

**Alabama Archaeological Society**

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA BOX 6126 UNIVERSITY, ALABAMA

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MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

1962 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1962 Annual Meeting of our State Society will be held at Auburn University, in the Ball Room of the Student Union Building on Sunday, December 9th. So if you haven't already made your plans to be there, get your heads together and load up your car for the trip. The Faculty Club Lounge which adjoins the Ball Room has been made available for a social hour in conjunction with the meeting. Tables will be available for exhibits, in the Ball Room, and it is strongly suggested that Chapters and members bring materials for exhibition and set them up sometime between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Auburn University is also making arrangements for a University tour to leave the Student Union Building at 10:30 a.m.

Registration will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. A Dutch Lunch will be served in the Cafeteria in the Student Union Building at 12:00 noon. The business meeting will start at 1:00 p.m. and continue to 3:00 p.m., and there will be a coffee break from 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., with the main program starting at 3:30 p.m.

The program will consist of: (a) A talk by Dr. Lewis H. Larson, Professor of Anthropology, Georgia State College, Atlanta, Ga. His subject will be "The Etowah Mound Site" and will be illustrated by color slides. (b) Award presentation by Dr. Charles Grayson Summersell, of the University of Alabama, the Alabama Chairman of the Awards Committee for the American Association of State and Local History. (c) A report on the Eastern States Archaeological Federation Annual Meeting at Athens, Georgia on November 10, 1962, by Prof. David L. DeJarnette, our ESAF Representative.

There will be an ADULT registration fee of \$1.00 (no charge for students and children).

Included in the back of this issue of the Newsletter is a map of Auburn, supplied by our hosts, the East Alabama Chapter, showing how to find the meeting place there, on one side, and, on the other side, a list of churches in Auburn with information as to location, time of services, etc., plus a list of available motels for those who may wish to go down Saturday. The location of motels is shown on the map.

For the many new members who have joined our Society this year, this will be an ideal means of meeting members of longer standing, also of seeing exhibits of artifacts from all over the State and talking with those who have gathered the material. Don't miss the opportunity of joining your fellow "gatherers of history" at this meeting!

SANTA CLAUS and the MISSING LINK

Old Santa came down with a slip and a slither,  
This chimney no squeeze for his jolly rotundity,  
And stuffed all the stockings in his darling old dither  
Then looked round the room with an air of profundity.

It was a poor home, badly in need of redecorating - he forced another orange into each fat stocking. But golly, he thought, just look at the books, hundreds and hundreds -

must be a thousand! And expensive reference sets, two huge unabridged dictionaries, many obviously expensive books - representing perhaps ten thousand dollars.

Why, these poor people could "keep up with the Joneses" and have a fancy home - but preferred to put their money into their minds! How strange! Curiously, Santa examined the book shelves, and some stacks of learned journals. Largely anthropology, the study of man - sociology, psychology, education, culture, history, genetics, and especially archaeology, which seeks to know where man has been in order that he might better guide where he is going.

If Santa could twist his jolly round face into a thoughtful frown he would have done so as he quoted: "The proper study of mankind is man". But who does? Who cares? Study man - that worthless creature? There were plenty of important things to study, such as cosmetics and style trends. This must indeed be a strange family, obviously seeking answers to man's suicidal wars, overpopulation, degeneration of the great human race.

Santa didn't acquire his red nose by reading heavy books, so he picked up the most popular publication he could see, Natural History magazine, November issue. Hmmm - article on man's evolution. He plumped fatly into a chair, fascinated by a photograph of the skull of old Paranthropus robustus, much like the recent Zinjanthropus - both with the sagittal crest on the cranium like a gorilla. Amazing! The "missing link", earliest tool-making man. Then Saldanha Man, Broken Hill Man and the rest, brutish with brows and jungle jaws.

But when did Homo sapiens (as he likes to call himself, Santa chuckled) come in? With a grimace, he had to reach down some heavy tomes to pursue this question. Why, no one seemed to know just how or when this happened! Then sapiens had become his own missing link! He "just appeared" in Europe about 35,000 years ago, where Neanderthal had ruled the roost. So whence sapiens? It would seem to require long isolation to develop such a distinct species.

Wups! Santa grunted with surprise. One of these newfangled radiocarbon dates putting man in America "over 42,000 years ago"! Well, well, well! And harumph besides. Do you suppose - but then you would be considered completely daft if you suggested sapiens might have evolved in America, the "New World". Ho-hum! A pretty kettle of fish - and not too fresh.

Santa squirmed into his pack harness and flexed his muscles for the struggle back up the chimney. As he kneed and elbowed his way up, he couldn't quite rid himself of the outlandish thought that maybe we should look for what is now the "missing link", the emergence of Homo sapiens, right here in America - "New World" be hanged! But money! Who in his right mind would spend a thin dime on the study of such a worthless critter as man? Or so he seemed to consider, himself.

Santa heaved and wheezed the last foot of the way and sat on the edge of the chimney, dusting the soot out of his whiskers and looking more thoughtful than is his wont. Despite his jolly nature, he has seen his troubles and for good reason is especially attached to Alabama.

Rome once had a Sun God, Saturn. After the shortest days of the year in the winter solstice, when the sun began to "grow" again, the Natalis invicti, the rebirth of the Sun God, was celebrated in the Saturnalia. There was much feasting, visiting, giving of gifts and some pretty wild carousing. This day was December 25th. In the fourth century, A.D., the western world began incorporating this popular event into its own folklore, even to manufacturing its own "nativity". Early German folklore also called for a great Yule feast and revelry at the winter solstice. And they had their Kris Kringle, who rode the skies like their great Norse God Thor.

Kris Kringle became our Santa Claus, brought here by Pennsylvania Germans. But Puritanical America would have none of this so-called "Christmas" with its pagan customs, and enacted a law against its observance in 1659. Christmas gifts began to be advertised as early as 1820, but Alabama became the first State to make Christmas legal in 1836.

the state any objects which may be discovered therein, or which may be taken therefrom, or found in the vicinity thereof.

Section 274. Explorations not made without consent of owner of land. - No explorations or excavations shall be made in any of such remains without the consent of the owner of the land first had and obtained, and without such work is done in such way as not to injure any crops, houses or improvements on the land adjacent to or forming a part of such remains.

Section 275. Explorations shall not deface or injure remains. - No explorations or excavations shall be made, which will destroy, deface, or permanently injure such remains; and after any such explorations or excavations they shall be restored to the same or like condition asbefore such explorations or excavations were made.

Section 276. Objects not sold or disposed of outside of state. - No objects taken from such remains shall be sold or disposed of out of the state, but when removed therefrom, the objects so gathered shall be retained in state custody, and either placed in the collections of the department of archives and history, or in the museums or in the libraries of the educational or other institutions of the state, or they may be exchanged for similar or other objects from other states, museums, libraries or individuals.

Section 277. Exploring or excavating ancient mounds, earthworks, etc. - Any person who shall explore or excavate any of the aboriginal mounds, earthworks, or other antiquities of this state contrary to the laws of this state, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not exceeding one hundred dollars for each offense.

All States and numbers of foreign countries are having problems regarding careless, unsupervised archaeological "digging". The Tombs of Egypt are good examples of the looting, destruction and loss of historic and archaeological material and data. The cave shelters in the Hawaiian Islands (February, 1962 Newsletter) and many sites in Alabama are some other examples of this destruction. It would be fine if laws were enacted that really have teeth in them, Of course, even then there would be occasional violators.

Education of the general public is the best way to handle this problem. Persons giving information to the newspapers, making talks before school groups, civic clubs, etc., should emphasize the need for careful and proper handling of archaeological sites. ALL members should stress that indiscriminate digging should not be done.

--- A. W. Beinlich, President

(Editors Note: The last paragraph above is the meat of the duties of all our members, and by our constant endeavors following President Beinlich's suggestions, we can help more than through the passage of more laws. INFORMED PERSONS ARE RESPONSIBLE PERSONS.)

#### FORT PAYNE ("LAUDERDALE") CHERT

Earth - the place where we live. Ge, the Greeks called it, so we call the study geology - earthology. It is quite asfascinating a study as man himself, and grows more urgent as our careless ways and overpopulation threaten to use up, and pollute, and otherwise injure the earth until it becomes uninhabitable.

Petros was the Greek word for rock, so the specific branch of geology dealing with rocks is called petrology. Birmingham grew because of the good petrological situation - coal, hematite and limestone. The Indians had to be good practical petrologists, too. One can't hunt the amazing Tennessee River sites, and view the tons and tons of lithic material, without supposing that the abundant local supply was a major reason why this area carried one of the heaviest aboriginal populations in America for something over 10,000 years. Most of the chipped artifacts in this area are made of Fort Payne chert, named for Fort Payne, DeKalb County, Alabama, where it is conspicuous. Dr. Eugene A. Smith formerly called it Lauderdale chert.

Just what is Fort Payne chert? The amateur archaeologist-petrologist notes at once that the Tennessee River material is highly variable. Some of it looks to be a good grade of



a mighty cussed fuss when we break just one little proton off of the parent atom.

Oh heck, let's get back to archaeology, and those long, keen Fort Payne points with their four oxygen atoms dancing a war dance around big chief silicon atom.

#### CHAPTER NEWS

The Birmingham Chapter meets on the 1st Friday of each month at the Birmingham Public Library. At the November meeting, a goodly turnout was treated to a thoroughly delightful visit to Yucatan and Chichen Itza, as well as the surrounding country and the local "hotspots", with a most beautiful series of color slides taken by and entrancingly elaborated on by Ron Eason and Joe Watkins, local chapter members recently returned from what must have been a memorable trip down there, now shared by all those present.

The East Alabama Chapter meets on the 1st Friday of each month at Funchess Hall, Room 110, Auburn University. At the November meeting, Dr. Helen Douty gave a wonderful slide presentation on the Inca civilization in Peru, along with the fabrics they and their descendants have used in their clothing. Dr. Douty is a member of the Auburn University Faculty. At the December meeting, final arrangements for the State Society Meeting on December 9th will be discussed and further completed.

The Madison-Huntsville Chapter meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at St. Thomas Church in Huntsville. At the last meeting, unusually well attended, photographs were made of Greenstone celts brought in by members, and President Crump gave a report on his recent visit to Russell Cave in Jackson County. At the next meeting, members will have the pleasure of hearing Dr. Walter B. Jones, Director Emeritus, Alabama Museum of Natural History, also retired State Geologist, talk on "Archaeology of the Tennessee Valley".

The Marshall County Chapter meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month alternately at the County Health Center, Guntersville, and the Utilities Bldg., Albertville. On Thursdays and Sundays, members get together and surface collect or map bluff shelters in DeKalb & Marshall Counties. At the next meeting, members will discuss their finds and collaborate on writing up the "Cactus Rock Dig" for the Journal. The Chapter will keep the State Society posted on work being done toward straightening Little Paint Creek, as well as Paint Rock River, along both of which are hundreds of sites and recent rains should result in unusually good artifact hunting.

The Mauvilla Chapter meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Mobile Public Library. At the last meeting, Mr. Van H. Mizzell, Chapter President, presented a discussion on field discovery techniques as related to locating sites of early Indian habitation. At the next meeting, Mr. Nicholas Holmes, Past President, will give a presentation on the manufacture and decoration of Indian pottery.

The Montgomery Chapter meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Cloverdale Community Center. No report received.

The Morgan-Limestone Chapter meets on the 1st Monday of each month at the City Hall in Decatur. At the last meeting, Mr. James W. Cambron reported on his two-day visit attending the Southeastern Archaeological Conference at Moundville, where the main topic under discussion was "The Archaeology of the Paleo-Indian-Archaic Transition Period".

The Muscle Shoals Chapter meets on the 4th Monday of each month at Wesleyan Hall, Room 8, Florence State College. At the last meeting, Mr. Al Beinlich talked to chapter members regarding the Mayans of South America. Nomination & election of officers for the next year will take place at the next meeting.

The Moccalsula Chapter meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Etowah County Court House, Gadsden. No report received.

The Tuscaloosa Chapter meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in Comer Hall at the University of Alabama. No report received.

(Editor's Note: Since Chapter programs are matters of interest to Chapter members as well as presiding officers of other Chapters (for hints as to future meeting plans), how about getting behind your Secretary to be sure that YOUR meeting is reported each month?)

? years B.P. (before present) and back into what appears to be a relatively distant ?  
 ? past, as yet undetermined. In Europe, Asia and Africa there are many archaeologi- ?  
 ? cal finds that are believed to be 12,000 to 15,000 (Cro-Magnon & Salubrian), 40,000 ?  
 ? plus (Neanderthal), 500,000 (Proto-Caucasian in Asia Minor) years of age, and there ?  
 ? are some staunch defenders of the theory of more than a million years (Zinjanthro- ?  
 ? pus) in mankind's past. In America the oldest dating is in Texas, where approxi- ?  
 ? mately 40,000 years B.P. is quite generally believed accurate. ?  
 ? Archaic could be said to run from 10,000 B.P. to 5,000 B.P. ?  
 ? Woodland, from 5,000 B.P. to 2,000 B.P. ?  
 ? Mississippian would run from the birth of Christ, some 2,000 years B.P. ?  
 ? Historic, of course, is since the time of White Man, and in Alabama would date ?  
 ? from 1541 when DeSoto came through here, until now. ?  
 ? The dates stated above are very rough, since the transitional periods between ?  
 ? these cultural groups undoubtedly permitted considerable overlap. This answer is ?  
 ? substantially different that you would have received 15 years ago, and probably ?  
 ? will not hold up for another 15 years in the future. Man's study of man keeps con- ?  
 ? tinuing. Ask us again next year! ?  
 ???

### CITY OF THE FIRST MESSIAH

The Israelites, so successful in establishing an empire under King David, long dreamed of another "Messiah" of the House of David. The word "Messiah" comes from the Hebrew "ha-Mashiah", meaning "The anointed". It was the custom to anoint kings with oil, which was supposed to endow them with magical properties.

It seems odd that their national dream was so consistently to be united as one people under a single king, for when they occasionally achieved this dream, their highly individualistic characters caused great dissensions - and for centuries Israel and Judah were their own worst enemies.

As early as Judges 9, the tribal period, Abimelech "slew his brothers....seventy men", AND MADE HIMSELF King. That lasted for some 3 years, then Gaal instigated an uprising. Before a woman on a tower dropped a stone on Abimelech, crushing his skull, there was much death and destruction. That happened in Shechem, and it was destroyed; and, rebuilt, its final destruction came at the hands of Shalmaneser V and his Assyrian armies in 724 B.C.

But the City of Shechem lives once again - archaeologically. It was identified as early as 1903, and has periodically been the subject of archaeological expeditions ever since. The Drew-McCormick Archaeological Expedition, beginning in 1956, is planned to continue through 1964. A spring, still extant, was a habitation center 4,000 years ago. After many successive occupations (now midden layers), the site finally was occupied by the Hyksos and became Shechem, the name appearing in Egyptian texts as early as the 19th Century B.C. They built the first great system of defense walls, and sacrificed a small child in a jar beneath the palace foundations to protect it from a God of wrath.

The fascinating story of the archaeological rebirth of oft-destroyed Shechem is told by James F. Ross and Lawrence E. Toombs in the Autumn 1961 issue of ARCHAEOLOGY (Archaeological Institute of America, 5 Washington Square N., New York 3, N.Y., \$5.00 per year.)

T O A L L

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

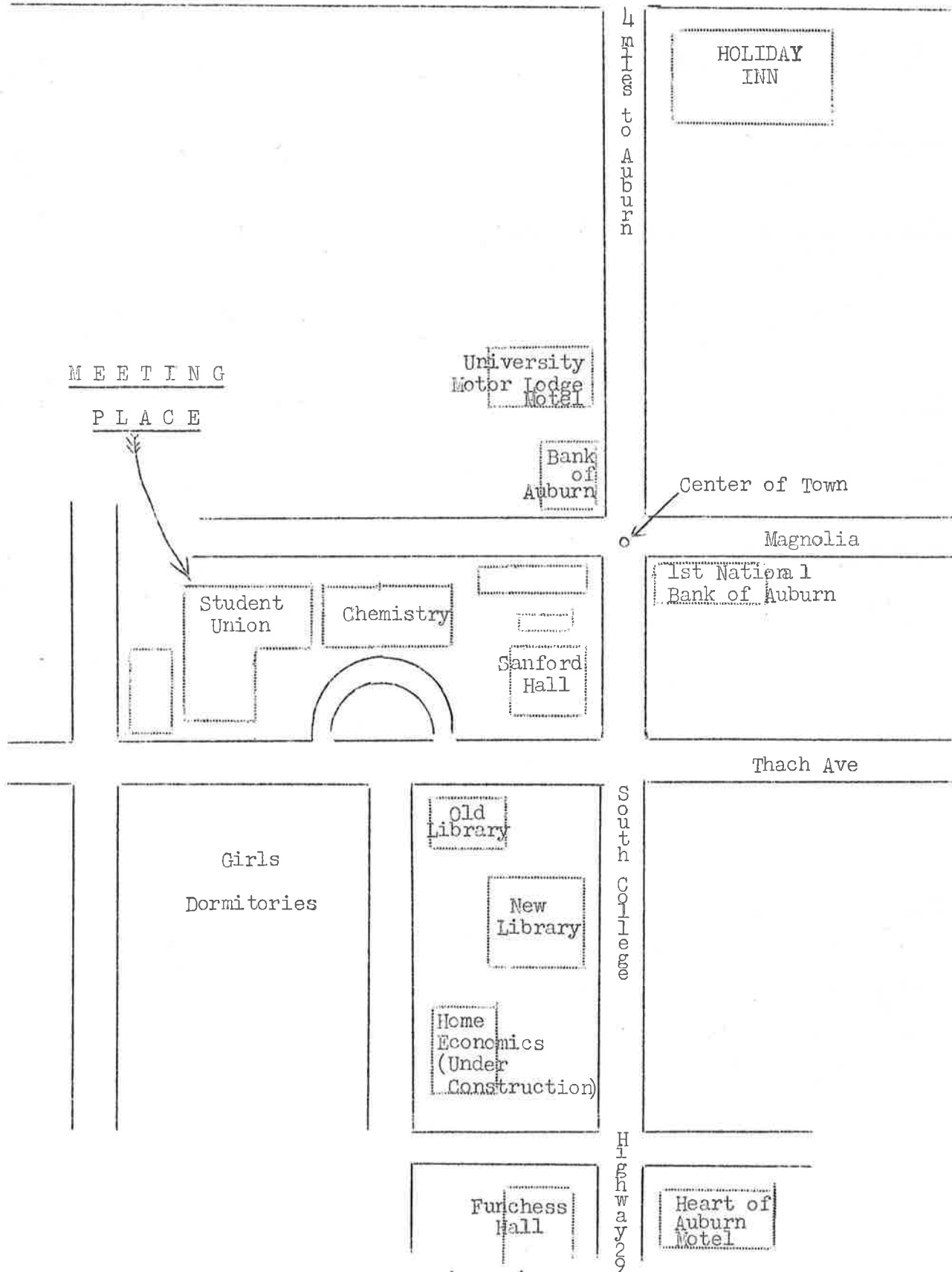
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out  
here)

SPECIAL MAP  
OF AUBURN  
FOR STATE SOCIETY MEMBERS  
ATTENDING DECEMBER 9TH ANNUAL MEETING

← (To Birmingham)

Highway 280

(To Opelika) →





THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Objectives of the Society: "To promote the study of archaeology of Alabama and of neighboring States; to encourage careful scientific archaeological research and excavation; to discourage careless digging without records; to promote the conservation of important archaeological sites and to favor the passage of laws proscribing such; to oppose the manufacture and sale of fraudulent antiquities; to encourage the establishment of local archaeological knowledge by means of publications and meetings; to develop a better understanding of the archaeology of the State by making systematic surface surveys and collections, and to serve as a bond between individual archaeologists in the State, both non-professional and professional."

The Society needs and welcomes as members, all persons whose ideals are in accord with the objectives set forth above. Active members receive the JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY, devoted to articles on the archaeology of Alabama and neighboring States, and also receive the STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER, published monthly, containing news of members and their activities, also State, national and worldwide events of archaeological importance.

The coupon below may be used either to apply for membership in the Society, or for the payment of annual dues. PLEASE be sure that your name and address are clearly entered, and that checkmarks appear in applicable blanks!

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THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA, INC.

This association, a subsidiary of our State Society, is a non-profit corporation, whose aim and purpose is to finance archaeological advancement in Alabama, the FIRST State to provide such financial support through popular subscription. All contributions to this association are deductible in making your income tax return (if, of course, you itemize your deductions). Your checks should be made payable to the association as shown above.

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