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Birmingham Eccentric

"For a Bigger and Better Birmingham"

30 PAGES, PART 1

OAKLAND COUNTY'S GREATEST WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

FORTY-NINTH YEAR—NO. 49 BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1927 $1.50 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES 5c

NEW COMMISSION MAKES INSPECTION TOUR OF VILLAGE

Retiring Officials Recommend Abolishment Of Old Pumping Station

IS FINE PARK SITE

Promptly confronting the possibilities and perplexities awaiting them in village possession, the new commission in their tour of inspection Tuesday found in Birmingham's 27 acres of idle park land the outstanding point of interest. A worn out steam pumping system, which they agreed should be dispensed with, a combination fire department, police department, jail, dog pound and public library crowded into inadequate space, drainage problems and small imperfections in mechanical equipments received their due consideration as well. The three members of the commission, followed by several citizens, started at nine a. m. from the village offices, and they left the Rouge valley at Woodward avenue at 3:30 p. m. Stopped to eat luncheon as the guests of the Exchange club at Northwood Inn.

Driving past the civic center property where the steam shovel is excavating for the new library, the first stop was made on Shirley drive near the sewage disposal plant which was erected there three years ago. Then a visit was made on foot to the new well-near Pleasant avenue which will be on the extension of Lincoln when it is opened. These two plants were found to be working in fine shape, the new well, which has a capacity of 1,500,000 gallons per day, being used at present only two hours out of the 24.

Visit Old Well

The well on Baldwin avenue, which was visited later, has a capacity of about 750,000 gallons per day and handles Birmingham's daily water supply, which

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BANK ADDITION IS DAMAGED BY FIRE

Overheated Furnace Believed To Have Been Cause Of Blaze

The addition to the first State Bank building will be opened Apr. 1, in spite of the fire Tuesday night which broke out in the interior and threatened the whole building, according to Arthur C. Peck, cashier at the bank. The damage amounted to approximately $200, Mr. Peck said.

The fire, which is believed by Fire Chief William G. Olsen to have been caused by the furnace's becoming overheated was discovered by Ed LaPlante, the janitor in the bank building. The fire department arrived in time to prevent the fire from spreading.

The building will be safe from further fires from the same cause, Mr. Peck said, because the present furnace is to be removed, and the oil burner heating plant in the bank building proper will be extended to take care of the addition. The building will contain a meat market on the ground floor and offices above.

EXPECTS TO APPOINT NEW MANAGER SOON

New President Praises Manager Starr's Work In Birmingham.

The appointment of a new village manager in Birmingham to succeed Harry Starr may be expected within the next few weeks, H. T. Ellerby, president of the village, says today. "Mr. Starr's resignation takes effect May 1, and we expect to have a man ready for his place before then."

The president expressed his appreciation of Mr. Starr's work in no uncertain terms. "He has been of almost unlimited value to the village of Birmingham," Mr. Ellerby said. "He has served a splendid engineer in addition to his managerial ability. He has saved the village more than any of us can realize through his engineering knowledge. He has been a conscientious worker for the good of Birmingham, and I'm sorry to see him go."

Mr. Ellerby said that the village would probably have to hire the engineering service, which Mr. Starr gave, in the future in addition to the manager's services.

Mr. Starr will remain in Birmingham, where he will go into general and consulting engineering work. He lives at 107 Worth street.

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Will Appoint Two New Members To Planning Board

Two new members to the village planning commission of Birmingham are expected to be appointed by the village commission at their meeting Monday evening. David H. Ladd's resignation from the planning commission was accepted at the meeting last Monday.

One member will be appointed to succeed Mr. Ladd and one to succeed Charles Bingham, whose term ended Feb. 1. There are five members on the commission.

Mr. Ladd gave as the reason for his resignation the pressure of his business interests.

EXCAVATION WORK ON NEW LIBRARY IS GOING FORWARD

Difficulties Over Interpretation Of Lease Were Settled This Week

DEWEY IS PAID $3,400

Difficulties which had arisen in the interpretation of the lease held by Harry J. Dewey on the property on Merrill street contained in the new library site were settled this week by the payment of $3,400 to Mr. Dewey and his wife to terminate the lease, after this settlement had been approved by the village commission Monday night. The library board presented the agreement for settlement which Mr. Dewey had signed, and recommended its adoption upon the advice of their attorneys, Patterson and Patterson of Pontiac, and also of the village attorney, Frank L. Doty. Excavation is going forward without hindrance today on the library site bounded by Merrill, Martin, Merrill, Bates and Chester streets.

At the time the block was purchased by the village with the intention of making it a civic center, a lease to the premises was given Mr. Dewey, to expire in July 1928, or at the death of Mrs. Charlotte Beardslee, the former owner. The library board had the understanding that the arrangement was merely to let the family occupy the house until July 1928, but contracts on February 17 for the construction of a library building which invaded one corner of the Dewey lot. When Mr. Dewey perceived that excavation was invading a part of his lot he immediately claimed damages for the infringement of his lease.

Because of the expense with delay in carrying out the building contract would entail, it was considered cheaper and wiser to pay the $3,400 which Mr. Dewey claimed said termination lease, especially since the original price was made on the property with due allowance for rental of the property. According to the library board, the contract amounted to about $8,000 less than the estimated amount because they were let February 17, at a time when the market for material and labor was very favorable. This saving would have been lost in the resulting damages if building were postponed by injunction, regardless of whether such an injunction were given a favorable or unfavorable hearing, the board believed.

J. R. Howarth, secretary of the library board, in recommending that this amount be charged against the library building fund, informed the village commission that several conferences with lawyers, contractors and all other parties concerned, had resulted in the decision and that the increasing cost of labor and materials was an important element in the situation.

Latin Classes Present Hudson Male Quartette

Announcement has been made of the appearance of the Hudson Male Quartette, of Detroit, in the auditorium of the Baldwin High School Wednesday evening. Miss Isobel Hunt Fuller, first soprano of the Hudson Ladies quartette, will also appear as soloist, and will assist the quartette in several operatic numbers.

Members of the Latin Classes at the high school are sponsoring this program for the purpose of raising funds with which to publish their Latin paper. The cost of bringing the quartette here is necessarily great, and the young people are depending on the large number of music-loving people in Birmingham to help this big responsibility.

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LOST
Package of sheet music disappeared from counter in Eccentric office last Thursday morning. Will person who picked it up please phone Birmingham 11, or 548-XM. adv.49*

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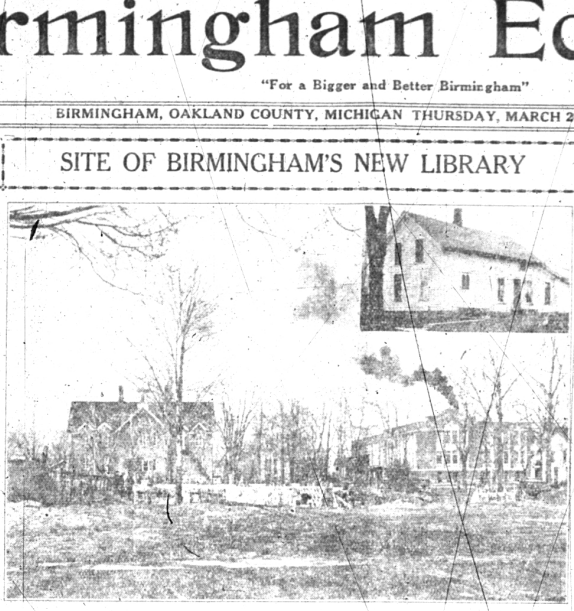
SITE OF BIRMINGHAM'S NEW LIBRARY



—Photo by Arnold Studios

This above picture of the new library site on Martin street shows the excavation which has begun, the Hill school beyond at the left and the south end of the Baldwin High school showing in the background at the right. The house in the center is located about fifty feet west of the fence shown at the left, and is the house located in the village two years ago by Harry Dewey and his wife so that their aunt, Mrs. Charlotte Beardslee, might be permitted to live there for another three years. Mr. Dewey, after collecting $3,400 damages for the excavation which invaded the corner of the lot, has terminated the lease and will move out of the house on or before April 10.

QUARTON'S NAME STAYS ON BALLOT

Campbell Will Take No Action To Have Opponent Disqualified

Fred V. Quarton is the Republican candidate for board of review in Bloomfield township today. James Campbell, defeated by two votes for the nomination, will not enter action in circuit court to have Mr. Quarton's name ruled from the ballot on the grounds that his petition was not filed the required 20 days before election, he has said.

Mr. Campbell was defeated at the primaries by five votes, and in the recount that he requested, the margin lowered to two votes. The final count was 468 for Quarton and 466 for Campbell.

Indications immediately following the recount were that the matter would be taken to circuit court, and that Mr. Campbell would attempt to have Mr. Quarton declared technically ineligible, but Mr. Campbell has told the township officials that he will press the matter no further, they say.

NATIONALISM IS SPIRIT OF CHINA

Near East Worker Sees Endeavor Toward New Treaties

"Nationalism," Fletcher S. Brockman, administrative secretary, prominent in Y. M. C. A. work, for the Far East of the Foreign Comitee of the National Councils of the Y. M. C. A. of the U. S. and Canada, told H. B. Howarth, of the Whitehead Standart company of Birmingham, "is the spirit that is stirring the people of China today."

Mr. Brockman is administrative secretary for the Far East of the foreign committee of the National councils of the Y. M. C. A.

After 30 years as a Far East representative, he recently returned to the United States and says the whole struggle of the Chinese people is for the abolishment of the unjust treaties with 20 powers and the drawing of new treaties putting their country on a basis with other great nations. "The Chinese," said Mr. Brockman, "are fighting for freedom as America did in 1776."

The idea of national independence got its foothold in China through Sun Yat Sen, born in the U. S., former president of the Cantonese government, when he wrote a book in which he accentuated Three Principles—nationalism, or the spirit of '76; democracy, a government of the people, by the people and for the people; and economics, which means justice to the poverty-stricken millions in China.

Sun Yat Sen was an admirer of Abraham Lincoln and is thoroughly imbued with his principles

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HART TO ATTEND LANSING MEETING

Melvin C. Hart, principal of the Baldwin High School, is the delegate from Birmingham to the representative assembly meeting of the Michigan Educational association to be held at Lansing in the Olds Hotel, March 28 and 29. This assembly meeting is to serve as a program committee for next year's work in the general association, arranging the programs for the various meetings.

ROLL CALL PLANS NEARLY COMPLETE

Will Extend Over Period Of One Month Ending May 19

Plans are rapidly maturing for the Fourth Annual Roll Call of the Community House, so-called of Birmingham, which will this year extend over a period of one month ending on May 19. April 28, the birthday of the association will be celebrated with a birthday party honoring those individuals and groups of the community, who by their interest and support have made this project of broadest community service possible.

From a very modest beginning, the idea conceived by a small committee of public spirited women has grown until it now serves approximately 20,000 people yearly. This number of persons have in one way or another utilized the facilities offered through the medium of the quaint little House of Magic avenue and Bates street.

"The inadequacy of the present environs of the House, in its future use for the service of the 20,000 who have been reached by this branch of service can readily be seen," said Mrs. Charles J. Stand, president of the Community House board. "It is the hope of those who have worked from the beginning, that they may be able to serve a still greater number in the future. It is their aim this year to bring a sufficient number of new friends and members to the project to insure a still broader type of community service, and form a nucleus for a larger House."

Thursday, March 31, is the date of the organization luncheon to be held at the home of Mrs. T. R. Pontiac City Hospital.

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BENJAMIN BROOKS DIES OF PNEUMONIA

Had Been A Resident Of Birmingham For Past Eight Years

After an illness of but four days, Benjamin I. Brooks, 206 north Woodward, is dead today at his home, of pneumonia. Mr. Brooks became ill on Sunday, and died at 9 a. m. yesterday. He was 54 years old.

Mr. Brooks had lived in Birmingham about eight years, where he was in the upholstering business. Prior to coming here, he worked at this business in Chicago and Detroit. He was born in Oshkosh, Wis.

Although definite plans for the funeral have not yet been established, it is known that the services will take place tomorrow at the home.

Besides his widow, Mrs. May Brooks, Mr. Brooks leaves his son, Mr. Sarsh Brooks, and one daughter, Miss Jean Brooks, all of 206 north Woodward avenue.

DEBEAU'S HEARING POSTPONED AGAIN

Case Will Come Up March 30; Was Set For March 16

The hearing of D. J. DeBeau, charged with negligent homicide in the accident as a result of which Miss Marie Lee and Miss Anna Schoppmann, of Quapton road, are dead today, was postponed again yesterday until Wednesday, March 30. It was originally set for Mar. 16, but was postponed from then until yesterday.

DeBeau, whose address is 2295 Grand River avenue, Detroit, is at liberty on bond.

The accident occurred the evening of Mar. 2, on south Woodward avenue, when the car in which the two women were riding collided head on with the car which DeBeau was driving. Miss Fay died immediately. Miss Schoppmann's death occurred Mar. 11 in Pontiac City Hospital.

Treasure Chest Yields Its Mite Toward Camp Site and Cabin

Six men met one evening around a table at the Community House to open a treasure chest which was lying before them. No, they were not pirates, neither were they politicians and the treasure chest was not of oak bound with wrought iron strips, but was a little red tin box sealed over the slit in the top with a strip of adhesive tape.

They called themselves Old Scouts and the box contained for them much more than the intrinsic value of its contents. For they were the men, too old to be Boy Scouts, who sponsor the Boy Scout movement by their dues and their interest and this box contained the contribution of the boys of Birmingham Scout Troop No. 3 to an over night camp site and cabin for Boy Scouts of Birmingham, one of the cherished goals of the Old Scouts.

Scout secretary Max Bugg of Old Scouts had just said with a chuckle as he placed the box on the table, "Well, the contents of this box ought to make a good down payment on that cabin," a comment which closed the discussion as to how more Old Scouts might be induced to join the order.

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TO RENT
Three bedroom house with two-car garage on Smithfield Avenue overlooking River Rouge Valley, newly living room fireplace, $35 lease.
Three bedroom, brick bungalow near school and stores. Steam heat, fireplace in living room. $90 on lease.
Three bedroom Mediterranean home, five bedrooms. Steam heat. $150 on lease.
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WORK IS RESUMED ON BIRMINGHAM'S NEW MOVIE HOUSE

Should Be Ready To Open By September, Say Builders

STARTED LAST FALL

Work on Birmingham's new motion picture theater on south Woodward avenue, is going forward today, in spite of the fact that efforts are being made to obtain an injunction against 100 foot Woodward avenue of circuit court. We are going ahead with the work on the authority of the state administrative board, which has declared that Woodward avenue will be 100 feet wide through Birmingham," H. W. Griffith, of the Bridge Investment company, which is building the theater, told The Eccentric.

Work was started on the building in September, but because of the violent controversy over the width of Woodward avenue, work on it was stopped after the foundations were in. The first excavation was partly filled in last fall, after former Governor Alex Groesbeck declared that Birmingham would have a 150-foot Woodward avenue. The decision of the state administrative board several weeks ago that Woodward avenue would be 100 feet wide, with a 100-foot parallel eventually, settled the Woodward question for the Bridge company, Mr. Griffith said. The hearing pending against the state by Alfred Saur, representing the John Ward Howland Realty company, of Detroit, will not be heard until Monday, Mar. 28.

In addition to the Woodward avenue question, was the dispute over the enforcement of the Sunday blue-law. John H. Kunsky, Detroit theater owner, who will occupy the building, declared that he could not afford to have a theater such as the one under construction promises to be, and not have it open on Sundays.

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EXCHANGITES HEAR GOOD PROGRAM

Detroit Man Delights Listeners With Songs and Readings

Harry MacDonald, general manager of the Arctic Ice Cream company of Detroit, delighted 50 members and guests of the Exchange club Tuesday, when he entertained them with readings, stories and songs after their luncheon at Northwood Inn. Ralph Wilson was responsible for the appearance of Mr. MacDonald who, after a brief reference to his own business, proceeded to read several poems of William Hersch of the Indianapolis Daily Star. Among them were the plaint of a colored janitor "Come Sweet April, Come," and the thoughts of a colored doughboy watching a war plane in the sky, "Mo-mim, Ne-me." With Eddie Edwards at the piano, Mr. MacDonald sang "Alpinaus O'Malt," "Roll On, Beautiful World, Roll On," "Rose of My Heart," and "A Wee Doch and Doris," to an enthusiastic audience.

H. T. Ellerby, the new president of Birmingham, who was a guest of the club, spoke briefly. "Ed Peters is, I believe, a woeful lack of knowledge of our affairs in Birmingham," he said. "Most of us are ignorant about our village and we should each feel it our duty to inform ourselves and work for the best interests of our town. I hope you will come to village commission meetings and

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McCLELLAN IS RE-APPOINTED

Robert K. McClellan was appointed assessor for the village tax roll this year at the meeting of the village commission Monday evening. Mr. McClellan has served three years in this work, and it was because of his splendid work he did during his former appointments that he was re-appointed. The commissioners said.

Mr. McClellan was also authorized to hire a clerk to help him handle the work, inasmuch as, during the last year, approximately 1,000 acres were added to the territory of the village, all of which have to be assessed.

Mr. McClellan expects to start his work within the next few days so that the rolls will be ready by July 1.

MEETING THIRD TUESDAY

The regular meeting of the Women's auxiliary of the American Legion will be held Tuesday. It was postponed from Wednesday, Mar. 16. Hereafter, the regular meetings of the auxiliary will be held the third Tuesday of every month.

REGISTER EARLY

Saturday, Mar. 26, is the last day for registration for the elections April 4, when township, state and county officials will be elected, according to an announcement made today by James V. Bayley, township clerk. There will be no late registrations accepted after 9 o'clock Saturday night, Mr. Bayley said.

Village registration does not entitle the resident to a township vote. Mr. Bayley explained. The resident must be registered in the township election separately.

PROPOSED LAKE WATER DISTRICT CONTROL IS FEARED

Contract Would Give Royal Oak Whip Hand In This Territory

MAY ASK TO POSTPONE

Water, the old familiar bone of contention, was one of the first subjects considered by the new commission Monday night when a letter from the Detroit Water board was read stating that it was out to enter into a contract with Royal Oak which would give Royal Oak control over the Detroit water supply through this territory.

The contract, a copy of which was enclosed in the letter, would require all other municipalities along Woodward avenue, who might wish to get their water supply from Detroit to deal through Royal Oak.

Birmingham has heretofore declined to consider the plan of getting at future water supply from Detroit under such a contract plan by which southeastern Michigan, including Pontiac and Birmingham, would get water eventually from the great lakes, seemed more feasible although much farther into the future.

The fact that Royal Oak was to be given a contract which would make it difficult and expensive for Birmingham to get Detroit water, should they wish to do so, however, was considered a subject for concern.

"It might be well to protect ourselves for the present, if possible, in the matter of this contract," was the comment of Harry C. Starr, village manager. "We confidently expect that Birmingham can continue to supply itself with well water until such time as there has been a Metropolitan Water district properly organized. We shall probably never get water from Detroit, rather from Lake Huron, but these matters are still in the future, and it is probably a good thing to study this document and, if considered necessary, request the Detroit Water Board to delay signing until Birmingham and other interested municipalities can be heard."

The organization of metropolitan water areas has not yet been authorized by law, but it is expected that an amendment to the state constitution authorizing the combination of municipalities for purposes of sharing public utilities will be submitted to vote again this year.

J. H. McBride was a member three years ago of the association from different municipalities which is interested in this particular combination. Mr. McBride represented Birmingham by appointment. The plan which is to be gradually worked out as progress is made would make the great lakes the source of supply for a wide territory, the mains for the different municipalities radiating from one central point under their combined control.

Mr. Starr estimated that if the present contract with Royal Oak were signed by the Detroit Water board, it would cost Birmingham $750,000 for the privilege of getting Detroit water should they ever wish to do so, and they would have to pay Royal Oak a greater rate for their water than Royal Oak was paying Detroit for the same water. All pipe lines, booster stations and equipment, constructed, and paid for out of the $550,000, would be the property of Royal Oak.

The matter was laid on the table for consideration, with the idea of a possible request to the Detroit Water board for the postponement of the signing of the contract.

COMMISSIONERS TO BE ELECTED MAY 10

Tuesday, May 10, has been set as the day for the election of four new commissioners to fill out the seven-man commission, which was voted for at the regular election Mar. 1. Nominating petitions for this election must be filed not later than Apr. 16, it was decided.

The members of the Delphian Society met Tuesday for luncheon at the Chateau Tea Room.

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WIDER WOODWARD HEARING MAY BE POSTPONED AGAIN

Governor Green Unable To Visit Birmingham This Week

FIRST SET FOR FEB. 28

Governor Fred W. Green will be unable to visit Birmingham and investigate personally the Woodward avenue problem before Monday, May 28, according to word received by The Eccentric from his secretary, F. L. Howell. Monday was the day set for the hearing in the Pontiac circuit court of the hearing for an injunction against the state administrative board's decision for a 100 foot Woodward avenue in Birmingham.

Albert F. Saur, president of the John Ward Howland real estate firm, of Detroit, who is active in the appeal for the petition, told The Eccentric that if Governor Green was unable to get to Birmingham before the hearing Monday, he would ask for another postponement of a week or 10 days, until the governor can get to Birmingham to look over the situation.

Governor Green will probably visit Birmingham some Saturday in the near future, Mr. Howell said. Saturday being the only day on which he will be able to get away.

The hearing for the petition for an injunction restraining the state from going forward with a 100-foot Woodward avenue through Birmingham was originally set for Feb. 28, Mr. Saur first sought the injunction Feb. 17.

The Detroit firm originally desired a 200-foot Woodward avenue, declaring that they had sold property with the understanding that this was a highway was to be built. At present, however, Mr. Saur says he favors the 150 plan rather than the 100-foot. "We

(Continued on Page 2)

NEW BANK TO OPEN ABOUT MAY 15TH

Will Have Capital Of $200,000, Surplus of $50,000

Birmingham's new bank, to be known as the Birmingham Savings Bank is under construction today, and will be ready for occupancy about the middle of May, according to John Lawson, one of the directors of the bank. "At that time the bank will become active," Mr. Lawson said. Remodeling of the building will cost approximately $15,000, according to the estimate of Robert Chissus, of the Chissus Brothers contractors, who are in charge. Shares in the bank are on sale today at $125 the share.

Although the building will not be entirely new, the former D. U. R. waiting room below the original building, very little of the old building will be used, Mr. Chissus said. A whole new front will be built and the structure will be up-to-date in all respects. Besides the bank, the building will house a store.

The organization of the bank was perfected last fall, and it will get under way with a capital of $200,000 and a $50,000 surplus.

ROTARIANS HEAR OF NOVEL EXPERIENCE

Philip Colgrove Tells Of Organizing Club On Ship Board.

The novel experience of gathering a group of Rotary members together on ship board and legally organizing a club while traveling across the Atlantic belongs to Philip Colgrove, father of Larry Colgrove, Birmingham realtor.

Mr. Philip Colgrove, speaker at the regular meeting of the Rotary club which boasts of a 100 per cent attendance record for 26 weeks. The experience on ship board was enacted during the Hastings contest so that Mr. Colgrove's absence would not imperil the Hastings club record.

Mr. Colgrove is an attorney, president of the Michigan state roads commission, and active in various movements for better roads throughout Michigan. He spent the week-end with his son Larry Colgrove, who is a member of the real estate firm of Saunders-Colgrove-Buck.

Eight guests were entertained at dinner last Friday evening by Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred J. Woodrum, of Rivenoak avenue.

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