

# Ministry, public meet for pipeline discussion

The fate of the proposed sewage pipeline from Rockwood to Guelph is still hanging in the air as members of the Environmental Assessment Board make up a report of their findings at a public hearing on the issue yesterday (Tuesday) in Rockwood town hall.

Their report will go before the board as a whole and, if passed, will continue on to the Ministry of the Environment. The members could not reveal what their findings were at the end of the meeting, but said the report would be going to the board in two weeks time.

Chairman E. E. Culin emphasized that the board was holding the hearing to hear various opinions on the environmental impact of the proposed pipeline. He also emphasized that the members were not a decision-making group but merely made suggestions to the board. Mr. Culin also pointed out that the board was not part of the Ministry of the Environment.

Alternatives

Frank Illeffe, representative of the Ministry of the Environment, noted two alternatives to the treatment of sewage. He told the interested persons present that a sewage treatment plant could be built in Rockwood, with the discharge going straight into the Eramosa River. He explained this would have a great effect on that river, as well as the Speed River, further up stream, and on plant and animal life. The Guelph treatment plant takes its water from the Eramosa River and could also be subject to impure water in the case of a Rockwood malfunction.

Mr. Illeffe's other suggestion was to build a pre-treatment plant in Rockwood and pump the sewage to Guelph. He pointed out the laying of the pipeline would coincide with reconstruction of Highway 7, and could be done at the same time.

Kenneth Moore, of Gore and Storrie Limited, consulting engineers, said the Ministry had suggested having portable pumps kept in the pre-treatment plant to be used wherever needed, but have the gravity flow system. He explained that inverted siphons would be placed at two areas of the pipeline which might have trouble moving the sewage when gravity pumped.

100 per cent

Eramosa township councillor Henry Holman Jr. had several questions to ask of the officials present from both the ministry and the engineers. He explained that he had heard 8,000 gallons of sewage would be held in the pre-treatment plant and released all at once. He wondered if there would be any residue left in the pipes as a result of this.

Mr. Moore told the councillor that 100 per cent of the 8,000 gallons would be sent into the pipe every four or five hours, but it might not get to the sewage treatment plant in Guelph all at once. He explained that some of the waste might go down the pipes more slowly than the rest.

Mr. Holman expressed some fears of a breakdown in the pipes and wondered what would be done with the sewage during repairs. The engineer explained that if the break could not be fixed within the hours the holding tank is filling up, the waste would be discharged on the ground around the pre-treatment plant until the work is completed. He emphasized, however, that breakdowns were highly unlikely.

Lagoon

The councillor's suggestion of a lagoon for such purposes was supported by township reeve Bill Adsett who mentioned it as an alternative to a pipeline. Frank Islet said if a lagoon was used, it would still have to be treated.

Ray Funnells, city engineer for Guelph, later in the meeting explained that in the event of a breakdown, the

waste could be placed in a special holding tank truck which the city owns. He pointed out other municipalities have such trucks which could be used in the event of an emergency also.

Mr. Moore and representatives of the Ministry of the Environment said a breakdown was unlikely to happen.

Councillor Holman inquired as to the limitations the city of Guelph would put per day on sewage coming into their plant. W. H. Toza of the Ministry told him 250,000 gallons per day. A meter will be placed at the connection point between the pipe and the plant to keep track of how many gallons have gone in.

In answer to another of the councillor's questions, Mr. Moore pointed out the life expectancy of the pipeline is to be 100 years, and it would have a ground coverage of five to ten feet.

Entire project

Arthur Harris, a life-long resident of the village, gave a lengthy presentation on the subject of the entire sewer and water project. Mr. Harris

spoke on everything from the cost of project to a by-pass around Rockwood, and rezoning of industrial land to commercial.

He explained that he felt the pipeline, if installed, should be pumped, instead of depending on gravity. He acknowledged the fact that the pumping system would be a higher cost, but said the cost would be merited.

He asked if the Rockwood Conservation area would ever be hooking up with the sewers and water. He explained that the park gets 2,000 visitors a weekend in the summer, more than the projected total population of the village over the next 20 years. There are, at present, 600 residents.

Glen Pearce, of the Ministry, told Mr. Harris if the park wanted to hook into the sewers, an agreement would have to be drawn up between Guelph and the conservation authority. He explained there would be no hookups in the pipeline along the way, at any time.

Mr. Harris also suggested a natural gas pipeline be in-

## Women beat Monday blues

Why are there no "Monday morning blues" in Rockwood? Where do all the women go? Let's watch!

Mrs. Vera Patterson on Main St. is hostess for the Monday morning FBC each Monday at 9:30 a.m. The FBC is a non-denominational group of friends meeting in a home to study the Bible.

There are BC's for business and professional women, for couples, and for women during the hours best suited to each group. They have been meeting in the USA, Canada and now all continents have their own FBC's.

The FBC is a Friendship Bible Coffee meeting; it is held in the relaxed atmosphere of a home and people respond in a natural spontaneous manner.

Women from 11 denominations attend; they recommend it highly. "We used to have a lot of griping and gossip if we met socially but now we can't help telling everybody about Friendship Bible Coffees." One woman in the USA related "I've been to church all my life, my father was a minister, but after taking part in one of the FBC's I'm now just beginning to feel that I really know God for the first time in my life."

Anyone needing a lift on Mondays is welcome at Vera's.



ENROLLED RECENTLY into 1st Rockwood Pack are from left to right, Cathy Hawkins, Brenda Nilsen and Johna Ofsonka. Mrs. Petric, District Commissioner is standing behind. The girls are holding their Thinking Day heart of pennies for the World Friendship Fund.

More Rockwood news page 11.

stalled along the same route, at the time of Highway 7 reconstruction.

Slow growth

Rockwood trustee Audrey Bilton asked the outcome of the pipeline if the village grew more than the projected 1,740 over the next 20 years. Mr. Toza explained that the development of the town is vested in local government. He said he had worked with the last two councils on the sewer project and said he got the feeling council was not going to encourage growth. He pointed out the 1,740 figure came from the local council, and not from the ministry. He concluded that in the event more people came into the town, a new agreement would have to be drawn up between the ministry and the city of Guelph.

Village trustee Betty Eastwood asked Mr. Toza if the ministry had the say over the sewage hookup decision. The representative said he believed the residents had two years, from the commencement of operation, to be hooked up to the system.

The four and a half hour meeting answered many questions for the some 50 interested people present. Meanwhile, the Environmental Assessment Board members took back with them several suggestions on the future of Rockwood which they promised to present to the entire board.

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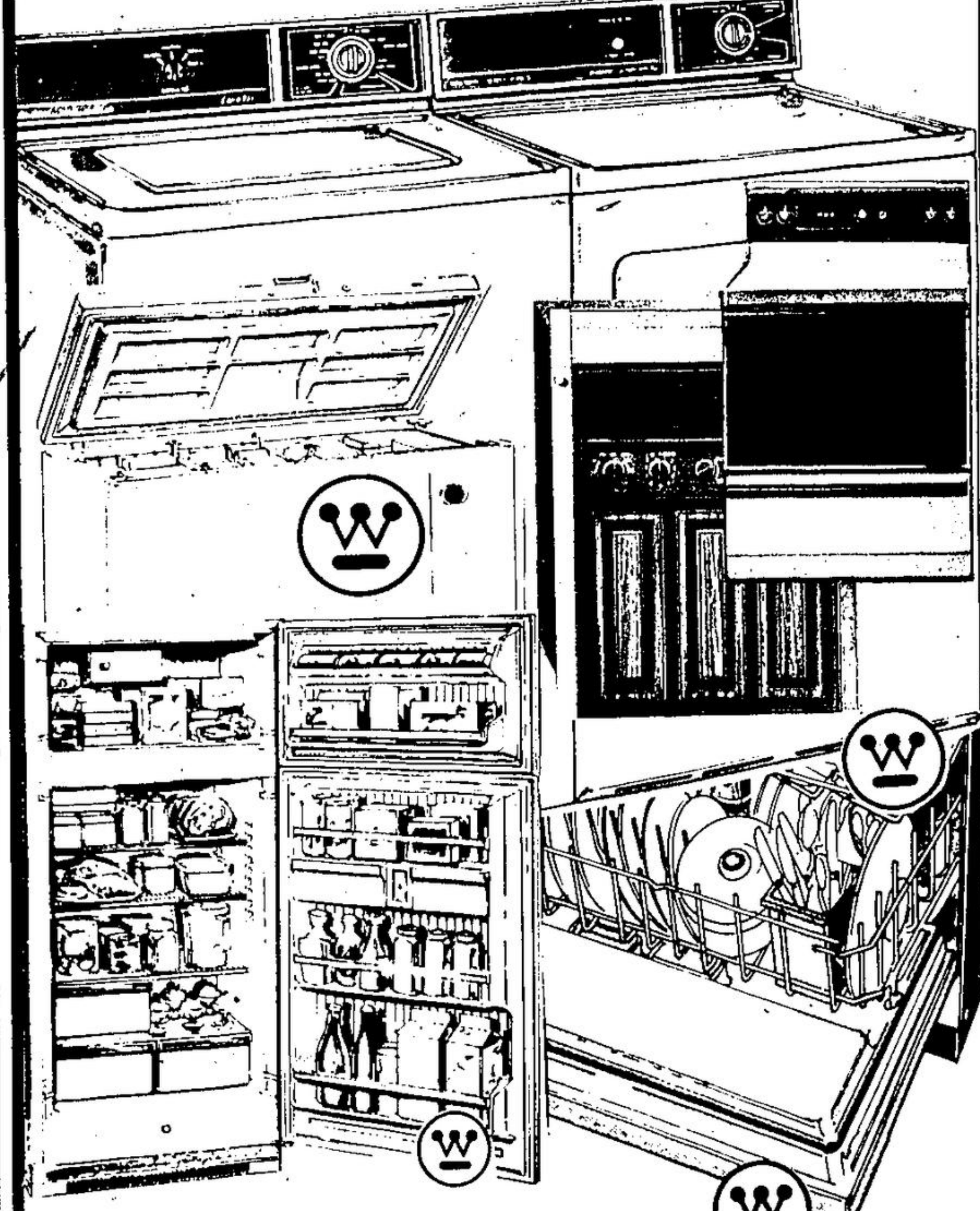
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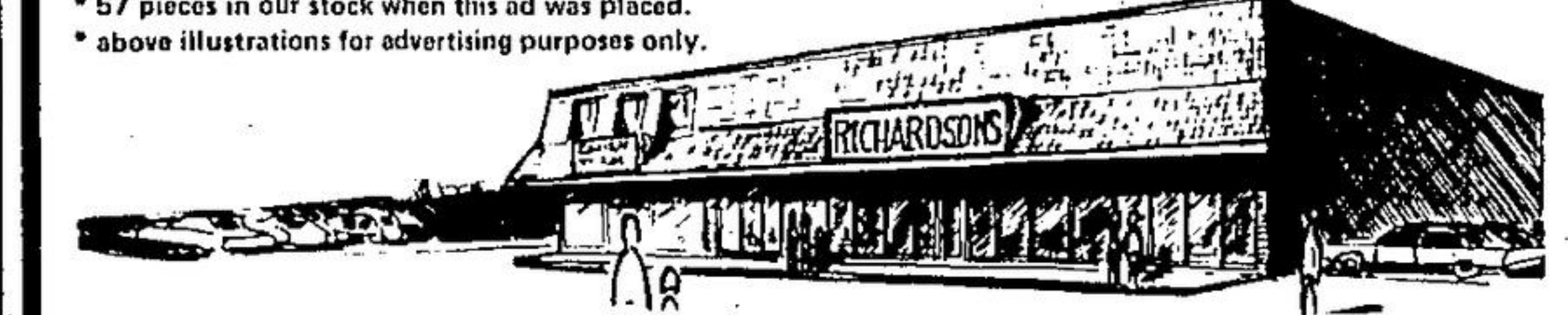
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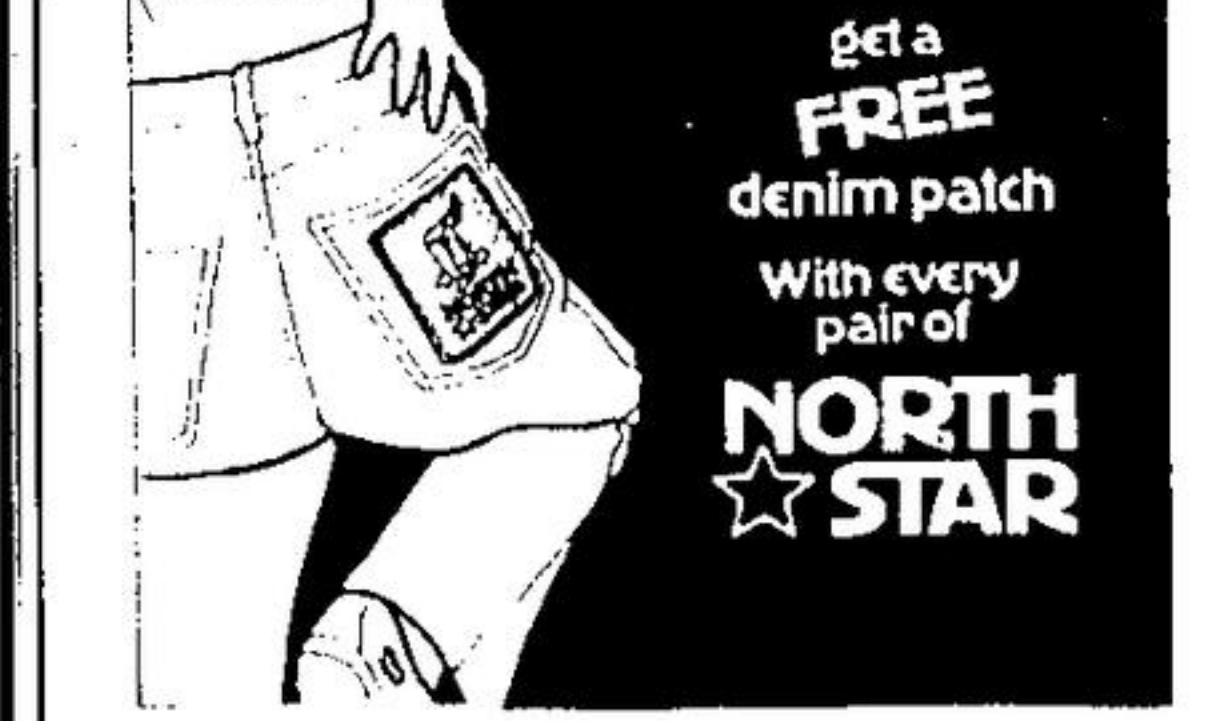
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