



Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Newsletter

2017 Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame

Four Hoosier Broadcasting Pioneers are being inducted into the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Richard M. Fairbanks Hall of Fame. The Indiana Broadcasters Association today announced the 2017 class, selected by the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Board, includes Sportscaster Joe McConnell, TV Reporter Jack Rinehart, Radio Personality Ken Speck, and TV Videographer Steve Starnes. This distinguished group of broadcasters represents the best our industry has to offer, not just for Indiana, but nationally. Joe, Jack, Ken, and Steve join more than 170 other broadcasters in the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Richard M. Fairbanks Hall of Fame and we are looking forward to recognizing their careers in the fall at IBA's annual conference."

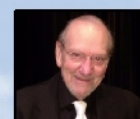
2017 Hall of Fame Inductees



Jack Rinehart

Emmy Award winning Reporter Jack Rinehart, a South Bend native and Bradley University graduate, has worked for more than 40 years at WRTV in Indianapolis establishing himself as one of the most trusted reporters in the market.

Goodland, Indiana, native **Joe McConnell** didn't cover in his 40-year career. Not only did he call three Super Bowls, the NBA Championship series, the NBA All-Star Game, and the American League Championship Series, but he was the voice of multiple professional and college teams that include the hometown Indianapolis Colts, Indiana Pacers, and college athletics at Indiana State, Notre Dame, and Purdue. A graduate of Franklin College, Joe is five-time winner of the AP/UPI Sportscaster of the Year, has been named Sportscaster of the Year in both Indiana (2000) and Illinois (1981).



Joe McConnell

Ken Speck served as an on-air personality and managing director at WIRE Radio in Indianapolis from 1970 to 1985 before moving to WKPM in Seattle where he helped take the station from number 42 in the market to number one within five months. During Ken's time at WIRE the station received numerous Station of the Year awards.



Ken Speck

For more than 30 years **Steve Starnes** worked as a photographer for WTHR in Indianapolis. His work earned a myriad of national and international awards, including a national Emmy award. Steve's career behind the cameras took him all over the world, traveling from Afghanistan and Albania to Africa before he retired in 2009.



Steve Starnes

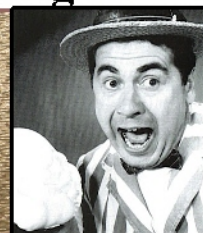
The 2017 Hall of Fame class will be formally inducted on Friday, November 3rd during an awards luncheon in conjunction with the annual Indiana Broadcasters Conference and "Best in Media" Spectrum Awards. Tickets for the annual event will go on sale in September.

For ticket information Contact IBA. (317) 770-0970



HAL FRYAR

A.K.A HARLO HICKENLOOPER



Hal Fryar, age 90, of Bradenton, Florida passed away on June 25, 2017 after a life well lived and well loved by many. Born in 1927, Hal became an actor and television personality and rose to prominence as "Harlow Hickenlooper", the host of The Three Stooges Show on Channel 6 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Hal began his broadcasting career as an announcer, emcee, and writer as a teenager in Indianapolis, Indiana, in the mid-1940s. He graduated from Indiana University in 1950 with a bachelor's degree in speech, and by the 1960s, he had developed his entertainment talents as host of programs geared to young audiences in radio and TV in Ohio.



Hal Fryar

After relocating to Indianapolis Hal served as the host for a local Indianapolis children's show on WFBM-TV that ran from 1960 to 1972, that highlighted the old Three Stooges movie shorts. He appeared under the name "Harlow Hickenlooper" and was one of a trio of hosts with Curley Myers and Captain Star (Jerry Vance aka Larry Vincent). Together, they sang songs and did skits for a live studio audience of children.

His idea of Harlow Hickenlooper's personality was for him to be a character for whom nothing ever went right, no matter how hard he tried and Hickenlooper regularly ended up with a (shaving) cream pie in his face. Hal was also the host for several other children's shows over his 43 years in local television.



Harlow Hickenlooper at work.

In 1965, Fryar was cast in the Original Three Stooges movie, "The Outlaws Is Coming" and was a guest at the 1995 Three Stooges Convention in Philadelphia. Joined by fellow costar Johnny Ginger, the four "outlaws" joined fans at the 2005 Fan Club Meeting. , playing the part of Johnny Ringo and was a guest at the 1995 Three Stooges Convention in Philadelphia where he was joined by fellow costar Johnny Ginger, the four "outlaws" joined fans at the 2005 Fan Club Meeting.



Hall of Fame, 2008

He appeared on other children's shows throughout his 43 years in local television, including a stint as "Grandpa Harlow" on WFYI from 1990-1995 in which he hosted episodes of "Barney".

He was a long time member of the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Board who in 2008 inducted Hal into the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame.



Hal - 3 Stooges Movie

Hal was always generous, witty, and dedicated to entertaining, often volunteering his talent to community events. He always expressed personal interest in others and was forever introducing people to create new connections and friendships. Hal was a dedicated member of the Emanuel Methodist Church of Bradenton.

Condolences can be sent through Hal's contact page. The family would like to thank friends, WFYI, Hospice House of Bradenton.

Hal Fryar, TV's 'Harlow Hickenlooper' for a generation of Hoosier kids



Tennis "FAULT!"

With the U.S. Open Tennis Championship being held in New York this month it reminded me of an event in my broadcasting career of which I really didn't want to be reminded.

In August of 1972 the National Clay Courts Tennis Championship was held in Indianapolis at the Woodstock Country Club. Dave Smith, Program Manager of WISH TV at that time, and a huge Tennis fan, arranged for our station to produce and air the "Live" final match of the ladies Championship between Chris Evert and Yvonne Goolagong. At that time our remote truck was only partially-equipped, so what wasn't in the truck we borrowed from the station facilities. Part of that equipment was two color cameras and one black and white. (Really.)



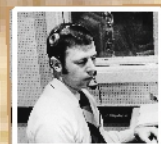
The day of the event the engineering staff loaded the necessary equipment onto the truck, drove to the site and began the set up. Two cameras were positioned on scaffolding at the north end of the court. The third camera was at ground level at the far end of the court in the west corner. That camera would

cover the serves and volleys of the player facing it. One of the cameras on the scaffold would cover

those same shots facing the other direction. The second camera on the platform was used for full court shots along with wide shots, crowd shots and close up's of players or judges. (No capabilities for replays at the time).

I was the producer/director for the event and was there early to check out the site, address any problems and determine camera positions and mic placement. I positioned one of the color cameras at ground level, facing our scaffolding which held the other color camera and the black and white. That way I could cover both ends of the court with a color camera and use the black and white for cut away's and tight shots. The two color cameras had zoom lenses. The black and white had four individual lenses, a 35mm, a 50mm, a 90mm and a 135mm.

While I was on the court Chris Evert appeared and began warming up and hitting some practice shots and serves. She was very intense, walking around the court and talking to herself, getting psyched up for the match. But she was friendly and helpful to our staff. I left the court, which at that time was a scorching 84 degrees, and returned to the truck. Shortly after I sat down in front of the monitors it was announced that the color camera on the scaffolding had no picture. Within minutes the court side camera also lost it's picture due to the extreme heat. Great! The big match is about to start and all we have is one black and white camera. WRONG! The remaining black and white camera on the scaffold had a picture but the viewfinder quit working. As the start of the match approached I had one camera working but the cameraman could not see what he was shooting. In a desperate attempt to solve the problem our "crack" engineering team put a 9 inch TV monitor on top of the camera and attached it by wrapping gaffer's tape around it and the camera. WOO HOO! We now had one working camera. The black and white stationary unbalanced, gaffered taped camera. All I could do was show a wide shot of the court. Panning and or tilting were out of the question in fear of losing the gaffered taped monitor. The only other option was to rack lenses live on air and quickly adjust focus. . . . I chose to stay with the wide shot. The station finished the commercial break between programs, ran the produced opening for the event and went to us live. We came up



Me, with nothing to do.

from black on our lone camera shot and that was it. I had nothing to do. All I had was a locked wide shot of the court. Our on site announcers were WISH TV's Hall of Fame Sports Director Jim Wilson and national Tennis Guru Bud Collins, a formidable pair about to be subjected to "Ted Mack's Amateur Hour". While the cameraman struggled to follow the action and balance a gaffer taped view finder, the match ignored us and went on. But wait ! Lady Luck

wasn't through with us yet ! Because a fuse kept blowing in the nearby concession stands a maintenance man pulled the plug that powered our gaffered tape monitor. I guess it didn't matter, we all knew what that one shot looked like. Piece by piece throughout the match we would be informed something else was now working, which was like saying "We just pulled your pants up for you." If all that wasn't bad enough, Marion Garmel, reporter for the Indianapolis Star/News, was sitting next to me recording every exciting moment.



Jim Wilson Bud Collins

William H. Thompson, born July 8, 1913 in Terre Haute, Indiana to vaudevillian parents, Thompson began his career in Chicago radio, where his early appearances included appearances as a regular on Don McNeill's morning variety series The Breakfast Club in 1934 and a stint as a choir member on the musical variety series The Sinclair Weiner Minstrels around 1937. While on the former series, Thompson originated a meek, mush-mouthed character occasionally referred to in publicity as Mr. Wimple. Thompson soon achieved his greatest fame after he joined the cast of the radio comedy Fibber McGee and Molly around 1936 and brought back the Wimple voice in 1941. Also, in Fibber McGee and Molly, he played a man named Horatio K. Boomer, and although Wallace Wimple and Nick Depopulis were two of his greater roles in the show, his best was the Old-Timer.

On Fibber McGee and Molly, Jim and Marian Jordan, a real-life husband and wife team, Thompson played a variety of roles, including a boisterous con man with a W. C. Fields voice, originally named Widdicomb Blotto but soon re-christened Horatio K. Boomer. He also was Nick Depopulis, the Greek restaurant owner. His two most famous roles on the series, however, were as the Old Timer and Wallace Wimple. The Old Timer, introduced in 1937 was a garrulous old gent who would drop in and listen to McGee's rambling stories and jokes. He inexplicably referred to McGee as "Johnny," as in: "That's pretty good, Johnny, but that ain't the way I heard it!" That line soon became a national catchphrase.



Thompson, on air with "Fibber McGee"

Wallace Wimple, an expansion of Thompson's Breakfast Club role, would prove to be his most enduring character. Wimple was a timid bird watcher, appropriately nicknamed "Wimp" by McGee, who lived in constant terror of his "big old wife," ironically named "Sweetie Face," who was often mentioned but never heard. Thompson also played the title role of a Adolf Hitler take-off, in Avery's Academy Award nominated Blitz Wolf short around 1943. However, Thompson's thriving career was interrupted when he joined the US Navy during World War II, and all of his radio characters were temporarily dropped. He returned to Fibber McGee full-time in 1946 however, and also became a semi-regular on Edgar Bergen's radio series as lecturer "Professor" Thompson.

On February 21, 1950, he married Mary Margaret McBride. Thompson continued to work on radio until the



Thompson as Mr. Wimple
"...and she threw me out the window!"

late 1950s, notably in several episodes of CBS Radio Workshop, and his animation voice-over career "also began to build steam again during the 1950s. At MGM, he returned as Droopy and also played Droopy's recurring bulldog nemesis Spike, known as Butch in his appearances that were produced after Avery's departure from MGM, and many other characters in the studio's cartoon shorts (he used the Wimple/Droopy voice for the titular Native American caricature in Big Heel-Watha and for Tom's look alike cousin George in a 1957 Tom and Jerry cartoon. For Walt Disney Studios, he was heard in many shorts and features, often in either dialect parts or a variation of his Wimple/Droopy voice.



Bill Thompson,
a man of many voices.

His animated feature film credits included the parts of the White Rabbit and the Dodger in Alice in Wonderland, Mr. Smee and the other pirates in Peter Pan. His best showcase may well have been in Lady and the Tramp (1955), where he was heard in no less than five dialect parts, as Jock the Scottish Terrier, Bull the Cockney bulldog, Dachsie the German dachshund, Joe the Italian cook, and the Irish policeman in the zoo. In shorts, he was heard as Ranger J. Audubon Woodlore in several "Donald Duck and Humphrey the Bear" entries and as Professor Owl in two music related shorts, Melody and Toot Whistle Plunk and Boom (directed by Ward Kimball), amongst many others. He reprised both of these roles in Disney's various television series, and was the first actor to voice the comic book character Scrooge McDuck (the theatrical featurette Scrooge McDuck and Money). Another prominent role is that of Irish station manager Flannery in "Pigs Is Pigs" (directed by Jack Kinney), and the voice of Uncle Waldo from The Aristocats.

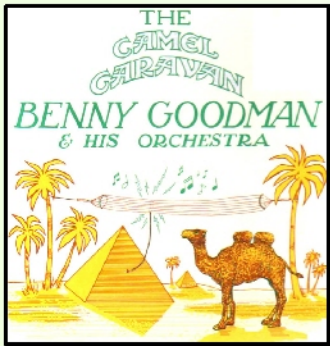
In 1957, Thompson joined the Los Angeles branch of Union Oil as an executive, working in community relations and occasionally reprising his radio characters. He remained sporadically active in animation, however, going on to play King Hubert in Disney's Sleeping Beauty, and as Touché Turtle for Hanna-Barbera's Touché Turtle and Dum Dum (plus a guest role in an early episode of The Flintstones).

Thompson's final role was as Uncle Waldo in The Aristocats, released shortly before his sudden death from acute septic shock on July 15, 1971, just a week after his 58th birthday. Thompson received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for his work in radio, February 8, 1960. He died July 15, 1971 at age 58 in Culver City, California. Remains scattered at sea.

Humorist, Harmonicist and Hoosier

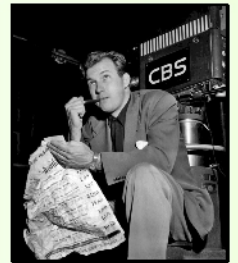
American humorist, radio personality and television host Herb Shriner was born in Toledo, Ohio in 1918 but moved to Ft. Wayne, Indiana as a young boy. During his grade school years he learned to play the harmonica and later, while in high school, formed a quintet that played to local audiences around the city. He dropped out of Central High School and was soon entertaining audiences as "Harmonica Herb", a solo act that combined his music and with deadpan two-liner humor about his fictional Indiana hometown. His style reminded many of well known humorist Will Rogers. Shriner was eventually hired by NBC in 1940 and appeared on a number of network radio shows. He got into television in 1949, and his TV popularity peaked in the 50's with his own show on ABC and later as host of the "Two for the Money" game show on NBC and CBS.

His popularity allowed Shriner to begin performing on his own wherever he could get a booking. One night, when his lip gave out he finished his routine by telling homespun stories. He was so good the deadpan comedy routines quickly became more popular than his music. He was doing well enough to be hired by NBC Radio for occasional appearances and eventually landed a permanent spot on the popular comedy-variety program Camel Caravan, a musical variety radio program, sponsored by Camel cigarettes featuring such stars as Benny Goodman, Georgia Gibbs, Anita O'Day and Vaughn Monroe.



The Camel Caravan Show

He also appeared on a number of other radio shows, including The Philip Morris Follies of 1946 with Johnny Desmond and Margaret Whiting. Shriner also hosted "Herb Shriner Time", a CBS Radio weekday program in 1948 and 1949 with singer Dorothy Collins, and fellow Indiana hometown announcer for the Gary Moore Show, Durward Kirby. A half-hour version on ABC ran during the 1951-52 season.



Shriner at CBS

Shriner found more TV success with "Two for the Money", a game show which appeared on NBC in the 1952-53 season, then moved to CBS for three seasons. It became more of a showcase for Shriner's humor than a game show. In 1955, Shriner launched the Herb Shriner Harmonica Orchestra with Dominic (Don Henry) Quaganti, Cham-Ber Huang, Charles Leighton, Frank (Moose) Mitkowski, Victor Pankowitz, Alan Pogson and Alan (Blackie) Schackner. They recorded "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" and "Back Home Again in Indiana" for the Columbia LP "Herb Shriner on Stage" (1955). After he left "Two for the Money" in 1956, the show continued with fellow humorist Sam Levenson. Shriner tried a variety show on CBS which lasted almost three months (replaced by To Tell the Truth), and then played nightclubs, state fairs, showboat's, and similar venues.



Shriner's Album



Shriner and his wife, Eileen "Pixie" McDermott, moved with their children to Florida, returning each summer to Angola, Indiana. Shriner invested in real estate and collected vintage automobiles. In 1970, he and his wife were killed in Delray Beach, Florida, in one of those cars, a Studebaker Avanti, when the brakes failed.

Herb Shriner is a member of the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame.



Obituaries

Christopher Cawthorne age 65, passed away in Davao City, Philippines on June 2, 2017. Chris was a graduate of Brebeuf High School, St. Gregory's College in Shawnee, Oklahoma, and Butler University in Indianapolis. He resided in Indianapolis after graduating, where he enjoyed a successful career in radio and television, as a producer and director.

Chris was known for his great artistic abilities, wonderful sense of humor, passion for fishing and cooking, and his generosity to others. This was exemplified in Chris and his wife Nene were instrumental in having two schools built in Nene's home town during their early years of retirement. Chris is survived by his wife, Nene, Davao City, Philippines, and siblings Bruce Cawthorne (Jo Anna), Greg Cawthorne (Yuko), Cathy Miller (Gary),

Bill Valentine Bryant 82 years old, died



Bill V. Bryant.

peacefully at sunrise on Monday morning, July 24, 2017. Bill was born on February 14, 1935 in Indianapolis where he was a life-long resident.

Bill was a kind and gentle spirit who loved animals and drawing. He enjoyed dancing, was an accomplished golfer and was an employee of the Channel 13 television station. He grew up near Riverside Park, spent much of his life as a Haughville resident and lived much of the last two decades of his life as a member of the Bethany Village community where he was happy to regularly attend The Indiana Bible College. He was preceded in death by his parents, James H. Bryant and Irene L. Bryant (Johnson), his full brother, Henry U. Bryant Sr. and his three half-brothers, James Jr., Guy & Freeman Bryant.

Beverly Ann (Harmon) Fischer of Indianapolis, passed away Sunday July, 23rd, 2017.



Beverly was born on December 9th 1927 in South Bend, Indiana. From 1957-1992 she was very involved with the television production of Timothy Church Mouse as

Beverly Ann Fischer both a producer and puppeteer.

Dr. Alfred Edyvean and Muriel Lee developed the program. The show first aired on 9 November 1957 on station WLWI (now WTHR,) Channel 13, Indianapolis.

Time for Timothy was a popular children's religious themed puppet television program. The show featured Timothy Churchmouse and his cousin Kathleen, along with various people and animal friends. a host family for the Indianapolis Claycourt Championship for many years.

William "Bill" R. Kirtley, Jr., age 70 Bill worked as an announcer with the late Tom Woody and engineer John Lazott while attending North Central High School. While Bill was enrolled at Rose Polytechnic Institute in Terre Haute pursuing a degree in electrical



Bill Kirtley Jr.

engineering, WAIV radio was sold and became WTLC-FM in 1968. Bill as a student, was co-founder of the carrier-current AM student-run station, WRTR at 1550 kHz (Rose Tech Radio), built studios and provided news and public affairs programming to the Rose Poly dormitories and student union. One highlight each year was parking a raft in the middle of the campus pond, erecting a Christmas tree on the raft and programming the lights to Christmas music. He later became the program director for Universal Broadcasting's "Symphony 107", Danville, at 107.1 MHz programming classical music to Indianapolis commercially and marketing itself to a younger audience. When the owners of WSYW decided to go to other formats, Bill founded and owned "Sinfonia: The Sound Experience" in the Nora Plaza Shoppes specializing in classical music, jazz, Broadway and film soundtracks and comedy.

Ronn Mott, veteran Terre Haute broadcaster died July



Ronn Mott

17, 2017 at age 81. The turntables and CD players have been turned off for the final time. The "Music Meister," or "RM in the AM," has left the studio. All of those wonderful old tunes and stories have been silenced. He not only played so many of

our favorites, he had stories about the songs, artists, and often movies associated with the music. In recent years, he not only he also wrote opinion columns for the Terre Haute Tribune-Star. Oh yes, he had opinions and would happily discuss his views with anyone who cared to participate. An amateur historian, he was an expert on the Civil War and World War II. He could discuss almost any subject and was occasionally referred to as a walking dictionary. He could command a room with his extensive knowledge of people, places and events. Born in Hillsdale, Indiana and was a typical Hoosier basketball fan. Having played basketball (and ran track) in school, he was an avid sports fan. He was a 1954 graduate of Clinton High School. Ronn is survived by his wife, Deanna Thompson Mott, daughter Kathryn Caris (Perry), grandsons Nicholas Caris and Alexander Caris, brother Gary Mott (Martha), and Jay Thompson (Dove), cousin and often sidekick on the radio, We hope somewhere you can hear "Old Blue Eyes" singing, I Did It My Way.

George Nicoloff 1925 - 2017 Well known Indianapolis musician, George Nicoloff, 92, passed away on June 25, 2017. He was born in Indianapolis on April

4, 1925. George musically distinguished himself with his performing talents. His entertainment career included many

Starlight Musicals, 12 years of local television, and multiple special events. Additionally, he worked in the music department of the Indianapolis Public Schools, retiring in 2014 after an IPS record of 66 years of service. George proudly served our country in the United States Army Air Force during WWII. George is survived by his loving and dear wife of 71 years, Mary Frances "Franky" Nicoloff; and son, Greg Nicoloff. George is preceded in death by his oldest son, Michael B. Nicoloff.



George Nicoloff

Wanda Waters Skaggs, 62, of Indianapolis, transcended to eternal life on July 14, 2017. Born in Detroit, MI, she



Wanda Waters Skaggs

with her family moved to Indianapolis in 1958, where she completed her education and graduated from George Washington High School. She later graduated and earned a Bachelor degree from Franklin College.

She was the producer of the Noon News for WTHR Channel 13, where she had been employed for 25 years. A member of Eastern Star Church, she was active in several organizations. As former president of the Indianapolis Association of Black Journalists, she received the 2009 Trailblazer Award. She was a 1976 500 Festival Princess. She was united in marriage to Thomas J. Skaggs, who survives, She also leaves their daughters, Tori J. Smith and Kelly D. Mills; granddaughters; sister, Vickie (Flame) Waters; and brother, Dee Roy Waters, II.

Robert John Sprouls, 61, Died April 19, 2017 at his home in Aurora, Colorado. Bob worked as a news photographer at WRTV in Indianapolis for 15 years. For five years during that time period Bob served as Chairman for the National Press Photographers annual TV contest.



Prior to his time at WRTV, while Bob was in his Senior year at Butler University, he was offered a job at a Nashville, Tennessee TV News station and worked there before moving back to Indianapolis and WRTV. Following his time at WRTV Bob took a position with Avid Technology and later Grass Valley serving as a trainer for new technology, mainly at local TV stations. One of his training sites was the White House for President Clinton's Communication Agency. For the last several years he had been working at NBC Universal in Centennial, Colorado.

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