

MOUNTAIN LAKE

ECHOES



volume 21 summer '58

MOUNTAIN LAKE ECHOES 1958

Editors: Dr. and Mrs. S. P. Maroney, Jr.

Cover: Stonehenge - Miss Lucile Walton

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Through the thorough job of the various reporters and the excellent work of our editors this volume of Mountain Lake Echoes contains accounts of almost every event that took place at the Station this summer. One cannot fail to be impressed upon reading this issue with the exceptional cooperative spirit that existed among the entire personnel of the Station. Even the tiny tots seemed to be aware of the existing esprit-de-corps. Just this spirit of cooperation alone would have been worthy of mention, but it was so frequently translated to action that I dare not begin to enumerate the happenings that not only deserve but have commanded my genuine appreciation. For me, the summer of 1958 will always stand out as an exceptional one in my experiences at Mountain Lake and to all of you (members of the staff, investigators, students, drones, and the children) who were there may I extend my sincere thanks.

You will be pleased to learn that the National Science Foundation has renewed our grant of \$18,000 for the next three years.

I hope to see all of you again soon, and until that time you have my very best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Horton H. Hobbs, Jr.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Director: Horton H. Hobbs, Jr.; Business Manager: Robert F. Gillespie, Jr.; Secretary: Lois Gibson; Librarians: Marjorie Carver and Joanne Puckett; Dietitian: Ame Garthright.

SENIOR INVESTIGATORS

Drs. L. R. Cleveland, Arthur W. Burke and Messrs. James Barefoot and Bruce Cleveland of Harvard, Medical College of Virginia, Jefferson Medical College and University of Chicago. Further studies on the experimental alteration of the sexual cycles of the protozoa in Cryptocercus.
Dr. Tom S. Cooperrider of Kent State College, Ohio. Vascular plants of Giles and adjacent counties.

- Dr. Horton H. Hobbs, Jr. and Miss Margaret Walton, University of Virginia and Danville, Virginia. Miss Walton was recipient of The Phipps and Bird research fellowship. Continued work on a monograph of the crayfish genus Procambarus.
- Dr. Ivey F. Lewis and Miss Lucile Walton of Charlottesville and Danville, Virginia. Comparative study of plant galls.
- Dr. Samuel P. Maroney, Jr. of University of Virginia. Ultra-violet-induced hemolysis of frog erythrocytes.
- Dr. Norman R. Russell of Grinnell College, Iowa. Wild violets of the Appalachians.
- Dr. Gordon R. Thurow. Temperature, oxygen, and humidity tolerances in Plethodontids.
- Dr. Juan Vergera, University of Chicago. Electron microscopy of rabbit pancreas and rat prostate.
- Mrs. Grace T. Wiltshire of Randolph-Macon Women's College. Preparation of manuscripts and observations on the avian fauna at Mt. Lake.

JUNIOR INVESTIGATORS

- Mr. Thomas Cheng, University of Virginia. Life cycles of digenetic trematodes of the Mt. Lake area. Preliminary survey of fish helminthes in the Mt. Lake area.
- Mr. Robert Gillespie, V.E.S., Lynchburg, Va. Further study of the local ciliates of the genus Haptophrya.
- Mr. Thomas Johnson, University of Virginia. Histological study of the male reproductive tract of the crayfish.
- Mr. Harold Milliken, New Market, Va. Preparation of a key to the mushrooms of the Mt. Lake area.
- Mr. Charles Packard, University of West Virginia, Morgantown. Study of the species of gastrotrica in the Mt. Lake area.
- Mr. William Peightel, State Teachers College, Pa. Morphology and cytochemistry of the mantle of Tridopsis albolabris.
- Mr. Hugh Puckett, University of Virginia. Ambulatory musculature of the crayfish and the female reproductive tract of the crayfish.
- Miss Jean Pugh, Norfolk Division of William and Mary. The male reproductive tract of Uca.
- Mr. Thomas Riggan, Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Fannistic study of the Tardigrades of the Mt. Lake and surrounding areas.

COURSES

First Semester

Animal Ecology - This hard-working group of ichs and herps set out early each morning with seine and formalin bent on the complete depletion of all of the drainages in southwest Virginia. With old Hot Tires at the wheel, they sped from one stream to the next and in spite of all their work, they never returned with anything but fish. One member of the class (old Hugo) recalls these memorable events:

Remember: Dr. Woolcott's -- Go! Go! Go! Fish!;
Ken -- Can't we drive slower?;
Wanda -- Oh, those cokes!;
Hugh -- It's a Cambarus bartoni sciotensis!;
Muriel -- Oops! In the seine again!;
Hugo -- Sleeping again!;
The Bobs -- What will it all mean fifty years
 from now?

Plant Morphology - With something more than "just a tad" of industrious application, this crew of morphomechanics plunged through the botanical world with brief stops at each major developmental level. Dr. Herndon's prophetic remark "All they have to fear is a little hard work" was tempered somewhat by the institution of the Morphomess where one could get the best cup of coffee in town.

Paleontology - With picks on shoulders (looking not unlike the seven dwarfs) and whistling "The Colonel Bogey March", this stalwart crew followed the fleet-footed Tasmaniac through most of southwest Virginia. Moving from cut to cut, Dr. Caster's cavaliers tried in a systematic manner to level most of the Alleghenies and move the resulting pile of rocks to the top of Salt Pond Mountain. The entire south end of the laboratory reverberated as the heavy-handed hammerers made dust of the fossil-filled mountainsides. But the mashed finger, the incipient silicosis and the three hours of lecture a day were all worthwhile when one could come up with a beautiful specimen of a Trilobite.

Archegoniates - We were never really sure where Dr. Schuster and his class were going to be from one day to the next. When a high pressure system moved in, they moved out to the field. A prerequisite of mountain climbing perhaps should have been stated for this course as well as a course in getting on in the rough (without a car to sleep in). "How to survive for five weeks without sleep" was included at no additional fee. One member summarized the course as follows:

Class Motto - To the Cascades!

In the field - **Class:** Totally unprepared.

Professor Schuster: Now class, these rock cliffs are just the place to find "raddlers". Remember the third one in line is always the one to get struck. Let's go!

Class: We'll do anything for a grade.

On field trip - Rip! Now who would have thought that the seat of those pants would give way.

In lab - Suzy! If you will get off Tom's lap long enough for him to look through the scope he might be able to see that alar cell.

Examination time - 2 o'clock in the morning. Has anyone found that species name yet?

Course - Not recommended for those with Acrophobia.

Second Semester

Acoelomates - From unpleasant and odoriferous haunts, Dr. Friant's group sought out and studied all manner of bizarre forms which prefer to get on without a coelom. While traipsing through the acoelomates with gun and camera, these two happened upon the platyhelminths and settled down for a closer study of their way of life. Not to be accused of chauvinism to the platyhelminths, one member of the class made these observations:

Ode To A Gastrotrich

Oh, to be a Gastrotrich
A simple life indeed,
To walk along on bifid feet
Forgetting modern speed.

Oh, to be a Gastrotrich
And never have to shave,
Because in his society
Bristles are the rave.

Oh, to be a Gastrotrich
When mealtime comes around;
No worried preparation -- his,
An open mouth, + food is found.

Oh, to be a Gastrotrich
With such a simple brain;
No mental work is asked of him --
A gift, it seems quite plain.

But I am Not a Gastrotrich
And I'd better stop this junk,
Or I'll wake up to find that I've
Conjured up a flunk!

Margaret Sue Anderson

Spermatophytes - When Dr. Iltis hit the spermatophytes class, dust rose all the way to the top of Peter's Mountain - several times. Although this crew returned hot, dusty and tired (but rarely thirsty), they were always ready for more. One member of the class summed up the five weeks like this:

Piped on by Pan, the goats capered over the landscape garnering their winter lag. Bleating genus upon species they scaled cliffs and squished through bogs. Out of the rush came clarification of ideas of convergence and speciation, also an occasional plant name as Prunella vulgaris.

William Baker

Mycology - Here, a summary by Emma Lou Smith: "There's a fungus among us!" had real significance this summer at Mountain Lake. A good part of our time was spent in the field (this was of our own choosing since our lab constantly smelled of dung agar and decaying mushrooms!). There was the time we went to Mann's Bog where we walked in the splendor (knee deep in "splendor") of the bog. It was heard that Dr. McKinsey enjoyed the fruitful trip so much that he'll never go there again! And, neither will Lloyd, unless he gets a new pair of pants.

Our all too brief experience as mycologists was wonderful, informative, interesting, and fun and holds for each of us many fond memories: Dr. McKinsey's excellent seminar on "Metabolic Pathways" (as observed in that "ecological niche" the Petri dish); the field trips; the Professor's dry humor; the impressive Open House exhibit (including our own "brews"); and even names of some of the fungi will long be remembered. None of us will ever have steak and mushroom sauce without pleasantly recalling incidents of the past summer - and wondering if the mushrooms are poisonous!!

Emma Lou Smith

Cyto and Histochemistry - Learning by doing...the wrong thing not more than once. This and various other paraphrasings of the old saw about swimming and feet-wetting issued from Dr. Gersh's class daily. From her perch on top of a log (to be high enough to look through the microscope) one of the students made the following observations:

Dr. Gersh's Schiff-stained students exhibited many strange behavioral patterns including paranoia with tears, somnambulism (up day and night turning her eggs), an uncommon interest in the biology of chipmunks, and an overt aggression on the volley ball court. Members were always getting into various predicaments. One was admonished for spending too much time in the acid-alcohol; another was continually freeing mice in the lab (accident prone?). Through it all, the ant lady sat off in the corner looking through the microscope and saying dreamily, "I really like muscles."

Muriel Beuschlein

EVENING TALKS

First Semester

- Dr. Kenneth E. Caster - A Geologist in Tasmania. A delightful Kodochrome trip through Australia and Tasmania.
- Dr. Rudolf M. Schuster - With a Botanist on Elsmere Island. A place one can get lost in a fog.
- Dr. Walter R. Herndon, Jr. - One cc of Soil. A revealing look at the diverse forms of soil algae ("Them little round green things")
- Dr. Robert Burns - The Embryology of the Opossum. Hormone-induced sex-reversal in fetal opossums.
- Dr. William S. Woolcott, Jr. - Some Fishes I Have Known. A convincing argument for reorganizing a group of fishes.

Second Semester

- Dr. Isidore Gersh - The Ground Substance. An excellent example of the correlation between electron microscope picture and physical chemical prediction.

- Dr. Frank Geldard - The Tongue of the Skin. The use of tactile sensation in communication.
- Dr. Hugh H. Iltis - The Plants of Costa Rica. A comparison of Costa Rican and U. S. flora with an epilogue on conservation.
- Dr. James J. Friauf - The Marine Gastrotrichs. The utilization of phase-microscopy in the study of a long-neglected group.
- Dr. Richard D. McKinsey - Alternate Pathways of Metabolism with Special Reference to the Fungi. A discussion of the many ways used by organisms to obtain energy from carbohydrates.

OPEN HOUSE

One of the highlights of the summer was the August 3rd Open House. Neither wind nor rain daunted the station personnel or more than 200 visitors in their quest of a wonderful time. Mrs. Friauf with Mrs. Gersh, Mrs. McKinsey, and Miss L. Walton started early collecting flowers and worked until the last minute arranging some of the most handsome decorations in recent years. The foyer and the Rose Room were particularly beautiful.

After leaving their cars in the able hands of Messrs. Millikan, Osinchak, Fuqua, and Couch, the guests were received in the laboratory foyer by Dr. and Mrs. Hobbs, Dr. Lewis, Dr. and Mrs. Cleveland, and Mrs. Wiltshire and signed the guest book where Mrs. Riffin and Mrs. Maroney presided. Then one of Miss Pugh's guides, Misses Beuchlein, Farinholt, Gibson, Halmagyi, S. Smith and Messrs. Morgan and Simonds, conducted the guests through the many exhibits arranged by the classes and investigators as well as the library where Mrs. Puckett held forth and the Rose Room with Misses Lucile Walton and Patricia McKinsey presiding.

Following a tour of the laboratory, the guests were invited to visit the rock garden with Miss M. Walton, the museum with Mrs. VanPelt and Mr. Gillespie, and Stephen-Elliot dormitory.

At the end of the day, Miss Garthright aided by Mrs. Packard, Misses E. L. Smith and Anderson served the traditional sassafras tea along with lemonade and cookies.

The cooperation of the whole station made this one of the smoothest and most enjoyable Open Houses in a long time.

LIBRARY

Miss Marjorie Carver of the Alderman Library in Charlottesville was at the Station for a little over a week this summer to open and organize the Mt. Lake library. We were sorry to see her leave after such a short and pleasant visit although she left the library in the very capable care of Mrs. Joanne Puckett. Mrs. Puckett rapidly filled our requests for books, received and catalogued some 300 new reprints and carried on the tradition of cooperation for which the library is noted.

A NEW MAP FOR THE STATION

Mrs. Kenneth E. Caster was not an idle person this summer! As a result of numerous hikes, hours spent peering at old maps, checking facts with old Mt. Lakers - and much labor with tracing cloth, pencils and pens, we now have a beautiful topographic map of the Mt. Lake area (scale 4" to the mile). Trails, caves, roads, buildings, bench marks, streams, etc. are all clearly indicated.

HERBARIUM

During the summer Dr. and Mrs. Tom Cooperrider made a noteworthy contribution to the Herbarium. Under their supervision, a collection of 1200 plants assembled by Dr. R. F. Thorne and his 1956 Spermatophytes class was mounted through the generous volunteer help of Mrs. Packard, Mrs. Hobbs, Mrs. DeMott and Miss DeMott. This collection, now properly filed in the Herbarium, will be an extremely valuable one for future Mt. Lakers. Our most sincere appreciation goes to Dr. Thorne, the above mentioned volunteers and to Dr. and Mrs. Cooperrider.

MISCELLANEOUS

One of the more versatile men at the Station this summer was Dr. Walter Herndon. His recognition and description of a new alga which represents at least a new genus if not a new family was one of the major contributions of the summer. His contribution to the animal kingdom was equally as important, this in the form of a son born in mid July. (understand his wife helped him in this project).

WEATHER SUMMARY

The ECHOES wishes to express its appreciation to Paul Fuqua whose loyalty to the thermometers and rain guage and whose compilation of the resulting data enabled the following summary to be written.

June was cool at Mt. Lake this summer as it was throughout the state of Virginia. The lowest daytime high of the ten week session was 62°F. on June 25 while the lowest nighttime low was a chilly 41°F. on June 27. July brought warmer weather, though, and these conditions prevailed until the session was nearly over. The highest daytime temperature for the summer was 84°F. on July 6 while the highest nighttime temperature was 64°F. on July 21. Looking at the big picture for the ten week session, we find for the average daytime temperature a very comfortable 76°F. while the average nighttime temperature was 59°F.

The total rainfall for the summer was 5.3 inches and this was concentrated in 8 rainy days. In spite of this, we only missed one volleyball game the entire summer because of rain.

DINING HALL

The meals were delicious this summer, second semester's taking the prize. Such a variety of delectable dishes were offered as few institutions of mass food production can equal even in the more populated parts of our country where buying and cooking are less hazardous and difficult. Our grateful thanks are due to Miss Ame Garthright for her inspired and imaginative menu planning, and particularly her innovation of using fresh, local produce, and to Raleigh Mason aided by Curtis Woodfolk and William Martin for their tender care to the food preparation. Again this summer Raleigh's variety of marvelous hotbreads rate special mention.

IMPROVEMENTS

One of the summer's first jobs for Messrs. Gillespie and Couch was the repair (with tape, string, and wooden peg) of plumbing throughout the Station. These repairs were precipitated by a shiny, new, underground water system installed during the winter months which resulted in pressure far above that to which the indoor W.C.'s were accustomed. No one was happier with the improved water line than the Couches for this meant water for them the whole winter without fear of frozen pipes. A new concrete spring house also encloses the previously exposed water source.

A grant from the National Science Foundation provided for the installation of a drainage system around the east end of the laboratory building to divert the stream which previously flowed through the basement. This drainage allowed the basement to be converted into three laboratory rooms and a constant temperature vault. There was some discussion among the occupants of these three labs as to the efficiency of the drainage system in keeping things dry in the basement. The problem was solved with typical Mt. Lake ingenuity when a stove was moved into the basement to accelerate the drying process. A coat of paint on the walls of the basement (compliments of Pugh, Lois, Paul, Mr. Couch, Dr. Hobbs and Bob Gillespie) to prevent the further entrance of dampness resulted in three of the coziest labs in the entire building.

A new septic drainage field prevented the traditional late afternoon perfumed atmosphere from invading the grounds.

Along toward the middle of the summer, the dining hall blossomed forth in new curtains. The admission of additional light and the bright colors of the curtains themselves lent a festive air to meals for the rest of the summer. The appearance of the curtains also solved the mystery of all that sewing Ame Garthright had been doing in her spare time.

Several trails were blazed or re-blazed this summer led by the man in the white sailor's hat (H.H.H.). Probably the most ambitious of these projects was the clearing of a

trail from the Station to Stonehenge. The trailblazers used everything from razor-honed, double-bladed axes to finger nail scissors in clearing and trimming a veritable highway for the use of future picnickers.

Nor did the clearing operations stop at the edge of Stonehenge. Spurred on by the chatter of Mr. Couch's power saw, the more energetic personnel of the Station (Pugh, Paul, Puckett, Merritt, Hobbs, Peightel, etc.) cleared a large scenic vista at Stonehenge itself with the removal of several hundred trees. There are many miles of Bear Cliff ridge visible (see front cover) now with intervening acres of lush green forest land, and they tell me that the view of the moon from there is absolutely breath-taking.

The fine example of tidying up the area set at Stonehenge was carried into the laboratory where Paul with the help of Pugh and Lois embarked on a project nearly as formidable as Stonehenge - the stock room. Graciously parrying the advice and suggestions of the corridor superintendents and coke machine cowboys, these three cleaned, polished and arranged the stockroom and office to a degree of perfection not equaled in recent decades. (No one could find anything!).

A casual remark about those cute little houses in the middle of the lawn led to a fever of activity one week-end. The fire hoses were taken out and extended their full length, checked for defects and for their capability of containing the pressure of the new water system. Good fortune attended us this summer so that it was not necessary to test them under actual fire-fighting conditions. In spite of the contention of Harry The Horse that everything in life is 8 to 5 against, it was the concensus that the fire hoses were still equal to their task.

The influx of a large number of inquisitive F₁ generation this summer necessitated the erection of a high child-proof fence around the newly-excavated Lake Rana. The resulting enclosure was very effective and brought much peace of mind to the doting P₁.

ENTERTAINMENT

The principal outdoor competitive sport this summer was volleyball. With upwards of nine frenzied competitors per side (or in some instances, one frenzied competitor in all nine positions), trampled feet, dislocated jaws and flying glasses were occurrences in every game. But spirits were undampened and, except for an occasional varsity limp on the grounds, everyone seemed to survive the nightly joust. A few points stand out from this summer's games; Bruce Cleveland's perennial fireball serve found as its closest rival Suzy Smith's mighty right arm; Gentleman Jim Barefoot stepping into the server's circle, or Art Burke trying to make it four straight; Dorothy Merritt's stepped-on feet and Larry Farmer's continual occupation of Jean Pugh's position,

and Joe Osinchak's smashes, and many more. The reign of King Arthur and Queen Jean was in every way comparable to that of Queen Lizzie, I.

Although gentler than volleyball, ping pong nonetheless aroused some heated competition. Vilification flew across the net as fast as the ping pong ball when Ken Simonds and Lloyd Morgan took up the paddles. The Schusters could be seen playing long into the night and many more took their turn at trying to shatter the little plastic ball. Besides the exercise derived, all of this accomplished the very useful purpose of driving out the yellow jackets from under the ping pong room.

Some forsook the ping pong table for the horse shoe pits. Now most people could take the game or leave it alone but some became so engrossed that they actually had to be reminded that classes were in session.

The Saturday Night soirees got off to an excellent start with the Chapman-sponsored costume party. Everyone came as his secret ambition and some of the revelations were startling. The Pucketts monopolized the prizes for narrowest waist and largest chest expansion although it's fortunate this contest was not held in early 1959. Bill Peightel with young Bill (6 months) in a baseball cap copped the prize for his desire to be the father of a Yankee outfielder while Peggy Walton was a shoo-in dressed as her secret ambition, a blushing bride.

De Schweinitz' evening began quietly with an opportunity for everyone to exchange pleasantries across Bingo cards. The winners were rewarded with utilitarian gifts (soft, perforated for convenience and in assorted colors). The evening warmed up with a quiz show (rigged) and some delightful antics for wrong answers: Dr. Hobbs trying to keep up with litterbug Nancy Quarles; the Peightels, Pucketts, and Maroneys in a diapering contest; Suzie shaving Beep while Bob Gillespie "made up" Margy Lundquist; Dr. Castor defeating some of the best at talking and lying.

The following week's treasure hunt was so cleverly set out by Audubon that some people were not heard from all evening. Dr. Hobbs' team won and Beep walked away with the door prize (seined up fishing pole). The evening ended with punch and cookies.

Stephen-Elliott sponsored the thrice rained-out North-South volleyball game. Rain, however, did not dampen the enthusiasm for the movies "Bundle of Joy" and "Living Desert" borrowed from the Hotel by S-E for the pleasure of all. Although the N-S volleyball game was never played, the Station voted for king and queen of the court, Jean Pugh and Arthur Burke, who were crowned with appropriate ceremony by Dr. Hobbs.

Tapering off toward the end of the summer, Laing sponsored a quiet and thoroughly enjoyable evening of classical music moderated by Tom Johnson with his console hi-fi.

The final affair of the summer was Stephen-Elliott's open house. Feminine finery and coats and ties came out of summer storage for this evening at the S-E cabaret. Lime sherbert punch and a different cheese for every cracker complemented the delightfully conceived decorations. Good-natured laughter accompanied the exchange of anecdotes until after midnight and although there was food and punch left over, a good time was had by all.

PUGH'S PENPOINTS

Fall is here again and another summer gone. Fond memories of ten weeks linger on, now and then to leap from the recesses of the brain bringing a smile. The lovely parties hither and yon, the short and long romances, the volleyball games and on and on it goes. P. Fuqua, Esquire, the land owner motoring up and down the mountain and occasionally dining with the Lady of the pink Ford; L. Farmer and T. Johnson (Virginia gentlemen (?)) roughing it at Grandfather Mt. (did you boys get wet?); Bob G. and the canoe; Bill P. and his sudden swim (he promised to flip the canoe again if Helen would come down to watch); little Bill and his vocabulary - "Say d--n it, Bill"; the Pucketts in bunk beds at Harriot; Dr. Lewis and his chipmunks and the smoke signals; the Cooperriders and the lady who had a grand time at the party; the dead soldiers in the head; T. Riggins and his nurse at Chapman (hope the finger healed, Tom); the sleep out on the lawn (wasn't cold, just wet); Ame looking for sputnik; Raleigh, Curtis and Bill equal good food and all that rock 'n roll music from the kitchen (does it make eggs scramble easier Raleigh?); the Walton sisters blazing trails; Dr. Burns finding Barney's Wall (quite a drop but no duck hawks); Tom J. and the ladies classical music listening club (in that small room); Rusty and her dates (wait till I write Van); Nancy L. and her Scotch blood (blood?); Margaret Sue and "the boy" (ain't that sweet and her with Saturday classes); Wanda with her orange cocconut marshmallows (want a little lime juice with them?); Ken and Lloyd at the ping pong table (look out ball!); the Merritts at the Lake; Maroney (set your watch by him in "the hole") and the frog blood; Davy walking and Dougie holding his hand; Martha and Mel supervising the refrig and wash room (use paper bags please); the Gersh's wild ride from C'burg (didn't mean to jiggle you around); Thuro's new vehicle; Schuster and class at the Cascades; McKinsey and ice trouble; Castors for lying (imagine that) and the map; Joe at volleyball (lookout Bruce); King Arthur and the Alexanders (very nice gentlemen); Stephen Elliott and open house; Barefoot with candy cigarettes; Dr. I. and the bonfire; the ladies glueing; the three musquiteers; Emma Lou (house-mother?) and Henry; Raf and the loose joints; Nancy Q. and the hatchet; Muriel salamander hunting at that hour of the morning (had chaperon) and what happened to your shoes; now

you know Dr. Hobbs; Suzie with 3 trunks of clothes; Pauline and the hairdo and the pastel basement with curtains (sorry Lois); Grace with her energy (need it now); 5:30 a.m. is awfully early. Hope that covers all if not remember _____, _____, _____, _____ and I haven't even made the porridge yet!!! Be good (?) and see you next summer.

Pugh

MOUNTAIN LAKE DIRECTORY
1958

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