

August 2011



Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Newsletter

2011 Hall of Fame

The Indiana Broadcast Pioneers will hold the 2011 Richard M. Fairbanks Hall of Fame induction ceremonies on Thursday October 6, at the Fountains in Carmel, Indiana. A panel of Broadcast Pioneer officers and executive committee



The Fountains in Carmel IN.

members selected eight broadcasters to be inducted into this years ceremonies. The Pioneer

Hall of Fame honors members of the broadcasting industry who have made significant career contributions to Indiana's radio and television industry. This years nominees include;

Joe Angotti: WHA, Louisville, WMAQ, Chicago and Senior Vice-President of NBC News.

Kenneth "Ken" Beckley: Terre Haute's WTHI-TV, Asheville, North Carolina's WLOS-TV and Indianapolis' WRTV-TV. Served as vice-president of the Indianapolis Press Club and president of the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers.

Richard "Rick" Cummings, became Emmis Broadcasting's first program director at flagship station WENS-FM, 97.1. Named Emmis' National Program Director, launching KPWR in Los Angeles, followed by WQHT in New York, and then the country's first all-sports station, WFAN in New York.

Robert "Swoop" McClain, majored in meteorology and minored in Radio/TV, became a weather officer in the Navy then Meteorologist at WKZO, Kalamazoo, Michigan and WFMB/WRTV-TV, Channel 6, Indianapolis.

Joe Piggott, career stops in New Albany, Connerville, Columbus, Cincinnati and West Palm Beach, Florida and WXLW, WIBC and WFBM in Indianapolis. Co-anchored a top-rated morning program which was one of the city's all-time best talk radio programs.

Chuck Workman WTLC-FM (formerly WAIV) WTTV, as the first African-American sports director in Indiana, WIAN-FM, WFYI-FM and WTPI-FM. WICR-FM in Indianapolis.

Two Broadcasters will be inducted posthumously.

John DeCamp WBAA "Voice of Purdue," Indianapolis "500" Radio Network and **William Donald "Don" Payne** KAAY and KLPO, Little Rock, AK. WZUS and WAZY in Lafayette WZPL in Indianapolis, WKRQ in Cincinnati, Radio One, Indianapolis.

Jeff Smulyan - Chairman, President and CEO - Emmis Communications has been selected to receive the Indiana Broadcasters Association 2011 "Lifetime Achievement Award.

Pioneer September Event

First Ladies of Broadcasting REMINDER

Another entertaining and memorable Pioneer event has been scheduled for our members and friends.

A panel of "First Ladies of Broadcasting" will participate in a panel discussion addressing the role of women in the early years of the industry. Ann Wagner Harper, Kay Field, Faith Levitt and Kit Kreuger will reminisce and discuss the challenges they each faced as they established a place for women in Indiana broadcasting.

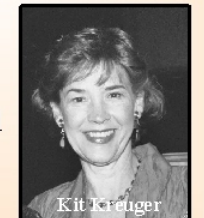
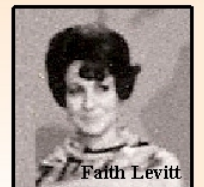
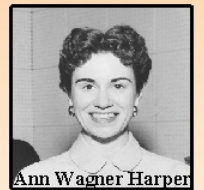
Angela Cain of WTHR-TV will moderate the event and take questions from the audience.

The event takes place

September 21, 2011

from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm.

The cost is **\$16.00 per person.**



Join us in the WFYI Community Room
1630 N. Meridian Street Indianapolis.
Free parking at the rear of the building.

Pioneer Memory

by Howard Caldwell

When minutes before a gust of wind caused an overhead stage rigging to come down on people waiting for the start of a Sugarland concert at the State Fair August 13, 2011 the audience was told that in case the weather became violent one of the places to go for protection was the State Fair Coliseum. That suggestion jarred my memory of what happened at that same Coliseum some forty eight years ago. on the last night of October, 1963, a propane tank explosion occurred during the final presentation of "Holiday on Ice" show there. Seventy four members of the audience were killed.

I had just finished anchoring the 11 p.m. news at Channel 6 in Indianapolis that night when our police radio was telling us there was an emergency going on at the state fairgrounds. Our phones were ringing with people alerting us to trouble. Bill Crawford was our weather chief then and he had started to do his report when I interrupted him and stated that we understood that something had happened at the coliseum and we would be back soon with the latest information. One of the station's broadcast personalities, Jim Gerard and I rushed out on that rainy night and were told upon arrival we would have to wait with other media personnel before we could enter the scene of the accident. Suddenly my family physician came out and I asked him what it was like in there. He said, "It's bad, really bad."

Minutes later we were allowed to enter. Bodies were laid out on the iced floor and more were being added. I was shocked when I first went in but I shifted to reporter mode, gathering information and getting it back to the studio via telephone. It was difficult for me to be impersonal about it because as someone who had grown up in Indianapolis there were many of my friends looking for loved ones.

All of the Indianapolis TV stations stayed on the air all night. It was a long evening for reporters from all the media, radio and, of course. daily newspapers.

Editors Note: My wife, Bette, had six members of her family at that event, only one survived. Among the deceased was her mother, Mable Sue Pyles and her father, C.J. David Pyles who was the last death from the tragedy. He died November 25, 1963. The lone surviving family member was her cousin Lorene Butler who passed away August 1, 2003.



Bettie Englebrecht, Broadcasting Pioneer

Bettie Engelbrecht, a pioneer in Indiana broadcasting was part of the husband and



Bettie Engelbrecht

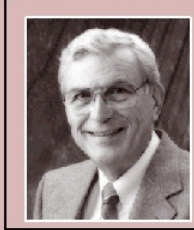
wife team of Bettie and John A. Engelbrecht who founded Evansville's WIKY Radio in 1947. The family lived above WIKY radio station.

The small family company eventually became South Central Broadcasting, where Bettie served as public service director until 2005 and continues to serve as director emeritus. Upon her husband's death in 1974, Bettie and her son John D. Engelbrecht guided and supported further development of the company. Son John is now President and Chairman and his son, Bettie's grandson, J.P. Englebrecht serves as CEO. Today, the company remains privately owned and operates 13 FM stations, 12 Muzak franchises, audio visual operations in each franchise location which include: Evansville, Decatur, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville, Huntsville, Louisville, Lexington, Memphis, Little Rock and Las Vegas. The company also has a new digital division which builds web pages, social media marketing, landing pages and email marketing.

At age 90 Bettie still gets out everyday with the help of a living assistant. She is life director of the University of Southern Indiana Foundation board of directors, a supporter of New Harmony Theater and has been active in Evansville service clubs.

NATAS Honors Caldwell

When retired broadcaster Howard Caldwell received a phone call in April of this year and, thinking it was a scam, hung up the phone. A second call, left on his answering machine, began to raise a little curiosity. Checking on the internet and with WRTV Channel 6, he realized it was legitimate.



Howard Caldwell

NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF
TELEVISION
ARTS & SCIENCES



He had been selected as a "Gold Circle" award winner by the Lower Great lakes Chapter of National Academy of

Television Arts and Sciences. The Gold Circle recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to television for fifty years or more. Broadcast pioneers who become part of this distinguished group have had significant careers in many different aspects of the industry - engineering, management, on-air, technical, production, administration and talent. The notification from the NATAS Award Committee stated, "In the opinion of this committee your career has demonstrated not only outstanding achievements in television but within and outside the broadcasting community. The award has been bestowed on only six other individuals in the last 42 years of the Chapter's existence.

The event took place on June 18, 2011, the day before Fathers Day at The Hilton Garden Inn in Cleveland, Ohio. Howard's three daughters and his wife Lynn were present for the ceremonies.

The Chapter serves Bloomington, Ft. Wayne, Indianapolis, Muncie, Indiana; Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Lima, Mansfield, Toledo, Youngstown, Ohio; Erie, Pennsylvania.

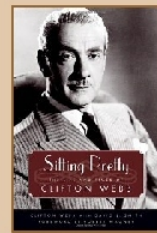
The Academy's EMMY AWARDS for 2012 was held on June 2, in Indianapolis.

Dave Smith-Sitting Pretty

Former Pioneer president David L. Smith, who began his broadcast career at WTTS/WTTV, Bloomington before moving to WISH TV in Indianapolis and then an academic career at Ball State University, has published his second book. Following publication of "Hoosiers from Hollywood" University Press of Mississippi has released "Sitting Pretty" the autobiography of Clifton Webb, one of the top moneymakers in the



Dave Smith



history of Twentieth Century-Fox. More than any other male movie star, the refined actor (1889-1966) caused the movie-going public to change its image of a leading man. In a day when leading men were supposed to be strong, virile, and brave, Clifton Webb projected an image of flip, acerbic arrogance. He was able to play everything from a decadent columnist (Laura) to a fertile father (Cheaper by the Dozen and The Remarkable Mr. Pennypacker), delivering lines in an urbanely clipped, acidly dry manner with impeccable timing.

Before his film career began, Webb was a child actor and song-and-dance man in numerous Broadway musicals and revues. The turning point in his career came in 1941 when he was cast in Blithe Spirit. Director Otto Preminger saw Webb's performance and cast him in Laura in 1944. At one point Webb began to write his autobiography but said he eventually had gotten "bogged down" in the process. However, he did complete six chapters and left a hefty collection of notes that he intended to use in the proposed book. Those six chapters, Webb's voluminous notes, and personal research by the author provide an intimate view of an amazingly talented man's life and times. Born in Beech Grove, Indiana in 1889 Webb lived with his mother Maybelle, a character in her own right, his entire life as she guided his career and managed his social life. The Foreword is written by Webb's long time friend, actor Robert Wagner.

"Sitting Pretty" is a remarkable and interesting story.

Death Notices:

Nancy L. DeVincent, 92, passed away Thursday, August 4, 2011 in Fort Wayne. Born in Blue Island, IL, Nancy was known as Nancy Lee of Nancy Lee and the Hilltoppers and was a musician for the



Nancy L. DeVincent

WOWO Radio

"Little Red
Barn Show"

from 1945 to 1994. Nancy played the guitar and was a member of the Fort Wayne Musicians Association.

She and husband Sam DeVincent joined WOWO in 1945 and both were part of the musical group. They also performed on the "Hoosier Hop," broadcast coast-to-coast on the NBC Radio Network, and at live events.

To hear Nancy in an interview, visit

www.historyofwowo.com/nancylee.mp3.

Harry W. Evard, 88, passed away June 11, 2011.

Born in Indianapolis on January 31, 1922.

He attended Cathedral Grade School and Cathedral High School. While at junior at Butler

University in 1942, he enlisted in Naval Aviation and was called to active service in July of 1943. He was later transferred to the Anti-Submarine Development Division of the Atlantic Fleet until

September of 1946. Harry was married to Janet Mitchell on August 20, 1945 in

Miami, Florida. They were blessed with five children: Timothy Wright (Vicki), Linda Lee Smith (Chris), Dr. Robert Edward (Judi), Daniel Mitchell (Julie) and Marcie Ann Warden (Jim), 11 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Following WWII, Harry worked for Standard Oil of Indiana, National Advertising Co., and for 35 years as a salesman for WISH TV, having started with them in 1954, the year they went on the air.

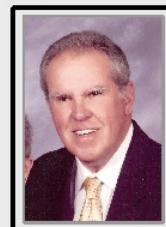
Burial at Crown Hill Cemetery.

Nancy Lee and the
Hilltoppers

Harry Evard

Death Notices Continued:

Earl Metzger, age 69, died Friday August 12, 2011 in Jasper Indiana. He graduated from Jasper High School, class of 1960, and the Kentucky School of Mortuary Science. He also attended Bellarmine College in Louisville Kentucky. He married Sylvia Schneider on April 4, 1964.



Earl Metzger

Mr. Metzger owned and was general manager of WITZ and WQKZ Radio Stations and also previously WITY Radio Station in Danville, Illinois. He was a member of the Indiana Broadcasters Hall of Fame and served as President of the Broadcasters Pioneers. As a member of the IBA, he had served on the board as Secretary/Treasurer, President elect and President. He was also instrumental in formation of the IBA State-Wide Radio Network. He served on the Board of Vincennes University, Jasper Center and the board of the First United Federal Savings Bank, and on the advisory board of the Permanent Federal Savings Bank and was part -owner and president of the Holiday Liquors Store chain. He was also involved in organizing the Junior Achievement Program in Jasper, serving as its Vice President and President as well as heading many of its fund drives, and was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church where he had taught religious education and broadcast Midnight Mass from St. Joseph's Church.

Andrew "Andy" G. Oehler, 73, passed away



Andy Oehler

Thursday, May 12, 2011, at Ball Memorial Hospital following an extended illness. He was born in Indianapolis and attended Manual Highschool. Mr. Oehler was a photographer all of his life, working in television news, portrait and wedding photography, and in sales of equipment. He worked at WFBM-TV and at WISH-TV in Indianapolis where he was a lab technician.. He also worked at WTAF-TV in Marion, WLBC-TV in Muncie, and for twenty-two years at peoples studio. For the past five years he worked for Meijer while managing the Audio Visual Department for Muncie Southside Church of the Nazarene

Death Notices Continued:

Donald H. Miller Muncie, IN, died Saturday, July 23, 2011. Donald was a graduate of Broadripple H.S. and Butler University, School of Drama, in Indianapolis. He pioneered the early days of broadcasting in Indianapolis by working at WISH-TV channel 8, WFBM/WRTV-TV and WLWI/WTHR-TV in Indianapolis. Along with Allen W. Clowes Don started a theater and theatrical production company known as Intro Productions, Inc. Footlight Musicals in Indianapolis (circa 1958). In 1960, Don joined WGN Radio & Television of Chicago as a Floor Director working with Chicago Cubs baseball, Frazier Thomas' "Family Classics," "Bozo Circus," "Ray Raynor & Friends," big band productions and other live TV and radio broadcasts. Don's 20 year relationship continued through 1981 where he retired as Director of On-Air Continuity for all of the daily WGN Radio and WGN TV broadcasts. Donald departed Chicago for Chattanooga, TN where he pioneered the conversion of WRIP-TV, then a religious broadcast facility in Rossville, GA into a commercial TV station WDSI-TV of Chattanooga, TN as its Operations Manager. While at WDSI, Don advanced the station's carriage of live Chattanooga Lookouts baseball games, the Chattanooga Riverbend Festival coverage and general programming & promotions.



Donald H. Miller

Henry Rosenthal, 92, of Lafayette, a man many referred to as the voice of Purdue, died Saturday Aug. 13, 2011 in Lafayette, IN. He graduated from Lafayette Jefferson High School and attended Purdue University. Henry served in the Army during World War II and was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.



Henry Rosenthal

Rosenthal owned WASK radio for 25 years, and was on the air waves as a play-by-play announcer for Purdue football and basketball and Jefferson High School from 1961 to 1982.

Rosenthal gave C-SPAN founder Brian Lamb his start in broadcasting and Lamb has credited some of the lessons learned from Rosenthal as key elements in his development of C-SPAN.

Before his involvement in broadcasting Henry owned Rosenthal Clothing Store in Lafayette. He was also a business consultant for many years and most recently worked for C-SPAN Archives. He was named to the Lafayette Jefferson Hall of Fame in 1999. In 2007, Mr. Rosenthal was inducted to the Northwest Indiana Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame. He was inducted in 2010 to the Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association Hall of Fame and the Purdue University Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame.

Glenn Burton Webber 90, of Indianapolis, passed away August 4, 2011. Glenn graduated from Washington High School in Vincennes, Indiana. He was a radio and television broadcaster for WFBM. Radio and TV. His broadcast career began while driving a Vincennes city bus and met the program director of a local radio station. He asked him how he got an easy job like that, and he said, if you think it's so easy, come down and audition. He did, and failed miserably, he couldn't read a paragraph without making a mistake. But he was allowed to do some extra work for the station while continuing to drive the bus. He eventually worked into radio altogether, and later got into local TV before moving to WFBM in Indianapolis. In the early 60's, he teamed with Joe Piggott for the "Piggott-Webber Thing," a top-rated morning program which was one of the city's all-time best talk radio programs. He worked for 21 years at that station. Glenn later worked for a number of years as a public service announcer for the Indiana State Police and ended his career with W.E.N.S.



Glenn Webber

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