

### ARCHIVE

QUARTERLY OF THE GRESHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AUTUMN 2024



410 N Main Ave → PO Box 65 → Gresham, OR 97030 → (503) 661-0347 → info@greshamhistorical.org





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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Sei	pt. 21	Cemetery	Tour,	12pm (	see pa	. 5)
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**Sept. 28** Growing Up in Gresham, 5pm (see pg. 5)

Historian Stephanie Vallance will moderate a live interview with a panel of Gresham residents on their experiences growing up in the community. Admission is free for

GHS members, \$5 for non-members

Oct. 5-6 Indigenous Arts Festival, 12 to 4 pm (see pg. 4)

Presented in collaboration with the Portland Indigenous Marketplace and Gresham Outdoor Public Art, this two-day

event features an art fair, storytelling, and dancing.

Oct. 26 History Talk: Prohibition and Speakeasies, 5pm (see pg. 5)

**Nov. 30 -** Christmas at the Museum, annual fundraiser featuring music,

**Dec. 21** community events, Santa Claus, and Gingerbread house

contest. See pg. 3 for details

**Dec. 27** Annual Member Meeting and Year-End Party (details TBD)



### **N**EWS AND **A**NNOUNCEMENTS

#### **Voices of Gresham Surpasses 1000 Downloads**

On September 4, 2024, the first season of <u>Voices of Gresham</u> concluded after 10 episodes. At over 1000 downloads to date and with universally positive reviews, this podcast has been an outstanding success. Excellent publicity in the *Outlook* has helped ensure that its popularity continues to grow.

Voices of Gresham will be back for a second season in spring 2025. After an initial arc following the story of the Japanese community in Gresham, public historian Stephanie Vallance handed over the reins to several guest writers

who researched and narrated episodes on <u>Prohibition</u>, <u>Gresham's natural landscape</u>, women's history, and historic homes. Podcast intern Melissa Bevency and volunteers Kendal Young, Kayte Williamson, Charlotte Becker, and Sarale Hickson are the newest voices to join the show.

Our thanks go to all who worked on *Voices of Gresham* as well as Oregon Heritage for funding it through the Oregon Heritage Grant and MetroEast Community Media for the use of their recording studio and equipment. *Voices of Gresham* will be back for a second season in spring 2025, so stay tuned for an official launch date!

#### **Polar King T-shirts Available for Preorder**

Astute newsletter readers may recall that we salvaged two plywood polar bear mascots from the Polar King Restaurant this spring. The work needed to restore these signs to a displayable condition is extensive, and we are working with conservators to determine the cost.

To raise money for the sign restoration fund, we're selling a limited-edition Polar King "Save the Signs" t-shirt for \$30. They're available for preorder on our online store or in person at the museum. It's a perfect way to show off your support!

Find it in the Museum Store



### We're dreaming of a historic Christmas!

Christmas at the Museum will be back in November, bigger and better than before! Here's what to look forward to:

- The fourth annual Gingerbread Competition opens for registration on September 15! The theme: "A Gingerbread Christmas." \$25 per entry
- Santa Claus on Saturdays and Sundays
- Free gifts for the first 500 guests–ornaments and gingerbread cookies!
- Live music, including a night of jazz with Thea Enos and Mosaique
- Wreath-making workshops courtesy of Foraged Blooms
- Giftwrapping service on the 15th, 19th, 20th, and 21st of December

Christmas at the Museum will run from November 30 to December 21, Thursdays through Sundays.

Museum Closures: November 11-29 and December 22-January 31



### LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

As you might have heard, the *Gresham Outlook* has ended its printing operation in Gresham, and the press office, which served East Metro for over 50 years, is now closed. While the print edition is still coming out courtesy of the *Columbian* press, this is certainly the end of an era: 2024 is the first year since 1904 that the *Outlook* (or one of its predecessors) won't be printed in Gresham.

The good news is that we're working hard to preserve the important history that the *Outlook* has recorded over the past 120 years. We recently accepted custody of the entire run of the *Outlook* (1911 to 2023) in bound volumes as well as about four decades' worth of negatives. Anne Endicott and Blake Jensen facilitated the transfer; many thanks to volunteers Mike, Jay, Claudia, Brooke, and Christopher for helping move about five truckloads of material to the museum and our offsite

storage area. We may have been short on storage space before, but now we're bursting at the seams.

As much work as went into transporting this donation, even more work is necessary to process all of it. Processing, for our purposes, usually includes entering a catalog record in our collections database, PastPerfect; recording descriptive information and physical condition; labeling the item with a unique ID number; choosing a permanent location; and storing the item in a way that will minimize damage to it over time. Fortunately volunteer Delilah Abraham has accepted responsibility for some of this work. She'll be processing about 200 binders full of negatives and curating an online exhibit from the highlights as part of her library science master's degree. Keep an eye out for updates on her project! Until Next Time.

Silvie Andrews

P.S. Did you know that the *Outlook* is now digitized from 1911 through 1928? You can browse pages online through University of Oregon's Historic Oregon Newspapers website:

https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/lccn/sn97071044/



#### **Celebrate Native American Arts at the Museum!**

The Indigenous Arts Festival is a free, two-day event celebrating Native American art and artists, featuring an art fair, musical performance, storytelling, and an artist talk. Presented in collaboration with **Portland Indigenous Marketplace** and **Gresham Outdoor Public Art**.

This free event is for all ages to enjoy.

**Date:** October 5-6, 2024

**Time:** 12-4pm

**Location:** Gresham Historical Society

#### Save the date for the 2025 Speakeasy Dinner Auction!

This annual fundraiser brings back the jazz age while raising money for a great cause—historical preservation. The event will include silent and live auctions, games, cocktails, and a sit-down dinner. Roaring '20s attire is optional.

Date: February 21, 2025

Time: TBD

Location: Persimmon Country Club



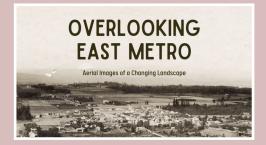
### CURRENT EXHIBITS THROUGH NOVEMBER 10



This special exhibit features locallyconnected artists who share their unique take on a variety of traditional methods. Check out the diverse talent that makes up Gresham's artistic landscape. This exhibit is funded by a City of Gresham Cultural Events Grant.



Making and Mending is a celebration of the once-great art of textile working. Thanks to the efforts of volunteer curator Rose Caughie, we are coming into a greater understanding of the stories and knowledge contained within this remarkable collection.



This year's photo essay, Overlooking East Metro, offers perspective on the physical changes the Gresham area has undergone starting with the earliest known aerial images taken in around 1905. Test your knowledge of local geography and compare today's Gresham with photos from the past.

**Also on View:** + Growing Up in Gresham, a compilation of oral history interviews on school, work, and play

- → Owerri, a collection of gifts and souvenirs from our sister city in Nigeria
- ★ Recent Acquisitions, highlights from donations GHS received in 2023

### Join us for the 2024 Public Lecture Series

GHS kicked off this monthly event in February, with a presentation on Black history in East Multnomah County by Kathleen Williamson. The lecture was the first in a regular series designed to feature topics related to local history and significant collections at GHS. Since its launch, museum volunteers have shared their knowledge of efforts to preserve video of the Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz and given a peek into the textile collection at GHS.

Join us for this fun and informal lecture series.

When: 5-6pm the last Saturday of every month

Where: Gresham Historical Society main gallery, 410 N Main Ave, Gresham, OR 97030

**Cost:** \$5 per person (FREE for members!)

**Lecture Schedule through December** 

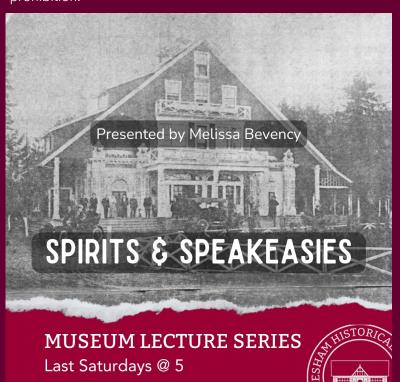
September 28: Growing Up in Gresham, a live interview moderated by Stephanie Vallance

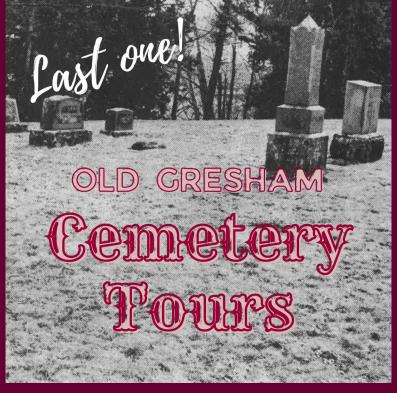
October 26: Prohibition and Speakeasies, presented by Melissa Bevency (see below)

November 30: Carols in Context: A Historical Sing-Along, presented by Michael Lasfetto

Topics and presenters subject to change. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram for updates.

On **Oct. 26, at 5 pm,** staff intern Melissa Bevency will talk about the Roaring 20s and Gresham's reputation as a teetotalling community. Respectable citizens didn't drink and rarely danced, yet outside the city limits, roadhouses and speakeasies thrived. Learn how local residents partied during prohibition.





Don't miss the last one of the year on **September 21!** This event is free to everyone. Bring your friends and come learn about the colorful, poignant, and surprising stories contained in Gresham's historic cemeteries. Tour meets at 12pm in the east lot of West Gresham Elementary.

## HISTORY FEATURE

# COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT: THE PAVESKOVICH/FRANCISCOVICH FAMILY PAPERS

By Laura Lancaster

I started volunteering at the Gresham Historical Society in January 2024. For my first assignment, I had the honor to catalog a collection of World War II-era archival materials.



nna and William Franciscovich prior to William's deployment.

The Paveskovich and Franciskovich Family papers, donated by Don Nelson, provide narratives of early 20th century immigration, tropes of the "American Dream" such as liberty and opportunity, and the realities of war. The main figures involved are William Franciskovich, Anna (Paveskovich) Franciskovich, Johnny Pesky, and Vincent Paveskovich, and their stories come alive in letters, photographs, and documents. Much of the collection focuses on the relationship between husband and wife, William

and Anna, while giving insight into World War II-era industry and home life. The collection also reveals the dualities of being a first-generation American within a close-knit immigrant family.

William "Bill" and Anna "Ann" Franciskovich were married July 17, 1932, at Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Portland, Oregon. Both were first-generation Americans raised in Slavic immigrant families in Portland. Living in Slabtown, near the Vaughn Street Ballpark, the Croatian-American Paveskovich family developed a love for baseball, America's favorite pastime. In fact, one of Anna's brothers went on to play major league baseball. William was born to Yugoslavian parents and grew up on traveled to the the opposite side of Portland in the Parkrose neighborhood, where he and Anna later purchased their first house. Prior to entering the military during World War II, William worked at the Plylock Corporation, a lumberyard that manufactured plywood. In 1942, William joined the Army and began training at Camp Adair in Corvallis.

Letters between Anna and her husband begin during his training period at Camp Adair and continue throughout his time overseas. William was a Staff

Sergeant in the 363rd Infantry Regiment, a part of the 91st Infantry Division known as the "Wild West Division." The 91st Division is famous for its involvement in Operation Olive, an action to break the German defensive line remaining in Italy. After training in French Morocco, William's regiment helped capture Pisa before crossing the Arno River and joining the battle for the Gothic Line, which was arguably the most strategic location of German defenses in Italy. Despite facing several counterattacks and navigating the muddy and rough terrain in the rain, William's company fought through the German defenses from September 12th to the 15th and were



William Franciscovich (right) with friends at Camp Adair in Eugene, 1942.

ultimately the first to break through and capture the peak of Monticelli. Sadly, William was killed on the last day of the action, before his company achieved its goal. Anna first received official news of William's death from a telegram, included in this collection.



## HISTORY FEATURE

### COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT (CONT'D)

The collection also tells a story about the Paveskovich family through correspondence between Anna and her younger brothers, Johnny Pesky and Vincent. Johnny signed on with the Boston Red Sox in 1942 and had a successful rookie year with a batting average just behind his teammate and close friend, Ted Williams. Johnny's professional career was interrupted when he enlisted in the Navy in 1942, although he returned to the Red Sox in 1946 and later played for the Detroit Tigers and Baltimore Orioles. Later in his career, he

famously told his friend Dom DiMaggio, "...I'm a baseball man, and it's all I'll ever be. It's all I know. I'll wear the uniform until I die, and then they'll probably have to cut it off me." As his legacy, Johnny is one of the few Red Sox players to have his number retired, and the only player to have a part of Fenway Stadium named after him-Pesky's Pole.

Like Johnny, Vince was a talented baseball player prior to enlisting in the Navy in 1942. Vince and Anna's correspondence illustrates a warm sibling bond as they discuss Vince's activities at the Naval Air Station base, local Portland baseball, brother Johnny's professional career, and news from home. Anna's letters describe her day-to-day life at home, including Croatian dishes she and her mother cooked, visits from family friends,

A Portland boy who was outstanding rookie of the year -- finishing second high for the batting championship of the American league. Johnny Pesky is now batting in a new league--U.S. Navy Air Corps. "Team Up With Johnny Pesky -- U. S. Navy" Sponsored By PORTLAND TRACTION COMPANS

World War II recruitment poster featuring Johnny Pesky, c. 1942

and films shown at the theater. In later letters, Anna expresses concern for Bill and her brothers. After briefly serving in Guam, Vince returned home in 1946 and joined the New York Yankees farm team.

Vince went on to coach baseball at various levels and became a teacher and school administrator in Portland. He regularly hosted breakfast meetups in his old Slabtown neighborhood in late life.

If you would like to learn more about the Paveskovich and Franciskovich families, you can book a research appointment to view the collection by emailing info@greshamhistorical.org. Otherwise, feel free to explore the online museum catalog at greshamhistorical.org/research-and-collections.

### FURTHER READING: "GOLD STAR BOYS" OF GRESHAM

During and shortly after World War II, an unknown person kept a register of Gresham High School graduates who lost their lives in service. The list includes the name, graduation year, and manner and place of death of each person. These include Francis Stiltz, who was the first Merchant Marine to die in the war; **Donald L. Stookey**, killed in a U.S. bombing raid in 1944 while a prisoner of the Japanese Army; Wallis Marriage, who crashed on Catalina Island while piloting an observation blimp; Herman Barksdale, who died of suicide while at home on furlough in 1945; and Roy Morihiro, killed in action while serving in the famous 442nd Infantry Division in Italy. The list also includes five former Gresham High students who died during the Korean War, added later.

The full document can be viewed online:

https://www.northwestdigitalheritage.org/s/s/gresham/item/166138

- Class of '38 Francis Sitts Merchant Marine. Ship torpedoed. Died of exposure and woulds in open boat. First casualty of War in the Merchant service. A freighter, launched in Galveston, Fexas, was massed for this boy. Later the ship was purchased by group of Fortland business men; it operates now under name of "Portland Trader."
- 3. Class of 141 Don Lewis Lost with the "HOUSTON".
- 4. Class of '40 Laco DeCamp Died early in the War at Pearl Harbor.
- 5. Class of \*43 Billy Williams Died early in the War at Pearl Harbor.
- 6. Class of \*39 Charles Splawn Died on the torpedoed warship, "Pensacola". Class of '35 Edwin Johnson U.S.S. "NEW ORLEANS". Forward turret officer: Died about November 17 or 18th, 1942, when his ship was under
- Class of \*30 Bert Eibson Died in a Maryland Hospital of Rhuematic Fever, 2:00 AM. March 4, 1943.
- 9. Class of \*34 Norman Breniser Killed over Europe. Gunner in a Flying Fortress, March 8, 1943.
- 10. Class of '40 Willie Lutz Killed over Sicily. Attached to Middle East Command.
  Liberator Bomber Gunner. Reported Killed about April 1, 1944.
- 11. Class of <sup>1</sup>37 Donald L. Stockey Missing in action on or about October 09, 1943, off New Guinea N. Coast. Killed by U.S. bemb raid on Raboul March 5, 1944, while a prisoner of the Japanese.
- 12. Class of 137 Lawrence Anderson Reported killed March 20, 1944, Bombardier in Flying Fortress.
- 13. Class of \*39 Don Plymell Killed in Easter raid, April 9, 1944.
- 14. Class of '38 Wallis Marriage Killed October 18, 1944, while operating observation blimp. Grashed on Catalina Island.
- 15. Class of 134 George Davies Killed August, 1943, in raid over Romanian Dal
- 16. Class of '36 Farren Shafer Navigator, lost over Baltic Sea, October 9, 1943.
- 17. Class of '36 Robert Campbell Missing in raid over Germany November 2, 1944.
  Pilot of Fortress. Reported killed February 15, 1945.
- 18. Class of the Clifford Young Killed in action. Word received December 1, 1944. He was in Tank Corps, Marines.
- 19. Class of \*44 Fielden Critz Navy. Missing in action.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

#### RECIPES FROM GRESHAM'S PAST: PART 4

By Elizabeth Cour

This article is the fourth and final part of a seasonal series dedicated to sharing recipes and history from a 1923 Campfire Girls cookbook. The "Camp Fire Cook Book" was donated by a former president of the GHS, Betty Chisum, and the recipes were compiled by Gresham Campfire Girls Kathleen Bailey, Willene Botkin, Hazel Cooley, Helen Hisey, Florence Honey, Joyce Kidder, Littie Nelson, Melba Rossman, and Dorothy Taylor. Their cookbook cost 50 cents at the time and the table of contents include sections for bread, cakes, cheese dishes, confectionery, cookies, fish, meats, pastry, pickles puddings, salads, soups, and vegetables as well as a table of weights and measures.

Campfire has been utilized by authors in their books for decades such as in Carolyn Keene and Franklin Dixon's Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys Camp Fire Stories, Laura Lee Hope's The Bobbsey Twins, and Archie Comics. Margaret Vandencook wrote a series of 21 stories about the Campfire Girls from the 1910's to 1930's, some under the pseudonym of Margaret

CAMP FIRE
COOK BOOK

Campfir
featured
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Love Sanderson. Campfire also was featured in a 1926 board game produced by Parker Brothers, the company that began manufacturing Monopoly during the Great Depression. The Campfire Girls board game had players collect Honor Beads and the player with the most beads when someone reached the "Log Cabin Council Fire" would win. Honor Beads could be earned by members of the Camp Fire Girls by completing different kinds of projects.

#### **Recipes**

Here are some fun recipes to try and share this fall.

\*Note: Most of the baking recipes in this cookbook do not include baking times or temperatures. We suggest you consult similar recipes and use your best judgment.

#### **Crab Salad**

1 large crab.

½ cup celery.

1 cup chopped olives.

1 large fresh cucumber.

3 hard boiled eggs.

Steam crab, remove meat and over it pour some good cream. Cool. Pick to pieces, add celery, olives and onion. Marinate for two hours. Add eggs. Serve with mayonnaise on lettuce.

#### **Parker House Rolls**

1 cake Fleischmann's

1 pint milk, scalded and cooled.

2 tablespoons sugar.

4 tablespoons lard or butter, melted.

3 pints sifted flour.

1 teaspoon salt.

Dissolve yeast and sugar in lukewarm milk, add lard or butter and 1½ pints flour. Beat until smooth, cover and let rise in a warm place one hour or until light. Then add remainder of flour or enough to make a dough, and salt. Place in greased bowl. Cover and let rise for about 1½ hours or until double in bulk.

Roll out ¼ inch thick. Brush over lightly with melted butter, cut with 2-inch biscuit cutter, crease through center heavily with dull edge and fold over in pocket-book shape. Place in well greased, shallow pans one inch apart. Cover and let rise until light about ¾ of an hour. Bake 10 minutes in hot oven.

#### **Pineapple Tapioca Pudding**

1 cup tapioca, soak overnight.

1 cup water.

Juice of 3 lemons.

1 cup sugar.

1 can pineapple juice and pulp.

Cook until clear. While hot fold in whites of 3 beaten eggs. Serve with whipped cream.

## LET'S GET ACQUAINTED

The Gresham Historical Society is gifted with an army of volunteers dedicated to preserving our community's past. But ever wonder who those folks are who donate their time to ensure Gresham's history will continue to unfold and be available to future generations?

Well, let's get acquainted!

#### Melissa Bevency: textile volunteer, podcast co-host and intern

A love of history led Melissa to the Gresham Historical Society as a volunteer in September 2023. She happily assisted volunteer textile collections manager Rose Caughie with assembling the *Making and Mending* exhibit

currently on display in the gallery and also helps Rose properly store historic textiles.

store historic textiles.

Melissa recently completed her bachelor's of science degree in history at Portland State University and can now be heard alongside Stephanie Vallance as co-host and research assistant for the GHS podcast <u>Voices of Gresham</u>. Sharing both archival collections and oral histories, she says, provides a well-balanced story of those who shaped our community.

"We maintain the community's memories in physical form and make sure that locals always have a place to come back to and reminisce," Melissa says. "We have the opportunity to bring those memories to life through newsletters, podcasts, exhibits and events. And in doing so, GHS helps to foster community through shared knowledge and experiences."



Melissa admits she was enticed to volunteer at GHS because the task required no previous experience with public history. What she's found, however, is that the age old question – "Do you remember when?" – can now be answered, thanks to volunteers.

"This work maintains a valuable resource for the community," Melissa says. "Without the staff and volunteers at GHS, Gresham's archives and history would simply collect dust in files. Volunteers help to bring it to life and preserve it for future generations."



#### LON SHIIKI, GHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A lifelong Gresham resident, Lon grew up on a 250-acre family berry, vegetable, and greenhouse culinary herb farm. The family sold the property in 1990, but Lon helped develop the land for the homes and golf course now known as Persimmon Country Club.

In 1998, Lon joined the Portland-based commercial construction company Yorke & Curtis as a project manager. Seventeen years later, he retired to pursue hobbies that include fishing, golfing and gardening.

Lon joined the board of directors in 2020 and became vice president in 2023. He oversees maintenance on GHS properties, which includes both the museum and the former Zion Church (home of Spinella's) next door.

### **Membership**

Not a member already? You can join on our website, at greshamhistorical.org.

Or, fill out the form below, bring it to the museum, or mail it to us at PO Box 65, Gresham, OR 97030. Make checks payable to the Gresham Historical Society.

Membership at the Gresham Historical Society supports the continued preservation and sharing of our local history. Now, more than ever, we rely on member support to continue our mission.

Membership Enrollment/Renewal Form							
Member or Family Name(s)							
Address							
City	State	Zip					
Email		Phone					
Choose Your Membership							
Each membership level includes 10% off museum store purchases, a subscription to the quarterly newsletter, and invitations to members-only events throughout the year.							
□ Individual \$25 membership for one adult							
□ <b>Dual</b> \$35 membership for two adults							
□ Family \$50 benefits for two adults and all family members under 18							
Business \$150 two membership cards for any employee							
□ <b>Business Plus</b> \$500 two membership cards for any employee and your business logo in the Quarterly of the Gresham Historical Society							
□ Patron \$1,000							
I wish to make an additional donation in the amount of \$							
How do you prefer to receive your newsletter? □ Email □ Print							
PAYMENT INFORMATION							
Payment method (circle one): Cash Check (payable to Gresham Historical Society)							
Please charge my credit/debit card \$							

#### Our gratitude to the following Business Plus members for their vital support!



















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### Our gratitude to the following Business Plus members for their vital support!















The Gresham Historical Society is a private, nonprofit organization that manages the Gresham Historical Museum and special collections library and archive, located in the 1913 former Gresham Library building in Historic Downtown Gresham.

Founded in 1976 and funded through donations from the community, the Gresham Historical Society was run exclusively by volunteers for the majority of its history.

In 2010, Multnomah County voters passed a property tax levy to support local history. These levy funds pay the salary of a full-time museum director, which helps keep us free and open to the public. GHS continues to rely on the hard work and dedication of a large team of volunteers.

Our mission is to preserve and share our community's past to enrich its present and future.

#### **Hours**

Wednesday-Saturday 10am-4pm Sunday 12pm-4pm Monday-Tuesday Closed

#### **CONTACT**

Web: greshamhistorical.org/contact
Email: info@greshamhistorical.org
Phone: (503) 661-0347

#### **Board and Staff**

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