Never a Fall arrives but what I find myself grateful for living in this part of the world, where Nature doth paint foliage in the glorious variety of color. There is something about Autumn that no other season giveth; the thought of out-of-door loveliness that, like beautiful sunsets, is free for the viewing eye.

The Birmingham Eccentric

14 PAGES, PART 1

SIXTY-SECOND YEAR—NO. 27 BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1939 $2.00 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

COURT RULING HITS DRAIN DISTRICTS

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

First-hand observations of the state of mind of the British people, their reaction to the current war, are always interesting; they are especially so when the observer is a trained, objective reporter. That's why, this week, I'm reprinting the words of Floyd J. Miller, publisher of The Royal Oak Daily Tribune, who ten days ago returned from a trip to Europe. Here is what he writes:

What Britons Think

"What do the British people think about the war?"

This is one of the questions most frequently asked of me since my return from Europe.

Obviously a month's residence in the British Isles does not qualify me to speak with the exactness of a Gallup Poll; yet, I did cover a lot of territory from the English channel to the northern end of the Caledonian canal in Scotland. I had an opportunity to talk with hundreds of people and to observe many thousands of them in the throes of war preparation.

The people of Britain are solidly behind their government in the prosecution of the war to abolish Hitlerism. There is no doubt about this.

Memories of the World War are fresh enough so that the present conflict is not being entered into with any feeling that it is a grand adventure. The bands, the cheering, and the flag waving were conspicuously absent. In their stead, there was, however, a deep determination which means trouble for anyone who gets in their way.

My estimate of British opinion was not gathered from high officials and national leaders. Their statements are broadcast to everyone. Instead, I talked to small businessmen, professional people, the men who run the gas stations, waiters, clerks—the average British citizen.

Of all those with whom I came in contact, only a single one uttered any complaint. He was a youngish man who resented the fact that men in skilled trades would not be conscripted for the army, but would be left in the occupations where their services were more needed for the prosecution of war.

"It is men like me who will be the cannon fodder," he sneered. He was a waiter who had already seen a number of his fellow employees called from their jobs to training camp.

A Job to Be Done

The average Britisher, though, said: "This is simply something that has got to be done. It is going to be a tough job, but there is no other way. Our country has tried in every way possible to avoid a war. But we are convinced that the menace of Hitlerism to the whole world grows greater every day. Only one thing will stop this madman. That is force.

"Nobody can believe a single promise he makes. All we can be sure of is that he is going on and on with this bloody business of conquering other peoples.

"We are not trying to be heroic or idealistic. We know that it was Austria and Czechoslovakia yesterday; it is Poland today; it may be us tomorrow. We are going to fight because we have to stop this thing for our own self-protection."

When Czechoslovakia was seized by Hitler last year, the British people were not convinced that they should join in a war on behalf of that dismembered democracy. Even if they had thought so, they were woefully unprepared.

Today Great Britain is really prepared. I have seen a number of the great airplane plants in the northern country. In a number of instances, whole new villages have been created; factories, stores, and homes for the workers. These plants are turning out modern planes at a rate equivalent to or surpassing Germany's production.

There are vast armament works which the average Britisher has never seen, perhaps never heard of. My family and I slept one night within a few miles of one. We passed nearby without realizing its existence, although the people of that region know about it and, so, naturally, does the German spy system.

Criticism Constructive

There is, and will continue to be, criticism of some of the government's methods. That is an excellent thing, for it will tend to detect errors and prevent their continuance.

While I was in England, the Opposition (as the minority party is called) assailed the unsatisfactory way in which Ministry information has been giving out news. Or rather it has been suppressing so much news that the whole country was on edge with uncertainty, and wild rumors were beginning to spread. The Opposition pointed out how stupid handling of information and withholding of vital facts from the public could undermine confidence in the government and its prosecution of the

(See THIS AND THAT Page 2)

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Cheap Insurance is not Good.
National Bank Building—Tel. 321

City Is Named In Suit Filed By Sign Firm

Walker Co. Says Sign Ordinance Is Unconstitutional

The long-threatened legal attack on Birmingham's sign board ordinance became a reality Wednesday when Miss Irene E. Hanley, City Clerk, was served with notice of the suit begun by Walker & Company.

The billboard concern charges that the ordinance is unconstitutional, and the City has been ordered to show cause on Oct. 16 in Circuit Court, Pontiac, why an injunction should not be issued restraining the City from enforcing the ordinance.

The ordinance, adopted here March 20, 1939, prohibits the construction of bill boards in the "Business A" zones, which are the areas away from the downtown section, but adapted to certain kinds of businesses such as gasoline stations. The ordinance orders that billboards not conforming be removed within one year.

Walker & Company, in its petition, pointed out that it has lease holds covering 16 pieces of property in the city, all on Woodward avenue. It also has contracts covering use of the boards. If the company were forced to remove the boards within a year, contracts would be destroyed and property rights confiscated in violation of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution, it was charged.

Rotarians Hear Spirited Talks

A friendly "explosion" added zest to the meeting of the Rotary Club, Monday.

Elton R. Eaton, Plymouth publisher and member of the State Legislature, started out with a legislator's view of the much-debated slash in funds for crippled and afflicted children, and the meeting ended with an extemporaneous espousal of the doctors' side of the controversy, presented by Dr. Harold R. Roehm, long interested in crippled children's work.

Rep. Eaton told how great the problem had become, with "83 blank check books on the State Treasury issued to the probate judges," with the result that expenditures grew larger and larger every year, with a $400,000 overdraft now existing for which no provisions have been made for payment.

He charged that there had been a "transportation racket" and said that one Oakland County official had collected $3,000 in one year for mileage in taking patients to and from the state hospitals, and added that the same man had even collected for taking his own son to the hospital.

"Oakland County has done a

(See ROTARIANS Page 2)

3 Clubs to Hear Labor Relations Man

Rotary, Lions and Exchange Clubs will hold a joint meeting Monday noon to hear a talk by Montague A. Clark, manager of public and industrial relations for the B. F. Goodrich Company. Clark will tell of the policies which have permitted his company to avoid labor difficulties.

Super-Quiet Shop Puzzles City Fathers

The world's quietest factory is about to move into Birmingham. In fact, it promises to be so quiet that the City Commission has agreed to slightly alter the zoning ordinance so that the factory can get into the "Business A" classification, providing no objections are raised at a public hearing to be held in three weeks' time.

J. H. Sheridan, 256 South Woodward (who wants to sell his lot) and Commissioner Lawrence Hulbert went into the question of noise very thoroughly. (The projected building will consist of a show room and a shop in the back where furnace blowers will be assembled.)

"Any cutting?"

"No."

"Any shaping?"

"No."

"Any drill press?"

"No."

"Any hammering of any sort?"

"No"

"Any motors?" Hulbert asked.

"Just one little motor on a paint sprayer," Sheridan said.

Commissioner Hulbert was sur-

(See SUPER-QUIET Page 2)

Heavy Mail Hits Repeal of Embargo

The heaviest mail he has ever received is pouring into his office protesting against repeal of the arms embargo, Rep. George A. Dondero told The Eccentric today. Rep. Dondero is at his Royal Oak home, for the House of Representatives has recessed, pending completion of Senate debate. He is leaving Saturday to return to the Capital.

Rep. Dondero said he had received 4,500 letters, with 95 per cent of them asking him to vote against repeal of the arms embargo. He felt that repeal might be effected by the Senate, but he felt the House would demur. He believes that the embargo law was passed during the days of calmer judgment, and he believes it would be both unwise and unneutral to repeal the law now.

"What if the Allies should experience defeat because of their inability to buy arms here?" he was asked.

"That's a bridge we should cross when we come to it," was the answer.

Plans Go Forward For Woodward Ave. Celebration Nov. 3

Officials of the Committee which is arranging details for the Hunter boulevard-Wider Woodward celebration here Nov. 3, met Tuesday night and continued their plan-making for the banquet, historical pageant and speaking program.

Committees under the direction of General Chairman Richard Harfst, general manager of the Automobile Club of Michigan, decided on preliminary plans and confirmed arrangements made earlier.

Harfst said that invitations had been extended to leaders of the automotive industry to take active part in the ceremonies. The celebration will have wide significance because of the importance of Woodward avenue to the metropolitan and suburban areas from Detroit to Saginaw.

Business Men Still Favoring Angle Parking

City Fathers Table Resolution Asking Woodward Change

Although parallel parking along Woodward avenue is now an accomplished fact, Birmingham merchants are still hopeful that angle parking can be restored, and there was a report current Wednesday that petitions would be circulated asking action.

Monday night, a resolution passed by the Retail Merchants Association was read at the City Commission meeting, but it received no action.

"This parallel parking business is none of our doing," Commissioner Arthur J. Kane declared. "It's a state law and there isn't much we can do about it. I favor parallel parking anyway."

Commissioner Lawrence Hulbert defended angle parking. Commissioner Ray A. Palmer raised the question of the maintenance funds the City would lose if Woodward were changed from a state trunkline highway.

City Manager Donald C. Egbert was asked by The Eccentric the amount of money the City would forfeit, but he was not able to state the amount exactly.

"Monroe gets about $2,500 a year," he said, "and their mileage is about the same as ours."

Maintenance of Hunter boulevard, will of course, be paid by the state.

In the resolution of the Merchants Association, it was charged that available parking space has been reduced 50 per cent by parallel parking. The figure was challenged by Commissioner Luther Heacock, and Police Chief John P. Hackett said he measured one

(See BUSINESS MEN Page 2)

Fire Prevention Week Proclaimed

Fire Prevention Week in Birmingham has been proclaimed by Mayor John E. Martz for the period of Oct. 8 to 14, and it marked the "go" signal for the city's Fire Prevention Bureau, headed by George S. Scott, clerk for the department directed by Chief Verne Griffith.

By putting up posters throughout the city, in stores and schools, by talks in the schools, by newspaper publicity, Scott and Griffith hope to make the city prevention-minded next week, and every week thereafter, if possible.

First, they point out that Birmingham had a fire loss of 47 cents per capita last year, and the loss of one life in an explosion. These losses, while below the national average, can be brought still lower if precautions are taken, it was declared. "An ounce of prevention is worth a ton of ashes," is the slogan coined by Scott for his campaign.

Another project the local bureau will undertake in cooperation with the Public Schools and Holy Name School will be the filling out of questionnaires with 15 questions, such as "Did you know you must have a permit to burn grass? Where do you get a permit to burn grass?"

Messages have also been sent to churches and clubs.

Scott reported that local fire losses have shown a yearly decrease, but for the first six months of this year, there has been a sharp increase. "This may be due to an added number of hazards or neglect on the part of the individual to correct existing hazardous conditions. It is most likely to be the latter," Scott said.

Extra Cash for 25 Deserving Pupils To Be Provided Here by NYA Work

An increase of $2,296,872 in the allotment made to Michigan by the National Youth Administration will enable the Birmingham school system to employ an additional ten students for part-time work in the schools this year, it was revealed by Supt. Howard D. Crull. Thirty high schools in Oakland county will receive $19,332 of the State $3,359,000 total allotment.

Under the NYA plan, Birmingham schools last year employed 15 pupils at part-time jobs. These students earned an average of $4.36 per month. Maximum monthly earnings under the program are $6. This year the local schools will employ 25 students. The distribution planned by school officials is as follows: Baldwin High School, 10 students; Adams School, 5 students: Barnum School, 5 students; Quarton School, 2 students; Pierce School, 2 students; central offices at Hill School, 1 student.

Selection of students for this work, which in Birmingham includes clerical work supervised by office heads, library work, mimeographing, filing, and laboratory and shop equipment work, is made on the basis of need, character, and the ability to maintain satisfactory scholastic averages. Work done by NYA students must be useful and must not infringe on the duties of regular school employees.

"We have no difficulty finding people and giving them work," said Supt. Crull. "The object of the program is not merely to give the students a chance to earn money, but to give them an opportunity to learn to do jobs which they wouldn't be able to learn otherwise. By this I mean that we wouldn't be able to hire students to assist teachers in the laboratories, shops, and offices under ordinary circumstances. The NYA plan gives us a chance to do this."

Victor and Bluebird Records. New releases weekly. Leonard Electric, 142 W. Maple. adv.—tf.

Have You Met?—

Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Heilman of "The Pines" at Quarton and Cranbrook roads? Mr. Heilman, president and general manager of Commonwealth Industries, moved with his wife and two daughters to Birmingham from Detroit about two weeks ago.

The Heilman family includes Ruth, who graduated just last year from Wayne University and is at present teaching in Royal Oak Township. A second daughter, Kathryn who is now attending Kingswood School, completes this family.

Mr. Heilman is a graduate of Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa.

"Inasmuch as we had always lived in the north end of Detroit, when we expanded it was natural for us to move to Birmingham," Mrs. Heilman said this week. "Mr. Heilman wanted a garden and so we had to leave Detroit. I know we will never regret our choice."

YMCA Cage League Will Start Nov. 30

At an organization meeting of the Birmingham Y. M. C. A. Basketball League in the Community House, Tuesday night, it was decided to open the season the last Thursday in November. Several practice sessions will be held prior to the initial game to round the teams into shape for play. The league will consist of six teams, two of which have already been organized, with other teams partly organized.

A meeting will be held on Thursday evening, Oct. 12, in the Community House to further the organization of the league. All sponsors, managers and players are invited to attend this meeting.

Sage Advice from a Grand Old Man—

'If I Were 21 Again'

BY JOHN H. HARWOOD

Living to a ripe, old age is of itself not much of an accomplishment. It's sort of a biological accident. But when an individual achieves longevity plus universal respect, affection, and the facility for being useful in the community when past the age of 80 that IS something.

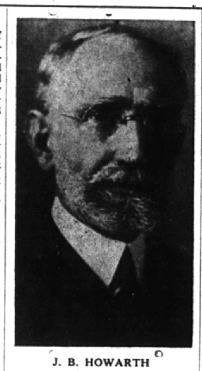
Intrigued by the phenomenon, this writer sought out J. B. Howarth, one of the State's Grand Old Men, and asked him "how he got that way"—what was his formula for avoiding the dismal fate of obsolescence which envelopes both man and machine.

Before going to see "J. B.", we instinctively felt that he would have more to say than to offer advice to stay away from strong cigars and bad whisky. Our expectations were well-founded. J. B. Howarth does have something to say: something eminently practical and worthwhile.

Question Is Put

The question out to Mr. Howarth was this: "What would you do if you were 21 again?"

His eyes twinkled a bit as his memory ran back those eight decades, over a period of three wars, half a dozen depressions and panics—over events and the footsteps of people known to 99 per cent of Americans only through history books. Some of the happenings in his life were recalled briefly—and the word."briefly" is used without



J. B. HOWARTH

reserve—for "J. B." is not garrulous, and oft times, his remarks were punctuated with the observation, "I doubt if any of that will be of interest to anyone."

He remembered his youth in Westford Township, Massachusetts, where his parents had lived since coming to America from England in 1842, and recalled that his schooling at the Westford Academy was cut short when the Depression of 1873 struck, and he went to work as a clerk in a general store. Then followed the only further schooling in "J. B.'s" career—a term at the Eastman National Business College in Poughkeepsie, N. Y. At the age of 17, he came with his parents to Detroit, and he secured a job with the former shoe-manufacturing firm of Pingree & Smith. Eight years later, he was a partner in the firm, and then president, finally liquidating the business in 1917, going to France in Y. M. C. A. work. It was in 1920 that he became a citizen of Birmingham.

Not Half the Story

That, biographically, is Mr. Howarth, but it does not tell half the story, nor the really important facts. Nor does it answer the question—what would John Bradshaw Howarth do if he were 21 again?

"I've had a good deal of luck in my lifetime—perhaps more than I deserved," he said. "I've led a charmed life. In the first place I had a fortunate to inherit a good constitution, and I've taken fairly good care of it.

"Drink or smoke? No, I haven't, but I don't count that any great virtue.

"Looking back over my lifetime,

(See HOWARTH Page 2)

Annual Roll Call Teas Announced

A series of teas for workers in the annual Red Cross Roll Call in Birmingham was announced this week. The Roll Call will start Oct. 16.

Each leader of the various sections in Birmingham is having a group tea at her home to which all her workers are invited. Instructions will be given and plans discussed at the meeting preceeding the tea. Anyone wishing to assist in this campaign for Red Cross memberships, which have to be increased in every chapter owing to the War in Europe, may contact the leader in her district or phone Mrs. H. H. Corson, Birmingham chairman.

Mrs. Howard R. Estes, will have the first tea for all the workers east of Woodward between Charing Cross road and 14 Mile road, on Friday, Oct. 6, at her home, 492 Rivenoak.

Mrs. L. M. Woolson, 888 Waddington, will have her tea Monday at 3 p. m. for the workers north of Maple to Quarton road and between Chesterfield road and West Bloomfield road.

At one o'clock on Tuesday, Mrs. George T. Jeffers, 660 Suffield, will have a dessert luncheon for her group, which will have charge of the area between Quarton Lake, and Chesterfield road, north to Quarton road and south to Maple avenue.

At 3 o'clock Tuesday, Mrs. R. J. Waterbury, 515 Williamsbury road, will be hostess to her aides who will solicit membership in the section south of Maple to 14 Mile road, and between Southfield road and West Bloomfield road.

Mrs. Fred J. Zoellin, 759 Hazelwood, has invited her workers for Wednesday at 2. This group will canvass the area between Quarton Lake and Woodward avenue, and between Maple and Quarton roads.

Mrs. Satia York Osborne, 685 Pierce, has offered her home for the joint tea of all the workers in the large area between Maple avenue and 14 Mile road, and between Woodward avenue to and including Southfield road. The leaders in charge of this tea are Mrs. Victor Ogden, Mrs. Ernest J. Shipman, Mrs. A. H. Meyer, Mrs. David W. Hawksworth, and Mrs. Walter M. Lpps.

Birmingham Faculty Swears Allegiance To the Constitution

Teachers in the Birmingham schools have been active since Sept. 29 taking the oath of allegiance to the Constitution as required by state law, it was revealed today by Supt. Howard D. Crull. Within a few days, all will have met the requirement. The penalty for failure to swear allegiance is forfeiture of state certificates.

Mr. Crull stated that letters were sent from his office yesterday to all supply teachers notifying them of the act and explaining the details of meeting the loyalty requirements.

It is suggested that any qualified teacher desiring to keep her teaching certificate valid and not now employed should communicate with either E. J. Lederle, Commissioner of the Oakland County Schools, or call the office of the Board of Education in Birmingham, for information.

Jaycees Set Nov. 10 For Charter Fete

Members of the Junior Chamber of Commerce have set Nov. 10 as the date for their charter presentation ceremony at which time national officers will officially present the charter to the local chapter. A banquet will precede the ceremony at the Community House. National and State officers of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and Birmingham city officials will be invited to attend this ceremony.

Ralph Lynn was appointed to the Board of Directors to succeed William Merz who resigned, and Robert L. Clark was elected as secretary of the organization.

The meeting was held Monday evening at the Community House. Next meeting of the newly organized group will be held Monday evening at 8 p. m. also at the Community House. The group plans to cooperate with the ticket sale for the new highway celebration in November.

Two Bicycle Mishaps in A Week Bring Warning from Chief Hackett

With two bicycle mishaps resulting in the past week through violation of city ordinance and state law, Police Chief John P. Hackett today warned Birmingham boys and girls that they must observe the rules.

Two persons riding on one bicycle is prohibited, the Chief said, calling attention to the fact that last Saturday and last Wednesday, the law was violated and two bicycles were struck by automobiles.

The most recent mishap occurred at 1:15 p. m., Saturday, when a bicycle ridden by Gordon Bernier, 10, of 1352 Webster, and by another boy whose name was not reported to police, was struck by an auto driven by Ernest H. Coffin, 59, 1609 South Bates street.

Beauty Rest Mattresses Repaired.
Royal Mattress Co., Phone B'ham 1-0788
adv.—tf.

Hunter Boulevard Mishaps Continue

Hunter boulevard, with its lack of traffic control signals because of current construction, was the scene of two more accidents during the past week making it a more dangerous thoroughfare than Woodward avenue.

Last Friday, at 6:10 p. m., two cars collided as one tried to turn off Hunter onto Oakland avenue. The machine was driven by Remmel Williams, 40 years, old, of 1178 Northlawn, Detroit, while the other car was operated by J. A. Tallant, 36, of 621 Lawson, Royal Oak. No one was hurt.

Last Saturday, at 1:35 p. m. at Hunter and Forest, an identical mishap occurred. William Hinch, 63, of Flint, was turning off Hunter when his machine collided with one driven by James H. Herbst, 17, of 972 Oxford drive, Birmingham. None was hurt.

Hunter has no lights at night, no lane markings, and no traffic signals, as yet. A speed limit of 20 miles an hour is ignored by many motorists.

(Editor's Note—Mrs. Katherine W. George discusses the matter in her column this week, The Women's Angle, to be found on an inside page.)

Hallowe'en Plans Are Going Forward

While Europe gathers guns and shells for its "recreation," Birmingham is busy gathering the raw materials for the funfest which will be held Hallowe'en.

Arrangements are being made for bushels and bushels of apples, gallons of cider and milk, the carcass of one tender steer suitable for barbecuing, sandwiches and plenty of bread, and much other provender.

Committee members met Tuesday afternoon at the Community House and made further plans. F. W. Toothacker acted as chairman in the absence of Charles J. Shain, who is expected back in the city next week.

Orders Taxes Paid in Area West of City

Holds Bloomfield Bonds Valid; Total Involved, $675,000

A blow to taxpayers in the district west of Birmingham, and of grave consequence to Oakland County as a whole was the judgment entered in U. S. District Court by Judge Edward A. Moinet, ordering the spreading of taxes for payment of the $675,000 in bonds issued by the Bloomfield Village Drainage District and the Bloomfield No. 1 Storm Sewer Drainage District. The federal jurist completely reversed the Oakland Circuit Court and the State Supreme Court, both of which had ruled the bond issues invalid.

Sweeping Judgment

Judge Moinet, in a sweeping judgment in favor of the bondholders, ordered and enjoined:

(1) Assessment of taxes as soon as possible in the two drainage districts to resume payment of principal and interest.

(2) Oakland County must pay at once into the bond funds the $29,294.14 diverted from the funds by the county. Interest at 5 per cent since Nov. 1, 1932 must also be paid.

(3) Payment of interest at 6 per cent on the defaulted bond principal.

(4) Payment to the bond funds the $53,656 and other monies salvaged from closed banks, plus interest at 5 per cent.

(5) If the bonds can not be paid from the proper funds, they become the obligation of the county general fund—providing constitutional limitations on debt are not exceeded thereby.

(6) The Oakland Hills Country Club and the International Realty Company and others are perpetually restrained from proceedings which would impede carrying out the acts ordered by the court.

County May Appeal

The full implications of the judgment are not yet known. County Drain Commissioner Earl Clark said Wednesday afternoon that the County Civil Counsel, Harry Merritt, had not yet determined whether to appeal the decision, or whether a refunding deal with the bondholders might be advisable. An appeal may be taken within 60 days to the U. S.

(See ORDERS TAXES Page 2)

'Y' Clubs Ready For Fall Program

The local Young Men's Christian Association will open its fall and winter activities Monday evening when the "Y" clubs at Adams and Quarton schools will meet. Tuesday, the two clubs at Barnum will have their opening meeting, and Wednesday evening the clubs at Baldwin High will start their season's program. The Pierce clubs will start at a later date.

Among the leaders of the boys' groups are Lloyd Chapman, Larned Goodrich, Wilson Jenkin, Roland Erickson, Homer Roberts, Fred Cushing and Rudolph Boyce. The leaders of the girls' groups will be Dorothy Roberts, Lois Chapman and others to be selected. The group program includes group discussion, talks, stories and games.

The game room in the Community House will open Monday, Oct. 9, at 4 o'clock. The director of the game room will be Rudolph Boyce. It is expected that the room will be open three nights a week after school and in the evening and Saturday mornings. A great variety of games have been secured in addition to ping pong. There is no charge for the use of these games.

The basketball league is planning to get under way earlier this year and the men's volley ball group will begin very soon on Monday evenings at Barnum gymnasium.

Class in Photography May Be Offered

A night school class in photography will be offered if enough students desire it, Supt. Howard D. Crull announced today. He asked that prospective members of such a class contact his office or E. A. Hubbard at the High School. Much interest has been shown in commercial subjects, Crull said. A group of women is also interested in an afternoon home economics class, he added.

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