

February 2013



Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Newsletter

Pioneer Activities

As the new year begins the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers continue with our mission of preserving broadcast history for the state of Indiana. The 2013 Pioneer officers as of this date are,

President: Dr. Joe Misiewicz

Vice President: TBD

Secretary: Linda Lupear

Treasurer: Bob Warren

Pioneer Executive Committee:

Ken Beckley, Reid Duffy, Dick Florea, Julio Fernandez, Lee Giles, Linda Lupear, Jimmy Mack, Chuck Schisla, Bob Smith, Dave Smith, Sue Staton, Bob Warren, Sid Weedman.



Dr. Joe Misiewicz

The first item on the 2013 agenda is the selection of Hall of Fame inductee's for this year.

Nominations should be sent to

Indiana Broadcasters Association

Attn: Hall of Fame

3003 E. 98th Street, Ste. 161

Indianapolis, IN 46280

Nominations can also be sent by e-mail to:

joe@indianabroadcasters.org.



HOF Plaque 2013

Entries must be received by Friday, March 15, 2013. These nominations will be added to the twenty- four names who are still eligible from previous submissions.

Pioneer Spring Event

The Broadcast Pioneers are gearing up for the next look back at Indiana TV programming history.

The April 10, 2013 IBP luncheon will feature a panel discussion on the early days of local "kid shows" on Indiana stations. The confirmed panelists are: Janie Hodge, "Janie and Friends, WTTV, Pat Garrett Rooney, Kindergarten College, WLWI- TV, Hal Fryar, "The Three Stooges", WFBM/WRTV/WFYI, Jimmy Mack McDowell, "Teen Twirl" WISH TV and "Bandstand 13" WLWI-TV, and Bob Warren, "Clowning Around" and Uncle Buster, WISH - TV. Jimmy Mack will also act as moderator for the program. Questions and comments from audience members are welcome.

The scheduled date is Wednesday, April 10, 2013. WFYI, PBS, Indianapolis, will once again act as host for the program. The event will take place in their Community Room at 1630 N. Meridian Street.

Registration starts at 11:00 a.m., lunch, a catered buffet, at 11:45 a.m. and the program will begin around 12:15 p.m.

The cost for the event is \$25.00.

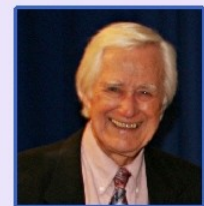
A promotional "flyer" will be mailed to members prior to the event with final details and a registration form.



Janie Hodge



Hal Fryar



Jimmy Mack



Pat Garrett Rooney



Bob Warren

Radio Veterans Share Memories

TERRE HAUTE — You can almost hear the nostalgic sounds of radio broadcasts long past in newest exhibit on display at the Vigo County Historical Society.

“Tuning In: The History of Radio in Vigo County” features more than a dozen antique radio sets, including some of the first ever made. It also features photographs and memorabilia of Terre Haute’s earliest radio broadcasters. “You could have listened to FDR’s ‘fireside chats’ or the announcement of the attack on Pearl Harbor on this radio,” said antique radio collector Mark Day speaking of a 1941 “Firestone Air Chief” radio, which is part of the museum’s display. And that’s just one of many radios from the 1920s to the 1950s on display at the museum, many of them the property of Day. Others are the property of the Historical Society, which is at 1411 S. Sixth St. On Tuesday, three Wabash Valley radio veterans met to see the exhibit and to reminisce about the “old days” of Terre Haute radio broadcasting and how they got their starts in the business. Martin Plascak, the familiar news voice of Terre Haute on WBOW-AM and later WTHI-AM and FM, got his start in radio in 1951 when he was still a student at Indiana State University Teachers College. Plascak said his first moments broadcasting were very nearly his last. Finding himself alone in the air studio and attempting to broadcast “The Glenn Miller Show,” Plascak panicked, he recalled. Only the encouraging words of then-WBOW program director Harry Frey convinced him to stick around, he said. “My career was almost over before it began,” Plascak said. Nancy Bradford was a reporter for WBOW after doing a variety of jobs at her first station, WAAC-AM, where she hosted “The Tips Show.” Bradford recalls working the day Elvis Presley died. The radio station’s Associated Press teletype machine erupted in a long series of alarm bells signaling something extremely important had taken place. “I thought the world had come to an end,” Bradford said. She ran and tore the bulletin from the AP machine and hurried it into the broadcast booth. Once the news was broadcast, people called the station for the rest of the day “sobbing and crying,” Bradford said. Jerry Arnold, a 2008-inductee into the Indiana Broadcast Pioneer Hall of Fame, still works in radio as director of engineering for Midwest Communications. He was fascinated by radio as a kid and eventually volunteered to do some announcing at his southern California high school. “After that, it was all down hill,” he said. He got his first job in radio at age 16 and in March will celebrate 45 years in the business. “I think the thing I liked most about radio was its immediacy,” Arnold said. Plascak, Bradford and Arnold would sometimes meet while covering news for different radio stations. But one story was especially notable for involving Arnold and Bradford. Arnold was working for WAAC when police scanner traffic indicated there was a big fire on the east side of town. When he arrived at the scene, Arnold found the burning home belonged to an employee of WBOW who was also a friend of Bradford’s. After he returned to the station, Arnold’s news story included the remarkable information that a woman at the scene of the blaze had given mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a kitten left virtually lifeless from inhaling smoke. “I gave the mouth-to-mouth,” Bradford said smiling, adding that the kitten did revive. Unfortunately, however, Bradford, then working for WBOW, never got the story reported, giving Arnold the scoop. “That’s because we were at the cat hospital with the stupid cat,” Bradford said laughing. Radio broadcasting has changed dramatically over the past several decades. When Plascak started, radio announcers wore ties at work and even into the 1970s, Terre Haute radio stations had large news reporting staffs. “There was fierce competition between radio stations,” Plascak recalled. And radio stations conducted large-scale promotional stunts to attract listeners, such as Jim “JA” Austin remaining awake at the former downtown Roots store for more than 100 hours. Or a station hiding money around town in a sort of massive scavenger hunt. The money was hidden at the former Memorial Stadium golf course, Plascak recalled. Naturally, listeners tore the course up looking for the loot. “We had to repair it,” Plascak said. “The promotions of radio back in those days were just unbelievable.”

Jinsie Bingham was the first woman in Indiana to own and operate her own radio station – WJNZ, in Greencastle and is a Indianabroadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame inductee.

Arthur Foulkes, Terre Haute Tribune-Star.

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Comment re; News Staff

Quitting on Air. (November 2012

I'd guess there are several of us who had people walk away during an on-air shift.

One afternoon as I was sitting at my desk with



Jinsie Bingham

everyone else gone from the building I was astounded to look out to the parking lot and see my afternoon deejay get in her car and drive away down Dunbar Hill. I dashed into the control room to cue up a record and consult the log. This all sounds very quaint with live music and hand typed daily logs. I never did hear from the employee who lived in Indianapolis and was referred by a broadcast school. Her main job was selling supplemented by the afternoon board shift. I sent her check to the last known address. It was cashed but there was never any communication. Too bad, I could have given her an unforgettable recommendation.

Jinsie Bingham was the first woman in Indiana to own and operate her own radio station – WJNZ, in Greencastle and is in the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame

First Network Color Program



Kay Field

The January 14, 1955 edition of the "TV News" program guide for the cities of Indianapolis, Bloomington, Terre Haute, Muncie and Lafayette, in Indiana and Champaign and Danville, Illinois featured WISH TV weather forecaster Kay Field on the cover and carried an ad for the first TV show to be produced entirely in color. The 30- minute

program aired on Wednesday evening at 10pm on WTTV and was sponsored nationally by the Eastman Kodak Company. It was a 13 episode comedy and was carried on NBC.

The series featured three actors who would later become well known

character actors on TV and in Hollywood. David

Wayne played Pearson Norby, Bank Vice

President, Joan Lorrington was Helen Norby, his wife, Susan Hallaran as Diane Norby,

daughter, Evan Elliott as Hank Norby, son, Paul Ford as the Bank President and Jack Warden as

Bobo the next door neighbor.

The series evolved around activities at the Pearl River First National Bank in Pearl River, New York. Other characters included Maud Enels as president, Mr. Rudge, vice president and efficiency expert, and Wahleen Johnson, the switchboard operator. The program ran only a year airing 13 episodes. Bonanza has often been touted as the first color series, but Norby preceded that western by four years.

In 1955 two out of three U.S. families owned a TV set, or about 32 million homes. At that time an average car cost \$1,950, gas was 29 cents a gallon, average house \$17,500, stamps 3 cents, average salary \$5,000.00, minimum wage 75 cents per hour and the stock market was at 488. That same year RCA sold 20,000 color television sets.



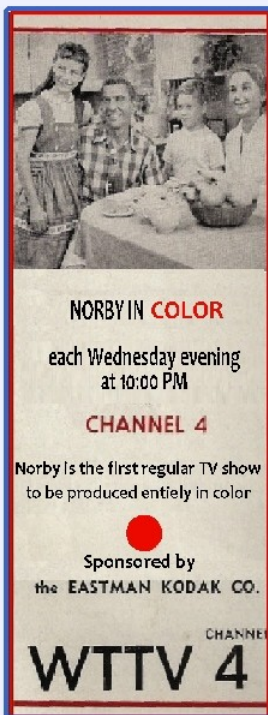
David Wayne



Paul Ford



Jack Warden



A BROOKLYN HOOSIER

Into each life some rain must fall, and that of Channel 6's Ed Jordan serves as no exception. A network official recommended the 25 year old Jordan to Frank Sharp, Channel 6's



Ed Jordan, WFBM-TV

personnel director, and Ed began his local assignment in early 1954. You see, this personable young chap on the early afternoon studio production, "Cinderella Week End". The Week End host has been heard from Dallas to Patchogue, Long Island. He's been seen in filmed TV commercials throughout the country making "spots" for Chevrolet and Pabst Beer.

His network acting credits include parts on Kraft Television Theatre, Chevrolet on Broadway and Suspense.

Although Ed started with a stormy career in Brooklyn, all now sparkles with happiness. He recently married a Hoosier girl, Delores Lister, of Harmony, Indiana - and now all is harmony in the Jordan household. Delores, by the way, is an ex-school teacher and was a continuity writer at WFBM-TV at the time she and Ed became married.

Source: TV News October 1954

Ed later returned to New York as an ABC network announcer, occasionally substituting for Don Pardo on "The Price is Right".

The Indiana Electric Company was the first business to occupy a building near 38th and Adam streets in Marion Indiana. The company used the facilities to produce rear view mirrors, and candlestick holders. In 1928 the property changed hands to Case Electronics, which began a radio manufacturing business on the site. In 1929 the property changed hands yet again, when Case Electronics merged to become U.S. Radio and Television Corporation. The next acquisition of the site was by Philo T. Farnsworth Television and Radio; his corporation purchased both the Marion plant and the Capehart factory of Fort Wayne.

Farnsworth was the first inventor to transmit a television image comprised of 60 horizontal lines.

He also developed the dissector tube, the basis of all current electronic televisions. The first

image he transmitted was a dollar sign, a possible omen of his future.

The property eventually became known as "The Farnsworth Building" which played a pivotal role in the history of Marion Indiana, the United States, and the world as a whole. The project was set up to erect a group of buildings on the surrounding farmland. The buildings were needed since the

company had expanded their sales to include the sale of their radios nationwide. In the beginning it was a small plant and the Marion community was not impressed. But soon the young business began to open up, hosting a variety of open



Employees Martha Leffingwell, Bea Briggs, Mary West, Jessie Robins & Gertrude Buroker, Farnsworth Radio and Television Plant, ca. 1941



Philo T. Farnsworth



Farnsworth 1940 Model AT 10 radio

houses and picnics for their employees, and families. The Farnsworth business

became a large part of Marion and one of the top employers in the town. But just as the business gained popularity in Marion the Second World War began. It was 1941 and as men in Marion began taking up arms the employment rate at

Farnsworth went down. Despite these problems the company still did their part as they began making short wave radios that the American soldiers used in combat. These radios were sturdy and rugged and stood up to the rigors of combat.

In addition, Farnsworth was working on several research and development projects for the U.S. military, including a massive radio tower which could intercept radio communication from the downed German weather balloons, as well as communicate with allied forces in Europe. Farnsworth played a large role in the development of sonar and long distance radios, which the military used to communicate with its ships on the eastern and Pacific fronts. The company also made the short wave



1942 portable Farnsworth radio that could be operated off an internal battery pack or by plugging it into AC

radios that were used throughout the Second World War by American soldiers overseas.

Because of its huge success the Farnsworth ownership was short lived. After the war the company merged with David Sarnoffs Radio Corporation of America. At that time the radio was the cutting edge in the entertainment industry and the business picked up dramatically making the local company a player on the national market, and part of a worldwide conglomerate, which included General Electric, Westinghouse, and RCA.



Farnsworth and his portable TV camera.

Death Notices

Patrick J. Dunn, General Manager of WKVI AM and FM in

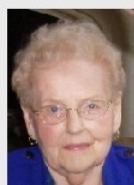


Patrick Dunn

Knox, IN, passed away suddenly on January 1st 2013. Pat had been a member of the Board of Directors of Kankakee Valley Broadcasting Company for many years and had served as the manager of the stations for the past 3 years. Pat joined the Board of Directors of WKVI in the mid 1980's and has been actively involved ever since. And, in early 2010, Pat became WKVI's Director of Operations. Prior to that, he had been the owner of Knox Insurance Agency. He was 61.

Jerome "Jerry" "Ski" Kowalski 75, Brownsburg, passed away on Dec. 27, 2012. He had been a network supervisor for Indiana Higher Education Telecommunications System (IHETS) retiring in 1998. He was formerly employed by Indiana State Police and WNDU Television Station, Notre Dame, IN. He was a U.S. Air Force Veteran, member and former commander of the Hendricks County Honor Guard, and a member of St. Malachy Church. He had also been a volunteer at the Cathedral Soup Kitchen. Survivors include his wife, Barbara Kowalski; children, Kathleen J. Allison and Patrick J. Kowalski; brother, James P. Kowalski; stepsister, Carole Kauss; 4 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Jane Frances Combs McLaughlin, 93. A life well lived was rewarded to Jane Frances Combs McLaughlin, 93, as she entered into eternal life on January 3, 2013. She joins her husband of 64 years, Raymond Stephen, who predeceased her on November 29, 2008.



Fran, was born August 14, 1919, in Clinton County.

Fran McLaughlin She grew up on a 500-acre farm in Mulberry. Fran was a natural musician; she enjoyed playing her saxophone in the family band, but her real talent was the ability to play the piano "by ear", any song she heard!

After graduating from Mulberry High School, she attended Purdue University and graduated in 1942. Two years later, she married Ray, a Purdue graduate engineer and moved to Milwaukee. There she developed a following with her foods preparation show on early TV, and her foods demonstration classes at the Wisconsin State Fair. The family moved to Connersville, in 1956, where Fran taught Home Economics and Bachelor Living at Connersville Senior High School. After attending summer schools at Miami University, she received her Masters Degree in 1967. She retired from teaching in 1983. During her retirement, she compiled two cookbooks, served as a 4-H foods judge at county fairs, was President of American Association of University Women and Retired Teachers of Fayette County

Donald Allen Moore, 1952-2013 Noble



Donald Moore

County Council president and prominent Kendallville businessman died Sunday January 13, at age 60 in Fort Wayne. A native of Middlebury, Moore came to Kendallville in 1978. He was president and general

manager of radio stations WAWK 1140 AM and 95.5 FM "The Hawk," owning the Kendallville business since 1991. He was also the owner of Don Moore Productions and Minuteman Mowing Services. Don was born in Elkhart, Indiana on October 28, 1952. He graduated from Northridge High School in 1971 and graduated from Career Academy Broadcasting School as its valedictorian in 1972. He entered the United States Army and served his country during the Vietnam War as an intelligence analyst from 1972 to 1974. He went on to graduate from Youngstown State University with a degree in broadcasting in 1976. He worked at radio stations in North Carolina and Ohio before coming to Kendallville. Moore was involved with the Kendallville Jaycees for many years as board member from 1978 to 1993 and was awarded the Jaycee Presidential Award of Merit and the Jaycee of the Year honor.

He married Cynthia Diane (Moore) Moore on January 15, 1998. He played a key leadership role in the Kendallville Downtown Business Association, raising \$8,000 annually for several years. Moore was recognized by the Area Chamber of Commerce as its Citizen of the Year in 1998. Chamber of Commerce president, Downtown Kendallville Merchants president, recipient of President Clinton's Golden Rule Award 1994 for Community Volunteerism, and tireless advocate of the Noble County Humane Society in Kendallville.

Death Notices Continued

Jane Harrington-Smith 62, of Fishers, departed this earthly life on Friday, February 15, 2013. She was born December 29, 1950, in Winston Salem, NC.



Jane Harrington Smith

Jane attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and received a degree in Journalism.

She was a member of Faith Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis.

She was also a member of the National Association of Black Journalist and AKA sorority. Jane was united in holy matrimony to David M. Smith on November 29, 1991 in Muncie, Indiana. Last November they celebrated 21 years of marriage. She was a reporter on the WTHR Channel 13 staff from the early 1980s to 1998. She was the lead reporter on the Mike Tyson trial in 1992 and was also part of the station's investigative team.

Surviving are her loving and devoted husband, David M. Smith of Fishers, IN; daughter, Beverly J. (Jonathan D.) Oxley of Sterling, VA; sister, Artelia (William) Walker of Plainfield, IN; one grandson, Ryce M. Oxley; special cousins, William and Elaine Buie of Greensboro, NC; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Jane was preceded in death by her parents, Alton and Janie Harrington and in-laws; Charles and Louester Smith.

Pioneer Contact Information

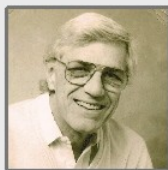
Newsletter: Bob Smith

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Indianapolis, IN. 46280
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Gene Arthur Slaymaker, veteran broadcaster died December 15, 2012. Born in Kenton, Ohio on September 15, 1928 he was raised in Fremont, Ohio. After serving in WWII, he majored in Radio Journalism at Ohio State University where he was a member of Sigma



Gene Slaymaker

Phi Epsilon and Sigma Delta Chi while being a reporter and announcer for WLWC-TV. Upon

graduation, he became an anchor and reporter for Youngstown, Ohio's WKBN-AM-FM-TV before joining Cleveland's KYW-TV. In 1956, he became News Editor of WFBM-AM-FM-TV in Indianapolis. In 1960, he founded public relations firm Slaymaker and Associates. Nine years later, he was recruited to WTLC-FM and WTUX-AM radio where he served as News Director for 18 national award-winning years. Contest judges called him the "voice for those who had no voice," a fact recognized by the Indiana Broadcasters Pioneers Hall of Fame, who inducted him in 2007.

Slaymaker was President of The Lambs Club, and the Indiana Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, which established the Gene and Julie Slaymaker "Indiana Service to Journalism" award in honor of their 30 years of service to the organization as statewide contest coordinators.

He was a two-time candidate for the Indiana State Legislature. He co-founded the Indiana Scarborough Peace Game and was elected twice as a Regional Director of the Radio-Television News Directors Association. He was a member of the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers, the Indiana Broadcasters Association and The Indianapolis Press Club. He was the second male admitted into Woman's Press Club of Indiana, an affiliate of the National Federation of Press Women. He contributed his time and talent to both organizations, including serving as their current treasurer. Who's Who of America recognizes his more than 200 journalism awards, including three coveted National Headliner's Award.

He spell-bound two generations of trick-or-treaters as Count Dracula and his homemade sleigh has been an enchanting, neighborhood Christmas tradition since 1979. In retirement, he lent his bass voice to the Indiana State Library's "Talking Books for the Blind."

Slaymaker is survived by wife Julie; children Jill (Ned Ginsburg) Slaymaker, Woody (Fangji) Slaymaker, Leslie (Joe) Farrell and adopted son, Peter Bannon; and step-children David (Susan) Nash and Jennifer (Tony) Page. Grandpa Geno will be missed by grandchildren Meagan, Tristan and Connor Farrell, Alex Ginsburg, Rachel Nash, Dylan and Cody Page, and Martha and Elisabye Slaymaker. He was predeceased by brothers Richard and Tom Slaymaker. He is survived by siblings Mary Ann Benfer, Sharon St. Clair and Dr. Phil Slaymaker.