



# The National Cooperative Observer

The National Cooperative Observer is an online newsletter.  
[http://www.weather.gov/os/coop/coop\\_newsletter.htm](http://www.weather.gov/os/coop/coop_newsletter.htm)

Season Year

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## COOP Observers Play Important Role in Turn Around Don't Drown Campaign

June 2007, Sherman, TX: A rescue team rescued a man after his car was swept

June 2007, Sherman, TX: A rescue team rescued a man after his car was swept away by swift water.

August 2007, Carnegie, MN: Fast moving floodwaters forced a dive team to suspend rescue efforts for a motorist whose vehicle was swept off the road by raging water.

These scenes are repeated all too often across

America's roads and highways. But, the National Weather Service (NWS) is fighting back in an attempt to save lives and property.

By tapping into the observations taken by Cooperative Observers like you, NWS forecasters gather crucial information needed to warn motorists about flooded roads.

"Coop observers play a huge roll in our Turn Around Don't Drown campaign," stated Hector Guerrero, the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the San Angelos, TX, NWS office. "When heavy rain is falling at observer locations, we'll call them to get ground truth

information. Then, we compare their reports to the radar data. This comparison has enabled us to issue timely flash flood warnings to save lives and warn people about flooded roadways."

Turn Around Don't Drown is a NWS campaign to warn people of the hazards of driving a vehicle through flood waters. Most year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other severe weather related hazard. More than half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water.

Why? The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water.

Most motorists will lose control of their vehicle in just six inches of water, an amount most people think they can drive through.

It takes only two feet of rushing water to carry away most vehicles, including pickup trucks and SUVs.

Our thank again to all the observers out their protecting the lives of their fellow Americans.



## The Wohlebs Blaze 50 Years of Weather Trails in the Nebraska Plains

*Officially, it takes 50 years of continuous weather records to establish a climate database. The Naponee climate database will be one of Lawrence and Viola's legacies for years to come.*

NWS Hastings, NE, is proud to have presented Lawrence and Viola Wohleb with the Benjamin Franklin Award for 55 years of Coop service at a dinner recently held in their honor. The award was named after Benjamin Franklin, the inventor of the lightning rod and a weather buff.

As the first Postmaster General, Benjamin Franklin received weather reports from a network of observers along the Atlantic coast. This network of observers was the first known group to track hurricanes

Lawrence Wohleb and Ben Franklin have a few things in common: both have a deep interest in weather and both were postmasters.

Lawrence and Viola started their tenure as weather observers in early 1952 when the town of Naponee, NE, needed someone to assume the duties from the Townsend family, the previous observers, who were moving out of town.

Lawrence was recommended as a replacement by the Townsends' based on the old adage, "When looking for someone to do the job, pick the busiest person around." Lawrence seemed to fit the bill as he was also farming and raising a family.

On February 2, 1952, Lawrence became the official "Weather Bureau" Cooperative Observer for Naponee. With his wife, Viola, as the official backup observer, over the next 55 years, the Wohleb team would steadily build a climatic database for the Naponee area.

Every morning at 7 am, the Wohlebs would record the precipitation for the previous 24 hours. If it was snow, they would melt it and record the water equivalent along with the total snowfall accumulation and total snow depth. Over the span of 55 years, they have taken more than 20,000 observations and have measured over 1,300 inches of precipitation.



Marla K. Doxey, Data Acquisition Program Manager (DAPM) for the Hastings, NE, NWS, presented Lawrence and Viola with the Benjamin Franklin Award and a congratulatory letter from D.L. Johnson, NWS Director (retired). A large gathering of family and friends joined in the festivities and congratulated the Wohleb's for their many years of service to their town and country.

On average, Naponee receives 23.99 inches of rain, but some years Lawrence and Viola have had to slog to the rain gauge, like in 1965 when 40.09 inches fell. Other years the trips were less numerous. In 2002, the Wohleb's measured only 14.49 inches of precipitation. Lawrence and Viola had to dig their way to the rain gauge a couple of times in 1960 when they measured 54.1 inches of snow for the year.

Officially, it takes 50 years of continuous weather records for a climate database to be established. The Naponee climate database will be one of Lawrence and Viola's legacies for years to come.

In December of 1953, Lawrence was also "volunteered" to read the wire-weight river gage on the Turkey Creek whenever the river rose to 5 feet or higher. He also relayed this information to the Harlan County Dam.

In 1982, a chain river gage was installed on the Republican River and Lawrence again “volunteered” to read and report the river stages at that location.

Yes, indeed, Lawrence was a busy cooperative observer and an extremely dependable one. Because of his excellent service, Lawrence was selected to receive the prestigious John Campanius Holm Award in 1989.

In addition to being a Cooperative Weather Observer for 55 years, Lawrence was a Postmaster for 40 years, from 1946 until 1986. Along with Viola, they farmed north of town and raised 4 children.

Their son, Jerome, and his family live in Draper, UT, while his daughters reside in Nebraska. Mary Ann and family live in Lincoln; Rita and family live in Waverly and Sheila and family live in Naponee. The Wohleb’s have 9 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Lawrence and Viola have been married for 61 wonderful years. In their spare time, Lawrence still helps out on the farm and Viola raises beautiful flowers.

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## Special Appreciation Award Winner

**Chuck and Debbie Cisney**, observers for the Hidalgo, IL, Coop station, were presented with a Special Service Award by WFO Central Illinois on June 1, 2007. The award was given for outstanding forecast and climate support to the Lincoln, IL, WFO. A public award ceremony was conducted at the Newton Strawberry Festival.

Pictured from left are Hydrometeorological Technician (HMT) Chris Geelhart, Chuck Cisney; Alyssa Halm, student volunteer; Debbie Cisney; Megan Mulford, student volunteer; and Data Acquisition Program Manager (DAPM) Billy Ousley. Photo by Paula Lidy of the Newton Times.



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## Special Act Award Winner



**Joe Jarecki**, retiring manager of the D.N.R. Pigeon River Country State Forest, shows his Special Act Award presented in honor of his 17 years of exemplary, letter-perfect data from Coop site Vanderbilt, MI.

For many years, NWS staff have used Joe's forms as examples for new northern Michigan observers who needed to learn how to handle winter weather entries in heavy snow country.

The award was presented by Dennis R. Fruehauf, Cooperative Program Manager (CPM), WFO Gaylord, MI.

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## 100 Year Family Heritage Awards



From left, **Mike Faris**, a cousin, shows the Family Heritage Award certificate; **Craig Faris**, another cousin, holding a picture of his grandfather, **Joe Faris Sr**, who was the first to start taking observations in 1907 to 1934; **Joe Faris, Jr.**, the current observer, holds a picture of his uncle **James**, who was the observer before him from 1934 to 1994. Also pictured are cousin **Trent** and Joe's son **Daniel**.

**Joe Faris**, the Catawba, SC, Coop Observer since 1994, and nine other family members traveled to the NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC, Office on June 29, to receive the Cooperative Observer Family Heritage Award for the Faris family's extraordinary efforts and 100+ years of service. The Faris family has provided Cooperative Observers and daily weather reports since 1907 at Catawba, SC.

During the award presentation at WFO Greenville-Spartanburg, Meteorologist-in-Charge (MIC) Larry Gabric, Science Operations Officer (SOO) Larry Lee, and DAPM Terry Benthall presented the Heritage Award and several gifts to Joe Faris and his family. Sergio Marsh from Eastern Region Headquarters presented a letter of appreciation from Eastern Region Director Dean Gulezian. Sharon LeDuc, Deputy Director of NCDL, accompanied by Steve DelGreco, Chief of the Data Branch, presented a certificate of appreciation along with a copy of the earliest observation form from the NCDL archive. Representing the South Carolina State Climate Office was Mark Malsick.

After the presentations and pictures, members of the Faris family were given a tour of the NWS office. The event ended or topped off with a South Carolina barbecue at a local restaurant.

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## 55 Year Benjamin Franklin Awards

Dave Reynolds, MIC, NWS San Francisco presents a Benjamin Franklin Award to **Clorene Akers** for 55 years of dedicated service maintaining a Cooperative Weather station at Hernandez, CA.



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## 50 Year Edward H. Stoll Award



NWS Spokane, WA, MIC John Livingston, left, presents **Richard Slagle** of Republic, WA, with the NWS Edward H. Stoll Award for 50 years of service as a Cooperative Observer. In addition to being a weather buff, Richard is a retired pharmacist.

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## 50 Year Honored Institution Award

The **Charlotte, MI, Waste Water Treatment Plant** received its 50 Year Honored Institution Length of Service Award for continued participation in the NWS Coop program. Superintendent of Utilities **Keith Moss** holds up the award presented by NWS Grand Rapids, MI, OPL George Wetzel.



NWS Salt Lake City, UT, presented a 50 year Honored Institution Award to the **Strawberry Water User's Association** for their service at the Spanish Fork Powerhouse in Utah.

Accepting the award for the plant is **Robert Wall**, who stands in front of the framed certificate of appreciation.

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## 50 Year Honored Institution Award



From left, Kansas State University President Jon Wefald, Head of the Agronomy Department Gary Pierzynski, NWS Topeka, KS, DAPM Bill Newman and State Climatologist Mary Knapp. Photo by NWS Meteorologist Kyle Poage.

NWS Topeka, KS, DAPM Bill Newman presented an Honored Institution Award to **Kansas State University**. The award commended the University for collecting and submitting quality observations for Manhattan, KS, during the past 50 years.

Weather observations in Manhattan, KS, date back to 1855. The first observations recorded were taken by Isaac Goodnow on the Bluemont Central College Campus. Bluemont Central became Kansas State Agricultural College in 1863, then Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science in 1931, and finally Kansas State University in 1975. Most recently, the "KSU Weather Data Library Staff," in particular, State Climatologist Mary Knapp, assumed observing duties for Manhattan.

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## 45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Award

At a ceremony at his home in Montezuma, GA, **George Fowler** (left) is shown accepting the Dick Hagemeyer Award for 45 years of service as a Cooperative Observer. Helping George show the award is Frank Taylor, OPL, NWS Atlanta, GA. Photo by Nathan Mayes, Coop Focal Point, NWS Atlanta.





## 40 Year Length of Service Awards



NWS Hastings NE, DAPM Marla K. Doxey presented a 40 year Length of Service Award to **Bob Levin** and a 10 year Length of Service Award to Linda Levin, his backup observer. The Levin's report the daily precipitation and temperatures for the Smith Center, KS area. In the past 40 years they tallied up over 43 thousand temperature observations as they reported temperatures twice a day and would also send a current temperature reading around the noon hour. Over 14 thousand precipitation reports were sent. Bob has also been a recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Award. Being an amateur paleontologist, Bob can be found digging around the country side in search of fossils. He has one of the best collections in central Kansas and has worked with National Geographic Magazine.

**Bill and Marlene Murphy** of Covert, KS, proudly show their 40 year Length of Service Award presented by NWS Hasting, NE. As precipitation reporters, they have measured over 1,000 inches of rain and just over 900 inches of snow in the past 40 years. The Murphys remember drought with only 5 inches of rain as well as the Great Flood, which drowned the area with more than 45 inches.

Marla K. Doxey, NWS Hastings, NE DAPM, presented the award along with a congratulatory letter from D.L. Johnson, former NWS Director.



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## 40 Year Length of Service Awards



Coop Observer **Ken Tanouye** accepts the 40 Year Award for the **Mount Kaala FAA Facility**.

From left are Mount Kaala co-workers **Shanon Lee, Glen Wong and Sharon Haruguchi**, Ken Tanouye and NWS Honolulu OPL Mark Farnsworth. At 4,025 feet, Mount Kaala is the tallest peak on the island of Oahu and the Fisher/Porter gage is often in clouds. Photo by HMT Mike Watkins.

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## 35 Year Length of Service Awards

**Dick Clothier** of Pocatello, Bannock County, ID, has contributed to NWS Cooperative Weather program for 35 years. His unselfish and unrelenting service in weather observing and weather record keeping for the community of Pocatello provides valuable climatic information to the state and the nation. Dick received a certificate and lapel pin to commemorate the occasion. In 2001, Dick was a recipient of the prestigious John Campanius Holm award presented to just 25 volunteer observers each year.



From left, Dean Hazen, NWS Pocatello, ID, Science and Operations Officer presents a 35 Year Length of Service Award to Dick Clothier. Holding Dick's pin is NWS CPM David Phelps. Photo by NWS Staff Member Gary Wicklund.

## 35 Year Length of Service Awards



**Ronald Spencer**, received his 35 Year Length of Service Award from Paducah MIC, Beverly Poole. Ronald has been faithfully taking rainfall observations at the cooperative weather site in Pinckneyville, IL, since 1972.



A 35 Year Length of Service Award was presented to **Elizabeth Foley** of McColl, SC. Presenting the award is Michael Caropolo, MIC, NWS Wilmington, NC. Also present were Gene Funderburk, NWS OPL; and Hope Mizzell, South Carolina State Climatologist, Columbia, SC.

**George Jacobs**, Coop Observer from Tok, AK, accepts a 35 Year Length of Service Award presented by Ron Stuvek, OPL, NWS Fairbanks, AK. George, along with his long-time voluntary observing commitment, is also very active in Tok, the first major community encountered along the Alaskan Highway after entering the state, and is editor of the local newspaper, The Mukluk News.



## 35 and 30 Year Length of Service Awards



**John and Beth Sundberg**, observers in Hayden, CO, received a 35 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by John Kyle, DAPM, Grand Junction, CO.

**Rex Kelley** of Davis City, IA, shows his 30 Year Length of Service presented by Marian Baker, Service Hydrologist, NWS, Des Moines, IA.



From left, NWS Little Rock, AR, OPL, Jimmy Russell presents a 30 Year Length of Service Award to Observer **Russell Carter** of Evening Shade, AR. Little Rock HMT Michael Reid helps hold the award. Photo by MIC Renee Fair

## 25 Year Length of Service Awards



From left, **Max Dorris**, observer for Bruce, MS, receives his 25 Year Award from Zwemer Ingram DAPM, WFO Memphis. In his spare time Mr. Dorris takes care of cattle in and around Bruce.



NWS Memphis, TN, staff presented **Sue Bruckner**, Cooperative Observer for Sarah, MS, with a 25 Year Length of Service award. From left, showing off the award are her granddaughters, **Claire, Paige, and Jill Gautier**.



From left, Jimmy Russell, OPL, NWS Little Rock, AR, and WCM John Robinson present **Gerald and Christina Emerson** of Chimes, AR, with a 25 Year Length of Service Award. Photo by NWS HMT Michael Reid.



Observer **Ferdinand Burmeister** was presented a 25 Year Length of Service Award for his service at Galatia, KS. Presenting the award was NWS Wichita, KS, DAPM Joe Rosner.

## 25 Year Length of Service and Honored Institution Awards



**Nancy Johnson** shows her 25 Year Length of Service Award presented to her in her classroom at White Station Middle School in Memphis, TN. Jim Belles, MIC WFO Memphis, presented the award. Besides teaching, coaching and taking care of weather observations and records, Nancy is also the Mayor of Moscow, TN. Moscow is about 25 miles east of Memphis.

**Maryllis Heyborn**, observer in Orderville, UT, received a 25 Year Length of Service award from Steve Summy, OPL, WFO Salt Lake City. No photo available.



**Donald Waterworth** (right), Coop Observer for Pocahontas, AR, receives his 25 Year Award from Zwemer Ingram, NWS Memphis, TN. Donald has a similar award for his 30 plus years of service in the United States Air Force.

The Coop Award was presented at Donald well attended 80th birthday party. Arkansas Congressman Marion Berry presented a plaque inscribed with words recognizing Donald's numerous accomplishments as well as his many contributions to his community and country. Congressman Berry read these words before Congress before having them placed in the Congressional Record. This record, like the climate record Donald has maintained over 25 years, has become a permanent part of our Nation's history.



The **Augusta, KS, Department of Safety** was presented a 25-Year Honored Institution Award. Presenting the award was Leon Wasinger, CPM, NWS, Wichita, KS. The Department of Safety provides precipitation and river readings for the Augusta area.

## 25 Year Honored Institution Service Awards



**David James** proudly displays the 25 year Honored Institution Award for the Provo-Brigham Young University cooperative observing station he heads. In addition to ensuring the data collected is accurate and complete, David also maintains a weather station at his Utah home and calls his daily temperature and precipitation information to NWS Salt Lake City. Photo and award presented by Steve Summy, NWS OPL.



From left, **Stacy D. Allen**, Chief Ranger, Shiloh National Military Park, accepts a 25 Year Honored Institution Award from Jim Belles, MIC, NWS, Memphis, TN. Ranger Allen, noted historian and author of several books about the Civil War, extends a warm invitation to all to come visit Shiloh's historic, hallowed grounds.



**Ronnie Duncan**, left, accepts a 25 Year Honored Institution Award for the city of Oneida, TN, from Derek Eisentrout, HMT, NWS Morristown, TN. Photo by Craig Carpenter, OPL.



Deputy Chief **Jim Wenzel**, center, shows the 25 Year Honored Institution Award presented to the Chula Vista, CA, Fire Department. The award was presented by NWS San Diego, CA, WCM Ed Clark, left and MIC Jim Purpura.

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## 25 Year Honored Institution Service Award



A 25-Year Honored Institution Award was presented to **Red Springs-Water Treatment Plant**. Pictured from left are Tim Molden, observer; Billy Joe Farmer, Town Manager; Philip Smith, Director of Public Works & Utilities; Ledger Hunt, Supervisor of Water Treatment Plant; and Michael Caropolo, MIC, NWS, Wilmington, NC. Photo by OPL Gene Funderburk.

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## 20 Year Length of Service Awards



**Caroline Dallman** of Edgeley, ND, was presented a 20 Year Length of Service Award by CPM, Sandra Wiche of NWS Bismarck, ND. Caroline has been the Cooperative Weather Observer for the Edgeley area since 1987.



**Eddie Archer**, Coop Observer for Newcomb, TN, accepts a 20 Year Length of Service Award from Derek Eisentrout, HMT at NWS Knoxville, TN. Photo by Craig Carpenter, NWS OPL.



From left, Steve Teachout, HMT, NWS Des Moines, IA, shows the 20 Year Length of Service Award presented to Observer **Charles Goeken** of Audubon, IA. This award was given to Charles early to combine with his 85th birthday, Fly-In and Breakfast and retirement as the FBO Manager at the Audubon Airport after 62 enjoyable years. Photo Chantel Teachout.



## 20 Length of Service Awards



Coop Observer **Lewis Martin** was presented a 20 Year Length of Service Award for his service near Pretty Prairie, KS. Presenting the award was Joe Rosner, NWS Wichita, KS.



**Richard Lau** received his 20 Year Length of Service Award for acting as observer at Verona, ND. The award was presented by CPM Sandra Wiche of the NWS Bismarck, ND.

A 20 Year Length of Service Award was presented to Gary Jorgensen, observer at Ephraim USFS, UT. The award was presented by Steve Summy, OPL, NWS Salt Lake City. No photo available.



**Sue and Bill Phillips**, Elk City, ID, show their 20 Year Length of Service Awards presented by Stan Krenz, OPL, NWS Missoula, MT.



**E. McKay Willis**, left, of Laketown, UT, received his 20 Year Award and lapel pin Administration, to more accurate collect weather information used in our climate from Gary Wicklund, OPL, NWS Pocatello, Idaho. Photo by Dave Phelps, WFO Pocatello.

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## 15 Year Length of Service Awards



**N. Max Altenbern**, observer at Altenbern Ranch, De Beque, CO, received a 15 Year Length of Service Award. The Altenbern Family has been Cooperative Observers in this area of Western Colorado since the fall of 1942. The award was presented by Becky Klenk, CPM, Grand Junction, CO.



**Mary Lenardson**, an Jackson, MI, shows her 15 Year Service Award. Mary acts as the primary back-up river gage reader for the Grand River, which begins near Jackson and then flows west until it empties in Lake Michigan. She has been available at all hours for a very “flashy” or rapidly changing part of the river. The award was presented by NWS Grand Rapids MI OPL, George Wetzel and Intern Brandon Hoving.



**John Finnerty**, right, of Middletown, IN, was presented with his 15 Year Length of Service Award by Phil Gray, HMT, NWS Indianapolis. John is also active as a severe weather spotter and became interested in weather during his youth, when as a summer volunteer, he assisted in the Coop observer program at the St Meinrad Monastery near Louisville, KY.



**Juliette and John Guth** are dam operators for **Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company** and were recently recognize for 15 years of outstanding service for observations taken at the Eau Pleine Reservoir in Wisconsin.

## 15 Year Length of Service Awards



**Tom and Grace Barter** of Kesley, IA, shows their 15 Year Length of Service. The award was presented by Brad Fillbach, HMT, Des Moines, IA.



**Jim Koth** dam operator for Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company was recently recognized for 15 years of outstanding service for observations taken at the Rice Reservoir in Wisconsin.



**Lola Spackman** of Trenton, UT, accepts a 15 Year Length of Service Award from Gary Wicklund, OPL, NWS Pocatello, Idaho. Photo by David Phelps, NWS Pocatello.



**Gail Lawrence**, Cooperative Observer for Jerico Springs, MO, holds up his award for 15 years of service. Presenting the award was Larry Dooley, HMT.



**Tom Tiffany** dam operator for Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company was recently recognized for 15 years of service for observations taken at the Willow Reservoir in Wisconsin.

## 10 Year Length of Service Awards



**Ken Eales**, Coop Observer for the airport at Manitowish Waters, WI, receives his 10 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Green Bay, WI.



Observer **Evert Bengston** was presented a 10 Year Length of Service Award for the Windom, KS, area. Presenting the award was Joe Rosner, DAPM, NWS Wichita, KS



From left, NWS Pocatello, ID, SOO Dean Hazen help Observer **Kenneth E. Fagnant**, of Lava Hot Springs, ID, show his 10 Year Length of Service Award with help from David Phelps, CPM. Photo by Gary Wicklund, NWS Pocatello.



**Shirley Liss**, Coop Observer from Ester, AK, accepts a 10 Year Length of Service Award presented by photographer Pepper Weimer, HMT at NWS Fairbanks, AK.

Observer **David Leroy** was presented a 10-Year Length of Service Award for the Albert, KS, area. Presenting the award was Joe Rosner, DAPM, NWS Wichita, KS. Photo not available.



**Ernest Hill**, Cooperative Observer for Pleasant Hope, MO, was presented a 10 Year Length of Service Award by NWS Springfield, MO, HMT Larry Dooley.

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Managing Editor  
John.Newkirk  
@noaa.gov

Editor/Layout  
Melody.Magnus  
@noaa.gov

Editors:  
Donna Ayres  
Deborah Lavine

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# September, October, November 2007 Temperature Outlook From the Climate Prediction Center

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1325 East-West Highway  
SSMC2, W/OS7  
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