

Winter 2004-2005

A publication of
the Colorado
Endowment for
the Humanities

Ask a Humanist



What was the
Niagara Movement?

Answer, page 6

2005 News Flash...

River of Words
student poetry
and arts
competition

See page 2 for details.

Honoring our Colorado Authors

Cheers, gasps and rounds of applause filled the Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum recently when the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities and our new program department, the Colorado Center for the Book, hosted the 13th Annual Colorado Book Awards Gala on November 18th. That evening the spotlight was also shared by our keynote speaker, Sir Harold Evans, the internationally acclaimed author who spoke on his latest book, *They Made America – From the Steam Engine to the Search Engine: Two Centuries of Innovators*, and our event emcee, former Denver Bronco and author/columnist Reggie Rivers.

This year, a record-breaking 217 authors were nominated from throughout the state, a number that was then whittled down to 46 finalists in 14 book categories. Out of that group, first-place winners were announced at the Gala, each of whom received a \$250 cash prize plus an engraved plaque. In another record-breaker, this year's audience swelled to more than 475 guests who dined on a lavish hors d'oeuvre buffet and had opportunities to meet with our honored authors and our guest speaker, plus purchase the authors' books at the event.

"Receiving the Colorado Book Award for *Meadow Lark*, has affected me in ways I could not have imagined," said Mary Peace

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Master of Ceremonies Reggie Rivers (L) with Gail Nash, Sir Harold Evans and Philip Nash.



PHOTO BY BLACKTIE-COLORADO

Thank you to our 13th Annual Colorado Book Awards Gala Sponsors and Volunteers

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Bringing Black History to Life

In February 2005, the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities will honor Black History Month by sponsoring a week-long tour entitled *Black History Live*, featuring Hasan Davis, a noted Kentucky poet, scholar, storyteller, youth advocate, and Chautauquan (a portrayer of legendary and historical characters). Drawing on his multiple talents, Davis presents African-American characters from the past in ways that encourage audiences to read and understand more about their cultural and ethnic history, and motivates them to reach for higher education and personal achievements.

While on tour, Davis will use three historical characters to help audiences explore our nation's history while bringing to light the contributions of people of color. These characters (two of whom were created with

support from the Kentucky Humanities Council) include:

York: Black Explorer of the Lewis and Clark Expedition — Through this character, Davis examines the life of the African-American man known only as York, an explorer who served as a distinguished member of the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1803, yet returned to 19th century American society as a slave.

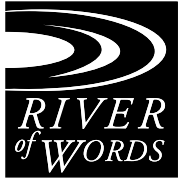
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PHOTO BY KARA-BETH BRUNNER



Hasan Davis

Student Poetry Competition Calls for Entries



Are you a student in the age range of 5 through 19? Do you like to write poetry or create artwork? Do you enjoy and appreciate nature and the great outdoors? Then we have a contest just for you!

Each year, the Colorado Center for the Book and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress call for entries for *River of Words*, an environmental poetry and art contest for children and young people from kindergarten through high school. This national and statewide competition is designed to increase awareness and understanding of the natural world and its connection to artistic expression.

Most importantly, this unique project “strives to give children a sense of place and belonging,” according to co-founder and former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Hass.

Last year, more than 260 Colorado students entered the *River of Words* competition, and three of our state honorees were selected as national

finalists. Overall, more than 20,000 entries were submitted internationally, with only 50 of those designated as national finalists.

Deadline for the 2005 *River of Words* poetry and arts contest is February 15. For more information or to receive an entry form, please call 303-894-7951, or visit the website www.riverofwords.org.

As a sixth-grader, Maya Davis won an honorable mention in the 2004 *River of Words* environmental poetry competition.



CEH is A-OK for SCFD

The Colorado Endowment for the Humanities is proud to announce its recently acquired eligibility for Tier III funding through the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). The SCFD, which funds cultural and scientific facilities within the seven-county Denver area, is supported by a one-tenth of one percent regional sales tax that provides more than \$35 million each year to support the metropolitan region's cultural community.

In 2003, SCFD distributed more than



\$4.3 million to Tier III organizations within the district. Through this designation, CEH will now join the ranks of nearly 300 other eligible nonprofit agencies that can apply for this funding.

During the time of our recent merger, and as a result of its previous eligibility and 2004 application, the Colorado Center for the Book (CCFTB) was awarded \$10,574 in SCFD funding. These monies will be applied toward CCFTB programming in 2005.

We are grateful for this outstanding support from our community and from SCFD.

Rounding Up Friends of Ferril

Earlier this year, a group of dedicated Colorado Endowment for the Humanities (CEH) and Colorado Center for the Book (CCFTB) volunteers rounded up a circle of special friends, the Friends of Ferril – a group that launched on Tuesday, October 19, with an informal luncheon attended by more than 20 invited guests.

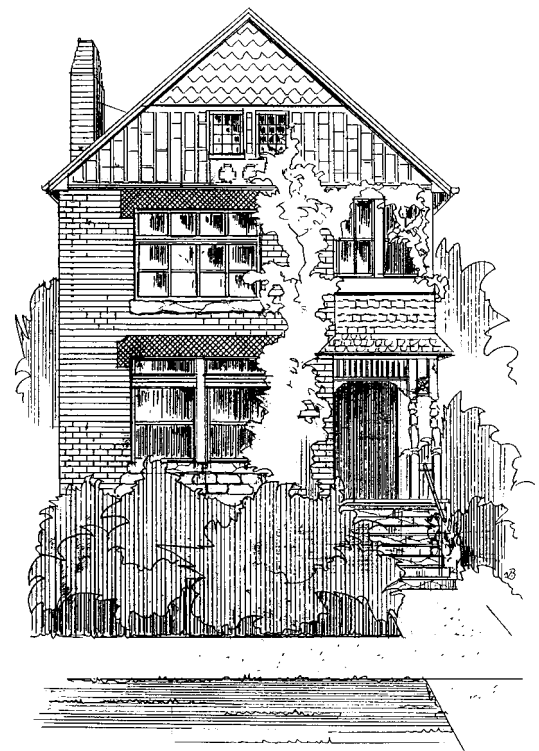
The Friends of Ferril was formed to assist in preserving the Ferril House, the historic home of the late Colorado Poet Laureate Thomas Hornsby Ferril and former headquarters of CCFTB. As part of their goal, the group is seeking cash and in-kind donations to help renovate the interior and exterior of the house, restore the home's original lawn and gardens, plus prepare the home for future use as the site for small public programs and events, and as a location for offices or studios of a partner organization.

Currently, CEH is seeking a nonprofit partner that would be interested in using part of the home for office space, a writer's studio, or other uses.

“CEH is committed to keeping the house as a public resource and to being a good steward of the property,” explained David Van Landschoot, a CEH board member and real estate developer who is spearheading this effort. He is joined in the project by fellow CEH Facilities Committee members Becky Benes (chair), Phil Marcum and Wendell Pryor, along with Bill Sullivan and former CCFTB board member Patty Moore.

Built in 1890, the Ferril House is a two-story Victorian brick home located at 2123 Downing Street in Denver's north Capitol Hill. In 1973, it was designated by Historic Denver as Denver Landmark #36. The house is considered an outstanding example of the American Aesthetic Movement, full of decorative woodwork, beveled glass and built-in cabinetry, and it was home to Thomas Hornsby Ferril for more than 80 years.

If you are interested in joining the



Friends of Ferril or in learning more about the Ferril House, please contact Margaret A. Coval, CEH executive director, at 303-894-7951, x14.

Colorado Book Awards Gala

continued from page 1

Finley, who won this year's first prize in the Young Adult category. She added that the award acknowledges her writing "as being of value. This is a wonderful affirmation for me."

Top winners, titles, and categories included: Jeffrey Bennett, *Max Goes to the Moon* (Children's Literature); Kent Nelson, *Land that Moves, Land that Stands Still* (Fiction); Carol Berg, *Song of the Beast* (Genre Fiction); Rick A. Adams, *Bats of the Rocky Mountain West* (Guidebooks); Barbara Coloroso, *The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander* (Health/Counseling/Education); Daniel Glick, *Monkey Dancing* (History/Biography); Stephanie Kane, *Extreme Indifference* (Mystery); Jon Krakauer, *Under the Banner of Heaven* (Non-fiction); Nick Del Calzo, *Medal of Honor* (Pictorial); Bill Tremblay, *Shooting Script: Door of Fire* (Poetry); Barbara Samuel, *A Piece of Heaven* (Romance); Jane E. Vennard, *Embracing the World* (Spirituality); **Mary Peace**

Finley, Meadow Lark (Young Adult); and a tie between David Baron, *The Beast in the Garden*, and Andrew Gulliford, *Boomtown Blues* (Colorado and the West).

The Colorado Book Awards program is a year-round process that honors Colorado writers statewide. Annually, more than 70 volunteers judge the contest – including professors, teachers, booksellers, and librarians – who critique and then select



CEH Board Chair Russ Ahrens and wife, Susan Ahrens.

PHOTO BY BLACKTIE-COLORADO



PHOTO BY BLACKTIE-COLORADO

Jeff Barnes and Dierdra O'Gorman (standing) from the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado with finalist David Milofski (lower left) and friends.

the recipients of these awards. The highlight of each competition is the Colorado Book Awards Gala, where first-place winners in each category are announced and then presented with their awards.

As in the past, Colorado Governor Bill Owens issued an official proclamation announcing November 18th as Colorado Book Awards Day. This year, proceeds from the Gala will go toward our CCFTB Children's Literary Programs that promote reading and writing, and nurture a love of literature among Colorado's youth.

CEH and CCFTB would like to offer special thanks to Vectra Bank Colorado for sponsoring this year's cash prizes for our award winners, and to Event Chair Jackie Davis for making the 2004 Gala such a memorable event.

For information on nominating authors and their books for the 2005 awards, please call 303-894-7951, or you can visit the CEH website at www.ceh.org or the CCFTB website at www.coloradocenterforthebook.org.

Colorado Unveils New Teacher Institutes

In an effort to provide more resources and opportunities for our Colorado educators, this past summer the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities produced two new teacher institutes. One was designed around our Telly Award-winning educational video, *The Five States of Colorado*, and the second was held in conjunction with this year's *High Plains Chautauqua* in Greeley.

At both institutes, recertification and graduate credits were available for participants.

"It's not easy serving on the 'front lines' of history education," said Betty Jo Brenner, CEH's program coordinator, who explained that CEH focuses on teachers' needs for professional development while also providing "the right tools to meet model content standards in the classrooms."

The Five States of Colorado Teacher

Institute was held July 26 – 30 at McLain Alternative High School in Lakewood. Developed exclusively for Jefferson County 4th and 8th grade educators, the five-day workshop served 41 teachers and featured history and geography professors from throughout Colorado and one from California. The institute was led by Michael McCarthy, Ph.D., professor of History at Community College of Denver. During that same week, CEH also welcomed 100 area residents to a free public premiere and reception for the newly revised video at the Lakewood Cultural Center.

Our second teacher institute, *America Challenged: Bread Lines and Battle Lines* (1932 – 1945), was held at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, August 2 – 7, and served 19 Colorado teachers. Participants attended two days of classroom discussion and lectures, then

enjoyed various programs at our fifth annual *High Plains Chautauqua*. These included our evening Chautauqua presentations and daytime activities, such as historical tours and exhibits, a panel discussion on Japanese-American internment, and a slide presentation on the Dust Bowl-era photography of Margaret Bourke-White.

We want to express our thanks to The Jefferson Foundation for supporting the institute in Lakewood, and to State Farm Insurance Company and Washington Mutual, Inc., for supporting our Greeley institute.

In summer 2005, we will host another teacher institute as part of our sixth annual *High Plains Chautauqua*, and *The Five States of Colorado Teacher Institute* will be held in Colorado Springs. For more information, please visit our website at www.ceh.org.

Many Thanks to Our 2004 High Plains Chautauqua Sponsors

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America Challenged: Bread Lines and Battle Lines (1932 – 1945)

“From 1932 to 1945,” writes Doug Mishler, Ph.D., “America was challenged as never before....” And that thought became the theme for this year’s fifth annual *High Plains Chautauqua*, which was moderated by Dr. Mishler and entitled, *America Challenged: Bread Lines and Battle Lines* (1932 – 1945). Overall, the festival attracted a crowd of more than 6,000 local residents and out-of-town guests, or **nearly double the attendance from 2003!**

Following our traditional format, the free four-day/five-night festival took place in Greeley, August 2 – 7, on the campus of Aims Community College. The kick-off reception was a Picnic at the USO Tent in Lincoln Park, where more than 250 guests enjoyed a free “soup line” supper and entertainment by the Board of Directors band and an Andrews Sisters Tribute (a trio of singers from UNC). The supper was followed by a free screening of the film classic, *The Philadelphia Story*, starring Katherine Hepburn and Cary Grant, directly across the street in Union Colony Civic Center.

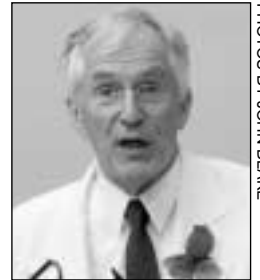
Each evening of the festival featured key luminaries from that Depression and war-time era portrayed in first-person and in costume by noted scholars. Those characters included **Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, Mary McLeod Bethune, Woody Guthrie, Margaret Bourke-White, Joe Louis, Ernie Pyle, and Winston Churchill**. Before each evening program, audiences enjoyed live music and dance entertainment, and were encouraged to bring picnic suppers or purchase them on site.

One full day during the event, we offered an opportunity for local young people to shine in their own presentations of historical and literary figures through *Young Chautauqua* – a project that has been supported by CEH and piloted in Weld County for more than three years. This year’s *Young Chautauqua* program featured a head-spinning array of characters such as **Pocahontas, Albert Einstein, Georgia O’Keeffe, Edgar Allen Poe, Sir Francis Drake, Joan of Arc, Clara Barton, William Shakespeare**, and the notorious crime duo, **Bonnie and Clyde**.

Other daytime programming included children and family-oriented activities like hands-on arts and crafts from the ‘30s, Swing Dance lessons, historical walking tours, and storytelling. Adult daytime programs included a session on Navajo code talkers, a review of political cartoons of the Roosevelt era, plus panel discussions that focused on Hispanics at war and on the home front, and Japanese-American internment camps.

Next year’s *High Plains Chautauqua*, August 2 – 6, 2005, will feature the 1950s. Characters being considered include Edward R. Murrow, Rachel Carson, Harry S. Truman, and Thurgood Marshall.

To view more photos from our 2004 event, visit our website at www.ceh.org.



Franklin Roosevelt



Margaret Bourke-White



Mary McLeod Bethune



Clara Barton, *Young Chautauqua*

PHOTOS BY JOHN BLAKE



A Summer Celebration for Our Special Donors

Some people will use any excuse for a party, but for the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities (CEH), this year was the perfect cause for celebration – our organization's 30th anniversary and the unveiling of our 2004 poster and annual report.

On July 22nd, many of our board members, donors, and foundation and corporate sponsors joined us at the Globeville Studios in Denver for our Poster Party, where they mingled and nibbled at a cocktail reception and where our major donors received a framed poster as a thank-you for the previous year's support. We were

delighted by the appearance of special guest Jim Wark from Pueblo, the Colorado photographer whose aerial photograph, "Irrigation Circles," was the image for this year's poster.

At the reception, our guests also had an opportunity to view an exhibit from *The Globeville Project*, a documentary film



A Poster Party guest admires the timeline exhibit for *The Globeville Project*.



CEH Board Member Phil Marcum accepts a framed poster from CEH Executive Director Maggie Coval.

PHOTOS BY RANDY MALONE

funded by CEH, and hear about the project first-hand from filmmaker Ian Denny, an associate of the Globeville Studios.

If you would like to receive a free poster that is suitable for framing, call 303-894-7951.

Five States Premieres Go Statewide

This past year, CEH proudly hosted two more in our series of premieres for *The Five States of Colorado*, our Telly Award-winning video that was produced in partnership with the Colorado State Historical Fund and Havey Productions, with added support from Pinnacle Assurance.

Our first premiere in 2004 was held July 27th at the Lakewood Cultural Center as part of *The Five States of Colorado* Teacher Institute. More than 100 guests



Filmmaker Jim Havey poses with his 2nd-place Telly Award for *The Five States of Colorado* documentary video, along with historian Anne Bond.

participated in the free event which included a brief lecture by the film's producer and Lakewood resident, Jim Havey. The evening was also highlighted by a panel discussion of historians and moderated by Dr. Michael McCarthy, one of the video's key consultants and professor of History at Community College of Denver. A dessert reception followed

the premiere.

Our second premiere was held September 17th at the Adams State

College Theatre in Alamosa. More than 60 guests joined us for the screening that included an appearance by Jim Havey and a panel discussion featuring two professors from Adams State College, the museum director from Fort Garland Museum, and a local author and historian.

Please plan to join us for our next premiere that will be held in Trinidad on Thursday, January 13th, at the Massari Performing Arts Center, Trinidad State Junior College, at 7 p.m. For more information on this and other upcoming premieres, please contact Program Coordinator Betty Jo Brenner at 303-894-7951, X17, or visit our website at www.ceh.org.

Bringing Black History to Life continued from page 1

Angus Augustus Burleigh — Although little known, Burleigh was a 19th century ex-slave, soldier and scholar who went on to become an acclaimed black educator and minister.

Joe Louis, the "Brown Bomber" — Louis was the first black athlete to become the symbol of democracy and American pride after his boxing knockout of German Max Schmeling in 1938 at the beginning of America's conflict with the Nazis in World War II.

Diagnosed as learning disabled as a child, Hasan Davis was arrested at age 11 and later expelled from school at age 18.

Twice expelled from college, Davis later returned to earn a B.A. in Oral Communications and also made a name for himself in the theater department. That training – partnered with his life-long love and continuing study of history – helped him develop the unique characters that have earned him distinction as a nationally-acclaimed speaker and Chautauquan.

Today Davis holds a Juris Doctorate, serves on the Federal Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, and has also started his own business, *Empowerment Solutions*, focusing on youth development.

Black History Live is slated for January 30 through February 5, 2005, and will travel to schools, churches and libraries in the Denver-metro area and along the Front Range. Davis will speak to diverse public audiences, but mainly to minority groups of middle and high school students – specifically at-risk youth, those from low-income families, plus black and Hispanic students and immigrant populations.

For more information, please call 303-894-7951, or visit our website at www.ceh.org.



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Answer to Ask a Humanist

Nearly 100 years ago, a group of young black professionals led by W.E.B. DuBois met in Niagara Falls, Canada, to affirm principles which would define the struggle for full civil equality and the political rights of African-Americans. The Niagara Movement, which will be the theme for Black History Month in February 2005, resulted in the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909.

Pausing to reflect ...



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A Message from our Board Chair...

Dear Friend of CEH,

Another year is almost gone, and at this time I'd like to take a moment to thank you for your interest and support of the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities (CEH), and to reflect on this past year.

As you know, our nonprofit is the **only** organization in Colorado that is dedicated to supporting the humanities. We do this in two ways: *by designing and implementing our own humanities-based programs, and – through our role as one of 56 state humanities councils – by awarding and distributing National Endowment for the Humanities funds to other Colorado nonprofits to produce their own special programs.*

This year CEH has produced two new teacher institutes, hosted two premieres for *The Five States of Colorado* (our award-winning educational video), sponsored the fifth annual *High Plains Chautauqua* in Greeley (serving a record crowd), and held the third in our series of prominent fundraising Chautauqua evenings, our American Spirit Series, which this year featured *An Evening with John and Abigail Adams*. In addition, we helped sponsor Colorado History Day in April and partnered with the Denver Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs through the *One Book, One Denver* all-city reading program this spring. Also, we expanded the *Young Chautauqua* "living history" program in Adams County and Grand Junction with sights on other communities statewide. Through our recent merger with the Colorado Center for the Book (CCFTB), we have honored our state and national winners of two children's literary competitions – *Letters About Literature* and *River of Words*, hosted unique and intimate poetry readings at the Thomas Hornsby Ferril House (the former home of CCFTB), and swung the spotlight on many outstanding Colorado authors through our 13th Annual Colorado Book Awards Gala held in late November.

Beyond that, we have served thousands of our fellow Coloradoans by disbursing NEH funds for programs such as *Soul Connections: Diversity in African America* (an exhibit presented by the Foothills Art Center in Golden), and *Centennial State Stories: From Cliff Dwellings to Cabins; From Cabins to Condos* (a program produced by the Estes Park Public Library Foundation).

Yes, in 2004, our organization was involved in many programs, projects, events and activities – a proud achievement that has become a yearly tradition over the past three decades! At this time, I ask you to remember and celebrate another year and another successful milestone in our organization's history **with your year-end contribution**. Enclosed with this newsletter, you'll find a response envelope that I hope you'll return with a generous and much-appreciated gift to CEH.

Above all, please continue to enjoy the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities, our Colorado Center for the Book, and the many exciting and enlightening programs that we provide to you and your families this year and every year. Happy holidays.

Gratefully,

Russel F. Ahrens, Jr.
Chair

A REMINDER TO ALL
HISTORY BUFFS . . .

THE AMERICAN SPIRIT SERIES

A Living History Event

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, April 21, 2005, when the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities will welcome you to our fourth annual **AMERICAN SPIRIT SERIES**. This next event will feature **An Evening With Theodore Roosevelt**, a first-person characterization (Chautauqua) starring the renowned historian, author and scholar, Dr. Clay S. Jenkinson.

The event will take place at 7:30 p.m. at historic Trinity United Methodist Church in downtown Denver. General admission tickets, Patron tickets, and corporate sponsorships are available. Patron tickets and corporate sponsorships include an invitation to a private, pre-event reception at Ellyngton's in the Brown Palace Hotel and reserved seating at the Church. No-cost student scholarship tickets are also available to school groups. For information, call CEH Director of Development Jo Schantz at 303-894-7951, X16, or visit our CEH website at www.keh.org.



In summer 2004, CEH approved a total of \$30,000 in program grants to the following organizations:

The Regents of the University of Colorado, Boulder, *Colorado History Day 2005 - Focus on Teaching: Bringing the National History Day Teacher's Institute to Colorado* (\$9,274).

Pikes Peak Library District Foundation, Inc., Colorado Springs, *Celebrating Our American Liberties* (\$7,174).

The Denver Institute of Urban Studies & Center for Urban Research & Environment, Denver, *Democracy Teach In: American Democracy and the African-American Experience* (\$9,274).

Estes Park Public Library Foundation, Estes Park, *Pivotal Events in American Historical History: Their Impact on We the People* (\$4,278).

Grant Deadlines

The next deadline for CEH program and research grants is March 15, 2005.

As of February 1, 2005, we will be accepting applications for Packaged Programs available through our Chautauqua Speakers Bureau. For more information and to discuss your program ideas, call Director of Programs Mark Skinner, at 303-894-7951, X15. **Please see our website, www.keh.org, for applications and for new program grant guidelines.**

Did You Know?

Earlier this year, the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado offered CEH an exciting fundraising opportunity – a **challenge grant of \$5,000!**

For every new individual donation, increased contribution from a previous donor, OR new donation from a corporation or business, **this Fund will match those gifts up to \$5,000.** This means supporters of CEH can either double or add extra value to their gift **simply by marking this selection on the enclosed response envelope** and sending in a check or credit card charge to CEH.

Won't you please help us reach this goal? If you have questions, please call Jo Schantz, CEH director of development, at 303-894-7951, X16.

■ CEH Board

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COLORADO ENDOWMENT



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