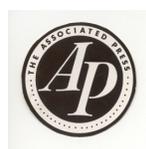
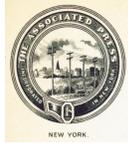


From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2015 9:33 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - February 21, 2015

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Connecting

February 21, 2015

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(Photo by Neal Ulevich)

Colleagues,

Good Saturday morning.

We open the weekend edition with fascinating memories of the man pictured above, Yuichi (Jackson) Ishizaki - a legendary figure in the AP Tokyo bureau.

And we follow with not-so-great news - the Buffalo News' decision to drop AP after 121 years of membership. It is a reminder that the battle to finance the strong journalism that the AP commits each day is a never-ending, difficult one in these economic climes.

Here's a request for our member newspaper and broadcast editor friends among the Connecting group. I am completing a history of the long-running AP feature Today in History and plan to publish next week. If you have any personal observations or anecdotes of reader or listener reaction, please send them to me by Monday. Same holds true for any AP folks who have a Today in History story to share.

With that, here are the top stories of interest as we enter the weekend.

Paul

Jackson, aka Yuichi Ishizaki - A Remembrance

Hal Buell ([Email](#)) - Gene Herrick raised memories of **Yuichi (Jackson) Ishizaki**, a legendary figure of the AP Tokyo bureau in those fascinating days after WWII, the Korean War, Vietnam, etc. Here is my remembrance of him.

Accompanying the story is the photo above taken in 1979 by **Neal Ulevich** of Jackson at his desk in the AP Tokyo Bureau, then located in the Asahi Shimbun Building in the Yurakucho district of Tokyo.

Jackson, who retired in January 1986 as senior photographer for The Associated Press in Tokyo, died in May 1986 at age 66 while undergoing surgery for stomach cancer. He had worked for the news cooperative for 35 years.

Hal's remembrance:

The name Jackson turned up in yesterday's CONNECTING. Gene Herrick described him accurately. He was a whiz bang guy in the Tokyo bureau. His full name is recorded above. By the way, Gene, I used your camera bag for a while in Japan...AP sure got its money's worth out of that.

But there's more.

Yuichi Ishizai will always be Jackson to those of us who were privileged to work with him in

Tokyo and throughout Southeast Asia. His name, Jackson, was assigned to him during the Korean War by American editors who found his Japanese name to be a tongue twister. Jackson came to AP from Kyodo, the Japanese news agency designed on AP standards after WWII. He worked in AP/Tokyo in the early 1950s handling picture shipments from Korea during the Korean war and mentored the fledgling Japanese staff coming aboard at AP.

In those years powdered photo chemicals were used to mix wet chemistry and Jackson, a former Imperial Army sergeant, was not above cuffing a youthful lab mixer when the scaled measure was not accurate.

I met Jackson when I was assigned to Japan as Asia Photo Editor in 1959. He spoke fair English learned during his youth in Greenwich, CT, where his father was a Japanese business man. Jackson said he never told Japanese military that he spoke English because he did not want to do intelligence work monitoring radio chatter. But he did work in photography. Among his war time duties was photographing American bombers with a 4x5 camera and a lens one could hardly lift.

Jackson could literally do everything, and when something new came up he mastered details that ran from new cameras to chemistry to transmission technology. He was literally the right hand man for every American photo person who worked out of the Tokyo bureau. He was a regular visitor to Vietnam to help out with the lab. And he was regularly assigned to Olympic Games and to U.S. National Political Conventions.

Jackson and I traveled extensively on the beat from India east to Japan. At one point he was sent to New Guinea to shoot pictures of the search for Nelson Rockefeller's missing son, and managed to transmit what he had through Amsterdam and London and on to NY. On the way home from that assignment he stopped at Saigon, was roused from early morning sleep by bomb bursts, shot pictures of Ngo Dinh Diem's palace under a coup assault. He had his transmitter with him and telephoned a picture beat to the world.

The only problem I ever had with Jackson involved an expense account item he listed as "women's panties." Seems he bought several boxes of Japanese WEEKLIES, nylon panties, seven to a box, each a different color, to give to the women operators at the Saigon telephone office where AP hooked up his transmitter. "This will never work," I said. "New York won't get it. Make it lunch."

He always had a cigarette in his mouth and frequently dropped ashes into the developer. "Won't hurt anything," he said when I protested. It didn't.

Together we sent pictures for the first time from Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, with his steady hand on the controls. He rode a horse and buggy (cars were forbidden) to the transmitter site in India when President Eisenhower visited, and he was among the first Japanese to visit South Korea on assignment at a time when memories of WWII occupation forces made Japanese unpopular. Always he won over the doubtful.

An amazing guy.

-0-

Charles Bennett ([Email](#)) - I would like to expand on Herrick's story on "Jackson".

I was covering President Ford on his visits to Japan, Korea and Russia in 1974. One of the first people I met was Jackson, who was still capable of doing his one-man band. Jackson was a protegee of AP Photographer Charlie Jackson who was stationed there with the occupation army. Charlie took him on as a driver and taught him the mysteries of photography as well as English. Jackson was our go to man during our visit. The Tokyo Bureau was one of the finest bureaus I have seen. Everything was organized for super fast service. The runners were on Honda 900's and when you finished an assignment the runner was holding out his hand for the film. Toby Massey visited Jackson's home where he saw a memorial dedicated to Charlie, a bottle of Black Jack shared the space. The whiskey was a parting gift from Charlie and was to be revered never drank.

I was assigned to the tight pool which meant I was responsible for every appearance of the president. There was no down time for me and I planned on doing some Christmas shopping; Jackson saw my dilemma and asked for a list of the things I wanted. He fulfilled the list and the goods were delivered to my hotel room. Jackson was one hell of a man.

Oh yeah, Charlie shot the picture of Tojo sprawled on his bloody desk after he shot himself in the head.

Buffalo News drops AP service

The Buffalo News is dropping AP service after 121 years with the news cooperative, media blogger Jim Romenesko reported Friday.

We include the story on its decision along with comment from the AP's Kate Butler and from two top editors, Rich Oppel and Jeff Thomas.

The decision is a reminder that our bureau chiefs and other executives face continual battles to retain and build on membership in the face of a tough economy and local-centric thinking by publishers and editors.

But battles are lost, battles won - and an example of the latter came in early January when a group of newspapers owned by Tribune Publishing resumed AP services after a two-year absence. The papers include major metropolitan dailies such as The Chicago Tribune, The Baltimore Sun and The Hartford Courant. The Los Angeles Times, which is the largest Tribune paper, had retained its AP membership. It's not easy out there. Never was.

Connecting would welcome your comments.

Here is the Romenesko report:

The Buffalo News spends about 5% of its news budget on the AP, and "given the changes in the marketplace, it makes sense to use that money differently," the Warren Buffett-owned paper is telling readers this Sunday.

"In place of the AP, we are publishing more from the large news organizations that have long been part of our national and international report, chiefly the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times and Bloomberg News."

Here's an excerpt of a column that's running this weekend:

After more than 121 years, The Buffalo News is no longer a member of the Associated Press.

It is a bittersweet parting. The AP is one of the world's largest news organizations and a fierce defender of press freedom. For decades, it has been the backbone of our national and foreign report. If it moves, the AP covers it.

But the news marketplace is changing. Thanks to the explosion of the Internet and smartphones and social media, the daily newspaper must fast become something different. What happened yesterday - the bread and butter of the Associated Press report - is old news by the time the newspaper lands on your doorstep. The newspaper of the 21st century must have more perspective, more behind-the-scenes reports, more stories that knit a dozen disparate elements into a bigger picture.

The economics of the news business are also changing. Thanks to the rapid growth of BuffaloNews.com, The News reaches more people than ever. But the cost of publishing the newspaper and building a new digital business means we must make choices. The AP has historically been nearly 5 percent of The News' news budget. Given the changes in the marketplace, it makes sense to use that money differently.

Reaction from the AP's Kate Butler, vice president for membership and local markets:

We are sorry to see The Buffalo News leave The Associated Press news cooperative. The news marketplace is indeed changing and AP is working with our members and customers to meet their needs across all platforms.

AP is at the forefront of digital newsgathering and delivery, creating content to serve a wide variety of publishers across platforms. We are innovating in content for mobile, across social media and especially in video services to deliver breaking news, as well as context and analysis.



We also are mindful of the financial pressures many publishers face, which is why we introduced new service options for AP members this year that offer more flexibility to choose the content and cost options that work best for their markets.

We have enjoyed working with The Buffalo News and hope they will see their way to returning to AP.

Among the reader comments to the Romenesko story were these:

Rich Oppel (AP 1965-1976, Michigan chief of bureau, 1973-1976, and an executive at newspapers in Tallahassee, Charlotte and Austin) - "AP has many excellent state capital bureaus, and dailies across the nation have cut legislative staffing. The actions of legislatures affect the lives of our readers more pervasively than city and county boards. We need AP."

Jeff Thomas (executive editor, Colorado Springs Gazette, 2006-11) - "In my former newsroom, where we took AP Full, the monthly assessment was a solid chunk of money, but it still amounted to less than the equivalent of 4 FTE, or a few percent of the overall newsroom budget. We grabbed every savings from AP we could get, but had we dumped it entirely, I would have spent more than 4 FTE on substitute services and the overtime on the sports desk trying to cobble together a halfway decent scoreboard every night, to say nothing of the state report that we would still need.

"Even in the one area where you would think the web could replace AP - the simple collection and redistribution of member contributions to all other members - you still need to pay for manpower in your own newsroom to make sure your contribution is flowing out, and to collect, sort and route the contributions coming in. And that's not simply a print concern; it's a concern for continual online publishing, too. If you put all the newsrooms in your state together, and count up the manpower that would be needed to run a direct content-sharing scheme, it would add up to something close to the collective AP costs anyway, let alone the administrative overhead and political energy spent herding every newsroom in your state into the same corral.

"As my AP bureau chief once put it: 'You don't need a reporter in Lincoln, Mont. - until the FBI surrounds Ted Kaczynski's cabin, and then you need a reporter in Lincoln RIGHT NOW.'

"Until publishers let go of the idea they must print something 7 days a week, and that the paper must contain news from beyond the city's borders, editors will have to buy news from some kind of service. Today's newsroom staffs have no hope of filling up today's print news holes, as tiny as they may be, 7/365. A local paper consisting only of locally produced material would be a single section, and smaller than any of the sections currently in your local daily. Advertisers who demand color positions -- i.e., the back page of a section -- would not be happy.

"Pity the publisher. The problem is not that AP is too expensive or the news it creates and distributes is irrelevant. The problem is the print vehicle."

My Best Job Ever

Michael Doan (Email) - When this reporter arrived in Las Vegas to become AP correspondent in 1968, his predecessor noted that the young, single man's eyes kept bugging out at the scantily clad waitresses during lunch. "You're going to like it here," he told me.

I loved covering Las Vegas entertainment. A showgirls' strike was one of my favorite ongoing stories. The casinos cultivated me, knowing that an AP story would be more widely read than an article in the Los Angeles Times. I enjoyed interviews of Jose Feliciano, Little Richard, Dionne Warwick, Ramsey Lewis, Hoagy Carmichael and others. Later, in San Francisco, I interviewed the Grateful Dead but never wrote a story. It may be the greatest regret of my life.



Sometimes I got burned. I sent out a story about women from wealthy California suburbs moonlighting as Las Vegas prostitutes, based on a local paper's story. "Oh, I just made it up," said the city editor, when I asked him about it later.

I covered underground nuclear tests by sitting at a bar at the tallest hotel in Las Vegas, and calling in the Los Angeles bureau to send out a story when I felt the building shake. "There it goes!" I would say before ordering a drink. The L.A. bureau was not happy about this.

Howard Hughes was big news, having arrived in the city secretly by train. Holed up in the penthouse of the Desert Inn hotel, he or his aides would make his one-sentence announcements about buying a new hotel. A security guard would deliver them to my desk at the one-man bureau in the Review Journal building and I would make 400-word stories out of them.

Sports was loads of fun. I covered the Wednesday night fights (but never wore a white shirt in the front row-red was better). In one night I covered George Foreman's first professional fight and Sonny Liston's last.

There were lots of big weddings there, too. I called Lana Turner's suite just after her eighth (I think) wedding, and interviewed the groom (a hypnotist) at 2 a.m. before they cut off all further phone calls. I think I wrote about Mickey Rooney's seventh wedding.

I enjoyed gambling, but I did it sparingly, setting aside \$10 and quitting after either doubling my money or losing it all. But an AP executive who shall not be named came out for a convention of some kind and got me to explain how craps was played. The next day, he told me he had lost all of his money at the craps table and asked if I could lend him

\$100. I eagerly went to the bank, deciding that this was a really good investment. When I brought it to him, he told me he had second thoughts and got his wife to wire him some money.

As much as I enjoyed the glamor of Las Vegas, the job slowly wore me down. In 1968, the world was going nuts with assassinations and international crises. And my role was to write about gamblers' reactions to these things. When a man was put on the moon in 1969, my assignment was to interview a stripper who jumped out of a space capsule.

Demands of the local media were overwhelming. One radio station had an hour-long news show that relied almost entirely on AP news, particularly local stories. When I took a day off for my birthday (as AP benefits allowed), the manager complained he had nothing to fill it with.

I think the last straw came when the biggest political story in Nevada in years happened: Gov. Paul Laxalt announced he was running for the Senate and other politicians scurried for position. My role? I had to go fix a disabled AP machine at a member station 30 miles into the desert.

In 1970 I transferred to San Francisco, the area where I grew up. There, they had their own mechanics to fix the AP machines.

Connecting mailbox

50 Rock, not 30 Rock...

Merrill Hartson ([Email](#)) - Don't know if Connecting does cqs, but I have egg streaming from my face on the faux pas I did regarding the expense account anecdote posted 2-19.

Of course, it was 50 Rockefeller Center, not 30 Rockefeller Center.

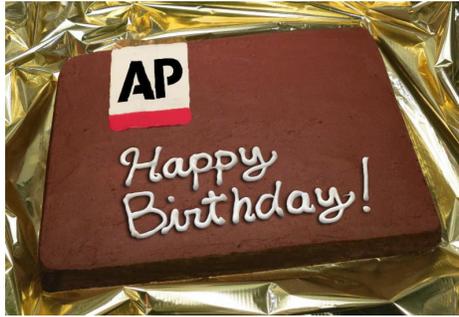
Maybe I would have remembered this historic site address better if I'd been invited there more often (LoL)

-0-

The meaning of snafu

Joe McGowan ([Email](#)) - A recent King crossword, which I work religiously, had as one of the answers "snafu". I am pretty sure it was LDB (Lou Boccardi) when he was executive editor who put out an all-points message that snafu would NOT be used by AP. Most dictionaries don't show this, but I believe the word came from the military and stood for "situation normal, all _____ up."

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Susan Clark [\(Email\)](#)

Dorothy Abernathy [\(Email\)](#)

Stories of interest

[Investigative Reporting Pulitzer entries up 50 percent since magazines were allowed in](#)

Since The Pulitzer Prizes changed the rules to allow online and print magazines, the contest has seen a 50 percent increase in investigative entries compared to last year, Mike Pride, the administrator of The Pulitzer Prizes, said in an email.

Feature submissions, meanwhile, have seen a 21 percent increase, Pride said. The number of entries for all categories, which usually number around 1,100, this year totals 1,191.

Investigative reporting entries, which last year totaled 75, this year number 112, Pride said. Feature submissions, which numbered 127 in 2014, increased to 154.

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[Leon Kent, who stopped a line of tanks at Battle of the Bulge, dies at 99](#) (Shared by John Epperson)



The first desperate hours of the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944, a young Army lieutenant was given an order that seemed impossible: stop a fast-moving column of German tanks from advancing.

The three soldiers assigned to the lieutenant were not trained in anti-tank warfare. The only artillery piece available was designed to bring down airplanes, not tanks. And the firing position provided no cover if the tanks returned fire.

A battlefield dispatch from the Associated Press described what happened:

"Anti-aircraft gunners, who stayed behind when the infantry withdrew, played a vital role in preventing a major German breakthrough in Belgium. . One battery, commanded by Lt. Leon Kent of Los Angeles, knocked out five tanks, including one King Tiger tank, in two hours."

(Connecting colleague John Epperson shares: As for the famous battle , my own father-in-law, a trooper in Gen George Patton's 3rd Army, 8th Armored Division, the Thundering Herd they were called, passed away at age 91. He was a survivor of that battle as well. Was selected by his officers to be a member of the welcoming party when they prepared to meet the oncoming troops of the Soviet Union at the Rhine River. He received three bronze battle stars on his European Campaign medal at end of the war. Over the years of the war, he transitioned from being a mounted cavalry horse trooper, trained at Fort Riley, Kansas. to mechanized cavalry. He won his silver spurs which I now have and three weeks later the War Dept. took away all their horses except for ceremonial units. The Pentagon moved cavalry troopers into light armored personnel carriers and Jeeps mounted with .50 caliber machine guns. They became the 88th Mechanized Cavalry of 8th Armored Division. We buried him with full military honors rendered by an honor guard team from the US Army, Fort Carson, Colorado.

-0-

[Staff exodus makes a tough business tougher in Butler, Missouri](#) (Shared by Scott Charton)

Running a newspaper can be a rough business. In tiny Butler, Mo., it just got rougher.

So it happens when all five members of the editorial staff of the town's weekly paper - The News Xpress - work to put a paper to bed and then, on that same night, collectively hand in their resignations. Then, just days later, they publish a brand new, competitive 16-page newspaper of their own, while opening an office only a few doors down from their former employer.

"All of our women up front, they bought a new paper and they opened one next door and they're trying to run us out of town," Chase Peters, the son of News Xpress owner Jon Peters, lamented this week as he and family scrambled to put out a paper with no staff.

Said Jon Peters: "I don't need sympathy ... I need labor. I need layout. I need workers."

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[Bill O'Reilly Responds. We Annotate.](#)

On Thursday, *Mother Jones* published an article by Daniel Schulman and me documenting how Fox News host Bill O'Reilly has mischaracterized his wartime reporting experience. It noted that he has repeatedly stated that during his short stint as a CBS correspondent in the 1980s, he was in the "war zone" during the Falklands war between the United Kingdom and Argentina in 1982. He once



claimed he had heroically rescued his cameraman in "a war zone in Argentina, in the Falklands," while being chased by army soldiers. Yet no American journalist reached the war zone in the Falkland Islands during this conflict. O'Reilly and his colleagues covered the war from Buenos Aires, which was 1,200 miles from the fighting.

O'Reilly responded to the story by launching a slew of personal invective. He did not respond to the details of the story. Instead, he called me a "liar," a "left-wing assassin," and a "despicable guttersnipe." He said that I deserve "to be in the kill zone." (You can read one of my responses here.) And in his show-opening "Talking Points memo" monologue on Friday evening, he continued the name-calling.

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[Times publisher, News UK, launches internal investigation after suicides of two members of its commercial staff](#)

News UK, the publisher of The Times and The Sun, has launched an internal investigation after two members of its commercial department took their own lives within weeks of one another amid fears that staff are being put under unreasonable pressure to hit targets.

In addition to the tragic deaths, at least nine other staff members from the company's advertising arm have been signed off recently with stress-related complaints.

Details of the internal probe came as it emerged that one of the company's senior executives had boasted about how its commercial and editorial departments were now working closely with one another, despite public assurances from the firm that they remained entirely separate.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Feb. 21, the 52nd day of 2015. There are 313 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 21, 1965, black Muslim leader and civil rights activist Malcolm X, 39, was shot to death inside Harlem's Audubon Ballroom in New York by assassins identified as members of the Nation of Islam. (Three men - Talmadge X. Hayer, Norman 3X Butler and Thomas 15X Johnson - were convicted of murder and imprisoned; all three were eventually paroled.)

On this date:

In 1437, James I, King of Scots, was assassinated; his 6-year-old son succeeded him as James II.

In 1513, Pope Julius II, who'd commissioned Michelangelo to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, died nearly four months after the project was completed.

In 1613, Mikhail Romanov, 16, was unanimously chosen by Russia's national assembly to be czar, beginning a dynasty that would last three centuries.

In 1885, the Washington Monument was dedicated.

In 1912, the Great Fifth Ward Fire broke out in Houston, Texas; although property losses topped \$3 million, no one was killed in the blaze.

In 1916, the World War I Battle of Verdun began in France as German forces attacked; the French were able to prevail after 10 months of fighting.

In 1945, during the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima, the escort carrier USS Bismarck Sea was sunk by kamikazes with the loss of 318 men.

In 1964, the first shipment of U.S. wheat purchased by the Soviet Union arrived in the port

of Odessa.

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon began his historic visit to China as he and his wife, Pat, arrived in Beijing.

In 1975, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former White House aides H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman were sentenced to 2 1/2 to 8 years prison for their roles in the Watergate cover-up (each ended up serving a year and a-half).

In 1989, the future president of Czechoslovakia, playwright Vaclav Havel (VATS'-lahv HAH'-vel), was convicted for his role in a banned rally and sentenced to nine months in jail (he was released in May 1989).

In 1995, Chicago adventurer Steve Fossett became the first person to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean by balloon, landing in Leader, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, in Belgium for a NATO summit, scolded Russia for backsliding on democracy and urged Mideast allies to take difficult steps for peace. Former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton wrapped up their tour of tsunami-ravaged nations with a visit to the Maldives. Israel freed 500 Palestinian prisoners in a goodwill gesture.

Five years ago: A mistaken U.S. missile attack killed 23 civilians in Afghanistan. (Four American officers were later reprimanded.) The United States stunned Canada 5-3 to advance to the Olympic men's hockey quarterfinals in Vancouver. Bode (BOH'-dee) Miller finally captured his elusive gold medal, winning the super-combined for his third medal in three events. Spectator Susan Zimmer, 52, was killed at the NHRA Arizona Nationals at Firebird International Raceway in Chandler when a tire flew off a crashing dragster and struck her.

One year ago: President Barack Obama granted an audience to Tibet's Dalai Lama over the strong objections from China that the U.S. was meddling in its affairs. Matteo Renzi formed a coalition government in Italy; at 39, he became the country's youngest premier ever. At age 18, Mikaela Shiffrin of the U.S. made Alpine skiing history as the youngest ever winner of an Olympic slalom gold medal, finishing 0.53 seconds faster than Austrian Marlies Schild.

Today's Birthdays: Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe is 91. Fashion designer Hubert de Givenchy is 88. Movie director Bob Rafelson is 82. Actor Gary Lockwood is 78. Actor-director Richard Beymer is 76. Actor Peter McEnery is 75. U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., is 75. Film/music company executive David Geffen is 72. Actor Alan Rickman is 69. Actress Tyne Daly is 69. Actor Anthony Daniels is 69. Tricia Nixon Cox is 69. Former Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, R-Maine, is 68. Rock musician Jerry Harrison (The Heads) is 66. Actress Christine Ebersole is 62. Actor William Petersen is 62. Actor Kelsey Grammer is 60. Country singer Mary Chapin Carpenter is 57. Actor Kim Coates (TV: "Sons of Anarchy") is 57. Actor Jack Coleman is 57. Actor Christopher Atkins is 54. Rock singer Ranking Roger is 54. Actor William Baldwin is 52. Rock musician Michael Ward is 48. Actress Aunjanue Ellis is 46.

Blues musician Corey Harris is 46. Country singer Eric Heatherly is 45. Rock musician Eric Wilson is 45. Rock musician Tad Kinchla (Blues Traveler) is 42. Actress Jennifer Love Hewitt is 36. Singer Charlotte Church is 29. Actress Ashley Greene is 28. Actress Ellen Page is 28. Actor Corbin Bleu is 26. Actress Hayley Orrantia (TV: "The Goldbergs") is 21. Actress Sophie Turner (TV: "Game of Thrones") is 19.

Thought for Today: "You owe it to us all to get on with what you're good at." - W.H. Auden, Anglo-American poet (born this date in 1907, died 1973).

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