

# **Louie Petty**

## **Berry Academy Class of 1964 Mount Berry, Georgia**

After leaving Berry in 1964, with \$25.00 to my name and having no parents to fall back on, I resided in a \$10.00 a week garage apartment in North Atlanta, while working during the day for the State Highway Dept on a survey team, locating I-20 through downtown Atlanta. Nights were spent driving a taxicab to support myself and to try to get ahead in life for 2 years. I was drafted in 1967 and served in Viet Nam during the Tet offensive in 1968. I returned home in late 1968 and worked for Cousins Properties as Construction Superintendent in Atlanta. Later I was promoted to General Superintendent, and built Shadowwood apartments at 285 and I-75 I also built 500 to 600 upscale homes in North Atlanta, such editions as Martins Landing, Huntcliff, Indian Hills, Dunwoody North and Fox Hills. Also served as General Superintendent for Pulte Homes Corporation out of Maryland and Levit and Sons of Pennsylvania before going out on my own as a Home Builder and did this through 1974 in Atlanta and surrounding areas. As interest rates skyrocketed in 1974 and upon divorcing after a short marriage, an opportunity arose to become a sales manager for Motorola Communications & Electronics for 5 Southeastern states which lasted for a period of two years.



In 1976, after much thought, I decided to turn my interest in horses as a hobby to a means of making a living. I showed my horses and other clients horses extensively throughout the southeastern United States with much success. This success was noticed by a prominent Horse Breeder and Banker in Texas, who offered me the opportunity to relocate to Texas and manage his horse ranch operation, which I did from 1979 through 1993.

During my professional horse training career, I trained and showed 33 World and National Champions. Also, Brazilian National Champion, European National Champion, Canadian, French and German National Champions. I was also featured in an article in The American Paint Horse Magazine on Training Techniques and how to develop and market World Champions. During my career as a successful Horse Trainer, I traveled weekly throughout the United States, winning World and National Shows, and many times holding Grand Championships at Houston Livestock Show, Fort Worth Livestock Show, Dixie Nationals, San Antonio Livestock Show, National Western Stockshow in Denver, as well as many other places. Also had the privilege of showing horses for such celebrities as Bo Derek, Dale Robertson, James Drury, Roy Clark and Lou Diamond Phillips, and also helped make television commercials and movies. I also sold millions of dollars worth of horses locally, nationally and internationally through individuals and National Horse Sale Auctions.

In 1993 after tiring of much traveling and the hectic long hours and competition of horse training and showing, I reverted back to my home building background and currently do upscale building and remodeling of homes in the \$500,000 – \$2 MM range, along with light commercial building and remodeling and still do this as an independent general contractor in the Dallas, Texas area. My work was featured in 2 issues of Better Homes & Gardens in 2003.

In 1985 while showing horses in Reno, Nevada I met and fell in love with my current wife, Nancy. She was also showing horses at the time and also showed many World and National Champions ..... together we made one hell of a Team! We were married in 1988. At the time we married Nancy changed professions and currently is a Senior Client Relationship Manager for a large International Insurance Corporation based out of the Netherlands.

We currently own a home in Waxahachie, Texas, which is a suburb of Dallas, and sits on 1 ½ acres of lawn mower wearing out grass. We also, own a Lake front home on Cedar Creek Lake, about

1 hour south of Dallas, which is our getaway place on the weekends and soon to be our retirement home.



My current hobbies are Muscle cars, Tournament Bass Fishing and Nascar Racing. One of the special things while enjoying Bass Fishing, was working with the Casting Kids program for B.A.S.S.(Bass Anglers Sportsman’s Society) in the state of Texas. While competitively fishing Bass Tournaments, I was in the top six for 3 years of B.A.S.S. in Texas. I was a member of the Skeeter Boat Company Pro Team from 1989 through 2002 and I’m currently 1 of 20 of the Pro Staff members for Costa Del Mar Sunglasses, located in Ormond Beach, FL. I’m currently fishing

Bass Champs Tournaments, which can be seen Monday nights on The Outdoor Network TV Channel. I’ve enjoyed showing my car at local car shows this past year (my most recent hobby) and proud to say I won the Peoples Choice Award with my 1969 SS Camaro at the last show I attended.

We have 3 grandchildren with one on the way and enjoy our lake time with a son, daughter and their children, although gas gets rather expensive for 2 Seadoos and a boat while they are visiting us at our Lake home.

Life has been good for this poor country boy who went to Berry on a hardship with nothing and came out with a degree in life that allowed him to succeed in life and live life comfortably while enjoying the things in life that pass most people by. I could not have achieved what I have without the work ethics I learned during my years working on the Dairy Crew, my responsibilities as a student for maintaining my personal appearance, responsibility of maintaining my living quarters, doing my laundry and ironing for some of the other guys, and having an old lady who was blessed with most material things in life while we were at Berry; and who polished this rough country boy into someone presentable at the college rec center on Saturday nights. This person introduced me to things that I’d never heard of before such as English Leather, Canoe, Jade East, Gant Shirts, Gold Cup Socks, and of course Weejuns. There is a story here that I would love to tell the rest of you at the Reunion. I’m speaking of my first old lady, Tommy Kennon from Jacksonville, Florida, who sadly is not with us any longer, but will always be in memories along with one of my other old ladies, Norris “Tubby” Fuller.

My favorite teacher at Berry was our sometimes, worst critic and best friend, Mr. Cooper.

Some of my fondest memories while at Berry were Mr. Loveday skipping down the halls, having to walk the stretch at night, James Childres success at Cross Country Meets, waiting to the pay phone at night to call your favorite girl, trips to the Rome Team Club and of course who could forget all the raw eggs those “doodoo birds” had to swallow in front of Hill Dining Hall during Varsity Club initiation.

I personally feel that our knowledge gained and our day to experiences while at Mount Berry School for Boys played a big part in turning us from boys to men.



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*You can take the boy out of Berry but you can’t take Berry out of 1513  
the boy.  
Berry Academy 1964 to 2004 & 40 years later*