



4th Year

July 7, 1975

Number 27

A.I.P. Offers Help

Representatives of the American Independent Party recently attended a meeting of Southern California professional animal owners and trainers and pledged A.I.P. support in opposing the new state Wild Animal Control Law.

Appearing on behalf of the A.I.P. were Dotty McCurdy, George Shea and Mr. Andreari. The meeting was held at Margaret Holter's and was attended by over 30 local owners and trainers.

CARSON & BARNES CIRCUS

Circus fans from Des Moines turned out to visit the Carson & Barnes Circus at Oakland (Iowa) reports showman C. C. Day. The show pulled two full houses here and in fact has been doing well this season. They're playing in small farm towns that haven't seen a circus in many years.

This year's program is very good and no doubt is one of the best shows being presented. The
(Continued on Page 6)

In addition to the A.I.P. speakers, the meeting featured tape recordings of TV appearances by Kari Jones and Ray Chandler during which they spoke out against the law.

A.I.P. is the first nationally recognized political party to publically take a stand against this controversial law.

Among those owners and trainers attending the meeting were: Margaret Holter, Bob Kel-
(Continued on Page 14)

William Kay Circus

... by RALPH
HENDERSON

A group of us, including the youngsters who live at St. Joseph's Childrens Home (Spokane, Wash.) recently visited the Wm. Kay Shrine Circus at Lewiston (Idaho) and had a great time.

They had a nice program with some good come-in numbers. William Kay was the announcer, while John Malet served as musical director. Clown Alley included: Blinko, Bubba Hastings, Al Ross and Joe Sherman.

The Program featured:-

The Yano chimps
Missouri, the unrideable mule
Geronomo - sponge dive
Bisbinis - unsupported ladders
The Four Dubskys - perch act
John Cline - liberty horses
The Jordanas - upsidedown cycle
Miss Yolanda - single trapeze
The Royal Hungarians - risley
John Cline - elephants
The leaps - over elephants
Gina's Uncaged leopards
The Wallendas - high wire.

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High School Horse with a complete routine	\$ 450
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CIRCUS VISIT

The Big John Strong Circus played here in Atlanta (Ga.) for two days (June 19-20) and encountered driving rain and bad winds. The show was set-up on an asphalt lot and looked impressive, but the bad weather kept the crowds small.

Members of the Duggan Brs CFA Tent held a meeting and picnic at the circus (June 19) between shows, sharing the meal with the circus personnel. Those attending included: Mr. & Mrs. Bill Laney; Mr. & Mrs. M. Sullivan; Charlie Hanson; Charlie Campbell; Bob Brisendine; Paul Fitzpatrick and John Cooper.

.... Paul Fitzpatrick

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Ready For '75 Season

California has produced its share of circuses and probably will continue to do so for years to come - but a new, one ring, two man circus has appeared this summer.

The circus - none other than Swan Bros. Circus - complete with clowns, trapeze, magic, wire acts, juggling and animals - is real and circusy. It is produced by Mike and Andy Swan, and is no doubt, the only two man show on the road today.

Mike Swan toured with the Fisher Bros. Circus in '74 and also appeared with other shows. He decided, this year, to return home and attend college, his brother was already in school and also had previous circus experience.

So now on weekends and during the summer, Andy and Mike take their Swan Bros. Circus on the road - playing fairs and at shopping centers.

Mike says they do it all - it's hard work, but helps keep the overhead down.

Their program includes:-

Juggling - Andy
 Clown gag - Balloons - Mike
 Trapeze - Mike
 Long Shirt Gag - Andy and Mike
 Plate Spinning - Andy and Mike
 Rola Bola - Mike
 Albino Jargo act - both boys
 Magic - Mike
 Clown Levitation - both boys
 Low Wire - Andy
 Balancing act - Mike
 Juggling - Andy and Mike

PEOPLE

ROGER SMITH, animal trainer, has joined the Clyde Bros. Circus Red Unit. He has taken over the tiger and elephant acts during the absence of ANDRE SKARBECKI.

BOB GOLDEN and CURT NEVIN claim to have the highest sway pole act ever. Their poles are mounted on top of the 300 ft. observation tower at Six Flags Park in Arlington, Texas.

STEVANA SCOTT (aerialist) and SERGE (Landkas) CORONA were recently married.

CHARLIE CAMPBELL reports that PETE CRISTIANI and JAKE (Rosy) ROSENHEIMER are planning to take out their own circus.

BILL HOOPER recently returned to his home in Mesquite (Texas) after attending the CFA Convention in Providence, R.I.

Dog act - Mike
 High wire - Andy and Mike

..... M. L. Dupont

Enthusiastic About Circus



Those who have seen the 1975 Sole Bros. Circus are enthusiastic about the show and in fact have called it "Australia's best big top entertainment."

The circus is said to be clean and neat, both inside and out. The show moves on a minimum number of trucks, which requires compact loading of each unit. The trucks are painted white, with red and blue lettering. Admission prices are: \$3.00, \$4.00 and \$5.00.

ACTS SET

Several acts have been set to appear with the Frank Brown's Int'l Circus at Mexico City for the period July 25-Aug. 31.

These acts include: The Nerveless Nocks, Pio Nock Family Stephenson's Dogs, The Dymecks and Pat Anthony's lions and tigers.

sawdust trail

A vacuum cleaner company is using Emmett Kelly, Jr. in its TV commercial. Kelly does an act with broom and spotlight, ending when the vacuum sucks up the light.

Franzen Bros. is back in Wisconsin, after a tour that got started in March, in Texas.

Hunt Bros. Circus has not released its route, but this reporter has learned their 1975 season is fully booked and already they have planned their 1976 tour, with many signed engagements.

This year's program features:

- Joseph Eroni - lions (4)
- Bobo and Phil Lennon - comedy
Fire Dept. number
- Jenny and Jan - swinging ladder
- Lindsay Perry and "Mustard" the
novelty pony
- Mervyn and Phyllis Nairn - per-
forming poodles (5)
- Bobo and Phillip - clowns
- Carl Harrison - juggling
- Joseph Eroni - camels (2) and
three ponies
- Duo Revelles - iron jaw number
-- Intermission --
- Phillip Lennon - Crazy Muldoon
- Miss Susan - rope descent
- Bobo and Babs - trampoline
- Phil Lennon - whip cracking
- Lindsay Perry - liberty horses
- Marveen and Phyllis - juggling
- Clown Entree
- The Revelles - high perch
- Clown Entree
- Lindsay Perry - elephants (4)

Clown Danny Chapman and his aerialist wife, Sarah, formerly with RBBB, are currently working for the Circus Museum in Florida.

..... M. L. Dupont

CIRCUS Kirk

.... by JACQUELINE
LICHTENBERG

Circus Kirk 1975 is an experience and a half, especially if you have spent the first half of the season attending the slick professional shows. The back lot is clean and neat, the entire complement - performers and work hands - small and somehow new-looking. Why? Because Circus Kirk is a "student circus," hiring college students with an ambition to travel with the circus.

With three rings this year, they still retain the intimate atmosphere of the early one ring show. The standard ring curb, of the center ring, almost touches the stringers on both sides of the tent. It lends a sense of "immediacy" to what you see.

The most outstanding "difference" with Circus Kirk though is their total determination not to "con" you into thinking you see something that isn't there. In the side show, the more mystifying illusions are explained. The ones, like "The Electric Girl" that any college freshman should be able to figure out are left as exercises for the student.

Perhaps the most noticeable instance of the philosophy of the show is visible in the performance itself. And this may be the show's greatest fault or its greatest strength, depending on your point of view. It is a total lack of "professional polish" among the performers.

There is a universe of difference between being able to accomplish a feat and being able to "perform" the feat to an audience. At the former, few could really fault the Circus Kirk troupe, at the latter, few

professionals would consider them unusually talented.

I had the feeling, though, that they could learn if it were called for by the underlying philosophy of the show. "Professional polish" is mostly a matter of making the relatively easy thing look difficult and a relatively difficult thing look easy. It is a matter of being able to generate such an intensity of joy within what you are doing that you are able to project that joy to the audience. But most performers do not find this joy in everything they do, and thus they learn to "fake it"

Circus Kirk is no fake. And I don't feel they would fake it if they could. However, in this new showcase of student talent, one day we may find a gem such as a Lillian Leitzel or an Alfredo Codona. The very reality of their charisma will be all the more exciting against

(Continued on Page 11)

FOR SALE

RARE OLD CARNIVAL PHOTOGRAPHS

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Two birds-eye photos of the 1931 J. L. LANDES SHOWS on the main streets of Washington, Kans.

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SHOW TALENT

The program currently being presented by Circus Royale, in Australia, features:-

Los Tonaris - balancing act
Clown Entree

Miss Sonia - ladder ballet
Clown Entree

Duo Anthony - high perch

Fraspa - single trapeze

Las Someros - slack wire
Clown Entree

Miss Pearl - solo trapeze

-- Intermission --

Performing group of camels

Clown Entree

The Great Silvanos

Clown Entree

Sandros - plate spinning

CARSON & BARNES (Continued)

music is excellent, with Emil Hahn directing.

The program features:-

Circus Spec - Entire company
Donald Carr - lions and tigers
Teresa, Joanna, Irene - loops
Don Carr - lion riding elephant
Ramos Duo and Andreas Duo - jug
Ricci Macias and Alfredo Morales - tight wire

Juan Mendiola - foot juggler
The Circus Clowns

Spec - Around the World
Lucianna, Andreas Ramos, and
Rebecca - aerial feature

Morales Family - teeterboard
The Oscarrians - risley

Beauty and the beasts

The Circus Clowns

Aerial Ballet

Connors and Wrights - dogs

Rosario - contortionist

Fernando Ramos and Manuel Ramos
- one finger stands

The Condoras and The Constellations - tight wire

Riding Ramos Family - bareback

The Circus Clowns act

Three rings of elephants

Ampara, Rosalba, Magdelene - a
hair hang display

Trained miniature stallions

Vincente, Ricci, Roberto, David
and Juan - rola bola

The Meteors and The Aztecas -
flying acts

Clown Entree

The Flying Royales (Anton Gasser, catcher; Frank Gasser, flyer; Julie Peterson, asst., and Paul Haersany, clown)



Photos by Bob Sherman

Dannielle and the Silent Killer (left), and fire-eater Fred Lulling working out

Where Life Is a Carnival

When Tex Murray gave up his human-cannonball act after a particularly bad shot and decided to turn his 13-year-old daughter, Dannielle, into a sideshow snake handler, he came to Gibsonton, Fla., where he knew he could get it together. Fred Lulling did the same thing when he gave up a career as a teacher to hit the carnival trail. All winter long, Dannielle has been working out every afternoon after school with a 10-foot, 60-pound boa constrictor in the yard beside her father's cramped house trailer, while Lulling sits under a tree in another part of town eating fire and perfecting his moves to become "Mephisto." "You want to learn a sideshow act," says Murray, "you got to come to Gibtown. There's no place like it in the country."

There isn't. For a half century, seedy little Gibsonton, an unkempt knot of cinderblock buildings and house trailers along U.S. 41 just off Tampa Bay, has been the winter haven of the carny people. They start rolling south in November, when the last of the northern fairs close, an exotic invasion of campers, trailers and trucks piled high with folded midway rides and pulling brightly painted wagons. Until March, they double the town's population to nearly 5,000, packing the bar at Showtime, U.S.A., or filling the chairs in the Magic Mirror Beauty Salon to swap summer tales of dusty midways and a hundred tiny carnivals.

Here are the sword swallows and fire eaters, people who keep chimpan-

ROUTES

Allen's Pet Zoo
July 9-13 Gilroy, Calif.

Beatty-Cole Circus
July 7 Portsmouth, N.H.
8 Laconia
9 Manchester
10 Fitchburg, Mass
11 Worcester
12 Holyoke

Carden-Johnson Circus
July 7 Wolf Pt., Mont.
9 Willeston, N.D.

Carson & Barnes Circus
July 7 Slayton, Minn.
8 Glenco
9 Benson
10 Glenwood
11 Sisseton, S.D.
12 Breckenridge,
13 Ada Minn.

Hubert Castle Circus
July 7-8 Missoula, Mont.
9 Bozeman
10-11 Billings
12 Glendive
13 Dickinson

Clyde Bros. - Blue Unit
July 4-6 Ocean City, Md
10-12 Berea, Ohio

Clyde Bros. - Red Unit
July 8 LaCrosse, Wsc.
9-10 Iowa City, Iowa
11 Centerville
12 Oskaloosa
13 Fairfield

Circus Kirk
July 7 Nantucket, Mass
9 Martha's Vinyd
10 Rochester
11 Maynard
12 Gardner

Hoxie Bros. Circus
July 7 Camp Hill, Pa.
8 Harrisburg
9 Myerstown
10 Epharta
11 Lancaster
12 York

King Bros. Circus
July 7 Springville, NY
8 Carristeeo
9 Warsaw
10 Le Roy
11 Niagara Falls
12 Brockport
13 Phoenix

Lewis Bros. Circus
July 7 Waynesboro, Pa.
8 Chambersburg
9 Cristiana
10 Birdsboro
11 Southampton
12 Hampton Lakes, NJ

Pickle Family Circus
July 4-6 San Francisco, Cal

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
July 8-16 Houston, Texas

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
July 8-13 San Diego, Cal.

Royal Bros. Circus
July 4 Neepawa, Manit.Can

Royal Lipizzan Show
July 8 Long Beach, Cal.
10-13 Anaheim

Royal Palace Circus
July 1-3 Bridgeport, Conn.

Royal Rar. Circus
July 7 Webster, NY
8 Dansville
9 Caledonia
10 Dundee
12 Skaneateles
13 Minoa

Rudy Bros. Circus

Jr. Barnett Shows
July 9-12 Laredo, Mo.

Big J. Amusements
July 8-13 Wheaton, Ill.

Blue Water Festival
July 7-13 Pt. Huron, Mich.

Lawrence Carr Shows
to Jul 12 Lewiston, Me.

Central States Show
July 9-12 Lebanon, Kans.

Century 21 Shows - Blue
Jul 11-19 Peoria, Ill.

Century 21 Shows - Red
Jul 11-19 Peoria, Ill.

Eric Clapton Shows
July 7 Minneapolis, Minn
8 Madison, Wisc.
10 Kansas City, Mo
11 St. Louis
12 Indianapolis, Ind

Continental Shows
July 7-12 Plattsburgh, NY

Cumberland Valley Shows
July 7-12 Scottsboro, Ala.

Dell & Travers Shows
July 9-19 Glen Burnie, Md.

James H. Drew Shows
July 7-12 Vincennes, Ind.

Evans United Shows
Jul 10-13 Waukon, Iowa

Foley & Burk Shows
to Jul 13 Pleasanton, Cal.

Fun City Amusements
Jul 7-12 Ontario, NY

Goodings Midway
Jul 11-19 Bangor, Me.

Great Catskill Fair
to Jul 13 Monticello, NY

Happyland Shows

12 Gardner
 Circus Kingdom
 July 1 Gene Autry, Okla

Circus Vargas
 July 7-8 Waukegan, Ill.
 9-10 Benton, Mich
 11 Mason
 12-14 Mt. Clemens

Dailey Bros. Circus
 July 2 McCall, Idaho

Diamond S. Rodeo
 July 7 Asbury Park, NJ
 8 Hazelet
 9 Carteret

Europorama
 July 7 Fargo, N.D.
 8 Watertown
 9 Sioux Falls
 10 Sioux City, Iowa
 11 Omaha, Nebr.
 12 Council Bluffs
 13 Des Moines, Iwa

Happytime Circus
 July 9-14 Novato, Calif.

Rudy Bros. Circus
 July 9-13 Minneapolis, Minn

Schmidt Circus
 July 10-11 Browerville, Minn
 12-13 Miltone

Sells & Gray Circus
 July 7 Janesville, Wisc
 8 Whitewater
 9 Menomonee Falls
 10 Watertown
 11 Port Washington
 12 Sheboygan
 13 Fond du Lac

John Strong Circus
 July 7 Richmond Hghts, Oh.
 8-9 Cleveland
 10-11 Buffalo, NY
 13-14 Mississauya, Can.

Wenatchee Youth Circus
 July 5 Lake Chelan, Wash.
 12 Richland

.... OTHER ROUTES

American Freedom Train
 July 11 Grnd Rapids, Mich

Happyland Shows
 Jul 7-12 Travers City, Mich

W. H. Harden Shows
 Jul 7-12 Canton, NC

Kramien's Magic Capades
 July 7 Great Falls, Mont
 11-12 Missoula

Magnolia State Shows
 Jul 8-13 Canton, Miss.

Mid-South Shows
 Jul 7-12 Calvert City, Ky

Millers Great Shows
 Jul 10-13 Union, Mo.

Reithoffer Shows
 July 8-12 Trumansburg, NY
 8-12 Baltimore, Md

Peru Circus Festival
 Jul 11-12 Peru, Ind.

Rose City Rides
 July 9-12 Clarence, Mo.

Tip Top Shows - Blue
 Jul 10-13 Two Rivers, Wsc

CARNIVAL (Continued)

zees and lions, and one man who exhibits a menagerie of two-headed calves, extra-limbed farm animals and fur-covered chickens. A few sly-eyed pitchmen mix in with the sign painters, gypsy mechanics and concessionaires, with their stocks of buttons and posters and banners and plastic jewelry. Here, too, the freaks—those unfortunates who could find no other work but to exhibit their bizarre bodies—have chosen to live together for half the year in a community that barely notices their specialness.

Eddie's Hut: It all began one winter in 1924 when Grace and Eddie LeMay—who had been running cook houses on carnival midways—stopped along the Alafia River to do a little chub fishing. They liked it, built a restaurant called Eddie's Hut, and invited down their friends, who were all carnival people themselves. Soon, the carnies were making annual pilgrimages to Gibtown, as they called it, and a small seasonal community of tents and trailers and leaning, slapdash houses sprouted around Eddie's place.

In those days, sideshows were heavy with performing freaks, and so the population of Gibsonton began to grow curiouser and curiouser. Al Tomaini the 8-foot giant came and built a fishing camp; he was followed by Col. Caspar Balsam, the midget; "Happy Dot" Blackhall, the 602-pound fat lady, and the tiny Tracey couple, a pair of midgets who traveled with a collection of dwarf cattle. Soon, pinheads, legless acrobats and men with clawed limbs were settling in, because it was a place where they could be with their own. Some, like Percilla and Emmet Bejano, married and appeared as "The Monkey Lady and the Alligator-Skinned Man." (Long, black hair covers her face and body; most of his skin is layered in scales.) "Why, you never thought anything about seeing a man with no legs or a lady with a beard," says Grace LeMay, now 81 and something of the town's first lady. "They were just plain folks and this was their hometown." Down at the post office, in fact,

the postmaster built a tiny desk to serve the dwarfs.

Sealo: A lot of that has changed in the last few years. Al the Giant, who ran the volunteer fire department, is dead and so is Colonel Casper, who served as town constable. Happy Dot and Bobby Jean Taylor, who once worked the sideshows billed as the Dog-Faced Woman, both are gone too. Others have quit. Stanley Berent, 72, who was billed as Sealo the Seal Man for 52 years because of the tiny, flipper-like hands that grow out of his shoulders, lives in a tiny retirement cottage behind the Showman's Club. Not far away is the home of Johann Peterson, another 8-footer who left the business a few seasons ago.

This month, as the carnies begin their northward trek, there will be only seven sideshows, with less than twenty freak acts among them. And some will be buttressed by newcomers like Dannielle Murray and Fred Lulling, normal people doing freaky stunts. "With the advances in medical science," says Ward Hall, who has packaged sideshows for 31 years, "it's difficult these days to find new freaks."

'My Own Way': Those that remain, like the Bejanos, who have been at it 50 years, are fiercely independent and react angrily to pity. "I have made my own way," says Percilla Bejano.

But even as the freaks pass into an unromanced history, Gibsonton will remain a carny town. Two factories to build and repair thrill rides have sprouted on the edge of town, and there are new shops to handcraft carnival games. A degree of permanence has come about. There is a new elementary school and some folks are even beginning to discuss incorporating Gibsonton as a village. And though few appear to have become wealthy in the sideshow game, the enterprising carny folks do keep trying. If all goes well this summer, Lulling, 28, will swallow fire all over the country for Ward Hall. And Tex Murray will open an act called "Dannielle and the Silent Killers of the Jungle."

—WILLIAM SCHMIDT



The above picture was taken at Scranton, Pa., on June 22, 1938, it shows workmen dismantling the Ringling-Barnum Circus in preparation for its trip back to winterquarters after the show folded because of a strike, when employees refused to take a wage cut.

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CIRCUS KIRK (Continued)

this very painfully honest background.

A round of applause for Circus Kirk - playing to full houses (about 1400) on an all-sponsored route. Don't miss it if they hit your town - especially if you are saturated with professional glitter to the point where you take polish for the norm.

currently touring with the Circus Schreiber in Sweden.

PEOPLE

FRANCIS BRUNN, juggler, is

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Llama: Works liberty drill on lunge or will work in mixed animal act.

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AN ELEPHANT TAKES A WALK

When the Al G. Clark Bros. Circus set up on a vacant lot at Shelley (Idaho) for their June 23rd engagement, they didn't bother to chain down their elephant. As a result "Susie" was free to roam and feed in the open field, but things looked greener elsewhere and so Susie took a walk - to look over the town.

Susie peeped into a bedroom window, dragged a lawn mower through a yard, chewed on various trees and shrubs and helped to trim a few lawns. She was soon discovered and reported to the local police.

Two officers tried in vain to coax Susie back to the circus lot and in fact ended up being dragged across a field. Then when it seemed that the policemen would be unable to cope with the situation a circus man arrived on the scene.

He spoke to Susie, took hold of her ear and they both ran off to join the circus folks who were getting ready to start their performance.

A.I.P., OFFERS HELP (Continued)

logg, Smokey, Beverly and Kari Jones, Ray and Thelma Chandler, George Toth, Bob Nance, Lou and Betty Schumacher, Clark McDermott, Fay Gordon, Margaret Gentry, Bill and Margene Rivers, Daryl Keener, Bob and Marilyn Holter, Carol Weinhart, Gail Holter, Gary Fristram, Ron Oxley, Gordon Caselon, Lucille Remier, Kathy Holter, Dick Drake, Marty Dinnes, Peter Gros and Joe Harmit plus Craig Stoats of the Sun Telegram.

SATISFYING SHOW

The first of several shows scheduled to play Indiana during the next few weeks arrived for an engagement at Elkhart on Jun. 17th. This was the always interesting Int'l All Star Circus.

They gave one show, at 7:30 p.m. with the program that ran as follows:-

Color Book Pitch - Popcorn the Clown (Ton Sink)
Circus Overature
Craig Carlson - tumbling
Patti Rucker - foot juggling
Terry O'Brien - wire act
Randon Sink - two baby chimps
Clown number - The Telephone
Hines & Patti Rucker - magic
Craig Carlson - hand balancing
Hines & Patti Rucker - leopards
-- Intermission --
Tom and Randon Sink - dogs (6)
Craig Carlson - ventriloquist
Terry O'Brien - Unicycle act
Clown number - Strativarrio
Hines & Patti - trunk illusion
Craig Carlson - stilt walking

W&R Notes

As of today (July 7) the Wallace & Rogers Circus entered the Northwest Territories - the first circus to ever play this area.

Late last month the show received its custom-made concession trailer. It offers a combination of space for concession equipment, office and ticket window, and living quarters.

The circus also added a new truck for the seals and bird act. It replaces the one that was damaged sometime ago in an accident.

Send Cards

Former circus man Ray Johnston continues to be confined to a Southern California hospital and needs your encouragement. Although he is unable to write, he would appreciate hearing from friends in the circus world.

Write to: Ray Johnston,
Long Beach General Hospital,
(Wing 400) 2597 Redondo Avenue,
Long Beach, Calif. - 90806.

Bob Enrico reports his side show has been doing well. He's added a silky chicken to his animal collection and expects new magic to arrive soon.

ACTS WANTED OPENING MICH. SEPT. 10

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