

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Valley News

November | December 2015

Volume 72 | Issue 6



**A turn of the page:
Co-op publishes final newsletter of 72-year run**

www.valleyrec.com

Valley News

November | December 2015

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'Tis the season for safety

The "fall back" clock change earlier this month marked our entry into the busy final weeks of 2015. Like a starter gun signaling a sprint, the time change propels us into hunting seasons, the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and preparing for winter.

No doubt it's a busy time of year. It's also a great time to pause and think through some potential hazards to help ensure a safe and happy November and December.

For starters, here's a good question to ask yourself: When you changed your clocks did you check the batteries in your smoke detectors? Making sure those units are working is a good way to mark a safe transition to Standard Time from Daylight Saving Time.

As the days "shorten" many of us have electrically-powered displays or decorations or specialized cooking gadgets that we bring out of storage in preparation for the holidays. It's a great feeling to see those items again after their long stay in the closet or attic. But take a minute to inspect them for wear. A frayed cord here and a loose heating element there can pose a shock hazard.

It's a great mystery how Christmas lights that were packed away in an orderly fashion can be so tangled when they come back out of the box. Check them for broken bulbs or bare wires. The cost for a new strand is never as much as risking disaster.

Nationwide Insurance reports that an average of 150 house fires per year are caused by faulty holiday or decorative lights. Remember to turn off lights and unplug extension cords when you leave the house or go to bed.

If candles are part of your fall/winter decorating plans, use fire-resistant holders and place them where they won't be knocked over. Never leave a candle unattended.

If a live evergreen is part of your celebration, purchase the freshest live tree possible. Look for needles that don't come off easily and branches that are not brittle. Keep the tree watered so it doesn't dry out and pose a fire hazard.

Chilly nights have us firing up our home heating systems. Keep in mind that during a week of cold weather your heating system will likely run more than your car or truck, so proper maintenance

is a necessity.

If space heaters are part of your cold-weather routine remember to keep them away from combustible materials, such as drapes and curtains. Unplug them when not in use and keep an eye on children and grandchildren who are playing nearby.



Doug Roles
Manager of Member Services

Here's a tip to help with your holiday shopping: Why not put a life-saving stocking stuffer on your Christmas list? A carbon monoxide detector is a great gift idea for anyone you know who has a fuel-burning heating system. Prices for plug-in models range from \$20 to \$40. That's a great bargain when you consider that Underwriters Laboratory reports more than 500 people die each year from CO poisoning.

Don't forget to be alert to one more hazard common this time of year in the Valley REC service area – the local deer herd. Hunters have been pursuing deer since the start of October, but the hunt really heats up this time of year. Deer are increasingly on the move at a time when the clock change has more of us driving to and from work in the dark. Staying alert and reducing speed can decrease your chances of bagging Bambi with your bumper.

Protecting yourself with smoke and CO detectors, practicing electrical safety and keeping an eye out for deer - from your stand and from behind the wheel - can go a long way in keeping these final two months of the year merry and bright. Here's wishing you a safe November and December filled with family, friends and the blessings of the season.

Cooperatively yours,

Doug Roles
Manager of Member Services

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LIHEAP begins accepting 2015-16 applications

The 2015-2016 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) began accepting applications Nov. 2 and will continue to do so through April 1, 2016. The federal Department of Human Services may extend or shorten the program depending upon the availability of federal funds.

LIHEAP helps low-income families pay their heating bills by offering assistance in the form of a cash grant, sent directly to the utility company, or a crisis grant for households in immediate danger of being without heat. Income guidelines have changed from last year (Please see the chart at right).

Emergency situations covered through the LIHEAP Crisis Program include:

- Broken heating equipment or leaking lines that must be fixed or replaced
- Lack of fuel

- The main heating source or second heating source (a source that is used to operate the main heating source or used if the main heating source is not working) has been completely shut-off

- Danger of being without fuel (less than a 15 day supply) or of having utility service terminated (received a notice that service will be shut off within the next 60 days)

Applications may be completed at local county assistance offices or online at www.compass.state.pa.us

For more information, please contact your local county assistance office or call the LIHEAP hotline at 1-866-857-7095, Monday through Friday. (Individuals with hearing impairments may call the TDD number at 1-800-451-5886.)

Focal Points

2015-16 Income Levels

Household size	Household size
1	\$17,655
2	\$23,895
3	\$30,135
4	\$36,375
5	\$42,615
6	\$48,855
7	\$55,095
8	\$61,335
9	\$65,575
10	\$73,815

Co-op is asking members to rate their business through ACSI survey

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative is again asking a sampling of members to rate their business. American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) surveys were mailed to a random sampling of 1,000 of our consumers earlier this month.

If you receive a survey, please take a moment to complete the questionnaire and return it, either in person or by dropping the postage-paid card in the mail.

Valley has conducted the ACSI survey of its consumers since 2011. This year's surveys are due back in the corporate

office by Wednesday Nov. 25.

The 2015 survey is taking place a few weeks earlier than those of past years, to ensure all responses are collected in time for the tabulation to be completed prior to the start of 2016.

The survey asks consumers to rate us on a scale of 1 to 10 in four areas: how their experiences with the co-op have been; whether or not their expectations have been met; how Valley REC compares to the ideal electric utility; and how likely they would be to choose Valley for their

electric service if they had other choices.

Valley REC has posted stellar scores so far. In 2011 and 2012, the co-op received satisfaction scores of 91 out of 100. In 2013 Valley posted a score of 92 and last year, survey respondents collectively gave the co-op a 90. These ratings put Valley REC in the top tenth percentile among electric co-ops!

To learn more about the ACSI survey, visit the www.theacsi.org website. Once there, you can check the ratings of other companies and industries.

Member Appreciation Days 2015

On the cover ...



The co-op has published "Valley News," since 1944. That many years of quarterly and bi-monthly newsletters has produced some memorable stories. The Nov./Dec. 2015 newsletter is the final issue. Please see Page 4 for more details.



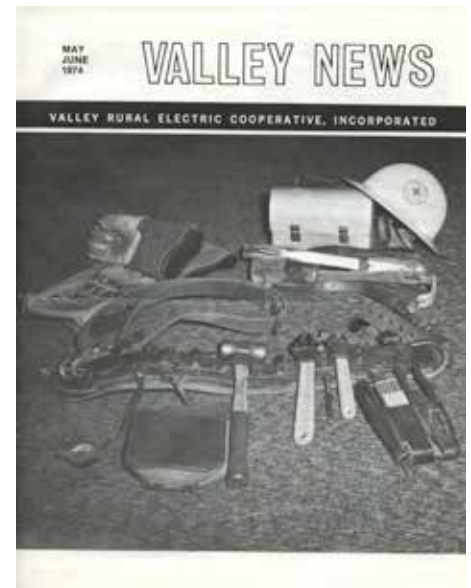
Marking National Co-op Month, Valley REC held Member Appreciation Days in mid-October. Visitors to the co-op's three districts enjoyed a picnic-style meal and had the opportunity to meet staff. Above: Energy Specialist Travis Kuhstos shows a lighting display to Rick and Alice Weakland of East Freedom during the Martinsburg district event. Photo by Doug Roles



June 1959



March 1968



May/June 1974

Back issues attest to co-op communicators' efforts to tell the Valley Rural Electric story

Producing *Valley News* for more than seven decades has kept a number of co-op journalists busy with design and writing work as well as travel across the co-op's service area to "get the story." Co-op communicators have filled the pages of the newsletter with everything from energy efficiency tips and recipes to line construction news and features on local businesses and members.

Valley News was a product of necessity. As the co-op got up and running there was a need to communicate with members on a regular basis, in addition to reaching them by phone, mail and at the annual meeting. That need gave birth to the co-op newsletter, in an era that predates the statewide magazine, Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association's *Penn Lines*.

Like other co-ops across the country, Valley REC is consolidating its print pres-

ence to one publication. After this issue, the co-op will use the magazine as its primary print communication and discontinue production of its own newsletter. Other print communications efforts will continue to include bill stuffers, bill messages and direct mailings to members.

It's unknown how many issues of *Valley News* there have been since the 1944 start. Our in-house archive goes back only to September 1958. The newsletter's serialization puts the 2015 issues in the 72nd volume (year) but it's uncertain how frequently the newsletter was published in the early years. The newsletter appears to have been published quarterly at least since the mid-1950s. Publishing moved to a bi-monthly schedule with the January/February 1972 issue.

As it does with *Penn Lines* now, the work to tell the co-op's story through *Valley News* put the co-op's communicators in touch with members.

"The best part of putting together each edition was the feature interview – trav-

Nan Hunt worked as "Valley News" editor for 18 years. She is shown here with a group of students from Alfarrata Elementary School (Huntingdon County) who visited the corporate office in March 1973 to learn about electrical safety around the home.

eling throughout the co-op's eight-county service territory, meeting consumers and learning about their careers, hobbies and interests," says Valley REC Vice President of Consumer Services & Public Relations Luanne Eckenrode, a prior *Valley News* editor.

"Valley members always went out of their way to accommodate me and I enjoyed retelling their stories." Luanne recalls her first *Valley News* feature article appeared in the January/February 1989 issue. It showcased Globe Run Farm in Petersburg, Huntingdon County and the John A. Foster family's Holstein "Sexy Darlene" that had captured Grand Champion honors at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

She says the most challenging part of working on the publication was developing editorial ideas. With six issues of the newsletter combined with 12 issues of *Penn Lines* magazine, coming up with 18 topics for opinion pieces each year was difficult.

Production of the newsletter changed dramatically over the years. At first, articles were handwritten, typed and corrected. The basement of Valley's headquarters housed a dark room, where film was developed into black-and-white prints until color printing was available quickly and cheaply from local drug stores. Crop marks were made with wax pencils; layouts were hand-drawn.

The advent of the fax machine saved valuable time in the proofing and printing process. Digital cameras and computer programs for word processing and graphic design allowed the publication to be more timely rather than a project two months or





July/August 1984



Working together to keep local agriculture alive

September/October 1997



Holiday fun at J B Tree Farm

November/December 2005

more in the making.

In the 1980s, *Valley News* was printed by Commercial Printing in State College and mailing was accomplished in-house, with co-op employees printing and affixing address labels and hauling boxes to the post office. When postal regulations required tabs to close the folded pages of the newsletter, Valley contracted with Labor Specialties, Inc. of Tyrone. Later, their mailing services were contracted as well. The newsletter changed printers when Offset Impressions of York purchased Commercial Printing. Soon after, the co-op contracted with Henderson Print-

ing of Huntingdon, which later moved its operations to Altoona. And in recent years, News Printing Company of Claysburg handled the production of the publication.

Co-op communicators who followed Luanne as *Valley News* editor include Susan Penning (March 2009 – Oct. 2012) and Doug Roles (Oct. 2012 – present).

“Prior to my arrival in October 1988, Nan Hunt served as the editor of *Valley News*. Leonard Parsons was at the reins before Nan’s 18-year tenure,” Luanne says. “Records are sketchy prior to that time.”

In addition to print communications, the co-op also reaches members in person by

offering educational programs to schools and civic groups, having a booth at the Huntingdon and Juniata county fairs and through district nominating meetings in February and the annual meeting in April. The co-op also has started holding member appreciation events in October. Electronic communications include email correspondence as well as the co-op’s website and Facebook and Vimeo pages. The co-op can be reached by phone toll-free at 800/432-0680.

Jump-start your holiday shopping

VALLEY REC GIFT CERTIFICATES make great gifts for the co-op members on your list.

To purchase one, complete the information below. If you’d like to surprise more than one person, please list the names, addresses and amounts for each on a separate sheet. Then mail this form with your check or money order for the total amount to: Valley REC, PO Box 477, Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477.

After we receive your payment, the co-op member’s account will be credited with the amount you’ve specified. The gift certificate may be mailed directly to the recipient, or it can be sent to you for personal delivery.

Recipient’s Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Amount of Gift (\$5 minimum) \$ _____

(Make check or money order payable to Valley REC)

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (including area code): _____

- Return certificate to me.
- Send certificate directly to recipient prior to _____.
- I wish to remain anonymous. (date)



THE

Trading Post

Classified Advertising



Co-op members may submit ads via e-mail at valleynewsads@valleyrec.com; by phone at 800/432-0680; by fax at 814/643-1678; or by mail at Valley REC, PO Box 477, Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477. There is no charge for this service. Members submitting ads are asked to provide their member number. If consumers wish to continue running particular ads, they are required to resubmit the information on a monthly basis. Submissions are viewable on the co-op's website at www.valleyrec.com. Items published are printed at the request of our members. The co-op does not endorse, recommend or assume any responsibility for the products or services advertised. The co-op also reserves the right to edit material for content and/or space as necessary.

Starting Jan. 4, 2016 free classified advertising will be available through Trading Post online.

Submit your ads as you always have or by clicking on the new "Trading Post" tab at www.valleyrec.com

REAL ESTATE

A-frame on 6-1/2 acres. 1 BR, 1BA, loft, screened porch, 2 decks, large storage shed. Fulton Co. 8 miles from McConnellsburg, in Harrisonville. Will include lots of contents. Call for more info. 717/664-3344.

New ranch home completed in 2015 & ready to move in! 3 BR, 2 BA w/ large LR w/ tray ceiling & recessed lighting. Modern kitchen & breakfast nook, formal DR, laundry room. Hardwood floors in LR, DR, KT w/ carpet in bedrooms. New stainless steel ceramic top stove, dishwasher, microwave. Master suite w/ large walk-in closet & master bath features garden tub, extra-large shower w/ tile surround & double bowl vanity. Full basement w/ 10' ceilings, could be finished for additional living space & is plumbed for bathroom. Attached 2-car garage w/ stamped concrete walkway, 10 x 18 x 7 detached shed, 16.5 x 10 deck. Front of home is finished w/ stone. Minutes to town, only 8 miles to Raystown Lake & Allegrippis Bike Trail, 35 miles to Altoona or State College. Victoria Manor, McConnellsburg. Asking \$235,000. 814/658-3011.

AUTOS/TRUCKS

2000 GMC Suburban. 331.5K miles, needs transmission. \$3,000. 814/448-2215.

1993 Nissan V-6 4x4 pickup truck for parts. Exc. motor, tranny, bed liner, Tonneau cover, other working parts. Body & frame rusting away. Just 86,000 miles since my dad bought it new. Take all or make an offer for the V-6 engine and/or the transmission which is an automatic hi-lo 4-wheel-drive. There are other good parts as well. You pull or you haul away. No \$250/vehicle junk haulers need apply. Mooresville area. 814/667-3444.

RECREATIONAL

16' Dagger tandem kayak. 814/695-8620.

VACATION RENTALS

South Myrtle Beach year-round vacation rental. 2 BR, 2 BA condo at an oceanfront resort. Fully furnished including linens, towels, cable w/ HBO, wireless internet, AC, 6 pools including a lazy river, lighted tennis courts, saunas, jacuzzis & more. \$450-\$950 weekly. Great monthly rates. Phone 717/263-2717.

Think Spring! Lake Raystown vacation house rental. Sleeps 11. Lg. great room w/ fireplace, 4 BRs, dining table for 12, central AC, 2 new flat screen satellite TVs, 2 full BAs, 2 half BAs, lg. recreation room, fully equipped kitchen & laundry rooms, screened-in porch, lg. parking area, 1 mile from lake (Snyder's Run boat launch). Linens & towels provided. For more information see www.laurelwoodsretreat.com or call Dianne at 814/931-6562.

Stay ALL summer at my cabin located 3/10 mile from Seven Points Bait & Grocery at Raystown Lake. \$1,600 for the entire summer. Call 301/593-1817 for details.

FOR RENT

Available for rent: 7 x 12 refrigerated trailer with or without shelves. Daily, weekly and monthly rates. Maintains 10 to 50 degrees using digital control. Runs on 115 volts, available with generator. See iceboxtogo.com for more information. Call or text 814/329-0408 or chilled@iceboxtogo.com

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT

Wood splitter, like new. 5 hp, 20 ton. \$850. 717/987-3619.

Heavy duty garage door opener made by Overhead Door. 14', \$500. 717/436-6702 or 717/527-4215.

30 gallon tank & trailer sprayer. 12V pump, 2.1 gpm, 2 nozzle boom, 80" coverage, lever hand-gun, 15' hose, \$90. Used 6' grader blade. 3 pt. hitch, adjust-

able & reversible. \$100. Electric hedge trimmer, 14" Craftsman. \$25. 814/685-3747.

Flatbed trailer w/ sides, dual axle. 76" W x 14' L, heavy, homemade, no title. \$600; tractor chains, 1 set 15" x 60", \$200; hydraulic tailgate for pickup, \$900; fiberglass compact truck cap, 62" W x 82" L, white, \$150; construction trailers, 8' x 20' w/ heat & AC. Three to choose from, \$3,000 each. 814/448-2215.

Onan generator. 15 KW, 208/240/480V, indoor unit, 4 cyl. air cooled, LPG fuel regulator & strainer, exhaust system w/ muffler, flex conn & drain, vibration isolators, automatic transfer switch. Exc. cond. \$3,000. 814/448-2215.

S50, 60" W Lucknow snow blower by Helm Welding. 3-pt. hitch, exc. performance & cond. \$800; Brush Hog Corp. 9' model 120 heavy-duty grade & snow blade w/ dual multi-angle hydraulic system, all new hoses. \$2,100. (\$5,000 new); tractor chains. 2 - 11'4" x 18", 2 - 5'x18" & a bucket of cross chains, \$150; Win Co. 1800 generator w/ Briggs & Stratton gas engine, \$60; heavy duty 28" soil/stone scoop for 3 pt. hitch, easy dump from tractor, \$75. 814/695-5912.

2 - 850' rolls of 4/0 aluminum triplex, direct bury wire. Asking \$1,275 per roll. 814/832-2332.

4" Rockwell Delta jointer, \$100; Marley recessed electric wall heater, 400 watts, 220 volts, \$100; 10" Rockwell Delta radial arm saw, \$125; Homelite string trimmer, \$30; Craftsman 22" weed trimmer, \$175; Middle Buster plow, never used, \$110; prop for 80 HP Mercury engine, 17" pitch, \$30. 814/643-4561 or 717/497-9144.

Ariens 16 HP Kohler, 48" deck, 5 1/2' push blade. \$500. 18 HP Sears Craftsman, 46" deck w/ snow blade. \$400. Allis Chalmers Model B12, 42" deck w/ rototiller. \$500. Saxton area. 814/599-3356.

MISCELLANEOUS

Display case. Top and all three sides are glass with two glass shelves and two sliding mirror doors. 5' L x 3' W x 1' D. Excellent condition. \$230 obo. Wooden style gun cabinet display case with bottom storage. 6' H x 2' W x 1' D. Very good condition. \$50 obo. 814/643-2042.

61-key electronic keyboard. \$65. 814/448-2365.

Lift chair w/ heat & massage. \$900. Tree shelters. \$1.50 each. 814/448-2215. Winter cover for 16' x 32' pool, \$60; 50' pool vac hose, \$15; Triton II sand filter for 16' x 32' pool, \$40, solar cover on a 22" wheel & 3" shaft for 16' x 32' pool, \$60; 3 step stainless steel pool ladder, \$40. 814/695-5912.

Stainless bar sink. 5' L, 18" D, 29" H, 3 wells, faucet & drains. \$295 (\$600 new); Glass Pro 1/3 hp, 5 brush glass washer, \$50. 814/695-5912.

Two 18 x 30 wall cabinets, \$20; bath vanity, 24" w/ a 26" white china sink, \$25; 4' L, 24" W, 36" H cabinet w/ counter top, \$15; 24" L, 22" W, 36" H base cabinet w/ counter, \$10. 814/695-5912.

White leather American Signature sofa & love seat, like new, \$600. Call 814/832-3528.

Maple double bed w/ box spring & mattress, clean, exc. cond., like new mattress pad & sheet sets, 5' x 7' rug (light color), 2 lamps, \$295 for everything. 814/667-4428.

Two pieces 1/4" x 5' x 9' tempered glass windows, \$100; Sears 36" cast iron wood lathe, no motor, \$45. Contact Jim at 814/667-2409.

8' x 6' 3-window metal garage door w/ 1/2 hp Liftmaster opener & all hardware, \$100; Invacare model 9000 XT folding wheelchair, \$150; Invacare walker model 6281A w/ wheel kit, \$25; Sharp 6000 BTU air conditioner, \$50; Frigidaire 10,000 BTU window AC, used very little, \$80; double door 36" L x 12" D x 36" H cabinet, \$25; double door 30" L x 12" D x 21" H cabinet, \$20. 814/695-5912.

Medium size wooden desk, gd. cond.; cord or cordless Wahl rechargeable razor, used very little; Health-mor filter queen defender air cleaner. 814/447-3735.

4 - 8" I beam columns, 8' long, \$40 ea. 10 sheets of tin roofing, 8' x 2', \$6 ea. 8N belt pulley, \$40. 4-drawer heavy duty filing cabinet, \$40. 2 aluminum tool boxes, side mount, 4' long, \$75 each. 3 ph wood saw frame, \$30. Rocker recliner, swivel, dark green. \$25. 11, 2-hole concrete posts, \$15 ea. 717/987-3619.

Classified Ads

SERVICES

Forestry Consultant. Timber sales, appraisals & management. B. S. Forest Management, Penn State 1964. 45 years local forestry experience. Mark Kane, Consulting Forester, 6118 Geisler Run Road, Huntingdon. 814/667-3620.

Cabins winterized. Huntingdon area. 814/643-6036.

GOT STUFF? Call Kathy, "THE VALLEY PICKER." I buy new & old items. I pay \$\$\$.

Huntingdon County. 814/542-3191.

Tiny Tots Childcare & Learning Center. Offers 24/7 care, Pre-K classes, infant, toddler care. One-on-one attention daily. A child's learning starts at birth; so do we. Children will start school with pre-reading skills, richer vocabulary, stronger basic math & social skills. We are a Keystone STARS program, have fitness & nutrition programs, state of art smart board, loyalty program, trip to Disney World. Your child can be a Rising STAR! Mount Union & Shade Gap. Call 814/ 259-3125 for info.

Country stone. Professional installation of precast stone veneer & thin brick. Call for free estimates. 814/695-8693 or 814/312-8214.

Moore Hair - Where looking good is still affordable. 814/667-2221 for appt.

Book Construction, LLC - We do excavating, utility work, stone, slate, dump truck service, septic systems, prep site for building. 814/599-6262.

Decker Electric, Inc. Call us for all your electrical needs. We do quality work & comply w/ all electrical codes. We offer free estimates & are totally insured. Call 814/599-0835 or 814/643-4338.

Home Works of Huntingdon. Professional, experienced, dependable. Complete custom renovation from start to finish. Bathrooms, kitchens, basements, attics, porch enclosures. Call now to receive winter pricing. 814/643-0937.

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Kenneth W. Reigh Carpentry & Masonry. Decks, landscaping blocks, siding, additions, kitchens & baths, screened-in porches, natural stone, brick, block & concrete. Fully insured, 35 yrs. exp. For estimates call 814/658-9998.

Princess Within Formal Wear Boutique specializes in prom & homecoming gowns, shoes & accessories. We carry

brand NEW gowns & offer consignment for CLEAN, gently used gowns. Our sizes range from 0-26. Please feel free to call with questions on consignment. Current hours of operation & some of our inventory can be found on our Facebook page. We are currently located at 508 Penn St. Huntingdon. Store phone 814/643-7233. Princess Within, where we help every girl feel beautiful!


Online classified ads in Trading Post are **FREE** for members of Valley Rural Electric Co-op

Co-op members may submit ads via e-mail at valleynewsads@valleyrec.com; by phone at 800/432-0680; by fax at 814/643-1678; or by mail at Valley REC, PO Box 477, Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477. Starting Jan. 4, 2016, ads can also be placed by clicking on the "Trading Post" tab at www.valleyrec.com

Members submitting ads are asked to provide their account number. Acceptance of advertising does not imply co-op endorsement of any product or service.



**Valley Rural Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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