# CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

P.O. Box 144, Rundle Mall, Adelaide 5000



## ANNUAL REPORT 1989

Thirty Fourth Annual Report

Presented to the Annual General Meeting on Friday 16th February 1990 at the Stag Hotel, Adelaide.

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#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

If the 1989 world of CEGSA could be summarised in a phrase it would be "cave management control".

This control is appearing from every side - National Parks & other Government bodies; cave owners/managers; Local Councils; and even from within CEGSA.

NPWS have had their first complete year of Naracoorte Caving Permits, which has now been smoothed out by adjusting to the intent of the scheme. They have also taken over Koonalda Station on the Nullarbor and added it to the Nullarbor National Park; while most of the Nullarbor up to the railway line has been placed in a Regional Reserve. Permission now needs to be obtained to cave on nearly all of the SA Nullarbor with the WA part soon to follow. At Tantanoola, NPWS have closed the Lake Cave pending recovery from vandalism and excessive degradation.

Corra Lynn Cave changed owners this year. Access control to this cave has now been vested in CEGSA. It does not change by much the way we have operated in the past but we now know in advance when other groups will be there. However, we need to assess the competence of the other groups or take them along on our trips. The paperwork just increases.

The first joint training venture with the SA Scout Caving Group was held this year and became a success. The essence of the course is to train cavers to be competent. More are planned for 1990. Besides being a needed boost to CEGSA training, this course is intended to be open to all cavers to allow an increase in caver competence in SA and give cave managers a guide to the level of expertise of individual cavers. Hopefully, this will work similar to the Cave Diver Category system.

In a joint effort with the NPWS, CEGSA has proposed a way of handling caver access requests. This involves classifying caves by their intrinsic values, their relative values, and their physical condition with respect to caver skill requirements. Using this information, justifiable value judgments can be made on which caves or parts of caves can be visited and with the skill level each caver needs (including specialist skills such as palaeontology). One of the exciting events of the year was the Nullarbor Bunda Cliffs airborne photography. The whole (or is that holely?) cliff was filmed by video and 35mm stereo slides. About 50 large (>10m) entrances were seen with another 100 smaller (>3m) features. Most of these cliff holes are probably sea caves and all appear to be difficult to access due to the active sea erosion causing an almost continuous overhang. Not much to show for 150km of cliff! CEGSA is planning to tackle these caves starting 1990. NPWS and others will need to give permission while our cavers are already toning up their climbs skills

Graham Pilkington

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

The emphasis of caving activity has been gradually changing over the last few years. Where one could previously go caving where-ever and when-ever one wanted; this is no longer the case. Owners are becoming increasingly concerned about liability and cave conservation.

CEGSA has been working with private landowners to provide access for it's members to caves that are now closed to the general public. This has in some cases involved indemnity forms, limiting access and gating to control access. To minimise the knee-jerk reaction of closing caves to all, including responsible caving groups, CEGSA continues to attempt to maintain communication with landowners. Unfortunately we are sometimes ignored. We must continue to persevere as we have a great deal of knowledge about caves and are only too willing to share this information if people are prepared to listen.

Meetings have been well attended this year. Resumes of caving areas have been presented to give newer members background information. Speakers included Geof Vincent from NPWS talking on cave management and various group members talking on trips to remote areas or interstate. Some of these provided the basis for lively discussion.

The annual dinner was well attended although the same can not be said about the CEGSA/VSA dinner. We need to look at ways of revitalising this joint activity as it provides a chance for members from both groups to get to know each other.

Awards presented for 1989

#### **LEATHER MEDALS**

Lance Hoey

**Leather Metric Tape** to make life easier.

Ron Lee

**Leather Survey Station** to be moved around at will.

**SPIRIT OF CAVING** Paul Harper

**RIVETTS REWARD** Peter Horne

Mac MacDonald

#### The Committee for 1989 was

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER
EQUIPMENT
SAFETY &TRAINING
MEMBERSHIP RECORDS
MEMBERSHIP LIAISON
RECORDS
TRIP COORDINATOR
LIBRARY
PUBLICATIONS
A.S.F. REPRESENTATIVE
S.A. MUSEUM REPRESENTATIVE
PUBLIC OFFICER

Graham Pilkington
Peter Kraehenbuehl
Mac MacDonald
Max Meth
Mark Sefton
Peter Kraehenbuehl
Graham Pilkington
Chris Hales

Chris Hales Stan Flavel Chris Hales Mark Sefton Kevin Mott

Kevin Mott / Peter Kraehenbuehl

Neville Pledge Graham Pilkington

#### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

	1987	1988	1989
HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS	11	11	11
FULL MEMBERS	28	34	33
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	19	28	23
LONG-TERM ASSOCIATES	_12	6	4
	70	79	71
FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS	3	3	4
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS	3	4	3
NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE	31	32	30
NEWSLETTER GIFTS	20	18	17
	127	136	125

Membership levels have remained stable over the last 4 years. However, the Newsletter Exchanges & Gifts will probably be further culled next year with Newsletters only sent to those who do exchange and those who have an active interest in CEGSA.

Graham Pilkington

#### SAFETY AND TRAINING REPORT

1989 saw the introduction of the inaugural competent caver course as a joint CEGSA/SCG training programme for members wishing to become 'full' members of those groups. This intensive course of personal and group concerns in caving, including rigging and caving leadership was well received by those who attended.

It proved the mutual value caving groups can achieve in sharing expertise and resources, to ensure that their members are not only safe but also responsible and conservation minded in this age of increasing scrutiny of the caving community.

The formula used for the 1989 course is expected to continue with refinements and this should help to achieve the goal of well trained cavers in South Australia who are all of a 'competent' standard, thus providing safety in caves through effective training.

Peter Kraehenbuehl

#### PUBLIC OFFICER'S REPORT

Another great legal year - we stayed out of trouble.

Graham Pilkington

#### RECORDS REPORT

More members of the group are starting to map the caves they visit hence we are getting a new influx of maps. The microfilming of the Group's maps is now 90% complete and barring new maps should be completed in 1990. During 1990 we will probably need to acquire new A2 and A4 map sheets as existing stocks are nearly exhausted.

The master sheets are being transferred to a computer database and help is required to continue with this task. When members visit caves it is desirable that they forward information on what they see to Records so we can build up our information about the caves. Do not always take for granted that anything you see or find in a cave is known or recorded.

Stan Flavel

#### PUBLICATIONS REPORT

Although Newsletter 34 (4) was only a news-sheet due to insufficient material the quantity and variety of material was generally encouraging. More members are now willing to contribute to the Newsletter. The Newsletter should always be:

- a forum where topics, controversial or not, can be debated
- a tool for educating members and subscribers
- a means of disseminating information
- a communication link so members can share trip activities and news
- a means of promoting the Group

As such we always need member contributions in both trip reports and other articles. To date I think we have acquitted ourselves well but let us not sit on our laurels but make future editions even more exciting. Many members have found the Newsletter a doorway to caving in other states as their reputation precedes them via the Newsletter.

Material for the cover is always in demand so if you have a tame artist, photographs or any thing for the cover please let me have it.

Kevin Mott

#### LIBRARY REPORT

After collecting the library half way through the year, I have finally unpacked and sorted the books and journals, some of which have been living in cardboard boxes for the past few years. Thanks to the purchase of two new bookshelves (\$42-50 each) it is now possible to find individual items reasonably quickly.

I had hoped to have everything catalogued by the A.G.M. including a list of which issues were held and which issues were missing for individual journals, but with over eighty different club journals, newsletters etc. in our collection, I have not had enough time to complete the task. When the cataloguing is complete a comprehensive list of all the library holding will be produced for the CEGSA Newsletter. In the meantime, I refer you to the list (books only) published by Bill Parker in the CEGSA Newsletter 33(2).

This year, the library acquired several new books. These are "Karst Geomorphology" by J.N. Jennings, "The Wakulla Springs Project" by W.C. Stone, "On Rope" by A. Padgett & B. Smith, and "Vertical" by A. Warild. With the increase in interest in S.R.T., members should get a lot of use out of these last two books. We also purchased the video "Nullarbor Dreaming" this year.

Next year, I recommend we purchase "Cave Minerals of the World" by Carol Hill & Paulo Furti. This has everything you want to know about cave minerals and many excellent colour photographs. I also suggest we consider subscribing to two British magazines of general interest, "Caves and Caving" and "Descent".

Also, next year, I would like to begin the task of binding many of the journals held by the library. This will cost a fair bit of money, and we will need to defray the cost over several years. We could begin by binding the club's own newsletter, and some of the more important club newsletters and journals.

During my brief tenure as librarian, it has become obvious that many issues of various bulletins and newsletters are missing. Since the main use of old journals and newsletters is by people seeking information to help them plan interstate strips etc., this can be a real nuisance. Part of the reason books and journals go missing is because proper records are not always kept. This becomes impossible if members remove new library acquisitions from general or committee meetings without telling the librarian. So please don't borrow these new acquisitions until I have registered them and made a note of who has borrowed what. At a recent committee meeting there was considerable discussion as to whether Journals and Newsletters should be lent out, made available for consultation only at the library, or lent out, but only after they have been bound. This is something that you, the membership will have to decide on - it's your library.

Mark Sefton

#### **EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT**

During 1989 the club purchased over \$500 worth of new equipment for training and for S.R.T. The purchases comprised:

- 2 Chouinard sit harnesses
- 1 Petzl Croll sit harness
- 1 Petzl Avanti sit harness†
- 2 Delta Maillon rapides
- 1 Petzl Croll ascender

Tape, cord and buckles for chest harnesses and footloops†

50m of Bluewater Two Plus S.R.T. rope

I have got to construct the chest harnesses and footloops which need to be adjustable if they are to be for general use. Any assistance would be welcome. Please remember that the new S.R.T. rope (cost \$200) will not last long if it is used as a general purpose rope for caving. It should be used only for S.R.T. and for abseiling/self lining - NOT for top lining or gear hauling. Please keep the S.R.T. rope in its tackle bag at all times when not in use and DO NOT use this bag for carrying batteries etc.

Most of the club's equipment is in reasonably good condition although the dynamic nylon ropes are getting old and worn, and we will need to purchase at least one new dynamic rope in the next couple of years. At current prices, this will cost around \$200-250.

The two 20m Bluewater static ropes are over eight years old and although these are showing little signs of wear, are approaching the stage when they should be retired from caving and reserved for training (in frees etc.) only.

The old club helmets are of the construction-site type and have only single elastic straps. They are alright for stopping you from banging your head or for protection from a small falling rock but offer no protection in a fall. We should look to fixing proper straps to at least some of the helmets this year.

Several members have reported having trouble with some of the locks on cave gates in the Flinders Ranges area. These will need servicing or replacing in the near future. Members should lubricate the locks with graphite (only) each time they visit the cave.

In the period 1 May- 31 Dec 1989, I collected \$198-35 in gear hire fees, \$93-25 was for equipment hired to outside groups.

This year, the club has spent a lot of money on new gear and we are now adequately equipped for most purposes. We should therefore be able to keep spending down in 1990. However, I recommend that the club purchase a new fibreglass 30m tape to replace the old one which has several metres missing and has been retired.

The list of club equipment held is given below. You may notice that some of the equipment listed in the 1988 report is not listed here. That is because I have no idea of its whereabouts. If anyone can enlighten me, I would like to hear from you.

Mark Sefton

#### **EQUIPMENT LIST**

U/n 12mm Manila - 18.0m & 8.0m Rope 12mm Manila - 36.5m No. 2 12mm Manila - 18.0m No. 8 12mm Manila - 18.0m No. 9

12mm Manila - 15.0m 12mm Nylon - 15.0m 12mm Nylon - 25.0m No. 10 No. 11 No. 12 No. 13 2 x 20m Bluewater Static 50m x 11mm Bluewater No. 14 50m x 11mm Edelweiss No. 15

No. 16 50m x 11mm Elite No. 17 50m x 11mm Bluewater 11+

Ladders 14

Traces 13 ordinary, 3 spreader

Helmets

4 haversacks, 1 PVC rope bag, 1 canvas kit bag Gear bags

Stitch plates

Cooke Troughton and Sims Theodolite Survey Equipment

3m Levelling staff and staff bubble Miners Dials **CEGSA** 

CEGSA (1979)

Property of late A.L.Hill

Silva sighting compass Suunto PM5 inclinometer 100m fibreglass tape

Dragmat Stretcher

First Aid kits 2 surface, 3 underground

Lifting straps

2 drums Magnesium powder Digging equipment 1 boat

240v AC /12v DC with 8 outlets Battery charger

Carbide sieves

Office equipment 3 x Bookcases

> 3 x 4 drawer filing cabinets Map cabinet (wooden)

Vertifile

Light tables A1-size (box on stand)

A0-size (box)

Geo-seismic apparatus Water levelling tube

Training equipment 2 x Chouinard sit harness 2 x Spelean sit harness Petzl Croll sit harness Petzl Avanti sit harness 1 pair Jumars 79 Petzl Croll ascende

Harpoon descender 2 x Rappel racks 7 x karabiners 2 x Delta Mallion Rapides

Pulley Piton

30m fibreglass tape 4 x Rope protectors

Tilley lamp

Assorted cooking utensils

4mm wire rope >10m





#### **ADELAIDE HILLS**

Very little activity took place in this region during the year. Such activities were confined to training trips to Morialta and a competent caver course run in conjunction with the Scout Caving Group. Perhaps we should whisper in the ear of a few divers that there are some pools of water in a couple of caves.

#### EYRE PENINSULA

No trips were run to this area this year.

#### **FLINDERS RANGES**

Several trips reportedly visited the Flinders this year. Most noteworthy was the survey of Wooltana Cave.

#### KANGAROO ISLAND

This still seems to be the place to go and be able to relax, enjoy yourself and still get in some productive caving. Through a concerted effort the number of new finds were kept to a minimum this year as you can only take so much. Following glowing reports Ravine des Casoars Cave was extended and mapped as was K9.

Activity was concentrated on the Kelly Hill system. The majority of survey marks placed by L Mansfield in 1949 were relocated. Resurvey of the cave was commenced in the tourist area and the Trogs Delight area. A preliminary survey of a proposed new adventure route was done so it could be added to the map. An incident where a member had his foot temporarily pinned by a slab of rock between K1 and K2 demonstrated that caving can not be taken lightly, even in a well known cave. He was released due to the long legs and endangerment of the "family jewels" of another member.

Over the Christmas break members of the Group relocated eight of the twelve photos in a publication "Glorious Kangaroo Island" dating from around 1915. When photos from this trip are compared to the original photos the damage that has occurred during the interval is negligible. The most heavily damaged area is in the vicinity of where the tourist path now is. Interestingly the decoration shows very little signs of growth.

During the year Diana Pappenfus was transferred to Belair Recreation Park. The new ranger at Kelly Hill is Albert Zepf. The revised draft of Kelly Hill Conservation Park has still not been released.

Garth Jackson is still as eager as ever to get underground and has an open invitation for members to come over at any time. He can often arrange transport if needed.

#### LOWER SOUTH EAST

Trips to the Lower South East were generally familiarisation trips to acquaint newer members with the types of caving available in the area. Most of the caves visited were caves that are infrequently visited.

The owner of Collins Cave is concerned over illegal visitation to the cave. A couple of trips were spent discussing the issue with the owner and assessing the cave to determine how the problem can be overcome. The result is that CEGSA has agreed to install a gate and will only issue the key to members who must sign an indemnity form before entering the cave.

Morgans Cave was vandalised during the year by spray painting morons. National Parks are running adventure tours to this cave from Tantanoola. The water level in the cave was reported as being higher than normal.

A response on the future of Tantanoola Lake Cave has still not been received. The cave is continually the source of rumours as to its future which seems to be beyond the scope of National Parks to resolve.

Members of CEGSA also belong to CDAA and SAUSS and have been involved in diving and research for these two organisations. Activities were research dives in 5L42 ("Ten-Eighty Sinkhole" mapping project with the South Australian Underwater Speleological Society Inc.), the Blue Lake (video and general research, again for SAUSS), a "guided tour" operation in 5L158 (The Shaft) and exploration and sampling dives in various features for the Cave Divers Association of Australia's water quality assessment programme. Items of note include the discovery of rare syncarids in several caves, 1858 dated graffiti and extremely old "petroglyph circles".

#### MURRAY PLAINS

The main area of activity in this region was Punyelroo Cave. Most trips to the cave were to continue with the resurvey of the cave. The main passages are largely completed but numerous side passages still need to pushed and mapped. A filming trip early in the year discovered a new "survey reference point" in the cave, smack bang in the middle of the passage. It seems a water diviner located that spot as an 'underground river' and a bore was subsequently drilled.

A new cave was discovered near Yookamurra Cave and this has since been explored and mapped. It is just below the kunkar layer and is very similar to Portee Cave which was also visited on the same trip.

Very high water levels in the Murray precluded other caves along the banks from being visited as dry cavers seem to have an abhorrence of water.

#### **NULLARBOR PLAINS**

The highlight of the year was the transfer of the SA vacant Crown Land south of the railway into NPWS controlled land. Almost any activity now requires notification to the NPWS - the conditions depending on whether the area to be visited is National Park, Conservation Park, or Regional Reserve. WA is expected to follow suit (in a slightly different form) in 1990.

The area has started to receive a lot of visitation from Australian cavers over the last year. Some of this is resulting in an information flow to CEGSA Records, but most trips still have nothing to report. CEGSA has now allocated over 400 karst numbers and the third edition of the ATLAS is in preparation. As usual, nearly all data and maps are from CEGSA trips.

A low-level spectacular observation plane flight along the Bunda cliffs was commissioned. During the trip all the Bunda Cliffs were filmed on video (two continuous pans - wide and focused) and by 35mm slides (one total cliff set as with overlapping stereo-pairs; and the other set as zoomed shots of specific features). These films have yet to be analysed in detail but some of the largest entrances have been "measured" and located to within 50m AMG. A new phase of Nullarbor cave exploration could be on hand for those who can handle the 60-90m overhanging cliffs.

Another event for the year was the water analysis done by Julia James from which she postulates that the cave systems are independent and probably formed by mixing corrosion.

The longest cave - Old Homestead - is now at 15km with the real figure expected to exceed 20km. The lack of much increase this last year was due to both a slowdown in the time surveying the cave and because most efforts have been in surveying the parts already explored. The other favourite cave - Thampanna - has had hardly any new activity. Most trips have been used just trying to complete mapping of the Second Chamber. It is a multi-level overlapping set of interconnected voids that are really holes in the rockpile of one 400m long by 100m wide chamber. However, a passage that was located on the first CEGSA trip, but lost since, was relocated and the end of it reformed to disclose a new high level passage network 200m of which was explored. This find has confirmed the multi-level nature of the natural cave passages in the Mundrabilla area. A newly found cave (by a WA group using ultralites) - Matilda - was also multi-level with a total passage length of nearly 500m.

#### **UPPER SOUTH EAST**

After a gap of several years, the Group has again become active in surveying caves in the Naracoorte region. With almost all the major caves in this area having a high grade survey in the Group's records, the emphasis is now on the review of previous surveys and updating these in light of exploration since the surveys, some of which are over twenty years old.

The two caves receiving most attention in 1989 have been Fox Cave (5U22) and Beekeepers Cave (5U15) of which there are currently CRG grade 4 and 3 maps respectively. These imperial scale maps are now being progressively replaced by ASF grade 6 metric surveys. The Fox Cave survey is being completed concurrently with a photo monitoring project for NPWS and will need continued member support in 1990.

Areas around Penola and Avenue Range also received some visitation and the members concerned were surprised by the diversity of caves to be found there and the amount of work <u>still</u> to be done. Marcollat Cave was visited for the first time in about twenty five years and was definitely well worth the visit.

Caves visited included U1, U3, U4, U15, U19, U22, U26, U31, U48, U58, U59, U72, U132.

#### YORKE PENINSULA

Although not many trips were run to the lower part of Yorke Peninsula last year, and no caves were found, the possibility of a find still lurks in the background. The large natural bushlands of Warrenben Conservation Park and surrounds have numerous small holes and eventually someone will find something significant.

Further south a rumoured cave around Formby Bay still eludes us, but keep an ear to the ground, I'm sure it will eventuate.

Corra Lynn Cave was sold this year after 100 years with the same family owners. Actually the whole property was sold but the cave is the only important thing for us Access arrangements have been negotiated with the new owner. All trips, not just CEGSA's, are now to be handled by CEGSA. A set of requirements have been drawn up for trips to 5Y1, including NO TRIPS during the fire danger season. While the sale was being effected and the new owners were settling in, CEGSA withdrew from trips to 5Y1, hence little activity occurred this year. The new owners were given an introduction to their underground dream world.

Town Well Cave received several visits during the year. Now that several rebelay points have been established in the cave it is being used for training and practise for those looking to go caving interstate or just brushing up on SRT skills.

#### INTERSTATE / OVERSEAS

Outside of the Western Australian Nullarbor trips the Group has also made trips to the Glenelg River area (Victoria), Tasmania and New South Wales during 1989-90. One trip to each of these eastern states was recorded during this time. Excepting for some survey at Yarangobilly the visits were all 'tourist' trips or photography oriented trips. Trips were also made to the Chillagoe area in Queensland and to New Guinea.

Interest in visiting other caving areas is increasing again in the Group with the last trip to New South Wales attracting a record eleven cavers.

Caves visited included 2B4-5, 2B7-14, 2B24, 2B44, 2B51, 2CP1, 2CP3, 2CP14, 2WY1, 2Y1-3, 2Y7, 2Y8, 2Y9, 2Y10, 2Y31, 3G4, 3G38, 3G40, 7IB10, 7JF221, 7MC1, 7MC38.





GENERAL ACCOUNT		FINANCIAL	STATEMENT
RECEIPTS			
Full members Associate members Long term associate members ASF levies (Life members) Family memberships	\$1080.00 \$268.00 \$57.00 \$55.00 \$48.00	\$1508.00	
Equipment hire Maps Newsletter subscription Donation - Dave Turner	\$247.25 \$20.00 \$24.00 \$4.00		
Sale of publications	ψ4.00	\$295.25	
Occasional paper 4 - Mullamullang(2) Bank interest TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$8.50 <u>\$38.42</u>	\$1850.17
Add Bank balance as at 1.1.89 cash on hand at 1.1.89 transfer from Capital Account (Library) Less uncleared cheque at 1.1.89		\$528.37 \$232.80 \$513.60 (\$39.95)	\$1234.82
			\$3084.99

GENERAL ACCOUNT	FINANCIAL STATEMENT
PAYMENTS	
Newsletter: Production Postage Envelopes Covers Total Newsletter Costs	\$803.50 \$193.08 \$170.68 \$76.00 \$1243.26
ASF subscription levy	\$240.50
Aust Post box rental Postage Stationary Photographs Maps Telephone directory listing	\$50.00 \$9.05 \$14.02 \$18.40 \$15.00 \$35.00
QM Gear Library book shelves Books "Nullarbor Dreaming" video KI trip expenses Federal Govt Tax Financial Institutions Duty	\$599.75 \$85.00 \$188.90 \$32.50 \$30.00 \$6.30 \$0.96
TOTAL PAYMENTS	\$2568.64
Add Bank balance as at 31.12.89	\$516.35 \$3084.99

CAPITAL ACCOUNT FINANCIAL STATEMENT		
Balance as at 1.1.89 Add Interest	\$8671.11 <u>\$796.43</u>	\$9467.54
		ψ9407.34
Less		
Transfer to General account (from Library funds)	\$313.60	
Transfer to General account (for rope acquisition)	\$200.00	
Federal Govt Tax	\$0.28	
		\$513.88
Balance as at 31.12.89		\$8953.66

#### TREASURERS REPORT

The Group's General Account and Capital Account combined, rose from \$9199.48 in January to \$9470.01 in December. This shows an increase of \$270.53 for the year. The bank interest for the year was \$834.85. This shows that although we did not erode our capital, we did use \$564.32 (\$834.85-\$270.53) of our interest. In ideal circumstances it would be reasonable to expect all of our interest to be added to the capital because the year's expenses should be met from receipts.

Max Meth





#### MEMBERSHIP LIST

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4 St Annes Flats 40 Choppin Road SOMERTON PARK SA 5044

CF **BAUER Jo** 8302 (H) 087-62-2921 (W) 087-62-2340

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