NOTICIAS DE ANZA

Volume 3 Number 3 Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail December 1994

Anza Trail Draft Plan Released

A two-year planning process involving hundreds of volunteers along the route reached a major milestone with publication of the draft Comprehensive Management and Use Plan/EIS and Map Supplement draft plan for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. The plan has been distributed to the public for a review period which ends on March 1, 1995.

The proposal calls for marking the historic route, identifies an auto route, and envisions a continuous multi-use recreational retracement trail. The National Park Service (NPS) will take an active role in administrative oversight of the trail by helping protect a continuous trail right-of-way and historic, cultural, and natural resources associated with the trail. The NPS will certify eligible sites and segments and provide leadership of state, regional, local governments, private landowners, organization, corporations, and individuals to create a continuous and unified trail. The NPS has formed a partnership with Heritage Trails Fund (HTF), a non-profit organization, for the purpose of organizing volunteers to support implementation of the management plan for the trail. In accordance with the cooperative agreement between HTF and the NPS, a support group, Amigos de Anza, has been formed under the auspices of HTF. Interpretive programs and a

(Continued page 7)

Is this Man Anza?

What did Juan Bautista de Anza look like? Controversy over his image has focused on a single oil painting which hangs in the Palace of Governors of the New Mexico State Museum in Santa Fe. This painting, publicly identified as Juan Bautista de Anza, was claimed to be an original work, painted during his lifetime.

La Pintura Misteriosa

By Donald T. Garate

Since skepticism exists concerning the painting's authenticity, the various arguments, both pro and con, are presented and an account given of the latest research and tests being conducted in an attempt to prove or disprove the authenticity. First, a short sketch of its known history follows.

History of the Painting

An article appearing in the San Mateo Ledger of December 2, 1909, told of a painting of Juan Bautista de Anza owned by James Ainsa of San Francisco, one of Anza's descendants. The painting, it was said, had survived the 1906 earthquake and fire because it had been on loan to the San Francisco Museum. Also in 1909, Dr. Herbert Bolton began corresponding with Mr. Ainsa. He obtained a photograph of the painting which was published for the first time in 1921 in his Spanish Borderlands.

(Continued page 2)

When James Ainsa died in 1923 at the age of 83, the painting passed to Margarita Ainsa Woods. From her, ownership passed to her two sons, William and Richard Woods, who gave the painting to Francis S. Ainsa, an El Paso attorney, in 1955. He felt that Captain Anza's extraordinary accomplishments gave the painting a significance far greater than merely an Ainsa family heirloom and that it should belong to the Nation or even the international community. In 1970, he donated it to the New Mexico State Museum.

Investigation

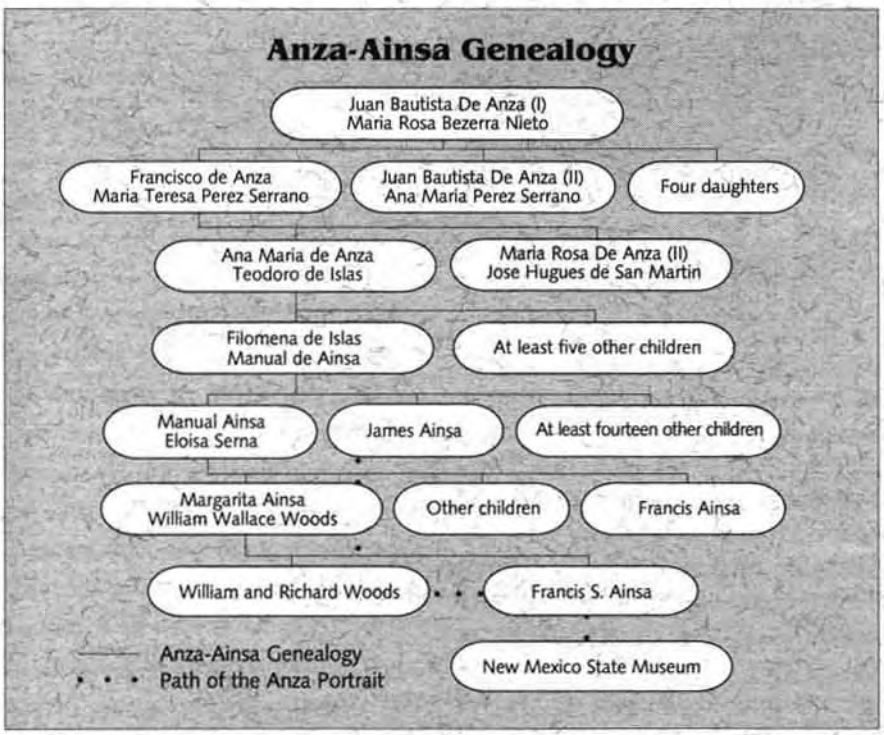
The story might have - and maybe should have - ended there, except that 1) there were those who were skeptical of the Ainsa-Anza family connection, 2) there was skepticism about the family tradition of the portrait being painted in Mexico City in 1774 by a Franciscan, Friar Orci, and 3) there was a natural desire to try to document the actual story of the painting prior to 1909.

In 1973 a world-renowned scholar, researcher and author with the Archivo General de la Nación in Mexico City, J. Ignacio Rubio Mañe, was asked for an opinion. The Museum sent him a picture of the painting from which he made the following observation: "Really, I doubt the authenticity of that portrait for two reasons: 1) in the second half of the eighteeenth century beards were not used; 2) the hat and the coat in that portrait are in French style, proper for the seventeenth century, and not for a captain of Northern New Spain, of the last part of the eighteenth century. Juan Bautista de Anza was not of the court of Louis XIII or Louis XIV of France."

In discussing Señor Rubio Mañe's statement with dozens of people, a complete variety of opinions were expressed. Probably the best informed, however, came from Dr. Richard Ahlborn, another authority of world renown with the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. He claims that, 1) just because beards were not in style in Anza's day does not mean that men on the far north frontier or individuals who had their own preference did not wear them; 2) one cannot judge the age of a painting by the clothes the person is wearing because painters kept wardrobes of clothing so they could dress their subject in the most dramatic style; and, 3) it is impossible to make any kind of informed statement about a painting by examining a photograph. The painting itself must be examined.

In keeping with this advice, the New Mexico Museum agreed to x-ray the portrait and run some preliminary chemical tests in early June of 1994 The x-rays revealed little and the chemical analysis seems to have only broadened the controversy. The conservator who did the analysis, admittedly not an authority in Mexican art history, seems to feel there are some "...suspicious qualities that suggest it (the painting) might not be the 'original from life' portrait it has been thought to be." This opinion seems to come mainly from the results of a chemical test done on a small sample of the white background, which showed "...a significant amount of lead white." In this person's experience, even though white lead was used in England as early as 1750, he has never seen a "preprimed white lead ground canvas (as this one is) come from Colonial Mexico." Another Museum staff member, not a conservator but an art historian familiar with Mexican paintings disagrees and claims that "...some colonial Mexican paintings do have white lead canvases."

The results of tests thus far have only suggested that further pigment analysis is probably warranted. In the meantime, the Museum has sought further advice from various conservators and art historians nationwide. Since time will be required before they have all had the opportunity to travel to Santa Fe, Captain Anza has gone back on display in the Palace of Governors. Both the National Park Service and the Southwest Mission Research Center have offered to help fund any further testing that might be suggested by the authorities.



Ainsa Family Genealogy

A genealogy of the Ainsa family has been fully documented and traced back to Juan Bautista de Anza, senior, through Francisco Anza, the Captain's older brother (see previous page). Juan Bautista de Anza, the second, the trail's hero, did not have any children but took over guardianship of the two teenage daughters of Francisco and his second wife after their deaths. It is the younger of these two girls, Ana, through whom the Ainsa genealogy is traced.

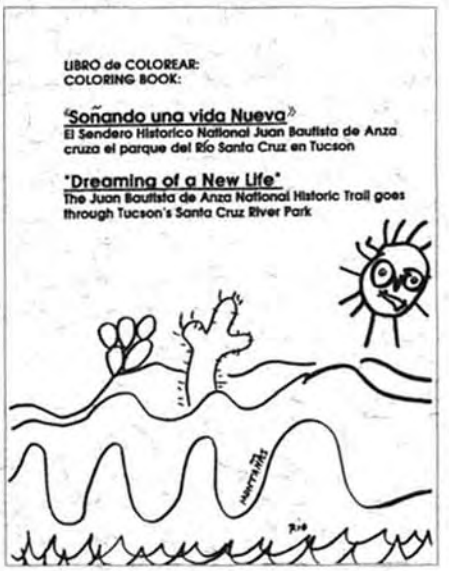
The search continues for a Friar Orci in Mexico in the 1770's. The help of Fr. Francisco Morales of Rome, a leading expert in Franciscan history in Mexico during that period, has been solicited. Should such a Franciscan friar be located, especially if he was an artist who painted portraits, the Ainsa family tradition would be all but guaranteed.

Possibly it will never be proven for certain whether or not the portrait is of Captain Anza. In that event, and in the meantime, the only real compelling argument is the Ainsa family tradition. As we all know, family traditions, especially after two and a quarter centuries, are not always 100% accurate and sometimes are far from it. However, it can be proven that this was a very strong tradition among an extremely large family as far back as 1909. And, the family is still very adamant that the portrait is of Captain Anza. The Anza-Ainsa family connection has been proven beyond any doubt. In the words of Dr. Ahlborn, "...(the painting) is the only visual interpretation we have that even claims to be Anza. The burden of proof lies with those who would discredit it. Until there is concrete evidence to the contrary, the painting should be interpreted as being a life portrait of Juan Bautista de Anza."

Arizona Schools Take the Lead

Two schools in Arizona have produced bilingual coloring books related to the Anza Trail. Seventh and eighth grade students from Calabasas Middle School in Tumacácori produced "Santa Cruz Valley Story Teller" (see cover drawing at right) It tells the stories of Father Kino, the missions in the valley, the Apaches, the Presidio of Tubac, Commander Anza, the land, mining, and other people and activities.

A class at Drachman Elementary School in Tucson designed a coloring book devoted entirely to the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and the dreams of the expedition members. They note that the "route is an honored memory to those whose dreams caused them to adventure through the unknown." The project was sponsored by DuPont and the Conservation Fund through the Barrio Historic Neighborhood Association under the guidance of the teachers Maria Barajas, Angie Mendoza, Brenda Mercado, and Emily Vance. The photo below pictures the lively group of students and teachers who created this booklet.



Cover art of the coloring book designed by a class at Drachman Elementary School.

Students and teachers of Drachman Elementary school in Tucson who produced a coloring book devoted entirely to the lives and dreams of the Anza expedition members.

Notes from Heritage Trails/ Amigos de Anza

by Doni Hubbard

Dear Friends:

After 18 years of effort to secure recognition and funding for the trail of Juan Bautista de Anza, **George Cardinet** enthusiastically announced in October the signing of a cooperative agreement between Heritage Trails Fund and the National Park Service. The substantial volunteer effort that brought us to this point has been given a big boost by the addition of National Park Service funds to solidify and promote continued volunteer efforts on behalf of the trail.

Congratulations and many thank you's to all of you who have played a major part in each of the four acts of this drama: First, the re-enactment riders who established the feasibility of the route and brought to life its historical significance; second, the faithful and determined lobbying which took place in county public hearings and before congress resulting in the authorization of the national historic trail; third, the two-plus years' effort of the volunteer task forces in 19 counties under the direction of the National Park Service and Heritage Trails Fund to develop the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP); and fourth, organization of the inspiring, enthusiastic, and dedicated Amigos de Anza who will go on with the show!

The signed cooperative agreement enabled HTF to interview for the position of Amigos de Anza Associate Director. There were many excellent candidates among the 35 who applied and after the finalist interviews involving **George Cardinet, Nancy Dupont, Ray Murray, Meredith Kaplan,** and myself, we are very pleased to announce the appointment of **Jennifer Bennett** to the position. Jennifer's role is to "coordinate and communicate Amigos activities and to act as a liaison with NPS" in implementing the Comprehensive Management Plan which will guide the volunteer work on the Anza Trail.

Jennifer was introduced to members of the newly formed Amigos de Anza following the 3-day ride, bike, hike event in **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park** organized for the Thanksgiving week-end by Southern California Amigos chairperson, **Jeannie Gillen**. Jennifer has been on the job at the HTF office in Walnut Creek since November 14, and if you're interested in joining Amigos de Anza, you'll be hearing from her soon.

To date we have had 22 responses to our Noticias coupon requesting membership. Of course, the bulk of these came from California and Arizona, but we also heard from Minnesota and Indiana. What a wealth of friends Captain Anza has acquired! Thanks to all of you who have written. We greatly appreciate your patience while we've been getting organized.

Heritage Trails Fund has set tentative dates for Amigos de Anza meetings. The executive committee will meet February 18-20 in northern California and a general membership meeting will be held at the Highland Springs Resort in southern California to tie in with the annual **California Trails Conference** scheduled for March 17-19. In the meantime, Amigos area chairpersons will be spearheading the public hearings necessary for adoption of the Comprehensive Management and Use Plan/EIS which was introduced by Meredith Kaplan in November.

I had planned to "sign off" with this issue of the Noticias as I gladly turn my job (and much more!) over to our new Associate Director, but of course, George Cardinet would have yet another job in mind. I've never been good at saying "No" to the volunteer I admire above all others, so I'm on to my next Anza Trail assignment. George knew I am an "out to pasture" history teacher who would be tantalized by the opportunity to develop a curriculum guide for our Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. So along with the general invitation to join a local chapter of Amigos de Anza (see box for the chairperson in your area), I am adding the specific invitation to all historians and educators who might be interested in joining me in this project. Please write **Doni Hubbard**, c/o Heritage Trails Fund, Amigos de Anza Curriculum Project, 1350 Castle Rock Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

So long for now. I hope to meet up with you along the trail in Anza-Borrego or Highland Springs or over the phone or fax. However it happens, I know from past experience that Amigos de Anza is not only a name, but a true basis for many new friendships. With that in mind I would like to share some of the photographs taken by Tucson Amigo **Don Kucera**. Don's chronicle of the 3-day Heritage Trails Board retreat held at our family ranch in Grass Valley last July brings back some wonderful memories. Whether we were gathered at the barn, on the deck, or at a

barbecue, the founding members of Amigos de Anza were an enthusiastic group with an inspired mission. In an informal setting we had vigorous discussion of organizational issues pertinent to the Amigos and the trail. It was a good beginning to an exciting new adventure which really began 18 years ago when a band of hardy riders decided to explore a bit of history by turning to Juan Bautista de Anza's diary to lead them on a 1200-mile trail ride. The rest is and will be history! Please join us!

Sincerely,

From left to right, Central California Amigos Chairperson, Vie Obern, George Obern, and Doni Hubbard.

Breakfast on the deck of the Hubbard barn provided a rustic setting for some informal meeting time.

HTF board member Hulet Hornbeck visits with Ruth Kilday, Los Angeles Amiga, and Norm Sims, HTF board member from Novato, California.

Pictured left to right: Val Prehoda, Don Garate, and Richard Williams, all of Arizona met in the Hubbard barn for the Saturday morning session.

To join the Amigos de Anza or for more information write Jennifer Bennett, Amigos de Anza, 1350 Castle Rock Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598, or telephone (510) 926-1081. You may also contact the following representatives:

Region 1, Northern California
Steven Haze
(408) 255-8823

Region 2, Central California
Vivian Obern
(805) 682-3175

Region 3, Southern California
Jeannie Gillen
(909) 677-8028

Region 4, Western Arizona
Valerie Prehoda,
(602) 627-2102

Region 5, Eastern Arizona
Richard Williams
(602) 398-9958

Along the Trail

✦ On July 30, the City of San Gabriel celebrated the revitalization of the San Gabriel Mission District, "the birthplace of the Los Angeles region." The mission, founded in 1771 ten years before the pueblo of Los Angeles, is an important site along the Anza Trail.

✦ Joan Throgmorton and Phyllis Drake are taking their "Anza Show" on the road. On special occasions they enchant campers at the visitor center of Henry W. Coe State Park in Santa Clara County with the Anza story. They give a brief history of the expedition, show a reenactment video, and then talk about the trail within Coe Park and the county.

✦ Dale Ryman, San Mateo County Coordinator; George Cardinet, Heritage Trails Fund; and Meredith Kaplan, NPS, met with the San Mateo County Trails Advisory Committee and agreed on a the recreational retracement route for the Anza Trail. All participants had coordinated closely with Santa Clara County to ensure the potential for a continuous route.

✦ Joan Throgmorton and Phyllis Drake, Santa Clara County Coordinators; Barrie Freeman, Los Altos Hills volunteer; and Meredith Kaplan, NPS, met with the Santa Clara County Trails Coordinator, Julie Bondurant, and the County's trail consultant to review recommendations for the Anza Trail recreational retracement alignment in that county. Appropriate connections with San Mateo County were a key concern. The recreational route for equestrians will deviate from the historic route but overlook it, providing opportunities for interpretation. The bicycle and auto routes will generally follow the historic route.

✦ Myra Douglass has kept the San Luis Obispo County Planning Department and Shell Oil informed of the trail route. As a mitigation for their development, Shell has agreed to dedicate the historic trail route through Price Canyon for public use when their project is complete in 15-20 years. In the meantime, Shell will consider proposals for an interpretive stop.

✦ Myra has also coordinated with Kelly Heffernon, Atascadero City Planner, and the Mutual Water Company regarding the Anza Trail along the Salinas River in the city of Atascadero. There is potential for about 2.5 miles of trail along the river linking the Wranglerette Arena, a possible Anza Trail interpretive site and trail staging area, to other regional trails. This river trail would be on the historic trail route.

✦ Richard Williams and Nancy Kelly have met with David Grounds, a developer of the Santa Rita Springs in Green Valley who would like to dedicate an easement for two miles of the trail. They are coordinating with Pima County, the probable receiver of the easement. Nancy also informed us that Fairfield Homes is buying La Canoa Ranch and plans development in this area which has been set aside by Pima County as a heritage zone. La Canoa is important to the Anza Trail as the site of the only death. María Ignacia Manuela Piñuelas died due to complications of childbirth the first night out from Tubac.

✦ Marjorie and Arthur Miller have completed their draft of Trails Across America, a guide book that describes each of the national historic and scenic trails of our country. The Anza Trail chapter has been reviewed by the NPS and others. The book is scheduled for production in the fall of 1995.

✦ Paul Trujillo of Monterey County attended a meeting of the North County Trail Commission at which Steve Addington of the Bureau of Land Management reported on plans for the Fort Ord conversion. The BLM expressed commitment to working with the equestrian groups to ensure that appropriate horse trails are located and the Anza Trail marked. In addition, Paul is meeting with the Monterey County Planner, Rich Brandau, and the developers of Bishop Ranch along scenic Highway 68 to identify how the Anza Trail might be recognized within the development.

✦ Ruth Kilday conducted an Anza history walk on the LA River. Hers was the best-attended (90 persons) of five walks sponsored by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Sierra Club to focus on the river and instill an interest in its restoration and recreational potential. She read from the diaries and told the story of Anza and his travels across Los Angeles County.

✦ On October 15, Joe Adamo organized the De Anza Trek Lancers for a reenactment ride to dedicate a portion of Highway 85, the historic route through the San Jose area.

✦ On November 9-12, the Yuma Crossing Foundation presented "Juan Bautista de Anza and Arizona's Spanish Heritage." Dr. Kieran McCarty told of Anza, his journey through Arizona and Yuma, and the importance of Anza and his travels on the early history of New Spain. For two nights, Don Garate, Interpretive Specialist at Tumacácori National Historical Park, role-played Anza, sharing aspects of his travels. The Foundation received a grant from the Arizona Humanities Council to help fund the program.

✦ In addition, Don Garate presented a paper at the Sonora (Mexico) Historical Society Annual Symposium in Hermosillo on November 23 entitled "Juan Bautista de Anza — Sus Conexiones Étnicas y las Expediciones a alta California." Don continues to champion the recognition of the Anza Trail in Mexico.

✦ Los Californianos is planning a spring tour of the Anza Trail from Culiacán, Mexico, following the expedition route through the States of Sinaloa and Sonora to Nogales. From there, they will follow the route within the United States to the Los Angeles area. Don Garate will go along as the story teller.

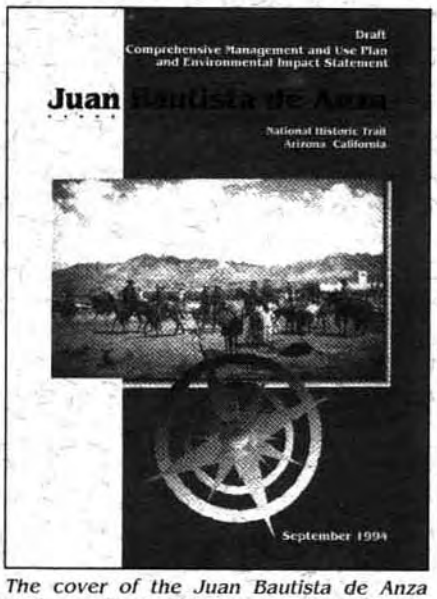
✦ The City of Calabasas has named a ten-acre park adjacent to Malibu Creek State Park for Juan Bautista de Anza. They plan an equestrian and hiking staging area and a 3000 square foot interpretive center. In addition, the city has donated $3,500 to the annual Anza Pagent held in Malibu Creek State Park which commemorates Anza's camp of February 22, 1776.⚓

ANUNCIOS

The National Park Service now has five copies of the slide show and script used during the public scoping meetings. One hundred thirty-eight slides are numbered and placed in slide sleeve pages. Any presenter can shape the slide show by using relevant slides and adding slides specific to the local area. The National Park Service will make these slide sets available to groups along the trail on a loan basis. Contact Meredith Kaplan at 415/744-3968 for more information. We are always interested in upgrading and adding to our slide file for the trail. Please send us good slides which we will copy and return to you.

A colorfully presented and readable history booklet, *The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail,* is available for $2.95 from the Southwest Parks and Monuments Association (SPMA) at 221 North Court, Tucson, AZ 85701. The telephone number is 602/622-1999. Cooperating associations of parks along the route may also have copies. The booklet was written by Don Garate and edited and designed by the SPMA staff.

(Draft Management Plan Released, cont.)
system of wayside exhibits will enhance visitor opportunities along the route. A planned promotional and tourism program will increase visitor awareness of American Indian and Spanish Colonial culture and history related to the 1775-76 Anza colonizing expedition to San Francisco Bay.



The cover of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail management plan draft.

Copies of the plan can be reviewed at libraries or county park and recreation or planning agencies along the route. Copies can be obtained from the National Park Service at the return address on this newsletter.

Once the public review period closes, comments will be assessed and appropriate changes made in the draft to produce a final plan. We anticipate a final plan by September 1995.⚓

Honors to George Cardinet

Roger Kennedy, Director of the National Park Service, recently placed George Cardinet on the Honor Roll of people essential to the National Trails System.

He wrote to George: "Your achievements as a successful proponent of the original version of the National Trails System Act, and more recently, as a persistent proponent of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, are to be commended. These actions have left an indelible mark on our country's endeavor to establish a nationwide system of trails... The legacy of your efforts will continue to be appreciated for years to come, providing a foundation for those who follow in your footsteps. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude, as well as that of the entire long-distance trails community, for your vision, perseverance, and commitment to trails."

In addition, George received a Waterford crystal statue and $1000 for the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award, a plaque, and a standing ovation at the 11th Annual California Trails Conference in Monterey earlier this year.

Congratulations, George, and thanks!

Notes on Noticias

Because of our unusual publication schedule, for your reference we list the numbers of Noticias de Anza which have been printed:

Volume 1, Numbers 1, 2, and 3
Volume 2, Numbers 1 and 2
Volume 3, Numbers 1, 2, and 3

Volume 1, Numbers 1 and 2 are out-of-print, but we do send out photocopies on request.

We anticipate a semi-annual publication of Noticias from now on.

If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive a copy of this newsletter, or if you have questions about the comprehensive management plan for the Anza Trail, please contact: Meredith Kaplan, National Park Service, Western Regional Office, telephone: 415/ 744-3968.

NOTICIAS DE ANZA
The Newsletter of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

National Park Service
Western Regional Office
Division of Planning, Grants & Environmental Quality
600 Harrison St., Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94107-1372
(Attention: Meredith Kaplan)

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