

*Minutes*  
OF THE  
FIRST ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE  
INDIAN RIVER ASSOCIATION  
OF  
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST  
OF FLORIDA  
HELD WITH  
FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
SCOTTSMOOR, FLORIDA  
ON SEPTEMBER 22, 1973



NEXT SESSION TO BE HELD ON  
APRIL 27, 1974  
FIRST CHURCH, MELBOURNE, FLORIDA

# DIRECTORY

## - MINISTERS -

Compton, William  
P. O. Box 2188  
Vero Beach, Fla. 32960

Chastain, Robert  
Scottsmoor, Fla. 32775

Fields, Milton  
2681 Sandler Lane  
Melbourne, Fla. 32901

James Fields  
1948 Jefferson Ave.  
Melbourne, Fla. 32901

Stepps, James D.  
1305 Montego  
Titusville, Fla. 32780

## - CHURCHES -

Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist  
2096 54th Ave.  
Vero Beach, Fla. 32960

First Free Will Baptist  
Scottsmoor, Fla. 32775

First Free Will Baptist  
938 Lytton Rd.  
Melbourne, Fla. 32901

First Free Will Baptist  
P. O. Box 814  
Titusville, Fla. 32780 /

## - CHURCH CLERKS -

Charles Allen .....	P. O. Box 73, Scottsmoor, Fla. 32775
Tommy Flack .....	1608 S. Elizabeth St. , Melbourne, Fla. 32901
Doyle L. Griffin .....	30 Tanen Ct., Vero Beach, Fla. 32960
Teresa McClain .....	379 Pineda St., Cocoa, Fla. 32922
Mrs. Louise Richardson ....	1048 Illinois Rd., Cocoa, Fla. 32922

## - OFFICERS -

MODERATOR .....	William Compton, Vero Beach
VICE MODERATOR .....	Harold Woods, Titusville
CLERK-TREASURER .....	Doyle Griffin, Vero Beach
ASSIST. CLERK-TREAS. ....	Nancy Griffin, Vero Beach

## - NOMINATING COMMITTEE -

Roy Hunt .....	
Robert Maddy .....	Melbourne
Harry Ellis, Sr. ....	Cocoa

**- MISSIONS BOARD -**

Concey Thomley .....	1 yr. ....	Melbourne
Tom Kemble .....	2 yr. ....	Vero Beach
Bob Allen .....	3 yr. ....	Scottsmoor

**- ORDINATION BOARD -**

Robert Chastain .....	1 yr. ....	Scottsmoor
James Stepp .....	2 yr. ....	Titusville
Milton Fields .....	3 yr. ....	Melbourne

**YOUTH CAMP DIRECTOR .....** William Compton **..... Vero Beach**

# In Memoriam

*"OUR LOSS IS HEAVEN'S GAIN"*

*THIS PAGE DEDICATED IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF OUR CHRISTIAN SISTER,*

*Mrs. Lena Lamb Cloud*

*BELOVED WIFE OF GEORGE CLOUD,  
WHO PASSED AWAY IN JULY, 1973.*

*Mrs. Cloud began her earthly journey on June 10, 1893.  
She faithfully served her Savior in the Free Will  
Baptist fellowship for sixty-eight years.*

*First Church of Melbourne misses her, as well as  
friends all over Florida; but together they can truly  
say: "Our loss is indeed Heaven's gain".*



# *Minutes*

## OF THE

### FIRST SEMI-ANNUAL SESSION

The Indian River Association began its May 19, 1973 meeting at 10 a. m. at the Cocoa Free Will Baptist Church with the congregation singing, "He Keeps Me Singing". Bro. Cloud of the Melbourne church then prayed. After singing "Victory in Jesus" the congregation was welcomed by Bro. Combs, pastor of the host church.

The morning devotion was presented by Bro. Harry Ellis of the Cocoa Church. He spoke on Romans 8:26-28.

The moderator called the meeting to order.

A report on church letters and fees was given by the clerk, Russell Osborne. The clerk then read a letter, dated May 4, from Mr. Alexander, Clerk of the South Carolina Conference. The letter noted that the recommendation of Bro. Stepps would be granted at the next meeting of the First District Quarterly of the South Carolina Conference.

Elected and standing delegates were recognized and were seated for this first session of the Indian River Association.

The nominating committee recommended Doyle Griffin as clerk of the association with his wife, Nancy, assisting him. Mr. and Mrs. Griffin were elected to replace Mr. and Mrs. Russell Osborne.

A partial report was given by Bro. Fields on the new ordination questionnaire for deacons and ministers, along with the procedure for their membership into the association. Same to be voted upon in the afternoon session.

MSC for ministers and deacons of the association to complete application for acceptance into the Indian River Association and the State Association.

MSC to remove proposed constitution and by-laws of the association from 'table'. Same was approved, with exceptions: these being points where discussion and/or questions arose. Exceptions tabled until afternoon session when same would be voted upon.

Morning session adjourned.

## WORSHIP

After a short break the congregation reassembled for morning worship, and sang "Amazing Grace".

Rev. James Stepps, pastor of the Titusville Church, brought a stirring and challenging message on "Old Time Religion". His sermon was based on Galatians 1:6-12.

Each person was challenged to win at least one soul for Christ before the next session. During the closing hymn, "Just As I Am", worshippers came to the altar for prayer and rededication.

Following dismissal the folks gathered outside for a delicious lunch and warm fellowship.

## AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon session began at 1:30 p.m. with the people singing, "I Love to Tell the Story", followed with prayer.

The moderator called for the Registration Report which was presented as follows:

Ministers .....	6
Deacons .....	6
Delegates .....	14
Visitors .....	<u>17</u>
Total Attendees .....	43

Bro. Johnson of the Merritt Island church gave the afternoon devotion using Isaiah 30:10 as his scripture.

MSC to accept "Questionnaire for Deacons and Ministers" along with "procedure" for acceptance into association which was removed from 'table' at this time.

MSC to accept ministers and deacons who had completed applications to the association as in good standing with same.

The new constitution and by-laws were removed from 'table' for further discussion of the "exceptions", and vote MSC to accept the constitution and by-laws along with "changes" made from the floor. (New constitution and by-laws printed at end of minutes.)

Moderator called for committee reports at this time. Reports printed at end of these minutes.

MSC to accept reports as read.

MSC to change CTS Rally from July 7th to June 30th.

MSC to accept Home Mission Board report; which showed a treasury balance of \$110.10.

MSC to accept Treasury Report as read.

Woman's Auxiliary report was presented by Mrs. Helen Allen.

MSC to contribute \$100.00 to the West Palm Beach Missions project.

A standing vote of appreciation was shown the Titusville church for their help in the nursery and also to the Cocoa church for their warm hospitality.

Following announcements from the floor, Bro. Combs dismissed the first meeting of the Indian River Association of Free Will Baptist with prayer.

# **FIRST ANNUAL SESSION OF THE INDIAN RIVER ASSOCIATION**

The meeting was opened with the singing of "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart" and "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms". Welcome was given by Rev. Robert Chastain, host pastor.

The moderator called the session to order and introduced Bro. Charles Allen to bring the morning devotion. Bro. Allen based his talk on John 15:1-8.

Standing delegates were seated. A report on church letters and fees was given by the clerk. Elected delegates were recognized and seated. Committee assignments were made.

MSC to accept Camp Moon report that was made by James Stepps, camp director.

MSC to accept Woman's Auxiliary report made by Mrs. Dene Kemble.

MSC to accept Home Mission Board report.

MSC to accept Treasurer's Report given by Robert Allen.

MSC to accept partial registration report.

Morning session adjourned.

## **WORSHIP**

After a short break, the congregation assembled for the morning worship hour. They sang "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder". Bro. Chastain led in prayer, and the congregation then sang "At the Cross". Bro. Johnny Carroll blessed our hearts with a special song, "He Is So Precious to Me".

Bro. James Fields introduced the morning speaker, Rev. Darrell Gwinn from Perry, Fla. His message was taken from 1 Cor. 10:1-15, and was titled, "Take Heed Lest Ye Fall".

Following a closing hymn the service was dismissed with prayer. A delicious lunch was provided by the host church.

## **AFTERNOON SESSION**

The afternoon session was opened with the singing of "Victory in Jesus" and prayer. Bro. James Stepps brought his devotional from Ezekiel 33:1-9.

The moderator called for the registration report which was given as follows:

Ministers .....	5
Deacons .....	9
Delegates .....	25
Visitors .....	14
Total Attendees .....	53

Appointed committee reports were called for and approved as read. (Reports follow minutes.)

MSC to accept Ordaining Council report. Bro. Paul Francisco was recommended to association and accepted.



MSC to submit letter of recommendation to the Victory Association for Bro. Combs.

MSC for moderator to appoint committee of four to take care of all business not otherwise taken care of by standing committees; thus eliminating the Obituary, Placement, Pulpit and Temperance committees.

Nominating committee presented a slate of nominees to serve as officers of the I. R. Association.

The following were elected:

### GENERAL OFFICERS

MODERATOR .....	William Compton .....	Vero Beach
VICE MODERATOR .....	Harold Woods . ....	Titusville
CLERK-TREASURER .....	Doyle Griffin .....	Vero Beach
ASSIST. CLERK-TREAS. ....	Nancy Griffin .....	Vero Beach

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Roy Hunt .....	
Robert Maddy .....	Melbourne
Harry Ellis, Sr. ....	Cocoa

### MISSION BOARD

Concey Thomley .....	1 year .....	Melbourne
Tom Kemble .....	2 year .....	Vero Beach
Bob Allen .....	3 year .....	Scottsmoor

### ORDINATION BOARD

Robert Chastain .....	1 year .....	Scottsmoor
James Stepps .....	2 year .....	Titusville
Milton Fields .....	3 years .....	Melbourne

MSC that clerk prepare a letter to petition the State Association for membership into same.

MSC that nominating committee include youth camp director in slate of nominees.

It was brought to the attention of the delegates that the Mission Board should appoint the camp director. MSC to rescind former motion to include camp director in slate of nominees as presented by nominating committee.

The Mission Board recessed to appoint camp director, William Compton with Milton Fields to serve as assistant.

MSC to adjourn with prayer.



## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **OBITUARY COMMITTEE**

We, your obituary committee, have one death to report. Sister Lena Cloud has been transferred to her heavenly home. She was faithful to her Saviour and her denomination. We will miss her, but earth's loss is Heaven's gain.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Stepps, Ruby McClain, & Ralph Ralston

### **PLACEMENT COMMITTEE**

We, the placement committee, recommend that the next association meeting be at the Melbourne, Free Will Baptist Church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ray McFarland, James Fox, Valarie Chastain

### **PULPIT COMMITTEE**

We, the pulpit committee, recommend that Jim Fountain bring the morning devotion; Rev. William Compton deliver the morning sermon and Bob Maddy bring the afternoon devotion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Ralston, Dene Kemble, Johnny Carroll

### **TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE**

We, the temperance committee, urge our brothers and sisters in Christ to practice self-control and sobriety and to be diligent in their Christian life and to serve the Lord with zeal and enthusiasm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Clifford Hadwin, Bob Callahan, Tom Kemble

### **DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY REPORT**

Our women of the Indian River Association are anticipating great things of the Lord at our district meeting on November 3rd which will be held at the First Church of Titusville.

We have just distributed the first edition of the district newsletter, "Lavender Lines".

The purpose of the newsletter is to acquaint our churches with various activities of the district work and provide a communication for sharing projects, program ideas and information to help us "Lift Up His Name". (Pslam 34:3)

# TREASURY REPORT

BALANCE . . . MAY 19, 1973 . . . . . \$629.18

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>	<u>DISBURSED</u>
<b>GENERAL:</b>		
Association dues	\$125.00	
William Compton, expenses		\$ 25.00
Cooperative tithes		12.50
National Association, Ass'n. letter forms		3.75
<b>HOME MISSION BOARD:</b>		
Offerings	62.56	
<b>MINISTERS &amp; DEACONS:</b>		
Dues	7.00	
<b>YOUTH CAMP:</b>		
Camp Moon		390.00
<b>YOUTH RALLY:</b>		
Offering - June	10.33	
CTS: State Dues		20.00
Attendance Trophy		11.00
	\$204.89	\$462.25
 BALANCE . . . SEPTEMBER 22, 1973 . . . . . \$371.82		

## CAMP MOON - AUGUST, 1973

CAMP MOON, AUGUST, 1973  
James Stepps, Director

MONEY RECEIVED . . . . .	\$2,081.00
EXPENSES . . . . .	1,856.82
BALANCE ON HAND AT CLOSE OF CAMP . . . . .	224.18

## SPECIAL GIFTS FOR CAMP MOON

First Church, Scottsmoor . . . . .	\$ 25.00
First Church, Titusville . . . . .	25.00
Mrs. Billy Ray Holbrook . . . . .	5.00
Indian River Association . . . . .	400.00
Merritt Island Church . . . . .	25.00
Mt. Zion Church, Vero Beach . . . . .	50.00
Victory Association . . . . .	250.00
Mrs. Gertie Wallace . . . . .	10.00
Woman's Auxilliary, District . . . . .	70.00
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL GIFTS . . . . .</b>	<b>\$860.00</b>

## ATTENDEES

### MINISTERS

Milton Fields  
James Fields  
William Compton  
Robert Chastain  
James Stepps

### DEACONS

Charles Allen  
G. W. Cloud  
James Fountain  
L. H. Hallum  
D. L. Lane  
D. North  
C. J. Thomly  
Harold Woods  
Robert Allen

### DELEGATES

Helen Fields  
Tom Kemble  
Ruby McClain  
Mildred Wright  
Johnny Carroll  
Bob Callahan  
Karen Davenport  
Valarie Chastain  
Edward Wright  
Ray McFarland  
Cliff Hadwin  
A. R. Stone  
Judy Fountain  
Wm. R. Maddy  
Ralph Ralston  
Tommy Flack  
Louise Richardson  
Judy Ralston  
James Fox  
Geneva Fox  
Linda Stepps  
Guy McClain  
Dene Kemble  
Doyle Griffin  
Nancy Griffin

### VISITORS

Maude Wells  
Richard Wells  
Lassie Allen  
Darrel Gwinn  
Gene Richardson  
Betty Woods  
James Fountain, Jr.  
Harry Ellis  
Tracy Chastain  
M. Chastain  
Robert Hogan  
Cheryl Chastain  
E. Ellis  
J. Christian

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5

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9

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25

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14

## ANNUAL STATISTICAL TABLE

	Number Baptisms	New Members	Members Lost	Total Membership	Value of Church & Parsonage property	Paid Pastor	Other Salaries	New construction & re-modeling	Debt Retirement
SCOTTSMOOR	6	11	2	71	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 720.00	\$ 0	\$1,000.00
TITUSVILLE	0	10	27	56	55,000.00	4,400.00	0	0	2,924.00
COCOA	7	6	27	77	74,000.00	1,350.00	0	2,055.00	0
MELBOURNE	11	13	7	151	97,000.00	5,150.00	780.00	858.81	5,047.80
VERO BEACH	10	10	0	26	20,000.00	1,420.00	0	1,947.00	0
	34	50	63	381	\$281,000.00	\$15,920.00	\$1,500.00	\$4,860.81	\$8,971.80

Other local expenses	Cooperative Plan	Church Training Service	Executive Office	Foreign Missions	Bible College	Home Missions & Church Ext.	State Office	Association Dues
\$ 0	\$1,029.39	\$ 0	\$100.50	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$355.92	\$ 936.11	\$ 35.00
9,010.00	0	0	0	0	0	38.00	0	22.50
924.00	540.00	0	0	249.00	0	424.00	0	38.50
6,091.13	1,734.00	0	0	1,233.07	17.73	125.00	75.00	25.00
5,631.35	0	71.62	0	568.15	0	30.00	0	13.00
\$21,656.48	\$3,303.39	\$71.62	\$100.50	\$2,051.22	\$17.73	\$972.92	\$1,011.11	\$134.00

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**  
of the  
**Indian River Association**  
of  
**Original Free Will Baptists**  
of the  
**State of Florida**

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**PREAMBLE**

We, the Indian River Association of Original Free Will Baptists of the State of Florida, do ordain this constitution for the purpose of advancing, promoting and increasing all phases of the cause of Christ.

**CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE ONE: NAME**

This organization shall be known as the Indian River Association of Original Free Will Baptists of the State of Florida.

**ARTICLE TWO: MEMBERSHIP**

This association shall be composed of such Free Will Baptists churches as shall adopt this compact and agree to this constitution.

**ARTICLE THREE: DELEGATION**

Section 1. The standing delegation of this association shall consist of all ordained ministers and ordained deacons of this association in good standing with the association.

Section 2. Voting privileges shall be extended to all standing delegates and to those duly elected or appointed delegates representing the churches of this association in good standing with the association.

Section 3. Each church shall be entitled to two (2) delegates plus one (1) delegate for each twenty-five (25) members (or fraction thereof) -- not to exceed a total of six (6) elected or appointed delegates.

## **ARTICLE FOUR: OFFICERS AND BOARDS**

- Section 1. The general officers of this association shall be the moderator, the assistant moderator, the clerk-treasurer and the assistant clerk-treasurer. These officers shall be elected on odd years for the term of two years.
- Section 2. There shall be a General Board, composed of the officers of the association and the chairmen of the various boards, which shall serve as the association out of session.
- Section 3. The standing boards of this association shall be the Missions Board and the Ordaining Board.

## **ARTICLE FIVE: MEETINGS**

The meetings of this association shall be the Saturdays before the fourth Sunday in April and in September of each year.

## **ARTICLE SIX: AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended or altered at any regular session of the association by a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates present- providing the proposed amendment or alteration is presented in writing during one session, placed on the table and voted upon in the next session. Further, it shall be understood that the proposed amendment or alteration be furnished in writing to each church at least thirty (30) days prior to the session during which the vote shall be taken.

# **BY-LAWS**

## **ARTICLE ONE: MEMBERSHIP**

- Section 1. All churches affiliated directly with this association shall be required to adopt the Treatise of the Faith and Practice of the Original Free Will Baptists as adopted by the National Association of Original Free Will Baptists. Application for membership must contain a statement to this effect.
- Section 2. Churches desiring to affiliate themselves with this body must make application by letter and representation to this association.



## **ARTICLE TWO: REPRESENTATION**

Each church shall be requested to pay dues of 50¢ per member per session.

## **ARTICLE THREE: FUNCTION OF THE OFFICERS**

- Section 1. The duties of the moderator shall be to preside at all meetings of the association. He shall be empowered with the authority to appoint any committees not otherwise provided for by the constitution.
- Section 2. The duties of the vice-moderator shall be to preside at the request of or in the absence of the moderator and assist him in such ways as are necessary and advisable.
- Section 3. The duties of the clerk-treasurer shall be to keep accurate minutes of the association's meetings, to compile the minutes of the boards and auxiliaries and to prepare and publish them. It shall be his further duty to take care of all necessary correspondence. The clerk-treasurer shall receive all associational monies and disburse them as directed by the association.
- Section 4. The duties of the assistant clerk-treasurer shall be to function at the request of or in the absence of the clerk-treasurer and to assist him in any way necessary.

## **ARTICLE FOUR: FUNCTION OF THE BOARDS**

- Section 1. The Missions Board shall be composed of three (3) members whose terms of office shall be three(3) years and whose terms shall be staggered so as only one member shall be replaced each year.

The function of this Board shall be:

- a. To supervise any and all missions' programs of this association and to coordinate their efforts with our state and national agencies.
- b. To be vested with the power of trusteeship; to hold and convey titles of any property coming under the jurisdiction of the Missions Board through this association or as dealing with any or all property requiring trusteeship of the Indian River Association.
- c. To organize and supervise a camping program.
- d. To act as trustees and to hold title to any properties deeded to the association for the purpose of camping.
- e. To be responsible for all monies received for or related to the camping program of the association.

f. To support and promote the education of our youth and Christian leaders.

g. To formulate and promote a live missionary program by the aiding of weak churches, the establishment of new churches and by an earnest effort to keep a spirit of revival present in the association.

It shall not be the function of this board to hold joint ownership of any church or church properties.

**Section 2.** The Ordaining Board shall be composed of three (3) ministers who are members of the association in good standing. Board members shall be elected to staggered terms of three (3) years with one member being replaced or re-elected each year.

Functions of this board shall be:

a. To examine all applicants for ordination and all previously ordained ministers and deacons seeking membership in the association.

b. To ordain or assist in the ordination of deacons and ministers when requested to do so by the church of the candidate.

c. To consider the following in carrying out the duties of the office:

(1) That all ministers and deacons wishing to become members of this association shall be recommended from the church of which they are members.

(2) That all examinees shall be called upon to present their credentials for examination and answer satisfactorily such questions as may be asked of them.

(3) That all applications must be made at least sixty (60) days prior to the association meeting to the chairman of the Ordaining Board.

(4) That a person presented for ordination to the ministry, or to be recognized as a minister in good standing, must be pastoring; be in a state of retirement due to age or health; be engaged in a full-time area of Christian work; or have a justifiable cause preventing his pastoring.

(5) That ministers desiring to be ordained must have been licensed for a period of one year and have pastored for at least six months prior to ordination. Six months pastoring or related Christian work during the one year tenure of licensing will be accepted as a pre-requisite for ordination.

(6) For a person to be presented for ordination as a deacon or recognition of ordination as a deacon he

must have served as an associate or deacon-elect for a period of at least one year. If he has served as deacon in this association previously and still holds his credentials then this period of service would be waived. If he is coming from another association it would be waived provided he actively holds valid credentials from a Free Will Baptist Church or Association.

(7) That all ordination services be conducted in the church of which the deacon-elect or minister is a member as a regular planned service by the Ordination Council, and that each church attend and support the service.

#### ARTICLE FIVE: COMMITTEES

Section 1. The nomination committee shall be composed of three (3) members to be elected at the September session and who shall serve for a period of one year.

Section 2. All committees not provided for by either the constitution or its by-laws may be appointed by the moderator as deemed necessary.

#### ARTICLE SIX: REPORTING

Section 1. Each church is requested to mail its report to the clerk fifteen (15) days prior to the association session.

Section 2. Each Woman's Auxiliary of the association shall give a report at the April and September sessions. Reports are due fifteen (15) days prior to the association sessions.

#### ARTICLE SEVEN: MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. Forty percent (40%) of all offerings shall go for missions.

Section 2. Each minister and deacon who is a member of the Indian River Association shall be expected to attend or report to all associational meetings unless providentially hindered.

Section 3. The name, date of birth, date of death, age and church affiliation of any member overtaken by death each year shall be included in that year's minutes, and such information shall be given to the clerk-treasurer by the clerks of the churches.

Section 4. At the death of a minister a page in the following year's minutes (draped in black as a memorial to the deceases) shall give all pertinent information concerning him and his ministry.

- Section 5. No person shall serve in more than one elected office in the association at the same time, nor directly succeed himself more than once.
- Section 6. The constitution and by-laws, with any amendments and alterations, shall be printed in the annual minutes each year.
- Section 7. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary guide for all meetings of the association or its auxiliaries, boards or committees.
- Section 8. A quorum shall consist of a majority of any board or committee.

#### ARTICLE EIGHT: AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be amended or altered at any regular session of the association by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the proper voting representation present--providing that the proposed amendment or alteration is presented in writing during one session, placed upon the table and voted upon in the next session. Further, it shall be understood that the proposed amendment or alteration be furnished in writing to each church at least thirty (30) days prior to the session during which the vote shall be taken.

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