

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Worth Paying For

Some time ago we suggested the compilation of an accurate, detailed history of Halton County as a centennial project.

Failing this on a large scale, we still have the opinion that a similar project in Georgetown would be one of the best, and most lasting endeavours to properly commemorate centennial year.

While this could be possible as a labour of love by an individual or group, the only sure way to tackle it would be to engage someone for the job, pay a reasonable fee, and set a deadline for its completion.

It could be that there is a local person available with the time and ability to compile such a history. If not, it could be possible that a university student might use this as the basis of historical thesis.

To properly do the job would entail

many hours of research, personal interviews with older residents and a great deal of cooperation from town officials and members of various organizations. It could be a full time job for many months and one which should command a sensible payment.

Councillors should not shudder at spending money on such a project.

Surely our history is as important to preserve as our roads, our public buildings, our parks. Once put in written form it would be an invaluable contribution to our culture — and the longer it is delayed the less accurate it can be and the more difficult to compile.

We would not think that many taxpayers would begrudge a few thousand dollars from the town treasury for a history of our community.

This Time You're Invited

When the fire siren sounds, the fire department always hopes that the public will stay at home, well away from the blaze, and let them apply their skill to keeping damage at a minimum.

But this Saturday there will be a fire with a difference — everyone's invited.

It is one of the town's first centennial projects — a mass burning of discarded Christmas trees which is being staged by the Lions Club in conjunction with the Firemen.

This has been a yearly event in some Canadian municipalities but it is the first time, to our knowledge, that it has been tried in Georgetown. It will have the double advantage of providing a spectacle for the townspeople and getting rid of the trees in a fast, efficient manner.

The lure of fire is one of man's most basic and primitive instincts. In small quantities there is a restful hypnosis in sitting before a fireplace or around a campfire, watching the flames devour a chunk of wood. Fire, on a larger scale, has a fascinating terror which draws humans just as surely as moths, although we have the good sense to stay farther back from the scene than those foolish insects.

Firemen realize they fight a losing battle in their efforts to segregate a fire scene without using every means possible to block traffic.

This time, you're invited and it is hoped that all the fire buffs will congregate to watch what should be a spectacular show.

Robins and Crows

Despite what appears to be a normal winter, there have been signs that Georgetown weather is balmer than it has been in the past.

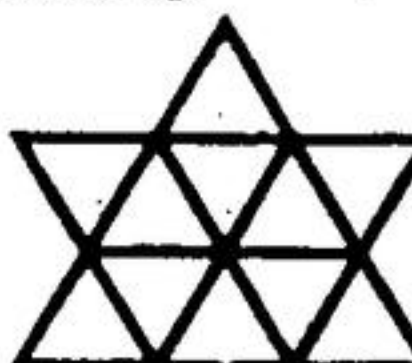
The editor distinctly heard the cawing of a crow one recent morning, and this was confirmed by another member of the staff who heard similar calls.

Another resident reports seeing four

fat robins in her garden the day before New Year's, and denies, any allegations that she was starting her holiday celebrations early.

There could be conjecture that the robins were a species of grosbeak, the male has a pinkish tinted breast. But unless some joker was producing bird sounds, or unless there is a tame pet crow in the area, one of these harbingers of spring is with us still.

Centennial Report



1867 | 1967 by JOHN W. FISHER CENTENNIAL COMMISSIONER

You've heard of the population explosion. Have you heard about the information explosion?

In this fast age, I am told mankind's total knowledge is increased daily by thousands of items of new information produced by scientists, engineers and other professionals. The problem is how to get information out to people who can use it. It's no good filed away in office cabinets.

In a way we are faced with problems of an information explosion at the Centennial Commission. The Confederation Exhibition Train and Caravans touring Canada from coast to coast this year, for example, will be stopping at more than 800 communities. That means more than 800 place names and more than 800 sets of dates and we want all the people in the 800 communities to know about them.

The Train and Caravans represent merely one challenge in the business of Centennial information distribution. Itineraries for the 3,500-mile, Centennial Canoe Pageant, the Armed Forces Military Tattoo, dates for naval assemblies in coastal ports, air shows, Festival Canada performances across the land — travelling exhibits of paintings and sculpture — people want to know what, where and when about all these and the many more national events of Centennial year. In ad-



JOHN W. FISHER CENTENNIAL COMMISSIONER

dition there are still more planned over television and radio, plus local activities sponsored by communities and private organizations.

Advertisements in the press and over television and radio, of course, will herald events in the cities and towns in the weeks before the occasions. But to let all the people in all of Canada know months in advance about every date and every location for each event, we believe, would create an information explosion on the order of about six megatons. (Our theorists at the Centennial Commission also advise that it couldn't be done.)

It's a great challenge to get information out across the land to all the people, especially when some of the projects are still in the planning stage.

I think one member of my listening audience realized that when she asked a question in an auditorium recently.

"I'm from White Rock, British Columbia, and I'm having friends from the States visiting in the middle of May. Can you tell me what is happening in our area then?"

Well, fortunately I had a set of our computerized data books with me and was able to answer, after a little searching. One of the Confederation Caravans would be stopping in White Rock for two days in May, the 12th and 14th.

Not that we can come up with all the answers all of the time but I realize that a lot of people in many places have similar questions in their minds.

May I suggest, if you can't find the right answers, that you try Information Services, Centennial Commission, P.O. Box 1967, Ottawa. We'll try to beat this information explosion yet!

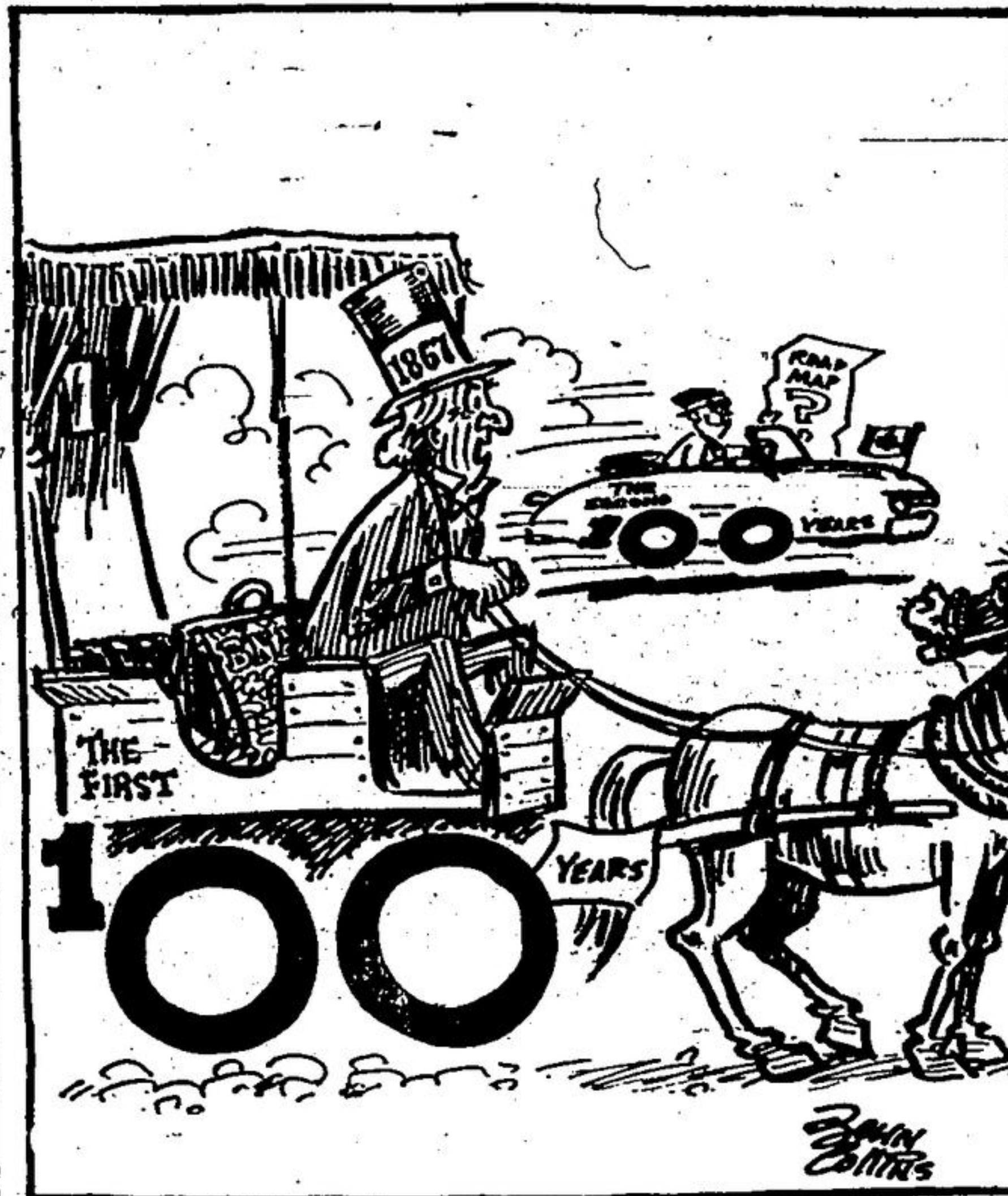
IN THE MAIL BAG

Says Union Argument Clouds Blasting Issue

Milton, Ontario
January 6th, 1967

Dear Sir:
For someone living comfortable miles away, and unaffected by blasting, expounding the fine virtues of the Quarries comes easy. Lending lip service in defence of the Quarries is cheap, as long as someone else's home sustains the blast damage. Closing down the quarries has never been suggested. The loss of jobs has been injected into the controversy, in a weak attempt to gain public sympathy, and cloud the real issue. Giving consideration to only about 200 residents and excluding all the others is a very narrow minded approach.

As stated in a letter to your paper, only about 200 derive a living from the quarries, each earning about \$5,000 per year. That's less than than \$100 a week not a great deal of money by today's standards. To earn this amount, the non-union worker must work many hours in excess of the standard 40 hour week. Out of this amount must be paid the high cost of living, and the seemingly endless mortgage payments. Quarry workers are not unlike other home owners and spend much of their lives paying for their homes. Many are as concerned about blast damage as other



TRANS CANADA HIGHWAY — SECOND LAP

SUGAR AND SPICE by Bill Smiley

THOSE WONDERFUL YEARS

By the time this appears in print, I expect that I shall have severed an association of 17 years with the weekly news-business. And it is not without some sadness that I do so.

Sometimes it seems that our life is governed by accident, that we have very little control over it.

Had the war lasted a few months longer, had I taken a different course at university, or gone to a different college, I would not have met my wife. And had I not met that particular girl at that particular time, I would never have been in the newspaper business, nor would I be writing this column.

Accident again took a hand. We were in the city. I had enrolled in a post-graduate course in English. University teaching was the objective.

Came the tragic news that my brother-in-law (on my wife's side) had been drowned in a boating accident. He owned a weekly newspaper.

Residents, but understandably do not make public complaint. Five thousand dollars a year is not enough if your employer's blasting damages the home you labour so long to pay for. Looking forward to retirement with only a pension to maintain a home that is continually showing cracks in the plaster, foundation and brickwork, creates a gloomy future indeed.

Hundreds of home owners live around the quarries, but work elsewhere, many have an income far exceeding a meager \$5,000 per year and have home investments that could not be afforded on an income of \$5,000. There are farmers that will survive for many more years if they can escape the blast damage. Regardless of the home's cost, it is in most cases all, each of us can afford and therefore is highly prized. Why should any one be allowed to cause damage to millions of dollars worth of property? It is unjust to inflict damage and hardship of any degree on innocent home owners.

Means other than blasting must be found to extract the rock. No rehabilitation plan can heal cracks in plaster or foundations or grow rock back onto a crumbled escarpment. This surely cannot be progress, damaged property and defacing natural beauty. The damage of nature's beauty must fall into the category with air and water pollution. I often wonder what price we are expected to pay for industrial progress and profit. If industrial progress continues, we'll have more air and water pollution, and eventually plant contamination. Piles of crumbled rocks and in the end, they may succeed in annihilating the human race.

The Niagara Escarpment has stood for centuries unmolested. Now fool man has begun the

We hastened to the scene, to be of what comfort we could. And I pitched in, as ignorant as Mrs. Murphy's cow, to help keep the paper going for a week or two, until other arrangements were made. Eleven years later, I was still there.

From the beginning, I was fascinated. This was better than the world of Chaucer and Spenser and the Romantic poets, the whole fleece-lined world of the scholar. This was life.

There was an exciting tempo to it that suited me. Monday was a day of desperation. No news, no editorials written, nobody wanted to buy an advertisement that early in the week. The linotype operator was getting only because you couldn't keep him busy and he knew what was coming.

Tuesday, the pace accelerated rapidly. The news began to pour in. You madly dashed off two sparkling editorials. You tried to make a sensible story

Kerr Made Queen's Counsel

George Kerr, Halton riding MPP, was made a Queen's Counsel last week by Lieutenant Governor Earl Rowe.

QC is one of the highest honours in the legal profession and is only awarded to those who have been practicing for at least 11 years.

Mr. Kerr was among 115 so honoured in Ontario this year. He has been practicing law since 1953 when he was admitted to the Nova Scotia Bar Association. He came to Ontario in 1955 and has been Halton's MPP since 1963.

destructive task of tearing its face. To willfully deface nature's creations is not man's right. It came into our generation for safe keeping and should be passed onto the next generation in its original state. Are we to bear the disgrace of having allowed its defacement? The responsibility for protection of the escarpment rests most heavily on the destroyer and those in Local and Provincial Government. Thus far, their lack of action condones the crime and no protection for the Escarpment or home owner has been provided. How much longer will they wait? Residents are generally agreed that control over blasting is long overdue, and are appalled to see the lack of concern shown. If this situation is allowed to continue, unattended, it may be time for the voters of Halton to make a careful evaluation of all levels of Government representation and perhaps it will warrant a thorough house cleaning.

Wilf Fortowsky
878-6302

of the donnybrook at last night's council meeting. You hit the street and sold ads, whether it was raining or snowing or blastically hot.

Wednesday was even more so. Complaints, callers, classified ads pouring in, and the inevitable merchant waiting in, after the deadline, with a big ad you simply hadn't room to print. Proof-reading away behind. People in looking for free publicity. People in just to chat about town affairs, or their children. And the linotype operator, dangerous to the point of being lethal, within a radius of 12 feet of his machine. Work often till midnight, putting the sheet to bed.

Thursday was decision day.

NEWS ECHOES

From the Herald's of 10 and 20 Years Ago

10 YEARS AGO

● Prizewinners in a Christmas home decorating contest were: Harvey Copland, Bob McColgan, Herb Roshier, Basil Pacini, Cecil Davidson, Dick Packer, Harold Henry, Bill Carr, Ted Evans, James Young, Col Laister and Clarence Heslop. Honourable mention was given James Goodlet, E. W. Binkley and Rex Heslop.

● Ray Salter was elected chairman of the Georgetown Public School Board and Ernest Forgrave was elected chairman of the North Halton High School District Board at inaugural meetings this week.

● Georgetown Office Supplies has moved from its original place of business at 1 Elgin St. to 7 Mill St. in the Muckart Building.

20 YEARS AGO

● Georgetown was on the air last week when Willard's Ontario Panorama was broadcast from the Old Town Hall. The program featured Gordon Sinclair and Alan Savage and local people Joseph Gibbons, Mrs. M. J. Moyer, Prof. H. L. Hutt, Art Wilson and Pbaros Vannatter.

● Three Georgetown boys were successful in passing their first year at the Ontario College of Pharmacy. They are Walter Cook, Stuart Young, and Jack Cornett.

● Georgetown Intermediate Papermakers played their first home game of the season Thursday and beat Orangeville 8-2. Members of this year's team: Goal, Jack Rhodes; defense: Jack Shropshire, Bill Chriss, Scotty Patterson, Jack Berwhistle, Leigh Bradbury; forwards: Hal Gibson, Art Murdoch, Art Hunt, Jack Kemshead, Nick Ferri, Del Beaumont, Roy Ward; sub goal: A. Kemshead.

Too many ads. Can we leave this one out? Too much country correspondence. Which reporter will be least infuriated if we leave her stuff till next week? Short a column of front page news. Where can we dig it up. The photos have not arrived. Rush to the bus station; see if they're in.

But by about 10:30 a.m., she was on the press, and the comforting thump and rumbly of the old machine was reward enough for all the scrambling. There was solid satisfaction in folding, stamping and mailing the finished product. You felt as good as though you'd just wrestled an alligator to a split decision.

At any rate, I was hooked. Formed a partnership with one of the printers, and we bought the thing. We didn't have 40 cents apiece. But we went out like a couple of pirates, hit every friend and relative we

know, scratched up the down payment, outbid every competitor because we had nothing to lose, and took on what was probably the biggest mortgage on any weekly newspaper on this continent.

They were great fun, those first few years. There wasn't much caviar or champagne. Every spare nickel went into the debts. But we made it, and made a host of good friends among weekly editors on the way.

But I can tell you that running a weekly newspaper is one of the roughest games in town. Holidays are almost unknown. Long hours are the rule. Somebody is always sore at you. And you'll never be rich.

I'll miss it. Some of it. And I'll always have warm memories of it. But I hope to keep in touch through this column, which will continue as usual.

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