

May 2014



# Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Newsletter

## INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY

In May of 1924 radio listeners heard announcer A.W. Kaney say, "This is Chicago's WDAP, soon to be WGN, located in the Drake Hotel, Chicago." Kaney was speaking from the Indy 500, broadcasting the race with live reports from the Speedway. It was the first airing of a car race on American radio. 1924 was also the same year radio station WFBM began its service to the Indianapolis, Indiana, community.



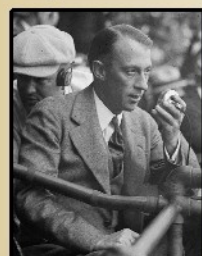
A.W. Kaney



1925 winner Pete Depalo

coverage of the "500-Mile Race," airing intermittent reports from the track. Peter DePaolo won the 500 that year driving a Duesenberg Special equipped with a GE supercharger, averaging 101.127mph.

Depalo collected \$36,150 for the win. Track owner Eddie



Graham McNamee

Rickenbacker drove the pace car that year using his own vehicle, the "Rickenbacker Eight".

Those early broadcasts spurred additional interest among listeners and by 1928 the Indy 500 broadcast coverage included a full hour of the finish of the race by NBC network radio. Legendary radio voice Graham McNamee continued to broadcast the race through the 1930's.



Infield parking



l to r Track owner Col. Eddie Rickenbacker, driver Ralph DePalma and WFBM announcer Ken Ellington



Rickenbacker & the 1925 Pace

## Heatherington Inducted to I.U. Journalism HOF

Jim Heatherington, an Indiana University graduate, has been inducted into the 2014 I.U. Journalism Hall of Fame. Heatherington was editor/writer at the Louisville Times and the Indianapolis Times.



**Heatherington**

Heatherington is an Indianapolis native who, early in his career, was an editor and writer at the Louisville Times and the Indianapolis Times. He then moved to broadcast journalism in 1963 at WFBM-TV of Indianapolis (now WRTV). As the editorial director for WFBM, then the NBC affiliate in Indianapolis, Heatherington wrote and produced local documentaries as well as daily editorials.

He won several national awards in the 1960s and 1970s for his reporting, which included the civil rights movement and the racial integration of schools. He has written four books include that cover the histories of the Indianapolis war monuments and the city's Union Station train depot. Jim Heatherington and his wife, Susan Bassett Heatherington, BA'53, have supported the School of Journalism by establishing scholarships, among other efforts.

Heatherington's work was honored with Peabody and DuPont awards for broadcast excellence and community service, among other accolades. His topics included civil rights, public health, mass transit and race relations in Indianapolis.

Pretty impressive for a guy that started with a notepad and a speed graphic camera.

## Broadcasting Magazine November 1939

### FIRST BIRTHDAY

October 30, 1939

**Just a Baby. . . But Oh-h What Ummmph!**  
**A Baby with a voice that reaches farther than**  
**any other radio station in central Indiana!**  
**A baby that has more than a half million radio**  
**homes! A baby with a voice that is loved and**  
**listened to by more than a million and a**  
**quarter Hoosiers! A baby with a voice that in**  
**12 short months speaks for twice as many**  
**local businesses as do it's two neighbors!**

**A Baby with a voice that has proved**  
**exceptional in making friends and influencing**  
**Hoosiers!**

**Ohhh---What Ummph!**

### WIBC

*The Friendly Voice of Indiana"*

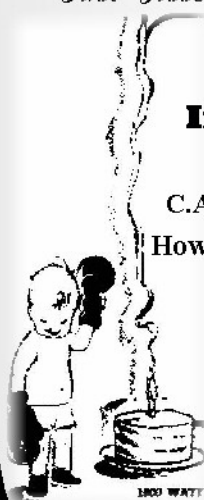
**Indianapolis**

1000 Watts

C.A. McLaughlin, V.P., Gen. Mgr.

Howard H. Wilson Co. Nat'l Reps.

1050 KC



1000 WATTS



# Indiana Historical Radio

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The Indiana Historical Radio Society documents, preserves and displays vintage radios, accessories and equipment. Radio collectors and historians and radio enthusiasts, primarily from



2014 Indiana Historical Radio. Event

Indiana and surrounding states, enjoy an avocation of seeking out, documenting, and restoring vintage radios. The Indiana Historical Radio Society meets several times a year at different Indiana



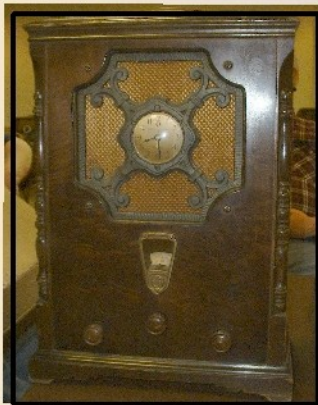
locations. Highlights of the meetings include old radio swap meets, display and operating radio contests, auctions, and seminars and a Indiana



Tube Tester

Historical Radio Society Bulletin. Members contribute articles on radio repair and historical documentation. The organization has been fortunate to have dedicated group. Society members are eager to talk about radio repair, locating parts, radio history, and “the one that got away”.

The IHRS is part of a great resource network of individuals dedicated to preserving radios and radio history and share their interest at their annual event.



Vintage Clock Radio



"Best of Show"

Sears & Roebuck Silvertone  
Radio  
Broadcast and Short Wave

The IHRS has supported displays of historic radio at a number of locations over the past forty two years.



Early Radio Speaker



Need a tube replacement?



B.T.H. Crystal Wireless Receiver



## Commercial TV Signals Over the Internet?

Grappling with fast-changing technology, Supreme Court justices are debating whether they can protect the copyrights of TV broadcasters to the shows they send out without strangling innovations in the use of the Internet.

The high court heard arguments in a dispute between television broadcasters and Aereo Inc., which takes free television signals from the airwaves and charges subscribers to watch the programs on laptop computers, smartphones and even their large-screen televisions. The case has the potential to bring big changes to the television industry. David Frederick, representing Aereo, said the "cloud computing industry is freaked out about the case" because it sees its \$10 billion investment at risk if the court were to hold that anytime music or an image is stored online and then retrieved, the copyright law would be implicated.

Aereo's service starts at \$8 a month and is available in New York, Boston, Houston and Atlanta, among 11 metropolitan areas.

Subscribers get about two dozen local over-the-air stations, plus the Bloomberg TV financial channel.

In each market, Aereo has a data center with thousands of dime-size antennas. When a subscriber wants to watch a show live or record it, the company temporarily assigns the customer an antenna and transmits the program over the Internet to the subscriber's laptop, tablet, smartphone or even a big-screen TV with a Roku or Apple TV streaming device.

The antenna is only used by one subscriber at a time, and Aereo says that's much like the situation at home, where a viewer uses a personal antenna to watch over-the-air broadcasts for free.

Broadcasters including ABC, CBS, Fox, NBC and PBS sued Aereo for copyright infringement, saying Aereo should pay for redistributing the programming the same way cable and satellite systems must or risk high-profile blackouts of channels that anger their subscribers. Some networks have said they will consider abandoning free over-the-air broadcasting if they lose at the Supreme Court.

The broadcasters and their backers argue that Aereo's competitive advantage lies not in its product, but in avoiding paying for it. Aereo argues that broadcasters would benefit from increased advertising revenue from increased viewership. The company says many of its subscribers are under 30 and have never had cable service. A decision is expected by late June.

## Denver Darling

Denver Darling,, born in 1909 in



**Denver Darling**

Whopock,, Illinois, was one of country music's brightest stars in the 1940's. A self taught musician, he learned to play three chords on a guitar from a neighbor after moving to Jewlett, Illinois. Within two years he was singing and

playing at various venues around the area. In 1929 he landed a job at WBOW radio in Terre, Haute, Indiana. Throughout the 1930's he worked at various radio stations, mostly around the mid-west. including WSBT in South Bend, Indiana.

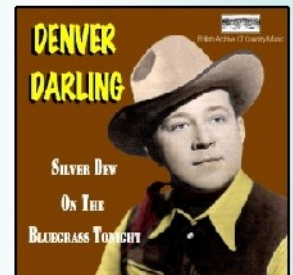
Next up was a brief run on the "National Barn Dance." radio program.

He hit the "Big Time" when he went to New York city to appear on WOR radio and also had a few bookings in Greenwich Village.

That exposure led to his own radio show on a major station in the city, WNEW. By 1941 he had a recording contract with Decca

Records, and later recording for Deluxe and MGM. He was now writing his own songs and during

W.W. II wrote and recorded songs with titles such as, "The Devil and Mr. Hitler," and "When



Mussolini Laid His Pistol Down and later became the first Country Artist to perform at Carnegie Hall. He eventually developed throat problems and moved back to Illinois to raise his family and lived the life of a gentleman farmer.



## Big News, Small City

A major broadcasting event took place in the small town of Elwood, Indiana on August 17, 1940. On that date Wendell L. Willkie, from that small city, accepted his nomination for President as a candidate of the Republican Party. Three hundred thousand people descended upon the small city of Elwood by train, car, bus and wagon. The weather had been hot and dry and the temperature was in the high nineties. The mass of humanity jammed packed into the town, whose population at that time was just under 11,000 people were miserable, enduring dust mixed with perspiration and scorching heat.



Downtown Elwood August, 1940

At 1 o'clock Saturday, the bell in the central tower began to ring while neighbors and friends of Wendell and all the Willkie family joined the mob of visitors. Willkie's address was broadcast by the three national networks (NBC, CBS, and MBS) live from Callaway park. A microphone was in place to pick up Willkie's speech and his voice was amplified by a special portable amplifier that had been installed and fed over a special leased telephone wire to each network station. If necessary it would be amplified a second time before airing.



Wendell Willkie at the Mic.

When the ceremony was over, as easily, quickly, and quietly as they had come, the great throng departed. Although it was a huge event for the city, Willkie's effort was labeled "A very disappointing and ordinary campaign speech." The national press gave Willkie scathing reviews on the speech. Supporters blamed the heat or claimed he was better just talking rather than reading a script.

## AS SEEN ON TV!

For those of you who have missed the opportunity to do some shopping through your TV set, the following items are now available....

Rocket Hose, Ankle Genie

Hand Free Binoculars

Fat Magnet, Pet Hammock

Booty Belt, Lint Lizard

Feet Lighted Slippers

Disposable Adult Bibs

Oyster Mushroom Growing Kit

Talking Toilet Paper Holder

**CALL NOW!!**

## Death Notices

**Eileen Ackman 91**, passed away February 21, 2014.. She was born in Butler, PA on January 22 to Leslie and Ethel (Davis) Myers. The theater was a big part of Eileen's life. She graduated from The Schuster-Martin School of Drama in 1944 and was a radio personality at both WQAM in Miami, FL and later at WXLW in Indianapolis. She was a writer, actress and executive producer for "Time for Timothy", a local children's TV show. She also appeared in several commercials and taught drama at IUPUI. Eileen was a member of First Baptist Church in Indianapolis and was the drama director for the church. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Doug; son, Greg (David Leyton); daughter, Lesley



**Eileen Ackman**

## Death Notices continued

**Bill Darwin, 80**, who spent 42 years with WTRC Radio in Elkhart, Indiana, passed away Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at Memorial Hospital in South Bend. Darwin, born William Vilmure on January 10, 1934 in Louisville, KY . spent 42 years with WTRC Radio. He joined the station from WKZO-A and WKZO TV in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Darwin arrived in Elkhart in 1967 and for more than 40 years, was the voice of morning radio in Northern Indiana. In 2009, Darwin retired from WTRC-1340 when it changed it's format. He also hosted Good Morning Michiana on WSJV TV Fox CH 28 for 25 years and was the long-time host of the M-D-A Telethon. Bill graduated from the University of Louisville and served in the U. S. Army with the Armed Forces Radio/TV network services in Tokyo.



Bill Darwin

**Robert "Bob" Jordan 76**, died May 9, 2014. He was born June 29, 1937 in Indianapolis to the late Everette and Vivian Jordan. Bob graduated from Tech High School and attended Indiana University. He enlisted in the Air Force and served four years. Bob returned to Indianapolis and worked in the electronics field at places like WIRE, WRTV, and Channel 40. Bob is survived by his daughter Kelly and three grandchildren,

**Jamie Perko, 44**, of Highland, died April 23, 2014.



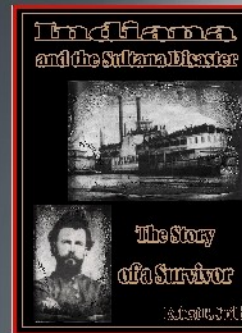
Jaime Perko

He was a 1987 graduate of Highland High School and attended I.U. Bloomington. He was known as the "Cable TV Sports Guy," covering Northwest Indiana high school sports from the late 1990s until 2010. He

was hard-working and dedicated to covering prep sports in the region. He had done work for Comcast, WJOB radio and Channel 56

Since I have featured other Pioneer authors in this Newsletter I guess it's okay to promote my own efforts.

I have written the story of my great, great, grandfather . . . John Henry King, Born June 28, 1831. The steamship "Sultana", launched February 4, 1863. Fate would



stage a rendezvous for this pair, they would meet on the Mississippi river, participants in a major but little known event in American history.

The story follows John from his birth in Cincinnati, Ohio, his training as a blacksmith, his migration to Indiana, his enlistment in the 9th Indiana Cavalry and his survival of the tragedies that await him. From his skirmishes and capture by the Reb's, his life threatening imprisonment at Andersonville prison and his survival of the greatest maritime disaster in the history of the United States he returns home a changed and disabled man. His life journey ties him to Colonel Eli Lilly, 9th Indiana Cavalry, Gilbert Van Camp, General Lew Wallace, Governor Oliver P. Morton and other Indiana historical figures who play a role in John's story.

Publishing date and information will be in the August Newsletter.

## Pioneer Contact Information

Newsletter: Bob Smith  
13448 Lantern Road  
Fishers, Indiana 46038  
twobsmiths@aol.com