



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 23 : NUMBER 8 OCTOBER 2013



Cornwall's Merry Pranksters

Halloween in Cornwall in the 1940s was in many ways a more innocent time, with unwrapped baked goods or apples given to trick-or-treaters without thought of danger, and homemade costumes and decorations. But one contrary aspect lives in the memories of many longtime residents: the Halloween pranks. Most of the action took place in the villages of Cornwall and West Cornwall, which were more densely populated. Jerry Blakey, who grew up on Yelping Hill, which had mostly summer residents, grumbles "I had to walk five miles to get into trouble."

Denny Frost, whose initial reaction upon being approached for this story was, "Who, me?" recalls one Halloween where he and Charlie Swanson took all the hand-hewn shutters off the house of a "grumpy old guy," mixed them up and left them scattered on the lawn. Someone fingered them and their punishment fit the crime: the endless task of sorting them out and putting them back up. In those days there were privies in many backyards, and one time a bunch of boys ran around knocking them over, which caused great merriment until someone fell into one of the holes.

Betty Gold made a valiant effort to divert the mischief by staging a really

complex treasure hunt on Halloween, to no avail. Lisa Simont remembers a story her mother, City Lansing, told her about another "grumpy old man" in West Cornwall—these guys were favorite targets of the pranksters since their over-the-top reactions were so much fun—who after years of abuse set some kind of trap for the kids, possibly involving explosives, in which one boy was hurt.

There's one more prank that begs to be included even if it wasn't at Halloween. The church youth group that met in the basement of the UCC Parish House kept Cokes and other refreshments in a locked closet. Jerry Blakey recalls that when some of the bottles went missing, they noticed a hole in the door big enough for a small hand. Minister Jim Simpson somehow figured out when the thief would strike (divine intervention?) and hid inside the closet. When the perp reached in, he grabbed his hand. I'll leave you to imagine the look on the boy's face.

—Carol Schneider

Cornwall, thanks to Town Clerk Vera Dinneen, who dug deep into her computer to come up with the following information:

258 dogs are registered: 134 female and 124 male.

There are 37 Labs registered (15 black, 12 yellow, 10 chocolate); 19 golden retrievers; 13 Jack Russells; and 13 dachshunds.

The most common names are Bella (nine, including one Isabella); Lucy (six); Daisy (six, including two Daisy Maes); Tucker (five); Molly (five); and Bear (five, including versions like Gobi Bear, Lucky Bear, and Teddy Bear).

Candy, a shi tzu; Emily, a Jack Russell; and Paco, a chihuahua are all approximately 17 years old.

The #1 tag goes to whoever is first on the first day of business in June. Nancy Calhoun's dog Miss Beatrix Potter has been the top dog for the past three years.

—Vera Dinneen and Ed Ferman

Cemetery Census

The Cornwall Town Plan of May 1, 2010 included a goal of creating an updated directory of the people who have been buried in Cornwall's 11 cemeteries. John Calhoun began his frequent visits to these cemeteries in 2008 and submitted his final

(continued on page 2)

Cornwall's Dogs

Do dogs resemble their owners? Lower our blood pressure? Drool while cats rule? All good questions that we can't answer here. But we can tell you a lot about the dogs of

OCTOBER 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library; Yoga, 5:45–7 pm CCS; Karate, 6:30–7:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball, 7:30 pm CCS gym ♦ Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 6–9 pm Town Hall; Women's Basketball, 7:30 pm CCS gym ♦ Thursdays: Pilates, 8:30–9:30 am Library; Toddler Play Group, 10:30–11:30 am Library; Yoga, 5:30–6:30 pm Library		1	2	3	4	5
		♦ Inland Wetlands 7:30 pm Town Hall	♦ "Life, Love, and Transition" Talk 5 pm Library	♦ Mah-Jongg Class 7:30 pm Library	NEW	♦ Community Country Dance 7 pm Town Hall
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
♦ HYSB 5K Bearcat Race 10 am Hotchkiss School	♦ Region 1 Board of Ed 6 pm HVRHS Library ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Park & Rec 7:30 pm Town Hall	♦ Senior Lunch 11:30 am Wandering Moose ♦ Economic Development 8:30 am Town Hall ♦ P & Z 7 pm Library ♦ Housatonic River Commission 7:30 pm CCS		♦ Mah-Jongg Class 7:30 pm Library	1st Q	♦ Cornwall Days Book Sale 10 am–3 pm Library ♦ Open Artists' Studios 10 am–4 pm ♦ EGSs-perience Chickens 10:30 am–2:30 pm ♦ Artists' Reception 3–6 pm Souterrain Gallery ♦ Pig, Swig & Jig 6–9 pm Old's Barn, Cornwall Village
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
♦ Cornwall Days ♦ Author Margaret Klaw Talk 4 pm Town Hall	♦ Fall Book Sale 10 am–noon Library ♦ Free Wreath-Making Workshop 1:30–3 pm Local Farm	♦ Deadline: November Chronicle Copy	♦ Board of Education 3:30 pm CCS Library ♦ "Dancing for Mr. B" film 7 pm Library	♦ Cornwall Conservation Commission 7 pm Town Hall ♦ Board of Finance 7:30 pm CCS Library	♦ "Great Stuff" Benefit Reception 5:30–8 pm	♦ "Great Stuff" Sale 10 am–4 pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
♦ "Great Stuff" Sale 11 am–3 pm		♦ First Selectman Candidates' Debate 3 pm CCS ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall		♦ Mah-Jongg Class 7:30 pm Library	♦ Casper Family Movie 7 pm Library ♦ Annual Town Meeting 7:30 PM CCS Gathering Room	4th Q
27	28	29	30	31	Every Week This Month: ♦ Fridays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library ♦ Saturdays: West Cornwall Walks, 12:30 pm Wish House ♦ Sundays: Yoga 9–10:30 am Library; Meditation, 1–2 pm, call Debra for location, 672–0229; West Cornwall Walks, 12:30 pm Wish House	
	♦ ZBA* 7:30 pm Library	♦ Cornwall Committee for Seniors 7 pm Library		♦ Park & Rec Halloween Gathering 5–8 pm Town Hall		

*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

spreadsheet to the Planning and Zoning Commission this June. His research included perusing records in the town clerk's office as well as the Connecticut State Library. The final product, a searchable list of over 3,748 people, is now available in the P&Z office, the town clerk's office and at the Cornwall Historical Society for anyone searching for a piece of family history. The oldest grave John found was that of a citizen interred in the Bradford cemetery in 1753. The smallest graveyard, the Allen cemetery, held exactly one grave. For fun I took a look at which family name was represented the most in Cornwall's cemeteries. Given the amount of work John put into this, it would have been nice if the Calhouns had won the contest. But no, the Johnsons checked in with 79 stones, followed by the Swifts with 78, and the Harts with 77. You will have to pardon me if I miscalculated; it's all in good fun! Cornwall owes John a big thank-you for volunteering to do this project. There are other projects in the Town Plan volunteers could help with, so look on the town website for the plan (cornwallct.org), and see where your interests and talents lie. —Anna Timell

Cornwall Child Center Update

On a warm sunny day this September I had the pleasure of visiting the Cornwall Child Center, which I haven't done in a couple of years, now that our three children have graduated to the "big school" across the street. A warm and welcoming staff greeted me. Children were busy playing, creating, and learning and the walls and tables displayed colorful artwork and projects, just as I remembered.

Current director Amy Bresson showed me the beautiful new toddler playground equipment that was installed in June, thanks in part to a grant from the Cornwall Foundation. This is particularly good news since the toddler program is nearly at capacity with the addition of three new families this fall. Enrollment is growing in the preschool room with the addition of four new families. Also doing well is the child center's after school program, named A.S.K.K. (After School Kids Klub) for the kindergarten through fourth-grade crowd. The program now has its own classroom across the street at CCS. Tracy Gray, who oversees it, explains that this location is helpful for future enrichment units, which involve lots of hands-on projects, such as the upcoming unit on puppetry in October. In between projects, these children are on the move. They will be meeting at the

Cornwall Library on Fridays and teaming up with Deb Tyler's Motherhouse on Mondays for farm-related activities. Amy reports the center also had a successful summer program this year that included five full days of toddler care each week in addition to programs for older children. She anticipates a similar summer program next year.

For those interested in enrolling children in any of these programs, call Amy Bresson at 672-6989, or check out the website at cornwallchildcenter.org. The center is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. —Cay Hosterman

Cornwall Days

On Columbus Day weekend, October 12 and 13, Cornwall will celebrate its businesses and artisans with Cornwall Days. Businesses in West Cornwall and Cornwall Bridge will offer special sales and craft demonstrations. There will also be an open studio tour of over a dozen Cornwall artists. Organized by the town's Economic Development Commission, the celebration will showcase what Cornwall has to offer residents and visitors.

Funding for this event has been received from the Cornwall Foundation, the Cornwall Association, and the Economic Development Commission's activities fund. More information at cornwallct.org. See you at Cornwall Days! —Gordon Ridgway

Endorsed Candidates List

The Republican Town Committee has endorsed the following candidates for the November 5, 2013 election: First Selectman: Kenneth C. Baird; Selectman: Heidi L. Kearns. Town Clerk: Vera Dinneen. Treasurer: John F. Green. Tax Collector: Jean D. Bouteiller. Board of Finance (full term): Charles R. Hummel and William Hurlburt. Board of Finance alternates: J.W. Preston and Maureen E. Donahue. Board of Education: Rachel Matsudaira and Maureen E. Donahue. Board of Assessment Appeals: Charles L. Gold. Planning and Zoning Commission: Linda Stewart and Stephen Saccardi. Zoning Board of Appeals: Virginia B. Potter. Park and Recreation Commission: Stephen Saccardi, Anna Utrata Hubbard, and Patrick Elias.

The Democratic Town Committee has endorsed the following candidates: First Selectman: Gordon M. Ridgway; Selectman: Richard Bramley. Town Clerk: Vera Dinneen. Treasurer: John F. Green. Tax Collector: Jean D. Bouteiller. Board of Finance (full term): Janet D. Carlson. Board of Finance alternate: Maureen E. Donahue. Board of Education: Irene M. Hurlburt and D. B. Cadwell. Board of Assessment Appeals: Charles L. Gold. Planning and Zoning Commission: David Colbert. Zoning Board of Appeals: Ann M. Schillinger.

How Your Votes Will Count

According to Connecticut State Statutes 9-188 and 9-167a, the election rules governing Cornwall's first selectman and selectman races in the upcoming election on November 5 will work this way: Voters cast one vote for first selectman (two candidates, one position) and one vote for selectman (two candidates, two positions). The highest vote getter for first selectman wins that office. The loser then becomes a contestant in the race for the remaining positions on the board. The two top vote getters in this race (one of whom may or may not be the losing first selectman candidate) are duly elected. If, however, the losing first selectman candidate gets enough votes to win a seat on the board but decides not to accept, a vacancy occurs. In this case, the newly elected first selectman and the top vote getter among the remaining willing candidates—now an elected selectman—are empowered to fill this vacancy by appointment. Under no circumstances, however, may the board be composed of three members from the same party, a caveat that may result, on occasion, in a higher vote getter being passed over, so that more than one political party is represented on the board. —Vera Dinneen

Welcome

Inez Lynn Palafox to
Stephanie Bentz and Jose Palafox Diaz

Congratulations

Kelsey Nicholson Van Beever to Shaun Miller

Goodbye to Friends

Edward G. Bourne
Frederick Van Voorhees Bronner
Gunther Charles Hepprich

Cornwall Agricultural Fair

The 22nd annual fair, appropriately dedicated to the memory of Ralph Gold, got underway on Friday evening under the direction of agricultural advisory committee chairman Bill Dinneen. Committee and fire department members, ever dependable volunteers, and young people in high gear erected tents and marked out 1,000 cow chip raffle squares and spaces for booths and events. A few notable names: Lynn Scoville, Buddy Hurlburt, Gordon Ridgway and Ian, Jamie Murphy, Denny Frost, Steve Saccardi, Josh Tyson, and the Kennedys. By Saturday morning the town green had been transformed into a fairground.

Dan Cain was at his traditional location with children cranking his cider press. Garrick Dinneen milled out lumber on the HVRHS vo-ag portable saw mill. Justin Downs provided the hayrides. Nancy Calhoun tended her greeting cards. And all those jams and jellies and preserves from the Church of All Saints! Cows and calves,

rabbits, ducks, and yes, even one llama!

Informational displays came from Cornwall Energy Task Force chair Kate Freygang and the Cornwall Conservation Trust. UCC Pastor Micki promoted the church's June work trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation and Tracy Gray explained the Heifer Project.

New to the fair was CTSART, Connecticut State Animal Response Team. Dianne Beebe explained this statewide organization dedicated to animal rescue and care during emergencies. New also was Goshen Pack #35 represented by Don Whitford and Sean Scanlon looking for Cub Scout candidates. Suzie's Sweets (Susan Saccardi) and Cornwall Country Market owners James and Idella Shepard of the soon-to-open store, with the help of Dave Cadwell, presented delectable treats. Antique cars formed a backdrop for the town green.

In a closely watched event Patrick Kennedy's Brown Swiss Helga, after dithering a bit, delivered \$300 to square #388 for John McMahon of Cornwall. James Kennedy won the bale toss; Fred Scoville came in second with a toss just under one-half mile. Ian Danforth Gold won the youth division.

There were a sack race and bubblegum blowing contest and, of course, many blue and red ribbons for syrup and vegetables in the tent and flowers and baked goods in Town Hall. Who won? You had to be there. And let's not forget the CCS class of 2014 with its excellent food booth with profits going to the class fund and trip. And last, who could have missed the 75-foot critter with the skinny, segmented neck and platform head which loomed above the green. It was Scoville Tree and it didn't give rides. —Phil Hart

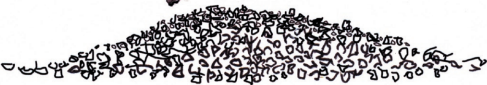
Region One Vote Fails Again

It has been said that a sign of insanity is doing the same thing over and over—but expecting a different result.

On Tuesday, September 17, the proposed 2014 budget for the Region One school system went down to defeat. It was the sixth time that the voters had rejected the budget. There were 682 votes against and 479 votes in favor. This is roughly the same margin as in the previous five ballots.

As the *Chronicle* went to press, no word was yet available as to when the Region One budget will be on the ballot again.

—David A. Grossman



Which Side Are You On?

Coming around the corner from Town Street onto Scoville Road is a little scary; the

Letters to the Chronicle

FIRE DEPARTMENT HONORS LONGTERM MEMBERS

At the August monthly meeting of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department, several members were given awards for years of service. Steve Hedden was recognized for his 50 years of membership in the fire department. He was given an official citation from the Connecticut General Assembly celebrating his half century of service to the town of Cornwall. The citation noted his numerous leadership roles in addition to the fire department: the board of selectmen, board of finance, inland wetlands and water-courses agency, and town treasurer. May we all join in appreciating the work that Steve has done for our town.

Other members that were recognized were:

Dave Williamson and Howard Stone for 40 years of service; Michael Degreenia for 30 years of service; Adam Fischer, Connie Hedden, and Earle Tyler for 20 years of service; and Joyce Hart, Bill Lyon, John Miller, and Mark Sager for 10 years of service.

—Annie Kosciusko

THURBER INQUIRY

I'm writing an article for Litchfield Magazine on the humorist James Thurber's life in Connecticut and would love to speak with anyone who knew him during his years in Cornwall (about 1942 until his death in 1961). I'm reachable by email at DaugGreg@aol.com or by phone at 914-381-6986. Thanks very much.

—Greg Daugherty

road winds and you don't see very far ahead. Recently I made the turn and caught someone in the act of tripping on one of the cracks in the road. She also happened to be wheeling a carriage containing two babies. We managed not to collide but it was too close for comfort.

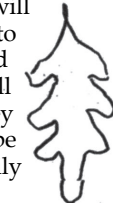
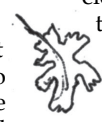
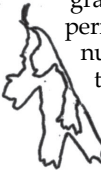
These days, Cornwall roads are filled with folk tramping for health and pleasure. Many of them walk on the wrong side of the road. Yes, there is a right side of the road to walk on—I looked it up. It's in the CT General Statutes (14-300c). I'll summarize what's pertinent to you if you are a walker.

Basically pedestrians are asked to walk on a sidewalk if there is one, or the shoulder of the road if there is one. When there's no shoulder people should walk on the left side of the road, facing oncoming vehicular traffic. The statute doesn't spell it out, but if you face oncoming cars you can make eye contact with a driver and vice versa. And you can take evasive action if that becomes necessary; like diving into the nearest beaver pond.

We Cornwallians live in a lightly traveled place and we tend to think of our roads as a playground. Not every driver manipulates her 4,000 pounds of plastic, metal, fabric, and whatnot with a light foot on the gas pedal. So veer to the left side and be healthy. —Jill Cutler

Cornwall Briefs

• **Downtown Cornwall Bridge:** Sometime this month, perhaps as you read these words, a New Age, a Renaissance, the start of something very big will have come to Cornwall Bridge. The folks high up on the hills of Dibble, Yelping and Cream will come down from their stately homes to shop and enjoy a beautifully renovated general store dubbed The Cornwall Country Market. While next door, Bonney Brook, a handsome structure soon to be chock full of happy seniors, stands sturdily



between the firehouse and market, a Cornwall Taj Mahal, its doors open and perhaps the envy of our neighboring towns. (Please, God, after months of misfiring on these openings, let the Briefs column get it right this time!)

• **Tower Talk:** A possible second cell tower is in the works, this one sought by AT&T on Cornwall Water Company property in Cornwall Bridge at 348 Furnace Brook Road. The tower, described in a letter to the town office, would be 174 feet tall, with an equipment shelter and a generator near its base. That brings us to the earlier cell tower application by Verizon to be built off Bell Road near Popple Swamp. Verizon, it was learned, has asked for and been granted, an extension of its building permit until April of 2015. So tower number one has been delayed while tower number two is in the works, so to speak. So what exactly is going on? Is Verizon having second thoughts about its proposed tower or is Cornwall, now called the greenest town in Connecticut, destined to be dubbed the tallest town in the state? We kind of like Tower Town.

• **Annual Town Meeting:** It's coming on Friday, October 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Gathering Room at CCS. The agenda will include the town report, updating Cornwall's current five-year plan, and a decision on when to hold an election for the town's representative to the Region One school board. The current policy adopted in 1937 calls for the Cornwall school board to choose that representative. The Board of Selectmen now favors bringing the question of whether to appoint or elect to the townspeople. That vote was deemed too late for the current election cycle so it could be done in 2014 or at the next scheduled municipal election in November 2015.

—John Miller

Events & Announcements

Voter Registration and Absentee Ballots:

The deadline for voter registration is October 29. Registration sessions will be held at the town hall on October 1, 9 A.M. to noon; October 19, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.; and October 29, 9 A.M. to 8 P.M. Registration applications are available at the town hall and the Department of Motor Vehicles. Absentee ballots are available upon application to the town clerk starting October 7. They must be returned by 8 P.M. Election Day, November 5.

The Cornwall Committee for Seniors

and the Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association host Suzanne O'Brien, the author of *Life, Love, and Transition*, at the Cornwall Library Wednesday, October 2, at 5 P.M. O'Brien will discuss achieving a meaningful end of life. Light refreshments will be provided. Info: Tina Hogan, 860-435-0816.

Motherhouse Events:

Country Dance: October 5, 7 P.M., town hall, with caller David Kaynor and Still, the Homegrown Band. Info: Jane Prentice, 672-6101.

EGGS-perience Chickens: Saturday, October 12, 10:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. Learn about raising chickens and portable poultry housing. Dress out a bird and take it home. Bring a dish for a potluck lunch. Preregister with Debra@Motherhouse.us or 672-0229.

Tie it all together at the FREE wreath-making workshop for the whole family, October 14, 1:30 to 3:30 P.M. at Local Farm. Call Debra at 672-0229.

Senior Luncheon: Come "fall" into a feast at a special price at the Wandering Moose on Tuesday, October 8, from 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. No reservations necessary. Call Jane at 672-6101.

Studio Tours: The eighth annual Cornwall Artists' Open Studio will be held Saturday, October 12, from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. For a list of participating artists, directions to their studios, and a map, click on "Cornwall Artists" at cornwallct.org. The list and map

Fall Fluctuations

Temperatures fall, days get shorter, changeable weather eludes forecasting. But one thing never changes: the *Chronicle* needs your support. Won't you take a moment to write us a check before old man winter checks in? Thank you!

will also be available at various locations in Cornwall.

At the Cornwall Library:

Fall Book Sale, Columbus Day weekend. Saturday, October 12, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. (early buying from 9 to 10 A.M. has a \$10 charge); Monday, October 14, 10 A.M. to noon, (half price); noon to 2 P.M., \$5 per bag.

On Sunday, October 13, at 4 P.M., Margaret (Margy) Klaw will talk at the town hall about her new book, *Keeping It Civil: The Case of the Pre-Nup and The Porsche & Other True Accounts from the Files of a Family Lawyer*.

The library's dance movie series continues on Wednesday, October 16, at 7 P.M. with *Dancing for Mr. B.*, a film about six Balanchine ballerinas.

The family movie series continues on Friday, October 25, at 7 P.M. with *Casper*, a 1995 American comedy-fantasy film based on the Casper cartoons and comics.

Mah-Jongg anyone? Brenda Underood will teach three Thursday classes on October 3, 10, and 24 at 7:30 P.M. Mah-Jongg sets, the 2013 Card of Hands and handouts will be provided. Limited to 12 people. Call 672-6874 to register. Those who already know how to play are welcome to come. Ongoing games will be held at the library.

"Great Stuff!" to benefit the library will be held October 18 to 20. See insert and library website or call the library at 672-6874 for details and tickets.

Child Center Fundraiser: CCC will host "Pig, Swig and Jig" at the Olds' Barn, 39 Jewell St. in Cornwall Village on October 12 from 6 to 9 P.M. Auctioneer Phil Jacquier will offer up interesting goods and services. For tickets and information: Janet Sanders at cornwallsanders@gmail.com or 672-0038.

Hazardous Waste Day: October 12, 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. at the Torrington Water Pollution Control Facility, Bogue Road. Pick up a permit at the selectmen's office or call 672-4959.

Art in Cornwall

At the library: a retrospective of Genevieve Simont Ireland's works in oil continues through October 26. Mexican Flowers: Day of the Dead Jewelry by artist and designer Ann Spence of She Bee will be on display October 29 through December 14. The artist's reception will be held Saturday, November 2, from 4 to 6 P.M.

At the National Iron Bank: an exhibit of

works by Richard Griggs through October.

At the Souterrain Gallery: Covered Bridge Code, computer-generated works by Mark Wilson, October 6. Near and Far, Objects and Places, works by Cheryl Evans, Connie Steuerwalt, and Barbara Stone, will open on October 12 with an artists' reception from 3 to 6 P.M. and run through November 24.

At the UCC Parish House: A Group of Images of the North Cornwall Meeting House opens October 20; reception at 11:30 A.M.

Temporary Trail Closure: A section of the Mohawk Trail, from the Dark Entry Road trailhead in Cornwall Bridge to the trailhead on Jewell Street in Cornwall Village, will be closed temporarily beginning at sunset, Thursday, October 24, reopening at sunrise Monday, November 4.

Park & Rec will host a Halloween gathering at the Town Hall on Thursday, October 31, from 5 to 8 P.M. Soups, salads, sandwiches and cider will be provided. To donate a homemade pot of soup or stew, contact Becky Hurlburt at prcornwall@gmail.com.

Bonney Brook, ten apartments of affordable housing for independent seniors, is nearing completion. Elderly Health Management is now accepting applications from qualified residents. Information and applications: call 203-230-4809 (x 1053) or bonneybrook@ehmchm.org.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE
cornwallchronicle.org

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