

Fall 9-1-2005

Appalink

Appalachian Studies Association

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Fall, 2005

Volume 29, Number 1

“Look At Us Now. We’re One of Them”

Clermont County, Ohio, is in many ways a microcosm of modern Appalachia. It’s part of a metropolitan area, with a portion of Cincinnati’s outerbelt, I-275, running through the western part of the county. Clermont’s population has doubled since 1970 and is still growing rapidly.

In 1978 the Army Corps of Engineers began the development of one of Ohio’s largest state parks in the center of the county by displacing the local farmers and land owners and damming the East Fork of the Little Miami River. Bisecting the county is Route 32, “The Appalachian Highway,” anchored on the west by a commercial sprawl of malls, fast food restaurants, apartment complexes, and car dealerships. To the south, coal barges slip by on the Ohio River, which separates Appalachian Ohio from Kentucky.

The expectations of the county’s early settlers are reflected in local place names: Felicity, Utopia, Goshen. The fantasies of more recent settlers are reflected in the names of their bedroom communities: Legendary Run, Ivy Trails, Terrace Ridge. The mansions in Ivy Trails are well out of the range of the residents of Felicity where the population is shrinking, the median household income is about \$24,000, and half of the housing is valued at less than \$70,000. Clermont County has 20 mobile home parks, more than any other Ohio county. Seven of these parks are located in Felicity where 35% of the residents are under the poverty line.

Big-box churches have sprung up along I-275 to provide wholesale worship experiences for the county’s growing population. In Felicity folks still make do with more traditional religious retailers such as the First Baptist Church and the Felicity Church of Christ.

This collision of classes and cultures echoes across Appalachia: deep pockets of poverty hidden in the shadows of overdevelopment; roads and dams creating recreational destinations for tourists, but relatively few

jobs for local residents; rapid population growth from migration into some areas paralleled by ongoing population loss in others; professional paychecks for some and low-paying service work the only option for others.

The new owners of a million-dollar “Italian Renaissance-style Mediterranean villa” in Ivy Trails said in a recent interview, “We always used to make fun of people with Clermont County license plates. They’d be driving down the Interstate on tractors, and you’re just like, ‘Hello?’ And look at us now. We’re one of them.” A Clermont resident whose family has lived in the county since the Civil War responded pensively: “To them, it looks like the best of both worlds. To us, it looks like the end of our quiet little world.”

For nearly three decades the Appalachian Studies Association has documented both the “quiet little world” of Appalachia, and the conflicts and changes taking place throughout the region. Recently the Association has been moving to a more active stance combining documentation with advocacy, for instance by analyzing white privilege, the structural causes of poverty, and the environmental degradation of the region in recent issues of the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*. These modest efforts at advocating for sound regional policies must be strengthened and fostered throughout ASA. Otherwise, as we approach our thirtieth anniversary, we too risk the ultimate self deception: “Look at us now. We’re one of them.”

Phil J. Obermiller, President

A special thank you to Melinda Wagner, Parks Lanier, Ricky Cox and all who contributed to the success of the March, 2005, conference at Radford University, in Radford Virginia.

Berea College Receives Grants

Council of the Southern Mountains 1970-1989 National Historical Publications & Records Commission Grant & Kentucky Oral History Commission Grant. Berea College's Hutchins Library Special Collections & Archives Department has received a two year, \$89,280 grant from the National Historical Publications & Records Commission to process the records of the Council of the Southern Mountains, 1970-1989. This material will be added to the already processed Council records of 1912-1970. The completed Council of the Southern Mountains records will provide a unique resource for studying the shifting style, content, and direction of social reform efforts in southern Appalachia during much of the 20th century. Laura Heller, who recently earned an MLIS with an emphasis in Archives, has been appointed project archivist.

To complement the CSM materials, Hutchins Library Special Collections & Archives Dept. has also received a \$2,500 grant from the Kentucky Oral History Commission to support the Council for Southern Mountains Oral History Project. It is being coordinated by Berea College Sound Archivist, Harry Rice.

Mountaintop Removal

The University of Kentucky Appalachian Center has established a new clearinghouse to assist researchers and citizens in understanding the true impact of 21st century coal-mining practices, especially Mountaintop Removal, upon communities. This clearinghouse represents a confluence of the Center's continuing efforts to coordinate and stimulate research that is useful to the people of the region and of the efforts initiated by Wendell Berry which resulted in on-going Kentucky Authors Mountaintop Removal Tours sponsored by Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, an advocacy group opposed to the practice. The first author's tour took place in May, and the next one is scheduled for September. Between the tours, involved authors met and responded to an initial list of questions drafted by Wendell Berry that need to be answered in order to effectively consider and address the practice. At this group's request, an informal task-force was created to facilitate the formation of a clearinghouse, and the UK Appalachian Center stepped forward and accepted the challenge.

The coordinator of the clearinghouse is Nathan Cryder, a research assistant at the UK Appalachian Center. He can be reached at the Center, 624 Maxwellton Court, Lexington, KY 40506-0347, 859-257-4582.

The clearinghouse e-mail is clearinghouse@uky.edu. Here's how YOU can help:

1. Send Nathan citations of all mountaintop removal research and 21st Century mining research you are aware of in any field, not just soil science, but sociology, psychology, etc.
2. Make Nathan aware of what research-in progress you or your contacts are doing.
3. If you are free to do mountaintop removal research, please contact Nathan for suggestions of what research gaps exist and who is working in related areas.
4. If you plan to make a presentation about the current impact of coal mining on communities, feel free to contact Nathan for relevant background information about what is known about the practice.

ASA Scholarships

Chair Cassie Robinson and the members of the ASA Scholarship Committee have worked hard over the past few years making sure people with marginal incomes have a voice in the annual ASA conferences. With the help of the Appalachian Regional Commission, about one in every five participants in our past two conferences has had some form of scholarship assistance.

Last March, at Radford University in Radford, VA, the ASA provided scholarships for 56 community persons and 94 students to attend our annual conference. Members of the program, scholarship, and silent auction committees, along with ASA past President, Melinda Wagner, and conference organizers Parks Lanier and Ricky Cox, worked hard to meet the scholarship needs of people who did not have institutional support to help with the cost of attending the conference.

Please help us thank everyone who was involved in helping ASA provide over \$16,845 in scholarships for the Radford conference. Thirty different individuals and institutions contributed to the conference. Oak Ridge Associated Universities, Radford University's Appalachian Regional Studies Center, and Virginia Tech were especially generous scholarship providers. Our past president, Melinda Wagner has stipulated that unused scholarship funds from the 2005 conference be allocated to next year's conference in Dayton.

Organizers of the 2006 conference, Phil Obermiller, Tom Wagner, and Carol Baugh have already started the fund raising process for our next conference to be held March 17-19, 2006 at the Ponitz Center at Sinclair Community College. They are committed to continuing the tradition of making our conference accessible to those who might otherwise not be able to participate. Funds collected by the Dayton group will supplement those funds raised in 2005 for the 2006 conference including the carry-over \$856.85, \$2,227.51 raised by the Silent Auction, and \$615.00 donated by ASA members.

Scholarship Applications

For those interested in applying for a scholarship for the Dayton conference, applications will be mailed the 1st of the year in the preliminary program and on-line, www.appalachianstudies.org.

Both Ends of the Road: Making the Appalachian Connection
Twenty-Ninth Appalachian Studies Conference
March 17-19, 2006

Make plans now to attend the annual Appalachian Studies Conference March 17-19, 2006 at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio. The Conference will feature keynote speakers, workshops, presentations, reports on academic research, music, arts and crafts, and numerous opportunities to “make connections” with new and old friends and colleagues.

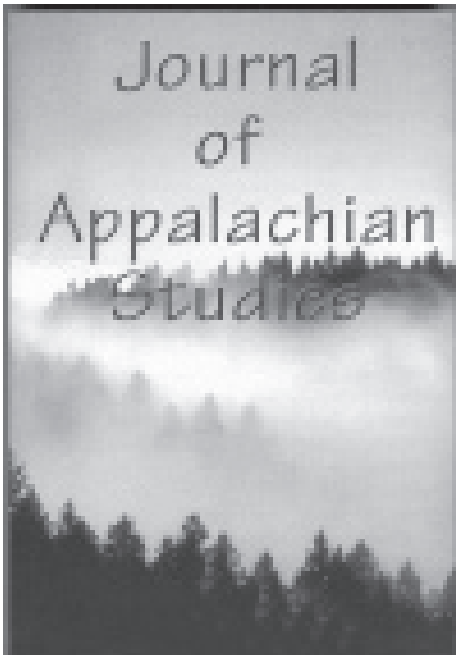
Thomas Wagner, 2006 Program Chair

News from the
Journal of Appalachian Studies

Beginning fall, 2005, JAS will be indexed as part of the Ebsco Host system. JAS articles will be accessible through Academic Search Elite, Social Science Abstracts, and a new humanities index that is under development.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Sandra Hayslette, Appalachian Studies Program Director at Warren Wilson College, has been selected to follow Dr. Dwight Billings as editor of the journal. Hayslette, who received her Ph.D. in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, eagerly anticipates working with the journal and using it as an “excellent venue for the further growth of the field.”

We welcome our first JAS intern, Kris Clifford, who will be with us throughout the 2005 - 2006 school year. Kris is currently assisting with copyediting for the upcoming special issue on environmentalism in Appalachia.



Roxane Dufrene type sets Appalink from her home in Louisiana. She worked on this issue while volunteering at a shelter for hurricane evacuees. This poem acknowledges our brothers and sisters in the Delta region and is a way to say thank you to Roxane for her service to ASA.



**How Long Has That Train
Been Gone?**

Some people got lost in the flood.
Some people got away alright.

“Louisiana, 1927”

And when the waters of injustice
came rolling down lately, like a big freight train
right after the river’s roll,
who was surprised?
But that’s no consolation
to frightened children or their grieving elders,
faces streaked with tears and sweat as they swelter
near the gurgle of water
and the stink of mud
smearing their city, the one built on trumpet calls
and piano trills
vining out of the delta on trains
headed north.

Everybody loved New Orleans,
like they loved the old Havana
the one that was a party all the time,
Fat Tuesday,
for people who could afford it
but when push came to shove,
the people who couldn’t leave the Big Easy
sat on rooftops or in shelters
doing for themselves
as best they could, while
the great capitol of capital
protested its innocence
and the new man
sounded a lot like the old man,
proclaiming what a shame what
the river had done
to this poor Cajun land.

Edwina Pendarvis



Faces of Appalachia Update

Dear ASA Members,

This is our biannual update about the Faces of Appalachia NEH Challenge Grant. We'd like to thank all of you that have supplied us with good ideas for how to meet the challenge grant. Here's what we did with ideas shared by individual advisors and by those at our meeting during the APS at Radford University in March:

- Set up a Faces of Appalachia fund-raising webpage, which clarifies the relationship between Faces, CSEGA, and ASA at: <http://www.appalachianstudies.org/news/FacesofAppalachia.php>
- Began bimonthly newsletter to keep our advisory board informed
- Sent a fund-raising letter from Phil Obermiller, president of the ASA, to 1,400 ASA contacts and members. So far \$6,945.00 has been raised!
- Went to the West Virginia Legislature to renew their support
- Approached Fifth Third Bank for funds (for which we were not eligible until 2006 due to their prior commitment to another Marshall University grant)

Updates

Eddy Pendarvis, Professor of Education at Marshall, has taken over the fund-raising reins from Linda Spatig. Eddy can be contacted at (304) 696-2855 or pendarvi@marshall.edu.

Funding Realities

At this point, Faces has generated an endowment of \$339,100. However, in the last two years, only about \$24,000 has been donated to Faces, which means we still have to raise about \$426,000 to meet this part of the challenge. This is hard news, but let's use it as a chance to gauge our situation. Although we've applied to 13 foundations for support since the start of 2004, none have come through. Why?

- A. Many foundations focus on state, identity, or issue specific funding, so we are revising our strategy to ask them to support specific sub-grants appropriate to their varied constituencies.
- B. Funders are being asked to support our educational institutions which are dedicated to the disinherited and marginalized. Therefore, in addition to writing more specific applications, we are appealing directly to individuals for smaller donations, as with Phil Obermiller's letter.

While July 31 was the official end of the year to raise funds, we have been given an automatic one-month extension by the NEH, and we are asking for the possibility of more time.

New Routes

We are engaging the following paths, which draw upon ideas that you provided!

- Humanities Councils in all Appalachian states are being asked to endow a spot for a teacher from their state to attend the Annual Summer Institute on Diversity.
- Public TV and radio stations throughout Appalachia are being asked to do stories on **Faces**.
- CSEGA Emeritus Rockefeller Scholars are being contacted to bring them up-to-date and to ask their involvement.
- Banks, businesses, utilities, and unions throughout Appalachia are being asked for support.

We knew the road to this endowment would not be easy, but none of us had any idea of how steep it would be. Still, roads are made by walking, so if you have questions, contacts, or ideas let Eddy know (her contact info is above). Look for the next update in the spring issue of Appalink

The Faces of Appalachia Staff

Study Appalachia and Get Paid by NEH

From June 5-30, 2006, Ferrum College will host "Regional Study and the Liberal Arts: An Appalachian Exemplar," its third National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for College and University Teachers. For four weeks, professors from across the country will investigate Appalachian issues as a model for bringing regional study into the mainstream liberal arts curriculum, most specifically to an enlivened study of American culture, history, and sociology.

Session leadership will feature Dwight Billings, Cece Conway, Richard Couto, Denise Giardina, Patricia Johnson, George Loveland, and David Whisnant. Writings of these seven form the core reading list for the institute. In addition to discussion on the Ferrum campus about the importance of regional material to liberal arts learning, using Appalachia as an exemplar, the institute will spend five days in the coalfields of southwestern Virginia meeting leaders of a variety of community redevelopment initiatives.

Twenty-five scholars will be chosen from a pool of applicants in fields such as literature, history, political science, sociology, religion, philosophy, or the arts. Successful candidates receive stipends of \$3,000. The institute director is Peter Crow (pcrow@ferrum.edu), Williams Professor of Humanities at Ferrum. Home of the Blue Ridge Institute and Farm Museum, Ferrum College is located in the foothills of the Virginia Blue Ridge Mountains about 30 miles south of Roanoke.

For a look at the previous two institutes, see www.ferrum.edu/neh04. Application deadline for this summer's institute is 3-1-06. For information and application materials, contact Sandy Doss (cdoss@ferrum.edu).

Call for 2006 ASA Officer Nominations

Your nominations are needed for ASA Officers and Steering Committee members. The ASA bylaws call for the annual nomination and election of officers. Any member of the association may nominate a fellow member to serve. The Association is seeking nominations for the following elected positions:

The Vice President/President Elect (2006-2007) chairs the nominating committee and negotiates for conference support at future sites. The vice president also becomes president the following year (2007-2008). The president of ASA presides at all meetings, directs fund raising, serves as spokesperson, and serves on the Steering Committee for one year after his or her term. The president usually resides in the sub-region in which the upcoming conference will be held (Central subregion in 2007).

The Program Vice Chairperson/Chairperson Elect (2006-2007) assists the chairperson, helps organize the next conference, and becomes chairperson the following year (2007-2008). The program chairperson and his or her committee oversee the operation of the annual conference in cooperation with the Local Arrangements chair and Committee. Following his or her term, the program chairperson serves one year on the Program Committee.

The Secretary/Appalink Editor (2006-2008) records the minutes of all meetings of the association and the steering committee and shall maintain a copy of the association bylaws, articles of incorporation, and Robert's Rules of Order. The secretary shall be responsible for the publication of Appalink.

Three At-Large Members of the Steering Committee (2006-2008) are elected by the membership for two-year terms. There are six at-large members on the steering committee, with three being elected each year. The steering committee members transact any necessary business, form standing committees, and approve the annual budget. The steering committee meets at least twice a year.

Four Program Committee Members (2006-2007) help prepare the call for participation, review submitted abstracts, and compile the 2007 conference program. The Program Committee includes four at-large members who serve for one year and are elected by the ASA membership.

How to Make a Nomination

1. Make sure the nominee is willing to serve and understands the work involved!
2. Write a one-paragraph biography (please limit to 100 words) of the nominee that includes his or her involvement in Appalachian studies and our association. This paragraph will be included with the spring ballot.
3. Send your nominations to ASA Vice President Chad Berry, Faculty of History, Maryville College, Maryville, TN 37804 or email at chadberry@maryvillecollege.edu. Please include "ASA Nomination" in the subject line or on the envelope. The deadline for accepting nominations is November 15, 2005.

Don West Award

No Lonesome Road: Selected Prose and Poetry of Don West, edited by Jeff Biggers and George Brosi and published by the University of IL Press in 2004 has been selected for a 2005 American Book Award to be presented at a ceremony in Oakland, CA, on Sept. 4. The American Book Award was created in 1978 by Ishmael Reed and other distinguished authors and has become arguably the most widely recognized of the alternative comprehensive book awards. This award emphasizes diversity, and is determined by a diverse panel of prominent authors who do not have any set categories or set number of awards to give (last year they gave ten). Anyone may nominate a book, and the books to be considered can come from any publisher. Previous winners include Henry Louis Gates for *The Signifying Monkey*, Leslie Marmon Silko for *Ceremony*, Toni Morrison for *Beloved*, Dana Gioia for *Interrogations at Noon*, Louise Erdrich for *Love Medicine*, and Denise Giardina for *Unquiet Earth*.

Don West (1906-1992) was one of three Appalachian folk heroes to be honored by the first batch of commemorative t-shirts sold by the ASA. He was a north Georgia mountaineer, a co-founder of Highlander, founder of the Appalachian South Folklife Center, and a distinguished preacher, educator and labor organizer.

AWARD NOMINATIONS

CARLA A. ROSS STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

The Carl A. Ross Appalachian Student Paper Competition is open to students in two categories: middle/high school and undergraduate/graduate students. The authors of the winning papers will receive \$100 each. Costs of attending the conference are the winners' responsibility. All papers must adhere to guidelines for scholarly research. To submit a paper for consideration for the 2006 competition, e-mail a Microsoft Word copy of a 20 to 30-page paper by **December 9, 2005** to Roberta Herrin, Ph.D. Director: Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, Box 70556, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN 37614, tel. 423-439-7997, fax 423-439-7870, herrinr@etsu.edu. Students who wish to present their papers at the conference must also submit a Proposal for Participation following the guidelines above.

CRATIS D. WILLIAMS/JAMES S. BROWN SERVICE AWARD

The Cratis D. Williams/James S. Brown Service Award is given to an individual who has made exemplary contributions to Appalachia and/or the ASA. There is a two-step nomination process: Nominations should include a statement regarding the individual's specific contributions to the region or the individual's CV. Following a review the Committee will request additional information about one or more finalist before selecting the award recipient. Send nomination materials to Emily Satterwhite, Assistant Professor of Humanities, Dept. of Interdisciplinary Studies (0227), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24601-0227 or by e-mail to esatterwhite@juno.com before **January 9, 2006**.

HELEN M. LEWIS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Helen M. Lewis Community Service award is given to an individual or an organization that has made exemplary contributions to Appalachia through involvement with and service to its people and communities. Nominations should include a state regarding the individual or organization's

specific contributions to the region or its people, accompanied by at least two letters of support.

Send nomination materials to Pat Beaver, Director, Center for Appalachian Studies, Appalachian State University, University Hall, Boone, NC 28608 or beaverpd@appstate.edu before **February 1, 2006**.

JACK SPADARO AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEDIA ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

One award is given annually to recognize the best documentary on Appalachia or its people. The Media Arts award recognizes the producer for outstanding work in film, video, television, or radio. Eligibility requirements and technical requirements for submitting nominations are available from Jack Wright at 740-597-3080 or at jwright@ohio.edu. Complete nomination materials are due by **February 1, 2006**.

A second award, the e-Appalachia Award, is given annually in recognition of an outstanding website that provides insight on Appalachia and its people, or provides a vital community service to Appalachians. Nominations should be made to Roy Silver at 606-589-2145 x 2069 or at rsilver@uky.edu before **February 1, 2006**.

WEATHERFORD AWARDS

There are two Weatherford awards: one for books of fiction and poetry; the other for nonfiction works. The only requirement is that the subject matter of the books be Appalachian or that they be set in Appalachia. All nominations for the Weatherford Awards must be made by **December 31, 2005**. The entries must be originally published in 2005. The nomination and 7 copies of each book should be sent to Gordon McKinney, CPO 2166, Berea College, Berea, KY 40404. For more details on any of these awards, please visit our website at <http://www.appalachianstudies.org>.

Your nominations for
officers and awards recognize
ASA's history
while guiding its future.

2006 Appalachian Studies Association Howard Dorgan Silent Auction

Dear ASA Members:

Howard Dorgan created the ASA Silent Auction in 1998 and since that time, primarily due to his devotion and dedication, the ASA Silent Auction has raised approximately \$21,000 for scholarships. The 2006 ASA Steering Committee, therefore, believes it is only befitting that the Silent Auction now becomes known as the Howard A. Dorgan Silent Auction. The tradition will continue, as Howard envisions it, that all of the money earned from the Silent Auction will go towards scholarships for individuals or groups who have been accepted to participate in an ASA conference but who can not attend without some assistance in meeting the cost of registration, travel, and/or lodging.

As Howard writes:

Greetings! It's that time of the year again, when I customarily send out an initial call for ASA Silent Auction bid items. Several fine art items have already been donated to the auction but we still need handmade items from regional craft persons and artisans, autographed books from Appalachian writers, videos, music, original paintings, small antiques, and novelty items. In order to

ensure that the Silent Auction earns adequate scholarship dollars, this year minimum bids will be placed on most items.

Getting a Bid Item to the Auction

◆ You can bring the objects directly to the conference. It helps to have the bid items on Thursday evening or early Friday morning.

◆ You can send the items to Carol Baugh, Appalachian Outreach and Studies, Sinclair Community College, 444 West Third Street, Dayton, OH 45402

Hours for the 2006 ASA Silent Auction

The auction opens on Friday, 3-17-06 at 1:00 p.m. Final bids must be made by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, 3-18-06 when the auction officially closes. **The 2006 ASA Silent Auction Committee urges all members to consider donating a bid item to the auction. And, thanks to all of you for your help!**

Help Support ASA Scholarships

Once again please support scholarships by donating time or items to the ASA Silent Auction (see related article this issue). You can contact Howard at dorganch@bellsouth.net or (828) 264-4361 and Carol at Carol.Baugh@sinclair.edu or (937) 512-2126 for further information or if you would like to help.

2006 ASA Silent Auction Committee

Howard Dorgan, Philis Alvic, Carol Baugh, and Donna Sue Groves

AWARD WINNERS

2005 Cratis D. Williams/James S. Brown Service Award:

Dr. Lynda Ann Ewen and Dr. Michael B Montgomery

2004 Helen M. Lewis Community Services Award: Jack Spadaro

2005 Carl A. Ross Student Paper Award:

Kristin Patterson, State University of West Georgia, "Stealing Democracy: Sheriff Biggs, The Good Government League, And Politics in Polk county, Tennessee 1930-1948"

2004 ASA e-Appalachia Award:

Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia at Marshall University

2004 Weatherfor Award:

Non-Fiction: Michael Montgomery, Dictionary of Smoky Mountain English

Fiction: Saints at the River

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*Both Ends of the Road:
Making the Appalachian
Connection*

Sinclair Community College
Dayton, Ohio

MARCH 17-19, 2006

Phil J. Obermiller, President
Thomas Wagner, Program Chair
Carol Baugh, Arrangements Chair

Appalink is published twice a year. We welcome submissions for announcements and news. Subjects may include upcoming conferences, lectures, meetings, fellowships, award nominations, or other events of interest to the membership of the ASA. Submissions should be sent by e-mail or regular mail to Mary Thomas at mthomas@marshall.edu. Space is limited and all submissions are subject to editing. Paid advertisements will be considered for inclusion. Contact the managing editor for rates. Deadline for the spring 2006 edition is December 5, 2005.

- * Editor - Mary Jo Graham
- * Managing Editor - Mary Thomas
- * Production Editor - Roxane Dufrene

APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

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