



*Flying a twin engine Grumman S-2 Tracker, Local 946 pilots Deen Oehl and Billy Hoskins rain fire retardant on the recent Santa Anita Wildfire near Los Angeles.*

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## California Wildfire Meets its Match

IAM-represented pilots and U.S. Forest Service workers were among hundreds of firefighters who battled the Santa Anita Wildfire near Los Angeles, the first major eruption in Southern California's 2008 forest fire season.

From the air, pilots from Local 946 in Rancho Cordova, CA, poured fire retardant and water on the fast-moving

blaze while Forest Service crews cut fire breaks and evacuated homes.

"For anyone in the path of a fire like this, these men and women are the cavalry coming to the rescue," said District 725 Business Representative Mike Cook, who also praised the maintenance crews who keep the aircraft in shape for their haz-

ardous missions.

"It's a pleasure to be a pilot in a program that has such a high standard of maintenance," said 14-year veteran John Butts about the mechanics, inspectors and support personnel who service the DynCorp-owned fleet that includes helicopters, Grumman S-2 Trackers and Vietnam-era Bronco OV-10s.

## Former Pullman Porter Celebrates 100th Birthday

Franklin Tilley, a former Pullman Porter, celebrated his 100th birthday in Kansas City, MO. Tilley began work at Kansas City Southern Railway in 1929. He later went to work for the Pullman Company, where he joined the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP), the first

*Retired Midwest Education Rep. Ed Lewis, standing, congratulates former Pullman Porter Franklin Tilley, right, on behalf of IAM President Tom Buffenbarger and TCU President Robert Scardelletti.*

African-American labor union.

"They say when you get old, people forget you," Tilley said. "Well, these people never forgot me, and I thank you for that." Brother Tilley reads the Bible and the newspaper daily, plays dominoes and still drives.

Founded by A. Philip Randolph in 1925, the BSCP today is part of the Transportation Communications International Union (TCU), which affiliated with the IAM in 2005.



Photo by Tom Ackerman

## 'Escape to the Wild' Features Local 1886 Member Barbara Ries

Denver, CO Local 1886 member Barbara Ries appeared on the *Escape to the Wild* television show after she won a hunting trip of a lifetime. A United Airlines Ramp Service worker with years of outdoor and hunting experience, Ries went on a caribou hunt in Canada's Northwest Territory after her brother secretly nominated her.

Ries took a float plane to a remote drop-camp location and then a 25-mile boat ride through rough water in freezing temperatures. Hunting caribou was just one of many memorable aspects of the trip. "To get up on a hill and look out and see 30 miles of nothing, no human intervention, was amazing," said Ries.

*Local 1886 member Barbara Ries won a trip to hunt caribou in Canada on the popular 'Escape to the Wild' television show.*



Photo by Tom Ackerman

'Escape to the Wild' is a program of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) that takes members of AFL-CIO-affiliated unions on the hunting or fishing trip of a lifetime.

Go to [www.trcp.org/escapetothewild.aspx](http://www.trcp.org/escapetothewild.aspx) to learn how you could be the next union member featured on 'Escape to the Wild.'



*After being told he was "too old" to benefit from a guide dog, Guide Dogs of America founder Joseph Jones vowed to help everyone he could regardless of age or race. Jones, far left, joins Hattie McDaniel, the first African-American to win an Oscar, as she presents Certificates of Training to Clysby Love, second from left, and Willie Hendricks in 1951. McDaniel was one of many Hollywood actors to support GDA.*

## Guide Dogs Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Established in 1948 as International Guiding Eyes by visually-impaired IAM member Joseph Jones, Guide Dogs of America (GDA) has provided thousands of trained Guide Dogs to blind recipients at no charge to them.

The IAM helped Jones start Guide Dogs and has been a key supporter ever since. Many IAM lodges hold yearly fundraising events to help cover the approximately \$40,000 to raise

and train a guide dog and provide partner training and housing.

The school started out in a North Hollywood, CA residence that could accommodate only two students at a time. GDA now operates in Sylmar, CA where it houses 10 students per class and graduates 40-50 students every year from the U.S. and Canada. Visit [www.guidedogsofamerica.org](http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org) for more information.