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To Madge with Love

The Story of Marion's First Lady of Broadcasting
Madge Cooper Guthery



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1.

Madge Cooper Guthery: A Life

Madge Lily Cooper was born on July 30th 1910 to Fred Guy Cooper and Selina Lily Howarth Cooper in Fairbury Illinois. Madge had one brother Ivan Eugene Cooper born on May 7th 1914.

The Coopers were farmers who moved from Fairbury Illinois to LaRue, Ohio in 1918. Her mother served as the mayor of LaRue for a short time.

Madge graduated from The Ohio State University with majors in Biology and English. After teaching in Marion County for seven years she joined WMRN radio in 1941-- just two weeks after the station went on the air. During her time at WMRN she served as director of women's activities, continuity writer, and was the station's first woman program director. She became one of WMRN's best known personalities. She worked at the station for 35 years before her first retirement in January 1976.

It was only a few months into Madge's retirement that she discovered she missed the microphone too much. So she returned to WMRN on Saturday mornings where her program, "The Way We Were" on local history aired for another seventeen years, bringing her total time on the air at WMRN to fifty-two glorious years.

In response to the question how did you like being on the air she described her success as a broadcaster as "being curious about everything you see or touch." Madge added "I liked being a full time gossip.

On July 30th 1962 Madge married prominent Marion attorney Howard Fredrick Guthery. Howard was the love of her life and they shared the same birthday--July 30th. Madge lost Howard to a brain deficiency in October of 1981 after nineteen years of marriage.

Madge was single for a few years until she became reacquainted with an old friend, Sanford Michael Marshall, on a trip to New York. Madge married the prominent broadcaster on June 18th, 1989 at the age of 78. Tragically Sanford and Madge's time together was short as he passed away following open heart surgery on September 10th 1989-- less than three months after their marriage.



Madge with WMRN Announcer Ray Marsh

More than a Local Celebrity

Madge was the first person from Marion, and the oldest, to be inducted into the Ohio Radio/Television Broadcasters Hall of Fame. In October of 2007, at age ninety-seven, she received the Talaria award for Dedication in Lending Wings to Communication.. The award was presented by Hi-O chapter of American Women in Radio and Television. The winner is selected based on service to the community and to service to the communications industry.

You begin to realize that Madge was ahead of her time. She had her Jet Pioneers Medal for flying in a jet long before they were commercial planes. She was the first person to record for broadcasting interviews with designers at the Press Week of the New York Couture Group. For her efforts she was one of five reporters awarded the first Frany (Fashion Reports Award, New York). She was listed several years in Who's Who of American Women and Foremost Women in Communication. Madge was responsible for being the first person to put longtime WBNS TV Columbus anchorman Dave Kaylor on the air.

Madge worked with and became great friends with Rod Serling during his time at WMRN as a writer. He later was nationally known for his program "The Twilight Zone."

John Dean's 2004 book "Warren G. Harding" is dedicated to Madge, Howard and Howard's son, Dan.

Volunteer

Madge volunteered her services in Marion and beyond. She was a longtime member of Altrusa and has also served on board of trustees of the Palace Theater, the Marion County Historical Society, and of Marion Towers. She served as President of the Marion County Federation of Women's Clubs, and has been a member of The Ohio State University Alumni Association for more than 40 years. Nationally she served on the national board

of American Women in Radio and Television and as the secretary/treasurer. She was one of the founders of the Ruby Elzy Foundation.

Her generous support of The Ohio State University, Marion Campus, included funding the Guthery Community Room. The Guthery Country Store at the Marion County Historical Society is named for her. She remembered the one at Paar Corners near LaRue and welcomed the opportunity to fund this restoration.

In recognition of her many benevolences Mayor Jack L. Kellogg proclaimed November 18th, 2005 as "Madge Cooper Guthery Day" in Marion, Ohio.

Later Years

She began taking piano lessons in her 80s. She took classes at England's Oxford University in her 90s. Traveling was a great passion. She rode on the Orient Express, walked on the Great Wall of China and cruised the Orinoco River.

Madge returned to the airwaves for the last time in December of 2007, co-hosting the 80th and final Charity Ball for WMRN. She led an amazing life by any measuring stick. In her own words, "I would like to be remembered as a person who was fair."

She passed away peacefully in the early hours of November 14th, 2009.



Madge-- the Person

Madge had many facets to her personality. One of them was that she was unbelievably giving as shown in my first contact with her. I was getting ready to do my first charity show with Madge. We had never met in person but had I talked on the phone. One day I called to finalize something about the show. At the end of the conversation, she asked if I liked symphony music. She said that every year that she bought season tickets to the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and she would put them in her mailbox if I would like to come get them and take someone with me. Remember, at this point we had not met face to face.

Another facet of her personality was her great sense of humor. She was fun to be with. For instance: One day after she was at Marion Manor I went to see Madge and her newspapers were laying on her lap-- the *Columbus Dispatch*, *Marion Star*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. Just to make small talk I said, "Madge, did you read your papers today?" She looked at me and responded, "I didn't realize that I had an assignment!"

Another time, we talked about her years on radio. She told me that she retired in 1976 when she was 65 years old. But she returned to the air in 1981 and stayed for an additional 17 years. I asked her, "How old were you when you retired the second time?" Madge looked at me and responded, "A gentlemen does not ask such questions of a lady." I laughed. For the record, you can do the math.

My favorite humorous moment with Madge was when I took the script that I was going to read on the air to Madge for her to proofread. She read through it and said she liked it. In one sentence I said that one group of people "migrated" from one place to another. Madge looked at it for a while and said, "Migrated? What were they? Okeys?"

As many will attest Madge was generous with her season passes to the Ohio State Football games. Courtesy of Madge I went to two Ohio State games and was seated at the 50-yard-line, I am sure many people can echo that statement. She continued giving passes until she died at age ninety-nine.



Madge With Scott in 2007

Radio Daze of Madge and Scott



Madge started at WMRN Radio the second week that it went on the air on January 9, 1941. She was hired by station founder, Robert T. Mason to write the farm hour. But she was never comfortable doing that.

Shortly after Madge was hired Bob's brother, Frank Mason, visited WMRN. He was president of NBC in 1941. He told Bob that the station needed a woman's program and said, "Audition Madge," And then he left.. Three weeks later Frank returned and listened to Madge's audition tape. His response was "Sounds good! Put her on the air. What's her name?" "Madge Cooper," someone replied. "She keeps her name." was Frank's reply.

With those words a fifty-two-year broadcasting career began. During those years, Madge won about every award possible.

Scott Spears

I graduated from the Ohio State University in 2006 with an education degree. I started teaching in the Marion City Schools and realized after three months that I had chosen the wrong career.

One day I read an ad in the Marion Star for a reporter. The ad stated that you had to have experience or a degree in journalism to be considered for the position. Since I didn't have experience I knew I needed a degree. I called Ohio State and signed up for a double major in journalism. My academic advisor told me that I needed to do a ten-week unpaid internship in the field of journalism. I had met Madge when she was honored at the

charity show that I hosted. Because of Madge's association with the station, and my great admiration for her, I applied at WMRN and started on January 2, 2007.

In early 2007 I learned that there was an Ohio Radio and Television Broadcasters Hall of Fame and that candidates were being sought. I prepared and sent Madge's biography and application. When I had word that Madge was accepted I let a few days pass before I went to talk with her about the ceremony. She had also received notification, and she was excited that she would receive the award.

One of the things that we had to decide was who was going to present her with the award. I asked Madge who she would like to make the presentation. She paused and, then asked, "Would you do it?" I replied, "I would be honored to!" She paused again and then asked me to skip the usual flattering routine that I normally did to introduce her.

In October 2007, we went to Akron for the ceremony. There were twelve inductees so I had only a minute and a half to introduce her and she had three minutes to accept. Before we went up on stage Madge asked me if I had a watch and I told her I did. She told me to let her know when the three minutes were up.

After my introduction a short montage of her career was played Madge took the microphone. She said: "I was wondering if I was going to let anybody in this room know that I am ninety-seven years old. Well, I want to tell you that I am, and here is a little secret. It is not really as bad as you think it is!" She got appreciative applause. Madge knocked them dead for three minutes and looked at me to see if her time was up. I nodded my head. She turned back to the microphone and said, "That is my three minutes. That is all I said I would do." And here is an amazing fact-- she did it without any notes.

As she walked away from the microphone she received the only standing ovation of the evening. She was first person from Marion to be inducted into the Ohio Television and Radio Broadcasters Hall of Fame. This was another shining moment for me with Madge.

At that time Madge was long retired and enjoying it. We sometimes talked about when she covered the Charity Ball for WMRN but the station had not broadcast it for a number of years. I got the idea that the Charity Ball should be broadcast by WMRN once again and suggested that I host it. .

When the program was scheduled to be aired in December of 2007 I realized I would need a co-host. Who should it be? Many names went through my mind but none seemed to fit. Oddly enough in the beginning I didn't consider Madge as she was long retired and ninety-seven years old. I felt she wouldn't want to be bothered. By then Madge and I had developed a personal friendship and I didn't want to encroach upon that.

As the day approached, I realized that only Madge could fill those shoes as my co-host. But time was running out and one day I got up the gumption to go to her house to make the pitch. After a few minutes of small talk, I said, "Madge, the Charity Ball is going back on the air and I am going to host it. I want you to be my co-host." She hesitated for a moment and then said that she would have to think about it as she hadn't intended to return to the air. She felt she had done everything by then.

I called every couple days to beg her to do it. One day when I called Madge told me to bring her a format. I quickly typed up a format and took it over to her. Basically the show was to be two hours of live radio with a half hour at the top with Madge and me talking about the Charity Ball and fifteen minutes at the end to close the show. Between this

Madge would be at a table doing in-depth interviews with Marion's "Who's Who" and I would be posted at the door interviewing people as they arrived. Madge looked at the format and then told me that she was in.



Madge & Scott Broadcasting from the 2007 Charity Ball (Dec 2007)

On that icy December night Madge came in looking like a million bucks. She wore a beautiful holiday red dress and I arrived in my tuxedo. I had the equipment ready when the show began at 7:30. That show was one of the best times I have ever had on radio. Madge never missed a cue. I have no idea if the listening audience enjoyed the program but for me it was a tremendous thrill to work with the only icon in Marion radio.

I had my last interview with Madge in May 2009, six months before her death. She was recovering from a broken hip. It was two months before her ninety-ninth birthday. She was a little cautious due to her age and recent health problems when I approached her about doing an interview. I told her that if it didn't sound good I would throw it out. Madge, now in a wheelchair, was wheeled up to the table. After my introduction I tossed it to Madge. This is a woman who was almost a century old, confined to a wheelchair, struggling with illness, and who had not given a public speech or been on radio in over a year. Before she started to speak she leaned close to the microphone. This may seem small gesture, but even in her weakened state Madge knew that if you want to be heard you needed to lean in close to the microphone. That was the moment that I knew everything was going to be OK.

To Madge broadcasting was not just a job all those years. It was imprinted on her very being. I interviewed Madge and I worked with Madge. If, on my best day, I am half as good as Madge was on her worse day then I am better than 90% of people that work in radio in this town. I am not saying that I am, but I can say that without question she is the best broadcaster in the history of Marion.



WMRN's 67th Anniversary

December 21st, 2007

Back Row L-R Bob Bender, Terry Cole, Bufford Russell, George Joachim, Mayor Jack Kellogg, Jeff Ruth, Scott Spears.

Front Row L-R Charlie Evers, Mary Ann Michaels, Madge, Joe Ionno, Tom Waner, Ruth Peters)

4.

Radio Colleagues Remember Madge



Bob Mason with Madge

*By Virginia Mason Browning,
Daughter of WMRN founder Robert T. Mason*

When I was born, Dad worked for the Penton Publishing Company. When hard times hit, his salary was cut in half, then in half again, and then he was fired. The family moved away from Cleveland area to Fremont to live with our grandmother. Dad took a job at Newsweek as one of the editors.

When he came up with the idea of starting a radio station, few people gave him much encouragement. My grandmother, in her mid-seventies, took out a mortgage on her home to help with the purchase. Uncle Frank came up with enough to buy himself 51% of the assets, leaving dad with 49% and to provide all the work to run the place.

The first months were touch and go. Dad had to take out a loan on our furniture to meet the \$300.00 payroll for the entire staff. Uncle Frank told a distant cousin that he had to provide money to help out his "ne'er do well" brother. Dad worked his ass off to make a go of the station.

Uncle Frank considered himself a very important person. He served as Undersecretary of the Navy under President Herbert Hoover who was the best man at Frank's wedding to a showgirl named Ellen. The station had barely gotten started when Ellen decided she

wanted the money he had invested in the station. He gave dad 48 hours to buy out his 51% interest in the station. A guardian angel named Howard Guthrie came to dad's rescue.

Howard Guthery's first wife, Florence, was the closest thing to "witch" I have ever encountered. She made it her business to torment my mother in myriad ways. She must have resented Howard's investing so much money in WMRN. Even though she was quite wealthy she would raise a stink at the local markets to make sure she was able to purchase all the dented cans of dog food at a greatly reduced price.

On very hot summer my brother spent an entire day, digging a huge hole in her back yard to install a large tank to store black market gasoline (the war was on and gas was rationed). Big spender Florence handed my brother a five-dollar bill for payment of a full day of hard labor. He handed it back, saying "You must need it more than I do" She was outraged at his impertinence! Florence moved to Florida, and everyone breathed more easily,

I remember how surprised we all were when we heard Madge had married Howard Guthery. He was always considered fondly by everyone in our family. No doubt Madge must have seemed like an angel after Florence.

A few years down the road Frank had come across hard times. He made and lost several fortunes during his life. He showed up, hat in hand, at our home in Marion for a handout. Dad kept Frank on the WMRN payroll until he sold the station.

It was tough on dad to let go of the station. He would no longer walk the streets as "Mr. Radio" But he was already suffering from terminal cancer, and he wanted to sell it when he was still alive, rather than as an estate settlement

I remember well the first folk who worked for Dad--Madge Cooper, Lou Marsh, Joe Peters, and Mr. Spies, the bookkeeper. We had a very young student from Antioch College's student work program named Rod Sterling. In the early weeks of broadcasting things were pretty frustrating when ASCAP went on strike, and the musical choices were limited to Stephen Foster. We got sick of hearing "*Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair!*"





Madge, Scott and Charlie Evers



Madge with Fran Allison

From the very beginning, Dad leaned on Madge to provide the competence and class needed to make WMRN sound good. When I first heard her voice, I thought she must be the most beautiful woman in the world. At the time a woman had very few career choices--marry and have children, go into nursing, teaching, or secretarial work. Lucky for us, Madge was a pioneer. She could do everything needed at the station, presiding over the county fairs, writing continuity - everything. No wonder depended on her.

By Charlie Evers
WMRN Radio

I first met Madge while working in the WMRN tent studio at the Crawford County Fair in 1949. I was hired to keep the tent clean and in order for the daily broadcasts. I also helped install the broadcast equipment. Madge and the rest of the daily broadcast crew arrived by mid morning to begin the broadcasts. Madge organized all the programs and assigned announcers to conduct the programs. This involved news programs and a variety of audience participation programs. I could tell immediately that Madge had everything well planned and under control. Little did I realize that in three years we would be working together in the studios at radio station WMRN in Marion.

I was the engineer that produced her morning programs. The first was *Over the Coffee Cups* heard every day Monday through Friday at 8:30 A. M. Later it was the 10:00 A.M. *Orbit* Program. Madge shared the host honors on the *Orbit* Show with a number of announcers who later went on to larger stations mainly because of the knowledge of the industry garnered from Madge. Over the years she was program director as well as women's director at WMRN.

Madge was unique in that she traveled regularly to New York City to cover fashion shows staged by the world's greatest dress designers. This put Madge in the same category of the most famous lady broadcasters. She was also unique because she was from a very small station in mid America. Most of those designers she met such as Bill Blass and Oleg Cassini are now legends

Madge was one of the first to utilize the new invention called a cassette recorder. This enabled her to bring back from the shows numerous interviews. All the women in the listening area were well informed about the latest fashions. These interviews were sponsored by the famous Montaldo's clothing store in Columbus.

Working with Madge was an absolute pleasure always. She never had a discouraging outlook. Everything was positive with her.

Dennis Garrigan
Marketing and Public Relations Consultant,
News Director, WMRN AM-FM 1981-1993

When George Joachim chose to bring back WMRN's Golden Age with a return to a concentrated news and talk format, a key component was getting Marion's First Lady of Radio, Madge Guthery, out of retirement and back behind the microphone. That's when my association with Madge Guthery began with the program *The Way We Were*. It would be a weekly program heard Saturday mornings, and it would complement and expand the Marion area's growing demand for local news and public affairs programming. *Morning Magazine* with Mary Ann Michaels would usher weekday listeners to a weekend program that would showcase Madge's body of work that began when WMRN signed on the air in 1940.

Not only did Madge Guthery display tremendous powers of recall, she had a keen intellect and projected poise while on the air. Experienced broadcasters strive for authority, poise and confidence on the air — qualities that Madge always carried. None

of these come without practice. But content, preparation and accuracy are just as important.

What I learned from Madge even in her retirement was the value and importance of research and show preparation. She spent several hours each week researching and preparing for each Saturday's one-hour program. Madge knew the importance of integrating news and public affairs so that they were consistent with programming.

Whenever there was a breaking story or the death of a local luminary, Madge could always be relied on to provide me with the larger context as to why the event was

important. She was always available — nights, weekends, whatever — to provide suggestions, context, background and history. WMRN's news coverage always aimed to provide an added dimension that you might not hear from comparable stations. A lot of the credit for this goes to Madge Guthery.

For over 50 years, Madge spent time behind the microphone at Marion's WMRN Radio(AM 1490), starting at the station only days after it went on the air in 1941. She served many positions at the station including program director. I like that her last job at the station was hosting a Saturday morning talk program about Marion history. That kind of small town, really local radio, is becoming very rare.

*By Joe Ionno
WMRN Radio*

I first met Madge Cooper when I came to Marion for an interview for a position at WMRN. I remember her as being an interesting person with a lot of personality. I believe she was the Director of Women's Activities at the time of my interview.

When I was hired on April 1, 1951 I found Madge to be a great colleague. She was always helpful as I learned the daily routine of working for the radio station.

Shortly after being hired, I was named the News Director. Madge always commented that I was loyal to my "contacts. She said she admired the fact that I would not reveal who informed me of the news stories.

Often times Madge would be late for her morning program. Her theme song would be playing a long time as she pulled into the parking lot. She would hop out of her vehicle and hurry into the studio, carrying an armload of her material for the show. She appeared to be unorganized, but when the microphone was open, she was ready and the listening audience would not know that she was shuffling through her pile of paper to bring them items of interest.

Her on-the-air demeanor was very professional. She valued the fact that radio personalities were there to serve the listening audience and she gave her all to the profession. She often commented that today's radio personalities are more laid back and they have more leeway in what they can say on air. We often talked about the fact that we would probably have lost our jobs if we had used some of the language that seems to be the norm today on some stations.

Madge would make several trips each year to New York City for the fashion shows. She would report to our listening audience what the new fashions were and you could

almost picture the new creation by her descriptions. She was a very generous person; she always brought back and shared with the staff the numerous items that were given to her at the shows. She was always a well-dressed—a fashionable lady.

Another area where her fashion sense was used was during the annual Charity Ball here in Marion. She would greet many of the persons attending the Ball and describe to the listening audience what they were wearing. She and her husband, Howard Guthery, was quite a pair. Howard would guide Madge expertly on the dance floor. They both dressed beautifully and fashionably and they were great dancers.



Madge With Joe Ionno in 2007

Madge and Howard were known for being a great host and hostess. The numerous parties at their home were very elegant and it was a privilege to have been invited. It seemed we would always end up at their piano and one the songs that were always sang was the Whiffenpoof Song. Howard, being a Yale Graduate, was the instigator of this.

Over the years Madge has been recognized as an outstanding radio personality with many awards. The latest in October 2007 was her induction into the Radio/Television Broadcasters Hall of Fame of Ohio. My wife and I had the privilege of attending this ceremony and she was by far the most interesting personality there. Everyone enjoyed her presentation.

After she retired she would always ask what was going on in Marion, but I would tell her she would have to listen to the news to find out. That got a chuckle from her.

These past 58 years have been special. Madge's friendship and loyalty have meant a great deal to me. We had the honor of helping her celebrate her 99th birthday and are sorry that it wasn't to be that her 100th would be celebrated with all her friends. God Bless your soul, Madge, We miss you!

*By Terry Cole
WMRN radio*

I first met Madge in 1988 when I started to work at WMRN. After a couple of weeks, I had to fill in as the board operator for her Saturday show. She was exacting on how she wanted the show to run. She was old time radio in her actions, directions, signals and

everything radio. She was pure professional. It was a pleasure to work with her until her show went off the air.

Madge had a remarkable memory. I don't think she ever forgot anything or anyone she ever met. I was also amazed at her energy in taking on many projects at one time. You could count on her to support especially those at the Marion campus of OSU.

Madge always said she gave Dave Kaylor his start in broadcasting because she first interviewed him at the Wyandot County Fair when he participated in projects. Kaylor was a well-known news anchor at WBNS TV for many years.

By David F. Koehler (Kaylor)
Retired Anchor/Reporter WBNS-10TV

It was a warm early September day back in 1957. I was a freshman at Upper Sandusky High School strolling the grounds of the Wyandot County fair. Off in a corner of the fairgrounds along state route 53 there was a "big brown" tent. Inside there was a stage and there was a young woman talking in a microphone broadcasting the functions of the fair for WMRN radio in Marion. Sitting with her was the engineer for the station, Joe Peters. This woman was intriguing to me talking about activities, playing games with the audience, and giving away huge bags of groceries donated by one of the sponsors. This was really exciting to me.

Several days later I returned to that "big brown" tent and was truly entertained watching the broadcasts. I was probably the youngest person there. In fact I returned just about every day of the five--day fair. I was taking a break from working at my father's fair booth for Koehler Drug Co.

After that experience I became interested in the local high school Radio Club. But being the younger member of the group I didn't get much experience in broadcasting until my senior year at Upper Sandusky High School when I got very involved in the Radio Club. I would take the taped programs down to WMRN and this attractive young woman would put the shows on the air. Oh yes, the attractive woman was Madge. She was the single influence that propelled my interest in broadcasting. She had it all--a great interviewer, knowledgeable, and a fantastic ability to share her experiences and keep the audience interested. Moreover, she loved her community and truly believed in the local broadcast philosophy of keeping the people informed. If they couldn't go to a major event, she went and found a local connection whether it was a local county fair or a major event in New York City or else where. That was her fundamental definition as to what local broadcasting is all about.

For me I went first to a small college in Lincoln, Illinois for two years where I had my first experience in TV Broadcasting. Then I transferred to and graduated from The Ohio State University where I majored in History and Political Science. I had a stint in law school and taught high school for several years. But local broadcasting kept creeping up in the back of mind.

To make a long story short I started in a small station in Circleville, Ohio doing local Play-by-Play sports, broadcasting from local events like fairs and the Circleville Pumpkin Show. I can't tell you how many times during those early years that the site of that "big brown" tent at the Wyandot County fair popped up in the memory clouds which kept floating round in my brain. And with those memories there was Madge.

By now the nation at war in Vietnam and my interest in history and political science increased. I moved into the nitch of news reporting working at local radio and TV in Lima., Ohio. Like WMRN, WIMA also did a tremendous amount of local community broadcasting. There I had a chance to work both radio and television. From there it was to Toledo and then Nashville and finally back home to Ohio and WBNS-10TV in Columbus for the last 25 years of my 40 years in broadcasting.

I didn't hear from Madge throughout all those years. But, once I got back to Columbus in the early 80's I opened my mail one day and there was a nice note from Madge. I couldn't believe it. WOW! She remembered me even after a spelling change in my last name.

I have many memories of my days at Channel 10 but the one that stands out as much as anything was our series we started in 1987 entitled *Heart of Ohio*. It was to last just four weeks but continues today on the air in a variety of formats. Back then we used the new technology of satellite and traveled from city to city broadcasting "live" around the state bringing the audience a picture of Ohio's great history. Right then and there I was back at that "big brown" tent at the local county fair. Right then and there I was back inside the tent listening to that woman expanding on the activities of the fair and Wyandot County.

It was during a *Heart of Ohio* broadcast from the Harding home in Marion that I learned Madge was in the hospital. It wasn't a serious health issue but I went in to talk with her. Believe it or not it was the first time I had seen her since I left high school. We had a great time and re-lived those days in local broadcasting and that "big brown" tent. I ran into her several times after that including the event where she was inducted into the Ohio Radio and Television Hall of Fame a few years back.

When I learned of her passing I just couldn't help think about how much she loved and contributed to the true definition of local broadcasting. Radio has taken a turn and moved away from that these days although there are still a few stations like WMRN which continues to serve the public locally. The ownership should be proud of that. But, none of it would have been possible without Madge and her love for her community and her aggressive nature to keep the "locals" informed.



Women's Who's Who Lists Marionite

Madge Cooper Receives Single Rating Given County Resident

The name of Madge Cooper, program director of WMGN, is heard by numerous Marionites everyday, but few people know that she is the only local woman to be named in the recently published volume of "Who's Who of American Women."

Perhaps Marion County credit for this distinction since Miss Cooper was reared in Lufkin. She was born in Fairbury, Ill., and her family moved here soon after her birth.

After attending Lufkin High School, she furthered her studies at Ohio State University where she majored in biology and English. Following graduation, she taught school in Lufkin for seven years, and during this time she was doing graduate work in English and speech at Ohio State.

SHE EXPLAINED that she had no interest in writing. She wrote several articles which she sold to the "Farm Journal" and various farm bureau news and trade magazines. In addition she penned several dramatic plays.

When WMGN opened during World War II, Miss Cooper decided to get her latest job at the station. She started out selling copy and material for the Stern hour.

"The last thing that occurred to me was that I would be on the air," she said. But a short time later she was in charge of a five-minute women's show which has expanded to a 15-minute morning program — "Once The Coffee Cakes," which is still broadcast.

In the latter years of the war Miss Cooper was appointed acting program director during the absence of the program director, after which she went back to her previous position as director of women's activities.

She was then promoted to program director, a position she has held for four years.

It was through her activities in the association, American Women in Radio and Television, that she was recognized in "Who's Who of American Women," she believes.

DURING THE time the book was being compiled, Miss Cooper was a candidate for president of the National organization of AWRV. She has been national secretary and treasurer, membership chairman and a member of the policy committee. For four years she has been the state chairman for AWRV.

Work is combined with play since a part of her journey, to and Mrs. Daniel Inscoe. He is now the Congressional representative from the 9th state.

In her spare time at her apartment at 424 1/2 E. Center St., Miss Cooper enjoys reading and doing needlework. Her roommate, a "True feathered friend," is Buttey, a parakeet.

Several persons from Marion County have been listed in "Who's Who in America."

They include Dr. Carl W. Sawyer, the late M. T. Smith, Dr. T. H. Sutherland, and Howard F. Gushers of Marion; Ralph Cohen and W. E. Shoght of Calmar; G. B. Robinson of Mount Gilman; and A. C. Cougher, Harding Ezell, C. E. Flicker, Arthur S. Flemming, W. F. Hower, D. J. Harnsberry, H. C. Hubbard, Richard Keller, J. H. Lancaster, W. A. Mansel, Leta Hamey, E. A. Rowland, T. T. Spencer and J. H. Verburg of Delaware.

Work is combined with play since a part of her journey, to

MADGE COOPER
Women Broadcaster Gets National Rating

July 1950

What is somewhat ironic about this is that local television stations are losing audience share these days due to the vast communication avenues available like the Internet etc. The answer to getting those eyeballs back to the local television stations is in creating lots of local programming. It's cheaper than syndication and like the philosophy of Madge it is serving the common good of the local community.

Madge was as unflappable as anyone I had ever met in broadcasting. It was early June 1968. I had finished my junior year at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio and was back at WMRN radio for a third summer working as vacation relief announcer. At the time, I was pulling the afternoon shift, subbing for Tony Carlisle. News of the assassination of presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy was on every front page, and led every radio and television newscast. It was a terrible time. Kennedy's murder followed by just two months the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Junior. America was beset by a sense of shock, anger, sadness, and doubt. So was I. I decided that I must make a statement, something to show I was hurting and damn mad. So, I called Madge.

She took my call early on the morning of Monday, June 10th. It was just two days after the nation had buried RFK. I asked Madge if I could join her on her popular morning program, *Over the Coffee Cup*. I explain that there was something important I wanted to share with her and her listeners. I had co-hosted the show many times, so Madge was comfortable that I knew the format. Without hesitating, Madge said, "Yes." At ten o'clock I arrived at the station carrying a paper sack. Madge was already in the studio prepping for the 10:05 start of the show. We made eye contact. She came out to the reception area and hugged me. I had the strong impression she knew I wanted to talk about Senator Kennedy.

When the show started, Madge did the first five minutes by herself. She then introduced the first break by telling her many listeners that her friend and colleague "Johnny" Quaintance would be joining her when she returned. Madge always called me "Johnny." I hated it, but never told her.

During the commercial break there was tension in the studio as I fumbled with the paper bag and Madge wondered what she was about to get herself into. We hadn't seen each other since the previous Christmas holiday when I had last worked at the station. We made small talk until the break was over. Once back on the air Madge introduced me. Charlie Evers, who was running the board, opened my mic and flashed his usual smile as he threw us the "cue". We were three friends who all knew something unusual was about to happen. I began by expressing my sadness and anger over the murder of Robert Kennedy. My comments became more passionate as I spoke of the assassination of Reverend King.

Then, I launched into a condemnation of the easy access to guns. In 1968, Americans could buy guns nearly anywhere; no questions asked. I had recently bought a small pistol for self-defense. It was cheaply made and unreliable. It was what some referred to as a Saturday night special.

Madge looked uncomfortable as I spoke, but maintained her professional composure even when I retrieved that small .25 caliber pistol and box of cartridges from the paper sack I had brought with me. I explained how easy it was to purchase such a weapon, and how easy it had been to bring the weapon into the studio. Madge didn't say much. She let me speak and then invited calls. None came. I told the listeners that I was going to leave the radio station and drive directly to city hall where I would surrender the gun to the police chief. Moments later, we went to the final break and I thanked Madge for her

courtesy. She took it in stride, and despite being put in a very awkward position on her own show, remained poised and professional. That's the way Madge was.

When the show ended I drove to city hall. I asked to see the police chief, John Long. I was told he wasn't available. I then went to see the Mayor who was my father, Don Quaintance. He was waiting for me, and was not happy to see me. Not at all. Turns out that the folks at City Hall, including Chief Long and Mayor Quaintance were regular listeners to Madge's show. They knew I was grandstanding and they did not intend to be used as pawns. Neither the Mayor nor the Police Chief would accept the surrender of my gun. So, I took it home, put it in a safe place, and the matter was never spoken of again.

A final note. During the ensuing years, I became a life member of the National Rifle Association and made a good part of my living through outdoor oriented broadcasting and writing. I became and remain an avid hunter, competitive shooter, and firearms instructor.

As this is written, I am the national radio "voice" for the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the organization that represents the firearms manufacturing industry.



Madge with Tom Rieland

*By Tom Rieland,
General Manager, WOSU Public Media, Columbus, Ohio*

Madge was the epitome of understanding that learning never stops. Her life started on a rural Ohio farm in 1910 and she lived every moment of it as fully as anyone I've known.

Madge helped WOSU, put WOSB-91.1 FM, a repeater station of WOSU, on the air in Marion and more recently supported our efforts to build WOSU@COSI studios. She loved Ohio State, her alma mater, and supported the Ohio State University, Marion Campus generously.

I was privileged to interview Madge for the NPR Story Corps project about four years ago at the mobile studio on the Statehouse lawn. She talked about working with a student writer named Rod Serling and covering all the news in Marion. I asked her what her first impression was of Ohio State since she came to campus fresh from the farm in the late 1920s. She said her first big thrill was having her first Coca Cola. She had never tasted a Coke until that first day on campus!

Consider also the amazing curiosity of a woman who took classes at England's Oxford University and traveled to China to ride on the Orient Express and walk on the Great Wall. And she did this in her 90s! Madge valued education above all else and exemplified lifelong learning. She was a model for all of us. I know everyone in Marion will miss her deeply as will the entire WOSU family.

By Terry Cole, WMRN Radio

One memory I have is sitting with Madge, Oliver Hamilton, and Wayne Kuhn at the topping off ceremony for the Maynard Hall, the newest building on the local campus of Ohio State University.

I knew at the time that there was well over 350 years of Marion history sitting at that table and I just tried to take it all in. The best part of the conversation is that there were no airs put on. There were no egos. They were just regular people talking at a local event.

I guess that sums up Madge. She was a lady that accomplished a lot in her lifetime but I never heard her brag or boast about any of it. She just did it.



Madge

*By Bob Bender
News Director, WDIF Radio, Marion (1975-1986)*

Although Madge and I were technically competitors working at different Marion radio stations, I never thought of her that way. Madge was in a class by herself with her well-established reputation for interviews, features, and story. As a person, she was always well groomed, polite, and endlessly curious. Those were the qualities that made her unique.

Madge and I would cross paths only occasionally, and each time was a new learning experience for me. She had done so much, visited so many places, and knew so many

people, and was always willing to share. Her generosity made her unique in an often cutthroat competitive business.

Because I also knew her husband Howard Guthery from the Marion Rotary Club, seeing Madge also took on a more personal nature. I knew her as more than simply a lady on the radio.

Unique is an often-overused and misused word. It does not take any modifier. Something cannot be very unique or somewhat unique. It either is one-of-a-kind or it's not. When it came to broadcasters and ladies, Madge truly was unique.

Radio Personality Madge Cooper Retires

The retirement of Madge Cooper Guthery, a "radio voice" heard by Central Ohioans for 35 years, will be marked at the end of the work-day today at Station WMRN, according to announcement by the station's general manager, Arthur L. Martin.

Professionally, the well-known LaRue and Marion resident is "Madge Cooper" to more than a generation of listeners.

At the local radio facility, her recent under-study, Pamela Jordan of Fairview Park, Ohio, now takes over duties in the areas of air talent, continuity writing and sales service.

A 1975 graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, Miss Jordan has a bachelor of arts degree in speech with emphasis on broadcasting.

Mrs. Guthery, whose husband is long-time Marion



MADGE COOPER GUTHERY
Leaves Air Today



January 11, 1976

Madge "Cooper" Guthery

Out of "Orbit"

Last Friday, January 9th was a day of mixed emotions for many people in the Marion area and especially for the staff at WMRN. On this day at approximately 12:00 in the afternoon it was announced that a woman, a friend, a tradition was retiring from her thirty five year broadcasting career in Marion.

Thirty five years ago to the day Madge "Cooper" Guthery was hired by WMRN to write the Farm Hour. The station at the

able ingredients of humor, talent, and friendly neighborhood charm. For a program she even played the piano in the sheik b and white studio th seated over sixty people.

Through the years Madge has been involved with many phases of broadcasting at WMRN and members the rugged exciting times at the station through such events the Normandy Invasion Pearl Harbor, and other historic events. She was

Pamela Jordan and Madge "Cooper" Guthery discuss future "Orbit" plans.



Madge and Ula Watts with Friends



5.

Destination Anywhere

Madge was probably the most well-traveled person that I ever met. She loved to go to New York for fashion week, and go on trips all over the world while in retirement. The only trip that she didn't make was to visit Greece because when the opportunity came she was ninety-six years old and she made the call that she shouldn't be traveling. Madge and a passport went together just like Peanut Butter and Jelly.

Following you will find some of her traveling companions sharing their memories of traveling with her.

*By Albert N. May, M.D., F.A.A.P. Chief, Pediatrics, Smith Clinic (Ret.)
Clinical Associate Professor, Pediatrics OSU College of Medicine (Ret.)*

In 2003, Madge accepted my invitation to China where I had been invited to lecture on pediatric allergy at Shanghai's Children's Hospital (one of only two at that time in all of China, the other in Beijing).

We walked a portion of Beijing's Great Wall and watched entranced at seeing how silk was harvested from silkworm cocoons and processed to make exquisite material and art objects. She enjoyed the "haggling" over the prices of items in different shops. I bought a pair of silver-tipped chopsticks for her as a souvenir and she gave me two framed art pictures of the Great Wall.

We enjoyed the exotic and natural beauty of the Li River in Guilin. We had our picture taken at the oldest restaurant in Peking being served Peking Duck. We were amazed to see the prepared duck dismembered at the table by a hatchet-wielding server! Neither of us ate any duck!



Madge With Susan Hobbins

By Susan Hobbins, Cousin

I remember so well as a child hearing the phone ring in the middle of the night one July 30th. It was Madge and Howard calling from Rome to wish Mom a happy birthday and announce their wedding. What a thrill that was in a time when few people made overseas calls.

By Kristi Wink, Former Miss Ohio

One of my fondest memories of Madge was when I was in the cast of The Will Rogers Follies on Broadway. Madge and her good friend for many years, Ula Watts, came to see the show. They loved The Will Rogers Follies and I felt honored they had made the trip. I was simply amazed that two women in their 80s drove to New York City and through downtown Manhattan at that age. They stayed at the Pierre Hotel. Ula was impressed that there were roses in the bathroom. Madge seemed unfazed as she had been going there for years. We laughed all through dinner, along with Ula's son, Bob. Mom was there, also, and we all had a wonderful evening--a memory I will cherish forever.





Madge, Nancy Beja, Marge Keggan

By Nancy Beja, Friend

Madge Guthery was a special person. I knew that the moment I met her at the Columbus Airport in 1984. (I refuse to call it Port Columbus International Airport as no international flights come in or out of Columbus.) I was hosting a tour for The Ohio State University Alumni Association called "The Elegant Passage" and Madge was enthusiastically telling her travel companion, teen-age niece Carla, all the exciting things we were going to see – and she was right. She didn't have to stretch far to make this a trip of a lifetime for Carla.

We started out in Paris at the George V Hotel for a couple of nights and then boarded the overnight Orient Express. Madge and everyone else in our small group took great delight in dressing up in 1920's clothing for our midnight dinner on the train. The next day we rode through the Swiss Alps before ending up in Venice where we stayed for two nights and then boarded a Greek ship, the Stella Maris, and sailed around Italy stopping at various ports. We debarked in Nice where we stayed at the Negresco Hotel overlooking the Mediterranean.

I particularly remember a day I spent in Portofino with Madge and Carla as we hit many shops with Carla looking for a gift to bring home for her mother. At the end of the day, my energy was spent, but I felt that Madge could have gone on for several more hours.

I was delighted to see Madge's name on my passenger list for the "Orinoco River Cruise" in South America in 1985. Although our accommodations were better, the scenery kept reminding me of *The African Queen*. Madge and I enjoyed watching her friend, Vivian Schoon, doing yoga on the deck each morning. When not sightseeing or, in my case, having "official" duties, the two of us would relax on deck chairs with a good book. It seemed like a better idea than doing yoga.

In 1986, Madge and I traveled together again to France on a Rhone River Cruise. After a couple of days in Nice we boarded a small ship in Avignon for a trip up the Rhone River to Lyon. It turned out that ours was the first passenger ship up that river since several new locks had made the river navigable. Madge and I enjoyed hanging on the rail watching the "docking process" at each small town, which usually took quite a while. Many of the towns' inhabitants were also interested in "the show."

One of the highlights of this trip was our arrival in Lyon when our group was taken to famous chef Paul Bocuse's restaurant where we had a wonderful multi-course feast in elegant surroundings.

When we returned to the States, I remember Madge staying in New York for several days and not returning with our group to Columbus. She just casually mentioned that she was visiting a friend there. It wasn't until later that she called me and told me that Sanford Marshall was the old friend and that she had visited in N.Y.C. on our trip back from the Rhone and that they had married.

Unfortunately, the next time I heard from Madge was her sad phone call telling me that Sanford had passed away shortly after their marriage.



Madge reading the Declaration of Independence at the John Green Cemetery, a tradition started by the late Judge Charlton Myers.

By Trella Romine, Friend

Like thousands of other Marionites I tuned in to WMRN daily for the news, weather, and especially for Madge's programs. I especially enjoyed "Madge and Marge" with Marjorie Williams. At the time I didn't imagine that they both would become good friends through our mutual interests—Altrusa, Town & Country Garden club, and the Marion County Historical Society. They enriched my life with their friendships.

Madge also made her way into my life through our mutual friendship with Mame Harmon. All three of us were widows and, garden club members. We met often at events held at the Women's Club Home, another of Madge's charities.

Mame had a home on the Gulf Coast near Walton, Florida where she spent her winters. It was built on the top of a dune in a gated community, "Three Mile Village." For several years Madge had been driving Mame down there for the winter, and one year she asked me to ride along for a stay of a couple of weeks. We all enjoyed the warm Gulf waters, the white beaches strewn with beautiful shells, and the shore birds chasing the wavelets. In my mind's eye I can still see Madge sitting barefooted on a low stool at the water's edge trailing her fingers in the small waves—relaxed and happy. We made this trip each winter for several years. We never ran out of good conversation.

Sadly those visits ended after Mame's home was ruined in one of the Gulf Coast hurricanes.

Chapter 6

When in Need Call Madge!

There are many things in life Madge did well. At the top of that list there was supporting projects that she loved. She gave to the Ohio State University, Marion County Historical Society, the Women's Club Home, and countless causes that I am sure none of us know about. When you walk through this town, you might see the Guthery General Store at the Historical Society and the Guthery Community Room at the Ohio State University of Marion. Both named in honor of Madge's generous philanthropy.

I will tell my story of Madge's philanthropy without divulging the amount because I know Madge would not want that. I was doing the 5th annual Night of 1000 stars charity show that benefited the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Madge came to the program, called me to her seat, and handed me a check. I thought she was paying for her ticket, which was \$5.00. Without divulging the final amount, I can tell you that the check was more than \$5.00. In fact, it was the single biggest donation given by any one person in the history of Night of 1000 Stars. At every benefit after that she handed me a check for the same amount.



I have another story. One time when Madge came to Night of 1000 Stars she really was not feeling well. She was just out of the hospital two weeks prior to that night. However, she was determined to come and she made a great presentation as always and then left. Two weeks later I was with her again in the board room at the Ohio State University of Marion in which we were discussing plans for the 50th anniversary of OSUM. Madge went into her purse, pulled out a check, and gave it to me. She said that she was sorry didn't give it me at the show because she wasn't feeling well.

Others share their memories of Madge's generosity.

*By Albert N. May, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Chief, Pediatrics, Smith Clinic (Ret.)*

Clinical Associate Professor, Pediatrics OSU College of Medicine (Ret.)

Madge and I developed the WOSBach Advisory Council SUMs along with Ohio State University Marion's Dean Dom Dottavio and others from the Marion campus as well as interested community-minded citizens from neighboring counties. The Council's key function was to support the local radio station as well as arts endeavors within our area by fund-raising activities.

How the Council came to adopt the name of WOSBach Advisory Council still brings a smile to those involved. Madge supported all these efforts faithfully, and during the 40th anniversary year of OSUM, Madge together with WOSU station manager, Dale Outzs inaugurated the first broadcast of WOSBach. We ultimately raised \$46,000 through wine-tasting activities.



Madge endorsed our use of some of the funds in underwriting the operatic production of "Carmen" at Marion's Palace Theatre as well as supporting international choral groups and guest organists which provided eclectic musical experiences for our community, including the Ohio premieres of two of Johann Sebastian Bach's works that had been recently discovered by German musical archivists in Weimar and Berlin.

Memory, inspiration lead Guthery to establish scholarship at OSUM

Marion's Madge Cooper Guthery fondly remembers her mother's keen interest in seeing students succeed. This, along with inspiration from two local residents, has led her to establish an academic scholarship for minority students attending The Ohio State University at Marion.

The announcement of the "Lashley/Lowe Scholarship Fund" was made today at the meeting of Ohio State's Minority Advisory Committee, at which Guthery was honored for her contribution.

An OSU graduate, Guthery named the scholarship in honor of the Rev. William Lashley and Myrtle Lowe, two Marionites who she said dedicated their lives to the community, the church and the preservation of black heritage.

Her gift will establish an endowed permanent fund at OSUM. The income it earns annually will be used to award scholarships to one or more deserving minority students who enroll at OSUM. Minority students include those with black, Hispanic, Asian or Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaskan native background.

Guthery has pledged to fund the scholarship over a five-year period.

"I hope the scholarship will mean that kids who may not have the money to go to college can, indeed, earn a degree from Ohio State," said the Marionite known throughout the community for her local radio history program, *The Way We Were*.

She decided to name the scholarship in honor of the two Marionites — rather than herself — because, she said, "I think young black people would respect more in the Lashley/Lowe names than my own."

Born in 1902 in the West Indian island of Barbados, the Rev. Lashley was widely known for his daily prayer each morning over the local radio station. "Although he didn't know how to read or write, they say he knew almost the entire Bible by heart," Guthery recalled. "He could quote any verse or chapter without any hesitation at all."

His knowledge of the Bible apparently was accumulated when others read aloud to him and retained, she said.

Lashley came to Marion from Panama in 1937. He served in the



"My mother was a first-grade teacher at the turn of the century. She was concerned about some of her first-graders ... She hoped so much that they would finish their education. So I guess this is a tribute as much to my mother as it is to Myrtle and Rev. Lashley."

Madge Cooper Guthery

armed infantry in World War I. He was a member of Marion County Ministerial Association and served as an assistant pastor of Queen Chapel A.M.E. Church on Park Street. He was Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 11 in Marion for 10 years and received the Christian Citizen of the Year award from the former Marion Christian Youth Movement. He also spoke at civil and religious meetings.

The Rev. Lashley, who died in 1974, received United Way's "Outstanding Citizen Award" posthumously in 1975.

Georgia native Myrtle Lowe attended Spelman Seminary in Atlanta. She and her husband, John, came to Marion in 1938.

She was president of the Marion Northeast Neighborhood Center for six years. The northeast section of Marion was greatly improved, Guthery said, because Lowe not only started a movement to keep the area clean but sheeded money for neighbors, often sending flowers, food or money to those in need.

Lowe, who received the "Outstanding Service to the Community" Award from Marion's Black Heritage Council in 1980, died in 1984.

Guthery's desire to establish a scholarship also dates back to when she was a child. "My mother was a first-grade teacher at the turn of the century. She was concerned about some of her first-graders ... She

hoped so much that they would finish their education."

"So I guess this scholarship tribute is as much to my mother as it is to Myrtle and Rev. Lashley."

Ohio State has long been a Guthery's. A 1951 graduate with a degree in English and history, a former teacher herself, she has participated in OSU's "Program 88," which allows older students to earn credit for college-level work on campus.

"Ohio State University is by proud of Madge Guthery only," said Francis E. Hazzard, director of OSUM. "It is a pleasure to be helping with another Ohio State Marion alumna's scholarship."

I'm so thankful Madge was part of my childhood memories and our community. Her generous gift to OSU Marion of the Guthery Community Room is used nearly everyday by staff, faculty, students, and the community. We GREATLY appreciate that facility and Madge!

By Joe Ionno, WMRN Radio

Madge was a very caring and generous person. Many years ago she established the Reverend Lashley Minority Student Scholarship at The Ohio State University Marion. She also contributed monies used in the new Student Services Building for the beautiful Guthery Community Room.

She was also an avid supporter of the arts, including her continued support to the Palace Theatre. Her thoughtfulness and generosity will be felt throughout Marion for Years to come.

Anthony Award Goes To Guthery

The Susan B. Anthony Award of 1979 will be presented to Mrs. Howard Guthery, who spoke to the Marion area over WMRN Radio for 35 years.

The award is presented by Marion National Organization for Women to the person in the community who by effort or example has showed dedication to women's concerns.

Mrs. Guthery wrote copy and material for the farm hour when she joined WMRN in 1941, soon after the station went on the air. She retired 35 years later as director of women's activities. She was heard regularly on "Orbit" and "Around the Town."

Known for her community concern, Mrs. Guthery is active



Consumer News

136 S. State St. January 22, 1976 Phone 352-2849

Initial Palace Show Dedicated to Madge Guthery

The first live stage production presented by the Palace Theatre Area Association (PTAA) will be dedicated to Madge Guthery. The production is a play by the late Madge Guthery, "The Palace Theatre Area Association." The play is a tribute to Madge Guthery, who was a member of the PTAA and who was a dedicated supporter of the theatre.

The PTAA is a non-profit organization that was formed in 1964. It is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the Palace Theatre. The PTAA has been successful in raising funds for the theatre and in securing the building for future generations. The PTAA is proud to have Madge Guthery as a member and to have her play dedicated to her.

Chapter 7

Reminiscences of Friends

*By Judy Kilbury,
Daughter of Oliver and Madelon Hamilton*

Marion's 'First Lady' of Broadcasting, Madge Cooper Guthery, has been a friend of Oliver and Madelon Hamilton's family my entire life. Madge interviewed me at the age of eight during the Marion County Fair and I remember it like it was yesterday.

Madge was included in many of our family Thanksgiving and Easter celebrations. She had a wonderful ability of relating to any age or sex and her gift of storytelling had all of us scrambling for the seat next to her. The grandchildren loved hearing about her travels to New York City and the 'who's who' of fashion. She always had a captive audience in the Hamilton house. She was also a great cook and taught my mother to make springerle cookies at Christmas time.

Madge and Oliver were the history buffs of Marion, swapping stories about the Red Apple Grill Bar and the day the elephant escaped. What one couldn't remember the other would fill in. They remained dear friends until Oliver's death on April 20, 2008.

Although she is gone, she will never be forgotten in the Hamilton, Kilbury, and Ford households. Madge holds a special place in our lives ad hearts and will forever.



Madge, Howard Guthery, and Ray Marsh

*By Louis B. Conkle
Marion Attorney*

On October 1, 1943 I began the practice of law as an associate in the office of Attorney Howard Guthery. He was the attorney of Bob Mason who had established Marion's first radio station, WMRN.

During the Christmas season of 1943 the radio station had a party and Howard and I were invited. It was held at the station on North Main Street and it was a fun affair with good food and drink, and singing of carols. Among the singers was Madge Cooper and

Howard and we became acquainted as we sang. I believe this was the first time she met her future husband. There were similar parties at the station and at Mr. Mason's home in later years Madge was always there so I got to know her better.

Madge was one of the station's first employees. She had been a schoolteacher but radio became her love quickly and permanently. Over many years she was the MC of various programs the most popular of which was *Over the Coffee Cups*, It was a talk show without politics or motives and was especially enjoyed but the ladies who loved to be with her.

For many years she would go to New York City to attend shows of the latest ladies garments and then she would have several radio shows to enlighten her listeners on what was being popular in the city.

The Charity Ball used to be a big event held annually during the Christmas season. Madge would attend, interview some of the people over the air, and then described some of the most striking of the dresses the ladies were wearing.

One of the reasons Madge was so popular was the fact that she never said or did anything on or off the air to hurt anyone's feelings.

By Phyllis Hendrix, Altrusan

Madge Cooper Guthery became a member of Altrusa in 1943 and served as President 1969-1970. She truly loved the annual style show fundraisers and her commentaries added to their success. They were special occasions where the ladies dressed in their Sunday best, wore hats and gloves and enjoyed the latest in fashions. Dresses were hung on racks and wheeled from Uhler's department store down the middle of the street to the Hotel Harding for this special occasion.

During her term as President of Marion Altrusa, the club won the prestigious Helen Reid Memorial Award at the District Five Conference for the best presentation and implementation of the International Program Theme, "Take a Fresh Approach to Service." She was instrumental in bringing Paul Harvey to Marion as an Altrusa Club fundraiser in 1959. Her favorite Altrusa charities were the Marion Society for Crippled Children and Adults and the Marion Therapy Center. Madge was the first recipient of the FRANY AWARD from Mayor John V. Lindsey of New York City in 1966-67. It was awarded for outstanding coverage of New York City as the fashion center of the world. She made an annual pilgrimage to New York City to keep up-to-date on the latest



fashions. Altrusa and Madge were a perfect fit since our International focus is Literacy and Madge was always promoting literacy within the community and her friends.

By Trella Romine, Local Historian

Perhaps Madge's most long lasting contribution was her part in the establishing of the Marion County Historical Society even though it was without intention of doing so. Here is the story.

For many years in September Judge Charlton Myers entertained the lawyers of Marion and their wives to luscious feasts of food in his barn at the edge of the village of Morral. The barn had been converted to a party house complete with the back bar from the closed Alspach Pharmacy. It was filled with antiques purchased over many years at auctions. He told us that over 200 chairs were hanging in the rafters. A player piano furnished music.

Howard and Madge Guthery were among those Judge Myers entertained with stories from Marion County histories long out of print. They fascinated Madge. When the text of the 52 programs was published in 1995 he asked Madge to write the Foreword to *Tales from The Sage of Salt Rock*, the name she suggested for the book. She tells the story thus:

I'm not sure just when I was captured by Charlton Myers' storytelling talents. Probably at a party when he gave his account of Ebenezer Roseberry's wake. It was obvious that here was a master storyteller, a spellbinder of the first order, a crowd pleaser. At the time I was program director of WMRN Radio in Marion, and it seemed to me that if this genius had other entrancing stories to tell our audiences should hear them.

It didn't happen right away. Charlton, who was a busy practicing lawyer, knew that it would take research, writing and editing. His sources were the early histories of Marion County, and reminiscences of his many friends. We worked together and I wrote the opening and closing material. We recruited musicians, a fifer and a drummer who recorded "The Spirit of '76." His program first went on the air on Sunday, February 14, 1960 at 12: 45 P.M. Most of Marion County was soon tuning in to this delightful storytelling. His "meetings" of The Salt Rock Township Historical and Marching Society was named for the township where Morral is located and where Charlton lived.

It is one of the cherished pleasures of my life to have had a part in airing the meetings of "The Salt Rock Township Historical and Marching Society," even though I was never granted membership. That privilege Charlton reserved to himself alone. But now he has shared his tales in this book and it captures his wisdom and whimsy for future generations.

As a result of these radio programs Judge Myers was asked to teach Adult Education Classes on Marion County history during the winter of 1968. My son, David Haldeman, and I signed up for the classes and enjoyed the stories once again. Since there had never been a local historical society in Marion County David tried to encourage Judge Myers to establish one. The Judge furnished a list of these students and David sent notices to them to them for the preliminary planning meetings.

On February 19, 1969 the public organizational meeting of the Marion County Historical Society was held at the Women's Club Home. Judge Myers was elected the first president and served for serving for three years. Madge was among the first trustees elected to the Board of the new organization.

Following her early involvement with the Marion County Historical Society Madge supported its work throughout her lifetime. Her last contribution was the establishment of the Guthery Country store in the lower level of Heritage Hall and the renovation of the Auditorium with new ceiling, lighting, and décor. Her remarks at the dedication of these projects were her last public appearance at Heritage Hall. But her memory will remain fresh for those of us who were privileged to know and love Madge Cooper Guthery.



Madge, Brutus Buckeye, and Alice Galloway

By Alice Galloway, Friend

My first introduction to Madge was, as it must have been for many, via the airwaves. I arrived in Marion in 1954 with my husband and three-year-old son. I was a stay-at-home mother, and radio was one way to acquaint myself with the town. Madge, along with her colleague Marge Williams, let listeners know each morning what was happening in Marion--community events, fashion news, tempting recipes, and anecdotes about local personalities – all were a part of their eclectic programming. Madge seemed to know everyone in town, and thanks to her annual trips to New York fashion shows and extensive travel; she met persons from around the world.

Then I was privileged to meet Madge at meetings of local organizations that we were both members—especially those involved with OSU Marion.

In 1972, Madge came to my rescue in an unexpected way. When Marion approached its sesquicentennial, a panoramic show entitled “Saga 150” was planned to take place at the Harding High School football stadium. There would be military portrayals, folk dances, and familiar scenes from Marion’s history. Hundreds of people took part. I had a part that only took a moment to portray- I was Florence Harding, and I stood next to

Warren G. (played by Jay Howser) on what represented the famous porch. We waved to the public in our brief appearance.

For this I needed an authentic costume. Who was able to provide this? Of course, Madge solved my problem. She ushered me into her beautiful home and showed me a closet where she had kept clothes that belonged to Mrs. Harding! I do not know how she came to possess them, but she loaned me a bottle-green-satin, hip-hugger dress and a feather-trimmed black hat that was absolutely 1920's. Thanks to Madge, I was briefly First Lady Florence.



Bob Dowd, Madge Guthery, Dr. Purwal



Alice Galloway as Florence Harding

I have had opportunities to hear Madge speak through the years. She told of her home schooling by her mother, and the years at the Columbus campus of OSU. Her wit and sense of humor colored all the stories. When adversity came to her in the form of broken bones or illness, she never gave up. I recall a time when she fulfilled her obligation as a featured speaker at OSU Marion just after she had been released from a hospital stay.

By Mary Ellen Withrow

Former treasurer of Marion County, Ohio and United States

She was such a part of WMRN. When you listened to her you felt like you knew her. Madge Cooper brought high fashion to Marion and made us feel that we were a part of it.

By David Tolley, Pianist

I remember Madge so well from her birthday party last year. She had the biggest smile on her face during the whole time I was playing a small concert for her. She was my mom's dear friend. I wish I would have known her most of my life--such a sweet, sweet spirit.



Al May, Dominic Dotavio, Madge Guthery and WOSU friends

*By Dominic & Lisette Dottavio,
Former Dean of Ohio State University at Marion*

During our time in Marion, we often spoke of the jewels of the community. They included places where you received unexpectedly personal service, an unusual turn on a standard product, or a special blessing just from being there. In the end, the places were jewels because of the people behind them.

But for us, Madge will always be remembered as a first-class lady who had an intense interest in learning and a deep love for her friends and family. She celebrated their achievements and empathized with their struggles.

It was our privilege to join Madge once a year at the Catawba Island Club for the fall clambake. The event always began in the late afternoon sitting in the lounge overlooking Lake Erie. Madge wanted ample time to visit and hear about every aspect of our lives - what was happening at Ohio State, and later when we were at Heidelberg University. Where was higher education heading in the 21st century? What were our children doing? What did we think about the latest political happening or environmental issue? Where had we traveled lately? We were eager to catch up on her activities as well because she always had interesting anecdotes and profound words of wisdom to share.

The lively conversation lasted through dinner and late into the night. She wanted to know everything – for Madge there was always something to be learned. Life was meant to share and it gave us great pleasure to be included as part of her extended family.

To be truthful, we were the ones who benefited the most from those dinners at CIC. They were special opportunities to relax, reflect, learn and appreciate the blessings we often miss in our hectic everyday lives. Madge cherished each moment of her life. Every occasion held the prospect of learning something new. Every person she met was worthy of her undivided attention. She taught us a great deal about life, learning and community. She truly was a Marion jewel. We treasure memories of her.

*By Albert N. May, M.D., F.A.A.P. Chief, Pediatrics, Smith Clinic (Ret.)
Clinical Associate Professor, Pediatrics OSU College of Medicine (Ret.)*

I came to Marion in 1965 to begin my pediatric practice and heard Madge over the radio on occasion but did not meet her for many years. Our first meeting followed the establishment of Marion's own WOSB-FM, a feeder station of The Ohio State University's radio station, WOSU-FM, dedicated to the broadcasting of classical music. At the time, Madge accepted my invitation to be on the regional advisory council formed to support our local effort. That meeting began a long friendship which lasted until Madge's death, and what a friendship it was!

As a native central Ohioan, spending most of her life in the Marion area, Madge Guthery was the icon of women broadcasters, admired and respected by national broadcasting leaders and colleagues who awarded her many honors throughout her career. But most of all she was loved by those who eagerly listened to her broadcasts over Marion's WMRN. Others will recount her many adventures and contributions to local broadcasting and generous support of many philanthropic organizations as well as her life-long commitment to OSU, not memorialized by the Guthery Community Room at the Ohio State University-Marion Campus (OSUM), a marvelous space with outstanding acoustic characteristics making it a memorable venue for intimate music presentations.

Madge and I participated on occasion in WOSU's fund-raising activities in Columbus answering phones, always an interesting and engaging activity. Our conversations traveling to and from Columbus covered a myriad of subjects. Music, politics, local Marion history, medicine, education, literary arts, and her interests were truly universal. She could and did quote easily both poetry verses and items from Wall Street Journal to amplify or illustrate some of her views. Musically, her inclinations were originally centered in the classical and romantic eras (18th and 19th century), but as our relationship grew, she expanded her tastes to include the baroque period (17th to mid-18th century) and became very much interested in the music of Johann Sebastian Bach about whose music and life we had many long and spirited discussions.

Madge was also a most gracious hostess and my wife Ingrid and I enjoyed her company in her home as well as at the Catawba Island Club on many occasions.

Madge and my interests did center on music and music making. Her piano, which needed some tuning, she played vigorously if not artistically.

Although I knew Madge only for a relatively few years at the end of her life, she became one of my most steadfast friends and companions despite the manifest difference in our ages. She made a lasting difference in my life, and I believe that sentiment was reciprocated.



Madge, Scott, and Ruth Peters

By Ruth Peters

Wife of Joe Peters and Dear Friend

When I started at WMRN as a bookkeeper Madge and Joe soon became my friends. Along with some of the other staff we ate lunch at the Red Apple across the road--a small eating-place but it was handy.

Joe and I became engaged and when we married Madge found that her landlord had an apartment across the street from her. We moved in and appreciated her help. Our daughter Connie was born two years later. Madge really enjoyed our first-born child. Two years later our son Joe, Jr. was born. Joe brought Madge to the hospital to see him. She said, "He looks just like Ruth." This wasn't true. He was, and is, the picture of his dad. We then moved to a house on Summit Street.

Madge and Howard continued to be our close friends. On Christmas Eve they made the rounds with books for the children of their friends. I still have some of our children's books in the basement.

I was with Madge just a few minutes before Howard died. After she was alone we visited her often. She encouraged me to take just one course when OSU started classes at Marion Harding High School. I did. She came with Joe when I graduated--twice.

After I retired I had time to take Madge more places, and truly enjoyed our companionship. I would take her to Jim's to have her hair done on Fridays and then to lunch at Harding Hotel. After her disagreeing we took turns paying.

Madge always was there for us. She wrote Joe's obituary. When someone asked me who wrote it and my answer was, "When you want it done right you get a PRO."

I find that I miss Madge more and more. She often told me that I was the daughter she didn't have. She was a great friend, always there when I needed her. There are many things about Madge that I think about. She was my VERY dear friend and I miss her very much.

By Susan Hobbins Cousin

Madge Guthery entered my life in the late 1950's. I was so proud to have a new "cousin" in my family --- one who was famous in Marion. Madge remained a wonderful presence in my life until her death.

Madge always invited the Guthery family to her house for Christmas Eve dinner. She planned a wonderful dinner that included flaming plum pudding for dessert. That was our cue to sing "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen." The evening often continued in song as we washed dishes. Few people know that Madge never owned an automatic dishwasher. All of us truly looked forward to Christmas Eve with Madge. Our last Christmas Eve with her was in 2008.

Madge and I always celebrated her birthday together. For many years the 30th of July celebration included Howard Guthery and Ruth Guthery Arnold, my mom. We all shared the same birth date with Madge. Also, July 30th was Madge and Howard's wedding anniversary.

Over the years, Madge has been my mentor, my traveling buddy, and my "mom" since my own mother passed away in 1980. I learned so much from Madge. I credit her with making me a lady. She taught me how to forgive gracefully. She helped my ego by saying, "You are doing a lot better than you think you do."

Madge Lily Cooper Guthery will be in the heart of my memories always.

*By Elaine Merchant,
Former Director of The Palace Theater*

Madge cared very deeply about the Palace and was a constant donor and for years a board member. Every year I made arrangements for a trip to New York City for the Palace Theatre's Marquee members. This was the membership level of donors who gave the most of the money for the support of the theatre. She attended this yearly trip for several years. She felt at home in NYC and loved to attend the Broadway shows. On one trip we celebrated her 95th birthday while there.

One of her favorite stops in NYC was the Rainbow Room atop Rockefeller Center. She related that during the war this room was closed. After the war ended she attended a Women in Broadcasting Convention in 1946 and was thrilled to find that the Rainbow Room was reopening that week. She was in the group of women broadcasters who first reopened the Rainbow Room. So to celebrate her birthday she invited my husband Larry and me, Bernie and Christine Nowacki, and Larry and Linda Hall to accompany her and her niece for the 10:00 P.M seating to hear the dance band. We were all thrilled to included in this special occasion. The entire evening she thoroughly enjoyed watching the ballroom dancers and listening to the Cab Calloway Jr. orchestra.

As the evening wore on I went to the bandstand and introduced myself to Cab and asked if he would come and meet Madge. He said he would after his interview on NYC television with the reporter who was standing with him. The reporter heard my description of this lovely lady and her background and said he would also like to interview her. After the final song of the evening, we went to the middle of the dance floor where Madge took a seat and not only met Cab but also did a 20-minute interview. She charmed the reporter with her stories of being a pioneer woman in the radio industry

and her many trips to NYC. We all finally left after 1:00 A.M. Madge didn't seem the least bit tired as we chatted all the way back to our hotel.

I believe this was her last trip to New York. While we later talked many times of flying in to catch a show together, she knew her limitations and felt it would be too tiring for her. She kept saying to ask her in a couple months.



***Back Row L-R John Keggan, Lise tte Dottavio, Dominick Dottavio
Front Row L-R Nancy Beja, Marge Keggan, Madge***

By John and Marge Keggan, Friends

Although we knew Madge as a radio personality, we did not know her personally until WMRN started doing remote broadcasting and advertising remotes. As owners of the Marion Flower Shop and Greenhouses we contracted with WMRN to broadcast from our flower shop and greenhouse for a Christmas Open House on a Sunday afternoon. Part of the agreement was that Madge would be the hostess of the show. Due to the fact that floral open houses were new to Marion and that Madge was going to be there interviewing the guests we had a line of folks for a half block long waiting to get in to see the splendor of the season. Needless to say it was a very successful open house, thanks in a big part to Madge being there.

Our friendship with Madge grew over the years. We first served together on the Marion Concert Board. During those years the guest artists were usually entertained after their performances at the home of one of the board members. We both held these open houses sometimes shared hosting these events. We soon learned that Madge loved people and loved to entertain.

When I put together the Palace Guard to save the Palace Theater Madge was one of the first to offer me financial and moral support. It wasn't long after that Madge agreed to serve on the Palace Board. During her tenure as a board member she planned and hosted many of our social functions.

Her interest in the performing arts was not her only interest in the arts. She loved to go to the art museums particularly for special showings or for a particular artist. As Madge got older she decided she would rather have someone else drive so she Marge and I

enjoyed taking her to these various places. We traveled to art museums in Toledo, Cleveland and Dayton, and many times to Columbus. From this exposure, and Madge's continually educating us, we too learned to appreciate the Great Masters and their works.

When we went to Columbus with Madge we usually ate at the Claremont Restaurant. This had been the favorite place to dine for her and her first husband, Howard Guthery. They always had a Martini-Up or two prior to dinner. The first time we went there with her she decided for old times' sake she would have just one Martini-Up. It became a tradition with Madge and me that she would only have a martini when she was with me and then only one.

She only slipped up on one occasion and that was when a mutual friend invited us for dinner at a town north of here. For some reason Marge and I could not go so another friend drove Madge to the party. The hostess knew about our tradition that Madge would have only one Martini when she was with me. but she asked Madge if she would like a martini even though John was not there. Madge said she guessed one would be OK. Then they offered her another Martini, which was a big mistake.

She called me the next morning to tell me how she had embarrassed herself in front of all the guests and said that never again will I have a Martini without you. And she never did.

We were among the twenty-five guests attending Madge's second marriage that was held in her home on Delaware Avenue. Being in the flower business we decorated Madge's home quite lavishly including an arch covered with flowers and greens that served as a huppah. Her second husband, Sandy Marshall, was Jewish and a huppah is a part of the Jewish wedding ceremony. During this ceremony it is traditional for the groom standing under the huppah to break a crystal glass wrapped in cloth. When the time came, Sandy stepped on the glass but it did not break. He tried again and again but to no avail. By this time the guest were becoming hilarious. Finally on the fifth attempt he stomped on the glass very hard and it broke. We learned after the ceremony that Sandy had replaced Madge's fine crystal glass with an old fashion small cheese glass which was made out of very heavy glass. He did not want to waste that fine crystal. The joke was on Sandy but it took it in good nature.

Sandy was a wonderful person and Madge loved him very much as she had for some time. Having grown up and lived in New York City all his life, he knew not the first thing about caring for a yard but he had made up his mind that he was going to be Madge's gardener. So for their honeymoon they took a trip to Ohio University where they took a short course in landscaping and lawn care. He put into practice what he had learned and their yard became a showplace. He thoroughly loved working in the yard.

During the 1989 production of Guys and Dolls at the Palace Theatre I was the interim manager of the theatre and the producer and business manager for the show. I had to introduce the show run back stage and change clothes and then back on stage for the first scene and back off stage to change again and again. Sandy said you need help and told me that he would be my wardrobe person. Was I ever relieved? From that time on we became good friends. Needless to say it was a terrible blow to Madge to lose Sandy in less than a year after their marriage.

Madge was one of the most interesting people we ever knew. She told many interesting stories about her family and her growing up, the history of the areas where she lived and

places she had visited, and of the many, many personalities she had known. She had a wealth of knowledge and no matter the subject she had a very interesting story to tell.

In her later years we would take Madge homemade pies, soup, cake, relishes, etc. and she was always most happy when it was something she remembered from her past particularly such things as homemade mince meat or rhubarb pie, old fashion angel food cake, Ham hock bean soup, etc. After Madge found out that I liked German springerle cookies she gave me a box of her homemade springerle each Christmas. This custom continued up until just a few years before her passing. They were the best I ever ate.

Madge was a great attribute to Marion both with her wonderful memory of the past and also for her generosity to the future by her gifts to The Palace Theatre, to Ohio State University Marion and to other organization.

Madge, we are proud to have known you. We are better persons because of having known you. We love you and miss you.



Madge With John & Marge Keggan

By Nancy Beja, Friend

In recent years, Madge graciously invited me to go with her and Marge and John Keggan to the Catawba Island Club for their clam bakes. I'd pick her up at her house and John would drive us up to the Lake.

I usually got to Madge's about an hour early so we could talk and share our latest "readings." I'd bring her a couple of books and she'd give me some that had interested her. I still have one of hers as "my car book" which I read while waiting for someone or for a doctor's appointment. It's a fascinating book called, *America 1900-1999: Letters of the Century*.

I always think fondly of Madge and our good times together when I pick up the book. I hope I finish it before the next edition.

*By Clare Cooke.
Musical Director Palace Theatre*

I have so many wonderful memories of Madge. Whether it was attending theatrical productions all over the state with her and Ula Watts, going out to dinner, or just stopping by her house for a chat--every time with her was a learning experience.

The most vivid memory is of the pre-party held at her house in August 1985, before our Palace Theatre production of "To Ula, With Love." The show honored local director, Ula Watts, who was a close friend of Madge. Ula's family and several friends were invited for dinner before the show. I remember Madge working diligently for several weeks in preparation for the big event. Her grand house with its huge wrap-around porch was befitting royalty and the finest of china and silver were used. It was a spectacular way to kick-off the evening.

Madge, in her own special way, and without even realizing it, set the tone for one of my greatest and most-beloved evenings in theater history.

By Trella H. Romine, Friend

When Marion, Ohio's first radio station opened in 1940 Madge Cooper was one of the first employees. Soon I was tuning in every morning to hear her program, *Orbit*, with Marge Williams.

For many years Madge Cooper was only a voice to me. But when I was invited to join the Marion Chapter of Altrusa International, a woman's philanthropic organization, Madge became a friend as we worked together on committees. She married Howard Guthery and moved into the Guthery home on Gospel Hill in Marion. It was here that she invited me to discuss the publishing of a small biography of her mother, Lillie Cooper. We had many conferences and as I came and went I watched the procession of bloom in her yard. Even in January, the Christmas Roses were blooming, and in May the huge Beauty Bush with its pink flowers hung over the drive. We had many discussions on horticulture and gardening.

Madge and Howard enjoyed the cultural programs offered in Marion and supported them. But they also traveled to Columbus to broaden their enjoyment. Following Howard's death Madge invited friends to accompany her there. She invited me several times but the most memorable trip was in July 1987 when we drove home in a rainstorm that produced seven inches of rain and flooded streets and rivers.

By David E. Weaver, Author, August 1, 2010

She launched me on the greatest adventure of my life, my friend Madge Cooper Guthery did. And it started with a simple, ten-word question over lunch in Marion.

It was April 1998. I was working at WOSU and Madge was one of the key leaders in Marion who helped us put together the new affiliate station, WOSB. We were going to actually put WOSB on air during a ceremony at the OSU Marion campus. Madge told us she'd always wanted to be in on the start of a radio station, since she had gone to work for WMRN two weeks after it signed on in 1941. She was delighted that WOSU general manager Dale Ouzts said Madge would be the one to throw the switch for WOSB. She was thrilled, and I remember her saying after she hit the button, "I hope I didn't blow anything up!"

A few weeks later, the WOSB Advisory Committee, chaired by Madge's friend Dr. Al May, met over lunch at the Harding Hotel in downtown Marion. Madge and I were seated next to each other. She asked me how I got into broadcasting and I said it was really thru the back door - originally I had planned to be an opera singer. I told Madge I performed a great deal and had even been a classmate of renowned soprano Kathleen Battle when we were both students at the University of Cincinnati.

It was then that Madge asked the question that would change my life: "Have you ever heard of a singer named Ruby Elzy?" "No, I hadn't," I told Madge. She explained, "She was a classmate of mine at Ohio State and was Serena in the first production of *Porgy and Bess*."

Well, of course, I HAD heard of *Porgy and Bess*! And I couldn't believe someone at OSU had been in the original production - I'd never seen anything about her at the OSU School of Music.

Madge told me, "She died very young - I don't know exactly why. But she had the most beautiful voice and sweet personality - everyone just loved her. There really should a memorial to her at Ohio State - maybe you can do something about it!"

That year happened to be the 100th anniversary of George Gershwin's birth, and many new recordings of his music were released to commemorate the occasion. Among them was the 1937 Gershwin Memorial Concert at Hollywood Bowl, released in its entirety for the first time on CD. One of the performances on it was Ruby Elzy singing "My Man's Gone Now," Serena's dramatic aria from *Porgy and Bess*. I got the CD and listened to Elzy's voice for the first time. I was stunned at what a fabulous voice it was. I took the CD to Madge and played it, and she too was enthralled. "See, I told you her voice was beautiful," Madge said.

I immediately began to see what more I could find about this soprano who was completely unknown to me. Little did I know then I was beginning a four-year journey of discovery that would take me to almost every corner of the country. I learned that Ruby had done much, more than just play Serena in *Porgy and Bess* - she had made five films, appeared in a half-dozen plays and musicals on Broadway and on tour, had been a distinguished concert artist and a prolific performer on radio. The highpoint of her career: singing at the White House at the invitation of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in 1937. It was a remarkable career, especially for a black girl from a small town in Mississippi, born during the time of Jim Crow laws and limited opportunities.

Every time I made a trip to do research, as soon as I would get back to Ohio I'd call Madge and share my latest discovery. Most often she'd take me to her favorite place, the Marion Country Club. I was amazed by all the people who stopped by the table to say hello - if there was such a thing as royalty in Marion; Madge was definitely it!

I was so lucky as I went along. I learned that Ruby's two sisters were still living, both retired teachers and living in Columbus, Mississippi. In Florida I found the family of Dr. C.C. McCracken; the man Madge told me had discovered Ruby at a small Negro college and had brought her in 1927 to Ohio State. I would visit the Elzy's and McCracken's a number of times over the next few years. From them, I came to know Ruby Elzy as a person as well as an artist. The McCrackens gave me several notebooks of material their family had kept for over 70 years that included more than two-dozen letters written to them from Ruby. Up to this point, I still was unclear as to what exactly I was going to do with all the information I was gathering. It became clear after I spent the night reading all

of Ruby's letters to the McCrackens. I called Madge and told, "I think I have enough here to write a book." Madge was delighted, and without hesitation said, "David, I'm sure your book will happen."

And it did. *Black Diva of the Thirties - The Life of Ruby Elzy*, was published in September 2004. It had taken six-and-half-years from the time Madge first told me about Ruby Elzy to see her story in print. Madge got the very first copy, my gift to her in appreciation. But soon she was buying copies to give to family, friends, even strangers. She did the same in 2006, when the CD, *Ruby Elzy in Song* was released, the first-ever compilation of recordings by Ruby that I'd produced.

Always my biggest booster, Madge wanted me to do a program about Ruby at the OSU Marion Campus. I was thrilled when I learned that I was going to present *Ruby Elzy and Porgy and Bess - American Classics* in February 2006 in the room named for Madge that had just opened recently on campus. The program that night was a wonderful success and drew a full house. My only disappointment was that Madge didn't make it --- she'd taken ill earlier that very day and had been taken to Marion General Hospital. I hated that Madge had to miss the show.

In 2008, I went back to Mississippi for several programs marking the centennial of Ruby Elzy's birth. Governor Haley Barbour even declared "Ruby Elzy Day" throughout the state. I did an interview with a newspaper in Greenwood, Mississippi. When I arrived in town, I got a copy to see if they'd run the interview - and was surprised to see it was on page one! They even had a box, which talked about how I first learned about Ruby from Madge Guthery. I called her from my hotel right away - "Madge, we're front page news in Greenwood, Mississippi." Madge laughed and said, "How about that!"

It wasn't long afterwards that Madge began to have some health problems. She had to leave her beloved home on Delaware Avenue and move to Marion Manor Nursing Home. Over the next 18 months, I visited Madge several times. We recorded an interview about Ruby for WMRN with her dear and devoted friend, Scott Spears.

My last visit with Madge was shortly after her 99th birthday. We talked once more of how wonderful it was that Ruby Elzy, who had nearly fallen into complete obscurity, had finally gotten the recognition and acclaim she deserved. It was something that made Madge and me both feel very proud to have accomplished. "We did a good thing, David," Madge said. I agreed. For Madge it was a good thing in a lifetime of doing many, many good things--of helping countless people.

And Madge keeps on doing well for Ruby Elzy. In 2007, with the support of the McCracken and Elzy families, The Ruby Elzy Foundation was established for the



purpose of perpetuating Ruby's remarkable legacy. Madge and I were two of the three incorporating trustees. We signed the papers over lunch at the Marion Country Club. Unfortunately, Madge was not able to participate as she'd have liked, and due to my own hectic work and life we have not taken the Foundation very far. But Madge remained interested to the end of her life - we talked about the Ruby Elzy Foundation the very last time we were together. With Madge gone, I feel more strongly than ever that continuing the Foundation is not only a tribute to Ruby, but a tribute to Madge as well.

And to think it all began with that simple, ten-word question in 1998. Everyone in their lifetime, if they're fortunate, will run across that special person who touches their life in such a way that they will never be the same again. Madge, you touched my life - and I'll always be grateful.

*By Bob Ferguson
Masonic Temple Curator*

I remember the interview that Madge conducted relating to the Masonic Museum located at that time in the Marion Masonic Temple. I was the curator of this museum and most of the items displayed were from my personal collection. Madge did an excellent interview, displaying great interest.

By George Kasotis, Marion Restaurant Owner

Madge attended dances at Crystal Lake Pavillion. Among the attendees were Bob Mason, Art Martin, Shelton Dodds and their wives, Jenny Winecoupe, Tony Caserta, Barb Daugherty, Gus Judy and George Kasotis. Hundreds of people went to Crystal Lake as it had bathhouses, swimming platforms, an amusement park, and C Camp Park, which was north of the pool. Crystal Lake was part of a stone quarry that filled with spring water. People paid to enter this area, with youngsters trying to sneak in without paying.

I remember seeing Madge at Crystal Lake in a black swimsuit trimmed with gold rope. Her figure looked pretty good or I wouldn't have remembered that bathing suit!

Madge interviewed my widowed mother, Dorothy Kasotis Davis at my Café George Restaurant at 131 South Main Street to conduct the interview. She asked about Dorothy's journey to the United States from Samos, Greece, her birthplace. This is Dorothy's story.

James George Kasotis came to New York and was employed by J.P. Morgan, owner of the New York Central Railroad to build railroad tracks from the East to the Midwest. The railway was laid clear to Martel, Ohio for a switching station.

In 1917, President Wilson sent General Persinger here. The General inducted these foreign immigrants into the American Forces to fight in The World War. These men were trained and sent to the Argon Forest where they met Kiser Wilhelm's troops. The Germans exploded mustard gas. Jim Kasotis was wounded and sent back to America.

Jim was released from the Army and returned to purchase land in Caledonia, Ohio. He returned to Greece to marry one of Emanuel Conostas's daughters. Dorothy and Jim were wed on the island of Samos, and traveled to Marseilles, France. They set sail on the ship George Washington to travel to America. The ship landed at Ellis Island on George Washington's birthday, so it was greeted with music and festivity. Jim had a great sense of humor, and told his bride that the celebration was because she had arrived. Dorothy believed this for quite a time before finding out that the true reason was a President's birthday.

*By Martha Douce Maniaci,
Marion's First Lady of Dance*

I am so pleased to write this note about Madge Cooper Guthery. I had the privilege to work with her every summer at the Marion County Fair for many years. She would ask me to bring students to the fair to perform at the WMRN tent. I enjoyed bringing my dance students and to spend some special times with Madge.

She did a lot of work for Marion, Ohio and WMRN 1490 Radio Station. I am so pleased that they have named a special room at Maynard Hall in her honor--The Guthery Community Room 220. I was there just the other day and it is beautiful.

I am certainly happy that Madge Cooper Guthery was a part of my life. She was a super nice lady--a wonderful woman. I talked to her many times.

*By Cecil Oehler
Prospect Weatherman*

The first time I met Madge was at the Charity Ball that was held at the coliseum in Marion. My wife and I went with good friends, Eddie and Mary Albright. During the evening we got acquainted with Madge and I danced several dances with her.

That was 40 years ago. From that date she always called me the Prospect weatherman when she would call for weather report from WMRN.

By Shellie Shirk, OSU Marion

When I was a growing up my Grandparents were faithful listeners so I listened too. Everyday she was part of the great line-up on the station from mid morning to early afternoon. There was Madge and Marge, Jay Johnson and the farm report, the local news and obituary briefs.

It was an honor for me to meet Madge in person a few years ago. The best part of the meeting was sharing with her how I enjoyed listening to her on the radio on the Madge and Marge show.

I'll never forget the voices and the hometown tone of that programming.

By Norma Jacob, Friend

Madge was always ready to go someplace. One Sunday evening, on the spur of the moment, she and Howard called my husband and me and asked us to go to the Catawba Yacht club for dinner. Madge drove up there in Howard's new Lincoln Continental. This was in the 1950's. They were like two teen-agers.

After parties or Charity Ball dances, our group would go to Guthery's for Welsh Rarebit, made with bur. Howard was the chef and he cleaned up afterward. He washed the dishes in very hot water with no detergent. He said he could taste the soap on the dishes. Madge would roll her eyes!

Madge was the first person I ever saw with blue/green eye shadow. She had just come back from New York City. We all looked to her for the latest fashion tip. She knew every one of the fashioners, designers and milliners.

Being a good Democrat, she was proud to show her allegiance to the party and was ready to talk politics.

When she was a dinner guest at our house, she often brought a jar of jam or jelly of some sort including a green tomato conserve/jam. Christmas time was cookie time and she was famous for her perfect springerles. She loved to cook and give, and to share a great laugh.

In her 90's and no longer driving, she still bought three season tickets to the Columbus Symphony concerts and often asked Bob Dowd and me to accompany her. We always had brunch before hand at the Hyatt, with a window seat over-looking the Square.

*By Brenda Donegan,
Primrose Retirement Community and The Marion Star*

One will never know the feelings I had when I answered the phone and heard the voice of Madge Cooper Guthery on the other end. I was sitting at my desk at The Marion Star when she called and invited me to meet her for lunch. I didn't know whether to be nervous, overjoyed or both. I believe I was both because she didn't explain why she wanted to have lunch but I had so much awe for the woman known as the "Voice of Marion." I knew that turning her down would not be a wise decision.

We met for lunch at the former Turoff Restaurant. Madge ordered pot roast, so I followed suit -- although in the back of my mind I had her pictured as a salad only person. After the salads came, she told me why she had asked me. You see, in her mind's eye, we were two of the female "icons" in the community because of our positions with the media -- Madge with WMRN and myself with The Marion Star. When she said that, I protested that there were other females at The Star better known than myself beginning with Ruth Green, Deb Martin, Phyllis Butterworth, and others. She kept saying you may not feel it now, but one day soon, your name will be as synonymous with The Star as mine is with the radio. I really ate humble pie that day.

That was the beginning of our friendship that lasted until her death and is still a precious memory to me. Following that first meeting, we met occasionally, and I remember watching her at Altrusa Fashion Shows-- noting how fortunate we were to have a woman with such class, not only in the community but in Altrusa. She had suggested several times that I should consider becoming an Altrusan and in 1996, at the invitation of Norma Vanderboegh I joined.

Altrusa continued its fashion shows for a few years after that before abandoning that idea when it became difficult to get stores to "loan" fashions for the event which was a fundraiser for Rx Marion.

But Madge didn't need to be in the fashion show to turn heads. She was always meticulously dressed from head to toe with matching accessories and many of her fashions were acquired on shopping trips to New York City.

Madge was a woman with a vast amount of knowledge. I often commented on how she knew so much about many topics. She encouraged me to do the same, to ask the extra question at interviews and "at times to be a nosy busy body" when doing so. She also went on to say that just because folks bare their heart and soul to you doesn't mean you always use that information publicly. I vividly remember her saying to always ask, "Is this on the record or off the record?" If they said "off the record" you never published it. I always held my end of the bargain and I know Madge did the same.

We shared a common interest in people and liked to help them tell their stories -- Madge on the radio and myself in the newspaper.

As her health declined, I didn't see Madge as often as I should have. The last I spoke time was at Primrose Retirement Community when we take part on a panel for the Exchange Club. Although it took her longer to sort out her answers she was as sharp as I remembered her in our earlier meetings. Unfortunately, she passed away about a month after that visit. She left a void in my life as well as that of the community as a whole.

She was a woman of knowledge, compassion, curiosity, and a friend.

By Louis B. Conkle, Marion Attorney

On July 30, 1962 Madge was wed to Howard Guthery. It was her first marriage. They had been friends for more than twenty years. After Mr. Guthery was divorced from his first wife they spent more and more time together.

They both enjoyed trips to New York City, Madge would check the fashion shows and they would see Broadway plays or opera performances. Both of them kept well informed on the entertainment options, and for that matter, on all current events. They both were great readers. All of these things made for mutual attraction.

In the sixties, Howard's age was beginning to show and he was no longer doing much legal work. Madge took over more and more of the management of their joint lives.

On March 23, 1977 a fire caused considerable damage to the downtown building at the northwest corner of Center and Main Street, our law office was on the second floor of the building and was heavily damaged. When it became safe a couple of days later to work out way through the ruins to our private offices, Madge was there attempting to locate anything of value she could find in Howard's office.

The fire caused much damage to the books in the library of our law office. Howard Guthery, (in accordance with the partnership contract) owned all of those books as well as the furniture in the law office. On Howard's behalf I worked out a settlement with Howard's insurer for the damages to his books and to the office furniture. Knowing that Howard was not capable to discuss the matter, I met with Madge who expressed satisfaction with the settlement and told me to conclude the matter.

I do not know how much transfer of wealth from Howard or his estate that Madge had but they funded Madge's charitable giving. She certainly deserved all she might have received because she took care of him for many years.

Madge was a good person and a good friend of many Marion people. After Howard died October 21, 1981 she retained her interest in and supported many civic and charitable causes.

By Catherine Furguson, Listener

I first met Madge in September of 1943. Madge and my aunt, Vivian Hall, lived on the second floor in apartments on East Center Street. My husband and I (Bob and Catherine Ferguson) were married on September 5, 1943.

This was during World War II and we certainly didn't have any money or time for a honeymoon. Bob had ten days leave before he returned to his Coast Guard Station in Manhattan Beach. My aunt said we could have her apartment for a few days while he was home so she moved into my old room at my house on Vine Street and we spent four or five-5 days in her apartment. It was then that we met Madge. Although I knew her by her name and voice I had never met her. As time went by, I saw Madge many times.

Our first son, Stevie, was born the next year and he had Cerebral Palsy. In 1944 they didn't even know what that was! He lived almost 22 years and Madge mentioned him

several times for prayers on her radio show. I also remember people telling me Madge had mentioned on the air that he had passed away.

As a member of the Marion Rotary Club I was in charge of arrangements for a presentation Madge made to Marion Rotary about R.T. Lewis. He was the Rotary Foundation's benefactor. She had been a Trustee of the Rotary Towers Board since it was built 1972 and later I served on the Board with her. We were the "old members" (in age) of the Trustees and we contributed a great deal to the history of the area and what we thought the folks who live at the Towers needed. I also knew Marge Brandt from the *Madge and Marge Radio Show*.

Those are just a few of the memories I have of Madge. She had a perfect memory of things in the past. She was a great lady and a really special person.

By Dennis Garrigan

News Director at WMRN AM-FM from 1983 to 1993.

'Don't advertise this," Madge would tell me. "But if you ever encounter someone who is truly in need of Ohio State football tickets, let me know." Madge knew we would always get requests for Ohio State tickets, but I always had to vet those requests before I would contact her.

"Of course, you can't have the tickets if I'm using them," she would add.

By Joan Kasotis, Marion County Auditor

I cherish the encouragement she gave me when I first decided to run for public office. Her yard was always a prime spot for yard signs as she was between Delaware Avenue and South State Street. Since she was a pioneer on radio her support was appreciated.

When I'd stop by to visit she would entertain me with stories of her life. I wish I had stopped more often and recorded Madge. What a lady in the truest sense!

By Bob Bender

News Director, WDIF Radio, Marion (1975-86)

One incident with Madge sticks in my memory, although it had nothing to do with broadcasting.

Madge and I were talking about computers, in the early 1990s when they were far less commonplace. She had been given an early Macintosh by someone who had upgraded his or her computer. Madge wanted to learn how to use it. I went to her house, and showed her the basics: the proper way to turn on the computer, the function of the desktop, how to use the mouse, and so on. She thanked me, but I never found out if she used that computer again.

Whether she made computer savvy or not is not important. What stays in my mind is the mere fact that she was in her 70s when some people would never try to learn something new or strange but she was deeply interested and very willing to try. It was an example of her ability to never get old. She loved a challenge and was willing to tackle new ideas and opportunities.

By Mary Ellen Withrow

Former treasurer of Marion County, Ohio and United States

She was such a part of WMRN. When you listened to her you felt like you knew her. Madge Cooper brought high fashion to Marion and made us feel that we were a part of it.

*By Phyllis S. Butterworth
Director of Public Relations and Marketing, Marion General Hospital,
Former Star reporter*

Many years ago, I remember Madge brining in news items to The Marion Star. I was the Family Living and Education reporter and she would drop off items on a regular basis. At that time, there was a social circle in Marion, and she was surely in the midst of it. She took a liking to The Star's Family Living editor and provided a lot of copy. Although I never knew Madge well, I do have that memory of her

Madge was quite a traveler and very interested in fashion. She traveled to fashion shows, etc in NYC. She bought a year's subscription for me to Women's Wear Daily so our Family Living editor could learn more about high fashion and the latest styles. I always found that fascinating!

By Lowell Thurston, Carrolls Jewelers

A cute story concerning Madge:

Madge would have been 93 years old then--October 3, 2003--but considered it a renewable youth moment to be picked up by 63 year old escort named Lowell Thurston for dinner at the Purewal's. She looked radiant.

This shows that no matter your age people like to mix and are thankful for the occasion to do so.

By Karen Ream, OSU Marion

We had a birthday party for Madge Cooper Guthery on the Marion campus of The Ohio State University. I believe it was her 97th birthday and we had a small gathering in (where else?) the Madge Guthery Room in Maynard Hall. She was, of course, her gracious, charming, and sophisticated self. It was a typical "girl" party, although I believe we did have some males from the campus in the group. We had singing, cards, presents, and a birthday cake. It was just your typical birthday party.

However, what I will always remember is when Madge took a ribbon from one of her gifts and put it around her head, flapper girl style. It made her fun, young, and thoroughly delightful. In other words, it was our marvelous Madge, being Madge.

Just how many nonagenarians could be so young!



Madge in her 90's

*By Ruth Green
Formerly of the Marion Star and Dear Friend*

Madge Cooper Guthery was more completely a "live and let live" personality than almost anyone I ever knew. She was less judgmental than anyone I knew. During her nearly a century of life she gave all her companions the same privilege of self-determination with no recriminations for successes or failures that she expected for herself.

As a successful broadcast journalist for what was more than half of her nearly century of life, she maintained a steady objectivity when reporting anyone or anything. Largely refusing to take part in controversies big or little, she kept her facts well in hand and kept a firm stance on the middle of the road. Her soft, well-modulated tones assured her listeners they were getting just the facts, only the facts, with no prejudices thrown in. Also in her private conversations there was no taking of sides, and absolutely no self-grandiloquence. This controlled aspect of her personality left no room for cold disregard of the needs of others. She was as caring and helpful in her support as were others of more biased tone.

It was her manner to listen attentively as others expressed themselves. Then came a nod of the head and a softly spoken "That seems a good thought to me."

Madge certainly had disagreements along the way but they rarely surfaced during what she determined was an unhelpful time. Therefore, when they did, they had a much more favorable response from everyone present. Yes, associates of Madge Guthery -- close or otherwise-- could be sure of a completely fair outlook from her. She only asked for the same for herself. Live and Let Live, if you please.

By Mary Ann Doyle, Friend

After we moved to Marion, Ohio in 1970 I knew Madge only through her radio broadcasts and through her civic work.

In 1989 we moved into the city of Marion on St James Street just a few houses away from Madge. That first summer on there was a block party and Madge came as she anchored the block. So I actually met Madge and we discussed gardens and Marion's history. She thought it was great that I was interested in Marion's history even though I was a fairly newcomer to the city.

In 1995 I became an Altrusian and met her monthly at club meetings. We worked together on several committees and she was always willing to contribute even if she was going to be out of town or the country.

One night I was driving her home from an Altrusa gathering and we started talking about the up coming events at the Palace Theatre. The Columbus Symphony Orchestra was coming and a TV news personality from Columbus was going to be the narrator of *Peter and the Wolf*. I told her I had the Disney Children's Version of that classic and that my three grandchildren loved the story. They would yell out the name of the animal or bird that came on next when they heard that musical instrument playing. I also said I would love to take the grandkids to the Palace to hear *Peter and the Wolf* in person but I could not afford four tickets.

The very next day when I came home from work, an older gentleman was sitting on my front porch. I parked the car in the garage and came in the back door to the house. When I went to the front door to get the mail and newspaper he got up from the bench

and asked if I was Mary Ann. I said yes, and he handed me an envelope. I asked what it was. He said Madge asked for him to deliver it to me.

Inside the envelope were four tickets to the Palace for the concert. I called to thank her but told her I really could not pay her for the great tickets. She said her thanks was in knowing that my three kids and I would be enjoying music at the Palace. She said she always had extra tickets and not to worry about paying. She loved to hear about children being able to learn about music and books.

I will remember Madge as a friend and a true believer in education for all.

By Howie Smith, Marion Citizen

Madge Guthery was a panelist on the first "Capture the Moment" history dinner on August 18, 2005 at the All Occasions Party Center south of Waldo, Ohio. The Marion Convention and Visitors Bureau organized the Capture Dinner and Lowell Thurston of Carroll's Jewelers was the Master of Ceremonies. Other panelists included Trella Romine, Oliver Hamilton, Jack Kellogg, Bob Ferguson and Mike Perry. Howard Smith assisted Lowell on the panel. Each panelist had four minutes to speak of a subject they felt would be of interest to the audience of a couple hundred who gathered to learn more about the rich history of Marion County.

When Madge had her opportunity she didn't disappoint the audience. She related that when she was the girl growing up in Illinois Gypsies would periodically come to town in groups of 12 to 24 in their wagons. They would stay in the area for several days then move on to another town. There was fear that the Gypsies might steal people's silver and their children and a call would go out on the party telephone lines to secure your silver and your children. Madge said she never experienced problems with Gypsies while living in Illinois.

She also said that after she moved to Marion she was told of the Gypsy Queen who came to our town for a visit. She was described as a beautiful woman. While she here she gave birth to a child. She had complications in her delivery and died as a result. The Gypsy Queen was dressed in all her finery and lay in state in a storefront window on Main Street for several days. Gypsy men wore their large white hats and their tight pants. The funeral was at the St. Mary's Catholic Church and she was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery. A large number of Gypsies were present at these ceremonies, some coming from as far away as South America.

Madge said that one day years later when she was taking Ann Bennett for radiation treatments at Marion General Hospital Ann had asked her if she would take her by the Catholic Cemetery to see if they could locate the Gypsy Queen's grave. The first time they hinted for it they didn't find it but on the second attempt they did.

Madge remembered that Bill Lawler took the deteriorating cross that marked the grave and put it in concrete so future generations could see the wooden cross. She related that for many years after her internment there was a red light that marked the grave site of the Gypsy Queen. The light is no longer there but what a wonderful story and rich piece of Marion history.

*By Shawn Craft
Marion Resident*

I met Madge for the first time when Scott Spears introduced us at Night of 1000 Stars. My first impression of her was that this lady had knowledge, wisdom, strength and

power. She was very well known in the community. I learned that she had been a teacher and had been on WMRN. From then on I stayed in touch with her through Scott. I visited here periodically. I drove her when she was inducted into the Radio and Television Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

.She put radio on the map in this town. She was a legend in my eyes. I will miss her.

By Chris Collins, Marion Resident

I first met Madge when Scott Spears asked me to help co-host his Night of 1000 Stars, a benefit for childhood diabetes. I had no idea what I was getting myself into but jumped at the opportunity. The benefit was held at the old Harding Hotel and the guest of honor that night was Madge Cooper Guthery. Over 200 people attended—the largest attendance ever. The Marion Community came to pay homage to Madge. Dave Kaylor and Trella Romine were guest speakers for Madge.

The night had some bumps along the way. A couple of skits didn't go as planned. Some cues for introductions had some mishaps. Music started playing while Dave Kaylor was in the middle of his presentation on Madge.

Scott and I were thinking we needed a break. That came when Madge was introduced. The music played on cue and the crowd gave Madge Cooper Guthery a standing ovation. She captivated the audience that night just like she did when she was broadcasting over WMRN. On that night I saw what Madge meant to the Marion community.

8.

John Dean Book Review

by Madge Guthery

This book review by Madge Guthery is included showing another of her talents.

Since John Dean did us the great honor of dedicating his new book "Warren G. Harding" to "Howard (1899-1981), Dan (1940-1993), and Madge Guthery" I knew that I would read it. But as a writer, I wondered for a moment what John could find to say that hasn't already been worked over many times. I needn't have worried. John found plenty!

This is evident in three areas. First, he presents the Marion years with such a familiar authority as could only have been achieved by somebody who lived here. And of course John Dean did for several years, living with his parents in the house now occupied by Grace Wise Symansik at 404 Brightwood Drive. One time when he came back to Marion for a visit he drove past his old house and reported with some satisfaction, "She still has my old basketball hoop above her garage door."

When he lived here, he says he was always asking questions of everyone who might have known the Hardings. This gives his writing a sure ring of authenticity in what he writes about them.

I have always been somewhat puzzled about how Harding achieved the presidency, why thousands of people came to Marion every day throughout his front porch campaign, and why they stood for hours in the front of a house on Mt. Vernon Avenue to hear a senator speak. Other writers on the subject have said he was a dark horse—meaning that his ascendancy to the head of the nation was unexpected.

This is the second area on which Dean offers a new understanding on how Harding became the choice for president since he was a relatively new senator from a small city in Ohio. He points out that Warren Harding was an impressive orator, a consummate politician, and that he "looked presidential." He follows the years of preparation through his holding increasingly more important offices, and speaking on every occasion presented to him. His personal popularity was unquestioned as shown by the landslide that elected him. As Dean follows his career you realize his choice for the Republican Candidate in 1920 was not made in a "smoke filled room."

Thirdly, Dean does not find Harding's death mysterious and suspicious, as an early writer suggested, but a logical outcome of the stressful life he was living and the symptoms he was showing. John Dean points out that for many months the President had been stressed by problems among members of his government, and Mrs. Harding's serious illness. He tells that when Harding complained of getting little sleep someone suggested he might sleep better if he didn't use so many pillows but he could not get his breath without the pillows. Readers today, are likely to think, "Well, of course--heart failure." And the suspicious disappears.

Dean's book has just over 200 pages, and is an easy read. The book is well worth owning for its clearly presented information on these three matters and much more.

Madge Cooper Guthery

9.

Leaving Them on Their Feet

As many of you know, Madge fell and broke her hip in April of 2008 when she was 97 years old. This was the first time that she had really slowed down in her life. This fall took her from her home and long time residence on Delaware Ave and put her in a nursing home.



450 Delaware Ave.

Madge was still the same Madge at the nursing home but she was starting to slow down a bit when she celebrated her 98th birthday there. Her 99th birthday was celebrated at the Marion Country Club surrounded by many of her broadcasting friends and family. It was her last.

As we headed into the fall Madge was looking forward to Thanksgiving. This was not to be. In early November of 2009 I noticed that she was starting to slow down quite a bit. On November 13-- Friday the 13th oddly enough--I visited her at four in the afternoon. She was not doing too well. I went out to a restaurant for dinner that night and got a call there about out 9 o'clock telling me Madge had taken a turn for the worse.

In the early morning hours of November 14th, 2009, Marion lost its First Lady of Broadcasting and I had lost a dear friend.

The following week was a blur. The Marion Star printed a front page story the following Monday with the headline, "The Voice of Marion Goes Silent." The story was a touching tribute written by Brenda Donegan.

WBNS and the Columbus Dispatch also covered her passing.

'Voice of Marion' silent

Madge Cooper Guthery passes

MARION — Known as the "Voice of Marion," longtime broadcaster Madge L. Cooper Guthery passed away peacefully at 3:30 a.m. Saturday at Marion Manor Nursing Home.

Guthery, one of Marion's best known radio



GUTHERY

personalities, worked 35 years at WMRN AM in Marion before retiring in January 1976. She returned to WMRN to air

her Saturday morning programs on local history for an additional 17 years, giving her more than half a century of radio broadcasting.

A philanthropist, she was active in many efforts in the Marion area through the years. She was a longtime member and current emeritus member of Altrusa of Marion.

served on the board of trustees for the Palace Theatre, Marion County Historical Society and Marion Rotary Towers, and served as President of the Marion County Federation of Women's Clubs.

The Guthery Community Room at the Ohio State University at Marion is named in recognition of Guthery for her generous support of The Ohio State University and especially of the local campus.

Arrangements for her funeral are being handled by Boyd-Born Funeral Home. Calling hours will be 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday with the funeral at 10:30 a.m. Thursday. Complete announcements will be made by the funeral home Monday.

The funeral was set for Thursday. I was asked to speak at the funeral. To be honest with you, I couldn't tell you what I said. I do remember that Madge's long time friend David Weaver, sang "Amazing Grace" a capella. The fondest memory that I have is that as the funeral concluded everyone stood up and applauded.

The little girl that was born in Fairbury, Illinois in 1910--before women had the right to vote, before separate but equal was deemed wrong, and who went to college when women were not suppose, and who had a career—that icon had wrapped up her journey on this Earth.



Madge's sage words on broadcasting echo in my ears all the time, "You won't be a millionaire but it's the best job in the world!"

Madge, I thank you for your friendship, kindness, humor, but above all else I thank you for setting an example that all of us aspire to but only a few of us will every achieve

Upon my death I know you will be sitting in that sunroom in the sky with a microphone in hand, ready to discuss everything that has happened since the last time we were together. There will be some serious moments, some gossip, but most of all there will be laughter. This is not goodbye-- just until next time. I know there will never be anyone else like Madge Cooper. She was one in a million. I'll never forget her nor will anyone who knew her. I love you, Madge.



About the Author

By the People who Know Him Best

By Joe Ionno

Former Director of WMRN Radio

Scott Spears was such a generous person with his time and care for Madge. He is just one of many through the years that benefited from Madge's knowledge of the broadcasting industry. Madge took him under her wing and guided him along the way in his young broadcasting career. She admired his tenacity and enthusiasm. When he gets an idea he pursues it with complete commitment. She was pleased with Scott's advancement in the field and was happy to have him as a friend and enjoyed their close relationship. She treated him like he was family.

We know that Madge's passing has left a void in Scott's life, but also believe that she is still guiding him and that she will still be an influence in his future.

*By Chuck White AKA Mr. Tree from Luci's Toyshop
Public Affairs Director Emeritus, WBNS 10TV*

I'd like to commend Scott Spears for his outstanding efforts in compiling letters and information to publish this book about the grand lady of broadcasting in Marion, Ohio, Madge Cooper Guthery.

Regretfully, I never really got to know this wonderful human being as those who reside in Marion did. I only had the pleasure of meeting her once at an event, which Scott produced, in which he honored Pioneers in Broadcasting. But based on my one time meeting and the letters and comments I've read about her, I was quite impressed with her grand demeanor and charm. She was an energetic and very much loved woman particularly by those who were fortunate enough to get to know her in Marion, Ohio.

So often those of us who are pioneers in broadcasting are soon forgotten once we leave the airways. Scott Spears obviously recognized this and has chosen to create a lasting memento in honor of Madge Cooper Guthery, a grand dame of broadcasting, with the production of this book.

As a fellow pioneer television broadcaster and on behalf of broadcasters everywhere, particularly Ohioans, I extend my heartfelt thanks to Scott for his foresight and perseverance in preserving the memory of this wonderful human being – one that not only her family can cherish, but one in which the entire community can appreciate and enjoy.

Those of us in the broadcasting industry are fortunate to have a stalwart proponent, like Scott, who saw fit to preserve the memory of an outstanding broadcaster who will obviously be long remembered by those who knew her and were impacted by her presence in this world.

By Charlie Evers, WMRN Radio

I am very impressed with Scott Spears and his diligence in putting together the book of Madge Cooper Guthery. I worked with Madge starting just nine years after when began her broadcast career at WMRN. Thanks Scott.

*By E. Gordon Gee
President, Ohio State University*

Scott Spears has done a superb job of weaving together anecdotes and memories that, together, tell the remarkable story of Madge Cooper Guthery's life. She was a transformational figure in the life of the Ohio State-Marion campus, the larger community, and all who knew her.

*By Mary Ellen Withrow
40th Treasurer of the United States*

Scott Spears has done a terrific job for WMRN. He has brought celebrities to the air in the Marion Community and opened the station to many personalities. This has been very refreshing.

By Trella H. Romine, Friend

Scott Spears was the son that Madge Guthery didn't have. His constant attention made her last years more pleasant. They shared a love of Marion County history and Madge participated in many of the "Exchange Club" radio programs that he presented over Station WMRN. This program introduced a new radio audience to many facets of Marion County history.

Scott Spears has done a terrific job for WMRN. His interviews with celebrities has been very refreshing. He was also responsible for the annual recognition of Marionites who have improved their city in many ways. His "Night of 1000 Stars" has been honoring Marion citizens since 2003.

My life has been enriched by knowing Scott Spears.

*By Marilyn McBride
Douce Dance Studios*

I first heard of Scott Spears when he contacted me about bringing some of my dancers to the Juvenile Diabetes Show he was hosting at the Harding Hotel. I brought my students there to perform and was pleasantly surprised to see how wonderful Scott was with his show that night! He always would bring very interesting people to these events. I really enjoyed going to these shows and every time I attended...I noticed more and more of how loving and kind Scott was. He is genuinely concerned about people of our community. He especially shows so much respect for the elderly. His admiration for those people is to be commended. I feel a lot of times people just over look our older generation and miss out on a lot of what their wisdom has to offer to us. It is so wonderful to see such a young person show love and respect to everyone he comes in contact with. Marion is very lucky to have such a dynamic person in our city. I am very proud to know Scott Spears and to call him my friend!

*By Marla Gibbs,
Former television sitcom star of The Jeffersons*

Scott you are so thoughtful and supportive. Don't stop doing what you do It's appreciated. It's okay to blow your own horn. I think people will start to pay attention. After all it's the squeaky hinge that gets the oil. Love, Marla

By Phyllis Diller, Comedian

"Scott Spears has written a first book. The title is longer than the book. He is mainly a very talented broadcaster, a very astute speaker, interviewer, a fellow overflowing with great ideas and a fine friend."

By Helen Thomas, Journalist

"It is wonderful that Scott Spears has written a biography about Madge Cooper, a pioneer woman radio broadcaster who captured an Ohio audience for 35 years. She is a role model for any young woman who tried to break all male barriers in her field at the time when women were welcome in radio. She became a household name in Ohio, and a trusted reporter. Young women in today's social media would do well to follow in her footsteps."

Epilogue

AM radio can be such a wonderful thing. It doesn't cost you anything, you can go anywhere in the world, you can be anybody who ever lived, you can be any place you want at anytime you want.

It all depends on your imagination. If you have imagination and the ability to convey what you are experiencing to listeners you can do anything with AM radio.

Plus you can be so practical by telling people to go to school that day.

There is so much that AM radio is. I think it's time that it took its own place again.

Madge Cooper Guthery
October 2007



Acknowledgments:

So many people to thank, and only one page to do it.

I want to thank my Mother Joan Markley for always letting me know that anything is possible.....and of course giving me life.

Thanks to my Grandmother Betty Compton for being caring, and always willing to go the extra mile for people.

Thanks to my Grandfather James Compton for taking an interest in me at a young age.

Thanks to Trella Romine for editing this book, and keeping history alive in Marion for so many.

Thank to my friend Chris Collins for helping construct this book.

Thank you to my friend and cousin Shawn Craft for bringing this book to publication.

Thank you to Jessica Choina for putting up with my many mood swings while working on this book.

A special thank you to everyone who contributed a story for this book. Could not have done it without you.

And finally Thank You to Madge for being my friend, and mentor.....this is for you. The book you never wrote.

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Scott Spears was born in Marion, Ohio. Scott is a graduate of Harding High School in Marion, and holds a bachelors degree in education from The Ohio State University.

Scott came to WMRN radio on January 2nd, 2007. He was the co-host of the 80th and final charity ball in Marion, has interviewed many celebrities including Phyllis Diller, Betty White, Hugh Downs, Joe Nuxhall, and Dick Van Dyke. In October 2010 Scott traveled in Washington DC, and obtained the first interview with "Dean of the White House Press

Corps" Helen Thomas after comments made in May 2010 that led to her retirement.. This interview made world news, and was covered by major television networks such as FOX News, MSNBC, and CNN.

Scott had the honor of inducting the first person from Marion to be inducted into the "Radio, and Television Broadcasters Hall of Fame of Ohio" Madge Cooper Guthery. Mayor Scott Schertzer recognized Scott on May 4th, 2008 as an outstanding individual in our community.

Scott has served as host, and creator of "Night of 1000 Stars" a charity variety program that has benefited The American Cancer Society, Safety City, and The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.