



SOUNDOFF

May - June 2023

*George P. Vanderveer
Post 129 American Legion
(Established 1919)
2025 Church Road
Toms River, NJ 08753*

George P. Vanderveer Post 129 American Legion

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to Spring in New Jersey, 32 degrees one day then 80 degrees the next. I hope everyone is doing well and prospering. As for our Post we are doing just wonderful.

Our membership of volunteers is working hard to make our Post the best it can be. We can always use more help from our members, it makes moving forward much easier when we have plenty of help. Anyone who wants to help please stop in and see myself, PJ,

Ed or the Canteen committee. We need workers in the morning, and the late afternoon to help out.

We will be closing the Hall during the entire month of August for renovations, this means no meetings, no functions or events at all. DAV, Tin Can Sailors please contact me and we will work out something, maybe meetings in the basement meeting room. Our Convention in Wildwood will be coming up in June. Hope to see you there.

God Bless our Members
God Bless the American Legion
God Bless our Post
Pete Chafatelli Commander

At the General Membership meeting of April 3, 2023 Pam Bowen, (center), President, Auxiliary Unit 129, and Shea Solliday, Second Vice President, present a check to Post Commander Pete Chafatelli in support of the Post.



MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Spring is in the air and before you know it, we will be celebrating our 104th year at our Convention in Wildwood in June. Our new membership year starts on July 1, 2023 for our 2024 year. As of this writing our membership stands at 1,462 and 88.49% of our Goal. We need 191 more members so please send in their 2023 dues by the end of May. We need your help so we can continue to help our Veterans, their Families, and the Community where we live. Please do not forget the Buddy Check by reaching out to our Legion Family and friends to see if they need any help and offering words of encouragement especially during these trying times. With the cost of food going through the roof these days and the price of everything on the rise we need to look out for one another.

er. That is what we do - Veterans taking care of Veterans.

I am asking our legion Family to reach out and ask your Friends, Neighbors, Co Workers, Family members to see if they would like to join our Great Organization. Per the Legion Act of 2019 any veteran that has served at least one day of active military duty since Dec. 7, 1941, and was Honorably Discharged or still serving Honorably meets the qualifications to join The American Legion.

We must ensure there is No Veteran Left Behind and that means growing our numbers in every department, our country needs a Legion of forces to serve our Veterans and Communities.

So, let us renew our commitment, renew our efforts, and renew our Membership to make 2023 a very prosperous year. We cannot do it without you. Please let me know if there is some service that our Post or at the De-

partment level can provide for you or if there is any reason that has kept you from renewing your Membership please contact me at rjg548@comcast.net or 732-604-8326, The American Legion needs your support. Remember, Membership is the life blood of The American Legion.

REMEMBER: Be The One to Break the Chain of Veterans Suicide!

To ask a veteran in your life how they are doing.

To listen when a veteran needs to talk.

To reach out when a veteran is struggling.

It takes one to help save a veteran's life. You can be that one. To learn more, go to:

betheone.org

For God and Country
Rich Godfrey
Department of New Jersey
Membership Chairman

CHAPLAINS MESSAGE

Tom Kraszewski

Brothers and Sisters,

It has been a while since I have had this honor as your Chaplain, and I take it seriously as all of us need someone to turn to in times of distress or happenings that are not to our liking. I believe we all can lift our hearts in prayer, however you are having difficulty, which any one of us can face in our daily lives, that is where your Chaplain comes in. I am more than happy to pray with you for any challenges you are going through. You may be facing surgery which is always heavy for most of us. I am more than available any hour of the day or night for you to call prior to your going in for your procedure... You will never hear me say "Oh you woke me up, what is it!" Rather I will start with "Hi, what are we praying for or how may I be of service to you today".

I know what some of you are thinking...That's a crock or, who is he kidding? I have had numerous calls during the night and never one complaint yet as to my not being at home or going to my voicemail. That is simply why I say to all of you, I accepted this position to be a helper in times of need...I promise you I will do the best I can for each of us as I bring all of us to God's Throne everyday already.

One closing thought to ponder! You may be saying after reading this. "But Chaplain, I do not believe in God...My reply to you is simple...GOD BELIEVES IN YOU! Hope to see all of you at our next meeting on the First Monday of the Month.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

To all our Brothers and Sisters,

BLOOD DRIVE:

I am very pleased to say that the Post had a successful blood drive on March 24th. The weather cooperated. Our post recorded a total of 36 pints

of this very important commodity. I'd like to thank all the members who participated and I look forward to our next drive.

PICNICS:

It's time to start thinking about that wonderful season...SUMMER. Mother nature has really thrown us a curve this Spring. Ninety degrees on April 14th? That's not fair.

What else could really raise our spirits ...PICNICS. It's a time for hamburgers, hot dogs, and BBQ chicken. Don't forget the salads. So, what does the Legion have in store for you this year?

On May 27th the Memorial Day



League 2023

Meeting: Wednesday May 3rd

Bunker Bar

6:00 pm

League Starts: Wednesday May 17th

If interested in playing in the Legion Horseshoe League, sign-up sheet will be behind the Canteen Bar.

All are Welcome. Singles and Teams

Contact: Mike Feimer: (732) 684-9790

Dan Szpyt: (732) 996-4406

Pig Roast Picnic will be hosted by our SAL and chaired by Rocky. Tickets are \$25.00 in advance and \$30.00 at the door.

On July 1st (rain date July 2nd) the Independence Day Picnic will be hosted by the Legionnaires. Tickets will be \$25 for Members and \$30 for Guests. Mark your calendars and be prepared to dance to the music of WILD ROSE.

Don't forget to reserve these picnic days. Support your Post. We look forward to seeing you all at these annual picnics.

Gerd Trommer
Vice Commander
908-910-1858

LEADERSHIP

Ralph Wolff
Finance Officer
Post 129



Posts around the world rise and fall on leadership. Just like our communities and our Country, quality leadership is what influences and drives the future of Post 129.

Not many of us are born leaders. A number of years ago I was walking through the town of Garden City, Michigan. I came across a townsman sitting at a coffee shop, and I asked him if any great leaders were born here. He just smiled and said no, just babies.

The truth of the matter is that most of our leadership qualities are acquired over time. Our leaders have learned or are learning the skills necessary to be great leaders.

So, what is leadership?

Leadership is the ability to gain followers. Followers look for honesty, competence, vision, inspiration, and credibility. In order to be a credible leader, you must have integrity. Integrity establishes credibility. Credibility is the difference between integrity and cleverness. If you are to lead then you must have integrity, you must be believed. If you are believed, then you will gain followers and that is how we accomplish our goals. If you are not credible and have little or no integrity you will not gain followers and you will only be seen as a clever person, but not a leader.

As leaders, you are expected to be visionaries, motivators, and humble doers within your chosen venue. The men and women of Post 129 are the best of the best. You all inspire and influence me, so I know that you inspire and influence others.

My message to you today is this: Never stop learning and growing. You are the leaders of the future. If you think you are not, then just look at the family you have raised and the accomplishments you have achieved. You did not do this because you managed people well, your accomplishments were achieved because of your leadership skills. There is a difference between managing people and leading people. Most people do not want to be managed. In my experience, most people want to be led.

Did you know that everyone influences someone and that even the most introverted individual will influence nearly ten thousand other people during his or her lifetime?

Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others. As a leader, you have a responsibility to give back and to help make your Post, your community, and our world just a little bit better.

Financials

So, in the last few months, a number of banks have closed and many more are on the brink. Thank God for good leadership. Way back in 1933 President Franklyn Roosevelt established the FDIC. The Federal Deposit Insurance Company. As it has evolved over the years, the FDIC now will insure all deposits for up to \$250,000. That said, the value of your Post deposits is over the maximum insurance amount that is protected. The leadership of your Post thought it best to move some of the funds that were over the limit of protection to another bank thus keeping the funds under the FDIC protection umbrella.

In doing this the new bank has offered a handsome reward of interest on the funds in the new account. In less than a month we have received over \$400 dollars in interest. We are secure thanks to the great leadership we spoke about earlier in this column.

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

THANK YOU TO THESE ADDITIONAL DONORS TO THE POST 129 CHILDREN & YOUTH FUND 2023 CAMPAIGN

Diamond Club Member	ELISA & JOSEPH KETHLEY III
Silver Club Member	ANDREW SINCHAK (Deceased)
Bronze Club Member	KEVIN CHRISTIE

* * * * * NOTICE * * * * *

Brothers and Sisters

Please be aware Mr. Michael Schaffer is no longer a member of our Post 129. He is no longer our Chaplain nor is he our Service Officer. Mr. Tom Kraszewski is our new Chaplain, 848-210-3722. Mr. Carl Brignola 973-714-0674 is our new Service Officer.

POST 129 COLORING CONTEST 2023

Laura Bailey, Trustee
Coloring Contest
Committee Chairperson

The Coloring Contest Committee is pleased to share with our members the winners of this year's contest from the Toms River School District. We are proud of all the students who took part in the competition, along with the Principals and teachers who teach and encourage them every day. We had some exceptional entries, the artwork was excellent, and the judging was a difficult task.

You are never too young to be a Patriot.

Our 1st place winner is Chloe Loehwing, a student from Cedar Grove Elementary School. Chloe's entry advanced to the County level and won 1st place in Ocean County. Her entry then advanced to the Department level and she placed 1st in the state. Congratulations to Chloe!

Chloe Loehwing
Cedar Grove Elementary School



Our 2nd place winner is Evan Tucker, a student from Silver Bay Elementary School.

Evan Tucker
Silver Bay Elementary School



Our 3rd place winner is Rowan Otero, a student from Hooper Avenue Elementary School.

Rowan Otero
Hooper Avenue Elementary School



This year's drawing theme was "Military Working Dog and Handler". Cash prizes and Certificates of Appreciation were presented to each student at their individual schools by Commander Pete Chafatelli. Participation in the contest improved this year and we look forward to even more student participation next school year. Thank you to all who assisted with this project.

SAL MESSAGE

Greetings Brothers and Sisters! Sure feels nice coming out of the winter months and heading into spring and summer. Warm weather, more sunshine and all the great things that come with it.

We continue to keep busy in the SAL helping wherever we can with all units of the great Post 129. Speaking of coming into spring, that means our annual Pig Roast and BBQ is coming up! We will be having the BBQ on Saturday, May 27th from 1-5pm with Sunday the 28th being the rain date. As always, it will be in the picnic grove with great food and beverages. The awesome Katfish Lucy will be the band entertaining us again. It's going to be a great time. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. This is our biggest event of the year so get your tickets early as they go very quickly. Also, we need volunteers' morning, afternoon and evening to help us be successful. Even if it's for a couple hours or all day, your help is needed and very much appreciated. Please contact me if you are able to assist in any capacity.

In June, we will be attending the annual convention in Wildwood. This is another fun time where we take care of some business as well as have fun with comrades and friends and rounding off the weekend marching in the parade.

We just had our April meeting where we had our last round of nomination of officers and election. I am proud to announce that Joe Rutzler will be our new SAL commander for the 2023-2024 year which officially starts July 1st. More to come with new officers in the next SOUND OFF edition!

Finally, let's talk about membership. We are doing very well to date, but renewals are starting to slow a little bit. We need to keep the push on membership so if you haven't renewed yet, please do so ASAP. If you know anyone eligible to join, please let's get them in and we'll be happy to sign them up. We rely on membership to keep us going and it's very important to retain existing



AMERICAN LEGION

members as well as recruit new members.

I hope to see everyone at our BBQ and around the Post. Please reach out if we can help with anything or if you have any questions regarding membership.

For God & Country,

Rocky Lucia
Commander
SAL Squadron 129



RIDERS MESSAGE

Greetings Everyone!

Spring has finally arrived, and none too soon.

The Riders are now enjoying the great riding weather.

We wish to remind everyone to mark your calendars for Memorial Day Weekend. The Sons will be kicking off the weekend with their AWESOME Memorial Day Pig Roast on May 27th. Sunday, May 28th, the Legion Family will be presenting wreaths at the Ocean County Memorial Park.

Monday, May 29th, the Riders will be joining in the Toms River Memorial Day Parade, then looking forward for all attending a Wreath Presentation at our own Paver Memorial.

As of this writing, the Riders are in great hopes that the installation of the Memorial Paver replacements will be completed for Memorial Day weekend.

In June, the Riders will be on their way to attend the American Legion Convention to be held in Wildwood, NJ. Hope to see everyone there!

Also, the Riders are busy preparing for our Annual Country Western BBQ so mark your calendars for Saturday August 19, 2023, 01:00-05:00 PM. More details to come as preparations are finalized.

The Riders are meeting at our Picnic Grove and Bunker Bar on Tuesday evenings as a get-together and looking forward to

meeting other members of the Post. So come on out and meet up with some friendly Post 129 Riders and enjoy Post 129 Bunker Bar & Picnic Grove.

For God & Country
God Bless
Cliff Johnson
Director
American Legion Riders
Post 129



OCEAN COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION 16TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT THURS., MAY 11, 2023

Shotgun Start 8:00 a.m. (Please be at cart 7:45)

**Ocean County Golf Course at Atlantis
Country Club Blvd., Little Egg Harbor, N.J.**

Donation \$75.00 per golfer

Fee includes:

*18 hole, scramble, golf cart, lunch and refreshments at Mystic Island
American Legion Post# 493, 420 Radio Rd., Little Egg Harbor*

"Prizes for Longest Drive, Closest to Pin and Many Valuable Door Prizes"

"All proceeds benefit Ocean County Veterans, Veteran's Family Needs, and Programs of the American Legion"

***Limited to 110 golfers * Registration deadline**

Check-In begins at 7:00 a.m.

Make check payable to:

Ocean County American Legion Golf Tournament

Mail registration and check to:

OCAL Golf Tournament

92 Brand Rd., Toms River, NJ 08753

For info call Kelly Murphy 732-255-0295

REGISTRATION FORM

Name and Phone of Golfer (foursome NOT required)

#1 _____

#2 _____

#3 _____

#4 _____

DETACH AND KEEP TOP PORTION

CANTEEN NEWS

Eric Inauen

We have had fantastic Spring weather for April. We can only hope that it will continue. We opened the Bunker Bar on Saturday, April 1st. No, that was not an April Fool's Joke. It was the earliest we have ever opened, and it was a great success. Everyone brought either home-made or store-bought food. We even had to deal with rain and a tornado warning. Problem? Of course not. We were in our Bunker.



The Canteen Committee would like to thank Commander Chafatelli, Canteen Manager Bobby Joerg, Ed Rutzler, Ken Benner, John Holterman and Frank Del Nero for getting everything ready for the opening. A special thanks to Ken "Pablo Picasso" Benner for painting the Bunker Bar Floor. After Commander Pete installed the new board for the ice machine, Joe Rutzler and Mike Feimer installed the new hot water heater. The massive cleanup of the grounds and replacing of the sandbags with new ones was accomplished by Corporal Mike Ross and the County Corrections workers.

If we could only find the magic wand the Post used to have, we would not have to do all this work.

We all know it is worth it. The Bar Committee thanks you again. We have some changes for the

outside Picnic Area and The Bunker Bar. On Tuesdays, Riders from all over the County will be making the Bunker one of its stops. Post 129 welcomes them. The Riders will not be holding their 2nd Tuesday of the month bike and car night.

CORN HOLE: Starting on the last Tuesday in May, the Corn Hole League will be opening. Games start at 6PM. In previous years, Corn Hole was played on Thursdays. It appears that many more Members wanted the change to Tuesdays.



If you are interested in playing, call Dale at 732-977-5174. Leave your name and phone number and you will be contacted. Corn Hole is a random draw league. Everyone who shows up will play. The cost is \$5.00 per person.

HORSESHOES: If you are interested in playing in our Horseshoe League give Mike Feimer a call at 732-684-9790. There will be a meeting on Wednesday, May 3rd, at 6PM, down the Bunker. The games are on Wednesdays and will start on May 17th, at 6PM.



MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC: Our Sons of the American Legion,

SAL Squadron 129, will be hosting its annual Memorial Day Picnic Pig Roast on Saturday, May 27th (rain date Sunday, May 28th) from 1 to 5PM. SAL Commander Rocky Lucia, along with his faithful officers and volunteers from both Post 129 and Brick Post SAL Squadron 348 start roasting the pigs at 6AM.



Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the Door and can be purchased in the Canteen up until the day before the Picnic. Your ticket price includes DRAFT BEER, Roasted Pig, Burgers, Hot Dogs, Grilled Chicken, Salads, Soda, and Water. You will be entertained by the sounds of the ever popular "KATFISH LUCY."



This event is SAL's Main Fundraiser of the year. So, come on out and help make the Picnic a great success.

The Bar Committee would like to thank all our bartenders for the fantastic job that they do. Thank you, Robin, Lori, Danielle, Shea, Rocky, Carol Ann, Donna, Joe, and Rob. They regularly come up with new drinks for our Members & Guests. For Memorial Day,

"The Stars & Stripes" will be on special, consisting of Smirnoff Red, White & Berry Vodka, Blue Curacao, Lemonade, and a Grenadine Splash. This drink was invented at the Canteen by our bartenders.

We have live bands in the Canteen every Friday and Saturday Night from 7 to 10PM.

As always, The Canteen opens 11AM daily. Ryan's Catering offers hot and cold lunches and dinners 7 days a week (on Mondays lunches only until 5PM). We are the only American Legion Post in the State that provides this. We change our drink specials every 2 weeks. We only serve premium liquor. We have nine beers on tap and other bottled beers are available. Our Bunker Bar has four beers on tap.

**REMEMBER, WHEN YOU
SUPPORT POST 129, YOU
SUPPORT THE BEST POST
IN THE USA.**

AUXILIARY MESSAGE

At this writing we have our Auxiliary Flower Sale in bloom.

As we are getting ready for our installation at Post 129 officers I wish to congratulate all the incoming officers for the upcoming New Year.

Our convention is in June and we are looking to have a great time in Wildwood.

Our Poppy Proclamation is April 26th at Town Hall at which time Poppy season has begun. Show your support for our Veteran's with your donation for the poppies.

On a special note I would like to thank Carol Rutzler for stepping in and helping out our Unit as the Treasurer. THANK-YOU THANK-YOU.

Don't forget to check on your fellow Auxiliary members, see if

they need a ride or a shoulder to lean on. We are here for each other and will do our very best to do what we can for you. Help them come to a meeting and get out during this nice weather.

Remember if you have ordered flowers come to pick them up at the Post by May 4 or 5th between 11am and 4 pm.

For God & Country
Pam Bowen
Unit President



**INSTALLATION
OF
OFFICERS
MAY 20,
2023
1 P.M.**

In the Post Hall
All members are encouraged to attend.



**AMERICAN
LEGION**

George P. Vanderveer
American Legion Post 129
2025 Church Road
Toms River, NJ 08753



◀ April		May 2023					June ▶
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
1 GENERAL MEETING 7 P.M.	2	3	4	5	6 Nurses Day	7	
8 AUXILIARY MEETING 7 P.M.	9	10 S.A.L. MEETING 7 P.M.	11	12 Military Spouses Day	13	14 Mother's Day	
15 BOARD/ TRUSTEE MEETING 7 P.M.	16	17	18	19	20 Armed Forces Day 	21	
22 RIDERS MEETING 7 P.M.	23	24	25	26	27 Memorial Day Pig Roast Picnic	28	
29 Memorial Day 	30	31	May 15 - Women's Army Corps Founded (1942) May 20 - Installation of Officers 1 p.m. Post Hall				

MAY ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY MAY 5TH **POWERTONES**

SATURDAY MAY 6TH **NO PROMISES**
(NEW BAND)

FRIDAY MAY 12TH **DJ LOUIE**

SATURDAY MAY 13TH **JOEY D**

FRIDAY MAY 19TH **PERFECT BLEND BAND**

SATURDAY MAY 20TH **JERSEY SHORE LEGACY**

FRIDAY MAY 26TH **THE MANGOS**

SATURDAY MAY 27TH **D J JOHNNY**
(KARAOKE)

Entertainment is scheduled from 7 to 10 p.m.
Time, Venue, and band subject to change.

◀ May		June 2023					July ▶
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
June 14 U.S. Army Founded (1775) Flag Day  			1	2	3	4	
5 GENERAL MEETING 7 P.M.	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12 AUXILIARY MEETING 7 P.M.	13	14 S.A.L. MEETING 7 P.M.	15	16	17	18 Father's Day	
19 Juneteenth National Independence Day 	20 BOARD/ TRUSTEE MEETING 7 P.M.	21 Summer Begins	22	23	24	25	
26 RIDERS MEETING 7 P.M.	27	28	29	30	June 12 Women Veterans Day		

JUNE ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY JUNE 2ND **THE MANGOS**

SATURDAY JUNE 3RD **WILD ROSE**

FRIDAY JUNE 9TH **SOUND MATTERS**

SATURDAY JUNE 10TH **STEVE & DEBBIE**

FRIDAY JUNE 16TH **SURECATS**

SATURDAY JUNE 17TH **JERSEY GOLD**

FRIDAY JUNE 23RD **D J LOUIE**

SATURDAY JUNE 24TH **DECOY**

FRIDAY JUNE 30TH **DOC & THE REMEDY**

BE SURE TO CHECK FOR LAST MINUTE CHANGES
AND/OR CANCELLATIONS.
UPDATED FLYERS ARE POSTED IN THE CANTEEN



When Unit 129 Auxiliary starts its Poppy sales all members should help in supporting their cause. Because you will also be supporting your fellow veterans. The money raised from donations provides direct assistance for Veterans in financial distress, as well as funding for medical equipment, medical research, home services, long term care facilities and many other purposes.



Are You A Veteran Or Do You Know A Veteran?

If getting involved with fellow Veterans with the goal of Helping other Veterans and the Community, interests You,

George P Vanderveer
American Legion Post 129
 2025 Church Road, Toms River, NJ 08753

WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO JOIN US

PER 'THE LEGION ACT OF 2019'

**Any Veteran that has served
at least One Day of Active Military Duty since
Dec. 7, 1941 and was Honorably Discharged or
Still Serving Honorably Meets the Qualifications
To Join THE AMERICAN LEGION.**

**FOR MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS
CALL RICH G. 732-604-8326**



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SOUNDOFF

July — August 2023



The American Legion Post 129, 2025 Church Road, Toms River, NJ 08753

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 Toms River, NJ 08753.
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- DISCLAIMER** errors—my dog did it.

**Ocean County Memorial
Chapter of the DAV
meet at Post 129 the
2nd Wednesday of the
month at 7 PM**



**Tin Can Sailors meet at
Post 129 on the 3RD
Wednesday at 12 noon.**



The American Legion, Post 129, 2025 Church Road, Toms River, New Jersey 08753



**You served your country.
Now you can serve your
American Legion Post
129. Help is needed for
BINGO workers on
Thursday nights. So
without even playing you
can be a winner. Contact
Ralph Moranz at
rmoranz@msn.com**



**Not just Legionnaires, but
also Auxiliary and SAL
members are invited to
join the BINGO team.**



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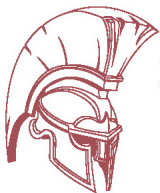
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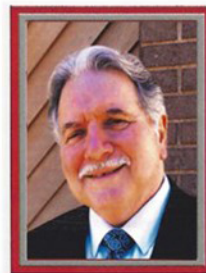
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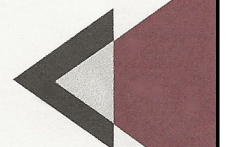
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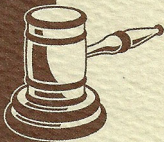
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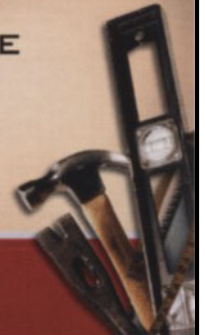
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