

**Outstanding Teamwork—Morris Frank, Buddy,
and Dorothy Eustis**



PIONEERS - Morris Frank, Dorothy Harrison Eustis and Buddy in 1936.
(Seeing Eye Photo)

Photo: BW print; Morris Frank in dark double-breasted suit at left, at right Dorothy Eustis in dark dress and feathered hat; she has her right hand on her hip and looks up at Frank; at their feet sits Buddy, a mottled dark German Shepherd in a leather harness, her leash is held in Frank's right hand; stuffed floral chair and floral carpet in background.

- * With increasing confusion created by service dog certificate scams and vagueness of where an emotional support animal can and cannot go, a look back at the beginning of who started the movement in the United States might help clarify the original intent.
- * Morris Frank became blind as a result of a horse riding accident at age 6 and a boxing match at age 16. Frank realized his dependency on others while a college student at Vanderbilt University. He learned of an American woman, Dorothy Eustis, who was training dogs in Switzerland to assist blind World War I veterans. Frank contacted Eustis, flew to Switzerland and was introduced to Buddy. After extensive training, the duo returned to the U.S. and Frank telegraphed Eustis with the word “success” and co-founded with her, The Seeing Eye organization that continues to train service dogs and their handlers today.
- * The first graduating class of 2 students, both who were already medical doctors, and their service dogs gained their mobility and independence in 1929.
- * Dorothy Eustis, an affluent dog trainer was impressed by the skills of her dog, Hans, and sought out other training opportunities and supplied service dogs to police services and the Red Cross.
- * The special relationships between dogs and people who are blind can be traced back as far as ancient Rome. But The Seeing Eye was the first guide-dog school in the modern sense, and Buddy became the forerunner of canine guides for people who are blind in the United States. The Seeing Eye remained in Nashville for two years, then relocated to Morristown, N.J., on a roomier 56-acre estate. On its campus the school offers dog training, instructors, housing for all, and living situations where the hard work between students and dogs is carried out day by day.