

SQUARE & COMPASSES

EAST TRINITY MASONIC LODGE #157 ROCKWALL, TX MARCH 2025

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FEBRUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The February meeting is now in the books. Here are some of the highlights..

-A social gathering is planned for the 26th. The event will be at Southern Junction off of 276.

-Quotes for the roof repair ranged from \$1,800 to \$19,000. The lodge voted to use Tucker Roofing of Rockwall for \$5000.

-The next ET Scholarship Golf Tournament will be May 9th at Buffalo Creek Golf Course in Heath. More details as they emerge.

-The next meeting of the MWSA will be held at ET on April 25th

-The GM's conference will be March 15th at Hella Temple in Garland. While attendance isn't mandatory, it is highly encouraged.

-DDGM was received. He presented the GM's Annual Message

The meeting was closed at 9:30 PM.

DDGM BARKLEY'S OFFICIAL VISIT



DDGM Doug Barkley, the new DDGM of the 13th District, made his first official visit to East Trinity during the February Stated Meeting. RW Barkley continues the tradition of ET brothers who also served as DDGMs, six of whom were in attendance during the meeting.



DDGM RW Barkley delivers the Grand Master's message



RW Barkley presents the A certificate to SW Luke Corley

BROTHER POWELL AWARDED THE GOLDEN TROWEL

Brother David Powell was awarded the prestigious Golden Trowel award by WM Cort LaBlank. Brother Powell was recognized for his dedication and hard work as ET's historian. The award was presented by WM Cort LaBlank while members of Brother Powell's family and members of ET were there to witness this event.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 26th-Southern Junction
- March 3rd- Stated Meeting.
- March 10th- practice
- March 17th -practice
- March 24th -practice

The stated meeting will be held on March 3rd, 2025. The meal will begin at 6:30 PM. Lodge will begin at 7:30 PM.

Fraternal Eats . Salad, Garlic and herb chicken, hashbrown casserole, green beans and desert. And wash it all down with both sweet and unsweet iced tea and soft drinks.

MASONIC TRUE STORIES AND EVENTS

PLURAL MEMBERSHIP

The rev. Canon William Henry Cooper was a member of seventeen lodges. He was the founder and first master of three of them. His lodges were in Ireland, England, Australia, new Zealand, British Columbia, and Ontario.

THE SQUARE AND COMPASS BRAND

Montana's first livestock brand was the square and compass; it is still in use. No one knows when it was first used; but it was before May 25, 1872, when it became necessary to date and register brands then in use. It was first owned by Poindexter T. Orr of Beaverhead County, Montana Territory.

MOON LODGES

A century ago there were more than 3,000 Masonic lodges which can be described as "Moon Lodges"; in 1954 there were fewer than 500. These lodges meet on the day of the full moon for practical reasons; the brethren had light to travel by at night. There may have been some symbolic meaning also. The advent of electricity, street lights, and the automobile made the reason for meeting on such nights antiquated through unique. Many Grand Lodges now require lodges to meet on fixed days of the week.

FREEMASONS BUILD FORTS

"Fort Masonic" was built on what was known as the Heights of Brooklyn, which later became Bond and Nevins Streets, Brooklyn, New York. On August 22, 1814, the Grand Lodge of New York adopted a resolution by which, on September 1, the officers of the Grand Lodge accompanied by a group of Masons from fourteen lodges, went to the place and performed one day's work. On September 17, another day's work was done to complete the work.

"Fort Hiram" was built on October 3, 1814, at Fort Point, Rhode Island, but the Grand Lodge which supervised 230 Masons at work. Thomas Smith Webb was Grand Master at the time. The purpose of the fortification was to protect the harbor of Providence, Rhode Island.

THE RUG OF APPRECIATION

As a young man Sarkis H. Nahigian fled Armenia to escape persecution and arrived in the United States in 1890. He worked hard and became a successful businessman in Chicago and a devoted Mason. In 1948 he presented a priceless Oriental rug, 46½ feet long and 29½ feet wide, to the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia. In presenting the gift he said:

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"I came to America believing in miracles. I say these words with gratitude, faith and pride. Gratitude -- to the generations of hard-working and God-fearing men and women who came to this new country to make a home for freedom. Faith, in that the democracy they built will never die. Pride, in that my chance has come to show my appreciation for being an American. And believe me when I say there is no finer title, no higher position than to be a citizen of the United States."

"Here we have freedom of thought, freedom of the press, and freedom of speech. One does not appreciate what these freedoms mean until one recalls what it was to be deprived of them. Now, again, in humble spirit, it gives me great pleasure to donate to our beloved George Washington Memorial Building, the largest Persian Royal Meshed carpet I have ever known. I donate this carpet in grateful appreciation of all the unlimited privileges and friendships and support I have enjoyed in this blessed United States of America, and not among the least of these is my privilege of being a Mason."

A MASON LOSES A BET AND NEW YORK GAINS

Paul Boynton, during the 1832 political campaign, lived in the Green Mountain country of Vermont. Those were dark days for the Craft. Andrew Jackson, a past Grand Master of Tennessee, was the candidate for the Presidency against William Wirt, a Mason running on the Anti-Masonic ticket. Brother Boynton was a devoted Freemason and did not recant or hide his association with the Craft while the storm was brewing and many members deserted. He made an election vow that if Vermont went for Wirt he would move "out west". In those days "out west" meant St. Lawrence Country, New York, to New Englanders. When Wirt won in Vermont (the only state in which he won), Brother Boynton kept his word and moved. At the end of an eighty day journey on horseback, Brother Boynton settled down in Canton New York. He swapped his horse for a watch and a gun shop. He became the best gunsmith in the area and his gun stocks are now collector's items. He invented many things, such as eight day clocks and a pedometer. In 1835 he built what is now known as The Royal Arch House, located at 12 Pine Street, as a constant reminder to friend and foe alike, that he was a mason. Emblems familiar to the Royal Arch Mason are on the front of the building. It is said that he dug his own grave and made his own marker, except for the date. He died on July 13, 1851.

PRESIDENT RAISES TWO SONS ON THE SAME NIGHT

On November 7, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt attended the meeting of Architect Lodge No. 519 in New York and raised two of his sons, James and Franklin D., Jr. An honorary membership certificate was presented to the President by the Lodge.

SILENT CAL AND THE CRAFT

President Calvin Coolidge had the reputation of being a person of few words. One time while attending a public function he was told by a young lady, "Mr. President, I made a bet that I can get you to say three words." To which he replied, "You lose."

Although not a Mason, he was not stingy with words when he talked about Freemasonry. While Governor of the Bay State, he addresses the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and said:

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"It has not been my fortune to know very much about Freemasonry, but I have had the great fortune to know many Freemasons, and I have been able in that way to judge the tree by its fruits. I know of your high ideals. I have seen that you hold your meeting in the presence of the Bible, and I know that men who observe that formality have high sentiments of citizenship, of worth, and of character. That is the strength of our Commonwealth and Nation."

A BIT OF JOHN HANCOCK

John Hancock was a member of St. Andrew's Lodge, Boston, Massachusetts. He was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence. He wrote in a bold flourishing style. When asked why his signature was so large, he replied: "So that George III may read it without putting on his spectacles."

SPECIAL MEETINGS CALLED FOR A KING

On December 20, 1874, a special meeting of New York Lodge No. 330 was held to exemplify the third degree for the edification of a Brother. His Royal Highness David Kalakaua , King of the Hawaiian Islands, and a member of Le Progres de l'Oceanie Lodge No. 124 (Supreme Council of France) Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands. After the degree was exemplified, the Bible on which George Washington had taken his oath of office was displayed. The royal visitor asked that the book be opened at the page where the oath was administered. He took the book in both hands and kissed the page saying "I thank God for this privilege." On January 15, 1865, the same royal visitor attended Chicago's Oriental Lodge No. 33 which had called a special meeting. Over four hundred distinguished visitors attended.



<http://www.mastermason.com/bridgeportlodge181/STRANG04.HTM>

Masonic "True Stories And Events" are taken from the Bridgeport Lodge 181 website. The lodge is located in Bridgeport, Ohio and was chartered in 1849.

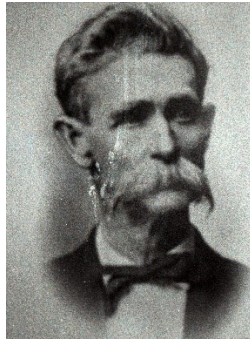
EAST TRINITY LODGE HISTORY CORNER

This historical sketch is the nineteenth (19th) article in a series about the history of the East Trinity Lodge. This month we are featuring the lodge's sixteenth (16th) Worshipful Master W.C. Lanham.

William Curtis Lanham

Biography

Worshipful Master for the East Trinity Lodge (1885, 86, 87, 88, 96, 98, 99, 1901, 02, 03)



William Curtis Lanham was born in Missouri on 3 May 1850. His father was Curtis Hardin Lanham, who was born in Kentucky on 18 Jan 1813 and died in Rockwall County, Texas on 28 Jan 1897. His mother was Margaret L. Chandler, born in Kentucky on 15 Sep 1824 and died in Rockwall County, Texas on 16 May 1890. William's maternal grandfather, Abednego Chandler, was a soldier in the American Revolution fighting for the 96th District of South Carolina.

In the 1850 Census, we see William, 5 months old, was living with his parents, three siblings and his maternal grandparents in Platte, Andrew County, Missouri.

In the 1860 census, the Lanham family relocated to Precinct 6 in Dallas County, Texas. William's father Curtis was a blacksmith.

In 1870, the census shows that William was 21 years old, living with his parents in Kaufman County and he reports that his occupation is "Physician".

About a year later, he married Susan A. Bowles on 1 Oct 1871. They were the parents of Edna, John, Leonidas, Kate and Benona. Susan died in 1890 and William, 41 years old, remarried to Josephine (Josie) Clark, 19-year-old, born in Kentucky. They became the parents of Grover, Oma, Willie, Freddie, Cleo and Walter. William fathered eleven children in all.

In 1880, we see that William is now 30 years old and wife Susan is 27. They had two sons, a daughter and a niece living in the household. Their son B.B. (Benona) Lanham was 7 years old. Son John was 5 years old. Daughter Edna was 2 and Niece Rosaline Nancy was 18.

In 1900, the census shows W.C. Lanham living in Justice Precinct 1, Rockwall, Texas. He and his wife Josie and they were married in 1891. They have five children in their household: Benona B. (27), Kate (17), Grover (7), Millie (3) and Frederic (4 Mo.). William's occupation is Farmer.

W.C. Lanham's first time being elected as Worshipful Master was 1885 with the following officer line-up:

THE OFFICER LINE-UP FOR 1885

W.C. Lanham – Worshipful Master
J.O. Beasley – Senior Warden
T.M. Curry – Junior Warden
D.H. Parsons – Treasurer
J.J. Lowe – Secretary
E.C. Heath – Senior Deacon
I.D. Hartman – Junior Deacon
T.B. Lanham – Senior Steward
A. Green – Junior Steward
T. Crane – Tiler

Past Masters: W.T. Barnes, F. Sullivan, E.C. Heath, S.D. Waggoner.

Master Masons:

E.B. Ashurst, M.S. Austin, R.L. Arthur, E.M. Bourland, J.E. Bourland, W.D. Barringer, W.L. Brown, W.C. Beamer, W.T. Barnes, A.H. Brewer, W.W. Bishop, J.D. Beasley, T.M. Curry, T.D. Chambers, L.B. Charlton, J.A. Chisholm, T.J. Crain, B.J. Cockrell, J.B. Curtis, W.D. Doud, W.G. Duese, J.J. Dawson, D.C. Fondren, W.B. Ferrell, R.F. Gardenhire, A. Green, S.N. Heffington, J.O. Heath, E.C. Heath, J.A. Hardin, J.S. Hewitt, I.D. Hartman, H.C. Hoskins, A.B. Jouitt, W.F. Jones, Chas. Kirby, J.T. Ketchum, J.J. Lowe, T.B. Lanham, D.B. Lowenstein, W.C. Lanham, W.L. Monroe, L.W. Mason, H.W. Manson, J.T. Manson, D.H. Parsons, J.W. Peyton, John Rimel, R.T. Reines, H.R. Reader, Hugh Shaw, F. Sullivan, W.C. Vernon, A.K. Wilkerson, G.H. White, R. White, J.H. Williams, W.H. White, J.W. Williamson, S.D. Waggoner, J.C. White TOTAL: 60.

Demitted: B.H. Bounds, W.L. Monroe

It should be noted that Brother Lanham served as Worshipful Master ten times and gets the trophy for serving more times as Worshipful Master than any other. Brother Lanham's last year as Worshipful Master was 1903 and he was listed as the Tiler in 1908. He was still listed as a Past Master in the 1910 Returns of Lodges; however, that same year, the 1910 Census lists his address as Justice Precinct 3, Denton, Texas. At this time, he was 60 years old with wife Josephine and five children. William stated his Occupation was Farmer.

Past Master William C. Lanham continued to live in Denton but remained a paying member of the East Trinity

Lodge until 1917 when he Dimitted from the lodge. He was 67 years old at that time. Interestingly, the 1917 Lodge Return lists two other men from the Lanham clan: T.B. Lanham and B.B. Lanham. T.B. Lanham (Thomas B. Lanham) was William's older brother and B.B. Lanham (Benona B. Lanham) was William's son. B.B. Lanham served as the East Trinity Worshipful Master in 1911.

The 1920 Census shows William still living on his farm in Denton with his wife Josephine and two children: Cleo (16) and Walter (14).

In the 1930 census, William is 79 years old and he is renting a house on Main Street, Lewisville, Denton County, Texas. Under occupation, he is listed as the manager of a Café. His wife Josephine is 56 years old and she is keeping house. They still have their two youngest children living with them: son Walter C. (23) and daughter Cleo R. (25).

William C. Lanham died on 7 April 1933 in Lewisville, Denton County, Texas but he was buried in the Rockwall Memorial Cemetery. He was a long-time dedicate Masonic Leader and supporter of the East Trinity Lodge serving ten times as our Worshipful Master. William's older brother, T.B. Lanham died in 1918 and is buried in Rockwall Memorial Cemetery. His wife Josephine died in 1962 in Terrell, Kaufman County and son, B.B. Lanham died in 1966 and is also buried at the Rockwall Memorial Cemetery.



Compiled by Brother David L. Powell, East Trintiy Lodge No. 157

(Special thanks to my editor Barbara A. Powell)

From Labor to Refreshment



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A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter. "What are you doing?" she asked.

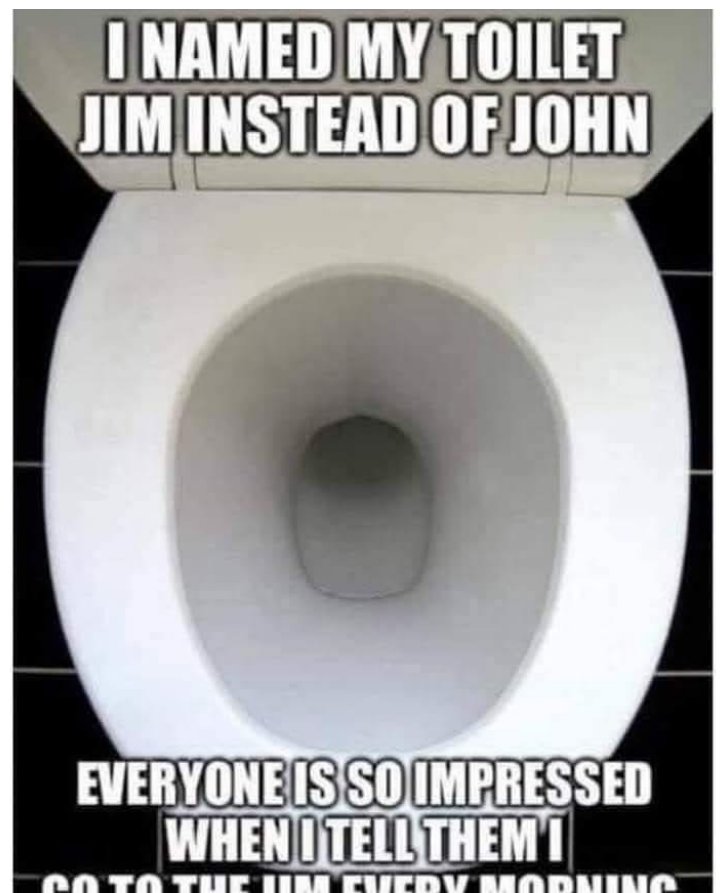
"Hunting flies," he replied.

"Oh, killed any?" she said.

"Yep, 3 males, 2 females," came the answer.

Intrigued, the wife asked, "How can you tell them apart?"

Husband: "3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone."



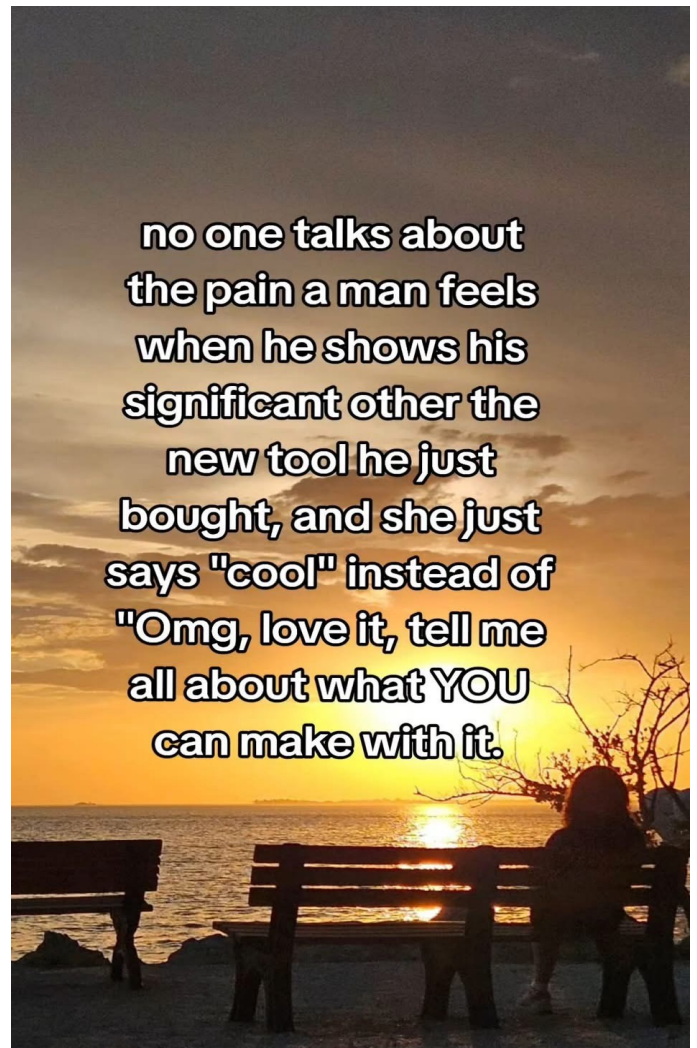
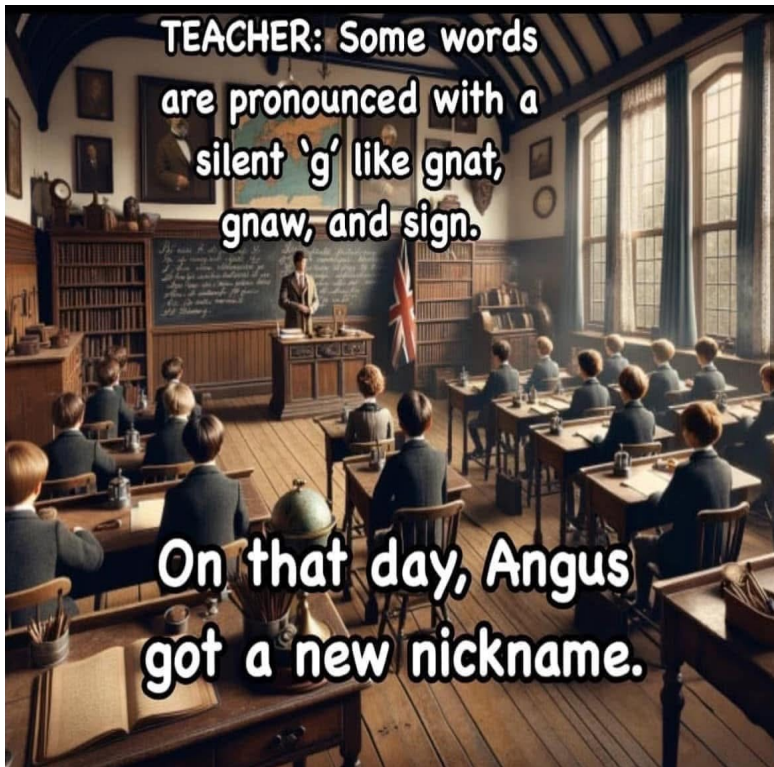


Pastor interrupts sermon to ask 3 men in the front row: "What would you want your loved ones to say as they are looking down at you in your coffin?"

Tom: That I was a good husband and father.

Bill: That I lived a good life of kindness to others.

Dan: "Look. He's moving!"

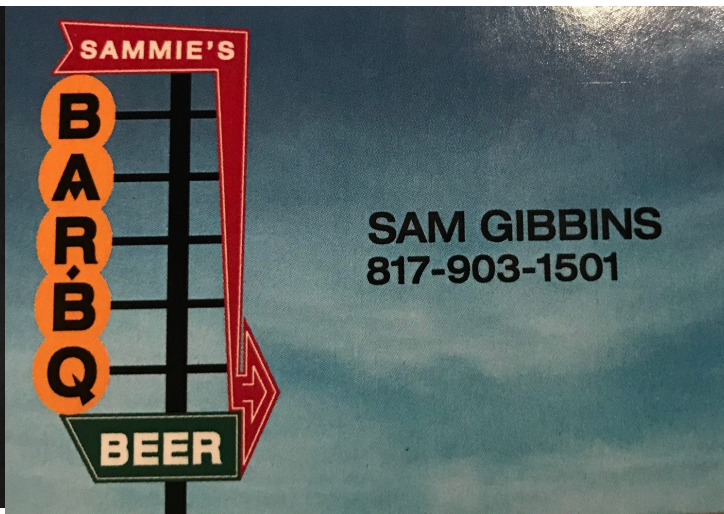


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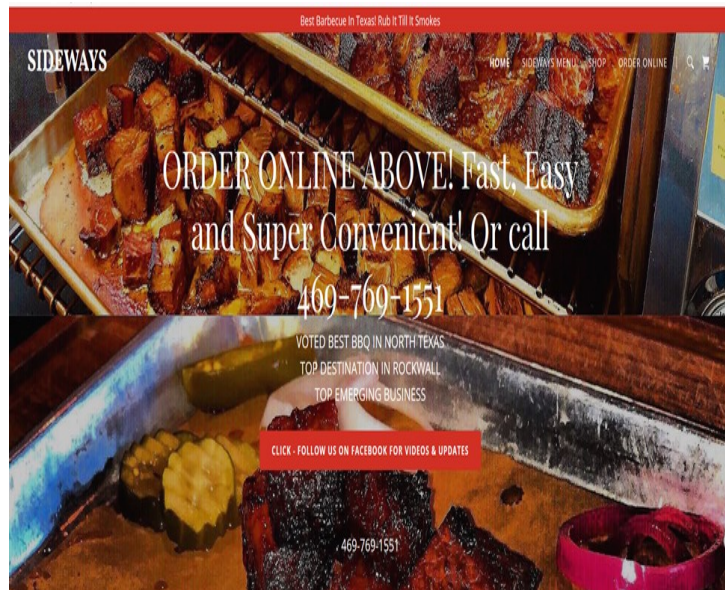
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Walk Ins Welcome!
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Owned by East Trinity Brother Josh Deaton

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w) www.beyond404realty.com
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