

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bob Petty

PERSON

Petty, Bob, 1940-

Alternative Names: Bob Petty;

Life Dates: November 26, 1940-February 18, 2020

Place of Birth: Memphis, Tennessee, USA

Residence: Chicago, IL

Occupations: Television Reporter

Biographical Note

Born November 26, 1940, in Memphis, Tennessee, Bob Petty began his broadcasting career while enrolled at Arizona State University. He learned about various aspects of the industry while serving as news cameraman, soundman, film editor, lighting director and studio cameraman for the university's television broadcast station, KAET TV. In 1970, Petty graduated with honors and was recognized by the university for his outstanding contributions to the radio and television department.

Petty's career at Chicago ABC affiliate WLS-TV began in 1971, when he joined the station as a general assignment reporter. In 1975, he became a member of the station's "Action 7" news team, which would later develop into the popular "Seven on Your Side" special problem-solving unit. He then moved to the anchor desk on ABC 7's "Saturday Weekend News." From 1978 to 1983 he also produced and hosted "Weekend Edition." Prior to joining ABC 7, Petty was a news writer, reporter and producer at KOOL-TV and Radio, the CBS affiliate in Phoenix, Arizona. The previous year, Petty worked for KPHO-TV in several aspects of the production process, in addition to his role as news and sports reporter.

Petty has received several prestigious academic degrees and honors. He was awarded an Urban Journalism Fellowship at the University of Chicago shortly after graduating from Arizona State, and a William Benton Fellow in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Chicago in 1987. In January 1979, he received his Master's Degree in Communications from Governor's State University.

Petty passed away on February 18, 2020.

Petty resides in Chicago with his wife, Cora, and their two children, Bobby and Cory.

Related Entries

Washington Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Washington Junior High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Washington High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

diploma

Governors State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.S.

University of Chicago [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Arizona State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S

Lincoln University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

no degree

Caruthersville Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Caruthersville High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Caruthersville Middle School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

KAET TV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1967 to 1968]

KPHO TV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1968 to 1969]

Journalist

KOOL TV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1969 to 1971]

Journalist

WLS TV [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1971 to ?]

Journalist