



# NEWSREEL

## TEAMSTERS LOCAL 399

LEO T. REED, SECRETARY-TREASURER

JANUARY 2010



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# Reluctant Heroes

By Leo T. Reed

It's not every day that the excitement from work continues after leaving the set. The crew working on the TV pilot "Rizzoli," as you will read in the following pages, got to do just that. Transportation Captain Bob Nelson and his crew of Mac DiRosario, John Hudson, Jeff Bova, and Bryan Brown spent a late night after work helping to prevent a potentially devastating brush fire from starting near Acton. It was because of their heroic actions and unflinching resolve



of the time we'd be bored to death. The excitement is why we are all in Hollywood.

This isn't the only instance of our members helping out the community, merely one of the most recent. Years ago our members had sent a truckload of supplies to soldiers stationed in Iraq. Local 399 was awarded the Seven Seals

Award for supporting

Reserve and National Guard units. None of this was ever made public, but we didn't do it for publicity. We know the great things that our members do, we know they do it with modesty, and we appreciate each other.

Although the things we do may never be publicized, that's all right with us. From helping troops overseas to helping a family in Soledad Canyon, Local 399 members do all they can for the community and the nation. Our generous and altruistic members and their accomplishments outside of the industry are the best-kept secret in the labor movement.

that an already dangerous house fire didn't turn into a much worse disaster. If that wasn't enough, they - along with the rest of the production crew - gave food, clothes and \$1,200 to the couple whose house burned down. It's people like Bob Nelson and his crew that make me proud to be a part of Local 399.

The motion picture industry is a very exciting business. Every day, Local 399 members are on set experiencing the thrilling aspects of movie making. Sometimes it may seem like everything in the film industry is an emergency, but let's face it, if things on set went smoothly all

## TEAMSTERS LOCAL 399

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# “Rizzoli” Teamsters Act In Soledad Canyon Fire



*“Rizzoli” firefighting Teamsters include John Hudson, Jeff Bova, Bob Nelson, and Bryan Brown.*

It was 1:30 in the morning early in December, and Captain Bob Nelson’s crew was preparing to head home. They had just wrapped the TV pilot “Rizzoli” for the day and were leaving their location at the Polsa Rosa Ranch in Acton when a frantic call came over the radio. John Hudson, a Teamster driver heading south on Soledad Canyon Road through a cell phone dead zone, had spotted a fire and radioed back to Nelson with a request for the water truck. Within moments the crew jumped into action and headed towards the blaze.

Nelson was joined in his pickup truck by Mac DiRosario and Jeff Bova, as well as Underwood water truck driver Bryan Brown, who had heard the call and was already on his way to the fire.

When they met up at the scene, they were immediately overcome with the gravity of the situation they faced. A doublewide home with added decks and a garage was engulfed in

flames, and Nelson knew that saving the home might not be possible.

“We could hear people yelling, but the smoke was too thick to see anything,” recalled Nelson, a 10-year Teamster member. After some tense moments they found, to their relief, that the homeowners were unharmed. They were yelling because they couldn’t find their dogs. Nelson and the rest of the crew raced back to the water truck.

“I grabbed the inch-and-a-half line and Jeff got on the three-inch water cannon,” remembered Nelson. “We knew we probably couldn’t save the house, so we started hosing down the propane tanks to keep them from exploding.”

It proved to be a smart decision. Brown was on set providing fire protection for the “Rizzoli” production in the heavily wooded Acton area, and was well aware that if the blaze spread into the surrounding brush a major fire could erupt.



“We stayed at the scene for about an hour and a half,” said five-year Teamster member Brown. “I drove the truck to the nearest hydrant after it was emptied and brought it back to the house, but by that time the fire department was in control.”

“The winds were blowing between 10 and 15 miles per hour, and we were concerned that it might spread to the surrounding area,” said Nelson. “In 15 minutes we emptied the entire 4,000 gallons in the water truck to prevent fire spreading.”

Although a loss of human life was prevented, not everything escaped the fire. Jerry Marshall, who owns the property, escaped unharmed with his girlfriend Christine, although the house burned down. Their two dogs were also lost, along with two out of four of their new puppies.

After they stayed the night in the transportation trailer and Star Wagon, the crew decided to try and help the victims even further. During the lunch break for “Rizzoli”, they contacted Jerry

and Christine and brought them down to the set. They were served lunch with the crew, and were brought to the wardrobe trailer for clothes, shoes, and bare essentials.

A bucket was passed among the entire crew – director and producers, writers, crew and actors – in an effort to raise money for the victims. By the time the bucket made its rounds, over \$1,200 was collected.

The director of the pilot, Mike Robin, was filled with admiration for the Teamsters who had risked their own safety in a time of great peril. “It doesn’t surprise me that Bob Nelson, Jeff Bova, and the rest of the crew jumped into action to help someone in need,” he remarked. “I’m proud to have them as an important part of this crew.”

*On The Cover:  
Jeff Bova and Mac DiRosario fight  
Soledad Canyon Fire*



# Around The Local



*The newly elected Joint Council 42 Executive Board, from left to right, President Randy Cammack; Vice President Robert Lennox; Secretary-Treasurer Mike Bergen; Recording Secretary Arthur A. Cantu; and Trustees Ron Herrera, Leo T. Reed and Pat Kelly.*



*Ben Giller visits Secretary-Treasurer Leo T. Reed at the Local 399 union hall*



*Edward Arriola, Shop Steward, CBS Network Drivers*

# Houston Oilers Honor Former Lineman Reed



*Secretary-Treasurer Leo T. Reed with Bud Adams, Co-founder of the American Football League and Founder/Owner of the Houston Oilers/Tennessee Titans franchise*

Local 399 Secretary-Treasurer Leo Reed was honored in November by his former NFL franchise, the Tennessee Titans, during their 50th anniversary celebration. Reed, who played for the Houston-based Oilers in the early 1960s, was invited to participate in the “Oilers Weekend of Champions.”

Reed and his wife Debbi traveled to Houston as guests of the Titans for the celebration, which coincided with the Monday Night Football game played between the Titans and the team that replaced them in Houston, the Texans. Reed and the other former players who were honored went on a tour of their old stadium – now known as Robertson Stadium on the campus of the University of Houston – and were invited to stand on the sideline during the game.

He went on to play for the Broncos and the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League, but left his mark on the Oilers organization. So much so, that the organization decided to award him a trophy for being a part of the 1961 AFL championship-winning team.

“It was an honor to be included in the Oilers Weekend of Champions,” Reed said. “I felt humbled that I was considered for this great honor.”

Although he was with the Oilers for only half a season – he was traded to the Denver Broncos – his time in Houston was significant. “The rookies really bonded together, because the veterans didn’t trust us yet,” Reed recalls. “I made a lot of good friends, and my time with the Oilers really prepared me for the rest of my football career.”

Much of Reed’s early adult years were spent



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on the football field. He played football at Kahuku High in Hawaii, and in 1958 went to Colorado State on a full athletic scholarship. The Houston Oilers originally drafted him in 1961, but halfway through the season he was traded to Denver. "Since I had played for three years at Colorado State, the Broncos were interested in signing me," said Reed. "Even though I was from Hawaii, they treated me like a local in Colorado because of my collegiate ties to the state."

Unlike modern players, the linemen of the early AFL and NFL didn't make millions of dollars a year. "The average salary for linemen back then was between \$10,000 and \$12,000 a year," remembers Reed. "None of us were playing to become millionaires. We just loved the game." Reed and his fellow linemen were also much slimmer than today's behemoths. "We may have been just as tall as today's pros, but we were only 250 pounds," Reed explained. "Today, a guy would have to be at least 300 pounds to play those positions."

After his professional football career ended, Reed returned to Hawaii and joined the Honolulu Police Department before landing a job as a school teacher and later with the Hawaii Government Employees Association. In 1975, longtime Hawaii labor leader Art Rutledge asked Reed to come work for the Teamsters. After serving as a Business Agent at Local 996 in Hawaii for 5 years, he moved to California and became a Local 399 driver. He soon became a BA at the local, and in 1988 was appointed Secretary-Treasurer. His 21 years seniority as Secretary-Treasurer makes him the longest serving principal officer in Joint Council 42.

"It doesn't seem like 50 years have passed," reflected Reed. "I still feel like I could go out on the field and play some downs. But, I realize, the only people I can tackle these days are management."



# Randy Cammack Honors Shop Stewards

Joint Council 42 President Randy Cammack, who also serves as an International Vice President, joined over fifty shop stewards for their annual Christmas dinner on December 20. It was the first chance that Local 399 members have had to meet their new Joint Council President after his appointment to the position.

"It was an honor to be invited here by Leo," Cammack said. "Local 399 is one of the strongest locals in this Joint Council, and the shop stewards are a major reason for that."

Local 399 Secretary-Treasurer Leo Reed echoed Cammack's comments. "Our shop stewards are the backbone of this local," he said. "Without them, we wouldn't be as well respected, not just in Hollywood but also in the national motion picture community."

Reed also commented on his new role with Joint Council 42. "I look forward to working with Randy at the Joint Council. I know that we will have his backing in the very important contract negotiations in the near future."



*Elsie James and daughter Alesia James, ABC Shop Steward*



*Tom Varela, ABC Shop Steward*



*Judy and Randy Cammack*



*Judy and Doug Perez, Classic Courier Shop Steward*





*Scott Ayers, George Skinta, Randy Peterson and Jack Fisher*



*Rene Fuselier, Warner Bros. Couriers Shop Steward and David Monroe*



*Kimberly and Guy Dean, Warner Bros. Shop Steward*



*Genevieve and Jon Hopton, Warner Bros. Shop Steward*



*Chris Scamaldo, First Call Shop Steward and Daughter Samantha*



*Hilda Banuelos, Citadel Shop Steward and John Ouano*

*“Local 399 is one of the strongest locals in this Joint Council, and the shop stewards are a major reason for that.” Randy Cammack, Joint Council 42 President*



*Mike Starns, Universal Shop Steward and son MC Starns*



*Roscoe Molina, 24/7 Shop Steward and Maria Jimenez*



# Wrangler Jimmy Sherwood Retires to Greener Pastures

Ask Jimmy Sherwood what he misses most after his retirement on Nov. 1 and he doesn't hesitate to answer. "I miss all the guys that I've worked with," says Sherwood, a Teamster member of Local 399 from Burbank, Calif., who has made Hollywood his career for 44 years. Sherwood spent most of his years as a wrangler and, more recently, a driver. Reflecting on his long career, he adds: "I have been lucky enough to work with livestock. All I had to invest in was a brush and curry comb. I got to be around excellent livestock people from all over the country. I feel privileged to have done that."

During his 35 years as a wrangler, movie projects took him on location all over the country. He managed horses, cattle and barnyard animals for the production of films such as "The Way West" (1967), "Paint Your Wagon" (1969), "Wyatt Earp" (1994), and he has done TV work for "Lonesome Dove" and "Little House on the Prairie."

"When I was wrangling, a typical day would begin at 4:30 am, and then you might work until 8 pm," he recalls. "Everybody works off the sun and tries to get as much done as possible. So we would head to the rental barns early, get the horses they needed and then haul them to wherever the company was shooting that day."

Overall, Sherwood really enjoyed wrangling, but he recalls that occasionally "stuff got away. There are times when the animals do get away from you and you have to go back and get them somehow and try to get control again." Fortunately this didn't happen



very often, he says with a smile.

When wrangling jobs began to dry up in 2000, Sherwood switched to driving and has been doing it ever since. Lately he's been working on set construction and dressing for the TV show "Heroes." He moves building materials to assist carpenters and propmakers working on sets. "We go over to the lumberyard to get materials or any special stuff they need," he says.

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## **Wrangler Jimmy Sherwood Retires to Greener Pastures**

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Sherwood's passion, however, is animals. And now that he has retired, he plans to spend more time with his own horses. "We have three horses and keep two of them in the backyard," he says. His Burbank neighborhood is zoned for horses and borders the Hollywood Hills area, where he likes to ride. "You ride a couple of blocks on city streets and then you get up into the park and there are miles of bridle trails."

Sherwood also enjoys doing leather work. He creates and repairs saddles and other horse equipment. "I like to build and make things. I have a shop in my garage," he says.

During retirement he's looking forward to spending more time with family. "I have a daughter and son (both grown) and my wife and I have been married almost 40 years," he says. "You spend your whole life going to work at 4 am and just the idea of living life on your own terms sounds good."