

**The Official Publication of the
San Francisco Bay Area
Chapter of the Corvair Society
of America --- Chapter 947**

Dedicated to the enjoyment, history and preservation of the **Chevrolet Corvair** produced from 1960 through 1969. This unique, rear-engined, air-cooled automobile grabs as much attention today as it did 60 years ago!



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<https://www.SFBACorsa.org>

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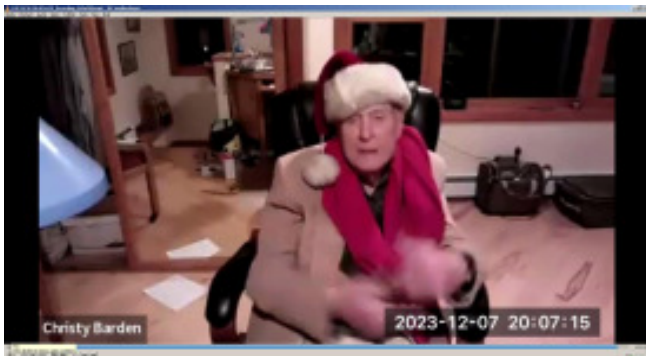
**2023 Holiday Luncheon
at Blackhawk Plaza**

**Next SFBA Zoom Meeting Thursday, Jan 4th
@7:00PM (#243 888 8339)**

Letter From the Editor

I hope you were able to attend our last meeting. By my count we had 13 SFBA members and no guests. Well, we did have Peter Tachis, he is a new SFBA member. Peter is looking to buy his first Corvair. He is looking for a late model 4 speed and was interested in getting advise on what to look for and what to look out for and, of course, how much he should have to pay. Hopefully he didn't receive too much!

This evening Christy was certainly in the Holiday spirit as you can see below! He says "Ho Ho Ho, Happy Holidays and Happy New Years to all!"



Our Annual Holiday Dinner (or Luncheon this year) was a great success! We had 18 people for the luncheon and the restaurant was very accommodating. Our food was brought out at about the same time for all and there was cake for dessert. We even got separate checks this year which was a great help. I am afraid I forgot to tell people there was plenty of cake and they could have second or third helpings and take home some if they wanted. By the time I thought about it it was too late and there was hardly anyone that hadn't left for the tour (well at least I had plenty of left over cake!). Following the luncheon, we meandered over to the Blackhawk Museum for the 2:00 tour. In front of the museum there were 5 beautiful

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<https://facebook.com/CORSA-San-Francisco-Bay-Area-Chapter-579950135376455/>

Merchandise <https://www.etsy.com/listing/1163514879/san-francisco-bay-area-corvair-club>

Corvairs for all attendees to see. What a sight! The final count for the tour was 20 people (the minimum was 10 for the club rate). Great turn out! It was a wonderful time and thanks to all that came! I

(see *Letter*. on page 9)

On The Cover: . Our 2023 Holiday Dinner was held at The Grill At Blackhawk. Following the dinner (or actually luncheon) we have a scheduled tour of the Blackhawk Museum. And we have been invited to park our Corvairs in the round area just in front of the Museum entrance. What a great event! Joe Balderrama provided this picture.

The Spyder Web is published twelve times a year by SFBA Corsa, Chapter 947 of the Corvair Society Of America (CORSA). The group meets monthly on the first Thursday at 7:00 PM at Black Bear Diner on Sycamore Valley Rd in Danville except for special occasions. Membership costs \$25/yr (membership in CORSA, \$38/yr, is encouraged). An associate membership (newsletter only) is available for \$15/yr. Memberships begin on January 1 of each year (first year is prorated).

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Minutes of the Last Meeting

Dec 7, 2023

Josh got the regular meeting started around 7:00 PM following a short Board meeting. When the room was opened, Josh, Harry, Ray and I were quickly joined by Herb, Carl, Seth, Don, Chris, Christy, Lane, Jeffrey, Paul, and newer member Peter Tachis. I hope I included everyone.

Treasury Report: The bank balance as reported in the last newsletter is \$4,538.54. Herb mentioned that the Club's finances have been holding steady lately. We use to be flirting with the \$3000 minimum B-of-A required. Our income now pretty much covers our expenses (newsletters and events) since the dues were raised from \$20/yr to \$25/yr. Clark said our current balance was primarily due to two gifts the Club has received. One was from Harry Exline in Danville who left us 3643.68 after taxes and the other from Lu Goni's car that was left to the Club which was sold for \$1000. Prior to these donations the balance was well under \$1000. Truly we have our members to thank for the state we are in!

Membership: Josh did not report any new members this month although a few have expressed interest.

Old Business: Nothing mentioned.

New Business: This year's Holiday Dinner (or Luncheon) is set for The Grill At Blackhawk. Clark made reservations for us at 11:30 AM. And there will be cake! Joe has made the Blackhawk Museum reservations for us at 2:00 PM and we are able to park our Corvairs right in front of the Museum. The car club group rate is \$10/each. The latest count is 18 for

lunch, 20 for the tour, and 5 Corvairs. This should be a great day!

Events: Herb mentioned that since he has been an SFBA member (over 40 years) there have been more Club events in the last two years than he can remember. He credits Zoom for bringing more Club members together (witness by Christy from Grass Valley, Herb from Winters, and Carl from Australia!). Josh agreed having more people attending the meetings, even if they are far away, gives us more incentive to enjoy our Corvairs.

Tech: Herb said before he retired, he use to drive his '64 Convertible to work in Richmond. Then one day he had to work in San Ramon and he didn't have a covered parking space and it was raining heavily. When he went to leave there was an inch of water on the carpets! Made for a sloshy drive. When he finally got home he took the carpets out and drained the water through holes in the floorboards. That's the last time he has driven his Corvair in the rain. Nowadays it is becoming very rare to see a Corvair on the highway just being driven. Harry said when he drove his convertible to Antioch (when we met at the Riverview restaurant) it was a rainy day and when turned the wipers off as the weather cleared, they kept going, slowly) for a couple of minutes. Seth said that the wipers continue as long as there is a ground (that's how they "park"). So maybe the wet wires provided so sort of grounding path. Herb said on his '36 Chevy it has vacuum powered wipers. When you go uphill they almost stop, but go like crazy on downhills!

Peter Tachis, a new member, joined us this evening. Peter does not have a Corvair but is looking for a late model, 4 sp, coupe that he can drive around. He wanted tips on what to look for and where to shop. Boy did he come to the right place! Seth mentioned that the Corvair Basics book (this is free with new CORSA memberships) has a chapter on how to buy a used Corvair. What to look for and what to look out for. Jeffrey said that before he bought his "project" car he looked at several Corvairs and the book was very helpful. He rejected 3 possibilities by following the advice in the book. His current project car was in the process of being restored but the owner had to quit. The body was in great shape but there was no interior and the engine and suspension had not been touched. These were things he felt he could do. He suggested going to look at a few Corvairs, without intending to purchase, just to see how to apply the check list. Seth suggested that he look for a car that needs the work that he can do. Don said to come to the Luncheon, and you will see a number of nice Corvairs. But Peter will be out of town in Denver. Josh said to check into Steve Goodman (Rear Engine Specialists – Golden, CO). He can provide lots of helpful information and he is nice to deal with. Carl said in his opinion you should "buy the best you can afford". This will be cheaper in the long run. Others said to get a car that looks good and doesn't need major body work (paint is very expensive these days) even if it doesn't run as all this you can do yourself. Peter said he saw a '65 Turbo on Craig's list) in Napa

(See *Minutes..* on page 8)

Coming Events in 2024...

Jan 4th, 2024	Regular SFBA meeting at 7:00PM via Zoom, ID = "243 888 8339"
Feb 1st	Regular SFBA meeting at 7:00PM via Zoom, ID = "243 888 8339"
Mar 7th	Regular SFBA meeting at 7:00PM via Zoom, ID = "243 888 8339"
June 22-25th	National Corvair Convention, Dayton, OH
Oct 25-27th	Great Western Fan Belt Toss & Swap Meet, Palm Springs, CA

SFBA CORSA Meeting Schedule 2024

Thursday Jan 54 7:00 PM **SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"**

Thursday Feb 1, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday Mar 7, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday Apr 4, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday May 2, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday Jun 6, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday Jul 4, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday Aug 1, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday Sep 5, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday Oct 3, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday Nov 7, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday Dec 5, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Holiday Luncheon / Museum Tour

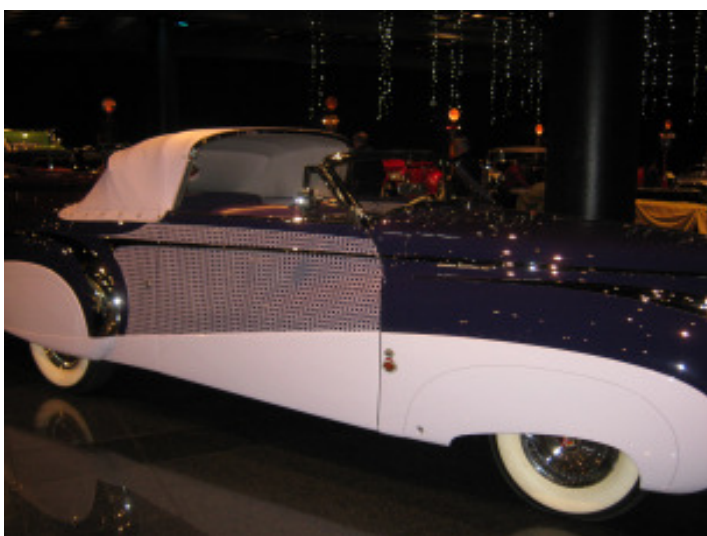
Here are a couple of pictures of our group at the Luncheon we had at The Grill At Blackhawk. And one of the cake we had for dessert. A delicious Costco white, cream filled flat cake. My wife, Carol, took the picture on the right, that's why I am in it!



Now on to the Blackhawk Museum. Look at all the wonderful Corvairs parked out front and it's a gorgeous day. There were three late models and 2 early model Corvairs and all but one were convertibles.



Now on to the car display. Here the Docent is explaining how the cars are maintained and the process of displaying them.



As we progress into the Natural History section of the museum, the first exhibit is “Into China” which features a model of the Forbidden City.





Besides the China display, there are the Spirit of the Old West, World of Nature, Art of Africa, and Pat's Compacts. I am afraid a lot of my pictures didn't come out so there are only a couple here.



Minutes...

for \$4k. Josh said he has seen this but doubts it's real. He thinks he knows every Corvair in Napa and this price isn't right. Peter wondered if \$5k or \$6k was reasonable for a Corvair that needed "a little work". Don said it depends on what a "little work" means. For that price it probably won't have nice paint. Carl said from what he has seen classic cars either have been restored or need a lot of work. It's rare to find anything in between. And since these are old cars, they all will need work to keep drivable. Peter asked where he should be looking. Herb mentioned Hemmings, Don said he used eBay Motors and Paul said to check the Club's newsletter. Lane said to check into Corvair Marketplace, they had a nice-looking late model for \$13k. Josh said to send in his requirements to Clark and he can put that in the newsletter. Peter asked if any one year was better than the others. Seth said he preferred '65s because the transmissions shifted easier. In '66 and later Chevy used stronger transmissions (preferred by racers) but were harder to shift. Also '67 and later had more safety features like dual master cylinders, and collapsible steering wheel but the seats were not as comfortable. Seth stressed

that for pre '67s you should add a dual master cylinder. Not a difficult procedure and nwell worth it! Peter also asked about decoding the VIN numbers. Seth said there are a couple of sites online that can do both the body tags and the VIN numbers. Peter asked if Mike's Corvair was a good source. Seth said he deals mainly in parts, not cars. Josh said he was a good source for parts. Maybe not as quick as Clark's but a bit cheaper. Jeffrey said Mel always had lots of Corvairs around his shop and is a great source of Corvair knowledge. Peter asked if there were any Corvair junkyards? Seth said "Yes, but not around here". There is Corvair Ranch in PA for instance. Josh said that Steve Morton, in Nampa, ID had lots of Corvair stuff (body panels, glass, etc.). He runs Morton Classic Garage. He comes down here periodically. A few months ago, someone in Brentwood had lots of Corvair parts and needed to get rid of them fast. Steve drove down and took the whole lot.

Seth said he received a call from Bill Borland's son. Bill was a long time SFBA member that passed away a few

years ago. We use too see Bill at our Holiday Dinners when we had them at Harry's Hofbrau in San Leandro. His son said most of the Corvairs are gone but he still had lots of parts. Most notably he has a '69 140 crate motor (still in the crate). Talk about a rare find. "Don't tell Bruce!"

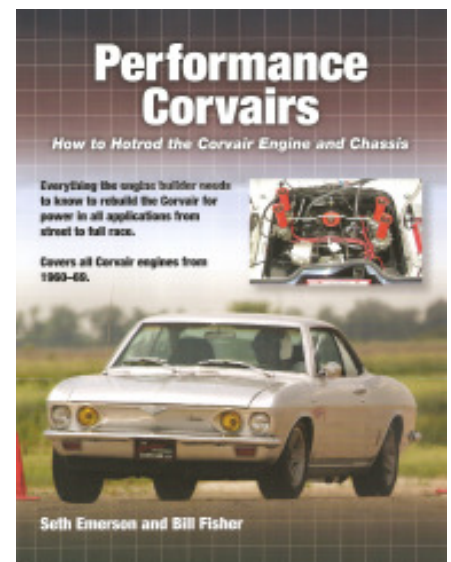
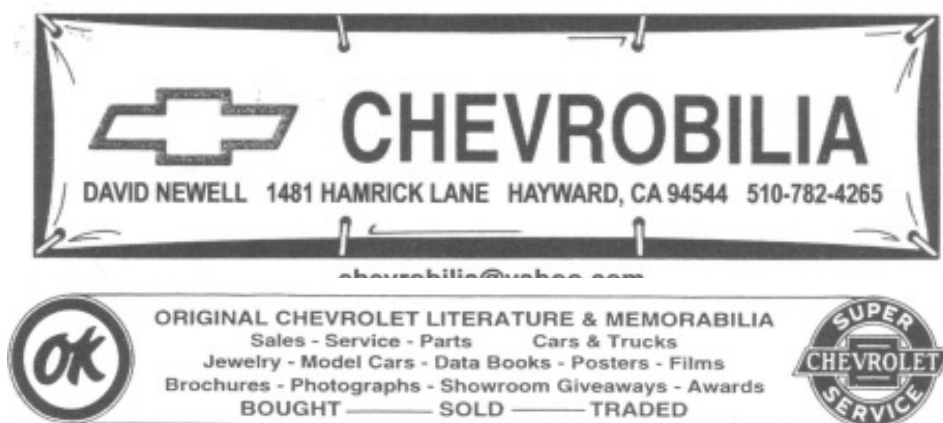
Carl said he received a phone call from another Australian Corvair owner. He has a '65 late model coupe. It is currently left-hand drive and was curious as to the work involved in converting it to right-hand drive. Seth said, "so he is a masochist too?". Don asked if Carl had started the Corvair engine yet. No, but he has all of the fluids on order, and he hopes to have it started by the next meeting. He feels that he has done everything possible and it is ready. He is hoping for no leaks at all.

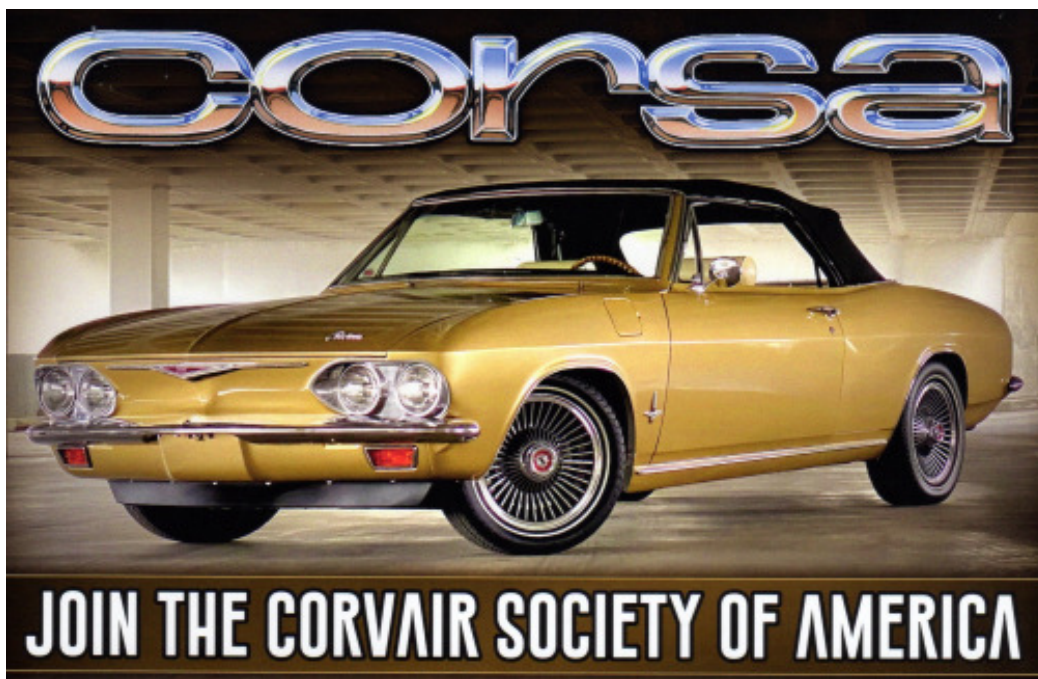
Swap & Sell: Nothing specifically mentioned.

Meeting adjourned about 8:09 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Clark Calkins, secretary





Letter...

especially want to thank Joe Balderrama for arranging the museum event! That took a big weight off my shoulders.

In the days following the Holiday Luncheon/Tour I received an email from Buck. *"Clark, thanks once again for setting up the Holiday Party! Huge success! Having the tour at Blackhawk was amazing, I thought they only had cars, wow the rest was almost better than the cars. Since we have less than two years until the 2025 convention, lets bring up our participation if any in helping out. I have access to a trailer with about 250 cones that could be used for the autox. Lets see if we can develop some support from SF chapter, thanks again!"*

Josh also said how much he, Jess, and Hank enjoyed the day. "We should do it again next year!" You won't get much disagreement.

I put together the pictures I received from Joe and Josh along with what my wife took See pages 5 - 7.

I received the following email from Hal Rupert of Silicon Valley Corvair. *"Clark: A friend of mine up in Portland sent me this request, and I told him his best chance of finding this license plate frame is from folks in the SFBA club. Would you mind forwarding this to the appropriate club members? It's a long shot, but we might get lucky...Thanks"* The note he was referring to reads *"Well, a friend is on the last few tasks of a nice '65 coupe restoration (blue on blue) and is looking for the correct license plate frame from the selling dealer, Campbell Bishop Chevy, long since out of business. I wonder if someone local to your Bay area might have one cluttering up their shelves and would be open to selling it to my friend? Would you be willing to ask around in your neck of the woods? It would mean a lot to him. Simon Willis is a transplanted Aussie. Thanks. Bob"*.

I forward this to Josh who sent the following reply which was forwarded to Hal. "Hi Clark, I did a quick internet search with no luck. There are two options. This guys business is nothing but California license plates and frames.

He's up in Fairfield. "<https://www.californiaoldlicenseplates.com/>". Another option if he can't track it down is to get a custom reproduction. I did this with my blue Corvair. The original dealer for that car was St Laurent Chevrolet in Sonoma. A very hard frame to find (I've been looking for 10 years). Up close, you can tell it's a reproduction, but from 5 feet, you can't tell the difference. These guys custom make them for about \$50 "<https://greasepitgraphics.com/>". Hope this helps!"

Our next Zoom meeting will be Thursday, Jan 4 starting at 7:00 PM. Remember our permanent meeting ID# is 243 888 8339. A reminder email will be sent and hopefully it will contain a link to the meeting making it easy to join. No guarantees.

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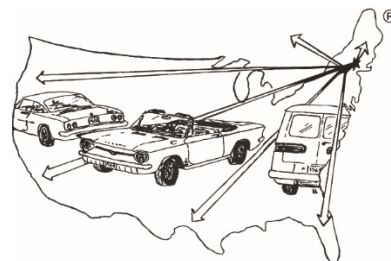
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Classifieds..

Skip Polacchi has the following parts for sale. Best to call evenings (530)474-4227.

1 Pair Late 110 rebuilt heads - \$250

1 Pair Big Valve Heads, Bill Thomas.all new parts, angle port exhaust, rotated manifold, w/mod carbs, linkage - \$1700 firm

1 New complete Clark's Ultimate 140 carb kit, linkage & air filter - \$700

1 All New Parts for an early 102 hp NOS crank, cam, 0.030 pistons & barrels+heads etc. You assemble - \$700

We still have other misc items

CORVAIR MECHANICS

David Gray: Fairfield - Retired GM/Corvair Mechanic. Can do minor repairs, engine rebuilds, tune-ups. Located in Fairfield but can travel. Also has parts for sale. (916)531-0905 (corvaiguru@gmail.com)

FREE CORVAIR PARTS

Cleaning Out The Shop: '60-61 Turbo/ 4 Speed engine case and heads. T1226YR, no tin, exhaust, turbo, etc. '63-64 engine long block THO3Z, with

distributor, auto bell housing, some tin, no exhaust. Might be good for restoration. All likely need rebuild. Engines in Carmel Valley, you pick up. Buck Jones (831)917-5952. (06/22)

Corvair Classifieds

CORVAIRS FOR SALE

'64 Rampside. Josh saw this Rampside in person at Goodguys. He looked it over and could find no flaws.



Beautiful restoration inside and out.(Hayward) \$22K obo (510) 823-6540 (05/23)

'63 Rampside, does not run, it's been sitting for few years, needs new plugs, flush gas, replace ignition points.

'60 sedan Runs & Drives, needs valve job, needs new fuel tank. \$7,500 obo for both (916) 896-4448 Sacramento (05/23)

Corvan and Lakewood Wagon, I'm going to be selling this vehicle's once I



get them to start and stop, I was hoping if anyone knows who will interested in buying as is or the repairs I'm

going to do? Alfredo Pinon, Whittier, CA. Open to offers (480)768-7280 (05/23)

'63 Convertible, Napa area. No other details given. Contact Charlie Augustine (707)252-8139 (10/23)

'61 Corvair Monza 900, primary driver has moved to Boston. "Moxy" is now for sale. Many pictures available on Craigs List. Berkeley area.



Asking \$2000. Contact Steve Lautze (510)280-4341 or steve.lautze@gmail.com (09/23)

Treasurers Report - Harry Kypreos

December 2023

Date	Activity	Check #	Credit	Debit	Balance	Status
12/01/2023	Beginning Balance				\$4,538.54	
11/26/2023	Newsletter (Dec)			(49.91)	4,488.63	(**)
12/31/2023	Ending Balance			(\$49.91)	\$4,488.63	(*)

(*) Editor's note: Do the Holidays! I am rushing this newsletter out without an official T-Report and I am guessing that no dues were received this month.

(**) Newsletter expense has not been turned in.

CORVAIR PARTS FOR SALE

The Sacramento club is selling two turn key engines.

1962/1963 102 hp engine \$1500

1962/1963 80 hp engine \$1000

interested persons should email sfbacorsa@gmail.com

see "Classifieds..." on page 10


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