



# THE BULLETIN

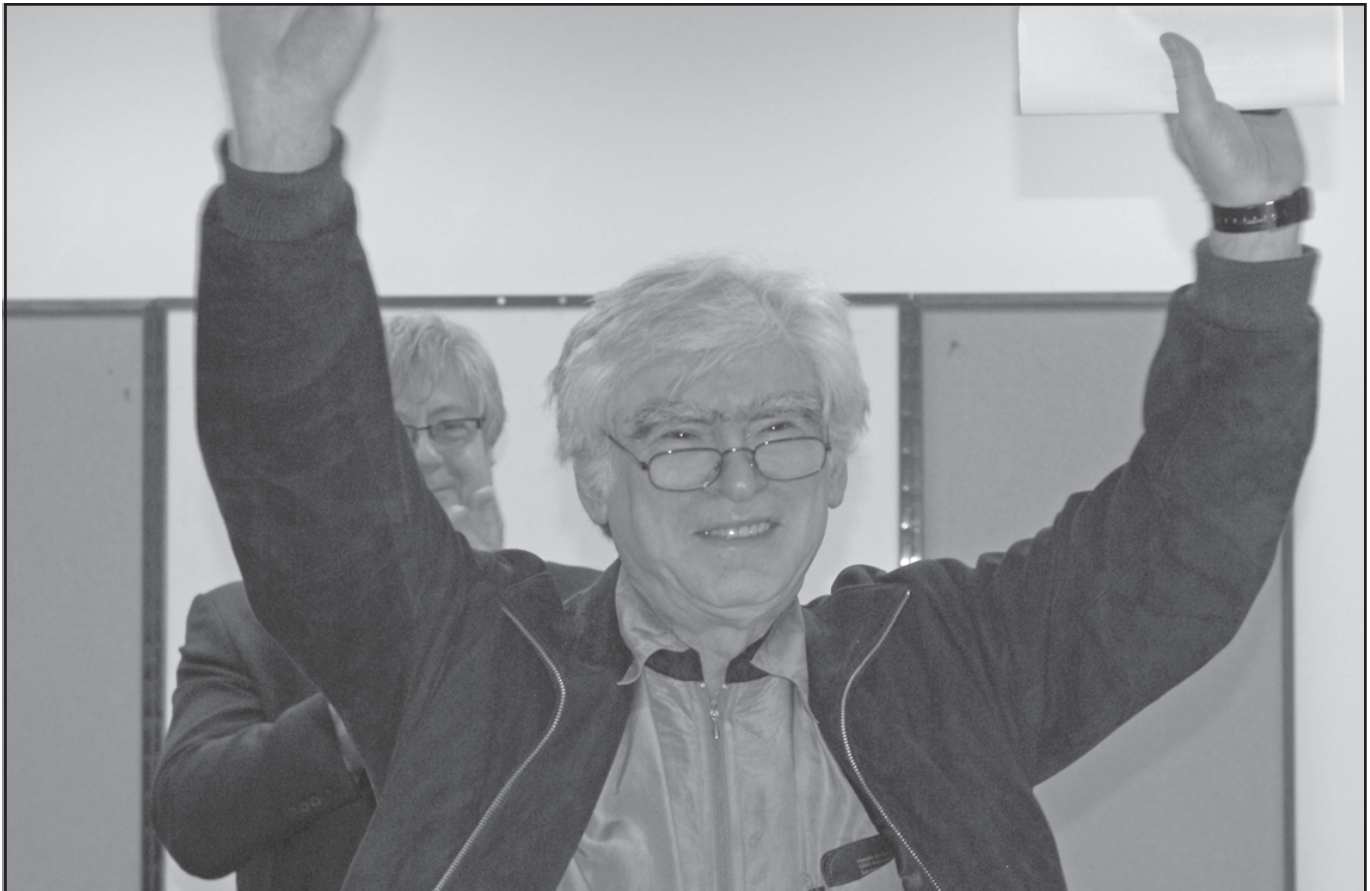
HOLLYWOOD  
CALIFORNIA

CHARTERED  
MAY 15, 1939

LOCAL 728 STUDIO ELECTRICAL LIGHTING TECHNICIANS  
THE ONLY SET LIGHTING IATSE LOCAL IN THE WORLD

VOL. 17; No. 2  
FEBRUARY 2007

## One Amazing Journey



### Russian Immigrant Yasha Sklansky Receives IATSE's Highest Honor

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on Your Executive Board  
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# Important Meetings This Year

by *Dennis K. Grow,  
President*



We will be having some very important General Membership meetings this year that you should know about.

At the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting we will decide whether we should relocate our Local office. You received a mailing from the Executive Board explaining the pros and cons of moving or remodeling our present building. The cards you returned with your comments will be considered at this meeting. But the members who attend will make the decision. So if you feel strongly either way, please attend and voice your opinion.

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee has been working tirelessly to make necessary revisions to our Constitution and By-Laws. The most important change is the creation of a new elected officer, Secretary-Treasurer. Our elected salaried officers will be Business Representative and Secretary-Treasurer. We will have two appointed salaried positions, Call Steward and Safety & Training Director. The revisions have been sent to the International for their blessing. When we receive their endorsement, we will mail the revisions to you. These changes to our Constitution and By-Laws will then be voted on at the May 12<sup>th</sup> Membership meeting.

For the first time, so I have been told, we will have a budget for our Local. This will let you know how your money is being spent. I have been pushing our Ways and

Means Committee to put together a budget for the year 2008. I am hoping that we can present it to you at the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting for your approval.

The September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting is for nominations of the officers of our Local. This will include the new Secretary-Treasurer. We will also start taking applications for the Call Steward position. Salaries and job descriptions for both these positions will be published in the Bulletin before this meeting.

We traditionally discuss our dues structure at the last meeting of the year. We will do this at the Nov. 10 meeting.

There are only six Membership meetings a year. I encourage you to try to attend these meetings. I know it takes a lot to give up a Saturday morning. I am going to do my best, through correct parliamentary procedure, to keep these meeting on track and as short in length as possible. I also promise that every member's viewpoint will be respectfully heard. This is your Local and the elected officers need your input on what you we can do for you. Through this Bulletin, I will try to keep you informed of the agenda of upcoming meetings. I hope to see at the next meeting.

Fraternally,

## ON THE COVER

At the General Membership Meeting on January 13, the Local celebrated veteran member Yasha Sklanksy who received the I.A.T.S.E. Gold Card, the International's highest honor. Yasha delivered an emotional address at the meeting that included outgoing Executive Board members (who also were honored for their service), newly installed board members, and a large contingent of members. We interviewed Yasha who detailed his career in Russia and eventual immigration to the United States. His story can be found on Page 5.

I.A.T.S.E.  
LOCAL 728  
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

### PRESIDENT

DENNIS K. GROW

### VICE PRESIDENT

RAYMOND POBLICK

### BUSINESS REP-SECRETARY

PATRIC J. ABARAVICH

### TREASURER-CALL STEWARD

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### EXECUTIVE BOARD

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SHONA CRICKET PETERS

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### THE BULLETIN

#### PUBLISHER

MARGIE STITES,

PACIFIC MEDIA GROUP

#### EDITOR

DENNIS K. GROW

## UNION SPOTLIGHT

### DECEASED

**BROTHER ALBERT ANGUS CLARK**, 85 YEARS OLD, PASSED AWAY ON DEC. 11, 2006. HE HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE UNION SINCE APRIL 8, 1946.

**BROTHER WILLIAM E. STAFFORD**, 78 YEARS OLD, PASSED AWAY ON FEB. 11, 2007. HE HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE UNION SINCE MARCH 11, 1967.

**BROTHER DENNIS MARKS**, 71 YEARS OLD, PASSED AWAY FEB. 24, 2007. HE HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE UNION SINCE DEC. 12, 1960.

### NEW APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

#### FIRST NOTICE:

ANDREW CLARKE, CASEY COLES, KEITH DUNKERLEY, DAVID SHEETZ AND CHRISTOPHER WEBBER.

#### SECOND NOTICE:

KEVIN ARAGON, RICHARD S. BENCE, ROBERT DRISKELL, JR., ERIC N. FORAND, DIEGO A. NEGRETE AND ARMANDO SALAS.

### NEW MEMBERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS: CHRIS QUEZADA, SWORN IN ON JAN. 19, 2007; MARK J. MULLENS, SWORN IN ON FEB. 2, 2007.

### MEETING NOTICE

THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD

**SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2007**  
AT IATSE LOCAL 44, 1201 RIVERSIDE DR., NORTH HOLLYWOOD, 9:00 A.M. (SHARP). ALL MEMBERS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. PLEASE BRING YOUR UNION CARD.

### CONTACT NUMBERS

818-891-0728

1-800-551-2158

FAX: 818-891-5288

WWW.IATSE728.ORG

# Robbing Us Blind

by *Patric J. Abaravich*,  
*Business Representative -Secretary*



What would our government do if a mass of criminals broke into every Wal-Mart across America and stole the equivalent of \$100 million worth of merchandise? There is no doubt an army would be sent out to protect the nation's largest retailer.

Somehow, our government must think differently of the television and film industry. Every day thousands, if not millions, is pirated out of our healthcare and IAP pockets. And our esteemed elected officials have failed to respond to our plight.

Although it's widely known that China is one of the biggest offenders of pirated film and television productions, we are now discovering that Russia supersedes them many times over.

Why is this such an important issue? Of the billions of dollars that gets pirated each year from the studios, approximately \$100 million of that money is our residual percentage that goes directly to our health plan. With the increasing costs of medical and prescription drug coverage, losing \$100 million a year from our plans is a serious loss for us and our families. Additionally, if all of this 'lost' money found its way back into our health plan, that plan would then have a surplus and the excess monies would revert to our Individual Account Plans (IAP).

Why aren't politicians protecting our

intellectual property? It's time for us to speak out and for all of us to contact our representatives to demand action. You can also expect more from your Local on this issue in the near future. This is just the tip of the iceberg and we must join forces as a unified Local in reaching out to the powers-that-be to stop this theft.

### Call for Action

Please be aware that more and more non-traditional productions (i.e., Mobisodes, commercials, and television episodes) are being shot in and around the Los Angeles area for cell phones, the Internet, iPods and other electronic and wireless hand-held devices.

Even the traditional union commercial production companies have been shooting these non-traditional productions as non-union, with little resistance from crew members.

With the commercial contract expiring in September, the new negotiations are right around the corner. I would like all members who find themselves working on these types of media, to please call me at the office. Even if it is only rumored that its a non-union, non-traditional commercial.

We need to stay in front of this, instead of later playing catch-up with this fast-moving technology. This is just another instance where we are losing our fair share of money that should be going to our health, pension and IAP plans.

It's your money, but I need your help to protect it.

## You Need

Is a change of address in our future? This subject and other important union issues will be discussed at the March 10th General Membership Meeting. Please plan on attending. For location address and more information, see the 'UNION SPOTLIGHT' column on this page.

# New Faces, Voices on Your E-Board

*We sat down with two newly elected board members to discover what motivated them to serve, and what drives them off the set*

**T**hirty-year member Greg Langham admits he had “never been to a meeting in my life.” But when he was anonymously nominated for a board seat, he was inspired to take on the challenge.

“It was the right time. I was encouraged by some of the present e-board members and some close friends in the Local,” he explained. “It was time to serve the members.”

As a proud member but one who had never been actively involved, Langham says he wants to represent the 2,000 members who don’t go to the meetings. “I truly believe that our executive board takes care of matters and they do keep the membership informed. But, my goal is to be a voice for those who don’t get involved.”

The native Californian is a third-generation Local 728 member. Both his father and grandfather worked in the industry. Moreover, Greg’s son, Shaun, has followed in the family footsteps, making him a fourth-generation member.

Greg joined the Local in 1976 at the age of 24, and said that it really didn’t take him long to get his union card. His three-decade career has been “pretty evenly balanced between feature films, television and commercial work.” Currently, he is the Rigging Gaffer Best Boy on the movie, *This Christmas*.

The Canyon Country resident says downtime is spent traveling and motorcycle riding with the entire family, proudly adding that his teenage grandson rides on the pro circuit for Suzuki.

Greg is also a huge NASCAR fan, and said working on the production of *Talladega Nights* with Will Ferrell was one of the best times he had working on a movie.

With his long-standing experience in the industry and a commitment to serve, Greg



*Greg Langham*

adds that he’s excited about the work that lies ahead on the board. “I am really looking forward to serving on the Executive Board for the next three years.”

## *Shona Cricket Peters*

**A** member since 2001, Shona Cricket Peters said that working with a union advocate helped motivate her to become more involved. “When I started at Paramount, working with [former President and now Business Representative] Patric Abaravich made me more aware of the Local,” she pointed out. “You can definitely blame Patric. He got me interested.”

Elected to a one-year term as an alternate, Cricket is looking forward to serving on the board. She’s already volunteered for the Heritage Committee where her cinematography skills will be utilized to videotape stories of senior members.

A native of Connecticut, Cricket came to California at age 18 to attend USC where she later graduated with a MSA in Film Production. Her first job in the industry was a non-union gig as a camera department assistant. “I did that for over

a year but there was so much more to learn,” she recalled. “I bounced back and forth between lighting and camera, and then concentrated on lighting.”

Her passion for both aspects of filming led her to become very involved with a project that helps improve the technical qualities of the local feature film market in Nigeria.

Joining a close friend, Cricket shot an independent political action film in the country. “I wore many hats; cinematographer, lighting . . . you name it. Everyone there was great, but it’s amazing that the crew is basically working without any tools or equipment – not even gloves. I felt very spoiled when I was working there and discovered all the things they were missing.”

Because cable is too expensive and the country lacks broadcast towers, hundreds of movies are shot in Nigeria each year.



*Shona Cricket Peters*

“But it’s a DVD-based industry – everything goes straight to DVD, and it’s hugely popular form of entertainment.”

While she went to Nigeria to help raise the level of film production, her goal at home is just as important. “My hope is to learn more about the union and to be an asset where I can.”

# One Amazing Journey: Russian Immigrant Yasha Sklansky Receives IATSE's Highest Honor

**B**orn in 1929, Yasha Sklansky began his film career after graduating from a prestigious Russian movie school with a Director of Photography 'diploma'.

"I was *sent* to work at the second largest studio in Russia," the proud immigrant recalled. "I did one picture as an assistant cameraman then moved to second cameraman."

In that country, the Director of Photography operates the camera, and the second cameraman works with the

gaffer and helps with lighting, he explained.

"I was working for many years as a second cameraman before I became a DP." But when that chance came, Yasha embraced it. In 1969, he worked a massive feature film production that included 1,000 extras.

"It was a big budget movie. When it was completed, we presented it to the studio community and they thought it was great. Then, they presented to the Russian government ... who shelved it for 15 years."

For many personal and professional reasons, Yasha, his wife Berta and their 16 year-old son fled Russia in 1974. Their first stop was Des Moines, Iowa, before they made their home in Kansas City. In 1977, they moved to Los Angeles.

"I found a studio directory and that's how I got work," he noted. Although his goal was to be a cameraman, he started working with famed director Robert Altman who eventually got him into the union on the lighting side. In 1978, he became a member of Local 728. (He is also a member of Local 600.)

Over the course of his career, such television notables as *Remington Steele*, *St. Elsewhere* and *Falcon Crest* have been added to his resume. Moreover, Yasha remembers the people who helped him.

"Dave Lee, who was a gaffer before



he became the head of the CBS Electrical Department, knew my English was very poor. He learned a few Russian words so we could communicate better. I thought that was so nice of him."

Yasha said it was people like Altman and Lee who solidified his decision to leave Russia. "My feeling is being a DP in Russia, I was never treated as well as I was here just being an electrician on the crew. In the United States, I was treated with so much respect."

Respect, and finally, recognition. His big Russian feature was finally released in 1986. One year later, it won the Russian State Award, the highest honor, equivalent to an Oscar. The movie eventually made its way to the U.S. where it was hailed by *The New York Times*. But the movie lacked one vital name: Because Yasha had emigrated, there was no DP named in the credits.

But that didn't stop Yasha from being featured in several American articles on how the film was photographed. Nor did it stop the enterprising professional from sharing

*Continued on Page 8*



*In an emotional address to the general membership on January 13, Yasha Sklansky thanked the many friends who helped him throughout his career.*

# As Technology Changes, Local Expands Training Courses

by Alan M. Rowe,  
*Safety & Training Director*



We have a new schedule of classes starting this month. We will be expanding our course offerings to include advanced classes in Vectorworks, DMX Networking, and Control Consoles. New classes will include a course on Ethernet for the Set Lighting Technician and two new re-formatted classes in electrical theory and practice. You should receive a mailing detailing all of the courses we have to offer.

One place where our members can immediately benefit from training is with Lighting Balloons. We have been issuing permits as Balloon Techs when none of our trained members have been available. These lights are very popular and require specialized skills in rigging, operating, and wrapping. Take the class and get the job so we can stop issuing permits and we can keep our members working.

Lighting technology is constantly changing and with the recent trends in certification and safety, it is very important to participate in continuing education to keep your skills sharp and increase your value on set. The more you know, the

more you work. One of our classes coming up in March is the Plotting/Visualization/Archive class. This class focuses on using computers to make ourselves more efficient on set. While this class is the pre-requisite for the Vectorworks course, we will cover using spreadsheets and memos as well as lighting plots and drawings.

The Safety Passport Class "V" has started and eight of our members have signed up as instructors. This four-hour class focuses on Electrical Safety and is filled with lots on knowledge that you may or may not know. Whether you have been in 20 years or 20 hours there is something you can learn in this class.

Much of our equipment contains materials that are toxic. Lately our industry has been getting a lot of negative press about how damaging we are to the environment. It is very important that we dispose of batteries, fluorescent tubes, and HMI globes properly. All of the major studios have Hazardous Waste

Disposal programs as well as most of the rental shops. If your show has no way to safely dispose of these items you can find locations and schedules of the City of Los Angeles' S.A.F.E. Hazardous Materials Collections Centers at: [http://www.lacity.org/san/solid\\_resources/special/hhw/safe\\_centers/index.htm](http://www.lacity.org/san/solid_resources/special/hhw/safe_centers/index.htm) The centers will accept both household and limited quantities of commercial hazardous waste.

If you have email, please sign up for the Training Notification mailing list by sending an email to: [728Training-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:728Training-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). This mailing list is used to notify our members of upcoming training opportunities and schedules. Find out what is going on first by signing up for this mailing list.



## SUSPENDED/DROPPED MEMBERS FIRST QUARTER 2007

*List current as of February 27, 2007*

### **SUSPENDED**

BERARDI, PHILIP N.  
BOUZA, DAVID  
CASLIN, FRANK C.  
CONKLIN, RUSSELL L.  
CUFFEE, PAUL  
ESQUILIN, WILLIAM  
FRANCHETT, TOM  
GEARY, PHILIP  
GOLDEN, JACK EDWARD  
HERNANDEZ, RICHARD H.  
HINKLE, BRADLEY  
HOOD, ALBERT A.

JOHNSON, VAN  
JONES, KELLY J.  
JORDAN, MICHAEL R.  
KANESHIRO, ALAN  
MC HUGH, DENNIS  
MC MAHON, DAN P.  
MC NEAL, THOMAS  
NYIRENDA, NGOLI V.  
PONDELLA, DAVID G.  
ROBERTSON,  
CHRISTOPHER D.  
SHAIN, NOAH B.

VALENTI, JORDAN  
WILLIS, ERIC

### **DROPPED**

ANDERSON, DONALD R.  
BISHOP, SOFIA  
CARLSON, BILL  
COHEN, MARC  
FEINBERG, ADAM R.  
KAISER, DAVID  
MC EWEN, JAMES MARK

# Training Raffle

t e s t   y o u r   k n o w l e d g e

## This Month's Question:

Which of the following are the BEST reasons for using an opto-splitter in a DMX network?

1. Increases the number of channels available to the console
  2. Electrically isolates the branches of the network
  3. Prevents reflection when splitting the signal
  4. Allows multiple devices to control the system
- a. 1 and 2   b. 2 and 3   c. 3 and 4   d. 1 and 4

## The Prize!



Compact DMX signal and cable diagnostic tool

- Checks DMX512 signal and 5-pin data cables.
- Nine diagnostic indicator LEDs.
- Bright, white LED flashlight built in.
- Leather carrying pouch included.
- Small, lightweight, brushed aluminum finish.

*To enter, please send a standard size postcard with your name and answer to Local 728 (14629 Nordhoff St., Panorama City, CA 91402). Entries must be received by April 13, 2007. The winner will be drawn at the April Executive Board meeting. Contest is limited to IATSE Local 728 Members in good standing. Members can win only one prize in any 12 consecutive-month period.*

## The Envelope, please ...

Congratulations to member **Adam Peabody** who correctly answered the January raffle and won the Wind Speed Monitor.

The question was:

*Which of the following is the LARGEST diffusion frame that can be attached to a JLG 1200SJP in an 11MPH wind while at full extension?*

- A. 20 x 20
- B. 12 x 12
- C. 8 x 8
- D. 6 x 6

The correct answer was C.

## TRAINING CLASSES

- MARCH 24**  
PLOTTING/VISUALIZATION/  
ARCHIVE  
VECTORWORKS SPOTLIGHT II
- MARCH 31**  
MEDIA SERVERS
- APRIL 14**  
DMX NETWORKING/DIMMING  
TECHNOLOGY
- APRIL 21**  
RIGGING I  
VECTORWORKS SPOTLIGHT I
- APRIL 28**  
ADVANCED DMX (MORNING  
SESSION)  
ETHERNET NETWORKING  
(AFTERNOON SESSION)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SAFETY & TRAINING  
DIRECTOR ALAN M. ROWE AT 818-843-0012 OR VIA EMAIL AT  
[safetyandtraining@iatse728.org](mailto:safetyandtraining@iatse728.org)

# Sklansky recalls journey, receives IATSE Gold Card

Continued from Page 5

it with actor/director Penny Marshall.

"I was working on her movie, *The Awakening* and I gave her a videotape of my movie. Several months later when she began production on another film in New York, she called me to ask if I would work on the movie as a visual consultant," he explained. "In the credits she put 'Special Thanks to Yasha Sklansky.'"

While that was a proud moment for the filmmaker, there is no doubt that the day he became a U.S. citizen is the highlight of his life.

"We were with 10,000 people gathered together for the ceremony at Dodger Stadium," he recalled. "It was very moving. We all recited the Pledge of Allegiance together and there was this huge American flag draped over the field. I, my wife and my son all became U.S. citizens on the same day. It was really a beautiful day. I knew I went from hell – living in Russia – to heaven."

In January, Yasha was honored by Local members when he received the International's highest honor: The

I.A.T.S.E. Gold Card. In a moving and emotional speech at the General Membership Meeting, Yasha detailed his

journey and thanked all those who have helped him throughout his career in the United States.



*On January 13, Local 728 President Dennis K. Grow presented Yasha Sklansky with the I.A.T.S.E. Gold Card - the union's highest honor.*

## — CALL STEWARD — INFORMATION

Any Local 728 member representing the producer in filling calls or needing assistance, should contact the Local office during normal business hours. The Local's normal operating hours are 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you need to hire prior to 8:00 a.m., after 6:00 p.m. or over the weekend, please phone the Call Steward at 818-438-0728.

Members seeking weekend work should call the Steward at the Local on Friday to put your name on the Weekend Availability List.

Anyone who hires off roster or hires any member who is not current with their dues without first calling the Call Steward, shall have charges filed against them and shall be subject to the assessments levied by the Trial Board if found guilty.

Our present contract work week consists of any five (5) consecutive days out of seven (7) consecutive days.

## STUDIO ELECTRICAL LIGHTING TECHNICIANS

I.A.T.S.E. LOCAL 728  
14629 NORDHOFF STREET  
PANORAMA CITY, CA 91402



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