





The Newsletter Of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Volume 11, Number 4

WINTER 2006

The Iowa Lincoln Highway Association Wants You! (Two!)

The lowa Lincoln Highway Association is a strong organization because of the people who volunteer their time to serve either as an officer or a county consul. But with any organization changes come about because people have things happen in their lives and cannot devote the time they used to. We are grateful for every member of this organization, no matter how you choose to serve. We thank each and everyone of you because without you, this organization would not function as smoothly as it does.

Currently, the ILHA is in need of two county consul positions. The positions of Carroll and Crawford County Consuls are vacant at this time. We are seeking individuals from these counties to fill these positions. Your task as a county consul is a simple one, attend the quarterly meetings and represent the ILHA in vour county. Well, there are a few more tasks we may ask of you from time to time but really the job is simple, fun and rewarding. Not to mention that you get to enjoy great food and fellowship at the meetings and go on tours of the highway in the spring and fall meetings. We would prefer that anyone interested in the Carroll and Crawford County positions live within the counties, however we will happily accept anyone who lives in a neighboring county and has an interest and a willingness to serve on our board. If you are interested in either of these openings, please contact State Director Jeff LaFollette at 563-349-3047 or by e-mail at iefflaf@peoplepc.com L

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We Also Want And Need Your Input Too!

By Jeff LaFollette

In 2005, I approached the ILHA Board with an idea of a statewide tour of the Lincoln Highway. The board, in turn gave me the OK to pursue this. My goal was to have this tour in 2007. Well, the national conference took up a lot of time and energy and pushed things back a bit. So now I'm looking doing a tour in 2008. What I need now is some feedback if this is something that would be of interest to our members. Our LH friends in California do tours and our friendly rivals on the "other road" (a.k.a. Route 66) do the same thing on a pretty large scale in Illinois. So I believe that we can do this! A tentative plan could be a River to River weekend tour with nice warm sunny weather, from Clinton to Council Bluffs, a social on Friday evening, leave Clinton early Saturday morning with several stops during the day including a lunch stop and well planned cookie and lemonade stops (a wise man once said an army travels well on a full stomach!) We would overnight Saturday in Ames with a big dinner and maybe a speaker or program, then leave Ames on Sunday morning and again have several stops including lunch and the well placed cookie stops, and end the tour in the Council Bluffs area. Of course, this is just an idea and more planning is to be done but you get the idea! I also envision a lot of classic cars on this event. If this sounds like something that would interest you, let me know! Call me at 563-349-3047 or e-mail me at jefflaf@peoplepc.com L



IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 14 OGDEN, IOWA 50212

www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org

HAVE SPARE TIRE, WILL TRAVEL BY VAN & BEV BECKER

It's Saturday morning. The sky is blue and the sun is bright. No one in the neighborhood is outside washing the car or hanging Christmas lights. With no one in need of my supervisory skills, the obvious choice is—Road Trip! Bev and I headed west to Belle Plaine.

On the east side of Belle Plaine, we were

pleasantly to find a come sign. mentions jumbo well, wrote viously, and three Linway em-



surprised new wel-The sign both the which I about prefeatures coln Highblems. In

fact, the top corners are built to resemble 1928 markers.

Our destination on this particular Saturday was the Lincoln Café. You may remember receiving word that it had closed. Well, it is open again as "Bailey's Lincoln Café," complete with the same Lincoln Highway signs outdoors and the Lincoln Highway emblem next to the door handle upon entering. Upon entering, the first sensation was the lack of cigarette smoke. (The previous owner



smoked heavily and the new owners do not.) We arrived shortly before noon and the booths were filling fast. This Saturday was the first day open under new ownership and management. We chowed down on sandwiches, salads, fries and coffee and

escaped with a bill just over \$10. The food was good, and we'll come back. The woman opening the cash register was clearly in charge. We took time to express our pleasure that they kept the Lincoln Café name. Oh yes, the counter and stools were gone; replaced by a buffet table for evenings and weekends. We wish them well.

It is obvious to us that Belle Plaine has indeed discovered tourism and is starting to embrace its history with the new history museum, Preston's Station, the new Lincoln Café and the welcome sign at the town's edge. We are pleased to note the turn Belle Plaine is takina.

Before we left Belle Plaine, we tried to visit the Police Station. Locked. Where is a cop when you want one? We were after a photo of the police patch worn on the shoulder by the officers. We were forced to snap a photo of the emblem on the side of the PD building. Notice the LH emblem? Even the police officers wear Lincoln Highway emblems in Belle Plaine.

Sharp-eyed Lincoln Highway collectors will note this makes two eastern lowa towns that proudly display the Lincoln Highway emblem on their police officers' shoulders. Clarence, lowa has an especially nice patch.

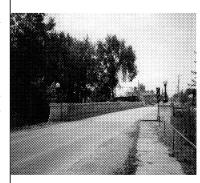
After lunch, we continued west on the Lincoln Highway to Chelsea. Do you remember the waterlogged town that FEMA bought out and moved to high ground? There was a bridge north out of Chelsea over Otter Creek. It was built in 1928 by Ames Melberg Construction Company of Cedar Rapids. In recent years the sides were painted and the lamps refurbished. Today the bridge is gone! It appears that Tama County is driving pilings to replace the span. But replace it with what? No artifacts of the original bridge could be found. No brass plaque or lamp posts. Just chunks of concrete in a big empty space. A sorry sight/site! Yes, the 2006 LHA national conference bus tours went over this bridge and the significance was pointed out to the riders. The Otter Creek Bridge in Chelsea is listed as Item #250 in the National Park Service's Special Resource Study/Lincoln Highway Reconnaissance Survey, Summer 2002.

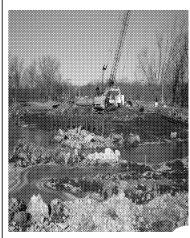
Daylight disappears quickly on mid-winter road trips. Drive safely. Watch for ice, especially on bridges! ${\bf L}$

(Photo credits to Van & Bev Becker)









Ramblings Along the Lincoln Highway.

Minutes of the Autumn 2006 Iowa LHA Meeting Brickstreet Station Woodbine, Iowa 14 October 2006 Submitted by Jeff Benson, Acting Secretary.

President Van Becker called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Minutes of the Summer 2006 Board Meeting held July 8, 2006 were approved as published in the Autumn 2006 issue of Along the Lincoln Highway.

<u>Ireasurer's Report</u>- Joyce Ausberger reported a checking account balance of \$3451.00 after current newsletter expenses have been paid and an investment account balance of \$4921.36.

Membership Report- Cecil Stewart reported 19 new members, including 14 or 15 who signed up for the annual meeting. Membership now stands at nine life members, 220 "national" LHA members, and 56 lowa only ILHA members.

State Director's Report- Jeff LaFollette reported that the national LHA meeting in lowa in June netted more than \$13,000 beyond expenses, which is a record, as was total attendance. The members expressed interest in a joint meeting with the Illinois Chapter, perhaps in July or August, and Jeff will follow up with Kay Shelton in Illinois. Acquisition of the single post canopy gas station in Stanwood may be eligible for the new LHA grant program, if the state chapter is a project sponsor. The members agreed that Jeff should give that proposal our support, take the next steps and report back.

Newsletter Editor Report- The members gave editor Jeff LaFollette approval to try out any changes to the newsletter format that he thinks appropriate. He said he had nothing major in mind, just some minor changes to a format that has not been adjusted in quite a few years.

Business Items

1. Jeff Benson reported that Harrison, Story, Linn and Clinton Counties had agreed to concur to the Programmatic Agreement that requires context sensitive design to be considered for protecting the lowa Lincoln Highway historic resources for any federally funded road project. One or two other counties may yet concur, but since the requirement exists whether the county concurs or not, Jeff recommended that we turn our attention now to the counties' approval of the route for the

lowa Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway. Jeff will send letters to each County Engineer stating the request and the background, along with a route map and a sample resolution for the Board of Supervisors. Jeff will copy the Lincoln Highway County Consuls on this, who can then contact their county officials to show local support and to follow up at County Board meetings.

2. Lyell Henry (Noble Sojourner and Archive Committee Member) reported that the relationship is prospering between the Lincoln Highway Association and the University of Michigan Special Collections Library, which holds the official archive of the Association. Lyell is gathering state chapter papers to send to the archive and particularly needs the following:

Agendas and Minutes of meetings before 1998

Past budgets

Any important letters

Publications by ILHA or others about Lincoln Highway resources

Lyell urges members to send him these items or any other papers that seem noteworthy and he will work with the Special Collections Library to determine if any of it is not needed. This may lead to a list in the newsletter of things that the archive would like to have. It was agreed that in January the Board will discuss an official policy for how to keep these records as Board members and officers change.

3. **Joyce Ausberger** reported for the nominating committee, nominating the following candidates for open office positions:

President - Keith Whitlach

Vice President/President Elect – **Kathy Dirks** Secretary – **Jeff Benson**

President Becker asked for nominations from the floor. None were given. A motion was made to close the nominations, which passed unanimously. A motion was made and seconded to elect the entire slate of officers as nominated. The motion passed unanimously.

County Consul Reports

<u>Clinton County</u> - Jeff LaFollette reported he will continue to work with Wheatland to include Lincoln Highway aspects in planning for their sesquicentennial for 2008. Clinton is planning a major reconstruction project to US 30 that will possibly affect some of the second alignment of the LH through the city. He will keep us up to date on the progress.

<u>Cedar County</u> – **Keith Whitlatch** reported he is working to include Lincoln Highway aspects in the Lowden centennial celebration in 2007. He is also still working on acquiring a bridge for the abandoned section west of Lowden

(Ramblings, Continued on page 4)

(Ramblings, Continued from page 3) and on acquiring the gas station on the east side of Lowden. An individual may be interested in restoring the single-post gas canopy station in Stanwood. He also reported that the Highway Gardens building may be demolished.

<u>Linn County</u> – Van Becker said that a Lisbon History Center is getting set up on the Lincoln Highway with an interpretive panel about the Highway. On November 18 a Lisbon Lincoln Highway Lions Club will be chartered. It is hoped that more Lions Clubs along the Lincoln statewide and nationwide will get involved with preservation and education efforts. Shady Acres cabin court is being demolished.

Benton County - **Mike Kelly** said the State has approved the National Historic Register listing for Youngville Station, which will now go to the National Park Service for approval. Other Youngville news includes fundraising efforts, planning toward increased open hours next season and unfortunately a break-in. Also, Lyell Henry noted the lowa Hotel in Belle Plaine listed on e-Bay as for sale.

Tama County – (Allan Richards notified Van that he would be out of town at the time of this meeting.) A motel three blocks from the Lincoln Highway bridge is for sale. The new, much-improved interpretive sign at the bridge was dedicated three weeks previously. Lyell Henry, Ron Cory and Van Becker as well as 50 to 60 other people and media attended.

Marshall County- Catherine Noble No Report Story County - Jeff Benson reported that the West Ames Historic Study by Will Page for the City of Ames is nearing completion and will identify several areas as having potential for historic preservation, including the pre-1929 Lincoln Highway sections. The Lincoln Highway Artists Studio Tour from Ames to Marshalltown will be the following weekend. Jeff also made two additional presentations of "Coming and Going on the Lincoln Highway in Ames," based on the joint research/exhibit project with the Ames Historical Society. Reed/Niland One Stop has received an additional Transportation Enhancement grant to restore several motel rooms and is currently raising the cash match.

Boone County – **Ed Mondt** reports on finding a site for an association club house and soliciting support from service clubs, as well as work on a book on the 1920's Lincoln Highway through Boone.

<u>Greene County-</u> **Bob Owens** Thanks to **Kenny Russell** for his many hours hosting visitors at the Club House museum in Jefferson. Recently the Goodyear Blimp visited the local airport on the Lincoln Highway. The first president of

that company, Frank Sieberling, was one of the first financial backers of the Lincoln Highway Association in 1912 or 1913.

Carroll County- No Report

Crawford County- No Report

Harrison County - Elaine Ehlert Guest Tom Ryan from the Military Vehicle Preservation Association discussed planning a statewide caravan in 2009 commemorating the 90th anniversary of 1919 U. S. Army Transcontinental Motor Train that followed the Lincoln Highway for much of its length. Of particular interest is a series of celebrations from Woodbine to Council Bluffs. National efforts to commemorate this event and the 200th anniversary of President Lincoln's birth were also mentioned.

Pottawattamie County—Brett Ford reported by email that he is still working with the County on approval of the lowa DOT's Programmatic Agreement for road projects on historic segments of the Lincoln Highway, as well as fundraising for an interpretive panel at the Honey Creek Grade overlook at the Hickock Nature Area campground.

Other Business

- 1. Discussion of medallion reproductions and Lincoln Highway chocolates as potential fund raisers. No decisions made at this point.
- 2. Discussion of an original concrete marker that has been found and the pros and cons of raffling this as a fund-raiser for the Greene County Interpretive Site at Lions Club Tree Park near Scranton. No decisions made at this point.
- 3. Joyce Ausberger moved and Keith Whitlach seconded that \$100 be given to the Lincoln Highway Association Clubhouse in Jefferson for the utilities costs. Bob Owens and Kenny Russell have been keeping this facility open for six years and it has hosted many visitors from across the country and even beyond. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4. **Cathie Nichols** reported on a streetscape improvement project on the Lincoln Highway in DeWitt, which includes medallion logos, pavers and lights, as well as a plaque with history information. Several suggestions were made to correct the text.

Lyell Henry moved and Joyce Ausberger seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Immediately after adjournment, the presidential gavel was passed from outgoing President Bob Stinson to incoming President Keith Whitlatch.

Following the meeting, the membership had lunch at the Brick Street Station and then traveled to the Harrison County lowa Welcome Center for a tour hosted by **Kathy Dirks** and to learn about the expansion project that will feature Lincoln Highway interpretation. **L**

The President's Corner

By Keith Whitlatch, ILHA President



Incoming President Keith Whitlatch, center receives the gavel from Acting President Van Becker, right and former president Bob Stinson, left. (Photo by Mike Kelly)

Greetings from the "new kid on the block". I feel like a rookie with all the veterans on the lowa Lincoln Highway Association Board. Permit me to tell you a little about myself so you know what kind of "rookie" you are dealing with.

I am married 31 years to my bride, Lois, who shares my enthusiasm for the Lincoln Highway. We live in the old Village of Shiloh, 3 miles south of the Lincoln Highway (a.k.a Highway 30), on King Avenue in Cedar County. The Muscatine (Bloomington) to Marion Road bisects our farm. This is the historic road that opened up Linn County in the 30's – 1830's, that is. The Lincoln Highway shares this road in Linn County. In fact, one road on the Old Lincoln Highway is named Bloomington Road.

I was Cedar County Sheriff for twenty-three years and helped name and number all of the roads of Cedar County during my tenure. The gravel road from the west city limits of Mechanicsville to a spot about 5 miles west of Mechanicsville, where the gravel crosses the railroad tracks and joins Highway 30 is called "Old Lincoln Highway".

I've been a member of the Tipton Lions Club for over 28 years and have served in numerous capacities at the local, district and state level. I have served as Council Chairman of the nine Council districts and am serving presently as State Extension Chair for the Lions of Iowa. The Extension chair helps form new Lions clubs through-out the state. We recently chartered a new Lions Club - called "The Lisbon Lincoln Highway Lions Club".

I'm past president of the Cedar County

Historical Society and currently serve on the Board of Directors. I'm president of the Cedar County Friends of Historic Preservation. We have purchased the old Cedar County Jail and adjacent home after the new law enforcement building was finished and occupied. The Old Jail and house are now on the National Register of Historic Places. We have an agreement with the lowa State Sheriffs and Deputies Association designating it as the official museum for the Association. I am also vice president of the Cedar County Genealogical Society. Needless to say, I do have a passion for history and keeping it alive for the future generations.

As you can see, I believe in involvement. I feel all of the organizations or groups I belong to mesh together. One of my goals in the upcoming term of my office is to get the Lincoln Highway to work closely with local service clubs, Chambers of Commerce and Historical organizations. Together we can do so much more to benefit and promote the Lincoln Highway as well as the many towns we touch across the state.

I realize I have some big shoes to fill, following Van Becker and Bob Stinson. With your help I am going to give it my best try. All of my adult years I have been interested in antiques and local and state history. Now, all of a sudden, I realize I AM an antique and a part of that history. That is a sobering thought.

If you have any suggestions or ideas to help improve the Lincoln Highway Association in Iowa, please let me know. I hope to see you all and visit and share at the next meeting which will take place in Boone on Saturday January 13, 2007.

Keith

BURMA-SHAVE JINGLES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Santa's- Whiskers- Need no trimmin'- He kisses kids- Not the wimmin- Burma Shave

A Christmas hug- A birthday kiss- Awaits-The Woman- Who gives this- Burma Shave

Christmas comes- But once- A year- One swell gift- That's always here- Burma Shave (From "The Verse By The Side of The Road")

The Illinois Good Roads Movement

By Jeff LaFollette

While Tammy and I were out antique shopping one day, I stumbled across a unique find. Inside a case was a well cared for pam-

phlet promoting the 1918 State Road Bond Issue put to voters to authorize construction in Illinois of 4800 miles of hard surfaced roads costina \$60,000,000. Here are some excerpts from the pamphlet.

"You can make good roads a reality by voting YES on the \$60,000,000 State Hard Road Bond Issue. Election Nov. 5, 1918. These bonds will be serial Bonds bearing interest at a rate not to exceed 4%. The bonds will be issued as

needed and will be entirely paid up within 25 years after the first bonds are sold. The total principal and interest amounts to \$82,000,000 making an average yearly cost for 25 years of \$3,280,000. How will this cost be paid? The entire cost of these bonds, principal, and interest, will be paid by automobile license fees

which have already been fixed by law. NO DIRECT TAX. The law provides that all motor vehicle license fees must be used for this purpose before any direct tax can be levied."

"In 1917 there were over 340,000 cars registered. At the rate of \$10 per car (which will be the average under the new rate made effective by law,) the number of cars in use last year will yield

\$3,400,000 per year or more than enough to pay for this entire years cost. Illinois now has one automobile for each sixteen persons, while lowa has one car for each eight persons. If the cars in Illinois increased to one for each twelve people, the increased registration will yield a yearly surplus of \$2,600,000 for maintenance and the improvement of connecting roads. Until you own a car this great road system will not cost you one cent. If you own a car, the license fees will be due annually, whether the bond issue carries or not, because these fees have already been fixed by law"

" How will these roads be built? All details of construction and the location of the roads. Public Works and Buildings. Construction will be carried on in all parts of the state simultaneously, and the entire system can be completed within five years after construction

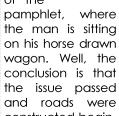
> begins. The roads are to be durable, paved ten to eighteen feet wide, and graded twenty-four to thirty feet wide between ditches."

" The roads will be maintained entirely by the State and the cost paid from surplus automobile license fees. The public is guaranteed that this investments in roads will be safeguarded by proper maintenance."

"Governor Lowden urges" "Vote the bonds now, sell the bonds and begin construction immediately after the

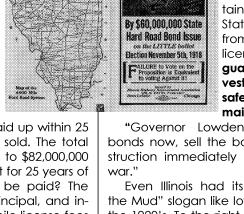
Even Illinois had its "Out of the Mud" slogan like lowa did in the 1920's. To the right is a hand

> written sign on the front of the page of the



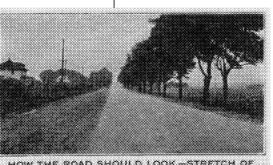
constructed beginning in 1919. I'm guessing that the picture of the paved Lincoln Highway may possibly be the Illinois seedling mile, but I can't say for

All the promises of the day were that the roads were to be self-sustaining through vehicle license fees. If only that were so simple. But at least there was a vision in the day of the need for good roads, which finally crossed the river into lowa around the mid to late 1920's. After the bond issue passed, the Lincoln was designated as State Bond Issue # 6, then later known as State Highway 6 the same number, as it was in lowa where it was known as Primary Road # 6. Coincidence? Probably not. That is for us to ponder. L



The Road Ques-

tion-Answered



HOW THE ROAD SHOULD LOOK-STRETCH OF CEMENT ROAD ON THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY.

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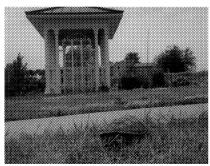
Lvell Henry

Iowa Artist in Residence

John Fitzsimmons

Look What We Found Traveling On lowa's Lincoln Highway!

You never, never know what you might encounter along the Lincoln Highway. Joe Moore, our county coconsul from Boone County was out with his wife Barb



at the Lincoln Prairie Park on the west side of Ogden last summer and discovered a different sort of traveler on the Lincoln Highway. They encountered a large turtle measuring 9"

wide by 13" long. He was heading toward the gazebo for an overnight stay. Joe says the turtle reinvented the free camparounds!

Bob Owens asks if anyone can top this. Jefferson, IA LHA members Dean & Lois McAtee promoted the



arrival of the Goodyear blimp there for five days in celebration of the couples 40 years in business as McAtee Tire Service. Also hosting the event were LH members Bob & Judy McConkle whose son-in-law Jon Rich is a president of Goodyear. The blimp was moored at the Jefferson Airport on the original LH. Jefferson is the smallest community

the blimp has ever been to. The crew was happy to learn that Frank Sieberling was a president of Goodyear and also the second president of the Lincoln Highway Association. A highlight of the event was that the blimp flew over the high school stadium in Jefferson for the homecoming football game. Jefferson won the game as well! Staff from Goodyear also led tours, answered questions and gave rides to the blimp in golf carts and served complimentary sandwiches and pop for the five days. Also in Jefferson, Nickel Hamburger Day was held at the LHA Clubhouse. The aroma of freshly grilled burgers filled the air and brought many people in to sample the burgers with chips, drinks, and cookies. Where else could you get a meal for a nickel? Only in Jefferson, lowa!

Upcoming LHA State Meetings

January 13, '07 April 14, '07

Boone Belle Plaine

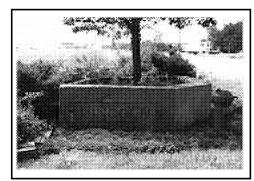
July 14, '07 October 13, '07 To Be Announced
To Be Announced

2007 ILHA MEETINGS KICK-OFF IN BOONE

The new year finds the lowa Lincoln Highway Association getting together in Boone, on **Saturday January 13th.** The meeting will be held in the basement of the **Boone County Cultural Center at 602 Story St.** Coffee and rolls will be served at 9:00 AM. New President Keith Whitlatch will drop the gavel around 9:30 AM. Directions to the meeting location are as follows: Coming from Eastern lowa get on U.S. 30 and stay on it until you get to Boone. Watch for the Ford dealership About 1/2 mile on U.S. 30 you'll come to a 4 way stop. As you approach the stop, there is an exit ramp on your right. This will put you on Story St. Stay on Story St. until you come to 6th St. about 1.5 miles. The center is a two story concrete building on your right. Look for a concrete marker in front of the bldg. It's on the Lincoln Highway. From the West, again get on U.S. 30 and stay on it until you get to Boone. When you see Wal-Mart on your left, you'll be approaching a four way stop. You must stop and then turn left onto Story St.. As listed above, follow Story St. to 6th St about 1.5 miles on your right. The entrance is on the back corner of the bldg. on 6th St. Lunch will be on your own. There are several good choices heading South on Story St. John Fitzsimmons plans to show a video he made of Grand Junction burning. For those, who might choose to stay overnight in Boone, you can choose either the Super 8

Motel at 515-432-8890 or the Amerihost Inn at 515-432-8168. L

Concrete corner marker located at intersection of Mamie Eisenhower Drive and Snedden Avenue on east side of Boone. L
(Photo Courtesy of Paul Walker)



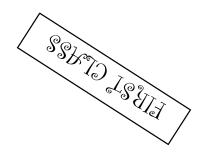
See YOU on the Lincoln Highway! This issue's new members.

Randy Allison Elizabeth Gibson Tammy Loving Roger Olhausen Richard Thomas Susan Turner Bob Crawford Coralville, Johnson Co. Cedar Rapids, Linn Co. L Davenport, Scott Co. Jefferson, Greene Co. L Mt. Vernon, Linn Co. L Marion, Linn Co. L Newport, MN

L (Denotes a Lincoln Highway County)

In This Issue...

Spare Tire Rolling Along & Welcome Our New Prez!



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