



THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

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ANTIQUE SHOW FEBRUARY 22 AND 23, 2020

February 2020, the Kitsap Antique Show is in the books. Thanks to all of you for your help. The dealers had high praise for our wonderful show staff. The numbers for attendees and appraisals were up. It was a very successful show. I don't know the final profit for our society, but it looks like it will be well in line with past shows. (Note, this just in from Larry Harden—PSGS made \$6,000

this year.) Although I was sometimes worried and nervous about my first show as chairman, I didn't need to be. The committee and all of you made everything work.

Now on to 2021, February 27, 28. Put it on your calendar!

Peg Powell

(See more pictures on page 6)



Thank you Bob and Margaret Howard, Charles and Lisa Treiberg, and many more volunteers for collecting admission fees to this year's Antique Show. Thank you for braving the cold winds by the open front door.

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Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager

As of this writing, we are ALL in limbo due to this c-virus. However, we are fortunate to have access to the outside world through television and internet. We should take this experience and put a positive twist on it. What a golden opportunity to work on your genealogy with little interruption. Here are some suggestions: 1) Go through all the handouts you received from the classes PSGS offered and see if you can use that information to break through any brick walls. 2) If you have a KRL library card, go to KRL.org / Research / Genealogy / Heritage Quest. Here you can access U.S. and Canada census records, city directories and other databases that might be of help in your research. 3) Ancestry is offering temporary free access to the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration where you will find millions of historical records and images from the federal government. See: <https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2020/03/24/free-at-home-education-resources-from-ancestry-and-access-to-nearly-500m-national-archives-records/> 4) If you're on Facebook, there are several genealogical-related

(Cont'd on page 3)

Genealogy Center Report

by Elisabeth Demmon

The Genealogy Center collection continues to evolve as the current backlog of donations are checked for condition, relevance, and duplicate titles. I want to reassure members that books that are relevant but need repair or restoration are given to our talented volunteer mender before they are added to the collection. One of the resources I use is www.worldcat.org: a great (and free!) website for locating genealogy books and what libraries have them in their collection.

The duplicate titles were offered to members at the February 2020 PSGS monthly meeting and I am grateful to those of you who have given these items a new home.

I hope to have a list of new additions to the Genealogy Center available for you in the next newsletter....in the meantime, please stay safe.

Sincerely, Elisabeth Demmon

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Information from Washington State Archives — sos.wa.gov/archives

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) facility in Seattle has been approved for eventual closure and sale. The facility was recommended for sale by the Public Buildings Reform Board (PBRB) and approved for sale by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) through the authorities and process established in the Federal Asset Sales and Transfer Act of 2016, as amended. As of now, a date has not been set for the closure, and the physical holdings — all of which reflect Pacific Northwest history — are tentatively planned to be shipped to Riverside, CA and Kansas City, MO.

On Jan. 27, Secretary of State Kim Wyman sent [a letter to Washington's Congressional delegation](#)

urging lawmakers and OMB find a way to keep the federal archival records in the state. Members of Washington's Congressional delegation also sent [a letter to OMB](#), asking they disapprove of the board's recommendation to close the facility.

If you have any comments on this issue, please contact your Congressperson.

[Find your Senator](#) · [Find your Representative](#)

More information may be added to this webpage as it becomes available.

If you have information to add, please contact jamison.murphy@sos.wa.gov.

Presidential Ponderings (cont'd from page 2)

groups you can join. In the search box, enter “genealogy” and you will be overwhelmed with groups that will take you days to filter through. One of my favorites is our very own Puget Sound Genealogical Society. Gwen Detweiler and Sharon Overman manage this site and often include PSGS events, tidbits and conferences that are scheduled around our state. Another one of my favorite FB groups is the Genealogy-Do-Over with Thomas MacEntee. He shares interesting websites, bargains (ie: DNA kits), free webinars, etc. If you are not a Facebooker, another avenue to receive this information from Thomas is <https://genealogybargains.com/>. You can subscribe to his newsletter and receive emails with the latest happenings in the genealogy world. If you did not have the opportunity to attend our 2016 seminar where Thomas MacEntee was our guest speaker and you do not know who he is, check out his website High Definition: <https://hidefgen.com/about/thomas-macentee/>. Keep in mind this “stay-at-home” phase is just a speck on our timeline. Hopefully, we can look back and realize we got a lot of work done on our genealogy! In the meantime, stay safe!

YOUR STORY

Wondering what else you can do while you are staying at home? How about writing a story for the Backtracker telling about one or more of your ancestors. I know many of you have stories and just wanted some down time to put it together. Think of the amazing stacks of stories that could be waiting in the wings to be printed in future editions of the Backtracker.

Finding Your Roots —

by Janet Ravenkamp



While living in Vallejo, California at the time we got married, my late husband John was transferred from the USS Permit to ASW Base in San Diego, California in 1976. I wanted to start my family tree and I asked my mom and dad if they knew about their family. My mother was so mad at me and she told me not to do the family tree at all. I think she was afraid that we were going to find out the “secrets”.

I started wondering about my family history; where did they come from anyway? I know this sounds silly, but I was very curious if there were any Eyler living in San Diego. I started by going through the phone book and looking at Eyler names and came across this person's name, Stuart Eyler. I thought if I called, I could find out if we were somehow related to the Eylers in Ohio. Stuart's wife, Linda Eyler answered. Then we began talking and doing the family trees. Linda said that she been doing this since she was 16 years old. I suggested we should meet at the Church of Latter-Day Saints History Center in San Diego. Neither of us knew what to expect.

When Linda arrived, we both instantly recognized each other like we were long lost family. I blame Linda for getting me hooked on Finding My Family. When Stuart Eyler first met my brother, Richard Eyler, you would thought they could be twins! I remember my brother telling Stu "Damn you're good looking!" There was about 30 years between Richard and Stuart. It turned out our families migrated to the same part of the country in the 1700s in Eyler Valley, Maryland. My relatives came earlier and we've been “family” ever since!

Growing up, we had moved a lot and sometimes there was no food. Coming from a family of 12 children it sometimes was very hard. I remember the first time we had an inside toilet with pump water, too. To get food we kids would sometimes go out in the field and take the corn tops off. Where beans were grown, we had to use a sickle. I look back and I would never in my right mind let my children do that. We wanted to go to the movie to see the John Wayne movie “North to Alaska”. We cleared 100 acres for two days to get the money. We got a hundred dollars. We thought we were the richest people in the world. I am 9th in birth order. My oldest sister is 18 years older than our youngest sister. There are eight girls and four boys; two sisters and two brothers along with both parents have passed.

My father Kenneth Haskell Eyler married Edna Mae Berry on 8 Aug 1936. They were introduced while dad worked with her brother Max Berry in The Barnum and Bailey Circus! My oldest two sisters were born while traveling with the circus to the south for the winter. Mom used to say The Fat Lady “would often baby sit Fran and Rosie while she was performing “. (cont'd on page 5)



My mother is on the left side with the lei on

Finding Your Roots by Janet Ravenkamp

(Cont'd from page 4)

Growing up I loved to listen to the stories about my mom and dad's families. Our parents could talk the "Carney". It was called Ciazan Language between the Carnival People and those who worked within the circus which was great. My mom did not want us girls to learn the language, but we all understood it, because the boys spoke it. Dad could do it all from setting up and breaking down the circus, to working ticket booths, to caring for and feeding the animals! We learned not to play cards with dad who was quite the card shark.

We used to ask my mom if she was a Hoochie Coochie dancer. She'd say, "no" and she would laugh about it.

A story that my family told me was about when dad and some friends were attending a one room schoolhouse. They put a skunk in the pot-belly stove before anyone arrived. When the teacher arrived the next day, she opened the stove and she got sprayed. Classes were cancelled for a while until it cleared. They never found out who it was.

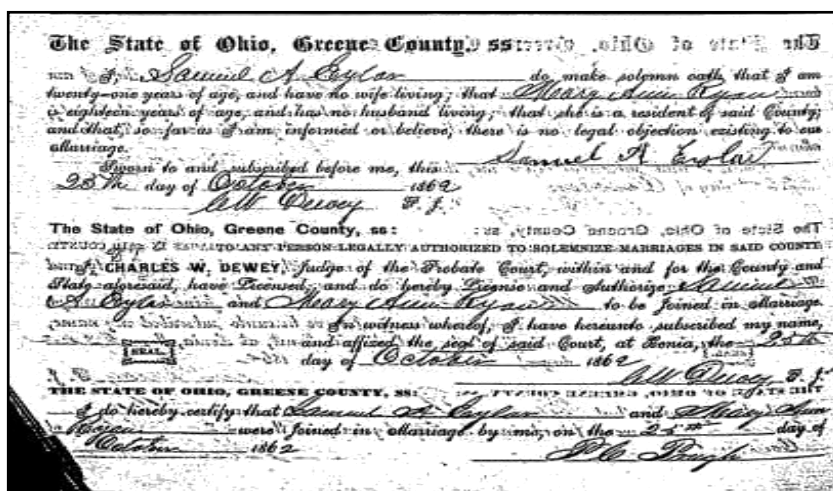
The first time a document about one of my ancestors arrived in the mail, I was so excited. It was my great grandfather, Samuel A Eyler's marriage license to Mary Ann Ryan in Xenia, Ohio, October 25, 1862. I was amazed to see his handwriting. It made him a little more than just a name. I felt a

real heart pull when my grandparent's, Elmer Eyler and Maude Lowman's marriage license also arrived. The most awesome thing was, I was born on their anniversary. They were married 24 April 1909 and I was born 24 April 1949.

I thought for a long time my dad didn't bother to divorce his first wife! I finally found his divorce in Muncie, Indiana newspapers. Reading the article it lists "abandonment" as grounds for the divorce. His first wife apparently didn't want to travel with Barnum and Bailey! I was relieved to discover dad was not a bigamist and we were all legitimate! They were married August 14, 1936 in Monroe, Michigan. They were married for 59 years when our father passed on 8 June 1995; our Mother passed away in 24 Aug 2000.

My fourth great grandfather, Elisha Berry, married three times. His first wife was Dianah Spencer and she had ten children; second wife was, my line, Phoebe Clark who had three children Elisha, Spencer, and Clark. Spencer is my direct line to my mother on the Berry side of the family. Elisha is direct descendant of

Lady Elizabeth Spencer his 5th great grandmother. Lady Elizabeth and her father Sir William E. Spencer and his father was Sir Thomas De Berry is the same family line of the Spencer still working.



Marriage license of Samuel Eyler & Mary Ann Ryan

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K

A new program on NBC began on April 4, 2020. It is called "Roots Less Traveled". The program is on Sundays at 4:00 pm and plans to have eight episodes in the series. This could be something you might want to check on to help fill some time. Check with your TV provider for date/time in your area. Enjoy.

More Pictures from the 2020 Antique Show

(Cont'd from page 1)



Ann, Jean and Alta keep an eye on the Raffle items. This was a new feature this year.



We have a winner! Bonnie Chrey won the PSGS Raffle entry on Sunday.



Sharon and Gwen welcome people to the Appraisals section of the Antique Show



Craig Cassels took this 1890-1900 jug to be appraised. It would have been worth \$400, but was cracked so only worth \$175. Still a nice bit of information



Peg Powell. We made it, the end of the Antique Show for 2020!



Introducing Janet Eyler Ravenkamp

I have been volunteering at the Genealogy Center at the library in Bremerton, Washington and I love it. I especially enjoy helping people who come and are at a loss and don't know how to even start their family tree. I explain and show them how sometimes it's easy by starting with yourself. I enjoy helping them when they hit roadblocks and giving them hints to encourage them when it sometimes gets hard to find your family. But all in all, it's fun.

This is my second year working at the Genealogy Center. I joined the Puget Sound Genealogical Society when I first came up here to Bremerton in 1999. I would work on it sporadically but like life, things kept getting in the way. After my late husband passed away in 2001, my sister Pammy and I have been working on the family tree together. We both work on the family tree from home. Pammy lives in Nevada. It's a good thing we can talk forever on the phone and Facetime, too. If I can't figure something out or she can't we brainstorm with each other. It's nice to have a sister that helps, Thanks Pammy.

We ended up in Bremerton because John's boat, the USS William H. Bates, had come up here to Bremerton Shipyard for overhaul in 1990. The boat was due to leave for Hawaii and I told John "don't let the hatch hit you in the head on your way out". I was done moving around. John retired 1990.

I have been at this going on 45 years! The best part is finding out all the family secrets and having a better understanding of all the cultural differences within our family. Getting to know the hardships, adventures, and triumphs they endured immortalizes them forever!

I got to meet some of Linda's mother's (see reference to her in the Finding My Roots article in this

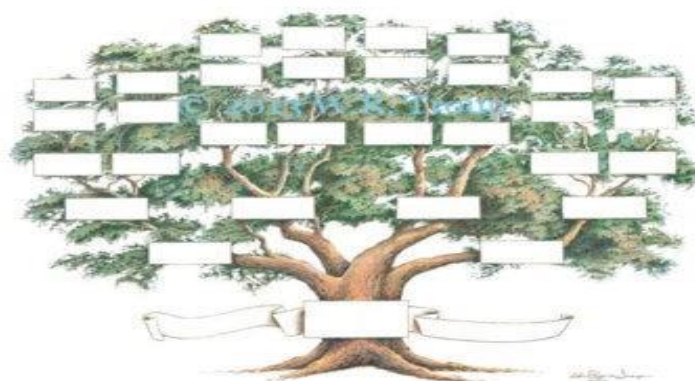
issue of the Backtracker) family last summer when she invited me to accompany her to her mother's side of the family. The Spencer's, Middleton's, Weese's and Hike's all started in Europe and ended up in Washington, too. But like all branches of the tree we are spread all over the world.

Finding family is the best part in doing my family tree. Also another great part is finding out that you are not the milk man's daughter after all, ha-ha. Getting to know all the wonderful things about our family that no one wanted us to know is interesting. I think they were called the secrets.

I had lots of Grandparents that I never got to meet, and I would have loved to have met them. I could ask them, why did you immigrate? Were you scared coming over from the old country? One more thing. I would love to thank them for letting me discover my history through them.

My Grandmother Maude always told us kids that "you kids are a mix like a Heinz 57 variety". There are so many different nationalities in all of us. I know there are stories to be told. I want to be that person that tells them!

I want to thank my family for all of their input with the family tree... Fran, Rosie, Richard, John, Kay, Chuck, Butch, Jo, Pammy, Debbie, Margie and aunts, uncles, cousins, and family I never knew I had.

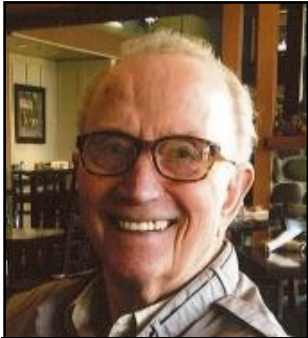


In Remembrance

We are sorry to share that during the past year, six of our valued members have died. Good bye to:



Beverly Ann Nelson



William Lueycoe Plummer



Karen Yvonne Watson



Christine Lynn Ramsey



Ken Thornton

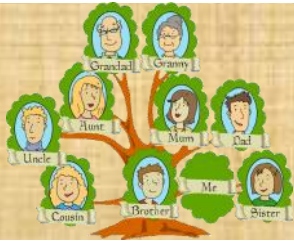


Linnie Louise Griffin



From Linnie's Memorial

We extend our deepest sympathies to their families.



MY FAVORITE ANCESTOR — Paul Searls

by Phyllis Wahlquist

MAY 27, 1937

President Franklin D. Roosevelt in Washington, D.C. was ready to press a button. Thousands of automobiles and pedestrians were waiting to cross the new Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California – but wait – there were two redwood logs each about ten feet long and 34 inches in diameter that had to be sawed apart before anyone could move. Three log bucking champions, Paul Searls, from Castle Rock, Washington, Myron Higbee from Idaho and Ray Shull from Eureka, California each held their weapons—bucking saws—and at the sound of the starting gun attacked the logs. It took Paul only 2 minutes, forty-seven and two fifth seconds to win, beating his previous record by 10 seconds. He kept his championship title and pocketed \$250 prize money.

Paul's grandparents, Edward and Malvina Kennedy Searls, were early settlers in Cowlitz County. Edward worked his way west from Wisconsin while working on the new rail line to Oregon. He brought his family out and in 1882 they settled on 80 acres fronting on the Silver Lake. Here their farm supported the family with some outside income from working "in the woods" and in the shingle mill in Castle Rock.

Paul's father, Hanford, was the oldest of the 6 siblings and even the girls were tall and strong. Hanford was a blacksmith with the build and stamina of the "village blacksmith" which he passed on to Paul and

his other children. His blacksmith shop was on the main street in Castle Rock. The fire station is on the property now.

Paul was born December 8, 1907. He started working in the woods at 18 in Kalamath Falls, Oregon in 1926. He married Barbara Cecil Hammell in 1927. The lumber company he was working for closed in 1931 – a victim of the depression. He came back to

Castle Rock and because he was married, luckily, got a job with Weyerhaeuser. In 1932 he started entering all the bucking contests and won most of them. There were a few times his notoriety took him out of the woods and on to TV. He was asked to give a demonstration on "You Asked for it" and publicize northwest tree farms while he was there. He went on to appear on the "Bob Hope Show", "You Bet Your Life" and with Groucho Marx on the radio. As a publicity stunt he was photographed



Pancake Man Paul Searls

with a great stack of pancakes but he never got a bite!

Before he retired the well sharpened cross cut (buck) saw was replaced with a chain saw that would buck faster and more efficiently so he replaced his "misery whip" with a chain saw. He moved on to sharpening chain saws at Weyerhaeuser's St. Helens

(Cont'd on page 10)

MY FAVORITE ANCESTOR — by Phyllis Searls Wahlquist

(Cont'd from page 9)

Tree Farm where he was supervisor of all filing activities.

1987 was the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge. A bronze plaque in Paul's honor was placed at one end of the bridge. He and Cecil went down for the celebration and walked across the bridge.

Living close to Mount St. Helens, he witnessed the forest devastation of the eruption, but also had a chance to see some of the regrowth. He passed away June 21, 1996.



Logger with a "buck saw"

DID YOU KNOW ?

Do you have a KRL library card? If so, you can access the Ancestry Library Edition from home during the month of April. Simply log into KRL.org, go to research, then genealogy. Enter your library card number and you are in.

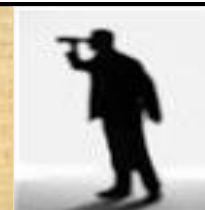
Can you do genealogy while wearing your jammies and bunny slippers? Of course you can. Check out our State Archives office on-line information. You can access this information by going to www.sos.wa.gov/archives . Also look for books on-line at Google books, books.google.com or www.archive.org . You can check out many research sites at www.Cindislist.com . Have fun immersing yourself in Genealogy.

When you are searching on line and want to open a new link to find that birth record, census record, etc., always right click and open link in new tab. When you're finished, just delete that tab. This will allow you to easily find your way back to your original data page. It is a great habit to get into and will save you time.

Noted on an Irish Facebook Page —Michigan Technological University, in Houghton Michigan, has been awarded a \$240,000 grant to uncover Calumet & Hecla Copper Mining Company records. Researchers will spend the next two years to scan, digitize, and contextualize the employee cards of 40,000 miners, mostly from early to mid-20th Century. If you had ancestors who were miners in this area and time, stay tuned. You may see details in a couple of years.

A Look Back...

at the past three months of programs presented by PSGS



Jan 22, 2020: Sharon Hornback



Getting to Know the PSGS Genealogy Center

Sharon shared what is available in the GC to help you with your family search. She shared that you have access to Family Search Affiliate Library edition, Ancestry Library Edition, and American Ancestors, all while you are in the library. She shared excerpts from many of the volumes that are in the GC and are catalogued at the KRL website. These materials do not circulate, but you can always make copies from your flip-pal, smart phone, or the library copy machine. Elisabeth Demmon is the KRL liaison to PSGS and she oversees our collection. She has a diverse background in genealogy and can help with suggestions.

Feb 26, 2020: Steven Morrison

Assembling Your Proof—Hunting for High Quality Sources

You looked and found more than you expected! Now you have multiple dates for the same event. What should you use? Which is more reliable? How do you decide? Learn how to handle multiple conflicting sources from family traditions to hatched, matched, and dispatched records. Original information, first-hand oral or written information is the “gold Standard.” Is a family bible or a tombstone more reliable? How about a Marriage Abstract or a Marriage Certificate? Look at your information to determine what has the most trustworthy information. Decide why you may have different birth dates, i.e. get social security benefits earlier, get out of school earlier, get into military earlier. There may have been a reason for changing a birthdate.



Looking Forward — The next three months of classes

Please refer to the PSGS Monthly Events Bulletin from president, Jean Yager. This information will be much more up to date as it is sent out monthly. We are in a time of unknowns. Thank you for your patience.

Judy Joaquin's

Belfair Bulletin

Greetings from the great town of Belfair! Our genealogical group met in February at the Timberland Library. There was a good turnout to hear our speaker, Steven Morrison. He spoke on the subject "Fast Checking your Family Tradition." Using a Quaker family for an example he explained the steps to go through to determine if the "facts" we have are actually correct. I found it very informative.

Our March meeting was also held at the library. This was an informal time for members and visitors to ask questions, provide help to others and enjoy the conversation on genealogy. Recently I found out an interesting and informative piece for Irish research. I shared it with the group as a "Did you Know?"

If you google the National Library of Ireland there is a place to insert the parish you are working on. Up comes the microfilm of births, marriages and deaths of that parish from 1767! It's like being at Salt Lake City reading microfilm! Hopefully, some of you will find this helpful.

Due to the coronavirus our Salt Lake City trip has been cancelled. Since the Timberland Libraries are closed until mid-April there will be no meeting in April.

Take care and stay well,

Judy

Bob Howard's

South Kitsap's Happenings

We meet at 9:30 am at the Church of Christ, 2535 Carr Lane SE, Port Orchard. Carr Lane is off of Salmonberry. Entry is through the basement door at the lower parking lot. A small orange sign will be posted on the door.

Bev Smith gives us an update on the Executive Board meeting at the beginning of each meeting.

At our January meeting we celebrated Margaret's birthday with treats brought by several of the members. Beverly shared her experience with renewing her Ancestry subscription and the price she was able to negotiate. We researched one of Beverly's ancestors but were not successful. Beverly also shared information on how she found some success on Google using alternate names.

February's meeting included a lot of discussion about the Henshaw Quaker books. Several of the attendees have Quaker ancestors. Several there believe our PSGS has a set in the library. Much of the needed information is online. Joyce was searching for the cause of death of five family members who all died in the same year. We gave her possible means by contacting the local Genealogy Society, Historical Society and the local library. Our guess was that it was a pandemic that was sweeping that area about that time.

We did not meet in March and will not meet in April. It may be months before we get together again.

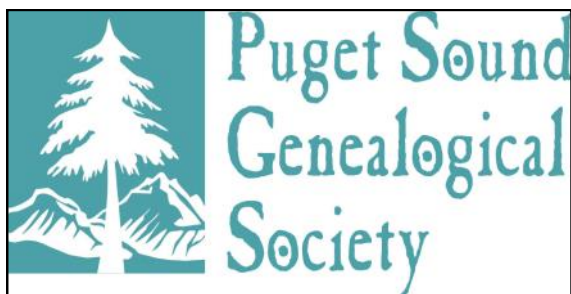
Bob Howard

Volunteers needed for the Genealogy Center

We need members to step forward and volunteer to work in the Genealogy Center. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our collection. Most days are fairly quiet so you would be able to do your own research. Training is provided. You do not need to be an "expert" at genealogy. KRL provides us this space, cataloging all materials in the Center, and the meeting room for our classes and programs. In return, we provide volunteers in the GC. Send an email to Sharon Hornback at gcvol@pusogensoc.org. When the library reopens, a training date will be set and interested members will be contacted.

GC Volunteer Contest

The current contest will be extended. The end date will be announced at the next PSGS General Meeting. Volunteers in the Genealogy Center earn chances for a drawing to win the book, The Organized Family Historian by Ann Carter Fleming, GCG, CGL. Please note that this book is also available in the general non-fiction area of the Sylvan Way Library for check out.



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