," Poorman said, "to reduce administrative overhead. Some transfer of personnel will be necessary," he added.

Poorman said that the reorganization should be completed by September 1.

Additional changes resulting from the reorganization include a Shell Pipe district office at Wood River, Illinois, rather than at Centralia, and a Shell Pipe district office for Rocky Mountain District at Newcastle, Wyoming, rather than at Denver, in its Central Division.

J. G. Anderson, who was manager of Shell Pipe's Oklahoma Division, has been appointed manager, Field Operations, Mining Ventures Organization, for the Crow Coal Lease in southern Montana. M. C. Zwirbla, who was manager of Shell Pipe's former Rocky Mountain Division, will join the Oil Measurement and Control Department in Shell Pipe as manager, Loss Prevention.

A. E. Lain, who was manager of Shell Pipe's former Northern Division, and J. K. Alfred, who was manager of Shell Pipe's former Southern Division, will assist in implementing the reorganization and have elected to retire later this year after the restructuring has been completed.

## Valley Pipeline

(Continued From Page 5)

metropolitan areas where some oil remained in line and higher pressures were required due to line profile. Compressed air was used in flat farming areas.

The system remained dormant until May, 1973, when a removal program was initiated to recover as much of the 320 miles of pipe as possible. Pipe was first removed in pasture areas where crop harvests would not influence the removal schedule.

Removal has been in progress more than a year with numerous relocations of equipment to take out pipe as crops are harvested. Nearly 800,000 lineal feet of 8-inch, 10-inch and 12-inch pipe valued at \$675,000 has been removed or sold in place to property owners for irrigation purposes. Right-ofway damages for the pipe removed has been less than \$10,000 to date. By coordinating the removal with harvest schedules, damages have been substantially minimized.

It is estimated that by the end of 1974 that the total removed pipe will exceed one million lineal feet.

The pump stations at Caliola, Merval, Stimba, and Corral have been completely dismantled and property sold to adjacent landowners. All the pump station sites have been sold except Cheney,

Marsh Creek, Panoche, and Sand-

With the stations dismantled and the pipe removed, and the boarding houses and lease houses long since gone, little evidence remains of the system. But the Valley Pipe Line System remains a vital part of the history of West Coast Division and of Shell.

## Energy Outlook Assessed

The uncertainties which hamper accurate forecasting of the energy situation in the United States are outlined in a new Shell paper, "Current Energy Outlook.'

The paper is the first in a new series dealing with topics of national importance. The four-page newsletter, Shell Reports, will be distributed widely to government, business, and media lead-

Copies of the paper have been sent to principal field locations for distribution, and additional copies may be obtained by writing to Pauline Wilson, Room 1535, One Shell Plaza, P.O. Box 2463, Houston, Texas 77001.

## Your Go-Devil Reporters

To send information for publication in the Go-Devil, contact either the Go-Devil editor in Houston or the Go-Devil reporter in the various divisions.

The Go-Devil reporters are:

## Central Division

Martha Foster, Midland, TX. Ed Renner, Rocky Mountain District

### Mid-Continent Division

Laurie Burch, Indianapolis Shirley Abbott, East Line Dis-

Carolyn Maynard, Cushing District

Southern Division Gene Reeves, New Orleans

**Texas Gulf Division** 

Ruth Knighten, Houston

West Coast Division Dene Eubanks, Los Angeles

**Head Office** 

Contact Go-Devil Editor

There are also a limited number of copies of the June graduates issue available. If you had a son or daughter featured in the issue and would like extra copies, contact the Go-Devil editor. All requests for copies will be on a firstcome, first-serve basis.

# Piping HOT Line

PIPING HOT LINE is a unique news feature designed to recognize employees, retirees, and their families, of the four divisions of Shell Oil and Shell Pipe Line Corporation. If you have any news items, send them to your local GO-DEVIL reporter at your division or district office, or send them to the GO-DEVIL editor.

Employees of Central Division presented J. T. Hall, field gauger at Brownfield, Texas, a gift certificate and a Certificate of Appreciation at ceremonies recently held at Hall's retirement. Hall was honored in recognition of more than 30 years with Shell Pipe Line. He and his wife, Nell plan to make Brownfield their retirement home.



A. R. Havey, district superintendent at Hobbs, presents a certificate of appreciation to Hall. Hall's wife, Jo Nell, is at right.

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Henry celebrated their golden wedding anniversary July 6 in Mullin, Tex. Henry was a district gauger at Livingston when he retired in 1952.



Beldon and Mary Carroll at their retirement party.

The employees of West Coast Division held a barbecue recently at Oak Park-Simi honoring **Beldon** and **Mary Carroll**. Carroll retired May 31 as head roustabout at Simi, Southern District, after more than 27 years. The Carrolls plan to make Walker, Calif., their retirement home.

Richard Souter, son of M. D. (Red) Souter, operations foreman at Denver City for Central Division, has been named superintendent of

schools at Whiteface, Tex. He has been principal at the high school in Whiteface for three years, and had been both basketball and football coach for the high schools in Post, Tulia, and Silverton, Tex.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Tarver on the birth of their daughter, Tracy Lou, on June 3 at Stillwater (Okla.) Municipal Hospital. The new Miss Tarver weighed 6 lbs., 12 oz. Tarver is the tank farm gauger at Cushing (Okla.) Control Terminal.

E. E. Everett, mechanical technician at Big Spring, Tex., for Central Division, was presented a Certificate of Appreciation at a retirement dinner held June 8 in Big Spring.



Everett receives his certificate from H. R. Wissner, acting district super-intendent, Eastern District.

# 3 Generations With Shell Pipe

When G. C. Roberts, dispatcher at McCamey for Central Division, retired recently, his wife Louise's active association with Shell Pipe Line for three generations came to an end.

Mrs. Roberts, the former Louise Shelton, was the daughter of W. T. Shelton, who started working for Shell Pipe in 1928. While he and his family were living in McCamey in the Shell camp back in the early days, his father, T. P. Shelton, came to visit and during his stay was hired to landscape the grounds of the office site.

In 1936 while living at Westbrook where her father was station engineer, Louise married G. C. Roberts, then in a maintenance crew working at various locations. He had begun his career with Shell Pipe as a laborer at Wichita Falls the year

before he married Louise. From Westbrook he "made the circuit" all over West Texas in numerous assignments.

Roberts says he has served in

some capacity at every station ever located on the main line between Red River and McCamey. The Roberts plan an active retirement, trout fishing and traveling.



Louise and Gilford Roberts receive their retirement gift, a mantel clock, from J. T. Adams, terminal foreman at McCamey.

## **ANNIVERSARIES**



45 Years M. W. Robertson Central Div.



35 Years L. W. Kinison Head Office



30 Years
J. E. Burk
Central Div.



30 Years W. W. Dunn Mid-Continent Div.



30 Years F. E. Gafford Mid-Continent Div.



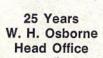
30 Years R. T. Woodrow Central Div.



25 Years R. S. Alexander Central Div.



25 Years D. W. Derry Head Office





## PERSONNEL CHANGES

#### Central Division

D. P. Bruton, Mechanic "A" to Mechanical Technical

D. L. Walker, Pipeliner to Mechanic "A"

G. E. Fourquerean, Corrosion "A" to Corrosion Technician

**J. B. Spalding**, Sta. Fmn., to Sr. Pipeline Analyst.

## Mid-Continent Division

M. J. Eichler, Div. Engineer to Dist. Supt., Cushing.

**D. W. Rumbo**, Engineering Asst., Tech.-Engr., to Corrosion Tech.

D. R. Nelson, Utility Pipeliner to Gauger Operator "A"

T. M. Davis, Pipeliner to Delivery Gauger

D. F. Sissons, Pipeliner to Corrosion Mechanic "C" -

W. G. Morrett, Pipeliner to Corrosion Mechanic "C"

J. E. Trempert, Pipeliner to Corrosion Mechanic "C"

D. E. Siebert, Truck Driver to Corrosion Mechanic "C"

C. C. Sneary, Plant Foreman, Marketing, to Asst. Plant Supt.

J. R. Briggs, Electro Mechanic "B" to Electro Mechanic "A"

R. A. Willard, Loader to Dispatching Gauger

R. D. Samons, Pipeliner to Terminal Operator

## Southern Division

J. K. Reid, Asst. Terminal Foreman to Operations Foreman

J. C. Milam, Scheduler, Oil Movements to Asst. Terminal Foreman P. G. Lawless, Gauger Operator to Station Attendant "A"

G. J. Braud, Pipeliner to Gauger Operator "A"



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Go-DEVIL Editor One Shell Plaza-Rm. 1581 P.O. Box 2463 Houston, Texas 77001

Editor: Glynn Young

#### **Texas Gulf Division**

F. F. Hassler III, Delivery Gauger to Dispatcher

F. G. Randolph, Communications "A" to Communications Technician

J. T. Churchill, Communications "A" Sou. Div. to Communications Tech.

W. H. Byrd, Jr., Communications Technician to Supv. Communications

### West Coast Division

D. D. Wortman, Mechanic 2 to Roustabout, S. Dist.

## **Head Office**

R. M. Armstrong, Shareholders' Rep. to Manager Pipe Line Interests

M. L. Koski, Office Secretary to Secretary, Technology - Technical Services

L. S. Rice, Supv. Communications, Texas Gulf Div. to Supv. Communications & Utilities-Operations Analysis

C. O. Gast, Sr., Engineer, Tech.-Engr. to Sr. Transportation Specialist, Pipe Line Interests

## RETIREMENTS

**Central Division** 

E. E. Everett, Mech. Technician

#### Mid-Continent Division

L. L. Sorrels, Auto. Station Attn.

#### **Head Office**

H. C. Stevens, Staff Project Engineer, Tech.-Engr.

L. L. Krebs, Spv. Communications Utilities. Operations-Analysis

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