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NEVADA STATE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2000

New DMLA Head Named

Michael Hillerby Comes on Board

Governor Kenny Guinn has recently appointed a new head of the Department of Museums, Library and Arts, Michael Hillerby. Hillerby began work November 29 in office space located behind the NSM at 708 N. Curry Street.

Hillerby was most recently the Arts and Culture Manager for the City of Reno where he was responsible for starting a newly-created division that included the C.I.T.Y. 2000 Arts Commission, Special Events, a Public Art Program, Arts and Crafts and two grants programs. The Division annually awarded some \$170,000 in grants to organizations and individual artists, and provided technical assistance and grant writing workshops. In addition, the Division produced, managed or sponsored special events including the *Uptown Downtown ARTown* Festival, a month of arts programming featuring over 200 events, many in the Division-managed Wingfield Park Amphitheater. Primary responsibilities included representing the cultural community to the City, and advising the City on the cultural life of the community, staff management, budgeting, programming, cultural planning, staffing the Arts Commission, overseeing a public art ordinance, and supervising the historic rehabilitation of the 90-year-old McKinley Park School that recently opened as the community's Arts and Culture center.

Before joining the City, he spent 8 years as a full-time lobbyist at the Nevada State Legislature, with expertise in the healthcare, insurance, utility, manufacturing, restaurant, design and arts industries. Clients included the American Institute of Architects, Airtouch Communications, McDonald's Corporation, Washoe Health Systems, and the American Automobile Manufacturers Association, as well as a variety of professions, the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy and the Nevada Alliance for the Arts. In addition, his firm provided executive management and consulting services to a variety of professional organizations and non-profit groups.

Hillerby has twelve years of non-profit association, arts management and member organization experience, with extensive experience in all aspects of non-profit management, including program development, fundraising, membership recruiting and retention, board relations, financial management, governance and public relations. He has lectured at the Univer-



sity of Nevada Reno and been a panelist/speaker for the American Planning Association, Nevada Arts Council and other groups.

The new Director of DMLA is a former OPERA American Fellow, has served as Development Director and Interim General Director of Nevada Opera, and been a frequent with Nevada Opera for 15 seasons. He has also performed with the Reno Philharmonic, Reno Chamber Orchestra and the Concert Choir of the University of Nevada Reno, of which he is a graduate.

"I am very honored by this opportunity," Hillerby says. "Our Department has a great deal to offer, and plays an important role within State Government and to the citizens of Nevada. We are the repository of our State's ancient and living history, its

thoughts, words and ideas, and a major catalyst for the arts and humanities."

"Nevadans benefit from our programs when they visit one of our institutions, attend one of the many performances or events produced by private non-profit groups supported by our grants programs, or visit an historic building that was saved with our help. The hard work and dedication of the Department's employees help ensure that Nevadans have access to our past, to varied and high quality arts and humanities programs, and to educational opportunities that enrich the lives of our young people. As we enter a new Millennium, the importance of our cultural resources has never been clearer and we will be ready to meet the needs of Nevada's growing population and diverse tourism base," he adds.

Hillerby is committed to education programs that benefit students, as well as enhancing the visibility of the many DMLA programs and institutions. He places great emphasis on making more people aware of DMLA programs and increasing attendance at State museums.

"Our history CD-ROM, literacy programs, services to the blind and physically handicapped and state reference functions are all essential services. When coupled with our exhibits, research and services to constituents, our Department can be a flagship in State government. We know the importance of our programs and services, and need to spread that information to more of our citizens and visitors."

NEVADA STATE LIBRARY
AND ARCHIVES

Views of the Past

Benton's Livery Stable was located on the northeast corner of Carson and Third Streets in Carson City. J.M. "Doc" Benton in the spring of 1864 came across the plains to Nevada. He engaged in mining and milling until 1867 when he entered the livery and stable business. Benton also was the proprietor of the stage line running between Carson and Lake Tahoe. The photograph to the right shows Doc Benton seated in his buggy at the livery stable around 1895.



Coming Events

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM

Jan. 25: Mary Lee Fulkerson on *Weavers of Tradition and Beauty: Basketmakers of the Great Basin*. Mary Lee Fulkerson is the author of a book on Native American basketmakers of Nevada, and will present a talk on her research and the artists she has worked with, many of whom are included in the *Handed Down: Nevada's Living Folk Arts* exhibit currently in the Museum's Changing Gallery.

Feb. 22: Doug Groves on *From Hide to Hackamore: Rawhide Braiding Techniques and Traditions*. Doug Groves is a working buckaroo, the cowboss on the TS Ranch near Battle Mountain, and one of the finest makers of rawhide horse gear in the state. His presentation will show how rawhide is prepared and worked step-by-step, and will include tales from Nevada's distinctive buckaroo tradition of ranching.

These programs are part of the Museum's Frances Humphrey evening lecture series held on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. There is no charge for the programs. The Loftin Park entrance on the north side of the museum complex will be used for all programs. For more information call 687-4810, ext. 239.

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

Jan. 12: Shirley Burman, *Women in American Railroad: An Overview*.

Feb. 9: To Be Announced.

Programs at the Nevada State Railroad Museum are held in the Interpretive Center at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, and are sponsored by the Friends of the Museum. Admission is free. For more information phone (775) 687-6953.

NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jan. 21: *Annual Mid-Winter Gala* starts at 5:30 p.m. New exhibit opening in Changing Gallery, *Nevada Wide: Panoramic Photography in the Silver State*. Further information can be had at (775) 688-1190.

The Docent File

By PEG COURTNEY

Docent Council Publicity Chairman

The Docent Council of the Nevada State Museum was in for a real treat October 6, 1999. Instead of our regular meeting in the museum, we went to Markleeville, CA to visit the Alpine County Museum. We were met by their two volunteers (that's right, only two). *Editor's note: They were Dick Edwards, Director, and Ellen Martin, Museum Assistant.* Dick Edwards spoke to us about the founding of the museum. We were then divided into two groups and the gentleman took our group into the jail while the other group was taken to the one-room school house by the lady volunteer. We then switched positions. Both told interesting stories in each location. After touring the museum we gathered in the back room and had a short meeting conducted by Jane Snider, our Vice Chairman.

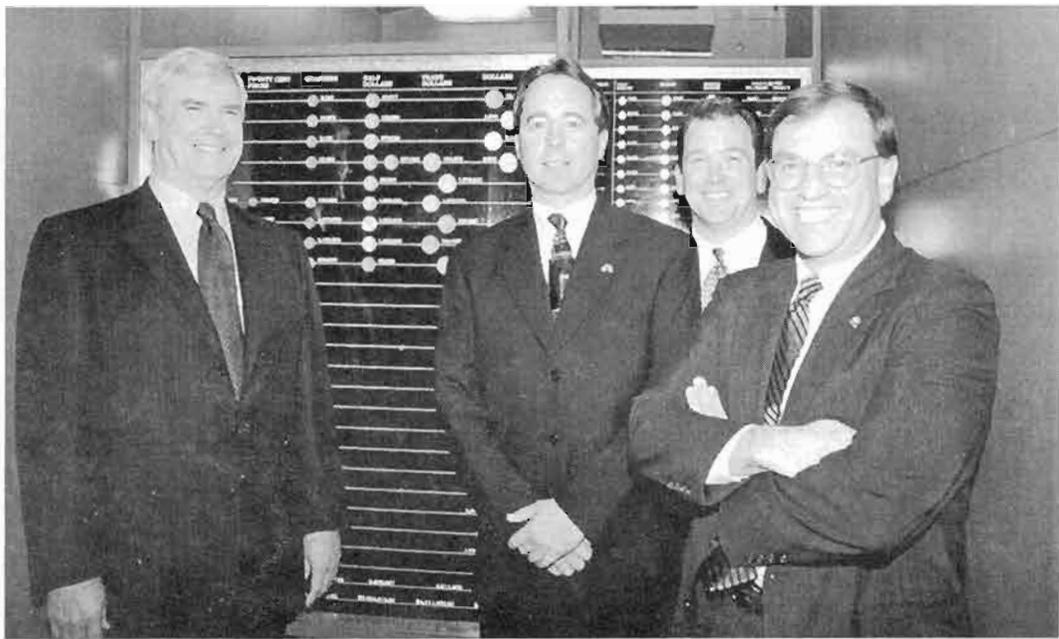
In November we held our monthly meeting in the Bird Gallery and our speaker was Doug Mishler, the new Administrator of the Division of Museums and History. He spoke to us about the changes being made in the museum and what we can look forward to in the future.

Nevada History Gallery Opening

The Nevada Historical Society will start off the millennium by opening its newly remodeled Wilbur Shepperson Gallery at the Annual Mid-Winter Gala on Friday, January 21, at 5:30 p.m. There will also be a new exhibit opening in the Changing Gallery, *Nevada Wide: Panoramic Photography in the Silver State*, with photography by early Nevada pioneers Carleton Watkins, Charles Gallagher, E. W. Smith, and Al Smith.

These birdseye views include photography of Reno, Las Vegas, Goldfield, Tonopah, Elko, and surrounding mining camps beginning in the early part of the 20th century when the panoramic process was used in claim locating and in the promoting of mining camps. Everyone is welcome and there is no admission fee.

Left to right are
Kenny Guinn, Governor of Nevada;
Greg Titus, Vice President of Government Services, Wells Fargo;
Bill Ferguson, President, Wells Fargo Greater Nevada;
and Kirk Clausen, Executive Vice President of Northern Nevada Region for Wells Fargo.
 —Photo by Scott Klette, NSM Photographer



Museum's CC Coins **Wells Fargo Donates Collection to State**

After almost thirteen years of negotiations, the Norman Biltz CC minted coin collection finally belongs to the State of Nevada. The collection which has been on loan to the Nevada State Museum since its debut as part of the Museum's 50th anniversary celebration in May of 1989, was formally presented to Governor Kenny Guinn on December 8th by Wells Fargo Bank as part of its festivities to celebrate Wells Fargo's merger with Norwest Bank. Bank officials were delivered to the Museum in a Wells Fargo stagecoach drawn by a team of four horses where Kirk Clausen, Regional Bank Manager made the presentation to the Governor. He introduced other bank officials including Greg Titus, Executive VP in charge of government relations who was instrumental in making the donation to the state occur.

The collection first came to the attention of the Museum staff in 1986 when a long time friend of the Museum and avid coin collector, Howard Herz, told several staff members about its existence. Because of its extreme significance to this Museum which was formerly a U.S. branch mint between 1869 and 1893, staff determined that it would be a tremendous draw for tourists along with Coin Press No. 1 which was already on display. Plans were drawn up to display the collection in an old mint vault opposite the press itself. A loan was eventually arranged that enabled the Museum to put the collection on display just in time to coincide with its 50th anniversary in May of 1989.

At the time the collection was brought to the attention of the Museum, it belonged to First Interstate Bank of Nevada and was housed in a vault in its main office in Reno. It had been purchased by FIB's predecessor, First National Bank from Norman Biltz, a Reno businessman, who had assembled it over the years and sold it to the bank to keep the collection intact. Mr. Biltz actually had a tie to the Museum having served on its Board of Directors from June 1947 to May of 1948. Subsequently, First Interstate Bank merged with Norwest Bank which recently

merged with Wells Fargo Bank and thus the collection has passed from the ownership of one bank to another.

The collection itself is now valued at over \$400,000 and consists of 109 of 111 coins produced by the Carson City Branch Mint. The collection lacks only an 1873 dime without arrows and an 1873 quarter without arrows. Only one of these dimes is known to exist today. It is in a private collection and valued at \$550,000. There are four known quarters, each worth \$150,000. The rarest coin in the collection is an 1876 20-cent piece which is one of 10 to 12 coins known to exist: each valued at about \$60,000. — NSM Staff



Arrival for the ceremony was by Wells Fargo Stagecoach. Here Governor Kenny Guinn was introducing Kirk Clausen, Executive Vice President, Northern Nevada Region, Wells Fargo who presented the Museum's coin collection to the State of Nevada.
 —Photo by NSM Photographer Scott Klette



Slot machines take over at Harolds Club in Reno in 1960.—Photo collection of Nevada Historical Society

Big Deals From Three Reels

By D. E. SOUTHERLAND
NSM Director of Exhibits

This is the title of our exhibit which opened December 27, 1999 in the old Assembly Chambers at the Nevada State Capitol. The exhibit was the brain child of Guy Rocha, Assistant Administrator for Nevada State Archives and Records who gained the support of the Carson City Millennium Committee and former DMLA director Dale Erquiaga. The exhibit is the hundred year anniversary of the traditional three reel slot machine and features thirty antique slot machines from the collection of Frank and Marshall Fey's Liberty Belle Saloon and Restaurant in Reno. Funding for the project came from Carson City's seven leading casinos and from Bally's corporation. The exhibit will only run through January and February of the year 2000, so please plan to see it and take part in Carson City's Millennium Celebration.

Now, as a small teaser I will give you the opening text in its entirety . . .

The free-wheeling gambling atmosphere of old San Francisco in the 1890's set the stage for the birth of the *three reel bell slot machine*, and within a decade a ready market developed throughout the world. Although the slots destiny rose and fell with the changing moods of the nation, reform movements constantly

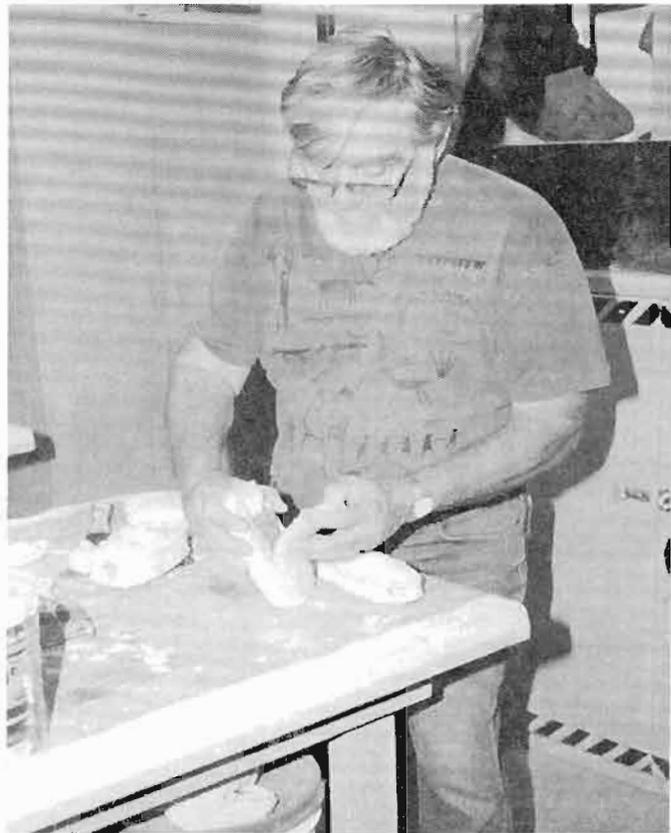
caused the industry to introduce innovations circumventing the law.

The Roaring Twenties brought the notorious speakeasys, a logical home for the ubiquitous slots, while the Depression years of the 1930's saw record productions and the most beautiful and brilliant machines ever designed. The Golden Age of slots ended in 1950 with the passing of far-reaching federal legislation confining their use.

But, the growth of *Nevada Casinos* and recently Atlantic City and other areas resulted in a huge demand for multiple coin, high denomination machines, with microprocessor circuitry and TV video graphics. The alluring slot machine has thus been a part of America's culture throughout the twentieth century.

Trade Dollars

First coined July 22, 1873. Minted 4,500. Carson City was the first mint on West Coast to make them. Minted to keep American traders in the Orient from paying an extra price for Mexican dollars, the medium used in trading circles. Last year for trade dollars was 1887.



Larry Tanner molding Camelops bones.
 —Photo by George Baumgardner, NSM Staff

A Fond Farewell

By D. E. SOUTHERLAND
 NSM Director of Exhibits

The evening air was warm and the sunset beautiful as over forty friends gathered together at the historic Gold Hill Hotel to wish Larry Tanner a fond farewell and happy retirement. The assembled masses drank and toasted Larry for an hour or two, before sitting down to a fine dinner.

Following dinner Larry was given a proper roasting by many of the attendees, but none could beat Maggie Brown's story about a massive order to a local druggist for water soluble lubricant required for Larry's mammoth casting job. Larry responded by having his self image puppet talk as only Larry can do. This was the final day of a very talented man's eleven year career with the Nevada State Museum.

Over the years Larry developed many wonderful and interesting elements within our exhibits program. The sculpting and modeling of the Eusthenopteron in our Devonian Sea and the molding and casting of the entire Wallman Mammoth (largest in the world) are among Larry's better known accomplishments here at NSM.

However, Larry's fine work can be seen in almost every exhibit we built over the past eleven years. The mannequins seen in *Beyond Gum San* and *Handed Down* are Larry's creations. The reproduction benches in the Mint Theater, every piece of case furniture and silkscreen text seen throughout the museum and State Capitol are all Larry's creations. He has been gone a little over two months now and is sorely missed by myself and the exhibit staff. I hope all of our readers will join with the rest of us in wishing Larry a happy retirement and a fond farewell.

Nevada's Inaugural Gowns



One of the most popular First Ladies' gowns was that of the state's current First Lady, Dema Guinn. In the photo below she was caught by the camera of George Baumgardner looking at her exquisite gown. The event opened on November 17 and is open at the State Library building until the end of February when it will go south to Las Vegas.



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Regular — \$25.00

Regular and all of the following categories receive Historical Society Quarterly, NSM Newsletter, 15% Museum Store discounts, free admission to all Division of Museums and History facilities statewide, invitations to previews, receptions and other NSM events.

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HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS will be awarded to individuals or organizations that have made substantial contributions to the department or one of its agencies.

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NSM NEWSLETTER

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www.clan.lib.nv.us/docs/dmla/newsletters/mus.htm



Partial Ammonite with 12-inch ruler in the center.

Nevada Minerals ...

Monster 'Snails' & Rocks That Glow

By DOROTHY NYLEN
Exhibit Preparator II

The Museum received visits and contributions of two very different kinds this fall. The first was from long-time friend of NSM, Dr. Larry Walters, formerly with the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Reno. Larry is spending his retirement exploring Nevada's vast rocky expanses looking for mineral treasures. He drops by a number of times each year to show off his latest finds. This latest drop-by resulted in the donation of the fossil remains of three Mesozoic ammonites, coiled snail-like creatures measuring over a foot in diameter. Ammonites are the most widely distributed and abundant invertebrate fossil marine animals of the dinosaur era. They were a favorite food of some large sea reptiles. Like the dinosaurs, ammonites faced extinction at the end of the era. Dr. Walters found these fossils weathering out with other ancient beach debris in the Shoshone Range, south of Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park in central Nevada. These are the largest specimens of this type received by this museum. NSM may loan some of this material to the state park for exhibit.

The second visit involved the donation of time and expertise. Bruce Naylor, Bob Trimmingham, and Al Robb of California and Scott Kleine of Reno, all mineral specialists representing the Fluorescent Minerals Society of America spent two days with museum staff. Using special multi-wave length lights they examined all collections in storage—in the dark of course! They also evaluated exhibits. The California men have traveled far and wide to examine collections and inspect museum exhibits of fluorescent minerals. Their goal is to help museums improve the quality of their exhibits of these exotic rocks to expand public awareness and appreciation of them. As a result of this visit NSM hopes sometime in the future to upgrade its exhibit utilizing their recommendations. Some of the "plainest" looking rocks can fluoresce magnificently! Some flashy crystals also lead a rather exciting double life which can be exposed to the human eye with the aid of darkness and special wave-length lighting.

How does one find fluorescent minerals? These guys do explore the landscape in the dark with their battery powered lights. (Please remember that abandoned mines can be extremely dangerous and should be avoided. For information about mines please contact the Nevada Division of Minerals office in Carson City (775) 687-5050).

Frozen in Silver Life of Frontier Photography

Books in the Museum Store are also available by phone or mail from the Nevada State Museum, 600 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701. Visa, MasterCard, Discover and Am Ex are accepted in telephone orders at (775) 687-3810. Postage and handling is \$2.00 for each book ordered. Membership discount of 15% applies.

Reviewed by MARION VOGLER
Nevada State Museum Docent

FROZEN IN SILVER The Life and Frontier Photography of P. E. Larson by Ronald T. Bailey

This informative and very readable book documents not only the life and times of photographer P. E. Larson (1863-1941) but of gold prospecting and of the mining communities in which he lived and invested until 1909.

The scope of Larson's life's work is vast. In the Introduction, Bailey stresses the importance of Larson's life as more than photographer. "He was a husband and father. He was also at various times a store clerk, a railway mechanic, a mining speculator, a miner, a farmer and hotel operator, a game warden, a street laborer, a real estate salesman, a hardware store owner, and a grocer." These multiple occupations intertwined throughout his life and give us an expanded understanding of what frontier daily business was like.

What Larson has left to us in photography chronicles personal, social, and economic life on the frontier of North America. He moved his photography studio from Minnesota to California to British Columbia. Then, facing the hardships of great financial losses, along with so many others, he joined the Great Stampede to the Klondike. He recorded the struggles and accomplishments of the people necessary to the thriving communities of Dawson and the Klondike Mining District. The hard-edged images of endless lines of men and women ascending the torturous and ice-covered Chilkoot Pass verify the endurance and determination of those hoping for gold and a new life.

From the Klondike, Larson settled in Nevada where his camera captured on film the desert mining towns of Goldfield and Rawhide.

Larson's last years were lived out with his family in Oregon and California. His work as photographer of the North American Frontier was largely forgotten — his camera, prints, journals, and letters stored away in trunks. After the death of her mother, Larson's daughter, Adeliene, realized the value of these materials and, with the help of her sister and brother, worked tirelessly to place them within collections where they would be cared for, exhibited, and studied.

FROZEN IN SILVER succeeds on many levels. It is jam-packed with historical and cultural information verified through photos beautifully coordinated to text and adds a wealth of information to our knowledge and understanding of early mining communities.

The sixteen pages of scholarly Notes are as interesting as

Next Newsletter Deadline

The next deadline for the *Nevada State Museum Newsletter* will be Wednesday, February 2, for the March/April issue. Mailing will be made for delivery by February 29. Please address all communications to Newsletter, Nevada State Museum, 600 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701.

the main text. The Bibliography of published and unpublished materials is extensive and the Index thorough.

287 pages

\$24.95



THE BASQUE TABLE A Cookbook by Mary Alustiza

A unique and beautifully designed cookbook provides a visual feast as well as a culinary one. Mary Alustiza has created a jewel of a book with each facet complementing another. Her prose sparkles with vivacity.

Above all, we are given access to the Alustiza Family Recipes "as they were prepared at the Restaurant, at the Sheep Camp, and of course in our home." The recipes are presented in categories of food with each section exquisitely interspersed with quaint, colored illustrations of antique porcelain or silver or drawings of places or people pertinent to the food preparation discussed.

Sections begin with some "Thoughts" or "Notes" explaining the history and use of that particular food with guidelines as to any initial preparation necessary before it is cooked. Interesting and amusing stories often accompany the recipes.

Part I of this book discusses Basque lore, customs, and vignettes. Mary Alustiza responds to the questions "Who are the Basques?" and "What is Basque Cuisine?" She describes how people from the Pyrenees Mountains in the Basque Country of Spain and France made their lives in the American West. The illustrations throughout are charming.

The Addenda includes helpful miscellaneous cooking notes, data tables, glossary, and recipe index. The cookbook remains flat on the table when opened for easy reading while cooking.

Even if you do not cook, this book will be a joy to take down from the shelf and leaf through from time to time. It contains all the ingredients that have brought people together at a table where meals have been thoughtfully prepared and lovingly served in years past and in years to come.

May Alustiza's personal inscription on the first page wishes us *Buen Provecho!*

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