

9.11.11

A Decade of Moving Forward



A Local Firefighter Remembers

By Larry Favinger
Staff Columnist

YORK—

This week, one of York's well-known firefighters recalled his feelings about the 2001 attack in New York City. Mark Gay was listening to his television, along with many other Americans, when a hijacked airliner struck the World Trade Center in New York at 8:46 a.m. Sept. 11, 2001.



Gay, a veteran firefighter, had just gotten home from his shift at the York Beach Fire Department and he had the "Today" show on television while checking his e-mail.

He heard someone on television say a building had been hit in New York City.

"I got up and went in to look," he said during an interview this week at the York Beach station. "My first reaction, and probably a lot of people thought the same thing, was that it was an accident."

"But then when the second one happened, I don't know how long it was, it wasn't very long, I knew it wasn't an accident. We'd been attacked."

Mark Gay, a York firefighter, recently discussed his personal 9/11 experience as the anniversary approaches. (Photo by Larry Favinger)

Gay, a veteran firefighter with nearly 40 years experience, then watched and heard of the efforts of fellow firefighters and police officers who went into the doomed buildings in an attempt to save as many people as possible.

There is a kinship between firefighters everywhere and watching, he felt it.

"It's what we do," he said of the rescue efforts.

"There's a big brotherhood between firefighters," Gay said. "It's huge. Whatever happened down there, we [firefighters] feel it all over the country."

In all 2,977 people died in the largest terrorist attack ever on United States soil. In all 343 firefighters, 23 New York Police Department officers and 37 officers of the Port Authority Police Department gave their lives in the disaster that remains with the nation today.

The attack not only resulted in a burst of patriotism among Americans, it enhanced the respect and admiration for firefighters.

"It was a big change," Gay said. "We've seen it over the whole country. I think there was always respect, but I think there's a lot more now."

Gay took his family to New York in June 2002, less than a year after the attack.

"I wanted to go and see ground zero," he said.

"The whole site was unbelievable," he said. "I don't know how to explain it other than just 'wow.' It was a great big massive hole in the ground."

While in the city, he stopped at some fire stations for brief visits with other firefighters.

The attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the

abortive attempt that ended in the crash of a fourth plane in Shanksville, Pa., has resulted in some changes for firefighters, particularly in their training. "Just in the way you do things."

New York City firefighters sent a cross, made of some of the metal from the World Trade Center buildings, to Shanksville to be part of a memorial on the site where passengers forced the crash of their plane into a field. That plane was destined to attempt to crash into the White House.

Gay became a firefighter in September of 1972, noting being one "is something I always wanted to do. He was a volunteer for 11 years and for the last 28 years has been fulltime, reaching the rank of captain.

Prior to becoming a firefighter he was an automobile mechanic with Chase's Garage in York Beach. "I kind of got tired of turning wrenches," he said.

In 2007, Gay was named Firefighter of the Year by the Maine State Federation of Firefighters.

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are only musings, though, because this happened. I look at the construction site and the small museum behind me – faces solemn and eyes tearing inside – and I know that there is no going back, only forging forward.

I'm sure that this tenth anniversary will have the potential to bring our country together as the original events once did, but it is what we are doing now, with every beam and every windowpane set carefully in place, that seems to transcend the tragedies; seems to prove that, "Hey! We're still here! We will not forget, but we must move forward."

Despite the honking horns and tourist groups, an undying American spirit radiated from this place, and you could feel it if you paused just long enough to breathe it in. I took one last gulp of it and said a quiet thank you for having the chance to be there. This was not a reflection on absence; this was a reflection on what is here now, and will continue to be. What is here is us.

With my notepad and camera full of new memories of a ten-year-old sadness, I boarded the uptown E train and began my journey back to Maine.

To follow Molly's journey in photos, visit www.theweeklysentry.com.



A commemorative plaque at the home of FDNY Engine Co. 10, Ladder Co. 10, known as the "Ten House." Directly across the street from what would become Ground Zero, the firehouse was destroyed in the 9/11 attacks and rebuilt with a dedication ceremony in 2003. Five members from the Ten House made the supreme sacrifice on that day in 2001, and are remembered here: Lieutenant Gregg Atlas, Firefighter Jeffrey Olsen, Firefighter Paul Pansini were from Engine 10, and Lieutenant Stephen Harrell and Firefighter Sean Tallon were from Ladder 10. FMI: www.fdynytenhouse.com. (Photo by Molly McCoy)

COUNTY NEWS

GOULDSBORO

Bangor Daily News – Bill Trotter, BDN Staff - Posted Nov 1, 2011

A fire early Tuesday morning at a home off Route 1 is being blamed on a faulty wood stove installation, according to a local fire official.

The fire was reported at around 3:30 a.m. at a house on Eagle View Drive, across from Young's Market on Route 1, Gouldsboro Fire Chief Robert Harmon said Tuesday. He said a couple inside the house was woken up by smoke detectors going off, which allowed them to get out of the house safely before firefighters arrived. He said the couple, whose names he did not know, has no children or pets.

The fire, Harmon said, started in the wall behind a wood stove the couple had been using for heat.

"I believe it was a relatively new installation," Harmon said about the stove.

The fire crept up the inside of the wall into the ceiling, he said. After firefighters arrived, they had to break through inch-thick pine boards that covered the walls and ceiling, he added.

"It was a tough fire," the chief said.

It took between 45 minutes and an hour for firefighters to get control of the blaze, he said. There was extensive smoke damage throughout the house, he said, and some structural damage to the roof where firefighters had to cut into it to get at flames in the attic.

Harmon said the couple owns the home but had no insurance. He estimated that the fire caused between \$20,000 and \$30,000 damage to the house.

Harmon said the Gouldsboro Fire Department is available to conduct requested inspections of wood stoves and pellet stoves to make sure they have been installed properly before they are used. He said the department does not inspect chimneys.

Harmon said the house currently is not inhabitable. He said the Pine Tree Chapter of the American Red Cross is putting the couple up at an Ellsworth motel until repairs or other lodging arrangements can be made.

He said more than 40 firefighters responded to the scene to help extinguish the blaze. The towns of Gouldsboro, Winter Harbor, Sorrento and Sullivan all sent firefighters to the scene while Franklin and Hancock each had firefighters on standby in case they were needed. County Ambulance and Gouldsboro Ambulance also assisted at the fire scene, he said.

HUDSON

Bangor Daily News – By Nok-Noi Ricker, BDN Staff - Posted Nov. 28, 2011, at 5:14 p.m.

HUDSON, Maine — Someone driving by a Corinth Road home Monday morning noticed smoke coming from a nearby garage that housed a chicken coop and called 911, Fire Chief Mike Simmons said.

The good Samaritan then went to the home's front door to alert those inside.

"The wife was in the house sleeping," the fire chief said. "He woke the lady up and got her out of the house."

The fire was reported at around 9:10 a.m. in an addition to the garage. When firefighters arrived the smoke had turned into flames.

"We had heavy fire," Simmons said. "We're thinking it's electrical at this point."

The garage addition was used for storage and had a chicken coop attached to it, the fire chief said. Seven chickens were lost in the blaze.

Investigators from the state fire marshal's office were at the scene Monday looking through the debris for the cause of the fire and determined it was accidental.

"The light or the lamp they were using [to keep the chickens warm] turned over and caught the hay on fire," Sgt. Tim York of the fire marshal's office said Monday afternoon.

The garage was not attached to the home.

"The garage piece is still standing, but the addition that was added onto it is pretty much destroyed," Simmons said.

An unidentified couple rents the home from Robert Hall.

"Her husband was down at the store" when the fire was noticed, the fire chief said.

The wife escaped the building safely and no firefighter injuries were reported, Simmons said.

Local Hudson firefighters were assisted by crews from Glenburn, Corinth, Bradford, Alton and Charleston. Firefighters left the scene at around 12:30 p.m.

<http://bangordailynews.com/2011/11/28/news/bangor/chickens-die-in-hudson-garage-fire/> printed on December 5, 2011

CORINNA

Bangor Daily News – By Alex Barber, BDN Staff - Posted Sept. 21, 2011, at 9:09 a.m.

CORINNA, Maine — A fire destroyed an automobile repair business on Route 7 Wednesday morning, a fire official said.

Lt. Paul White of the Corinna Fire Department said he got the call around 7 a.m. and the Southern Auto building was "fully involved when we got here. It took about 20 minutes to knock [the fire] down."

In addition to the building, five vehicles were also destroyed, including two customer vehicles undergoing repairs. Nobody was in the building at the time of the fire and no one was hurt.

Fire crews from Corinna, Newport, Garland and Dexter fought the blaze. The building, which was four years old, was a total loss.

"The cause of the fire is undetermined because of the extent of the damage," said Sgt. Tim York of the State Fire Marshal's Office.

"We're going to close our case and leave it as undetermined," he said. "There were no red flags [to indicate suspicious activity]."

York said the building was insured.

Toby Gould of Dexter bought the auto repair shop from Richard Clukey two years ago, according to Gould's father, Peter Gould.

"I don't know what he'll do now," the elder Gould said.

"At least nobody was hurt," added Gould. "Now you have to deal with it. [Toby] ain't about to give up."

Toby Gould declined to comment.

SEARSPORT

By Dawn Gagnon, BDN Staff - Posted July 28, 2011, at 10:10 p.m.

SEARSPORT, Maine — The State Fire Marshall's Office has been asked to help determine the cause of a fire Thursday that caused significant damage to an East Main Street residence.

Though the fire was contained to a room at the back of the two-story main house, located at 98 East Main St., that building and an attached garage with an apartment above it both received heavy heat and smoke damage, Fire Chief Jim Dittmeier said Thursday night.

Dittmeier said the fire was reported about 5:15 p.m. by a woman who was renting the garage apartment. Both she and the elderly woman residing in the main house escaped safely. Their names were unavailable Thursday night.

More than 40 firefighters from Searsport, West Frankfort, Belfast and Stockton Springs were called to the scene because of initial reports that a child was inside the house, Dittmeier said. Those fears, however, proved unfounded and most of the mutual aid firefighters were allowed to return to their respective communities, he said. No firefighters were injured, he said.

The house, garage and apartment were insured, the fire chief said. In addition, the tenant had renters insurance.

The American Red Cross is assisting the tenant, who stayed at the Bates Motel on Thursday night, Dittmeier said. The elderly woman is staying with her brother, who owns the house and whose name also was not immediately available, Dittmeier said.

ANDROSCOGGIN

Recently Androscoggin County completed a Basic Fire attack school. The graduation ceremony was held in Monmouth. This is put on by the Greater Androscoggin Mutual Aid Association.

Turner Fire and Rescue recently purchased a 2006

Polaris ATV to be used as a rescue and fire vehicle for woods fire and rescue. We will be putting on a longer rear bed so they we can haul patients with it.

Minot Fire and Rescue recently took possession of their new rescue squad. It is a new 2011 four door GMC SUV . Real nice looking unit.

Greene Fire recently took possession of their new pumper. More information to follow on this.

Arson Fire Hits Waterville Apt.

On September 19, 2011 a fast moving fire destroyed an apartment house on Water Street. It was ruled arson.

A neighbor had spotted youths outside her house, messing around.

She heard windows crashing and she went outside to discover the neighbor's house engulfed in flames.

About 40 firefighters from Winslow and Waterville battled the blaze as about 100-125 people watched.

Fairfield Fire Department covered Waterville's Central Fire while firefighters were at the scene for approximately six hours.

Several people were being interviewed by the fire marshal's office as the fire was being battled.

Eastbrook Fire Department

The need for a boat in Eastbrook is great due to a few water rescue calls this year in Eastbrook. We also do mutual aid for surrounding towns. We are looking for 14 to 16 foot long flat bottom boat with or without a motor. Donated or to buy for low cost. All donations appreciated. Please call Chief McNeil at 565-8907.

Eliot Fire Department

Eliot Fire Department received a new E-One Watermaster Vacuum Tanker, International 7400, 50 gallon driver side fuel tank, engine is a International Maxx Force 330 horse, transmission is a EVS 300, 3000 gallon tank with a 1000 GPM Hale fire pump and 3500 gallon portable folding tank.



Delivery Date: June 2011-E-One Watermaster Vacuum Tanker- International 7400 - 50 Gallon driver side fuel tank- Engine: International Maxx Force 330 Horse - Transmission: EVS 3000 - 3000 Gallon Tank with a 1000GPM Hale fire pump -3500 Gallon portable folding tank

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SKOWHEGHAN

By Erin Rhoda erhoda@mainetoday.com - Staff Writer

A family lost everything in a blaze that destroyed a home Monday morning on Oak Pond Road.

Two bulldogs, who were outside at the time of the fire, survived, though one suffered burns to the face and throat. It was unclear whether a cat survived.

Dozens of firefighters from four towns had been fighting the flames for about an hour when some of the family members that had lived there arrived.

David Tozier, who had lived there with Staci Tozier and their three children, pulled up in a van around 10:15 a.m., ran toward the burning house and then stopped by a firetruck. He bent toward the ground, covered his face and cried.

Brenda Charrier, who is the mother of Staci Tozier and is a co-founder of the former Charrier's Restaurant in Skowhegan, wrapped her arms around her 20-year-old granddaughter, Kaitlyn Tozier, who held her hands to her mouth.

Charrier said Staci and David Tozier built the house at 518 Oak Pond Road about 10 years ago.

Colby Hartley, of Belgrade, was driving by the home Monday morning when he saw the fire. Another man was at the fire before him and called for help, he said,



LOSS: Firefighters battle a fire that destroyed a two-story house on Oak Pond Road in Skowhegan on Monday morning.

though he didn't know his name. The fire was reported at 8:51 a.m.

Hartley said one of the bulldogs had been on a leash outside and had slipped out of his collar to escape the fire. Another dog had broken out of a fenced-in kennel, which had a locked gate.

"Somehow he broke out of it," Hartley said. "It's good, thank God, they were outside."

Gary Paradis, a paramedic with Redington-Fairview General Hospital, and emergency medical technician Jay Kennedy helped take care of the dogs until an animal control officer arrived.

Paradis said one dog had run into the woods and collapsed, and they had to carry him out. In addition to suffering burns to the face and airways, the dog had an ember that was burning into its back. Hartley pulled it off with his hands.

Skowhegan Fire Chief Tom Keene requested an investigator from the State Fire Marshal's Office to help de-

termine the fire's cause. The fire already had engulfed the house when rescue crews arrived.

"There's not a lot to look at," Keene said while firefighters pulled down charred boards with hooked poles. He said he had no reason to think the fire was suspicious. The home was insured.

"It was a very fast-moving fire," he said. "Nothing could be saved from the home."

According to the town's 2011 tax records, the house was owned by David Tozier and assessed at \$184,100.

In addition to Skowhegan, fire departments from Canaan, Norridgewock and Madison responded. Keene said the Toziers would be staying with relatives in the short term. House burns on Charette Hill in Fort Kent



SMOKE INHALATION: Colby Hartley, left, paramedic Gary Paradis, center, and EMT Jay Kennedy care for two bulldogs that were outside at the time of the house fire. Hartley, of Belgrade, was driving by at the time of the fire and stopped to help. The black dog suffered burns on its face and in its throat, Paradis said. They used an oxygen mask to help the dog breathe.

FORT KENT

Fiddlehead Focus - Andrew Birden - 9 December 2011

A fire in the early morning hours on Friday resulted in extensive damage to a Fort Kent home and the death of a pet dog on Charette Hill Road.

According to Fort Kent Fire Chief Dave Pelletier, speaking at the site of the fire, the owner was away from home at the time of the fire and unharmed, but a



ASSESSING THE DANGER - Firefighters exit the upper level of a log home that burned Friday morning. Fire Chief Pelletier said the log home may have burned more slowly because of the heavy log timbers. - Birden image



BREATHING EASY - Firefighter Curtis Saucier removes a SCBA Mask (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) from his face after emerging from the interior of a home which caught fire on Friday morning. The mask hooks up to an air pack that firefighters wear on their backs and feeds them clean air. - Birden image

blanket beside one of the fire trucks covered a Rottweiler that died in the accident. Pelletier said firefighters tried to resuscitate the dog, but were unsuccessful. Pelletier said, "That's the sad part about this."

A passerby called 911 at approximately 6:28 Friday morning to report the fire at 329 Charette Hill Road, where Joey Lewis was living, though he was not home at the time. Pelletier said firefighters responded and arrived at the home to find "the base of the house at the floor level was ignited."

He said there was heavy smoke pouring from the home.

The house sustained extensive smoke damage and "possibly a lot of heat damage," said Pelletier.



COLD WATER AFTER A HOT FIRE - Fort Kent volunteer firefighters operate hoses outside of a home on Charette Hill. - Birden image

15 firefighters and five trucks responded to the burning building.

Pelletier said the department learned from the resident's employer that Lewis was away at the time. Pelletier said, "That relieved a lot of stress for us."

Pelletier said that, because the home was a log home, the fire spread slowly.

The fire marshal will arrive today to investigate the cause of the fire, but Pelletier said, "It is not suspicious at this time."

Pelletier expressed his gratitude to the volunteer firefighters of Fort Kent.

Jonesport

Bangor Daily News - By Sharon Kiley Mack, BDN Staff - Posted Sept. 12, 2011, at 8:54 p.m.

The Jonesport Fire Department has been housed in a small structure since 1975 that literally has been falling apart. The bathroom pipes froze in the winters. The water wasn't drinkable. And the office ceiling fell on the chief's head.

But that all changed this summer with the construction of a 4,800-square-foot new station financed through grants and federal stimulus finds.

A dedication ceremony took place Monday under brilliant skies and before a large crowd. Chief Boyd Crowley said that although a building isn't a fire department — the men and women who serve are — he was thrilled with the department's new home.

The old station wasn't even big enough for two of the department's engines, he said, and the concrete floor was giving way under the weight of the trucks.

"If you left the window of the truck open, your seat would get wet when it rained — inside. That's how bad the roof leaked," he said.

For three years, town, state and federal officials worked hand in hand to obtain federal stimulus funds,



Firefighters, officials and town selectmen lined up in front of the new \$650,000 Jonesport Fire Station Monday morning to cut a ribbon officially dedicating the new facility. The building is 1,800 square feet larger than the previous station, which was in poor condition, and was financing through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Agency, a Community Development Block Grant, and \$100,000 from the town itself. "We are blessed today," Bimbo Look, town selectman said during the ceremony.

COUNTY NEWS CONT'D

a Maine Community Development Block Grant and local funding of \$100,000 to complete the project. John Gordon was the building's architect and Carver Construction built the structure.

The new station contains a muster and training room, a laundry room, enough bays to house all six trucks, a chief's office and a large paved parking area.

"This is a great day in Jonesport," Selectman Bimbo Look said. "We are blessed." But he warned the state and federal officials on hand not to get too relaxed. "As soon as we get this ribbon cut, we have other projects to get going. We need a salt shed. We need sidewalks. We'll talk."

Virginia Manual, the state director of the USDA Rural Development Agency, said that not only will the new station benefit Jonesport and Beals, which are served by the department, but also will provide mutual aid to Addison and Jonesboro.

"The funding comes from the Community Facilities Program of USDA," she explained. "This serves rural communities of 20,000 people or less."

Manuel said that particular program has funded many projects in Washington County and often has leveraged state and local funds necessary.

"But for our funding, Jonesport couldn't have gone forward with a project like this," Manuel said. USDA Rural Development funds have spurred critical infrastructure projects in housing, business programs and community projects.

"These have made communities a lot more safe and stable," Manuel said.

Look complimented the town's comprehensive planning committee, which worked for years to develop a plan that fit Jonesport. Three times voters rejected a



Jonesport Fire Chief Boyd Crowley helped dedicate the new \$650,000 Jonesport Fire Station Monday morning. Crowley admitted he was much more comfortable fishing fires than hosting formal ceremonies but took time to explain the need for the station and thank those involved in its financing and construction. "Buildings don't make fire departments," he told a crowd of residents, officials, U.S. Coast Guard men, and firefighters from surrounding communities. "It is the men and women that serve that do."

comprehensive plan and three times the committee rewrote it.

"This is the direct result," Look said of the new station. "This would not have been possible without a plan."

LAMOINE

Bangor Daily News - By Bill Trotter, Special to the BDN - Posted Aug. 08, 2011, at 5:46 p.m.

LAMOINE, Maine — A garage and attached apartment were destroyed Monday afternoon in a fire at a home in Lamoine but there were no reported injuries, according to firefighters.

The fire on Woodcock Lane was reported around 3:45 p.m., after the homeowner had finished mowing his lawn and then driven the riding mower into the garage. Peter Meyer, the homeowner, said Monday afternoon that the mower backfired as he parked it, but



A garage and attached apartment were destroyed Monday afternoon in a fire at a home in Lamoine. According to firefighters, the homeowner had finished mowing his lawn and driven the riding mower into the garage when it backfired.

that he didn't notice anything else amiss.

"It does that all the time," Meyer said of the mower as he stood in his gravel driveway, watching firefighters spray the collapsed remains of his garage. A bed that had fallen through the weakened floor above the garage was visible through the charred structure as he spoke.

After parking the mower, Meyer did a few more things in the garage and then went to do something else, he said. A few minutes later, he saw smoke and flames in his garage. He tried to douse the flames himself, he said, but the fire's heat was too intense.

Meyer said his Harley-Davidson was in the garage and was destroyed by the flames. He managed to move a truck that was parked nearby, but not before the heat melted the cover on his rear driver's side turn signal. He said no one had been staying in the upstairs apartment and that the building was insured. Having insurance coverage will help take the "sting" out of losing the motorcycle, building and other contents.

Meyer said the important thing is that his nearby home is fine and no one was hurt.

COUNTY NEWS CONT'D

"It's not of any consequence," Meyer said of the fire damage "It's a luxury problem."

Firefighters from several surrounding towns — Ellsworth, Hancock and Trenton among them — were called to the fire and helped extinguish the flames.

New Vineyard

Crews from 7 departments are on the scene of a fire at Maine Wood Turning, a wood chipping plant in New Vineyard.

A contractor working there told us he saw smoke coming from part of the main building where they process wood. He told the supervisor who immediately evacuated the building and called the fire department. "When we showed up we had smoke showing," Strong Fire Department Lieutenant Aaron Marden said. "We called in more departments as it spread. We have a unit set up to draft out of a pond. We also have a dump tank to the rear of my truck so we can shuttle tankers back and forth."

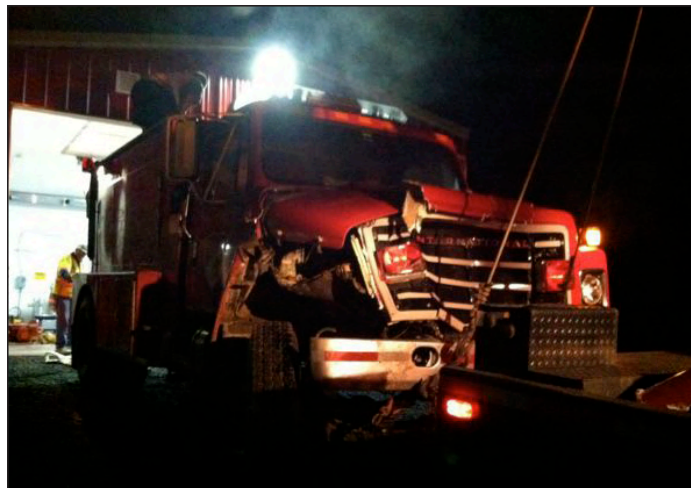
North Lakes

Late this afternoon the building was still filled with smoke. Firefighters were making their way inside. We were told the facility employs around 40 people.

North Lakes Fire and Rescue acquired a 1988 KME 2000 gallon tanker in October from government surplus.



North Lakes Fire and Rescue held their 2nd annual hunters breakfast at their Cross Lake station on Nov 19th. Pictured is Henry Golden Boy rifle, Paul Bernier of St Agatha with presenters Lt Josh Belanger (L) and Capt Steve Belanger (R).



While responding to a moose versus minivan with possible entrapment call, North Lakes Tanker 1, with jaws on board, hit a different moose about 2 miles away from the initial scene that disabled the responding truck. Both occupants, Capt Steve Belanger and AC Ben Pelletier were belted in and not injured.

Fryeburg Muster

Norway Fire Muster team takes first place overall at the Fryeburg muster.

Norway Receives New Equipment

Norway Fire receives a new 6-wheeler.

Searsport

Searsport fire causes extensive heat, smoke damage
Bangor Daily News - By Dawn Gagnon, BDN Staff -
Posted July 28, 2011, at 10:10 p.m.

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