

PICA ABM In San Diego



November 14-15, 2003



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President's Message

By Ken Shigut, *President*

Involvement & Volunteerism

As the current President and the past 1st Vice President of PICA, I have had a bird's eye view of PICA's birth and early years of evolution as contrasted with our Founding Members' original vision.

I recall and still firmly believe that one of the main reasons why PICA was founded and why it has been so successful to date is our commitment to openness and democracy. Many of us have experienced and/or witnessed the introverted habits that develop when an association does not make an active effort to maintain member involvement and democratic habits.

At PICA, I have watched as we have experienced an open and free list serv. I have observed as we have invited members to our board meetings and requested member input on various issues ranging from the name of our newsletter to the site of our next Annual Business Meeting. I have also witnessed a successful, on-line, nomination and electoral process for our board members.

However, I must say I have been surprised and disappointed by the apparent lack of member interest and involvement in this association. In the early days of PICA, I had heard so much positive and seemingly enthusiastic talk of the benefits of an open and democratic statewide private investigative association.

Prior to PICA's formation and in speaking with new PICA Members, I had heard complaints from fellow investigators concerning other Private Investigative Associations described as "old boy networks" with

Continued from Page 1 **Presidents Message...**

closed board meetings, obscure book keeping and archaic requests of attendance in neighboring states if a member simply desired to cast their vote for board members and to be heard at a business meeting.

Consequently, I expected a surge of enthusiastic involvement in PICA. Whether it is due to the fact that we are still a relatively young association or that our members assume that someone else will handle the day to day functions of our association or a combination of the above, the fact remains that as PICA members you can and should do more for your association and in the end for yourselves.

When board members advertise openings in committees, request opinions or suggestions on questions of the day or invite you to run for a board position, I would ask that all of you slow down for a moment and consider what you can do for your association and as a consequence for yourselves.

PICA will hold elections in November for all seats on the board which include the District Directors of our five districts. This is a major opportunity for you to give back to your profession and to the investigators who have volunteered before you to help maintain this association that benefits you individually and our profession as a whole.

Running for an elected office is also a perfect time for you to voice and work to put into place programs and ideas that you feel are critical to better this association. It is a time to help maintain an organization that you can be proud of and that reflects our profession and



Ken Shigut is the President of PICA and the Owner of Shoreline Investigations in Tarzana California. Ken can be reached at : ken@shorelinepica.com

stature in the legal community that we serve.

It is an opportunity for you to gain organizational and leadership experience as well as developing contacts that you can take back with you to your own investigative firm that at the end of the day aids in making you a well rounded individual and investigator.

Without attempting to sugar coat it, it does take commitment and

perseverance to make this association function. There is much more we can do as an association. Our possibilities are only limited by the lack of volunteer support to see the vision through.

Our upcoming Annual Business Meeting and Seminar that will take place at the Red Lion Hanalei Hotel in San Diego, November 14th and 15th, 2003, is a perfect opportunity for you to further educate yourself, mix with other like minded investigative professionals and begin the process of involvement and volunteerism that is the life blood of PICA.

So I ask each and every one of you to consider your expectations for an association that reflects your profession and to make a commitment that you will do something yourself, no matter how seemingly small, to aid in the maintenance and betterment of PICA.



Professional Investigators of California

CONFERENCE QUESTIONS

Contact Event Coordinator
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**~SECOND ANNUAL PICA CONFERENCE~
NOVEMBER 14 & 15, 2003**

at
The Red Lion Hanalei Hotel
2270 Hotel Circle North
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Friday Evening:
PICA Dinner and Annual Business Meeting with guest speaker Robert Townsed CLI and Deputy Chief Sherry Moffet-Bell of BSIS

Saturday:
PICA Educational Seminars.
Criminal Defense Investigations
Accident Reconstruction
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Conference Fees include Fridays Dinner, Breakfast, Lunch and Snacks.

Call now!

By George F. Ripsom,
D.A.B.F.E.

SIDE IMPACT TESTS OF SMALL SUV'S

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety conducted side impact crash tests on 12 small SUVs. The Subaru Forester and the Ford Escape with optional side airbags scored best. Seven others earned the lowest rating of poor — including the Escape without optional side airbags, Toyota RAV4, Suzuki Grand Vitara/Vitara/Chevrolet Tracker, Land Rover Freelander, Mitsubishi Outlander, Saturn VUE, and Honda Element. The Jeep Wrangler and Honda CR-V are rated marginal, and the Hyundai Santa Fe is acceptable.

The Subaru Forester is the only one of 12 SUVs tested to earn a good rating in not only the side impact evaluation but also the Institute's frontal offset crash test. The Forester is the best performer and the Outlander is worst: The side airbag in the Subaru Forester kept the injury measures recorded on the driver dummy relatively low. The dummy in the rear seat also recorded relatively low measures, although its head did hit the pillar behind the back door — an area required by federal standard to limit head impact forces. There was somewhat less intrusion into the Forester than into several of the other small SUVs the Institute tested.

In contrast, the Mitsubishi Outlander was the worst performer in the side impact test. There was more intrusion into the occupant compartment than in many of the other vehicles tested. The Outlander that was tested didn't have side airbags. The barrier struck the driver dummy's head, and the injury

measures recorded on the head as well as on the torso and pelvis were very high.

CHILD SEAT RESTRAINT SYSTEMS

A federal rule known as Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children, or LATCH, became mandatory for new cars on September 1, 2002, was supposed to be simplifying the process of installing infant and child restraints. The goal is to increase the number of children who ride properly restrained. Automakers have to install special anchors in vehicles, and infant and child restraints have to be made with lower and upper attachments that mate with the anchors. Then parents should be more likely to latch restraints into cars correctly and with less effort.

Installation was generally easier and less complex with LATCH-compliant systems than the old way of routing safety belts through child restraints to attach them to cars. LATCH doesn't always make it a simple click-in operation to install a restraint. Before buying one, parents should be sure to try fitting it in the vehicle they plan to use it in because not every restraint is going to fit in every vehicle.

Institute researchers attempted to install 6 different child restraints in 10 vehicles. The LATCH systems did make installation easier, but it wasn't a breeze. Not all restraints were easy to install in all vehicles. Some restraints in some vehicles were very difficult to install. The researchers selected 10 test vehicles, all 2003 models — Cadillac CTS, Chevrolet TrailBlazer, Chrysler Concorde, Dodge Grand Caravan, Ford Taurus, Honda Element, Hyundai Santa Fe, Lincoln Town Car, Pontiac Montana, and Toyota RAV4. These vehicles represent a wide variety of

designs for accessing the anchor points for child restraints in back seats. Both the shapes of the vehicle seats and the placement of the anchors for securing the restraints contributed to the ease of access. The easiest fits were in the TrailBlazer, Grand Caravan, and RAV4. In contrast, it was difficult to secure any of the six child restraints in the Santa Fe or CTS.

The lower anchors in some vehicles are visible, while in other cases they're recessed into vehicle seats. Visible anchors generally made installation easier, but not always. In the Ford Taurus, which has clearly visible anchors, the researchers had difficulty fitting two restraints because the position of the safety belt buckle impeded efforts to tighten the restraint straps.

In most cases, child restraints with rigid attachments were among the simplest to install and remove because they don't have any straps to tighten. On the other hand, researchers weren't able to install either of the two restraints with rigid attachments in the Hyundai Santa Fe. The geometry of this vehicle's back seat was such that researchers couldn't line up the attachments on the restraints with the anchors buried deep in the vehicle seat, and the inflexibility of the attachments left little room for maneuvering. Researchers couldn't install one of the two child restraints with rigid attachments in the Cadillac CTS, either.

George F. Ripsom is a Court recognized Expert in Accident Reconstruction and the Owner of George Ripsom Associates in Caliente California. Mr Ripsom can be contacted at (800) 527-2742



(Ben) Benjamin R. Harroll
PI 7085
Founder/
Curator

www.pimuseum.com
(619)-239-6991

The P.I. Museum was founded in 1978 and operates on the generosity of other Private Investigators, Interested Parties and Mr. Harroll's personal interest and financing.

Nick Harris Detective Academy

By Ben Harroll

Many already know that we lost the former head, Milo Spiriglio, a few years ago. He was active in leading our profession and was a co-founder of CALI. Milo was indeed a very colorful P.I. himself and his "bio" is shown at the website for the company at www.NickHarrisDetectives.com.

Mr. J. Corey Friedman is now the head of this firm and associated training facility; both continue to prosper and can be reached at telephone 818.986.6360 and they are located at 14721 Oxnard Street, Van Nuys, CA 91411. Electronic mail: friedmancollege@usa.com

Nicholas Boilvin Harris was born on the south side of Chicago February 2nd, 1882 and passed away on December 30th, 1943. Nick's father was the founder of the Chicago Daily News. This influence might have in some way led to Nick's taking an early job as a budding "police reporter" with a Los Angeles area newspaper.

Captain A.J. Bradish, Chief of the Detective Bureau, Los Angeles Police

Department mentored young Nick Harris and convinced him to join the department as a detective for two years. After all, Nick had been very instrumental in solving the then famous J. Madison Sowards murder case and the Captain saw potential.

Nick Harris Detectives was founded by this highly skilled and motivated P.I. with excellent business skills in 1906; the Nick Harris Detective Academy in 1907.

Nick Harris was only 5'7" and weighed 145 pounds but try convincing the many hardened criminals who faced him of those facts... to them he was all dynamite!

Nick came up with, "Crime doesn't pay" and he proved it. He was known as the P.I. who would never accept or hand a pen from or to anyone. When dressing Nick would always put his left shoe on first. Friday the 13th was his "lucky day" and he was fond of black cats. Even more unusual was the unorthodox way Nick went on in life to somehow end up becoming best friends with the very same hardened criminals he sent to prison.

Nick Harris followed fellow Chicago P.I. Alan Pinkerton in carving his own successful reputation before the F.B.I. came into being. As the second longest established U.S. detective agency (after Pinkerton in 1850) his own (and still continuing) agency can lay claim to having conducted over one million successful assignments to date.

The P.I. Museum recently displayed (at the PICA dinner meetings in Los Angeles and Oceanside) the following from it's Nick Harris collection of artifacts & treasures:

IN THE SHADOWS / Thirty Detective Stories

Showing "Why Crime Doesn't Pay"

Preface (in closing) - "It is now with great pleasure that I have at last fulfilled my promise to these friends and submit my offerings to the end that my readers may enjoy them, and that some material good may be derived by the youth of after years, that they may profit from the mistakes of those who have Paid the Price of transgressing the laws of God and man. Yours for the better boy and girl, Nicholas Boilvin Harris."

Published in 1923 - dedicated "to my wife Mary Martin Harris on her birthday, April 27th, 1923".

This 361 page book is one of several copies on hand.

Adding to the special quality of these books are the personal inscriptions written in his own hand to those he gave the book to along with his unique signature.

FAMOUS CRIMES

Published in 1933 - dedicated "to my wife Mary Elizabeth Harris". The difference in the way Nick refers to his



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PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS OF CALIFORNIA

~SECOND ANNUAL PICA CONFERENCE~ NOVEMBER 14 & 15, 2003

Non-Members Welcome to Attend

PICA Dinner and Business Meeting Friday, November 14, 2003

4:00 - 11:00 P.M.	Vendor Exhibits and Displays
6:00 - 7:30 P.M.	Dinner
6:30 - 8:00 P.M.	Guest Speakers
8:00 - 9:00 P.M.	Annual Business Meeting Swearing in of New Board Door Prizes

PICA Educational Seminars Saturday, November 15, 2003

7:30 - 8:30 A.M.	Buffet Breakfast
7:30 - 8:30 A.M.	Check-In & Registration
8:15 - 8:30 A.M.	Exhibitor Introductions
8:30 - 10:15 A.M.	Criminal Defense Investigations
10:30 - 12:00 Noon	Accident Reconstruction
Noon - 1:00 P.M.	Lunch - Visit Exhibit Booths
1:00 - 2:30 P.M.	Process Serving Techniques & Laws
2:30 - 3:00 P.M.	Snack Break - Visit Exhibit Booths
3:00 - 5:00 P.M.	Above & Beyond Database Searches

Friday Evening Guest Speakers

- **Robert H. Townsend CLI,**
National Director of the National Association of Legal Investigators (NALI)
- **Sherri Moffet-Bell,**
Assistant Chief of Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (BSIS)

Educational Seminar Topics and Speakers

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
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| • George Ripsom, D.A.B.F.E. | Accident Reconstruction |
| • Tony Kline, Author | Difficult Process Serving Techniques |
| • Dennis O'Keefe, Author | Above & Beyond Database Searches |

CONFERENCE FEE INCLUDES: DINNER • BREAKFAST • LUNCH • SNACK
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**• For Direct Hotel Reservations: 800-882-0858
ID: "Professional Investigators of California"**

~ PICA CONFERENCE ~

**Friday Banquet and Saturday Seminars
DINNER ♦ BREAKFAST ♦ LUNCH ♦ SNACK**

Members \$149.00 ♦ Non-Members: \$169.00

Registration received after November 1st

Members \$185.00 ♦ Non-Members: \$205.00

Questions: Contact Event Coordinator
Ann Marie Batesole 818-249-1732
picaevents@earthlink.net

For Conference Registration

Mail PICA completed registration form and payment

"Bring your family for a San Diego weekend get-away"

SATURDAY SEMINAR TOPICS AND INSTRUCTORS



Criminal Defense Investigations
Attorney Elizabeth Missakian

Ms. Missakian, who handles high profile defense cases, will describe techniques used by successful criminal defense investigators.



Accident Reconstruction
George F. Ripsom D.A.B.F.E.

Mr. Ripsom will demonstrate and identify the critical observations and interpretations pertinent to an accurate and successful accident scene investigation.



Process Serving Techniques & Laws
Tony Kline, Author

Mr. Kline, author of *The Registered Process Server's Guide to Service of Process in California*, will share the latest industry laws and techniques.



Above & Beyond Database Searches
Dennis O'Keefe, Author

Mr. O'Keefe, author of *The Investigator's Black Book*, will share his experience and methods of identifying information on subjects not found in standard industry databases.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

>COMPLETE RESERVATION and mail form with payment to: PICA 14622 Ventura Blvd., #426, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

Total PICA Members Attending Dinner & Seminar :	# _____ x \$149.00 = \$ _____
Registering After November 1st. :	# _____ x \$185.00 = \$ _____
Total Non-Members Attending Dinner & Seminar :	# _____ x \$169.00 = \$ _____
Registering After November 1st. :	# _____ x \$205.00 = \$ _____
Spouse/Guest Conference Meal Package:	# _____ x \$ 80.00 = \$ _____
Total PICA New Members Annual Dues* (application attached):	# _____ x \$ 99.00 = \$ _____

* (New members may register at the PICA Member Rate)

Enclosed: check number _____ made payable to PICA in the total amount of: \$ _____

>PLEASE MARK YOU MEAL PREFERENCE:

MEAL PREFERENCE:	# _____ Chicken Entrée	# _____ Beef Entrée	# _____ Vegetarian Entrée
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Member Non-Member New Member

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Company: _____
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Telephone: _____
E-mail: _____

Continued from Page 4 **Nick Harris Detective Academy...**

wife either as Mary Martin or Mary Elizabeth is something that I just noticed and can't yet explain.

NICK HARRIS / Universal Official Police Whistle

The P.I. Museum has several of these; one with a box containing colorful blue & yellow graphics and this text:

“\$1.00 Manufactured By Nick Harris Police Whistle Company, Pantages Theatre Building Los Angeles, Calif”

Enclosed in this colorful box along with the nickel chromed whistle is a unique but deadly serious “Warning to the Public” from a vastly different era...

“This Nick Harris Police Whistle was sold to you with the distinct understanding that it will be used only in emergencies for calling police or other assistance. It is not to be used otherwise; offenders will be liable to arrest for disturbing the peace. This whistle is not a toy or a plaything and you are warned to keep it out of the hands of small children who would use it as such.”

STOLEN JEWELRY \$2,000.00
REWARD
Bulletin No. 1056
Notice to all Pawn and Diamond Brokers

This flyer is very professionally designed and has to do with a burglary that took place Friday April 15, 1921. Descriptions are given of the missing gems with pictures. The two suspects are detailed under MAN NO. 1 & MAN NO. 2. The phone number to call was “PICO

1332” and the Cable Address was “HARDET”. Of course the address was a very prestigious one for the dapper gentleman detective of 1921...

NICK HARRIS DETECTIVES / Top Floor Pantages Building, Seventh and Hill Streets, Los Angeles, CAL.

You can both pay tribute to Nick Harris and further the public's understanding of the work each of us does daily. Share our rich history of contributions and advances by telling the next politician, LEO or media person you meet about your favorite HERO P.I. story past or present!

Ben Harroll
California License 7085 (1978)
Certifications : CII CPI CIP

Gaslamp Quarter Investigations
Investigaciones de Mexico
P.I. Museum / Founder & Curator
923 Island Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101

Voice 619.239.6991
Fax 619.239.6992
E-Mail benharroll@cox.net
Web www.gaslampqi.com
Web www.pimuseum.com



The PI Museum needs your help!

We are looking for individuals who are willing to assist in the archiving of some of the printed material. This would include scanning documents for storage on to CD for preservation.

If you are near the San Diego area or would like to assist please contact Ben Harroll at 619-239-6991 or E-Mail: benharroll@cox.net



“All attendees of PICA's ABM in San Diego are invited to visit Ben Harroll's P.I. Museum. It's connected with Cafe Noir by a restful oasis (zen garden style) courtyard. Please come on by during your free time... relax, listen to some funky old blues and treat yourself to one of Cafe Noir's fine coffee / espresso selections.”

By Jack W. Murray,
MBA, CLI, CFE, CCDI

This month we're going to talk about "networking." I know to some of you this means pressing the flesh as often as possible. Well, that's part of it, but just making your presence known is not enough. Not nearly enough!

One important aspect of networking is your membership and participation in various professional associations. I stress professional because you want to get to know and be known by other professionals. State and national organizations can be a very useful source of referrals from others who need work done in your geographical area or need your particular area of expertise in an investigation. This works both ways, you might need help in another area of the country or someone who has particular skills that you don't possess.

Of course you can always go to the yellow pages or to a directory of an organization (I do this frequently with the NALI membership list) but it is much, much more preferable to be able to call someone you have met in person and whom you have an idea of what kind of person you are dealing with. One thing I do when I don't know of anyone personally in an area I call someone in that state that I do know and ask

them who they would use in that area. Usually they will not only tell you who to call but many times they tell you who to stay away from. Folks are reluctant to the latter if they don't know you.

If you belong to any of the PI list serves, you know some of the questions that get asked tell you the people asking are either very new at the profession or they are not very well read in the profession. Either way you are reluctant to assign a task to them. Think how much safer it is if you know them or know someone who has used them in the past and speaks well of them.

"Networking of any kind without follow up is next to useless."

Another aspect of networking that I find applicable to my business is offering a service, or area of expertise, that is not real common to the general PI field. My specialty is accident reconstruction and even more specifically defense of vehicular crimes (criminally negligent homicide, manslaughter with a motor vehicle etc). I stress to other investigators that I don't not want to, nor will I "steal a client."

The finding of someone with more experience or expertise in an area makes you look good to your client. First of all they realize that you have the good of the client in mind and that you want them to have the best services available. It is not just a matter of our having more experience or education in an area. We also have equipment that most investigators don't possess. For instance we have a Vericom 2000, an

instrument used to measure coefficient of friction and other variables in accident reconstruction. We are in the process of buying a Vetronix "black box" a download machine, which will enable us to decode the information from the Event Data Recording device in vehicles.

Networking outside the profession is important, but you had best target your market. In most cases attorneys are a source of business for all of us. So go where the attorneys go!

I'm not referring to the local bar, but those seminars and/or speaker meetings where you have a chance to meet folks and give them your card. The same thing goes for insurance claims groups or SIU meetings, you have chapters of both throughout California.

Networking, of any kind, without follow up is next to useless. After you meet someone and give them your card, follow it up with a mailing piece like your company brochure (you do have a company brochure don't you?) If appropriate, then follow up with a phone call, or a personal note. But do something!!!! Shaking hands and handing out a card is just the first step.

Every organization, including PICA needs volunteer help. Volunteer to handle a specific task or committee. This is a way to get to know more members personally, and to show that you're willing to give something and you're not just there to get something.

There's an old saying, that is abundantly true in any volunteer organization, "Lead, follow or get the hell out of the way."

Jack Murray is a Licensed PI in Texas. He has written several text for the Investigative industry and we hear there is a new one on the horizon. Stay Tuned!



Dumb Crooks

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Check forger selects wrong teller

A woman named Faith made a number of bad choices Thursday morning, police said.

She reportedly stole some checks, forged one for \$100 and then brazenly presented it to a downtown bank teller to cash.

Bad enough in itself, but amazingly, the bank teller happened to be the rightful owner of the checks, city police said. It was just after 9 a.m. and Colleen Jacobsen, a First Union teller, had only been on duty a few minutes at the 100 N. Queen St. branch. Faith Orris, 35, of 537 N. Plum St., walked in and handed her a driver's license and a personal check made out for \$100, city police Officer Don Erb said. "I'd like to cash this," she said, according to Erb. "The teller looks at it and thinks, 'Hey, this is my check!,'" Erb said.

Jacobsen remembered she had recently ordered new checks and immediately thought someone had broken into her house, Erb said. Thinking quickly, Jacobsen began tapping away blindly at a keyboard to buy some time while she quietly tried to get the attention of a co-worker. "She was amazingly cool about it," Erb said of Jacobsen, who was able to get the head teller to call for a bank security officer and police.

Still stalling, Jacobsen asked Orris where she got the check. Orris told her that another woman gave it to her so she could purchase some clothes, Erb said.

"The lady that wrote me the check is right outside, do you want to talk to her?" Orris reportedly asked, apparently growing suspicious. Jacobsen told the woman that yes, indeed, she would like to talk to the woman. Orris turned around and walked out of the bank, Erb said. "Needless to say, she didn't come back," the officer added. "She was gone when we got there."

But Michael Snyder, a Spectraguard security officer, had spotted Orris and was following her. Orris ducked into an alleyway and threw a pad of personal checks to the ground, Snyder told police. When Erb, a Downtown Investment District officer, wheeled up on his bicycle, Snyder and two other men had wrestled the struggling Orris to the ground in the 100 block of East Chestnut Street. Police later recovered the empty check box and all but 120 of the checks, Erb said. Orris also was found to be carrying a homemade crack cocaine pipe, according to police. Investigators believe the checks were delivered Thursday morning to Jacobsen's Arch Street home but would not fit through the mail slot. Orris is believed to have seen the mail carrier leave the checks outside.

Orris was charged with forgery and placed in Lancaster County Prison in lieu of \$10,000 bail, police said. News of the unusual case quickly made the rounds of the police station, the county courthouse and the local media. "It's amazing. What are the odds?" Erb marveled. "The teller normally roves between different branches, and she just happens to be working at this branch for this week only, and Orris just happens to come into this branch and just happens to go to her window. 'How can you top that?'"

David Van Slyke is the owner, writer, webmaster and sole employee of The Known Universe websites. His Dumb Crooks, Dopey Net and Jerk Net websites are among the most popular humor sites on the net, so much so that Dave is frequently heard, as "The Warden" of the "Dumb Crooks" website on radio stations all over North America, from New York City to Vancouver, B.C. David can be contacted through the PICA Investigative Reporter Editor or through his web site at: www.dumbcrooks.com

David has graciously given permission to reprint his article and we look forward to more of his writing and perhaps an interview in the near future. - Editor

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