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"The purpose for which this corporation is formed is exclusively educational and charitable and is to promote voluntarism, to develop the potential of its members for voluntary participation in community affairs, and to demonstrate the effectiveness of trained volunteers."

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Tropical Topics is proud to display on the cover of this issue the cover of the Historic Preservation Committees' new guided tour booklet on Coconut Grove's historic sites.

In the December issue of Tropical Topics, the Transfer article was written by Beth Mangas, whose name was inadvertently left out of the byline.

EDITOR'S THOUGHTS

Special thanks to Arthur Teele and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce for their willingness to give their time to the writers of Tropical Topics, and for providing material for informative and interesting articles.
A Tribute To Volunteers

Volunteers are like yachts. No matter where they are, they arouse your curiosity. Where do they come from? Why are they here?

They could stay moored where it's safe and still justify their being, but they choose to cut through the rough waters, ride out the storms and take chances. They have style. They're fiercely independent. If you have to ask how much they cost, you can't afford them.

Volunteers and yachts have a lot more in common these days. They're both a part of an aristocratic era that is disappearing from the American Scene. They're both a luxury in a world that has become very practical. Day by day, the number of volunteers decreases in this country as more and more of them equate their worth in terms of dollars and cents.

Three years ago I did a column on volunteers in an effort to point out that they don't contribute to our civilization. They ARE civilization— at least the only part worth talking about. They are the only human beings on the face of this earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfishness, caring, patience, need and just plain loving one another. Their very presence transcends politics, religion, ethnic background, marital status, sexism, even smokers vs. non-smokers.

Maybe, like the yacht, the volunteer was a luxury. And luxuries are often taken for granted. One has to wonder. Did we as a nation remember to say to the volunteers, "Thank you for our symphony hall, thank you for the six dialysis machines. Thank you for sitting up with a 16 year old who overdosed and begged to die. Thank you for the hot chocolate at the scout meeting. Thanks for using your station wagon to transport a group of strangers to a ball game. Thanks for knocking on doors in the rain. Thanks for hugging the winners of the Special Olympics. Thanks for pushing wheelchairs into the sun. Thanks for being."

Did media stand behind them when they needed a boost? Did the professionals make it a point to tell them they did a good job? Did the recipient of their time and talent ever express their gratitude? It frightens me, somehow, to imagine what the world will be like without them.

Erma Bombeck

The Public Affairs Committee is one of many outstanding League committees that deserve much recognition. They are as follows (left to right): Vivianne Wicker, Luisa Kelly, Barbara Hummel, Lyn Allen, Liz Bishop, Elaine Rosemond, Barbara Hinterkopt and chairperson Claudia Kitchens.
President's Page

The thing that sets so many League members apart from the rest of the community is commitment to their volunteer activities. This is shown every day in committee meetings and in the many volunteer activities our members work on.

Our commitment is the one thing that binds us together. League members are a diverse group. We come from many parts of the country, have different backgrounds and our family and work experiences are varied. Yet, when it comes to our League work, we are dedicated to working together for the good of the community.

Those who want to work hard for the League will gain personally from the experience. Some will have the satisfaction that comes from a job well done. Others will learn skills that will serve them in many job-related and volunteer activities. Our community will also benefit. How nice that there are only winners.

There are times when family matters or work severely limit the amount of discretionary time we have. Fortunately, our flexible placements allow each of us to match our time available with appropriate placements. Of course, quite a few members do not let anything stand between them and their League work no matter the other pressures on their time.

I am thankful our members are so committed to volunteer work, and I know this spirit will continue to strengthen the Junior League of Miami as we move forward together.

Fondly,
Mary

Direction.

When the first Publix opened, the directions were pretty simple: Make shopping a pleasure. Those are good directions. We've never looked back.

Publix. Where shopping is a pleasure.
Miami Government:

Art Teele Looks Ahead

by Beth Mangas

Last November’s nonpartisan City of Miami mayoral election captured public attention, in no small part because of Arthur E. Teele Jr., a first-time mayoral candidate with no prior political experience.

Born in 1946 in Washington, D.C., Art Teele grew up in our capital city, Tallahassee. He is a graduate of Florida A&M University (B.A. Political Science 1967) and Florida State University School of Law (J.D. 1972). Before attending law school, Teele served two years in Vietnam. A captain in the Army’s elite Airborne Rangers, Teele was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

More recently, Teele, a Republican, served in the Reagan Administration as Administrator of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (“UMTA”) in the U.S. Department of Transportation. During his tenure, he was responsible for a $4 billion dollar annual budget, of which over $300 million was directed to Miami and Dade County.

Since his defeat in the mayoral race, Teele has taken an extended leave of absence from his law practice to “sort out his life,” and to complete some pending business ventures in Los Angeles, New York, and Detroit. He is a partner at Sparber, Shevin, Shapo & Heilbronner in downtown Miami.

In the next two years, Teele plans to focus his energy on advocating changes in the Miami inner city and throughout Dade County to help working people and the “economically and politically powerless.” Teele plans to concentrate on areas where he has acknowledged expertise. “I’m concerned about the lack of bus transportation in the inner city. I think this City should have over 1,500 buses on the street everyday if it’s going to be comparable to other cities and communities throughout the United States and we have less than 400 buses on the street everyday. That means that the people in the inner city are locked in and are denied access to jobs, to markets, to health services—the full array of activities that mobility requires.”

Teele also plans to spend a lot of time helping to encourage others to register to vote and to run for public office.

The future agenda for City of Miami government, according to Teele, should include annexation of portions of areas bordering the City. Presently, Teele observes, there are areas, predominately black neighborhoods, where only one side of the street is geographically within the City limits while the other side of the street is not or where half of some streets is within City limits while the other half is not. Teele, who has repeatedly proposed annexation for these portions of the City believes there is “no rational, geographic, or systematic reasoning” for the current division of the City limits except discrimination. He also believes “this is going to be an intelligent issue, an issue that the Anglo communities, more and more, are going to understand.” Teele would also like to see single-member districting in the City of Miami, which he feels would be the “fairest and most equitable way to provide representation... and is the only way to keep Miami at peace.”

The next issue that local government will be facing, Teele believes, is the “importation and subsequent citizenship of Cubans,” which Teele fully supports. In addition, an issue that Teele finds has not been adequately discussed in the media, but which Teele sees as pressing, is the fate of some 250,000 Nicaraguan refugees camped on the “embankments” of Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador. “The presidents of those countries are going to rightfully demand that those citizens be relocated, they should be relocated to the United States, and there’s nothing wrong with that,” Teele says.

Elaborating, Teele maintains, “What’s wrong is when a government can reach out thousands of miles away to bring in people fleeing communism and cannot take care of those people who are within its own shores—who want to be empowered and who want to participate in democracy; and there’s something wrong with a city that can’t see the hypocrisy of that.” Teele thinks Miami “is not going to be a very pleasant city” if government fails to recognize serious voting rights dilution issues or fails to “take aggressive and proactive steps to protect the rights of those citizens that are here.”

When asked about the merits of continuing to hold nonpartisan Miami mayoral elections, Teele responded, “I think in a city like Miami, it’s the only way to go... It’s difficult enough to focus on real issues such as leadership [and] administrative ability.” In Teele’s view, political party affiliation should be a “non-issue” in Miami elections. Teele believes the move, in some quarters toward partisan City elections is “a step away from the people; that gets party machines involved, it’s the wrong step.” He feels a bipartisan race would “further exacerbate the racial tension between the members of the Latin community that tend to be more Republican (and members of) the black community that tend to be more Democratic.” Partisan City elections, he concluded, would “further polarize the City.”

As far as his own future political aspirations, Teele has been offered several appointed positions but has turned them down because, “they weren’t the right appointment at the right time.” However, Teele says he would consider a future appointment should the right one come along.

Meanwhile, as Presidential Super Tuesday approaches, Teele will be focusing his attention on Democratic candidates, Dick Gephart and Jesse Jackson, and Republican candidates, Jack Kemp and George Bush. One may safely assume all of them will be courting Teele.
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Treat Yourself . . .

See Where Coconut Grove's Coming From

by Emily Clemente

Early visitors include author of boys books, Kirk Monroe (first left seated on steps). No relation to Ralph Monroe, Kirk was a founder of Biscayne Bay Yacht Club.

Courtesy of the Historical Association of Southern Florida

It's easy to imagine the charm and beauty that attracted early settlers to this tropical wilderness surrounded by sparkling bay waters, and kept them here, despite hurricanes, hardships and persistent mosquitoes. The first families who came and stayed were the Pents and Frows, lighthouse keepers in the 1830s. In the 40s, the area was simply called "Beasley's Point." By virtue of two measly coconut palms left standing after the 1876 hurricane in front of the original post office, the settlement then known as "Jack's Bight" officially became "Cocoanut Grove."

The League's Historic Preservation Committee has just published the third in its series of guided tours, a 36-page booklet on Coconut Grove's historic sites. The driving tour starts at what is now Vanguard School, the site of the 1910 Old Sunshine Fruit Company, winds its way along Main Highway,

sends you down a few side streets, and ends with Villa Vizcaya. Among approximately 30 buildings on the tour are descriptions and histories behind the Old Schoolhouse, El Jardin, the Coconut Grove Playhouse, Ransom Pagoda, the Pan American Terminal Building and Millionaire's Row.

Once you read a little of the Grove's history, narrated in the introduction by noted historian (advisor and sustainer) Arva Moore Parks, many Grove names of present-day streets and places sound very familiar. Names like "Peacock," from Charles and Isabella Peacock who purchased 31 acres and built their "Bay View Villa" home. They renamed it "Peacock Inn" and took in paying guests as the first hotel in Miami, 1882.

The name of Commodore Ralph Middleton Monroe is linked to so much of the Grove's beginnings. His home, "The Barnacle," has changed little over the past 100 years. Coconut Grove social clubs founded a century ago still exist today. The Biscayne Bay Yacht Club held its first open sailing regatta in 1887, and last year celebrated its 100th anniversary with its traditional chowder party on George Washington's Birthday. After many meeting sites, the clubhouse, a Walter De Carlo-designed building, has remained on South Bayshore Drive since the early 30s.

Across from Peacock Park and next to the library, The Housekeeper's Club, a civic group organized in 1891, built their clubhouse in 1921. Renamed the "Woman's Club of Coconut Grove" in 1957, it stands today in the midst of modern developments. The Pine Needles Club founded in 1895 by Mrs. Kirk Monroe, developed into what is now the Coconut Grove Library, located on the same land donated to the club by Ralph
Monroe in 1901.

The State of Florida Department of the Interior, Historic Preservation Advisory Council donated $7,000, and the League funded $5,500 for the guide. The Coconut Grove Bank lent historic photos and along with Ransom-Everglades School, contributed towards production costs.

Now with historic tours of downtown Miami, Coral Gables and Coconut Grove, the Historic Preservation Committee's next project will be on South Dade's interesting heritage, beginning at Sunset School until the Dade-Monroe border. Plans are to include the Coral Rock Castle, Calley Square, Anderson Corners, Knausberry Farm, the Maude Black House, Ferdinand Magellan, Robert Frost's winter home and the Homestead Hotel. Debbie Allen, this year's brochure committee chairman, researched the area for the Project Development committee and admitted she had "no idea all this was there."

During the year committee members conduct walking tours of historic downtown landmarks for Miami Magic and specially-arranged guided tours. The committee wants to develop a program of historic slide lectures throughout the school system, and give children a sense of the colorful background of their community.

Debbie Allen carefully led her committee through a tremendous research effort and long-hours of production, and says she couldn't have done it without the help of Anna Elhart, who's not even a member of the brochure committee. Allen hopes people will take the time to drive around all of the Grove and experience a little history and heritage of these adventurous pioneers, the original Coconut Grove tourists, from so many years ago.

It opened as "Pine Knot Camp," a winter campus, in 1896. You may recognize the Florida-Adirondack School as the present-day Ransom-Everglades.

Proprietors of Miami's first hotel, Charles and Isabella Peacock, were noted for serving good food and comforts.

Courtesy of the Historical Association of Southern Florida
My Day at the Ballet . . .

The following pictures and letters represent several of the 1,000 fourth graders from 81 elementary schools in Dade County who attended the special performances by the Miami City Ballet, commissioned in part by the Junior League of Miami. The performances of *The Steadfast Tin Soldier* and the *Tarragon* were held between November 9-16 of 1987. In addition to these performances, the children were given a tour by Junior League Ballet Committee Members of the premises, which included the rehearsal studio, costume shop and set design. Mr. Edward Villella, Artistic Director of the Miami City Ballet, also gave a short oration to the groups of children on the Miami City Ballet in general. A special thanks to Chairperson Holly Blount and her entire committee for all their hard work to make this first year Junior League project so successful.

Lauretta Fogg and a student try on ballet slippers.

Lili Neale and a student view the educational brochure published by the JLM in coalition with the Dunspauch-Dalton Foundation, Inc., Miami City Ballet and Dade County Public Schools.
Edward Villelia, two students and Wendy Bolz in front of a set design.

Dear Miss Blount,

Thanks for inviting me & my class to the ballet Nov. 16, 1987. I liked The Stead Fast Tim Boulder the best. But I also liked The Tarantella dance too. The reason why I liked The Stead Fast Tim Boulder was the background.

Love, Jessica

Nov. 19, 87
November 18, 1987

Dear Mrs. Blount,

Thank you for inviting the fourth grade class from Tropical CL to see the dance. We enjoyed the dance. The dance I liked was Tarantella. But I liked The Steadfast Tin Soldier the most. I like the way you dance. Thank you for everything!

Love,

Melissa

Boyd
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40 and Fantastic!

Christmas is over
The new year is here,
Resolutions are made.
"Placement Selection" is near.

You've tossed and you've turned,
At night stayed awake,
Now that you're 40
You've got a decision to make!

Should "Sustaining" you go
or "Active" you remain?
What could you lose?
There is so much to gain!

You've worked rather hard
And the League has too,
At getting you trained
For what you best do!

You've learned so much
and have so much to give.
 Really, at 40
You've just begun to live!

You've been right in the middle
Of Miami's best team;
You're a FANTASTIC member
With your gusto and steam!

You're a natural leader —
A dependable volunteer.
In the League you're saluted!
In the community you're cheered!

So, come on — say YES!
Stay Active a while longer.
Because of you and the others
Our League will be stronger!

— borrowed

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FLOWERS FOR
THE HEART
PLANTS FOR THE
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a garden gallery of plants, basketry and unusual gifts
In addition to the transfers listed below, Anne Cox, Maggie Edmonson and Nancy Reycraft are also recent transfers to the Junior League of Miami. However, at the time when this issue went to print, personal data on these individuals was unavailable. The Junior League of Miami welcomes all of you to Miami!

Molly Moylan, originally from Miami, transfers to us from the Junior League of Tallahassee. She is currently working in management of commercial property as well as a printing business owned by her brothers. A graduate of Florida State University, Molly transferred to the Tallahassee League as a provisional from the Miami League. Her previous placement was on “Way of Life,” an organization through the Tallahassee medical field to help promote organ donations and equip individuals with adequate facilities involved in this effort.

Donna Simmons Underwood transfers to the Miami League from the Junior League of Hartford. Although originally from Atlanta, Donna grew up in Miami and graduated from the University of Florida. She and her husband John have two children, who Donna enjoys being at home with after maintaining a career for several years. Donna’s current placement is on Miami Magic.

Michelle Patton, who is originally from Norfolk, Va., transfers to us from the Atlanta Junior League, where her past placements included the Mental Health Center and the Crisis Hotline. At present Michelle is working on her doctorate in Clinical Psychology at the University of Miami.

Heide Adams, originally from Marblehead, Massachusetts, is a transfer from the Junior League of Boston. She and her husband Dan have two children, ages four and five. Heide’s past placements include the Bargain Box and Headstart, a school for underprivileged children. Heide is looking forward to being involved with the Miami Junior League, as her previous job as a flight attendant with Pan American made it difficult for her as an active League Member.

Amelia (“Mel”) Maguire comes to us from the Junior League of Tallahassee. Although born in Texas, Mel has lived in such cities as New York and Washington, D.C. Mel is an attorney with the law firm of Holland & Knight. Her previous placements with the Tallahassee League were the Refugee House, a temporary shelter for abused women and their children, and the Bargain Box, a thrift shop similar to our Encore Shop.

Emily Cox, previously a member of the Miami Junior League, returns to us from the Junior League of Mexico City, Mexico. Originally from Louisville, Ky., Emily and her husband Mark are happy to return to Miami, where they hope to remain for more than a brief period. Emily’s previous placement in the Miami League was Volunteer Training, which she has once again chosen for her placement.
GMCC: Mission Possible

by JoAnn Sheehe

"The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce is an association of business and professions organized to create economic progress in Metropolitan Dade County. To carry out this mission, the Chamber will serve as the voice and conscience of business enterprise and will involve the private sector in community leadership. Recognizing the close relationship between economic health and the social and physical environment in which we live, the Chamber will participate in identifying and fulfilling the needs of our growing urban, area, Greater Miami."

Sounds like a tall order even for a "Mission Impossible" task force! But mission impossible it is not. With a membership of over 5,000 a network of over 200 committees, the dedication of its staff, and with the foundation built on the commitment of volunteers, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce (GMCC) achieved an impressive 93% of its goals last year.

Born of a merger between the Board of Trade and the Merchants' Association, the GMCC celebrated its 80th anniversary this year. The history of the Chamber parallels that of the City of Miami with emphasis on developing Miami as a thriving center attractive to foreign and domestic trade concerns as well as tourists.

The real structure for the present day Chamber evolved from a two fold plan developed in the late sixties by a Study Committee commissioned to bring new life and direction to the Chamber which had begun to sag. After a year of study the committee stated that "we must have a Chamber which will bring together people and groups in a community to:
1. Identify mutual objectives;
2. Examine available alternatives for solving these problems;
3. Establish priorities;
4. Establish a practical timetable; and
5. Take whatever action is necessary."

As a result, ten Action Committees were formed (today there are over 200) including Port Progress, Water & Sewers, and International Affairs. In addition, a structure of over 35 independent civic groups or organizations was initiated to give the Chamber the flexibility needed to achieve community growth and well-being.

Dorothy Weaver, 1987-88 Chairman of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and 1983-84 President of the Junior League, emphasizes the ability of the Chamber to "be a convener of the community to bring all constituents together" to discuss issues of concern, and "come up with a common vision that the whole community can buy into." She says that the real power of the Chamber lies in its ability to be a "vehicle for grass roots participation that reaches out beyond its own membership."

But how does such a large organization with such a lofty mission function effectively and maintain continuity?

First, the people. The vision and commitment of both the staff and volunteers have helped to make Miami's Chamber the progressive and responsive Chamber it is today. The Executive Committee of 18 headed by Mrs. Weaver are volunteers selected by the Nominating Committee for a one year term of office. President William O. Cullom, oversees a staff of 35 in areas of Administration/Mem-

William Cullom, President of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce.

bership, Communications, Community Development, Economic Development, Public Affairs, and West Dade. According to Lorraine Sweeney, Manager of the Executive Office, the staff members are devoted to "the mission" and turnover is very low.

Second, the purpose. The GMCC is very specific about what it hopes to accomplish and does not take on a project that does not seem "do-able." Each year, the Chamber holds a Goals Conference over a 2-3 day period. Using a MBO (management-by-objectives) approach, each committee sets their goals and determines their program of work for the coming year. The results of this year's conference June 5, 6 and 7 at the Ocean Reef Club are published in a booklet entitled Headed for the Future. From transportation to sports to education to parks and recreation, the bases are covered.

Third, the freedom to be politically active. The Chamber affords a comfortable partnership to exist between the private sectors and elected officials. As the Chamber is a non-profit organization, it can truly present the needs of the community as a whole. The Public Affairs
Committee works closely not only with local but also with state and national officials to achieve goals. Mrs. Weaver met in Washington, D.C., in November, with the Dade Delegation and officials from Customs to discuss matters of trade, health and education as they affect Miami. She describes the Chamber as being "pro-active" rather than "reactive."

Fourth, communication. How does one "reach out and touch" 5,000 members effectively? One way is by a weekly C.E.O. (Chamber Eye-Opener) report sent out by President William Cullom listing the various meetings and functions for the week. He also initiated this Fall the C.E.O. Quarterly. This is a more in-depth report of current Chamber activities. Executive Director of Communications is Edward Rodriguez. Also, Junior League member Nora Hailine is in charge of coordinating events over 50 people.

What is the bottom line? If it is happening or going to happen in Miami, the GMCC is likely to be involved. Membership is not limited to businesses. Individual citizens can also join. Minimum annual membership fees begin at $295 and increase with the size of the firm or business. Trustee fees being at $2,500. The Hispanic community is also well represented. According to Mrs. Weaver, there are more Hispanic members than there were total members five years ago.

GMCC — Growing, Motivated, Concerned, Contributing. Where would Miami be without it? Now, that's a case for the Mission Impossible team.

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HERE COMES THE JUDGE!  
by Beth Ann Clark

1981 was the beginning of many busy years to come for Celeste Muir. It was her provisional year in the League, her year as President-Elect of the Dade County Bar Association/Young Lawyers Section and the maintaining of a successful law practice with Brigham Moore Gaylord Schuster & Sachs. However Celeste knew she could handle it all with inspiration from her cousin, Jean Parker, who was becoming the first “working” League President in Tallahassee.

After law school at Florida State University, Celeste moved to Miami to clerk with Judge William O. Mehrstens. In 1976 she joined the law firm of Brigham Moore et al, specializing in eminent domain cases. Celeste remained with the firm until then Governor Bob Graham appointed her as Judge to the Dade County Courts. “My appointment came in November 1985 and I remember clearly because it was the same day the City of Miami held it’s elections and Xavier Suarez became Mayor of Miami.

As a Judge in the Dade County Court System, Celeste’s division handles misdemeanors, small claims (civil cases under $5,000) and traffic cases. The traffic cases vary from expired licenses, traffic tickets and DUI’s. Her placement this year is “WOMAN to WOMAN,” and finds a growing interest and awareness from the criminal justice system.

Judge Muir knows the League has grown to accept it’s members working. Years ago when Celeste’s mother-in-law, Helen Muir, was writing for the Miami Herald and Miami News, the League thought a woman could not have enough time for work and volunteerism. Now the League is very dedicated and sensitive to helping such members with placements that will coincide with their careers. “Tracy Lee Grant was my placement advisor after my provisional year and she thought with my background and interests, that CHARLEE would be perfect. How right she was! It was an exciting start for me in the League and one of the major recent community activities involved in lobbying and law to which the League was committed.”

Celeste met her husband Toby in Miami at a Bachelor/Spinster party and they have been married for eight years. And yes, Toby is also an attorney with Steel, Hector & Davis. They have two children, Jane Whalley who is 4 years old and 2 year old William Douglas.

At the moment, Celeste and Toby are packing boxes getting ready to move into their new home in Coconut Grove. Actually, the house has been in the Muir family for almost 45 years. Toby’s mother has built a smaller house on the property and soon grandmother and grandchildren will be running in the yard together. Speaking with Celeste one can see that much of her energy and strength come from her family.

Celeste grew up in Fernandina Beach near Amelia Island. She is one of 5 daughters and has a twin sister, Susan, who lives in Long Meadow, MA. Her other sisters, Elizabeth, Anne and Kathleen all live in different cities throughout the south, so many family reunions are still held at her mother’s in Fernandina Beach.

“The life of a judge is terrific and I couldn’t give it up unless forced. From the beginning the Junior League was my strongest support group and was very helpful in my campaign. It is very much a part of my life.”

On behalf of the League,
Tropical Topics
SALUTES Judge Celeste Muir!
The *Magic* of Miami is not an *ILLUSION*.

April 23, 1988
"That is the sale price."

"It's time to call Southeast."

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