

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 7 : NUMBER 5 JUNE 1997

Town/Library—Plan 3

A new plan that would enable Town and Library to coexist in the same building complex was presented at the May 16 meeting of the Library/Town Offices Study Committee by architect Paul Gurda.

This would be accomplished by renovating the second floor of the Library building, now used for storage; adding a floor to the western end of the Town Office building; and linking the two buildings with a two-story semi-circular structure that would house the children's library and town office space on the first floor and a general-use meeting room on the second floor.

The main entrance would remain. Just inside would be the circulation desk. The present Town Hall meeting room would remain much as it is, but with book stacks projecting from the sides. The present library room would be open in the center, with stacks and alcoves around the sides, and the children's wing would become a computer room. The town would gain about 50 percent more office space, the library about 80 percent more book space.

The cost? Not cheap. Gurda estimates about \$1,000,000. Would the Monroe-Bodkin options be cheaper? Possibly, but there are still some unknowns. Figures for basic renovation submitted by builder Jim Terrall and First Selectman Gordon Ridgway show Plan

A (Library to M-B, Town to Library) as costing between \$185,000 and \$345,000. Plan B (Town to M-B, Library to renovate and expand extensively as per Norman Beier plans) could cost \$786,000 to \$1,199,000. (These figures don't include compensation to whichever party moves out of the Library Building or the cost of acquiring Monroe-Bodkin.)

We'll learn more about these plans and about Paul Gurda's plan at a public informational hearing on June 21, 7 P.M., in the CCS gym. Meanwhile, blueprints of the Gurda plan may be examined at the Library, and Monroe-Bodkin will be open for viewing from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. on June 21.

—George Kittle

College Bound

Nine Cornwall students will soon be graduating from Housatonic Valley Regional High School, one from Oliver Wolcott Technical School, and one from Kent School. All will go on to college.

First, the HVRHS grads. Cynthia Matthews will continue her education at Yale University, Kate Heiny will attend Tulane University in Louisiana, while Sarah Calhoun will head out to Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. Sven Roepke will be attending Georgia Tech, Chris Kesi the University of Maine, and Jon Daley the University of

Connecticut. Ariel Roher, who moved to West Cornwall recently, will go on to Western Connecticut State University. Another recent arrival, Ramona Geyselaers, will be studying at Westfield State College in Massachusetts. Juliet Lyon is going to Ecuador for a year with Rotary International, then on to the University of Chicago.

In addition, Nathan Quesnel will graduate from Oliver Wolcott on June 18, after which he will attend the University of Connecticut, and Kara Lugar, a Kent School graduate, will go to the University of Montana.

—Juliet Lyon

The Towers of Babble

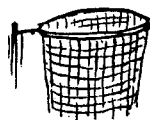
In anticipation of the seemingly inevitable arrival of those federally mandated telecommunications towers (see May *Chronicle*) the Planning and Zoning Commission, at its May meeting, unanimously adopted a zoning amendment aimed at limiting their impact on our community.

"The pressures are coming," said P&Z Chairman Bill Lyon. "These regulations will give us some control over where antennas and towers are located." They would also seek to minimize their unsightliness through appropriate design and screening, limit their height and number, protect adjacent properties from damage, and provide for their removal if abandoned. The amendment was

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JUNE 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 June Corn. Br. Nat'l Iron Bank Art Show Marjorie Fales Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	3 Inland Wet. 8 P.M. Town Hall Park & Rec. 8 P.M. Town Office	4 Cub Scout Parents Meeting 7 P.M. UCC Day Room All Wednesdays: Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's Lutheran Church Stretch Exercise Class 5:30-6:30 P.M. Town Hall	5	6 Library/Town Offices Study Committee 4 P.M. Town Hall	7
8	9 P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	10 W. C. Library Assn. Ann. Mtg. 2 P.M. Hughes Lib. Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library Dem. Town Committee 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Rep. Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS	11 Student Concert & Art Show, 11 A.M. CCS (p.3) CCS PTA 7 P.M. CCS Library	12 Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Lib. Cornwall Housing Corp. 4:30 P.M. Kugeman Village	13 Library/Town Offices Study Committee 4 P.M. Town Hall*	14
15 FATHER'S DAY	16 Deadline for July Chronicle copy Art Show Teresa Pattison 6/16-7/12 Library Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Library	17 Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall	18 Program with Jubilee School, 7 P.M. UCC (p.4)	19 Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Lib.	20 Library/Town Offices Study Committee 4 P.M. Town Hall	21 Hammond Beach Opens (p.4) Monroe/Bodkin/Library Walk-through 9-1 P.M. (p.1) Garden Party/Extras for Kids, Scotts', 52 Cream Hill Rd. 4-6 P.M. (p.4) Cornwall Association 4 P.M. Town Hall Library/Town Offices Public Information Hearing, 7 P.M. CCS (p.1)
22	23 CCS Graduation 7 P.M. CCS gym (p.2) ZBA 8 P.M. Town Office	24 HVRHS Graduation 6:30 P.M. Park & Rec. 8 P.M. Town Office	25 CCS Closes at 1 P.M. Cornwall Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	26	27	28 Book/Tag Sale Hughes Lib. 10-3 P.M. (p.4)
29	30	Rummage collection starts July 1 for July 19 Rummage Sale, UCC Parish House. Questions? Call Thalia Scoville, 672-6288, or Priscilla Mauro, 672-6969.				



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drafted by planning consultant Tom McGowan, who is working closely with other communities in the area. Cornwall is the first town to pass such an amendment.

Just what the "pressures" will mean to small communities like Cornwall was the subject of a four-hour conference on May 10 at HVRHS, sponsored by the Berkshire-Litchfield Environmental Council (BLEC) and the Housatonic Valley Association. Some 60 people heard six speakers, including an industry representative, paint a dismal picture of things to come. They said that as a result of grass-roots opposition to the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, which mandates construction of the towers, the industry, which wants 100,000 towers by the year 2000, is urging the Federal Communications Commission to do the following: make it illegal for local governments to require compliance with the FCC's own health standards, place a ban on local moratoriums, forbid discussion at P&Z meetings of medical facts regarding radio frequency emissions, prohibit monitoring of emission standards on in-place towers, and make tower siting a matter solely for the federal government, thus taking the issue out of state and local hands.

Panelists characterized people in the industry as ruthless, arrogant cowboys "who think they have a God-given right to do whatever they want" and who, by overwhelming local zoning authorities with technicalities, use confusion to get their way, creating, in the words of BLEC president Star Childs, "a P&Z nightmare."

So what chance does a small town like ours have against these forces? Lyon believes the issues are so complex that we should defer the matter to the state Siting Council. But P&Z member Ken Keskinen is concerned that the council may be "too industry-controlled." One thing is certain: it's going to be an uphill battle.

—George Kittle



Maggie Passes the Torch

The town is fortunate to have Ruth Mulcahy as the new Zoning Administrator, a job which will combine planning, enforcement, and zoning functions in a single person. Back

before Ruth was a scallop fisherman, a restaurateur, a mom, and a librarian, she graduated from Cornell with a degree in community development and worked as a county and environmental planner for seven years in New York State. She has skills and experience which we are lucky to get.

Beginning in June, when I step down, office hours will be 9-12 on Saturday instead of on Monday. If you have questions on other days, please leave them on the zoning machine, 672-4957. Poor Ruth does not have a home phone.

Thanks to everyone who made this job so interesting and pleasant for me, starting with the many commission members who have given tons of time and energy, and continuing on from architects through zealots. The whole process of building things is a rush, whether porch steps or a new Town Plan, and I have enjoyed working with all you applicants and carpenters as you pursue the elusive Permit.

—Margaret Cooley

CCS Grads: Onward & Upward

Eleven eighth graders will receive their diplomas at graduation ceremonies at 7 P.M. on June 23 in the CCS gym.

Heading for Housatonic Valley Regional High School are Ted Dexter Cheney, Tim Corwin, Dakota Kay Cruse, Colin Gold, Steven Gary Heaney, Alina Gallo Lobert, Melissa Sue Martin, and Frederick Ralph Scoville III, while Chelsea P. Bardot and Jaime Daltry Zuckerman will attend Kent School, and Stacy Lois Kilmer will go to Oliver Wolcott Technical School.

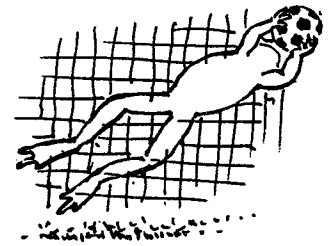
Congratulations to all! —The Editors

Princess At Home in Sharon

Princess the crow, formerly of West Cornwall, seems to have adjusted to life at the Sharon Audubon Center. Her typical day consists of playing with her toys in her cage, hopping around the exhibit room, practicing her various calls, and taking occasional trips outside. She is eating mealworms (her favorite), mice, fruits and vegetables, and an occasional handful of Cheetos. She has just started doing some of the programs with visiting school children. She gets brought out of her cage and is allowed to interact with them.

Her health appears to be excellent. Her tail feathers have grown in, and she's gaining weight. The only difficulty she seems to have is coping with boredom. During her visits out into the exhibit room she spends time looking wistfully out the window at the other birds. Recently, when in the woods on work detail with some staff members, she flew off to a house two miles away. Fortunately, she was returned safely. Her life should become more interesting soon. Skip Kosciusko, his father, and a group of volunteers are going to build a large outdoor cage which will provide her with a changing and more stimulating environment. Visitors will be able to go up to the cage and talk to her, which I hope will be enjoyable for both.

—Anne Kosciusko



Welcome

Becket George Osterland to
Lisa and Michael Osterland

Matthew Samuel Whitcomb-Schrage to
Elliot and Juliet Whitcomb Schrage
Henry Chester and Abigail Eliza Van Doren
to Charlotte and Adam Van Doren

Good-Bye to Friends

Bessie W. Blake

Paul John Fossati

Phyllis Hurlburt Sizer

Congratulations

Laura Allyn to Adam Volinski

Christine Birster to Michael Gonzales

Ruth H. Frost to Benjamin Nilson

Tracy Probst to Nicola John Migliacci

Land Transfers

Arlene A. and John L. Gerry to David I. Margolis, 10 acres on Route 128 for \$45,000.

Howard S. Thompson and Elizabeth Eldredge to Paul L. Cornell, Jr., Trustee, house and 20 acres at 38 Pierce Lane for \$547,000.

John R. and Ruth W. Mulligan to Susan and Samuel L. Samelson, house and 10.8 acres at 247 Dibble Hill Road for \$635,000.

Jeffrey S. and Eileen I. Yates to G.A.G.S., Inc., land and building on Route 4 for \$250,000.

Rocco Jacouzzi, Jr., and Marianne H. T. Jacouzzi to Carl M. and Martha K. Coppola, house and land on Route 4 for \$45,000.

William and Maureen Schulz to Robin Ziegler and John A. Kapteina, Jr., house and 8.4 acres at 152 Dibble Hill Road for \$208,000.

Cleanup Day—and a New Tree

More than two dozen bagfuls of roadside trash were gathered by half as many volunteers on Sunday, May 18, in a roadside cleanup organized and run by Deirdre Fischer and Alicia North, and sponsored by the Cornwall Association and about twenty local businesses. Armed with bags and gloves furnished by Northwest Lumber, the workers scoured the roadsides along Routes 4, 7, and 128 as well as along their own streets, finding, in addition to the usual beer cans (Budweiser seems to be the local favorite), bulkier items such as tires, heavy metal, even a 12-step wooden staircase. Tim Prentice found near his house what he said was either a broken antenna or a piece of

sculpture that didn't work out. Trash bags were picked up by fireman John Squires and brought to the Cornwall Bridge Triangle, where they were trucked away by Art Breen, while volunteers swapped trashy stories and enjoyed refreshments.

At the same time and place members of the Baird family and friends, under Alexa Venturini's supervision, planted a beautiful magnolia tree and flower plants (furnished by Nora's Nursery) in memory of Barbara Baird. With trees in bloom, the Triangle never looked better.

—George Kittle

Colbert/Moon Family Art

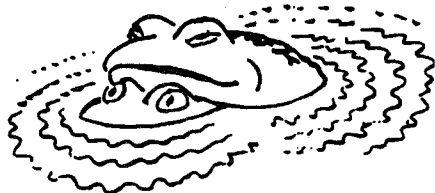
David Colbert, Ellen Moon, and their seven-year-old daughter Hannah have installed a colorful family art show at the Cornwall Library.

Hannah contributes an imaginative collection of dolls, including a blue-gowned *Snow White* with a wonderfully expressive puppet face.

David continues to develop his geometric wire sculptures in startling ways. Two pieces in the children's room give the illusion that the precisely arranged shapes are suspended independently in space.

Ellen is exhibiting a number of landscape watercolors, including the astoundingly beautiful *Maul Hammock*, hanging in the children's room.

—Alfred Bredenberg



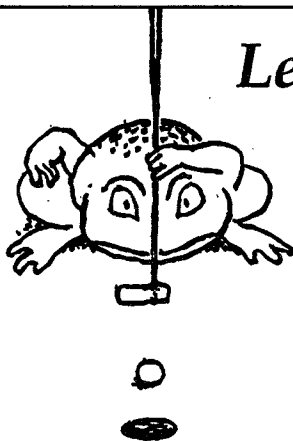
Getting Back Our Trails

Trails are a valued tradition and asset; in fact, June 7 is National Trails Day. Trails may, however, be an endangered species. In a letter to Governor Rowland, Bobbie Tyson of East Cornwall writes, "For some time I have been concerned that our local walking trails are disappearing at an alarming rate due to development, restricted access, and simple neglect. I believe a viable local walking system to be akin to the miner's canary."

Cornwall is endowed—some who look at tax revenues might say plagued—with four state parks: three in the Housatonic State Forest, and one in the Mohawk. Though the town has, therefore, many trails open to the public, they do not interconnect. If they did, if they were to be ingeniously linked by town roads, and rights of way over private land, they could form a ring trail around Cornwall and create that "viable local walking system."

This splendid circuit would carry the hiker who started at Mohawk Mountain north via the blue-blazed state trail, along the road to Indian Lane; north on the Mohawk Trail, west through Dean's Ravine, and south on River Road, which would bring the traveler past Trinity Camp. Thence to Cornwall Bridge, Dark Entry Road, Cook Road, Pritchard, Flat Rocks Road, the Crooked

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THAT GREAT AUCTION

The Cornwall Child Center auction was a rip-roarin' success. Not only did we clear \$22,000, but a wonderful spirit of good will pervaded the whole afternoon. It is heartwarming for us to experience so much support from so many of our friends and neighbors. There is no doubt that Cornwall believes in the education of its youngest citizens.

Many people are involved in the hard work and organization that go with producing such an event, but no one works harder or organizes better than our auction chairperson, Jamie Monagan. Without her enthusiasm and creativity and without the computer expertise of Kim Gellatly, we would indeed be lost.

To all of you who came and spent your money, to those who worked so hard, and to those who donated, a gigantic Thank You. You are the best.

—Sarah Paul, president

HELPING HANDS

There were two bad storms this winter, the first on December 6 and 7, then the April 1 hit. I write to express my appreciation and gratitude to the kind people who help us old folk when we're in trouble: the ambulance team, the Fire Department, and the selectmen's "Senior Aid Department," I call it.

In December, Howie Stone hauled some 15 buckets from the spring for me, and in April Earl Brecher was heading out with his chain saw when CL&P took over. Gordon Ridgway said, "Well, Judy, we're all getting up there now, when a helping hand is welcome."

I love Cornwall.

—Judith Gates

SPRINGTIME AT CCS

The past few months at Cornwall Consolidated have been exciting ones. The fun included an open house run by the student council, a creative performance by storyteller David Gonzalez, the Art for Art's Sake art show, the opening of the Bridge Kids Press (the school's new printing center), and the production of *The Phantom Tollbooth*, a very entertaining play put on by the upper grades.

Walking down the halls I saw and heard various signs of preparation for these events. "We've got to clean up our room for the open house," or "Come on, Robert, the open house is tomorrow," could be heard from the lower grade rooms. Mr. Oros gave speeches on good concert manners. After school, music and other sounds of a vigorous rehearsal came from the gym,

Letters to the Chronicle

where 30 nervous actors and actresses were getting ready for the big show. At lunch student council members learned how to give a tour to visitors.

These preparations definitely paid off. Student guides walked guests around the school professionally. People who didn't really have a reason to see the school got a chance to stop by for an informative tour.

David Gonzalez gave two captivating performances. The art show was hung in the art room and the downstairs hallway. Each student painted a painting in black paint on white paper. The only instruction Mrs. Jerram gave was to "paint what you feel."

At the opening of the Bridge Kids Press students' books were shown and refreshments were served. There were posters which showed the process that the children used. People who had helped the students with their books were on hand to answer questions.

Lastly, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, directed by English teacher Mrs. Snowden, was a huge success. The gym was filled both nights that the play was performed. It got rave reviews.

Our spring concert and art show will be held on June 11 and graduation is on June 23. We hope you will be part of these exciting events.

—Chelsea Bardot, grade 8

FROG OR DRAGON...WHODUNIT?

Just south of Cornwall Bridge on Route 7, protruding from the west bank of the highway, is an assemblage of large stones in the likeness of the head of an enormous creature, complete with fiery red tongue. I recall first seeing it nearly 50 years ago. Since then, thousands of others have marveled at it. Some see it as a frog, some as a dragon, and others refer to it as "the monster."

Recently it got bright new colors. Who daubed on the green and red paint? Who's been painting it during the past five decades? Who assembled it in the first place? Asking around town has provided me with no clear answers, other than that maybe the highway department was (and is) somehow involved.

If anyone has verifiable information about this Cornwall landmark, please let me know. Well...on the other hand, if anyone has some fanciful conjectures to share (like "The Dudleytown witches did it!"), pass them on, too—with supportive evidence, of course.

Check your next Chronicle to find out who's doing it, and who done it.

—Ken Keskinen



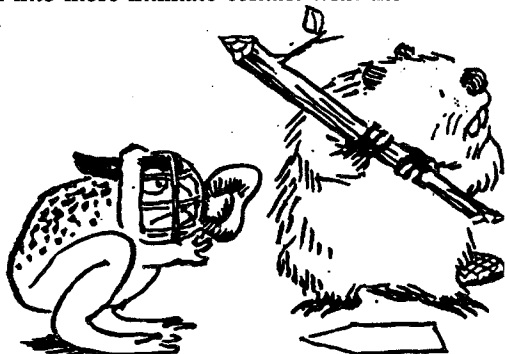
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Esses and back to Mohawk Mountain via the Mattatuck Trail. Such a circuit trail would be thirty to forty miles long, might take several days to complete, and would offer an amazing variety of terrain and vistas.

"I am particularly concerned," says Bobbie Tyson, "that the trail be free and open to all. Even when there is no physical obstruction, old trails are closed off from public use because new owners often decide they do not want outsiders, however benign, on their property."

Bobbie regularly rides the trails on horseback, and carries with her the implements of her trail-clearing trade: six-inch Felco saw and clippers which fit neatly into a backpack. She also skis the trails. One winter she glided close enough to pat the back of a young deer. Another winter she saw otter tracks, which mystified her at first: in the new snow was a furrow perhaps four feet long, then little paw marks, and then another furrow from the otter's repeated belly-push. (As an aside, she tells me, "My dogs like to roll in otter scat, which is about the nastiest smell around: old fish on the rebound.")

Good trails are a delight to the eye; they follow the contours and inclinations of the terrain, the paths of deer, coyote, bear, turkey. They respect the lay of the land and its watercourses. Human trail makers delight in opening vistas and possibilities that bring them into more intimate contact with the land.



The Cornwall Ring Trail might eventually encompass clover leaves of smaller trails, and these in their turn might vein into secret paths known only to the few. Sensitive travelers in this lacy mesh would be true stewards of the woods, watching over and caring for the land and its denizens. —Ella Clark

No Casseroles, Please

June means weddings, and weddings mean gifts. The *Chronicle* isn't getting married, but we need your gifts anyway. Don't bother to think about candlesticks or place mats or salad bowls. A check will do nicely.

Events & Announcements

The Dog Days Are Here: June is licensing month for all dogs six months or older. Owners must furnish proof of current rabies vaccination. Low-cost vaccination clinics will be held on June 7 in Goshen, June 14 in Torrington, and June 21 in Falls Village. (For more information call the Town Clerk's office: 672-2709.) Licenses are \$6 for spayed or neutered dogs; otherwise it's \$16. There's a penalty for late registration. Fines for non-registration or expired rabies certificates can total \$190. So pick up your new dog license at the Town Clerk's office (it's open Monday-Thursday between 9 and 4), or send fee, rabies certificate, and SASE to Town Clerk, P.O. Box 97, Cornwall, CT 06753.

Jubilee School Visit: On Monday, June 16, about fifty students, teachers, and parents from the Jubilee School will arrive here from Philadelphia for their annual five-day visit, sponsored by the United Church of Christ. Cornwallians wishing to offer bed-and-breakfast to Jubileers for Monday night, June 16, are asked to call Peg Keskinen (672-6486) or Carla Whiteside (672-6018) for more information. Everyone is invited to an informal program presented by Jubilee and Cornwall children to be held Wednesday, June 18, at 7 P.M. at the church.

Tennis Lessons: Todd Piker will give tennis lessons this summer in the mornings from June 28 to July 28 at the old Marvelwood courts in Cornwall. For information call him at 672-6545.

Brush and Burn: The gravel bank on Route 128 was open to residents all of April for depositing debris resulting from the storms. It is now closed except by arrangement with Don Reid, highway foreman. There are also changes and limits to how much brush one can unload. Call 672-6230 between 7 and 7:30 A.M. weekdays for permission.

Gordon Ridgway reminds us that burning brush in Connecticut is a privilege, not a right. The state sets daily guidelines for local officials to follow. Permits and regulations must be obtained at the Town Office. Burning without a permit is a serious offense and the offender is subject to arrest and fine.

Hammond Beach: The town beach on Cream Hill Lake will open June 21. Hours are 11 A.M. to 7 P.M. daily. Jane Prentice is director. Passes are available at the Town Office (Monday-Thursday, 9 A.M.-4 P.M.) or by mail, Box 205, Cornwall 06753. Individual passes are \$10, a family \$20.

Summer Tree Trimming: Connecticut Light and Power will be trimming and cutting trees, many killed or damaged by recent storms, along Cornwall's roads throughout the summer. Expect a visit from a representative who will ask for your consent before proceeding. If you have questions about specific trees on your property, call Kevin Connelly, S.A. Bartlett Tree Experts, (800) 546-0647.

A Garden Party at John and Julia Scott's (52 Cream Hill Road) on June 21, 4-6 P.M., will benefit Cornwall Extras for Kids. (Rain date June 22.) Feast on fine food and drink midst the flowers. Bring a hat because of bugs. \$20 per person. Park ONLY on Cream Hill Road or Cogswell.

Book Sale/Tag Sale to benefit Hughes Memorial Library will be held Saturday, June 28, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Book donations will be greatly appreciated. For information or to rent display space call Librarian Estelle Stetson at 672-6374, Tuesdays 4 to 7 P.M. or Saturdays 10 A.M. to noon. Rain date, July 5.



West Cornwall Library Association will hold its annual meeting at Hughes Memorial Library, Tuesday, June 10, at 2 P.M. Everyone is welcome.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

ILLUSTRATIONS Marc Simont

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Carla Bigelow

George Kittle

JULY EDITORS

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FAX: (860) 672-2643

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