

November 2015



Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Newsletter



Richard M. Fairbanks 2015 Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame

The Indiana Broadcast Pioneers honored three new inductees into the Richard M. Fairbanks Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame November 14, 2015 at the Marriott North Hotel in Indianapolis. The event was produced in co-operation the Indiana Broadcasters Association. More than 365 of Indiana's Radio and TV station professionals from throughout the state gathered Saturday evening, November 14th for the 28th Annual Spectrum Awards and the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame. Janie Woods Hodge, Dick Florea and Howard Kellman were honored with their induction into the 2015 Richard M. Fairbanks Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame.



Dick Florea had a 35 year career WKJG, Ft. Wayne, where he served from 1966 until his retirement in 2001.



Prior to those years he worked at WMRI radio and WTAF-TV in Marion, Indiana. He served as News Director and Anchorman, Public Affairs and Community Relations Director, and host of the daily interview show "Editors Desk." Following retirement he served two terms as President of the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers.

Janie Woods Hodge began her broadcasting career as "Miss Romper Room" in 1962 at WISN TV, the CBS affiliate in Milwaukee. The following year she headed to Indianapolis to host the "Popeye and Janie" show on WTTV Channel 4. The 90 minute five day a week featured cartoons, guests and 'remote' locations. In 1972 the program moved to a morning time slot and added puppets and special guests. The program ended in 1986 and "Janie" began a career as a music teacher for Indianapolis Public Schools.



Howard Kellman majored in Radio & TV at Brooklyn College receiving his B.A. degree with Cum Laude honors and was the basketball voice for St. John's basketball from 1973-75. He was Sports Director at WNDE and hosted shows on WXLW and WNDE radio. He also hosted the TV program "Inside the Indians" and filled in as "play by play" for the Chicago White Sox, New York Mets, and Cleveland Cavaliers. Howard has been a "Sports Voice" for 40 years.



Cindy Ward received the IBA's highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement award and Sally J. Brown received the 2015 Tom Severino Leadership award.

Amos Brown Dies at 64

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Indianapolis has lost a true legend and friend. Amos Brown dedicated his life advocating for issues affecting African Americans. His passion for journalism and commitment to our community created the perfect recipe for sharing information that impacted our quality of life. We will miss our daily doses of "Afternoon's with Amos" and his weekly "Telling it Like It Is" column in The Indianapolis Recorder. While his voice may be silent, the legacy he created and the memories we shared, will live forever in our hearts and minds."



-Maggie Lewis, Indianapolis City-County Council President

Throughout its history, Indianapolis has been blessed with many African-American servants and leaders, one of those was Amos Brown. Over a 40 year career, Amos helped transform our African-American community and in large measure, our city as a whole. This community, and I personally, will miss his wisdom, his voice, his counsel.

-Andre Carson, U.S. Representative (D-IN)

"Amos was a once-in-a-generation community leader and a tireless advocate for Hoosiers and all those who didn't have a voice. Everyone in Indiana knew Amos and had so much respect for his work in the community. There will be others who will take up his causes and speak to the same issues, but there will never be another Amos. I send my sympathies and prayers to his family. We will all miss him."

-Joe Donnelly, U.S. Senate (D-IN) "

"I am so sad to hear of the passing of my friend, Amos Brown. For so many years he has been the voice and conscience of Indianapolis. As the Chairman of the Marion County Democratic Party and as a friend who relied on my friend Amos for so much, tonight I remember and grieve. Pray for Amos' family. Remember and celebrate our friend. Godspeed Amos. See ya' Doc."

-Joel Miller, Chairman, Marion County Democratic Party

"The Indiana Republican Party is shocked and saddened at the passing of Amos Brown. He was a fighter, an Indianapolis icon, and a radio Hall of Famer. We extend our most heartfelt condolences to Amos's family. He will be deeply missed."

Indiana Republican Party

With the passing of Amos Brown, Indiana broadcasting lost a legend and Indianapolis lost a champion. Like so many of his admirers, Karen and I were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of this gifted Hoosier broadcaster and passionate advocate for his community.

For more than 40 years, Amos dedicated his life's work to amplifying the voice of the Indianapolis community. From his studio and in countless civic causes, Amos Brown worked each and every day to improve the lives of his listeners and better our capitol city.

While our politics often differed, Amos Brown never let that stand in the way of friendship and I will miss him very much. His example of civility and respect was a testimony to the character and heart of this good man.

He leaves behind a lasting legacy and impact on this city and state that will never be forgotten. Karen and I extend our deepest condolences and prayers for comfort to Amos' family, friends, and listeners at this difficult time."

Mike Pence, Indiana governor

Durward Kirby

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Indiana Broadcast Pioneer Hall of Fame member (Homer) Durward Kirby was the well-known



Durwood Kirby

sidekick on the highly popular "Garry Moore Show," starting in 1950-1951 during the days of live television. Kirby was a sketch actor, singer, dancer, and pitched sponsors' products. Kirby was also a co-host (1961-1966) with Allen Funt of Candid Camera (which started on TV as a segment on the Moore show).

Occasionally he was (erroneously) reported as born in



Indianapolis, Indiana but Kirby's family moved to Indianapolis when he was 15, and he graduated from Arsenal Technical High School ("Tech") in 1930..



He was working towards aeronautical engineering degree at

Purdue University (Lafayette, Indiana) when he got his first taste

of radio work as a fill-in announcer at Purdue's radio station (WBAA). Kirby then went on to work at radio stations in Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Chicago, and is also in the Greater Cincinnati Broadcasting Hall of Fame.



Kirby saw military service in the Navy during World War II, then returned to start a television career in New York (NBC). Kirby once said in an interview, "I've done just about everything in broadcasting - covered news, special events, disasters, sports, political conventions. I've had a news commentary show, done interviews, audience participation shows and sold products."



His most embarrassing moment came during a Polaroid commercial, during which he forgot to pull the tab after taking a picture of Garry Moore holding his Christmas list.



After nearly a minute of a Polaroid representative yelling, "Pull the tab!" from the audience, Kirby gave a mighty yank with his long arms and pulled all seven remaining pictures out of the camera. This required a fair amount of strength, not only to burst the developer pods but to rip through the stops on the film roll.

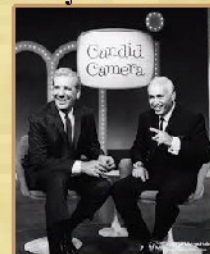


He wrote three books: "My Life, Those Wonderful Years," "Bits and Pieces of This and That" and a children's book called "Dooley Wilson." Kirby was married to Mary Paxton Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Young of Indianapolis. They were married in the Indianapolis Athletic Club. The bride carried a white lace handkerchief used by her mother, grandmother and great grandmother. at their weddings. The

Reception was also held at the Athletic Club, June 15, 1941. They had two sons. Kirby died of congestive heart failure in a nursing home in Fort Myers (Shell Point Village), Lee County, Florida.



The Garry Moore Show



Candid Camera

The First Radio Broadcast

Reginald Fessenden first transmitted voice in 1900 using a spark transmitter but the audio quality was



Reginald Fessenden

not commercially useable due to distortion from the poor quality of the carrier wave. (Transmitter) As early as 1903, Fessenden had been experimenting with mechanical transmitters - high frequency alternators - as a source of a pure continuous wave carrier for voice transmissions. NESCO (National Electric Signaling Company) was formed to finance Fessenden's research and his high frequency alternators were built by General Electric. In Dec. 1906, Fessenden received a high

frequency (50kc) alternator from GE that was designed by Ernst Alexanderson. By inserting a water-cooled carbon microphone into the antenna feed, Fessenden could voice modulate the alternator's output. The system was demonstrated on December 21, 1906. Fessenden then decided to test broadcast a short voice and music program on Christmas Eve. The broadcast consisted of violin music (played by Fessenden) and recitation of Bible passages.



Fessenden at Work

Though the program was a test, it was picked up by some shipboard radio operators around Cape Cod, Massachusetts and also from vessels all over the south and north Atlantic. Fessenden repeated the broadcast program on New Year's Eve, 1906. At the time, very little was mentioned of Fessenden's two pioneer broadcasts and they were almost forgotten. However, letters from Fessenden preserved the experiment which is now considered one of the important events in radio history. Though Fessenden had successfully demonstrated the concept of broadcasting, he was actually more interested in providing point-to-point voice communications and, as a scientist, he preferred to continue on with this and his other radio developments and inventions. He eventually retired to Bermuda.

Beamed out from the 400-foot towers of the transmitting shack at Brant Rock, Massachusetts on the Atlantic coast, this program commenced exactly at 9 o'clock, with 'CQ CQ CQ', meaning general call to all stations within range', sent out in dots and dashes. Then, over the microphone, Reginald himself gave a brief speech as to the program to follow. This was immediately followed by one of the operators switching on the Edison phonograph and a solo voice singing Handel's 'Largo'.

The first case of "mike fright" I was registered when Mr. Stein, an assistant, backed away unable to utter a word! However, Fessenden grabbed his violin and 'fiddled' through 'O Holy Night' . singing as well as playing. Helen, his wife and his secretary, Miss Bent, endeavored to read parts of the Bible text, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will', but, like Mr. Stein, they suffered stage fright. Concluding the very first radio broadcast, Fessenden wished his listeners "A Merry Christmas".

Jean Shephard

Born on the south side of Chicago, Illinois, Shephard was raised in Hammond, Indiana, where he graduated from Hammond High School in 1939.

He began his working life as a mail boy in a steel mill. He also served in the United States Army Signal Corps and studied at Indiana University, though he did not graduate. His first job in broadcasting was at WSAI radio in Cincinnati, Ohio.

He later spent 21 years on radio station WOR-AM in New York City. In 1956 he



Jean Shephard

was about to be released by WOR for not being wanting to run commercials, so he did a commercial for Sweetheart Soap, not a sponsor, and

was immediately fired. His listeners besieged WOR with complaints, and when Sweetheart offered to sponsor him he was reinstated. Eventually, he attracted more sponsors than he wanted. He then complained to management that the commercials interrupted the flow of his monologues.

He was at the station for 21 years.

His subsequent radio work consisted only of short segments on several other stations, including WCBS and occasional commentaries on NPR's All Things Considered. His final radio gig was the Sunday night radio show "Shepherd's Pie" on WBAI in the mid-1990s, which consisted of his reading stories he had written uncut. His enormously popular story and movie "The Christmas Story" features his voice as the narrator.

B.S.U.

Ball State University, owner of PBS-member station WIPB Channel 49 television, is considering a plan to sell all or part of its rights to broadcast TV signals, which could potentially earn it millions of dollars. At the Board of Trustees' meeting Sept. 23, the trustees authorized President Paul W. Ferguson to look into participating in an auction the Federal Communications Commission is allowing. The FCC auction works to get spectrum, the signals, to those who need it. The spectrum would be taken from the WIPB-TV station, which is a Public Broadcasting Service affiliate, licensed to Ball State. According to bsu.edu, it serves 664,000 households in a 22-county region. WIPB-TV is hosted in the Ball Communication Building. This is only the third spectrum auction in 10 years in the United States, and the last one Congress has authorized, so this could be the university's last chance to cash in, said Philip Repp, interim dean of the College of Architecture and Planning.

The process involves a reverse auction and a forward auction. In the reverse auction, the university could give up its spectrum rights in exchange for a part of the proceeds from the forward auction, when the rights will be resold. Ball State has to commit to the auction by October, and both auctions will take place in 2016.

"[The] reverse [auction] will work with a series of bids that may or may not come back to you during that process," Repp said. "When they come back, there are decisions to be made — do you stay in and find out more, or say, 'No, this isn't going to happen'?"

The university can pull out at any time, Repp said.

"The FCC understood that, and they realized stations have a commitment to their broadcasting," Repp said. "So if you want to find out if there's something there to look at, you can do that or pull out anytime you want. That's what interests us — that there's no penalty to participate."

In the past, Repp said bid prices were "all over the map," so it's difficult to estimate how much Ball State could make.

To find out what any of the university's stations would be worth, Ball State has to participate in the auction. The meeting did not discuss what this would mean for the station.

1953 TV NEWS ADVERTISEMENT

Will You Receive **MUNCIE** When they begin **TELECAST?**

Don't wait for the rush

Prepare **NOW**
for 2 or more station
reception.

You will need additional
equipment to receive the new
WLBC UHF channel 49.

Take advantage of our
skilled technical service in
preparing your set for
Muncie telecast.

IF YOU LIVE IN:

MUNCIE and vicinity

Call Muncie 22203

ANDERSON and vicinity

Call Muncie 22203 - COLLECT

or

HL. 9231 Indpls. COLLECT

TV Installation

AND SERVICE COMPANY

Death Notices: Page 6

Nell Elise Glover 54, of Indianapolis, passed



away on Monday, August 24, 2015.

She was a long time resident of the
Irvington community and a 1979
graduate of Howe High school. She

was born in Ponca City, Oklahoma and
moved to Indianapolis when she was 8 years old.

. She studied marine biology at the University of
Tampa, attended Indiana University and received
a Bachelor's degree in radio film and TV from
Texas Christian University. She later earned a
Master's degree in library science from Indiana
University. Following graduation she worked as
a floor director for WRTV, Channel 6,
Indianapolis before finding her true calling as a
teacher of children. She worked as a substitute
teacher for Indianapolis Public Schools while
working on her master's and later taught as a
media specialist in Warren and Indianapolis
public schools.

John R. Moss, 77, a newscaster/reporter/
weathercaster in the 1970's at WKJG-TV,
Fort Wayne, died September 18, 2015, in that

city. Before coming to Fort Wayne
John worked in radio at Muncie and
in Lansing, Michigan. His weather
reporting frequently contained



humorous quips. After leaving broadcasting,

Moss owned a downtown Fort Wayne tavern for
five years.

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