

# The Eastford Communicator June 2020, Vol. 29, No. 6

## Selectman's Snippets:

**Community** - Join us every evening to ring bells on your front porch at 8pm for two minutes. If you do not have a bell, use something similar. During these difficult times, this small gesture can be a beautiful way to bring us all closer to symbolize we are 100% together. We may be forced to be apart in a pandemic. However, we can continue to spread hope and solidarity and perhaps a little joy to all our residents. **We are all in this together!**

**"Life isn't about waiting for the storms to pass - It is about learning how to dance in the rain."** Vivian Green  
**Town of Eastford Drop Box** - To best protect and serve our citizens, the Town of Eastford has installed a new drop box on the front door of the Town Office Building. Citizens may hand deliver correspondence making use of this new



feature. When making a transaction requiring a receipt, (Dog Licenses, Tax Payments, etc.), citizens are encouraged to call the appropriate office ahead of time to ensure their transaction is taken care of quickly and efficiently. Main phone number to all offices is 860-974-0133.

**Transfer Station** - Thank you for recycling. If you are not sure what can be recycled go to [williwaste.com](http://williwaste.com), click Recycling, scroll down to the question: Can I recycle it? After you type in an item the instructions are provided. We have a list available on our website as well. Stickers are to be affixed to windshield's lower left-hand corner. Limit: 2 cubic yards per week – roughly one level pickup load. We will be enforcing residents to comply with rules concerning the Transfer Station. Please secure rubbish pails as you travel to Transfer Station.

**Dog License** - All dogs should be licensed through the Clerk's Office during the month of June.

**Police Services** - During the month of May, Troop D responded to 15 calls. These calls of service included Accidents: 0, Criminal Invest: 1, Burglaries: 0, Larcenies: 0, Traffic Citations: 0, Written Warning: 0, and Non-Reportable Matters: 14.

Respectfully yours, Jacqueline Dubois, First Selectman

**ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES**—Crystal Pond Park Trails (Weeks Rd); TheLastGreenValley.org. Emergency Update Info (p2); Hurricane Preparedness (p6); Tax Extension (p2); EASTFORD HISTORICAL QUARTERLY-GEORGE WASHINGTON IN EASTFORD (centerfold); Eastford's First Responders-our volunteer Fire Co. (p3); Helpful Neighbors (p2); History Mystery (p5); Seniors & scams (p5). PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS during this challenging time!

**BUELL'S ORCHARD** - 109 Crystal Pond Rd -pick-your-own strawberries soon, then blueberries, peaches. Before coming, please visit Website: <https://www.buellsorchar.com/> or FaceBook (<https://www.facebook.com/Buellsorchar/>)

**MIDWAY RESTAURANT & PIZZA**—Curbside pickup/takeout only —Regular Menu (15 min advance order) plus groceries available (order 1 hour advance, see list p 2). Build your own Pizza. Prime Rib Fridays & Saturdays! Specials daily on facebook. Open 7 days, Sun-Thurs 11-8, Fri-Sat 11-9, 174 Ashford Center Rd (Rt.44). Phone: 860-429-1932. Order online: <https://eatatmidway.com/>; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MidwayRestaurantAndPizza/>

**TRAVELER RESTAURANT**—Call ahead, patio open or curbside delivery. 7 days full menu, family meals for 4, pizza daily (including party pizzas), puzzles, tee shirts. Fri, Sat, Sun 9am-7pm; Mon-Thurs 10am-7pm. Phone: 860-684-4290 . 1257 Buckley Hwy (at I-84), Union 06076. Info on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Traveler-Restaurant-234049429993458/>

**VANILLA BEAN CAFÉ**—Patio open, curbside pickup or takeout, Sun-Thurs 11-3; Fri, 11-7; Sat 10-7 (breakfast). Order ahead: 860-928-1562 or online w pickup time: [order@thevanillabeancafe.com](mailto:order@thevanillabeancafe.com) . 450 Deerfield Rd, Pomfret CT 06258. Website: <http://www.thevanillabeancafe.com/>

## Memorial Day past (below), 2020 Eastford's Taps across America (p4)



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*Eastford Communicator, P.O. Box 253, Eastford, CT 06242 1*

## Eastford Food Pantry

If you've been grocery shopping recently, you've noticed it's harder to find staple foods and toiletries. Supply shortages are frustrating for the average person, but for those already facing food insecurity without a pandemic, the situation is more dire. As we enter into the third month of this Covid-19 emergency, we are working hard to find ways to keep our pantry shelves stocked. We continue to ensure the safety of our clients by providing no-contact food pick up. If you are in need and would like assistance from the Eastford food pantry, call Steve or Karen at 860-974-1618 or contact the Selectmen's office. We are also pleased to report that with our Eastford residents pitching in just a bit more, keeping our shelves stocked is a bit easier. We continue to be humbled by the generosity of so many. Thank you to Jody Blanchette for her donation of masks; Buells for their donation of apples. We also want to thank the following for their cash donations - Tom & Amy Archambault; Thomas Morehouse; Jonathan Paulhus; Georgianne Copley and Deborah Lee; Nancy & Anthony Galeota; Margherita Nichols-Shaw's Pilates Studio 111; John & Maureen Tacy; Brian & Nancy Gingras; Peggy & Kenneth Bernier; David Buchholz, Jr.; Penny Sugros; and Terry Cote. And, thank you to the following for their gift card donations: Tom Breshnahan & Anne Fleming; Gary Breshnahan; and Patrick Jenkins. We also want to thank John Studley; Max & Lauren Cosman; Terry McBrien and Lynn Nelson for their generous donations of non-perishables. If you would like to donate, right now we are particularly short on canned tuna, rice, pasta sauce, baked beans, flour, sugar, vegetable oil, breakfast cereals, granola bars, healthy snacks, evaporated milk, coffee, herbal tea, toilet paper and paper towels. Financial donations allow us to purchase essential items that are missing from our pantry shelves. And, grocery store gift cards are always welcome. Checks can be made out to the Town of Eastford and mailed to the Selectmen's Office, PO Box 98, Eastford 06242. Just write Food Pantry on the memo line.

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<https://www.facebook.com/MidwayRestaurantAndPizza/>

Grocery items for curbside pickup! Please call 1 hour in advance and we will have your order ready for you. If there is something you don't see but know we have, just ask!!

- Fresh ground beef - \$3.49/lb (2lb min)
- Fresh boneless chicken breast - \$2.49 (2lb min)
- Fresh chicken wings (7-9 count)- \$2.99/lb (2lb min)
- Fresh chicken tenders - \$2.99/lb (2lb min)
- Shredded mozzarella - \$4.99/lb
- Margarine- \$1.99 lb (one pound sticks)
- Sliced ham - \$5.99/lb
- Sliced turkey - \$5.99/lb
- Sliced Provolone - \$5.99/lb
- Iceberg lettuce - \$2.99/head
- Cucumber - \$.99 each
- Large green pepper - \$.99 each
- Tomatoes - \$1.99/lb
- Pint grape tomatoes - \$2.49
- Jumbo onions - \$1.89/lb
- Carrots - \$1.99/lb (2lb min)
- 5 pounds potatoes - \$3.99
- 16" Italian bread - \$1.49
- 6 pack jumbo hamburger rolls - \$2.99



Eastford Helpers—  
 The Blanchette Family has helped during this difficult time. Shown (l-r) Cory, Jody, Johanna & Cody. Jody has sewn hundreds of face masks for sale and donated & Cody is Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 92

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**FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE**

In response to the COVID 19 epidemic, on April 17, 2020, the Town of Eastford Board of Selectmen voted to extend the grace period for payment of property taxes due July 1, 2020 (for the first installment) until October 1, 2020. Most Eastford taxpayers will have until October 1, 2020 to pay without interest. Please note the important exceptions below:

1. Taxpayers whose taxes are escrowed and paid by a mortgage institution or bank are **not eligible** for the extended grace period, and those taxes are payable by August 3, 2020.
2. If you are a landlord, you are expected to pass along to your tenants similar forbearance. You must fill out the application and return it to the tax collector before June 30. The form is available on the Tax Collector's page of the Town of Eastford website. <https://www.eastfordct.org/domain/1144>
3. If you are not a landlord, and your taxes are **not held in escrow account**, you automatically qualify for the extended grace period with no further action on your part.

**DUE TO COVID19, MOST TOWN EVENTS ARE CANCELLED— FOR UPDATES, GO TO:**

<https://www.eastfordct.org/townofeastford>  
**From Emergency Director Deb Richards: For up-to-date news on Covid19 pandemic, please visit the following websites:**  
**Town of Eastford:** <https://www.eastfordct.org/townofeastford>  
**Northeast District Department of Health:** [www.ndh.org](http://www.ndh.org)  
**State of CT:** <https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus>  
**Centers for Disease Control:** [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)  
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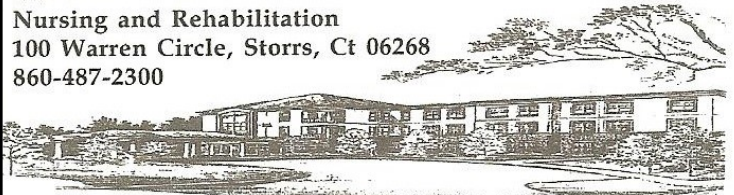
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*The EASTFORD GROVE CEMETERY, located on route 198, is a special place. The grounds are beautifully groomed and peaceful -- a perfect resting place for our late loved ones. If you are an Eastford resident, you may purchase a cemetery plot at Grove. We have redesigned the cemetery to provide more single and double plots, as well as a cremation section. Please contact Lauren Anderson at 860-974-1349 for a confidential conversation about ownership.*

### EASTFORD INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY #1, INC

Although the world is in crisis due to the COVID-19 outbreak and saddened by the high number of deaths, we must take time to celebrate and thank our firefighters and emergency medical service technicians for putting their lives on the line every time someone calls "911". EIFC may not be New York City, but in our own right, we are putting our lives on the line as well when called for help.

Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> was International Firefighters' Day. Firefighters dedicate their lives to the protection of life and property. Sometimes that dedication is in the form of countless hours volunteered over many years 24/7. In others, it is many selfless years working in the industry. In all cases, there are risks with the ultimate sacrifice of a firefighter's life. International Firefighters' Day is a time where the world's community can recognize and honor the sacrifices that firefighters make to ensure that their communities and environment is as safe as possible. It is also a day in which current and past firefighters living or deceased can be thanked for their service. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, in departments around our country, a special time to stop and reflect on the sacrifices made by firefighters was held at noon when fire sirens sounded for 30 seconds followed by a moment of silence in memory of, and respect for, all firefighters who have been lost in the line of duty. This was called "Sound Off".

National EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Week dates back to 1974 when President Ford authorized a special observation and celebration of the essential work performed by EMS providers every day. The National EMS Moment of Silence was observed on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> in honor of providers who have died in the line of duty. The theme of EMS Week for May 17<sup>th</sup> through May 23<sup>rd</sup> was "Ready Today, Preparing for Tomorrow". Our EMT's, EMR's, Paramedics and support staff go above and beyond every day on the medical front line, often resulting in hard work in potentially fatal situations. Usually, the local Medical Controls in our area hospitals invite those in the service to festivities of thanksgiving. Not this year, but we know what we do and our impact.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19, Eastford's Memorial Day festivities had to be canceled. As you travel Rte. 198 and pass Grove Cemetery in all its splendor, please slow down and take notice of the flags. U.S. flags are installed to honor all our Veterans. Fire Department flags are installed to honor all members and Ladies Auxiliary of the EIFC. Please say a silent "thank you" in respect for those who have served you so well. Flags will remain until Veterans Day.

The company responded to 19 emergencies in the month of April. The virus pandemic has not interfered with emergency responses nor weekly drills and meetings. In these tough times, should you see the EIFC responding to a call, they will be attired in full PPE – Personal Protective Equipment, which consists of gown, gloves, mask and goggles. They wear this for your protection and their protection. Due to the pandemic, there have been stricter rules for first responders that is impacting our drills and calls, in addition to substantial monetary expenses that are weighing very heavily on our department and our budget request for 2020-2021. Whether we have 25 members or 6, the increases in training and related costs are the same.

It is the mission of the EIFC to provide prompt and efficient service to the town of Eastford. If you want to make a difference in Eastford in 2020, consider joining the fire company. New members are always welcomed. Call 860-974-0630 to start the process.

The EIFC is requesting your input in all matters "911" and budgeting. Unfortunately, with social distancing among one of the major restrictions, a public hearing and town meeting can't happen where people can express their thoughts and vote for our budget request. Please send an email to the first selectman secretary: [selectmen@townofeastford.com](mailto:selectmen@townofeastford.com), attach your name and address to demonstrate your show of support in what we do, and the budget we have submitted.

The COVID-19 is far from over. To keep you safe, as well as your fire department members when called, please follow the minimal restrictions: Wear a mask and gloves when away from home, practice 6 feet social distancing, and know the signs and symptoms of the virus.

**BE SMART AND STAY SAFE!**

Ed's Note: Send Donations to Eastford Independent Fire Co., POB 333, Eastford 06242

### **CRYSTAL POND PARK IS YOUR PARK.** Website:

<http://www.crystalpondpark.com/>  
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**Honoring the Fallen**

On Memorial Day, May 25, 2020, Taps was played by James Barlow & Isaac Torcellini (left) across Crystal Pond.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Eastford Seniors** by Linda SM dos Santos

It may be possible to hold ESC's Annual picnic (tentatively July 14); if you have location suggestions, or wish to volunteer, please call or text 860-538-8868. The Quinebaug Valley Regional Senior Center is evaluating safe programming and may reopen in July; assistance is currently available by phone: 860-774-1243). Take precautions: criminals are approaching seniors by phone, email, text, Facebook and at our doors. They pretend to be with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Social Security & more. They may offer false checks, but if you cash them, you are giving them all your account information and signature on the back of the checks because the checks are bounced and returned to their account. They sell phony vaccines and more. Report any crime to 911. To learn about scams or to fill out a complaint form if you were approached in the past, go to the Criminal Complaint Center's informative website: <https://www.ic3.gov>. Our condolences to the family of Gordon Spink, Sr., who passed away on April 7, "a highlight of his life was his 36 year commitment & declaration to the Eastford Independent Fire Company (EIFC). Donations, in his name, can be sent to the EIFC, POBox 333, Eastford, CT or the North Veterinary Clinic 113 Ashford Center Road, Ashford, CT 06278



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Do you know what this is? We need your help identifying the item pictured above. The handle is 3' long and the bottom piece is 27" X 6" X 1". There is also a 14" X 1" strip of metal attached along the edge of the bottom piece. The handle can pivot to be either parallel or at an angle to the base. It is a weathered red color. If you know its name and use, we would love to hear from you! Please contact us at [ehsarchives@gmail.com](mailto:ehsarchives@gmail.com) or use the phone contact information below.

The Historical Society appreciates donations of documents, old photographs, and small historic items. Please think of us when cleaning out basements and attics, or sorting through the belongings of loved ones. What may not seem important to you, may be important to the preservation of Eastford history. If you have items to donate or loan please call Tom Latham, 860-974-1610 or Linda Torgeson, 860-933-0468. Monetary tax deductible donations are greatly appreciated. Eastford Historical Society, P.O. 350, Eastford, CT 06242.

Please note that during the COVID pandemic the Town Hall is closed to the public. All dog licenses can only be obtained through the mail. Please send a copy of rabies vaccine certificate from your veterinarian, a check made out to the Eastford Town Clerk and a return stamped envelope. mail to: P.O. Box 98, Eastford CT 06242

**TOWN OF EASTFORD  
NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS**



**LICENSES MUST BE OBTAINED  
DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE**

Each owner or keeper of a dog of the age of six months or older, except dogs kept under a kennel, shall cause such dog to be licensed in the Town Clerk's Office in the town where such dog is kept, ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30th ANNUALLY, or at such time as such dog becomes six months old, and annually thereafter, on or before June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Any owner or keeper applying for a license for a dog shall submit to the town clerk a RABIES CERTIFICATE signed by a veterinarian, or a copy thereof, stating that such dog has been vaccinated against rabies, the date of the vaccination and the duration of the immunity provided by the vaccine. No license shall be issued unless the certificate indicates that the immunity provided by the vaccine is effective at the time of licensing.

Proof of spay or neuter is required in the form of a veterinarian's certificate.

Kennel licenses also need to be obtained or renewed in the month of June. FEES:

- SPAYED FEMALE or NEUTERED MALE..... \$8.00 each
- FEMALE OR MALE .....\$19.00 each
- KENNEL LICENSE (10 TAGS).....\$51.00
- A \$1.00 per month penalty will be charged for each dog that remains unlicensed.

Melissa Vincent, Town Clerk

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**News You Can Use** by Deb Richards, Emergency Management Director  
**Hurricane season is June 1 through November 30**

Many articles have been written about emergency preparedness, but these plans only work when put into action. **BE PREPARED – don't wait for the storm!** Two Keys to Weather Safety Are: (1) Prepare for the risks and (2) Act on those preparations. Gather Information Hurricanes normally travel slowly. You should have enough time to visit your bank or go to an ATM and get cash. In the case of a prolonged power outage ATM's, gas pumps and electric cash register will not work.

**PLAN AND TAKE ACTION** Everyone needs to be prepared for the unexpected.

Keep fully charged cell phones; Fill up bathtubs with water to use for sponge baths and to flush a toilet; Buy bottled water. – 1 gallon per day per person; If possible, procure a generator to use for those who needs medical machines. Keep enough fuel to run the generator for at least three days (use the generator outside); Make sure your generator is maintained before the storm; Keep enough nonperishable foods to last at least 3 -5 days; Have flashlights or lanterns that use batteries and keep a good supply of spare batteries; Put dry clothing and bedding in plastic bags; Put together a basic disaster supplies kit. This will include first aid supplies and medications that must be taken daily; Remember your pets – have food and shelter, as well as a copy of their vaccinations. Microchip your pet if possible. If you are planning to take your pet with you to a shelter, have a crate, food, bedding to bring with you.

**EMERGENCY PLANS**

Protect yourself and your family with a family emergency plan; Be sure to plan for locations away from home; If you need to stay in a shelter, you must provide all personnel items. Bring blankets, pillows, soap, towels, personnel items with you-a shelter is only for emergency sheltering it is not a hotel; Batten down or move to another location all outside objects that could be damaged or become flying objects; Ensure your vehicle has a full tank of fuel and is in good and safe running condition; Make sure your schools and daycares have emergency plans; Gather all insurance papers and valuables and put them in waterproof bags-store them at a high place off the floor that you think will not get wet in case of flooding; Have a radio that is battery operated and have spare batteries or hand-cranked radio; If power is not interrupted, stay tuned to the weather channel on the television. Make sure you know, in advance, which channels broadcast the local weather. <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php>; <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/hurricane>; [https://www.weather.gov/.../hurricane\\_preparedness.html](https://www.weather.gov/.../hurricane_preparedness.html); <https://www.ready.gov>; WILI – 1400 AM; WINY- 1350 AM [www.winyradio.com](http://www.winyradio.com); American Red Cross: 1-877-CT-REDCROSS. 1-877=287-3327. **Eversource contact information:** Call us at 1-800-286-2000 to report an outage, and online at [www.eversource.com](http://www.eversource.com). **You must call to report a power outage. Do not assume someone else has called it in.** Follow us on Twitter (@EversourceCT) and Facebook ([facebook.com/EversourceCT](https://www.facebook.com/EversourceCT)). Customers are encouraged to sign up to receive storm outage updates on the channel of their choice (text, email, phone, call) at [www.eversource.com](http://www.eversource.com). By activating text alert notifications, you are also enrolling to report an outage by text and receive status updates. Text "OUT" to 23129 to report an outage. Text "STAT" to 23129 to receive a status update.

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**From the Superintendent & Principal:** Dear Eastford Community—As we come to the close of the 2019-20 school year we would like to thank you for your continued support in providing quality learning experiences for all Eastford students. This has been a challenging time for students, staff and families, but together we have been able to maintain some continuity for everyone. We will hold a modified graduation ceremony for our eighth graders and immediate family members only on June 11 (rain date- June 12). The last day of school for students will be June 12. At this time, information as to the manner in which schools will reopen for the 2020-21 school year is still under discussion. We will update you once definitive information is made available. Please continue to follow COVID safety precautions as you enjoy the summer months ahead. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school.

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# EASTFORD GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## Message From the Board of Trustees

The Eastford Grove Cemetery Association is committed to helping families with their decisions regarding plot purchase and size of plot as it pertains to burial wishes. It is with this in mind that the Association is offering its assistance to you whether you are making plans for yourself or for a loved one. The decisions you may face are more complex than most people realize and are usually not done easily when people are grieving. Our board can confidentially aid you in considering various plot options for full and cremation burials, memorial (flush) markers and monuments. Feel free to call for an appointment with Lauren Anderson, President of the Grove Cemetery Association, at 860-974-1349. The E.G.C.A. is a non-profit organization.

**Plot/Space Purchase:** Appointments can be made to view the cemetery grounds and to select a plot for purchase. To make an appointment, call 860-974-1349.

**Plot Diagrams Available:** Plot owners, or a family member, may obtain a diagram of their plot by writing to: EGCA, INC. P.O. Box 284, Eastford, 06242.

**Mowing Season:** Between **March 15<sup>th</sup>** and **Thanksgiving**, only **live flowers** may be planted, or placed in plastic pots, **within 12" of the base of the monument**; all artificial flowers and ornaments are **prohibited during the mowing season and will be removed.**

**Donations Appreciated:** If you would like to contribute in any amount to the beautification of the cemetery and future projects, please send your tax deductible donation to: *The Eastford Grove Cemetery Association, Inc.*, P.O. Box 284 Eastford, CT 06242 (Note: **Grove Cemetery does not receive funding from the town.**) For more information, contact a member of the Board of Corporators: Joe Andert, Audrey Carabeau, Carol Day, Jim Ellis, Tom Fabian, Ken Grube, Bev Lindemann, Faye Logee  
Board of Trustees: Lauren Anderson, Herman Barlow, David Barlow, Carolyn Hazard, Scott Huri, Alex Kowalchuk, Linda Torgeson, Rick Torgeson

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P.O. Box 284, Eastford, CT 06242 :

You can visit online at

<https://sites.google.com/site/eastfordgrovecemetery/>.

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ATTENTION: All articles & news for The Communicator must be submitted to E-mail: eastford.communicator@gmail.com

All items for The Eastford Communicator must include submitter's name, address & telephone, for verification. All items submitted are subject to editing. Articles are those of the submitters and not necessarily those of The Communicator. The Communicator does not print letters to editor or items it regards as offensive or slanderous. Advertisements are paid by the advertiser, who is responsible for the advertisement's content. The Communicator reserves the right to reject any submissions. Thank you for your support. Carol Davidge, Editor

## The EASTFORD GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

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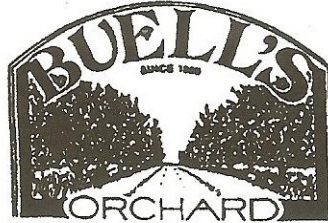
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