



# THE CALL OF THE PEWEE

Volume 41, No. 12

[www.peweevalleyky.org](http://www.peweevalleyky.org)

December, 2009

## MY OLD CONFEDERATE HOME: A RESPECTABLE PLACE FOR CIVIL WAR VETERANS

Part One of a Three-Part Series by Author, Rusty Williams

*The Kentucky Confederate Home sheltered almost a thousand Confederate veterans in Pewee Valley from 1902 to 1934. In May, University Press of Kentucky will publish "My Old Confederate Home: A Respectable Place for Civil War Veterans", the first major history of the institution. In this first of a three-part series, author Rusty Williams tells how the Home came to be located here.*

In the spring of 1902, Pewee Valley wasn't even in the running for the Kentucky Confederate Home.

Owensboro wanted the Home. Glasgow did, too. And Bowling Green. And Frankfort. And Versailles, Nicholasville, Winchester, Bardstown and Franklin. All saw the benefits of winning the new state-funded institution: local employment and business for local merchants, visitors who would eat in local restaurants and stay in local hotels.

Earlier that year (after intense lobbying by Kentucky's ex-Confederate organizations and sympathizers) the Kentucky General Assembly had passed legislation establishing an institution to be known as the Kentucky Confederate Home. The bill required that the Confederate veterans deed to the commonwealth an appropriate residence on at least thirty acres of land, fully furnished and ready for the care and custody



of at least twenty-five persons. The state would pay for the operation of the Home, but the ex-Confederates had to build it, furnish it, staff it and manage it. Governor J. C. W. Beckham appointed a board of trustees, led by Louisville attorney Bennett H. Young, to organize the Home.

*Continued on Page 8*

# OUR TOWN

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czaring@netscape.net

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Dick Filippini 241-1237  
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## DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the City Council of Pewee Valley, Kentucky was held on December 7, 2009. In attendance were Mayor Bob Rogers, Council Members Dick Filippini, Bethany Major, Amy Johnson, Will Chambers, Dana Barrette, and Carol Akers. Also in attendance were John Singler, City Attorney and Laura Eichenberger, City Clerk.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Dana reported that approximately 85% of the property taxes have been received.

## OPEN COMMENTS

There was no response to the call for open comments.

## POLICE REPORT

Chief Mike Losik wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. His advice to all residents is when you purchase or receive large expensive items for Christmas remember not to advertise it by placing the boxes at the street for trash pick-up. Take the time to cut them up and re-cycle properly so you are able to enjoy them for years to come.

In November, the following activity occurred:

Traffic Stops – 37	Citizen Contacts – 74
Calls for Service – 4	Warning Citations – 18
Assist Other Units – 2	Accident Reports – 1
House Watches – 61	Routine Patrol Hours – 108.5
Citations Issued – 6	Hours on Detail – 2.5
Criminal Reports – 1	Signs Removed – 3
Radar Hours – 25	

## FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

No report given.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Rogers made the following announcements:

Thank you to David York for furnishing the firewood for the Yule Log Celebration.

John Falvey was introduced to be the appointed representative of Pewee Valley to the Planning and Development Commission. John served on the City Council 15 years ago and was in charge of Roads for six years. He stated he is looking forward to serving the City in this capacity and appreciates the appointment.

A motion was made to appoint John Falvey as the Pewee Valley representative to the Oldham County Planning and Development Commission, seconded with all Council Members voting in favor.

## COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

**Dick Filippini** (Tree Board): The winter tree removal contract was awarded to Green Haven for \$13,615 -- which will increase another \$500-600 for removal of a big tree on Cherry Lane.

Dick mentioned that there will not be a Tree Board meeting in December.

Dick also reported that the Emerald Ash Borer is getting closer and the City will probably lose several big ash trees on Ash Avenue and elsewhere in the City. Because of the wind damage from Hurricane Ike and the January Ice Storm damage, the trees will be stressed with the addition of the Ash Borer and we will lose several. There is very little that can be done about it. The state is working on finding a treatment to slow down the loss but, there is nothing available yet. The Tree Board has not yet determined what species the City will use to replace the ash trees.

## **Bethany Major** (Town Hall/Festivities):

*Yule Log* – The Yule Log is this Sunday, December 13th, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The businesses around Town Square will be open and the Pewee Valley Fire Department is providing chili.

*Pewee Valley Resident Vehicle Identification Stickers* – The City has reprinted stickers from long ago for residents of Pewee Valley to place in the rear driver’s side window.

*Caboose* – The painting of the caboose looks fantastic. A more durable, quality paint was used. The work was done by Cindy and Fernando Trujillo (who also helped with painting the Town Hall Bell Tower).

## **Carol Akers** (Public Safety):

*Street Light* – Carol reported that she has talked with residents on Rollington about the location of a new street light. The contract with LG&E has been signed and the light will be up soon at the new location at 131 Rollington.

*Historical Signs* – There is still no word from the state about repairing or replacing the historical sign markers damaged by the January 2009 snow and ice storm. The state had noted in July of 2009 that it would take a year before anything would happen.

Mayor Rogers stated that the City still has not received all the FEMA reimbursement funds for debris clean-up from the ice storm. The City has submitted an appeal to the state and the federal government on the reimbursement amount FEMA determined for debris removal. Pewee Valley, as well as Metro Louisville and other cities in the area, are appealing what FEMA refers to as a reasonable misfactor of \$7.65 per cubic yard for debris removal. Pewee Valley obtained bids, as did Jefferson County, and paid \$22-23 per cubic yard. The federal government now says the work should have been done for \$7.65 per cubic yard. The federal government has 90 days to respond to the appeal.

## PEWEE VALLEY CEMETERY

*Established 1871*

### Burial Sites Available

Bill Herdt 241-4194  
Bert Stoess 241-4202  
B. Murphy 241-8049

**Dana Barrette** (Finance/Water Quality): No report given.

**Amy Johnson** (Sidewalks/Communications):

*Sidewalks* – Amy reported that the sidewalk on Central Avenue North is finished up to the Brewer’s driveway, with the exception of a hand-rail that is on order and a little clean-up work. The sidewalk is providing a much safer area for pedestrians.

The South Oldham Lyons Club has repaired areas of sidewalk along Highway 146 in Pewee Valley. The Lyons Club has requested assistance from Pewee Valley in paying for the work done. The project totaled \$6,800.

Amy Johnson motioned for the City of Pewee Valley to reimburse the South Oldham Lyons Club one half of the project cost, in the amount of \$3,400. The motion was seconded by Carol Akers and all council members voted in favor. Amy expressed thanks to the Lyons Club for doing this work.

*The Park* – Three bids have been received for The Park’s landscape design. The bids will be reviewed and the project should be awarded by the end of this week.

*Communications* – The City Clerk, Laura Eichenberger, is working with Suzanne Schimpler and Jeff Money on getting the Oral History Project ready for uploading to the website.

The monthly financial Profit and Loss statement, provided by the City Treasurer, will be available on the website’s main page this week.

A portion of the Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Auditor’s report will also be posted to the website. A copy of the entire 35-page report is available for \$8.75 through the City Clerk’s office.

**Will Chambers** (Waste Management/Mowing): Will reminded everyone that the recycle items do not have to be separated. ID separates the items at their facility. He also noted that the contract for garbage pick-up and recycling services is up for renewal in July 2010.

**Bob Rogers** (Police/Roads): The bids for asphaltting Cherry Lane were received and the job was awarded to Flynn Brothers. Weather permitting, they will start as soon as possible to reconstruct a large portion of Cherry Lane.

## NEW BUSINESS

*Lease for Caboose* -- Bethany Major reported that the Council’s approval is needed for leasing the caboose to Cindy and Fernando Trujillo for their event planning and design studio. As part of the agreement, the Trujillos will move the stairs (which are partially on the CSX easement), do some landscaping, redo the inside, and pay the City a monthly rental fee of \$100. The Trujillos will be responsible for utility expenses over and above what the City currently pays for lighting the sign. John Singler noted that he has provided a lease that best protects the City. The lease term is for one year with automatic renewal each year unless each party gives a 30 day written notice of cancellation. In terms of the condition of the premises, the lease makes clear



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that it is a historic structure and it is “as is.” All the improvements made to the interior and exterior are to be left when the lease is terminated and the City must approve any plans for changes to the premises. The lease also requires the occupant to maintain a public liability policy of not less than \$1 million and to provide a certificate of insurance to the City.

Council member Bethany Major motioned for the City of Pewee Valley to enter into the lease for use of the Caboose by Cindy and Fernando Trujillo. The motion was seconded with all Council Members voting in favor.

*Letter from Jim Brewer; Tree Board, Regarding Sidewalk Construction* – Dick Filippini relayed the Tree Board’s concern for the trees that are being damaged by the construction of the sidewalks. The feeder roots for those trees only go down about 18 inches and when they are cut, the trees are stressed. It may be three to five years after the damage is done; but, they will die. The Tree Board asks if there is a way to go around or over the trees and their root systems when constructing the sidewalks.

The City Engineer, Mel Milburn responded that he has read the letter and what it says is true. Pewee Valley is a beautiful city and its trees are a large part of its history. Unfortunately, the City is restricted by design, and criteria that is acceptable to the ADA and the State of Kentucky for construction and general construction practices. One major restriction is the width of pavement which leaves only three feet of play from side to side. We can’t always get three feet away from the trees – there are also vertical conditions we can’t control, as in the case of the tree that was lost and the major damage to the other. Mel explained that he has made, and will make, every effort to get around the trees without damaging them; but, within the limitations we can’t always stay away from them. The question of designing the sidewalks in such a way to guesstimate how many trees would be effected by the construction. Mel responded that this type of design requires a complete topographical survey and increases the engineering costs dramatically. The cost also triples to raise the sidewalk up where it is possible.

Mayor Rogers suggests that Greg Rose, who is familiar with construction and tree care, walk with Mel through the areas where sidewalks are planned. This will have to be done on the next section since the plans for the current section have been in place for two years. The sidewalk budget for the current fiscal year (2009/2010) is already depleted. There is money in reserve and the City can continue on with the sidewalks (pending the Council’s approval of using reserve funds).

*Christmas Items Collection* -- Mayor Rogers was directed to the South Oldham Interchurch Collection organization that is distributing food baskets in Oldham County. Bobbie Stoess is the contact (241-1088). It was mentioned that the Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church and St. Aloysius are also collecting items for families in need this holiday season.

*Houston Lane Crossing* – Dick Filippini asked for the total cost to the City for the lawsuit over the Houston Lane Crossing. Mayor Rogers responded that the City does not have all the numbers yet (but estimates it at \$10,000). There will need to be a budget amendment to the Administrative budget to cover those expenses.

*Oldham County School Board* -- Dick Filippini noted that several weeks ago, in the Oldham Era, there was a notation under property transfers of the Oldham County School Board purchasing 94 or so acres of property for \$2.6 million (at \$27,500 per unimproved acre) for future growth. Dick noted that there seemed to be nothing reported in the Oldham Era about the School Board purchasing the property

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other than the small notation under property transfers. He further stated that School Board receives a large amount of taxes and is the largest single entity in this county and there is no financial accountability there. Dick asked that the Oldham Era representative present at this Council Meeting, please relay to the Era editor the question, "what are you doing to keep track of the School Board in Oldham County?" It was noted that all the property transfers by the School Board take place in closed session and are not public until the information comes out in the minutes.

It was also stated that the School Board terminated employment of 50 teachers, only hired 11 or so back, the teachers haven't had a raise, yet the Board Superintendent received a raise. Also, noted was the recent article implying that the School Board budgets are too tight and may have to ask for more money.

It was further stated that there is a personal responsibility of Oldham County citizens to attend the School Board meetings and to speak up on these issues. It is the Oldham County residents' tax dollars that are being spent. Further, the only resident who spoke up at the last School Board meeting was Pewee Valley resident, George Farmer.

*Leaf Burning* – Amy Johnson called attention to the recent article in The Oldham Era regarding leaf burning complaints by various residents in the nursing home, those with respiratory illnesses, and others. She stated that she had to shut her windows every weekend last month because there was so much

smoke in the air. Amy stated that she thinks this is something the City needs to deal with--looking into getting some kind of services, alternative leaf removal/disposal, so that people are not exposed to all the irritants in the smoke. This is especially dangerous for kids and adults with asthma, lung disease and chronic respiratory issues. John Singler noted that the City of Lyndon (which is twice as big as Pewee Valley) uses a leaf disposal service and will get a pricing for Pewee Valley. Lyndon established a two week period broken down into sections for the curb side removal of residential leaves.

Will Chambers stated that while residents should respect each other as far as the smoke, that one of the biggest draws to Oldham County and Pewee Valley is that residents can indeed burn if they choose. He further noted that the City should educate residents on proper procedures for leaf burning and alternative options.

Mayor Rogers stated that the City will take a look at the issue and discuss it further at the next meeting.

*Speed Hump in Town Hall* – Dick Filippini asked if the speed humps currently in Town Hall will be installed before it is time to remove them for snow removal. Mel Milburn responded that there is a contractor in town who was supposed to give an estimate recently. He is working on getting a price for installation.

Upon approval of payment of outstanding bills, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn.

## PEWEE PROPERTY TRANSFERS

- Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. to David Birgmann, 148 Rosswoods Drive, \$210,000.

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## THE CALL OF THE PEWEE

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## Oldham County Physical Therapy

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Friends -

I have just learned there is once again an effort under way to eliminate the utility pole and convert the Central Avenue and Highway 146 intersection to a conventional "T" intersection.

Making this change will create a situation where, during evening rush hour (and on Sundays, when St. Al's is having services), it will almost be impossible to make a SAFE left turn from Central to go east on 146 without having to wait an extraordinarily long time for traffic on 146 to clear. Under the current configuration, after a reasonable wait, you can SAFELY turn left onto 146 at the same time an east-bound car on 146 can turn left on to Central - two left turns occurring SAFELY at the same time. If the configuration is changed, I fear that the frustration of having a long wait will cause Central drivers to become too aggressive in trying to get onto 146 and thereby create a MORE DANGEROUS intersection.

If you don't do it regularly, I suggest you try to make several left turns from Central during evening rush hour and try to picture in your mind what it would be like if the intersection is reconfigured as proposed. Then, try to envision how much worse it is going to be when the number of left turns from 146 increases substantially because left turns are no longer going to be allowed from 146 to Houston Lane. The situation at Central is going to be awful! There is no doubt the current proposal will make it even worse.

It has been said this is a dangerous intersection. I know there have been accidents there, but that is true at every intersection along LaGrange Road. The question is whether it is more dangerous than other intersections with the same volume of traffic. I have not seen nor heard of any data to support this. But more importantly, will the intersection be more dangerous after the change is made? I think it will be.

When Jim Kincer was Mayor this issue was reviewed and discussed and it was decided to take no action. Wise decision, in my opinion. When Clayton Stoess was mayor, the issue was again reviewed and discussed, but he got the change approved. Bad decision, in my opinion, but fortunately the change never came to fruition.

There are ways to improve this intersection without making it a conventional "T". I welcome your call if you have any questions - 241-0303.

Ted Merhoff

6901 West Highway 146

## THE ULTIMATE DATE NIGHT

The Marriage Education and Resource Center (MERCY) and Crestwood Baptist Church will be hosting "The Ultimate Date Night," on January 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Crestwood Baptist Church, 6400 Sweetbay Drive, Crestwood, KY. Jay and Laura Laffoon, a dynamic and inspirational duo, who encourage couples all over the United States to celebrate their marriages, will be delivering a night of music, comedy and laughter with nuggets of marriage wisdom sprinkled throughout. Cost: \$10 per person/\$32 for package of four in advance; \$12 at the door. To register or to see a clip of the event go to: [www.crestwoodbaptist.org](http://www.crestwoodbaptist.org), or call 939-0121 for more information.



*Marsha Chadwick of Pewee Valley is the proud grandmother of Tyler John Chadwick, born 11/16/09 in Chicago, IL. Tyler is the son of Jim and Kristi Chadwick. Mom and baby are doing very well.*

## My Old Confederate Home

*Continued from Page 1*

In May 1902, as newspaper editors across the state reminded their local merchants (and real estate promoters) that the Home would “serve as a constant source of revenue to the inhabitants of the lucky town”, the new board placed ads calling for site proposals.

Pewee Valley declined to bid.

Sometime shortly before the final deadline for bids, Louisville businessman A. M. Sea met informally with Bennett Young to discuss a property available in Pewee Valley. Sea was acquainted with Angus Neil Gordon, owner of the Villa Ridge Inn, a bankrupt luxury resort hotel sitting on thirty-three acres near the Pewee Valley depot. Built years before, the old hotel was a white elephant and Gordon was a motivated seller. Young suggested that Sea have Gordon prepare an offer.

Bennett Young may have confided to Sea and Gordon something the other bidders didn't know: the ex-Confederates were woefully short of money. Nine months before, Kentucky's ex-Confederates had set out to raise \$25,000 to finance the Home. As seed money, real estate magnate Daniel G. Parr had donated to the ex-Confederates the deed to a piece of residential property in Louisville. By the end of July 1902, as the board of trustees gathered to review more than 40 proposals, they had only about \$10,000 in donations, plus the Parr house (which had a market value closer to \$4,500 than to its \$7,000 assessed value.)

Several board members who had been appointed to prescreen all the proposals recommended the full board examine properties in Owensboro, Frankfort, Bardstown, Harrodsburg and Hawesville. The old hotel in Pewee Valley might be of interest, too.

On Thursday, September 4, the board set out at 6 a.m. on a marathon one-day trip to visit all the properties. Exhausted by a day of train trav-



*Photo by Pewee Valley resident Suzette Yetman*

el, they returned after dark to the Galt House for a late dinner and deliberations. The board agreed to take multiple ballots, with the site drawing the fewest votes to be eliminated before the next ballot.

Hawesville was eliminated first. A thirty-acre plot with house and outbuildings was offered for just \$5,000 (and the town would pay \$3,000 of that). But the land was swampy and the water supply uncertain.

Owensboro was a sentimental favorite. The offer was for a hundred level acres of tillable land, a large house and outbuildings, all on high ground with a rail line running along the property line. But at \$18,000, the cost was greater than the board's purse would allow. Owensboro was cut next.

Bardstown boosters offered two tracts of sufficient acreage. Each tract was offered at \$6,000, but a citizens committee raised \$4,300 to put toward the purchase price of either one. The price was right, but building and furnishing a suitable home might take a year or more. Bardstown lost on the next ballot.

Frankfort's bid was for eighty acres and the old Hendrix place, once a landmark home, was now a creaking ghost's mansion overlooking the Kentucky River. The \$15,000 price tag, coupled

with the cost of renovating the old house, took Frankfort out of the running.

The final ballot came down to a choice between Pewee Valley and Harrodsburg.

The Cassell property in Harrodsburg included another landmark home. The property, home and outbuildings had a price tag of \$10,500, but the merchants of Harrodsburg pledged \$3,000 for furnishings and improvements. Rail connections to Harrodsburg were spotty, but the town was close to the geographic center of Kentucky and almost equidistant from Lexington, Frankfort and Louisville.

In Pewee Valley, the Villa Ridge Inn was in good repair and fully furnished. The old hotel had seventy-two guest rooms, a dining hall and kitchen, running water, steam heat and gas lighting. Gordon wanted \$8,000 in cash and Parr's Louisville property.

The price was right; the trustees could divest themselves of the Parr property, pay Gordon and

still hold about \$2,000 cash in hand. Pewee Valley was only thirty minutes by train from the busy Louisville railway hub, so it was accessible to visitors. Villa Ridge Inn could house up to a hundred residents in a building meant for institutional use, and it was ready for immediate occupancy with just a bit of sprucing up.

The final ballot tallied six for Harrodsburg and nine for Pewee Valley.

Before retiring for the night after their twenty-hour day of travel and deliberation, board members called in a waiting reporter from the Courier-Journal to announce that the Kentucky Confederate Home would open in Pewee Valley two months later.

No one anticipated the firestorm that would erupt in Pewee Valley the next day.

(Next month, author Rusty Williams will tell how residents reacted to news that Pewee Valley had "won" the Kentucky Confederate Home. Rusty's email address is KY.ConfedHome@yahoo.com.)

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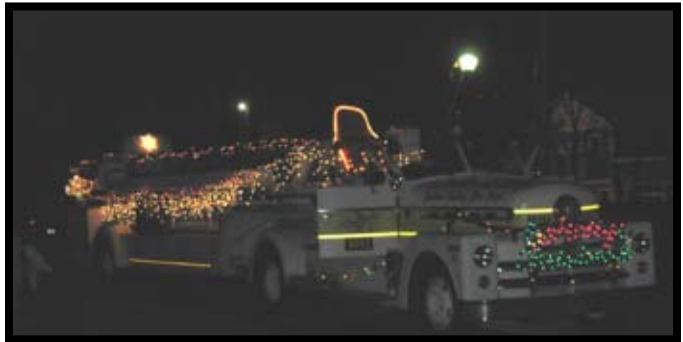
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# PEWEE VALLEY YULE LOG CELEBRATION



# PEWEE VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	ACTIVITY	FOR INFORMATION
REGISTER NOW	<b>Adult Men &amp; Coed Volleyball Leagues</b> - Play begins last week of January. Fee of \$150 per team.	O.C. Parks & Recreation 225-0655
Mon, Jan 4	7 pm - <b>Pewee Valley Town Council Meeting.</b>	Pewee Valley Town Hall 241-8343
Mon, Jan 11	10 am - 2 pm - <b>Job Fair at Oldham County Public Library</b> - Job Seekers wishing to attend should bring a copy of their resume and dress appropriately for an interview. Staff will be on hand to assist with job search and resume writing skills.	Office of Employment & Training 595-4003 Ext 4028
Jan 14-17 Jan 22-24	<b>The Night of January 16</b> - Story centers on a murder trial. Audience serves as the jury . Thursday, Friday, Saturday performances at 8:00 pm. Sundays at 2:30 pm. Adults \$15; Seniors and Students \$12.	Little Colonel Playhouse Reservations 588-1557
Jan 17-18	7 pm - <b>Little Colonel Auditions</b> - <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> - Written by Oscar Wilde	Little Colonel Players 241-9906
Tues, Jan 26	7 pm - <b>Mayor's Night In.</b>	Pewee Valley Town Hall 241-8343
Jan 29 or 30	6:30 - 8:30 pm - <b>Father/Daughter Dance</b> - This event has become so popular, it's now offered on two nights. Live DJ and light refreshments. \$12 couple; add \$6 for each additional daughter.	O.C. Community Center 225-0655

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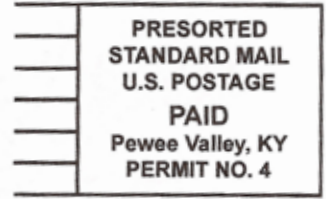


**THE CALL OF THE PEWEE**

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The Call of the Pewee is a monthly publication of the Pewee Valley City Council, Bob Rogers, Mayor, and is mailed free to all Pewee Valley residents.

To submit news or advertising, please contact **Editor Paula Kennedy** at 241-4106 or email at: [editor@peweevalleyky.org](mailto:editor@peweevalleyky.org). A yearly subscription for non-Pewee residents is \$12.00. To subscribe, send your name, address, telephone number and payment to:

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