
THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXV No. 3

January 2006

Happy New Year

Mystery Veterans Revealed

From the President

Skip Peterson

Happy New Year! May we all be blessed with good health, good things in life, and able to enjoy 2006 as the very first year of leak free driving in our MG's. OK, I may have pushed that one a bit too far.

On another note, I won't be joining you for the January meeting. Jennifer and I will be in sunny Culver City, CA, visiting Erin, who moved there three years ago. She is dancing with MehTropolis, a company based at Loyola Mariemont College and we'll finally get to see her perform and also explore the California lifestyle that has gripped her from the very minute she set foot in LA.

Now I've had something on my mind for a while, and I recently

got an e-mail about restoration, and the huge number of rip-offs going on. It was from some car-based e-mail report, but the fact is, the writer was sending a serious warning to all of us to watch out for the guys who claim to be specialists and



Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club

Club Membership Information

Membership dues of the Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club are eighteen (\$18.00) per year, payable during September and October. On January 1st, the names of delinquent members are removed from the roster. See *Carole Looft* for further membership information.

MG Car Club Monthly Meeting

The Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the K of C Hall, downtown Dayton, on Bainbridge Street, at 8:00pm. The next meeting will be:

Wed, January 25, 2006

MG Car Club Officers

President.....**Skip Peterson**
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Vice President.....**Ron Parks**
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Upcoming Events

January 2006:

25 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

February:

11 – Valentine Party at the Gribblers'

22 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

June:

4 - "The British Return to Fort Meigs"

Perrysburg, OH. -

21-25 – MG 2006 at Gatlinburg, TN

really just continue running up the bill without getting the car done, and when it is done, charges you twice what the car would ever be worth. Talk about making the car hobby not fun!

So, my ramblings about restoring- I did the MGB 15 years ago, like most any first time MG owner, mostly backwards. It was a black, dented, barely running car, but I thought the price was right. After 6 months of mechanical work, nothing real major but getting everything in order, I wanted the car painted. That's when I learned just how much bondo was in it.

I was lucky to use a local shop, which is owned by a guy who knows how important word of mouth is. Yes, he's in business to make money, but he wants to stay in business for many years. He treated me fairly, made no excuses, and called each time another chunk of bondo fell on the floor. He stopped calling when the trunk floor collapsed- just kidding.

That said, I had sunk quite a few bucks into the bright red B. It looked great, and I'm glad I did what I wanted, cause it's my car. Over the years, I've re-done pieces here and there, yanked the engine to re-do the engine bay and have a peek inside (nothing major needed, I was lucky!), installed a new interior, new top, etc. Bottom line- I have a lot more invested in that car than I'll ever get for selling it. I also discovered that my shop fee at home is great, \$0.00 per hour. But if it were say \$50-\$70 per hour, well, then the MGB would be a \$50,000 car.

So what's my point? Well, I'm not sure, but how about this. Watch out where you have big ticket work done, because you can easily get ripped off. And if you can, do the work yourself. We restore, or work on our MG's because we really like them. We want to drive them, keep them in good shape, and prove the Miata drivers wrong; a well maintained MG is just as reliable as any other car on the road.

Afraid? Don't be, there are tons of manuals and books, and we have a wealth of knowledge and talent in this group. Don't be afraid to call someone. Most everyone in this club will share advice or point you to the one who knows even more; some even show up at your house!

And you can paint it any color you want, or add tube shocks, chrome valve covers and a supercharger, whatever you chose to make it the way you want it. Because after all, it's YOUR MG!

And the red B isn't for sale, ever. It was my first one, and I'm keeping it!

This entire column also serves as my tech tip for the month. Take on something you think you can't do. I'll bet that you can do it. It might take longer, it might have to be done more than once, you might put it together and take it apart three times or more, but in the end, you'll complete it. It might not be pretty along the way, but when it's done, you'll be smiling. Again, it's YOUR MG.

Tech Tips

John Barton

When tightening “knockoffs” on your wire wheels, mark the knockoffs and the hubs in a straight line (alignment mark) with a wax crayon. Check them after driving a short distance. If the marks are no longer aligned, the wheel is coming loose. This usually happens if the splines are worn. Then, you can wipe off the crayon mark.

Replacement fan belts can be obtained easily and cheaply at your local heating and cooling shop. They carry the wider belts we use on our MGs, as opposed to your local auto parts store, which usually has only the modern, narrow belts.

To overcome or eliminate most of the Lucas electrical problems, polish every one of the electrical connectors (male/female) with some fine paper, all the round “washer-type” leads, fuses, ammeter connectors (under the dash), voltage regulator connections, and light connections (including under the dash and under the fenders). As you do each one, apply a light coating of di-electrical silicone grease and you can forget corrosion and be assured of a good electrical connection with minimum resistance. This also applies to the generator connections and both ends of the battery cables. Your lights won't flicker. Put this on your spark plugs leads, also.

If your gas tank is slopping over when full, simply drop a sink drain pipe (cut to desired length) down into the fill opening. It fits below the filler cap and will not fall into the tank because it has a lip or flange on it.

When installing “finder welt” or “squeak strips,” put duct tape on the bottom edge, all the way up to the “roll”. Put a little bit of rubber or upholstery glue on either part of the sheet. Better on the body joint or stationary part. Leave enough length of the duct tape to hang down so you can get a grip on it, every six or eight inches apart along the fender welt. Put your fender welt in place, cutting or “notching” it for the bolt holes to pass through. Put your sheet metal part in place while this fender welt is in approximate position. Run your bolts in, but do not tighten them. Pull down firmly on the duct tape tabs as you snug up the bolts even more. The fender welt will pull down and should then be flush. When it is, tighten the bolts as you work your way along. Then, when you are satisfied the fender welt is snug and where you want it and the mounting bolts are tight, tear off the duct tape that is hanging down. It will tear off flush and you'll never see it. If your fender welt is wrinkling over sharp

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curves, use a hair dryer or heat gun (carefully) and your wrinkles will pull out and disappear. DO NOT TRY THIS ON YOUR FACE OR OTHER WRINKLES!!

If your gas tank sending unit is “weeping” or leaking, coat both sides of the gasket with the silicone gasket sealer and the bolt or screw heads, both sides of the washers , and the screw threads. This should stop it.

Add water pump lubricant and rust inhibitor to your radiator. It’s well worth it to preserve your cooling system and pump. Auto parts stores, Wal-Mart, etc, carry this.

If you have a brake master cylinder from Moss Motors or anywhere else and the filler cap (by Girling) has plastic threads which strip easily, Moss does not carry the replacement cap any more and they are impossible to find. The threads measure approx 1 ½ inches in diameter (much larger than the original filler caps). Go to your local hardware store and purchase a “mechanical test plug.” Drill vent holes in the top and bottom of the tapered “squeeze washers” (same diameter holes as the original cap). The test plug will fit into the top of your master cylinder and when you tighten the wing nut of the threaded bolt, the tapered washers will squeeze the rubber washer against the threads and your master cylinder will not leak. The test plug is impervious to brake fluid. They also are available in smaller sizes.

If you have a rear window on a roadster that is scratched and cloudy, you can make it clear again by using "Rainex" which is a silicone solution. You can get the stuff at any parts house or Wal Mart, Meijer, etc. where they sell oil and car stuff. Just follow the directions and you will be amazed at the results. I put it on mine 3 or 4 years ago and it's STILL clear as a bell. You can also put it on the glass windshield if it is pitted and get the same results. I'm sure everyone knows that if you have a canvas top, leave it up all the time unless you are driving with it down. That way it doesn't absorb any moisture (humidity, etc) and doesn't shrink. If you do leave it down and later try to put it up, it is a "bear" to try to pull it in place and snap. When it's up, it also helps dry the top and prevent any musty/mildew smell.

...bet you didn't realize how easy it is to keep your MG in top shape!

What's It Worth

Reprinted from *Protection on Wheels* newsletter by Hagerty Insurance and Keith Martin's *Sports Car Market* magazine

Kidney-rattling ride, flapping side curtains and electrics by the Prince of Darkness are popular again – and not just with the tweed-capped few. Quietly, the price of good entry-level collectible British sports cars has risen dramatically. When it comes to the price of admission into the British Sports Car Club, it will take \$25,000 to buy what \$15,000 would have two years ago.

Think of the collector car market as a giant wheel. When certain cars rotate up-market, like the perfect Austin-Healeys that are bringing nearly \$100,000 at auction, lesser cars are pulled up as well. In short, if you've ever been inclined to have an English roadster leaving its oily greeting on your garage floor, now is the time to write the check.

Two of the most popular British cars are the nimble, attractive MGA and the bulldog tough TR3. Here are two examples, from the *Sports Car Market* magazine database (www.sportscarmarket.com), showing current market values – Keith Martin

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1962 Triumph TR3B

S/N TCF1831L

Red with black vinyl seats and top; chrome wire wheels. British Heritage Certificate. Excellent nut-and-bolt restoration, and superb paint and chrome. Hood and door gaps are very good or better; trim bits are all there and excellent. Very well done interior.

SOLD AT \$24,910 The Branson Auction, Branson, MO, October 15, 2004

*Finance it with Hagerty Finance for \$313.08/mo. (20% down, 8.25 APR, 84 months).
Call 800-922-4050, option # 5.*

Surely nicer than any TR3 was when it left the factory. The bright red is a bit much; let's leave that hue to Ferraris and paint our English cars Olde English White or British Racing Green, OK? Even though this price was on the high side, this was an exceptionally attractive car.

1961 MGA 1600

S/N GHNL83569.

Gray with blue vinyl interior; chrome wires. A beautifully done, full, professional restoration on a car that's seldom restored to this level. All panel fit is very good except for the hood, which sits too high on the passenger side. The seller/restorer confirmed that the problem resulted from a fresh gasket that wasn't properly shaved for fit. Underhood is as nice as it gets on an MGA; interior is excellent as well.

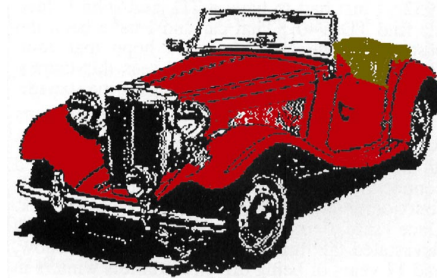
SOLD AT \$36,850 RM Auctions, Amelia Island, FL, March 12, 2005

*Finance it with Hagerty Finance for \$413.01/mo. (20% down, 7.75 APR, 96 months).
Call 800-922-4050, option # 5.*

This price surprised, but didn't shock. If you start with the premise that almost any worthy restoration on any type of automobile costs upwards of \$25,000, you can see that even at nearly \$37,000, the new owner is a winner here.

Prices are for cars in excellent condition. This information is provided courtesy of the Black Book and Cars of Particular Interest Value Guide. CPI is the guide most often used by credit unions to determine loan values of collectible domestic and imported cars. Ph: 800-367-3759, www.blackbookusa.com.

Note - Our local Hagerty Insurance Agent is John R. Engle located at 1326 Parkway Dr. in Beavercreek, OH 45432. His number is 937-426-7536.



Salute to Our Vets

For those of you who didn't make the November meeting and couldn't identify our vets whose photos appeared in the November newsletter, here they are:

Photo for the folks back home – Joe Hooker
On leave in Rome – Jasper Cemino
Vietnam, in front of AC-130 – Charlie McCamey
Minuteman ICBM launch site – Steve Markman
GI and dachshund – John Zeno
Sitting in Jeep – Louie DiPasquale
At 82nd Airborne HQ – Ron Parks
At Ft. Knox – Ian Cunningham
Relaxing on river patrol boat – Larry Youngblood
At Chanute Air Force Base – Terry Looft



Classifieds

For Sale: 1971 MGB. The underside has been rebuilt with new brakes, front and rear suspension, new tires and wire rimmed wheels. The engine runs well. It does need some body and interior work. Located in Kettering OH. Asking \$1,350. Contact Mark Fussnecker, MFVACS@Prodigy.net or call 937-673-6357.

For Sale: Parts from a 1979 MG Midget, everything but the body--New Top. The car had only 18K miles on it when it was totaled. Located in New Paris, OH; call Don Stokes at (937) 437-1502.

For Sale: 1969 MGB GT. New wire wheels and hubs, new SUs, and alternator. Working OD. Runs well and is in nice condition. Asking \$7,000 for club members. I just don't have the time to enjoy anymore and hate to see it sit in the garage. Pictures available. John Larabee john.larabee@siemens.com

Looking For: master cylinder filler cap for '54 T/F (part may be identical to TD). (Moss doesn't carry them anymore). Please contact John Barton, johnnystrees2@aol.com, or (937) 289 7325.

For Sale: '78 MGB engine, and a '74 MGB 4 sped trans. Engine was running when pulled from car, but was using oil. Trans was working, but he has no idea about the internal condition. Asking \$200 for both. Located in Jeffersonville. Contact Randy Lovett at 740-426-6523 or on his cell at 937-604-3134.

For Sale: 1969 Red MGC/GT. Chrome Dayton wire wheels, new tires & tubes, new windshield, rubber, and trim. Overdrive. 513-267-1784 (cell) or 513-539-4643 (home).

For Sale: Numerous items, all located in Lorain County, just west of Cleveland: 53 TD, black with red vinyl interior, same owner 39 years, not driven last 10 years, many spares, including transmission, \$13K firm. 60 MGAs (2 complete cars and spares, disassembled), \$5600. 60 Bugeye Sprite, needs major restoration or good for parts car, \$3200. Plus, 50 YT, MGCGT, 73 MGBGT, 78 rubber bumper B, 58 MGA, and two dual-axle trailers. Contact Jeff Fields, drivesmgs@earthlink.net, 440-315-6380

For Sale: 1963 Austin Healey Sprite, possibly a Mk II. Has been in storage and not run in years. Needs restoration. Contact James Root Phone: (937) 904-9283 E-mail: james.root@wpafb.af.mil.

For Sale: MG-TD Parts 195? - Restored fenders, running boards, splash aprons, frame, springs, new wheels, new tan seats and panels, good windshield, fair dash with gauges, curtain compartment, grill, radiator, fuel pump, carburetor, engine block & head, new rubber parts, gaskets & seals, rear end, starter, generator, brake drums, restoration books. Sell all for \$3,000.00 or B.O. Tom (330) 385-7965 Ohio

MG Car Club Minutes, November 16, 2005

Sam Hodges

You guys have NO IDEA what I actually cut out to get it down to the length that it is...

8:07 Pres. Skip Peterson calls the meeting to order. Skip points out that he's using a borrowed gavel because of some fishy-sounding story about a car's trunk and switching cars. (*Personally, I think he sold it to finance that MGA rebuild...*)

Somebody noticed that the parking lot was awfully full. For a minute it looked like all 100 of the club members were at the meeting. *Not the case. The Knights of Columbus are also having their meeting tonight as well.*

Who are the Newman's? Queries President Peterson rather quixotically. Skip completes his report.

Minutes Reports: Ohio Revised Code § 1955.62.80 - Truth is always a defense. *That's my story and I'm stickin' to it!!! If you don't want your name in print, then don't speak!*

Correction to Minutes: Treas. report needs to be corrected. Apparently the plane tickets for Aruba were more than our Treasurer thought, so there had to be an adjustment to the amount that was spent last month. (*Kathy, ALWAYS factor in the tax and service fees BEFORE you take the money out of the account.*) Actually, the figures were off due to the ineptitude of the Secretary and the fact that he was so

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busy trying to slander people, that he missed the figures.

Motion to approve made by Dick Goodman, McCann Clan representative seconds. Approved

Treasurer's Report: Total Income: Membership Dues (\$314.00) + BCD Revenue (\$950.00) + Clothing Sales (\$20.00) + Regalia Sales (\$3:00) + Beer Fund (\$35.89) = **A Total Income of \$1,322.89.**

Total Expenses: Octagon News (\$111.44) + Gumball (\$5.00) + Picnic (\$222.06) + Hall Rental Fees (\$45.00) + Donation to the American Red Cross (\$100.00) + Canopy (\$105.92) = a **Total Expense of \$589.42.**

Total Gain to the MGCC was \$733.47, that when added to our existing Treasury balance of \$1313.13 equals a new **Treasury Balance of \$2,046.60.**

Joe Hooker moved to accept, Bill Hammond seconds. Treasurer's report approved.

Presidents Report: Staff and congregation of St. Paul's wishes to thank the MGCC for the hotdogs and buns donated as leftovers from BCD. Joe Hooker delivered them on behalf of the club.

Photographer / Graphic Artist Steve Petoskey (sp?) sent us a note. Send us details about your car, and we'll take it from there. If you're interested in having your car immortalized, contact Skip for more info. Alternatively, you can call Ron Parks and he can probably get you some good pics of your car. Linda Wolfe, "...he might even be able to switch the wheels."

MG Mother Club dues are due. Pres., Secretary, Treasurer, and Chairman (*whoever that is!?!*) need to sign on the dotted line. Cost will be £55 (Approx \$100 at the current conversion rate.) Phil Johnson made a motion to approve, Dick Smith seconded, approved on after voting. Skip, "I'll just put it on my credit card and get reimbursed. But I'm not going to put Sam down, I'm going to change his name and address..."

Vice President's Report: Ron Parks reports that the trip to Gatlinburg will be the Parks last trip as parents. After that, they'll be grandparents! Ron's MG wouldn't start night of the Valley Vineyard meet. Apparently there were carb issues - jets... Louie D, "...if you'd had a Spitfire, that wouldn't happen." Dick Goodman, "...you need a new rotor!" Skip, "Thanks to the Wolfe's for planning the Valley Vineyard meet."

Member-at-Large: Jeff Opt, "...I still don't know what that means!?!?" (*...and he's the member at large!*)

Skip P. "You're the tie breaker. We keep you in a sealed room while Arthur Anderson tabulates all votes..."

Membership: Carol Looft reports that we currently have 71 members, a ways away from last years 109. She'll be harassing people over the Holiday period. If you haven't paid, then she and a couple of her goons will be paying you a visit. *Are any of you allergic to pain?* There are several folks who have gotten rid of their cars, but thankfully still come to the meetings. Jennifer Peterson, "They come just for the parties. Don't put that in the minutes or I'll kill you!" Jennifer P. "...don't put that threat in either..."

Carol owes Skip a list of the members so they both can harass.

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Newsletter: Thanks to all for the photos of the Vets. NAMGAR sent a note that they were going to pass this on to National. A very nice touch indeed. For Valentine's Day, Steve Markman wants to do wedding pics. The club balks... Apparently stone carvings don't translate well to print. If you have info for Tech - Tips, then you need to get the info to Steve ASAP.

Activities: Mr. Oricko was not here. Therefore we don't have a clue as to what's going on. Sat. Dec. 10th the Annual Holiday Party was held at the house of Ryan Looft, Pres. Emeritus. It was a very nice affair, and if you missed it, nanny, nanny, noo, noo! (A lot of stuff was cut out about the party, directions, instructions, etc. because by the time this comes out, that party will have LONG since passed.)

Sunshine Committee: Jennifer P. defers to Linda Wolfe. Call from Mike Sonderman. Apparently former club member Wally Ellerat (sp?) died Sunday at age 82.

Phil Johnson was to get a cataract removed a week from Tuesday. Skip, "You just had eye surgery." Phil, "That was on the inside, this is on the outside." Ryan, "So does that mean that after you drink, you have triple vision?"

8:30 Beer Break.

8:45 Back to Order: Some light-weights apparently want to get home before 11:00. Mack-Daddy Louie D., "I've got a babysitter waiting for me..." (*Ever get the feeling that on weekends Louie gets out a big purple fedora, six inch platform lifts, a shag-carpeted Cadillac and goes cruisin with his honeys!?!)*

New Business: Dick Smith forwarded an e-mail from some guy in Mexico. A '55 TD was stolen while in the trailer. Red w/ Red. Watch ebay. Jeff Opt, "You can't drive it at night..." Diana Hodges, "...you can't drive any MG at night." (...*this from my own wife...*) Apparently the owner is going to finish their TR-4. Dick Smith, "TR4s are rare beasts." (*Hey, I like TR's! It's only Spits that I bash in the minutes.*) Phil Johnson, "That's the key. Paint Triumph on the trailer and no one will want to touch it!"

British Museum: Dick Smith, "Thanks for coming out to the open house. In five years, the British museum has grown to 10 cars." Their tenth car is a Lotus Eclat. It's a California car with 44K miles."

8:54 - The Gribblers' arrive. That's no typo, 8:54! Not 7:54, 8:54! *Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. guys...*

Bring your worn, weary, tired printer ink cartridges ready to be recycled. Apparently Skip gets \$2 for every member that he recruits for the British Museum... *Sounds like some sort of tax violation to me.*

Grille Badges: Skip sent the die to ArnieBrown.com trying to find out if our design will work in their standard 3¼ x 3½ design? 25-49 badges are \$20/per and this includes shipping, and the attachment hardware. This is an increase of about \$2 over the prices previously quoted. They're apparently about a third larger than our window decals. Steve Veris, "Can we make our order for last month?" Skip, "100 or more is \$14.75 each. 50-99 is \$18.50 each." It will be a 4 color badge. We need to send 100 bucks to the maker, he'll do a proof and send it back. If we like it, that \$100 goes towards the purchase price, if not we send it back. Ryan Looft, "I think we should pre-order." Skip, "Is the club willing to get the pre-order." Club, "Yes!" Louie D. motions, Dick Goodman seconds. Motion to spend the \$100 bucks on the proof approved. If you're interested please let Skip know so that we can judge the interest. (*I'm interested! Count me in for at least 3...*) Kathy G. "I've got an idea. If you pre-order, you pay costs. If you don't then you can get some from the club at a slight mark-up..." Skip, "That kind of providential thinking's exactly why you're our Treasurer Ms. G. You're not going anywhere now!" (...*Welcome to my little hell –*

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[Sect'y]. *Have a seat next to Ryan and wait your turn...*) Sounds like a Ponzi-Scheme somewhere in there...

Gatlinburg: Zeno has apparently changed his mind. Apparently He **doesn't** want us to stay with him. (*Smart move John!*) John, "Get out! Go to a hotel!"

Bill Hammond has a captive audience. He's selling Ronald McDonald House raffle tickets associated with the Concours and the Taj Kruz Fest. Hammond wants to let us in on one of 3000 tickets to be sold where the winner gets \$15K or a Porsche 356 replica. The Day-Air Credit Union on Wilmington and Marshal is where the car is currently located. Tickets are \$20 per or 6 for \$100. Lois Gribler, "Who do we make the check payable to?" Linda Wolfe, "I've got cash..." Lois Gribler, "No really, who do we make the check payable to?" Go to Taj Ma Garaj.com for more info on this. Need not be present to win. Linda, "Bill, do you want the white copy back?" Bill, "I don't know, I think I want the Yellow." Club, "Uh, Bill, you want the white."

Boonshoft Concours will return to the Boonshoft in 2006. Some regulars will be there, others will not. Rumor has it that Bill Hammond and Jennifer P. have quit the committee. (*A rumor that I'm starting based on the fact that they told me...*) Apparently, Skip is now involved in running the Taj Ma Garaj car show. Dave Gribler, "You need a Miata class." (*Boy, the Gribler's are feisty tonight!*) Skip, "I don't think we're there yet." The Saturday gala is only \$50 per couple.

For Sale: MG TD fenders for sale - Ruben Wasserman.

Two large BCD T-shirts are still for sale. Karl Sparklin and Terry Happensack bought them. Terry, "...its better that I buy them than the Loofts' get them..."

Real Estate Ad: House in Westerville - Garage holds 10 cars! \$489K See Skip if you're interested...

Tech Tip: Do not meet in December. Officially, we meet at Ryan's place.

January 25th is the next meeting at the K of C.

Feb. 11th is the Valentines Day party at the Gribler's. Standard rules apply.

Gumball Rally: Bill Hammond a.k.a. "Count Depalma" won for the first time since Urban Suburban.

9:25 Meeting Adjourn.

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