

Kentucky Journalism Hall of fame bios 2011

Bill Bartleman

Reported for The Paducah Sun from 1972 to 2010; chief reporter and columnist on government and politics for 35 years. Helped direct paper's coverage and chronicled West Kentucky's gradual, historic shift away from Democratic roots. Attended most sessions of the Kentucky General Assembly, covering both regional and state politicians. Helped the rest of the state understand relatively isolated West Kentucky through his writing and television appearances. Demonstrated unswerving dedication to the public interest. Native of Chalfont, Pa.; 1971 journalism graduate of Murray State University; taught journalism and advised student newspaper at MSU, 1981-1985; became director of community relations for Mid-Continent University, 2010. Winner of Lewis Owens Community Service Award from Kentucky Press Association, 2011.

Jackie Hays Bickel

Popular television news anchor for 31 years, in two Kentucky cities and America's fourth largest city. Native of Paris, Tenn. Began career at WPSD-TV, Paducah, while still a student at Murray State University in 1978. Anchored at WHAS-TV, Louisville, 1980-85; KYW-TV, Philadelphia, 1985-88; and WAVE-TV, Louisville, 1988-2009. Covered countless major stories from the scene. Won Emmy Award for special on tragedy of 2009 Kentucky Derby and covered MOVE - Philadelphia Police disaster. Voted favorite news anchor by readers of Louisville magazine in "Best of Louisville" contest 16 times.

Robert Carter

Longtime publisher of Kentucky New Era in Hopkinsville and major player in passing strong open-government laws. Native of Mount Vernon, Ga. Joined New Era as advertising salesman in 1953 and became ad manager in 1958, business manager in 1968 and paper's top executive in 1969. Fiercely competitive, but helpful neighbor for nearby publishers. As board member and officer of Kentucky Press Association, pushed for higher KPA ethical standards. Used political skills to help win passage of state Open Meetings Act in 1974 and Open Records Act in 1976, year he was KPA president. Secured future of one of the state's last two family-owned daily newspapers through best practices and innovation. Retired as publisher in 1997, continued as board chairman until 2003.

Albert "Al" Dix

Publisher, for nearly 35 years, of The State Journal in Frankfort, both a state-capital newspaper and a community newspaper, owned by Ohio-based Dix Communications. A Republican in a Democratic town who kept news columns fair, held officials and institutions accountable, and gave free rein to editors and editorial writers. Confidant of state officials and community leaders, but also a reporter's publisher; mentored several who went on to successful careers at major papers. State Journal founded Kentucky Book Fair in 1981. Native of Ravenna, Ohio; graduate of Dennison University; served in U.S. Army Intelligence. Died in 2009.

Tom Loftus

Longtime Frankfort bureau chief and investigative reporter for The Courier-Journal. Prolific user of open-records laws to reveal foibles and felonies in state government, campaign finance and intersections thereof. Series on suspicious contributions in 1991 race for governor led to indictments and convictions, and overhaul of state campaign-finance laws. Developed and maintained extensive database on contributions to Kentucky politicians; co-authored series revealing extent and cost of blacktopping monopolies. Led coverage on scene of Carrollton bus crash in 1988 and worked on aftermath, helping C-J staff win Pulitzer Prize in 1989. Native of Cincinnati, journalism graduate of The Ohio State University. Reporter for The Kentucky Post, 1976-1984, ending in Frankfort; C-J Indianapolis bureau chief, 1984-86. Winner of James Madison Award from University of Kentucky's Scripps Howard First Amendment Center, 2008.

Ed Shadburne

Helped bring Kentucky broadcast journalism into modern era. As secretary-treasurer of Kentucky Broadcasters Association for five years in 1960s, built KBA to level where it could pay an executive director. Built local news operation of Louisville's WLKY-TV as station's vice president and general manager, 1963-70. Executive vice president and general manager of WHAS-TV-AM-FM, Louisville, 1970-75; improved operations and won numerous awards. Vice president and general manager of General Electric-owned TV and radio stations in Nashville, early 1980s. Native of Louisville, Navy veteran of World War II. Began career at WHIR Radio, Danville, while attending Centre College. Worked at stations in Tampa and Fort Myers, Fla., Paintsville, Ky., Mobile, Ala., and Colorado Springs; owned and operated WCPM in Cumberland, Ky., and WHAN in Haines City, Fla.; managed WLOU in hometown of Louisville. Left retirement in 1996-97 to oversee merger of Louisville public TV station with KET.