



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 319

JUNE 1976

Price 3¢

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JUNE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES.

Reports.

TREASURER: Bank Statement as at the 31st April, 1976 is -

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Cheque Acc | \$4,030.26 |
| Fixed Term Dep. | <u>\$2,000.00</u> |
| | <u>\$6,030.26</u> |

WALK SECRETARY: 113 Visitors and 164 Members attended club walks during the month of April. A profit of \$97.00 was made during this period.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: At the end of May there were 267 paid up members.

FEDERATION: A letter has been sent to the Minister for Lands expressing concern at the implications of the Mt. Hotham Alpine Reserve regulations, but so far no reply has been received.

WALK EDITOR: For Walk 1976, payments taken till 7th June, 1976, are:-

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| | \$2,184.75 |
| Less - Printing Costs | <u>\$2,150.00</u> |
| giving a profit to date - | <u>\$ 34.75</u> |

CONSERVATION: A further submission has been made to the LCC on the East Gippsland Study Area.

Woodchipping at Eden is going to have an Environmental Impact Study before woodchipping commences. About 800 people attended the meeting on woodchipping that was held at Melbourne University on the 4th June, and \$780 was raised for an anti-woodchipping campaign. Letters are being sent out to State Ministers regarding the potential hazards of woodchipping in the East Gippsland Region.

EQUIPMENT: Proceeds from Equipment Hire, for the month of May, were \$10.00

General Business.

- 1/ Notice is given of the proposed affiliation with the Ski-Touring Association of Victoria.
- 2/ The current programme is incorrect regarding the date of the Half-Yearly General Meeting, which will be held on September 29th following a change in the Constitution last year.
- 3/ A Navigation &/or Leadership class will be organised by Charles Knight to try to train leaders for our club walks.
- 4/ Four designs for T-Shirt emblems have been received and these will be presented to the General Meeting on the 30th of June to obtain approval for the adoption of a design.

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WHEN: Saturday night, 10th July, from 7.30 PM
 WHERE: Badger Creek Hall, Healesville.
 CALLER: Ken Hooke TICKETS: \$2.50
 DRESS: Country Folk Style

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All correspondence should be addressed to:-

The Secretary,
Melbourne Bushwalkers,
P.O. Box 1751Q. G.P.O.
MELBOURNE. VIC. 3001.

Meetings are held in the clubrooms, 14 Hosier Lane, at the rear of the Forum Theatre, every Wednesday night at 7.30 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

WALK PREVIEWS.

Day Walks,

July 4th - MT. KOALA - MOLLISONS CREEK PYALONG. Easy

LEADER: Tony Morris
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15 AM
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 9.00 PM
MAP REFERENCE: Pyalong 1:50,000
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 8 miles.

From a point, approximately 5km north-west of Pyalong, we will head west into a range of low hills. From the southern end of this range we head south to Mollisons Creek which we follow east back to Pyalong.

Open, Green, gently rolling country with rocky outcrops. Bring a water bottle as this is sheep country.

July 11th - PAULS RANGE - SCHOOLHOUSE RIDGE. Easy

LEADER: Ross Hoskin (B) 67-7322 x51
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15 AM
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7.30 PM
MAP REFERENCE: Yarra Glen 1:50,000
Yan Yean 1:63,360 (out of print)
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 12 miles.

This walk offers beautiful views and a wide variety of Wild Life along one of the nicest little ranges close to Melbourne.

The walk will start at Toolangi township and proceed along a road before coming to the ridge of Pauls Range (642439). We will then walk along the ridge (on tracks mainly) in a southerly direction for about ten miles, finishing at Schoolhouse Ridge (638323) which is a few miles from Healesville.

It is necessary to bring water for lunch.

Please note that we will have a pick-up point for those walkers staying overnight in Healesville, after the Club Square Dance.

July 18th - MALMSBURY - BELLTOPPER HILL - TARADALE. Easy/Med

LEADER: Malda Jakobsons (B) 489-1073
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15 AM
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7.00 PM
MAP REFERENCE: Castlemaine 1:63,360
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 9 miles.

From Malmsbury Reservoir we walk through Old Malmsbury (town) to Belltopper Hill where we may explore old gold mines (tunnels - so bring torches!) Then we travel northwards to pick up the main Bendigo Aquaduct and follow it around to Taradale.

The area is among the coldest in Victoria and this is the middle of Winter!

Cont'd o'page

CHANGE TO WALKS PROGRAMME FOR AUGUST.

Please note that the walk on August, 29th, Bunyip Weir - Blue Range - Estcourt, which is in the programme as being led by Geoff Mattingley, will now be led by Tony Morris.

July 25th - GOLDEN POINT - EXPEDITION PASS - MT. ALEXANDER. Easy/Med

LEADER: Rob Hayes (P) 95-8239
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15 AM
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 9.00 PM
MAP REFERENCE: Castlemaine 1": 1 mile.
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 13 km - 500m up and 300m down.

After starting off lost we will climb the closest mountain to discover where we are. Somewhere between 4km and 8km later we should stumble across/wade around the Expedition Pass Reservoir. Medium walkers can then walk around the reservoir for about a km and then scramble up to the top of the ridge to join the easy walkers who have gone only 500m along a gently sloping animal track. After looking at the magnificent views from the next section of the ridge we drop down to have a dreaded HIGHWAY CROSSING. Then we have a pleasant stroll up a spur to the base of Mount Alexander. Depending on the mood of the party, and the light, we will either walk up Mt. Alexander or we will move a few hundred metres to the North to climb up the rock faces arriving exhausted at the top of the next mountain (100 metres higher than necessary) then proceed down to the Koala Sanctuary and the van. Bring water for lunch - refills may be obtained at the reservoir after lunch.

Weekend Walks

July - MT. FEATHERTOP SNOW WALK. Easy/Med

23-25 LEADER: Dave Oldfield (B) 31-7222 x613
TRANSPORT: Private
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 10.00 PM
MAP REFERENCE: FCV FEATHERTOP 1": 1 mile
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 24km at least.

Come along on the annual weekend frolic in the SNOW. No experience necessary but PLEASE make sure you have good warm, waterproof gear or you'll have a very COLD, MISERABLE time. Some points to watch; a complete change of clothing and some spare dry clothes to sleep in; a waterproof parka AND overtrousers, mittens and balaclava. NO ONE will be taken without Sunglasses/Ski goggles or Snow goggles. We will be camping on snow (its going to be a good season) so bring plenty of insulation, choofers are an optional extra, so are ice axes, if you've got one then by all means bring it. No gym boots or runners please, we don't want any frost bitten toes. Come along with the trusty Nanga Parbat and see what sort of a mountain Feathertop really is. This walk is not recommended for brass monkeys.

July - LANGLAUFING FOR BEGINNERS - MT. HOTHAM.

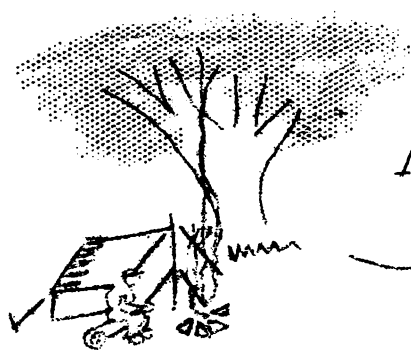
23-25 LEADER: Rod Mattingley (B) 350-1222 x771
TRANSPORT: Private
MAP REFERENCE: Algona Guides "Bogong High Plains"
FCV -DARGO.

After last year's disorganised chaos on Mt. Stirling, with hopeless beginners trailing along behind mixed up with the Winter Group, we have something more satisfactory to offer this year.

We are fortunate to have the exclusive services of Chris Hellerud of Nordic Ski Products to give tuition on ski-touring all day Saturday. The Shady Scorpion tells me that Chris is a very good instructor. So if you are going to try ski-touring for the first time or if your technique is non-existent (like mine) then we'll all learn a few things.

Camp on Friday night will be a Freeburgh and we'll meet at the Loch car park about 9.30 AM Saturday. Saturday night's camp will be somewhere east of Dinner Plain on the Omeo road.

On Sunday, if the snow cover is good we'll have a bash out toward Boiler Plain.



ALONG THE TRACK

THE LIGHTS GO OUT IN SEYMOUR

Whatever happened to Grnows Guide to Greasy Grub Joints.....that infallible guide to Cordon Green Cooking in Rural Victoria while his Cousin, Champagne Charlie, enjoys - as our more bibulous reader will be ware - rude good healths, (in spite of the lamented disappearance of the Duke of Wellington pot) poor old ptomaine Charlie seems to have scoffed his very last greasy chip.

In the hope that his sucessor can be found, and that in 1977 the gap on the news stand between Playboy and Full Frontal Frolicks will once again be filled by the familiar green covered Gastronomic Guide Book, I am preparing for inclusion the sad News from the north bank of the Goulburn River. Eaters will be aware of a certain rude shanty there, long famous for producing the fastest hamburger in the west. Not the Greasiet. Maybe not even the thinnest. But certainly the fastest. It was there snapping at you almost before you walked in the door.

At least - this was the case if Momma wasn't away producing another Bambino everynow and again, however, she was. Then, as you will remember, everything rapidly tangled into a utterable confusion and ground to a halt. Johnny would be there as always of course, going absent mindedly through the motion and looking very busy - but you notice that without Momma there to tell him what to do next, nothing much, in spite of all the activity, was actually happening. By the time the Hamburger reached you it had not only grown cold but as often as not had started to turn green as well. Fortunately on your next visit the lusty howls of the latest Bambino will be echoing through from the back room and things would have returned to snappy normal.

Well - you can't just keep driving on to 7 Greek now, there isn't a sign saying "under new management". They obviously realise its better if you think its still under Momma Management. But it isn't and it's just not the same. Someone should have told the National Trust before it happened.

.....Perrito Caliente.

EXERPT FROM THE "ALPINE OBSERVER" Supplied by Geoff Kenafacke.

13th May, 1976 - The Snow Pole line between Falls Creek and Mt. Hotham is to be reconstructed soon by the F.C.V., the Minister for Tourism, Mr. Crozier has announced. Coloured markers and signs on the 3 metre high treated pine poles will indicate directions of the ski villages.

The Alpine Resorts Development Advisory Committee (ARDAC) initiated collection of funds and preliminary planning of the line. Total cost is expected to be \$20,000.

"This is just the start of what we hope will lead to a series of pole lines through the Alpine areas of Victoria." Mr. Crozier said.

The contributors to the line are the Department of Y.S. & R., Lands Department, Mt. Hotham Alpine Resort Committee of Management, S.E.C., and the Ministry of Tourism.

FALLS CREEK SNOW REPORT.

Falls Creek have introduced a continuous snow report answering service this year.

The report will be recorded twice daily during the season at 9.00 AM and 4.00 PM.

The number to call is 615-2212

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE CONSERVATION GROUP TO DATE, 1/6/76

At the first meeting of the Group this year (15-3-76) Gerry McPhee was re-elected Convenor. The 16 members present divided up into a number of sub-groups the result of their activities being:-

Letters have been written to Members of Parliament seeking their support to continue Funds for the Environment. Twenty five replies have been received. The writers: Dave Oldfield, Janet White, Barbara Bryant and Joan Haig.

A Submission to the Land Conservation Council for the North-East Study Area (3,4,&5) was compiled by Fred Halls, Gerry McPhee and Athol Schafer.

Among other tasks parcelled out were: Keeping an eye on the activities of various Government Departments and other bodies. E.G. Sue Oldfield is keeping track of the Soil Conservation Authority, Geoff Crapper on the MMBW. The Group would welcome any volunteers for such surveillance work.

At the second meeting of the Group (10-5-76) Dave Oldfield presented a preview of evidence that will be submitted on behalf of the Club to the Transport Regulation Board. Commercial interests are seeking 4-wheel drive vehicle tours in the Alpine region and are seeking TRB approval. Barbara Bryant is investigating proposals to flood the Lower Gordon River, Tasmania, and to see in which way the Club can best oppose the scheme. George Telehin is studying the LCC Mallee area recommendations and Gerry McPhee is preparing a draft on proposed mining operations at Reedy Creek Chasm.

Review of Documents Received.

Members may inspect these in full. See Athol Schafer.

The ORV (off-road vehicle) has brought enjoyment to millions, opened up new fields of employment and has been a profitable business. Political economy dictates that nations must trade. We export primary produce, minerals (and next Uranium and hardwood forests) to Japan. In return we receive Hondas, Susukis etc., toys for western man's leisure. The result of the expediencies of trade is however not always the best. This the Americans are now discovering. A full page report in the Sydney Morning Herald (17-4-76) "Riding the Trail of Destruction" states that in the U.S. in 1960 there were 60,000 motorcycles. By 1972 there were 5.5 million, the increase mainly for use off-roads. The ORV user looks for difficult terrain against which to put his skill and the power of his machine - altogether an exhilarating recreation. The real cost has been unmeasured destruction of plants and animals, and often permanent loss of soil surfaces not to mention damage to both public and private property. The enjoyment of the ORV user is at the expense of all inhabitants, human and otherwise, past and present. Attempts by both government bodies and ORV clubs to mitigate some of the worst effects have always proved ineffectual.

"The basic gear of the motor-powered outdoorsman requires that 300 to 2,000 lbs of metal ore be mined from the earth and than an engine be created and fueled to propel his jeep, buggy or snow-mobile from spot to spot. The sport of the downhill skier demands that natural environments be cleared of trees, developed with lifts and lodges and be supplied with power to run these facilities." This quote comes from an article in a copy of "Backpacker" magazine. The author points out that the impact of the walker is very tiny when compared to that of other recreations. However, with an estimated six million backpackers in the U.S. (1971 figures) and an annual growth rate of wilderness trips in national parks at 35% the main problem is not so much misuse but overuse.

Continual foot traffic soon erodes an earth track, especially on slopes. If the track is left, vegetation is trampled; litter is dropped; streams become polluted with detergents and human wastes; man-made shelters, fireplaces etc. are created that detract from the natural setting. On top of this nobody is certain what ideal wilderness behaviour should be; therefore education can play only a limited part.

In response to the problem two basic wilderness management systems are being tentatively applied. The first plan is to limit, by means of a permit system, the number of walkers to what it is estimated the environment can withstand. The basic weakness is that Park Services are notoriously understaffed to make the plan viable. The virtues are prevention of overcrowding and the fact

...of reminding the public that natural resources are not limitless.

The second plan is to concentrate facilities at certain points along a given route or in a specified area; thus permanent structures are erected, ranging from fireplaces to hostels, toilet blocks to canteens, so the visitor does not have to carry his gear, and the surrounding sections are saved from too much pressure. This is now seen as largely self-defeating. The convenience of the shelters tend to attract people to the wilderness who would not go there if they had to carry their own tent and provisions. With heavy use the area around many of the shelters become littered, stripped of firewood and green vegetation.

Leaving the U.S. and coming back home, we find that The Kosciusko National Park Plan of Management has something of both these systems now in force. The 612,000 hectare park is zoned into five areas. In the wilderness zones (54% of total area) no development is permitted other than walking tracks, signs, pack tent sites, survival huts, and essential track markers and snowpoles. In the natural areas (38%) additional features are included. These are safety fences, parking areas, public toilets, organised camping and picnic sites. In development areas overnight accommodation is provided with a total number of people at 7,000. With day visitors the total visitor capacity will be 30,000. However future developments will be encouraged to remain outside the boundary of the park, at such places as Khancoban, Talbingo etc.

To prevent environmental damage, the frequency and number of walking parties are liable to be restricted. Other protective measures will be the closing of certain roads, removal of noxious weeds and animals, and demolition of unwanted structures. Vehicles must keep to scheduled tourist roads. There is to be no off-road recreation at all.

After examining the Plan I believe walkers will generally be happy with it.

DRAFT MANAGEMENT POLICIES FOR THE GRAMPPIANS STATE FOREST. - Forests Commission, Vic.

The F.C.V., believing that it will still have management control of the Grampians after the L.C.C. recommendations are decided, has issued a rather comprehensive survey of the area, and which was published for a public conference held at Stawell last March.

They have divided the area into a number of zones. Hardwood production (70,000 hectares) and softwoods (1,100 hectares) make up for approximately a third of the total area. The remainder consists of natural, primitive and special feature zones plus recreational sites.

Regulations for camping independently away from established camping grounds are strict, though not unreasonable.

ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LAND, PUCKAPUNYAL.

An Environmental Impact Statement issued by the Department of Defence.

The military desire to acquire to acquire 20,048 hectares of land to the west and north of Puckapunyal, thereby virtually doubling the existing area.

One of the reasons for this proposal is that the present area is not large enough to contain the requirements of today's armour and artillery. Present exercises are held in designated areas in the Big Desert and the Sunset Country in the north-west of the State. However the LCC. has given notice that it wishes to eventually close these training areas and proclaim them as wilderness and state parks respectively.

The Big Desert in South Australia is also to be incorporated into a national park which will preclude it as a training area.

Most of the contended area is State reserved forest on hilly ground, with the rest private grazing properties. Although within easy reach of Melbourne there appears to have been little, if any, bushwalking in the area. I suggest that one or two walks be taken through before it is ever proclaimed.

....Athol Schafer.

CHANGE OF DATE FOR LANGLAUFING AT BAW BAW.

The Langlauf weekend listed in the Winter program under August, 29th, will be held on the weekend of August 21 - 22nd.

SHADY SCORPION.

Your Committee at work.

The topic of conversation was the proposed instructional course for new walk leaders when Alex quipped "We could give them the title of Senior Leader of Bushwalks or SLOB for short".

It seems that the Hodgson's food locker at Wilkie was crammed so full with plonk and tins etc. that it burst its sides. This was a great idea thought a little mouse as he promptly devoured all of the biscuit supplies, muesli and peanuts.

Poor old G.W.J. (G. for Grandpa), he really has a phobia about his age, imagine his horror the other day when he discovered that Peter Carlyon (6 years younger than G.W.J) was Carol's Uncle and that her Mum was the same age as him.

There seems to be something fishy about the Johnston Hut Bonfire about May, 16th up on the High Plains. The hut was accidentally burnt down and a beautiful new hut has sprung up in its place in a space of three weeks. It would appear that there are several versions floating around as to the cause of the fire but we don't want to be too controversial in this column, do we?

Talking about fish, Ken Mac was heading back to Wilkie via the Aquaduct the other night when he spied some speckled brown trout zapping around. Seeing his skis had on them "Fischer" he reckoned this gave him the right to apprehend the tasty morsals. After several frantic prods with his stock he managed to spear one unfortunate creature. Ken got so carried away with his fish that he lost track of time and ended up stumbling back to the lodge in pitch darkness.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME.

Wed. - Film "Is Recycling a load of old Rubbish?" from the Victorian Environment Centre which was featured at the recent Wood Chip Inquirey in the East Gippsland Area. Come along and view the threat that the wood chipping industry poses to our native bushlands and forests. NOTE: The film will start at 7.45pm so be early. Chairman will be Gerry McPhee.

Sat.
July 10th - SQUARE DANCE. at Badger Creek. See front page for details. Contact Social Secretary for tickets (B) 615-4262

Wed. - Ski Touring Film supplied by Chris Hellerud from Nordic Ski Products and informative lecture. A must for all those thinking of going on the beginners trip.

July - Beginners Ski-Touring Trip to Mt. Hotham with expert tuition from Chris Hellerud. Ski lessons usually cover all aspects of general technique including the diagonal stride, how to turn, how to stop and most importantly how to fall over without breaking a ski-tip. Depending on how many starters we get, the cost should be about \$1.50 - \$2.00 for a days ski-ing.

BUSHCRAFT.

Members who live in the Southern suburbs may be interested to know that a new bushwalking, camping and canoeing shop has opened at 299 Hampton St. Hampton. They call themselves Bushcraft and they offer , on purchases over \$30.00, 7½% discount on tents and canoes, and 12½% discount on most other items, except maps and books. Purchases over \$250.00 attract a special discount to members of recognised Clubs like ours.

PLEASE NOTE.

This motion will be put before the Club, by Art Terry at our next General Meeting on the 30th June, 1976.

"I propose to move that Mr. Dennis Barsons, Gronows' Van Driver, be made a Life Member of the Melbourne Bushwalkers for the excellent service he has given us for many years."

To be proposed by - Art Terry
Seconded by either- Andy Price or Harold Grave

NEW MEMBERS.

AYRE, Eileen, 50 Mentone Pde, Mentone. 3194 (P)93-3284 (B)560-1863
 DANGERFIELD, Margaret, 4 Daley St, Elwood. 3184 (P)91-3297
 DOUGLAS, Robert, 8/98 George St. Fitzroy. 3065. (B)630-5254
 MARTIN, Heather, 60 Normanby Rd, Kew. 3101 (P) 804-678
 TILLEY, Irene, 216 Highfield Rd, Camberwell. 3124 (P)29-6362
 MICHELETTO, Peter, 2/33 Brunswick Rd, East Brunswick. 3057 (B)615-3767
 PAINE, Cameron, 10 Fifth St, Parkdale. 3194 (P)901-495

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

BULLARD, Peter, (P)509-8359 (B)509-6422 (1230 - 1300 Hrs only)
 CARLYON, Peter & Sue, RMB 1090, Yarrowonga. 3730 (P) Area code 057 - 44 3750
 same place, new postal address.
 CASLEY, Max, (P) 527-3111
 COHEN, Peter, 3/11 Wattle Ave, Glen Huntly, 3163.
 GRAVE, Harold, 1/28 Tintern Ave, Toorak. 3142. (P)24-3998
 HARRISON, Dave, 39 Ivanhoe Gve, Chadstone. 3148 (P)563-377 (B)51-0281 x2226
 HUBREGTSE, Virgil (formerly DAVIS) 2/381 High St Rd, Mt. Waverley. 3149
 MCKENZIE-MCHARG, Colin, 8 Bramley St, Leongatha. 3953
 MANDERS, Graham, 23 Keats St, Sandringham. 3191 (P) 598-6728
 POLONIATO, Diego, 12 Hillcrest Dr, Westmeadows. 3049.
 REIMER, Margaret, 39 Ivanhoe Gve, Chadstone. 3148 (P) 563-377
 SHIELDS, Jennifer, 17 Cowpe St, Footscray. 3011
 WILD, Russell, 734 Hampton St, Brighton. 3186. (P) 92-7139
 WILLS, Johnson Graham, (P)527-4720 (B)341-2153

MEMBERSHIP LIST.

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STILL TOPS FOR
 BUSHWALKING, SKIING,
 AND CLIMBING NEEDS

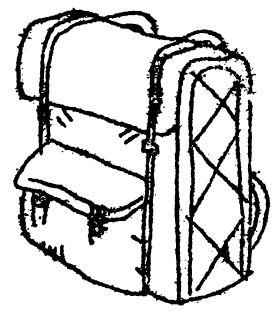
A membership address list will be published in the next issue of "News".
 Have you changed your telephone number(s) during the last year? Have you told
 the membership secretary? Inform Paul Gray of changes, before 7th July (P) 6386

197 ELIZABETH ST
 MELBOURNE
 67-842889

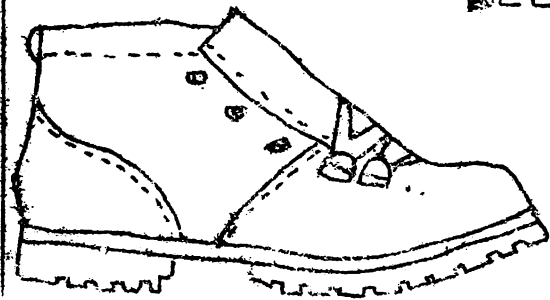
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