

THE MOUNTAIN ECHO

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 4

MT. LEMMON, ARIZONA

MARCH 20, 1979

One Room School Opened in '53 Gets Permanent Building in '62 Becomes Zimmerman School in '74

In the summer of 1953, Pima County School Superintendent Florence Reece met several times at Mt. Lemmon to discuss the education of children of elementary school age whose parents were year around residents of the area. As a result of these

meetings, the Mt. Lemmon Accommodation School was established.

An accommodation school may, by Arizona law, be established in unincorporated (school) areas at the discretion of a county school superintendent. This type of

school is financed from a fund called the "County School Fund". Money needed for this fund comes from organized school district funds, county and state, taken off before the money is distributed to the county's organized school districts.

One of Joe Ruben's cabins was rented and furnished with desks, books, supplies, a portable blackboard and many odds and ends that make a "cabin" into a "school".

After Mr. Ruben sold his cabins the school was moved to another cabin in the same area. School was held there for several years. This cabin later burned down.

From there the school was moved to an apartment owned by a Mr. Wintz (now the Feldman property). Here it stayed for two years.

In 1962 it was decided that the school needed a permanent home. The present property was purchased from a Mrs. Patterson in Sacaton, Arizona. The cabin was connected to the county sewer, the property was fenced, a petition was removed between the living room and bedroom, good heaters were installed, another toilet facility was added, and some playground equipment was placed outside. Later an extension was added and a piano was purchased.

In 1968 Florence Reece retired and Anita Lohr became County School Superintendent. Soon after that the school was painted and additional work was done to the playground. The biggest addition was the home for the teacher that was built on the property.

In 1974 the name of the school was changed to T. H. Zimmerman Accommodation School.

New Zoning Plan Proposed

After two public hearings and eighteen months of work, the School of Renewable Natural Resources at the University of Arizona is almost ready to submit a final proposal to the Planning and Zoning Commission for Mt. Lemmon.

According to Stan Brickie, the basic original plan calls for CB - 2 zoning for the commercial area, CR - 3 zoning for the remainder of Summerhaven, and a CR - 1 status for the balance of the private land area.

Basically, the plan will stop any additional trailers from being brought to the mountain except on a temporary basis during building. It would also make it impossible to put a new corral in Summerhaven. Corrals can be put in CR - 1 areas where all sanitation requirements can be met. Trailers already on the mountain and corrals already in use would be excluded from this zoning change.

The major complaints

which have been expressed to date concern those who want no zoning at all or a continuation of the GR currently in effect, and the extension of business zoning along Sabino Canyon Parkway to the school. Parking problems and commercial development around the school are two problems that have been voiced by those who do not want the commercial area extended that distance. These pros and cons are all being studied and a final proposal will be submitted to Pima County Planning and Zoning by the end of the month.

If you missed the public meetings, your opinion is still welcome. You may write the University of Arizona, School of Renewable Natural Resources, Attn: Stan Brickie, or call him at 626-3607 or 626-2198.

The original proposal is available for interested people to see at the Wilmet Branch, Tucson Public Library.



The current school has a fenced yard with playground equipment and a flag pole.



This cabin took some work to become the first schoolhouse on Mt. Lemmon. Here Mrs. Edith Hipple the school's first teacher greets her students.

Subscribe Now!

by Frances Morse

Now is the time, if you haven't already, to mail your subscription form and check in today. This will be the last free Echo mailed to you. If you have already mailed in your check, your one year subscription will officially begin with the April 5 issue.

We have gotten good response from our readers. Keep it up. I still need news items, features, letters and poems.

Also, it is our advertisers that make this paper possible, so do read the ads and support the advertisers.

I have received a lot of requests to do more on the history of our mountains. So starting this issue, I will try to do an article on the history each month. This is another area where I need help, especially on the areas such as Madera Canyon. I have no idea where the name even came from. If you know anything about the

history of our Catalina Mountains, let me know.

Also, I want to try some special issues later. This summer I hope to have special issues on four-wheeling, and one on hiking. In the fall, when the leaves are changing, a special on photography is a must. And of course a special on skiing in October or November. If you can help on any of these, or if you have any more suggestions, drop me a line. Anyone know anything about spelunking???

Poet's Place

MY LITTLE SIS

All my life I wished and wished
That I could have a little sis.

One day that very wish came true.
Then, I was no longer blue.

For that little girl, I watched and cared
And waited for the secrets to be shared.

As years went by and she turned eleven,
She moved far away, almost like heaven.

Now she is twelve and not merely a child.
I bet she's even a little bit wild.

I hope that our friendship will never be lost
When once again our paths will be crossed.

— Love Julie

(This poem was written to Beth Loughney by her sister Julie, for her twelfth birthday this month.)

THE ROAD

The path I walked has become a road
With the roar of traffic there

The breeze was strong with the smell of sage
Now Diesel fumes fill the air.

Where the quail once called from ridge to ridge
The rumbles of trucks are heard.

Where horses grazed in the summer sun
Cars thunder by — a stampeding herd.

The air that was bright is a dull orange-grey
And the fields are a burnt-out brown.

Doves used to fly up from the path as I passed
And whistle away on the wind.

Then circle around and flutter down
Into the grass again.

Now the wind whines with the screaming tires
As the cars speed on their way.

Past the burned out fields, where the horses grazed,
With never a glance their way.

And man,
Like the sky,
Is dull and grey..

— Bernice O'Crotty

You kindle me
elate me
fill me with joy

Though I cannot touch you
the unreachable vine
sweet grapes above

In your world so safe
with roots in the soil
sun on your back

There in your orchard
tended with care
awaiting harvest day

You confuse me
baffle me
fill me with longing

Of the wine we could blend
so clean so pure
as sweet as morning dew

You're not in my field
The fence towers between
the sweet smell is teasing

So I look on and dream
Butterflies fly, Grapevine's creep
Where do they meet?

— Fanny A LeClerc

Spotlight

"RUTH STEWART"

by Frances Morse

"In the early days we were all one big family. We all did things for each other. All you had to do was go to the store to get a ride down to Tucson. And anyone coming up was glad to bring supplies for you.

"The mountain was just natural back then. The best time of all was before the front road was put in. I worked for it, but I was sorry afterward because all the changes came about then." Ruth Stewart was sitting in her house on Glenn Street in Tucson but her thoughts were definitely back on Mt. Lemmon as she talked about the 50 years she spent on the mountain.

"In 1924 I went to Mt. Lemmon for the first time. My husband, Charles Stewart, had a cabin on the mountain before we were married. He and two other bachelors owned the Neoli Lodge, at the mouth of Carter Canyon. They were going to build a lake by damming Sabino Creek and bringing the lake right up to the Lodge. The problem was that these bachelors had agreed that if one of them got married, he would forfeit his interest in the lodge to the other two. I was in school when we got engaged. So after I finished I went home to Yuma and taught for a year. We kept quiet about our engagement. While I was in Yuma he sold his interest in the cabin.

"But in 1924 I came up the back side with Charles. We had to walk from the control mine. There were 12 cabins in the area here and the Mariposa Hotel. Mr. Kimball was in charge of the cabins. He was ill and couldn't take care of them so he asked me if I would handle the cabins in exchange for a place to stay. My son Robert had hay fever terribly bad. The mountain seemed to help him. I took care of the cabins for two summers. Charles was sort of dubious about the whole thing, but he put the wrong woman up there because I love the mountains. I came from the desert - Yuma - but I had gone to school in Flagstaff and I loved the mountains.

"In 1927 we bought our cabin for \$700. I could have bought one in Soldier Camp where the Ranger Station was. The



society group was down there too, but I had fallen in love with my place and that was the cabin I wanted."

Ruth stops to pet her dog, Skeeter, a three year old Boston Terrier, who climbs in her lap to see what is going on. Then she continues with her stories of the early days on Mt. Lemmon. "Jim and Mrs. Westfall had the Mariposa Hotel then. At first I was hesitant about her. She was strange. But Charles said I should get along with her because she ruled the mountain, so I did. I got to where I liked her. Charles had to leave the mountain about six some mornings. The kids wouldn't get up for a long time, so I would go down to the Mariposa and have Coffee Royale with Mrs. Westfall. We would sit there and watch the deer and squirrels come down to a salt lick behind the building."

She continues with some stories about Mrs. Westfall, who has almost become a legend on the mountain. "Jim worked for the Forest Service back then. One day when he was working on the tower at the top of the mountain, she was on a mule taking his lunch up to him. A bear was prowling around the path and gave her a hard time. She killed it. That bearskin and gun hung in the lodge until the day it burned down. She was rugged. I guess we all were. You had to be rugged to get along on the mountain back then."

"There was a spring down in front of the hotel and on Saturday Mrs. Westfall always put a crate of beer down in the creek to get it cold.

Sunday she went down to get the beer for the customers. There was her husband Jim and the Sheriff drinking beer together. She made the Sheriff pay for that entire case of beer." Ruth chuckles as she remembers the episode. "And this was during prohibition."

On another time, Mrs. Stewart remembers sitting in the Mariposa and hearing the skunks under the floor. Only she and Mrs. Westfall were around for it was the end of the summer. "Why don't you kill those skunks or get rid of them some way" Ruth asked. "I can't," Mrs. Westfall explained "Because in the fall after the summer people are all gone, I make my mash in the clothes pot. I kill a skunk then so if anyone is around, they only smell the skunk odor." Ruth Stewart stopped to explain that the clothes pot was an iron pot that clothes were washed in. A clothesline made a three-sided enclosure around the pot. "That fall we stayed up longer than usual. My father was visiting me and he was a died in the wool prohibitionist. One morning we woke up to the most horrible smell. Later Mrs.

Westfall asked me if my father had said anything. She had been making mash and killed a skunk to cover the smell. I once asked a deputy why they didn't do something about her bootlegging. He asked if I was willing to testify against her. "Of course not, she's a friend," I replied. "And that's exactly why we can't do anything about her," he explained. "No one will testify against her."

I used to pick my husband Charles up at his print shop. We drove straight up the back side of the mountain without going home for him to change clothes. And he was usually dead tired. It was a long drive back then, but we always had to stop by the Mariposa. Mrs. Westfall was hurt if we didn't stop and drink some wine with her. And that was good wine. She made it herself from Elderberries on the mountain. The first time I was sort of ticklish about trying it, but it was the best wine I have ever tasted."

All her stories aren't about the Westfalls. Ruth tells about sleeping on the front porch of the cabin in the summer and seeing a mountain lion (continued to page 4)

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Santa Catarina History

by Katherine Lovett

Mt. Lemmon, located in the Santa Catalina Mountains, has been a mecca for people for many years. Long before "swamp box" coolers were invented and before any roads had been built, people went to the mountains to escape the summer heat. Later they went in the winter to ski or play in the snow.

Earliest records of white man's presence indicate that in 1697 Father Kino visited the Pima Indians near Tucson. He called the mountains to the north of Tucson the Santa Catalina Mountains. As it was the custom to name places for the Saint's Day on which they were first visited, it may be that Father Kino gave these mountains their name on St. Catherine's Day. Other stories say he named them for his sister. In 1854 John G. Park referred to the range as the Santa Catarina Mountains. Later Lt. N. Michler called them the Sierra Santa Catarina. This spelling was kept until 1880.

When the first Americans arrived in Tucson, the canyon and sometimes the river that skirts the west end of the Santa Catalina Mountains was called Canada del Oro. A local story claimed that much gold had been placered out of the canyon, but prospectors were unable to find more than the barest color.

In *The Mine With the Iron Door*, the late Harold Bell Wright tells an interesting story of a lost, fabulous gold mine in Canada del Oro.

This canyon was the route for many miles of wagon road built to connect Tucson and Camp Lowell with Camp Grant on the San Pedro River. Many travelers used the road and some made the mistake of

traveling without a military escort, or without being heavily armed and totally alert. The site was a favorite lurking place for bands of renegade Aravaipa Apaches. The Indians could spot travelers from the heights of the mountains rising to the east of the canyon and afterward could easily escape into the Catalinas. Many wagon parties were wiped out along the route.

In Ted DeGrazia's book, *"Mission in the Santa Catalina Arizona South,"* he tells the following tale of the naming of these mountains.

"The Catalina Mountains take the name of a holy woman of Mexico. Early Spaniards called them La Iglesia, the church, because of a cathedral-like formation which is seen from Tucson near the center of the range."

DeGrazia also records this tale by Trinidad. Once on a prospecting trip Ted and Trinidad, tired and hungry from walking all day, came to the highest peak of the Santa Catalinas. Trinidad was preparing supper. He built a fire, slanted some rocks to heat and then when the rocks were hot, he put the meat on them to cook.

While relaxing after the meal, Ted asked, "Isn't this called the Cathedral of the Santa Catalinas?"

"We are right in it, but you know one time there was a stone mission near here, or at least I've been told by my father who heard it from his father. It was probably more than 100 years ago."

"At that time Apaches roamed over these mountains. Raiding was their way of life. A small group of Mexicans from Sonora, Mexico were living at Sopori. Because of Apache raids, these Mexicans moved to a more secure place on the San Pedro. They soon

had to move again to escape Apache raids. They crossed to Santa Catalinas. Beyond the crest they found a fertile canyon running north. It was well protected from invaders. The landscape was wide and beautiful. A stream ran nearby. Flowers and fruit were bright and beautiful. They built a mission with their hands. It took them a long time. All helped. When the mission was finished they had a big celebration. It was the first fiesta they had had for years. At Christmas they had Las Posadas. Everyone took part."

When DeGrazia asked, "Where is this village now?" Trinidad replied, "It was over there. I don't know for sure. It was before the earthquake. Maybe the mountains took back their own."

In 1877 Hiram C. Hodges found rich placer gold deposits in the Catalinas. He found evidence of work done many years before by the Jesuits who employed Indian laborers.

Serious mining and prospecting was in full swing in the Catalina mountains during the 1880's and lasted for the next two or three decades.

One of the best-known ore finds on the back or Oracle side of the mountain was made in 1880 or 1881 by the wife of a prospector whose claim was near the present

Triangle Y Ranch Camp above "Old Hat Gulch." Mrs. Young was on her way up to her husband's claim one day with the lunch she'd packed. She

(continued to page 4)

March 31 Dinner to Benefit Fire Dept.

It's "All You Can Eat" on Saturday, March 31 at 6 pm at the Vine Restaurant. A Mexican food dinner featuring enchiladas, Spanish rice, and refried beans will raise money for the Volunteer Fire Department.

Prices will be \$3.50 for adults, and \$1.50 for children 12 and under. The public is invited to drive up the mountain and eat all they can.

More than \$200 was raised at the spaghetti dinner on St. Patrick's Day with close to 100 people attending. Let's keep up the good work and come out to these dinners to support our volunteer fire fighters.

Remember, every dollar raised or donated will be matched by the State Forestry Department.

Letters

Dear Newspaper,

No, I've never been to heaven - but I've been to Mt. Lemmon! No, I've never met President Carter - but I am Mayor Bill! No, I've never read *The New York Times* - but I've read *The Mountain Echo*!

I don't think I'm missing anything. (Here some people who know me may snicker and make sick references concerning marbles.)

Keep up the good work!

Mayor Billy
Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619

Frances Morse
P.O. Box 48
Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619

Dear Ms. Morse:
Thanks for the superb

write-up of our March of Dimes Benefit Rally. Seldom do 4-wheelers find kind words about their deeds in the media. Coverage tends to dwell on the destructive acts of the irresponsible 10% and not on the mature recreationalists who are very concerned about the amount of public lands being closed to multiple use.

As you know, 67 four-wheel drive vehicles participated in the rally raising \$10,000 for the March of Dimes and not one rallyist damaged a plant or left a scar or piece of litter in the area. I wish I had known of your presence at the rally so I could have met and escorted you around the course. I do look forward to meeting you in the future. Your paper is a pleasure to read. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Bob Leek, President
Tucson Rough Riders

Work Has Begun On Sewer Facility



Preliminary work shows where communal septic tank will be located.

Construction on the new Mt. Lemmon Wastewater Facility is to start shortly after May 1 and be completed by September 1, 1979.

The new system will consist of a communal septic tank and leach field. Only those cabins and businesses currently legally connected to sewer will be eligible for connection. No new hook-ups except those already accepted will be allowed.

As the old sewer lines leaked, new, water tight lines will replace the old pipes. Currently, temporary easements are being obtained to install new connection pipes to

within two feet of the cabins.

In addition, monitoring wells, drainage structures, and overflow storage are provided to insure the system will operate properly at all times.

Traffic will be maintained on the main road, Sabino Canyon Parkway, throughout the construction. Any inconvenience caused by the construction will be nominal.

A public restroom will be built where the Emporium was located.

At this time, the sewer user's fee for residential use will be less than \$10.00. Commercial charges will be on a per gallon basis.

Zimmerman School News

by Jimbo Morse

Zimmerman School is participating in the Multiple Sclerosis Read-a-thon. This is their second year to take part. The students have friends and relatives pledge so much money per book read by that student. Participants read through out the month of March, and return the money by April 13 with their completed list of books and pledges.

Eleven students from Zimmerman School, the entire student body, are participating in this

program. Top prize for all of Pima County is a stereo, calculator, and ten-speed bicycle. A Mystery Sluth Tee shirt goes to each participant bringing in \$25.00.

Certificates and prizes will be awarded to each student completing the program. In addition, a drawing will be held in each school for the participants.

Schools can receive prizes for the highest percentage of students participating, the most books read and the highest percentage of books read per student.

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Goings On

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10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sabino Canyon
- 3 Polish Ski Club
7:30 p.m.
2744 E. Broadway, Tucson
Tucson Rough Riders, Inc.
7:30 p.m. - Gusto Beer Distributors
3635 E. 34th, Tucson
- 4 University Ski Club
8 p.m. - Student Union
University of Arizona, Tucson
Mt. Lemmon Women's Club
1:30 p.m.
4795 N. Camino Luz, Tucson
Cub Scout Troop 108
4 p.m., Zimmerman School
Mt. Lemmon
- 5 Mt. Lemmon Girl Scout Troop
4:30 p.m., Zimmerman School
Mt. Lemmon
- 6 Mt. Lemmon Volunteer Fire Department
Business Meeting - 7 p.m.
Alpine Lodge, Mt. Lemmon
- 10 Polish Ski Club
7:30 p.m.
2744 E. Broadway, Tucson
- 11 Cub Scout Troop 108
4 p.m., Zimmerman School
Mt. Lemmon
University Ski Club
8 p.m. - Student Union
University of Arizona, Tucson
- 12 Mt. Lemmon Girl Scout Troop
4:30 p.m., Zimmerman School
Mt. Lemmon
- 13 Mt. Lemmon Volunteer Fire Department
Training - 7 p.m.
Fire Station, Mt. Lemmon
- 15 HAPPY EASTER
- 17 Polish Ski Club
7:30 p.m.
2744 E. Broadway, Tucson
- 18 Cub Scout Troop 108
4 p.m., Zimmerman School
Mt. Lemmon
Tucson Four-wheelers
TAGRA Clubhouse
7:30 p.m., Air National Guard
Tucson
University Ski Club
8 p.m. - Student Union
University of Arizona, Tucson
- 19 Mt. Lemmon Girl Scout Troop
4:30 p.m., Zimmerman School
Mt. Lemmon
- 20 Mt. Lemmon Volunteer Fire Department
Training - 7 p.m.
Fire Station, Mt. Lemmon
- 21 Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association
Board of Directors - 10 a.m.
Alpine Lodge, Mt. Lemmon
- 24 Polish Ski Club
7:30 p.m.
2744 E. Broadway, Tucson
- 25 Cub Scout Troop 108
4 p.m., Zimmerman School
Mt. Lemmon
University Ski Club
8 p.m. - Student Union
University of Arizona, Tucson
- 26 Mt. Lemmon Girl Scout Troop
4:30 p.m., Zimmerman School
Mt. Lemmon
- 27 Mt. Lemmon Volunteer Fire Department
Training - 7 p.m.
Fire Station, Mt. Lemmon

Place Names

Peppersauce Canyon:
In the 1880's there was a much used trail between Oracle and the Apache Mine Camp in the Catalinas. A miner, Louie Depew, always carried a bottle of peppersauce with him to use on his

lunches. Once on his way to the Apache Camp, Louie stopped to eat lunch at a wash. He left his sauce there; so his friends at the camp kidded him about it and named the area Peppersauce.

Spotlight Continued

(continued from page 2)
chase a deer through the yard. And about first walking and later riding horseback all over the mountain. One of her favorite areas was in Marshall Gulch.

"We used to take a picnic down Marshall Gulch to an old trail. If you didn't know where you were going you would never find the place. It was rough. It was beautiful. There was a place in the rocks called Cleopatra's Bath. We used to take a towel and soap down there and after our picnic would take a bath. It was beautiful. Really like a queen's bathtub."

Another of her experiences concerns Marshall's Gulch. "I remember once when there was a fire in Marshall Gulch. My kids, the Bloom kids, the Long kids, and the O'Dowd kids had a picnic there. Some of these kids were real rascals. I know. They grew up with my kids. Anyway, they were all down there in the gulch and there was this fire. I was really worried about them. Finally they all came back and they were really sooty and dirty. They had been helping to fight the fire, but they did get paid for their work. Eventually, my son Robert owned-up that the real reason they had worked so hard was because they were scared. Some of the boys had been smoking and they were afraid they had caused the fire. I think that really taught those kids a lesson."

Ruth also tells the story of her spring. As one of the few cabins that had its own spring, she never worried about water. And before the days of the Mt. Lemmon Water Coop,

that could be a major thing. Once someone filed claims on all the springs on the mountain. "I had never filed on the spring. It was just mine. I took my father up the mountain late because I had been back East that summer. On the door of the store were notices where someone had filed on the springs. Mine was there, too. I only had a week left to protest the claim. In one week I had to get three names of people who would give an affidavit that my spring was in use before 1919. Most of the people who could do this were out of town for the summer. I finally got the three. When someone came from Phoenix to inspect the springs and check the claims, the claim against my spring was dropped."

"During this time I had a handy-man down from the store to fix a door that had been sticking at the cabin. It just happened I had my gun on the table. He looked at the gun and at me and said, 'Mrs. Stewart, I want to ask you something. Why do you Westerners carry a gun?'"

"I replied, 'Well, when people try to get your water, they don't get it. That's one thing that is precious and we keep it. They get shot.' This tale was told all over the mountain. I guess it sort of gave me a reputation."

When asked how she feels about not having the cabin any longer, Mrs. Stewart is philosophical. "I thought it would break my heart, but it didn't. We had such a wonderful time all those years. But with the children grown up and my husband gone, why it wasn't any fun alone. And I have such wonderful memories."

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Mountain History (continued)

(continued from page 3)
sat down on a ledge to rest, and... "without thinking I pulled out a hairpin and began picking at the whitish vein that meandered through the ledge. Something dull yellow was in the specimen I loosened. I gathered the specimens into my handkerchief and hurried on to my husband. We both forgot the lunch and rushed down the hill to the outcrop. My husband pried off larger and larger specimens from a blanket ledge. He couldn't believe my strike was really the richest gold ore he had ever seen. He stuttered when he attempted to show me the value of my discovery."

Mr. Young named the mine "The Southern Belle," after his wife. When news of their strike became known, miners from all over the Southwest came in. Ed Fellows, a New Yorker, bought the mine. He developed this mine along with 11 others he'd patented. In 1882 the ten-stamp mill began running. It took 24 mules to pull its heavy boiler up the canyon. A huge pump was set up in Peppersauce, close to the big spring, and water was

pipled down to the mine. By the time it had closed

down, The Southern Belle had yielded \$500,000 worth of gold.

"In the early 1900's the Camp Bonito area, named by a Denver doctor who having fallen in love with the area, found the name in a borrowed Spanish dictionary, was owned by Captain John D. Burgess, a former army scout turned miner.

He'd known Col. William Cody during the 'Indian campaigns' and knew of Cody's interest in mines. So around 1909, he persuaded "Buffalo Bill" to take a lease on Camp Bonito. Cody later bought the area and also subleased The Southern Belle. In 1911 Cody arrived at Oracle to visit his mines. His wife accompanied him and was not at all interested in his mining investments. Apparently he had been taken in by mine promoters because later his nephew, a mining engineer, reported there was not much ore at all. Cody spent his last winter at Camp Bonito in 1916. He died the following year and was buried at Lookout Mountain in Colorado.

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