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Circus and Carnivals Come Back to Town: New Exhibit at Stearns History Museum

The press release for the new Stearns History Museum (SHM) exhibit is aptly titled: "The Stearns History Museum Presents For Your Viewing Pleasure!...Run Away With The Circus!" And you can almost hear the drum roll. The exhibit features the miniature carnival, circus and circus train built by St. Cloud native Willard Gehrenbeck, and contains more than 1,200 pieces that depict circuses of the 1940s and 1950s and carnivals from the 1960s as they looked to Gehrenbeck.

Gehrenbeck, a sign painter, traveled to a different show every summer to sign on as a worker and to draw and make notes of everything he saw. When he returned home, he constructed models of what he had experienced. All the pieces in the models are built to scale, and can be placed in the circus train cars he made to carry the show.

After completing his work on the circus, Gehrenbeck turned to the carnivals of the 1960s, creating models of the rides and sideshows that



Courtesy Stearns History Museum

Right: Part of the exhibit, Run Away with the Circus, showing tents, vehicles, rides, and part of the midway.

caught his attention. All the rides in the carnival part of the exhibit are in working order and can be operated with a battery.

In the 1970s, Gehrenbeck sold the circus to Harry and Marion Cater, who displayed it in a building in their back yard to groups of school children and visitors. The Caters tried to sell the circus in the St. Cloud area after they retired, but, finding no buyers and wishing to ensure it would be kept in the community, they donated it to the museum.

The exhibit will be on display at SHM, 235 S. 33rd Ave., St. Cloud, through the year 2001. For further information, contact Ann Meline or Steve Penick at 320/253-8424 or by e-mail at info@stearns-museum.org.

Mark Your Calendar!

20th Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference • May 14-15

Drawing on the experience of the people of St. Peter last spring, this year's statewide historic preservation conference, "Thinking About the Unthinkable," will focus on how to prepare for natural disasters so that they do not become totally destructive. The conference will be held in St. Peter on Friday, May 14, and Saturday, May 15. It will bring architects, planners, public officials, historians, property owners and citizen advocates together for in-depth discussions of disaster prevention and recovery. Featured speakers will include Mayor Pat Owens of Grand Forks, N.D., and John Burns, author and chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS).

Watch future issues of the *Minnesota History Interpreter* and the *Minnesota Preservation Planner* for information about the conference program and about registration. (See the article on p. 3 about Archaeology Week, May 1-9.)

PRESERVATION WEEK 1999: PROTECTING THE IRREPLACEABLE
SATURDAY, MAY 9 THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 16



Volunteers Combine to Tell Stories of Six Towns in Goodhue County

The fall 1998 issue of the Goodhue County Historical Society (GCHS) newsletter, *Historical News*, used an effective method for presenting interesting stories from the history of the county.



Courtesy Goodhue County Historical Society

“Catfish” Charlie rows down Red Wing’s Main Street on Christmas Day, 1877. The flooding was the result of a December thaw. Two years later, the temperature in Red Wing on Christmas Day was 44 degrees below zero.

Six articles, each by a different volunteer author, related key events, social happenings, and facts and figures of Christmas seasons—in six different towns, each in a different time period. For example, “Sacrifices Mark Civil War Christmas” is about Red Wing in the 1860s, and “Cannon Falls Markets

Feature Lutefisk” focuses on the reviving business climate of Cannon Falls in 1948.

Four articles are accompanied by illustrations from local sources of approximately the period discussed. For example, “German Traditions Influence Pine Island” has a druggist’s advertisement from the *Pine Island Record* in the 1890s, and “Goodhue Holiday Brightened by Merger” has an ad for cigars, nuts, cider, bread and steam laundry from the Dec. 3, 1908, *Goodhue Enterprise*.

Titles of the other two articles reflect their main focus: “Zumbrota Celebrates End of World War” (1918), and “Wanamingo Christmas Fosters Good Will” (1928), which tells of the ways “the mode of Christmas in 1928 Wanamingo seems to foster good will instead of gross commercialism.”

Some of the six writers have previously volunteered with GCHS, and others were recruited because they were known for their interest in the history of their communities. The authors are: Mary Lee Wahlin (Red Wing); Cheryl Finnegan (Pine Island); Karleen Franklin (Goodhue); Betsy Frazer (Cannon Falls); Mavis Kylo (Wanamingo); and Charlie Buck (Zumbrota).

A very limited supply of copies of the fall 1998 issue of the *Goodhue County Historical News* is still available; to request a copy or further information, contact Heather Craig, Librarian/Archivist, at 651/388-6024, or by e-mail at mail@goodhistory.org.

Carlton County Historical Society Marks 50th Year

In 1949, the Cloquet Rotary Club formed a committee to collect and preserve county history. The committee became the Carlton



Courtesy Carlton County Historical Society

Carlton County dancers in the late 1940s.

County Historical Society (CCHS), which will celebrate its 50th anniversary during the rest of this year. One of the features of the celebration will be a “2,000 by 2000” drive to increase membership to 2,000 by the year 2000.

Board members will conduct membership phonathons, each CCHS member is being encouraged to bring in one or two new members, and new business memberships are being solicited. Also, at its meeting in January 1999, board members were asked to dress in clothes from around 1949 and to pose for photographs to use in the membership campaign.

A committee of CCHS members has been formed to plan about 12 “birthday parties” throughout the county. Residents born in 1949, who graduated in 1949 or got married in 1949 will be honored, and will be asked to bring photos and stories of their communities. Later in the year, a “1949” exhibit, with a month-by-month depiction of county activities and memorabilia, will be mounted at the Carlton County History and Heritage Center in Cloquet.

For further information, contact CCHS at 218/879-1938 or by e-mail at cchs@cpinternet.com.



Crime in Museums: Two Cases

The Sciences of Crime Solving: Exhibit at Heritage Hjemkomst Center

Heritage Hall, the venue for traveling exhibits at the Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center (HHIC) in Moorhead, will host the *Science of Mystery* exhibit from Feb. 8 through May 15. The exhibit is directed to school children from the third through the 12th grades, and invites all visitors to use scientific methods to solve a fictional burglary of the (fictional) "Far West Trading Company."

The crime scene offers clues such as a handwritten note, shoe prints, a strand of hair and even finger prints. A list of known suspects, including employees, an ex-con boyfriend of an employee, and a known criminal seen lurking near the scene of the crime, has been compiled. Crime detection equipment, such as tools for analyzing finger prints, ink and fibers, is provided at several "crime lab stations" in the exhibit. The exhibit includes 10 supplemental crime scenes that will teach visitors about the daily uses of science in their lives and the jobs of police detectives.

The exhibit comes from the Gateway to Science Center in Bismarck, N.D., and is funded in part by a grant from the Alex Stern Foundation. While at the Heritage Center, it will include materials from the Moorhead police department, such as a D.A.R.E. car, a car from a drunk-driving accident, a police car from the 1960s and pictures of the Moorhead Police Department. For further information, contact Sara Pudas at the HHIC, 218/233-5604, or by e-mail: spudas@juno.com.



True Crime Story

Actual crime in museums is costly for the institution and all connected with it. In 1997, after several artifacts were reported missing, Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP) officials investigated. Under a new law making theft of "objects of cultural heritage" a federal crime, FBI agents were called in.

The artifacts had been taken from the museum over a period of 10 years by a 48-year-old former HSP custodian. He had sold the stolen objects—for a total of about \$8,000—to a friend, a 56-year-old electrician and history buff. More than 190 artifacts, valued at about \$2.5 million, were eventually recovered. They included a lock of George Washington's hair and the flintlock rifle taken from abolitionist John Brown after the seige at Harper's Ferry, Va., in 1859.

U.S. District Judge Clarence Newcomer received more than 20 letters from museums, describing the many ways that publicity had adversely affected their own institutions. They noted drops in donations and grants, loss of staff, and cancellation of traveling exhibits, and urged Newcomer to impose the maximum sentence possible.

The two men were sentenced in July 1998 to four-year, no-parole prison terms and three years' probation. The electrician was also fined \$5,000. The sentences exceeded both the sentencing guidelines and the prosecution's recommendations. Edward H. Able Jr., director of the American Association of Museums, wrote Newcomer after the sentencing, "This is the first and largest case under the new law. Your sentence will set an extremely important precedent."

(Source: *Philadelphia Inquirer*)

Minnesota Archaeology Week 1999

For several days each spring for the last four years, Minnesotans have joined archaeology enthusiasts in more than 40 states to increase public awareness of the value of discovery and stewardship of the past. Projects such as lectures, tours, artifact identification, school visits, exhibits and hands-on workshops offer numerous ways to participate and share enthusiasm about archaeology. This year, Minnesota Archaeology Week will take place May 1-9. (See the article on p. 1 about Preservation Week activities, May 9-16.) All organizations that have hosted Archaeology Week events in previous years are encouraged to sponsor events again this year, and any group that has not done it before is urged to give it serious consideration. Organizers have included schools and universities, archaeologists, historical societies, museums, bookstores and communities.

Watch for the Spring 1999 issue of the *Archaeology Education Network Newsletter*, which will include a summary schedule of the week's events. All those on the Network's mailing list will receive a free Archaeology Week poster. To receive a copy of the newsletter and find out more about Minnesota Archaeology Week 1999, contact Bruce Koenen, Office of the State Archaeologist, Fort Snelling History Center, St. Paul, MN 55111; phone: 612/725-2729; fax: 612/725-2427; e-mail: bruce.koenen@mnhs.org.

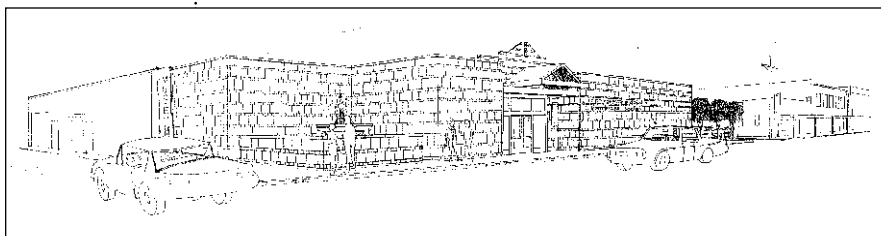
Above:
Archaeology
Week logo



HISTORICAL SOCIETY STAFF NEWS: COTTONWOOD COUNTY & ITASCA COUNTY

New Director for Cottonwood County Historical Society

Linda Fransen became director of the Cottonwood County Historical Society (CCHS) on Nov. 1, 1998. She replaces Christine Thompson, director since 1995, who moved with her family to Oregon after overseeing CCHS's Building Expansion project. Ms. Fransen will now be able to



Artist's rendering of the new Cottonwood County Historical Society building.

focus her attention on the collections, which have been in storage since the expansion project began in March 1998, and on installing new exhibits in the Remick Art Gallery and Exhibit Hall.

Ms. Fransen, originally from Jackson, Minn., has a master's degree in historical administration, and has worked for the past eight years as a curator at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. (She is married to Tom Sanders, new site manager at the Minnesota Historical Society's Jeffers Petroglyphs historic site.)

Itasca County Historical Society Seeks New Executive Director

The Itasca County Historical Society (ICHS) in Grand Rapids manages a museum, gift shop and research center in the Central School building (listed on the National Register of Historic Places). ICHS seeks an enthusiastic new executive director with skills in management, leadership, fund-raising and grant writing, who can expand the society's potential as a vital educational resource for the community. ICHS is undertaking a significant interpretive project to install new exhibits that are based in part on advice gained in completed MAP and CAP surveys.

The new director will work closely with the board of directors and will be responsible for developing and managing a \$120,000 budget and a staff of one full-time curator and two part-time staff members. Duties also include ICHS daily operations, educational programming and public relations and marketing. Three years of experience in history museum management are required, and an advanced degree in an appropriate field is preferred. The salary will be commensurate with qualifications. Send cover letter, resume and references to: Search Committee, ICHS, P.O. Box 664, Grand Rapids, MN 55744, by March 5, 1999; e-mail: ichso@nortnernnet.com.

Rural Historic District Planning: Two Workshops in March

The State Historic Preservation Office will hold two workshops in March on rural historic district planning. The first workshop is titled "Community Planning Workshop for the Proposed Sogn Valley Historic District." Its goals are to identify the factors that may threaten the historic character of the Sogn Valley area, and to begin to explore ways to address those threats. Residents, local elected officials, planners, and others are invited to participate. The workshop will be held **Saturday, March 13**, at a location to be announced soon.

The second workshop, "Statewide Planning Workshop for Rural Historic Districts," will be held in St. Paul later in March. The location and exact date of this workshop will be announced in the near future.

These workshops are part of a two-year project for which funding has been approved by the Minnesota Legislature, 1997 Laws, Ch. 216, Sec. 15, Subd. 5 (b), as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources from the Minnesota Trust Fund.

Watch for more information in the March *Interpreter* or call Dennis Gimmestad, Government Programs and Compliance Officer in the State Historic Preservation Office, at 651/296-5462, or by e-mail at dennis.gimmestad@mnhs.org.



Oral History Association Meets in March

The Oral History Association of Minnesota (OHAM) will hold its annual meeting and conference on Saturday, March 27, at the Minnetonka Community Center. The title of this year's conference is "Living, Listening and Learning: Oral History Around Us."

The conference will include presentations of oral history projects on rural education, a panel discussion on teaching and learning through oral history, and a showcase of oral history projects. The conference fee, which includes lunch, is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. OHAM is a non-profit organization for oral historians, librarians, archivists, historians, genealogists, educators, and other individuals who share an interest in using oral history as a means to document current and past events.

For more information call JoAnn Hanson-Stone at 651/641-1540 or Kurt Kragness at 612/261-4433. To register, call Kate Magrew at the City of Minnetonka, 612/939-8200.



Journal for Business Practicality in Museum Work

Heritage Communications, a non-profit organization based in Tennessee, provides planning and training tools and services for museums and heritage areas. Its bi-monthly newsjournal, *Heritage COMMUNIQUE: Changing How Museums and Heritage Areas Do Business*, regularly features profiles of museums, management concerns, marketing topics and issues in interpretation, written by staff and experienced guest writers. The Oct./Nov. 1998 and Dec. 1998/Jan. 1999 issues are devoted to promoting the use of business practices and principles in historic sites, museums and cultural organizations.

In a column in the Oct./Nov. 1998 issue, editor Susan M. Ward writes that by blending non-profit and for-profit strategies, cultural organizations will "ultimately benefit in regards to visitation, customer satisfaction and revenues."

For further information or to subscribe, write Heritage Communications, 211 Glenstone Circle, Brentwood, TN 37027; phone 615/661-6336; fax 615/371-8774; e-mail 74742.3025@compuserve.com. A one-year subscription (six issues) costs \$49.

Resource-full Minnesota Council on Foundations

The Minnesota Council on Foundations (MCF) is probably the most comprehensive source of information about grants and fundraising in Minnesota. Its quarterly newsletter, *Giving Forum*, provides readers with news and information about a wide range of topics related to grantmaking in Minnesota, and includes in-depth articles about grantmaking research, key people, events and organizations in Minnesota grantmaking. Subscriptions to *Giving Forum* are free and available to anyone who requests one.

In a study of salaries and benefits, MCF recently surveyed 599 Minnesota non-profit organizations over six budget categories, seven geographic regions and 12 types of non-profit activities. The resulting report, *The Minnesota Nonprofit Salary and Benefits Survey*, analyzes salaries and benefits on key employment policy topics such as insurance, retirement, leave and bonuses. Cost is \$60 for MCF members, \$80 for other nonprofit organizations, and \$200 for businesses.

MCF offices are at 15 S. 5th St., Suite 600, Minneapolis, MN 55402-1013; phone: 612/338-1989; fax 612/337-5089; e-mail: info@mcf.org; web site: [www:mcf.org](http://www.mcf.org). Contact MCF for further information, to order publications or subscribe to *Giving Forum*. You can also sign up for "MCF Web Updates," which are free biweekly e-mail alerts on what's new: Go to the web site, click on "Free-e-mail alerts," and submit the requested information.



Local History Maps: Vehicles to Stimulate Awareness of Local History

by Bill Wolston

Volunteer Editor, *Society Happenings*, the Dakota County Historical Society Newsletter

I produced my first real local history map, the "West St. Paul History Map," while I was a member of the Mendota/West St. Paul Chapter of the Dakota County Historical Society. Throughout our communities there are many structures and sites of historic interest that people do not notice. West St. Paul had one that friends of mine missed every day, though they speculated on the reason for "that granite marker in the intersection." They did not know that it was a symbol of a father's devotion and community pride. West St. Paul had many similar community heritage sites that deserved recognition. The local

society to produce a map, but a cooperative county/local effort helps both the historical society and the local community. I see it as a "win-win-win" situation.

It is a win for the local community or history group (usually in a city or township), because it usually doesn't have the general resources needed to produce a map. These range from plat maps and census data to photo files and print production aids, which are found in the county society. But a local group is far better equipped than the county to get local family photos, interviews, stories, and the support of local government or business to handle printing costs. While the local group can usually relate history during their own and their parents' generation, they usually must turn to the county for earlier history. The "win" for the community is its own history map.

It is also a win for the county and local history societies. A history map is a way of preserving and presenting county and local history, and it stimulates others to do the same. I believe the greatest benefit is the relationship developed between the county society and local group. These contacts lead to other projects and friendships. Featuring a subject on the map has led to many in-depth stories. The "win" for the county historical society is the distribution of the map to its members and an expanded source of history contacts.

A local history map is also a "win" for citizens. Its content is more meaningful to its citizens than other history maps, for they often come in contact with the sites and buildings. Those who were part of the community's growth can feel some pride, and it gives new community members a starting point for learning more. A local history map also can be used to inform visitors about the community's history. The real citizen win is helping to develop a sense of community among its citizens.

Organization of a history map

The content is determined with the local group. Very early in the discussion I clarify that the local group must arrange for printing. I ask that the print quantity include sufficient copies for our membership plus a supply for our library. The Dakota County Historical Society saves money because the four-page map is a feature in its newsletter, which saves printing

Courtesy Bill Wolston

Basic map by Dakota County Survey and Land Information Office

Eagan History Map

A Use the letter to match historic places and sites with location on today's map. The word "site" identifies locations of historic subjects that no longer exist.

--- Military reservation line. The portion of Eagan to the left of the line was part of Lt. Zebulon Pike's 1805 purchase from the Dakota Indians.

***** Railroad routes. On the east the Minnesota Central. On the west the Minnesota Valley. They were the two earliest railroads in Dakota County.

Bill Wolston, 1998

Above: The main map in the "Highlights and Heritage" brochure for the City of Eagan.

history map is an economical way to present and locate sites of historical interest. I have produced six history maps since becoming a volunteer with the Dakota County Historical Society.

It isn't necessary to be involved with a county



Local History Maps
continued from page 6

four pages for that issue. I also ask that the local group provide copies to local libraries and the local schools.

They are more than happy to make these distributions.

The map is really a four-page folder: an 11" x 17" sheet folded to 8 1/2" x 11". We use only one color ink on a light-colored stock, preferably a 65# stock. (I've had one eight-page brochure due to the historical subject matter in the community.) The type should be a minimum of 11-point, serif type if at all possible. Serif typefaces are far easier to read in blocks of text than sans serif faces.

Typically the front cover has a brief written history of the community, and, when possible, some art or introductory illustration. The inside spread includes a map (or maps) of the community, marked with locations of places of historical interest. The historical places are described briefly, and keyed to the map by number or letter. For some of the places I provide line illustrations. The amount and shape of space devoted to the map depends on the geographical shape of the community, but usually the left page in the spread is the map and the right holds the texts.

The back cover usually has been devoted to a continuation of the individual history subjects, or to a community's "History Timeline," but it could have some of each. A "History Timeline" could be important for a community when it has had significant items of history that do not fit in the "history site or place" coverage. Examples are great floods or fires, the date that the military company returned from the Civil War, etc. I've found that people appreciate it if an illustration of the current city hall is added.

and knew people at City Hall, with whom I discussed the project. The city printed more than 7,000 copies, enough for each copy of the city's newsletter and also for distribution through the schools, the library, and the county society.

- The *Dakota County Historical Society* map identifies all places in the county on the National Register of Historic Places. Its primary use was as an insert in the society's quarterly newsletter.

- *Hastings*. The map was developed with Dick Darsow of the Hastings Pioneer Room and distribution was planned with John Grossman of the city. The Hastings Chamber of Commerce financed 10,000 copies and the city an additional 3,000 copies. Due to the extensive history and number of National Register locations in Hastings, this map became an eight-page brochure.

- *Eagan*. I worked with the Eagan Historical Society, in particular Liz Witt, but also Joanna Foote, the editor of the city newsletter. Printing and distribution (more than 30,000 copies) were part of the city newsletter.

- A sixth map covering *Mendota* was produced in a small quantity before the others. Information acquired for the map later became the foundation for a "Walking Tour of Mendota" used by the Sibley Historic Site.

Who does what?

I recommend that the county society begin the process by selecting a community for which it would like to do a map and whose history is known. The county society should be responsible for printing. If the community has a history group, the project can be explained to its members. The project leader should ask for one person to be the contact with the county society and for another person to be the technical proofer. The group should make a list of subjects with a short description of each, and gather photos or drawings to be the basis for illustrations. An introductory page (general history) using county information is needed. After this it is back-and-forth until the "camera-ready" material goes to the printer or to a local member who will handle printing and distribution.

I believe the return for community history maps can far outweigh the effort. Producing the map gives the local history group recognition, and support of the map by local government shows its pride in the community's heritage.

A Black Dog's Village site
A Dakota village located near Highway 13 and Blackhawk Road. It consisted of several lodges and at times a population of 200. Louis Martin served as the first government farmer in 1837.

B Dodd Road
A road project promoted by Captain William Dodd to connect St. Peter with St. Paul. After not receiving government aid he went ahead on his own in 1853. The 65 mile road, a hewn path, was completed in 109 days. Dodd eventually received a government grant. The road became a major north-south artery. The portion between Eagan and St. Paul was the first state road to be paved.

C Patrick Eagan farm site
Eagan arrived in 1853 and in 1860 was elected as the town's first chairman. His name was chosen for the township name.

D Wescott Station
James Wescott opened an inn here in the 1850s. It became a favorite wagon and stage coach stop. In 1866 it became a flag stop of the C.M. & S.P. railroad (Minnesota Central). Later a depot was built followed by general store, grist mill, school, telegraph office and other buildings.

E Halfway House
Originally opened in 1865 as a dry goods store and saloon and the first stagecoach stop south of St. Paul. Continues today as restaurant and saloon. Name means halfway point from Hastings to St. Paul.

Above: The first column of drawings and descriptions in the Eagan brochure, shown here slightly reduced in size. (Courtesy Bill Wolton)

Useful facts about our six maps

- *West St. Paul*. Fellow society member Russ Withrow, a life-long resident, helped decide on the subjects. Printing: support, Kiwanis Club; quantity, 1,000. Distribution: through schools, the library, and the county society.
- *Mendota Heights*. I live in Mendota Heights



Clough Township Hall for Sale

*Right:
The Clough
Township Hall*

The Clough Township Hall in Morrison County, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985, is now available for sale by the State of Minnesota. If it is sold, the transfer deed will include restrictions concerning historic preservation. The new owner will be required to move the property to a new location in accordance with the approach recommended in *Moving Historic Buildings* (United States Department of the Interior and 36 CFR 60.14). The purpose of these preservation restrictions is to ensure that the Clough Township Hall remains on the National Register of Historic Places during and after relocation. Assistance with



relocation and the required documentation will be provided by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Trails and Waterways Unit.

The hall was built in 1922, and is a one-story, one-room frame structure with classical revival exterior styling. It is located adjacent to Morrison County Road 206, about four miles northeast of Randall, Morrison County (NE 1/4 of Section 28, Township 131 North, Range 30 West).

For further information, contact John Voelker, Assistant Area Supervisor, Brainerd Area Trails and Waterways, 1601 Minnesota Drive, Brainerd, MN 56401; 218/828-2619.

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Readers are invited to submit information for publication. To be considered, items must reach the editor by the 18th of the month, two months before publication (example: the deadline for the October issue is August 18). Send to: **Interpreter** Editor, Minnesota Historical Society, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN 55102-1906; (651) 296-8196 or jim.smith@mnhs.org.

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