



Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Newsletter

Indiana Broadcast Pioneers 2018 HALL OF FAME

Four Indiana Broadcasters were inducted into the Richard M. Fairbanks Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame.

The event was held November 1, 2018. Representatives from more than 250 broadcast radio and television stations in Indiana were invited to attend the IBA's Indiana Broadcasters Conference, bringing together Hoosier broadcasters from across the state to learn, celebrate, collaborate and also honor the 2018 Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame inductees. The 2018 Honoree's are . . .

Norman Cox began as the Indiana Statehouse reporter at WRTV-6 Indianapolis in 1976. During that time, he covered seven governors from Otis Bowen to Mike Pence. He retired in November of 2013 after a 36-year career.



A two-time Emmy award winner, Norm also has received awards for excellence from The Associated Press, United Press International, Society of Professional Journalists and the Indianapolis Press Club.

Before coming to Indianapolis, Norm also worked for WTOL-TV Toledo, Ohio and has a Bachelor of Arts and Master's degree in Journalism from The Ohio State University.

Bernie Eagan, Beech Grove-native, was born blind, but he didn't let that stop him from pursuing a love of music and entertainment.



After graduating from the Indiana School for the Blind in 1975, Bernie went on to Ball State University where he graduated with a degree in Radio and Television Communications. He then accepted a position as a Programming Consultant at WWHC-FM (now WMXQ-FM) Hartford City and was hired part time by WERK-AM Muncie. In July 1981, Bernie began working at Emmis Communications, specifically with WENS (now WLHK-FM) in Indianapolis,

eventually becoming Music Director and Assistant Program Director while hosting the afternoon drive from 1984–2002. He also hosted Friday Night Retro Show from 1999–2002. From 2002 – 2010, Bernie hosted mornings on WYXB-FM Indianapolis and, since 2010, has hosted afternoons on WYXB-FM Indianapolis.

Al Hobbs, an Alabama native, who later moved to Kentucky, left a career in the grocery business when he was lured to join WTLC-FM Indianapolis in its early days by then G.M. Tom Mathis. Al quickly rose through the ranks becoming Sales Manager in 1974 and then General Manager in 1976.



Al's Sunday afternoons "The Love Train" gospel music program garnered huge ratings and exposed generations to quality Black gospel music. For a quarter century, Al helped grow WTLC-FM in the major force in Indianapolis and Indiana broadcasting and as one of the country's pioneering Black Radio stations. WTLC-FM achieved rating success and audience dominance under his leadership. In 2012, Al's award-winning gospel music shows returned to the Indianapolis airwaves on WITT-FM Indianapolis. Hobbs passed away in 2014.

Patty Spittler host, reporter and producer for "Pet Pals TV" and "Great Day TV," has had a 42-year career in radio and TV



broadcasting. Patty came to Indianapolis in 1982 to co-host Indianapolis Afternoon with Dick Wolfsie on WISH-TV Indianapolis, and eventually expanded her talent to become a noon news anchor. She retired from WISH in 2004. In 2009, she was approached by a producer to join "Pet Pals TV," which now airs not only on WISH-TV, but also on 23 stations nationwide. The program focuses on the relationship between animals and humans.

Patty is now host, reporter and executive producer of "Great Day TV" which airs weekly on WISH-TV and presents human interest stories and stories of intriguing people from all walks of life.

Congratulations to all from the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers

Special Recognition

Linda Compton, who helped run and manager the Indiana



Broadcasters Association for years along with Gwen Piening, will receive the IBA Lifetime Achievement Award as recognition of work beneficial and of superior value to our community and to the association.

Al Rent, who passed away last year, served as Executive



Director and General Manager of Indiana Public Broadcasting and WIPB-TV from Ball State University. He will posthumously receive the Tom Severino Leadership Award given to an individual for commitment to excellence in

broadcasting, and for dedication and outstanding vision.

Compton and Rent will be honored during the Spectrum Awards and Hall of Fame luncheon.

Bob Warren, (WISH TV Producer/Director,/ WISH Radio



and WICR FM (Jazz Rendezvous) was honored by the Pioneer Board Members was honored and the IBA in a private gathering prior to the luncheon. Following the luncheon Bob was recognized for "Outstanding Performance in

Pioneer Membership Recruitment". IBA President Dave Arland praised Bob from the podium as he looked on from the table of honor.

The Joy of Bob Ross



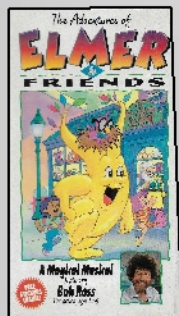
Bob Ross at work

Series One of the Bob Ross "Joy of Painting" program was recorded at WNCV TV in Falls Church, Virginia before moving to WIPB TV in Muncie, Indiana in 1984. WIPB Station Manager Jim Needham worked with the co-owners of the Bob Ross Organization, arranged the necessary details and the era of the nationally syndicated PBS program "The Joy of Painting" began. The stations facilities were located in the former Ball (jar) family home on Minnetrista Blvd. The recording took place in the former living room, or parlor. The Control Room was in what had previously been the kitchen, and Bob loved it. That's the kind of person he was, . . . he felt at home. When I became Program Manager for WIPB-TV, the PBS station at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana I inherited the title of Executive Producer for the Bob Ross "Joy of Painting" program. Several series had already been recorded when I arrived and my first meeting with Bob was in my office. (A former bedroom.) We met and shook hands and he began telling me a joke. I don't remember the joke but that became the pattern of our meeting each time he returned to record a new Series. He was an easy guy to like. The set was simple, three cameras, a black curtain background, an easel, a blank canvas, a set of brushes, a palette of paint and Bob in his casual clothing. Off camera, against the wall, were a set of his "Practice" paintings to guide him as he painted "live" for the recording . . . no "re-takes" necessary. PBS bought into the series and Bob's popularity soared. We now are producing a nationally syndicated PBS program recorded in the Parlor of an old house in a small town in Indiana. Eventually we moved to a fantastic new facility, the "Edmund F. Ball building " on the Ball State Campus. Bob adapted. By now, "The Joy of Painting" was playing in Japan with Bob's pleasant voice replaced by a Japanese interpreter. "Spoof"



"Winter Splendor-1989"

Bob Ross home videos were produced, including one titled "The Joy of Bikini Waxing"... and Bob loved that too. At one point Bob was asked to come to New York to appear at a PBS promotional event in Central Park. I went with him as the Producing Station representative. Several other PBS celebrities were there as well. A massive crowd came to the event, people as far as you could see, and the overwhelming majority headed for Bob Ross. People from as far away as the state of Maine bringing their personal paintings to share with Bob. He stepped down from his raised platform and talked to them personally, posed for pictures, shook their hands, answered questions, commented on their paintings and never took a break all day. Nothing to eat and no bathroom breaks. Series 31 was the last of programs recorded with Bob in the Studio. He had been diagnosed with Cancer was under going Chemo Therapy. At that same time we were working with a another client to produce a series of children's programs titled "Elmer and Friends". Elmer was a coincidentally a "Happy Little Tree", just like the one's Bob spoke of in his paintings. Bob had always wanted to do a children's program so we contacted him and asked if he wanted to participate. He said absolutely but asked that we come to his home so he wouldn't have to travel.



The Producer, a camera man, an audio man and myself went to his home and Bob met us at the door. He looked a little thinner but pretty much the same as always with his big Afro. After the hello's and hugs we began setting up a recording area. The audio man brought a large sound muffler for the microphone in case we needed to record outside. Bob surprised us all by taking off an Afro wig exposing his now chemo induced bald head and replacing it with the 2 ft. tall sound muffler. We all were stunned, but also had to laugh. Other than a few instances of forgetfulness Bob was his usual professional and personable self. When it was time to leave, we packed up our gear began to say our good byes. I was the last to shake his hand and I thought about saying "God Bless my friend", the words he

always said at the close of each program, but I didn't. . . . I wish I had. . . . RRS

Bob died July 4, 1995 at the age of 52.

Bill Harrington

"YOUR HIT PARADE"

This extremely popular musical series was first broadcast in 1935 on the radio before moving to television in 1950. Lucky Strike cigarettes was the sponsor of the Saturday evening show that featured the most popular songs of the day performed by orchestra leaders and singers.

Announcers on the top rated show included Ben Grauer on NBC and then Andre Baruch when

the show went to CBS. When the musical variety program first

opened its vocalists included Gogo DeLys, Kay Thompson and

Charles Carlisle, among others. The orchestra was originally led by Lennie Hayton and then guest orchestras such as Freddie Rich, Ray Sinatra and Al Goodman rotated their talents.

Your Hit Parade reflected the ultimate pop culture of the day and thousands of fans listened in rapture as the exciting "countdown to the Number One song" from a group of 15, was hyped.

There were drums and trumpets to announce the top song of the week.



Hit Parade TV Logo



Disc jockeys on the radio hadn't made their debut as yet, so Your Hit Parade was the final word in the popularity of songs of the day. Tin Pan Alley were the only ones who ever questioned the tabulations of Your Hit Parade – which were calculated in the American Tobacco offices – in secret. Actually, the results weren't known until 8:30 on Saturday evening and the orchestras and/or singers couldn't rehearse until that time.

Some radio aficionados claim that the show was copied from the old Lucky Strike Dance Orchestra which ran on NBC from 1928 until 1931. Lucky Strike was a genius when it came to advertising and "catch" phrases such as "Reach for a Lucky instead of a sweet," and "It's toasted," when describing its best-selling cigarette.

There were large turnovers in personnel during the time that Your Hit Parade Series was on the radio. Over 52 singers and 19 orchestra leaders led the show during its 24-years of broadcasting. Stars such as Joan Edwards and Ethel Smith were featured on the show, and Frank Sinatra brought groups of screaming teenaged bobbysoxer fans to the hit show.

In 1947, Your Hit Parade made the move to Hollywood, where Sinatra returned to the show and brought his own orchestra leader, Axel Stordahl from the Tommy Dorsey group. Sinatra and Stordahl appeared on the show until 1949.

No one knew what types of songs would be featured on each week's episodes of Your Hit Parade. It could be Christmas or other seasonal songs that hung around until the season was over and was then replaced by more lasting



Program Sponsor



Bill Harrington

hits such as Buttons and Bows, I'll Be Seeing You and Some Enchanted Evening.

Indiana's Bill Harrington played a role in that long lasting and popular show. The Songwriter, composer, singer, musician and author, educated at Arsenal Technical High School, the Arthur

Jones Conservatory, and the Cincinnati Conservatory. He was a pianist and accordionist in dance bands throughout the United States between 1933 and 1943, then a vocalist on staff at a Cincinnati radio station before entering World War II military service. Thereafter he joined the

Alvino Rey orchestra, and in 1946 he came to New York where he had his own radio program for three years, before moving to television. Joining ASCAP in 1950, his popular-song compositions include "Jazzbo Mambo", "Wendy",

"Open Parachute", "Just We Two", "Looking for a Dream", "Texas Lullaby" "I Made Myself a Promise", and

"Drop a Jitney in the Juke Box".

Bob Sievers Makes A Big Splash in Radio

Pioneer Hall of Fame member Bob Sievers began his broadcasting career in 1932 as a teenager. Inspired by the radio programs and announcers of the early 1930's he decided he wanted to be an announcer. When the local Gospel Temple in his Ft. Wayne neighborhood began broadcasting their Church services he was allowed to go to their services prior to his own at the local Lutheran Church. His job was simply adjusting the audio levels on the speakers. Later on he was allowed to carry the lone microphone from the Choir to the Minister. As he carried the Mic each week he thought "If I say something people will hear me." Though tempted, he never said a word. Until later when he eventually got to open the broadcast by saying. . . "Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. From the second largest Temple in America on the beautiful south side of Indiana's Summit City, it is our pleasure to bring to you in your home tonight another broadcast of the "Back Home Hour."



WOWO Control Room



Bob Sievers

Baptism's at the Church were by full immersion and Bob's job was to hold the microphone during the Baptism for the radio listeners and the three thousand people in the Church audience. On one particular Sunday the organ played softly and the Minister began the Baptism . . .

The Mic was a very large and heavy RCA Condensor Mic and Bob leaned over and moved the Mic closer to the Minister . . . and Bob dropped the Mic into the Baptismal tank. Now that was bad enough, but it got worse, Bob fell in with it.

But that quick dip and the laughter didn't dampen his determination to be on the radio. during his adolescent years he relentlessly pestered WOWO for an announcing job. In 1932 Bob knelt down and prayed with his Minister about his passion for being on the radio. Two days later he was called and offered a job doing station break announcements and now was actually talking on a on a 50,000 Watt major radio station., . . . and people heard him. He was still a Freshman in High School

Those teenage years of pestering WOWO finally paid off. It paid off with an extensive and impressively long broadcasting career.

Those were the days of local programming. The days of audience participation shows live in the studio, man on the street interviews, in studio music programs with local live talent, family programming for the locals, Music programs with local and national live talent. In 1937 WOWO held a Open House in 1937 and 10,000 people showed up. Bob was a major part of all that and he stayed with WOWO the rest of his working life.

. The WOWO company rule was when you completed 50 years of employment you were to retire. When Bob reached that milestone he announced to Management that he was ready to retire. He was soon approached by station management and asked if he would be willing to stay one more year. Bob asked the obvious question, "Why do you want me to stay another year?" He was informed that they were in the process of selling the station and were concerned their ratings may go down and lower the value of the sale price so they offered to double his salary for that final year. . . .Bob retired after 51 years.



Bob Sievers Age 90

Bob was later inducted into the Indiana Broadcast Pioneer's Hall of Fame and the National Radio Hall of Fame.

He passed away September 3, 2007.

Hall of Fame Pioneer Susan Bartlett of Bloomington, Indiana passed away September 22, 2018 at the age of 91.

Ms. Bartlett was born on September 11, 1927 in Bloomington, Indiana. She graduated from Bloomington High School and worked at radio stations WTOM and WTTS while attending Indiana University.



Her broadcast career included being Program Director at television station WTTV in Bloomington/Indianapolis; writing, producing, and directing a documentary for the National



Elizabeth (Susan) Bartlett.

Television News in Detroit that won 1st prize at the New York International Film Festival; and serving as Audiovisual Officer at the U.S. National Science Foundation in Washington DC., during which the NSF received awards from both foreign film festivals and every major film and video festival in the U.S. As NSF producer/director, Ms. Bartlett traveled with film crews to many locations, including Antarctica.

Susan made contributions to professional organizations by founding the Hoosier Chapter of American Women in Radio & Television and serving as its president for four years. She went on to be the president of the Michigan Chapter of AWRP. When at the NSF she served as president of the Washington, DC Film and Video Council and was on the board of the Council for International Non-Theatrical Events in Washington, DC for ten years. She earned awards throughout her career including being honored as Indianapolis "Ad Woman of the Year" in 1968. She was named Outstanding Woman for Contribution to the Arts by the Federally Employed Women. In 2007, she was inducted into the Indiana Broadcasters Hall of Fame. For many years, Who's Who in America recognized her by listing her accomplishments. Her major interests included jazz, films, and animal rights.

From 1949 to 1959, Elizabeth Susan Bartlett worked at television station WTTV in Bloomington/Indianapolis where she headed the traffic, continuity, photo and art departments and later became Program Director. During this time, Susan founded the Hoosier Chapter of American Women in Radio & Television, serving as its president for four years. She spent eight years working for Indianapolis advertising agencies, and was named Indianapolis *Ad Woman of the Year* in 1968.

She worked in Detroit as Production Manager for National Television News where, in addition to producing news film for national clients, she wrote, produced, and directed a documentary for the U.S. Department of the Interior, winning 1st prize at the New York International Film Festival. During this time, she also served as president of the Michigan Chapter of AWRP. Susan free-lanced in the New York area, producing films for several government agencies in Washington, D.C. before moving to that area where she served as Audiovisual Officer for the U.S. National Science Foundation. While there, she produced radio and television programs that were aired on commercial and public broadcasting stations as well as producing videos for school use. She later returned to Bloomington, Indiana, where she died September 22, 2018, at age 91. She later returned to Bloomington, Indiana, where she died September 22, 2018, at age 91.



Susan (center) with Indiana Broadcast Pioneer

Board on a recent trip to I.U. broadcast facilities

Obituaries

August - November 2108

Charles Edward Haines, Sr. 93, of Louisville,



KY died Saturday, September, 29, 2018. Indianapolis is one of the first (if not the first) African-Americans to be employed full-time at a U.S.

television station. He started with WTTS radio, then went into TV

when WTTV,

Bloomington-Indianapolis, signed on in November of 1949. He was the station's artist. Later he joined WLWI/WTHR, Indianapolis, in

the same capacity. Charles was in the business fifty-three years before his retirement in 2001.

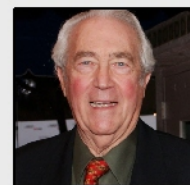
He also served an instructor of art history at Herron School of Art and Design. Charlie is a highly respected professional who enhanced on-air production values at both stations. and is a member of our Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

He also designed the logo for the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Organization. (See Page 1) and is a member of our Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Don Bradley, Veteran TV News Director (born Don Burian) died. For over a decade, Mr. Bradley served as News Director for ABC affiliate/WPTA-TV (Channel 21, Fort Wayne). In 2005, WPTA-TV and WISE-TV (Channel 33, Fort Wayne) were each sold, and a Shared Services Agreement between "21 Alive" and "NBC33" meant that Mr. Bradley briefly served as News Director for WISE-TV before leaving WPTA and WISE's building on Butler Road that same year.



James Karen, who is best known for his roles in *Poltergeist* and *The Return of the Living Dead*, died October 23 at his home in Los Angeles. He was 94.



He also appeared as Secretary of State William Rogers in the 1995 pic "*Nixon*" as well as the football drama "*Any Given Sunday*" He had roles in noteworthy movies *All the President's Men* (1976), *John Cassavetes' Opening Night* (1977), *Up Close & Personal* (1996), *Apt Pupil* (1998), and David Lynch's *Mulholland Drive*. His role in the classic horror pic *Poltergeist* became a memorable milestone for Karen. Co-written by Steven Spielberg and directed by Tobe Hooper, Karen portrayed the real-estate developer who built the community of Cuesta Verde atop a cemetery. . His other credits include the 2006 drama *The Pursuit of Happiness* starring Will Smith as well as Bender and Cynthia. On television, he had a recurring role as Dr. Burke on the soap opera "*As The World Turns*" as well as his infamous role as Nathan Lassiter in "*Little House on the Prairie*, an evil business tycoon whose plans lead to the destruction of the town of Walnut Grove in the series finale. His other TV appearances included "*The Rockford Files*," "*Lou Grant*," "*Eight is Enough*," "*The Waltons*," "*Dallas*," "*Dynasty*" and "*Cheers*."

Homer Venske, 92, better known to Indianapolis and



Philadelphia TV viewers as longtime news anchor **Vince Leonard**, has died, the station reports.

Mr. Leonard, who had been battling liver cancer, died Friday, March 30, in Las Vegas, where he lived in retirement. A native of Minnesota, Mr. Leonard came to Philadelphia from Indianapolis in 1958 to anchor a 15-minute news program on Channel 3 when it was WRCV-TV, according to the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia. In 1965, Channel 3 became KYW-TV and Mr. Leonard was part of the original team when the station's new owner, Westinghouse, introduced the Eyewitness News format. He remained with Channel 3 until 1980, when he moved to Phoenix and joined KPNX-TV. Mr. Leonard retired in 1989. Mr. Leonard never legally changed his name and his paychecks were issued to Homer Venske.

Obituaries continued

Claudine Kelsey Paluzzi passed away on September 22, 2018.



Claudine Paluzzi

Claudine was born in Richmond, Indiana on October 12, 1931 to Ruth and Donald K. Kelsey. She graduated from John Herron School of Art and had a long and distinguished career as a fine artist and educator. After graduation, Claudine lived several years in Europe, developing her distinctive style. Upon return, she taught at the

Indianapolis Art League (now known as the Indianapolis Art Center). She was an instructor at the Indianapolis Art Museum, The Indiana Deaf School, IUPUI, and Arsenal Tech High School. Claudine was a court artist for Channel 13, covering many important trials, one of them the Ford Motor Company Pinto Trial and was a producer for the Jim Gerard show at Channel 4.

Doug Rafferty, a longtime anchor at WTTV, has passed away at age 66. The Indiana University graduate began his career at WTTV Channel 4 in Indianapolis in 1974. Rafferty served as a host on "Mid-Morning," a news magazine show that debuted in 1976 and began as the news anchor in 1978. When former colleague, Eric Halvorson joined the WTTV news team as an intern in 1979, he remembers Rafferty as a welcoming presence. "It meant a lot to me when Doug wrote a little memo complimenting my work. As someone who was just getting started, I appreciated his praise and encouragement," Halvorson said.. When the station terminated its news department in November 1990, Rafferty took a job as a co-anchor at CBS affiliate, WGME Channel 13 in Portland, Maine, where he served as anchor and reporter for 21 years. Rafferty was inducted into the Maine Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2007.

An avid outdoorsman, Rafferty left television in 2012 for a position as Director of Public Relations and Education at the Maine Department of Inland Fishers and Wildlife.

Rafferty died eight hours after he and his wife Beverly arrived in Hawaii to visit their daughter.



Doug Rafferty

Vince Leonard WISH TV
News Room
Circa 1956



John David Souder, 80, left us on October 8, 2018. He leaves our community with his excellence in personality and art. John Souder will live on forever in our minds, hearts, homes, museums, and stores. His obsession and love for Auburn, Indiana began with request to do an ACD Festival poster to help enhance the newly formed ACD Festival. In 1981, he promised he could do one poster. That one poster turned into 36 years. He impacted everyone with his talent.



John David Souder

John graduated from Auburn High School "Red Devils" in 1955. He graduated from the Academy of Art in Chicago, came back to the Fort Wayne area, and was art director for WANE TV twice. He also worked for WMBV in Champaign, Illinois. In the Army he was an artist. His job there was to chart all activities between the U.S. and Cuba. He was involved in the Cuban Crisis and mustered out in 1963 on the day Kennedy was killed. He spent 40 years as art director for Colwell Industries and also for Rich Ferber of Ferber & Suedhoff Advertising Agency.

Jay Zochowski long-time member of the WFYI family passed away peacefully October 8th, 2018 at St. Vincent hospice center in Indianapolis. Jay was an important part of WFYI for more than 20 years and was a recipient of the Alan Cloe "Signal Carrier" Award for his many years of service. Jay joined WFYI in 1987 shortly following the acquisition of the radio station in 1986. As a member of the radio staff, his major role was as host and producer of the popular radio program, "Nothin' But the Blues", a nationally syndicated program. He hosted numerous live events featuring the best in the Indy Blues scene, including a regular at the Penrod arts fair Blues broadcast. He was also the long-time operations manager of WFYI (and before that, predecessor WIAN-FM)

Jay was his own radio person, his own style of producer, his own style of program host. He was a true original public radio individual whom exceeded his limitations as a paraplegic. His live blues programs across Central Indiana were legendary at such venues as The Penrod Arts Fair, The Indianapolis Art Center and various public libraries across the metropolis. Jay was all-in all of the time and the world is a poorer place without his presence and energy.

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