

# A PEEK AT THE PEAK

A Community Service Provided by  
The Greater Pinnacle Peak Homeowners' Association

VOLUME 89

SEPTEMBER, 1990

## SONORAN HILLS DEVELOPMENT APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

By J.F. Flint

After a long and sometimes tumultuous negotiation between the residents of the Pinnacle Peak area and the developer, a compromise arrangement finally enabled City Council to unanimously approve the re-zoning application for Sonoran Hills. The Planning and Zoning Commission already had unanimously recommended approval, even though the compromise agreement had not been reached at the time of their vote.

As a result of the compromise, Sonoran Hills, a 296 acre parcel located just south of Pinnacle Peak Road and between Rawhide and Hayden Road was re-zoned from R1-43, or one family dwelling per one acre lot, to multi-use including neighborhood commercial and patio homes (with R-4 on the west abutting Rawhide and R1-10, R1-18, and R1-43 on the east). An area for a school and park site in the northern central section were set aside for future development.

The main parcel of the Sonoran Hills property was divided into fifteen subparcels with each subparcel having its own zoning structure. Parcels 15 and 16, located adjacent to Hayden Road, were excluded from the zoning application to avoid the possibility of a legal protest from the residents of that area. This exclusion was of serious concern to those Homeowners Associations trying to protect against unscrupulous development of the Pinnacle Peak desert areas. The compromise agreement included stipulations which employed the CC&Rs of the property to the east, Pinnacle Peak Estates Unit II. The stipulations also called for the maintenance of R1-43 zoning of these two parcels for the future.

Parcels 7, 8 and 14, immediately to the west of 15 and 16 are to be limited to a minimum of 18,000 square foot lots (R1-18), with one story building limits. Natural area open space for these parcels will be held at minimum of 30%, and on Parcels 15 and 16, at 40%.

*Cont'd on p. 12*



## WHAT'S NEW AT THE STORE

By Liz Stapleton

Pinnacle Peak General Store completed a brand new Texaco filling station just ahead of the gas crunch. The station was in the planning stage for 1 years. Changes became necessary because the old tanks were beyond repair and also due to equipment update required by the EPA. Texaco was the only company willing to give "downtown" pricing.

Besides the all-new tanks and eight modern pumps with a total of twenty-six hoses dispensing regular, unleaded, super-unleaded, and diesel fuel, the store offers the advantage of either cash or credit at the same price. Although at present customers still need to come in and pre-pay, by October 1st credit card units will be installed on the pumps. These units will accept MC, Visa, Texaco, Diners, Carte Blanche, American Express, and other debit cards. An added

*Cont'd. on p. 8*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

By Bette Sullivan

Please note that the events are listed with an A, B, C, D, E, F, G which denotes the place they are held unless otherwise noted.

A=el Pedregal B=Horseworld C=Rawhide  
D=Citadel E=Plaza F=CaveCreek  
G=Scottsdale Center for the Arts

- Taliesin West Summer** September 6-27th  
insight tour & lectures Starting 7:30 A.M.  
Phone 860-2700
- Laurie Lundquist Hanging** Sept. 13-30 G  
Gardens/Lew Davis:  
The Negro in America's Wars  
Free 994-ARTS
- Brandford Marsalis,** Sept. 15 7:30 P.M. G  
Tenor Saxophonist  
994-ARTS
- Vallev of the Sun** Sept. 15 7:30 P.M. B  
Mini Circuit Free 872-1352
- Special Olympics Swimming** Sept. 15  
Invitational, Chaparral Pool,  
Picnic Lunch 994-2353
- Marvin Hamlisch Kick-off** Sept. 14-15 8:00 P.M.  
Pops Season, Symphony  
Hall  
Phone 264-6363
- Hands Across The Border** Sept. 16 5 P.M.-8:30 P.M. A  
Mexican Fiesta Fundraiser  
\$6 Adults; \$3 Kids,  
Dillards, 267-1246
- "Barefoot in the Park"** Sept. 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29 8:00 P.M.-10 P.M. A  
Desert Foothills Community  
Theatre, \$8-\$10, 488-1310
- Feast for the Senses Gala** Sept. 22 Cocktails 6:00 P.M. G  
Black tie--dinner & dancing  
Michael Feinstein, Pianist  
994-2301

- An Evening with Maureen** Sept. 21-U 8:15  
**McGovern with Doc**  
**Severinsen, Conductor**  
(Pointe Tapatio Cliffs)  
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- Informal Modeling** Sept. 22 12 P.M.-2 P.M.  
el Pedregal Fashions
- Viva Jazz! Kerr Cultural Ctr.** Sept. 30  
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swing 965-5377
- National Theatre of the Deaf** Oct. 2 8:00 P.M. G  
"One More Spring" Play
- Symphony Hall ASU Choral** Oct. 4 8:00 P.M.  
Union & Concert Choir  
264-6363
- "Barefoot in the Park"** Oct. 4, 5, 6 8:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M. A  
Desert Foothills  
Community Theatre,  
\$8-\$10, 488-1310
- Wrangler Jeans Rodeo** Oct. 4-7 C  
Showdown - Rawhide U.S.  
vs Canada Cowboys 946-9711
- Oktober West-Fest Earth** Oct. 5-6-7 F  
Rally, Nat'l Championship  
Bathtub Races--Oktoberfest,  
Carefree Sidewalk Sale &  
Art Show Crazy Ed's  
Frontier Town
- Michael Hedges** Oct. 6 7:30 P.M. G  
Acoustic guitarist
- Earth Rally II Environmental,** Oct. 6-7 10:00 A.M.-5 P.M. F  
arts and crafts, entertain-  
ment Cave Creek-  
Tamarisk Park

(Cont'd. on p.14)



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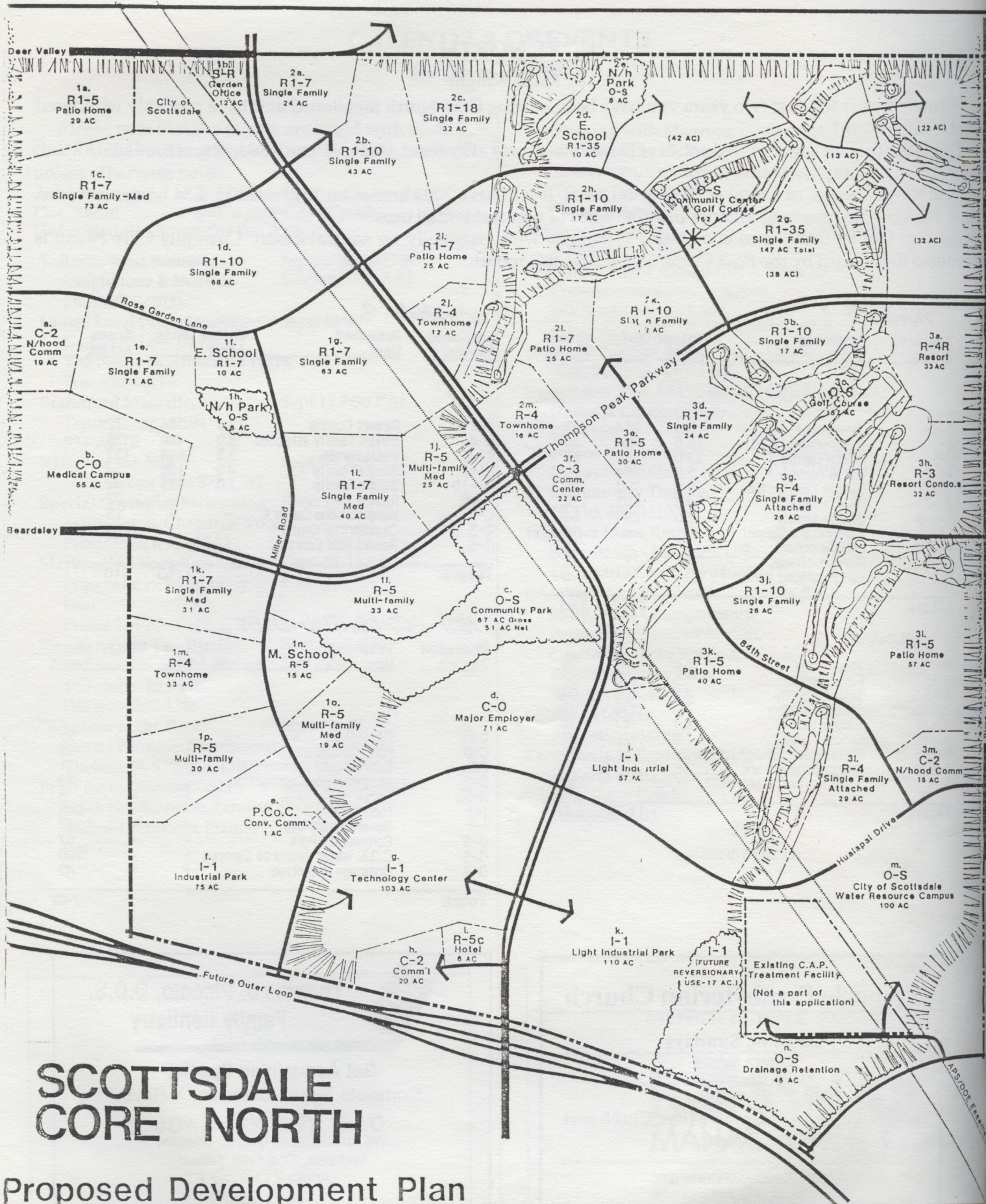
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# SCOTTSDALE CORE NORTH

## Proposed Development Plan

## CORE NORTH

By Ralph Knight

Off and on over the past two years you have been hearing Core North mentioned and have probably wondered what is Core North?

This refers to State Land located south of Deer Valley Road alignment, west of Pima Road, east of Scottsdale Road, and north of the proposed outer loop.

Core North consists of a total of 2359 gross acres. It will have 7003 homes on 1613 acres or 4.34 homes per acre. There will be three proposed villages plus 746 acres of non-residential uses.

The area will be totally and completely urbanized with essentially no natural desert. Currently Core North is scheduled to be heard by the P&Z Commission later this month.

*VILLAGE 1*

Proposed Zoning:	Proposed Use:	Units/Acre:	Units:	Gross Acres:
R-4	Townhome	8.0	264	33
R-5	Multi-family Med.	16.0	704	44
R-5	Multi-family	22.0	1386	63
R1-5	Patio home	5.5	159	29
R1-7	Single family Med.	5.5	792	144
R1-7	Single family	4.5	603	134
R1-10	Single family	3.0	204	68
R1-7	Elementary School	-	-	10
R-5	Middle School	-	-	15
S-R	Garden Office	-	-	12
O-S	Neighborhood Park	-	-	8
<b>Totals:</b>			<b>4112</b>	<b>560</b>

*VILLAGE 2*

Proposed Zoning:	Proposed Use:	Units/Acre:	Units:	Gross Acres:
R-4	Townhome	8.0	224	28
R1-7	Patio home	5.5	275	50
R1-7	Single Family	4.5	108	24
R1-10	Single family	3.0	276	92
R1-18	Single family	2.1	67	32
R1-35	Single family	1.2	176	147
R1-35	Elementary School	-	-	10
O-S	Neighborhood Park	-	-	8
O-S	Community Center/Golf	-	-	152
<b>Totals:</b>			<b>1126</b>	<b>543</b>

*VILLAGE 3*

Proposed Zoning:	Proposed Use:	Units/Acre:	Units:	Gross Acres:
R-3	Resort Condos	12.0	384	32
R-4	Single family attached	8.0	440	55
R1-5	Patio Homes	5.5	698	127
R1-7	Single family	4.5	108	24
R1-10	Single family	3.0	135	45
R-4R	Resort	-	-	33
C-2	Neighborhood Comm'l.	-	-	15
C-3	Commercial Center	-	-	22
O-S	Resort Golf Course	-	-	157
<b>Totals:</b>			<b>1765</b>	<b>510</b>

*NON-RESIDENTIAL USES*


Proposed Zoning:	Proposed Use:	Units/Acre:	Units:	Gross Acres:
C-0	Medical Campus	-	-	55
C-0	Major Employer	-	-	71
P.Co.C.	Convenience Commercial	-	-	1
C-2	Neighborhood Commercial	-	-	39
R-5c	Hotel	-	-	6
I-1	Industrial	-	-	345
I-1	Reversionary Use	-	-	17
O-S	Community Park	-	-	67
O-S	C.O.S. Water Resource Campus	-	-	100
O-S	Drainage Retention	-	-	45
<b>Total:</b>				<b>746</b>

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## TRAFFIC SOLUTION

By Jean Marsh

Here we go again! Let's close Pima Road because we really can't handle the traffic. For the life of me I can't figure out why we have four and five lanes for traffic on Pima Road if they are constantly closed when there is some function at TPC, Horseworld or Rawhide.

The reasoning seems to be that Pima has only two lanes after Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard. So, let's solve the dilemma. As people exit Horseworld or TPC, one or two lanes can go south on Pima and two lanes can go west on Frank Lloyd Wright and then south on Hayden; or one lane south on Pima, two lanes south on Hayden and two lanes south at Scottsdale Road. During all this time, it would still allow one lane north on Pima at all times. Maybe this is too easy.

Exiting Rawhide, one lane south on Scottsdale Road, one lane north to Pinnacle Peak Road across to Pima and one lane west on Pinnacle Peak to Tatum Boulevard. That still leaves one lane open for north traffic on Scottsdale Road.

Now TPC, since they can exit both Scottsdale Road and Pima, the same can be done there as either alternatives for Horseworld plus two lanes exit south on Scottsdale Road.

Those of us who live north can hardly wait to see the daily traffic patterns when the three, four, or five homes per acre are allowed to be built north of Bell Road. I think one per acre (which is what those of us who live in the area were promised) will add quite a number of automobiles so just imagine five per acre and in these days of prosperity most families have two cars or more. Great driving days ahead folks!!!!\*\*

## COMMUNITY FORUMS

by Donna Whiskeman

"Who's Playing in your Backyard?", the first community forum hosted by Pinnacle Presbyterian Church on June 27th, was a very informative and entertaining program presented by Jim Sedaras, conductor of the Phoenix Symphony.

Mr. Sedaras' wit was in high gear as he explained how the symphony is made up, how they arrive at the various programs, and their plans for the future.

The next community forum will feature Richard Lehmann, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Valley National Corporation and the Valley National Bank. Mr. Lehmann will discuss the general economic outlook for the Valley and the state of the banking industry in Arizona.

The forum will be held on Wednesday, September 26th at 7:30 p.m. at the Glenn Moor clubhouse.\*\*\*



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## ART LIFE

by Minell Sefelt

"The deep connection between individual freedom and the indomitable spirit" is epitomized in the five galloping horses rising out of the earth at the Perimeter Center Corporate Park northwest of the intersection of Pima and Bell Roads.

The above quotation is taken from the words of Morton Fleischer, financier founder and Chief Executive Officer of the FRANCHISE FINANCE CORPORATION OF AMERICA, the focal point of the developing park. He saw the indomitable spirit of the entrepreneur, like the spirit horses, as rising out of the earth of the individual freedom of democratic capitalism. He therefore dedicated the sculpture to "the strength and creativity of the new Southwest".

Buck McCain, regional artist, is the sculptor of this strong and exciting piece called "Spirit", which stands at the entrance to Mr. Fleischer's finance corporation building.

The 60,000 square foot unusually shaped building, visible from Pima Road, also houses the new 15,000 square foot FLEISCHER MUSEUM, the first museum dedicated to the California School of American Impressionists. Morton Fleischer and his wife Donna began making a corporate collection of the turn of the century so-called "California Impressionists" because they loved impressionism, having been aficionados of the earlier French Impressionists as well. This museum grew out of the corporate collection. Mrs. Fleischer, Museum Director, explained, "For a long time, many magnificent American Impressionist paintings were grandly displayed at our corporate offices to be appreciated by the employees and clients. We felt it was important to expand the audience, to build the museum."

This period of Impressionism spanned the approximate years of 1890 to 1940. The popularity of these artists dropped after that time when abstract modernism

dominated the American art scene. Interest in the American Impressionists revived in the 1970's.

The artists of this group, now deceased, had migrated to sunny California and painted mostly there because, as was true of the French Impressionists, they were entranced with the effects of intense sunlight. To catch the true effects they had to prime their canvases ahead of time and then paint rapidly outdoors with quick brush strokes in the two to three brightest hours of the day. The term "plein air", long referring to painting out-of-doors, became a descriptive application characterizing these painters as a group -- "the plein air artists".

Mrs. Fleischer informs us there are two hundred pieces in the collection, of which one-hundred-fifty pieces are presently displayed in the museum. To those who like Impressionism, it is a wonderful experience to have all these pieces gathered in one place, to stand in each of the museum's galleries, and to feel the sunlight coming all around from the paintings.

I was particularly taken with the work of Donna Norine Schuster, with the sun on the hat of "Boy with Rabbit", and with the sun among the vivid yellow and orange flowers, the light and shadows on the white dress of "In the Garden". Schuster, according to Mrs. Fleischer, is one of her favorites and there are other of her pieces being exhibited now.

Also high on my list were the sunlit red roofs of John Christopher Smith, the hot cliffs of George Kennedy Brandriff, and the glorious orange-reds of Edgar Alwin Payne. It is characteristic of Payne to use mainly three to four colors and to modify on these within his paintings. He has complete control of the colors he uses. Payne has produced approximately 5,000 works in his career and the Fleischers have twenty of these in their collection.

*(Cont'd. on p.8)*

## A DESERT PLACE:

### "Who makes those holes in the ground?"

Presented by the Conservation Committee of the  
CCIA

Virtually every out-of-town visitor who has ever hiked with me in the Desert Foothills has asked about the wide variety of holes that pock-mark the desert floor. "Rodents", has been my stock answer. That seems to satisfy (maybe pacify) most people and that's where the inquiries usually stop. Presumably if the holes are made by something no more menacing than a rodent the hike can continue. Recently, however, someone pressed the issue. "What kind of rodent?" Kangaroo rats came first to mind. I was sure they burrowed, but was unsure about which burrows were theirs. I thought about some other potential diggers; grasshopper mice, cactus mice, and pocket mice. But I didn't know whether they dug holes, appropriated the vacated headquarters of someone else, or lived in nests above ground. In the midst of my ruminations came another question. "Do snakes burrow?" I couldn't decide if the question was born of a need to better understand desert ecology or simple paranoia. At any rate I couldn't answer. Nor did I know if any lizards tilled the desert soil. I decided my stock answer was no longer adequate. I collected a dozen references books and sat down to find out just who is responsible for the mysterious mouths on the landscape.

What follows is a list of the most likely excavators of the visible holes ranging from small to large. Armed with this information, you can handle most reasonable inquiries. Questions that go beyond what is covered here probably mean that the questioner already knows more than you and just wants to watch you squirm.

Probably the smallest of the visible holes have been made by ants. The size of a hole may range from 1/8 to 1/4 inch. Local ant species include Harvester, Leaf-cutter, and Fire. The holes can be on perfectly flat terrain, in the center of a gently sloping mound or a sharply sloping, gravelly mound. Ants are among the most important movers of desert soils, potentially moving almost a ton of soil per acre annually. Since most of the desert burrowing animals are nocturnal, ants might be the only creatures caught in the act of burrowing.

Most of the larger visible holes are made by rodents; however, not all rodents burrow. The pocket mouse is one who does. His burrow hole can often be found in the open away from overhanging shrubs. The hole will be finger sized, just large enough to accommodate this three-quarter ounce animal.

The burrow opening of an Antelope Squirrel may be 1 to 1 inch in diameter, also in the open. There is usually no mound at the entrance. Pathways can often be seen radiating from the opening.

A two inch hole under a bush or rock overhang may have been dug by a Spotted Ground Squirrel or a Round-tailed Ground Squirrel. If this hole is lined with silk it might be occupied by a Tarantula.

Multiple holes between two and one-half and three inches in mounds on which grow bursage or creosote usually indicate the presence of the Kangaroo Rat. The root systems of these plants help support the roof of this multi-tunneled burrow.

Rock Squirrels, as their name implies, generally burrow among rocks. Often, however, they don't. A four inch diameter hole is strong evidence one has been at work. This is probably the largest of the openings most often seen.

A large seldom seen burrow opening belongs to the badger. The opening resembles the broad side of a football, about the same size or larger. A large mound of dirt should be close by.

Another sizeable opening, possibly as large as the badger's and more often seen, might lead to a Desert Tortoise burrow. Look for them in the banks of desert washes.

The Burrowing Owl is capable of burrowing but prefers to take over vacated nests of large ground squirrels and tortoises.

While there are several species of so called burrowing snakes in our range, they are capable of burrowing only in loose or sandy soils. Consequently any burrows dug by these reptiles will quickly cave in on them and reveal no visible hole. The same is true for lizards who burrow.

*Editors Note:* Snakes of all types, however, will use holes burrowed by other creatures, either in search of food or for climatic advantages.\*\*\*



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Art Life  
Continued from p.7

Memorable of Christian von Schneidau is the "Fish Market, Provincetown" with the wetness of the workers' slickers, the watery fish bins, and the sunlit beach beyond the window.

The "Still Life with Bowls" of Armin Carl Hansen seemed to me very reminiscent of the old Impressionism with its broad brush strokes and the handling of light on the wall. I was also impressed with the use of light and deep shadow to create and emphasize the shapes of objects, and the lush color and texture of the table tapestry.

"Mount Alice at Sunset" by Franz A. Bischoff was the first piece acquired for the collection.

Two books about this group of California artists are for sale at the museum; one a little more extensive in hard cover, and the other in paper cover, both with color plate illustrations.

The museum is developing a slide repository in the hope that it can be an educational forum about this period of art. Viewing is free to the public between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. Tours may be arranged by calling 585-3108.

Other exhibits will be coming. Mrs. Fleischer states that there are many other important corporate collections, and it is the intent of the museum to exhibit these. The next immediate exhibit, "Gilcrease Comes to Scottsdale", December 1 through February 25, will be from the GILCREASE MUSEUM, owned by the city of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Gilcrease owns fifty thousand artifacts, ninety thousand rare books and documents, and ten thousand artworks including thirty one Albert Bierstadt pieces. Traveling here from this collection will be at least seven sculptures and forty-four paintings, including some of Charles Russell, Frederic Remington, and Albert Bierstadt.

The FLEISCHER MUSEUM, with its imposing entrance and structure, its interior design so appropriate to Impressionism, its rotunda-like sculpture atrium, its major collection, and its interesting plans, is well worth our attention and gratitude for its being.\*\*\*

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What's New at the Store  
Cont'd from p.1

come will be 24-hour service.

According to Store Manager Steve Simonson, community support has been very favorable and gas sales are up. Just a 10% increase in present sales will result in the station qualifying for another discount level, and these savings would be passed along to customers.

The gas set-up is not all that's new. A FAX machine has been installed next to the post office, allowing either sending or receiving fax copies. The equipment accepts a number of major credit cards. Steve said one of the most novel uses of the new FAX equipment was made by two innovative young French travelers, who composed and sent a letter to their parents back in France, not asking for money, but simply to be in touch the easy way. Within 15 minutes an answer came back from France and the ingenious youngsters were on their way. The FAX number is 585-6111. A new and better copy machine has also been installed.

Another summer addition is a coffee, soft drink, juice bar near the check-out counter at the rear of the store.

Also planned for the near future is a self-serve Dunk'n Donut machine. \*\*\*

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## NUTRITIONAL FACTS AND FALLACIES: FAT-COLON CANCER - SIX YEAR STUDY FINDINGS

by Ralph H. Zeller

Today we speak of fat in different foods and the large amounts of it in fast foods, deep fried breaded foods, and processed foods. However, not many people really have any real concept about how much is too much and how much extra does it take before fat will increase the risk of Cancer.

In a six-year study involving 6,500 people who increased their fat intake each day by 100 calories, seven times more colon cancer was found than in people who did not increase fat intake.

Now just how much fat makes 100 calories?

- 100 calories of fat comes from only 11 grams of fat.
- 11 grams of fat is a little less than 1/2 of an ounce.
- 1/2 of an ounce is equal to 1 tablespoon.
- One tablespoon is equal to two teaspoons full.

Some food examples of this amount of fat (100 calories or 11 grams) would be:


- 1-1/4 ounces of American cheese [this would be the size of a ping pong ball.]
- 1-1/4 cups of whole milk, or 2 cups of 2% milk, or 3 cups of 1% milk, or 1/2 cup of half and half, or 1 tablespoon of butter, lard, vegetable oil, margarine, or 3 pats of butter or margarine.
- 1 average size piece of cake or cheesecake served in a restaurant
- 1 average 2 oz. croissant
- 1 Danish
- 1/12th of a 9" cherry pie
- 1-1/2 oz. of tortilla chips
- 2 oz. of ground beef, or 4 oz. of lean round steak
- 9 oz. of skinless, boneless chicken breast, or 9 oz. of broiled trout
- 4 oz. of baked or broiled salmon
- 3 strips breakfast bacon
- 1 oz. pork sausage patty
- 1 oz. of roasted peanuts

Adding or eliminating any of the above food portions will either make you seven times less likely to get cancer or seven times more likely to get cancer. The choice is up to you.

Total daily fat intake should be 30% or less of a person's total caloric intake of food. 20% should be protein and 50% complex carbohydrates. The easiest way to achieve this balance is to eat balanced meals of fresh fruits, vegetables, poultry, and fish rather than just a "meat and potatoes and gravy diet".

*Example:* 3-5 fresh fruit, 7 ounces protein food (fish, chicken, meat), 1 cup cooked vegetable, 2-3 cups raw vegetable, 2 teaspoons oil and 1 pat of butter, 2 slices of 100% whole grain bread or a baked potato, 1 cup milk and non-sugared cereal.

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### To: The Editor, Peek At The Peak

August 28, 1990

It was to my surprise and great consternation when I learned that Mr. Ross Dean was to co-host a reception for Ed Phillips and David Schweikert, Republican candidates for state office.

In view of Mr. Dean's libertine leanings, I question his credentials as a Republican to sponsor candidates who are seeking office under the Republican banner. His sponsorship makes me question the suitability of these candidates to represent those who would put them in office.

Mr. Dean's record of representing his constituents is dismal. After seeking support of the Pinnacle Peak residents to put him in office, he has been in opposition to the majority who voted for him. Mr. Dean is aware of his record and defends his position by stating that he does what he thinks best. If Mr. Phillips and Mr. Schweikert follow Mr. Dean's example, we will have no representation from those offices they seek.

Messrs. Phillips and Schweikert, if they are serious about Republican candidacies, would do well to seek respected endorsement and if elected, support those who put them in office.

Yours very truly,  
J.F. Flint

## TIPS FROM THE TRAVELER: A CHINA EXPERIENCE

by Joan Alexander

In June, Chuck and Bev Rowland, of Pinnacle Peak, began a journey to China for twenty-three days. The tour group was small, consisting of eight people, and the tour included a four-day Yangtze Cruise.

The Rowlands started this adventure in Shanghai and visited eight other cities in China. Travel within China was by boat, train, and plane. There was only one incident when the itinerary had to be modified due to a flight problem.

The tour included stays at hotels which the Rowlands considered to be excellent and in line with Western standards. The tour also included three meals a day. Breakfast was always a full American buffet and sometimes a Chinese breakfast was also available. A Chinese breakfast consists of dim sum, noodles, and eggs. Lunch and dinner were full course meals, including at least eight entrees. Most of the time, these meals were taken in hotel dining rooms, with occasional visits to local restaurants.

In some cities, the group attended evening cultural events. Chuck and Bev had a delightful experience in Wuxi, attending a "sing along" for the American and Chinese guests of the hotel. The manager of the hotel also called an American couple who lives in Wuxi and invited them over to "mingle with the American tourists."

On another occasion, the tour guide took the group to meet two families, and to visit with a neighborhood council. This gave the group the opportunity to experience rural life of China. There were also tours of silk factories. Chuck and Bev were able to freely roam on their own when time permitted.

Charles and Beverly Rowland brought home many souvenirs, including a sculpture of Chuck's head, done by an enterprising art student on the sidewalk to Wuxi. Their best souvenirs were memories of the hospitality of the Chinese people and the unique, beautiful sights and experiences they had.\*\*\*



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## A PEEK AT THE STARS

by Bob Swift

As the monsoons depart we can look forward to another chance to explore the skies over Arizona. The best nights are when humidity is low and winds are calm. (Does that ever happen?) All it takes are a couple of such nights and curiosity seems to take over; e.g., how can I get a closer look and what about telescopes? Perhaps you'd like to go to school on what thousands have learned in their search to get a better peek at the stars. Briefly the do's and don'ts:

### **Do:**

Scout around for a pair of binoculars. Used are fine if they haven't been damaged. Best numbers should read 7x50 with 7 being the magnification and 50 the light gathering power of the large two lenses. Those with prisms to shorten the length are preferred as they are easier to hold while looking up. Each eyepiece (the small lenses) should be focusable for sharpest view. 8x50 are okay and 10x50 are too heavy.

Such binoculars are convenient to transport, give a stereo view of large parts of the sky and are user friendly -- easy to locate the star, easy to focus, and can be used for many nature trips. Costs are minimal and you're immediately into the fun of exploring. Together with books and charts from the library, these are all that is needed for years of pleasure.

### **Don't:**

Go out and buy a telescope, a kit, or something that's a real buy. You will be disappointed because a telescope sees only a tiny bit of sky and it takes much practice and knowledge to even find what you want to see. Once you find the star cluster, for example, the Earth's rotation will lose the view quickly unless you have clock drive (optional at extra cost). And the least little bump or wind will shake the image unless you have a very rugged, leveled and oriented tripod. Cost is at least ten times that of binoculars.

### **Do:**

Attend a meeting or star party of local astronomy clubs. They regularly have viewings after the meetings where much can be learned. The closest club is at Scottsdale Community College and meets on Wednesdays when the Moon is full.

A peek at the stars is something your whole family and guests will enjoy, if you keep it simple to start.\*\*\*

## STRICTLY PERSONAL

by Gerald W. Barringer

### **CHECK SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS**

The government never makes mistakes, right? If you laughed at that statement, you're probably not alone. That's why it's a good idea to check up on the government when it comes to Social Security earnings. Every few years, find out if your account is at the level it should be. There's an easy way to do this.

Just call 1-800-937-2000. This toll-free number has been set aside exclusively for telephone requests for Social Security Form SSA-7004, "Personal Earnings and Benefits Estimate." If you can't get through on that line, try the general Social Security request line, 1-800-234-555A, and ask for the same form.

The form will ask for your birthdate, social security number, and other information. When completed and mailed back, the Social Security Administration will send a listing of Social Security-qualified earnings and expected retirement benefits.

If you think there is an error in the information, contact the local Social Security office. Be prepared to show agency officials appropriate tax returns or earnings statements to support your position.\*\*\*

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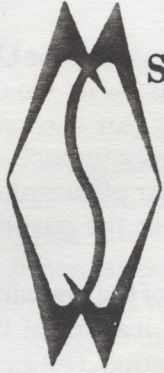
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### OUR DESERT HERITAGE: Desertification

By Dennis Massion, Ph.D.

Intensive livestock grazing has seriously denuded fragile vegetation throughout the marginal lands of the world. The damage these animals do is irreparable. Future plant growth becomes impossible, for in the absence of the living root mat, wind and seasonal rains quickly erode the thin top layer of life-supporting soil.

Worldwide estimates of desertification are alarming. Vast areas of Africa, Asia, North and South America are quickly changing from marginally productive lands into barren wastelands.

Arizona is no exception. Far too many cattle have ranged on our desert lands for over a century--and they continue to do so. Their impact has been horrible. We have lost most of our perennial springs and streams and have changed permanent waterways into seasonal, life-threatening flood washes. The loss of riparian communities has resulted in the extinction of many unique native plants and animals.

After a century of frontier mentality Arizonans are just now realizing how devastating this practice is. Efforts are being made to cut back and even remove cattle from public lands. More and more people are realizing that we must act now to save what is left of these precious lands.

With this in mind, it is ironic that most of the Phoenix/Tucson developers and builders continue to treat the desert as though it were a liability rather than an asset. In their minds they are converting "raw, hostile" lands into a "symmetrical paradise". This is true whether they replace it with a lush water-consuming oasis or with their distorted version of a "desert landscape".

This lesson hit me hard when, upon return from my vacation, I was shocked to find that the entire acre

of the lot across the street from me has been nearly scalped of all its native vegetation--completely in contradiction to our covenants. This property was once the most attractive on our street. Today all that's left are six trees, a dozen creosote bushes, and a dozen or so cacti. Needlessly hundreds of bushes and smaller plants were bladed off. Near the street, next to the edge of a large wash, there used to be one of the largest and most beautiful chuparosa bushes in the area. Throughout the winter the bright red flowers of this bush kept many hummingbirds at odds with one another. Where is the bush now? Where are the hummingbirds? Forever gone--and for no sensible reason. This particular plant was on the edge of a wash, holding much of the bank. It also stood on the edge of the property line--out of the way of any future construction. Above this bush once stood the most beautiful ironwood anywhere in the Peak area. During dry years this tree would burst forth with thousands of delicate purple flowers, supporting hundreds of insects and birds. Today this ironwood looks like a marine recruit, scalped of all of its lower branches--just a naked silhouette of a once proud desert tree. Countless species of lizards, birds, and insects have lost their home and their source of food. And again for what purpose? Does the "manicured" tree provide more aesthetic value than the natural form in the desert? Perhaps it does to the ignorant, grotesque, and twisted minds of those who have no love or understanding for this desert.

How naive many of us are in thinking that we can "improve" on nature. We tear out the original owners, then install (and at great cost) foreign plants, plants which seldom blend properly and which support little native fauna.

Landscape architects in Carefree have coined this "Disney deserts"; full of alien species, saturated with toxic herbivores, and pruned into unnatural forms. These weird landscapes only please the eyes of foreigners; certainly they are an insult to all natives, both animal and human. They have no more value than do the silk plants in your home, and their use by homebuilders and developers is quickly converting the World's most unique desert into a truly deserted world.\*\*\*



Deer Valley Road will be a cul de sac and will not connect with Hayden Road. The net effect will be for the higher densities and commercial uses being to the west of the development, with the lower densities in the east.

A significant number of area residents attended the city council meeting. Some spoke against the re-zoning proposal and a few for. The majority chose not to speak because of the compromise agreement previously announced.

At the meeting, chaired by vice-mayor Susan Bitter-Smith in the absence of Mayor Drinkwater, Councilman Walton chastised Pinnacle Peak resident for speaking about saving the desert while they themselves planted grass, citrus trees, and other non-desert foliage. Councilman Dean added that having swimming pools was not consistent with desert living. Councilman Walton also stated that he deplored the threat of a referendum on this issue.

Prior to the compromise agreement, when negotiations over the re-zoning were stalemated and other legal recourses were blocked, the need for a referendum seemed to be the only recourse open to residents desiring to protect their interests. In the compromise agreement, in exchange for certain stipulations, the issue of a referendum was dropped.

Mr. Barry, counsel for the developers Scottsdale Pinnacle Peak Associates of San Ramon, California, and Pinnacle Peak Offical Resort Investors Ltd. of Phoenix, interrupted Mr. Walton while making the motion, and asked him to delete a reference to the city's abandoning Hayden Road, explaining that it was outside the compromise and would negate the agreement.

In a pre-compromise action, the Board of Directors of Pinnacle Peak Estates Unit II polled residents to determine the consensus on the re-zoning issue. Given the option of voting for or against re-zoning or being willing to accept a compromise, the majority voted to compromise. The Homeowners Association then worked to this end. Verbally, many residents expressed their preference for the property to stay R1-43, but recognized the leaning of council members toward transition zoning. The compromise plan was commended by the council as a good example of "transition zoning". That would allow higher density commercial development to occur on the site's west side, nearer Rawhide.\*\*\*

## TOO MUCH DEVELOPMENT

August 18, 1990

To: The Honorable Mayor Herb Drinkwater and Councilpersons, Sam Campana, Ross Dean, Greg Bielli, Bill Soderquist, Bill Walton and Susan Bitter-Smith

After much deliberation and soul searching we have decided our only alternative is put our house up for sale. We cannot continue to be overrun with developers. They seem to be the only voice heard in City Hall. You keep preaching citizen involvement, but when we do get involved we are constantly "put down".

The idea that people deserve to receive profit for their investment is not lost on us. Please be reminded that the plan for all property north of Bell Road was to be 1 home per acre. When the land was purchased, that purchaser knew of that plan. If not, his attorney or sales person should be fired or held accountable.

When all of this development is allowed we are wondering just where traffic will be put, where all the water will come from, how Scottsdale will pay for all the services these new homes will be entitled to receive. Speaking of "entitled to receive", there are many areas in North Scottsdale who do not have water (they must haul it themselves), have no sewers, are made to care for their own roads, no streetlights, and the list goes on.

People live in our area because they want to see the desert. Listen to the animals. Provide homes for them, etc. Now when Carefree Highway down to Bell Road looks like Shea Blvd. to Civic Center or wherever down south, why will people come here? It will be wall to wall people. Even the golfers, families on vacation, etc. will not find it attractive.

So go ahead and ruin Scottsdale, but be aware that we are against the Sonoran Hills development and any other "big deal".

Sincerely,  
Jean and Jack Marsh



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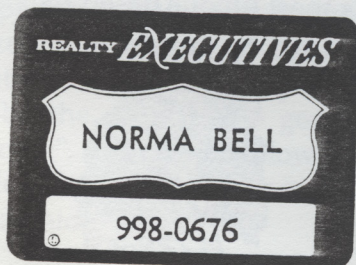
Concerned about who will look after your pets, plants, or place? Don't bother the neighbors! Hire a professional, with a twenty-seven year residence at Pinnacle Peak. References

Elizabeth J. "Liz" Stapleton  
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### Calendar of Events Cont'd. from p.2

<b>Musical Brunch Series</b>	Oct. 7 1:00 P.M.-1 A.M.	
OctoberWest German Brunch, Music & Art Walk, \$17, 252-4153, 258-3609		
<b>Greyhound Chamber Orchestra</b>	Oct.11	G
264-6363		
<b>Scottsdale Symphony Concert</b>	Oct. 13 7:30 P.M.-9 P.M.	A
"We Love You America" \$15, Dillards, 267-1246		
<b>Musical Brunch Series</b>	Oct. 14 11:00 A.M.-1 P.M.	A
Continental Brunch, Music & el Pedregal Fashion Show, \$17, 252-4153, 258-3609		
<b>Pops in Space II</b>	Oct. 12-13-14	G
Phoenix Symphony Orchestra music of the spheres-space artistry 264-6363		
<b>Sundown Cook-outs at</b>	Oct. 15 Every Sat. Night	C
Rawhide Desert Haywagon ride & cookout 563-5600		
<b>Western Haunted House</b>	Oct. 18-31 5:00 P.M.	C
Rawhide		
<b>Tribute to Benny Goodman</b>	Oct. 18-19 8:00 P.M.	G
Small Groups Swing era sounds		
<b>Informal Modeling Free</b>	Oct. 20 12:00 P.M.-2 P.M.	A

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## DID YOU KNOW

By Ralph Knight

The U.S. Council for Energy Awareness says the U.S. now imports more than 40 percent of all the oil we use and that percentage continues to grow. Our excessive dependence on foreign oil could severely impact our economy and our national security if our oil suppliers chose to disrupt our supply. Remember the gasoline lines of 1973-74!

What are our alternate options? One of the best alternate options is to use nuclear energy, instead of imported oil to generate our electrical energy. The more nuclear energy we use the less we have to depend on the uncertainty of our off-shore oil suppliers.

Our 112 nuclear electric plants have already cut foreign oil dependence by 4 billion barrels since 1973. This, in turn, has saved us \$115 billion in foreign oil payments. Our balance of payments is a major economic problem to our country. Our demand for electricity is growing rapidly and our nuclear electric power plants fall far short of that demand. Our country needs more nuclear electric power plants. Our dependence on foreign oil is dangerous to the economy of our country and to its security.

The first three paragraphs of this article were written before August 4th and returned to me for updated comments. The current crisis in the Middle East emphasizes again our dire need to zero in on alternate fuels and to again assess our need for additional nuclear power plants. From point of decision to building additional nuclear power plants we are looking at some time in the 2000 to 2005 time frame before these plants would be producing electric power.

In the past century, the United States has shifted its main energy source from wood to coal to oil and natural gas. Each time, the favored fuel has had less carbon and more hydrogen. Logic would seem to dictate that hydrogen is the fuel of the future. However, one has heard grandiose predictions about this potentially clean and abundant energy source since the early 1970's. None of these predictions have resulted in adoption in two decades. Some of the leading auto companies (BMW, Mercedes-Benz, General Motors), are working on hydrogen as a fuel for automobiles. Even so, hydrogen-powered cars face many practical difficulties and to generate hydrogen one needs electric power. The Federal Department of Energy spends only \$5 million a year on hydrogen R&D.

We, as a Nation relative to fuel independence, have our heads in the sand.\*\*\*

## PAGES FROM THE SOUTHWEST

By Judie Cochran


In the last issue of A Peek At The Peak, local history was discussed in "Pages of the Southwest." The Hohokam history has provided much interesting reading for local history enthusiasts. No region of this continent, and probably few areas of the world can boast the mass of archeological ruins that the American Southwest can acclaim.

Thanks to this arid climate and the type of terrain, environments for the preservation of fragile artifacts are ideal. Additional thanks must go to those individuals who recognized the extraordinary heritage of the Southwest and have successfully campaigned to have archeological treasures preserved as public museums and monuments. David Grant Noble and his Ancient Ruins of the Southwest, An Archaeological Guide represents one of those "treasures."

Black and white photographs and brief histories of the people who inhabited areas of the Southwest make for fascinating reading. The Hohokam and the Casa Grande Ruins, Hardy Site, and Pueblo Grande Ruins (in Phoenix) represent the most specific southwestern point of his discussion. Much detail is given to the Anasazi and the several centuries of nomadic life. Primarily considered "Four Corners" inhabitants, the Anasazi lived in the northeast Arizona/southwest New Mexico/southeast Utah/southwest Colorado vicinity. Long-term history provides much interesting reading from the prehistory days in the early centuries B.C. to a more developed settled village life up through the 1700's.



The Mogollon, a mountain people, lived in small settlements in the upper tributaries of the Little Colorado through southern Arizona and into Chihuahua, Mexico. The Mogollon were the early branch of the Mimbres who are famous for Mimbres bowl design.

Other chapters depict the Pueblos, the Sinagua, and the Salado ruins primarily in Arizona. Fascinating tales and crisp black and white photographs make this guide an excellent reference.\*\*\*



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