

February 2015



# Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Newsletter

## THAT'S A WRAP!

WPTA TV has announced that news anchor Melissa Long plans to retire at the end of this year.



News Anchor Melissa Long

A Fort Wayne native and Elmhurst High School graduate, she began her broadcasting career in 1980 at WGL and WAJI radio in Fort Wayne after graduating from DePauw University with a degree in communications. Following a stopover in California where she met her husband, David Long, current Indiana Senate President Pro Tem, she was hired by former Pioneer President and long time newsman and WKJG TV news Director Dick Florea as the noon anchor for WKJG. In January, 2003, the station was sold and the call letters were changed to WISE.

Before leaving the business for several years to raise her two sons, Melissa produced and hosted a 5-part special report on UFO sightings in Indiana. On her return she joined WPTA as a freelancer in 1992, then was promoted to morning co-anchor and, in 1995, the station's evening anchor.

During her 28 years on air in the "Summit City" she has been chosen "Fort Wayne's Favorite TV Personality" ten times by readers of "Whatzup" magazine, and "Best TV Anchor" in the Journal Gazette Reader's Poll.

Melissa has served on the boards of many local organizations including Audiences Unlimited, Study



Melissa at the News Desk

Connection, YWCA, Youth Arts Council, SCAN, Fort Wayne Zoological Society and was a member of the Governor's Commission for a Drug-Free Indiana. She also enjoys the many opportunities to work with local non-profit organizations and schools as a speaker and event emcee. She has appeared in numerous theatrical productions at IPFW, Civic Theater, and First Presbyterian Theater and has performed with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. Her hobbies

include playing the piano, violin and banjo. Melissa loves to cook for family and friends. She also holds a second degree black belt in Tang Soo Do karate.

"Deciding to retire from a job and career I've loved for more than 30 years wasn't easy, but I know in my heart it is the right time for me." Long said in a written statement, "I am tremendously grateful to the viewers who have given me a sliver of their time each day. I truly feel you are all part of my family."



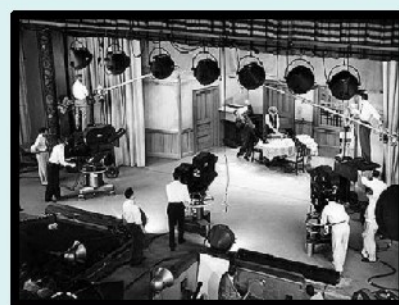
1988 UFO 5 Part Series





The DuMont Network's *Cavalcade of Stars* variety show starring Jackie Gleason premiered in 1951. "THE HONEYMOONERS" was part of that popular program and became one of television's treasured programs.

In 1952 Gleason moved to CBS and took "THE HONEYMOONERS" with him. From 1952 through 1957 the program became a regular feature of *The Jackie Gleason Show* on that network. Those early CBS episodes were broadcast live and thought to be lost forever until Jackie Gleason revealed his private film vault in 1985 and announced that he had the Kinescopes of the shows. (Films made from recording the image of television monitor.) DuMont became involved in "The Honeymooners" for the second time when they were contracted by CBS's to record 39 new episodes of the show. The DuMont network had spent quite a bit of time and money on an invention they called "Electronicam", an innovative device that combined a "live" TV camera and a film camera in the same mechanism. It was now possible shoot the show "live" and film it at the same time, improving the image



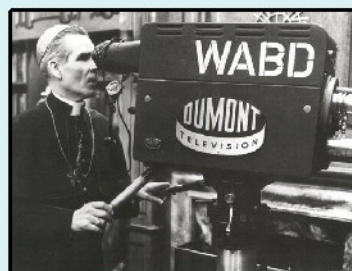
Dumont used three Electronicams to record the Gleason show.



Left to R, Joyce Randolph, Art Carney, the Electronicam, Gleason and Audrey Meaows.

quality and eliminating the poor quality kinescopes. The Electronicam was able to record in 16mm or 35mm for later use as reruns. Electronicam, however, came too late to rescue DuMont. The network was already failing and folded within weeks following the recording of the Gleason series. Striking another blow for the failing network, videotape made its debut the following year, rendering Electronicam obsolete.

Left, we see the full cast of "The Honeymooners" with Jackie Gleason at the controls of the 35mm version of the Dumont Electrocam. This setup marries a modified 124B image orthicon camera to a modified Mitchell 35mm studio camera through the use of a beam-splitter. The Electrocam was designed in both 35mm and 16mm versions.



Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

"Life Is Worth Living", hosted by Archbishop John Sheen, (left) behind a Dumont Network camera, won an Emmy for the network in 1953 but moved to ABC when Dumont went dark.



William Horace Marshall (August 19, 1924 – June 11, 2003) was born in Gary, Indiana, the son of Thelma (nee Edwards) and Vereen Marshall, who was a dentist. He attended New York University as an art student, but then trained for a theater career at the Actors Studio, at the American Theater Wing, and with Sanford Meisner at the Neighborhood Playhouse.

He was known for his wide-ranging acting talent and vocal abilities to match. Having played Othello numerous times, from New York's Shakespeare in the Park to the jazz adaptation, "Catch My Soul," Mr. Marshall fought against the blaxploitation films of the 1960s and '70's and brought more positive black characters and historical figures to the theater. His career was wide ranging as a producer and a performer.



**William Marshall**  
actor, director,  
opera singer.

He made his Broadway debut in 1944 in Carmen Jones. Among his many other Broadway appearances, he understudied Boris Karloff as Captain Hook in Peter Pan in 1950, then played the leading role of De Lawd in the 1951 revival of The Green Pastures (a role he repeated in a BBC telecast of the play in 1958). He performed in Shakespeare plays many times on the stage in the U.S. and Europe, including the title role in at least six productions of Othello. His Othello was called by Harold Hobson of the London Sunday Times "the best Othello of our time." Marshall's career in the movies began in 1952 in "Lydia Bailey" as a Haitian leader. He followed that with a prominent role as Glycon, comrade and fellow gladiator to Victor Mature in Demetrius and the Gladiators (1954). His demeanor, voice and stature gave him a wide range, though he was ill-suited for the subservient roles that many black actors of his generation were most frequently offered. He was Attorney General Edward Brooke in The Boston Strangler and a leader of the Mau-Mau uprising in "Something of Value."



**Blacula** history of my people."

He received widespread fame for his role in the vampire film Blacula and its sequel Scream Blacula Scream. When producers of "Blacula" offered him the title role, "he thought they were joking," said his companion of 45 years, Sylvia Jarrico. "He didn't want to play this victimized ordinary fellow." Mr. Marshall re-created the character as an African prince on a mission to end the slave trade. In 1973, he told the Chicago Tribune he was disturbed by the state of black theater and was dedicating his career to portraying "the really heroic

In the early 1950's, Marshall starred briefly in a short lived series about black police officers titled "Harlem Detective". It was a local series produced by New York City station WOR-TV. The show attempted to break a pattern of black exclusion. The show was canceled when Marshall was named as a communist in the anti-communist newsletter Counterattack. Nonetheless, he managed to continue appearing in both television and films.



**Marshall in**  
**Harlem Detective**

Marshall is perhaps best remembered by television viewers for his roles as Dr. Richard Daystrom in the Star Trek episode "The Ultimate Computer" and as the traveling opera singer Thomas Bowers on Bonanza. In 1964, he appeared, with actor Ivan Dixon, as the leader of a newly independent African nation and as a THRUSH agent in the first-season episode of The Man from U.N.C.L.E.

He won two local Emmys for producing and performing in a PBS production, As Adam Early in The Morning. He also was featured in the popular series, The Alfred Hitchcock Hour in an episode titled, "The Jar", with actors Pat Buttram and George Lindsey. Marshall also appeared on the British spy series Danger Man (Deadline, 1962). In 1969, he had a special guest appearance as the character Amalek in an episode of the Wild Wild West entitled "The Night of the Egyptian Queen", and also appeared in the Boston strangler film.

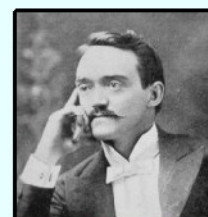
In later years, Marshall played the King of Cartoons on Pee-wee's Playhouse, replacing actor Gilbert Lewis, during the 1980's. In addition to his acting and producing work, Marshall taught acting at various universities including University of California, Irvine and at the Mufandi Institute, an African-American arts and music institution in the Watts section of Los Angeles. He did similar work at Chicago's Creative Arts Foundation, which in 1992 named Marshall one of its Epic Men of the 20th century.



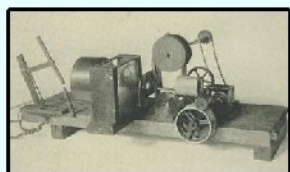
## The First TV - Richmond, Indiana

Page 4

On June 6, 1894 inventor Charles Francis Jenkins changed cultural history by projecting a filmed motion picture by way of reeled film and electric light... before an audience. It was "the first moving picture exhibition in the world". This documented event occurred at 726 Main Street in Richmond, Indiana, just a few miles south of his boyhood home. Jenkins was born near Dayton, Ohio on August 22, 1867. He was two years old when the Quaker family moved to a farm just outside of Fountain City, Indiana. During the sixteen years he lived there he tinkered with machinery in efforts to fix broken-down farm equipment. One of his earliest inventions was a jack to elevate wagons in order to grease wheels. At the age of 19, in 1886, Jenkins left the area for Washington D.C. where he worked as a stenographer for what would later become the U.S. Coast Guard. In his spare time the young inventor created a movie projector and named it "The Phantoscope". Before returning to Indiana in 1894 he shipped his invention to his cousin who owned a jewelry store in



Charles F. Jenkins



Phantoscope

downtown Richmond, Indiana. He then left Washington and made the 700 mile trip home on his bicycle for a visit with his family and to premiere his invention. While preparing for the debut of his "Phantoscope" he discovered the Jewelry

Store had no electricity. Not a problem for Jenkins, he attached a wire to the trolley wires that passed in front of the store and used a bucket of water to

adjust the voltage to the proper level. The audience gathered and the Phantoscope rolled. In a flash of light a minimally clad girl appeared and began dancing. The audience was stunned! They saw the girl, but how did she get there? How was she able to move? Some viewers went behind the sheet to check the wall and make sure there were no tricks. They were at a loss for answers.

Jenkins eventually quit his job with the U.S. Government and for the next several years concentrated on inventing. A spiral wound biscuit can, propellers, time lapse photography, moving the automobile engine to the front instead of under the seat, along with an early automobile self starter and other items related to film and photography. By September of 1913 Jenkins had developed a mechanism for viewing pictures by radio, a fledgling Television. Ten years later he was able to transmit a picture of President Harding from Washington to Philadelphia. Then it was still silhouettes, then moving silhouettes and by 1925 moving pictures over wireless. In 1928 the now "Jenkins Television Corporation" opened W3XK, the first commercially licensed television broadcasting station in the U.S. At first the station could only produce silhouette images but quickly began sending black and white images. His company began manufacturing receiving sets which people placed in their living rooms to view the crude but startling images. Jenkins named the apparatus the "RadioVisor".



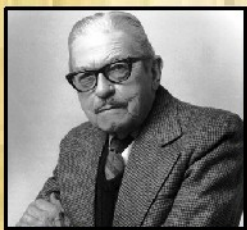
The RadioVisor

But all good things must come to an end. By 1930 other manufacturers were licensed to use Jenkin's patents and then the depression hit the country. In 1931, Lee DeForst, the inventor of the vacuum tube and motion picture sound, acquired Jenkins Corporation. When Jenkins company went under his company and it's television property were acquired by RCA.



## IBP Hall of Fame Member

Robert L. Hoover, the "Dean of Hoosier newsmen,"



**Bob Hoover**

was born in Indiana in 1898, and known to have been a police reporter since Noah's last dog came down off the ark."

Bob Hoover graduated from Manual High School in Indianapolis and shortly thereafter he started as a cub

reporter for the Indianapolis News. In between graduation from high school, and the beginning of his journalism career, Hoover played drums in various orchestras, including his own. "I remember when our band used to go to Indiana University in Bloomington. Hoagy Carmichael used to listen to us. We called ourselves Holler's Hoosier Harmonics. In fact, Dick Powell used to sing with us at the old Lyric Theater." The Holler's Hoosier Harmonics was the first ever to broadcast over the air in Indianapolis over The News – Ayres – Hamilton station. The city's first radio station. Hoover kicked off his career as a newsmen in 1919.

"I applied for a job with The Indianapolis News. The editor told me to take off my coat and start to work. I did, and I haven't put it back on yet." He worked for the News for 30 years.

He was the co-founder of the Indianapolis Press Club and served as its second president and held the position for four terms, from 1934-39. In 1952 Hoover became the chief editor of the state's magazine, "Outdoors in Indiana". He worked on the magazine for four years until in 1956 when he landed a job with WIBC radio in Indianapolis. Never missing a day, he was still there in 1981, a career of 62 years in the journalism business.

In 1969 Hoover was inducted into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. On September 25, 1976, he was named "Newsmen of the Year" by the Indianapolis Press Club.

## Museum Opening

The Indiana Music and Entertainment Museum

will be holding their Inaugural event Saturday evening April 4, 2015 from 6pm till 10pm at the Wheeler Arts Theater 1035 Sanders Street in Indianapolis in Fountain Square. IMEM is a Indiana non-profit whose mission is to document, preserve and display artifacts and memorabilia from Indiana music, film and broadcasting.

There will be a partial view of the current collection and musical entertainment.

Luminaries from Indiana broadcasting, music and film will also make personal appearances.

## Obituaries



**Warren Elwood "Doc" Arnett, 93,** Marion, died February 20, 2015.

Doc served as chief engineer for WBAT Radio for 54 years and in 1988 helped to put WCJC radio on the air. He also owned and operated Doc's Radio Communications Service, and was a retired member of the Society of Broadcast Engineers.

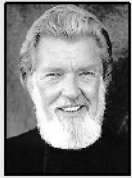
**John L. Royer** 68, Brownsburg, passed away February. 14, 2015.

He was a master electrician, member of IBEW 481, and had been the producer of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Radio Network



John Royer, standing in the  
IMS Radio Network  
broadcast control room





Hoosier Denny Miller died Sept. 9, 2014 at his home in Las Vegas. He was 80 years old. Death was caused by ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease).

In 2008 the Pioneers honored Denny for his contributions to broadcasting by making him a "Lifetime Member" of the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers. He was very grateful for that recognition and responded with a letter as follows.

**Denny Miller**

*"To the Members of the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers...*

*Thank you for your award. It is already on the wall of my study. I have been fortunate all my life and receiving your award means I continue to be a very lucky man. If I'm in your neighborhood I'd be glad to speak to your group. I enjoy being 'Trivial Pursuit' with an accent on trivial. After being in a business that allows you to be a kid for as long as you live, I've collected a few silly tales to tell. Thank you again!"*

Denny was Rochester, Indiana and the last of three Tarzans who were Hoosiers. Elmo Lincoln was the first Tarzan (1918). from . James "Babe" Pierce was our second Tarzan (1927). He was from Freedom, Indiana. Denny was our third Tarzan (1959). He was from Bloomington,



Indiana.

Denny left Bloomington when he was in the fourth grade. His father was a coach at Indiana University when he was offered a job at UCLA.

Denny and his brother were both basketball



**Denny Miller as Tarzan**

**L to R, Johnny Weissmuller, Mike Douglas, Gordon Scott, Totie Fields, Jock Mahoney, Buster Crabbe, Denny Miller, Jim Pierce.**

players and decided to go out for basketball at UCLA.

They both made the team. The head basketball coach at this time was Johnny Wooden from Martinsville, Indiana.

After graduating from UCLA Denny was fortunate to be seen by a talent agent. He was given a screen test and was signed to a seven-year contract at MGM. He started doing television shows and when Robert Horton left "Wagon Train," Denny stepped in and became "Duke Shannon". He was in that series from 1961 to 1964. In 1965 he was cast as the leading man for Juliet Prowse in the TV series, "Mona McCluskey."

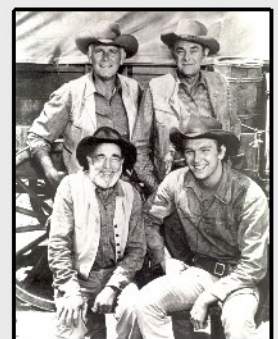
His career spanned 50 years and he appeared in close to a hundred TV episodes. He also did TV commercials and was the Brawny Paper Towel giant for 12



years before landing the job as the Gorton's Fisherman.

That job lasted for 14 years. He appeared in innumerable TV shows, including "Gilligan's Island," "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman,"

"Riverboat," "General Electric Theater," and "Laramie." His autobiography is entitled, "Didn't You Used to Be What's His Name?"



**Wagon Train cast.**

**Denny Miller bottom right**

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