

CONNECTIONS

Spring, 1999

Spring Luncheon Planned for April 21, 1999



The American Drug Stores Alumni Club has scheduled its Spring Luncheon for Wednesday, April 21, 1999, at Cress Creek Country Club, in Naperville, Illinois. Invitations for the luncheon have already been mailed to all members. If you did not receive an invitation please contact Susan Rini at 630/858-4810, or at ADSALUMNI@aol.com.

Fidelity Investments will be sponsoring this luncheon for the Alumni Club. Following lunch, representatives from Fidelity will be giving a presentation on "401K Rollovers", and "Investing for Retirement Income". Both these topics are very relevant to our membership and we are sure you will find the presentation interesting and informative.

For anyone who has specific questions they would like answered by Fidelity, simply forward your questions to the Alumni Club prior to the luncheon. We will pass your questions along to Fidelity so that they may be better prepared to answer them. We have already received several questions from our members .

If you've never attended an Alumni Club luncheon before, this is the perfect opportunity. We are expecting a great turnout for this luncheon. You'll have an opportunity to see many of your former co-workers and friends. In addition, the presentations being prepared by Fidelity are targeted specifically for our members. If you need more information on the topics discussed, you may arrange to meet with the Fidelity Representatives at a later date.

Many of you have asked if you may bring guests, or spouses to our luncheons. YES! Guests and spouses are always invited to attend. You don't have to be a member to attend the luncheons. Perhaps you have friends or associates who would be interested in hearing the presentations by Fidelity. Please bring them along!

The Alumni Club will once again be sponsoring a "50/50 Raffle". Tickets will be \$1 each, or 6 for \$5. Proceeds from this raffle are used to pay for our newsletter & administrative costs. It's your chance to win cash! (continued on page 2)

Western Region Luncheon - Scottsdale, Arizona - April 15, 1999

Back by popular demand . . . The Alumni Club will be sponsoring its 2nd Annual Western Region Luncheon on Thursday, April 15, 1999, at the Scottsdale Country Club, in Scottsdale, Arizona. A short welcome reception is scheduled for 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:15 p.m. The cost of the luncheon is \$14.00/person. Guests and spouses are invited to join us!

Thanks to Jack O'Toole, Betty Baumer, and Jack O'Connell of the Scottsdale area for working with the Alumni Club in arranging this luncheon. With their help we have been able to add the names of many more former Skaggs and Sav-on alumni to our mailing list. Be sure to spread the word to others you may know. Our mailing list is not as extensive as we'd like, but we're working on it.

(continued on page 2)

April 21, 1999 - Luncheon (continued . . .)



The Alumni Club is looking forward to a big turnout for this luncheon. Be sure to mail your reservation cards back early so we can accommodate everyone. If you don't have your reservations in by April 12th, please call Susan Rini at 630/858-4810. You may also register for the luncheon via the Club's e-mail at ADSALUMNI@aol.com

The cost of the luncheon is \$13/person. It includes soup, choice of entrée with vegetable, coffee/tea, and desert. A cash bar will also be available. A short welcome reception will begin at 11:30 a.m., and lunch will be

served at 12:15 p.m. The presentation by Fidelity Investments will commence immediately following lunch.

We hope to see you on April 21st.



Western Region Luncheon (continued . . .)

We have updated our Western Region mailing list for this Luncheon. We hope to be able to reach more alumni from Sav-on and Skaggs

The records used to create the Alumni Club's database are very limited when it comes to anyone who retired more than 5-10 years ago. We need your help in making our list more complete.

If you hear of someone who didn't receive an invitation, please pass a copy along to them. Then be sure to send us their name and address so we can add them to our mailing list. In addition, we've attempted to reach as many "snow birds" who are spending the winter in Arizona as possible. Invitations were mailed directly to their winter homes when possible. If you received your invitation by forwarded mail from your regular residence, be sure to get us your winter address.

The Alumni Club will be sponsoring a "50/50 Raffle" at this luncheon. Tickets will be \$1 each, or 6 for \$5. The winner takes home 50% of the collected tickets sales. Remaining proceeds from the raffle go to help support the Alumni Club and the "Connections" newsletter. We hope we can count on your support.

If you haven't already returned your reservation card, call Jack O'Toole at 602/815-0994. This luncheon is the perfect chance to catch up with your former co-workers and friends. Join us for an afternoon of good food, good friends, and catching up on the "good old days". We look forward to seeing you on April 15th!!!



ALUMNI CLUB POST OFFICE BOX - Please Excuse the Error!

We have received many e-mails, and telephone calls over the last several weeks regarding a problem with the Alumni Club's Post Office Box.

Yes, the Alumni Club's "Post Office Box 5176" is still open. Due to an uncharacteristic error by the Post Office however, our box was mistakenly closed for a 4-6 day pe-

riod. Many pieces of mail were returned to the senders with a stamp indicating that the box had been closed. This was an error.

A company with a similar name which held an adjoining post office box was supposed to be closed. Our box was closed in error. Thanks to the e-mails, and tele-

phone calls of our members, we identified the problem and had it corrected.

Many individuals have had to re-mail their dues payments. We sincerely apologize for this inconvenience. If your mail was returned, you may now re-mail it to the Alumni Club. Thank you for your patience.



Welcome to Our New Members

The following alumni have recently joined the American Drug Stores Alumni Club. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to:

- Suzanne Miller - Westchester, IL*
- Richard W. Miller - Lenexa, KS*
- Julie L. Smith - Battle Creek, MI*
- Don Scherer - Batavia, IL*



**Meet One of Our New Alumni Club Members -
Richard (Dick) W. Miller**

Richard W. Miller (Dick) joined the Alumni Club last January, 1999. He started with Turn-Style in July, 1965 after graduating from the University of Iowa. The positions he held at Turn-Style included: store manager, and sales manager. In 1978 he moved to the Osco Division. He managed stores #624, and #52. In 1986 Dick moved to Kansas City as a Regional Trainer. He is now the Market Manager at #2161 in Leawood, Kansas. His tentative retirement date is scheduled for November, 1999.

Thanks for your note, Dick. We invite all our members, both old and new, to send us a short paragraph about themselves!

The Integration of American Stores & Albertson's

"Together, we will have an incredible presence from coast to coast with more than 2,470 stores in 37 states. Our combined size will give us significant new advantages in providing the very best value and service to our customers. We have joined forces to become the biggest and the best."

The following is an excerpt from the August 3, 1998, merger announcement to American Stores Associates from Vic Lund, President of American Stores Company.

On August 3, 1998 American Stores Company and Albertson's announced their decision to merge and form the nation's largest retail food and drug company.

New Leadership and Headquarters

The merger transaction is expected to be completed in early 1999. At that time, Gary Michael, currently CEO and Chairman of the Board of Albertson's, will assume that position in the combined company which will be known as Albertson's. Vic Lund will become Vice Chairman. The headquarters of the combined company will be located in Boise, Idaho, which is the current headquarters of Albertson's.

What does this mean to American Stores associates?

While the headquarters will be located in Boise, the combined company plans to maintain some presence in Salt Lake City, Dublin and Phoenix. Specific plans for functions in these locations will be announced as soon as they are known. For the most part, store operations will remain the same. Albertson's intends to keep both companies store names, although the names of individual stores may change in markets where we both have stores, which are California, Las Vegas and New Mexico. For example, a Luck Store may change its name to Al-

bertson's or vice versa. For the most part, the administrative functions within the operating divisions are expected to continue as they are today. Plans are being developed to determine if there are any opportunities in distribution to streamline and improve store services.

When Will Changes Begin?

During the next several months while the merger is being completed, we will operate our business as usual. It is critical that we continue to stay focused on our business and our customers. No major changes will be made until the merger has been completed. We will continue to build our stores and operate our business.

Shared Heritage, Culture

We believe that American Stores and Albertson's are two dynamic companies with complementary strengths and common traditions and values. We each bring a team of hard-working, professional, dedicated associates who are committed to excellence.

While partnership with Albertson's is new, the relationship between American Stores and Albertson's dates back nearly thirty years. American Stores Company's former chairman and chief executive officer, Sam Skaggs and Albertson's founder, Joe Albertson, worked together to establish the first food and drug combination stores in our industry.

Today we are bring together the best of both companies so that we can leverage our size, share best practices and increase shareholder value. Our decision

to merge with one of the most admired and best managed companies in our industry provides our associates with many new opportunities, provides our new company with a distinct competitive advantage, and provides our customers with the best value and service in the marketplace.

Significant Synergies and Efficiencies

By merging American Stores and Albertson's, we will achieve greater volumes and efficiencies in many of our markets. We estimate annual savings of \$100 million by the end of the first year and \$300 million by the third year. The savings will come from enhanced buying and distribution efficiencies, reduced advertising expenditures and consolidation of overhead.

The Transition Team

A transition team will be established consisting of senior executives from both companies. They will develop the integration plan which is expected to be completed during the next several months. The transition team will evaluate processes and systems in both companies, identify best practices and determine the changes that need to be implemented. Albertson's recognizes that American Stores has invested significant resources into our new systems and centralization process. The goal of the integration plan is to streamline operations around common systems.

Next Steps

Now that the agreement has been signed, the process moves to the next steps of review and approval by regulatory agencies and shareholders of both companies. The integration plan will be implemented after the merger has been completed.

Merger Update (1/11/99) . . . Making Strides

The Project Group Directors (PGDs) worked through December to group and prioritize the project identified in the integration recommendations. Last week, the first group of project managers, who are in charge of the projects that need to be in place by the day the merger closes or as soon as possible thereafter, had their initial meeting. Approximately 35 project managers attended the meeting last week to kick off their project. After the meeting, they will create detailed project plans. As the merger process progresses, other Project Managers will meet to discuss their areas of integration. Those meetings will be scheduled according to the priority of the projects.

Business vs. Integration: What is the Balance?

While the successful integration of our two companies is on everyone's mind, one of the primary goals of the new company is to keep our continuing operations running smoothly. While the integration will reshape many parts of the new company, many other areas will remain as-is and will continue to be important to the new organization. The Project Group directors (PGDs) have been working closely with the Executive Vice President to decide which parts of the business require integration efforts and which parts can be handled as continuing operations.

Are you interested in more information about the merger? If you are, let us know by writing us at:

ADSALUMNI@aol.com

or

P.O. Box 5176, Glendale Heights, IL 60139

Count on People Who Care

BHC Youth Hockey

By Dominick & Ryan Archer
Westchester, IL

Many alumni do volunteer work in their communities. Some donate valuable talents or expertise, others take time out of their busy days to volunteer for children, the elderly, or those in need. We want everyone to know that our alumni are "people who care", so send us your stories about the volunteer work you do.

In 1991 at the age of 7, my son Ryan began playing hockey in the pre-hockey program at the Downers Grove Ice Rink. After two years in that program, he joined BHC Youth Hockey, then based at the Carol Stream Ice Arena. He skated for one of their "Squirt Level" teams. During that season I represented our teams' families by agreeing to attend the Board of Director's meetings and reporting back to our parents on issues going on with the club.

After that season, I was elected to join the Board as a Director. My primary responsibility was manag-



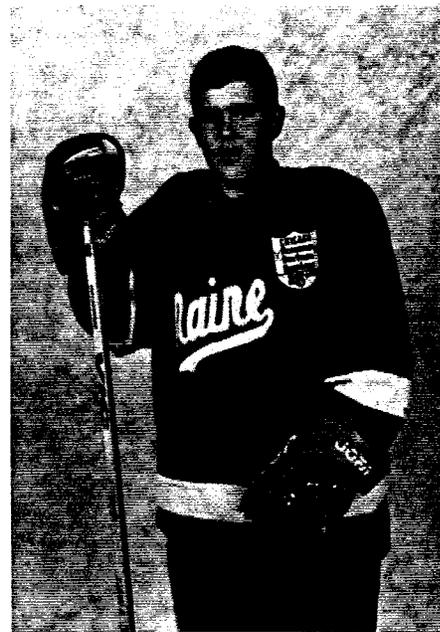
ing the ever popular - Candy Sale Fundraiser. I guess I did such a good job that I was asked to manage the same fundraiser for the following season.

I was elected President of the Club for the 1996-97 season and re-elected for a second term for the 1997-98 season as well. The by-laws had a two term limitation for the office of president so I was prevented from serving a third term. I have remained on the BHC Board serving as the chairperson for the Rules and Ethics Committee.

Ryan's final season at BHC was at the Bantan Level during the 1997-1998 season. His team won the Northwest Hockey League Bantam Division One Tournament Championship. He is now playing for Maine South High School Hockey Club in Park Ridge, IL.

The BHC Youth Hockey is a club that serves approximately 450 boys and girls ages 5 to 17. They are primarily from the west and far west suburbs of Chicago. This season, the Club has 27 house teams participating in the Northwest Hockey League and six traveling exhibition teams that compete primarily against teams in the Northern Illinois Hockey League.

The Club is currently based at the Fox Valley Ice Arena and Fitness Club in Geneva, Illinois (also home of the Chicago Freeze Junior A Team). BHC's working affiliation with Huron Hockey School, also based at Fox Valley, allows chil-



Ryan Archer

dren to grow their hockey skills from pre-hockey, through House Level competition, and up to Travel Competitive Teams.

Thank you Dominick, and Ryan for sharing your story with us. Dominick has contributed his time to not only his son, but also the children in his community. Team sports help our children learn to work within a team structure; it helps them to understand commitment, and the benefits of working together. These are all skills they will need when they become adults and enter the work force. Keeping our youth involved in positive, worthwhile activities is a great benefit to both our children and to our communities. Thank you Dominick, for caring enough to volunteer your time.

Alumni "Tid-Bits"



Rich Estabrook— Cave Creek, AZ

This year Rich was chosen to officiate the "Arizona 1A (small schools) Boys State Championship Basketball Final" at American West Arena (home of the Phoenix Suns) on February 20th, 1999. This was Rich's 15th season of officiating high school basketball. He also worked the "4A Boys Quaterfinals" earlier in the same week. In total, he officiated six post-season games in only his second season in Arizona, including four games in the last week of the season.

His wife Lorrie, and youngest son Adam were able to join Rich as the arena security officers escorted him through the tunnels of American West Arena. Viewing the Suns' practice court, was one of the many "highlights" they viewed along the way. This was a tremendous thrill and honor that he will long remember.

Fred & Marty Dearborn-Little Rock, AR

Marty & Fred Dearborn enjoyed a Florida sunset and visit with Troy Burnett, a former Manager in Terre Haute, Indiana. Troy, age 84, sends his greetings to all, and is grateful for the Osco profit sharing plan. Bob Cook & Ed Siler plan to visit Troy in March.



Tom & Joan Neilsen-Bangkok, Thailand

After spending 18 years with Osco Drug, Jewel Companies and American Stores - and then 10 years at Kmart Corporation, I am now Senior Vice President Human Resources, Big C Supercenter, Bangkok. Big C is the largest discount retailer in Thailand. My wife Joan, son Marc (age 15), and I are enjoying the

excitement of living in the Far East. Bangkok, with a population of more than 10 million is fascinating - and a great vacation destination place. The Neilsen's send their greetings to their many Chicago based friends. "You're welcome for a visit any time!"

Sallie Hall-Grants Pass, OR

Sallie Hall, formerly of Fullerton, California wrote to us about her move to Grants Pass, Oregon. Hope you've had a chance to settle in and are enjoying your new home!

Betty Ballew-Allen - Ottumwa, IA

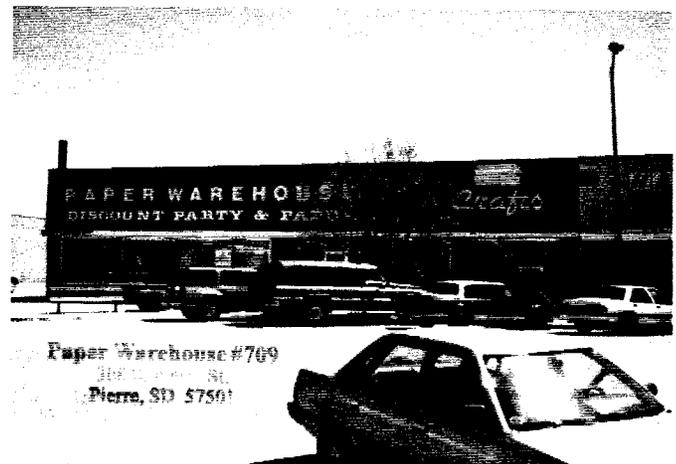
In July, 1998, Betty moved from the Chicago area to Ottumwa, Iowa. Betty is originally from Iowa and she felt it was time for her to be close to her family who still lives there. She does miss the Chicago area and her friends (they were all former Osco employees) however, she really loves being close to her family once again. We'll miss seeing you at the local luncheons, Betty. Hope you can get back to visit some time!

Richard & Rita Rounds- Lake Wales, FL

Richard & Rita Rounds, formerly of Carmel, Indiana moved to Florida last December. Hope your enjoying your new home and the warmer climate!

Lyle Nelson - Pierre, SD

Lyle Nelson of Pierre, South Dakota sent this picture from his latest venture: Paper Warehouse -Discount Party & Paper. Lyle writes, "Not retired yet. New venture opened April 1, 1998 . . . now, ready to retire!" Best wishes for success, Lyle!



Paper Warehouse #769
300 S. 1st St.
Pierre, SD 57501

“Tid-Bits” continued . . .

News From Iowa Alumni

*Submitted by: Larry Hedges,
Muscatine, Iowa*

A group of Iowa Alumni got together for supper at the Thunder Bay Restaurant (in Iowa) last December 11th to talk over old times with good friends. This group has been getting together about every two months for the last two years. We usually pick a location in the Davenport, Iowa City, or Waterloo area. Anywhere from 16 to 20 people attend each time. Here's a list of some of those who regularly attend:

Wayne & Nancy Davis – Marshalltown, IA
Wayne is a retired District Manager for Osco Drug. He's currently busy building a home for his son & daughter-in-law in Marshalltown.

Larry & Sharon Hedges – Muscatine, IA
Larry is a retired Market Manager for Osco Drug. The Hedges are wintering in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Ken & Shirley Fletcher – Onalaska, WI
Ken is a retired General Manager for Osco Drug. The Fletchers just returned from Australia! They are also wintering in Florida.

Ron & Pat Barr – New Orleans, LA
Ron is a retired General Manager for Osco Drug. Ron is still closing out stores in the New Orleans area.

Gary & Vicki Hruby – Bettendorf, IA
Gary is a current General Manager for Osco Drug in Bettendorf, Iowa. The Hruby's son just started college at Iowa State University last Fall.

Lowell & Joy Hartsock – Cedar Rapids, IA
Lowell is a retired General Manager for Osco Drug. Joy will be retiring from her teaching career next summer.

Vern & Jean Miller – Iowa City, IA
Vern is a retired General Manager of Osco Drug. The Millers just completed building a summer home in Minnesota.

Jerry & Char Millard – East Moline, IA
Jerry is a retired General Manager for Osco Drug. The Millards headed to Phoenix for the winter.

Thanks for taking the time to send us your story, Larry. It's great to hear about everyone. We're sure there are other groups of alumni getting together all across the country. We encourage everyone to send in their stories!!

Advertise In “Connections”



Many alumni have taken on new careers, or are involved in new ventures since leaving American Stores? Well, why not tell everyone about it? That's right . . . spread the word.

Now you can purchase advertising space in the “Connections” newsletter. You can run an add for one issue, or for an entire year. The cost for ad space is as follows:

- \$25 for business cards @ issue
- \$150 for 1/4 page @ issue
- \$250 for 1/2 page @ issue

* Prices are subject to change. There is a 10% discount for ads run for a full year (4 issues). The Alumni Club reserves the right to approve, or decline all ads for printing. Printing of any ad, does not in any way indicate sponsorship or endorsement by the Alumni Club. Questions . . . Call Susan Rini at 630/858-4810, or at ADSALUMNI@aol.com



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"Do You Remember When?"

Miracle on Willow Street

*An excerpt from the October 11, 1973 -
FLASHES*

Last week we showed you the destruction of the fire #114 suffered late Monday night and Tuesday morning, September 24th and 25th, 1973. This week we focus on the many people whose extraordinary efforts made possible the triumphant re-opening of our food store just four days later - a feat which any Tuesday morning observers would have thought impossible.

Store Manager Fred Meyer was still frankly amazed as he retraced the miracle for us five days later. "When I saw the damage that had been done, and heard the goal set for re-opening just four days later, my first reactions was 'I just don't think it can be done.' I'd never been through this sort of an emergency before and had no idea how spectacularly the rest of our company would respond. But, believe me, I know now. It was just incredible."

"I have a number of special "thank yous" to make: To Joe Lasher and Bill Mackey of Store Maintenance, who worked all night long and all through the next day restoring our power. To Bob Popaditch, Steve Merena, Vic Larson, Dolores Smith, Pete Donzelli, Charlie Johnston, Tony Grassi, and Andy Consentino who helped us so greatly in coordinating one large rescue effort, and lining up emergency deliveries from Melrose. To Shipping Control and Transportation, who sent us anything and everything we needed to re-stock the store. To #545's Chef's kitchen, who kept sandwiches and chicken coming into our hungry troops."

"Approximately 75 people came to our aid, from stores as far away as Cicero. Together with our staff from #114, these fantastic people shoveled the debris, picked up the water that stood deep in our sales area and basement, emptied and cleaned every single shelf in this store. They handled the heavy, dirty job of throwing out the stock that had been condemned and packing out whatever was salvageable; and of course, they accomplished a total re-stocking of the store in a time so short it was hard to believe. As they worked so intently, there were, I'd say, about 30 craftsmen - carpenters, painters, electricians, and plumbers - who rallied together to meet our Saturday deadline.



"Do You Remember When?" ... (continued)

As reported earlier, the Osco store was completely devastated in the fire. Jewel gave Osco a 25' section on the east wall of its front end, and a prescription counter was constructed, enabling Osco Manager, Charles Zajicek to keep service available for his so many area customers. In a matter of days, this functional pharmacy was created, stocked, and back in business.

"I've got nothing but heroes here," Fred told us. "Through all the 17 and 18 hour days, I did not hear one complaint. Everybody gave an absolute total effort. I've never been so impressed with a group of part-timers as I was with mine - their complete attitude was 'What can we do next?' and when we told them, it would be done - immediately, and without question. My department heads - they wouldn't go home, even when I ordered them to, for rest! It was almost like a war, you know? Everybody just dug in and fought like hell until we had won."

The result? A victorious re-opening, just four days later, and a wave of expressed appreciation from #114's loyal customers for all our people had gone through to make it happen. The consensus; a miracle had indeed occurred on Willow Street!



In Memoriam . . . We are saddened to inform you of the passing of our fellow alumni:

Conrad Faber - Stevens Point, WI

Alumni Club member Conrad Faber of Stevens Point, Wisconsin passed away on November 14, 1998. He is survived by his wife Margaret, his daughters, Gwyn (Craig) Lang; and Jennifer (Ron) Nerva; one son, Stephen (Jackie); one granddaughter, Nicole Margaret Nerva.

After graduating from Drake university college of Pharmacy in Des Moines, IA, he interned as a registered pharmacist in Rock Valley, IA for one year. He then began a 30 year career with Osco Drug. He served in Iowa and Illinois as store manager, district manager, and regional manager. Conrad headed the New England division in the mid-1960s. He was the manager of the Stevens Point Osco Drug from 1970 until his retirement in 1987.

Mae Strainer - Wheaton, IL

American Drug Stores Alumni Club member Mae Strainer passed away on February 15, 1999. Mae had been a member of the Alumni Club since 1995.

Juanita Wright - Little Rock, AR

American Stores Company alumni Juanita Wright passed away last spring. Juanita retired from Osco Drug at University Mall in the late 1980s.

Robert T. Spain - Richards, MO

Alumni Club member Robert Spain, 87 years old, passed away on January 9, 1999. He is survived by his wife Maurine, of over 64 years; a daughter Phyllis c. Netherton, a son-in-law Joe Netherton, two grandsons James (and spouse Kristin) Netherton, and Jeffrey Netherton. With only a eighth grade education, Robert Spain had two successful careers during his lifetime. The first career, as a manager for Safeway and Osco Drug Stores, for thirty years. The second career started in 1963 as a breeder of Polled Charolais Cattle. He was recently informed that he was to be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Charolais Association Meeting, in Montgomery, Alabama. He was active and loyal to his family to the end and will be greatly missed. He will be buried at East Liberty Cemetery, at the edge of his home ranch.



American Drug Stores Alumni Club

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**REACH US BY E MAIL AT
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