Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Carol Marin

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education I Key – Civics Education Oral History project

Interview # ECE-A-L-2020-046

Carol Marin, one of Chicago's most honored and respected television journalists, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key – Civics Education* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jul 20, 2020 Location: Telephonic interview

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 0:54 / 0.9 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on January 25, 2021.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Carol Marin, Education is Key – Civics, ECE-A-L-2020-046

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Carol Marin was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1948, and grew up in Rolling Meadows, Illinois, graduating from Palatine High School. While in high school, Carol was active in debate and girl sports. Carol majored in English at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and also participated on the University's debate team. Following graduation, she taught and coached debate and then move to Tennessee where she became a TV talk host. Going into journalism in 1972, Carol worked both in Knoxville and Nashville, doing major investigative reporting until 1977. This led to a job at WMAQ in Chicago in 1978. Carol stayed with WMAQ until 1997. Two months after leaving WMAQ Carol was hired by CBS News. She was a national correspondent, as well as an investigative reporter for WBBM-TV (a CBS station). From 1997-2002, Carol worked for *60 Minutes*, *60 Minutes II*, and for Dan Rather's Evening News. In 2002, Carol formed her own independent documentary company, providing shows for CNN, Discovery Channel, and the *New York Times.* In 2004 she returned to WMAQ as the station's political editor. In addition, Carol has been a columnist for the Chicago *Sun-Times* and has been a regular featured reporter on WTTW, Chicago's public broadcasting station. At the time of the interview she was co-director at DePaul's Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence program, which provides twelve students yearly experiences in documentary programming. Carol has received many awards for her work including the Peabody Award, national Emmys, the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Awards, Gracie Award, and the George Polk Award. She retired from journalism in September 2020.

During this interview Carol examined the role of media literacy through the work experiences of a TV anchor, investigative reporter, a political editor, a documentary film maker, and as co-director of the Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE) at DePaul University. She discussed the components of media literacy, media ethics and the challenges facing journalists today. She also discussed how to recognize bias and the pros and cons of social media, and the keys to good journalism. Marin talks about how students at CJIE worked on documentaries during their year in the specialized program. Ethical case problems were also explored. Finally, she reviewed the challenges in political reporting due to the COVID-19 restrictions, which have led to remote learning and remote reporting.

SUBJECT AREAS & KEY WORDS: Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence (CJIE), DePaul University; standards of excellence in journalism; remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic; teaching civic awareness; political reporting in Chicago; political reporting for national news outlets; WMAQ

Notes to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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