

November 2014



Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Newsletter

Indiana Broadcast Pioneers ★ Richard M. Fairbanks 2014 ★ Hall of Fame

The Richard M. Fairbanks Hall of Fame honors Indiana broadcasters who have made



significant contributions to broadcasting throughout their career. The annual inductees are selected by the board of the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers organization.

This year the awards ceremony was held in partnership with the Indiana Broadcasters Association and their 27th annual Spectrum Awards. The IBA ceremony recognizes broadcast excellence for outstanding achievement in broadcasting by Indiana radio and television stations.

This year three Pioneer nominees were honored at the 2014 event and three hundred and seventy six friends, family and Indiana broadcasters witnessed this special ceremony., paying tribute to outstanding individuals and the stations that support them.



M.C. Pete Dunn

Pete Dunn, author, columnist, broadcaster and comedian served as M.C. for the program.

The Pioneer organization originated from a 1942 "Twenty Year Club" honoring radio pioneers. In 1947 it became the Radio Pioneers Club and in 1957 the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers.

The November 8, 2014 event was held at the Marriott Indianapolis North hotel.

As of this date 161 Indiana broadcasters have been inducted into the Indiana Broadcast Pioneer Hall of Fame.



27th Annual Spectrum Awards

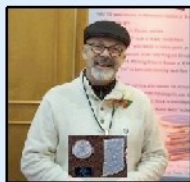


2014 Pioneers Hall of Fame

Hall of Fame

2014

Cris Connor started with a news job at WBAT, Marion, and disc jockey at WJVA, South Bend, Chris Conner landed in Indianapolis in 1968 as the late night jock on WNAP. Soon he moved to



Cris Conner

evenings, then afternoons, became program director, and eventually the morning-drive host. Conner was a master programmer during the rock radio wars of the 1970's, and is credited with creating many concepts that had local and national programming influence. Among them the "Morning Zoo" team concept, and "Fantasy Park," and "Free Mind Weekends."

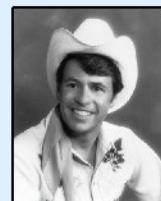


Bob Glaze, aka known as Cowboy Bob, entertained young Hoosiers on WTTV Channel 4 with

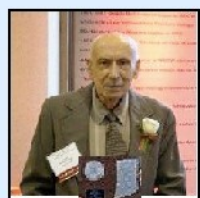


Bob Glaze.

jokes, songs and cartoons from 1970 to 1989. Before he became "Cowboy Bob" he was a studio technician at WTTV Bloomington affiliate. In 1968 he moved to the Indianapolis station as a show director. Characters on the program included, "Sourdough the Singing Biscuit" and Cowboy Bob's horses, "Freckles" then "Windjammer" and finally "Skye", along with his dog "Tumbleweed". Bob continues to make appearances and recently released a CD of his many songs.

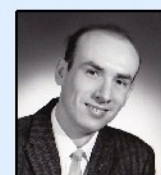


Martin Plascak began his radio broadcasting career at WBOW in Terre Haute, Indiana in 1950 as an Indiana State Teachers College student. In 1952 he completed his Master's degree and was drafted into



Martin Plascak.

the Army, serving 16 months in Germany with the Signal corps. Three years after his full time return to WBOW Plascak became the "News Voice of the Wabash Valley" and News Director. He left WBOW in 1976 to become news director at WTHI AM/FM and did television work with the CBS affiliate while anchoring newscasts during the morning drive for Network Indiana. Martin remained at WTHI until retirement in 1996.



Franklin D. Schurz Jr. 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient. Currently serving as



Franklin D. Schurz Jr. He was President of WASK Inc. in Lafayette as well as WDBJ TV in Roanoke, Virginia and stints at WAGT TV, Augusta, Georgia and KY3 in

Chairman Emeritus for Schurz Communication. He was President and CEO of Schurz Communication from 1982-2007. His career includes Publishing, broadcasting philanthropy and community service. Beyond his Indiana involvement, Schurz spent 15 years in various broadcasting positions.



Springfield, Missouri. During his 26 years in the Newspaper industry, he served as President of the Hoosier State Press Assoc. and board terms with the Indiana Arts Council, Indiana Endowment for Education Excellence and the American Press Institute. He is also a veteran of the Korean War.

The First Sports Broadcast.

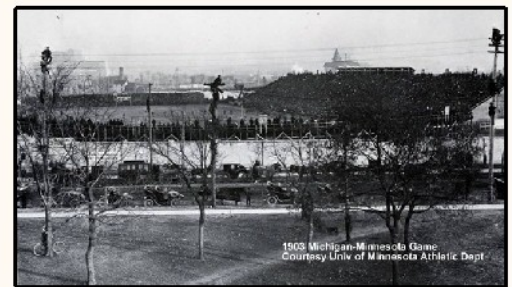
In October of 1903, a University of Michigan student, the Athletic Association and the Bell Telephone Company teamed up to bring Wolverine fans in Ann Arbor a nearly "live" account of the football game in Minneapolis against Minnesota's Golden Gophers. The game winner would lay claim to the hotly contested "Champion of the West" trophy. Interest was high and the competition tough, but the reporting of news and information at that time was slow and primitive, until Michigan law student Floyd (Jack) Mattice had an idea.



A native of Lima, Ohio, Mattice learned the Morse telegraphic code as a youngster, and he could handle it well enough to hold down summer jobs as a telegrapher with the railroads and Western Union. As a Michigan student with a keen interest in Wolverine football, he made good use of his knowledge and enthusiasm. He contacted Western Union and sold them the idea of allowing him to telegraph his own play-by-play account of Michigan games from the press box, replacing the agonizingly slow waiting for handwritten copy from reporters. The information could now go directly to newsroom all over the country. On the University of Michigan campus, the telephone company ran special phone lines to the University Hall Auditorium.

Floyd (Jack) Mattice, In Minneapolis, Bell engineers erected a wooden tower 40 feet high at the 55-yard line (football was played on 110-yard fields in those days.) On top of the tower was a wooden booth.

Mattice climbed the tower, entered the booth and where he had a headset and a telephone. When he spoke into the phone he was answered by a professor speaking from University Hall in Ann Arbor. Some 3,000 persons, who had paid twenty five cents each, were assembled to hear Mattice's description of the game. The Bell company had several other cities hooked in on the same broadcast. As Mattice looked down on the field through binoculars he began to describe the action of the game.



1903 Minnesota Stadium, Michigan Game.

No one ever had seen a football game from his vantage point and it's possible Mattice saw things the field-bound coach and spectators never had witnessed before and Mattice tried to put it all into his description of the action.

Back in Ann Arbor, the University Hall fans, who had paid a 25 cent admission fee, eagerly awaited Mattice's report.

At that time there was no radio, no loudspeakers or no way to amplify telephone transmissions and head phones could not be supplied for that many listeners. Bell engineers came up with a crude but ingenious system. They placed 10 telephones on 10 tables backstage in University Hall. Ten students, who knew football and the opposing team, sat at the tables in numbered order. The first student listened to as much of Mattice's description as he could remember, dropped the receiver and rushed to the stage. Using a megaphone he told the crowd what Mattice had said. Meanwhile, the second student had picked up Mattice's conversation and rushed to the stage while the third man listened to Mattice's description of the play from distant

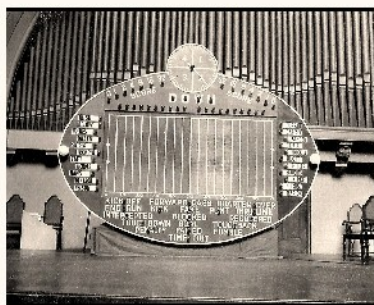
Minneapolis. Throughout the game the 10 students dashed back and forth to transmit the description they had memorized.

The course of the game was also charted on a large diagram of a football field on the auditorium stage. As play progressed a student moved a marker to chart the position of the football. As crude as it sounds, to football fans of that bygone era, it was nothing short of miraculous. For the first time ever people were able to know what was going on at a distant point almost at the same time it happened.

Reporting the game from a specially built tower at Northrop Field, student Floyd (Jack)

Mattice, could lay claim to being the first broadcasters of a college football game.

Mattice later became an attorney who defended Japanese in Tokyo War Trials in 1945, worked for FBI, died in Rochester, N.Y. in 1970.



Huge Football Field Scale Model mounted on auditorium stage



During the early months of 1954, construction was under way for a new TV station for the city of Indianapolis. By late April and early May, additions to the Riddick building at 1440 North Meridian street were being completed to house the facilities for WISH-TV. The building was completed with three stories on the outside while work was continuing on the inside. May 15, was the construction target date and sign on was scheduled for July 1, 1954. Holding true to their expectations, WISH TV, Channel 8, signed on the air at 6pm on July 1, 1954. Early on, the station shared affiliation with ABC, CBS, NBC and the DuMont Television Network. In 1956 WISH became a primary affiliate of CBS. The initial station broadcast introduced the approximately 65 employees and the eleven local owners. C. Bruce McConnell was the President of WISH TV and his son Robert B. McConnell became General Manager of the station.



WISH TV Maquee 1954

In April of 1954, some major construction began for a new TV station for the city of Indianapolis. The Riddick building at 1440 North Meridian Street was leasing room for the new facilities for WISH-TV. The sign on was scheduled for July 1, 1954. They made their target date and went on the air at 6pm . At that time their network affiliations included ABC, CBS, NBC and the DuMont Television Network. In 1956 WISH became a primary affiliate of CBS. The initial station broadcast introduced the approximately 65 employees and the eleven local owners. C. Bruce McConnell was the President of WISH TV and his son Robert B. McConnell became General Manager of the station.

After a fifty eight year affiliation,..... there is none. The financial repercussions are huge. Estimates are in the area of \$100 million for WISH's parent company, LIN Media.

What happened?

In 1993, CBS attempted to become the first network to flip the relationship and charge affiliates for programming, promotion costs and news coverage. Affiliates balked, and CBS withdrew its plan.

Eventually, however, "reverse compensation" became common practice for the major networks ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox. The networks decided that what they offer is the distinguishing product, other than local news, that attracts an audience. This year LIN Media was renegotiating its WISH contract with CBS but during the process apparently LIN/WISH TV balked at the amount of the "program fees."

CBS dropped the bomb..... they offered the affiliation to WTTV

Les Vann, president and general manager of WISH has announced announced initial **plans to add four extra hours of newscasts every weekday beginning Jan. 1, going from five to nine hours. That includes the addition of news in the 10 p.m.-to-11 p.m. time slot usually reserved for prime time network programming.**

Kay Hunt Field 93, passed away Thursday, October



2, 2014. Kay was born November 16, 1920 in Washington D.C. to the late Ralph W. and Virginia Poole Hunt. Kay was a lady blessed with many gifts. Her singing talent was

evident from an early age. While in high school, she performed on a local weekly radio show and soon became the featured vocalist with "Big Bands" in Washington D.C. and Philadelphia. Cal Field, a handsome WW II Navy Lieutenant became enamored with the beautiful songstress and the two were married. Cal's pursuit of Civil Engineering brought the couple and their two young daughters to Indiana. Kay soon became active publishing a neighborhood newspaper and singing on WFBM-TV and WIRE radio. From 1954

to 1967 she was WISH-TV's "Weather Girl" and was featured in an article in TV Guide.



Kay sang with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra as well as performing in summer stock. She produced and hosted the Indianapolis 500 "Driver's Wives Breakfast" and served as commentator for the televised "500 Festival Parade". In addition, she did remote broadcasts at The Indiana State Fair and for the opening of Clowes Hall. Kay was a founding member of Crossroads Rehabilitation Volunteer Association and worked with the organization for over 40 years, serving as president in 1980. She was active with Christian Women's Club and Questers, a group of antique lovers. When daughters, Pam and Kit, were young Kay served as a Girl Scout leader and later became the traveling companion for Kit during her tenure as Miss Indiana and runner-up for Miss America. In 2007, Kay Field was inducted into the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers "Hall of Fame".

Edwin C. Metcalfe, 96, former



vice president and general manager of

WPTA-TV, Channel 21, and an active volunteer in Fort Wayne, died Oct. 23 in Oro Valley.

Metcalfe was general manager for WPTA from 1974 to 1989, taking a station that was last in the local ratings and making it the most watched station in Fort Wayne.

He also was chairman of the Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the board of directors of Junior Achievement, president of the Anthony Wayne Council of the Boy Scouts, a member of the board of trustees of the Indiana Institute of Technology, and on the board of directors of Fort Wayne Public Television. He had been president of the Indiana Broadcasters Association and the ABC Board of Affiliates. Metcalfe was born in Pittsburgh and started appearing as a singer at age 10. He later worked as a singer and saxophonist during the big band era, playing 130 gigs a year with Spike Jones and his City Slickers. In a 1983 newspaper interview, he said that by 1950 he had grown tired of being away from his wife and two children 10 months a year and took an entry-level sales position with a Los Angeles television station. The broadcast business took him to New York, Detroit and Denver before coming to Fort Wayne when the company he worked for bought WPTA. Metcalfe retired from the station in 1989, when he was 70. He is survived by a daughter, Judy Hampton, of Houston; a son, Duane Metcalfe of Dallas; his wife, Betty Murphy Metcalfe; four granddaughters and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife of more than 50 years, Margaret "Tootie," in 2000.