

The Centre Democrat

BELLEFONTE, PENNA.



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EDITORIAL

As bad as is the accident toll, more people are run down by gossip than by automobiles.

Watch Russia if you want to know how long the war will last; what happens in the next three months will give the answer.

A foreign broadcast tells us Hitler wears a night-shirt. Thought he said he wasn't going to let his uniform till Germany won the war.

The U. S. Army is handling approximately a million pieces of mail a day. This requires 1,000 soldiers in the Army's own postal service.

Benny Mussolini's case gets sadder and sadder. This year, we understand, he didn't receive a single valentine—not even from Hitler or Hirohito.

The experience of the Dutch forces in Java presents positive proof that the finest offensive psychology is not a substitute for tanks, planes and guns.

We think the idea of Budd Abbot and Lou Costello, screen and radio comedians, is really a patriotic one. They have dedicated themselves to a round of personal appearance tours until they have the \$350,000 necessary to buy a bomber for the government.

Encouraging words from those in authority: President Roosevelt: "Germany, if they and Japan are very close to their maximum output of planes, tanks and ships." Secretary of the Navy Knox: "I can promise you (men in the Navy) here and now that the day is not too far distant when you will not be outnumbered."

Well, as our yellow enemies in the Pacific have cut off our supply of silk, our women are facing a bare-legged future. When present supplies of silk stockings run out, women will be forced to accept a substitute. And that's where cotton enters. There are many women in Centre county who think that cotton stockings are inferior to silk ones. They may be tempted to buy an extra supply of silk stockings. However, hoarding silk stockings won't pay. How would you feel walking down the street in silk stockings if everyone else wore cotton? Silk stockings will become as conspicuous as a sore thumb.

Renewed emphasis upon the necessity for full-time production comes from Donald M. Nelson, who declares that the nation must go on a 24-hour day, seven days a week if we are to make available the tools of war that will be required to defeat the Axis powers. We must be clearly awakened to the danger that this nation can be beaten. The fighting is taking place far from our bases of production and it is on the battlefield that we must establish superiority. Potential industrial power and even manufactured weapons mean nothing until they are in use against the enemy.

New light has appeared on the subject of whether a person can be cured of drinking. It seems that a wife, daughter and daughter-in-law of a man who drank too much, chained the whiskey-victim to a stump in front of his house with nine empty whiskey bottles pointed toward him. The three women sat calmly on the porch talking. Occasionally one of them would get up and give the liquor-lover a number of blows. When police rescued the man they found him exhausted and barely conscious. He had been beaten; there was a bloody gash on his head; a hot sun had added to his suffering. The interesting part of the story is that when the unhappy victim was freed from the stump he was offered a drink. His answer was: "Hell, no."

The passing of the Democratic Watchman, a newspaper that for many years had an influential bearing in this community, while regretted is not altogether surprising. Not a week passes but that similar reports come from newspapers all over the country, which have been forced to discontinue. It is because The Centre Democrat has always believed in taking its readers into its confidence that we do not hesitate to state that these are critical days for both newspapers and magazines. Those that survive the present unprecedented situation will be those that can best fit themselves to meet present conditions. Many future conditions will be none can foretell. What are compelled to raise subscription rates in order to survive, pyramiding production costs that affect every department, another scheduled rise in the price of newsprint, and fears of a supply curtailment coupled with the wiping out of a large part of the advertising by reason of priorities, and on a scale never experienced in newspaper making, have brought about a situation that has every publisher baffled.

SECOND FRONT MAY SHORTEN WAR

The war began for the United States a little more than three months ago when Japan delivered an attack upon Pearl Harbor, crippling our admittedly inadequate naval strength in the Pacific. Since that day the Japanese have moved to secure the entire Southwest Pacific, taking Hong Kong, Singapore, Java and threatening to invade India and Australia. Every island fortress in the area, of vital importance, is denied to the United Nations after one hundred days of warfare.

Preparation Yields Success

The Japanese triumph, for that is what this unprecedented conquest amounts to, can be attributed to thorough preparation for attack, control of the seas, superiority in the air and the use of trained soldiers in overwhelming numbers at points of attack.

The Japanese have not hesitated to take risks, accept losses and batter forward. Only on Bataan have the Japanese failed to exceed expectations. Elsewhere, the Japanese are well on their way to domination of the Far East, to the absolute exclusion of the Western Powers.

Will Japan Attack Russia?

The fighting front now extends close to 5,000 miles from Tokyo but the initiative remains with the Japanese. Long lines of communication may be broken in the future but, for the business in hand, the Japanese have been able to transport men, planes, tanks and supplies with amazing precision. Whether the Japs will now (1) advance against India to seek a junction with Germany, isolate China and sever important supply lines to Russia, or (2) launch an all-out attack upon Australia, in the effort to close the back-door to a United Nations' offensive, cannot be guessed.

Japan has other alternatives, to adopt the defensive, hold on to conquered lands and entrench, with the option of attacking Russia or not, as Tokyo sees fit. The Soviet looms as a future threat to Japan. The Japanese know that a German victory is essential to their complete victory and a Japanese attack upon Russia may be necessary to prevent Hitler's defeat by the Red Army.

Germans Suffer Heavy Mauling

On the Russian front the Red Army continues to make good progress. Hitler's soldiers are taking a severe mauling and German reserves are being poured into the battle in an effort to prevent Soviet advances that might imperil the entire German position.

The striking performance of the Red Army, in the past three months, has equalled the exploits of the Japanese. In the eyes of many observers the Russian advance is the more important. It presents the only apparent opportunity of an early triumph over an aggressor nation.

That the United States and Great Britain are rushing supplies to the Russians is certain. Both nations understand the supreme urgency of delivery and take some comfort in Moscow's optimistic prediction that bold methods will bring victory in 1942.

Supplies Help But Attack Needed

Where and how the forces of Great Britain and the United States can strike the most damaging blow to their enemies is the question that concerns our leaders. Naturally, the supplies that this nation is sending to the various fronts play a major part in the strategy of future campaigns.

Huge convoys are reaching Russia, with planes, tanks and guns. These weapons, placed in the hands of the Red Army, cannot better accomplish the destruction of Nazi military might. Much the same observation applies to the Near East and Australia but there is increasing belief that joint British and American effort will be used to open up a second front in Europe.

May Force Hitler to Defensive

If this can be successfully accomplished the Nazis will face a real two-front war at a time when Russian successes have impaired the striking power of the German armies. It is conceivable that such a battle-zone would compel Hitler to abandon plans for an ambitious campaign, involving the oil fields of the Near East.

Whether the front can be created in time to prevent the Germans from undertaking one more super-drive to win the far is doubtful, that Germany will resume the offensive, on a mammoth scale, within the next two months, is reasonably certain. What happens will determine the duration of the war and, possibly, the outcome of the great world struggle.

There is so much bravery on exhibition about the world in these tragic times that some of it is overlooked. It is highly appropriate that courage in the Army and Navy be recognized worthily, but it is no less fitting that attention be given to the men who go down to the sea in ships to be bombed and torpedoed, to fight sharks, to drift endlessly in enemy boats, to be rescued maybe, but otherwise to perish. There are heroes in the merchant marine. Make no mistake about it. Every newspaper story of the sinking of tankers and other merchantmen reveal that bravery is not an exclusive thing among Americans. In or out of uniform, these men of America are exchanging handclaps with the heroes of history. The men of the sea are performing a highly essential war service. Getting the cargoes through is their job. Enemy bombs are duds so far as terrorizing them goes. Pulled out of the water, the crews of the merchant marine ask first when they can be put back to sea. The whole thing is thrilling and inspiring to us landlubbers.—Harrisburg Patriot.

Many newspaper readers will be a long time forgetting the recently published story of the English airplane captain who jumped into the sea from a rubber boat in order that four other members of his crew might reach land. Their airplane had been shot down. Five men crawled into the rubber dingy. They knew it would require seven days to reach land. The store of provisions was adequate for four men but not for five. During the second night at sea, the captain, "a very gallant gentleman," as official reports described him, calmly dove into the sea. His sacrifice saved the lives of four men who seven days later were dragged ashore. It is such stories as this that make many a man wonder if he has the stuff of which manhood is made. Furthermore it is stories like this which leave no doubt of the kind of world we would have if everybody was as ready to lay down his life for another as was this "very gallant gentleman" of the RAF.

It doesn't amount to much, but this year West Point cadets have for the first time paid Federal taxes on their 1941 incomes. Uncle Sam gives the West Pointers \$780 a year, plus a slight food allowance, and all single men who earned \$750 last year must file a return.

The manufacturers of radios have been ordered to half production of radios for the public by April 22. The fifty-five producers of radios and phonographs will devote their plants to war production.

The best information is that Japan is limited to an output of from 350 to 600 airplanes a month, so it's only a matter of time and distance before the United Nations get rolling.

Strange that none of these folks who know exactly how to run the Government ever land a place in Washington.

Discouraging news about the war predominates, but there should be some heartening events in the next few months.

The Germans are never satisfied. Russia gave them a taste of the scorched earth policy, but they still complained about the cold.

Taxes for war represent insurance against complete loss which will be sustained if the Axis powers win the war.

THE OFFICE CAT
"A Little Nonsense Now and Then,
In Relished by the Wisest Men"

I Couldn't Do It
The bear slept in his bear skin
And slept real well, I'm told.
But I slept in my bare skin,
And caught an awful cold.

A Wedding and An Auction Mixup
A worker in a newspaper office got public sale and a wedding notice mixed. This is the result as it appeared in the paper:

"William Smith, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Smith, and Miss Lucy Jones, were disposed of at public auction at my farm one mile east of Bulville, in the presence of seventy guests, including two mules, twelve head of cattle and a lot of hogs and shoats.

The bride wore a traveling gown of blue silk, trimmed with one light spring wagon, two crates of apples and about one hundred gallons of cider vinegar. The groom was dressed in conventional black and was accompanied by his best man, one good billy-goat, gentle and kind to children.

What Can I Do to Help?
1. Thou shalt keep thy mouth shut.
2. Thou shalt stay out of Washington; both thou and thy conventions, and thy car and thy family and thy family's family and all the correspondence and thy personal problems; none of these shalt thou bring to Washington for they clutter up the works.

3. Thou shalt not harass thy son because he hath not a commission; neither shalt thou make him to feel the service of an enlisted man to be beneath his college education and thy colonial background; neither shalt these things be held against him by other enlisted men if thou dost not make of them an abomination.

4. Thou shalt not hoard; only the squirrel hoardeth and this he doeth because he is a squirrel.
5. Thou shalt not get ants in thy pants to put on a uniform only because thou art vain and hast no courage to hoe thy row in the place where thou art most needed.

6. Thou shalt walk; even shalt thou aid to save gas and rubber; thus shalt thou redeem the price of thy giraffe and thy doctor's bill and thy very hide.

7. Thou shalt not strike; neither shalt thou walk out; neither shalt thou look out; neither shalt thou sit down on the job; in order that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God hath given thee.

8. Thou shalt not in thy confidence measure the seas for verily they who hath thought to hide behind the seas are full of prune juice.
9. Thou shalt not fret because of evil-doers for thou hast not done so well thyself.

10. Thou shalt not lose faith; thou hast lost nothing beyond the recovery if thy faith be not lost.

—By Gill Robb Wilson, President National Aeronautic Ass'n.

Modern Version
"Love sends a little gift of noses," said the nurse as she presented Sam Levy to his new-born triplets.
Probably
He—"Wish I had a nickel for every girl I have kissed."
She—"That would be nice. You could buy a pack of gum with it."

Salesmanship
Woman Shopper—"Are you sure these field glasses are powerful?"
Salesman—"Take my word for it. When you look at something less than ten miles away it seems to be behind you."

What Do You Think?
A reader asks: "If the President and Vice-President would die, who would get the job?"
At first thought we'd say: "The undertaker."

Hard to Digest
First Cannibal—"What's the matter with me, doc? I feel mighty sick."
Cannibal Doc—"What'd you have for dinner?"
First Can—"A gangster."
Can. Doc—"You've got lead poisoning."

By Mail
A traveling man received the following telegram from his wife:
"Twins arrived tonight. More by mail."
He went at once to the nearest telegraph office and sent the following reply:
"I leave for home tonight. If more come by mail send to dead letter office."

And That's How Old
The census taker was going around getting the names of people, their ages, and so forth.
He went to a house where an old maid lived alone. She refused to give her age. He insisted, so she said: "You know those Hill twins next door? Well, I am as old as they are."
So he wrote after her name: "As old as the Hills."

A Slight Mistake
An old maid visiting the country for the first time, was being driven out to the farm by an old farmer whose enterprising family kept summer boarders. In passing the meadow just before they got to the house a couple of calves scrambled off toward the other side of the lot.
"Oh," exclaimed the old maid, "what pretty little cowlets."
"Very air mistaken, ma'am," said the farmer, "them's bullets."

She Saw It All
An old lady was on a ship going to South America. As they neared the equator, she nearly worried the captain to death, wanting him to be sure and point the equator to her.
So one day as they were about crossing the line, he called her up on the bridge, gave her the spy glass, and told her to look in a certain direction. She put the glasses to her eyes, and he reached up to his head and held it there for a hair and held it across the front of the glass. Then he asked her if she saw the equator.
"Yes," she replied, "and I see two camels walking on it."

IMPROVED RHUBARB IS GROWN AT PENN STATE
Several rhubarb plants which have desirable characteristics have been developed in recent years by Dr. C. E. Myers, professor of plant breeding, at the Pennsylvania State College. A limited number of root cuttings of four or five of these strains will be available this spring at nominal prices and may be of interest to household gardeners and others who are striving to increase the nation's food supply.

F. & M. Offers Scholarships
Sixteen scholarship awards are offered students entering Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, in September, 1942. District awards are fixed at \$1000, award at large at \$1,200, and endowment scholarships at \$600. One-fourth of each is given each year. Candidates interested in obtaining a scholarship confer with the high school principal. He will give to the student the method of applying for these worthwhile awards. In case you desire to confer with the district chairman about these scholarships or other college opportunities, write to Dr. J. Floyd Buzzard, 1110 13th Avenue Altoona, Pa.

LOUISA'S LETTER

Dear Louisa:
I am engaged to a wonderful man. He has so many good qualities that I sometimes think I must be dreaming and that he is not real.

However, there is a fly in the ointment and a right big fly at that. His mother has very bad remembrance in our town. I do not know how she behaves now but I do know how the nice people in town do not associate with her because of her behavior in the past.

My family is very much opposed to my marrying this man. They like me, personally, but they say that I will regret myself up to such a family. Now, the only thing that worries me is how it will affect our children. Why should people look down on them if they have a nice mother and a father who has made every effort to live down his mother's sins. I think he should be encouraged for the fine man he has become, in spite of such handicaps, don't you?

MARY—Wis.
If your young man is the paragon you believe him to be, I say go on and marry him in spite of his mother's reputation. There is no doubt but that the sins of the parents are visited upon their children and children's children and it is a very hard thing.

But you love this man a great deal and he has proved his worth to the world, as you say, in spite of handicaps, so perhaps your great love for each other will make up for some of the bad features of such a marriage. You do accept his mother to a certain extent when you get married, regardless of whether you approve of them or not. The fact remains that his mother will be your children's grandmother and both you and they will be thrown with her on many occasions. And your fiancée is probably very fond of her—she may not know why she is not accepted in polite society.

You take a risk in getting married but you also take a risk in letting such a perfect specimen get away.
Good luck.
LOUISA.

Dear Louisa:
Do you think I should pay board at home? All my friends who work send everything they make on clothes and good times but mother thinks I should pay a small amount of board. What do you think?

SUSAN—Ill.
Well, Susan, I think it all depends on whether your parents need it and on how much you make. If your parents are well-to-do and you make barely enough to dress decently and have a little spending money, I do not really see why they should require you to pay board. On the other hand, very few girls ever consider that they make more than enough for expenses regardless of how high their salaries are. And, if your parents really need help with the household expenses, I think it only fair that you bear at least a small part of them.

I think a good arrangement is one I heard of sometime ago. A mother, who did not need board money, required her daughter to pay her a certain amount each month, but she took this money and put it in a savings account for the daughter. It meant a lovely trousseau for her son when she got married. Money causes so much unnecessary grief. Try not to fall out about it.
LOUISA.

AS I SEE IT BY Horace Sentsz

The world's fulla fickle folks, like alex is fulla whippers n' yolks. One minute they'll cheer to the sky, but in the next they'll groan n' cry. Let's take the case of Mister Joe, That gent who lives at old Moscow. Today he's ridin on the crest. Tomorrow he may join the rest, of 'em 'ave been greas'ed of the year. If his big Red machine stripe gear, N' falls to give Adolf the works, Fer this war's fulla them queer quirks. Joe was a bum in thirty nine. As he put his X on the dotted line, of Hitler's non aggressor pact, which left Adolf begin his act, that brought on this here present war. Then everyone at Joe was sore. The world said Joe was to blame, fer lettin Hitler start his game. Old Joe got in the doghouse right, When him and Finland had their fight. A villain of the deepest dye, The World called that Stalin guy. But now most folks has changed the tune. They're sayin now old Joe's a boon. With his big Red war juggernaut, that's put them Nastis on the spot. He now gits first call on Lone-Lease, to keep his war machine in grease. Fer we're all bettin on the Red, to knock Fascism in the head. If Joe succeeds he'll get our cheers, but failure means fears, sneers n' smears. The line is thin between fer Joe, to be a big bum—or hero.

England's Playful Idlers Now Battle Nazis
Inez Robb, well-known American reporter, returns from London with a graphic story of how the blue-blooded, good-time Charles of England are now battling for the defense of their country. One of many features in the March 29th issue of The American Weekly, the big magazine distributed with the Boston Sunday American. On sale at all newsstands.

Every time you get your pay, buy Bonds and Stamps for the U. S. A.

Query & Answer Column

H. L. D.—What makes a person stretch?
Ans.—The necessity or desire to stretch comes because certain parts of the body are not receiving the proper amount of blood circulation and stretching is an instinctive action to accelerate the circulation.

R. S. L.—What is the derivation of the word budget?
Ans.—Budget is from the old French bougette, meaning a wallet. The use of the word in its present sense is from the custom of bringing into the House of Commons all papers pertaining to matters of expenditure, in a leather bag, and laying them on the table.

M. R. R.—What is the origin of the expression, When in Rome do as the Romans do?
Ans.—The following explanation is offered: St. Augustine was in the habit of dining upon Saturday as upon Sunday, but being puzzled with the different practices then prevailing (for they had begun to fast at Rome on Saturday), consulted St. Ambrose on the subject. Now at Milan they did not fast on Saturday, and the answer of the Milan saint was this: "Quando hic sum, non jeuno Sabbato; quando Romae sum, jeuno Sabbato" (When I am here, I do not fast on Saturday; when at Rome I do fast on Saturday).

T. G.—Why is the Latin Quarter of Paris so called?
Ans.—This is the section of the city in which the University of Paris is situated. Education in the university was formerly given in Latin, and the students used to go about the town singing their songs in Latin thus giving rise to the name which persists to the present day.

M. A. T.—How many infantile paralysis cases occurred in the United States last year?
Ans.—The total number of infantile paralysis cases in the United States, according to preliminary reports for 1941, shows 8298 cases.

K. L. M.—How large are the grounds of the French Lick Springs Hotel in Indiana?
Ans.—The estate consists of 3500 acres.

H. W.—Is there any basis for the belief that red flannels are warmer than white?
Ans.—This is an old fallacy based on the association of the color red with warmth. T. J. Pettigrew in his "Superstitions of Medicine and Surgery" says that the connection of properties of substances with their color is of great antiquity. White was regarded as a refrigerant, red as heating. This opinion led to serious errors in practice.

G. B. S.—Who was the first millionaire in the United States?
Ans.—Opinions differ as to who was the first millionaire in the United States. The honor is claimed for the following: Stephen Girard, Philadelphia; Brazil Gordon, Falmouth, Va.; John Jacob Aster, New York City.

T. T.—Does Finland still owe the United States a debt?
Ans.—Finland's World War debt to the United States amounts to \$8,039,090.

J. W.—When was the Naval Reserve established?
Ans.—The Naval Reserve was created and established as a component part of the Navy by the Naval Reserve Act of 1938. It is composed of citizens of the United States and of the insular possessions of the United States, who by appointment or enlistment therein, or by transfer or assignment thereto, obligate themselves to serve in the Navy in time of war or during the existence of a national emergency declared by the President.

W. M.—Do birds sing the year round?
Ans.—Wild birds sing only for about eight or ten weeks in the year.

H. L.—What is the meaning of the word "Dome" used in connection with the Japanese news dispatches?
Ans.—The word "Dome" means alliance, league, or union.

J. C. S.—Has an estimate ever been made of the number of men over 60 who are on relief compared with the number who have succeeded?
Ans.—It has been estimated that if one would select at random 100 men at the age of 25 he would find that at the age of 65, fifty-four of these would be dependent on relatives or charity, thirty-six would be dead, five would be working, four would be well-to-do and one would be rich.

M. T. L.—Are employees of the Federal Government exempt from income tax?
Ans.—They are not. All Federal employees are required to pay the Federal income tax.

B. W.—How long should a radio aerial be?
Ans.—Generally speaking, a long radio aerial brings better reception. For best results, an aerial should be at least seventy-five feet in length.

E. N.—In normal times, do the South American countries trade more with the United States than with Europe?
Ans.—Before the war, the Latin-American countries did about half of their trading with Europe, and a third with the United States.

R. P.—Was it Napoleon or the Russians who set fire to the city of Moscow?
Ans.—In 1812 the Russians set fire to the city of Moscow in order to deprive Napoleon of a winter base.

D. Y.—When was it customary for women to wear mourning during Lent?
Ans.—In England it was long the custom for women to wear mourning during Lent. Queen Elizabeth and her court observed this fashion which survived until well into the nineteenth century.

N. I. H.—Are all the cells in a honeycomb of equal size or do they vary?
Ans.—The six-sided cells are constructed with mathematical accuracy in three sizes. The cells in which the drones are hatched are much larger than those of the ordinary workers. The royal cells are largest of all and oval in shape.

C. S. E.—How long was Brazil ruled by an Emperor?
Ans.—In 1822 the country, by means of a peaceful revolution led by Dom Pedro, declared its independence of Portugal and established the empire of Brazil, with Dom Pedro as its first Emperor. He was succeeded in 1831 by his son, Dom Pedro II, who reigned until the final establishment of the Republic in 1889.

W. B.—When and where did Andrew Carnegie die?
Ans.—Andrew Carnegie died at Lenox, Mass., on August 11, 1919.

C. R.—What is the literal meaning of Vox Populi?
Ans.—It is an abbreviation of the Latin "vox populi," the voice of people. The complete expression is "vox populi, vox Dei," the voice of the people is the voice of God.

H. H. C.—Why are medals and decorations generally worn on the left breast?
Ans.—The custom is traced to the practice of the Crusaders in wearing the badge of honor of their order near the heart.

C. D. C.—How much does mercury weigh? What does it occur?
Ans.—Mercury is a metallic element, the only metal that is liquid at ordinary temperatures. It weighs 849 pounds per cubic foot. It is found principally in Italy, Spain, Mexico, Texas and California. Deposits also occur in Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Russia, Hungary, Peru and some other countries.

H. W. A.—Is there a famous character by the name of Snake?
Ans.—In Sheridan's "School for Scandal" there is a Mr. Snake who made an oft quoted speech to the effect that he had been well paid to lie, but unfortunately had been paid double to speak the truth.

STUDENTS FIND SMALL LOAN FUND USEFUL
While the total amount of money involved would scarcely cause a ripple in the national budget, 223 students at the Pennsylvania State College can now speak with authority about the usefulness of a loan fund which supplies them with an average of \$10 when they need it for an emergency.

A loan fund named in honor of the wife of the president of the College and inaugurated by her to tide the student over situations where the absence of a comparatively small sum might be a really serious handicap to him has extended credit in 201 embarrassing situations, according to the report just issued covering the first two years of its operation. To date a total sum of \$2,757.47 has been loaned, of which \$2,338.01 has been repaid. Only six outstanding loans are overdue. Both men and women students have been eligible for consideration.

More than one-quarter of the loans were made to students who needed money for food. Others covered advances for the trip home, for room rent, for books or shoes, for commencement expenses, for job interviews, and for eye glasses. Students are warned at the outset not to attempt to enter Penn State without enough money to cover their first year's expenses, but emergencies, like accidents, do occur. For just such occasions, Mrs. Ralph D. Hetsel's fund has proved a friend indeed.

The Navy needs 5,000 men experienced in amateur or commercial radio, or with experience as radio service men.

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