N.C. VISITORS in Baltimore last week were (L-R) Wesley Williams and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Langston and their granddaughter, Diane, all of Murfreesboro, N.C. They attended funeral of their cousin, Linwood S. Jones, longtime Baltimore City postal employee. Both Mr. Langston and Mr. Williams are deacons at First Baptist Church in their hometown.

(AFRO Staff Photos by Benjamin Murphy Phillips IV)

Funeral services held for honored educator

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Funeral services have been held for James Earl Whitley, director of federal programs of the Guilford Schools, at the St. Matthews United Methodist Church.

He died Thursday, July 19, at the Richardson Memorial Hospital, where he was taken following a sudden illness at his home.

Mr. Whitley attended the Johnson County Training School, Smithfield, N.C. and the Agricultural and Technical State University, Greensboro, N.C., where he majored in mathematics and science.

He received a master's degree in administration from Columbia University and pursued further study at Northwestern and Duke universities.

* * *

His professional positions during the past 36 years included being principal of two schools, and director of instruction in Guilford County Schools.

Mr. Whitley's civic activities included being chairman of the board of management for the Hayes Taylor YMCA, a member of the General Greene Council Boy Scouts of America and the Respiratory Disease Association.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Melba D. Whitley; his mother, Mrs. Annie P. Whitley; two sisters, Mrs. Marie W. Nixon and Mrs. Jessie W. Thomas; and two brothers, Marshall Whitley and Percy Whitley.

The St. Matthews United Methodist Church has established a "Memorial to James Earl Whitley" in order to honor the civic leader. Persons wishing to contribute to the fund should make checks payable to The James Earl Whitley Memorial, St. Matthews United Methodist Church, 600 East Florida St., Greensboro, N.C., 27406.

COLLEGE PRESIDENTS photographed at Thursday funeral services in Baltimore for Mrs. Martin D. Jenkins (Elizabeth) wife of the president emeritus of Morgan State College. Left to right, Dr. Samuel Myers, Bowie State (Md.) and Mrs. Myers; Dr. and Mrs. King V. Cheek, Morgan State, Dr. Harold Delaney, vice president University of North Carolina, Mrs. Albert N. Whiting and Dr. Whiting, president of North Carolina Central University.

(AFRO Staff Photos by Benjamin Murphy Phillips IV)

First skilled tinworker dies in Ill. hospital

GARY — Ernest E. Fields, 82, the first black man to hold a skilled position with what is now the sheet and tin division of Gary Steel Works, died at Hines Veterans Hospital in Hinsdale, Ill.

Fields, originally of Columbus, Ohio, went to work for the former Carnegie Illinois Steel Co., in 1904 at Bellaire, Ohio.

Prior to coming to Gary in 1911 from a plant in Farrell, Pa., he worked for subsidaries of what is now United States Steel Corp. in Chester, W. Va., and Monessen, Pa.

It was while working for the American Sheet and Tin Plate Co., now a part of the Gary Works that he became the first skilled job classification awarded a black man.

He was honored in 1972 by Local 1066 of the united Steelworkers by receiving an honorary lifetime membership.

During World War I, Field left the company to serve in the Army in the Philippines, Mexico and in Europe. While in the Army, he was chauffer to Gen. Mark L. Hersey.

He retired from the Gary Steelworkers in 1955.

Fields who left no survivors, was a member of Delaney Memorial United Methodist Church, Elks Lodge No. 182, and a charter member of the Calumet Post No. 99 American Legion.

Avant, oldest Howard graduate in area, dies

WASHINGTON — Dr. Frank W. Avant, Howard University's oldest graduate in the Washington area, has died at the age of 98.

Dr. Avant was born in South Port, N.C. in June 1, 1875 and received some educational training at the Howard University Prep School, Washington, D.C. and Lincoln University, Lincoln, Pa.

He attended the Leonard Schools of Pharmacy and Medicine at Shaw University, Raleigh, N.C. and received a degree in pharmacy.

To finish an internship in medicine, Dr. Avant came back to Howard University and one year later, in 1909, he went to Wilmington, to establish a medical practice. He was the first black physician to practice in North Carolina.

* * *

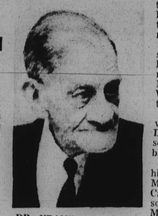
Beginning in 1911, Dr. Avant held a 30-year-position as president of the New Hanover County Medical Society.

Another one of Dr. Avant's achievements was to initiate the drive which later developed into the establishment of the Community Hospital of Wilmington.

Dr. Avant had membership in both the North Carolina State Inter-Racial Commission and the State Negro Advisory Board of Welfare and Public Charity.

A player on Howard University's first football team, Dr. Avant attended all the school's homecoming football games.

Dr. Avant is survived by his daughter, Mrs. Sara A. Moultrie; a grandson, H. Carl Moultrie II, M.D., and son-in-law Judge H. Carl Moultrie I, Superior Court, Washington, D.C.



DR. FRANK W. AVANT

At 103, husband is still chasing

STOCKTON, Calif. (UPI) — Mrs. Johnnie Lee Fegion has filed for divorce on grounds her husband "chases girls."

Mrs. Fegion, 100, said she has been separated for seven months from her husband, Solomon, 103, following 28 years of marriage.

Superior Court Judge Bill Dozier ordered Fegion to pay $7.50 a week in temporary support for the next two months.

MEMBERS of the Bailey-Cossom family are, l-r, Mrs. Kay Bailey Nichols, little Miss Kaywandra Taylor, AME Bishop D. Ward Nichols, Mrs. Sioux Nichols Taylor and Abe Taylor.

(AFRO Staff Photos by Benjamin Murphy Phillips IV)

Douglass descendants hold family reunion

By Brenda J. Wright and Mary Curtis

Over 250 descendants of Frederick Douglass gathered on the Morgan State College campus this weekend to renew memories and pay homage to the historic U.S. statesman and diplomat.

The family members, attending their biennial family reunion, were hosted by the Baltimore residents who had prepared a three-day schedule of interest and enjoyment.

The Bailey-Casson family, as the national organization is called, was welcomed to "the home vicinity of our beginning," by Wayman Henry Jr., president of the Baltimore group.

Representatives from California, the mid-West and the East coast were present.

Among the many activities was a visit to the Frederick Douglass home in Anacostia, Md. Mrs. Sarah Jordan, formerly of Philadelphia, now a teacher in the secondary schools of Springfield, Ohio, said the visit added to the "comforting thought that there were those before you who cared enough to leave an image and identity of belonging and achievement that many blacks seek."

The relatives exchanged memories about their ancestors. Mrs. Ida Mitchell remembered Mrs. Katie Bailey Casson, a small and beautiful woman in the 1907 photograph the family still cherishes, as a midwife and "the only one who would go into a family with smallpox and nurse them."

She added that Mrs. Casson made medicine and salves and could even can pork chops as well as vegetables.

Also on the agenda was a candle-lighting and wreath-layiny ceremony Saturday, in front of Douglass' statue at Morgan.

Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, as guest speaker, welcomed the visiting relatives and praised the group for "giving of itself to the total community."

Saying that Frederick Douglass had a dream for blacks Rep. Mitchell added, "To you gathered here and to black men and women across the nation, be relentless in your pressure to secure the dream."

During the wreath-laying ceremony, a representative of Mayor Schaefer's office presented a proclamation designating Aug. 3, 4 and 5 as the "Bailey-Casson Family Reunion Weekend in Baltimore."

He also presented oldest living descendants, the Rev. Wayman Henry and Mrs. Aletha Staton, the mayor's citation for "contribution to civic welfare." John Griswold, president of the family, was named honorary citizen by order of the mayor.

The Bailey-Casson family worshipped together at the Sunday services offered at Morgan's Christian Center. The Rev. Alfred Casson presided, and the Rev. Jessie Cotton assisted.

The sermon was preached by AME Bishop D. Ward Nichols.

Mrs. Sue Bailey Nichols, wife of Bishop Nichols who heads the South Carolina District, is a member of the distinguished family and was born in Denton, Md., where the Douglass family still has land.

The Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Howard Cornish were among the many guests at the Sunday service. The Rev. Mr. Cornish is the director of Morgan's Christian Center.

The Bailey-Casson family picture was taken Sunday afternoon, and the family dinner was held.

During the business session, the Douglass family tree was updated and achievements and accomplishments were listed in the records.

Mrs. Brown buried in Westminster

Funeral services were held Thursday for Mrs. Donnie I. Brown, 60, 1730 Pressman Street, at a North Ave. funeral home. Burial followed in Gardens of Eternal Hope, Westminister, Md.

Mrs. Brown died at home Sunday of a prolonged illness. The native of Wilmington, N.C. worked for 10 years at a downtown sewing factory. She was an active worker in her church, Mt. Moriah Baptist.

She is survived by her husband, James E. Brown; three daughters, Mrs. Lorraine Frazier of Wilmington, N.C., Mrs. Eleanora Jackson and Mrs. Inez Glenn of Baltimore; four sons, James Richardson of N.J., Cyrus, Thurman and Harold Brown of Baltimore and 19 grandchildren.

Mrs. Sallie E. Cephas buried

Funeral services for Mrs. Sallie E. Cephas of 2224 Seminary Ave., Richmond, were conducted Monday from Fifth Street Baptist Church.

Mrs. Cephas, who was the wife of the late Floyd Cephas, a circulation manager for the Richmond AFRO-AMERICAN, died Aug. 2.

Survivors include one son, John Floyd Cephas; five brothers, Rev. James Epps, Joe Epps, Robert Epps, David Epps and Douglas Epps.

MRS. SALLIE CEPHAS

Fire damages Howard chapel

Fire broke out on the roof of the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel at Howard University about 11 a.m. Monday. Fourteen pieces of fire equipment were called to the scene of the historic building completed in 1891.

President James E. Cheek said that no estimate of the damage was immediately available, but considerable damage was done to the ceiling and roof by the fire itself, while smoke and water damages were much more extensive inside.

REV. OGLE

St. James' Episcopal Church
LAFAYETTE SQUARE
The Rev. Father Donald O. Wilson, Rector
The Rev. Crayton Dudley, Assistant Priest
A. Maurice Murphy, Choir Master-Organist
SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 1973
8:00 A.M.—Sung Eucharist
10:00 A.M.—Sung Eucharist and Sermon
10:00 A.M.—Thursday, Holy Eucharist

FOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH
"The Friendly Church"
1215 E. Monument St. near Gay St.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 1973
9:30 A.M.—Church School
11:00 A.M.—Worship Service
Rev. Nathan Fulton, Associate Minister
4:00 P.M.—Holy Communion
BUS EXCURSION AUGUST 28 and 29
To Pittsburgh, Pa. for
LOTT CAREY CONVENTION
One Day Roundtrip—$12.00
Overnight: Hotel Included—$24.00
Bus Leaves Church Wed., Aug. 28th—5:00 a.m.
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US
REV. CHARLES M. FRANKLIN, D.D. Minister
MRS. OLIVIA BROWN, Church Clerk

Douglas Memorial Community Church
"The People of the Way"
LAFAYETTE and MADISON AVES.
MARION CURTIS BASCOM, D.D. Minister
RAYMOND KELLY, JR. M. Div., Interim Assistant
JAMES S. HAMMOND Minister of Music
SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 1973
THEME
The Final In A Series "The Sermon That Could Change The World."
Dr. Marion Bascom, Preaching
MUSIC
8:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.
"THE LORD IS MY LIGHT" by ALLITSEN
"O LORD MOST HOLY" by FRANCK
"ROLL JORDAN ROLL" by DETT

ENON BAPTIST CHURCH
EDMONDSON AVE. AND SCHROEDER ST.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 1973
8:30 A.M.—Early Morning Prayer Service
9:30 A.M.—SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 A.M.—MORNING WORSHIP
The Rev. Dr Arthur J. Payne, Pastor

PENNSYLVANIA AVE. AME ZION CHURCH
"The Church of the Burning Heart"
1116-36 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 1973
9:30 A.M.—CHURCH SCHOOL
11:00 A.M.—MORNING WORSHIP
SERMON: by Rev. John H. Satterwhite of Washington, D.C.
MUSIC: by Gospel Chorus No. 1 and No. 2
A FRIENDLY WELCOME TO ALL
REV. MARSHALL H. STRICKLAND, Minister

Perkins Square Baptist Church
2500 Edmondson Avenue—Corner Warwick
SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 1973
CHURCH DAY
8:00 A.M.—EARLY MORNING WORSHIP. SERMON BY THE PASTOR
HOLY COMMUNION
9:15 A.M.—CHURCH SCHOOL
10:30 A.M.—OPEN HEART SERVICE
11:00 A.M.—MORNING WORSHIP
SERMON BY THE PASTOR.
3:00 P.M.—HOLY COMMUNION
5:30 P.M.—B.T.U.
WE WELCOME YOU
REV. RICHARD H. OGLE, Pastor

Pitcher St. Church of Christ
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664 PITCHER ST. cor. FREMONT AVE.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 1973
11:00 A.M. BIBLE SCHOOL. Classes for ALL Ages
11:15 A.M.—WORSHIP SERVICE
7:00 P.M.—EVENING WORSHIP
HUMPHREY FOUTZ, Minister
Listen to "Hearing For Eternity"
8 A.M.—Sunday WEBB 1360

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Baltimore, Maryland 21205
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SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 1973
9:15 A.M.—CHURCH SCHOOL
10:45 A.M.—WORSHIP
Sermon By
Rev. Frank J. Bell
DR. WALTER E. PAIGE, Minister

First Emmanuel Baptist Church
2209 Park Avenue — Baltimore, Md.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 1973
9:30 A.M.—Sunday School
11:00 A.M.—MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE
A HEARTY WELCOME TO ALL
REV. JAMES S. WISE, Pastor
Phone: 669-4270

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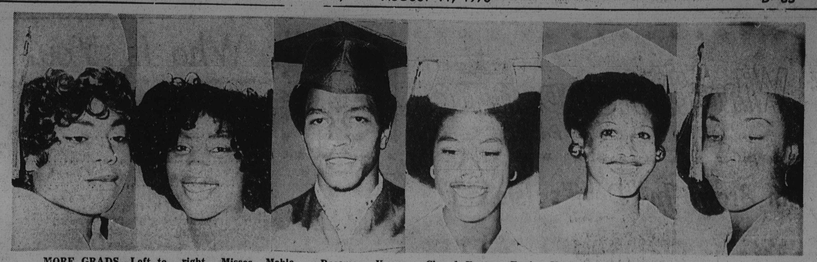
YEAR OF THE SNAKEPLANT — Two sets of snake plants in bloom are the proud possession of Mrs. Franklin Brown an her mother, Mrs. Camille Nealy of Aberdeen.



MORE GRADS—Left to right, Misses Mable Wheatley, Olivia Jones; Barry Brown; and Misses Rosemary Kearney, Cheryl Fenner, Eunice Harper, all June graduates of Forest Park High.

Car check important advises city group

Before Baltimore area families hop in their cars for August vacations, the Baltimore Better Business Bureau has some advice for preventive maintenance and car care on the road.

Don't leave home before the family car is thoroughly checked by a trusted mechanic, BBB says. Look for oil and grease levels, fluid levels of brakes, power steering, cooling system, battery and transmission. Fan Belts should be checked for tension and wear. Battery terminals should be cleaned and tightened.

Simple, but important, items are often overlooked, the Bureau advises. Check rear and head lights, turn signals, brake lights and flashers. Adjust tire pressure and inspect tires, including the spare. Does the trunk have a bumper jack and flares?

Despite the best preventive maintenance, a breakdown may still occur. If it hapens, BBB has some tips to follow. Question the need for repairs. Ask for a full explanation of what is to be done before the mechanic does it.

If possible, have the repairs done by an authorized dealer of the car. Get a fully itemized list before work is started. Be sure the final bill shows each part's number, cost and the charge for each labor function.

Specify that no work is to be done other than what is authorized. Ask for all parts that are replaced to be given back in the boxes the new items came in.

If work is done at a gas station, charge parts and labor on an oil company credit card, BBB suggest. In the event of a dispute, the oil company may be more likely to stand behind the service performed.

By following these car care tips, families will be able to enjoy their vacation without many of the worries which accompany less carefully prepared trips. BBB's free service to Baltimore area consumers is made possible through the support of its growing membership, which now tops 2,060 business firms.

AA elections board seats Haskins

History was made in Anne Arundel County August 3, 1973, when the Maryland Senate confirmed the appointment of Milton H. Haskins as a Republican member of the Board of Supervisors of Elections.

Mr. Haskins was named by Gov. Mandel to a two-year term, ending June 1, 1975, replacing Holt Marchant Sr.

Mr. Haskins is a successful businessman in the Anne Arundel County area.

Silver takes post left by Art Murphy

Michael S. Silver has been appointed Chairman of the Maryland Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice by Governor Marvin Mandel, succeeding Arthur G. Murphy Sr., who recently left the Governor's staff to pursue a private law practice in Baltimore City.

Murphy had been Chairman of the Governor's Commission since 1969 and has played an important role in developing policies and priorities for crime reduction and improvement in Maryland's criminal justice system.

Silver has been a member of Governor Mandel's staff since 1969 and is a graduate of the University of Virginia and the University of Maryland School of Law.

TOP GRADS. All top students this past June at Jane Addams General Vocational School. Left to right, Misses Ethel Johnson, 3rd., Theresa Eichelberger, 1st., and Carolyn Jackson, 2nd.

Justice dept. awards Coppin $20,000 grant

A grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration of the Department of Justice has been awarded to Coppin State College for the expansion of its graduate program in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement.

Dr. Leroy Fitzgerald, dean of the Graduate School and project sponsor, announced the awarding of the $20,000 stipend for the fiscal year ending June, 1974.

The proposal was entitled: "A Proposal for Strengthening an Existing Criminal Justice Program by the Addition of an Undergraduate Component and Supplementing Faculty."

SUICIDE: who, how and why

Black males in the prime of their life (25-34 years of age) are committing suicide at a faster pace than their white counterparts, city health department figures show.

This is the only age-group among blacks in Baltimore who are committing suicide faster than whites. Current figures indicate nearly 450 Marylanders will commit suicide this year and an estimated 4,000 will try but fail.

Twenty-five thousand Americans, reports show, died as a result of suicide in 1972.

Suicide is being called "a growing community health problem," especially among the young. Though the rise in the suicide rate is not alarming at the present time, the reasons behind suicide border the tragic. Here is a special report on the hows and whys of it.

Ralph Springs piled newspapers and blankets underneath his jail cell bunk.

He struck a match, ignited the paper and climbed onto the mattress — stretching his 17-year-old frame over the homemade funeral pyre.

* * *

Two days later, on his eighteenth birthday, he died. Police called it a suicide saying the young victim had been despondent ever since not being able to post $200 bail necessary for his release.

Springs had been arrested after his girl friend's father, Patrick Lynch, swore a complaint against him. Lynch said the idea of his daughter Karen going out with a "colored guy" was abhorrent to him and Springs had threatened his life with a gun when he told the youth to stay away from his daughter.

* * *

Cong. William Mills stood in a doorway of the barn where he kept his horses. It was early morning; patches of mist hung over surrounding fields. Mills stood alone with his thoughts.

A shotgun blast pierced the dawn silence, echoing against neighboring woods, and the congressman slumped to the ground.

Again the death was termed by officials as a suicide.

* * *

Most observers would say these deaths and the nearly 25,000 other suicides which occur annualy in the United States are just isolated incidents.

What connection is there, they ask, between the deaths of a black youth caught in the web of a tragic lovers' triangle and a middle aged white living the American dream which some suggest had turned into a nightmare for him?

One expert, however, disagrees.

He is Dr. John Hirsch, a specialist in suicidal behavior, who believes suicide is not only a fact of life in society, but poses a major community health problem.

* * *

The Temple University School of Community Medicine professor maintains in a Blue Cross and Blue Shield report that many suicides can be averted if communities are willing to invest in proper prevention programs.

According to Dr. Hirsch, suicide is the number two cause of death among the young and 80 per cent of these deaths could be averted if the public were better informed about suicide.

Suicide was described by the renowned French sociologist Emile Durkheim, as showing the deep crisis of modern society.

Persons suddenly confronted with great changes in their life — good or bad — were found by Durkheim to be the most susceptable to suicidal tendencies.

* * *

Statistics reveal there are at least eight unsuccessful attempts for every suicide which ends in death.

These attempts often lead to hospitalization and great expense for the victim and his family, relatives and friends.

In fact, Dr. Hirsch calculates suicides cost the United States $16 billion annually in terms of lost productivity, medical costs, welfare costs and resulting dependency.

* * *

Figures on the suicide rate in Baltimore, supplied to the AFRO by John Sweitzer, acting director of biostatistics in the city health department, show whites dying at three times the rate of nonwhites.

And the rate of suicide among males of both races is generally three times that of females.

Interestingly, the rate of suicide among city residents is not appreciably greater than that of suburban or rural residents according to state health department figures.

Generally the rate of suicide in the state follows the national pattern of 11 persons per 100,000.

* * *

Suicide victims are most likely to use a firearm to kill themselves. In Baltimore, 40 per cent use this method. The next most popular way to end one's life is by hanging or strangulation. This accounts for nearly 25 per cent of the suicide deaths in the city.

And the third most popular way is by poisoning.

Other methods include dying from motor vehicle exhaust fumes, drowning, bleeding to death from self inflicted wounds and jumping.

* * *

Dr. Hirsch states in his report that the actual number of suicides may be much greater than statistics show.

Deaths reported as accidents or homicide may be hidden suicides, he claims: citing such situations as fatal single occupant auto accidents and home accidents when no one is available to offer help.

The most alarming increase in Baltimore's suicide rate is among young adults between the ages of 15 and 24 years.

Ten years ago only 6 white and 1 nonwhite persons per 100,000 in this age bracket committed suicide. While other age groups have shown definite increases over the past decade, none made as dramatic an increase as young adults. They have nearly tripled their rate.

Youths are now committing suicide at an annual rate in Baltimore of 22 victims per 100,000 population. This rate is only slightly lower than the rate for persons above 65 years of age which is 17.7 persons per 100,000.

Experts are at a loss to explain why youths are choosing to die so young. Experts are also puzzled over the fact so many black males committ suicide in the prime of their life.

One factor which hinders the search for the solution of suicides is the fact it is a taboo subject in our culture. Doctors point out that the major cause for suicide is not mental illness as is commonly believed but simply a severe disturbance in a person's emotional balance.

Dr. Huell E. Connor, directory of Sinai Hospital's Adult Ambulatory Psychiatric Service and Baltimore's lone suicidologist, made this assessment of the suicide situation in the city.

"There are a number of services available on a telephone, or walk-in basis. But there are definitely areas of the city which are not covered.

"I would agree with those who say suicide is a much more serious community problem than is generally recognized. And that much more in the way of expanded and new services must be offered."

"Much more awareness among people to detect suicidal symptons and direct the possible victim to medical help as quickly as possible.

"Thus far, the best method of prevention is a listening ear instead of a shurg of the shoulders and an attitude of 'it could never happen this close to home.'

* * *

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NDC confab slated for Sept. 29

The New Democratic Coalition of Maryland, Inc., (NDC) made up of 7 city and county affiliate groups, will hold a convention Sept. 29, at the Hilton Hotel in Annapolis.

Along with amendments to the constitution, the conference will feature morning workshops followed by a mid-day luncheon hostin an, as yet, unnamed guest speaker.

In the afternoon, a plenary session of the Coalition will be called for the elections of officers and to conduct further business of the organization.

The constitution of the NDC requires a convention be held at least once during a calendar year.

Suicides can be prevented experts, say. What is needed is an increased

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