Project: 'Memories of Seven Lochs' Communities: A

people's history'.

Respondent: Joyce Burns Year of Birth: 1958

Age: 65

Connection to project: Born in Cardowan

Date of Interview: 22/06/2023 Interviewer: Dr Sue Morrison

Recording Agreement: Information & Consent: Photographic Images:

Length of Interview: 36.00

Location of Interview: Cardowan Community Hall Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics)





Time	Description	Transcribed
(from:		Extract
mins/secs)		(from- to:
		mins/secs)
00.40	Respondent confirms she was born in Cardowan.	
	I spent two years in Norway later, and then I came back again.	00.54-00.56
00.57	Why did you go to Norway?	
	I was an au pair over there. Yes, it was wonderful.	00.59
01.09	What are your earliest memories?	
	My earliest memories are, I can remember way back when we were kids	01.10-02.28
	and the farmland was up running round about us. And we used to get	
	bothered with mice, that was probably one of my earliest memories.	
	When they started harvesting and the mice obviously were looking for	
	somewhere to go and they came into their houses with us being across	
	the road, we were inundated with them. Terrible memories of the mice.	
	Used to get up in the morning and the bed would be full of mice dirt and	
	they would have to get the beds shook out every morning and then the	
	next morning it would be the same. So, unbeknownst to us, when we	
	were sleeping, thank God, the mice were everywhere. So we weren't	
	aware of it until we got up in the morning. We used to open the bunker,	
	we used to have with pantry and the bunker in the kitchen, and every	
	time we went in for a shovel of coal, they would just run up the walls and	
	there would be as many as 40 at the one time because the woman down	
	the stairs, her husband got nipped, they had a cat, so obviously the cat	
	was helping to chase them up the way, but I think everyone had the	
	same problem. It wasn't just the ones direct across the road. I think it	
	was an ongoing problem for many years.	
02.31	So how did you store your food?	

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	Sometimes it was hanging in wee bags, you know, like bread, and things would be hanging in a bag on a string just to stop them. But we never	02.32-03.05
	really had much food to hang up because everything was eaten mostly on	
	that one day. That's how I always say the Mother's Pride loaf, I always	
	knew there was 12 slice in it because there was six of us. And we always	
	got one in the morning and one at night and then that was it until we	
	bought it at the shop the next day. We never had, it wasn't like today,	
	where you've got food stored. We never had that, you know?	
03.02	So you did your shopping daily? Where did you shop?	
	It would have been just the local shop across the road, like a wee Co-op	03.12-03.38
	was there and we would just go over there and get some vegetables, or	
	when we worked in the farms a wee bit later on for me when we were	
	kept off for the October week and we lived on mostly potatoes. It was,	
	we had them all ways, but it was good and it was a staple so we were	
	used to that as well.	
03.39	So did the kids go tattie picking?	
	Yes, I did, and my sister, my older sister did as well. But it was great. It	03.40-04.05
	was great fun, you know, and at night time after it, when we were	
	finished, we used to get sent back out to what they used to say, crow the	
	park (?) we would get out and get all the wee bullets and the other wee	
	potatoes that was no use to the farmer, so we would get them and we	
	would be eating them as well in between.	
04.08	What did you do for fun?	
	We had plenty of fun. We used to go down to the old brickwork, you	04.09-05.09
	know, that was down near the pit, and we used to play in the fields a lot.	
	That was our playground, you know, and we had swamps and that round	
	about as we used to go in they days you would collect birds' eggs and	
	things, and if you were lucky you would be able to get a couple of eggs	
	that you could put in the pan when we were coming home, my aunt used	
	to be sent down and she used to go to the nests and take duck eggs and	
	things, you know, but that was for home, you know, that was to help to	
	feed them at home. But that was just the way of life for most people	
	then, you know, it was I men for me it was at the early stage of life, as I	
	say, food was scarce, you know, money was scarce, so you just had to do	
	what you could bring in and if you were out getting eggs and duck eggs	
	and that, they used to put them into the pan rather than to keep the	
05.40	eggs. That was just one of the things that we done. It was great fun.	
05.10	Did anybody go rabbiting?	
	Yes, myxomatosis had been introduced, I think, when I was young, and all	05.11-05.30
	the rabbits had died and they were all gone by that time but I know	
	before that, that that was something that people did. They lived off the	
	land more, you know.	
05.31	Did people tend to grow their own?	

	Yes, we had a garden that my mother and father, they tended our back	05.34-05.43
	garden and they had lots of cabbage, turnips, potatoes and things in	
	there. Carrots. It was great. It was great fun, you know.	
05.44-05.45	So you were kept in food during most of the summer. What about the	
	winter?	
	The winter, I think the winter was always, it was harder. We used to, if	05.58-07.56
	there was cans, you know, any like tins of things. But mostly it was	
	homemade soup, you know, it was always from, you know, anything, any	
	rations that we could get and we would eat like soup and bread,	
	potatoes, you know, I don't ever I was older before I knew how to cook,	
	you know, like a roast beef and things. When I used to when I was older	
	and married even, I would go and if I was buying anything at the	
	butcher's, I used to ask them, you know, "what is it you do with this?	
	How do you cook this?" I had never seen that before, never had seen a	
	roast beef in my life, you know, until I was later up in years. So that just	
	shows you how the difference was when we were kids. I know that on	
	Christmas we used to get a chicken, Mum used to have a chicken for	
	Christmas dinner and with there being six of us, there was like somebody	
	got luckily enough, got the breast, the legs and what was left was	
	scattered out. And we used to think that was wonderful, you know, I had	
	never seen a turkey being cooked until I was way up in years. We just	
	never had that. So when I think back to all the different foods that we	
	had, you could have put it in one basket, you know, we never knew	
	about, even my sister, when people say about trout and about smoked	
	haddock and things, we never knew what that was. We definitely didn't,	
	we never Some of my mum's nephews would go fishing and I used to	
	watch them, cleaning them out in the sink and things and fascinated	
	because even at that age, I was probably about 10, 11, and I had never	
	seen anything like that before, so that was all new to me. But I think the	
	vitamins and that that we got was probably from the sun and from the	
	bits of veg and things that we could get. But even fruit was scarce, you	
07.50	know, we never got a lot of fruit either. So I'm making up for it now.	
07.58	Did you go berry picking?	
	Yes, we did. When we went out during the day, if we went out in the	07.59-08.32
	morning to play, we would go out in the fields and pick up all these	
	different leaves and things that you could the wee soories, we called	
	them, we would eat them and we would go down the back roads and we	
	would get the berries. We would pick raspberries and brambles and	
	everything. So we would probably forage all day. We would be eating out	
	all day. So then when we came home that was we would come in and	
	we would have maybe a plate of veg soup and a slice of bread. That was	
	it, you know.	
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08.33	How else did your family try to economise?	
08.33	How else did your family try to economise? I think it was difficult because my dad, he was a drinker, my dad, for most	08.35-09.36

	everything was scarce, you know, because the alcohol played a big part in	
	life. So we just had to Usually borrowing from one week to the other.	
	We had the askit man (?) used to come round and we used to get sent	
	out with a wee note. Or we would maybe go to our mum's friend or	
	something fae the church and she would give us a note to say could she	
	borrow a pound or whatever, and that would get us our bread and soup	
	or whatever for that day. But we kind of lived like that from day-to-day,	
	and that was just the way that it was. Never knew it any other way, you	
	know? So that was I think, borrowing a lot in they days and living on	
	tick was the big thing. That was the way it was for us.	
09.39	Would you tell me about your family?	
	Yes, my mother was She was brought up down at Annan, down at	09.40-13.07
	_ ,	09.40-13.07
	Gretna. They lived on a farm down there for a while and her father, he	
	ended up being a drinker. So when they had the farm, everything was	
	really, it was good. And then of course, every week or every fortnight	
	there would be another pig would go, you know, chickens would go.	
	Things would just And he would be selling them, you know, for	
	obviously to fund his habit and they eventually had to sell up and they	
	lost the farm and they came up to Maryhill. So my mum spent a lot of her	
	years in Maryhill, went to school and all that there. And she went to the	
	Naafi and that is where she met my dad. My dad was born just outside	
	Cardowan in the tenement houses down at Stepps. It is just over the back	
	fence from the fields in Cardowan. And they moved to Cardowan, I think	
	my father was about maybe six when they moved in, they were one of	
	the first families to move in there. My dad's family, they had twelve	
	children in the family and they used to live in a one bedroom apartment	
	in the flat down at Stepps Hill and there was only one of them was born	
	in Cardowan. So they were all in that one flat. And my dad used to say	
	they used to have a cheek to bring the cousins at the weekend because	
	they stayed down at Millerston just about a mile down the road. There is	
	a We used to call it a castle, but it's just a wee fortress, you know, and it	
	is still there. And his mum's sister, she was renting that, so she lived there	
	for a while. So the two cousins would come up and we would go into the	
	flat with them for the weekend. And the oldest daughter would be the	
	one who babysat and they would go down and maybe have a drink and	
	we get together and a sing song. And then they moved into Cardowan	
	when the houses were just built in Cardowan, so the Andersons were one	
	of the first families to move in there. My dad, he ended up, he went into	
	the service, you know, the army and that's where he met my mum in the	
	Naafi. He would be in for a drink and she would be serving behind the	
	bar. So that's how they met. And then they got married and then they	
	got a house in Cardowan quite quickly. And that is where my sister, she is	
	two years older than me, so she was born just before they got the house	
	and I was born in the house. And then I've got two younger brothers who	
	were also born here in Cardowan. And we've lived here all my days. I	
	went to Norway for a couple of years and worked and then I came home.	

said have you got some spare milk or salt or whatever"? And they would always say to you, "don't ever bring the salt back", you know. You could bring anything or deliver it back, but you could never deliver back the salt, you know, it was bad luck. But it was good because in they days we never really locked doors. People didn't do that. There was never that need to feel afraid, to be in your house at night and have your door opened. I don't remember our doors ever being looked much, and it was	
nice. It was a nice environment to live in and everyone was quite proud of their gardens and I think that because they needed to be growing vegetables and things, so everybody tended to look after what they had. And it was really nice. It was a nice environment and everyone was friendly. They were all loving people, you know, kind and I wish it was like that today, you know.	
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because they're nurseries and then school and then so forth. But I think in they days, people did have the time, you know, and the energies. And it was nice. And people, you know, I had friends who had rabbits and they would mate one rabbit with my rabbit and we would, you know, and you would sell them sometimes for maybe one and six and it would be pocket money, you know, and it was good because we had the farm across the road. So I used to go up and ask the farmer, "is it alright if I get some hay?" For the rabbits. And he would say, "yeah, just you go and help yourself" and I would have a wee bag, or you know, a wee box and fill it up with the hay, you know. And it was great. And we used to go up and feed the chickens and we would go up to the farm to pick up some potatoes and that is where we would buy eggs and potatoes from the farm. So it was nice. I wish I could turn the clock back on that, you know, I wish we had the way it was then, today, you know, because I think today people are so busy with working and it's just a different life that people live now that it's more a kind of they go on the train, they go to work, they come home, they go in, they have locked their doors, the kids are in, you know, and it's all computers and all these things today. So the kids are not getting to be outdoors as much. And I think that was the thing for us, it was the outdoor. As soon as we were up in the morning, you know, we were up, bit of toast and that, outside and we were out there, my mum used to say "make sure you are in when the street lights go on". That was it, you know. And we would be eating and grazing all day, you know, we wouldn't have to go home for lunch or anything because that wasn't a thing then, you know, nobody even said lunch. They would just say "I'm starving, I need to go home and get something to eat". Yeah, we never went hungry because there was always someone who had crab apples or somebody would have a pear tree. And we learned quickly how to get in and out of walls and climb and do all this thing. But not many people bothered, you know, you would get the old man, maybe somebody, they would come out shouting at you, you know. And it was a shame too, because we used to say, well, they're all lying on the ground and nobody is eating them, so we are starving, so why can't we? Many a night we went to bed with a really sore belly, you know, because we had eaten maybe three or four crab apples. And they were good at the time because they were juicy, quenched your thirst, filled you up, but at night time it was a nightmare. You'd be lying there crying, thinking, oh, my belly is sore, you know. But it was a good time at the time.

18.21 Did you go swimming anywhere?

The only swimming baths that we had available was in Kirkintilloch and most of the time we would just walk, we would walk to Kirkintilloch and just walk and go in and get the swimming and then come out and get a hot chocolate and walk back. I mean it was a fair trek for us but over the fields and that we would go and we would be happy we didn't know any better because we didn't, you know, nobody would have said oh "there is bus fare and there is money" because there was no money. You know,

18.23-19.03

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	you were lucky if you could get to the swimming. I think it was thrupence	
	or something when we were going. So if you had that and enough for a	
	hot chocolate, you were happy.	
19.04	Did you go to the local lochs?	
	Yes, all the time. We were always doing things like pond dipping, we	19.05-20.21
	would go in at Hogganfield Loch they had the boat when I was young,	
	so my dad, he would take us out on the rowing boats and then they had	
	the family boat that went round the loch. And when you were a kid, I	
	mean Hogganfield Loch is like a mile radius, you know? And when you're	
	a kid you think you were on that boat forever. You know, you are hanging	
	over the side and you are having such a wonderful time and when I look	
	-	
	back and think, my god, we were just round, you know, that small space.	
	But when you're a kid you think that is, you know, you think you've been	
	on the boat forever. And it was great because then you would learn	
	about the swans and about the mute swans and the hoopers, and you	
	would learn about all sorts of different things, you know? And some of	
	the boys used to always try and go on the island because that is where	
	most of the nests were. But things are different today that people don't	
	do that anymore. You know, the only reason I would go for eggs now is if	
	I was starving, you know, if my kids were hungry. But I mean, people	
	don't do that. That's something that we've learned. But that's just a sign	
	of the times, you know, because years ago that was a thing. That was	
	how to survive. And it was good.	
20.22	Did you have any particular pastimes during the winter?	
	Yes, we used to crochet and knit. My mum learned us from a young age.	20.27-21.24
	My mum was a beautiful knitter and I think like that again, it is a	
	generational thing. Every woman, I think everywhere either sewed or	
	knitted or crocheted or you know, they would darn socks or all these	
	things and my mother learned us how to do all that. So that was a good	
	pastime for me. And my mum used to make these toilet roll holders, you	
	know with the dresses on, all these things. And she would make the	
	dresses out of foam and put glitter on them and sequins and they were	
	absolutely beautiful. And she used to send them down and they would	
	sell them down in the church sales. So we were all very hands on, you	
	know? I don't think there was many hours in the day where we weren't	
	doing something that we were learning. You know, my mother was very	
	good that way.	
21.25-21.32	So even though you were very poor, you still, your family still made things	
	to sell for charity?	
	Yes, because we used to go, I mean the Briggait has always been there in	21.37-25.39
	Glasgow, down at the Barras and has been there for many, many years	
	before I came. And my mother would maybe go down there, same as my	
	aunties, they would go there and they would maybe get jumpers or even	
	if we had a jumper that maybe had worn out, they would unpick the	
	stitching and then you would be holding it like this and they would be,	
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you know, ripping it out and making new balls of wool. So the wool would be therefore made into blankets, for the kids, for prams, babies and stuff. And nothing was wasted, you know, nothing was wasted. I remember there was a time, and I tell some of the grandkids this, I mean, they're absolutely shocked. I went to school... In they days too our neighbours and I think it was genuinely, for most families we had neighbours and they had two daughters that was just older than my sister and I. So when they had clothes that was too small for them, they would pass them onto us and that was another thing that we done. We had got a brown jumper. And in they days, it was... It is not right to say that anymore. It was the colour of it, you know. It was a dark brown jumper. And the sleeves had, they had been a bit worn, but of course when I was wearing it to school there became a hole in it. So one of the boys in school was laughing at me and I had went home and I was in tears and I was saying to my mum "I am not wearing that jumper again, it's got a hole in it" and she said, "oh that's fine", she said "I'll see what I can do". So she sent me to the shop to see if they could give me the thread the same name as the jumper. And they didn't have it. And I was just thanking god for that, you know, thinking I didn't want it to get sewed. So when I got up in the morning, she said to me, "you have got a nice new tank top". She had cut the sleeves off it! And I had to wear that tank top to school. And I was absolutely... I remember being about nine and affronted and thinking, Oh my God, you know, what is this all about? And I was crying and I said "I don't want to wear it". And she went, "it is a nice new tank top". She said "you put that on to school". And I did. When I spoke to my granddaughter about that, who is 16, and I was telling her about this and she was absolutely flabbergasted. And she went, "why?" And I said because there wasn't anything else. It was cold. It was either do without or do with. And I had to do with, so I had to wear it as a tank top. And I mean my sister and I laugh about that, you know, because she will say "oh that was just terrible", she said. "I was glad it didn't fit me", you know. But there you go. Hey ho. It is what it is. And my mum didn't have the money to go out and just buy us clothes. So we relied on other people's and I dare say some of the things that we had when they were still decent enough, they were just passed on to younger cousins or you know, other neighbours that had people that were small coming up. And I don't think anyone ever got the brown tank top. I don't know what happened to that, you know? But that was just part of life. But that's how we survived, you know. Other than that, when we got older, it was like Provident cheques, you know, it was into the sort of system for your school uniforms when they started to introduce the uniforms and you had to wear them. But we survived. We absolutely survived. I still go to charity shops, so it is in... You know, it is just within me, you know, and I have bought many things for my kids, but they have never known that they have came from charity shops, you know? I have just said "I got you a new top today, I got you this today". And they say, "oh that's lovely",

	but they don't ask questions. Now they know where it comes from, but if	
	they like it, they just say thank you and they're happy with it, you know?	
	So I'm living that same trail.	
25,40	Did anything change when you were a teenager?	
	When I was a teenager I wanted to go into nursing when I left school	25.45-34.29
	and I had went for an interview and I had been accepted. But in that time	
	you went into the nurses stations, you know, they were in the hospital	
	grounds and I think they were still wearing the capes in that time. So I	
	was so excited about that and the wages, I think within about 8 pound,	
	just over 8 pound a week and I thought that was wonderful. But when I	
	came home and I told my mum and dad about this and I said I have been	
	accepted in and my dad said "there is no way". He said "you are going	
	out for a job, we need money in here", you know, because my sister was	
	the same. I was 16 when I left school, but June was only about 14 when	
	she left. She was younger. And she went to work right away. And she had	
	to go into cooking. It was a bank in Glasgow that my mum had got She	
	had got June the job, so she went in there and I don't think she liked it.	
	But it was a case of you just have to. It is a job, and you have to do it. But	
	I was broken hearted that I was never able to do that job in the nursing. I	
	just had to come out and I was I remember I went round Glasgow	
	because I was told "get up in the morning, get out and get a job and don't	
	come home until you've got a job". And I was up and down every street	
	in Glasgow, in and out of every restaurant, every shop, everywhere. And I	
	went into this shop and of course you know what it is like seeing today	
	when all the kids are coming out of school and that, there is not enough	
	jobs for everybody. So it is very difficult. So I remember on Sauchiehall St,	
	I went into a shop and of course, right away, "of course you can start,	
	when can you start", you know? I was so happy. And it was a charity	
	shop. It was unpaid! And I remember coming home and I was saying to	
	mum and dad about this job and they were saying "That is a charity	
	shop", you know, it was like Oxfam or something. And they're saying	
	"you don't get paid for working in there". And I thought, oh, I was so	
	excited, I had got the job right away. I thought that was me set for life,	
	you know? So I had to go back and say to them, "I'm sorry, you know, it	
	was a paid job", but the woman in the shop was laughing. She said "that's	
	alright". So I started in Littlewoods and it was the lingerie and I hated it	
	with a passion. I just hated it because in they days, nothing was hanging	
	on rails. It was all in sealed polythene bags and they were all stacked up	
	on the big long counters. And of course you got everybody coming in and	
	they're taking him out the bag and "oh, I don't like that", and "that's not	
	right". And then of course they're all scattered and you have to go round	
	and keep folding and bagging them up all again. And I just felt this is just	
	not for me. I hate this. So I went to the manager and I said to her "I can't	
	do that. I think it's doing something to my head. It is making me feel as if	
	I'm not even concentrating anymore". So she said "would you like to go	
	into the cafeteria?" And I said I will try it. So I went to the cafeteria and I	

worked there and I loved it because you are busy, busy and we were used to doing things in the house anyway, like clearing up, washing the stairs, washing dishes, whatever. And I loved that. And then I was getting £17 in there a week, which was excellent. And then I went into the Black and White, the whisky bond here. I had applied and I got started and it was great because it was £19 a week. So I was getting an extra £2 a week and I didn't have to pay bus fares, it was just at the bottom of the hill. So I worked in there for about 6.5 years and then I went to Norway. I had family in Norway, so that was one of the reasons it was easier for me to go there, so I worked there for two years. And I loved it. And then my mum and dad were not having a great time. Mum was going through the change of life and my dad with his drinking and things, and things were just coming to a head and she had wrote to me and said "you are going to have to come home". So I came home and I am still home. But I met my husband, who I had known from school, from high school, and then we got married and we had our family. And so I am here and that is the reason why I'm here. But I have worked in nursing homes and I've worked in hospitals and all that, and I think that is where my heart was. And it was a pity that I never got to go down that road when I was younger, you know? But that is life. I think that was life and I'm sure I wasn't alone because in they days it was a case of soon as you are out the school, you just go and work. My father's older sister, who was the oldest of the 12 of them, she was brought out of the school when she was, I think she was 12. And my Gran had wrote to the authorities and asked that she should be able to come out of school because she wasn't coping with all the kids and needed help in the house. But when she came home, it was a job that they had got for her and it was down in laundry, the Laundry Lane just down the road. It is only about half a mile from here. And she started, came out of the school one day and she was in there the next day. And she was over the sinks, the big tubs washing like hospital sheets and the hospital uniforms and whatever from there. And she was only 12. And do you know, they had to actually get an orange box and turn it upside down and put it at the sink for her. And that's where she got her first job. For her to stand on, yes, she was too small for the sinks, but she had to do that because my Gran was just needing the money in the house. My dad, he used to say to me about when they were growing up, because there were so many of them and you can imagine, you know, these kids all sitting round about the floor because obviously they never had the seats for them, you know, so they would be around the floor and my dad said they had a table in the living room, the big round table with the chairs, and my granda used to come in from work and my granny would put down a bit of butter in a wee dish. And an onion, a raw onion. And one of these loves, you know, the ones that you cut yourself. So she would put that on the table and that was his dinner. So he would sit, and my dad said that they used to all sit and watch him and he would cut a slice of bread and he would cut a bit of

onion and that would be it. He would eat it with his mug of tea and then he would maybe take another bit and maybe even another bit. And my dad said that they used to be sitting there and I said, "but what were you thinking?" And he said "we used to just sit and think for god's sake, is he not going to leave anything? because they were all starving. So it was only when my grandfather got up from the table, what was left they would all get a share of that, you know? But it was hard times. It was hard times. My grandfather worked in the Parkhead Forge and then he had another job. He used to come off He worked the night shift and he used to come off there and in the morning my dad was late for school every single day because he had to wait for my grandfather coming in and he used to give him his boots and my grandfather, you know, being a man, and my father only being like eight or nine years of age, but he had to wear they boots to school because you weren't allowed in unless you had footwear. So he used to have to go down to school with those boots on and he was late every day. But that is how My mum used to sing a song, Barefoot Days, you know how at the New Year, and that ill the family would get together and everybody would all take their turn of playing the bagpipes or the flute or whatever, and they would sing. And that was my mother's song. The Road to Dundee and Barefoot Days. And it was very true, because that's when they came from school. My grandfather would go with the boots back to work and my dad, they would just run about barefooted, you know, it was just another way of survival. I mean you think today the difference and that, you know, you couldn't even imagine. Of course, the kids today wouldon't even go out to empty a bin for you without their Nike trainers on. You know, it's crazy. But they had a hard life financially growing up. What is your happiest memory? My happiest memory, I think, is when my mum used to take She used to break into the gas meter every year and she would be comin			
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	was great. A wee roll of streamers out the bus window and that is what	
	we done. And they are my happy memories and I love them. I wish I	
	could go back to it.	
36.00	Thank you very much Joyce.	
	You are welcome. Thank you.	36.01









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