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### **History of Post-Morrow**

The Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc. is located in the Hamlet of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York. Its principal office is at 16 Bay Road, Brookhaven, NY 11719.

Conceived by Thomas and Elisabeth Post Morrow and established in 1969, the Foundation is dedicated to the preservation of the rural countryside character of the Hamlet and the surrounding areas. Through the acquisition of properties, either by gift or purchase, the Foundation seeks to establish a nature preserve and sanctuary for the benefit and enjoyment of the immediate community. The preservation of Beaver Dam Creek, where the Foundation owns over 100 acres, is a priority.

The Post and Morrow families have had a long tradition of philanthropy in the community. James H. Post purchased the land along Carmans River, now known as Squassux Landing, which was later donated to the Brookhaven Village Association for use as a marina. The land upon which the Brookhaven Free Library is situated was another gift. Elisabeth Post Morrow continued the tradition of her father by donating various gifts to community groups, mostly anonymously. It was the hope of the Morrrows that this legacy be continued through the establishment of the Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc.

# *Post-Morrow Foundation* **NEWSLETTER**

volume 4, number 2

Fall 2000

## LOHMANN'S FARM

The Post-Morrow Foundation has purchased Lohmann's Farm in Brookhaven Hamlet. The purchase of the farm was achieved through a partnership with June and Henry Lohmann, longtime owners of the farm, Suffolk County, under the auspices of the County Farmland Protection Program, the Greenways Open Space program, the Foundation, and with the help of some private donations.

The complex transaction involved creating four separate parcels from the 49 acre farm. Through Suffolk County's open space acquisition program, titled the Greenways Open Space program, Suffolk County purchased approximately fourteen acres of wetlands adjacent to the Dennis Puleston Nature Preserve. This will enhance that 35 acre property, purchased by the County several years ago. The Foundation purchased the three acre 'homestead' parcel on which the current residence of Mr. and Mrs. Lohmann is situated, along with the barns and sheds which are an integral part of the farm. The Foundation also purchased approximately nine acres of wetlands along Beaver Dam Creek thereby protecting it from further development. Finally, the Foundation purchased the remaining 23 acres of farmland and sold the development rights to the County under the Purchase of Development Rights program (PDR) created to protect farmland.

Lohmann's nephew, Bob Nolan will continue to farm this land. Mr. Nolan has worked along with his uncle for the last thirty years and is an experienced farmer who knows this particular farm.

Very well known throughout the county as one of the best farmers in Suffolk, Henry Lohmann has served on many committees and boards in Suffolk. He was chairman of the board of Cornell

*(continued on page 2)*



## LOHMANN'S FARM (continued)

Cooperative Extension as well as serving on the advisory board of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Experimental Farm in Riverhead.

Bill Sanok from the Cornell Cooperative Extension said that Henry Lohmann is known as a careful and thoughtful farmer who takes excellent care of his land. Mr Lohmann conducted some research for the DuPont company in the fifties and sixties. He was one of the first farmers to use BT (*Bacillus Thurgensis*) to combat the cabbage worm. An innovation then, this natural bacteria has now been used extensively and there are several varieties of this pesticide currently in use.

Lohmann's Farm is known for its cabbage and cauliflower

crop and other produce, which is taken into the Hunts Point market in New York City. The farm also sells to local area stores such as Wallen's IGA market in Bellport and the Pumpkin Patch farm stand in Yaphank. In years past, the Lohmann family had a small farm stand on

South Country Road which was a popular place to buy their produce. June Lohmann would be there with her children and other kids from the neighborhood, selling the best spinach, lettuce, tomatoes, squash and other farm products for miles around. Mr. Nolan is thinking about reopening the farm stand in the future, which would be a very welcome project. He states that it is his intent to continue to operate the farm as it has been done

by his uncle and that he is looking forward to working the farm for a long time.

Over the years the nature of farming has changed. Mr Lohmann and his family came to Brookhaven in 1952 from Bethpage. (The Oyster Bay Expressway now goes through the old farm). There, his father had farmed land since 1928 when the family came out from Queens Village. His grandfather had been a farmer in Germany. Farming seems to be a part of the family in the next generation too. In addition to Bob Nolan who will manage and operate the farm,

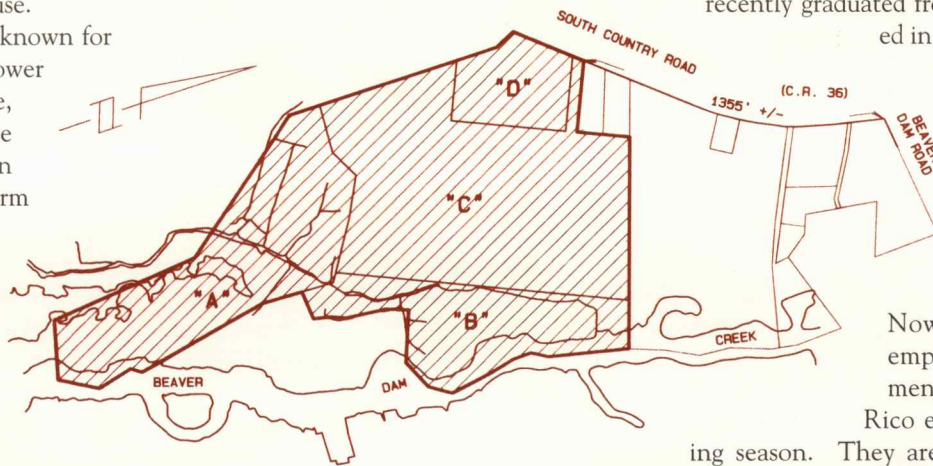
Mr. and Mrs. Lohmann's grandson, Tim Durham, recently graduated from Cornell and is interested in becoming a lobbyist for the agriculture industry.

When Henry Lohmann arrived here in 1952 the farm workers were Polish and Russian laborers working the season to support their families.

Now, Lohmann's Farm employs approximately six men who come from Puerto Rico each summer for the growing season. They are hard workers who come here to make money for their families back home.

Over the years they have forged a relationship with the Lohmann's and return each year.

Farming is as difficult as ever in these times but Mr. Lohmann now uses a computer work sheet which outlines each field of vegetables, how they are sprayed, watered, and for how long, as well as noting wind conditions. This system allows the farm to carefully monitor what is needed to maximize the yield. Such records must



be kept for several years running in order to be most effective as well as meet state guidelines, Lohmann says.. Natural intruders are a constant concern as the deer, geese and other animals can make life difficult for the farmer and require constant attention. Naturally, irrigation is a constant concern as well. Passersby may have noticed a new fire truck on the farm. Designated as an excess vehicle, this truck was purchased from the Brookhaven Fire Department and will be used for irrigation. Mr. Lohmann has been a volunteer in the Fire Department for over forty years and currently serves as a commissioner.

Farming has been an integral part of the hamlet of Brookhaven since it was settled in 1665. "In those days, the population center, and the hub of social, religious and economic activity in the Town, (of Brookhaven) lay at the north shore, whose bays were the ports of entry for European ships. The south shore was explored by farmers from the north seeking open spaces to raise hay and graze cattle. Attracted by large meadows of salt hay near the mouth of the Carmans River, these settlers also discovered abundant fishing and oystering in the Great South Bay, and learned of the opportunities for capturing whales off the south shore of Fire Island." *Brookhaven/South Haven Hamlet Study, November 1995.* (Note; salt hay was harvested as fodder for cattle.

Because salt hay has insulating properties, it was used to insulate ice and to preserve food as well and became a market crop shipped by boat to New York City.)

There are currently two other farm operations in Brookhaven Hamlet. The Hamlet Organic Garden is a certified CSA (community supported agriculture). Approximately 80 members of the community support this endeavor and pick up their produce each week. In addition to a membership fee, each farm member is expected to put in some sweat equity to help keep the farm going. Nearby, Michael and Kimberly Barry run their flower farm on Locust Lane, selling to the farmers market in New York.

The Foundation is pleased to be able to help preserve this important farm in the hamlet and its continued productivity. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Lohmann well in their retirement. They intend to remain members of the community and will be involved in assisting Mr. Nolan as he assumes the full responsibility of the farm. Asked if they were planning to travel with their free time, Mr. Lohmann indicated that he had been telling people that he was going to Geneva, but not as far as people imagined, he said. It is to Geneva, New York they would go in order to continue his work on how to grow better cabbages.

## SHINNECOCK-SEWANAKA SOCIETY

Janine Roe has worked for the last several years to create the Shinnecock-Sewanaka Society, a not-for-profit group based in Bellport where she grew up and now lives. The goal of the Society is to bring together Long Island's non-reservation Indians in order to preserve their history and to provide services and information.

The Society raised funds to purchase a small house on Station Road in Bellport where they hope to house the organization. The Post-Morrow Foundation provided matching funds to the Society so they could complete the purchase. "We have members who have health concerns, and living concerns, whose needs have not been met at either rez (Shinnecock or Poospatuck)" Janine states. "With a house as our headquarters, we could display our history, meet with students to talk about our past, help members with (health issues), and so much more." (Newsday 3/5/2000)

The daughter of James and Martha Carle Tinsley, Janine traces her family lineage back through the Shinnecock Indians who were the earliest inhabitants of the south shore of Long Island. We wish Janine and the Society well as they embark on their effort to preserve their history and contribute to the lives of Long Island's non-reservation Indians.



## IN MEMORIAM

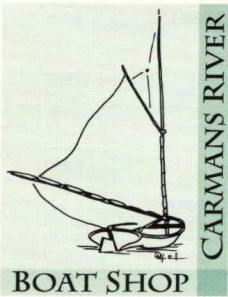
We would like to thank all those who contributed to the Post-Morrow Foundation in memory of Ruth Call, Malcolm Moore and Phyllis Shreeve.

Ruth Call was a life long resident of Brookhaven Community. She was an avid history enthusiast and had an extensive collection of duck decoys which were the work of local Long Island craftsmen.

The Shreeve and Moore families held memorial services at the Foundation. The Moore family has been part of the community for

over 50 years and Malcolm's brother Ronnie still lives here in Brookhaven. Phyllis Shreeve of Bellport, was most recently active in the Carmans River Coalition which was instrumental in the preservation of the "Elias Property" adjacent to the River, which has now become a part of the Wertheim Refuge.

We miss all these members of our community and extend our sympathy to their families.



# THE CARMANS RIVER BOAT SHOP

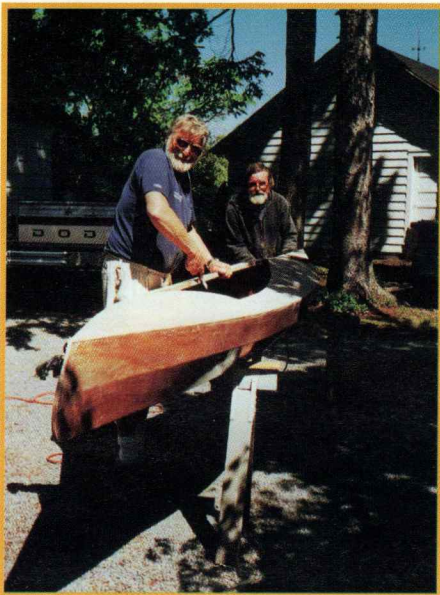
The first project of the Carmans River Boat Shop, building the Mill Creek Kayak, was successfully completed by Mike Garlin and Charles Close with the assistance of Ted Flagg. The Kayak was auctioned at the Squassux Fair in June of

engines and has his office. The middle shop and a part of the eastern shed are being turned into the boat shop area. The first order of business will be to design and build benches and work space for the boat shop.

this year and was won by Susan Gude of Clover Lane, Brookhaven. Mike and Charles have built a second kayak which is on display at the Foundation headquarters on Bay Road, Brookhaven.

The work on the boat shop facility at Tookers Boat Yard is fast coming to completion. It is hoped that the structure will be finished in time for Winter courses. Fred Varney has had his crew there for the last two months. The old mechanic shop has been relocated to the west shed where John Taylor will work on small

Al Huse of Bellport has donated the Rebecca to the Boat shop. Built in 1892, for Norman F. Nelson of Brookhaven by the Frank Penney boatyard in Center Moriches, the boat is a 21 foot, plum stem catboat. We are considering lifting the lines from her, in cooperation with the Long Island Marine Museum. This will give the Museum a complete record of this boat built over 100 years ago. The Boat Shop will announce the date of this event which will be presented as a workshop so that interested individuals can learn the process of lifting the lines, a project which entails making drawings to scale of the structural elements of the boat.



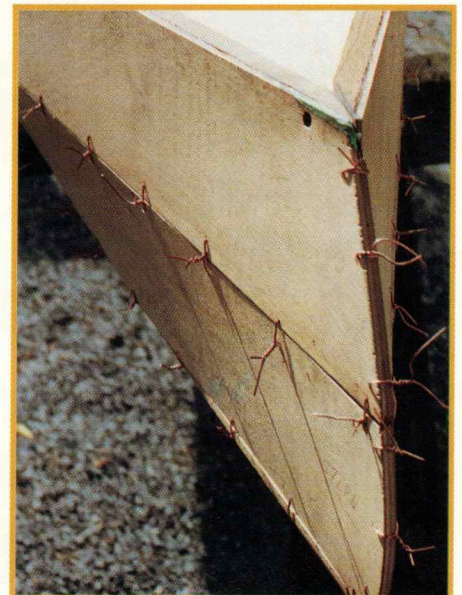
Mike Garlin and Charles Close and the first Mill Creek Kayak built at the Boat Shop.

## WISH LIST FOR THE CARMANS RIVER BOAT SHOP

*14 inch band saw*

*floor or bench drill press*

*miscellaneous hand tools; chisels, files, planes, clamps, vices and other basic woodworking hand tools.*



An example of the stitch and glue process.



Mill Creek under construction.



Susan Gude of Brookhaven won the first Mill Creek at the Squassux Fair.

# PROPOSED SCHEDULE - WINTER/SPRING 2001

The Mission of the Carmans River Boat Shop is to operate an educational facility for the building, restoration and repair of wooden boats and to sustain maritime skills and traditions, particularly those associated with Brookhaven Hamlet and Great South Bay.

Classes will include traditional and modern boat building techniques, lofting and other related maritime skills.

Our first course will be building a Mill Creek Kayak. This is the same model that was raffled off at the Squassux Fair last June. We encourage you to sign up as soon as possible.

\* **Build your own Mill Creek 13 Kayak**

Mike Garlin, Instructor

Weekends: to be announced

\$700 includes materials and instruction for a team of two to build a kayak

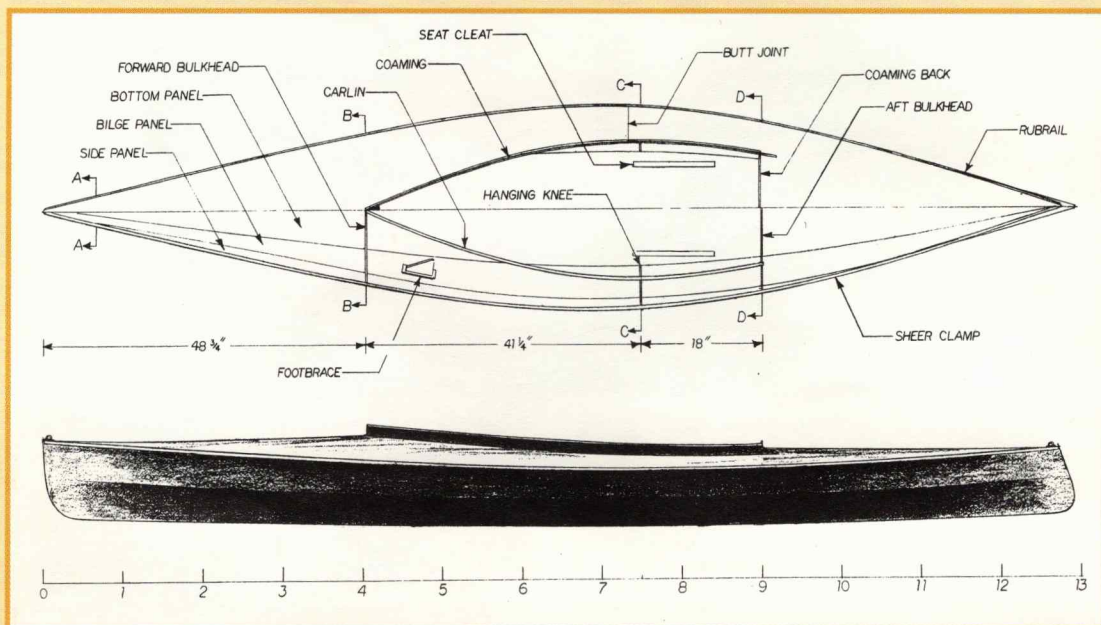
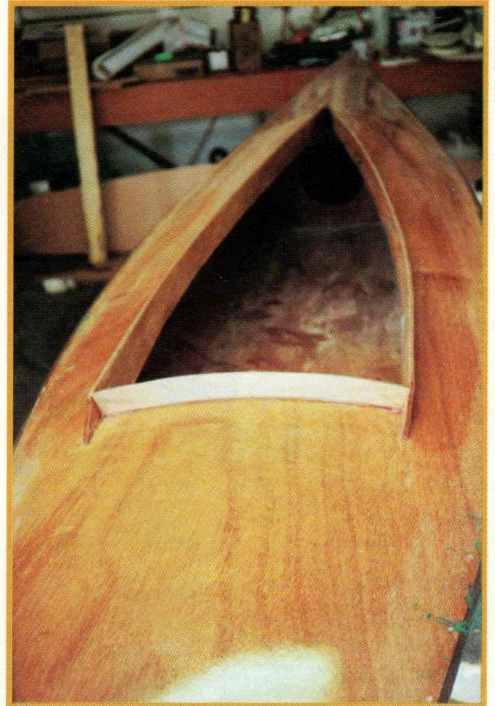
In this six day course, you will start by cutting out and scarfing the hull pieces, stitching and taping these together, The next stage include installing bulkheads and knees, adding on the deck, coaming, rubrails and footbraces.

You will be able to take home a fine boat. (Instruction on how to finish the boat with varnish and paint will be available.) Parent-child teams are encouraged.

If you are interested in signing up for this course on the Mill Creek Kayak, please call 631-286-3621 between 8:30 am and 2 pm weekdays, or leave a message.

Since we will be buying the materials for the boats you will be asked to send in a deposit in advance.

The course will be held at the Carmans River Boat Shop in Brookhaven Hamlet. The Boat Shop is located at the end of Newey Lane off of Beaver Dam Road.



# THE OLD SOUTH HAVEN CHURCH

Brookhaven Hamlet residents have noticed the sprucing up of the Old South Haven Church on the corner of South Country Road and Beaver Dam Road. The Church has received some assistance from the Foundation in the form of a challenge grant to do some of these improvements. With these funds and those raised from the membership, the Church has also received a special grant from the New York State Department of Parks and Historic Preservation.

Most recently, the old weathervane has been replaced on the top of the steeple. It was restored with a donation of the galvanized and copper plating by David and Doris Epner of Brookhaven on the top of the steeple. The original carving of the trout is in the Brookhaven/Bellport Historical Society Museum. The trout is symbolic of an event which occurred in 1827 when Senator Daniel Webster snuck out of church to go fishing in Carmans River and with the help of his manservant, caught himself a 14 pound trout.

As part of its grant to the Church, the Foundation assisted in the rehabilitation of the carriage house, so the not-for-profit group *Something Old/Something New of South Country, Inc.* a non-profit fiber arts cooperative, could operate its programs there. *Something Old/Something New* teaches sewing, quilting and other traditional skills to women so they may become self-sufficient.

The Carriage house is an historic structure of note. Originally the property on which the church now stands belonged to Mr James Post, Elisabeth Post Morrow's father. The carriage house was part of the property which became the site of the rescued church.

Old South Haven Church has a long and distinguished history in this area. Moved to the hamlet in 1961, the church originally sat beside the Carmans River in South Haven. In his book, *The Church at the South, A History of the South Haven Church,*

Reverend George Borthwick tells the wonderful story of the Church and how it was a powerful symbol of freedom during the Revolutionary War. Initiated by the "mother church" in Setauket (now the Caroline Church), a teaching station was established in South Haven in the early 1700s. The first church was built in 1740. In 1828, the current church building was erected in South Haven and now stands on the corner of Beaver Dam Road and South Country Road in Brookhaven Hamlet.

Old South Haven Church was and continues to be an important part of the Brookhaven community. "Remarkable, too, was the influence of this small rural church, which, though isolated in what was considered a primitive section of the country, sent into the political world of that colonial day distinguished men who have been recognized and remembered as leaders in the early life of our nation. Less obvious, but more important, was the joy and hope and courage and idealism which this church inspired through the years in the southern part of Brookhaven Town and in neighboring villages. Men and women sacrificed to keep it going, for they felt they could not live without it." (*The Church at the South, A History of the South Haven Church, George Borthwick, 1989*)

(The Post-Morrow Foundation has copies of this book available for sale.)

Old South Haven Church is planning a reception and rededication of the church building

to be held in the near future. The community is welcome. A videotape showing the renovations of the building and the replacing of the weathervane will be shown.



# SUFFOLK COUNTY FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM

In the early 1970s, Suffolk County, under the leadership of County Executive John V.N. Klein, initiated a farmland protection program, the first of its kind in the nation. Designed to preserve the dwindling number of farms, rescue the local and important industry of agriculture as well as to preserve open space in Suffolk, the County program has been a great success and has been emulated in other parts of the country. Suffolk County currently has the distinction of being the most productive county, agriculturally, in the State of New York. The long growing season, wonderfully productive soils, and a good groundwater irrigation supply makes the county a great place for farming.

The concept of the program is to purchase the development rights of landowners. Through these programs, landowners voluntarily agree to sell all, or a portion of, the development rights on their property to a municipality or not-for-profit agency. Ownership

and the right to farm the land remain intact. This can dramatically reduce estate taxes so the farm may be passed along to a landowner's heirs without breaking up the farm.

In the case of Lohmann's farm, the Post-Morrow Foundation bought the farm, and sold the development rights to the County and thereby reserves the right to farm the land. The Foundation will continue to pay taxes on the farmland and will lease the land to Bill Nolan who will continue to farm the property. With this purchase, the County will have saved over 1000 acres of farmland in Suffolk County this year. The Suffolk County Department of Real Estate played a significant role in the partnership and has our heartfelt thanks.

As someone in the hamlet noted, having an active farm in our community is a treasure indeed. Farming is a way of life on Long Island and we are pleased to be able to support it.

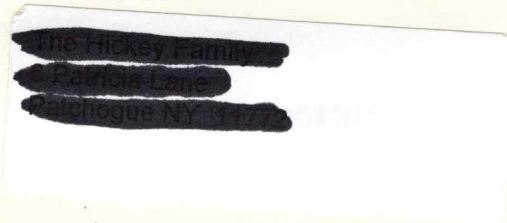
## SQUASSUX FAIR – JUNE 2000





**Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc.**

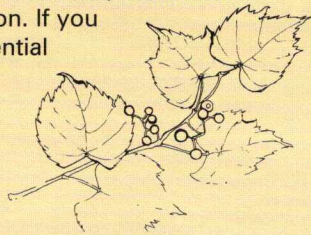
P.O. Box 204  
Brookhaven, New York 11719-0204  
631-286-0686



**The Post-Morrow Foundation Newsletter is printed on recycled paper.**

**Bequest**

If you would like to extend your support of the work of the Foundation to preserve our heritage, you may include in your will a bequest of cash, securities or property to the Foundation. If you would like to discuss a potential bequest, please call Bruce Wallace, President at 286-0686.



**Thank you for your support**

Your contribution is important to us in showing community support and allowing us to preserve the Hamlet. Please return the form below, along with your gift, to: The Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc. We will mail you an acknowledgement for tax purposes.

**Other ways to support the Foundation include:**

**Matching gifts** - if your employer has a matching gifts program, your gift to the Foundation can be doubled or tripled. Please check with your employee benefits office.  
**Memorial gifts**- A gift in memory of a loved one or friend is a special tribute to someone who loved Brookhaven Hamlet. We would be happy to notify the family of your charitable gift.  
**Gifts of land and/or historic material**- as described in this newsletter, we welcome gifts which reflect the heritage of our community.

Illustration by Rebecca Sack

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The Foundation gratefully acknowledges  
the partial donation of services by Searles Graphics, Inc.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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