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University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, APRIL 25

Tom Pettit, National Broadcasting Company news correspondent, will be the Ninth Annual Dean Stone Night speaker May 9 at Montana State University.

He also will be the 1965 professional lecturer in journalism at MSU and will meet with students in classes May 10.

Sponsored by the School of Journalism, the event honors the memory of A. L. Stone, the school's founder and first dean.

Besides the featured address the program will include the presentation of achievement awards to journalism and radio-television students, according to Dean Nathan B. Blumberg of the journalism school.

Pettit has been a member of the NBC news staff since 1959 when he became a reporter for NBC-owned WRCV in Philadelphia. He also worked for NBC news in New York City before being transferred to Los Angeles in 1962.

Pettit was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and grew up in Waterloo, Iowa. He was graduated from Iowa State Teachers College in 1953 and received a Master of Arts degree in American Studies from the University of Minnesota in 1958.

He began his broadcasting career in 1953 as a reporter for WOI-TV in Ames, Iowa. He also worked for KCRG-TV, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and WCCO-TV, Minneapolis, Minn.

Pettit is remembered especially for his work during events following President Kennedy's assassination. He was stationed on-camera near the basement entrance to the Dallas city jail, covering Lee Harvey Oswald's transfer to an armored truck, when a shot rang out and Oswald began to fall. Pettit immediately reported that Oswald had been shot and began describing the confusion around him.

(more)

Although Pettit calls Los Angeles his home, he has spent about six months of the past year on assignments elsewhere. He has covered stories in 22 states, Washington, D.C., Canada, Panama and Costa Rica.

Early in last year's Presidential election campaign, for example, he broadcast on successive days from Vancouver, B. C., and Miami, Fla.

Stories he covered for NBC news included the floods in Northern California and Oregon, the Inaugural Ball, the Alaskan earthquake, the volcano eruption in Costa Rica and the anti-American demonstration in Panama.

The Dean Stone Night banquet in the University Lodge is open to the public. Reservations are \$3 and may be made at the School of Journalism, Dean Blumberg said.

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