

**VOL
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the CANORA CHRONICLE

Capturing history - Building community

The Canadian Northern Society and
The Canora Chronicle Newsletter
celebrate 30 years this year!



To honour our commitment of
'Capturing history and Building Community'
we will be showcasing each of our sites
with a special up-close look at the sites
as they are today. See the enclosed
insert and enjoy a look at our true
community centre—the Camrose
Heritage Railway Station and Park Site!

The Annual General Meeting will
be held on May 6, 2017, at 1:30 pm
at the Camrose Station. Following the
meeting there will be a presentation on
"Railroading in Alberta's Midland."
All members are welcome!

SPRING WORKSHOPS

March 25, 2017 – 1 to 4 pm
Growing Your Own Soil Workshop

June 17, 2017 – 1 to 3 pm
Flower Dye Art Workshop

July 22, 2017 – 1 to 3 pm
Pressed Flower Workshop

All workshops are held at the
Camrose Heritage Railway Station.
Register by phone or email.

May 13 – Opening Day for the Camrose
Historic Railway Station and Park for
2017 season. Visit us this summer!



Help us to increase our
followers and "Like" us on
Facebook!

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the Women of the Moose Chapter 1375 of Camrose for the kind cash donation. Similarly thank you to the Camrose Thrift Shop of Camrose for supporting the Camrose Heritage Railway Station and Park.

Welcome to our new member Bill Schafer of Virginia Beach, Virginia—editor of the Southern Railway Historical Society's periodic magazine and long-time railroad professional and historian. Thank you Bill as well for the cash donation with your membership. Welcome also to Carl Ardrey of Florence, Alabama, another Southern Railway Historical Society member!

Thank you to Larry Stone of Airdrie for his cash donation. Larry is the son of Fred Stone, and grew up in the depot at Alsask, Saskatchewan—among others on the Canadian Northern's "Goose Lake" line which in part is now but a memory. (Alsask depot photo, courtesy C.W. Bohi, taken 1972.)



Thank you to Mrs. Florence Johnston and Alice-Faye Watts of Big Valley, AB, Brent Cheek of Sherwood Park, AB, William Griffiths of Salt Spring Island, BC, James E. Harte of McBride, BC, Leslie S. Kozma and Dean and Lorrie Tieg of Edmonton, AB, Ray Taylor of Bashaw, AB, Donna Langille of Stettler, AB, Richard Gibbons of North Battleford, SK, Steve and Peggy Shuman of Camrose, AB, H.R.J Home of Jasper, AB, Jeannette Schandl of Camrose, AB, in Memory of Joseph Schandl, and Wolf Kirchmeir of Blind River, ON, and Charles and Lynette Bohi of White River Junction, Vermont, for the generous cash donations received with membership renewals to the society.

Thank you to Bennie and Maxine Fecho of Ponoka, AB, and Mrs. Irene Hill of Hanna, AB, for donations to the Hanna Roundhouse Project.

CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY HISTORY FEATURED IN CANADIAN RAIL

Douglas N.W. Smith, a noted railway author and researcher, has written four excellent articles on "The Origins of the Canadian Northern Railway"—starting with Part 1 featuring the genesis of the company in Manitoba in the Jan.-Feb. 2016 issue.

Canadian Rail is the bi-monthly publication of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association (CRHA), and these articles are recommended reading for anyone interested in the history of the Canadian Northern. There are interesting photos of the Canadian Northern from local museum archives—in particular illustrating the route between Winnipeg and Port Arthur, contained therein. Copies of the 2016 editions, along with the Jan.-Feb. 2017 edition containing Mr. Smith's well-researched articles are available by contacting the CRHA at www.exporail.org, or by writing Mr. Peter Murphy, CRHA, 110 rue St-Pierre, St-Constant, QC J5A 1G7.

BIG VALLEY HAPPENINGS

The Big Valley Station continues to get regular use this winter. Along with the regular groups who use it, Alberta Prairie Railway conducted a Maintenance of Way training course on February 16. It was facilitated by Canadian Northern member Brent Cheek and I was able to attend. Well done, Brent. In April, Alberta Transportation will be meeting with all the Alberta passenger train operators at the station. This meeting will be hosted by Alberta Prairie Railway.

The big news for Big Valley is the announcement of Rails and Tales 2017 from June 28 to July 5. This will be an eight-day schedule of excursions by Alberta Prairie Railway and includes a guest locomotive from Edmonton. The Alberta Railway Museum is bringing their locomotive 1392 to Stettler to work with Alberta Prairie's 41. There will be a number of different kinds of trips with double-headed steam locomotives as well as unique themes.

In conjunction with Alberta Prairie Railway train trips, Rails and Tales 2017 will be presenting an exposition of vintage agricultural equipment from June 30 to July 3. It will include full-size steam-, gas- and oil-powered equipment. Displays of double-flywheel hit-and-miss gasoline engines and smaller equipment will also be operational. All of the equipment will be operated by volunteers. The equipment will be from personal collections and heritage preservation groups. Come chat with them about their experiences preserving Alberta history. Bring your family and enjoy a day of steam trains and working historical agriculture equipment. On July 1 we will be conducting a Canada Day celebration while the train is in town in the afternoon.

I'm hoping we can have some Canadian Northern folks on hand at the station to talk about Canadian Northern history over the July long weekend. I know it's a busy time for everyone but if you're available and interested in helping out, please email me at graydonrich@gmail.com.

~ Rich Graydon, Big Valley Station

Honouring Canada's 150th Anniversary ~ Rails and Tales 2017



June 28 – July 5, 2017

Steam train rides from Stettler to Big Valley, AB, with live entertainment, train robberies, and old-tyme community dinners.

Plus displays and events celebrating Canada's pioneer, military, Métis and railway history on site in Big Valley can all be enjoyed over this eight-day event!



For tickets, reservations and schedules please visit www.absteamtrain.com or call Alberta Prairie at 1-800-282-3994 or 1-403-742-2811 (outside of Canada).

For information, donations or to volunteer for the event, please email Rails and Tales 2017 at railsandtales@gmail.com or visit www.railsandtales.ca.

This event is being organized by Alberta Prairie Railway, East Central Alberta Heritage Society, the Canadian Northern Society and the Métis Association of Alberta.

Photo©S.I. Smith

CAMROSE NEWS

January was a busy month with the following activities completed:

- All school programs revamped and school and phone lists updated.
- Procedures for programs, collections and displays updated. Textiles reorganized by Carol Rawson.
- Workshop held on: Making Sunny Boy bread and sausage making – thanks to Donny Loewen and those who attended.
- Workshop – Communicating with Nature thanks to Bernice Kadatz.
- Living quarters housecleaned and thanks to Jeremiah Overland and Doug Roper the carpets were steam cleaned as well.
- Every Tuesday afternoon tea and work bees: files purged, photos and articles placed in albums, spoon name plates for plants in gardens prepared thanks to Deanna Nichel, Carol Roy, Sharon Ofrim, Carol Rawson, Dorothy Lysons, Theresa Mazure, Eleanor White, Ann Reitan and Cathie Bartlett.
- Gingerbread made for kindergarten programs for 400 children thanks to Gladys Douglas.
- Buildings restored and new Big Valley Station built for the Morgan Garden Railway thanks to Jeremiah Overland and Bruce Smith.
- Thanks to Garry Middleton for research and plan designed for 'Interpreter on the Side' plus many other maintenance tasks. Thank you Garry for also donating a podium that will have varied uses at the station.
- Plan made for building a replica of the Warden Station thanks to Donny Loewen and Jeremiah Overland.
- Bedroom ceiling in Meeting Creek Station repaired thanks to Glen Chapman.
- Thanks to Doug Roper for organizing the computer files in a way that are functional and easy to access. Also the huge job of organizing the Casino for March 26 and 27. Thank you to all who are coming to assist.
- Thanks to Lorrie Tiegs for updating posters, school and event brochures

and other marketing materials. These are always beautifully done.

- We have a full gift shop thanks to all our members and the public who donate items. Special donation by Diana Nichel of two Toby jugs.

A beautifully decorated tearoom welcomed 57 people to a Valentine Tea on February 14 put on by Carol Roy, Sharon Ofrim, Norma Ferguson, Carol Rawson and Donny Loewen. The donated china sets were used to add to the atmosphere and helped to make this event special. Sharon made delicious Valentine crepes filled with strawberry sauce and garnished with whipped cream. Each person received a homemade white chocolate heart made by Sharon. The profit from the tea was over \$400. Mae Ulrich opened the gift shop and had many customers. A sincere thank you to all. Thank you to Shirley and Donny Loewen for donating the strawberries.

We have had four community bookings over the last two months. School and community bookings are coming in as well for spring.

Thanks to Eleanor White we have two ladies from the Camrose Horticultural society who are organic gardeners who will plant and care for the Victory Garden this year.

Two grants have been received, \$2700 from the BRCF for the gates and stiles at Meeting Creek and \$1000 from Rotary for the interactive tablets. Thank you to Bill Walker for designing and building the kiosks that will hold tablets used for interpretive displays.

Grants for students have been applied for and we hope that we will be able to hire two this summer.

For the past 19 years, Yvonne Brown the Director of Buzy Bee in Tofield and her volunteers has been saving dishes, railway books and mobilia for the Camrose Railway Station. Bruce and I attended their dinner on March 4 and we were again amazed by the contribution the Buzy Bee Thrift shop makes to their local community, but also to the greater community and beyond. They not only support some organizations financially, but collect items new and second hand

for groups such as the scouts, legions, school programs as well as organizations such as Blankets Canada. They also give donations to the Riley, Viking, Tofield and Kingman museums.

This year some of the items of interest we received from Buzy Bee included a place setting of station dishes; a clock with a picture of an elevator and train and a CN Grain Train Mug that will be placed in Meeting Creek; a silver CPR knife, a CN silver spoon, a Duhamel Centennial plate from 1967; a new Mexican train dominos set that will be left at the station for visitors to play during their visits; a book on the history of Prairie Women published in 1950 that contains the story of Mae Olstead from Camrose written in 1917 and several railway books by D.M. Bain. *Thank you to Yvonne Brown for being a promoter of our Camrose station for so many years!*

Next Friends of the Station meeting will be held on April 25. We have set Bee Days in April as follows: Cookie Baking April 11, opening up and cleaning outside buildings on April 18. These dates are weather dependent. The garden spring clean-up will commence in April as the weather allows.

The Battle River Community Foundation has booked May 17 for their barbeque at the station. If you can help with this event, please call the station.

Dates for work bees at Meeting Creek Natural Linear Park and Grasslands will be announced as they are weather dependent. Please follow our Facebook page for current dates and times for all work bee days.

~ Glenys Smith, Camrose Director

Consider getting involved with the Canadian Northern Society as a volunteer this year. There are many unique opportunities from baking to building, filing and organizing, to yard and garden care available at all of our locations.

Visit www.canadiannorthern.ca for a current list of available volunteer opportunities this season!

CAMROSE HERITAGE RAILWAY STATION WORKSHOPS

March 25, 2017 – Growing Your Own Soil (1 to 4 pm)

This workshop, which is complementary to the bokashi composting, is designed to describe the system the ancients used and show how to transform your soil. The workshop consists of a lecture followed by a practical session on making soil kookies from clay which will be added to the soil. Cost \$60 (each participant will make two dozen soil kookies).

June 17, 2017 – Flower Dye Art (1 to 3 pm)

Join us and explore the intriguing craft of flower dye art. Discover how to transfer the natural dyes of flowers and plants onto watercolour paper. All you need to bring is a hammer. Age 6 years and up. Children must be accompanied by adult. Cost: Children \$10; Adult \$15; Family \$25.

July 22, 2017 – Pressed Flower Workshop (1 to 3 pm)

Once you pick flowers from the station gardens, you will learn how to press the flowers and create a beautiful pressed flower card and a framed picture. No experience required. Materials needed: old phone book and a pair of tweezers. Cost: \$20 per person.

CAMROSE HERITAGE RAILWAY STATION EVENTS

May 13, 2017 – Opening Day for the Camrose Historic Railway Station and Park

Purchase delicious homemade cookies and beverages and find treasures in the White Elephant gift shop today and every Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm from Saturday, May 20, until Saturday, August 5. Artists and photographers welcome. Take a self-guided or guided tour of the 13 heritage gardens and exhibits in the station and other historic buildings on-site. Be sure to visit our extensive track car collection. Take part in a sing-along of railway songs at 2 pm. Children can ride on the Percy-like train and play in the Children's Secret Garden. Visit the Garden Railway, which is a magnet for people of all ages, and watch the G-scale trains as they travel around the historic building replicas in the Garden Railway.

May 27, 2017 – Plant Sale and Swap (10 am to 5 pm)

Purchase or swap plants from the many that grow within our organic managed station gardens or plants donated by community members. White Elephant gift shop open. Donations of plants, garden-related items for gift shop are gratefully accepted. Carrot cake (regular and gluten free) and beverages available for purchase. A knowledgeable station gardener will be available to answer your gardening questions.

July 10 to 14, 2017 – Booked Interpretive Garden Tours

followed by a Victorian Dessert and Tea in the station's King George Room, Tea Room or outside on the patio, weather permitting. Small or large group tours welcome! Bus tours welcome. Cost is \$12 per person.

July 15, 2017 – Hobo Day (10 am to 5 pm)

Experience the life of a hobo at our hobo jungle. This is a special fun day for all ages. We invite children and adults to dress as hobos. Listen to stories of the depression for kids and adults. Old-fashioned games, activities for kids. Children can have rides on the Percy-like train. Be ready to join in on a hobo jungle sing-along. Enjoy displays depicting the railway during the Depression. Tour the gardens and other historic buildings. Wave at the train as it goes by the Station Garden Railway where period trains will be running. Enjoy a self-serve light lunch in the Station Beanery (name for station restaurants in early days).

August 5, 2017 – Island of Sodor Day (1 to 5 pm)

Under the supervision of Sir Topham Hat, take a ride on our Percy-like train. Meet Thomas and all his friends as they go about their duties in the Morgan G-Scale Garden Railway. Children can dress up and play on a wooden replica of a train in our Secret Garden. There will be a scavenger hunt, face painting and other activities which will stir the imagination. Come and have a great Family Day at our Railway Park.

August 19, 2017 – Camrose Heritage Station 150 Garden Party (10 am to 4 pm)

Be entertained by the amazing music by the Station Swing Band in a beautiful garden party atmosphere. Come dressed in garden party attire if you wish or just a favourite hat. Homemade pie and chocolate foods and beverages available to purchase.

August 26, 2017 – Last day of the regular season

Enjoy the gardens and all exhibits with family and friends on our last day of the season. Bookings for workshops, retreats and gatherings can be made in off-season.

November 3, 2017 – Opening of the White Elephant Christmas Gift Shop Sale and Tea

Enjoy Christmas shopping from 10 am to 5 pm for unique items in our gift shop on opening day. Enjoy tea and scones in our beautiful seasonally decorated Station Tea Room. The White Elephant Christmas Shop will be open every Friday from November 3 through December 1. Donations of gift items are greatly accepted. Book the station's Tea Room for your private event or Christmas party.

December 2, 2017 – Annual Cookie Walk, Tea and Christmas White Elephant Sale (1 to 4:30 pm)

Within our beautiful seasonally decorated Tea Room or King George Room, enjoy one of our major fundraisers for the year. Our volunteers bake batches of cookies (including gluten free) and other items including homemade carrot pudding and loaves. Enjoy tea with seasonal homemade desserts. Purchase special gifts in our Station White Elephant Gift Shop.

**Visit www.canadiannorthern.ca for more details
or follow us on Facebook!**

IN MEMORIAM

Many members of the Canadian Northern Society were saddened on January 24, 2017 with the passing of **J.D. (JIM) MACKENZIE** of Mirror, Alberta, who was a long-time friend and supporter of the Society's efforts. Jim was 90 years old. In recent years, Jim is possibly best remembered by those associated with our organization as a locomotive engineer and conductor on Alberta Prairie Railway from its very beginnings, and a best friend of the late Walter Kittler, another one of our long-time supporters who is also dearly missed by the railway community in central Alberta.

Jim was born and raised near Luseland, Saskatchewan, where he met and then married Marion Schmidt in 1946. They moved to Mirror where they raised their family, farmed, and were a big part of the community. Jim's work life and retired life revolved around the railway. He started his career with Canadian National in September 1951 as a brakeman working through the ranks to eventual promotion as a steam locomotive engineer. Jim first retired in August 1980, however an opportunity to join Alberta Prairie as a conductor and engineer ten years later was too much to resist. For the rest of the decade, he, Walter Kittler, Gus Annas, Don Millar, and Emerson Robinson formed a experienced group of local railroaders, running steam engine 41, meeting people, and rubbing shoulders with movie stars as they participated in various film productions along the way! Jim also loved to sing—he had a very beautiful and distinct voice and would often entertain on the train with Walter. He also loved to ice fish and volunteer on projects in the community.

Butch Whiteman, a respected retired railroader whose Canadian Northern Railway roots take him back to his uncles at Dauphin, Manitoba, at the turn of the last century has some fond memories of the three years he worked as trainmaster in Mirror, and working with Jim. Butch recalls Jim being involved in a crossing accident with a gravel truck on the highway going to Joffre where the lead unit was derailed and leaking water from the piping underneath. The temperature was down near freezing and Butch recalls Jim asking if he should get under the unit to shut off the water to prevent further damage. Butch told him that the Calder Auxiliary from Edmonton would be there before nightfall and to let them handle it. However, it turned out there wasn't any engine-type mechanical people on the Auxiliary nor did anyone from the diesel shop go down to the wreck, so the pipes ended up freezing and breaking before the locomotive got back to the Calder shop. Of course, there was the typical voices wanting to blame Jim as the "poor old hoghead" for the extra cost involved—and accordingly they wanted Butch to take a statement off him! However, Butch would not put the blame on Jim for any reason because he did offer to climb under the derailed engine and do what he could do and as noted, he had instructed him not too. Butch recalls getting the famous "verbal reprimand" from the shop foreman and superintendent in Calgary, but fortunately for all, that's where the matter was left.

Shortly after that incident, Jim ended up taking his pension. As a result of a medical issue, Jim did not have the opportunity

to be honoured on his last trip in the traditional manner afforded to many retiring railroaders. Soon after his official retirement date, Hall of Fame Railroader Harry Home brought the famous CN Mountain type steam locomotive 6060 back from Hanna and Calgary where it had been operating "steam runs" on the Drumheller Sub. as part of Alberta's 75th Anniversary celebration.

The steam run itself didn't happen on the Three Hills Sub between Calgary and Mirror, but of course the equipment including the passenger cars had been deadheaded down to Calgary and back on freight trains 484/485. Northbound from Calgary, the 6060 was marshalled behind the operating diesel units for the return move.

Butch assigned steam veterans Bill Dennis and Don Wilson as the two engineers on 485 northbound handling the 6060. Pulling into Delburne, Butch wanted to get a picture of the 6060 stopped at the old CNR water tank. As a result, the 6060 was put in the lead for the pose when someone walked up and placed a banner on the pilot of the 6060 advertising "Jim MacKenzie's Last Run." Jim showed up and got at the throttle for his final run into Mirror—aboard a steam locomotive no less. The last thing Butch recalls telling everyone at Delburne was "you guys go ahead, but if anything happens, I don't know a damn thing about this!" As far as the record goes, it was another uneventful trip for 485, but for Jim MacKenzie and those fellow railroaders who took advantage of this once and a lifetime opportunity to help him celebrate a great railroad career—it was indeed quite memorable.



6060 at Delburne, Alberta for J. D. Mackenzie's retirement trip, 1980.

Condolences to the family of **KEN FLATER** who passed at the age of 61 on January 8, 2017. Ken worked at the Camrose Station for a short time in 2015 and will be missed by the Camrose community that he supported.

The Alberta railway preservation community lost a great inspirational leader, friend, and enthusiast on February 6, 2017, with the sudden passage of **HERB DIXON**. For well over 25 years Herb was the driving force behind the Alberta Railway Museum in Edmonton, presiding over the organization through many transitional years. Herb was a great friend of the Canadian Northern Society and was a collaborative relationship builder—respected by all whom he touched. Our deepest sympathy to the members of the Alberta Railway Museum and to Herb's friends and family.

HANNA ROUNDHOUSE SOCIETY UPDATE

The Hanna Roundhouse Society is planning a “Roundhouse Summer Celebration” August 11 to 13, 2017.

Friday, August 11 Social/Open House

Saturday, August 12 Dinner and Dance

During the day there is the Fall Fair on at the Hanna Museum.

Sunday, August 13 Open Church Service (3rd Annual)

Visit the Hanna Roundhouse Society Facebook page or www.hannaroundhouse.com as more details come available.

We are working on the following:

1. Town of Hanna is re-designating the HRS property under direct control in Town Bylaws since there is no information for a heritage building/property like ours. It will be identified as a museum and community centre activity for future use.
2. HRS and the heritage conservation adviser will be meeting with Superior Codes Calgary to determine what the HRS has to do to be able to hold fundraising events in the roundhouse to meet building code standards for public safety. We were able to do this for our 2015 reunion and we would like to have

approval for temporary access for future events while the building is being restored/repared/renovated.

3. A roof assessment has been completed and we plan to start repairs as soon as possible. This may be broken into stages to accommodate the cost.
4. HRS marketing brochure is ready and being used for presentations to prospective investors wishing to invest in the Hanna Restoration Project.
5. President Sandra Beaudoin and Architect Chris Moorhouse will be making a presentation to the Chinook Country Historical Society at the Calgary Public Library, April 25. The presentation will be on the “History, Architecture and Role of the Roundhouse—our inspiring story of saving an important community heritage asset”.

The Hanna Roundhouse is not currently open to the public, but we try to accommodate people for photographs and tours of the building. If you would like an individual tour of the roundhouse or to setup a group tour, please contact Sandra Beaudoin at 403-854-2699. A donation to the Roundhouse Society is required for any tours completed and a tax receipt will be issued.

~ Sandra Beaudoin, HRS

ALONG THESE LINES

The Canadian Northern Society is collaborating with the East Central Alberta Heritage Society and Alberta Prairie Railway to provide interpretive information for visitors to the historic Battle River Subdivision corridor between Camrose, Meeting Creek, Stettler, Big Valley and Drumheller. Building upon Les Kozma’s vision of over 25 years, and our existing physical interpretive signage, we are working to add detailed information to the Canadian Northern Society website that visitors can access via the internet/smart phone as they seek to learn about the region’s railway and related history. This project, thanks to volunteers Rich Graydon, Lorrie Tieg, Dean Tieg, Les Kozma, and S.I. Smith in particular, is a fitting tribute to Canada’s 150th anniversary this year. Check out *Along These Lines* at www.canadiannorthern.ca to visit the fruits of our labour to date.

As part of the Along These Lines project we are also planning new interpretive signage at the GTP Viking depot (contrasting the GTP with the Canadian Northern), the Hanna Roundhouse, and improved replacement signage at the Big Valley Roundhouse. Of special note this year, the Canadian Northern Society is working to support “Rails and Tales” which will see the operation of double-headed steam locomotive excursions between June 28 and July 5, 2017 on the Alberta Prairie Railway—featuring AP’s venerable 2-8-0 Consolidation No. 41, and 1913 MLW-built Canadian Northern ten-wheeler No.

1392 —owned by the Alberta Railway Museum. To contribute to the success of this interesting event, we are seeking volunteers to serve as rail history interpreters at the Big Valley Station and roundhouse, and are active in the clean-up and eventual interpretation of the Canadian Northern Railway’s former junction of its Brazeau extension at Warden, Alberta. We are constructing a replica train order office to be used in train order delivery demonstrations, removing vegetation from the former water tank foundation, and making repairs to the train register station on the south end of the yard. Volunteers are needed at Camrose for the construction of the train order office and at Warden for the clean up efforts. Please contact Richard Graydon at graydonrich@gmail.com if interested in helping.

MEETING CREEK 2017 EVENT

Mark your calendars for Prairie Fun Days on August 27, 2017. Experience the beautiful Meeting Creek valley as you tour the station and elevator. Take a ride on a speeder or covered wagon, hike or cycle the Linear Park trails along the abandoned right of way and identify the flora and fauna along the trail. Walk the labyrinth in the grasslands restoration area. Read the signs that tell of the areas geological, wildlife and Indigenous peoples’ history. Light lunch available in the community hall from 10 am to 4 pm. Children’s fun activities are scheduled throughout the day. Adult musical entertainment at 2 pm.

The Canora Chronicle is the tri-annual newsletter of the Canadian Northern Society—a registered charity dedicated to providing community service through heritage tourism initiatives.

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