

# MAGICURRENTS



HONEST SID GIERHART  
RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA

MARCH 1989

## HAPPY EASTER

and  
SAINT

PATRICK'S DAY too ---

Spring is here and that means less then four short months to the BIG CONVENTION. Registrations will be limited to a maximum number (as yet unknown), and word has it that Registrations will be CUT OFF on April first, and that there will be No Registrations at the door. So --- if you expect to wait until July and just walk in --- **FORGET IT. REGISTER NOW** and avoid a big disappointment. Convention applications were included with your January *MAGICURRENTS*, and if you're **NOT** an IBM member, you'll also need the brand new IBM **MEMBERSHIP** Application included with this *MAGICURRENTS*. **SEND IN BOTH APPLICATIONS** with a check for eighty five dollars, which includes your first year's membership. If you are already an IBM member you only need to send the CONVENTION Application with a check for sixty dollars. **PRO-CRASTINATE NO LONGER!! It's GONNA BE A SELLOUT!** Regarding this new IBM Membership Application - you must type or print neatly, and the two Sponsor's names (Endorsements) must be printed (or typed) as well as



signed, with their IBM numbers. It's all spelled out on the application. Just be neat and complete.

One hundred and nine members now in Ring Seventy Six - a milestone - don't think it's ever been so big - with seven new joiners at the February Auction. **WELCOME TO: Chris CASTILLO, Ralph MAUZY, David SMITH, Michael CALLAHAN, David OBOZA, Randy FOSTER,**

and **Richard USTICK**. Glad to have you with us - or back - as the case may be. And last but not least, a nice letter from IBM Headquarters dated March Seventh reports that they are processing IBM Applications for Ring Seventy Six members **Joe FLORIAN** and **Mike CALLAHAN** right now. Cards and certificates will be forthcoming. See ya Monday night.

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## Prez's Mezzage

Just when you thought it was safe to forget about your performer's number, **IT'S NOT!** The theme for the April meeting is "So you're a magician -- Do something!" These numbers will be used to add a touch of reality and spontaneity to the performing on the night of April tenth. So, dust off, polish up, read something, in short, **BE PREPARED**. What do you do when somebody asks you to do a trick. We would all like to see the answer to that question in April.

Went to see the *MAGIC OF DANIEL & WAYNE* on Saturday, March eleventh. It's fun to see members of our club performing out there in the "Real World". These guys have obviously been working their tails off putting that show together. They did some really neat, innovative, fun things. It's a darn shame that more members of the magic fraternity were not there to 1) support their efforts, and 2) enjoy the freshness of a new act that someday could be doing very well. Aside from the few (easily counted on the fingers of one hand) members of Ring 76 that I saw there, the rest of you won't be able to say, "I knew them when."

Don't forget the *MAGIC CASTLE SWOP MEET* on April twenty second. See you at the meeting.

# HONEST SID GERHART RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## MAGICURRENTS

Editor	J.P. Jackson
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## FEBRUARY MEETING ---what you missed

No magic performed at our February Meeting, but a whole lot changed hands during our almost four hour Annual Auction. Close to Eleven Hundred Dollars in total sales to the seventy two members and guests present, netting a tidy Hundred Bucks to the club's coffers. Extra Special Thanks to our Auction Recorders/Accounting Staff: **Ed RAYMOND**, **Harry HARTMAN**, and **Ed FORSYTHE** who worked so hard sooooo long; and to our auctioneers: **Brad BURT**, **Dick DALE**, and **Rubin PADILLA**.

Eight Primary Sellers provided a ton of great stuff which sold furiously 'til close to Eleven P.M. High-Lights included **George EDWARDS** with choice goodies from his vault, **Roy ARMSTRONG** with a P&L *VANISHING ALARM CLOCK*, Thayer *BILLIARD BALLS* and other very collectible items (psst, Roy - next time call **ME** first!), **Jack MARKLEY** with lotsa fun stuff, **Frank HERMAN** with some great discounts from his shop in Oceanside, **Marcus DAY** with a few duplicates from his ever-growing book collection,

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**Don HALBACH** with some *CREEK-MORE* items at a bargain, **Rubin PADILLA** with the remnants of stock from his *MAGICIANS WORLD* shop, and local pro, **Steve SLOAN**, with toooo many fun items.

A great evening, but a tad too long, and a bit rambunctious. Next year we will have to limit either the number of sellers, or the number of items per seller - or both; but it will be **AGAIN**.

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## BOARD MEETING

The Board, such as it was, met on March sixth with **Dick DALE**, **Mike STILWELL** and **J.P. JACKSON** in attendance - not even a quorum. The purchase of name tags for the membership was discussed. Sample name tags were examined and prices considered. The Board came to the conclusion that since Ring Seventy Six is fairly solvent (over \$1400), and with income expected from payment of dues in April, the Ring can afford a one-time purchase of name tags for the entire membership. Estimated cost would be under two hundred dollars and it could be considered a "rebate" from your dues. The subject will be discussed and presented to the membership for a vote at the regular meeting on March twentieth. Candidates, a Nominating Committee, and a tentative slate of officers were also discussed, along with the scheduling of Elections, and the Installation Dinner. Next Board Meeting will be at

(Continued at right)

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**Mike STILWELL's** on April third. Please be present if you're on the Board. Anyone else who isn't is most **WELCOME**.

## MARCH MEETING ----what's coming

**SURPRISE!** The George Sands lecture on March thirteenth was **NOT** our regular meeting - **REMEMBER?** March Twentieth will be **MEMBERS MAGIC NIGHT** - and any and all Members are invited to perform Stage, Club, Platform, Close-up, Far-Away, Clowning, Escapes, Mental or whatever - no restrictions, no theme, no rule - **JUST DO!** Please call **Mike STILWELL** at 464-4961 if you plan to perform so he can outline the entertainment for the evening - and log in with **Mike** when you arrive at the meeting. Usual format: Gather at seven or sooner for workshops, demonstrations or fellowship; short business meeting at seven thirty followed by the Break, Raffle and the entertainment at about eight P.M.

**Frank SYREN**, as his contribution to **MEMBERS MAGIC NIGHT**, will demonstrate one of his computer tricks. This is a sophisticated program with music, sound effects and screen graphics. Anyone who owns a Commodore Computer and Disk Drive may bring a blank disk, and he will make them a copy.

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## Flash report

**MAKE NOTE** - April's regular meeting will be the tenth instead of the seventeenth - a week early. Our Meeting Room will be in use by the American Legion Folks so this is our once a year change. The April Meeting's theme will be *IM-PROMTU MAGIC*. The premise is, "So - you're a Magician - Show me!" **BE PREPARED!** Remember those *Performer Numbers*?? The three digit number in brackets just after your phone number on the membership roster you got with the December *MAGICURRENTS*?? Remember?? **CHECK 'EM OUT**

**BAD NEWS.** The combined *Ring Seventy Six/Magic Guild* Pot-Luck Picnic announced in the January *MAGICURRENTS* for April Nineth has had to be cancelled due to conflicting schedules. We'll try again next year - **MEANWHILE -GOOD NEWS!** **Mike STILWELL** has graciously offered to host our very own Magic Pot-Luck Picnic/ Cook-out/Get Together (and probably Swap Meet) at his home on Sunday, April Sixteenth. **MAKE**

**ANOTHER NOTE:** This will be a fun day After-Taxes party. Details on the menu will be forthcoming. Naturally, Our *MAGIC GUILD* friends are invited too.

**BAD NEWS!** April is also **DUES** month. Come to the April Meeting on the tenth with Cash or a Check payable to **IBM RING SEVENTY SIX**. The Board will shortly submit its annual recommendation for changes (if any) to the Annual Dues. A few folks have already paid for the 88/89 season, but the other hundred or so have not.

**May Fifteenth Regular Meeting:** The Board has begun work on a tentative slate of officers for the coming year. The Board will submit its recommendations to the Nominating Committee in the next month, and the Nominating Committee will present a proposed slate to the Membership at the May Meeting. Candidates should begin to make themselves known to the Board of Directors. Elections and the Annual Installation Dinner will be scheduled accordingly to avoid conflict with the coming convention.

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## SLEIGHTLY NEWS ROUND TOWN

- ☆ The *FULLMOON* Nightclub at 485 First Street in Encinitas is now featuring magicians, comedians, jugglers, ventriloquists, and impressionists on Thursday nights - in addition to music and dancing. Watch for **JEF & JER, Steve KELLY,** and **Chris BROUGHTON**. Call them at 436-7397 for up-to-date schedules and details.
- ☆ The *GATHERING* in Hillcrest has **J.C.WAGNER** and **Dick DALE** alternating on Thursday nights and **Craig STONE** on Friday and Saturday.
- ☆ *CORVETTE DINER*, also in Hillcrest, has **MAGIC MIKE** on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and **Joe MYSTIC** on Thursdays.
- ☆ *BAXTERS*, on Fletcher Parkway in El Cajon, now features **Dick DALE** for Sunday Brunch from ten thirty A.M. to one thirty P.M.

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## JOSEPH SILK GUN

**E.R. JOSEPH** of Glendale, CA, designed a *SILK VANISHING GUN* in the late thirties/early forties which instantly vanished a fifteen inch silk or a very light-weight eighteen inch silk. The gun looked like a German Mauser Pistol and was manufactured by the **LLOYD CHAMBERS MANUFACTURING COMPANY** of Clearwater, KA. It was sold through the forties by many magic shops and crept up in

price from seven dollars and fifty cents to fifteen dollars. Today, in good working condition, they sell for close to one hundred dollars. However, they were sealed when made, break easily, and are extremely difficult to repair. I am learning how and am looking for broken ones in any condition, and/or parts or pieces. Please call **J.P. JACKSON** at 569-0096 if you have anything or know who does. End of Magic History Lesson - and THANKS.



☆ Stan ALLEN's *INSIDE MAGIC* reports that Ricky JAY's TV Special, "*LEARNED FIGS AND FIRE-PROOF WOMEN*" (Same title as his extremely fascinating book.) has still not been scheduled by CBS TV. It could happen at any time. If anyone sees an air date for this show, please let me know. I don't want to miss it.

☆ WELL! What can I say about the George SANDS lecture on March thirteenth? FANTASTIC hardly does it! Almost *TWO* lectures worth of some of the cleanest, slickest magic I've ever seen. About forty folk turned out and were spell-bound for over three hours of incredible material - and that's not surprising. George SANDS is a delightful, unpretentious man who has been doing magic for over fifty years. His classic "*ROPE SAND-SATIONAL*" was first copyrighted in 1949 and is still in print! What a wealth of knowledge and experience; and the fun part of it is that he seemed actually pleased and happy to be able to share it with us. AND he did, down to each tiny detail. He started with some fun rope handling ("Threading the Needle Loop") while everyone followed with rope in hand, and then walked us through his newer "*ROPESATIONAL*" routine, a bewildering series of cuts and restorations (with no scissors) and vanishing and appearing knots. He demonstrated and explained his version of "*RAZOR BLADE THREADING*" with some of the boldest and cleanest handling around. His card magic was dumbfounding, and included two versions of "*CARDS ACROSS*" (Voo Doo Cards), and an incredible "*CARDS TO POCKET*", one-at-a-time effect. Both appear in his book "*FIFTY YEARS OF MAGIC*"; along with "*ONE CARD PETE*", a six card repeat with a poetic, gambling story line. Even the local

"card guys" were impressed. The second half was just as good, and it went on and on. Another nice *Coins Across* effect called "*TWO COINS IN THE FOUNTAIN*"; some imaginative *Billet Reading*; his timeless "*ROPESANDSATIONAL*" routine; and some very original Balloon Animals with great gags. A tremendous lecture by a very nice man. Come back again next year, George.

☆ Again from Stan ALLEN: PENN & TELLER will be on HBO's *COMIC RELIEF* on Saturday, March eighteenth - just about the time you get this. You may not care for these zany magic comedians, but ya can't hardly NOT watch them.

☆ And, lastly, if you missed the George SANDS lecture on the thirteenth, he'll be back here in the county on Friday, March twenty fourth with *THE MAGIC GUILD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA* at seven thirty PM in their regular meeting place in Carlsbad (See map in December *MAGICCURRENTS*) DON'T MISS HIM AGAIN!

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## CROSS TALK



● Dual member, Jack MARKLEY, of *Ring 76/Magic Guild of Southern California* wants to make it a triple. He is a long-standing Christian Magician (and a good one), a member of *THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN MAGICIANS* and is anxious to start a local chapter. Christian Magicians and Clowns use magic to present Gospel Truths. We already have several in the area, and Jack is looking for more. If you are already a member, want to be one, or know someone who does Gospel Magic, please contact Jack at 724-6558. He is almost ready to apply for a charter for a local chapter, and the first meeting is planned for the end

of April.

● Missed the David HARKEY lecture at *BRAD BURT'S MAGIC SHOP* on February twenty second, and was politely informed that I shouldn't have! Hope you didn't. I hear that this a fantastic young man - very original and innovative. He also lectured for Ring 96 in Long Beach on February eighteenth and is on his way - Expect to hear more about him soon.

● Very interesting *MAGIC GUILD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA* meeting on March seventh. Nice turn-out for Ken DeWOODS mini-lecture and demonstration on Horror Make-Up, and then Ring Seventy Sixer V. Robert ALLEN's lecture on Spook Effects and Illusions. Don't miss this group! They have great refreshments too!

● Stan ALLEN reports that noted apparatus collector, Robr ALBRO, and magic technician, John GAUGHAN, have some of their magical equipment and Automations, dating from the 1880's to the present, on display at the *LOBBY GALLERY*, 400 South Hope in Los Angeles through May eleventh. I've seen much of the Albo collection and lots of John GAUGHAN's work. It would be well worth a trip to Los Angeles for you fellow collectors and magic history buffs.

● The *MAGIC CASTLE AWARDS BANQUET* took place on Saturday March eleventh. Main results: Magician of the Year - Harry ANDERSON, Stage Magician of the Year - James DIMMARE, Parlour Magician of the Year - Kevin JAMES, Close-Up Magician of the Year - John CARNEY, Lecturer of the Year - DARYL, The Performing Fellowship went to SHIMADA, and the Master's Fellowship was awarded to Fran MARSHALL.

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# Personality of the Month



away in 1985 at the robust age of 87. On approaching the house you are greeted by a pair of weathered swinging gates which screen the entrance garden from casual passers by. However, a small sign bids you "Enter", and you step into a lovely little oriental garden. The tinkle of a fountain draws your eye to a small secluded pool presided over by the impassive figure of a small seated Buddha. Somehow the charm of your surroundings is instantly established.

Upon admission to the house you are greeted by a capacious foyer which melds into a generous glass walled living room that looks out over more small gardens penciled with ceramic tiled walks. Over a low stone wall the view of the valley is beautiful but fails to intrude on the privacy of the room. The living room and foyer walls are tastefully decorated with travel mementos of the couple's world travels. Jane explains that there were even more pictures and memorabilia when Will was alive, plus a complete theater in the garage, which has had to make way for the rakes and tools of an active gardener.

(CROSS TALK - Cont. from Page 4)

Very, very nice long letter from member **Jim (DIAMOND JACK) BEAMAN** recently (Our Bullhead City, Arizona representative), - full of his magic experiences, activities, history, opinions, innovations and ideas, etc. with pictures and news clippings. Jim was a very active Ring 76 member back in 1973 when **Jack WHITE** was president. He moved to Arizona in '78 or '79 (wish he hadn't). He has faithfully maintained his membership in Ring 76 since he moved and even came over to perform in our Ring 76/96 Exchange Banquet last September. Many thanks, Jim. Wish you were still in town. We could use your magical spirit, talents, and dedication.

*J.P. Jackson*

J.P. Jackson

569-0096

This month I had the pleasure of interviewing a charming and dynamic lady who has been an active magician for over fifty years. A member of Ring 76 since 1964, Jane Clement is still going strong, not only as a magician, but in a myriad of other activities. For instance, next month she will lead a travel group to Australia and New Zealand. In the past she has lead groups to, among other places, the Orient and Europe. Jane is definitely not on the shelf.

Her home on Lomica Drive in Rancho Bernado instantly reflects the catholic tastes she shared with her husband Wil Staar (Wilton S. Clements), who passed

Will, who grew up in Owensboro, Kentucky, was bitten by the Magic Bug at age eleven. It seems that a traveling magician/tourist, named "**Sport**" **Green Logdson**, was lost in the Mammoth Cave. (Will's father was the manager of the Mammoth Cave.) When the senior Clements was active in rescuing the frightened magi the man

offered to show young Will some magic in recompense. He performed : **THE LINKING RINGS, THE CUPS AND BALLS**, and then really impressed the boy by making a glass of water disappear and reappear three rooms away. In an interview in the **RANCHO BERNADO JOURNAL** in 1978, writer **Barbara Walter** quotes Will as saying, "I thought it was a miracle. I was hooked!"

Although Will had no teachers he began to read all the books he could get on the "ancient art of honest deception". He soon found, however, that although the books were helpful, they were written in the conjuror's special language which could only be learned through apprenticeship to a master magician. Despite this drawback he continued to study.

During World War I Will served in the Marine Corps (leaving high school in his third year to enlist), and after his service he decided to complete his education. He went to Chicago and got work to help him through college, at one point attending two colleges simultaneously. He also joined the S.A.M. and the I.B.M. in order to pursue his avocation. He is quoted in the **Walter's** article, cited above, as saying, "In Chicago in the late twenties and early thirties I met some of the great men in the field of Magic, among them **Harry Blackstone Sr., Dr. Harlan Tarbell, Warner Dornfield** and

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**Okito** (Theodore Bamberg); men who really made it possible for me to be something in magic.

"**Blackstone** and the others gave me the technical information I needed in magic - how to build my act, how to present it, and how to dress. **Dornfield** said, 'Don't ever let your audience be better dressed than you are.' The effect was all important."

Will met **Blackstone**, his "hero" and mentor, by walking up and introducing himself to the magician when he was playing the *TIVOLI* in the early thirties.

"I invited him to have lunch at our fraternity house," Will recalled. "He accepted and asked if there were any children in the house. I told him our cook's son was the only child."

"Blackstone talked with us and ate lunch. Then he asked to see the cook's son. He surprised us by producing a live rabbit out of his coat pocket for the little boy. I thought that was a very humane act."

Will performed his own sleight of hand while at the University of Chicago. He whisked Jane away from her current boyfriend. Again quoting from the **Walter's** article, "Jane was dating a fraternity brother of mine. I just told him to move over." The couple were married in 1934 and have two daughters and six grandchildren.

That felicitous outcome was not always assured. At first Jane was not overly impressed with magic. She thought it was "corny". Her younger brothers, however, did not. There was at times a question as to whether Will was calling to see Jane, or to entertain her brothers. After their marriage she changed her mind about magic.

After college both of them joined the Chicago Public School System as teachers, Will teaching Physical Education and coaching, and Jane as an English teacher. Will also worked officiating at sports events until he decided that magic was more lucrative and concentrated on that. Will was eventually awarded a Master's degree by the University of Chicago. Jane also studied at the Sorbonne, and at the French School in Vermont.

Will spent thirty eight years with the Chicago Board of Education, retiring in 1963. During those many years he made a name for himself as a magician in Chicago. He was also active in Magic Circles, serving as president of the *HARLAN TARBELL RING 42*. In 1963 the couple

decided to retire to San Diego. They were looking at a house in the city and had about decided on it when they learned the current owners were moving to Rancho Bernardo. It immediately occurred to them that if someone was leaving such a lovely home the alternative must be even more desirable. As a result they took a look at Rancho Bernnado and bought the first lot in Seven Oaks. They never regretted it.

In World War II Will accepted a commission in the Navy as a Welfare and Special Services Officer. The first Christmas after the



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liberation of the island of Guam from the Japanese Will presented the first magic show many of the children there had ever seen. In all, he served five years on active duty and fifteen years in the Active Reserve, retiring as a full commander.

While the couple lived in Chicago Okito was in retirement in the city. He had become old and feeble and his only living relative, Fu Manchu, was working in South America, so several magic wives began keeping an eye on him. On Sundays the hotel where he lived served no meals so the girls would bring him dinner. Jane's interest in magic had developed to the point where she asked him to teach her some tricks. The old master not only taught her some tricks, but built some equipment just for her, plus developing routines and special music. The act, which was done in pantomime, was called *MAGIC TO MUSIC*. Jane became an accomplished magician in her own right.

The couple became very active in Rancho Bernardo. Will was president of the dramatic club and was the first person elected to the Rancho Bernardo Hall of Fame. He also worked widely in San Diego County as a magician. He was an expert in the art of Public Relations, capturing many press notices and garnering an imposing collection of letters of appreciation from his many satisfied clients.

One of his most impressive achievements was his record of free shows for the patients at the Balboa Naval Hospital and the Base Hospital at Camp Pendleton. Between the years of 1964 to 1974 he did not miss a single month of his self imposed duty to the hospitalized boys. His stack of letters boggles the mind. Reading them one wonders how the Red Cross Workers were able to think of the words to create this outpouring of appreciation.

THE END

## OTHER MAGIC GROUPS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**INLAND VALLEY MAGIC SOCIETY** meets the 4th Friday of each month at 8 PM in the Community Room of Great American Savings, 600 No. Graham, Lake Elsinore, CA. Guest fee is \$2.00, call Stew McKinley (714) 674-6554 for more information.

**I.B.M. RING 76** in San Diego meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the American Legion Hall in La Mesa, corner of University and Nebo St. (take the Spring Street exit off Hwy 8 and take the right fork when the ramp splits). Info: call J. P. Jackson (619) 569-0096.

**O.C.M.C.** (Orange County Magic Club) meets the third Tuesday each month at "Our Redeemer Lutheran Church," 12301 Magnolia Blvd., Garden Grove, CA at 8:00 PM. Info: Phillip D. Graham (714) 550-0556.

**S.A.M. 22** meets the third Monday of each month at the Variety Arts Center, downtown Los Angeles, Figueroa Avenue between Olympic and 9th Sts.

**I.G.P.** (International Guild of Prestidigitators) meets the second Saturday of each month at various members' homes. Info: Mallory Van Slyker (213) 656-5457.

**I.A.M.** meets the second and fourth Fridays - Lawndale Civic Center, 14701 S. Burin Avenue in Lawndale, 7:30 PM. Info: Mike (213) 540-6030.

**I.B.M. 21** meets the second Tuesday at Hollywood Beverly Christian Church, 1717 No. Gramercy Pl. (at Hollywood Blvd.) in Hollywood.

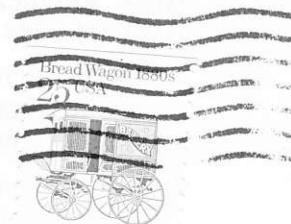
**I.B.M. 96** Long Beach, meets the third Saturday of each month at Iacaboni Public Library, 5020 Clark Ave., Lakewood.

**I.B.M. 254** Inland Empire meets the second Tuesday each month in Redlands. Info: Paul Shartle (714) 792-5220.

**M.A.G.I.C.** meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at Rancho Cucamonga Neighborhood Center, 9791 Arrow Route, Rancho Cucamonga. Info: Jack Freedman (714) 981-1396.

**MAGICURRENTS**

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