

Western Hills High School
2144 Ferguson Rd / Cincinnati, Ohio 45238

Alumni News

Spring 2013

The 2013 Maroon Award Recipients to be Honored

Donald B. Poynter / Class of 1943

Donald has been working hard and enjoyed being creative since he was young. In 1937 he became the youngest member of the "Puppeteers of America" organization. While in high school he received his letter in track, ran the 220 hurdles and pole vaulted. In 1940 he became the lead actor on the radio show "Father Flanigan's Boys Town" and performed on other radio shows with Doris Day, Donald Nash (voice of Donald Duck), Rosemary Clooney, Andy Williams and others. He joined the army and put on many shows for the troops. He performed as a ventriloquist, a magician and twirled batons. After discharge from the army he attended the University of Cincinnati, where he received his BS degree with a major in marketing and was the class president. He also became the Drum Major of the band and during the halftime shows he would perform on stilts, unicycle, and tight wire all while twirling batons or a machete knife. "Life Magazine" photographed these halftime activities. During his college years he secured his first patent on a toy he designed. A "Giant Lincoln Log" like set which he sold via mail order for over 10 years. After graduation he was asked to join the Harlem Globetrotters to perform during half-time. For the next three summers he toured the world with them and also served as assistant tour director. He produced, directed and filmed 13 children television shows in a new technique he developed. The President of Disney at the time, flew him to CA to share his techniques with their film technicians. In 1954 he formed Poynter Products, Inc. to produce his first novelty product, "Whiskey Flavored Toothpaste" which became a "gag" that sold for 17 years. Over the years he created, copyrighted or patented about 100 novelty items including the "Jayne Mansfield Shaped Water Bottle", "Uncle Fester's Light Bulb", and "The Thing Coin Bank" which were both featured on "The Adams Family" television show. With no signs of retirement in sight, he is currently working with a large Toy and Novelty Company in New York. He is grateful for his wife Mona Castellini and their four children, Donald, Amy, Tim and Molly. He is also the President of Triple Crown Country Club in KY.

