

The Azalean

The Newsletter of the Azalea Society of America

VOLUME IV, NO. 2

SPRING 1982

GRATITUDE TO RICHMOND

Enthusiasm for the 1982 annual meeting of the ASA, 31 March-2 April, was so high and the appreciation of the Society to the host chapter, Richmond, Va., was so great, that the ASA's secretary, Alice Holland, has written the following letter to express the Society's thanks.

Dear Richmond, Virginia Chapter,

"This was the best weekend of my life!" I have heard these same words from five A.S.A. members that I have talked with since returning home from the combined meeting of A.S.A. and the Middle Atlantic Chapter of A.R.S. in Richmond last weekend. From when we arrived on Friday evening until we left on Sunday evening there wasn't a thing we would have

nged. It can only be described in the superlative! We've been trying to analyze what made it so; was it the beautiful gardens? Was it the speakers, the food, the show? Or was it that everything moved so smoothly and we were constantly busy? It was all these things, but most of all it was the people! All you wonderful, wonderful people! I have never been with a group that glowed like this group did. Where do I start my thanks and how do I say it with words? I guess I start with the whole Richmond, Virginia Chapter. It was obvious that you all had worked and planned for months to make this possible for the rest of us. Especially Bill Bedwell! Bill was general chairman of the meeting and responsible for coordinating all the many details. He also wrote the literature that we all received before the meeting. If this wasn't enough, he and his mother opened their gorgeous garden to us. Thank you Mrs. Bedwell and thank you Bill. Thank you to all you folks who opened your gardens and let us tramp through them. Sometimes we didn't stay on the paths, particuy when attempting to identify a special ___lea that had caught our eye.

I loved the flower show (especially as I walked off with some ribbons). Did you see the view of the show from the balcony of the second floor? It was really beautiful; the (continued page 6)

GIRARD HYBRIDS

By Peter E. Girard, Sr. Geneva, Ohio 44041

We have been breeding, selecting and reselecting azaleas for over thirty years. Our purpose always has been to develop azaleas that would be more hardy than those found in the trade. Our first objective, then, was to develop more hardy azaleas. Our second objective was appearance, i.e., to develop azaleas with good foliage; our third objective was to develop azaleas that would maintain good growing habits, compact habit of growth -- plants that would do well in landscaping and also do well for container growing. We have also been very selective in flower color, texture and size. We believe we have achieved most of our goals. Many of our azaleas are being grown throughout the United States and many are now finding their way into other countries. Some of the varieties we have developed are listed below.

Hot Shot: El Capitan x Aladdin A fiery, bright red with large 2½-3" diameter flowers, beautifully waved and ruffled, of heavy texture. Glossy deep green foliage is quite persistent, holding color well. Grows well, making a bush 18/24" in about five years. It is a good landscape subject and also can be forced under glass for earlier blooming.

Girard's Crimson: Boudoir x Aladdin x (Boudoir x Corporal)

Large rosy-red flower, beautifully ruffled and of heavy texture. Foliage dark green about 5/8 x 12" long. Growing habits are good: dense growth, medium compact broad. Will grow 18/24" in five years from cuttings. Forces well. Hardy to -15 degrees F.

Poukahensis x #604 Sandra Ann: (Herbert x Purple Splendor)

Large medium purple heavily waved and ruffled flowers of heavy texture. Foliage medium waxy green color, 5/8 x 14". Growth

(continued page 2)

Volume IV, No. 2

Spring, 1982

<u>Girard Hybrids (continued)</u>

habit is rapid when young, developing a more dense habit as plant matures. Will grow 18/24" in four years from cuttings. Hardy to -15 degrees F. Ideal for landscapes. Also a good parent for hybridizing.

Girard's Rose: #101 (Boudoir x Kathleen) x 169 (Boudoir x Corporal)

Large bright rose waved and ruffled blooms are 2½-3" diameter of very heavy texture. Leaves are glossy deep green of heavy texture, 3/4-1½". Growing habits are good with upright dense form; branches are unusually heavy. Will grow 24/32" in five years. Excellent variety for forcing; hardy to -10 degrees F.

Dorothy Woodworth: G-106 Boudoir x Gumpo Pink

Large heavily ruffled beautiful shade of light pink, $2\frac{1}{2}-3\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter. Heavy texture foliage, medium green 3/4 x $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". Growth habit is dense and broad, with flowers hiding foliage almost entirely. Ideal for forcing. This variety does not possess the hardiness that most Girard azaleas have. Has done quite well in the East, West and Southern areas. Hardiness to -5 degrees F.

Downy Pink: Geneva Hose-in-Hose Pink x P. 17 (Kathleen x Pink Beauty)

A medium shade of pink heavily ruffled hose-in-hose flower, 2½-3" diameter. Foliage is deep glossy green 3/4 x 1½" of heavy texture. Growing habits are excellent with uniform growth, 24/24" in five years from cuttings. Florists find this variety excellent for forcing. Hardiness -15 degrees F. Suitable for landscaping or for group plantings.

Leslie's Purple: Elizabeth Gable x Boudoir

Large medium pink with magenta tints, hose-in-hose flowers are $2-2\frac{1}{2}$ "diameter. Texture is good; flowers hold up very well in winds and heavy rain. Foliage is medium green, $5/8 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ ". Plants grow quite rugged and develop into a bush 18/24" in four years from cuttings. Ideal for landscaping purposes. Hardiness to -15 degrees F.

Renee Michelle: LH-44, a large pink, (Kathleen x Fedora) x Pink Gumpo
Large light pink flowers heavily ruffled, 2½-3", of heavy texture. Flowers
seem to have a brilliant glow, very attractive in full bloom. Foliage medium
green and slightly hairy 5/8 x ½". Heavily branched plants grow 18/24" in
five years. A good subject for forcing or landscaping. Will withstand temperatures
to -10 degrees F. Draws much attention when in full bloom.

Girard's Scarlet: Aladdin x El Capitan

Flowers are deep orange-red (scarlet) of good substance, slightly wavy and evenly rounded, very floriferous, makes a fiery display when in full bloom. Foliage is deep glossy green, almost black, 3/4 x 1½". Dense twiggy plants grow to 18/24" in five years. Hardy to -15 degrees F. Ideal for forcing; good land-cape subject. Growers like this one for pot culture.

Pleasant White: Kathy x Clara Marie

Pure large white flowers are waved and evenly rounded, of good texture; flower size quite uniform $2\frac{1}{2}-3$ ". Foliage medium green (apple green) 1 x $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". Plant habit robust and grows 18/24" in four years. Makes a very compact plant. Hardiness -15 degrees F. Ideal for landscaping. Can be forced under glass.

Spring, 1982

Roberta: Elizabeth Gable x Girard's Pink

Large double rose 2-3/4 x 3" diameter. Attractive flowers heavily ruffled. Foliage deep glossy green 3/4 x $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". Plant has an upright growing habit 18/24" in four years. Forces well under glass. Not as hardy as some, but most beautiful where it can be grown. Have had good reports from East and West Coasts. Hardiness to -5 degrees F.

Girard's Fuchsia: Sandra Ann x Hot Shot x Sandra Ann

A beautiful shade of reddish purple, a color very difficult to describe (71-A, RHS Color Chart). This one will really attract much attention where grown. Flowers are large heavily waved and ruffled, of heavy substance, $2\frac{1}{2} \times 3^{\circ}$. Leaves are glossy deep green, almost black, and cover the plant beautifully. Grows to $18/24^{\circ}$ in five years. Forces well in greenhouse. Hardy to -15 degrees F. Ideal for landscape and group plantings.

Girard's Purple: Sandra Ann x Girard's Scarlet

Medium size clear true purple, not as large as most of our azaleas, but very prolific. Foliage dark green $3/4 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$. Plants maintain a tight, compact habit of growth. Ideal for borders and small gardens. Hardy to -15 degrees F.

Mitey White: Kathy x Clara Marie

Large pure white flowers, tight hose-in-hose. Its two rows of flower petals grow tightly together, appearing as one large wheel. Very prolific. Leaves are a medium green slightly hairy 3/4 x 1½". Plants grow quite dense into a cushion form. Hardiness -10 to -15 degrees F. Withstands heat well. Has not been tested for indoor forcing.

Jeremiah: Pink Dawn x Girard's Rose x Pink Dawn

Salmon Pink; bud color a deep salmon. Large hose-in-hose ruffled flowers, heavy texture $2\frac{1}{2}$ -3" diameter. Leaves are deep green 3/4 to $1\frac{1}{4}$ ". Plants grow into a bushy round shape. Hardy to -10 to -15 degrees F. Ideal for landscaping and forcing under glass. Withstands heat.

Girard's Deep Salmon: Roberta x Hot Shot x Roberta

Large double deep salmon; a true salmon color. Very attractive in color and shape. Foliage is deep green $3/4 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ " long. Plants develop into a semi-upright form 18/24" in four years from cuttings. Withstands heat in the South. Also have had good reports from east and west coasts. Forces well, and good land-scaping subject. Hardiness to -10 degrees F.

Ruby Glow: Pink Dawn x Hot Shot

Hose-in-hose. Deep rose-red with ruby glow. Color of reverse side is a flashy salmon pink, good texture. Will withstand heat well. Foliage is deep glossy green $3/4 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ ". Attractive in winter and summer. Plants have a broad dense growing habit. Has been tried for forcing with good results. Ideal for landscaping; can be used as border planting. Plants grow into compact form 18/24" in five years. Hardy to -10 degrees F.

Spring, 1982

Girard's Pink: #609 Carmen x Girard's Rose

Flowers are deep pink with dark rose blotch. Shape is evenly rounded and wide open. Very floriferous, each plant appears to be a bouquet in itself. Foliage is deep green, very dense and elliptic in shape. Growth habit is broad, densely branched. Ideal landscape subject; also a good florist variety. Will withstand heat and cold; a good type for pot culture.

Chiara: Pink Dawn x Boudoir

A deep clear rose hose-in-hose type of heavy texture. Attractive flowers are large $2\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ " diameter, pleasingly ruffled. Foliage is glossy deep green $5/8 \times 1\frac{1}{4}$ ", heavy in texture and thickly placed on all branches. Its habit of growth is a dense broad oval. Makes a beautiful shrub, even when not flowering. Grows 18/18" in four years. We have tested this type for greenhouse culture; blooming period can be controlled for designated schedules. Has been tested east, west, north and south, with favorable reports. Ideal for landscaping purposes. Hardy to-15 degrees F.

Eriedell: Roberta x Boudoir x Boudoir

Flowers are a medium clear pink that sparkles in the sun. Flowers are large $2\frac{1}{2}-3$ " hose-in-hose type. Foliage is a medium green color, $5/8 \times 1-3/4$ " long. Plant takes on a broad dense growing habit. Ideal for landscaping and greenhouse forcing. Hardy to -10 degrees F. Makes a nice pot plant.

The following are all deciduous azaleas. We have been striving to develop types that would be resistant to the ugly mildew that has troubled many deciduous azaleas. I believe we have done much toward reducing this problem, through a controlled breeding program. Many of our varieties carry double flowers, with colors of unusual beauty. Other qualities which guided our breeding program were the ability to withstand heat and cold, the suitability for landscape use, ease of propagation, and adaptability to pot culture. Many of these varieties are still scarce, but they will be in the market as propagation increases. All these have been tried and approved by several growers.

Apple Blossom Delight: Homebush x White Cloud

A beautiful white tinted pink; splashes of pink on all petals with bright yellow blotch in center. Flower truss has from 20 to 30 florets. Diameter of flower truss is 5 to 7 inches. Each floret is $1\frac{1}{2}-2$ " diameter. Slightly fragrant. Foliage is medium green, turning to yellow with orange in fall. Upright growing habit.

Pink Jolly: Homebush x (HB-14-G Rose)

Flower is ball-shaped, having 20 to 28 florets on a 6" diameter truss. Each floret is 24" and contains 8 lobes. Flowers are a clear medium pink, and fragrant. Foliage is medium green turning to yellow-orange in fall. Plant has an upright habit of growth. Ideal subject for landscaping. Hardiness to -20 to-25 degrees F. Mildew tolerant.

Spring, 1982

Wedding Bouquet: Homebush x KG-178 Appleblossom

Flowers are white tinted bright pink. Flower clusters are $4\frac{1}{2}$ -5" across by 3-3½" deep. Each flower truss has 28 to 36 florets. Flower buds are white streaked pink, very fragrant. Leaves are deep green turning orange and yellow shades in Fall. Habit of growth is upright with many branches. Ideal garden subject. A continuous show winner. Hardiness -20 to -30 degrees F.

Orange Jolly: Homebush x Gibraltar

8right orange flushed salmon. $6\frac{1}{4}$ " truss contains 18-28 three-inch florets with 10 lobes. Leaves are medium green turning to copper yellow-orange in fall. Upright growing habit, ideal for landscapes. Hardiness -15 to -20 degrees F.

Orange Cape: GK-141 Orange x Gibraltar

Flowers large deep orange. Flower cluster is $5\frac{1}{2}-6$ " across, with truss containing 18-20 florets; size of florets $3-3\frac{1}{2}$ " across, each containing a small tuft in center of flower. The texture of flowers is heavy, holding flowers well in hot weather. Leaves are deep green which turn gold and copper shades in Fall. Ideal for landscaping, very hardy, will withstand temperatures of -20 to -25 degrees F.

Moonlight Rose: Homebush x Strawberry Rose

Large 5" clusters of deep rose and bright golden yellow blotch. Floral cluster contains 5 to 9 florets, 2½" across. Flower substance is very good and flowers are fragrant. Leaves are a medium green turning yellow and orange splashes in Fall. Plants are very hardy; can withstand temperatures of -20 to -25 degrees F. Very good subject used in landscapes.

Crimson Tide: Homebush x Red Letter G.4

A vigorous red to rose-red flower on a truss containing 20 to 30 flowers, each about $2\frac{1}{2}$ ". Florets are ruffled or double, of very good substance. Holds up good in hot weather; very floriferous. Leaves are medium green, turning to yellow and orange in Fall. Plant habit is medium tall. This cultivar propagates well from soft cuttings. Very hardy; withstands temperatures of -20 to -25 degrees F.

Golden Pompom: (Homebush x Klondyke) x Yellow #7 x H.Y. 117

8right golden yellow ball type, 5" across. Number of florets per cluster 18-24; each floret is 2" across, number of lobes in each floret is 8-10. All florets are double; a beautiful flower of good substance and color; quite fragrant. Leaves are deep glossy green of good substance, turning yellow in Fall. Plants have a good compact growing habit, are low and are very hardy. Withstands -20 to -25 degrees F.

Pink Delight: Homebush x Cecile

Flowers are bright salmon pink, hose-in-hose type. Flower is ball type, 6" diameter made up of 20 to 24 florets, double flowers. 8ud color is deep salmon. 8eautiful flowers have a two-tone color effect. Very fragrant. Foliage is medium green turning yellow in Fall. Growing habit is medium tall. Ideal used as single garden specimen or in clusters with other shrubs. Very hardy; hardiness -15 to -20 degrees F.

Volume IV, No. 2

Spring, 1982

<u>Mount Saint Helens</u>: Cecile x G-181 (a select Knaphill clone)

A large-flowered type with an interesting blend of colors in shades of pink, salmon, rose and orange center; colors are all placed in the right places to help create a beautiful flower truss. Blooms are unusually large 5-6"; cluster of 12-15, 3" wavy florets. Color of buds is rose with an orange cast. Leaves are medium green turning to deep yellow with splashes of orange in late Fall. Plant is vigorous grower with upright habits. Propagates easily, is mildew proof and healthy. Very hardy; can withstand -20 to-25 degrees F. First Prize wherever shown.

Most all varieties listed have been shown in two or more shows; winning prizes. All have been tested for quality and hardiness. In the meantime we are testing a number of other varieties that should be ready for marketing in about a year.

Gratitude to Richmond (continued)

way the colors blended from deepest reds through pinks to lavenders, purples and whites. So many must have worked to make that show a success and we thank you all.

The programs held something for everyone. We learned about gardening in Japan and how these principles can be adapted to our own gardens. We learned about hybridizing and then we learned about some of the new rhododendron hybrids. The discussion on satsukis was great as well as the tidbits of information that we were given correcting some misinformation.

I want especially to thank the Middle Atlantic Chapter of A.R.S. for sharing their meeting with us. I think we enhance each other quite well, don't you? It must be because we're kindred spirits and enjoy much the same things. I felt such pleasure when you presented Austin Kennell with the bronze medal.

I have a personal thank you to my host and hostess, Leon and Nancy Swell. As if you didn't have enough to do, you took four of us in and made us so comfortable. You shared your home, your garden and yourselves; there aren't words, so thank you will have to do.

Today an ASA friend from the Northern Virginia Chapter telephoned me to tell me some of her feelings of joy from the weekend. They were simple things but they meant so much to her. She was in a garden and a lady she had never met came up to her and took her by the arm to share her pleasure in a very lovely azalea. She mentioned the bus ride when we were returning from Jack Wyatt's garden and nursery and all were surrounded by the hanging baskets that Jack had given to us and all the purchased plants; there was a strong feeling of contentment and closeness that I think we all felt. It was good!

I am sitting in my garden after working all day spraying my azaleas with Bayleton; I'm listening to a wood thrush and I'm thinking over all these things. This is why the society was formed; the marvelous camaraderie that we shared. Already my dreams for the Azalea Society of America have been surpassed. I wanted a

THE AZALEAN

Volume IV, No.2

Spring, 1982

group with whom I could share my love of azaleas and I wanted to learn. But, I had no idea that all you fine people were out there and that your feelings must be akin to mine for us to have shared this "happening". Thank you Richmond, Virginia Chapter for making it possible.

Brookside Gardens Chapter's Azalea Show

Brookside Gardens Chapter's Third Annual Azalea Show on 15 and 16 May contained 295 exhibits by 22 entrants in 48 classes. The award for best azalea in the show went to Aphrodite, shown by Heather Evans, and the award for the second best went to Klondyke, shown by Anna Jane Martin.

CUTTINGS WANTED

All Aglow (Sakura-tsukasa) Da

Dame Lavender (Kurai-no-himo)

Fancy (Tamafuyo)

Jose (Agemaki)

Meteor (Rosh-o-mon)

Prince Delight (Ukamuse)

Prudence (Hachika-tsugi)

Oimatsu

Shojyo

Scarlet Prince (Yaye-hiryu)

JOE H. COLEMAN 7997 Pleasant Hill Road Lithonia, Georgia 30058

A New Growing Mix

Phenomenally deep green leaf color and fast firm growth are the characteristics of azaleas grown in a mixture of <u>Earth Life pH Minus</u> (50%), sphagnum peat (25%), and sand (25%) in the experience of Dr. Francis Gouin, Department of Agriculture, University of Maryland. All four commercially available blends of <u>Earth Life</u> (including <u>Earth Life pH Minus</u> for ericaceous crops) are prepared from composted sewage sludge from the city of Philadelphia, Pa. They are marketed by Delchem Services, Inc., 50 Laurel St., Philadelphia, Pa.19123.

The Newsletter of the Azalea Society of America

THE AZALEAN

Volume IV, No. 2

Spring, 1982

Dr. Gouin says that rooted azalea cuttings in this mix have grown as much as 14 inches from the time they were potted in early February until late May. Earth Life, he says, is the only product which contains both macro and micro nutrients; organic slow-release nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium as well as iron, zinc, calcium, copper, manganese and magnesium.

The Azalean would like to hear from anyone who tries this new product.

Germinating Azalea Seeds

The Northern Virginia Chapter has distributed azalea seeds to all of its members, together with the following instructions which were written by Don Hyatt, based on his extensive experience in propagation.

POTTING MEDIUM - I use a sterile mix of equal parts peatmoss, sand and perlite. Your usual potting mix for azalea cuttings is probably satisfactory. The medium should be moist but not wet.

PLANTING - Seeds should be sown thinly on the surface of the medium and not covered. If sterile procedures are followed, damping off is rarely encountered although a misting of the soil surface with a fungicide solution such as Benlate can be used as a precaution.

GERMINATION - The entire container should be enclosed in a clear plastic food storage bag and placed in bright light (no direct sun). I raise my seedlings under fluorescent lights which are kept 12 inches from the top of the pots and remain on 16 to 24 hours each day. Germination starts in two to three weeks.

GROWING - Seedlings can remain in the plastic bags for several months. Azalea seeds are very small and plants develop slowly at first. Crowding should be avoided since it slows plant growth, and some hybridizers will transplant seedlings into flats at a very early age, spacing plants 2 inches apart. Of course I rarely practice what I preach, so you can usually find several pots with a hundred or more spindly seedlings crawling over the sides looking for dirt. Dilute fertilizer solution (½ strength) may be applied but use caution because small seedlings are easily burned. Coldframe protection is recommended for the first winter.

SELECTION - Under proper growing conditions, first blooms can appear within two to three years. Do not be overly concerned with the inevitable casualties since environmental extremes are needed to eliminate plants which are not hardy. Be very critical of your hybrids, taking all characteristics into consideration such as plant habit, foliage quality, hardiness, ease of propagation, as well as the desirability of the blooms. If a plant is truly superior to other named varieties, in its class, it might deserve formal naming and introduction. Most of your seedlings will become interesting additions to your landscape; plants you will admire

The Newsletter of the Azalea Society of America

THE AZALEAN

Volume IV, No. 2

Spring, 1982

each spring with parental pride...and point out to unenlightened visitors if they fail to take notice. Ben Morrison raised 70,000 plants, selected 400 Glenn Dales, and now we have 20 "Eye Catchers". Selection takes time. Grow the seedlings first.

The Classification of Ben Morrison

The sometimes infirm classification of the azalea Ben Morrison has been steadied by Dr. John Creech, recent Director of the National Arboretum, in a letter to Dr. W. R. Nickle, in which Dr. Creech classifies Ben Morrison as a Glenn Dale hybrid.

"It (Ben Morrison) does have a rather vague history," writes Creech, "but here goes. This azalea came out of the Glenn Dale series. It was a seedling that was not named but Morrison liked it so we always called it 'BYM Special' and kept the plant in the greenhouse at Glenn Dale for a number of years. I always liked it because it reminded me of small <u>Lilium speciosum</u> flowers. After Morrison's death and about the time the B.Y. Morrison Lecture Series was initiated I decided it would be most appropriate to name this azalea 'Ben Morrison'."

A 1972 release from the Plant Science Research Division at Beltsville states that this cultivar "was selected by B.Y. Morrison because of the distinctive color pattern of the flowers from a probable parentage of (Vittata Fortunei x Louise) x Adzama-no-hana." Additional description is as follows: "An evergreen azalea with dense, twiggy habit to 3 feet tall. Leaves medium green, dull. Flowers single, to 3 inches across, 2 to 3 per cluster; ground color Empire rose with showy blotch of Tyrian Rose, petal margins irregularly white. Mid to late May."

THE AZALEAN

The Newsletter of the Azalea Society of America

Volume IV, No. 2

Spring, 1982

National Officers of ASA

Members of the Board of Governors of ASA, dating from the National Convention, 1 and 2 May 1982, are as follows:

Ryon Page
Jerry Goodman (member ex officio)
Don Hager
Alice Holland
Barbara Laguardia
Jack Shaffer
George Harding
Frank White
Donald Hyatt
Malcolm Clark
Gordon Severe

Chairman of the Board President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Editor of The Azalean

Additional Azalea Nursery

A nursery which we are adding to our master list of those which specialize in azaleas and will ship:

Hinkle's Nursery Box 441 Beulaville, N.C. 28518

A Biological Control of Gypsy Moth

We again are indebted to the garden newsletter called <u>The Avant Gardner</u> (P.O. Box 489, New York, N.Y. 10028) for information of utility and interest. This time it is about bacillus thuringiensis, which is a biological contol for gypsy moth, tent caterpillar and other lepidopterous insects. Marketed under the trade names "Dipel", "Biotrol" and "Thuricide", this substance, one purchased, can be extended indefinitely, according to the newsletter. Simply collect a handful of the caterpillars which are dying from the spray but are not yet dried up. Mash them and mix the mash into a pint of milk. Let this culture stand for three days, then strain it through cheese cloth into enough water to make one gallon of spray. This will be as effective as the original spray, <u>The Avant Gardner promises</u>, and the process can be repeated indefinitely by collecting and culturing caterpillars infected by it.

Aside from the economy of using this biological control, it avoids the alternative of using carbaryl (Sevin) with its attested hazards to human health and its established toxicity to beneficial insects such as honeybees.





SUPPLEMENT NO. 5 TO MEMBERSHIP ROSTER, MARCH 1981

APRIL 1982

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