February 2007 SEISCIPES SEISCIPES

Take Control

Millionaire Kids

By Elliot Jennings

I have received several requests over the last month for information on an article I printed last year. Here it is updated:

A while back, a brother in 44 and I were discussing the future of Social "Security", and how our kids (if not ourselves), may not have any benefits at retirement. He mentioned that his oldest daughter was twelve. I informed him that if he could afford a thousand dollars a year for the next three years, his daughter could retire with a million dollars! No, I'm not suffering from heatstroke! I'm simply using the law of compound interest and time.

Here's how it goes:

At age 13, open an IRA for your child. Yes, it's possible; I opened one for my youngest, a paid singer, when he was

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Setscapes Signator

By CeCe Pleasents

With over thirty years of experience as a landscape contractor, Setscapes owner and President Johnathin Schaab knows the plant business. Setscapes Inc., a newly signatory plant rental house located on the South side of Los Angeles is a one-stop shop for on-set greens. "We do indoor and outdoor, water features, indoor pottery plants, silks, all of it." said Schaab "We have acres of plant material so we're able to handle large projects as well as the smaller ones."

Schaab began his career as a landscape contractor in Oregon, and was a member of I.A.T.S.E. Local 488 when Kevin Costner's The Postman came to town. Schaab's landscaping knowledge was unique in the area,



(L to R) Charles Ryker, Gerard Dery, Jr. and Johnathin Schaab

and he was able to fulfill the needs of the production. For Schaab, the rest was history, "I just jumped in and started doing a bunch of
Hallmark movies, movies
of the week, and whatever came into the area, and
then I got lucky and did a
Hallmark movie with
Penny V. Hadfield." It
was Hadfield, a
Production Designer and
Schaab's mentor, who
prompted his move to the
Los Angeles area ten
years ago, where he
became a Local 44
Greensmen.

Today, Setscapes is responsible for the greens on the hit television series "CSI: Miami" and "Las Vegas," among their many other credits. Additionally, the company recently finished work on the upcoming Joel Schumacher film, The Number 23 with

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Lennie Marvin Denise Grisco

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Retiree Outreach

Ed Langdon, and Milt Wilson

NEWSREEL SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for the next Newsreel is: April 2, 2007

Please be sure your contact information is clearly marked.

E-mail: newsreel@local44.org, pbennett@local44.org Fax: 818-769-1739

Mail: Local 44 Attn: Newsreel 12021 Riverside Drive

Business Agent's Report

By Ed Brown



Where are you?

Well if you know, we'd like to know as well. You may ask yourself "what does it matter?" Well here are a few good reasons why it does in fact matter. Local 44 members are spread out not only throughout the Los Angeles area but throughout the state and the country, and in some cases outside the boarders of the United States. We serve as a dispatch, call center and provider of facts and information. When and if an emergency or urgent matter arises whether it's on stage or on location we need to know who if any of our members may be affected so that we can act accordingly. Often times even family members don't know where you are working on any given day, if an emergency occurs and we are searching for our member's whereabouts we can act with better accuracy if we have your location. With many of you traveling to other states for locations when weather disasters occur such as "Katrina" type hurricanes knowing who may be affecting only helps in getting you back home safely. We also track "Working Percentages" of our membership. Knowing where you are helps us to keep accurate statistics on "Working Percentages". This is updated weekly and tells us how many members of each craft are currently working, or not. We can monitor production levels and address ongoing labor issues by having this kind of information documented. As many of you are aware we have been monitoring shows to make sure they are staffed with the proper personnel. By notifying the callboard of where you are we can attempt to maintain show staffing rundowns.

New Media & Non-Traditional Formats

We have clearly entered into a new generation of broadcasting, with the production of "Non-Traditional Format" programming, the terms Broadband, Streaming, Mobisode, Webisode, and most likely a few more by the time you read this. Signal the reshaping of an industry that continues a metamorphosis with each new generation.

We have started to see the production of these types of Non-Traditional Formats taking place more and more frequently, and have on occasion found them to be produced with a non-union crew. It is imperative that we stay on top of this. These types of productions are increasing and will not be allowed to slip between the cracks. It is not unreasonable to project that at some point in the future all broadcasting will be internet based via internal hard drives built in to existing televisions and monitors; we must stay ahead of the curve. This is again another reason to call in your jobs. We cannot make an effort to organize these productions if we are not made aware of them. If you are working on a show that has a "Second Unit" or "Splinter Unit" and it looks like they are using an unfamiliar crew contact the office so we can investigate. If you find yourself on one of these types of productions, pick up the phone and let us know. Our business is changing quickly and we cannot live in the today, we must continue to anticipate what tomorrow will bring and how it will affect our work.

Time to participate

Our election is right around the corner. Now is the time to participate and unite. You can only do so by stepping to the plate and exercising your right to vote. Please participate, and vote!

Wishing you all a very prosperous year. It's about you!

Fraternally, Ed Brown



Congratulations to our Brothers and Sisters who were nominated for an Academy Award this year.

Local 44 Members nominated for Achievment In Art Direction

Nancy Haigh, Set Decoration for Dreamgirls

Gretchen Rau* and Leslie E. Rollins, Set Decoration for The Good Shepard

Cheryl A. Carasik, Set Decoration for Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest

Julie Ochipinti, Set Decoration for The Prestige

Local 44 Members nominated for Achievement In Visual Effects:

Allen Hall, Special Effects for Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest

John Frazier, Special Effects for Poseidon

Mark Stetson, Special Effects for Superman Returns

Local 44 proudly salutes all of our Members whose hard work and creativity made these nominations possible.

* Gretchen Rau nominated posthumously

On The Right Track

By Elliot Jennings



Our Union ship is finally moving forward again. From a financial standpoint, this is the best shape our Local has been in a decade.

It's taken a lot of work to get where we are now, but you as a member should know the hemorrhaging has been abated.

This year is now the second year where we had back to back positive income (meaning we spent less than we brought in) since 1997. That money went back into our investments and the benefits we can give back to our members.

This is also the second year in a row, we have had an independent outside auditing firm go over the books. We now have a completely independent auditing firm reviewing our books, one with no allegiance or other connection to any officer of the Local; and they performed their work at 70% the cost of their predecessor.

The Trustees have been proactive and have examined the books quarterly, and have found no problems with the finances. Both groups have given suggestions for improvement to procedures at the Local and most of their recommendations have been implemented.

Because of the budgeting we were able to whether several financial hits to our Local without damaging our bottom line, although it meant substantially higher legal costs than anticipated.

We were able to seed to new funds; a Strike Fund, a fund that I have been personally pushing since I took office in 2004, and a life insurance fund. The latter is for our older Retirees, those in their 80s and 90s. Many of them were never instructed on how to properly retire by previous administrations, and were disqualified (through no fault of there own) from receiving Local 44's internal life insurance. We have corrected this egregious error.

Our collection of delinquent member's

obligation to the Local was apparent in the numbers also. The Local has pursued delinquencies to the point that our collection of outstanding dues and per capita was only half of the year 2005.

Our Executive Board meeting expenses were higher than anticipated and all of the associated costs that go with them, as there were several emergency and special meetings called to handle an unusual year of events.

The craft and general meeting expenses were cut, wages to the staff and officers of the Local came in on budget.

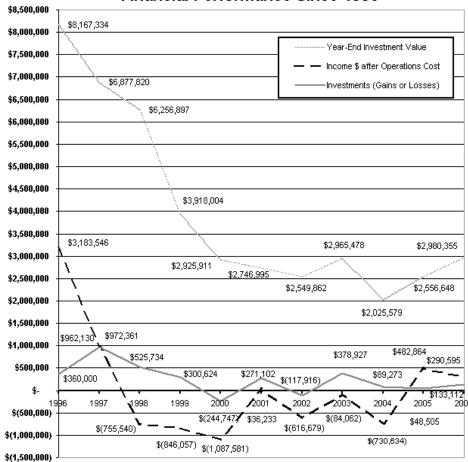
The cost of our merchandise went up slightly, as we took a hard line on buying only Union and/or American-made prod-

We reinstituted the Picnic, and had our first "annual" fishing trip, because we knew we had the money budgeted. We want to be able to give back to all our members in the form of programs, insurance, and protection funds, but it will all happen within a budget.

Personal Musings

While following a discussion on our Local's website bulletin board, I came across some posts about the Academy awards and our member's contributions. As this issue is slated to come out prior to the Oscars, I thought I'd continue the discussion. The thread began with a member expressing some sense of satisfaction with a Designer on his show winning an award:

Financial Performance Since 1996



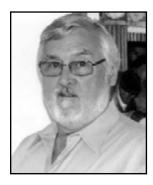
ucts to pass on to our members.

We raised the life insurance coverage for our active members and our newer retirees (post 1991) with little increase, we paid for the expenses of the Local completely on non-initiation income alone! "While I appreciate the fact that you "personally" take pride in the nomination or eventual winning of an Oscar by the Production Designer you worked for, I will say, that I have always felt the below-the-line categories are slighted in these awards.

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President's Message

By Erik Nelson



2007; A New Year for all of us, with changes coming within our Union as well in our State and Nation. 2006 was a year of leveling things within our Local 44 leaving us with a strong, vital and equitable union able to help our varied and versatile membership. We all should be very pleased with how 2006 has ended. Those who are having a hard time finding a job may not feel that way, but I contend that things are better than a year ago.

We have rewritten the election article of the Constitution and have an Election Committee now in place to handle the election that is now started with the first phase of getting petitions signed. We have the first half of the Constitution vetted by the International and soon will be in your hands to vote to bring that part of the Constitution into the 21st Century.

I believe that even with the many changes to the membership of Executive Board since the last election we have the strongest and most workable Board that I have witnessed since I became involved with union government in the 1980's. It has been my great honor to serve as your President even though it was through the resignation of my predecessors. In accord with our Constitution I will not be running for re-election as much as I feel there is more to accomplish and I would like to be part of those changes.

We have a local that is in good financial condition and we have a separate bank account for a Strike Fund – the first one that I know of that Local 44 has ever established. One that could come in handy in a few years if there are labor management problems that cause stoppages in our employment. Our investments have been beneficial to all our membership and we have hopes of finding life insurance policies that can improve that status.

Our relationship with other locals is better than it has been in years so that we can expect help from them just as they can do so from us when there are work or safety problems that affect one or another locals.

As we can be pleased with how our local is running now, we still must be

involved. Only through a united effort can we continue to prosper. Simple things that all members should be doing but often do not are letting the call board know your work status, sending in Deal Memos to the BA so that he can be sure that you are employed according to at least the minimums of the contracts. Go to the Website and voice your opinion on problems that you recognize. Use that Website however you see fit. Check out what the candidates for office are writing.

We need to know how you feel about union activities – the picnic, should there be some sort of awards or less formal annual banquet, how best to use an email alert program to let members know about situations; don't be shy: communicate.

One More Thing: Deal Memos! Hey working guys and gals Deal Memos are more than just another piece of start paperwork. It's your individual contract with the production company hiring you. Each employee owes it to him or herself to understand it. IATSE negotiates a Basic Agreement, or contract, with the Producers that is a minimum wage and conditions agreement. We all know that there are sideletter and low budget agreements that undercut that minimum wage but that is another article. But, even with those lower contracts they only state minimums; you have the right to negotiate better wages or working conditions. Granted that when you are day-playing there usually is not much sense in wasting your energy unless you are a qualified specialist over and above the craft you work in.

On the Deal Memo that you are given to sign you should specify the figures you want from the producer, including any rentals or allowances (see page IV-7 of your Members Kit). Since the paperwork is often given to you by a production assistant or office coordinator before you have an opportunity to negotiate with the UPM or Producer the Deal Memo is where you can start your individual negotiations. If the Producer is not satisfied with your figures then you should get your chance to talk about it.

Often the UPM or Producer will be adamant that the contract with the International is mandatory, but you need to know that it is only a minimum. Only if you put your rate on the memo will the producer understand that you are better for his production than a scale rate employee.

This is just one man's opinion and to get the straight scoop you might talk with your Business Representative.

Be well, all, Erik Nelson



By Jacquie Vivanco

At the February 20, 2007 Coffee Talk held at the Local 44 office, we have arranged for representatives of the Motion Picture and Television Fund to make themselves available for our retired members.

They will be there to explain the programs that are available for your use, and explain any questions you may have about their programs.

So in addition to the relaxed time that Coffee Talk has been known to be, we hope this program is informative and helpful. Please come and bring a retired friend.

Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Propmaster's Reminder!

May 31, 2007 is the deadline to complete the Firearms Safety Class (Course S) with Contract Services' Safety Pass Program.

Classes are currently offered on Tuesday and Friday morning, 7:30 to 11:30 am. In the month of March, classes will be available on two Saturday's.

In order to determine Extension Eligibility go to the CSATF website, where you will find the forms to apply for an extension.

For more information, or to register for Course S, please call 818-502-9932, or go on-line at http://www.csatf.org/safe-ty.shtml

24/7 STUDIO EQUIPMENT DONATES TO THE BENEVOLENT FUND

Local 44 was delighted recently to receive a generous donation to the Benevolent and Retirees Fund from 24/7 Studio Equipment. "It's great for us to be able to give back to the people who give so much to us," said Lance Sorenson, Owner and President of 24/7.

24/7 Studio Equipment was created in January of 2006, and is housed in the facility that once was home to Hollywood Rentals in Burbank. It has quickly become the equipment vendor of choice in the entertainment industry. The company offers a complete line of high reach equipment (black-arm booms, scissor lifts, forklifts, etc.), as well as compressors, generators, light towers, and Mules with trailers. Their inventory consists of over 450 pieces of equipment with a value of \$17 million dollars. All the equipment is new and hand-picked especially for the entertainment industry. In fact, Sorenson made many of his equipment choices based on customer preferences.

What really sets 24/7 Studio Equipment apart is their commitment to the entertainment industry. In fact, 24/7 is currently the only major equipment rental

company that is solely dedicated to the business. "For most companies, 80% to 90% of their revenue is generated by industrial and construction customers. For them, the entertainment business is the icing on the cake," notes Sorenson.



(From L to R) Ed Brown, Lance Sorenson and Elliot Jennings with the 24/7 Donation

"For us, it is the cake."

24/7 Studio Equipment is also the only equipment rental shop that is on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, which helps explain the name of the company. "As

anyone in the industry knows," said Tim Moore, Vice President of Operations, "the ability to respond immediately to our customers' needs can mean the difference between getting 'the shot' or spending hundreds of thousands of dollars for unnecessary downtime."

By aligning itself with Teamsters Local 399, 24/7 Studio Equipment has the distinction of being one of only two union equipment rental shops servicing the entertainment industry. "Unionism is important to us," said Sorenson, "and it's important that all crafts industry-wide know that we are union. We take care of our people."

Sorenson and the 24/7 team are genuinely committed to providing the best equipment and service possible to entertainment professionals, while contributing to the well-being of the industry and its unions.

For more information about 24/7 Studio Equipment, log on to: www.247studioe-quipment.com or call 24/7 Studio Equipment at (818) 840-8247.

Christopher Walkowiak B & R Fundraiser

As many of you may have heard, Brother Christopher Walkowiak was severely injured in an accident while working on the production of "Charlie Wilson's War."

Chris' wife, two kids, and his Father have been with him the entire time while he has been in the hospital. Because of the recovery time Chris will have to endure, Local 44 is receiving donations on Chris' behalf through our Benevolent and Retirement Fund.

If you would like to help the Walkowiak Family, please send your checks to "B & R Fund," c/o Local 44 at 12021 Riverside Drive, North Hollywood Ca, 91607. Please make the check payable to "B & R Fund" and in the memo section of the check print "Walkowiak Family." NO donation is too small.

As donations are collected, the entire amount will be forwarded to the Walkowiak Family. Chris and Local 44 thank you in advance for your help.

Retiree Spotlight: Allan Lotta

By Buffy Morton

With roughly forty years of union membership under his belt, Local 44's construction coordinator Allan Lotta takes the time to share with us his experience in the work world and his adventurous endeavors. Lotta was born February 22, 1929 in the Russian bordering town of Hietaniaki, Finland. Due to the chaos of the WWII on Finland, Lotta evacuated his home town, relocated to the city of Hanko, and withdrew from school at age fifteen to join the army. When the war ceased in September of 1944, he completed his high school education while ushering at the local movie theater. When Lotta reached the age of nineteen, he moved to Helsinki, where he pursued his musical talents in a Dance Band, and made a living as a banker. Lotta's employer found him to be a commodity to the banking industry due to his ability to speak five languages. Lotta's desire to see the world surfaced in 1955 when he sparked an interest in migrating across the Atlantic. After obtaining his Visa and securing employment with the treasury department of a Toronto bank, Lotta made his way to Canada. Lotta's passion for music followed him to Toronto. It was there he joined the Musician's Union and began playing saxophone for a Finnish club band. Lotta was content with banking until approached by a friend in the construction business who encouraged him to learn the trade of window glazing. In a short period of time, Lotta discovered he had a real knack for construction, and soon became a sub-contractor of a glazing business.

In 1962, after constant persuasion from a friend to head south, Lotta made the decision to explore a new beginning in the Los Angeles area. He sold his glazing business in its entirety, disposed of his belongings, and purchased a Ford Essol for his road trip with his pregnant wife and two small children. Upon his arrival to the Los Angeles area, Lotta settled into an apartment in North Hollywood, and sought employment at a local Encino bank. By April of 1964, he had purchased a home in the Van Nuys area and joined Local 1913 as a carpenter. His first Union project was the construction of the Doheny Towers in West Hollywood. Lotta enjoyed carpentry however due to lack of available work, Lotta choose to try his luck in the studios as a permit for Local 44. He filled out an application at Warner Brothers and began

working right away in the prop shop on the film "Camelot." Lotta also had the pleasure of working at Paramount with mentor and industry great Gordon Kirschbaum. Kirschbaum acknowledged Lotta's talents and designated him as gang boss. Within one year, Allan became a card one Propmaker working on such films as "Hogan's Heroes," "Mod Squad," "Guns of Will Sonnett," "Rookies," "Starsky and Hutch," Love Boat," and "Charlie's Angels."

arrival and painting of the air craft for the WWII air field. The two of them had worked together for twenty memorable years. Lotta expressed," I admired Jan, she had an eye like a hawk." In 1983, the pair scouted for a location to film the feature "Grandview USA." They ventured to Pontiac, Illinois where they located a baseball field in which they would turn into a demolition derby track. In regards to the film "Foxfire," with John Denver and Jessica Tandy, Lotta



(From L to R) Allan Lotta with Art Director Jan Scott

Through persistence and hard work, Lotta managed to work his way up the rungs of the classification ladder. In 1978, Lotta obtained his Coordinator card and by 1985 had his general contractors license in hand. As a Coordinator, he preformed his skills on the sets of "Hollywood Beat," "Cruel Doubt," "Fantasy Island," "Buffalo Bill," "Hotel," "Dynasty," and so on. One of Lotta's favorite films to work on was "Rich and Famous." He was responsible for the interior replication of the Algonquin Hotel in New York. Lotta saw to it that a budget was created for the 16ft tall beautiful structure, and that it would be designed to include huge windows, staircases, and a real brick layer floor. For the mini series "The Fitzgeralds and Kennedys," Lotta had the opportunity to work along side long time friend, Production Designer, Jan Scott. Together the duo developed a budget for the film construction, and organized the

saw to it that silk flowers were tied on the apple trees to portray a spring like feel to the Hector Nations burial scene.

After investing twenty seven years in the Motion Picture Industry, Allan Lotta at age sixty five, decided to lay his career at rest. Since retirement, he occupies his time building projects, attending Local 44 retiree functions, bowling, traveling, and keeping busy. Lotta asserts, "I'm always happy when I'm busy!" Not only was Lotta fortunate enough to have lead a life that most only dream of, he was also blessed with four wonderful children, fantastic health, an exceptional personality, and a Prime Time Emmy Award. As a result of following his father's brilliant advice, "Always keep your eyes and ears open and your mouth shut," Lotta has managed to get through life on top.

Remembering Albert Ellis

On January 25, 2007, eighty-seven-yearold brother, Albert Ellis passed on. He leaves his wife Irene of sixty-one years and his three beloved children with his cherished memory. Ellis was born February 21, 1919 in the small town of Wiley, Colorado.

With 55 years of Union membership behind him, Ellis will be long remembered for his exceptional propmaking capabilities, and persistent dedication to the Motion Picture Industry and his Local. He withdrew from high school at age fifteen to help support his widowed mother and 10 siblings.

As a teenager, Ellis also survived a near death experience after fracturing his



skull in an automobile accident; however, Ellis never let his youthful misfortunes get in the way of his success. At age twenty-six, Ellis relocated to the Hollywood area where he persued a career with the Motion Picture Industry.

Ellis got his foot in the door at Republic as a laborer sweeping stages, however began working as a carpenter within his first week on the job. Albert Ellis worked on such films as, "My Fair Lady," "The Great Race," "Wait Until Dark," "Longest Yard," and the list goes on. One particular film Ellis enjoyed working on was the Mark Rydell classic, "The Cowboys," starring western favorite John Wayne. Ellis enjoyed his travels to Santa Fe, New Mexico to work on the film, and brought back with him a countless supply of fond memories.

Ellis's treasured past times included watching an occasional sports game, spending time with loved ones, building entertainment centers, and keeping active. Ellis's family discloses that he lived a long, happy, and fulfilling life, and all those who knew him would have to agree, that Albert Ellis was a wonderful, and well liked man who will be dearly missed.

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

We wish to recognize and extend congratulations to all members celebrating a February 2007 Milestone as a Local 44 member.

Last year we started recognizing anniversaries in our Local 44 Newsreel. We wanted to recognize as many years as we could however, due to space limitations we were only able to list 10 years, 25 years, 50 years and 50 plus years. We have decided to add 35 - year anniversaries to our list.

In this February edition we have included all the members that had their 35 year anniversaries in 2006 and also through January of 2007. They will be a normal part of our listing in future issues, so look out for your name!

2006 35 Year Anniversaries

Woods, Michael	Propmaster
Garcia, Miguel	Property
Gonzalez, Alfredo	Property
King, Leon	Property
Zarazua, Antonio	Propmaker
Medina, Frank	Propmaker
Randolph, Clarence	Propmaker
Kearney, Cheryal	Set Decorater
Lombardi, Paul	Special Effects
Ryba, Thomas	Special Effects
Martin, William	Special Effects
Baker, Delma	Special Effects

2007 35 Year Anniversaries <u>January</u>

Skinner, Norman

Property

50 Plus Years February

George, Roger	Coordinator
Gordon, Sam	Prop Master
Hermann, Robert	Property
Stonecipher, Dolph	Propmaker
Shugart, Jack	Propmaker
Price, Fred	Set Decorater

50 Year Anniversaries February

No 50 year anniversaries this month

35 Year Anniversaries February

Williams, Charles	Coordinator
Mendoza, Joe	Draperer
Solache, Luz	Prop Sewing
Hardwicke, George	Property
Southall, Robert	Property
DeRosa, Joseph	Property
Jimenez, David	Propmaker

25 Year Anniversaries <u>February</u>

Lawrence, Boyd

Property

10 Year Anniversaries February

Araiza, Carlos	Greens
Blank, Ryan	Greens
Stanton, Mark	Greens
Lennon, Denise	Greens
Newman, Tom	Greens
Wolfe, Wynn	Prop Master
Johnson, Dean	Prop Master

3.6 1 T
Mendez, Jorge
Mendez, Jorge Austin, Steven
Miranda Jose
Miranda, Jose
Klein, Joe
Greene, David
Dall Dahart
Bell, Robert
Popov, Elia
Jepsen, Bruce
Dishmand Dish
Richmond, Dick
Devine, Douglas
Waff, Fredric
Ctamps on Describ
Stermer, Dugald
Lake, David Blue, Caitlin
Blue Caitlin
Hannan Janan
Hansen, Jason
Manthey, Karen Villarreal, Chris
Villarreal Chris
Villalical, Cillis
Lee, Robert
James, Clark Dragin, Richard
Dragin Dichard
Diagiii, Kiciiaiu
Hicks, Erich Matos, Rodolfo Langsfeld, Kelly
Matos Rodolfo
I am and all IV aller
Langsieid, Keny
McConnell, Lee
Sawhill, Steve
East China
Fox, China Coffman, Charles
Coffman. Charles
Bua, Angelo Safron, Tom
C. C. T.
Sairon, 10m
Williams, Larry
Williams, Larry Schwartz, Jeff
Schwartz, Jen
Bijou, Michael Avila, Joel
Avila, Joel
Messina Michael
Messina, Michael
Orozco, Cesar
Davidson, Craig
Davidson, Craig Wheatley, Steven Cummins, Chris
W licaticy, Sievell
Cummins, Chris
Cullillins, Cliffs Keating, Timothy Bush Jr., Nelson Fisher, Tracy Fiorini, Chela Culotta, Michael
Duch Ir Molcon
Busii Ji., Neisoii
Fisher, Tracy
Fiorini Chela
Culatta Michael
Culotta, Michael
WOLISIEL IVIALK
(fates (flen
Carol Jahan
Saui, John
Saul, John Spurr, Peter Staples, Paul
Stanles Paul
Dohoo Dovid
Pahoa, David Brock, Shannon
Brock, Shannon
Papazian, Ron
Distropolo Ctarler
Pietropaolo, Stephen

Prop Master Prop Master Prop Master Prop Master Prop Shop Prop Shop Property Propmaker Set Decorater Set Decorater Special Effects

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR YOUR ANNIVERSARY IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!

If you have an upcoming anniversary and DO NOT want it printed in the Newsreel, please notify the business office.

818-769-2500 ext. 118

ANNIVERSARY PINS

Local 44 has anniversary pins in five year increments starting with 5 years and going up to 55 years. If you wish to purchase any of your previous 5 year anniversaires, pins are available at the office.

Right Track

Cont'd From Pg 4

Perhaps a property person, may get some satisfaction when the Set Decorator on their show wins an award; and they should.

Perhaps the welders, prop shop persons, or other effects members may take pride in fact that there is a Visual Effects award for their Special Effects leader.

Perhaps a Prop Master may take some sense of accomplishment in the Best Picture Award in which their "action props" played a role.

God knows these groups deserve the recognition they get! Congratulations to those from Local 44 who have been nominated in these areas this year.

However, the building and rigging of some of our sets gets almost no direct notice. Yes, the Designer gets the glory for coming up with the concept and putting it on paper, but no one realizes the effort, and often the improvising, it takes in making that drawing a reality.

One of my early experiences in the business was on the location of "Roots" out at Disney ranch. We built an entire southern town, which had to be "modernized" every few weeks, as the story would jump a decade or more. I was personally involved in the laying down of a 1/2 mile stretch of practical railroad track, for a vintage train to roll across. We were building it during one of the rainiest Februarys on record. We would get several 100 feet laid over a couple days then a downpour would occur and wash out half of it, and we would start over.

I've been involved in the building of practical bridges over ravines; forced perspective sets of Machu Picchu that made 50 feet look like 2000, a wooden full-scale model of a B17 bomber, among others.

For Bob Zemeckis, we built a 25,000 square foot, two-story mansion. As the Director had a propensity to want to shoot from anywhere, we had to make every tenfoot wall (first and second floor) wild. Because of the size of the set, that entailed cabling the upper walls to allow the lower walls to move, and bolting the heavy cables into the concrete stage floors.

How about the other construction Locals? How about the painter that makes a sonotube becomes a marble column? Or ice on windows in the middle of August? Where do you think craft stores discovered

Continued Pg 10

Item							
Dues Income	Item	2	006 actual	2	006 Budget	2	005 actual
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Right Track

Cont'd From Pg 9

"crackle paint" that can make new furniture look like an uncared-for antique?

I've also recently visited the set of "Oceans 13" and Pirates out in Palmdale. The casino set on Oceans was incredible, with massive suspended and cantilevered platforms, metal and plastic work, oriental sculpturing of doors, and one-of-a-kind ceiling fixtures. There was a "jackpot" dragon that spewed fire and dumped coins when it paid off. As I walked through the set and observed the details, I couldn't help but think how much would never show on camera.

At Pirates, the special effects crews have rightfully been recognized for the amazing work in creating the gimbals, tracks, and hydraulics that make the ships "float". But what about the propmakers and others who actually built the pirate ships? They were spectacular as well!

I'm sure each of us has similar stories. What a shame that those in the Industry who will soon get accolades for their efforts or performances, will not have among them those who actually constructed the canvas for their work."

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

Callboard Policy

In recent months, Local 44's Callboard has experienced some issues in sending members out on specialized calls.

On occasion we have had calls placed for members with specific skills. It may be the ability to work with an unusual material in fabrication, a specific welding process that requires certification, locksmith skills or, as were true examples recently, needing hands-on knowledge of jet engines, and the ability to speak a foreign language fluently for location work.

The Callboard will inform the member when filling the call of special skills request. It is up to the member to be forthright in their ability to perform the task.

On rare occasions we have had members proclaim that they had certain specialized abilities, only to find out when they reached the worksite that they did not.

Please do not misrepresent yourself! By misrepresenting your skills to the Callboard or the employer, it may result in the employer sending documentation and notification to the Local.

Local 44 IATSE prides itself on sending out the highest qualified and skilled craft persons in the Industry.

If you are unable to do the unique skills required for a call, please don't take the job. We do have members that could qualify. Yes we even have someone who is familiar with jet turbines, and one who speaks fluent Mandarin.

To Those Who Hire

If you are a member who requests help or recommends to the hiring person on a project and you have a problem with a member sent to you by the Local, we want to remind you that problems are only remedied through the employers' notification to the Local.

THE ELECTIONS ARE ON!

Last month petitions were pulled and signatures counted for the selection of Local 44 IATSE elected offices. We, the membership, will elect the entire ruling body of this Union. It happens every three years.

In years past, our elections are noteworthy for the lack of participation in the voting process from our members.

Understand that these are the people who will represent you to the Producers, in case of grievance or safety violations, or wage disputes.

These are people in charge of protecting your finances; not just the immediate bill paying, but long range investment and benefit coverages.

These are the members that could be responsible for representing your Local in legal arbitration, or the ones who might cause a legal action.

These members are privy to litigation

against the Local and developing programs for members, and interpreting the laws we are governed by.

Some of the positions are those of oversight; making sure that other elected officials work appropriately.

Others will represent the Local as a voting block within the International and with other Labor Organizations.

Many members feel detached from the Local political machine; and as the election process can sometimes get ugly, there may be reason for distaste. One reason that shouldn't be a consideration is that tried and true apathetic statement, "nothing they do down there has anything to do with my daily work."

That's not true. The officers you elect will have an effect on your working conditions and your financial well-being, positively or negatively. And the effects on your daily job can be long-term.

Vote, and vote wisely.

Election Schedule

Feb. 1: Candidates will be notified of their having qualified or not; the campaigning can "officially" begin.

Feb. 15: Deadline for candidates to turn in their article for the Election Newsreel.

March 15: Ballots are mailed to the membership.

March 30: Ballots are picked up from the Post Office and counted.

Winners of the first round will be notified in writing and the results posted on the website. If any position has no clear winner (typically one vote more than 50% of the vote), then run-offs will begin immediately for those positions.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS

Many of our members have expressed an interest in the content of the monthly Executive Board meetings. Below is a summary of the most recent meetings. These are only brief highlights and do not contain great detail. They are meant to give an overview of things that were discussed, not a fully accurate account. Any member wishing to read the minutes of the Executive Board in their entirety, may do so by appointment though the Secretary-Treasurer's office.

Wed., December 6th, 2006 Regular Meeting

Report: Trustees

The audit of the 3rd quarter was completed. The Trustees found that their review of the books found no material errors and that the standards of generally accepted accounting were being practiced. They noted that the NSF items had been cut in half.

Committee Report: Constitution

The draft of Articles 1-8 of the new Constitution were presented to the Board. These were approved by the Committee and were ready, unless the Board found objections, to be sent to the International.

Flection

The Board was presented with a list of Election Committee nominees.

It was suggested that during their meetings that the Committee be provided a small meal.

Report: Business Agent

Grievances; the BA had 16 ongoing. One settlement got a member off a temporary suspension at one of the Studios.

A reception was attended with politicians of the California legislature to rally support for AB777. That would give tax breaks for fillmmaking that stays in California.

As a member of the Pension and Health Plans Board, the BA reported that the funds had a combined source income of \$724 million in 2006, and an anticipated 2007 income of \$775 million.

Local 44 was interfacing with the MPTF for retiree outreach programs.

Setscapes became a signator to the Basic Agreement. No additional members were organized as a result of this signing.

ASEPO had a holiday event which was attended. This group is highly involved in pyrotechnic and special effects legislation and work.

Report: Secretary-Treasurer

New initiates for the year up to December numbered 205.

The air conditioning unit had been repaired.

A letter from a former Executive Board member requesting a gold card was read into the records.

The Board went into Executive Session for 9 minutes.

The Board read the International rules for obtaining a gold card; the ex-Board Member did not qualify under International guidelines.

Motion: To deny the ex-Executive Board member a gold card and any retirement

gift.

Motion passed with 2 abstentions.

Discussion: Staff bonuses for Christmas/Holiday were discussed. It was agreed to the schedule presented by the Secretary-Treasurer which was a savings of 1/3rd over 2005.

Motion: To accept the bonus schedule as presented.

Motion passed.

Discussion: The annual ad for the SDSA magazine had come up. The rates are increased, even for Local 44. The issue was at what cost the Local would incur in advertising.

Report: Special Effects Craft

ASEPO is a film pyrotechnic organization that lobbies for exemptions to weapons and explosive legislation which could effect the ability to create effects in motion pictures.

Motion: To donate \$5000 to ASEPO's program.

Motion passed.

Discussion: The 301a petition. A list of contributing organizations was given with contribution amounts. A letter from the attorneys representing the petition effort was read into the record. The letter involved Local 44's request for a cosigned letter of engagement with the attorneys.

The Board went into Executive Session for 13 minutes.

Motion: To instruct the Secretary-Treasurer to send \$37,500 on behalf of Local 44's members to the 301a attornevs.

Motion passed.

Discussion: The Set Decorators and the request of International President Short on the progress of resolving their internal problems. The Secretary-Treasurer indicated that he had last written a progress report to the IA President about 3 weeks earlier, indicating new Set Dec Representatives had been installed, an initial meeting had occurred, and talks about resolving their problems had begun. The BA stated he had run into the IA President at a function and they had discussed the issue and that the IA President was satisfied that Local 44 was handling the problem internally.

Discussion: Legal expenses were a large portion of Local 44's overhead. Could we reduce the dependence on counsel at Board meetings or elsewhere?

Discussion was tabled until early 2007.

Member request: A member who had requested to review documents presented their case. The member was requesting viewing documents outside legal parameters. Counsel had written a notification of such.

The Board decided to grant the request.

Motion: To strike member's letter from record, as it contained defamatory remarks which could cause legal problems.

Motion passed with one abstention.

Report: Downey Studios

The Board went into Executive Session for 9 minutes.

Setscape

Cont'd From Pg 1



Setscape owner Johnathin Schaab

Construction Coordinator Bruce Di Valerio, and the Sean Penn directed Into the Wild with Construction Coordinator John Richardson.

Schaab credits the success of Setscapes to his ability to remain personally involved with each of his sets. "I pride myself on the service and the quality of the plant material that I provide my customers. And I'm not so busy that that I don't have time for each customer," explained Schaab. "Whenever a new set comes up, I like to be the one that does the scouting and goes out and talks to the designers and the coordinators. That way, I'm able to give them the service they need for each individual set - it's a matter of me coming up with a design that matches the Production Designer's vision, with a budget that makes the Construction Coordinator happy and that the Producer will OK."

"Plus I think I have some of the best crew in the industry" Schaab added. His on-set Greensman, Rick Lanes has been in the business for 15 years. "Rick is fabulous, everybody asks for him on every project I do. He is a very humble and knowledgeable man."

Schaab's extensive knowledge of landscape architecture and plant material is another of the attributes that set him apart in the industry. "I'm able to have an idea of what a garden looks like that's 20, 30, or 40 years old, because I've been in the landscape business my whole life," said Schaab. "And I pride myself on my knowledge of the history behind landscape construction, plant identification, and especially continuity - I like to be able to catch everything."

Setscapes' Compton California headquarters boasts an acre and a half of plant material, with another two acres in Redondo Beach. Additionally, Setscapes has access to eighty acres of material from outside vendors. Setscapes' location makes it convenient to the many studios in South Los Angeles, as well as being a mere fifteen minutes away from Long Beach.

With its location, service, and experienced staff, Johnathin Schaab's Setscapes makes a great new addition to the growing family of Local 44 Signatory Companies.

Setscapes is located at 2901 W. Alondra, Compton, CA 90220. Contact them by phone at, 310-323-8485; via email at, info@setscapesinc.com; or on the web at www.setscapesinc.com.

THE CREW



From the FX Television Show "Dirt" (L to R) Set Dresser Chuck Morganti, Set Dresser Kenny Heil, Lead Man Charles Nixon, Decorator Ron Olsen, Set Dresser Anthony Piller, Shop Steward Set Dresser Randy Severino.

We are still interested in more pictures of you with your crew along with the work you have done! The best shots are of Local 44 members and their respected departments standing with their featured work in the picture. Although we are getting some pics here and there, we would like to see a better stream of photos so the upstairs assembly room walls are filled with pictures of the people who are Local 44.

Send your photos to "Crew Shots" c/o Local 44 at 12021 Riverside Drive North Hollywood, CA 91607.

If you would like the picture returned to you, please make note of that and we will return it after a copy has been made for framing.

DO YOU HAVE THE SKILLS?

Just a reminder, the Callboard of Local 44 keeps a list of skills and certifications in its database. If you have one or more of the skills and certifications listed below, and you have not listed them with the Local, you may miss out on a work call requesting these abilities.

3RD BROOM **ANIMATION** ANIMOTRONICS **ARMORER ARROW & KNIFE** ASST MAST **BILINGUAL BLACKSMITH BOILER OPERATOR BREAK AWAY GLASS BUYER** CABINET MAKER CNC-MACH **COMPUTER** DRAPERER **ELECTRICAL ELECTRICAL FIXTURES**

ELECTRONICS

FIBER OPTICS

FIBERGLASS

ESTIMATOR

FLOOR COVERER **FLORIST** FOG MACHINE FOOD STYLIST **GLASS WORK GREENS HARDWARE** HEET METAL **HELIARC HYDRAULICS HYDROFORM LATHE** LAYOUT **LEADPERSON LEATHER** LOCKSMITH **MACHINIST MILLWRIGHT MINIATURES** MODEL MAKERS **NAUTICAL RIGGING** **NEON** ON SET DRESSER **PLASTIC PNEUMATICS** POWER ACT. TOOL **PUPPETEERING RIGGING ROBOTICS ROOFER RUBBER** SAW FILER SERVO HYDRAULIC **SEWERS** SHEET METAL SHOP STEWARD URETHANE FOAM

VACUUM FORMING

WEAPONS DESIGN

WOOD CARVER

WELDER

Assault Weapons Permit Basic Firearms Safety Certification Destructive Device Permit **Entertainment Firearms Permit** Federal Firearms License Locksmith Machine Gun Permit National Firearms Dealer License Pilot Helicopter Powder Card 1 Powder Card 2 Powder Card 3 Scuba Diver Scuba Instructor Short Barrel Gun Permit Welding Certification

Certs List



KEEP OUR MEMBERS WORKING! PATRONIZE UNION SHOPS!

TO THE BEST OF LOCAL 44'S KNOWLEDGE, THE FOLLOWING SHOPS ARE NON-SIGNATORY:

Applied Effects
Cinnabar
Culver City Custom Props
Flix FX Inc.
The Hand Prop Room
Isolated Ground
Jet Sets

KNB Omega Cinema Props Drapery Shop Powerhouse Entertainment Stan Winston

Any Key Personnel using these non-signatory fabrication shops in connection with Local 44 Jurisdiction work will be the subject of appropriate disciplinary action.



The viewpoints of the individual members expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of Local 44, its officers or staff.

Thank you, President Short. It is a pleasure to see that a public dialogue can get this very important subject out to our memberships. I use the plural because your membership is not mine, although it includes mine. You have many interests to take care of while I have only 6000 or so souls who labor in the Los Angeles, California area except when they are taken to a distant location.

I am sorry that the President of our International should feel called upon to chastise me for being focused on my membership, as he writes, "... his comments center on Los Angeles. He (Nelson) is not solely interested in keeping foreign productions in Los Angeles. He clearly views any production outside Los Angeles to be runaway." Yes, I am primarily interested in the membership of Local 44 and the Locals that work under the same Basic Agreement that we do.

The words "runaway production" are yours, President Short's, not mine. I am

very aware that production will continue around the world. That this industry is going Global, just as every other industry that produces a product is. The increase of product made in other countries will continue no matter what we do, but it is important that it does not increase at our members' expense through illegal use of trade subsidies by our national trading partners.

As you indicate, both Vancouver and Toronto are starting to feel the pinch as other countries copy their example of using subsidies to take our jobs. You may find that our Canadian Brothers and Sisters will find it important to question the equity of those subsidies when their trading partners around the world use them against them. Those two cities have developed enough ongoing work to support the workers who were there prior to 2000 but may find it difficult to keep the rest employed in an industry that is having trouble keeping their production.

Within the United States there will be venues that need to use subsidies to encourage production to go to their states or cities. Fine, as long as it brings them excess cash to offset the subsidies. Subsidies have seemed to work fine in

Louisiana for the time being, as they do in NYC and other places. But, true production centers will find that giving tax money to successful corporations is not cost effective.

"trash the brethren in Canada" does not describe my feelings about our Brothers and Sisters in Canada. I wish them well, just as I do those in New Orleans, Savannah, Richmond and elsewhere. It is the government's method of taking jobs north of the border that I "trash". It was my quote of the message given in Las Vegas that "some of our Hollywood members don't like our Canadian members" that should have been argued in the Newsreel article. Please forgive me for allowing that divisive phrase to be left unanswered.

Erik L. Nelson

If you would like to send a Letter to the Local, please make sure submissions are typed or printed neatly and e-mail news-reel@local44.org, fax: 818-769-1739 ATTN: Newsreel, or mail to Local 44, ATTN: Newsreel, 12021 Riverside Drive, North Hollywood, CA 91 607. Submissions may be edited for content and length.



April 6th, 2007 Angeles Nation Golf Course

Cost is still \$150 per player
7:30 am continental breakfast
8:30 am shotgun start
Afternoon lunch and awards, raffles, etc.

Contact Gregg Bilson Jr or Jennifer Scott at ISS 818 951-5600 issprops@aol.com

First come, first serve, it sells out fast...

Millionaire Kids

Cont'd From Pg 1

eight. Most of our spouses or ourselves have a side business outside the union (if you don't have one, you should consider starting one, because of the tax advantages). Employ your child in the business; filing papers, taking inventory, cleaning the work area, etc., until that child has made \$1,000 for the year. You may place into their IRA every dollar earned (now up to \$4,000 annually). Do this every year for three years or until your child is 15. If you never contribute another dollar the rest of that child's life, at age 65, the account could be over a million dollars! This is the power of early investment and compound interest.

These calculations are based on the assumption that the account will generate 12% return annually over its lifetime. Where does that figure come from? Well, present economic climate fluctuations not withstanding, 11-12% is the average rate of return of the stock market since its inception (and that includes the Great Depression).

AGE	Contribution	Value end of the year (@12%)
13	\$1000	\$ 1,120
14	\$1000	\$ 2,374
15	\$1000	\$ 3,779
25	\$ 0	\$ 11,738
35	\$ 0	\$ 36,457
45	\$ 0	\$ 113,228
55	\$ 0	\$ 351,670
65	\$ 0	\$1,092,234

Understand, nothing prevents you, or your child as they get older, from adding to their account each year, thereby increasing their nest egg and retirement. However, for \$3,000 you've given one amazing headstart to your kids.

For those "new" to the business, who are young and unencumbered (no mortgage, spouse, or kids), heed this advice. Put as much away as you personally can now. It gets tougher as you create responsibility and bills.

For you "veteran" members, put as much away as you can afford; even a short period (10-15 years) with a modest return is a better supplement, than relying solely on government handouts or a pension.

*Over the last two years the market has averaged 11% coming out of a relatively flat 2006 earnings trend.

Remembrances

Albert Ellis

Class: Propmaker Born: 02/21/1919 Sworn: 02/01/1951 Died: 01/25/2007

Manuel Martinez

Class: Property Born: 07/10/1965 Sworn: 03/01/2006 Died: 01/29/2007

Michael Broderick

Class: Propmaker Born: 01/21/1948 Sworn: 03/24/1980 Died: 10/27/2006

C.R. Dunham

Class: Propmaker Born: 06/03/1913 Sworn: 07/30/1964 Died: 12/14/2006 Jerry Lucas

Class: Property Born: 06/07/1919 Sworn: 11/22/1955 Died: 12/08/2006

Matthew R. Smith

Class: Property Born: 03/09/1953 Sworn: 03/07/1998 Died: 12/16/2006

Donald J. Sullivan

Class: Set Decorator Born: 04/02/1931 Sworn: 01/15/1962 Died: 12/25/2006

For complete tribute articles, and updated, detailed information on funeral and memorial services, please log on to our website at www.local44.com and click on "Local 44," and then

"In Memory Of."



The Newsreel would like to correct the following errors from the January 2007 issue:

In the Remembrances section Jesse Stone was born on 11/16/1920.

The article on Frank Anderson was penned by the family, but for those of you who wondered Frank was a Property member.

ATTENTION: LOCAL 44 LIFE INSURANCE REMINDER

Under the Local 44 Life Insurance Policy, your spouse and your childeren under 19 years of age are covered for a death benefit of \$1000. If this catagory covers an event that has happened in your recent past please contact the Local.



TOOL CRIB POLICY:

Ads will be run for two consecutive issues of the Newsreel, after which the ad will be removed unless it is renewed by calling the hall at 818-769-2500 ext. 118.

PLEASE NOTIFY US AS SOON AS ITEMS HAVE BEEN SOLD.

FOR SALE:

Prop Boxes and all Leadman gear for sale. Make an offer. Property Master Steven Adams forced to sell due to disability 213-610-2771.

COORDINATORS COMPLETE TOOL PACKAGE. Up to date and in excellent condition plus many extras. Call 818-581-6485.

8' X 20' Construction office trailer. \$3500 or best offer. 818-521-9899

THE EFFECTS MAN'S WORKBENCH: Jig & Fixture table, new 18" wide X 52" long X 40" height (adjustable) 5 each ½" T-slots; Approx. 600 lbs. solid cast iron top (like a milling machine) 4 leveling screws @ feet. Designed to be attached to floor to permit bending, forming, welding frames, etc. \$1000. Call Tim Paul 805-990-1774

SCUBA (breathing air) COMPRESSOR Bauer Mfg., U.S. Navy certified, 34.5 hours on clock. Gasoline powered. Fills one set of twin 90 SCUBA bottles in 50 minutes. Approx. 30" wide X 45" long X 25" height. 220 lbs. clean, fresh and ready for service. \$3000 or best offer. Call Tim Paul: 805-990-1774. Holex Cable Cutters for sale: 7/16, 3/16 & 3/8; call Dan: 626-831-7584

Mini-Fog fog machines being sold for the first time. These fog machines are up to 10 times cleaner than a DF-50 by actual testing. They also have better hang time. Contact Jim Fox, phone: (323) 462-2272, e-mail: propmaster@filmstew.com

Retired Property Master selling everything. Honda generator, tanks, pumps, rigs, pressure pots plus lots of misc. equipment and materials. Contact Jim Fox, phone: (323) 462-2272, e-mail: propmaster@filmstew.com

Special Effects ditty bags for sale. Made of 18 oz. cotton canvas, 2-inch web-

bing strap, 30 pockets total inside and outside. Includes 5 gal bucket ready for insert. "It's the ditty bag you are looking for." Stock on hand. No waiting. \$65.00. (714)812-0007 or dittybag@covad.net.

Dewalt 12" Radial Arm Saw; 7 coordinator tool boxes, all same size, different drawer and storage configurations. Fresh paint, on steel frames w/ lock bars and wheels. Call Al MacLaury 805-732-4455.

Retired Special Effects Man: Mole E-Fan (with without the Cage) with standard Jr. Stand & Custom Folding Stand. Stand folds flat and handles hinge for storage opens up to belike a hand truck with pneumatic wheels, good for rough terrain \$2000. - 20 Stainless 30 Gallon Crackers set up for remote control on hand trucks that if used properly no sound will be heard on stage fed by 3/4" airline. 5 Maid Well, with caes and dry ice screens. - 2 Binks 171 Dust (Flocking) Guns (not made anymore) Rigid Model 700 hand power threader with case support arm and dies like new. Other equipment available. Peter Albiez 818-846-4664 or 30480@msn.com.

Construction Coordinator selling complete tool package (excellent condition) including a 45' trailer with jockey boxes, side doors and stairs, and hydrolic lift gate. For list call Rick @ (661) 298-1631.

Two fully-stocked prop boxes, directors chairs, and a small set box. \$5000 or best offer. Call Mike 310-415-5771 or 661-821-0397.

Complete Coordinators tool package. All tools in great condition. Includes Uni Saws, Senco nail and staple guns, routers reciprocal saws, sanders, shop equiptment cords air hoses etc. too much to list. Also a 40 ft trailer with lift gate and side door. Stage and road boxes, ladders and much more. Buy all or part 310-455-0050

Makita 1/2 inch cordless driver drill, 14.4V. used only about 10 hrs, like new. perfect condition. Comes with 2-14.4V batteries, charger and case. Drill Bits included. \$110, CALL Ed @ 661/296-0174 or 818/378-6636

40' Effects Trailer empty w/ liftgate, jockey boxes & interior shelving, benches in place, wired 110 and airlines, great tires, tagged. \$9000 obo (661)547-1100



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