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**From:** Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 19, 2015 8:46 AM  
**To:** stevenspl@live.com  
**Subject:** Connecting - February 19, 2015

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# Connecting

February 19, 2015

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Colleagues,

One of the favorite parts of my 24 years as an AP bureau chief was recruiting new talent into The Associated Press.

It is a great source of pride for me, to this day, that many of those I hired or helped nurture continue to do great work for our company - and for other news organizations.

In the days when vacation and legislative relief jobs were more common, both positions provided great opportunities for new graduates to show what they could do. The best were often able to move into fulltime positions from there and launch their careers.

Campus interview visits were part of our jobs as bureau chiefs (and assistant chiefs, news editors and correspondents), but there were always key people on the faculty who were invaluable in identifying that talent. One of them, for me, was **Tom Eblen**, and today's Connecting leads with a profile of this Kansas journalist.

**For all of you once involved, or currently involved, in hiring -**

**If you have a story to share on your own experiences in recruiting, and your own "Tom**

Eblens," send it my way.

Paul

## Tom Eblen: An eye for AP talent

As Kansas City chief of bureau, I had three major journalism programs in my two-state area - Missouri, Kansas and Kansas State. At the William Allen White School of Journalism at the University of Kansas was **Tom Eblen**, longtime adviser to the Daily Kansan who had a strong professional career (including managing editor of The Kansas City Star) before joining the school.

Among those who he steered to the AP were **Sally Buzbee**, now AP's Washington chief of bureau, and **Traci Carl**, West Editor in Phoenix, as well as others including **Ric Brack**, **Rochelle Olson**, **Bill Vogrin** and **Bill Menezes** who made their mark with the AP and other news organizations. When he was at the Fort Scott (Kansas) Tribune as editor and general manager, Tom helped recruit **Dale Wetzel** for the AP Bismarck.

With that preface, here is his self-profile:

**Tom Eblen** ([Email](#)) - I turned 65 on Nov. 1, 2001, and retired from the KU J-School at the end of 2001, thinking that I would have plenty of time for reading. Boy was I wrong.



In 2002 I commenced what was to be a part-time job as a news consultant to the Kansas Press Association and launched immediately into a book celebrating the KPA's 140th anniversary: "Kansas Press Association - 140 years of Kansas Newspapers and Newspaper Families." That was followed by a couple of years guiding Kansas legislative coverage for non-daily newspapers. Also on behalf of the KPA, I served on the board of directors as well as president of the William Allen White Community Partnership, which desperately tries to find enough money to keep open keep open the Red Rocks state historic site, home of William Allen White in Emporia, Kansas.

Until about 2012 I offered through the KPA a program called the community newspaper tune-up. I visited about 40 Kansas newspapers, daily and non-daily, with a detailed critique and plenty of time for discussion. The only cost was for mileage and expenses.

For the first decade after my retirement I also spoke on Kansas newspaper topics to audiences throughout the state on behalf of the Kansas Humanities Council. In addition, since 1980 I've been a trustee of the William Allen White Foundation at KU J-School as well as its chairman for two years.

During that same period I had articles in the Kansas City Star Sunday magazine and the Kansas Alumni Magazine.

For much of the last three years I have been trying to treat various ailments that challenge the Lawrence, KU Med and Mayo medical communities.

The bonus: perhaps I can find time to catch up on my reading.

My wife of 49 years, Jeannie, often accompanied me to these activities, particularly so after she retired in 2010 as a KU hometown news writer.

We have two children and two granddaughters, all living in the Greater Kansas City area. Our daughter Courtney McCain, a KU news-editorial journalism graduate and longtime paramedic, coordinates and trains standardized patients at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. She and her husband Ken, also a KU graduate and a civil engineer at Carter-Waters, have two daughters, Megan, 12, and Mary, 9. Our son Matt, who received bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from KU, is a senior project engineer for Shafer, Kline and Warren.

The photo above was taken by Julie Adam, then web editor for KU Med last fall and now the KU J-school's communications coordinator. Julie's impromptu photo signaled Tom's final radiation treatment at the KU Medical School.

### ***And a word from two of his proteges...***

**Sally Buzbee** ([Email](#)) - Tom was an important guiding light for me and others in journalism school, pointing us in the direction of internships and toward meeting the people who could help us actually launch into careers.



It was one thing to learn the skills of journalism in a classroom or on the Kansan school paper. But it was another thing entirely to go out into the world, into a real workplace, and actually do journalism that showed up in newspapers and on radio stations and TV. I don't think I would have ever gotten started on the right track career-wise - I had absolutely no idea how to go about doing that - if it hadn't been for Tom and others at KU who paved the way for these internships and jobs.

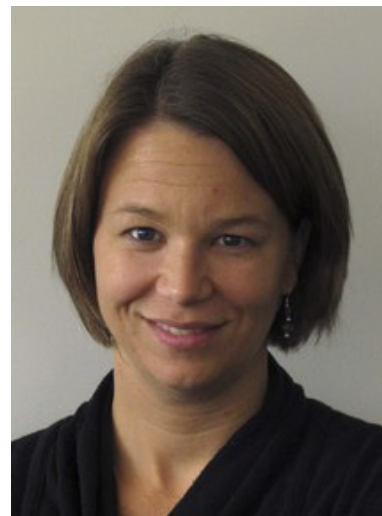
I had my first taste of that during an internship a few days a week with AP at the statehouse in Topeka in the winter/spring of 1987, during a very lively legislative session. It was fabulous, adrenaline-rushing and totally hooked me into daily journalism and into AP. I will never forget Lew Ferguson, then the correspondent, rushing into our small office (which we shared with UPI and the Harris chain) on the first day of my internship, and pounding out an urgent about a death penalty vote in the state Senate on his keyboard. I was hooked. And amazingly, they let me do actual work! The next legislative session, I got a temporary job helping out. From there, I got a job in Kansas City and then later, onward.

Tom helped set the tone at KU that got all of us that first step into our careers.

*(Sally moved from Topeka to Kansas City, then served as San Diego correspondent, Washington newswoman and assistant chief of bureau, Middle East editor in Cairo, and director of AP's News Center in New York before becoming Washington chief in 2010.)*

**Traci Carl** ([Email](#)) recalls her first interview with the AP:

I decided I wanted to work for AP after reading the wire during one of my internships. I loved how the stories rolled in from around the world, small windows into international conflict, political battlegrounds and human lives. After returning home to Lawrence and moving into my apartment for senior year, I stopped by Tom Eblen's office and told him my plan. "AP Bureau Chief Paul Stevens will be here any minute. Why don't you talk to him?" he told me. I looked at my torn jeans, my arms covered in dirt and my grimy tennis shoes - all apartment cleaning attire - and wondered how on earth I could make it home to change before Paul arrived. Before I could finish my thought, Paul walked up behind me and Tom introduced us.



I figured my dream of working for the AP was over. Luckily, Tom's work with me and recommendation helped Paul see an eager, young journalist - not a raggedy college student with no future. Paul ended up offering me legislative relief in Topeka, and I was

thrilled. When I told Tom, he responded by advising me to work hard and be true to journalism. And he reminded me of someone he often held up as an example for me to follow - Sally Buzbee, a KU grad before me that I hadn't yet met but had followed throughout my college career. (true story.)

*(Traci moved from Topeka relief to Kansas City newswoman, Wichita correspondent, International Desk newswoman, and newswoman, news editor and in 2005 bureau chief in Mexico City before taking her current position as West Editor in 2009.)*

## Update on the Ed Kennedy Pulitzer Project

Connecting colleague **Ray March** ([Email](#)) provides this update on the Ed Kennedy Pulitzer Project, noting the "terrific display of Ed's "news making" at the Cosmosphere and Space Center in Hutchinson, Kansas, shared in Wednesday's Connecting:



We had a total of 116 journalists nationwide, both active and retired, sign on in support of the Ed Kennedy Pulitzer Project. Our application, which includes a number of strong arguments for a special Pulitzer, is with the Pulitzer Board and we expect an announcement in April. It's not too late to add your name to the list. All you have to do is send an e-mail to Mike Pride at [cmp2208@columbia.edu](mailto:cmp2208@columbia.edu) and copy me at [ramarch@frontiernet.net](mailto:ramarch@frontiernet.net). Additional contact information for Pride is:

Mike Pride, administrator  
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In the meantime the "Ed Kennedy Story" is about to break in France. A documentary about Kennedy's "scoop" and the controversy it created is being made by a French film maker for release over there in recognition of the 70th anniversary of Germany's World War II surrender. Kennedy's daughter, Julia Kennedy Cochran, is in France now working with the film makers. They will then go to New York City later this month (February) for more shooting at the AP offices.

I have been also asked to contribute to the film and that video has been shot in the remote corner of California called Surprise Valley where I live. My role, as it were, is to talk about the issues involved in Kennedy's breaking the embargo, my memories of working for him as a rookie reporter at the Monterey Peninsula Herald and the Ed Kennedy Pulitzer Project.

I want to give particular thanks to Eric Brazil, my co-chair; Ward Bushee, retired editor of the S.F. Francisco Chronicle; and Warren Lerude, former Reno newspapers Pulitzer editorial writer, for their belief and devotion to this effort on behalf on Ed Kennedy.

Wish us luck!

## Connecting mailbox

### ***Watering hole: Redheads outside 50 Rock***

**Karol Stonger** ([Email](#)) - Walk off the AP elevators, head toward the newsstand and take the stairs ahead to the Concourse . At the bottom make an immediate left, then another left. You have arrived at the Redheads, long-time watering hole for many day-side newsmen and executives at 50 Rock.

During the Guild strike in the 70s, we Guild members walked the line and looked forward to a drink after laying down our signs. Because we couldn't cross the picket lines, we couldn't get to the Redheads from 50 Rock. So, we walked across the Plaza to the International Building, took the escalator to the Concourse and walked underground back to the bar behind the stairs. On neutral ground, it's possible that strike updates were traded with management for the latest on negotiations.

Thankfully, the Redheads closed before AP left the building. Otherwise our departure for West 33rd Street may have been seen as a major contributor to its demise.

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### ***'I skipped breakfast'***

**Merrill Hartson** ([Email](#)) - It may be urban legend, but as the story goes, renowned poets

corner writer Jules Loh returned one time to 30 Rockefeller Center from a visit of several days in the early 1980s from a reporting and writing project in the Southwest, and he filed his expenses. This was in the submission-by-paper era for expense accounts. A couple days later, he's summoned by a business executive who demands an explanation for the \$100-a-day food expense. "It's simple," he responds. "I skipped breakfast."

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### ***Using brothel to file a story***

**Marc Wilson** ([Email](#)) - Hal Bock's ladies' powder room story Wednesday reminded me of my need to use a phone in a brothel to file a story.

When the American Airlines DC-10 crashed just after takeoff at Chicago's O'Hare Airport on Memorial Day weekend in 1979 (pre cell phone days, also), I discovered that the heat of the crash had knocked out all but two phones. One was a pay phone booth several blocks away that reporters, first responders and others lined up to use.

The other was in a nearby brothel. I had to file both for the A Wire and AP Radio, so when the line at the pay phone booth was too long, I'd borrowed the ladies' phone.

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### ***Watering hole: Trader Jon's in Pensacola***

**Bill Kaczor** ([Email](#)) - Pensacola's Trader Jon's, which closed several years after owner Martin "Trader Jon" Weissman's death in 2000, was in its hey-day one of the best bars there ever was. I know such AP luminaries as Reid Miller, Brent Kallestad and Gary Clark would agree with me based on personal experience.



Weissman, a Brooklyn native, established the bar on Pensacola's waterfront in the early 1950's and catered largely to service members from the Pensacola Naval Air Station and other military air bases in the area. Many were lured by the strippers that Trader Jon's featured for much of its existence. The place was filled with photos, airplane parts, model planes, flight suits, crash helmets and other memorabilia and was the the home-away-from-home for the Pensacola-based Blue Angels and other air show fliers from across the nation. It also attracted movie stars, sports luminaries, politicians, astronauts and various other celebrities as well as lowly journalists. During and in the years after the Vietnam War it was like Saigon-West as many of the barmaids were Vietnamese women who had been married to returning G.I.'s.

It was a great source of news tips and THE hangout for Pensacola News Journal staffers when I worked at the paper in the 1970s as well as when I returned as Pensacola AP correspondent in 1984 after a nine-year stint in Tallahassee. Some of my favorite journalism moments occurred at Trader's. Let me recall just a couple.

--- When I covered city hall for the News Journal, then-City Manager Frank Faison had been very secretive about the city's sewage operation, refusing to tell me how it was getting rid of the tons of sludge left over from the treatment process. That, of course, raised a red flag and I quickly got the answer in one phone call to the regional director of the state's environmental agency. He gave me enough detail for a front-page expose of sorts: It was being used as fertilizer on a ranch in nearby Okaloosa County unbeknownst to local officials there. I was at Trader's about midnight when another staffer brought in the bulldog edition with the banner headline: "Pensacola Dumps Sludge on Okaloosa." As luck would have it, Faison, was sitting on the other end of the bar with a stripper known to us only as "Dirty Mary" sitting on his lap. Then city-editor Hector Morales motioned for Mary to come over and told her to show the paper to Frank. He wandered over a few minutes later a bit chagrined. He said the story was accurate but complained about the headline. For good reason. When Okaloosa officials read it that morning, they called an emergency meeting to pass an ordinance banning out-of-county sludge. That was followed a few days later by passage of a similar ordinance in a neighboring county where, as our follow-up story noted, Okaloosa was dumping its sludge.

--- Trader's success was based on Weissman, a true character who always wore mismatched socks and offered a reward that eventually escalated into six figures if any one caught him in a matched pair (the reward was never collected). Drink prices depended upon how well Trader liked you or how well-to-do you were. Among the many customers, ranging from lowly sailors to celebrities who were befriended by Trader was cartoonist Jeff MacNelly. He featured Trader's in one of his "Shoe" strips and painted a museum-quality portrait of Weissman that hung on one of the bar's walls. One quiet late night I wandered in to find Trader and MacNelly virtually alone but in great spirits. It was during the Gulf War and they were like a pair of school boys on Christmas morning opening a large package of memorabilia that had just arrived from a combat squadron stationed in the Middle East. It's a bitter-sweet memory because within a few years both Trader and MacNelly were gone, dying within four months of each other in 2000.

The obit I wrote when Trader passed away is below. It was one of several stories I did on



Trader Jon's and Weissman over the years including one about the bar's closure by a new owner some three years later. Most of the memorabilia was sold to a law firm, which donated it to the Pensacola Naval Aviation Museum Foundation. There has been discussion in Pensacola of reopening Trader's or displaying the memorabilia in some form as part of a rebuilding renaissance taking place on Pensacola's waterfront. So far, it hasn't gotten out of the talking stage. The building, dating back to 1896 and once a ship chandler's shop, still stands with a historic marker in front of it noting that it gained international fame as Trader Jon's.

Click [here](#) for a link to Trader Jon's obituary. Above is a photo of me and Trader at the annual mullet toss at the Flora-Bama bar on the Florida-Alabama state line, where Trader threw out the first fish in 1992.

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### ***Watering hole: A place of negotiation***

**Peggy Walsh** ([Email](#)) - It may not be a famous watering hole but it saved the day.

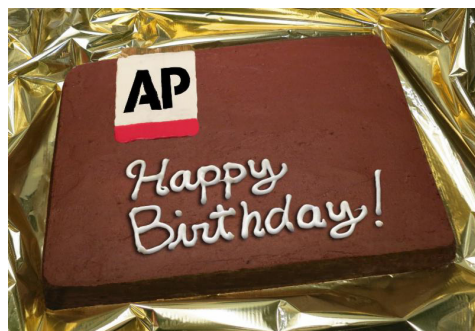
When I was COB in San Francisco the Examiner ran a photo of a man whose legs had been cut off by a train (really, it's true!). They outed the San Jose Mercury News but San Jose ran it anyway.

Larry Kramer at the Examiner was furious. Bob Ingle at San Jose was too.

I called Kramer and Ingle and told them we needed to talk. Neither one would come to either one's city so I asked my assistant, Janet Labarile, to find a bar/restaurant halfway between San Francisco and San Jose.

I called them back, asked if they'd meet me there and told them the only ground rule was neither one could come armed. In the end, all was resolved. But I can't even remember the name of the bar just how relieved I was to get the whole thing settled.

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



**To**

**Paul Caluori** ([Email](#))

**David Tirrell-Wysocki** ([Email](#))

## Welcome to Connecting



**Joe Macenka** ([Email](#))

Joe - I joined the AP in January 1984 in Richmond, serving as night supervisor and Virginia sports editor until May 1995, when I became the cooperative's first sports writer in Charlotte, N.C., after the city was awarded an NFL franchise.



I remained in the Charlotte job until March 2000, and my wife, Jody - formerly of the AP's Raleigh, N.C., bureau - and I returned to Richmond a short time later.

I spent more than 13 years with the Richmond Times-Dispatch, first as the paper's night metro editor and then as its breaking news specialist, before leaving in September 2014.

My first book, *Hope Emerges*, about a specialty unit at the VA hospital in Richmond that handles the worst of the worst cases returning from overseas, was recently published. I'm currently working on my second book, about the Outer Banks, and trying to figure out what I want to do when I grow up.

## Stories of interest

### [Why Network News Still Matters](#) (Shared by Sibby Christensen)

The saturated news media coverage of the events leading to NBC's suspension of the anchor Brian Williams last week left many people wondering what all the fuss was about. In the age of digital, fragmented media, who watches network news, anyway?

The answer may surprise you.

Even though many people consume news on cable TV or on a laptop - or on their mobile device or via hip, satirical outlets like Comedy Central - tens of millions each night tune in to watch the networks' evening news programs. More Americans turn to the network evening news to find out what's happening than to any other type of news except for local news.

New digital sources of news like Facebook and Twitter show few signs of replacing traditional news outlets for those who are even moderately interested in the news. The Pew Research Center reports that a visitor who arrives directly at a digital media outlet will visit, on average, nearly 25 news pages. A visitor who arrives at the same outlet's site via Facebook or Twitter will visit fewer than five news pages. Social media may be introducing people to headlines and news stories, but readers are not spending a lot of time (they linger less than two minutes) on the news pages they visit, they don't visit many pages, and they don't become routine visitors to those news pages over time.

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### [Risen: Obama administration is greatest enemy of press freedom](#)

New York Times reporter James Risen slammed Attorney General Eric Holder in a series of tweets Tuesday evening, calling the Obama administration "The greatest enemy of press freedom in a generation."

"Eric Holder has been the nation's top censorship officer, not the top law enforcement officer," Risen tweeted. "Eric Holder has done the bidding of the intelligence community and the White House to damage press freedom in the United States."

Risen was tweeting in response to a speech Holder gave earlier on Tuesday at the National Press Club, where he defended the administration's record on prosecuting leakers, saying they could have prosecuted far more than they actually did.

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### [US envoy: Mexican government must ensure journalists' safety](#)

MEXICO CITY (AP) -- The U.S. ambassador to Mexico has condemned attacks on journalists in the country and says it is the government's responsibility to ensure they are protected.

U.S. Ambassador Anthony Wayne said in a statement late Tuesday that he met recently with journalists and the governor from the Gulf Coast state of Veracruz at which he emphasized freedom of expression.

A popular literary festival announced this month it would not hold its event in Veracruz after hundreds signed a petition. Press advocacy groups say at least 11 journalists have been killed and four have disappeared in Veracruz since 2010.

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### [Interview Insider: How to Get Hired at NPR](#)

NPR's approach to news has grown with technology. In addition to its standard radio programming, NPR has a digital team of journalists producing NPR.org, a group of computer scientists developing digital tools for journalists and consumers, and its own research institute devoted to improving broadcast technology.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., with bureaus around the world, NPR employs more than 800 people and is growing fast. Director of human resources Traci Schweikert explains what it takes to make one of the world's leading news organizations take notice of you.

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### [Riddle me this: How can news orgs better use games and quizzes?](#)

The New York Times' most popular piece of content in 2013 wasn't an article - it was, of course, its now famous dialogue quiz. The quiz, published Dec. 21 of that year, was also the paper's third most popular story of 2014.

Similarly, the most popular story in Slate's history was the Adele Dazeem Name Generator, built after John Travolta butchered Idina Menzel's name at the Oscars last year.

With things like crossword puzzles and comics in newspapers, fun and games have long had a spot alongside the news, but in a new report published last night by the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University, doctoral student Maxwell Foxman examines the place of games like the Dialect Quiz and Adele Dazeem Name Generator in modern online media.

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## ['Free Austin': Campaign targets missing U.S. reporter](#)

Austin Tice has been missing for two years, six months and four days. A freelance journalist covering Syria, Tice was last heard from on Aug. 13, 2012, two days after his 31st birthday.



This month, the Tice family is expanding its efforts to bring him home through an extensive awareness campaign run through the Paris-based advocacy organization Reporters Without Borders. With the tagline, "When journalists are targeted, we are all blindfolded," the ad campaign will put the hashtag #FreeAustinTice on the home pages of The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA TODAY and numerous other news websites, as well as on full pages in print newspapers.

"We really believe public pressure can encourage the U.S. administration to do more to bring Austin back home," says Delphine Halgand, U.S. director of Reporters Without Borders.

## The Final Word

### ***Retirement: Boomers want to keep working - if they can***

George Fraser has had a hugely successful life. At 70, the former corporate executive is a successful author and speaker, traveling 200 days out of the year and logging 250,000 air miles. And he has absolutely no intention of retiring.

"I decided in my early 60s that I would never retire," he said. "Why? Because I love my work. I love what I'm doing. I love it so much that anything else is a distraction, including a vacation. It frustrates my wife of 42 years. After two or three days on a beach in Mexico, I'm bored."

George Fraser says not retiring keeps you "engaged, interested and interesting." (Photo: George Fraser)

Baby Boomers continue to shatter stereotypes. Many

work well into traditional retirement age. And financial advisers and counselors are encouraging them.

Click [here](#) to read more.

## Today in History

## **By The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, Feb. 19, the 50th day of 2015. There are 315 days left in the year. This is the Lunar New Year of the Goat.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Feb. 19, 1945, Operation Detachment began during World War II as some 30,000 U.S. Marines began landing on Iwo Jima, where they commenced a successful month-long battle to seize control of the island from Japanese forces.

### **On this date:**

In 1473, astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus was born in Torun, Poland.

In 1881, Kansas prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages.

In 1915, during World War I, British and French warships launched their initial attack on Ottoman forces in the Dardanelles, a strait in northwestern Turkey. (The Gallipoli Campaign that followed proved disastrous for the Allies.)

In 1934, a blizzard began inundating the northeastern United States, with the heaviest snowfall occurring in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, clearing the way for the U.S. military to relocate and intern Japanese-Americans during World War II.

In 1959, an agreement was signed by Britain, Turkey and Greece granting Cyprus its independence.

In 1963, "The Feminine Mystique" by Betty Friedan was first published by W.W. Norton & Co.

In 1976, calling the issuing of Executive Order 9066 "a sad day in American history," President Gerald R. Ford issued a proclamation confirming that the order had been terminated with the formal cessation of hostilities of World War II.

In 1984, the Winter Olympics closed in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

In 1985, the British soap opera "EastEnders" debuted on BBC Television.

In 1997, Deng Xiaoping, the last of China's major Communist revolutionaries, died at age 92.

In 2008, an ailing Fidel Castro resigned the Cuban presidency after nearly a half-century in power; his brother Raul was later named to succeed him.

Ten years ago: Eight suicide bombers struck in quick succession in Iraq in a wave of attacks that killed dozens. Former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton visited a Thai fishing village that had been devastated by the December 2004 tsunami. The USS Jimmy Carter, the last of the Seawolf class of attack subs, was commissioned at Groton (GRAH'-tun), Connecticut.

Five years ago: In a televised 13-minute statement, golfer Tiger Woods admitted infidelity and acknowledged receiving therapy. The FBI concluded that Army scientist Bruce Ivins acted alone in the 2001 anthrax mailings that killed five people, and formally closed the case. Pope Benedict XVI approved sainthood for Mother Mary MacKillop, who became Australia's first saint.

One year ago: President Barack Obama, in Mexico for a North American summit, urged Ukraine to avoid violence against peaceful protesters or face consequences; shortly after Obama's remarks, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich's office said he and opposition leaders had agreed on a truce. On Day 13 of the Sochi Games, Norway won the first Olympic mixed relay in biathlon and Ole Einar Bjoerndalen became the most decorated Winter Olympian ever with 13 medals. Ted Ligety won the giant slalom, becoming the first American man to win two Olympic gold medals in Alpine skiing.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Smokey Robinson is 75. Actress Carlin Glynn is 75. Former Sony Corp. Chairman Howard Stringer is 73. Singer Lou Christie is 72. Actor Michael Nader is 70. Rock musician Tony Iommi (Black Sabbath, Heaven and Hell) is 67. Actor Stephen Nichols is 64. Author Amy Tan is 63. Actor Jeff Daniels is 60. Rock singer-musician Dave Wakeling is 59. Talk show host Lorianne Crook is 58. Actor Ray Winstone is 58. Actor Leslie David Baker (TV: "The Office") is 57. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell is 56. Britain's Prince Andrew is 55. Tennis Hall-of-Famer Hana Mandlikova is 53. Singer Seal is 52. Actress Jessica Tuck is 52. Country musician Ralph McCauley (Wild Horses) is 51. Rock musician Jon Fishman (Phish) is 50. Actress Justine Bateman is 49. Actor Benicio Del Toro is 48. Actress Bellamy Young is 45. Rock musician Daniel Adair is 40. Pop singer-actress Haylie Duff is 30. Christian rock musician Seth Morrison (Skillet) is 27. Actress Victoria Justice is 22.

***Thought for Today: "Look at everything as though you were seeing it for the first time or the last time. Then your time on earth will be filled with glory." - Betty Smith, American author (1896-1972).***

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