



Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Newsletter

Pioneer "INDY 500" Event

The Indiana Broadcast Pioneers staged the first social event of 2011 for its members and other attendees on April 27, in the Community Room of the WFYI studios on north Meridian Street in Indianapolis.



IBP Pres. Dick Florea

Pioneer Chuck Schisla produced an outstanding program with Indy 500 track announcers discussing memorable reporting moments from the past. WFYI president Lloyd Wright and Pioneer

president Dick Florea greeted the guests and welcomed them to the WFYI studios. Bob Jenkins, "Voice of the 500" from 1990 to 1998, did a masterful job as the moderator for the program. The panelists included IMS Radio Network reporters Mike Ahern, Howdy Bell, Chuck Marlowe, Doug Zink and IMS Historian, and radio network color commentator, Donald Davidson. Many of the stories by the panel included fond memories of Sid Collins, the first "Voice of the 500" from 1952 to 1976. When the group was asked for special memories of their reporting during the race the responses ranged from the terrible wreck of Eddie Sachs and Dave McDonald in 1964, the nail biting record setting finish in 1982 between Gordon Johncock and Rick Mears, the discussion of various drivers, to the problem of "a small bladder" and not being able to leave your post during the race. Jenkins also asked for questions from the audience members who recalled special memories or asked for clarification of a special event.



IMS Radio Network Panel



Moderator Bob Jenkins and panelist Doug Zink



Panelists Howdy Bell and Chuck Marlowe



Guest Lunch Buffet

Donald Davidson, with his encyclopedic "500" mind, amazed the guests with his knowledge and recall abilities. It was an exceptional event where the Pioneers were joined by members of the "Indy 500 Old Timers Club".



Panelists Donald Davidson and Mike Ahern

2011 HOF Inductees

The 2011 HOF selection committee met Wednesday, April 20, 2011. Present were Pioneer president Dick Flora, Sue Staton, Lee Giles, Barbara Medicott, Bob Smith, Bob Warren, Julie Slaymaker, and Sid Weedman. Also present was James Conner, Doug Padget, board members of the Indiana Broadcasters Association, and Gwen Piening from the IBA office.

A list of twenty seven candidates from the nominee list of 2009, 2010 and 2011 were considered and discussed. The following were selected for induction into the 2011 Hall of Fame.

CHUCK WORKMAN, WTLC, WTTV, WIAN, WFYI, WTPI

KEN BECKLEY WTHI, WLOS, WRTV

JOE ANGOTTI, WHAS, WMAQ, NBC Network

BOB McLAIN AFR Radio-TV, WKZO, WFBM

RICK CUMMINGS WNTS, WENS, Emmis Broadcasting

JOE PIGGOTT WFBM, WXLW, WISH, WIBC

JOHN DECAMP (POSTHUMOUSLY) WBAA, 500 radio network

DON PAYNE (POSTHUMOUSLY) KAAV, KLPO, WZUS, WAZY, WZPL, WTPI, WMYS, WKRQ.

The recipient of the "LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT



The Fountains, Carmel, Indiana

AWARD will be chosen at a later date by the IBA.

The event will take place in October of

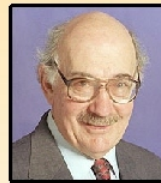
2011 at "The

Fountains" in Carmel, Indiana. Details and an invitation will be mailed to Pioneer members at a later date. The program will include a reception and dinner, the induction process, acceptance speeches and honorees will be recognized and honored with a video presentation highlighting their broadcasting careers.

Pioneer President Dick Florea will host the event. Ticket information and reservation forms also will be available through the IBP website: Families and guests are welcome. www.indianabroadcastpioneers.com.

Remembering Shull

R.K. Shull, former TV columnist for the Indianapolis



Shull

Times and later the Indianapolis News, was truly a different soul. His daily column was a popular feature in both papers for many years. His daily wit and sarcasm explained and attacked the local Indianapolis TV stations beginning with the early days of black and white broadcasting. Shull's reporting called it as he saw it and viewers and local broadcasters respected him for it. In the early years anyone watching TV was watching basically the same thing, including Shull. He soon realized he was writing about TV as a "shared" experience and it soon became a reader/viewer favorite. Early on, his column was picked up by Scripps Howard wire and later went into syndication. His most popular feature was Shull's Mailbag, in which he answered questions from readers. At its peak, his column ran in about 100 papers and the Mailbag in 260.

**** R.K. Shull Column - Circa 1968 ****

Local TV stations are engaged in an exciting intramural sport over who has the most colorful newscasts.

WISH TV got its new studio color cameras a month ago and immediately began crowing that its newscasts were now in tint, although the film clips were still in living zebra tones.

Then WFBM-TV got its new color film processor hooked up and last week began showing color film clips with black-and-white newscasters. As of last night, WFBM also tinted up its newscasts for the first all-color local news show. Meanwhile, WLW-I showed a film clip of its new color film processing equipment being installed. The film was in black-and-white. Do you think you can contain yourself waiting for the next vital development in this crucial race?

R. K. Shull, a member of the Indiana Journalism

Hall of Fame, died March 8, 2007

THINK OF US FIRST
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 Members Credit Union
 Keeping It Simple

Jay Stewart Fix

Summitville, Indiana, USA was the birthplace of Jay Stewart Fix, son of Julian and Ressie (Jenkins) Fix. Jay was a graduate of Butler University where he earned part of his tuition playing his saxophone in various campus orchestras. After graduation he pursued a career in radio, starting with a job at WBOW in Terre Haute.



Jay Stewart

His next stop was WLW in Cincinnati as an announcer and emcee. He also appeared on a number of programs with Beverly Barnes, also of the WLW Staff. A few months later Stewart and Beverly Barnes had teamed up permanently when the two were married. In 1943 Jay and Beverly moved to California where Jay landed an announcing job at a local Los Angeles station KFI radio and KTTV-TV television.

His career continued to prosper with the new medium of television where Jay's voice could be heard as the announcer for various game shows. But it was Let's Make a Deal that became his most enduring persona. He was not just the announcer for the show but also a participant. When contestants were asked to choose between Door's #1, #2 or #3, or to make a trade, they could win a trip, a car, or some other fantastic prize, or they would end up with a gag prize that would feature Jay in a baby's high chair with a bonnet and bib or in a farm setting holding a pig or some other outrageous comic prize.

After to serving for producer Stefan Hatots and host Monty Hall Stewart worked for a large number of other game shows including, Sale of the Century, Joker's Wild, Tic, Tac, Dough, Masquerade Party, Hollywood Connection and You Don't Say.

The end of his life was an unhappy period for him.

He suffered for years from severe back pain and when his daughter died unexpectedly he sank into a deep depression. He died at age 71 and was buried in Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills.

Edited UPI Article from July 19, 1974

Ressie Fix, a white haired 81 year old widow planned to live out her says on a small pension in Indianapolis. Instead, she has a bright new television career making television commercials. Despite her white hair

and clear hazel eyes Mrs. Fix is not the sweet faced fluttery grandmother of movie stereotypes.

She is poised, dignified and lives by the solid tenants of Midwest mores and her strict Methodist upbringing. Since coming to Hollywood in 1969 she has appeared in a score of commercials. From beer to automobile blurbs to riding a motorcycle and she models as



Ressie Fix

well for magazine advertising. "I always wanted to be on the stage as a girl." Mrs. Fix said during an interview in her small neat apartment, a trace of Indiana twang in her voice. But my father was a strict Methodist and thought acting was sinful. "But father relented when I attended Depauw University. He allowed me to appear in the school plays. In those days it was a strict school with no card playing or dancing allowed. Although she fell in love with Julian Fix in college, She took off the summer of 1916 as a single girl to tour the Central Community Chautauqua circuit with two other DePauw graduates in an act they called, not too originally, "Two Hits and a Miss." In the fall the Fixes were married. They eventually moved to Indianapolis where Julian worked for the telephone Company and she taught English, speech and drama for 32 years at Arsenal Technical High School. "All those years I was a frustrated actress." Mrs. Fix said. "But I kept up with the students. Dealing with them every day never allowed me to think old." In 1941 Julian Fix died. Mrs. Fix retired in 1959 but continued on as a substitute teacher At Arsenal Tech earning \$22 a day. Mr's Fix has a son, Jay, who is now known as Jay Stewart, the announcer on "Let's make A Deal." In 1969 when I became ill," Mrs. Fix said. "It was a matter of living out my days in Indianapolis or coming west to see my son, Jay. I guess I could have continued to draw my pension and scrape along on Social Security but he rented this apartment for me so I made the move and dusted off my performing ambitions. Her first job was for a national hamburger chain, followed by a supermarket commercial. There have been jobs for cigarettes, a salad dressing, a brand of coffee and cameras among others. She has a strange affinity for motorcycles, having done three such blurbs for Honda, Kawasaki and another motorbike featured in a beer ad. Commercials have provided me with a wonderful income." Mrs. Fix said. "I earned more when I was 80 years old than in any other year of my life. It's certainly more than the \$22 a day substitute teaching. And when I'm not working I collect unemployment compensation to boot. "I haven't lost touch with my friends in Indianapolis. I talk to them on the phone and we exchange letters. They are very proud of my success out here. But I love California now. I have a grave beside my husband in Indiana, But I don't even want to be put under the cold sod. back there."

Death Notices

Madelyn Pugh Davis, the TV scribe whose 50-year collaboration with **Bob Carroll Jr.** included decades of work writing for comic legend **Lucille Ball**, died Wednesday at her home in Bel-Air after a brief illness. She was 90.



Madelyn with Lucy and Desi

Born in Indianapolis on March 15, 1921, Madelyn Pugh was the youngest of three daughters of Isaac and Louise Hupp Pugh. A three-act play she wrote when she was 10 set her career path. At Shortridge High, she was writer/editor and, with her classmate

Kurt Vonnegut, joined the school's fiction club. She graduated from Indiana University with a degree in journalism in 1942. From that fairly humble beginning she went on to become a pioneer for female writers. During the formative years of television, when few women were working behind the screen. She "not only made her mark as a writer, but also opened the door for other women to follow in her footsteps."

Her first professional writing job was at the Indianapolis radio station WIRE. She moved to Los Angeles in 1943 where her experience in Indianapolis media paid off when she landed writing jobs for CBS and NBC radio. It was while writing for CBS that she met her lifetime writing partner, Bob Carroll, Jr. The two would work together for 50 years, writing for shows such as *I Love Lucy*, *The Lucy Show*, *The Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Show*, *The Steve Allen Show* and others. "Lucy would do anything we suggested," Davis said. The only time she ever said she didn't want to do something was when she saw an elephant on the set and ran up to her office. The script called for her to retrieve \$500. from under the elephant's foot. Then the phone rang and it was Vivian Vance who said, 'It's O.K., I told Lucy that if she didn't want to do that funny thing, I'll do it.' And Lucy said, 'O.K., I'll do it.' So she talked into the elephant's trunk and got it to lift its foot."

Madelyn Pugh married Quinn Martin, one of television's most successful producers, in 1955; they divorced six years later. Her second husband, Richard Davis, died in 2009.

FRANCES A. ENGLISH 84, passed away peacefully April 7, 2011. She was born in Greencastle, IN to the late Rev. Alfred L. and Elsie McKinley Beatty. Frances was a bookkeeper for WFBM Radio and was a devoted member



Frances English

and historian of Edgewood United Methodist Church. She married Lowell M. English May 24, 1947, who preceded her in death in 2003. Frances is survived by her children, Melanie A. (Ken) Salter, Mark L. (Joy) English, melissa English, and Mickey S. (Beth) English; 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

MARY BETH JOHNSON, 56, died Saturday morning, April 30, 2011, at her home in Madison, Indiana.



Mary Beth Johnson

She was born to the late Robert A. and Janet Ruth (Curry) Fisher on July 7, 1954, in Bloomington.

Mary Beth had a long career in radio and television. Known as Beth Merrell on radio and television, she worked at stations in both Kentucky and Indiana, where she was nominated for an Emmy and won an Emmy for her news coverage. She was an anchor and reporter at WWKI-FM and a copywriter, producer and announcer for WIOU-AM/WZWZ-FM in Kokomo.

Mary Beth won the Indiana AP best use of radio sound, best series and best general reporting award in 1989, and in 1988 the best spot news and best single live breaking story, best news series and best documentary awards. In 1989, she won the Society of Professional Journalists award for best documentary and runner-up best newscast, and in 1987 she won the Indiana AP best newscast and best news series award.

Death Notices continued:

GEORGE MARTIN, 81, died April 7, 2011. He was a broadcast journalist who introduced television news to Terre Haute viewers on July 22, 1954 when Tony Hulman added television station WTHI, Channel 10, to his existing radio station. Martin was a broadcast major at Indiana State University and received his first professional experience at the Hulman owned radio station in 1948. His broadcast career was briefly interrupted by a two year enlistment with the Marines. He returned to civilian life in time to be rehired for television. Martin and Howard Caldwell, who later joined Channel Six in Indianapolis handled most of the newscasts in those early days in Terre Haute.

**George Martin**

Martin was extremely valuable because he had grown up in the market and could lead the limited staff to reliable sources for information. He was also anxious to go on major stories, when needed, to assure accurate coverage.

When Caldwell left, Indiana University graduate Phil Jones joined the staff.

A few years later he would become CBS's chief congressional correspondent.

Martin's career moved him to Tulsa, Oklahoma where he took over television and radio anchoring duties for station KVOO. In 1965 he left broadcast news for a public relations job which was followed by a long and successful career as director of the Oklahoma Lung Association. He was recognized as a leader in the fight for smoking cessation and cleaner air.

Martin and Janet, his wife of 60 years, who died in February will be interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Oahu, Hawaii.

FRANK MOORE, 74, of Grabill, Indiana, died on Thursday, April 21, 2011 in

Ft. Wayne. "He was the former president and general manager of WANE-TV, a dedicated community service leader and a devoted husband and father." Born Dec. 1, 1936, in Houlton, Maine. As a child, he fostered a love for communications as he built amateur radios, set up antennas and broadcast from the attic of his parents' small cottage on a bluff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. He graduated from Boston University, Boston, Mass., where he received his degree in communications. In 1961, he embarked on

a more than 40 year career in broadcasting that included stints in New York, Pittsburgh; Cincinnati; Indianapolis; New Haven, Conn.; Miami; Traverse City, Mich.; and Fort Wayne. While the early part of his career was defined by broadcast radio, he moved to television in 1988 to as president and general manager of WANE-TV, in Fort Wayne where he stayed until his retirement in 2003. He was very active in a number of community groups, including serving on the Public Broadcast Service board. In August of 1991, he was awarded the "Sagamore of the Wabash" by then Gov. Evan Bayh for his role in relaying information out of Iraqi-controlled Kuwait during the early days of the invasion. He was part of a small group of amateur radio operators around the world that sent daily reports of conditions there, tracked down Kuwaiti citizens for their relatives in the U.S. and provided Iraqi military movements. His oldest son Scott described him as the most decent and caring man I have ever met."

**Frank Moore**

LESLIE E. OHMIT, 84, of Indianapolis, Indiana, died March 6, 2011. He was born in Fort Wayne to the late Leslie E. and Helen L. Haag Ohmit. Leslie graduated from Monmouth High School and DeForest (DeVry) Technical Institute. He served as a radioman in the United States Navy. He was a radio technician with the Indianapolis Police Department, transmitter engineer with WISH TV, a recording engineer and owner of Ohmit Recording and Duplicating Service.

Burial was in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Ft. Wayne, Indiana

JOHN CIGNA, 75, died May 20, 2011

**John Cigna**

after battling emphysema and a stroke in McCandless, PA. Cigna, a kid from Brooklyn, came to KDKA radio in Pittsburgh after radio stints in West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio and WOWO in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

He joined KDKA in 1973 after a short time at crosstown rival WJAS.

After a decade doing talk on KDKA from 9 p.m. to midnight, he began a 18-year-run as the top-rated, program in the morning drive time slot. "I talked and told it like it is," he said when he retired in 2001. "A lot of times I put my feet in my feet in my mouth, but it was great."

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