

SIMMONS' STABLE PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER



**2025
SUMMER
EDITION**

HALL OF FAME CEREMONY 2024

2024 HOF INDUCTEES:

~ Judith Werner
~ Walt Robertson
~ Jimmy Robertson
~ John "Buck" Field

POSTHUMOUS INDUCTEES:

~ Jim B Robertson
~ William Lee "Bill" Field
~ Lewis "Splint" Barnett
~ Frank & Garland Bradshaw
~ Sallie & Kenneth Wheeler



The 8th annual International Saddlebred Hall of Fame Ceremony was held at the historic Simmons' Stable on the hot and humid evening of June 22, 2024. The class of 2024 inductees included Judith Werner of Waterloo, Illinois; Walt Robertson of Lexington, Kentucky; and Jimmy Robertson of Stanton, Kentucky. Posthumous inductees were Jim B. Robertson of Kentucky, William Lee "Bill" Field of Utah, John H. "Buck" Field of Utah (grew up in Mexico and worked for Bill Cunningham), and Lewis "Splint" Barnett born and raised in Mexico, MO, Frank and Garland Bradshaw of Kentucky, and Sallie B. & Kenneth Wheeler of Virginia. Master of Ceremonies duties were shared by Janet Thompson of Columbia, MO and Allie Layos of St. Louis. Prior to the ceremony, guests attended a social hour served by The

Pearl of Mexico and were entertained with the delightful background music of violinist Renan Leme of Columbia, MO. A catered meal of prime rib and Monterey Chicken was served by Bucky's Sit or Get also of Mexico and Lisa Silver making the delectable desserts. Following dinner, all inductees were honored with a custom-made plaque and their names added to an existing plaque made from the original red boards of the stable and framed by boards from the John Hook barn. Sponsors for the event were Ginny Evans and Tom Bass of Columbia, MO. Promotional funding was provided by Mexico Tourism Tax. Special thanks to the sponsors for their generosity and congratulations to the inductees who have devoted their lives to the Saddlebred industry. The photographer for the event was David Pickering of Mexico and photos can be viewed and ordered at: www.davidpickering.biz

IN MEMORIAM

We honor those who have passed in 2024- 2025
Horsemen, barn supporters, donors, & members who have honored us.



Barbara Pickering

Don Harris

Kenneth Sampson

Carl Myers

Virginia "Ginny" Evans

Tom Marshall

Glenn & Annette Hatfield

Senator Kit Bond

Bonnie Kimbel

OF INTEREST: Andrew Dial, Community Services Section Chief, Grants Manager and Preservation Planner, and Ethan Starr, MO State Architectural Historian of the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office in Jefferson City met Lance Leighton, Bobette Balser Wilson, and Mary White Littrell at the stable on October 29 to view renovations and to discuss future renovations. Guests toured the building, impressed with the 23-year dedication and passion of the Simmons' Stable members and the support of the community. Future renovations will need to be documented in detail and sent with pictures to the state historic preservation office to provide a historic record. Information for grant opportunities and future workshops was shared by the state office.



2024 OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS AT THE STABLE

On Sunday, Dec 8th, Simmons' Stable Preservation presented our "2024 Old Fashioned Christmas at the Stables". The elves that decorate the Stables for Christmas were a little worried when their first workday was unseasonably cold and snowy, but the temps were mild and the sky full of sunshine on the day of our annual "Christmas at the Stables." Thanks to the generosity of multiple sponsors, sleigh rides were free for all this year and the pleasant weather kept everyone in good spirits while waiting to ride behind a beautiful pair of draft horses owned by David White (Clifton Hills, MO). Inside, there was an equally long line patiently waiting to have David Pickering take their picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus in the gingerbread-themed stall decorated by Blossoms & Blooms, and receive a special Stables coloring book and crayons (and the opportunity to ask Santa to bring something special). All in attendance—regardless of whether they chose to ride the sleigh or sit with Santa—were able to savor a cup of hot cocoa and some homemade cookies while taking in the musical entertainment provided by Noteworthy, Scott Weber, the Presser Pipes Community Choir, and The Mexico Woodwinds. With over 500 sleigh riders and an estimated 600-700 total visitors of all ages, plus a small cadre of volunteers, the Stables were full of people experiencing the magic that happens when the property is dressed inside and out in its holiday finest. Our Christmas event is a gift to the community and an opportunity to showcase a piece of Mexico's history. We look forward to seeing everyone again in December!

BLUE RIBBONS SPONSORS: Bobette & Warren Wilson, Heather & Michael Little, and Rodgers Rental

RED RIBBON SPONSORS: Mexico Heating, Cookie Club, Sydenstricker Nobbe, Kim Sydenstricker, Laura Mackey, Mary White Littrell

YELLOW RIBBON SPONSORS: Mexico Altrusa, Gallaher Insurance, Darla's Celebrations

VOLUNTEERS: Janet Welch, Cathy Foreman, Jim & Ann Stubblefield, Joan Volkmer, Warren Wilson, Tom Usnick, Casey Usnick, Heather Little, Laura Mackey, DeAnna Amos, Jerry Allen



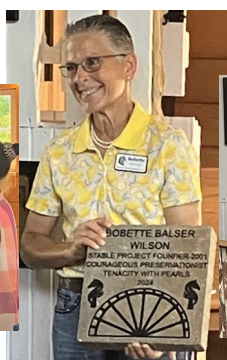
2024 BARN B-QUE & AUCTION

Our 22nd Annual Barn BQ and Auction was held on a beautiful Sunday afternoon September 15th, 2024. A large crowd enjoyed delicious BBQ pork steaks, baked beans, slaw, homemade rolls, pie and brownies. A silent auction with many unique and interesting donated items was held prior to the meal with bidding closing at intermission. Co-Presidents, Bobette Balser Wilson and Mary White Littrell introduced our 2024 Stable Preservation honorees and presented long time supporters Dale & Patti Cone and Lynn Badaracco & Dwight Quiring for their support of the gate build. Sarah Track with Saddlebred CH Rhinestone Cowboy and WWU Saddle Seat students were honored. Jim, Ann & Tony Stubblefield along with Joan Volkmer & Tracy Wells were honored for their annual auction help. Bobette Balser Wilson was surprise honored for her tireless commitment to the stable. Each group was presented with engraved pavers which will be placed around the flagpole at a later date. At the program's conclusion a live auction was held with auctioneers Tom Usnick & J.R. Johnston entertaining the crowd with their spirited banter. We want to thank our generous businesses and individuals who donated auction items, and all who bid on items, the cooks for the delicious meal and all who helped set up and clean up. We couldn't do it without your support. It was a successful auction and fun Sunday at the Stables.

**JR JOHNSTON &
TOM USNICK Auctioneers**



**Bobette Balser Wilson
Honoree**



**WWU's Sarah Track & students,
CH Royal Crest's Rhinestone Cowboy
Honorees**



**THE AUCTION TEAM
Honorees**



**THE GATE DONORS
Honorees**



HAVE WE TOLD YOU LATELY HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE YOU?



GOLD CUP SPONSORS - Marjorie Bain, Toellner Family & Gold Crest Distributing, Martin Jones Trust, Lynn Badaracco & Dwight Quiring



STERLING CUP SPONSORS - Dale & Patti Cone, Joan Balser, Linda Stefacek, Raymond & Lillian Shively, David Maupin



BLUE RIBBON SPONSORS - Bruce & Nancy Oliver, Bob Leu, Sherrie Jones, Larry & Bonnie Kimbel, John Walker, Jr., Wayne Halter



RED RIBBON SPONSORS - Judy Koelling, Jim & Sharon Kropf, Audrey Ellis, Farra Dozier Baker III, Dr. Ray & Karen Wilbers, Shirley Jones, Dan & Cheri Erdel, Jon & Charlotte Angell, Bonnie Gorsek



YELLOW RIBBON SPONSORS - Larry Million, Phyllis Hornbeck, Barbara Robinson, Tammy Reeder, Kenny & Carolyn Cox, Jim & Sue Utterback, Ellen Withers, Kappa Mu Sorority, Mark & Louesa Runge Fine



HONORARY DONATIONS & MEMORIALS -

In memory of Essilee Playter Snook – Jim & Judy Dye, Paula Applegate, Mary White Littrell, Robert & Glenda Poage, Jr., Laurel Auck, Harold Enslin, Nancy Ekern, Nancy Holste, Marion Snook, Bobette Balser Wilson, Lura Williams,

In memory of Jarod Willingham /and Sheila Kotsenburg Creed – Tim & Laura Mackey

In memory of Martin Jones – Bobette Balser Wilson

In memory of Ed Walker – Tiger Floor Covering

In memory of Lillian Dodson & Nellie – John & Susan Minor

In memory of Erica Thompson Jobe – Janet Thompson

In Honor of John H. "Buck" Field – Connie Cragun, Lynn Field Warren

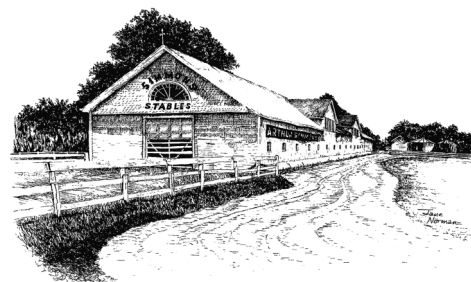
In Honor of L.B. Splint Barnett – Tom & Paula Barnett

In Honor of Ginny Evans – Simmons' Stable Board of Directors



GENERAL DONATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS -

Marion Snook, John & Teresa Freyer, Laura Worstell, Wayne Halter, Joan Fecht, Glenn & Annette Hatfield, Carl & Betty Smarr, Lynda Blades, Cathy Foreman, Elizabeth King, Tracy Davis, Kevin McKellips, Tabitha Davisson, Marcia Katerndahl, Suzanne Bonadeo, Janet Green, Ruth Chaney, Sally Jackson, Ellen Withers, Larry Million, Phyllis, Hornbeck, Audrey Ellis, Barbara Robinson, Tammy Reeder, Jim & Sue Utterback, Judy Koelling, Jon & Charlotte Angell, Bonnie Gorsek, Farra Dozier Baker III, Dr. Ray & Karen Wilbers



GRANTS AWARDED & PAVERS PURCHASED

GRANTS AWARDED - Leach Foundation

PURCHASED PAVERS -

In memory of John Wallen – Bobette Balser Wilson
In memory of Paul Koelling – Judy Koelling
In memory of Glenda Pugh – John & Teresa Freyer
In memory of Gene Potter – Simmons' Stable Board of Directors
In memory of Barb Pickering – Simmons' Stable Board of Directors
In memory of Ralph McDaniel – Bobette Balser Wilson
In memory of Virginia "Ginny" Evans – Laura Minor Mackey
In memory of Fritz Jordan – Paulette Schroeder
In memory of Carl Myers – Bobette Balser Wilson
In memory of Kenneth Sampson – Bobette Balser Wilson, Mary White Littrell
In memory of Alpha Durham – Bobette Balser Wilson
In memory of John H. "Buck" Field – Barbara Adams, Connie Cragun, Lynn Warren
In Honor of Judy Koelling – Bobette Balser Wilson
In Honor of Tom Marshall and Audrey Marshall – Audrey Ellis
In Honor of Bobette Balser Wilson – Sherrie Jones



*Want to honor a friend or loved one?
Don't forget you can buy a
personalized paver brick to
memorialize your favorite
person or equine.
Paver forms are included in
your newsletter.*

2025 EDUCATION DAY & WALK BACK IN TIME



Walk Back in Time is a bi-yearly history event that began with the Audrain County Historical Society and has expanded to include Simmons' Stable. The historic Simmons' Stable will be open for visitors during the Audrain County Historical Society's Walk Back in Time on Saturday, September 27th. On Education Day (Sept 26, 2025), Tom Usnick, Bobette Balser Wilson, and Mary White Littrell greet groups of school age children and share a brief history of the stable. Education Day is attended by school children who want to learn about Mexico's Grand old Barn on the Boulevard and other equine related history. Visitors are treated to a cool barn breezeway as they listen to Mary White Littrell give a barn history talk. Come join us in September at Mexico's Walk Back in Time!



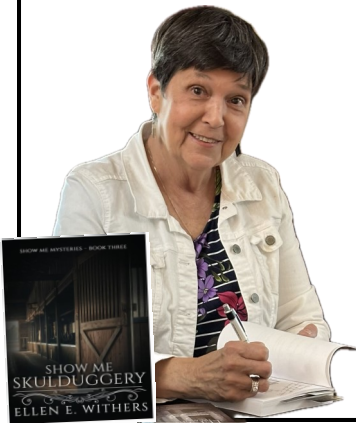
MARY LITRELL
Co-President



We welcome Author **Ellen E. Withers** to the Stable on July 9th to her latest book signing. The public is invited to attend! Featuring historical Simmons Stables, this third book in my mystery series features Saddlebred horses in both the historical and contemporary story lines.

Death comes knocking once again in ***Show Me Skulduggery***, the captivating 3rd book in the award-winning Show Me Mysteries series. These mysteries involve two eras, early 1900s, and contemporary times, featuring a famous Saddlebred horse stable in Mexico, Missouri. Intrigue, deception, underhanded behavior, and murder will keep you turning pages.

1920 through 1953: Mexico, Missouri is famous for being the "Saddlehorse Capital of the World" thanks to world-famous owner/trainers Tom Bass, C.F. Clark, Joseph Potts, George and William Lee, Robert Stewart, and Art Simmons. Each has built upon the solid, respected reputation of the previous trainer at these beloved stables until now. Who can discover and stop sabotage at the stables? Will the Saddlebred trainers be bankrupt if the breed's sterling reputation is destroyed? Is murder the ultimate act of an evil man seeking revenge? Free to the public, come join us July 9th at 1:30pm. Refreshment are provided.



PAINTING, THE BATTLE OF TIME



The new fence surrounding the perimeter of the property was stained black in June 2024 by Ryan Wieberg Painting. Due to the high maintenance and labor costs, a difficult decision was made to change the white fence to black following the lead of Kentucky. Their cost-cutting initiative was our lesson incentive to go all black fence.

June 1st, Brighter Sides began the arduous task of delicately scraping, priming and repainting the front of the barn. The barn front's fish-scale shingles are certainly a challenge. This refresh should take a few days to complete but will make a huge improvement. Painting the rest of the barn's entirety will be tackled next after repairs are completed.



WHAT'S NEXT AT THE STABLE?

SIDING & WINDOW DETERIORATIONS:

Since the restoration of historic Simmons' Stable in 2009, we have had an ongoing struggle with paint peeling from moisture getting under the paint. The lower, horizontal boards on the east and west sides of the stable have rotted, forcing us to replace these boards. This past fall, new pine boards were milled to historic specifications by Railroad Millworks in Clark, Missouri. We plan to replace the lower siding on both sides of the stable, when the weather allows. This paint issue has caused our loft dormer windows to rot, as well. Weston Millworks of Weston, Missouri has been hired to build twelve double-hung, wood, replica windows. Once the windows are built, they will be installed. While talking with Weston Millworks, we learned we should use Linseed Oil Paint on any new lumber. This product does not peel, but rather soaks into the wood and protects it from the weather and rot. Our plan is to paint both sides of the new lumber used for the lower siding, with Linseed Oil Paint. The new windows will be painted with Linseed Oil Paint as well.

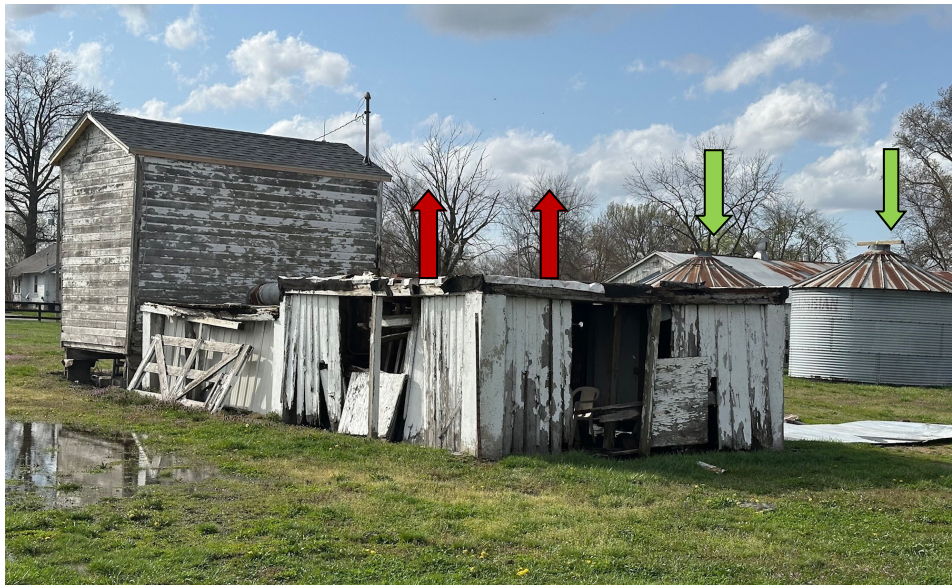
Donations are most welcome to help us restore the siding and windows.



ENDANGERED GRANARY

GRANARY BINS:

Built around 1950 by Art Simmons, the two granary bins which once held the grain for all the horses in the stables are now in desperate need of structural repair. As the base platforms were about to collapse, we had the bins crane-lifted off and placed on the ground. (shown behind the platform). A full restoration of the granary is planned for 2025.

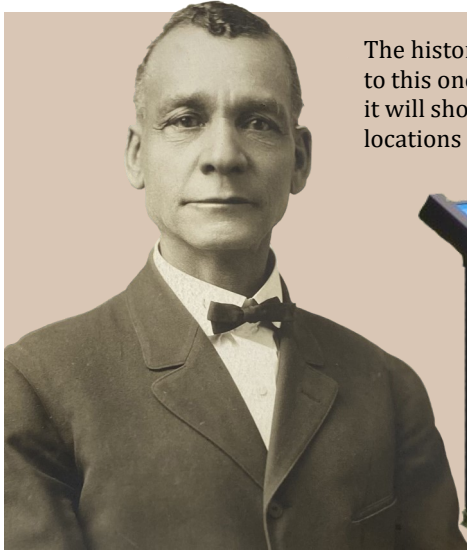


Scott Brooks and crew of Donaldson Excavating removed the bins from the top of the wooden structure on March 7 as the structure had become unstable. The structure holding the bins will be rebuilt and the bins will be placed back on the structure. We very much appreciate the donations received from Toellner Family & Goldcrest Distributing, the Leach Foundation, Deborah and David Wehrman, Laurel Auck and Harold Enslen, and Gene & Carol Bramon for its restoration.

A total of \$13,750 has been received for the estimated \$20,000 renovation cost.

If you would like to help us save the granary bins, please send a donation check to SSPF, specifying "granary" or call: Bobette Balser Wilson 573-473-5930 -or- Mary White Littrell 573-473-2521

TOM BASS MEMORIAL MARKER



The historical marker sign will be similar to this one. Along with Tom Bass history it will show the Bass Barn & house locations for visitors.



On February 4, 2025, members of the Tom Bass Signage Committee including Anna Mayson, Jackie White, Laura Mackey, Bobette Balser Wilson, and Mary White Littrell met with the Mexico Parks & Recreation Director, Chad Unterreiner, at Village Cemetery to discuss placement and details of the sign. Tom Bass's former barn and house, now on private property, are no longer standing. The historical sign will be placed on city property at the Village Cemetery which sits across the street from where his barn and house were originally located. We deeply appreciate the donations we have received to go towards the cost of the sign. Thank you to John Walker, Jr., Deborah and David Wehrman, and Gamma Lambda Beta Sigma Phi.

COWGIRL TEA PARTY - AUDRAIN COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
AUDRAIN COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE

COWGIRL TEA PARTY

SIMMONS STABLES
701 W. BOULEVARD, MEXICO, MO

TICKETS ARE \$20 PER PERSON.
EVERYONE ATTENDING MUST HAVE A
TICKET AND CHILDREN MUST BE
ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.

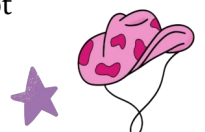
SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025
2:00 - 4:00 P.M.

PHOTO, SNACKS, GAMES, DOOR
PRIZES AND GOODIE BAGS.

TICKETS ARE LIMITED.
CONTACT LINDA REID AT
573-581-7547 TO PURCHASE.



Friends Fighting as One hosted a Cowgirl Tea Party at the stable on April 27th, of 2025 as a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. A big thank you to Sarah Track who brought Champion Saddlebred "Cowboy" to the stable as a special treat for the young attendees. He loved the attention of the children and everyone got their photo taken with him. Around 60 guests attended and the Cowgirl Tea Party was a huge success. Make sure to mark your calendars for next year's 2026 Tea Party event!



2025 Hall of Fame Ceremony: The 9th Annual International Saddlebred Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is on Saturday, June 21st, 2025

2025 Barn-B-Q and Auction: Sunday, September 14th, we will host our 23rd Annual Simmons' Stable BBQ & Auction. All proceeds from our auction will benefit the preservation efforts of the Historic Big 'Ol Barn on the Boulevard. Tickets will be available at Jim Stubblefield Furniture & at the front gate.

Walk Back in Time: September 26, 27 & 28th, 2025

Old-Fashioned Christmas at the Stable: Plans for our 6th Old-Fashioned Christmas at the Stable Event will be at the stable on Dec 7th, 2025

Stay tuned to our Simmons' Stable Facebook page for updates. We look forward to seeing you at these events!

FLASHBACK: 1906 Lee Bros Stable (west side view red)



ANNOUNCING OUR 2025 CLASS OF INDUCTEES

2025 Inductees

- ~ Bob Brison
- ~ Anne Neil
- ~ Marjorie Bain
- ~ Michele Macfarlane

2025 Posthumous Inductees

- ~ Loula Long Combs
- ~ Fern Bittner
- ~ Jack Holvoet



SADDLEBRED HALL OF FAME CEREMONY
June 21, 2025
 We hope to see you there!
 Call for ticket reservations:
 573-473-5930

DID YOU KNOW?

STORY OR PICS TO SHARE?

Do you have a Simmons' Stable or Saddlebred story to share? We would love to hear your story and see your photo memories.



Email Laura at: barndior@gmail.com
 -or- text it to: 573-529-9220



FUN FACT

Did you know in 2004 the stable was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the "Arthur Simmons' Historic District"? Historic properties are listed as local, state, or nationally significant. Only a little over seven percent of the historic properties in Missouri are listed as nationally significant. The Arthur

Simmons Historic District is one of the properties to achieve the distinction of national significance. If you would like to hear the fascinating history of the stable and how it influenced our nation, schedule a tour with Bobette or Mary or attend the presentation at this year's Walk Back in Time. We'd love to share its history with you!!!

Art Simmons watching a horse work on his east track.



SIMMONS' STABLE PRESERVATION FUND

HAVE A HISTORIC BARN

Wedding



*Originally built
in 1887, our
barn is a
Missouri
landmark.
A preserved
jewel of history
that you can
rent for your
special event.*

SIMMONS' STABLE PRESERVATION

701 W Boulevard
Mexico, Missouri 65265

Inquire about
your dream
event location.
Call us to check
rental prices
& dates of
availability.

Bobette:
573-473-5930
-or-
Mary:
573-473-2521

Photo courtesy of
Allie Layos Ortega,
of Saddle & Bridle
Magazine.

STEPH
PHOTO

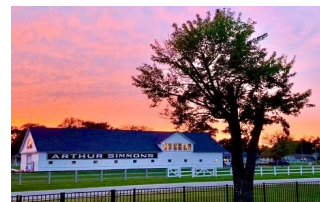
FLASHBACK PHOTO



Here's a flashback to when
Simmons' Stable was in full
operation. A saddlebred is put
through its paces along the east
track (photo is estimated to be
around 1980). You can see the
barn beginning to decline
and structurally lean.

Fast forward 45 years from this
photo and here we are. Are we
done? No, but with your help we
will get there!

Thank you all



JOIN US

SIMMONS' STABLE PRESERVATION FUND

701 West Boulevard
P.O. Box 843
Mexico, MO 65265

www.saddlebredhalloffame.org

Scan this code
to go directly
to our
Simmons' Stable
Facebook page.



Circa 1911, B.R. Middleton up, Ben was
the last owner of famous Saddlebred stallion,
Rex McDonald 833

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701 W. Boulevard, P.O. Box 843
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