



# Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Newsletter

## NEW PIONEER BOARD MEMBERS

**Officers:** Dave White-IBP President. Dale Ogden Vice President, Reid Duffy Secretary, Patty Spitler Membership Bob Smith Newsletter.

**Board Members:** Barry Allen, Jim Culberston, Lee Giles.

### New Board Members:



**Pat Carlini:** Pat joined WTHR-TV 13 in 1988 as a weathercaster, later becoming the long-time anchor on Channel 13 Eyewitness News Sunrise and Eyewitness News at Noon. Along with her TV duties, Pat was a member of the morning radio team on the top-rated, nationally syndicated Bob and Tom Show on WFBQ-Q95. Pat also served as a Speaker for the 2012 Super Bowl Host Committee.



**Tina Cosby:** Emmy Award winning journalist who has been an anchor, reporter, producer, Public Affairs talk show host and Community Affairs Director at WISH-TV Indianapolis. Tina has received honors and recognition from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, The National Association of Black Journalists, The Angel Awards For Community Service Programming, the Indiana Broadcaster's Association for Journalistic Excellence, Community Affairs Programming, and the Society of Professional Journalists.



**Bill Shirk:** With his parents help, Bill Shirk bought a radio station, WERK in Muncie, Indiana. After a year as a Janitor he became a D.J. By 1968 he was station manager, sales manager, program director and production manager while still doing a D.J show on weekends. He now owns 12 radio stations in Hawaii and does mornings on the oldies station in Honolulu.

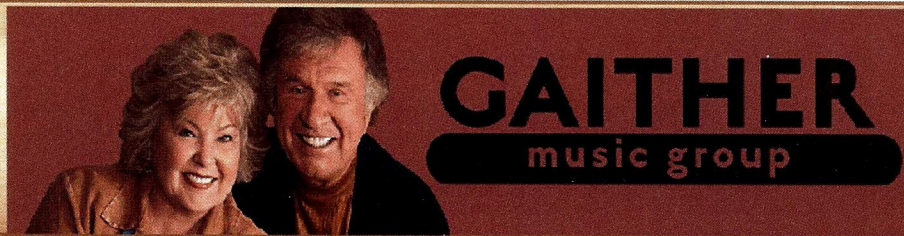


**Patty Spitler:** Patty Spitler Emmy Award-winner, has had a 42-year career in radio and TV. Patty came to WISH TV in 1982 to co-host "Indianapolis Afternoon" with Dick Wolfsie, later becoming a noon news anchor. She then joined "Pet Pals" airing on WISH-TV and 23 stations nationwide. She is now hosts and produces "Great Day TV" on WISH-TV

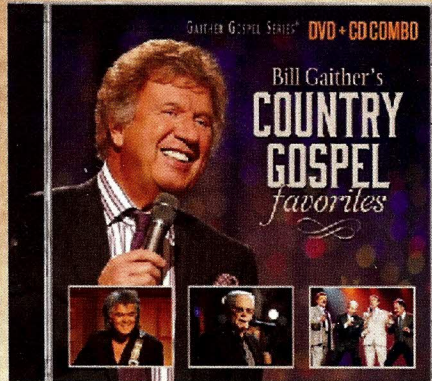


**John Stehr** started his broadcast career at WJET-TV in Erie, PA. before moving to WSEE-TV, in Erie as anchor of the 6 pm and 11 pm News. Next, was WOTV/WOOD TV in Grand Rapids, Michigan, WISH-TV in Indianapolis, and KUTV in Salt Lake City, Utah. He then anchored the business news for CNBC's *The Money Wheel* . He then became a correspondent at CBS News. primarily on *CBS This Morning*. He also anchored the *CBS Morning News*. Before becoming main anchor of WTHR's newscasts.





From hometown Alexandria, Indiana, Bill and Gloria Gaither have created a far-reaching gospel music dynasty.



Their collaborations have resulted in more than 700 popular gospel songs. Collectively they have won 8 Grammy Awards and more than 20 Dove Awards. The televised Gaither Gospel Hour and Gaither Family Music Hour shows have reached millions of viewers.

Bill Gaither is one of the central figures of 20th century Christian music, a singer and songwriter who originally gained attention as part of the Bill Gaither Trio in the early '70's and became famous in the '90's thanks in large part to Gaither Homecoming, a series of home videos and records that showcased Southern gospel stars.

Gaither has written hundreds of gospel songs, including the popular "He Touched Me", a song eventually recorded by Elvis Presley. He has released dozens of albums.

Early on, he formed the Bill Gaither Trio With his siblings Danny and Mary Ann, while attending Indiana's Anderson University in 1956.

Three years later, he graduated and started working as an English teacher, marrying Gloria Sickal in 1962. The next year, he wrote "He Touched Me" a song which caught the ear of Elvis Presley, who recorded it in 1971. From that point, Gaither's star was on the rise. For a while, he attempted to navigate teaching and his musical career, but he eventually dedicated himself to music.

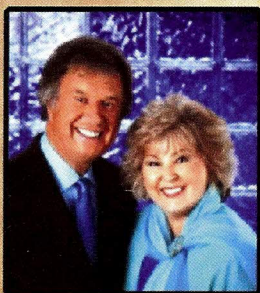
Another breakthrough arrived when the group released "Let's Just Praise the Lord", which won the Grammy for Best Inspirational Performance in 1974.

Two years later, the group took home the same award for Jesus, We Just Want to Thank You. The Bill Gaither Trio would also be inducted to the Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame in 1999. During that decade, Gaither's main focus was the Gaither Vocal Band that racked up no less than 17 Dove Awards, along with Grammy's. Gaither's next big project arrived in 1991, when the Gaither Vocal Band recorded an album called Homecoming, featuring several other stars in Southern gospel. Somebody had the foresight to record these guests and the Gaither Vocal Band trading stories and songs, and this footage was released as Homecoming. It turned into a smash hit and,

soon, Gaither had the formula for "Homecoming".

Bring in some old stars, some new stars, some emerging artists, and have them all talk and sing on camera. By 1996, the Gaither Homecoming was so successful it spawned a regular concert tour. Later, these live performances could be found on cruises, and the home videos were edited into syndicated television shows.

Bill and Gloria remain in Alexandria, Indiana. They were inducted into the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame in 2008.



Bill and Gloria Gaither



Gaither Conert



# Can I Have A Re-Rack?

When I was a kid my father worked at the Indianapolis Main Post Office in the "City" Section. One of his Co-workers was Dick Weber, the now famous Professional Hall of Fame Bowler.

The Post Office staff had formed a Bowling league that met every Wednesday at 8pm in the basement of the building on West Washington Street that housed the Indiana Theater. Even though the League started at 8pm (on a school night.) dad took me with him. When I wasn't watching the men bowl I spent my time having snacks and watching the action at the pool tables. Neither I, nor anyone else, had a clue what was in store for this Postal employee.

Many years later I was Producing Video Programs for Broadcast Pioneer Hall of Member Photographer Jim Kartes.

One of our clients was producing a series of programs, one of which was "How to Bowl". I suggested they contact (The now PBA HOF Member) Dick Weber.

To my surprise and delight, he agreed.

The first day of taping, at the Woodland Bowl, While the crew was setting up Weber and I were talking and I mentioned the above story and he asked if I bowled and I said yes, but not for many years. He then asked if I had ever thrown a "Finger Tip" ball and I replied I had not. He said "Well here, throw my ball and see how you like it." Well, my knees didn't buckle but I thought they might.

I said, "I don't have the right shoes", to which he replied "Oh, it's okay, just go ahead and throw it." So I did. The ball went right in the pocket, (as it should) and it left the ten pin standing. I turned to Weber and said

"That's the story of my Bowling life." And he laughed.

At the end of the taping we were getting ready to "tear down" and one of our cameramen asked me if he could get one more shot. Since I believed we had everything I asked "What shot?" He said I want to stand in front of the pins with a foot in each gutter and the camera resting on the alley. When the ball gets close I'll raise the camera and let the ball pass under it.

Greg was our best cameraman but I asked "You sure you can do this?" He replied yes, I've been practicing. "I said okay . . . " He took his position and Weber told him "It's going to be there in a hurry." Greg said, "I'm ready." As the ball approached Greg lifted the camera . . . but, . . . as he lifted the camera he let the front end dip down instead of lifting straight up. The ball smacked the camera lens head on. We used that shot for the opening of the program.

Jim Kartes was not only an understanding award winning photographer he was also a good business man. Jim turned the camera in to the Insurance Company as a total loss and was reimbursed. He also had our Chief Engineer, Jim Borgioli, repair the damaged camera..

We now have one more camera that we did before the Weber shoot and it's the latest model. RRS



Indiana Theater



Weber demonstrates the  
Finger Tip Ball



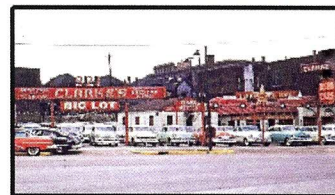
Pte-Disaster





## Memories of Early Local TV Commercials.

- **Ed Clark**, "The Used Car King".. Clark made his fame by sponsoring "Live" late Night Movies on WISH TV. Station announcer Gene Allison was Co-Host. and was allowed to "Slash" a Price on one of the vehicles. Clark would respond with "Gene, you're killin' me !



Ed Clark Used Car Lot

As the sponsor of " the huge hit CBS program Gunsmoke", Richard Bennett, had his staff bring a load of furniture to the Studio's" each week and end his sales pitch with "Mother put the coffee pot on!", letting his wife know he was on his way home.

## Memorable "Closing Lines"

1950's - **Foxworthy Ford** just can't be beat

819 East Washington Street

**The Shane Company**, "Now YOU have a friend in the diamond business!

**"There's only one Bob Rohrman !"**

Rohrman used outtakes with him cracking himself up and flubbing lines.

Ending with an animated Lion "ROHRING"?

## INDIANAPOLIS POWER AND LIGHT SONG:

I'm the little man who's always there

I'm a powerful high voltaged guy.

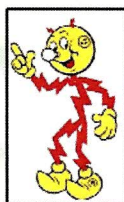
I can wash your clothes,

play your radios,

I can heat your coffee pot.

I am always there with lot's of power to spare

'cause I'm Reddi Kilowatt !



**Bob Catterson** began with Charlie Stuart Oldsmobile in Indianapolis. before pitching for Dave Mason Buick using the line "Ol' Dave needs the money.". His TV patter was so successful he started his own car Dealership and eventually produced commercials of himself for car dealers throughout the country. His local Indiana closing line was, "Nobody can beat a Bob Catterson price.



Bob Catterson

Noooooooooooooobody." He "ad libbed" the spots and ended them at exactly 30 seconds with no time cues.

**Don Davis**, owner of Don's Guns, punctuated his TV commercials with a big grin and a big laugh. His "on Air" delivery was full of energy and he sold guns, a lot of guns. His place of business was in several locations, Greenwood, North Keystone Avenue and Lafayette Road, in Indiannapolis.

He eventually became one of the largest independent gun dealers in the country. His "tongue in cheek" commercial closing line was , "I don't want to make any money folks, I just love to sell guns!"

One unforgettable commercial aired nationally during that same time period was for Old Gold Cigarettes. The bold closing pitch to viewers was . . .

**"Not a Cough in a Car Load !".**





# Where's George ?

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**Where's George? Well, he's in California making a movie !**

**George Willeford** was born November 27, 1920 in Indianapolis. From 1950-57 he taught radio and television at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. That was his "daytime" job. In the evenings, he practiced what he preached, working at WTTV. ( Channel 10 before it became



Channel 4.) He hosted his own program, titled "Leave it to George". Reviews described his program as "Amusing and Unique." That program description also described George.

*Below is a brief Bio in his own words.*

I spent the first 18 years of my life in Indianapolis - the neighbors would probably guess longer. - attending Public School No. 78 for the customary 8 years. - the teachers would probably guess longer - and engaging in the usual boyhood pursuits such as top spinning, marble shooting and side saddle Pogo riding.

Leaving the ivy covered walls of P.S. No. 78 behind me ( and don't think it wasn't hard getting through the doors with all that Ivy) I wended my way to Arsenal Technical High School on a day listed in their records their records as Black Monday.

During my stay at Tech, I spent one year in football, two season's in track and one season bucking the line in the lunchroom. Being the only guy available who could wear a size number 16 robe at the time, I sang in the Tech Choir for two years. I was graduated summa cum relief by the authorities of Tech and sent, amid sighs of joy to Indiana University.

Arriving in Bloomington I enrolled in the music school and set out too become a music teacher. I also took a minor in the speech department and worked as an assistant in radio. There was some talk at the time about the word "assistant" being a misnomer, but I put it all down to jealousy. Upon completing my college education the United States Navy beckoned and the war was as good as over. The enemy did struggle on for three years after that, but the handwriting was on the wall.

Out of the navy and back to Indiana U, which caused the Administration of the University to regard the Armistice as a mixed blessing. There followed some six years of graduate study, work in commercial radio, and a return to the university where I now hold the position of Program Supervisor of Indiana University's Radio and Television Service. In 1960 George landed at WLWI TV ( Now WTHR) in Indianapolis, a Crosely Broadcasting Company based in Cincinnati where he hosted Movies and made fun of them during the breaks. He also had his own interview program.

complete with a Co-Host Murray Horn, a Baritone singer, with music by the Don White Trio. Apparently WLWI didn't think George had enough to do so he occasionally did the weather.

In 1962 ABC was promoting "The Rifleman" at the time by giving a "local" TV personality in some TV markets (at an affiliate) a "walk-on" part, and in Indianapolis it was George Willeford, who was on

the screen five times for about 30 seconds each. One take home memory from that experience for George was when that kid (Johnny Crawford) made an interesting remark. He said, "I've been counting ever since the show started the number of times I've said, Pa! Pa! With this script it makes 847."



**Willeford and Connors**



## **Death Notices:**

**Daniel Ned Carnall**, "Chilly Addams," 49, of Fort Wayne, passed away early Friday morning, Dec. 13, 2019, at his residence. He was born Jan. 13, 1970, in Bluffton, to Ned R. Carnall and Carol Finley Carnall. A 1988 graduate of Bluffton High School, Chilly was a professional musician and a solo acoustic guitarist. He played in Phil's Family Lizard Band for nearly 20 years. Chilly also worked as a disc jockey for Rock 104 and 98.9 The Bear in Fort Wayne. He previously worked at the Indiana State Highway Department and for Taylor Rental in Fort Wayne.



**Daniel Ned**

For about 5 years, Daniel (Chilly), JJ Fabini and Jon Recker supported the reorganization of the Fort Wayne Derby Girls and became referees for the team. In 2006, Daniel took a trip to Gera, Germany, as part of the Fort Wayne Sister City program with the band "Onionskin" that was created especially for this trip. Music was his hobby as well as his profession, and he loved to play golf.

**Beverly J. May** passed away peacefully Sunday morning, December 1, 2019. She was 84. A lifelong resident of Indianapolis, Beverly attended Shortridge High School and Purdue University. Much of Beverly's work life was involved in broadcasting, first with WFBM radio and TV, then McGraw Hill owned WRTV-TV. Beverly was Manager of Business Affairs, which involved creating and overseeing station budgets, then presenting the budgets to the broadcast division at the McGraw Hill headquarters in New York. She also negotiated union contracts, and oversaw personnel for WRTV-TV. Beverly was a trusted confidant to employees and management alike. She maintained an open door policy to employees and assisted them if help beyond work issues was required.. After leaving WRTV-TV and Throughout her life, Beverly volunteered at various not-for-profit agencies. She was willing to help wherever needed at the agencies she served. Whether volunteering with a not-for-profit agency or working in a corporation, what Beverly cherished most were the lasting friendships she formed throughout every chapter of her life. Beverly made and maintained friendships easily and enjoyed each one. She and her high school friends, the "Shortridge Girls", continued to get together throughout the years, and met often. Although newer and new friendships lacked the longevity of her Shortridge friends, Beverly highly valued all the people in her life, no matter when they came along.



**Beverly J. May**

Indianapolis - 64, passed away Saturday, February 8, 2020.



**Young-Hee Yedinak**

Young-Hee was born in Seoul, South Korea and has lived in Indonesia and Vietnam before

moving to the United States; eventually calling Indianapolis, IN home.

Young-Hee was an award-winning media professional. She was a bridge builder who was passionate about bringing people together to create impact for the community. Young-Hee had more than three decades of television experience in promotion, production and community affairs largely through her work with WTHR-TV Channel 13 in Indianapolis. During her extensive career, Young-Hee had won a number of awards for her media work, including Emmy Awards from the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences; Spectrum Awards from the Indiana Broadcasters Association; and Community Impact Awards from the Indiana Associated Press. Young-Hee also was a board member for several Indianapolis community organizations. Young-Hee was extremely passionate about her Asian heritage, recently serving as the association President in the Asian American Alliance and the Vice President of the Korean American Association.

### **Pioneer Contact Information**

#### **Newsletter:**

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