

August 2014



INDIANA BROADCAST PIONEERS

Richard M. Fairbanks Hall of Fame

It's another year and another opportunity to honor and recognize outstanding members of the Indiana broadcast pioneer community. The men and women who have in their own way been leaders in our industry. Great people, great careers who, through their work and achievements, have made significant contributions to broadcasting. This year the Indiana Broadcast Pioneer board has named three broadcast veterans to be inducted into the Indiana Broadcast Pioneer Hall of

Fame. Cris Conner, WNAP, Indianapolis, Bob Glaze, WTTV, Indianapolis and Martin Plascak, WBOK, WTHI Terre Haute, will be inducted November 8, 2014 at the combined Indiana Broadcast Pioneer and Indiana Broadcasters Association Spectrum Awards banquet.

Franklin D. Schurz, Terre Haute has been selected as the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient by the Indiana Broadcasters Association.

The Awards will be presented at the Hall of Fame Awards banquet at the Marriott North in Indianapolis.

An afternoon reception from 4 -5:30pm will allow friends and family to spend informal time with the inductees. The reception hour is 5-6 followed by dinner at 6pm and the awards ceremony at 7.

For more information or reservations

contact....

iba@indianabroadcasters.org
or call Gwen at 317-770-0970.

WISH-TV Losing CBS Affiliation After Nearly Six Decades.

WISH-TV first signed on the air at 6:00 p.m. on July 1, 1954. Founded by C. Bruce McConnell – owner of AM radio station WISH. It was the third television station to sign on in the Indianapolis market, after WFBM-TV (channel 6, now WRTV) which signed on in May 1949 and Bloomington-licensed WTTV (channel 10, now on channel 4), which signed on eight months later in November 1949. WISH-TV originally operated as a primary ABC affiliate with a secondary affiliation with the DuMont Television Network. The station also carried several CBS and NBC programs that WFBM-TV and WTTV respectively declined to carry.

In 1956, McConnell sold the station to the Indiana Broadcasting Company, the broadcasting subsidiary of J.H. Whitney and Company and owners of WANE-TV in Fort Wayne. The new owners persuaded CBS to move its programming to channel 8, taking that affiliation from WFBM. Conversely that same year, WISH-TV lost the ABC affiliation to WTTV.

Also in 1956, WISH became one of the first television stations in the United States to install a videotape machine in WISH-TV's studio facility on Meridian Street.



Early WISH TV Facilities, 1440 N. Meridian Street



WISH TV & Indianapolis first VTR

Indiana Broadcasting became the Corinthian Broadcasting Corporation in 1957, with WISH-TV serving as the company's flagship station. Corinthian merged with Dun & Bradstreet in 1971. Dun & Bradstreet sold its entire broadcasting unit to the Belo Corporation in February 1984. However, the merger put Belo two stations over the television ownership limits that the Federal Communications Commission had in effect at the time. As a result, the company sold WISH-TV and WANE to LIN Broadcasting (the predecessor of LIN Media) the following month in March 1984. LIN was headquartered in Indianapolis for many years, with WISH-TV serving as that company's flagship television property; the company eventually moved its headquarters to Providence, Rhode Island in the late 1990's, resulting in WPRI-TV replacing WISH as LIN's flagship station.

CBS initiated the recent talks when Tribune approached the network about extending CBS agreements for other stations it owns. CBS spokesman Dana McClintock said the deal has been in the works "for months" and confirms that the cable retransmission fees were a key reason for the Indianapolis affiliate switch.

CBS is sending a signal that it is prepared to play rough when it comes to the percentage of revenue that local stations pass along from the retransmission fees that cable companies pay the local stations. In TV terms, the money that an affiliate pays a network is "network compensation." A couple of decades ago, networks sent compensation to local stations and it is now the other way around.

LIN has 10 other CBS affiliates around the country and will have to face CBS negotiations again as affiliation agreements come due. The negotiations should be a little smoother this time. The switch becomes effective on Jan. 1, 2015



Russ Tornabene, from Gary Steel Plant to NBC News

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A young Russ Tornabene, the son of a Sicilian immigrant, was working in a steel plant in his hometown of Gary, Indiana, when he joined the Army in 1942. After basic and specialty training he joined the 106 th Cavalry Group in Europe, serving in France, Germany, and Austria between 1944 and 1945. Russ was one of the few American GIs who visited an infamous concentration camp and saw results of some of the barbaric horrors that Hitler's minions wreaked. The sights he looked upon were indelibly burned in his memory.



Russ Tornabene
I.U. Photo

Following his active duty he remained in the Army Reserves, attended night school at Indiana University as a student in Journalism. One of his assignments was to interview Eleanor Roosevelt. Later, while traveling by train to northern Indiana, he went to the dining car and, much to his surprise, found her eating there and waiving him over to sit with her.



Interviewing Jack Benny for
Stars & Stripes

He was recalled to brief service in 1950. That second stint was with "Pacific Stars and Stripes", the Armed Forces newspaper and he was assigned to cover both land and naval operations out of Tokyo.

After the war, he received his undergraduate and master degrees in journalism from the Indiana University School of Journalism. In late 1951, he was hired by NBC News in Washington DC, where its operations were just getting started. His job was, in his words, "to take the door key at 2 a.m. each morning open the door leading to five small rooms, attend to the AP teletypes that had been printing steadily all night, clip the news reports and assort them in boxes according to content." Russ's job grew along with NBC.



Russ was the anchor of the evening newscasts for a few weeks in 1968 during an anchor strike.

During his 30 year career at NBC in Washington. In 1951. His NBC positions included:

*News editor, WRC AM TV 1951-1955, *News supervisor, Washington bureau, 1956-1961 *Manager of news operations, NBC NY bureau, 1961-1965

*Manager NBC radio news 1966-1967, Director of news for NBC-owned TV stations,

1967-68, *General manager NBC radio news, 1968-73 (in 1972, He was awarded the Peabody Award for the Monitor radio news program) *VP/GM NBC Radio 1973-75 - *VP Public Affairs NBC News 1975-81 .



Russ worked for NBC for 30 years – 20 years in NY at 30 Rockefeller Plaza.

At NBC, he was the NBC news radio and TV coordinator on Eisenhower's trip to Asia and Europe in 1959 and South America in 1960; President Kennedy's meeting with Latin American leaders in 1963; Kennedy's four-nation tour of Europe in 1963; and traveled with Nixon to Russia and China. He also produced NBC coverage of the space program and political conventions.

When at WRC Washington, he hired Jim Henson and the Muppets before they moved on to New York. Also at WRC, Willard Scott served as his intern. One evening when he was on

the news desk at WRC they received a call that there was a huge fire in progress in Washington. Russ had the idea of sending a truck with batteries and a television camera to film the event live for TV. He cut into the normal programming and broadcast the live event. It is believed to be the first live news event broadcast in the country. Russ was also one of five exec's that reviewed the tapes of candidates for Barbara Walter's replacement and chose Jane Pauley.



Russell Tornabene with Walter with Walter Cronkite at a Society of Professional Journalists event in NY.

PRESTO *Instantaneous* SOUND RECORDING EQUIPMENT and DISCS

The Presto disc recorder was a 50-pound portable machine that could produce high-quality audio recordings on location. It was designed to record live events on an acetate disc for delayed broadcasts by radio stations. Chicago radio station WLS purchased one of the new units after receiving an invitation from American Airlines to cover the arrival of the Hindenburg. The station sent reporter Herb Morrison and engineer Charles Nehlsen to interview Chicago



Herb Morrison



The Hindenburg Arrives



Presto disc recorder

passengers as they disembarked. The two men traveled to New Jersey and set up their new Presto recorder and microphone on the Lakehurst Naval Air Station runway. As the massive Hindenburg approached Morrison began describing the huge passenger airship. Suddenly, it exploded in a ball of fire and burned with such force it knocked the cutting needle momentarily out of the track on the acetate disc.

Despite this temporary technical glitch the recording they made is one of the most memorable of the 20th century. Morrison lost his professional demeanor as he described the explosion. His reporting gave way to an emotional outburst of panic and despair after the Hindenburg exploded and caught fire. Shaken and horrified, Morrison continued to report, struggling to compose himself as a hellish scene of fiery death unfolded before his eyes while the Presto continued to record a major historical event..



Hindenburg Explosion



L to R Morrison & Nehlsen at the site.

Morrison's recording. Eluding the German agents the WLS crew made it back to Chicago, and the next day the recordings were heard on radio receivers in millions of homes around the world. It was this shocking moment that changed broadcasting. Prior to that time, the networks suppressed any use of recorded media on radio.

Everything on radio was performed live over wire lines that the networks controlled. The broadcast of the Hindenburg recordings helped break down the barriers to recorded or "transcribed" programming from that time on. Once the recordings were out there, just like Facebook posts today, there was no way to get them back!



Dave Smith used his love for old movies to create a television film festival on WISH-TV



WISH TV, 1970's

in Indianapolis in the early 1970's. He's now doing the same thing for teacher Bill McKenna of NineStar Connect at Greenfield-Central High School. NineStar's local

Channel 9 in Greenfield, Indiana and is a merged cooperative of a local electric company and a communications company.



43 years later

While recording in the G-C Television production facilities Dave told the studio crew that when he started in TV they didn't have teleprompters.

Instead, they taped large rolls of butcher paper with hand written script to the front of the camera.



NineStar Studio

Book Release

Due to the number of photos and my request for a specific frame design the publishing date has been extended. I'll share the information as soon as it is available.



"It was 2am and seven miles back down the river they heard the explosion."

Death Notices:

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James R. Hetherington, longtime Indianapolis journalist and public relations executive, passed away

July 23, 2014 shortly after he was

inducted to the Indiana Journalism HOF this past April.



Jim Hetherington

. Hetherington was born February 3, 1931 in Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. He

was the outstanding male

journalism graduate at Indiana

University in 1953.

He served in the U.S. Army at Ft. Benning, GA and Ft. Mead MD until 1955 when he joined the Louisville Times as a reporter. Later he became Indiana Editor and Picture Page editor. Jim returned to Indianapolis as assistant city editor of the Indianapolis Times in 1961. In 1963, he moved from print to broadcast journalism, joining the WFBM stations as reporter, documentary and editorial writer. During his 13 years at Channel 6, Jim and the station received the three major national awards for excellence in broadcast news: the George Foster Peabody award for distinguished achievement and meritorious public service, the Alfred I DuPont Award - the equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize for broadcast documentary and digital journalism - and the Alfred P. Sloan award, as well as multiple Casper Awards. Jim taught broadcast newswriting at Butler University. He was the first broadcast journalist elected president of the Indianapolis Press Club. In 1976, he served as vice president for corporate communications. During his 20 year career at AUL his responsibilities included the sign board, designed to bring a smile to passers by. Jim was active on many community boards, including IndyGo, and Indianapolis Public Transit Corporation. He received a Sagamore of the Wabash from Gov. Orr in 1985. In retirement, he ran in two half marathons and authored four books about Indianapolis history, institutions and people. In 2008, the Indianapolis Public Relations society honored Jim with its first PR Legend Award.

Death Notices Continued:

Alfonza Earl Hobbs, 71,

Indianapolis ,died

Thursday, July 31, 2014.

He founded ALEHO

International Music record

company, and ALEHO

Enterprises event and

marketing company. Hobbs, deemed a

legend in the Gospel Industry, served as

the Executive Vice-Chairman of the

Gospel Music Workshop of America

(GMWA) and Chairman of the Gospel

Announcers Guild (GAG). Over the

years he labored in the Indianapolis

community as Vice President and

General Manager of WTLC Radio

Station, founder of StarQuest Talent

Competition, Fall Fest, founding Board

Member and Director of Marketing for

Indiana Black Expo, Inc. Hobbs also

founded the annual Christmas Season

event, "We Can Feed the Hungry." This

program provided groceries for

thousands of needy Indianapolis area

families. He has received numerous

honors including, a Sagamore of the

Wabash, the Dove Award from the

Gospel Music Association..In 2007, he

celebrated 50 years in Gospel Music,

and was honored by the Stellar Awards

for his contributions to Gospel Music.



Alfonza Hobbs

Pioneer Contact Information

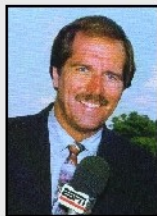
Newsletter: Bob Smith

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twobsmiths@aol.com

Gary Lee, 63, longtime motor sports broadcaster was found died in his Indianapolis home July 14, 2014.



Gary Lee

Lee was synonymous with ESPN's early events. He teamed with former driver Larry

Rice to broadcast the "Thunder"

short-track series that featuring drivers

such as a young Jeff Gordon at

Indianapolis Raceway Park in the late 1980s and 1990s.

"Larry and Gary were 'Thunder,' " said fellow

broadcaster Bob Jenkins, who helped start the weekly

traveling motor sports show along with Larry Nuber.

"They got along so well." "They were like brothers," said

veteran broadcaster Howdy Bell, who met Lee as an

18-year-old broadcasting hopeful. Born Gary Hill, Lee

attended Howe High School in Indianapolis and

Vincennes University. He also worked at WTTV-4 and

the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Radio Network. At one

time he owned Whiteland Raceway Park. .

Mary Lou Ristine, 89, died in Indianapolis on July 7.



Mary Lou Ristine

She hosted a morning talk show on

WCVL-AM.in Crawfordsville, Indiana.

Lou grew to love Wabash College while in

Crawfordsville. She helped launch two

programs for new volunteer groups

serving the local hospital, as well as the

town's first Meals on Wheels program. In 1970, the family

moved to Indianapolis.where Lou co-chaired the

Governor's Residence Commission, which selected the

current site of the governor's residence. Governor Otis

Bowen named her a Sagamore of the Wabash for her

service to the state. In 1992, in recognition of her decades

of unique service, the all-male college made Lou an

honorary alumna, only the second woman so honored in

the history of Wabash.

Mary Lou was the wife of former Lieutenant Governor.

Richard O. Ristine.

obits continued.....

Death Notices Continued:

Merrill R. "Lefty" Huntzinger, Noblesville, died August 27, 2014 at the age of 90. Born near Hartford City on June 17, 1924.



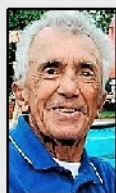
Merrill Huntzinger

Merrill was a graduate of Jefferson Township High School and there were 14 in his graduation class. Graduation was followed by thirty months of WW II military service. Merrill was a graduate of Butler University's class of 1949 and worked as a salesman for Channel 4 and Channel 13 and for radio stations WIFE, WNDE/WFBQ, WXLW and was retired from WIBC and Emmis Publishing.

He was also a member of Broadcast Pioneers and was past president of The Service Club of Indianapolis, The World War II Roundtable, The Indiana Guard Reserve Retired Association and a member of the Advertising Club of Indianapolis. His military service included six-and-one half months of infantry combat in France, Germany and Belgium. He advanced in rank from private to staff sergeant and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal three times, twice for valor and a third time for meritorious service. He was also awarded the Purple Heart Medal twice for combat wounds. His 38th Infantry Regiment of the Second Infantry Division was awarded the Presidential unit citation.

In the past few years the French government personally honored Huntzinger with their Liberte-Normandy Medal and their Knight of the Legion of Honor Medal, their highest award which dates back to Napoleon's reign.

Bernie "Frenchy" Souers 87, passed away on July 27.



Bernie Souers

He was born on July 29, 1926 in Rabat, French Morocco, to his American dentist father, Dr. James Souers, and his Spanish mother, Rachel. His family moved to Bloomington, Indiana

when he was 13. He attended Bloomington High School and Indiana University. After serving in the U.S. Army, he returned to marry his wife of 67 years, Lou Graebe. He began working for Sarkes Tarzian in Bloomington then moved to Beech Grove, Indiana in 1959 and began a more than 40 year career in advertising sales for WTTV.

He later was promoted to Director of Sales and Sports Marketing Director. Side projects included sometimes playing "Crefur" to Sammy Terry, and more importantly, was the producer of the Bob Knight Show and was a member of the Indianapolis Ad Club

After recently beating his lymphoma for the second time and proudly returning to his lap swimming, he succumbed to heart difficulties.

Leah Tourkow, Jazz radio fixture, died at age 91. She



Leah Tourkow

was a disc jockey on the radio for 63 years and one of eight people credited with saving public radio in Fort Wayne in the late 1970s.

She was best known for being a radio

personality on WBOI-FM, which she helped found, as well as WGL-AM. She got her start in radio at the VA hospital in Fort Wayne in the days after World War II played government-produced radio programs. In 1978, she and seven others rescued a small radio station at IPFW and moved it to a spot at the old YWCA. That station eventually became WBOI. Tourkow got a gig running a talk show at WGL. "Jazz Classics," which began at 11 p.m. on public radio station WBNI that went off the air in January 2011, ending the show's 33-year-run. It also brought to a close her 63-year-radio career.