



# Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Newsletter

## 2018 Broadcast Pioneer President

The Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Board has selected **Dave White** to serve as it's new President .Dave is President and owner of DreamVision Media Partners, a company he founded in 2002 along with his son Josh. Dave is a native Hoosier who attended Franklin College and Southern Illinois University.



**Dave White**  
**IBP President 2018**



His radio career began while attending Franklin College where he served as the paid student manager of WFCI the college station. He also worked part time at the local commercial radio station, WIFN. After graduation he continued at WIFN which resulted in an introduction to the love of his life, Roberta.

Dave and Roberta were soon married and, along with Dave's daughter, Jennifer, lived on the Southside of Indianapolis.

As a radio talk show host Dave got to know the directors of many of the area's human service agencies. Soon he had the chance to make a career change. He took the job as residential services director at Gateway - the Johnson County rehab agency. While there he studied rehabilitation administration at SIU. Initially, his role at Gateway was largely a development and PR job. His efforts were successful and a new fully funded group home was built. In the meantime two executive directors left the agency. After serving as interim, Dave accepted the job as executive director. Dave never really left broadcasting. During his Gateway years he worked 2-3 evenings or overnights a week at WFMS as a country disc jockey. He also produced news format public affairs programs that aired at WIFE radio and WISH TV both in Indianapolis.

After 5 years at the rehab agency Dave decided to go back to broadcasting full time. Friendships with other broadcasters made the move seamless. He served brief stints at WATI and WNTS in Indianapolis before going to WBRI/WXIR where he soon became operations manager and program director. Along with friend and co-worker Phil Foley, Dave hosted and produced music video programs on WHMB TV 40 for 10 years. For 13 of his 20 years at WXIR-Love 98 he was the morning drive host. The station was recognized as one of the top 5 contemporary Christian stations in the U.S. while he was program director.

Dave continued to produce and host his program at WISH TV for nearly 30 years overlapping with the founding of DreamVision Media Partners. DreamVision has an ongoing relationship with the Indiana Broadcasters Association through biographies produced for the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame at the Indiana State Museum. Other DreamVision clients include the American Baptist Denomination, organizations for the protection of abused children and women such as The National Child Protection Training Center and one of America's largest real management firms. Dave and Roberta enjoy weekends at their Brown County lake home. The highlights are weekends with Jennifer and Josh's families which now include great grandchildren. The IBP Board looks forward to Dave's leadership.



## IBP President Barry Allen Ends Term

Having been gone from the Indiana broadcast scene It was a bit of a surprise to be suddenly in the president's role so quickly. It most certainly has been an honor and I am very grateful for the kind support of the committee. So I look back on the last year as being a placeholder for someone who could better engage in carrying the Pioneers forward.



**Barry Allen**

I believe my main accomplishment was to set fixed dates for meetings of the committee so that those who regularly attend could block out their calendars well in advance. Probably the most important discussion during the year was about reacting to the disturbing and growing dislike and distrust of all mainstream media. A campaign was discussed to promote via those media venues who would be willing to volunteer air and, possibly, print time and space to carry the campaign to empathize that media matters and the first amendment's role to inform and protect the public. This is a continuing discussion and has the support of IBA President Dave Arland.

I regularly attended meetings of the IBA Board, representing the Pioneers and shared information between the two groups.

I am pleased I could lead the Pioneer Board

I am honored I was offered the opportunity to lead the Pioneers and delighted that Dave White has enthusiastically stepped up to the plate to lead Pioneer Organization organization.

## Pioneer Board I.U. Trip

On February 4, 2018, the Indiana Broadcast Pioneer Board will be visiting the Broadcast facilities at Indiana University. Former Pioneer Board members, Ken Beckly-WRTV-TV and Ann Ryder-WTHR-TV, will host the tour of I.U.'s facilities. Board Members will be meeting and talking with staff and students. The group will travel to and from I.U. by bus.



## FROM INDIANA TO AROUND THE WORLD

In the fall of 1909 a young Lowell Thomas went to the University of Northern Indiana in Valparaiso, Indiana where he attended classes for two years from 1909 to 1911 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Arts degree by taking a double class load. While at Valpo he befriended Eddie Rickenbacker and they became life long friends. Rickenbacker, a leading fighter ace in World War I and retired chairman of Eastern Air Lines also became well known as a race car driver, competing in the Indianapolis 500 four times before World War I, and earning the nickname "Fast Eddie"

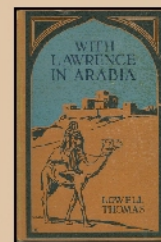


**Thomas at  
NBC Radio**



**Rickenbacker  
at the 500**

Lowell Thomas became one of the first radio and television broadcasters and was a long time narrator of Fox Movietone News, a film news reel that ran from 1927 through 1963, covering sports, Hollywood's heyday, World War II, natural disasters and world events. His radio program "Lowell Thomas and the News" ran from 1930 to 1976 and was the longest running radio program in history at nearly forty-six years. Thomas is also primarily credited with making T.E. Lawrence "Lawrence of Arabia" world famous after World War I. Lowell had a deep strong voice and was an excellent writer authoring over sixty books. He is also known for two television programs: High Adventure, a series of



**Lowell Thomas  
Autobiography**

travelogue specials filmed in the late 1950s for CBS; and Lowell Thomas Remembers, a 1970s PBS series that reviewed major news events from 1919 through 1975 using newsreel footage, including some that Thomas originally narrated for Movietone.

His travels became his radio show broadcasting from the four corners of the globe. Once on the Spanish Steps in Rome he was asked by a fellow American, "Lowell Thomas, don't you ever go home?"



# Doctor Dirt

After over five decades on the air, "Dr. Dirt" - aka - Dick Crum, is officially retiring from television.

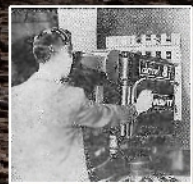
"In the beginning", Crum was working as a nursery inspector in Madison, Wisconsin prior to taking a job with the Marion County Extension Office in Indianapolis in 1962.

Shortly after Crum was hired, the director of extensions told the staff that TV had arrived but he wasn't sure it was anything "we" should get involved in." So, . . . since Crum was the new guy on the staff, they said: 'how would you like to do TV?' Crum said he replied, "Well, I guess I can." That commitment led Crum to a years long string of guest appearances on local television and radio stations.



Dick Crum

His first "On Air" experience lasted several years when Crum co-hosted a weekly early morning show on WISH-TV with then station announcer Stan Wood. The program was called "Town and Country".



WISH TV  
in Black & White

"I quickly learned I needed pictures, that television wasn't all talk." He then spent a couple of days working with a Purdue photographer. He bought a Kodak camera and started illustrating his television appearances with four to six Kodachrome slides.

"Then I had all those slides, so I decided to start workshops and programs, such as landscape design, how to select trees and shrubs," he said. His free talks all over Central Indiana drew capacity crowds, entertained not just by his slides, but by his sense of humor. In 1968 he started the Marion County Master Gardener training program.

So, from a 100-acre farm in rural Parke County, where as a teenager, he adopted a 5-acre apple orchard at a nearby high school as a personal learning lab, he ventured off to Purdue University to major in forestry, but learned that summers meant mandatory camps for students. I told my adviser that I couldn't do that because I had to work in the summer. He told me to join the army and come back under the GI Bill. I told him I didn't want to join the army. Right down the hall was the horticulture department, so I switched to that, said Crum, who then spent 35 years as Purdue Extension Marion County horticulture educator. But there were no jobs in his science major, so he returned to Purdue for a master's in entomology, the study of insects where there were a lot of jobs. He and his wife Jody then moved to Wisconsin, where he inspected nurseries for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture. The nurseries lined up their plants in marked rows and as he inspected them, he learned their names and developed an interest and expertise in ornamental horticulture. He returned to Indiana for the Marion County extension job in 1962. When he got to Indianapolis, he was invited to do some TV news



WRTV-6

programs, first on WISH-TV (Channel 8) and more recently, WRTV-TV (Channel 6). But he didn't stop with just TV, he made his first guest appearance on WIBC radio in 1964 and had co-hosted "The Home and Garden Show" on Saturdays for many many years. In addition, Crum also wrote a regular advice column for the Indianapolis News and Star newspapers beginning in the early 1970's.



WIBC Radio

That early "on air" exposure led to a more than 50 plus year part time job. But now he says it's time to hang up his trowel.

But he's not completely gone – Dr. Dirt will continue to answer your gardening questions at [DrDirt@theindychannel.com](mailto:DrDirt@theindychannel.com).



# Hoosier Hot Shots

Back in the 1920's, Ezra Buzzington's comedic/musical novelty ensemble, The Rustic Revelers, served as the "boot camp" for many a young Mid-Western musician and comedian aspiring to become a professional entertainer and break into vaudeville. Among the most noteworthy alumni of The Rustic Revelers were three country boys from Indiana who would eventually gain fame as The Hoosier Hot Shots: Ken Trietsch (plectrum guitar, tuba), Paul

"Hezzie" Trietsch (washboard), and Charles Otto "Gabe" Ward (clarinet). Another former Rustic Reveler, bass player Frank Delaney Kettering, became the fourth Hoosier Hot Shot in 1933. Like many a refugee from a dying vaudeville they set their sights on a career in radio and, pooling their talents. They eventually landed a job at WOWO in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. It was there that they unintentionally became known as the Hoosier Hot Shots. One day, when they barely made it to the studio in time for their program, a clock-conscious announcer, flustered by the prospect of their being late or not showing up at all, greeted them with the admonition, "Hey, you Hoosier hot shots, get in here!"



Hoosier Hot Shots

The Hot Shots' core personnel were multi-instrumentalists, playing brass band instruments as well as their standard instrumentation and a strange, homemade instrument known both as the "Wabash Washboard" and "the Zither," played by Hezzie. It consisted of a corrugated sheet metal washboard on a metal stand with various noisemakers attached, including bells and a multi-octave range of squeeze-type bicycle horns; Hezzie Trietsch constructed this instrument himself. Hezzie also played slide whistle on which he was able to play melodies and variations in addition to effects. The washboard, along with other artifacts from the band, is now in the collection of the Indiana State Museum. The quartet amused audiences for years broadcasting as an act on the National Barn Dance on WLS in Chicago. They were known for such songs as "I Like Bananas Because They Have No Bones" and From the Indies to the Andes in His Undies, "When There's Tears in the Eyes of a Potato and Connie's Got Connections in Connecticut. It cannot be doubted that they were an inspiration for Spike Jones and His City Slickers.

The Hoosier Hot Shots were begun by two brothers, Kenneth and Paul (Hezzie) Trietsch, who grew up in a musical family on a farm near Arcadia, Indiana (north of Indianapolis). The brothers began their career by touring in vaudeville with their banjo-picking father. When the father retired, the brothers joined an outfit called the Rube Band, where they became friends with a fellow Indiana musician, Charles (Gabe) Ward. When vaudeville succumbed after the 1929 stock market crash, the Rube Band broke up, and the Trietsch brothers and Ward found a nest with WOWO in Fort Wayne, IN, where an announcer first named them the Hoosier Hot Shots. In 1933 they were picked up by WLS in Chicago for a daytime local program and the National Barn Dance, broadcast over NBC. The following year they were joined by a fourth musician, Illinois native Frank Kettering.



Gene Autry & Hot Shots  
Movie Poster

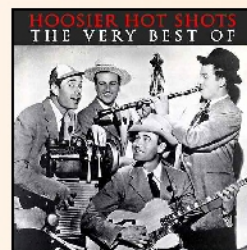
The Hot Shots fame eventually took them to Hollywood in 1937, where they appeared in more than 20 Western movies. During World War II the Hot Shots made tours for the USO, appearing in North Africa and Italy. Frank Kettering left the group in 1944 for the military and was replaced by Alabaman Gil Taylor. When television came along, the Hot Shots were part of it. But by 1960 their popularity had waned, though they continued performing until Hezzie's death in 1980. They left behind a treasure trove of

recordings, most cut at 78 rpm before LPs came in.

Many were reissued on various LPs and CDs in the 1980s and 90s and even the early years of the present century.



WOWO Transmitter  
1929



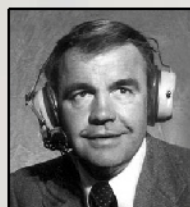
Hot Shots Album





## DICK ENBERG INDIANA ICON!

In 1957, Enberg became the first student announcer on the IU Sports Radio Network, and voiced the first radio broadcast of IU's iconic Little 500 bike race. He also covered Hoosiers football and basketball during his time in Bloomington. Enberg earned master's and doctorate degrees in health sciences at Indiana University.



"He was the trailblazer," said Galen Clavio, Director of the National Sports Journalism Center at IU. "When you look at the many great sports

broadcasters that have come through Indiana University, he was really the person everybody could point to and say, 'That's the pinnacle of success in the business.'

Enberg's work was honored over the years with numerous awards, including 13 Sports Emmys.



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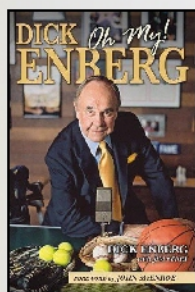
Enberg's big break came when he was chosen to call UCLA basketball games. During that nine-year stint, the Bruins won eight NCAA titles. He did college and professional football and Major League Baseball. He also called other sporting events such as boxing, tennis, golf, horse racing and the Olympics. He did so many things



and did them all so well. The things he started and was a part of laid a foundation that everybody who came here after him was able to utilize." Enberg called the 1979 NCAA championship game featuring Larry Bird and Indiana State versus Magic Johnson and Michigan State. He was part of the broadcast for two of IU's three national titles under Bob Knight, as well as the Hoosiers' thrilling upset of No. 1 Duke in the 2002 NCAA tournament.

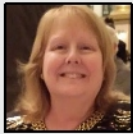
Enberg called a total eight Super Bowls with NBC. Beyond the NFL and MLB, Enberg called 28 Wimbledon tournaments, the last coming in 2011 with ESPN. He also called the biggest events in golf and boxing. "You saw him as the epitome of what a broadcaster should be in terms of not taking yourself seriously and not becoming bigger than the event, but doing your part to bring the broadcast back to the audience," said Mike Conway, associate professor at IU's Media School. His popularity and his on air demeanor allowed him to enjoy high-profile roles with NBC and CBS, he called San Diego Padres games as the team's main television voice for seven years before he retired at the conclusion of the 2016 season.

Enberg received the Distinguished Alumni Service Award from I.U. in 2012 and was inducted into the IU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006.





**Michele Marie Broadstreet**, age 64, of New Whiteland, IN. passed away on Friday afternoon, January 26, 2018 at her home. Michele was born in Gary, IN on September 28, 1953 to Jack Ellis and Betty Lou Ellis. She was a 1971 graduate of Andrean High School in Merrillville, IN. On January 8, 1977, she married Michael L. Broadstreet, who survives. Michele retired as a traffic manager at WISH-TV after many years of service and also worked for various television stations over the years including, UPN, PAX TV, WRTV, WTHR and WLFI in Lafayette.



**Vern Kaspar**, one of the longest-running radio owners in the state, died January 5, 2018. Mr. Kaspar served in the Navy during World War II, graduated from Iowa State College and went into management at Iowa State-owned WOI-TV (Channel 5) in the early 1950s. Mr. Kaspar came to Indiana later in the decade and purchased WILO radio in Frankfort. This became the cornerstone of Kaspar Media group. Mr. Kaspar started a local talk show, "Partyline," on WILO in 1960 and hosted it for many years. Kaspar Media's holdings grew to include WSHW (99.7fm, Frankfort) as well as KWRE/KFAV in Warrenton, Missouri and many FM translators. At the age of 13, he received his FCC License, and he is most likely holding the oldest FCC license in the United States of America. He was a 32 degree master mason and was widely known for his generosity.



Mr. Kaspar's interests included amateur radio and travel. He was inducted into the Indiana Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2004. Survivors include his son, Russ, who now runs Kaspar Media and WILO/WSHW. Vern Kaspar was inducted into the Indiana Broadcasters Hall of Fame in October 2004. He was a former board member of the National Broadcast Editorial Association. At the age of 13, he received his FCC License, and he is most likely holding the oldest FCC license in the United States of America. He was a 32 degree master mason and was widely known for his generosity.

Mr. Kaspar was 95.

**Leonard J. Ellis** age 89, of Valparaiso, Indiana, died Monday, January 14, 2018. He was a country music disc jockey, show promoter, radio host known as "Uncle Len" and owner of Radio One Communications in Valparaiso. He was born Leonard Elezovich on February 28, 1928 in Chicago's to Nikola and Riketa Elezovich, who had immigrated to the US from Croatia before 1920. Ellis attended Harrison High School and Duquesne University and was a member of the Tamburitzans, an international folk music ensemble. He served in the US Army and graduated from Columbia College in Chicago.. For more than 50 years, starting in the early 1950s at WJOB in Hammond, Indiana he was known locally and around the country as "Uncle Len." He was a founder of the Country Music Association in Nashville, Tennessee. Along with his wife, Bee Ellis, he was the owner and operator of Porter County Broadcasting, which operated WAKE Radio and WLJE-FM. He became "Uncle Len" at WJOB in Hammond in the early 1950s when he mentioned on the air that his sister had a baby. "I guess I'm Uncle Len now," he said, and listeners started sending his fan mail addressed to Uncle Len. He felt strongly that he should play country music for the people who had come from Appalachia after WW2.. In the 1950s and 60s he brought Grand Ole Opry musicians to perform in Hammond: Brenda Lee, Johnny Cash, George Jones, Buck Owens, Patsy Cline, Ernest Tubb, Marty Robbins and more. He was active in a national disc jockey's association and was named Mr. Dee Jay USA in 1963 and CMA's Small Market Disc Jockey of the year in 1978. Together he and his wife Bee built radio stations in northwest Indiana known for their community-based programming, starting with WAKE in 1963 and later WLJE-FM. Ellis revived his country music program and became Uncle Len again from 6:00-9:00 a.m. for 25 years in Valparaiso.. His children all followed in their parents footsteps and worked at the stations, which later became Radio One Communications, consisting of WAKE, WLJE, WXRJ and WZVN, managed by his son Leigh after Len retired in the late 80s.





**Death Notices cont:****Max Showalter**

Max Showalter, veteran Lafayette broadcaster and journalist passed away on Sunday, at age 72. Before Lafayette, Mr. Showalter began his broadcasting career in Frankfort (We'd presume at WILO). In the early 1980s, Mr. Showalter

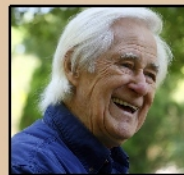
arrived in Lafayette and started working as the News Director at WASK. That lasted about a decade. After that, Mr. Showalter became a newspaper reporter for the local Lafayette Journal and Courier, retiring in 2012. The visitation and funeral were this evening in a Cincinnati, Ohio suburb. After retirement, Mr. Showalter and his wife moved there to be closer to family. As Mr. Showalter was a "Parrothead," Hawaiian shirts were de rigueur tonight. Max was born in Marion Indiana & grew up working in his parent's grocery store in Upland Indiana. He graduated from Jefferson High School in Upland and received his bachelor's degree in journalism from Marion College. Max started his broadcasting career in Frankfort Indiana at the local radio station. He went on to work in radio for the next 20 years at various radio stations, including KFIZ in Fond du Lac Wisconsin and WASK in Lafayette Indiana. Max left WASK to pursue a career in reporting for the Journal and Courier in Lafayette, where he retired in 2012. He and Arlene then moved to Maineville Ohio, to be closer to their daughter and her family and to be able to attend all of their grandson's sports activities. Max was an avid Jimmy Buffett fan and was the President of the Lafayette chapter of the Jimmy Buffett fan club, Parrotheads in Paradise. Max also loved to listen to Bluegrass music and was also the President of the Fiddlers Group in Lafayette. He also loved baseball, in particular, the Chicago White Sox and attended their games as much as he could.

**Belated Announcement**

The Indiana Broadcast Pioneers recently learned that Joe Lake, former national sales manager for WISH TV in Indianapolis died this past May. He left WISH to become Sales Manager for KXTV Channel 10 in Sacramento, California. Lake is remembered by station staff as quite old school, a disappearing breed of community minded, locally-focused GM's.

**Joe Lake****Jimmy Mack**

**IBP Hall of Fame and IBP Board Member Jimmy Mack**



**recently fell in his home and injured his leg. He was unable to get up and was taken by ambulance to St. Vincent H Hospital.**

**Although the leg was not broken he spent several weeks in the hospital recovering and waiting to be released. He is now home and mobile with occasional help from a cane. Jimmy McDowell is a 1947 graduate of Columbia Radio and Speech College, Chicago. His broadcasting career took him to WCFL Chicago, WHFB Benton Harbor, WOOD Radio & TV Grand Rapids, WISH Radio and TV, WXLW, WBRI, WIRE and WLW-I Indianapolis. He also has worked at WFAB in his hometown of Lincoln, Nebraska and WLMG a hospital station in England during WWII. As "Jimmy Mack" his radio programs ran the gamut from singing with organ or piano accompaniment to DJ shows anytime from early morning to late night. His extensive TV career included everything from variety shows to host of local talent shows to writer, producer, announcer and weekend weather man, and . . .**

**he is 95.**

**Pioneer Contact Information**

**Newsletter: Bob Smith**

13448 Lantern Road

Fishers, Indiana 46038

[broadcastpioneers@gmail.com](mailto:broadcastpioneers@gmail.com)