

Mining

# Southwest Oregon Miner's Association chapter Western Mining Council



# Newsletter

February, 1989

### MEMORIAL

IRIS L. ROCHFORD  
1916 - 1989

Iris L. Rochford, 73, passed away Feb. 19, 1989 in Sun City, Arizona. She is survived by her brother, Norman L. (Bud) Lewis of Galice. Iris was born in 1916 at Galice, Or. She attended both the Galice school and the Rand school through the eighth grade. After graduating from Grants Pass High School in 1936, she attended college in Eugene. She lived and worked in Portland for several years before moving to Arizona. Iris is a part of the Galice/Rand history. She was loved and will be remembered by family and friends.

### MEMORIAL



ROBINA MAY HILLIS  
1895 - 1989

Robina May Hillis, 93, of Grants Pass, died Monday Feb. 27, 1989 at Southern Oregon Medical Center. She is survived by three nieces, Sannaraha Waters, of Galice, Janet Moe of Grants Pass, and Jean Anne Lillard of Roseburg; three nephews, Ron, Ken, and Bruce Robertson of Grants Pass; and a stepdaughter, Lois Davis, of Oakdale, Calif. Robina was born May 10, 1895 in Placer, Oregon and lived in the Rogue Valley all her life. She attended school in Galice, married Roy Hillis in 1928, and they mined in the Galice area in the 1940s and 50s. From 1946 to 1952, Roy and Robina, along with her brother and sister - in - law, Lou and Lucille Robertson, owned the Galice Store, and Robina was

well known for the pies that she baked. She was on the Josephine County Election Board for many years and received a Certificate of Appreciation from the President of the United States. Robina contributed a lot to Rogue Valley history, was well respected and loved, and will be missed by her family and friends.

Our February meeting was opened with the Pledge of Alligance to the Flag, led by Seth Crawford.

Bart and Joyce Rector were presented with a hand painted gold pan from the Southwest Oregon Miners Assoc. for the work they have done for the assoc. in past years. The painting was done by Lorri Crawford and brings back memories of the first night we danced at the Galice Store, mining boots and all. Thanks a million! We will treasure it.

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We would like to welcome new members, Jack Strubel of Wolf Creek, Bud Rosenblatt of Galice, Lynn Bishop of Grants Pass, Perry Robbin of Galice, and David Gaunt of Sunny Valley. We look forward to working with you and hope that you will take an active part in the association.

a non-profit organization

We were delighted to have visitors, Bob & Kathy Shepher, Bob Gilbert of Grants Pass, Gary Hoeffler of Selma, Debi & Rick Connolly of Eagle Point, Bob Castagnia of Talent, and Mike Becker of Goldfield, Nev. attend our meeting. We hope you enjoyed it and will come back again.

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We extend our sympathies to Geoff & Charlotte Garcia. They lost their home and all their belongings in a fire on one of the coldest nights we have had. They can never replace some of the personal possessions that they lost, but it was very heart warming to see the small Community of Galice, the citizens of Grants Pass and numerous people from smaller towns turn out to help this family in their time of need. It was unbelievable. It makes you proud to be a part of this place and America.

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Altho Carl Duncan of Roseburg, who headed up the battle to keep the Geology Office in Grants Pass open, was not able to attend our meeting, I talked to him at the Galice Store. He told me that altho a subcommittee had put the Geology Office back in the budget, it must still be approved by the full Ways and Means Committee, the House and the Senate. When Carl explained to me the long involved process and how much of his own personal money went into this, it made me realize just how much he and a great many others had done. You are a great guy, Carl!

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President Crawford answered a letter to the Linn County Commissioners. They were seeking information as to the impact on recreational mining in the Quartzville area, under the Scenic Waterways Act. Bruce contacted several people and sent what information he could gather, with an offer to help them if we could.

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We received a letter from the Southern Oregon Timber Industries (SOTIA) thanking us for our newsletter, and asking for our support in the fight to keep our lands open to public access. After a discussion in which everyone agreed that the restrictions and their effects (such as the spotted owl, etc.) on the timber industry are the same for the miners, a vote was taken, and the members agreed to work with and give our support to SOTIA in this effort. One person alone can be VERY LONELY! We must all work together to keep multiple use; there is enough land locked away from the people already!

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Mr. Bela Reiner, of Reiner Lab. in Grants Pass, was our guest speaker. He gave a very interesting talk on the processes involved in assaying minerals. He explained the difference between fire assay and chemical assay. He also showed us pictures of a costume contest that he and his daughter won in Salem, dressed as a prospector and donkey. They won a trip to Germany.

Mr. Reiner gives group discounts at his lab and for paid up members of the mining assoc. he gives a 15% discount. We enjoyed your talk and your pictures Mr. Reiner. You and your wife, Marika, are a delightful couple. Thank you.

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Plans for the April 22 & 23 Chapters get together are coming along. Mr. Richard Keith Corbin, Mining Attorney from Calif. will hold a Mining Law Seminar Sat. April 22, at 10:00 A.M. More information will be sent out on this as soon as possible, so if you are a miner or interested in mining, you don't want to miss this. Mark the date on your calendar!

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There was a discussion on a fund raising project for Jason McConnell. He is the 14 year old son of Bud McConnell, BLM Deputy Sheriff and has cancer. A basketball game was discussed and if you have any ideas on ways to help pay Jasons medical expenses, please let us know.

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Jelly Radcliffe reported that the HEW Club is collecting pots, pans and cooking utensils for the Garcias. Their meeting will be in March. Their was a discussion on ways to help Geoff and Charlotte rebuild their house. We are waiting for a decision from them as to their plans.

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Jim Doty has completed the new cabinet in the kitchen at the Hall for our coffee pot and supplies. Thanks from all of us Jim.

Thanks to Dave & Sannaraha Waters for the materials and paint for the cabinet. Sannaraha & Joyce Rector are in the process of painting the cabinet. (I don't think we are as fast as Jim.)

I would like to explain 3 things for the members who don't know or understand how things work.

First, the way our doorprize drawing works: The drawing start out with \$5. When you pay your dues to the mining association, your name is typed on a small slip of paper and put into the pot. Before each drawing, the names are throughly mixed and shaken up. You must be present to win. If your name is drawn and you are not present, your name is returned to the pot, and \$5 is added to the prize. If you win and collect your money, your name also goes back in the pot for future chances, and the prize starts out at \$5 for the next month. Second, Our regular monthly meeting is the 3rd Sunday of each month at 6:00 P.M. When and if the time is changed, it will be voted on and there will be a notice in the Newsletter. There may be other meetings scheduled with a different time, but our REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING REMAINS THE SAME, so read your newsletter carefully to be sure you have the correct meeting and time.

Third, The coffee at all meetings is furnished by the mining association. The cakes, pies, cookies, etc. are furnished by volunteer members. Buni Borreson(phone 476-2618) is in charge of this, so please do your part, because if no one volunteers Buni furnishes the eats her self and after a few meetings this can get to be expensive and tiring. We are also required after each meeting to put our supplies away, dispose of our trash and clean our ashtrays. This is also volunteer, so please take your turn.

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Loy Yokum has volunteered to make more cabinets for the kitchen. He will use lumber that he cut and milled himself from his claim on Graves Creek. Thanks a million, Loy.

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A special Thanks to member, Dan Johnson. He spent several days in the ice and snow tearing down an old trailer that was given to him by Bob Tucker. He cleaned the aluminum, hauled it into town and sold it for \$75. He donated \$50 cash to our Legal Fund, \$15 cash and \$10 in gold to our panning booth.

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The water pipes at the Community Hall froze and busted (like everyone else's) but Billy Sparks, caretaker, managed to get them all replaced before the meeting. Thanks, Billy.

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I received a letter from member, Earl Buford of Camas, Washington. He asked me to Thank the members for the card he received from the mining assoc. He is improving from his surgery and hopes to be able to get down here in the late summer or fall to work on his claim on Grave Creek.

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I also received a letter from members Mac & Lucille Shay who are spending the winter in Arizona, thanking us for the newsletter. I am taking a paragraph from this letter and putting it in here because they have given this Community a great compliment and I would like to share it with all of you. The letter says; "I'll bet the Christmas potluck was very good. The compardery shown in your community is rare and priceless. We miss it while we are away and it seems so nice to come back and be among friends again." Well, you two, we are waiting to see you back here this spring. Thanks.

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The 1872 Mining Law is very important to us. We have proved that letter writing can make a difference. It made a difference in keeping our Geology Office open. Senator Dale Bumpers is very determined to change the 1872 Mining Law. We must be just as determined to keep it. Don't put off writing about this very important issue. There will be oversight hearings on this in the spring of 1989. How far away is that? Write to your Congressmen and Senators and to Senator Dale Bumpers, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 and to Rep. Nick Rahall, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Speak out against this change before it is too late!

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■ ON DECEMBER 27, 1898. Hull and Beck brought to town from their mine on Louse Creek three gold bricks weighing 66 ounces, valued at \$1,200, the result of 10days' run.

■ ON MAY 12, 1898. Frank Houston of upper Althouse was in town several days ago with a pocket full of gold nuggets as usual from his celebrated mine. One nugget valued at \$37.60 was especially fine, being almost in the exact shape of an octopus.

BLM/SMALL MINERS MEETING. JAN. 25, 1989 - First of all, we would like to apologize to our guests for the cold building. Our caretaker was in Portland for a Dr. appointment and we were not aware that he was gone, so we were late getting a fire built.

We had a very informative meeting with guests, Eric Hoffman, Supervisor Geologist, Durga Rimal, Senior Geologist, Dick Miller, Realty Specialist, all from the Oregon State BLM Office in Portland. Steve Shade, Supervisor of Resource Specialists, Glendale, and Diane Perry, Materials Tech. Gerry Capps, Geologist, Jim Badger, Realty Specialist, from Medford BLM Office.

We also had Bill Conklin, Recreation, Lands, Minerals, & Staff, Bill Gason, Resource Forester, Galice District, Phil Cruz, Resource Assistant, Galice District, Gordon Lyda, Mining Engineer, and Bob Martin, Law Enforcement Officer, all of Grants Pass Siskiyou National Forest Service.

We really appreciate all of you making the long trip out here in such bad weather to show your interest in the mineral industry and to work with the miners. Thanks so much and feel free to attend our meetings at any time.

Members present were Harold Belisle, BLM Grants Pass Area Manager, Bob Korfhage, BLM, Glendale Area Manager, and also Bob & Caroline Tucker, Randy Hinke, Bruce Crawford, Bart & Joyce Rector, and Ron Howard. \*\*\*\*\*

Eric Hoffman gave a very interesting and informative talk, (and I hope I have these figures right), - BLM manages 50 million acres of land in Oregon and Washington, and out of this, 35 million are open to mineral entry under the mining laws. There were 11,700 new claims recorded in 1987, 32,300 assessment work filed, and 51,140 active claims as of the end of 1988. About 80% of these are lode claims, with the remainder placer, tunnel or millsite claims. Last year BLM processed some 203 notices and 4 major plans of operations to mine and expect an increase in the coming years, especially concerning large scale gold leaching operations in Eastern Oregon.

He reminded us that claim filing fees were increased Jan. 3, 1989, and handed out copies of these. The new fees are paid on a per claim basis, NOT per sheet. Send your check or money order by certified mail with a return receipt requested, so that you have a record showing that you filed your papers on time. Please include on your check or an attachment the list of ORMC or Serial numbers of the claims that you want that check to go to. This can prevent a lot of lost time and confusion by both BLM and you.

Altho BLM was concerned and not in agreement with the new EPA regulations, they are now in effect. Basically what the regulations say, is that any water discharged will have to meet a .2 mil. per meter settlement of solids. The only way to meet this is to not discharge. You have to recirculate your water. If you stay under the limit of 1500 yards per year, you should not be effected too much. In Oregon, these regulations will be administered by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. (DEQ)

He informed us that the efforts to change the 1872 Mining Laws are well under way and that we could obtain up to 5 free copies of the changes that the General Accounting Office (GAO) in Washington recommends. Send requests for copies to U.S. General Accounting Office, Document Handling and Information Services Facility, P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD. 20760. Phone (202) 275-6241.

Eric stated that the requirements of BLM and Forest Service regulations do not excuse you from State and Local requirements. \*\*\*\*\*

Bill Conklin and Gordon Lyda explained some of the differences between Forest Service and BLM regulations. BLM is responsible for the minerals. Forest Service manages the surface resources under the 228 regulations.

BLM - If you do not create any surface disturbance or use mechanized earth moving equipment or you work with hand tools or dredge, you are not required to notify BLM of your activity. If you disturb less than 5 acres per year, you are required to send a mining notice to BLM 15 days before you start operating. This will be reviewed, but approval is not required. (A reminder that these notices will be sent to State offices.)

If you disturb more than 5 acres, you must file a mining plan of operation.

FOREST SERVICE - The District Ranger can require a plan of operation at any time if he feels that you will cause any significant disturbance. There is no minimum to acreage, yardage, tonnage, etc. He has the authority to accept or reject a plan of operation.

If you disturb more than 1 acre or 5000 yards you should check State and Local permitting.

Mr. Conklin stated that if you are in a reasonable distance of a distant community, you do not need to reside on your mining claim. He commended our group for our efforts to police ourselves and obey the mining laws and said we should do more of this if we wish to keep our 1872 Mining Laws. If we do not there will be changes. He explained some of the programs that Forest Service was setting up to educate their employees on minerals. If you wish to appeal a decision of BLM, you make your appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. (IBLA)

If you wish to appeal a decision of Forest Service, you file an Administrative Appeal to the Forest Supervisor. If you do not agree with this decision, then you go to the Regional Forester.

Gordon Lyda stated that he is available to work with any mining group, and all you have to do is call or write him. He said that the greatest problem that he has is the misunderstanding between Forest Service and BLM regulations. They are based on entirely different laws. Forest Service is concerned with the protection of surface resources, and BLM is concerned with the managing and disposal of land and minerals. He asked that you note the difference in the wording. BLM is concerned with undue and unnecessary degradation and Forest Service is concerned with any significant disturbance. When you propose a plan of operation, study it carefully before you submit it and ask yourself if what you propose is reasonable AND necessary.

Again, Thanks to all our guests. The next Small Miners/BLM meeting will be March 29, 1989.

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8 A — DAILY COURIER, Grants Pass, Oregon MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1989

# Geologists strike gold in Southeast Oregon

## But extraction of tiny particles may be unfeasible

Associated Press

VALE — Geologists say the 60-acre Grassy Mountain site, a windswept bluff about 25 miles south of here, could yield .062 ounces of gold per ton of burrowed earth — a total of about \$400 million at today's prices.

"We may not be able to mine all of it, metallurgically," said Greg French, 30, senior geologist on the project. "But that's what's in the rock."

Atlas Precious Metals Inc. of Princeton, N.J., staked its first claim in the area in southeastern Oregon's high desert in 1986 on federal land administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

French and fellow geologist Chris Broili, 40, say the site may contain 1 million ounces of "micron gold" — invisible under an ordinary microscope and recoverable only by the most technologically advanced mining techniques.

A drilling rig continues to pound below the frozen surface, but the site remains in the exploratory phase. Broili and French have not yet outlined the limits of the mineralization; they still don't know if extraction — through "hardrock" shafts and tunnels or an open-pit leaching opera-

tion — would be economical.

One thing, however, is clear.

"If it ever makes it into a mine, it'll be the largest gold mine in the state of Oregon," Broili said.

BLM officials concur. One million ounces of gold would amount to fully one-sixth of Oregon's total gold production to date, the agency says.

Southeastern Oregon's gold rush was sparked in large measure by discovery of the open-pit Sleeper Mine near Winnemucca, Nev. Operated by Nevada Gold Mining, a subsidiary of AMAX Inc. of Greenwich, Conn., which put it into production in 1986, it contains the richest-known gold deposits in the nation.

Within six months of start-up, the Sleeper Mine yielded enough gold to pay off \$27 million in exploration and development costs.

Other corporations have discovered at least two dozen potentially rich sites, or prospects, in a sprawling region bounded by Jordan Valley, Burns Junction, Burns and Weiser, Idaho — called the Vale-Weiser District.

At least one of those prospects will become a major new mining operation within three years, predicts Mark Ferns, an Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries geologist.

As children bring their broken toys,  
 with tears for us to mend,  
 I brought my broken dreams to God,  
 because He was my friend.  
 But then, instead of leaving Him  
 in peace to work alone,  
 I hung around and tried to help,  
 with ways that were my own.  
 At last, I snatched them back and cried;  
 "How can you be so slow?"  
 "My child," He said, "what could I do?  
 You never did let go."

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We all Thank Buni Borreson for the large, beautiful Birthday cake that she brought to the meeting. It was very good.

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GOLD JEWELRY

Pure gold is 24k and too soft to use in making jewelry. To harden it, it is mixed with other metals such as nickel. The amount of metal in comparison to gold is the basis for the 10, 14, or 18k designation. 18k gold is 18 parts of pure, fine gold and 6 parts of other metals; 14k gold is 14 parts gold and 10 parts other metals; 10k gold is 10 parts gold and 14 parts other metals.

In the United States, no item less than 10k gold can be called "karat gold." If the color of your gold is yellow, the metal alloys used are copper and silver. If it is pink or red, the alloy is copper. If it is green, the alloy is silver or possibly, copper and zinc. If it is white, the alloy used is copper, nickel and zinc. All karat gold made in the U.S. must be stamped with the manufacturers' trademark and a stamp indicating the karat of gold. The following stampings are acceptable for 14 karat gold; 14k, 14KT, and 14KP.

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The first U.S. money was issued March 10, 1862.

Chmielniak by Betty Chmielniak Grace



"But archery season is closed."

The name drawn for the door prize of \$15 was Keith Workman. Sorry you weren't here, Keith. Doorprize next month will be \$20.

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Happy Birthday to Jim Matney, Joyce Rector, Sannaraha Waters, Dan Johnson, Ken Jochem, and Mike Becker!

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Amethyst comes from the Greek word "amethystos" which means "not drunk; sober." The stone was believed to be a charm against getting drunk and having a hangover. Greeks wore it or carried it for this purpose.

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Thank you Caroline Tucker for the delicious chocolate chip cookies that you made for the Small Miners/BLM meeting.

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I ran across this letter to the Editor in the Courier newspaper & couldn't resist putting it in here!

Turn off prisoners' TVs; make 'em do hard time

How to solve the crime problem? Get rid of all the lawmakers in Salem that make laws to protect the criminals. Get rid of all the judges that favor the criminals by letting them off with a light sentence. No taxpayer's money to be used to pay a criminal's lawyer, he pays for his own attorney. Get rid of the parole boards. Why pay them to sit around and turn these criminals loose?

If a criminal is given a five, 10 or 50 year sentence he serves that time, no parole. A murderer gets the death penalty, nothing else. And put the death within 30 days after proven guilty.

We don't need a larger jail, they need to be treated so rough that when they got out they would never want to see the inside of a jail again. This is what I suggest: One meal a day, no TVs, no radios, no entertainment of any kind. Hard bed to sleep on.

They say we can't punish a criminal. What about the poor victim? They have been raped, punished, tortured and murdered, that's OK. But according to my book of rules it's not. I say get rid of these crooked lawmakers that made these laws.

I'm back of Sheriff Bill Arnado 100 percent. We have to get tough.  
 LOY YOKUM  
 Wolf Creek

2-17-89

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HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

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Don't forget our next meeting, March 19, 6:00 P.M.

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Hope to see you next time, the good Lord willing and remember; The fault finder will find faults even in Paradise!

Joyce

SOUTHWEST OREGON MINERS ASSOCIATION  
CHAPTER OF WESTERN MINING COUNCIL, INC.

**OFFICERS FOR 1989**

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\*\*\*\*\*

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Matt Craddock    Medford, Or. 97504  
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Lesla Barton, 476-6316  
Ron Howard, 10020 Lower Grave Creek Rd.

Records - Joyce Rector, S. Fork Galice Cr. Randy Hinke, 476-6054

\*\*\*\*\*

**REGULAR MEETING, SOUTHWEST OREGON MINERS ASSOC. - Every 3rd Sunday of each month, 6:00 P.M.**  
at the Galice Community Hall.

**REGULAR MEETING, SMALL MINERS/BLM WORKING GROUP - Every last Wednesday of each month, 7:00 P.M.**  
at the Galice Community Hall.

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**VISITORS WELCOME!!**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**  
**Western Mining Council, Inc.**

I hereby tender the sum of \$ 20 of which the sum \$10.00 is in full payment for a membership in said corporation and dues for the current year, and the sum of \$ 10 in payment of annual chapter dues to the Southwest Oregon Miners Assoc. Chapter of said Council.

I hereby tender the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a contribution to the Legal Fund and/or the Sustaining Fund of Western Mining Council, Inc.

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Lesa Barton 2041 N.W. Vine Street  
(over) Grants Pass, Or. 97526

You may join the Southwest Or. Miners Assoc. only for \$10 per year, per person.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Non-members subscriptions to this newsletter; \$5 per year, for 12 issues. Articles and pictures contributed to newsletter are welcome. Originals returned if you wish. Ads free to members and sponsors.

\*\*\*\*\*  
We welcome exchange Newsletters. Permission to reprint material from this newsletter freely given, provided credit is given to material source.

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