



FISHING TALES

DETROIT AREA CHAPTER

MICHIGAN STEELHEAD AND SALMON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

25 ¢

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY DETROIT AREA CHAPTER VOLUME 1 NUMBER 3 MARCH 1976

PCB's

The PCB problem was one of the topics addressed by Dr. Howard Tanner, Director, Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources, at our February meeting.

Dr. Tanner stated that the DNR has used existing state laws to eliminate all known major sources of PCB's in the state, and in spite of this effort, the amount of PCB's in the Great Lakes has continued to rise. He further stated that this situation points to the need for national action, pointing out that as much as 50% of the PCB's that enter the Great Lakes may come from the atmosphere by rainfall as a result of the burning of products containing PCB's.

Dr. Tanner also stated that the amount of PCB's in fish increases with the age of the fish and therefore you would expect to find more in lake trout than in salmon.

The MSSFA committee on PCB's, headed by Ken Bonin of the Detroit Chapter, has begun

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IMPORTANT SUPER MEETING ...



Photo by Don White

this one you can't miss! March 24th

Everything you always wanted to know but were afraid to find out . . . about river fishing, egg curing, spawn bag tying, how to fish naturals, artificials, "corkys", drifters, fly fishing, long rod fishing, spinner fishing, fish smoking and fish boiling, rod building and fly tying. Lake trolling and where to go, best harbors, boat and equipment, how to read a graph, lures and rigs, downriggers and outriggers.

Learn about plantings from the DNR, Ralph Hay. Get the 1976 Catchables List. See the newest equipment from Yakima, Skyline graphite rods, Garcia, Charger Lures, Olympic Rods & Reels, Waller, Shakespeare, Browning, Columbian Sportwear, Varmac Guides, & Reel Seats, Grizzly Tackle, Lowrance Electronics, Quick Rods & Reels, Walker Downriggers, Eagle Claw, Luhr Jensen, Agua Scope and others. Don't Miss it !!!!

Fishing Clubs Join Together For Greater Say

The first meeting of the South-eastern Michigan Sports Fishing Council was held on Feb. 26th. Eleven clubs were present at the first meeting with four additional clubs who could not attend but added their support.

Tom Schneider, who was elected chairman and Paul Irvine will represent the Detroit Chapter of the Steelheaders. Over 2,000

members of sport fishing clubs will be represented. Elected Secretary-Treasurer was Dan Sawicki of Detroit, representing the Southeast Mich. Bass Assoc.

The delegates formally adopted a set of broad goals for the council. They are:

1- A mutual exchange of ideas and programs between the various organizations.

2- A united voice in local fisheries management.

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RESEARCH FISHING TRIPS

Dave Gresham and his research fishing committee has planned 2 Great Lakes trips for the 1976 fishing season. Both trips will be on the east side of the state. The first, Port Huron, May 1 then Grindstone City, July -----

Dr. Tanner, Director of the DNR, pointed out in his talk at the Feb. chapter meeting that there aren't enough fishermen for the amount of fish that were planted in Lake Huron. The record shows a considerable number of Chinook, Coho, Steelhead, Brown Trout, and Splake have been planted in the past 3 years.

The purpose of our research fishing is to find the fisheries and take full advantage of our resource. The fish were planted for our use, and unless we take advantage of this stocking program we have a good chance of losing a good thing. It is well known that the DNR plants the fish where the demand is the greatest. We must find these fish and report our catches to the DNR in order to keep the stocking program at an increasing rate on our side of the state. Another purpose is we all can learn from each other. We have some of the best fishermen in the state right here in our chapter that would be a great help to the members that just joined the club to learn how to catch these Great Lakes tackle busters.

It isn't possible for 1 or 2 boats to fish an area and properly make an evaluation on how good

continued on page 2

MEMBERSHIP MEETING MARCH 24th

The membership meeting this month is not on the usual 'last Wednesday'. To accommodate the dozen tackle manufacturers who are displaying their products at the Show/Meeting, it has been scheduled for March 24th. For details on the Super Show see the story elsewhere in this issue.

The Show/Meeting starts at 7:30 PM at the Troy-Hilton Inn, 15-Mile & Stephenson in Troy. Don't miss this one and bring along your friends.

FISHIN' TALES

Published Monthly by the
 Detroit Area Chapter
 of the
 Michigan Steelhead and
 Salmon Fishermen's Association
 2818 Vinsetta Blvd.
 Royal Oak, Michigan 48073


A decidedly biased paper acknowledging the editors viewpoint that there's only one way permissible to catch the planted anadromous strain and lake trout — hook and line; and those employing any other method be eyed with suspicion, nay, cast into the lot of outlaws and be regarded as such.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

- John Makela Chairman—Editor
583-1910 Advertising
- Janet Irvine Publisher
- Bob Crosby "Tackle Trader"
544-3874 Want Ads
- Paul Irvine Fishing News
647-5912 The Cook's Corner
- Dan Mielcarek Cartoonist
- Elton Luckritz Artist
- Mark Lattimore Photographer
626-1359

COMING EVENTS

- MARCH 15—21** — Oakland Mall Boat Show
- MARCH 18—21** — Macomb Mall Boat Show
- MARCH 22—28** — Oakland Mall Camper Show
- MARCH 24** — Chapter Super Show at Membership Meeting



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RON SPITLER'S 13 LB. STEELHEAD



TOM SCHNEIDER'S 11 LB. STEELHEAD

BETSIE RIVER CLINIC / FANTASTIC SUCCESS

We would like to thank the estimated 150 fishermen who turned up to make our first Steelhead river fishing clinic on the Betsie River, at Homstead Resort, a great success. We would also like to thank Mother Nature for her help, the weather was beautiful.

Even though the 150 fishermen only caught approximately fifteenth steelhead, the knowledge learned was invaluable. Ron Spitler, DNR fisheries biologist, must have paid special attention because he went out Sunday and caught a beautiful 13 lb. steelhead on a "corky" lure. Tom Schneider was right behind with another beautiful 11 lb. fish.

The methods taught for catching steelhead were discussed by Tom Schneider, Gary Marshall, Dick Swan, Archy Sweet and Paul Irvine. Tom discussed proper techniques in using the 'corkys' lure, spawn bag and demonstrated how to snell a hook. Gary Marshall of Lansing showed the proper use of single egg fishing. Dick Swan of Clare explained wiggler fishing with his custom-made 14' spinning rod. Archy Sweet of Midland showed us how he uses pencil-shaped bobbers to keep the bait just bouncing off the bottom.

Paul Irvine demonstrated techniques of using a fly rod with sinker fly line to fish for steelhead with flies.

Tom Jansen of Midland landed three steelhead on a long, custom-made spinning rod with two pound test line. The last we saw of Tom he was chasing a big steelhead he hooked downstream with Dick Swan, landing net in hand, in close pursuit.

Speaking of the last we saw of people, it was reported that George Ishimaru was last seen floating down the Betsie towards Lake Michigan in his inner-tube without a paddle. Maybe he decided to try trolling for steelhead.

James A.O. Crowe, Detroit News Outdoor Editor, was on hand to cover the story for his paper. A very fine article was in Sunday's Mar. 7th issue. Thanks Jim for your support of our organization, it is truly appreciated and your company always welcome.

On Sat. night a buffet dinner was held at the Sail Inn where we presented a trophy for the three largest fish caught the day of the clinic. The largest fish was caught by Buck Ryder of Plymouth. We would like to add a special thanks to Buck for all his work in making this clinic

the success it was. Thanks also to the good people at the Homstead Resort.

Frank Arleth of Roscommon caught a 8 lb. steelhead and Tom Jansen of Midland caught a 7½ lb. steelhead. We had close to 100 people at the dinner.

Additional entertainment was offered by Bob Lindberg who gave us all an exhibition of the Australian crawl. Larry Serafin and Mike Trevasset up hospitality house in Larry's Winnebago. We expect this to be a permanent part of all future Steelhead functions. Also there was rumor that a Tom somebody was fooling around and broke his good steelhead rod; not confirmed as of this writing.

Thanks again for all your support. We all had a great weekend.

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RESEARCH TRIPS continued

the fishing is. With large numbers of boats like we had at Grindstone City last year, we can try all types of lures, water depths and locations around each port. With our graph recorders we can find the fish and notify all the members of the party by radio.

There are also some inland lakes such as Cass and Union within 30 miles of Detroit that have thousands of lake trout, splake, steelhead and brown trout plants. Orchard Lake has 51,000 chinook planted. We should also look seriously at these fisheries for the days that we can't get out on the Great Lakes due to bad weather.

More details about the ports, launching sites and area fish plants will be discussed at the chapter meetings prior to trips.

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FISHIN' REPORT

Steelhead fishermen have had hard wading due to high water on most southwestern Michigan streams. If the dry weather holds we should have good success on most western Michigan streams by this weekend. The St. Joe River is full of steelhead as well as the Black and Kalamazoo.

This weekend (March 27-28) should really start the salmon on the Big Lake. In the past the salmon run has started at New Buffalo and St. Joe by mid-March I recieved a report that last weekend some 3-4 lb. Coho and a 12 lb. King were caught off Michigan City, Indiana.

Farther up north good success should be found on the White and Muskegon River in Muskegan County; Grand River & Rouge River in Kent County; Crokery Creek in Ottawa County. If the lake stays calm, good fishing could be found off the piers of Holland, Grand Haven, Muskegon, White River and Whitehall with best success using spawn bags.

Farther up north the Pere Marquette, Sauble, Big Manistee, Betsie, Plate, Boardman Rivers should produce some nice catches of Steelhead.

On the Lake Huron side, fair success for browns and steelhead in Thunder Bay. Good success on the Ausable River at Oscoda.

No reports from the "thumb" area but with the amounts of planting in the last few years, the fishing can't help but be great in both the creeks and off shore.

EXHILARATION . . . is that feeling you get just after the big fish hits, and before you realize he got off.

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RAFFLE BOAT

Photo by Mark Lattimore



OUTDOORAMA MEMBERSHIPS

The annual MUCC Outdoorama is underway at this writing and the chapter is well represented by dozens of volunteers. Four Steelheaders are working four-hour shifts and with two shifts daily. Chuck Cartwright had to come up with eight salesmen for each of the nine days.

Memberships are being written and chances on the raffle boat are selling well. We have a good location in the southwest corner of the Armory. Larry Serafin still holds the lead for selling the

most chances per hour and per shift.

The chapter purchased a 16' aluminum boat complete with center controls, 25-HP motor, trailer, graph fish locator and two downriggers. Ticket sales will pay for the rig and help on costs for our Outdoorama space and maybe help with general expenses. The drawing will be at the April 28th membership meeting. Members who want to buy chances or require more to sell contact Ed Raquel, 585-2232.

continued on page 4

Supreme Court Hears Fishing Right Case

by Bob Rutt

The case of the People vs. Albert LeBlanc was argued before the Michigan Supreme Court on March 4, 1976. This is one of two cases presently before the Courts of Michigan in which adverse decisions can materially effect sports fishing in the Great Lakes. The other is the case of the United States vs. State of Michigan, et al, which is presently pending in the US District Court in Grand Rapids. We will discuss the Federal case in another article.

LeBlanc, a full blooded Chippewa, was arrested by a DNR officer on Sept. 28th, 1971 and charged with fishing without a commercial license and with fishing with a gill net, contrary to Michigan law. He is a member of the Bay Mills Indian Reservation and was apprehended while fishing in the Whitefish Bay area of Lake Superior. At his trial he admitted the acts complained of but asserted that he could not be convicted of either charge because of a Federal treaty guaranteeing all Bay Mills Indians the right to fish in Whitefish Bay.

Defendent LeBlanc was tried in a District Court on Oct. 5, 1971 and was found guilty of both counts. He appealed to the Chippewa County Circuit Court and his conviction was affirmed by the Circuit Judge. Inasmuch as he had only been convicted of misdemeanors he had to apply for permission to take his case to the Michigan Court of Appeals. This Court granted his leave to appeal and rendered its opinion in Oct., 1974.

Le LeBlanc relied upon a Federal treaty of 1836. Article XIII of which provides:

"The Indians stipulate for the right of hunting on the lands ceded, with the other usual privileges of occupancy, until the land is required for settlement."

The District Judge who tried the case held that the clause "other usual privileges of occupancy" gave the Indians the right to unlimited fishing "in all the

continued on page 4

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FISHING RIGHTS CASE *continued*

waters adjoining those lands ceded by the treaty until required for settlement." The Judge also found however, that by a treaty of 1855, the Chippewas gave up these fishing rights. The relevant part of this treaty provides:

"ARTICLE 3. The Ottawa and Chippewa Indians hereby release and discharge the United States from all liability of account of former treaty stipulations, it being distinctly understood and agreed that the grants and payments hereinbefore provided for are in lieu and satisfaction of all claims, legal and equitable on the part of said Indians jointly and severally against the United States, for land, money or other thing guaranteed to said tribes or either of them by the stipulations of any former treaty or treaties; excepting, however, the right of fishing and encampment secured to the Chippewas of Sault Ste. Marie by the treaty of June 16, 1820."



BOB RUTT
Photo by Don White

The District Judge held that by this language "the Chippewa Indians released and relinquished forever all right to unlimited fishing in the off-shore waters of Bay Mills no matter how such rights were secured by them." The Chippewa County Circuit Judge agreed with the trial judge and concluded that the treaty of 1855 eliminated the Chippewa's fishing rights under the treaty of 1836. Defendent LeBlanc appealed this opinion to the Court of Appeals.

The Court of Appeals in a unanimous opinion held that Chippewa Indians did not, by the 1855 treaty relinquish the fishing rights they retained under the 1836 treaty, and as a consequence LeBlanc was exempt from the Michigan statutes under which he was charged to the extent that they conflicted with Federal treaty rights. *continued*

The Court held that the language used in treaties with the Indians should never be construed to their prejudice as they were unlettered people and were not on an equal footing at the time the treaty was executed. Following this rule of law, the Court examined both treaties, as well as an 1820 treaty, to conclude that the Indians retained their fishing rights. (To consider the reasoning of the Court in this respect would take up several pages and would be of no particular significance to other than Indians or lawyers. It is only important to remember what was decided.) LeBlanc's conviction for fishing without a commercial license was therefore reversed.

This still left the conviction for fishing with a gill net. The Court of Appeals cited a case of Tulee vs. State of Washington, decided by the United States Supreme Court in 1942 as standing for the proposition that the State of Michigan could not require the Indians to purchase a license, but that the State could regulate the time and manner of fishing outside a reservation as would be necessary for the conservation of fish. LeBlanc's conviction of fishing with a gill net was remanded to the District Court for a hearing as to whether the Michigan law which outlawed the use of gill nets is necessary to prevent a substantial depletion of the fish supply.

At such a hearing the State would be required to show that the use of gill nets would cause a substantial reduction in the number of fish and that the law banning them was necessary for the conservation of fish. If the State proved these facts then LeBlanc's gill net conviction should be affirmed; if not, than it should be reversed.

The case was never retired but was appealed to the Michigan Supreme Court. The highest Court in our State will now decide whether or not the Chippewa Indians have retained their fishing rights under the Federal treaties, and also whether the State of Michigan has the right to control the time and manner of Indian fishing in our waters. These decisions must be made to pass upon LeBlanc's guilt. The rights of all the people of the State of Michigan will seriously be affected by this decision.



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MY OPINION

by Paul Irvine

I feel that more participation is needed by all club members in order to build a club which will do the best job possible in promoting quality sportsfishing in Michigan. The club should not be afraid to speak out against state DNR, local DNR or other groups which it feels is not doing its job in protecting the environment. If we allow ourself to be compromised, as our officials are then our voice will not be heard. Think about it....

OUTDOORAMA *continued*

Mssrs. Bob Rutt and Tom Holland went to the Steelheader's Booth at the Outdoorama for their shift. After looking things over they soon repaired to the hospitality room. To be hospitable probably. Nosir! After a

continued

few words, they were seen nodding in agreement. Later during the show they were observed talking to MUCC President Tom Washington and pulled-off a coup we all though was beyond reach. The next day the boat package was along side our booth and thanks to Holland and Rutt our tickets sales doubled.

MARCH TROLLING IN TRAVERSE BAY FOR WHITEFISH

by Tony Byrd

For a few years I've heard that nice Whitefish were being caught in East Bay near Acme, so when I got a call from Big John Emory of Traverse City I decided to give it a try.

The nice weather at the end of February opened up the bay and the local fishermen ventured out-achieving remarkable success.

continued on page 6

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PCB's continued from page 1

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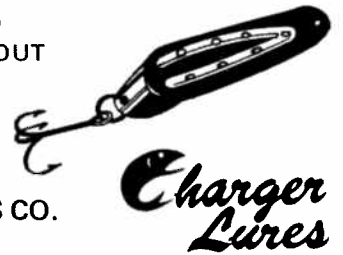
its campaign by submitting letters signed by the Michigan Steelheaders president, Tom Mandigo. The letters are being sent to Sen. Joe Mack, chairman of the Conservation Committee, regarding the passage of House Bill 5619 (state ban on PCB's), and to the Federal Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries which is now considering a Federal Toxic Substance Control Act (national ban).

The most promising development to date is the action taken by the DNR to promote a state ban in the Great Lakes states. Indiana has in fact passed a state ban similar to the one awaiting passage in Michigan. A similar action is underway in Ontario. Michigan's ban can be put into effect more rapidly than a national ban (6 years or longer) and could result in the beginning of the long term process of eliminating PCB's or reducing them to acceptable levels.

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The Ladies and gents listed below have invested in their fishing future by renewing their membership or by joining the Detroit Area Chapter, MSSFA.

NEW MEMBERS

- Clyde Jordan, Roseville
- Ken Pokorski, Mt. Clemens
- R. L. O'Connor, Birmingham
- John LaLodde, Sterling Hgts.
- Don Papcun, Sterling Hgts.
- Phillip Trzos, Keego Harbor
- Don Wainio, Milford
- Dan Shoplock, Ann Arbor
- Jack D'Amuto, Plymouth
- Tom Fleming, Royal Oak
- Ken Brainard, Clawson
- Frank Fleming, Madison Hgts.
- Russell Gailey, Inkster
- Wil Peckins, Dearborn Hgts.
- John Trofimuk, Washington
- Carl Christie, Pontiac
- Larry Chastain, Ortonville
- Robert Sawitski, Dearborn Hgts.
- John Brower, Brighton
- Art Willick, Port Huron
- Jim Gaines, Detroit
- Dorothy Brayman, Ecorse
- John Brayman, Ecorse
- Mark Oblak, Westland
- Kenneth Rolt, Roseville
- Pamela Falzon, Detroit
- John MacDonald, Lincoln Park
- Howard Terry, Royal Oak
- Karl Wineland, Toledo, OH
- Mike Polcik, Columbiaville
- Robert Feyes, Northwood, OH
- Wilfred Radinoff, Livonia
- Len Polakowski, Warren
- Michael DeCamillo, Detroit
- Kerry Kammer, Pontiac
- Jim Williams, Bloomfield Hills

RENEWALS

- Edward Asher, Pontiac
- Bob Bartus, Riverview

- Paul Irvine, Birmingham
- Richard Graig, Birmingham
- Bob Luskey, Melvin
- Al Lesh, Warren
- Dick Fitzgerald, W. Bloomfield
- Jim Smith, St., Ortonville
- Ken Baidas, Union Lake
- Jerry Wing, Lambertville
- Jim Shipley, Lancaster
- Doug Mason, Sandusky
- John Voohees, Milan
- Greg Thompson, Cass City
- Floyd Newbold, Livonia
- Don White, Orchard Lake
- John Clark, Detroit
- A. K. Milspaugh, Garden City
- Tom Warrow, Riverview
- Harry Levitan, St. Clair Shores
- Dave Stiegler, Detroit
- Joseph McClosky, Southfield
- John Schubert, Dearborn
- Dave Bowen, Pontiac
- Roger Burgess, Livonia
- Steve Mocerri, Oak Park
- Tom Noel, Detroit
- Solomon Mims, Detroit
- Joe Hudson, Pontiac
- Bob Goldman, Bloomfield Hills
- Marvin Weintraub, Farm Hills
- William Hook, Warren
- Norman Jacques, Taylor
- Jim Boyer, Royal Oak
- Charles White, Plymouth
- Mike Trevas, Dearborn
- Jim Vasiloff, Walled Lake
- Larry Atwell, Birmingham
- Chuck Belvnas, East Detroit
- Jim Hale, Dearborn
- Dennis Webb, Boyne City
- Bob Grayson, Southfield
- Jim Turner, East Detroit
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- Ernest Andree, Livonia
- Richard Isola, Rochester
- Greg Papp, Livonia

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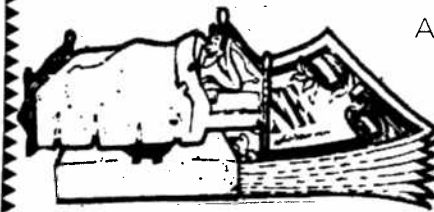
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FISHING CLUBS

continued from page 1

3— Closer rapport with the local Dept. of Natural Resources fisheries staff.

4— Development of quality sport fishing in the area.

Clubs joining the council will be asked to contribute \$20 a year for expenses, and each club can send two delegates to council meetings, the organizers voted. Scheduled meetings will be held twice a year, in spring and fall, but any member club can call a special council meeting to deal with a current problem.

Also present at the meeting were Ron Spittler, DNR fisheries biologist for the Metro area, and

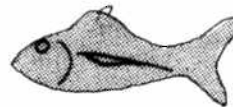
his assistant, Ralph Hay, habitat biologist.

There was strong sentiment expressed by several delegates for pressure on the state Legislature, the courts and prosecutors to provide stiffer enforcement of game and fish laws in the area.

Time will tell as to the effectiveness of the council, but the principal if carried through properly can mean tremendous benefits for the sports fishermen in the state.

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WHITEFISH TROLLING continued

When I got to John's home it was a little too late and a little too windy to go fishing that day. Well, that night a snow storm hit Traverse City preventing us from going out on Tuesday, so we waited another day.

Wednesday proved tolerable so John, Tiny (his 364 lbs. 6' 4" friend), Ray and myself trailed our 16' Alumacraft to a landing that had very little ice near shore and slide it in the water. We motored out and anchored to a spot where a few other guys had already gathered in over 150' of water.

My friends got out the chugging rods, showed me the hook-up with a No. 8 Swedish Pimple and we went to work. We unwound enough No. 15 monofilament to reach the bottom and chugged

**MEMBERSHIP
EXPIRED ?
TO RENEW . . .**

Take a look at the label that brought you this paper. If the numbers are 3/76 or 4/76 you'll find a renewal letter and application enclosed. Avoid the tragedy of missing a single issue of "Fishin' Tales", re-up now! You can mail where indicated or join at the meeting.

If your label number last issue was 2/76 you won't be reading this unless you renewed.

up and down in 12" to 18" strokes. Pretty soon Big John and Tiny were hauling-in 3 to 6 lb. Whitefish. They instructed me how to improve my method and I soon latched onto and landed a 10lb. Lake Trout. Then I landed a 4 lb. Whitefish and missed a few more.

We ran a dry spell for about an hour when John noticed it was 12 noon. He and Tiny agreed that from their experience the Whitefish seldom feed after noon so we decided to head back in. At the launch we checked our catch — 12 Whitefish and a Laker — filling a 48-quart cooler.

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