



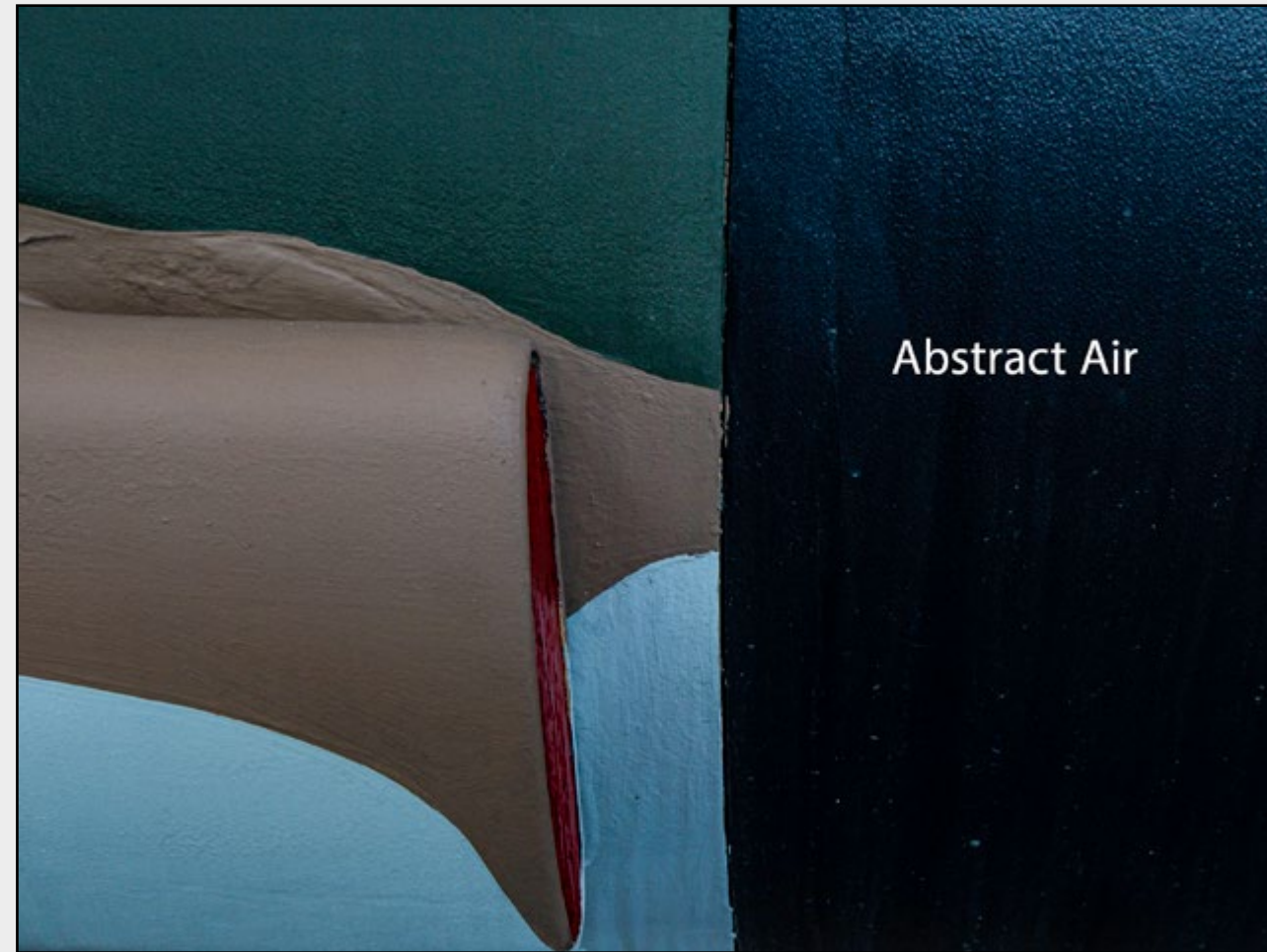
THE LIPKA JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

MAY 2025

WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL MAY 2025



Different experiences highlight this month's Lipka Journal. It's portrait time for a small church, learning about the congregation without seeing a single soul. We move on to a small space created by large objects. Lastly, we head back outside into the rain. It's the second installment of the (still yet unnamed) water project.

Church Portrait





Church Portrait

These are not photographs of a building. These photographs are a church portrait. There is a difference between the two. A church is a congregation of people who worship together, and we learn much about them by observing their place of worship. It is far from the opulence of European Cathedrals, but the wealth of this congregation is sharing what they have with each other. Nothing is new, very little matches but they share the essence of their lives.













A Mostly True Story

On the first visit to my wife's hometown of Roundup, Montana in the 1970s, this building was the town's movie theater. Just before we turned the corner to Main Street, I suggested that the movie being shown would star either Clint Eastwood or Burt Reynolds. I was right. It was a double feature (remember those?) with Clint Eastwood starring in one movie and Burt Reynolds starring in the other. The movie theatre has been closed for at least forty years. Not much has been successful at that location.

An abstract artwork featuring layered textures and colors. The top left is a dark teal, the middle left is a light brown, and the bottom left is a light blue. A vertical red line separates the brown and blue sections. The right side is a dark blue textured background.

Abstract Air

Abstract Air

Airplanes are big. (Even small airplanes are big.) Hangars are small. Putting the two together means there is very little room to photograph big machines crammed from wingtip to wingtip.

We are often faced with this situation in our own life. Too many things jammed together in an always too short weekend. Little Sally's birthday party just got bigger because her BFF's three cousins are in town for the weekend. The Boss needs you to work on both the Smither's report and the sales forecast for the Monday meeting. You can fit it in over the weekend - somehow.

How to get through? Focus on the details in front of you. They may not make sense completely, but it's something you can do with the time you have.



















The only things left are memories.

Prologue: A photo and six words.

Rain, Rain Go Away



Rain, Rain Go Away

Self-preservation is high on the list of human qualities we share as a civilization. We try our best to avoid danger, especially when we are out exploring nature. The more daring of us, tempt fate by trying to view danger from a closer distance. So it is with rainstorms. They can be violent, unpredictable and sometimes have deadly consequences. We try our best to photograph from a distance, but sometimes we just get caught up in the moment – and get soaked.



























Rain, Rain, Go Away

Here we are in the second part of “The Water Project,” where the topic at hand is rain. When I originally conceived this project, I did not include “rain photographs.” One of my photographic peers told me, I had to show how water gets from the sky to the earth. The logic was inescapable, so I dove headfirst into the Lipka photo archives to see if I could fill that gap and was surprised by how many photographs I’ve made in the rain.

If this is your first viewing of this project, the chapter on clouds is in the [April issue of The Lipka Journal](#).

Please come back next month and we’ll start the downhill run to the ocean.

Postcards from the Creative Journey



Hey, Andy,

I've been out photographing, and don't you know it, I was photographing doors (again).

Afterwards I began wondering at what point do we stop photographing a subject and move on? Even Weston stopped photographing peppers after he made about fifty photographs. I have hundreds of door photographs and wonder if I can ever stop photographing them.

When I'm not sure what to do in an area, I use door photographs to "jump start" my stalled creativity. For me, I guess the answer is I will stop photographing doors right after I make my last photograph.

JOE



Andy Taylor

322 Maple Street

Mayberry, NC

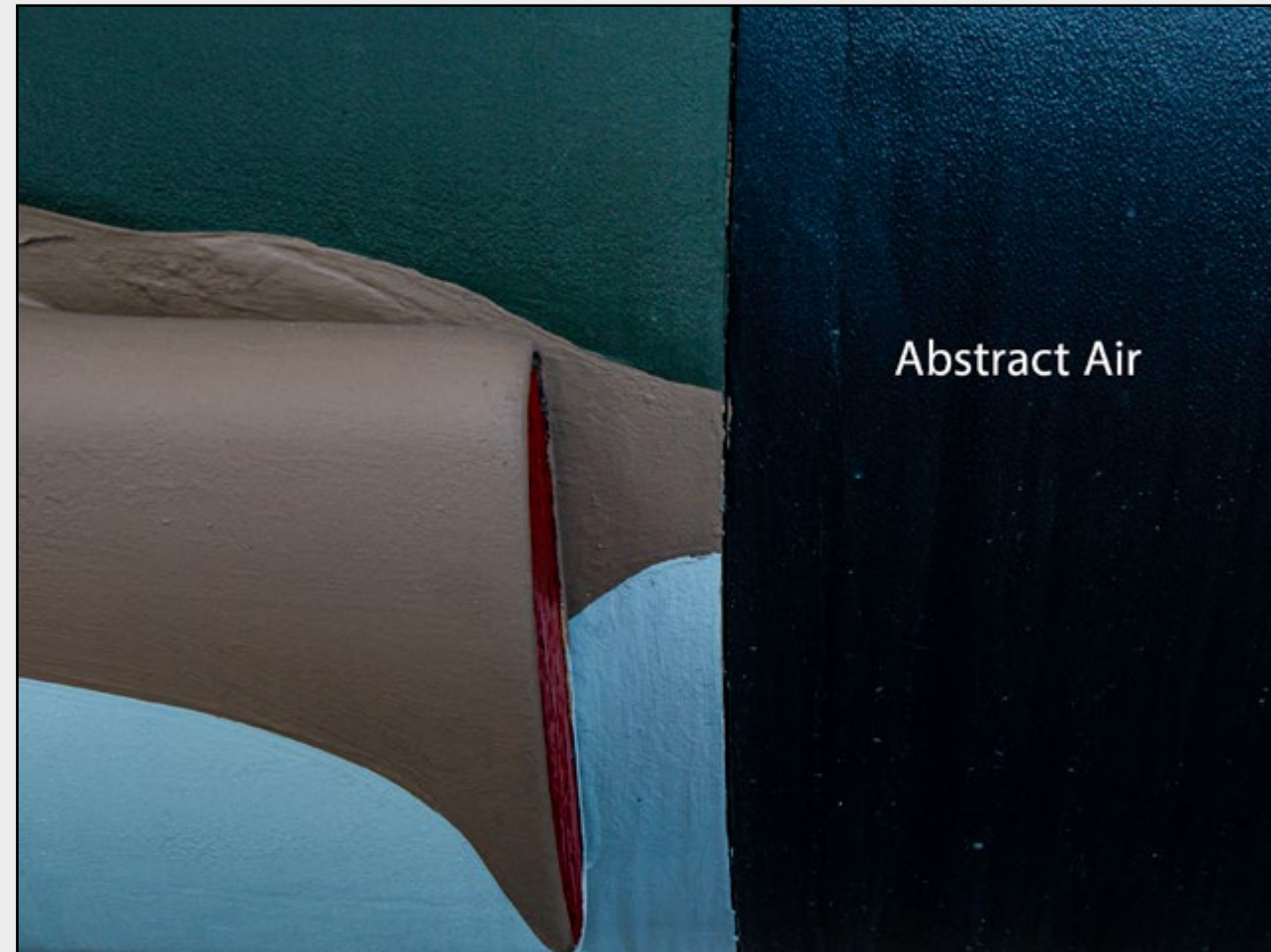
A FEW WORDS AT THE END OF THE JOURNAL



Church Portrait

Church Portrait

We could see only the top of the church from the highway because it was on the far side of a small hill. The Church was furnished with the no longer needed parts of other churches and parishoners donations. The Holy Water font by the door was an old tuna can screwed into the wall. The community of the congregation was writ large is such a small place. I felt the closeness and humanity of a group of people just by being in a place they cared about deeply.



Abstract Air

Abstract Air

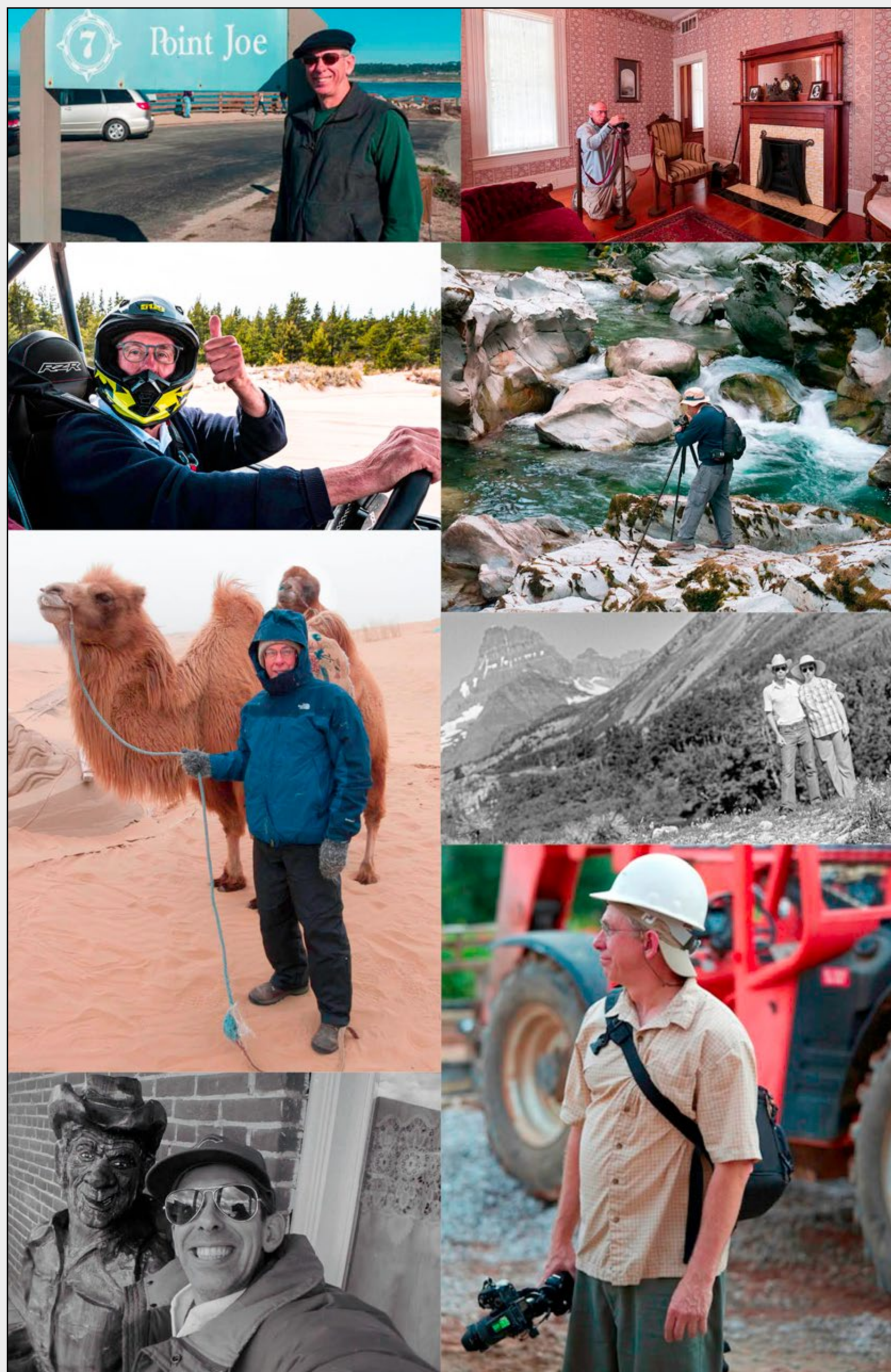
As a child of the Fifties, I grew up fascinated with military airplanes from the Second World War. It is always a joy for me to get close to these airplanes. But this time, there was no room to be anything other than close. At that distance, these large objects became nothing more than a collection of abstract parts.



Rain, Rain Go Away

Rain, Rain, Go Away

The second chapter of the Water Project is about moisture in the clouds returning to earth. We commonly call it rain and as photographers, we try our best to avoid it, tell stories about getting “rained out” and avoiding cloudbursts. Predicted or not, landscape photographers encounter rain. With the improvements in weather sealing, the equipment is kept dry and we can venture forth to capture rain as part of the landscape.



Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last forty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred and twenty juried exhibitions, and twenty five solo exhibitions. His images have been published in *LensWork*, *Black & White Photography* (UK) and *F-Stop Magazines*. His recent book project, *Mostly True Stories*, was featured as a LensWork Bonus Edition Publication in February 2024.

His website www.joelipkaphoto.com has continuously evolved since it was launched in 2004. His blog *Postcards from the Creative Journey*, published weekly since 2010, now publishes new content as part of *The Lipka Journal*.

His newest blog, *The Daily Photograph*, is simply that. A new and interesting image is posted every morning at 8:00 AM.

The Lipka Journal, May, 2025

Joe Lipka

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

Blog: https://joelipkaphoto.typepad.com/the_daily_photograph/

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