



CNHSS Bulletin

Issue 148, September 2013

Bulletin of the
Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society

ISSN 0309-6149

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Editor: John B Greig, 62 Boundary Road, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 4AD
bulletin@cnhss.org.uk

Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society Limited

A company limited by guarantee registered in London No. 922278

Registered Office: 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD

Registered charity No. 260739

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Goings on at the Sandrock Hotel and on Addington Hills in 1879

James Thomas OWEN became the licensee of the Sand Rock (or Sandrock) Hotel at the corner of Sandpits Road in 1869. He evidently enjoyed a considerably enhanced trade when a large part of Addington Hills, opposite his establishment, was purchased for public open space by Croydon's Local Board of Health in 1874. Kelly's *Post Office Directory for Surrey* for 1878 names him as licensee, manager of livery and bait stables, and farmer. By 1879 he had installed swings in his grounds, 'his own property' and 'subject to arrangements with gypsies'. He also offered donkey rides in his garden. Other parties than the Owen family had evidently established rival attractions on the Board of Health's new public open space, including rival donkey rides, coconut shies, and 'booths'.

The question of Owen's license was discussed at some length, and its renewal opposed by the Board of Health. The 'beautiful Shirley Hills, which had been purchased by the Local Board for the inhabitants of Croydon, had been improperly used'. Visitors from London, attracted by advertisements in town, had been 'a nuisance'. All would have been well if they had 'conducted themselves properly'. When pressed for details of the improper behaviour complained of, the opponents cited (especially on Sundays):

Excessive drinking, dancing and singing in the road, courting more than one lady at a time, wearing false noses, exchanging head-gear with those of the opposite sex, "chaffing" the passers-by, and bringing home branches from trees.

Mr. J.C. Lovett of Holly Mount, Addiscombe, represented that 'On a bank holiday last summer the road for 200 yards in front of the Sandrock was so blocked that he had to turn back. There was a great noise, and persons were dancing, quarrelling, and pushing each other'. It was claimed that on one occasion an estimated one thousand revellers were at the scene.

The outcome was that Owen was granted a six-day license only, and the local police were criticised for not keeping order.

Paul W Sowan

Source

Anon. (1879). The Sandrock Hotel. *Croydon Chronicle*, 5 April 1879, p.3.

Obituaries

Peter Ladson DREWETT [1947 – 2013]

The British archaeologist Peter Drewett was at the forefront of the development of the discipline in the formative last three decades of the 20th century. Institutionally he was at its intellectual epicentre, teaching and researching at the London Institute of Archaeology, now part of University College London (UCL), from 1973 until 2004, when he left to become the first Professor of Archaeology at the University of Sussex. He will be especially remembered for his excavations on major prehistoric sites in Sussex. However, his work was not just confined to the south of England, as he found the time to excavate several sites in the Caribbean, making a lasting contribution to the archaeology of that region. He will also be remembered fondly by thousands of students and volunteers whose lives he both touched and transformed, instilling in them a passionate curiosity for the past alongside guidance and support when it was required.

As a youngster in Croydon Peter became involved in local archaeology at a very early age; he even directed excavations whilst still at school. As a precocious 12 year old he joined the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in 1960, having attended his first lecture (on Roman pottery) on 20th October 1959; he was still a member over 50 years later. Involvement with the Society probably gave his professional work a strong empirical character. It also encouraged in him a deep respect for the role of volunteers in archaeology, which remained with him throughout his life.

Peter's very first excavation was under the direction of a local schoolmaster on a moated site at Godstone. He quickly went on to dig under Henry Cleere (later to become the Director of the Council for British Archaeology) at Bardown, a Roman ironworks, in East Sussex. This was the start of a lifelong involvement with the archaeology of Sussex. Further schoolboy and student volunteering led him to work with Peter Fowler on Fyfield Down and Geoff Wainwright at Durrington Walls. It is fair to say that this triumvirate of prominent excavators provided Peter's major influences before he began his professional career. Sartorially a fourth (and famous) archaeologist had also made an impact. Mortimer Wheeler characteristically set a standard for excavation directors by wearing a shirt and tie on site, and Peter followed suit, at least for a short while.

Professionally, after a short stint at the Department of Environment, where he was an Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments at the age of 22, Peter moved to the Institute of Archaeology, where he developed a dual role – the first as a Lecturer, later Reader in Prehistoric Archaeology, the

second as founder and Director of the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit (later the Field Archaeology Unit). The latter provided him with a much more attractive 'hands-on' role; it grew to a full time staff of nine and employed up to 100 site workers during field seasons. Overall Peter managed some 200 projects in Sussex, raising about £1.6 million in research grants. The projects that he will perhaps be best remembered for are his pioneering work on Neolithic causewayed camps – which he approached in the spirit of landscape archaeology, the excavation of a Late



Figure 1 Peter Drewett excavating at the Bronze Age settlement of Black Patch in East Sussex in the late 1970s

Bronze Age farmstead at Black Patch and the investigation of a number of long, oval and round barrows at Alfriston, North Marden and West Heath. His interpretation of the function of several round-houses at Black Patch

has become one of the most cited papers in British prehistory. His Sussex involvement also included the far-sighted idea of a 'Prim Tech' camp for UCL archaeology undergraduates which would introduce them to the practical realities of later prehistoric life. He founded it in 1982 and it continues to this day.

Peter's work stretched beyond these shores. From 1985 to 2002, as Director of the Barbados Archaeological Survey, he excavated a number of pre-colonial sites on Barbados such as Heywoods (later Port Saint Charles), Silver Sands, and Hillcrest. He also carried out excavations and surveys on the British Virgin Islands, including the island-wide survey of Tortola that led to the in-depth excavations at the Belmont site, and the discovery of a symbolically-sited ceremonial court. His involvement in the Caribbean included much needed advice on cultural heritage management, and he provided legislative guidance to the governments of the Cayman Islands, the British Virgin Islands and Barbados. Peter's research in the Caribbean led to the publication of two books – *Prehistoric Barbados* (1991) and *Prehistoric Settlements in the Caribbean: Fieldwork in Barbados, Tortola and the Cayman Islands* (2000). After an investigation of Neolithic sites on Lantau Island, Hong Kong in the mid-1990s he also assisted the Government of Hong Kong in terms of improving its procedure relating to the issuing of permits to archaeologists. Peter's work was always followed by prompt publication, and his love of archaeological fieldwork in particular lit up the pages of his best-selling book – *Field Archaeology – An Introduction* (1999) – which has seen multiple editions. Throughout his career Peter maintained a principled integrity and adhered to impeccable archaeological standards, at the same time exhibiting a remarkable ability to empathize with his students and co-workers.

Peter never forgot the importance of local societies and the role of the volunteer. He was a champion of both. He was a member of the Sussex Archaeological Society from 1973, serving as Chair of its governing body in the 1980s and again in the 2000s, rising latterly to the role of President. He was ever mindful of the great amateur tradition of the Sussex Archaeological Society espoused by such characters as the Curwens and George Holleyman, and sought to uphold the traditions of research and publication that had originated in the founding years of the Society in the mid-19th century.

In his last years his attentions had turned closer to home – to the parish of Chalvington with Ripe, in the low weald of East Sussex. He contributed a 'Brief History' of the same to a charming local book – entitled *Portrait of a Parish 2012*. That short piece was his last published work. It revealed an unexpected enthusiasm for the Romans, especially a villa estate that Peter thought lay in his neighbourhood. Undoubtedly it would have formed his

next major contribution to the archaeology of Sussex. He now lies peacefully on the sunny side of the graveyard at Ripe Church, looking out over his family home, the South Downs which he loved, keeping an eye on the next generation of archaeologists, some of whom will eventually investigate his putative villa estate.

Peter is survived by loving wife Lys, by children Joe, Abel and Dan, and their children Molly, Sam and Daisy.

John Manley

with amendments and comments from Lys Drewett,
David Rudling, Henry Cleere, Brian Bates and Jose Oliver

Peter Drewett, archaeologist, was born on the 2nd September 1947. He died, surrounded by his family, after a long struggle with prostate cancer on Monday April 1st 2013.

John Neville CUNNINGHAM

John was found dead at his home in Old Coulsdon on 22 December 2012. The date of death is not known. Neighbours alerted the police when they realised something was wrong. He lived alone as his parents, John and Dorothy Sybil, had died in 1995 and 1996, aged 94 and 81 respectively and he never married. His only known close relative is an elder sister in Manchester. The funeral took place at the Croydon Crematorium on Friday 22 February and was conducted by the Revd Penny Johnston as her daughter was a friend of the sister.

He joined the Society in 1974 and attended most of its meetings. He was its excursion secretary and projectionist. He declined to be a member of its Council. A year after joining, he became a founder member of the Croydon Society and was on the steering committee which set it up. For its bulletin, *Croydon Focus*, he wrote regularly about transport and planning applications. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of timetables. He represented the Croydon Society on the committee of the Friends of Shirley Windmill. His main interest, he said, was the urban environment but his interests did include archaeology and visiting local museums throughout much of southern England. He was instrumental in getting an 1805 railway embankment listed.

He attended Purley High School for Boys and graduated in physics at Durham University. Being a secretive and somewhat reclusive person he

declined to reveal anything about his education or indeed about his personal life. There is no evidence that he ever worked, the reason for which seems to have been medical. None the less he was a contented person, enthusiastic about his interests and always reliable.

Brian Lancaster

100 years ago – and today

Regional Survey Excursion to Caterham, Saturday, July 5th, 1913.
 Conductor, Mr. C. C. Fagg

About twenty members assembled at Caterham Station, and the party was favoured by very fine weather. The conductor distributed three specially prepared maps of the district to each member present; one topographical, showing the route and the items of archæological interest; another geological, based chiefly on the Geological Survey Map; and the third showing the types of vegetation, based upon a personal survey. The geological formations traversed were the Chalk, the large outlying patches of Oldhaven Pebble Beds, and the Plateau Gravel. The latter formation, in the neighbourhood of Caterham, is derived largely from the Oldhaven Beds, presenting a similar appearance, and supporting the same type of vegetation. Thus only two plant-formations, namely that of the Chalk and that of the Sandy Soils, were seen in the course of the ramble, but in each of these good examples of three plant associations were encountered, namely the Beechwood, Chalk Scrub, and Grassland associations of the Chalk, and the Dry Oakwood, Scrub, and Grass Heath associations of the Sandy Soil formation.

The party proceeded along the Harestone Valley and made its first halt on the very interesting slope of Chalk Scrub

that skirts the northern boundary of Old Park Wood. It was rather late in the year for Orchids, but several species were noted in the course of the walk. In this piece of Chalk Scrub were a few Bee Orchids (*Ophrys apifera*) and numerous fading Twayblades (*Listera ovata*).

The party then proceeded to explore Old Park Wood, which affords a splendid example of the Beechwood association. The Beeches in most parts of the wood grow in close canopy, and the ground flora is in consequence sparse, though very interesting. A few specimens of Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia vulgaris*) and an abundance of the Wood Laurel (*Daphne Laureola*) were seen. Of the Orchids the Butterfly (*Habenaria bifolia*) and White Helleborine (*Cephalanthera grandiflora*) were still in flower, while the true Helleborine (*Epipactis latifolia*) was as yet only in bud.

The coombe to the east of Park Wood occupied by the Chalk-grassland Plant-association was next visited. This large meadow is apparently being invaded from the north by the Scrub-association. An attempt had recently been made to cultivate the flat bottom of this valley, thus reviving what is supposed to have been a very early custom, but apparently the project had been abandoned.

The outlier of Oldhaven Pebble Beds, which forms the summit of Gravelly Hill, skirts this meadow to the south and encroaches upon Old Park Wood. It affords a striking example of the way in which the geological formations affect the vegetation of a district. Just so far as the sandy Oldhavens enter the precincts of the wood, not only is the dominant Beech replaced by the Oak, but such a calcifuge species as the Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) abounds and flourishes, and the whole character of the vegetation is changed.

The party next examined the gravel-pits on Gravelly Hill, and then spent some time upon the prehistoric earthwork partly within the grounds of "War Coppice."

A welcome tea was taken at the 'Harrow Inn,' and afterwards the physiography of the Weald, with its succession of geological formations, was well seen from White Hill. The party then walked by way of Willey Farm to Willey Heath or Chaldon Common, where the associations of the plant-formation of the Sandy Soils are still to be seen in their natural state. It was too late to study these in detail, but the general aspects of the Dry Oakwood, Scrub, and Grass Heath associations were well seen.

Finally, the party made its way by the recreation ground to Caterham Station, after a most enjoyable outing.

Source

Anon. (1914), Regional Survey Excursion to Caterham, Saturday, July 5th, 1913, *Proc. Croydon Nat. Hist. Sci. Soc.*, 7(5), cxcv-cxcvi.

Walk to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first Regional Survey Excursion

About 9 members assembled at Caterham Station on July 6th, 2013 for the walk to note changes in the area through which Mr C.C.Fagg led our members 100 years ago. This walk was led by Paul Sowen, who had known our past president, and, with additions by Celia Bailey, followed the original route as closely as possible. The day was one of the hottest so far this year and the woodlands gave a welcome cool shade.

Beginning in the excellent small East Surrey Museum, where we viewed photographs of Caterham at the beginning of the twentieth century and an overall map of the area, Paul pointed out our proposed route and discussed the geology. We looked at the specimens on display as well as some of the archaeological finds from the surrounding area.



Figure 2 The walkers for the 100th anniversary of the inaugural Regional Survey excursion gathered at the East Surrey Museum

We set off along the Harestone Valley Road, and it was noted that many houses had been built in what was then a more rural environment. Passing Caterham School, we followed the bridleway that leads along the edge of the Old Park Wood; trenches had been cut across the entry footpaths to stop vehicular access. These clearly showed the stratigraphy of the geology and it was easy to see the chalk and gravels. The plant associations of Beechwood are still in evidence yet the Bee Orchids and the Twayblades were not apparent, most likely because the scrub has not been managed for many years and shading out has affected the growth of many of these now rare plants. A few days earlier a pyramidal orchid had been seen, but had disappeared by the time of the walk. Many other species were identified including Dogs Mercury, both white & black bryony and wild garlic. It is still obvious that the beech is replaced with oak as the top of the hill is reached.

We reached the top of Gravelly Hill, with a view over the weald and of Leith Hill in the distance. Exploring along the line of the woods we proceeded towards War Coppice Road. We were unable to access the prehistoric earthworks, but the site was discussed. We were pleased to find that the Harrow Inn still exists and refreshments were taken, as was the opportunity to hear more about the Regional Survey and its continued interest to the

society. Making our way back to Caterham along Stanstead Road, we stopped at the ancient parish church of St Lawrence, founded in 1095, before proceeding to the station.

It was agreed that it was an enjoyable re-creation of the inaugural Regional Survey walk, and it is hoped that it will be walked again in another 100 years.

Celia E Bailey

Book Reviews

West Wickham Fields and Farmers ... the story so far

by Patricia Knowlden

Published by the Bromley Borough Local History Society in 2012
BBLHS Publications, 150 World's End Lane, Chelsfield, BR6 6AS

101 pages, ISBN 978-0-954633-0-1

Price £8 plus £1.50 p&p

Cheques payable to the BBLH Society and sent to J.C. Barnes, Publications Officer, 38 Sandilands Crescent, Hayes, BR2 7DR

Patricia Knowlden died in March 2011. Our Society published her article on George Clinch in the *Proceedings* for September 2010 (Vol.19, Part 3) which we thought would be her last publication even though we knew she was preparing a publication on the farms of West Wickham. It is now published with some amendments to the nine 'promenades' that make up the last part of the book as her son Neil retraced the walks she had made before cancer incapacitated her in order for him to take into account the changes inevitable in an evolving landscape. The book is illustrated with her sketch maps and drawings as well as with some of her own photographs.

Eight farms past and present are included, the first listed being Wickham Court Farm, the home farm of the manor that once belonged to it. One of the farms is curiously named North Pole Farm. The history of each farm necessarily includes an account of its owners and tenants. Two names stand out, the Lennards and the Caustons. Sir John Lennard of Chevening bought the manor in the sixteenth century. Mary Lennard inherited the manorial estate in 1755, but marrying Sir John Farnaby, the name Lennard was still retained, and when her grandson Col. John Cator inherited the estate in 1859, he was obliged to change his name to John Farnaby Lennard. The Caustons, despite being only tenant farmers, became 'the richest and most influential family' in the parish by the sixteenth century but

their pre-eminence did not last long and their tenancies did not last beyond the seventeenth century.

Patricia notes not only the farms changes in ownership but also their demise through fire, demolition and changes of use. Coney Hall became the rectory in the 1930s while others, such as Allens farmhouse, now Nash cottage, have become private homes. West Wickham Court is a school. The northern part of West Wickham has become a suburb but the southern part is still countryside. The ninth promenade covers the present town.

Sources she has used include lay subsidy taxes, tithe surveys, rentals, costumals, letters, rate books and censuses, demonstrating that the book is based on solid research. Patricia's own observations are not lacking as she took note of plant species to date hedges. Her sense of humour comes out in the drawings and in the Prologue where she describes a custom whereby farmers tested the warmth of the soil in preparation for sowing by sitting on their bare bottoms.

Rectors of Coulsdon Surrey, 1224-1950, Including Clergy of Devolved Parishes, 1871-1950

by Daphne Palmer

Published by the Bourne Society in 2013

ISBN 978-0-900992-74-2

Price £12, plus £3.40 p&p or free if delivered locally

Cheques payable to the Bourne Society and sent to Paul Redington, Publications Manager, 15 Crewes Avenue, Warlingham, CR6 9NZ (redingtonpaul@hotmail.com)

Daphne Palmer's is, perhaps, the definitive account of the rectors of Coulsdon insofar as it covers more than fifty rectors of Coulsdon and more than forty ministers of the nine devolved parishes created out of the former, more extensive, parish. She excludes those rectors of Woodmansterne whose names appear on published and unpublished lists of the rectors of Coulsdon as the parish of Woodmansterne once covered a larger area. It corrects and amplifies such standard histories as Manning and Bray's *History of Surrey*. It is an accomplished piece of scholarship and an ambitious project. References are given for each entry. The list of sources includes the biographical registers of schools and the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, clerical directories and the Church of England Database. The resources of the Society of Genealogy have been well-used. The author has also drawn on brasses and memorials for information.

She apologises for not including curates, to whom she dedicates the book. She does, however, include curates and curates-in-charge of the devolved

parishes as these were not initially parishes in their own right. She also gives lists of clergy since approximately 1950.

The entries even for some of the medieval rectors are detailed while the entries for those in more modern times extend to three or even more closely printed pages. Not only does the book give information about the incumbents themselves but it also informs us about their previous and subsequent careers, their education, their genealogy and even about members of their immediate family.

The author gives information, in italics, about contemporary events and developments. After 1558 this information precedes each entry, before 1558 it precedes each section. The information is sometimes summary but can still be as much as several hundred words. There are also numerous, if small, illustrations and some family trees. The book is the same format as the Bourne Society's Village Histories.

The book will prove invaluable to local and family historians but also to anyone studying the Church of England and its clergy. Despite the wealth of information, the book is easy to read, especially as the author's personality and critical intelligence comes across when she questions her sources and points out what they have overlooked. It is a considerable achievement.

Brian Lancaster

Subscriptions

Your subscription for 2014 is due on 1 January 2014. You pay £15 for Ordinary membership and £9 for Associate membership.

Too many members overlook the renewal date and have to be sent one or even more reminders, so please put the enclosed reminder flyer in your diary. I really appreciate members who pay on time and don't need a reminder!

If you wish to pay by Standing Order, please request a form.

Jane McLauchlin, Membership

Peter Walker [1933 – 2010] — a biobibliographical note

Peter Walker, who died in 2010, was the author of booklets on the public houses of Croydon and their history and was, by his own account, 'born at a tram terminus at Birmingham'. He trained as an architect, and moved to Croydon in the 1960s where, with his wife, he accumulated an impressive collection of books on European transport history, including especially eastern Europe and tramways. We are grateful to his sons for allowing us to select titles relevant to our own areas of interest in and around Croydon: these have been added to our Library. His own published works include the following:

WALKER, Peter, 1986, *East & West Berlin Study Tour, May 1986: notes for participants*. Light Rail Transit Association / London Underground Railway Society: 20pp [20 – 27 May 1986]

WALKER, Peter, 1992, *On rails in Berlin*. Croydon: author: 43pp [Revision of the 1986 title]

WALKER, Peter, 1997, *Croydon and its pubs. 1. A brief history*. Croydon: author: 36pp ['A trial run for the first chapter of a more ambitious book']

WALKER, Peter, 1999, *Croydon and its pubs. 1 - a brief history*. Author: 36pp

WALKER, Peter, 2001, *Croydon and its pubs. 2 – a century of pubs and publicans 1839 - 1939*. Croydon: author: 55pp

This Peter Walker, now deceased, should not be confused with the prominent Labour Party politician of the same name, who was born in or about 1945 and represented New Addington on Croydon Council during the 1980s and 1990s. He has since moved to Wimbledon and is now a member of the London Borough of Merton Council.

Paul W Sowan

The joy of books

With the development of ebooks and their display on conveniently sized readers there has come a major change to our pleasure in the written word. Some aspects will disappear or become infrequent, in particular the delight in holding a work that has travelled with one on the course of life. Also, there will be fewer opportunities to handle books that are rare.

With this in mind I will relate an experience that gave me considerable pleasure. As chemists at Oxford we had a complicated system whereby we sat our Finals at the end of the 3rd year but then had to complete a final research year before we were awarded our degree classification. However, we were graduates and free of the shackles that had limited us to occupying accommodation within 3 miles of Carfax. In 1962 three of us chemists from Exeter College decided to take advantage of this and rent a bungalow in a small village, Noke, on the edge of Otmoor. We had to take it over the summer vacation and I decided to stay there and reduce my costs by doing some paid work in the College Library, 5 shillings an hour without fixed hours.

My task was to catalogue the Edersheim Collection and complete a file card for each book. The collector was a Jew who had converted to Christianity and studied comparative religion. His collection was extensive but part was housed in a basement under the Rector's Lodgings. The books were all shelved more than 4 feet above the floor as the basement was liable to be flooded on occasions. As training for the task I was told what details needed to be recorded on the file cards and given a rule of thumb as to how to identify a rare book, which should immediately be referred to the College Librarian. Rare books were considered to be anything published in Europe before 1600 or in Britain before 1700.

The work was fairly tedious but every now and then a book would stimulate my interest and I would take a break to look at it in more detail. Then, one afternoon, a book turned up that led me to investigate it more thoroughly. I have forgotten its title but it was published on the continent in the 17th century, i.e. not rare by the rule of thumb. However, someone had written in ink on the title page *Hic liber insignissimus rarus est*; I had never come across '*insignissimus*' before but it was possible that the book was rare. So, over to the main library and one of the other vacation librarians was able to point me to, firstly, a Latin Dictionary from which I learnt that '*insignissimus*' meant 'extremely'. Then he told me where to find a bibliography of rare books and I quickly located the entry stating that only six copies of this

book were known, one was in Bodley Library, Oxford and another was in Exeter College, Oxford.

The College Librarian was not in that afternoon and I took the book back to the basement, tucked it away in an obscure corner (well above the floor), locked up and went back to Noke. When the Librarian came in the next morning I took the book over to her – she was delighted – “Thank goodness, Bodley Librarian has been asking where this is!” She immediately put it away in the locked rare book section and, while there, showed me the 14th century illuminated psalter that had belonged to both Elizabeth, wife of Henry VII and Catherine of Aragon, first wife of Henry VIII. What an experience!

John B Greig

For a recent rediscovery of the Edersheim Collection see:

http://www.oxfordchabad.org/templates/blog/post_cdo/AID/708481/PostID/13370

The John Gent Collection

The collection of postcards, photographs and slides amassed by the late John Gent and bequeathed to the Society has been formally deposited on loan to the LB Croydon Local Studies Library & Archives Service (Accession number A1075). This is to ensure its appropriate storage conditions and, ultimately, public accessibility. The material remains the absolute property of this Society, and can be withdrawn by us in whole or in part, temporarily or permanently, as we may from time to time decide. A small team of members commenced cataloguing the postcards (currently estimated to number 14,000 or so) in February, and some have also now been scanned and recorded as digitised images. There is no public access to the collection until these tasks have been completed, when images will be made available electronically.

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