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#### Members' Magazine

1982

No. 17

## Sites Chosen for New Exhibits

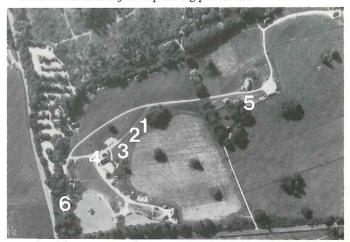
SITES FOR a number of buildings in store at the Museum were recently agreed by the Sites and Buildings Advisory Committee and work is expected to start on all of them within the next two years.

Numbers on the aerial photograph of the site show the positions for the buildings.

- (1) and (2) show the sites for the Milton Street Dovecote and the Knatts Lane Horse Whim. These two buildings come from downland areas and will be re-erected in this general area leaving space for a suitable house from a downland location. Both structures need to be associated with a substantial home. Eventually this area will become an edge of village farmstead.
- (3) Close by is the site for the West Wittering School. Its original site was remote from the village, but as we cannot re-create this location it has been decided to place it on the road leading out of the village. It is possible that work could begin on this building towards the end of the year.
- (4) The site for the North Cray Hall House was in fact chosen some time ago, next to the Crawley Hall in the market square. Work starts on this important structure this year.
- (5) This is a revised site for the Cowfold Barn in the light of the loss of the Kirdford Cattle Shed. It will be associated with the Lurgashall Shed and form a yard for Bayleaf Farm. The remaining cattle shed from Kirdford will now be screened by a hedge and fence and form a concealed area that separates the lavatories from the main complex.
- (6) This is the site chosen for a new Museum office when funds will allow, to enable staff a little more room to operate perhaps slightly more efficiently! The building has not been selected, although some

are under consideration and the final choice will probably be a low level structure.

All these sites are subject to planning permission.



Reproduced by permission of West Sussex County Council. (Copies of this and other aerial photographs of West Sussex, are available from the Planning Department.)

# Following in the footsteps of the auction . . .

## The Museum Plans a Grand Draw for 1982

AFTER the success of the Friends' Auction the Museum is to hold a Grand Draw this year to raise funds to enable the early re-erection of the West Wittering School.

The school was dismantled by Museum staff last year, and the Museum's plans to re-erect it have already caused considerable local interest in the project. In its final furnished state it will doubtless be a valuable addition to the exhibits and particularly attractive for visitors.

The Museum hopes that Friends will respond to the Draw with the same enthusiasm which they showed for the auction, and it intends to spread the fund-raising effort to visitors, who will be offered tickets in the Museum shop.

The first prize, by kind donation of Sir Richard and Lady Holderness, is a fortnight's rent-free stay in a villa in the Algarve of Portugal, to be taken between November and March, 1983. The villa is located in the fishing village of Carvoeiro and enjoys beautiful views of the coastline and the distant mountains. The villa has a private swimming pool and sleeps a maximum of eight persons. Return air flights for two people will be included with the prize. The prize will be non-transferable.

Other prizes include a Stratton bicycle, sponsored by Dugdales of Chichester, a black and white portable television, a picnic table with attached bench seats, £25 cash, £20 of Marks and Spencer tokens

(donated by Marks and Spencer), a Sodastream "fizzy drinks machine", a health and beauty token donated by the Herb Garden of Chichester, a book token donated by Hammicks of Chichester, a complimentary dinner for two at the Chichester Lodge Hotel, a turkey donated by Church Farm Shop, Bosham, a bottle of whisky donated by the Fox and Hounds Inn, Singleton, a painting by Peter Iden, and an alarm clock donated by Allens of Chichester. More prizes will be added.

A booklet of ten tickets is enclosed with each newsletter together with an "s.a.e." for returned counterfoils and money. If members are able to sell more, further books of tickets are available at the Museum office, telephone Singleton 348. It would be appreciated if members not wishing to participate would return the tickets.

The Grand Draw will take place on Monday, August 30 at 2.30 p.m. when it is hoped a well-known personality will pick the prize-winning tickets.

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# Walderton Nearing Completion

WORK ON the re-erection of Walderton Cottage is in its final stages this Spring. During the winter attention turned to the interior of the house while thatching continued (when the weather allowed) above. The transmission date for the BBC Chronicle programme about the dismantling and re-erection of the building has now been changed to March 24.

The east end of the house, which survived in 17th century form has been completed in that manner, while in the west end the bay which formed the original hall has been sectioned lengthways. One half has been completed in its 17th century form, while the other half shows the open hall. The aim is to give visitors some idea of the way in which this transformation occurred.

The east end will be furnished in 17th century style with reproductions of actual original items of furniture in other museum collections. The Museum is extremely fortunate in possessing a copy of the inventory of furnishings in Walderton cottage of the period and this will help to reconstruct a reasonably accurate picture of the room at this time. The Museum has been consulting James Ayres, Director of the John Judkin Memorial Trust, and author of the Shell book of The Home in Britain.

The west end will contain a small exhibition which will help visitors understand the changes which the structure underwent, and may include the use of sound and light.

Great care has been taken in the finishing of the interior of the house, particularly in achieving as near as possible the textures of the materials in the room. The replastering of the wall, for instance, has involved a daub underplaster, carried out by Brian Boseley, and a very thin top coat of hair plaster and lime wash, undertaken by an outside contractor, plasterers, A.E. Holden and Sons of Chichester.

John Friar, Roger Champion and Heather Champion have been involved in flint and brick work, laying of floors, repair of interior cupboards and stairs and other carpentry and conservation of the original material including three soot-blackened panels of wattle and daub.

A full report on the Walderton project is being prepared by the Museum's Research Director, Richard Harris and the County Archaeologist, Fred Aldsworth to be published in Sussex Archaeological Collections later this year.

Picture on page 3.

### **Interest Free Loans**

THIS YEAR the Museum is promoting a new interest free loan scheme designed to ease the cash flow situation, a particularly difficult problem faced here because of the uneven distribution of income.

The Museum has over the last few years had overdrafts during the winter despite summers of high attendances. In winter the income supply almost dries up, at a time when work on site needs to go on apace in preparation for the following season.

The loan scheme has been devised as an easy and comparatively painless way in which enthusiasts for the Museum can help. Under the scheme loans of any amount from £50 will be accepted; repayment to be made at any time specified by the lender or on demand.

Lenders of £200 and upwards will be issued with a transferable Gold Pass renewed annually during the currency of the loan and according the privilege of free admission to the Museum for a car and its occupants. The holder may entrust the pass to any other person.

A very substantial loan of £10,000 has already been made under the scheme.

# Visitor Services Coming Under Scrutiny

THE MUSEUM'S Council of Management has established a small working party to examine possible improvements to our visitor services.

Aspects to be covered include car parking, toilets, interpretation, signposts, and sales points. The working party will also examine elements of the Museum's publicity.

Members of the group are: Nigel Talbot Ponsonby (recreation specialist with Humberts, and a member of the Council of Management), Bill Seabrook (lecturer in Land Management at Reading University), Roy Armstrong (Founder of the Museum), Chris Zeuner and Richard Pailthorpe.

The group has already identified a serious

lack of useful data on our visitors and in order to improve this a research student will be working at the Museum during the summer under the direction of Bill Seabrook.

The first of the Volunteers' Forums dealt with some of the matters under consideration and the comments of stewards have been very useful to the group.

### Museum to Licence the Central Field

THE EDWARD JAMES Foundation has once again supported the Museum's development by making available on an annual licence the field at the centre of the site (Greenways).

The Museum has been able to use the field for a variety of purposes for a long time — the most important use being the growing of thatching straw. It badly needs an area in which special events can be staged, and there is also a need for some minor revisions of the boundary in order to site buildings more satisfactorily and to improve visitor circulation.

The Foundation has granted the annual licence to the Museum which will use the field for its benefit in conjunction with Karova Farms (Edward James Foundation).

At present the field holds another crop of thatching straw including two varieties — Marris Widgeon and an older variety, Red Standard. Following the harvest, the threshing is planned together with a Ploughing Through the Ages Demonstration on October 16-17. This event will include horse ploughing, steam ploughing and vintage tractor ploughing together with modern ploughing.

# Woodlands Exhibition Opens in May

THE MAJOR new exhibition "Trees and Woodlands in the Landscape" to be housed in the Coldwaltham Cattle Shed is to be opened on Friday May 28th by Mr. R. Steele, Director General of the Nature Conservancy Council.

The exhibition has been written by Ruth Tittensor, with Bruce Williams as the designer, and aims to describe the way in which man has influenced the landscape and converted natural materials to his own use.

In the appropriate surroundings of the Museum's woodland area visitors will, it is hoped, understand from the exhibition the links between the historic buildings and the "natural" landscape.

The displays will demonstrate how the landscape has changed at the hand of man over five millenia, putting in perspective the current more obvious changes. The traditional woodland management of central southern England will be described and compared with the original natural forest of the area and the modern high forest woodlands of today. Finally the exhibition will demonstrate how

the materials visible in the buildings (e.g. wattle, curved beams) and the tools required to produce them were obtained from those woodlands. The products of modern woodlands will also be explained.

A 30-page booklet discussing the same themes at greater length will eventually be available and there will also be a woodland trail from the Cattle Shed, through the forest and coppice areas to reinforce the themes for visitors. At intervals through the summer there will be demonstrations of woodland crafts close to the exhibition.

Ruth Tittensor, who lives at Drayton, near Chichester, is an ecologist with a particular interest in the history of landscape. She has completed a detailed ecological and historical survey of the West Dean Estate and is deeply involved with the Chilgrove Valley Landscape Project, which includes the Museum area. Mrs. Tittensor has carried out other historical-ecological research in Sussex, including the yew-woods of the chalk, "The Mens" woodland in the Weald and the woodlands on the chalk between Arundel and Winchester.

## Field Trip to East Anglia

WALTER GREENWAY, Vice Chairman of the Friends, is organising a field trip to East Anglia from April 16-18, with visits to a number of important churches, three major timber frame barns, at Cressing Temple, Thaxted and Coggeshall, the post mill at Saxtead, the New Inn at Peasenhall (the old wool hall) and the Museum of East Anglian Life at Stowmarket.

Places on the trip are already limited and anyone wishing to join should contact Brigadier Greenway promptly as bookings close in early March.

A separate sheet giving further details is enclosed with this newsletter.

#### Coppice Acquired

THE MUSEUM has acquired on lease 16 acres of hazel coppice on the Goodwood Estate. The coppice is healthy and will provide a much needed supply of hazel for wattle panels and fencing, together with other useful timber. Alan Waters and Martin Bossom have been assisted with the coppicing by volunteer, Ted Nash. The Museum is very grateful to the Goodwood Estate for making the area available.

# Wheelwright's Collection Removed

IN THE AUTUMN the Museum reluctantly decided to remove the wheelwrighting collection from the Watersfield Stable because it was suffering badly from damp conditions.

High priority is now being given to finding an actual example of a wheelwright's shop in which to mount a more appropriate and improved display of the equipment.

The collection of tools in the Carpenter's Shop is not suffering in the same way as it benefits from a raised floor and a certain amount of heating installed at the time of reconstruction.

The Stable, in the meantime will be returned to its original use, eventually to include some stable furniture. In the lower end the chaff cutter rescued from the Kirdford Cattle Shed fire is being installed.



Thatching in progress at Walderton Cottage. Above the open hall section, the under-layer was tied to the

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## Fire Destroys Museum Exhibit

FIRE has always been one of the most feared disasters at the Museum, and in the autumn it happened. One of the Kirdford cattle sheds was completely destroyed in a blaze which began as a lark among young people visiting the Museum.

The fire was begun deliberately with matches dropped in hay and straw stored in the 18th century cattle shed. Flames spread quickly, leaping through the roof and finally destroying the building and causing a total of £6,000 worth of damage.

Quick action by Dick Pailthorpe, who was acting as warden that day, together with stewards on duty, members of the public, and Chichester firemen saved the 19th century restored chaff cutter which was on display in the end bay of the building. This is now being re-sited in the Watersfield Stable.

Again prompt action by those on site together with the Police led to the culprits being apprehended on the site. A juvenile girl was eventually charged with arson, found guilty, and fined £20. She was in a party of children in care with a local authority.

#### Fred and William

BEFORE CHRISTMAS the Museum was faced with a sad decision regarding the future of our retired Shire horse, Fred. He had developed a recurrence of a previous ailment called capped elbow, for which he had already undergone one operation, and his health was also affected by arthritis, increasing with the onset of winter. Both these factors were causing Fred great distress, and treatment was hampered by his weak heart.

Finally his owners, Whitbread and Company, in consultation with the Museum Director and the vet decided that the fairest thing was to have Fred destroyed.

is a more appropriate carthorse-type in the

Fred had been with the Museum for about 18 months following Rhyme, the first horse retired to the Museum by Whitbread, who also had to be destroyed because of pedal bone disease.

Fred will be replaced on duties around the Museum site not by another retired horse but by William, an eight-year-old Shire cross owned by Chris and Diana Zeuner. William

is a more appropriate carthorse-type in the Museum setting than were the tall brewery horses and his comparative youth makes him better able to work this particularly steep

William has a diminutive companion in the person of Champers who is not to be confused with a Southdown sheep. Champers is on loan as company to William by Peter Linfield.

## **Toll Cottage**

TWO Groups of volunteers have been working on the Toll Cottage during the winter, one led by Philip Burchett at weekends and another consisting of a number of museum stewards led by Doug Bryant. The interior has been battened and is now ready for plastering and the curtilage fence has been built.

The garden is to be cultivated and will be managed by Dick Pailthorpe. It will be carefully planned to conform with gardening practice of the period. Varieties known to have existed in the 19th century will be acquired from vegetable banks.

#### Flint-laying Course

ON BEHALF of the local Agricultural Training Group the Museum arranged a day's instruction in the repair of flint walls. A small group of students employed on local estates attended for the day's session and John Friar acted as tutor.

During the year it is hoped to furnish one room. The inner room will contain a small exhibition on turnpikes and toll cottages.

#### Sussex Wagon

THE MUSEUM has acquired a very good example of a Sussex wagon from Bob Lomas of Dragons Green. There are very few good quality Sussex wagons left and the type is often confused with Kent and Surrey wagons, which are similar in design. Conservation work has begun and is being carried out by West Sussex Rural Engineering Company.

#### New Guidebook

THE NEW guidebook has been prepared by Richard Harris during the winter and will be produced in a totally new format, made necessary by the increasing number of exhibits.

There are enormous financial problems involved in producing a new guidebook and these have been alleviated by the generous offer of a very substantial interest-free loan from estate agents, Whiteheads of Chichester.

This year the Museum also has new publicity leaflets, designed by Bruce Williams of Chichester.

#### Volunteers' Forum

THE SERIES of meetings arranged for volunteers during the winter has been a great success. Museum staff have been particularly pleased by the attendances.

At the first meeting Chris Zeuner dealt in some detail with future planning and outlined some of the options that the Museum might take. This provoked a lively discussion which was not without benefit to the policy-makers!

In the second meeting Richard Harris and County Archaeologist Fred Aldsworth described the Walderton Cottage project in detail. The library and the micro computer and their importance in research were the subjects for the third meeting with Marjorie Hallam and Richard Harris and in the fourth meeting Heather Champion and Chris Zeuner talked about the Museum's collections and collecting policies.

The Museum is host to the Local Studies course run jointly by the WEA and South-ampton University Extra Mural Department. Before Christmas there were ten lectures from different disciplines and in the second term students are undertaking detailed courses in ecology, archaeology, documents and records and the history of buildings.

#### **Mathematical Tiles**

IN NOVEMBER a symposium on mathematical tiles was held at Ewell, chaired by Alec Clifton-Taylor. Enthusiasts of the subject gathered to hear 18 papers exploring the variety, dating, and geographical distribution of mathematical tiles.

The Museum has offered to house and index records of mathematical tiles gathered from all over the country by R.G. Martin of Brighton, and in addition will be accepting samples of the tiles to include in its reference collection of building components.

# Mill Ends First Year of Operation

LURGASHALL MILL completed a reasonably satisfactory first year of operation producing wholemeal flour. The regular working of the mill machinery has been a great success with visitors, no doubt enriching their experience at the Museum.

The continuous working put strain on some of the repaired machinery and one or two repairs proved unsatisfactory. These have been put right during the winter by Robert Demaus, the miller, and the West Sussex Rural Engineering Company.

The Mill will reopen with the addition of the second pair of stones in commission, which will enable Robert to produce an expanded range of products including separated flour, bran and grits.

#### **Bread Making Competition**

A SPECIAL competition is being arranged this year to celebrate the first year of the Mill's operation. Entrants will be required to bake a loaf using wholemeal flour and present it for judging at the Museum on Sunday, June 13. There will be a number of prizes including an attractive hamper, donated by Heathers of Hove.

Full details and entrance forms can be obtained by sending stamped addressed envelopes to the Museum office. A junior section (under 18) will also be held.

The judging will be followed by a "bake in" using the Walderton bread oven.

If you bake your own bread this is a contest you cannot miss!

#### **Exhibition Caravan**

THE MUSEUM is to acquire and convert an ex-army mobile exhibition caravan to tour shows and other sites during the summer. The purpose is to redouble our efforts to keep the Museum in the public eye and to explain our work to potential new customers.

The project is being funded by the Friends of the Museum and will cost about £1,200. Already a number of locations have been booked, including the South of England Show and the Surrey Show.

- The Museum is looking for volunteers

who would enjoy a day out running the unit, and spreading the word. Perhaps some readers of this newsletter who cannot help at the Museum site would be able to offer a day for this purpose?

## Nyetimber Windmill

THE MUSEUM rescued the contents of the derelict Nyetimber Windmill near Bognor in the autumn, with a view to recirculating the equipment for restoration projects elsewhere.

The site on which the Mill stands is to be redeveloped and the tower on the Mill incorporated into the housing scheme.

The salvage involved lifting heavy pieces of machinery from the bottom of the Mill, following a collapse many years ago, out of the top of the tower, and this was achieved with the generous help of Marsh Plant.

## **New Staff Appointments**

The Museum has appointed Jan Pack — at present Museum Secretary — to the post of Catering Manager to develop further the potential of the refreshments facility which was opened last year.

Jan has considerable experience of the catering industry. She trained at Highbury Technical College, Portsmouth and was apprenticed at the Connaught, London, where she took her City & Guilds exam. Since then she has worked in a number of hotels and restaurants, including "Knockers" at Midhurst and has also worked for Garfield Weston.

The Museum welcomes to its staff Miss Valerie Price who replaces Mrs. Pack as the Museum Secretary. Her previous appointment was as Secretary to Lord March at the Goodwood Estate.

Mr. R. Jaggard of Walderton is to be the Museum's new Warden for weekend duties during the summer season. Mr. Jaggard became particularly interested in the Museum when staff dismantled the derelict cottage in his village, now being re-erected on the site. His daughter Louise worked on both the dismantling and re-erection of the house.

For six months the Museum office had the benefit of an extra person in *Karen Muller* who was here on a Work Experience Scheme. She undertook a variety of jobs while she was here and became an extremely useful member of staff. She was particularly valuable when she stood in for Jan Pack during her recent illness. Karen now has a job with a firm of computer processors in Chichester and everyone at the Museum wishes her well.

#### Friends' Recital at Petworth House

AS A FURTHER help towards the Museum's fund-raising efforts, the Friends are organising a special evening in May at Petworth House when there will be a piano recital by Amanda Hurton, a student of the Yehudi Menuhin School of Music, and a privileged viewing of the rooms in the House

During a long interval in the recital Friends will be able to view the rooms normally open to the public but with special displays of silver and porcelain and the added touch of fresh flowers.

Tickets will be £5 from Mrs. M. Hum of 14 Exeter Road, Chichester, telephone Chichester 781357. Cheques should be made payable to the Friends of the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum and an s.a.e. should be enclosed.

# Conference in Canada

RICHARD HARRIS has been invited to represent the Museum at a conference in Canada organised by the National Parks Service on the "Reconstruction, Restoration and Maintenance of Timber Structures in Historic Parks and Sites"

The conference is held at Fort George National Historic Park, Niagara on the Lake, Ontario in March and Richard will present three papers — Restoration versus Reconstruction, Dismantling and Reassembly in the UK, and Traditional English Timber Framing.

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# Further Support from the Minets

TWO OF the Museum's greatest supporters have joined the Friends in the funding of the next major project, the North Cray Hall House.

The Peter Minet Trust has awarded the Museum a grant of £2,500 per annum over two years and the Idlewild Trust has awarded a further grant of £3,000 per annum over two years, amounting to a total of £11,000. This very generous help and the continued interest in the Museum by Mr and Mrs Minet are

deeply appreciated.

The Friends' magnificent effort at last year's auction resulted in £9,000 towards the re-erection of the house, which will be sited next to the Crawley Hall in the market square. Work on the repair of the timbers will start in summer.

#### **Exhibitions**

TWO EXHIBITIONS are planned for this summer at the Museum. From June 14 to June 23 there will be an exhibition of drawings by Peter Iden, who has used buildings at the Museum as subjects for his work.

From July 11-19 the Arts Council Exhibition on Timber Framed Buildings written by the Museum's Research Director, Richard Harris, will reach the Museum on its way round museums and arts centres around the country.

#### Norman West

THE FRIENDS of the Museum will be very sorry to learn of the death of Mr. Norman West. From the time of its foundation he gave unstintingly of his time and skills and although illness has prevented him taking an active part in Museum affairs for several years, all those who worked as volunteers in the early formative period, as well as members of the Council of Management, will remember him with appreciation and gratitude.

We owe Norman's involvement in the Museum to Kim Leslie, and I well remember the first occasion when he came in 1968 to help in the dismantling of Pendean farmhouse. For eight weekends during that hot and memorable summer, he and his wife Pam and their daughter worked consistently with a small band of volunteers on a particularly rough and occasionally risky task. This was soon followed by the dismantling of the Littlehampton granary and the roundhouses from Binsted and North Bersted.

In addition to all this manual help, he contributed his professional expertise as a Chartered Accountant to the formation and setting up of the Museum as a registered charity and Limited Liability Company; for six years he acted as Secretary and as a valued founder member of the Council of Management. In these years the Museum was developing virtually without money, and most of the founder members were without any commercial expertise. In these circumstances Norman guided the Committee through many problems — legal and financial.

His illness placed a tremendous strain on his wife, Pam, who had for years acted as co-ordinator of our volunteer workers, and I am sure that the Friends as a whole would wish to offer their condolences on her bereavement.

J.R. Armstrong

#### Museum Action Day

THE MUSEUM is planning a special weekend — July 24-25 — when its workable exhibits will come alive. The aim is to demonstrate some of the crafts and processes which, owing to lack of staff and funds, have to be static during most of the year.

The Action Day will include pit sawing, bread making, water raising, blacksmithing, carpentry, wheelwrighting, working with lead, and demonstrations of horse-driven machinery.

#### **Arthur Plewis**

ARTHUR PLEWIS, who donated to the Museum his collection of wheelwrighting equipment, died last autumn after a bronchial illness.

Many long-standing Friends will remember the interesting talks about his life as a wheelwright which he gave to Museum members shortly after his retirement.

Arthur started work as a wheelwright's apprentice in 1921 when he was 14½ years old at High Halstow, Rochester. Although his main work was that of a wheelwright and undertaker he carried out many other jobs including building, thatching and the repair of farm implements. His starting wage of 18/- a week steadily rose and by 1930 he was receiving £2.8s.0d for a 50-hour week.

Arthur retired in 1971 after 50 years in the business. During this time he had had only 18 weeks holiday. He had seen the decline of the use of horse-drawn vehicles and the advancement of mechanisation and he had adjusted his work accordingly.

On his retirement he donated the complete contents of his wheelwright's shop to the Museum, allowing visitors some insight into a craft which was once an everyday occurrence in village life.

Heather Champion

# Horse Ploughing Demonstration

VISITORS to the Museum at the end of the season were treated to a demonstration of horse ploughing by Bob Lomas from Dragons Green and his two horses, Queenie and Harvey.

The weather was, on the whole, far from kind, but Bob Lomas ploughed steadily on, with the aid, on two days, of another horse team owned by Robert Dash of Dunsfold. They ploughed a large proportion of the central field (it was never intended to plough it all by horse).

Bob Lomas will be back with his horses during this year, and will take part in the Ploughing Through the Ages demonstration on October 16-17.

WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM SINGLETON: 0243-63-348

Bob Lomas — ploughing in the sunshine at last!

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