

# NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

August 2006

**Next Meeting: August 5th, 2006**

**Annual Picnic**

**Val & Laura Matthews Yard**

**Phone: 360-202-0099**

**See complete details & driving instructions on Page 2**

## **Would you be willing to present a guild program?**

Consider:

“Ask not what your guild can do for you, but ask what you can do for your guild.” JFK.

“Never lead a cavalry charge if you think you look dumb on a horse.” Teddy Roosevelt.

We all have lots of reasons why we can't present a program to our guild:

1. I don't have / do anything that is good or interesting.....
2. I am an inexperienced woodworker.....
3. I don't have time.....
4. I'm not comfortable in front of a group.....

Yet I am sure that out of a guild of 80+ members that there are some very good programs and demos hidden within all of our members. Past programs presented by our fellow members have proven that true. We may not feel that our story is of interest to other members.....yet wasn't it fun to see how to build a canoe.....or a Maloof style rocking chair....or pocket joints and biscuit joints!

So.....how do I get started?

Maybe start small.....bring a jig or project or a problem to the next meeting for bring & brag and give a brief talk about your experiences. Share your joy of woodworking!

Maybe tag team with another member(s) who have the same interest.....share the presentation or demo and give your different approaches to the project.

How do I prepare for presenting a 45 minute program???

1. Go to old magazines & books to see what others have written and to DVDs & tapes to see how others present their experiences.
2. Look on the internet under “widget”, woodworking. Resources & ideas for programs are abundant on the internet. I recently discovered there were over 60 listings on the use of walnut oil as a finish and how to apply it and it's drying characteristics.
3. Write out your talk.....when I put pen to paper things become clearer and more organized.
4. What props do I need? It is most helpful to show the “widget” in various stages of the project to give members a clear idea of the necessary steps.
5. Prepare handouts.....these help clarify the steps in a project and are greatly appreciated by other members. Where did I get the 6 hinges.....and the clasp....the 700 bd. ft. of Poplar? A simple drawing is also of great help and clarification.

So now, we know what we are going to talk about, we have it written down and rehearsed, we have our props & handouts, we have our rabbits foot in our pocket.....now what???

PRACTICE! We all need practice to get comfortable or good at anything we do.....we didn't learn woodworking in one day! Reps! Making a presentation is no different. Go through your demo in your shop. Time it. Then ask 2 friends over and give it to them. Ask them to critique it. Make adjustments.....additions & deletions. It will become much easier when you feel good on the horse leading the demo. Charge! Then SHARE your joy of woodworking with your fellow guild members!  
bd

**Minutes of NCWA Meeting on 11 July 2006**

President Bob Doop handed the reins to VP Ed Pysher to conduct a shortened meeting that promised a noteworthy presentation by Cec Braeden on how to successfully make a first-rate rocking chair. Items of business included a discussion on the forthcoming August picnic, the new arrangements for member shop visits, an informal poll to assess interest in the forthcoming Cloverdale Wood and Tool Show, and a report on the Edensaw Open House trip

in late June. Reports were also given by chairmen of the standing committees.

But the chief order of business was answering the annual performance questionnaires on Club activities. Members present filled out several sheets of questions issued by each of the Club chairmen regarding preferences, scoring, and personal feelings for Club functions. The chairmen and Board will use these responses to shape future programs and activities to the wishes of the majority. The biggest single package of questions came from R P Myers, new Education Chairman, who has the responsibility to take that program beyond the past two years of, essentially, basic training. Results already released show that a majority of members are keyed to educational courses and are looking for a wide range of hands-on woodworking training this Fall.

I introduced the subject of a Club tour to the Cloverdale, B.C., big wood and tool show scheduled for October. Interest was good, and I think we may have enough participants to charter a bus for this event. Club members will have until the September meeting to firm up a reservation. The date for our visit is Saturday, October 21.

Ed, who also chairs the Membership Committee, announced a new high mark in Club membership. We are 82-members strong. R.P. has set up a schedule of shop visits starting in September. The new lineup, he

**It's Picnic time!**

**Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 to whenever**, at the home of Val and Laura Matthews, 7750 Ershig Rd., Bow, WA. We will plan to eat around 3:00 o'clock. Bring your family, a sidedish, (salad, desert, or veggie), and an appetite. There will be hamburgers, bratwurst, corn on the cob, softdrinks, coffee, and tableware provided. Bring your lawn chair. Once again we are inviting the woodturners to join us. There will be a rerun of the soap box derby event. All are invited to build a car and participate. There are only three rules of construction. Your entry must not exceed five inches in width, seven inches in length, or eighteen ounces in weight. Jullian will have his track set up for the event. We will also have a silent auction for used or unwanted tools. One man's trash is another's treasure. See details on Page 5. The woodturners will bring their trailer with lathes and Laura's lathes will be available. The shaving horse will also be there for all to try out..Look forward to seeing you there!  
-Laura

DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS: From the North, take the Bow Hill Exit at the Skagit Casino. Follow Bow Hill Rd. For a mile or so and take a left on Ershig Rd. Continue south to the bottom of the hill and over the RR tracks. First driveway on the right. From the South, take Chuckanut Drive exit and follow it to Allen where you will cross the Samish River bridge, take an immediate right onto Ershig Rd., and follow it for a mile and a half. Our driveway is on the left just before the RR tracks. From Anacortes, travel highway #20 to the Avon Allen Rd., turn left and follow it around the hill and across the flat to the intersection with Allen West Rd. Jog to the right and catch a left on Chuckanut to the Samish River bridge. Make an immediate right onto Ershig Rd. Follow that for a mile and a half. Our driveway is on the left, just before the RR tracks.

announced, would be two shops open on the same Saturday once a month and in the same local area, both in the northern and southern counties. Casual Saturday visits between members on other weekends is also encouraged.

Thirteen members braved the threat of low tides and cancelled ferry rides to attend Edensaw's Open House party in Port Townsend on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. The all-day celebration was a hoot, according to all attendees. The big lumber and tool

store had remodeled warehouses, offices, and a showroom and wanted clients to take a look. It was a carnival atmosphere with unending food and drink, demonstrations by tool experts, and a silent auction that had to be seen to be believed. Lumber was the prize, of course, and Librarian Jim Torrence grabbed the brass ring when he bid \$250 (minimum bid allowed) on 70 pieces of fine 4S finished butternut boards selling for more than \$13 a board foot. Doop and Jim also bid on bundles of new woodworking books that went for minimum bids. Val Matthews contributed a hand-made plane in the name of the Club. The silent auction proceeds went to the American Cancer Society. We are hopeful that Edensaw will have similar outings every year. —Jay Geisel, Secretary

## Braeden Chair 'Rocks' Woodworkers

**He challenged himself and won.** The proof is in the beautiful black walnut rocking chair Cec Braeden exhibited last time we met. It took courage, dedication and intensive labor for Cec to "move up to the next level of woodworking skill," as he calls it. And he urged us to do the same. "If you don't start, you will never finish."

He admitted that the project seemed daunting at first, and he said he couldn't have done it

### Coming in September – Jig Night

Here is your opportunity to be a part of the September meeting program. We are asking all of our members to consider their favorite jigs/fixtures and bring one or two to demonstrate/describe at the meeting. If possible, make and bring drawings and a description of the jig's use to the meeting for distribution to our membership. Thirty copies should be adequate.

You may also donate your jig to be raffled off to raise funds for our education program. (This is strictly optional)

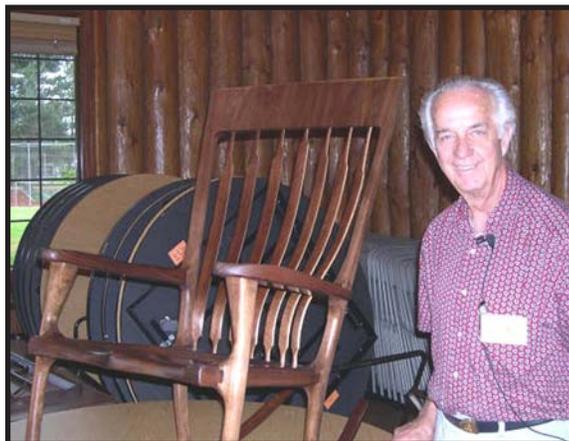
This should be a great program. You will have the opportunity to see many different jigs and learn how they are used. Often, a simple jig will enable you to do something that is otherwise very difficult. You will no doubt want to pick up a couple of plans so you can make your own. We can be assured that "Low tech Phil" will bring at least two jigs to this event. You might even be lucky enough to win one! -Cec

without the detailed instructions included with a great plan. "That offered me an opportunity to do many things I didn't think I was capable of." Cec showed us with great clarity, using overhead slides, the many special jigs and fixtures he had to construct, and some actual chair components, how the complex process of building a quality rocker can conclude with a piece of furniture that brings

pride of achievement to its maker and a worthiness for generations later.

**It wasn't the first time** Cec stood before us explaining in detail how to do something. Only a year ago he brought pride to our organization when his novel workbench, made from two full sheets of plywood, was featured in a Taunton Press book. Then along came another member, John Gruenwald, to show and explain how to make a really great canoe. Later Larry Tomovick brought one of the pieces in his current bedroom suite to our meeting to show how he puts his "signature" reveals of contrasting wood into his work. And just a few years ago Lyle Hand wowed us with a demonstration on how he makes those intricate, highly prized bamboo rods.

Following Cec's talk, Pres. Bob Doop congratulated Cec on his fine work and urged others in the organization with interesting "how to" stories to speak before the group. Doop



Cec Braeden shares the details of crafting his rocking chair!

noted that there's a lot of individual woodworking talent in NCWA.

**The Braeden story was well prepared** and presented. The front leg shapes and joints were extremely complex and required "precision for appearance and integrity," he said. "They were shaped by router, spokeshave, sanding, and blended with a grinder, sandpaper, and other hand tools." Cec had to learn to use some tools for the first time and develop techniques that were new to him. The entire chair is sculpted and requires 12 joints, some he called "fairly easy." More difficult were the joints for the legs to seat and back legs to headrest. The tops of the arms were cove-cut on the table saw. The seat was ground to shape and sanded. "Messy," he added. For Cec, new skills such as wood bending, sculpting, and cove cutting were all new techniques to be learned. About a dozen precision jigs had to be built and unfamiliar tools handled. The Hal Taylor plan called for finishing with Abralon pads and Danish Oil.

**The plan was found on the Internet** where Taylor sells them for \$325. "A bargain," Cec adds. Taylor sells 50 of these chairs a year for \$5,000 a copy. The 8/4 lumber for two chairs (\$75 bf) was purchased from Edensaw for \$610 (he forgot to ask for the member discount). He paid with money awarded for his *Fine Woodworking* article.

For a rocking chair, function is as important as form. Cec's strikingly beautiful work sat on a nearby table and rocked unaided like a perpetual motion machine. The presentation was received with thunderous

applause, proving again that some of our best programs come from our own members. —Jay

### Fan Mail: The Fickle Finger of Fame

Cec Braeden told this story at the conclusion of his rocking chair program.

Seems like a woman from Seattle read about his plywood workbench in the *Fine Woodworking* book published last summer. She wrote Cec a letter praising the article

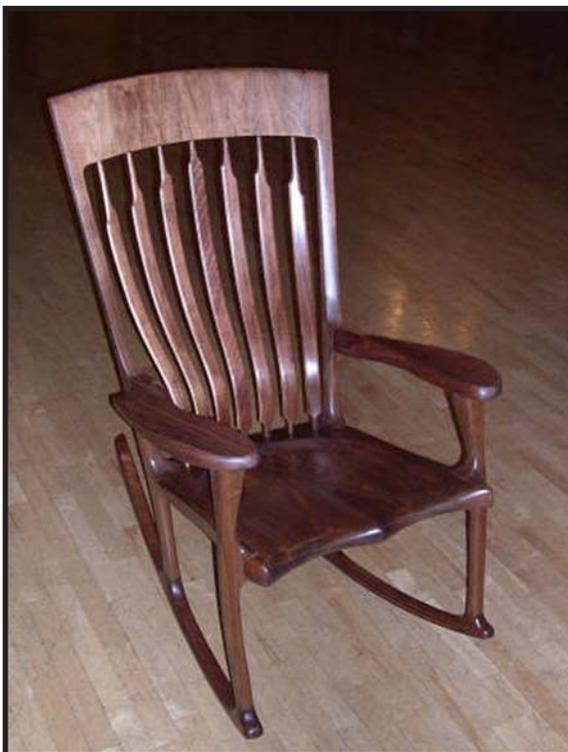
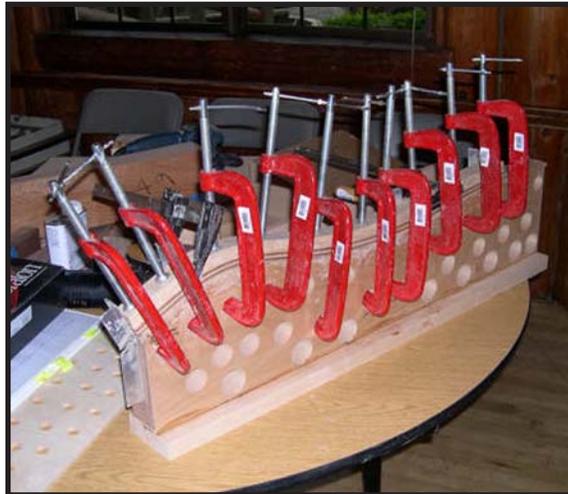
and said her husband was a woodworker, too. "Could we all get together in Seattle for a dinner?" she asked. And then she added, "My husband looks just like you."

Feeling he needed to reply, Cec asked if she would send a picture of her husband. Cec put the color photo he received on an overhead slide and projected it on the screen to the amazement and guffaws of the crowd.

There was a striking dissimilarity!

### New Additions to the NCWA Library -July 2006

1. *Arts and Crafts Furniture* by Blair Howard- Projects you can build for the home.
2. *The Furniture of Gustav Stickney History, Techniques, Projects* by Joseph J. Bavard and Thomas L. Mossman.
3. *Building Cabinet Doors and Drawers* by Danny Proulx.
4. *The Impractical Cabinetmaker* by James Krenov- Krenov on composing, making and detailing.
5. *Shopping for Furniture* by Leonard Bruce Lewin- A consumer's guide.
6. *The Wood Stash Project Book* by Kelley Pierce- Eighteen ideas and designs. (Donated to the



Cec made several special jigs in the process of building his chair.....the final result was worth the effort!

library by member Larry Tomovick)

**7. *Intarsia Complete Pattern and Techniques*** by Judy Gale Roberts and Jerry Booher- Easy to make inlay projects. (Donated to the Library by R.P. Myers)  
-Jim Torrence, Librarian

## From Vern Tator.....

Dear fellow members,

I feel compelled to write about an experience that I had a couple of weeks ago. One that I think we can and must continue to learn from.

First I would like to go back to my first meeting of the NCWA. It was a Gary Holiman's shop in January of 98 or 99, I'm not sure which. The only person I knew in the room was Gary, and that was because we had worked on the same house together several years before. During the course of the meeting, newcomers were asked to introduce themselves and say a little about their experience. At that point I became part of the group. As time has passed I have become more involved and gotten to know some of the group better. Not always an easy task as I seem to be one who is usually living farthest from our meetings.

Anyhow, a couple of weeks ago, I went to a meeting of another woodworking group. It was my first meeting and I did not know anyone in the group. I was not feeling particularly outgoing and only introduced myself to one person. That was it. During their meeting there was no attempt to introduce new members, and no one approached me to see if I was a new member, I sure was not a familiar face to anyone there. Nothing. I have not felt that alone in a crowd in a long time. I am not sure I will go back for a second meeting.

As I see it, one of our great assets as a group is how we treat each other, and newcomers are very important if we are to continue to exist. We must be doing a pretty good job as we have more people at meetings than when I joined. We need to continue to welcome everyone, because the latest newcomer may become your next mentor. -Vern

## A Weekend With Mark Duginske by Walter Meyers

In May I attended a seminar with Mark Duginske that was put on by the Felder Company at their West

Coast headquarters in Sacramento, CA. Mark lives in Wisconsin and is a fourth generation woodworker. Mark got a degree in English but started work as a nurse. He holds the patents for the Cool Block bandsaw devices as well as the patents for some of the new Kreg and Woodhaven equipment. He was involved in the restoration of the Frank Lloyd Wright house in Oak Park, IL and has appeared in one of the [This Old House](#) episodes.

Friday morning was spent with Mark going over tuning up and using the bandsaw for resawing, freehand work and joinery. On Friday afternoon he demonstrated the use of a shaper for various jobs such as stick and cope work and raised paneling. Saturday was spent demonstrating

how these tools were used to make a faceframe kitchen cabinet.

Speaking of tools, Mark said that his shop had some high end individual tools that he sold when he bought his new Felder multi-function machine. He claimed that after selling the old tools and buying his Felder,

### Don't Forget.....Silent Auction at our Picnic

#### Instructions:

There will be a silent auction tool swap at the picnic event. For those of you who have never participated in a silent auction, the rules are pretty simple. The seller displays the item for sale with a sales sheet that lists the item, the seller's description of the item condition (e.g. new; works good; needs repair; etc), the seller's name, and minimum allowable bid, if the seller wishes to state one. Anyone interested in buying the item writes down the amount they wish to bid for the item and their name. Anyone else interested in the item can overbid by writing their bid amount and their name on the sheet. Normally, bids should advance by at least 10% over the previous highest bid. Check back often to see if you are still the highest bidder. The highest bidder at the sale cutoff time wins the item, if their bid exceeds the stated minimum bid. The buyer should then pay the seller for the item and take possession. **Bring items you wish to sell** along with the silent auction bid sheet (attached). **Also, bring money and/or a checkbook.** You never know what might show up for sale!

he had money left over! Although I'm a Felder owner I do not get any compensation from them – I am just passing on what Mark Duginske said.

One of the things that he did during the lecture was take a cabriolet leg template and draw the lines on a block of wood while standing at the bandsaw table. He then cut the leg out using the band saw. Mark uses what he calls his "hinge cut". He cuts the lines from both ends and leaves about a 16<sup>th</sup> of an inch between the two cuts. This keeps the pieces attached to the block. After making all the cuts he goes back and cuts through those "hinges" and voilà! He has a perfect cabriolet leg that stands by itself on its "pointy" end on the bandsaw table!

Most of what Mark passed on during the seminar can be found in his book, Bandsaw Handbook which is in the NCWA library so there is no point in my trying to communicate this to you. What I found most interesting was Mark Duginske himself. He might look like an ordinary wood worker but when you add up all that he has accomplished you know that you are meeting an extraordinary man of brilliance and energy. If anyone is interested in learning more about him you could "Google" his name and follow the leads. Here is a place to start: [http://www.tools-for-woodworking.com/woodnews/january\\_2006/duginske.html](http://www.tools-for-woodworking.com/woodnews/january_2006/duginske.html)



Mark Duginske passes along a lifetime of knowledge.....including easy steps to a cabriolet leg during the workshop attended by Walter Meyers.

### ARTS ALIVE!

Woodworkers start your projects! Arts Alive! is coming **November 3, 4 & 5** in LaConner. This is our chance to show off our craft! Member sales are permitted, but optional. Let's show our community what we do instead of mowing our lawn! For more details, contact Phil Choquette or Nick Van.

### AS THE WEB SPINS.....

The Garry Knox Bennett exhibit of chairs mentioned in our February newsletter is now showing at the Bellevue Art Museum until November 26th. Planning is underway for a group tour to the exhibit on November 18th which will include a guided tour. More details at [www.bellevueart.org/exhibitions/index.htm](http://www.bellevueart.org/exhibitions/index.htm)

While we are on the subject of chairs.....here's a website with some great words of wisdom from the Dean of American Chairmaking, Sam Maloof. [www.americanart.si.edu/maloof/](http://www.americanart.si.edu/maloof/)

## **THE NEXT CHALLENGE !**

### **1st ANNUAL FOUND OBJECT CONTEST**

Thanks to all who participated in the "2 x 4 Bake Off", both those who actually built projects and those who took the time to vote for their favorite 2 x 4. There has been some comment about the short lead time ( 2 months) for this contest, therefore, you are now being given **6 months warning** of the next challenge. This yet to be named contest will involve building a woodworking project around a "found" object. You may use anything from a rusty hinge to a '53 Cadillac bumper, complete with dagmars, as a basis for this project. Now is the time to get started! Begin by combing secondhand stores, garbage dumps, or roadside ditches (perhaps in that pile of junk you keep behind your shop) for that perfect object to construct your masterpiece. This challenge will be terminated at the **Feb., 2007** meeting and it is fully expected that someone will not have had enough time to complete a project, don't let it be you! Hopefully this project will get everyone's creative juices flowing and all will be awed by the collective brilliance of our constructions. Personally, I hope to be dumbfounded! -Val Matthews

CLIP & SAVE!

### **Calling all Hammerheads!**

We will be demonstrating the use of our club's Shaving Horse at Arts Alive! in November, with club members making hammer handles throughout the show. Of course, every hammer handle needs a head.....so if you have any handleless hammerheads laying around gather them up and bring them to Arts Alive! where they will be reunited with a handle! And plan to try your skills at making a hammer handle too. For further information contact Val Matthews or Lucinda Van Valkenburg

**Do you have a photo of your latest project?**

**Have you seen an article or tip of interest?**

**Want to share your thoughts with fellow members?**

Member contributions to the newsletter are encouraged!

## ***THE WOOD SHED.....***

### **AL STRATTON'S WOOD SALE**

Al & Mark Stratton are going to hold a wood & rock sale at Al's place the last weekend of **August, 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 5 each day**. Wood includes large & small lots of lumber, mostly 4/4 with some 8/4 in several hardwood varieties plus Ponderosa Pine & Douglas Fir. Large quantities of turning material in many varieties. Sawn veneers from walnut stumps, redwood burl & black locust burl. Many pieces of maple burl for turning as well as many rough turned blanks, spindle type & small containers. They are currently sawing Douglas Fir & Ponderosa Pine. Because of deteriorating eyesight, Al says this stuff has to go! In addition to the wood, Mark sells a wide variety of lapidary material from Panama, California & Oregon plus many other areas; rough material & finished gems.

1746 Kelly Road  
Bellingham

Information: Al 360-398-2581 or Mark 360-398-2216

### **AMERICAN ELM SALE**

5/4 X 8-10" Widths. 6' lengths. 200bf. \$1.50/bf

\$1/bf for whole lot. And, of course, Maple 'r Us! Steve Intveld 360-592-5670

## COMING EVENTS

August 5th	1:00PM	Annual Picnic	Val & Laura Matthews, Bow
August 16th	7:00PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
August 19th	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Rick's Email Box
Sept. 5th	7:00PM	Monthly Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon
Nov. 3,4,5	10AM-5PM	Arts Alive	LaConner Garden Club Bldg.
Nov. 18th	TBD	Gary Knox Bennett Tour	Bellevue Art Museum

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The NCWA is open to all interested woodworkers, and was formed to promote high standards in woodworking, woodworking education and showcasing local woodworking. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Location is announced in the newsletter. Dues are \$30 per year, payable to NCWA, 150 Swinomish Dr., Laconner, WA 98257. Newsletter submissions are welcomed and are due by the 3rd Saturday of the month. Submit to NCWA Newsletter, 1331 Meador Ave., Suite J105, Bellingham, WA 98229 or Email to [rick@gardenarches.com](mailto:rick@gardenarches.com) or call 360-650-1587.

### **2006 Officers and Committee Chairs:**

President:	Bob Doop	(360) 293-4522	Librarian:	Jim Torrence	(360) 629-6670
V.P.	Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136	Newsletter:	Rick Anderson	(360) 650-1587
Secretary:	Jay Geisel	(360) 466-3908	Membership:	Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136
Treasurer:	Doug Deuhning	(360) 466-1281	Shows:	Phil Choquette	(360) 675-8320
Programs:	Cecil Braeden	(360) 588-9830		Nick Van	(360) 387-4174
Activities:	CHAIRPERSON NEEDED		Projects:	Val Matthews	(360) 757-7730
Education:	R.P. Myers	(360) 708-4677	Toys for Tots:	Gene Benson	(360) 466-3004
Co-Webmaster:	Greg Shumate	(360-387)-2066	Co-Webmaster:	Mike New	(360) 707-2314



**NCWA NEWSLETTER**

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