



# Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Newsletter

## DICK FLOREA FORMER PIONEER PRESIDENT RECEIVES AWARD

Richard Florea, Fort Wayne television pioneer has been named to the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. Long-time television newsman Richard (Dick) Florea has been called Fort Wayne's Walter Cronkite. "Everybody trusted Walter Cronkite," Florea said, "I sought to be trustworthy and accurate have people coming back to you." Florea retired from WKJG-TV (then NBC33) in 2001 after a 48-year broadcasting career in Indiana. His broadcasting career began at radio station WMRI while he was still a Marion High School student. From Marion, Florea went to Purdue University, where he edited and broadcast evening newscasts for the campus radio station, WBAA. His only training in broadcast, he said, was on the job.

After graduation, Florea returned to Marion and became news director at WMRI as well as news director and assistant manager of WTAF-TV. Then WKJG, Fort Wayne's first television station, contacted him about a job opening there. After interviewing in 1966, he first said no. But WKJG – which was a small radio-and-TV operation run by another eventual Indiana Journalism Hall of Famer, Hilliard Gates – needed a backup, and Florea fit the bill. Gates offered more money after first being turned down, and Florea is glad he did. Florea made his first appearance on Fort Wayne TV screens doing the 11 o'clock news on Feb. 28, 1966. He remained on Channel 33 for 35 years, the first 20 as the main news anchor, while taking on news director duties from 1970-1987. Florea remembers the late 1960s and early 1970s as the height of his news career. "There was not one particular story that stood out so much," he said, but it was a period of time that had "an awful lot going on." Other stories drew national media to town, and he remembers the network helicopters landing on the WKJG lawn and the big national names in the media showing up to make their reports or commentaries on the historic events of the time — Robert Kennedy's assassination in 1968 (he had visited Fort Wayne just weeks before), strikes at General Electric, International Harvester leaving town, the blizzard of 1978 and the flood of 1982 with Florea and WKJG the strongest television news voice in Northeast Indiana. Florea was also president of the Indiana Associated Press Broadcasters, vice president of the Indiana United Press Broadcasters and president of the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers. He was a member of the Radio and Television News Directors Association. In 2001, the year he retired, he was honored as a Sagamore of the Wabash. And he was inducted into the Indiana Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2015. Hostetter quoted former NBC News icon Tom Brokaw in a Hall of Fame nomination letter for Florea: "It's easy to make a buck. But it's harder to make a difference." "Dick Florea," Hostetter added, "made a difference in Fort Wayne journalism, and he continues to do so to this day."

(Edited Story by Kerry Hubartt Former editor, retired at Fort Wayne News-Sentinel)



Dick Florea



Florea at WKJG



Dick Florea  
Receives HOF Award



# WHOSE "ON" FIRST

If you're wondering who was "On First" that would be Bill Slater, . . . master's degree in political science from Columbia University, a 1924 graduate of West Point, English and math teacher at his hometown of Parkersburg, West Virginia before joining the Greenbrier Military School in Lewisburg, West Virginia as commandant. Next, he was on the faculty of the New York Military Academy where he also coached football., then as the head of the math department and football coach at Blake School in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His final teaching post was headmaster of Adelphi Academy in Brooklyn, New York and served as a lieutenant colonel in public relations for the U.S. Army, beginning in 1942.



Bill Slater

Later, while teaching at the Blake School for Boys in Minneapolis, it was suggested by a student, whose father was CBS Executive and Sports announcer Ted Husing, that Slater had the voice and knowledge to be a sports announcer. Intrigued, he did a little "on Air" radio work before his first network break came while at Adelphi Academy, when Husing asked Slater to call an Army-Navy football game. His performance led to other radio opportunities including being the primary voice of Paramount News reels for many years beginning in 1936. That same year he covered the 1936 Summer Olympics for NBC, announced for the New York Yankees and New York Giants baseball teams, the 1937 Sugar Bowl, West Point, Yale, Penn and other college football games, and later, tennis from Wimbledon and Forest Hills. Slater was announcing a NFL game between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Giants when the first bulletin aired of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. His career moved on to Television as an Emcee for a slew of popular programs such as King Cole's Birthday Party, Charade Quiz (1947) Twenty Questions (1949) DuMont and NBC versions.

While Hosting the "Charade Quiz" program in 1947 Slater was asked to be the chief radio announcer for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway 500 mile race Radio Network which at that time was being produced by the Mutual Broadcasting System. The broadcast featured live coverage of the start, the finish, and live updates throughout the race. The broadcast was sponsored by Perfect Circle Piston Rings. The broadcast featured live coverage of the start, the finish, and live updates throughout the race. Barry Lake served as "roving reporter," using an Army Jeep to cover various areas of the track. Larry Richardson was stationed in the new Press Paddock (constructed underneath the Paddock Penthouse upper deck) on the outside of the main stretch, and relayed scoring and official Track information. Mutual Broadcasting System. Mutual took advantage of local Indy broadcasters with Slater being supported by Indy broadcasters Gene Kelly previously general manager of radio station WXLW in Indianapolis and later known as the "Voice of the Phillies"



Popular motor cycle racer Cannonball Baker drove the 1947 Nash pace car.

during the 1950's. South turns: Mike Dunn Main stretch: Gordon Graham, North turns: Jim Shelton. Slater was Television Slater hosted/emceed many early television shows. Only NBC and DuMont had networks until CBS joined in May 1948, and coaxial cable connections were only available for a few cities



Gordon Graham



Jim Shelton



Bill Slater in Victory Lane with winner Mauri Rose

on the East Coast. Most other parts of the United States created local shows or broadcast film programs.





The title and reputation of "Hoosier Schoolmaster of the Air" belongs to former amateur ham radio operator and Indiana Broadcast Pioneer Hall of fame member, Dr. Clarence



M. Morgan. Morgan's lengthy leadership of Indiana State University's program of broadcasting, both radio and television, which began in ISU's early days as Indiana State Teachers College (ISTC). Through Morgan, ISU had the longest known broadcast cooperative with Terre Haute commercial radio station WBOW AM. His work has permanently cemented his position as an early educational broadcasting pioneer, even though his name is



Dr. Clarence M. Morgan.

not in the history books and his voice was rarely heard on the air.

Dr. Morgan went from amateur ham radio operation to permanent status as the Hoosier Schoolmaster of the Air. Morgan involved his students in the creation of the Radio/Television program at ISU, implemented Entertainment-Education programming for all ages, researched audience reaction and media effects, and assisted his son with doing the same at Murray State University and the University of Central Florida. Morgan broadcast thousands of live radio and television



ISU Student Broadcast Facilities programs.

during a 45-year career, Morgan spent much of it as a faculty member. For over 30 years, he produced and personally directed more than 9,000 radio programs, many of them children's programs, without his voice or name being heard on the air. Ball State Professor and author, Daryl Wible wrote, "It is the assertion of this author, that using an entertainment-education (E-E) style strategy, Dr. Morgan and his students created and produced the longest running, continuous children's radio program in early radio broadcasting history all live, on WBOW Terre Haute. Dr. Morgan died in 1995 at the age of 92.

#### CURRENT EFFORTS OF RECOGNITION

Indiana State University will be honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Morgan as well as celebrating 90 continuous years of radio broadcasting this October. The University is working to compile artifacts and stories from former students, fellow employees, and acquaintances. All are invited to the ceremony and more details will be released over the summer regarding the entire scope of activities, which range from a city proclamation to artifact installation in the Vigo County Historical Society Museum to a meet-and-greet with Dr. Morgan's son. This event is open to the public. Dr. Morgan, passed away in 1995 and was inducted to the Indiana broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame in 2003.

Mary E. Myers, Ph.D. Historical Researcher and Adjunct Regent University · School of Communication and the Arts presented a paper in the historical division at The National Association of the Broadcast Education Association Convention in Las Vegas. The paper, "The Hoosier Schoolmaster of the Air," won second prize in the student history category and focused on Dr. Clarence M. Morgan.

process, which will expand on the paper she presented at B.E.A.



In 1966, at age 17, Coppock broadcast football and basketball on WNTH radio, the school radio station at New Trier High School in Winnetka, IL. In 1970–1971, Coppock was hired to produce the Milwaukee Bucks radio network. Coppock hosted Sport Rap, a nightly Chicago TV talk show on WSNS TV, before eventually becoming a staff announcer with WFLD TV in Chicago. While at WFLD, Coppock developed a friendship with promoter Gerry Seltzer. The association soon led Coppock

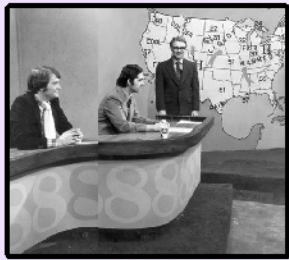


**Coppock**



into a role as the national TV voice of the Roller Derby, a position he occupied for several years. In the mid-1970s, Coppock held a six-year tenure as sports director at then CBS-affiliate WISH-TV (now a CW affiliate) in Indianapolis. In 1981, Coppock returned to Chicago and joined WMAQ-TV for three years. In 1981, he was awarded a UPI Award in the category of Illinois Broadcasting and Best Sports. In 1984, while working as sports

director at WMAQ radio, Coppock approached the station about creating an in-depth, interview-driven radio sports talk show.



**WISH TV News**

**Chet Coppock,**

**Mike Ahern Stan Wood**

The move led to the creation of Coppock on Sports, a show in which Coppock spoke with athletes, coaches, GMs and media members in a longer, un-cut magazine format. In 1986, Coppock served as ring announcer during the Chicago portion of WrestleMania 2. Coppock's other appearances for the World Wrestling Federation include his role as commentator alongside Gorilla Monsoon for Radio WWF at WrestleMania X. He also promoted wrestling events featuring such competitors as Verne Gagne, Baron von Raschke, and Dick the Bruiser. Some of these shows were held at Chicago's

Comiskey Park. In 1988, Coppock moved to WLUP in Chicago to continue Coppock on Sports and also host the pre-game, half-time and post-game shows for the Chicago Bulls radio

network. Coppock hosted Back Table, an interview show that was carried by SportsChannel/Fox Sports Net. He also co-hosted The Mike Ditka Radio Show as well as talk shows featuring NBA coaches Phil Jackson and Doug Collins. In 1990–1991 Coppock served as the studio host for the NBA radio network. In 1992, he received a



**Coppock-Janet Guthrie**

Chicago/Midwest Area Emmy Award for his work on Chicago Bears Weekly. In 1994, Coppock hosted NewSportTalk on Cablevision in New York and was one of sixty notable Chicagoans featured in the book Great Chicago Stories: Portraits and Stories by Sam Landers. In the late 90s, Coppock was heard on Fox Sports Net

Chicago and WMAQ 670 AM Chicago. In 1999, Coppock received the Peter



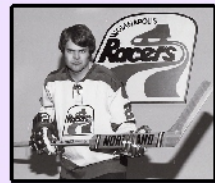
**Coppock on Radio**

Lisagor Award for Journalistic Excellence. From August 2000 to February 2006, Coppock on Sports made a return to the airwaves on Sporting News Radio. Between 2006-2015, Coppock hosted Notre Dame football and basketball pregame and post game shows on WLS Radio. In 2009, Coppock launched the Coppock On Sports podcast, featured in the podcast section of Apple's iTunes store. The podcast features regular appearances from ESPN Legal Analyst Lester Munson, and former MLB 31-game winner

Denny McClain. In 2009, Coppock penned the Coppock on Sports blog, covering Chicago sports for [www.ChicagoNow.com](http://www.ChicagoNow.com). Also in 2009, Coppock published his first book titled, *Fat Guys Shouldn't be Dancin' at Halftime*, published by Triumph Books. Coppock hosted *The Winning Edge* on the Discovery Channel. In 2011, Coppock appeared as a featured content contributor for the Heritage Series on the Chicago Blackhawks website, and continues to occasionally emcee Blackhawks events. In 2011,

Coppock launched [DailyCoppock.com](http://DailyCoppock.com) with business partner Michael Romano. [DailyCoppock.com](http://DailyCoppock.com)

features Coppock's video blogs, Coppock's magazine-style video interviews with sports headliners, and Coppock's written blogs on sports and culture. In 2013, Coppock was named the recipient of the "Jack Brickhouse Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Chicago Sports Hall of Fame. Coppock is an occasional contributor to the "Rant and Rave" segment on FOX 32 Chicago (WFLD) with anchor Lou Canellis. In 2014, Coppock published his second book titled, *Chet Coppock: Laying it on the Line*, self-published. In 2015, Coppock published his third book titled *Buffone: Monster of the Midway: My 50 Years with the Chicago Bears*, published by Triumph Books



**Coppock-Indpls. Racers**



**Coppock/Bear**



# Bob Warren Broadcast Pioneer

**Robert, Bob, Warren**, Pioneer Board member, Membership Chair for 16 years, and longtime radio and television broadcaster passed away March 24, 2019, after a short illness. Bob's early broadcasting career began at WMCA radio at Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana. He later served with the Armed Forces Radio and Television Network, and in commercial broadcasting starting at WISH Radio, 1310am located at that time, in the Board of Trade building in downtown Indianapolis. When WISH radio moved to the Riddick Building at 1440 N, Meridian, Bob not only made the "physical" move he also moved from radio to the newly licensed WISH TV. He began as a Floor Director..in those early days of "LIVE" television before being promoted to Producer/Director.

In those days of early" TV Bob directed "LIVE" programming which included Newscasts, commercials, local programming, sports, special events and station breaks. Bob also appeared "on camera" showcasing his



"Nosey"

hobby and talent appearing as "Nosey" the Clown on the popular WISH TV program "The Dee Sweet Show" and later, other children's programs including "Clowning Around" and "The Uncle Buster Show" He also "Clowned" as Ronald McDonald, for the Shrine Circus,

and participated in the Canadian National Exposition as a Clown with the Huber International Circus.

Bob later worked at Telematrix and Walnut Productions before moving full time to "On Air" radio including his "Jazz Rendezvous" program for WICR.FM.

After his retirement Bob joined the Indiana Broadcast Pioneer Board and served as it's Membership Chair for 16 years. He was recently honored for his outstanding service to the Pioneers for his membership recruitment at the 2019 IBA's Annual Conference. . . .

(A Clown is an angel with a red nose.)"



Bob Warren  
WISH TV 1950's



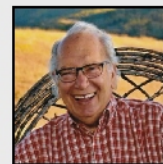
Bob at the Board  
WICR



Bob receives  
recognition from  
Dave Arland  
President IBA

**Arthur A. Angotti, Jr.** passed away on March 6th after a ten-month battle with cancer.

He was 74. A 1962 graduate of Gary Horace Mann High School. A business major, his entrepreneurial skills



developed early. He received a B.S. degree in business in 1966. While an undergraduate, Art was a member of ROTC and was recognized with the Distinguished Military Student Award. He served as a First Lieutenant in an armored cavalry unit in Viet Nam where he was wounded. He was decorated with a Bronze Star for Valor, a Purple Heart, and the Army Commendation Medal. After serving in Viet Nam, he returned to IU to pursue an MBA degree. During graduate school, Art began his business career in Philadelphia working for a venture capital firm. He returned to Indianapolis in 1972 to work for Indiana National Bank in financial services. He left the bank to form Heritage Management Inc., a financial consulting firm. Later, he formed Heritage Venture Group Art was the founder and president of Indianapolis Cablevision Company, an executive vice president of Syndicate Glass, a director of Indianapolis Cellular Telephone Company, and an associate professor of finance at Butler University. Art was the founder, president, and CEO of Artistic Media Partners. AMP owned and operated 20 radio stations around the country as well as operating the flagship stations for IU, Purdue, and Notre Dame Sports Radio Networks and a member of the Indiana Broadcasters Association and was inducted into the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame in 2008. His love of sports was reflected in his involvement as treasurer of the United States Auto Club (USAC) for 17 years. He also served on the Washington Township School Board for eight years--two years as president. He was the founder and president of the Washington Township Foundation, an elder and trustee of Northminster Presbyterian Church, a board member of the Children's Museum, and a member of the Indiana Broadcasters Association.



## Obituaries Continued

**DENNIS FIRST, 75**, of Fort Wayne, passed away on Sunday, March 17, 2019, with his loving wife Sue of 55 years and only son Robb by his side at Parkview Hospice Randallia after a year and a half long illness.



**Dennis First**

He was born June 25, 1943 in Lima, Ohio, the son of the late Harold and Ruby (Cisco) First.

Dennis graduated from Lima

Senior High School as their back bending drum major and president of their radio and television club. Immediately after graduation he began his long career in television at WIMA-TV as a director and performer with his own children's program appearing as Bobo the Clown on Charlie's Cartoon Clubhouse even having a sandwich named in his honor at a local Lima Drive in restaurant.

Later in 1966 he became Happy the Clown on Happy's Place on WDHO-TV in Toledo Ohio, then to WKEF-TV in Dayton as director of the news before beginning a 39 year career at WKJG TV-33 as producer/ director of news, sports and weather and even appearing as Ronald McDonald as well, along with being a master magician with his large collection of magical illusions. In 2005 when WKJG-TV33 consolidated with WPTA, Dennis retired and worked on the television reality team at Snickerz Comedy Club for 10 years.

He also was an assistant for his wife at all the AVON meetings for 43 years traveling from city to city. Dennis was always known for his special way of always bringing a smile to everyone's face he encountered using pranks and pratfalls and he was one of those individuals who entered a room and the room literally lit up. "Dennis was an extraordinary person who will be greatly missed by all his family and friends".

**THOMAS J. ROYER** passed away March 15, 2019. Tom was born February 21, 1944, in Fort Wayne, IN. He grew up in Indianapolis, graduating from North Central High School. He earned a professional certificate at Don Martin School of Radio/TV in Hollywood, CA, in 1964 and worked for NBC affiliate WRC in



**Thomas Royer**

Washington, D.C., as a film editor and floor

director for local and national news programs. He was also part of the crew covering President Nixon's 1972 departure for China from the White House lawn. He returned to Indiana in the mid-1970s, attending Butler University before beginning work as a director in Indianapolis, first for ABC affiliate WRTV, and then for the "Jim Gerard Show," a syndicated, locally produced, TV talk show. He continued as creative director and associate producer of the Gerard Show from 1976 - 1984.

In 1980, Tom began to devote much of his time to freelance writing and photography. He ultimately published more than 200 humorous and 40 non-fiction articles in local, regional, and national magazines, including the Detroit News Magazine. For nearly three years, he wrote a humor column for five weekly newspapers.

He often exhibited photographs (winning a number of awards), published photo essays, provided photos for his articles, and sold photos for magazine covers, posters, and CD covers. From 1987 through 1992 he was employed as a marketing specialist for the recreation arm of Ft. Benjamin Harrison army post in Indianapolis.

Tom was married to Catherine (Mills) Royer in 1979; she survives. Tom and Cathie met and lived in Indianapolis. He supported Cathie's return to graduate school, and in 1994 they moved to Canton, MO, for her first full-time college position. There he worked for Upchurch and Associates helping develop video training manuals for small industrial firms. In 1997, Tom and Cathie moved to Adrian, MI, for her position as an art professor at Adrian College. He continued his creative pursuits, including cartooning, collage, and learning digital techniques, and often participated in Lenawee Council of the Visual Arts' early exhibits. Of recent years, chronic illness increasingly limited his activities.



**Matt White, 52**, of Cape Haze, Florida, passed away February



8th due to complications from Lou Gehrig's disease. But for those who knew and loved Matt, he would insist that he didn't die from ALS, he chose to live with ALS for 19 years with love and zest for life of which he never let go. Matt was

born in Valparaiso, Indiana, on December 22, 1966. He grew up in North Manchester, Indiana. After graduating from North Manchester High School in 1985, he attended Butler University, where he ran cross country and track for the Bulldogs on an athletic scholarship. After graduation from Butler in 1989, Matt excelled professionally in the radio industry. Matt grew with Emmis Communications initially starting as an intern and then in sales at WENS Radio in Indianapolis. Matt transitioned into management, and eventually became the General Sales manager of WKQX, Q101 Chicago at the age of 32. After his diagnosis, Matt was stunned to learn there was no treatment for or much research on ALS. This prompted him to start the Matt White Cure ALS Foundation to fund research and has raised over \$552,000 towards finding a cure. Matt traveled extensively seeing many parts of the world including the Great Wall of China. Matt played 29 of the world's top 30 golf courses, including Augusta National and Pebble Beach. In 2003, Matt



retired to Cape Haze, Florida. A year later, he reconnected with a high school sweetheart, Shartrina Rogers. They were married in May 2006 and leaned headfirst into life together facing the challenges and joys of each day. Matt vowed to Shartrina, "I can promise you a marriage that

will be unique, challenging and even difficult. I can also promise you a marriage abundant in love and respect, And a marriage that will last for the rest of our lifetimes." Matt and Shartrina celebrated their life together, not by annual anniversaries, but by month-iversaries. When ALS robbed him of his voice he started communicating through a keyboard with his toes and then his eyes. He adapted and never accepted defeat. ALS didn't take his life but rather Matt took his life and lived with ALS.

### **Six Media School faculty members** are

being honored for outstanding teaching with the campus wide Trustees Teaching

Award: Galen Clavio, Stephanie DeBoer, Susan Kelly, Danielle Kilgo, Nicole Martins and

Broadcast Pioneer **Anne Ryder**.

The award honors faculty who have had a positive impact on student learning.



Robert Paul Foster 69, of Waverly, Iowa, passed away March 12, 2019.

Bob's love of radio began while being a student at Wartburg College where he worked for the college station, KWAR. He enjoyed connecting with others around the world using his ham radio. He would always bug Diane for a bigger radio in order reach more people around the world. His passion for radio grew as he began his first official radio job at KCFI (Cedar Falls, IA) where he was an announcer and the news director. Throughout his professional radio career Bob worked at several radio stations that took him across Iowa and the entire country where he announced high school sports, Iowa State football games on the Cyclone Radio Network, the Indianapolis 500, "Thunder on the Ohio" hydroplane boat racing in Evansville, Indiana, along with many other sporting events. Bob's love of radio ended where it all began at the same station within the same office in Cedar Falls at 1650 "The Fan". For those of you who listened to Bob over the years and most recently on "Breakfast with Bob", knew his passion for radio and his love for his audience was evident in each and every broadcast.

### **Edwin H. Armstrong, a Pioneer in Broadcasting**

Edwin Armstrong is credited with developing super-regenerative reception and the superhet receiver.

It took some court battles with Lee de Forest (August 26, 1873 – June 30, 1961) an American inventor.

The self-described "Father of Radio", and a pioneer in the development of sound-on-film to vindicate his claim.

Armstrong was probably best known as the Father of FM radio, demonstrating and patenting the technology in 1930. Unfortunately for Armstrong, David Sarnoff, pioneer of American radio, was more interested in the late 1930s in getting TV off the ground, and maneuvered the FCC into moving the FM band from the 40 MHz range to the 90 MHz range, effectively disabling every existing receiver. TV got some "space" and it was another 30 years before FM was to become viable.

### **Newsletter: Bob Smith**

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