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## Connecting - February 22, 2018

1 message

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Thu, Feb 22, 2018 at 8:58 AM

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# Connecting

February 22, 2018

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## A Connecting mystery...



Some items in John Barrymore's wallet at his death in 1942 with Walter Clausen's card in the center of the photo. (Source: Special Collections and Archives Library, University of Colorado, Boulder).

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

Why was the business card of the AP's Los Angeles chief of bureau in the wallet of the famed **John Barrymore** when the actor died in 1942?

That's the mystery to be uncovered when Connecting colleague **Paul Albright** found the card while researching for an article on the star of stage, film and radio.

And that's the lead article in today's issue of Connecting.

Have a great day!

Paul

# **An AP Connection to John Barrymore**



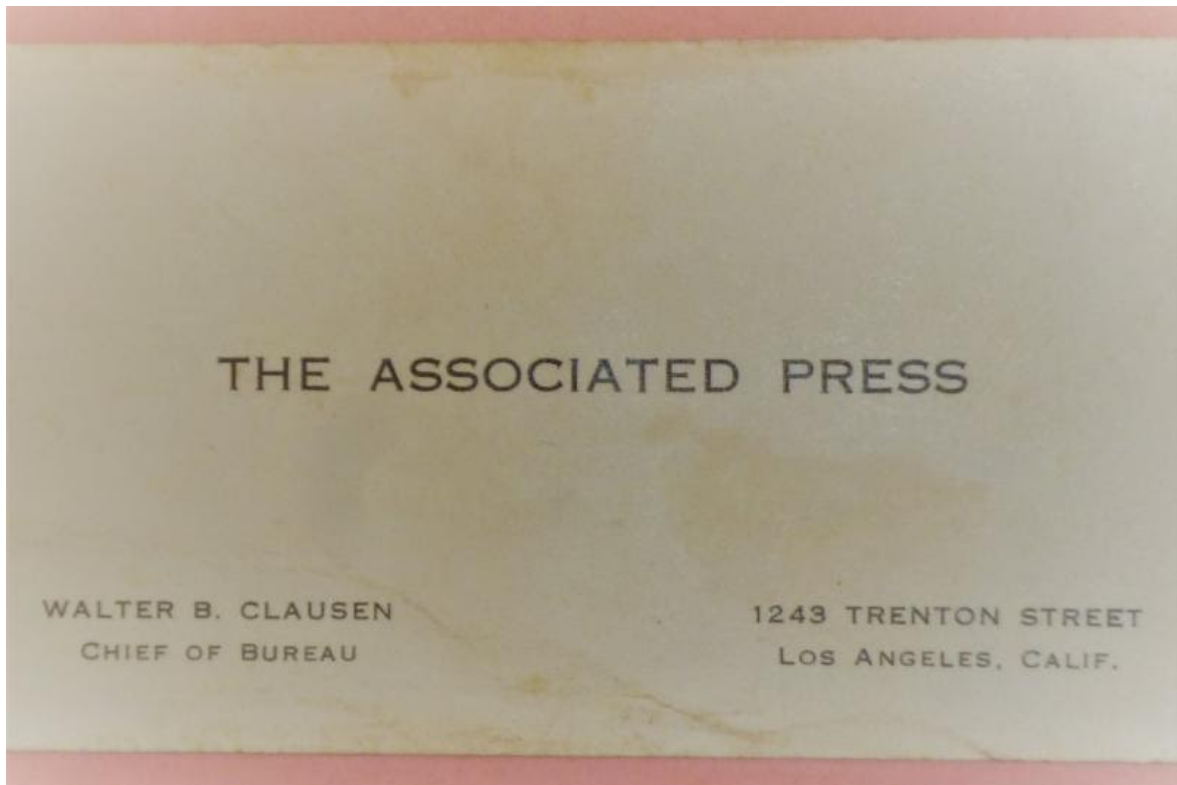
**Written on the back of this 1925 portrait of John Barrymore was: "Favorite photo. Personal picture. It was never given away by him except to friends. Taken when he was 43 years old." One of the quotes attributed to Barrymore concerns his own death: "Die? I should say not, dear fellow. No Barrymore would allow such a conventional thing to happen to him." (Photo in the Special Collections and Archives Library, University of Colorado, Boulder).**

**Paul Albright (Email)** - It all seemed a bit macabre, especially when I was photographing the contents of the dead man's wallet. And it wasn't your ordinary dead man, either. I was thumbing through the cards and notes that were in the wallet of the famed stage, film, and radio actor John Barrymore when he died from the ravages of alcoholism in Los Angeles in 1942.

My rummaging through Barrymore's belongings came about because of an article I am researching related to the actor's tumultuous four failed marriages. The search eventually led me to the library archives at the University of Colorado, which houses the papers of author Gene Fowler, who was Barrymore's friend and biographer. (See Fowler's, *Good Night Sweet Prince*.)

Sorting through Fowler's papers, I came across a letter-size envelope with the typed inscription: "Contents of Barrymore's wallet at time of his death. Wallet presented to John Jr., by Mr. Fowler." (Fowler was at Barrymore's bedside in his final days.)

The wallet's contents, which obviously had been returned to Fowler by Barrymore's family, contained a few scribbled notes, membership cards from the Screen Actors Guild, the Players Club in New York, three different yacht clubs and an auto club in Southern California, the New York Zoological Society, the Izaak Walton League, a letter seeking financial support for the Unemployment Relief Committee of the Studio Carpenters Union, and a business card from a fine arts auction house.



**Business card of Walter B. Clausen, AP COB in Los Angeles, included among items in John Barrymore's wallet.**

Then, one item jumped out at me. It was the Associated Press business card of **Walter B. Clausen**, the AP's chief of bureau in Los Angeles. Written on the back of his card was the street address of the AP's daytime bureau address in the LA Herald-Express Building, along with a residence notation and phone numbers in Santa Monica.

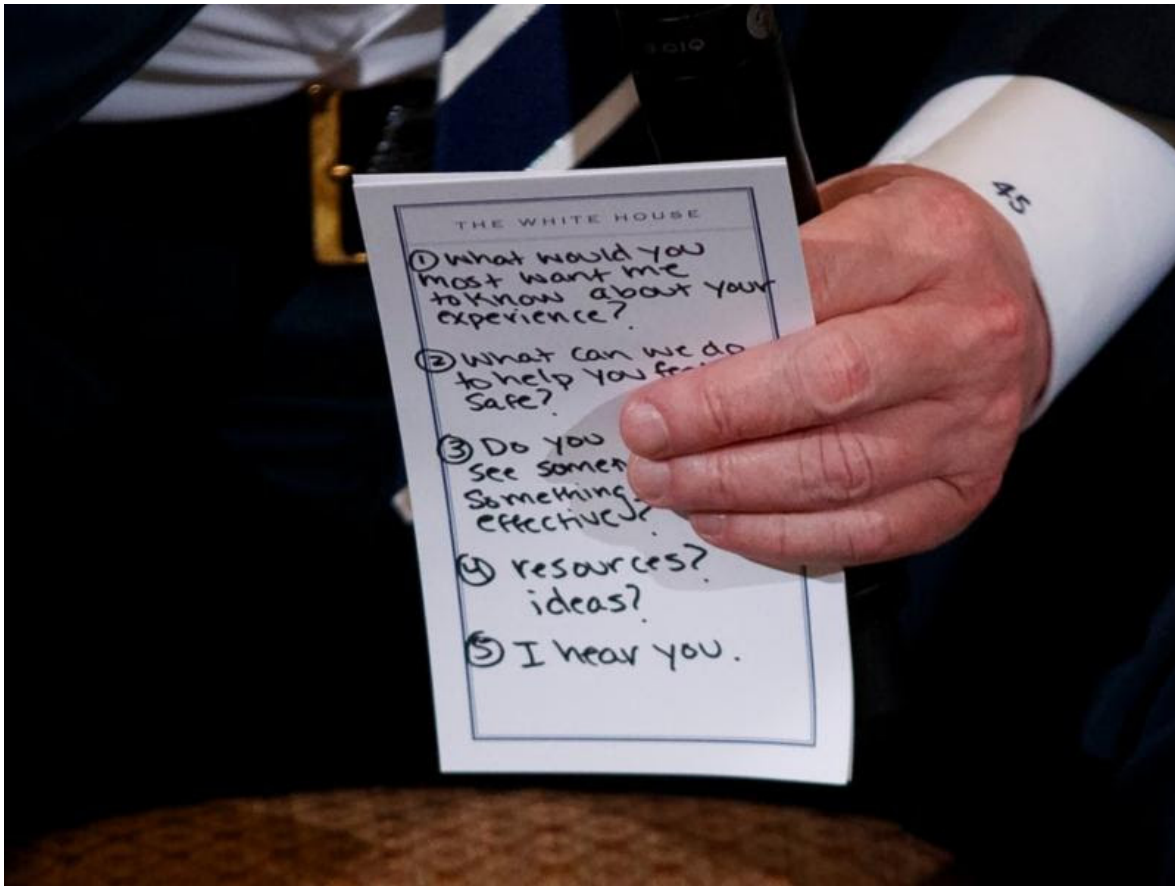
I emailed Connecting's Ye Olde Editor to see if he could help check the location of the LA AP bureau and when Clausen was COB. Paul Stevens contacted Francesca Pitaro at AP Corporate Archives who confirmed both things. Did Barrymore and Clausen have a personal or media-relations connection (or both)? We don't know the answer, but whatever the relationship, it was sufficient for one of the country's most famous actors to retain a business card and contact information for an AP bureau chief in the land of Hollywood.

Ms. Pitaro also provided Clausen's obituary from the Winter, 1955-56, issue of *The AP World*. Clausen entered journalism as a teen-ager shortly after the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. He worked for several newspapers in the Bay Area, served in the military in World War I, was an adviser to the Chinese republic movement, and was with the U.S. Commission on Public Information after the Great War.

Clausen joined the AP in 1920, working in the San Francisco, LA, and Sacramento bureaus. He was chief of bureau in LA from 1939-1941 and COB in Honolulu in 1942. Clausen joined the LA Evening Herald-Express as a copy editor after World War II and died in 1955 with his journalistic boots on; he collapsed in an elevator at the newspaper one month shy of his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## **Trump Used a Cheat Sheet to Remind Him to Show Empathy to School Shooting Survivors**





AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster

By **MAGGIE SEROTA**, Spin

On Wednesday President Trump held a listening session at the White House for students and parents affected by school shootings following the recent massacre in Parkland, Florida. While the president listened to grieving parents and students plead with him to make meaningful changes when it comes to student safety, eagle-eyed Associated Press photographer Carolyn Kaster snapped a shot of the handwritten notes Trump used to navigate the meeting.

The items on the agenda are numbered, with the first item reminding the president to ask: "What would you most want me to know about your experience?" The second item is partially obscured by Trump's hands, but we can safely assume reads "What can we do to help you feel safe?"

Items three and four are blocked, but the item number five is clearly visible and seems to remind the president to afford people experiencing overwhelming trauma basic dignity and respect. The last note on the card is simply an explicit reminder to tell people experiencing overwhelming trauma: "I hear you."

Andrew Pollack, a parent mourning the shooting death of 18-year-old Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School student Meadow Pollack, made a particularly strong

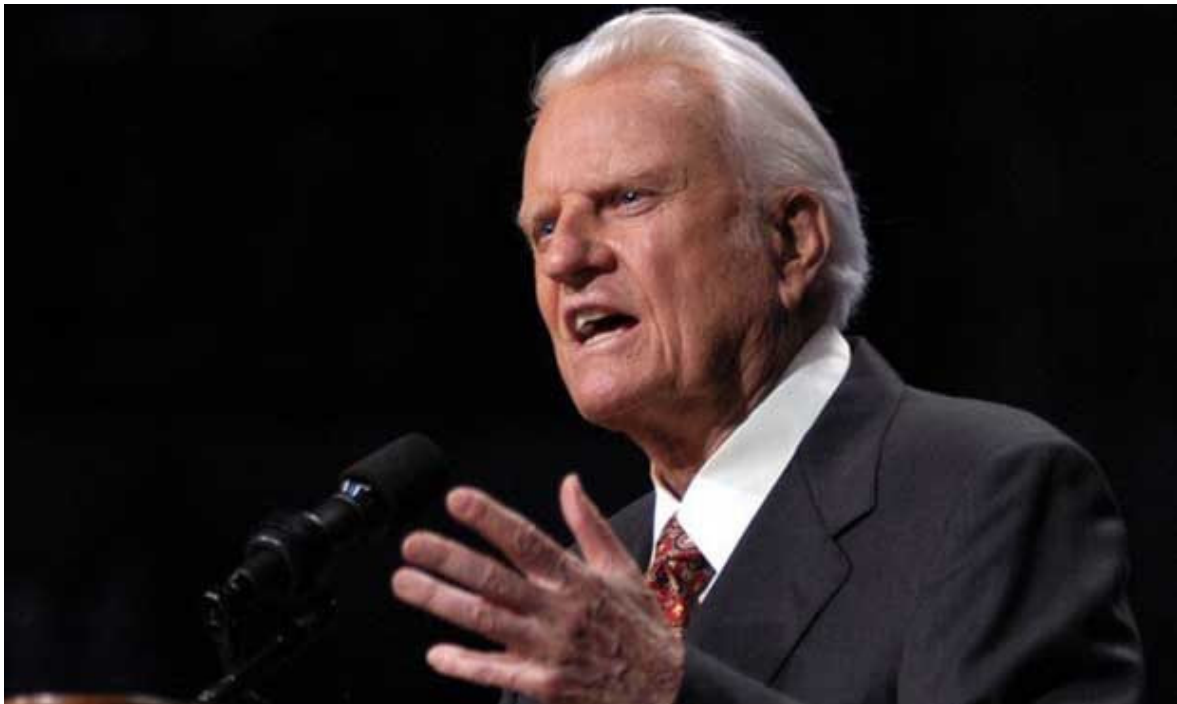
impression at the summit.

"It should have been one school shooting and we should have fixed it and I'm pissed. Because my daughter, I'm not going to see again," Pollack said. "King David Cemetery, that is where I go to see my kid now."

"Fix it!" Pollack told Trump.

[Click here](#) for a link to this story.

## A Prayer With Billy Graham Turns Out To Be A Bit Messy



AP Photo

**(EDITOR'S NOTE:** New Connecting colleague **Howard Wilkinson** ([Email](#)) wrote this column for WVXU, Cincinnati, in early February. Billy Graham died Wednesday at the age of 99.)

**By HOWARD WILKINSON - FEBRUARY 3, 2018**



One of the most memorable interviews I've done in my career was with a man who was not a politician, but was a spiritual adviser to many occupants of the White House over the years.

Billy Graham, the world's most famous TV evangelist, who has spread his Gospel message to billions on television and in person all over the world since starting his ministry by pitching tents in a Los Angeles parking lot in 1949, is now 99 years old and living in retirement in his mountaintop home near Asheville, North Carolina.

In Cincinnati, most people remember the four sweltering hot nights in June 2002, when the then-83-year-old Graham, in a city where racial divisions were running high, preached a message of reconciliation to 201,600 people who crowded into Paul Brown Stadium over the four nights.

Not as many, probably, remember Graham's previous crusade in Cincinnati - in October 1977, where he packed Riverfront Stadium for four nights.

I'll never forget it. It was when I managed to get a one-on-one interview with the man himself. An improbable feat for a 24-year-old rookie reporter.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

## More of your memories of Max Desfor

### *He gave me the chance to start my AP career*

**Kazuo Abiko** ([Email](#)) - I was introduced to Max Desfor by Los Angeles Times photographer Boris Yaro, who took photos of the Robert Kennedy assassination at the Ambassador Hotel. While studying at Cal State Northridge, I did my photo internship at the LA Times for two semesters and got acquainted with Boris, among other LA Times staffers.

I met Max in 1975, when I briefly returned to Japan because of my mother's illness. I had been informed that Max was a Pulitzer winner, but, as Mike Tharp described earlier, he was a gentle, kind person who never bragged about his achievements. When I asked him if there was a chance I could join the AP in Tokyo, he said there

was no opening at that time and encouraged me to go on to graduate school, which I did. Since then, I maintained occasional contact with him.

In 1978, when I called Max after submitting my master's thesis to the university, he said there was an opening and suggested that I come back to Tokyo soon. And I was hired as a photo editor by COB Roy Essoyan. Since Max retired shortly after that, I did not have a privilege to work with him for a substantial period of time, but I'm ever grateful to him for giving me a chance to start my career in this great news organization.

Thank you, Max, and rest in peace.

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### ***Max introduced me to beginning of Korean War in 1950***

**Gene Herrick** ([Email](#)) - It is a sad time without Max. Quite a loss of an AP compatriot who helped make the mold, both for The Associated Press, but for news photography, and journalism in general. Max opened the trail, and was a fearless lensman, and yet a gentleman, who could shoot pictures of the mundane as well as being a leader in war photography, and in the foreign service.

Max Desfor introduced me to the beginning of the Korean War in 1950. He met my flight from Tokyo at the airstrip in Pusan, South Korea. He showed me how to "Scrounge" (Get something you needed, by the barter system, which usually was whisky).

The next day he took me to the Mason front, introduced me to AP correspondent Stan Swinton, dropped me off, and headed back to Pusan for a flight to Tokyo for R& R.

After that, I was on my own. I ran into him one other time, somewhere around Taegu. Later, Max was covering the war in far North Korea when the Chinese entered the war. I was on the Eastern flank, and was with the 7th Army Division, which reached the long-sought-after goal at the Yalu River, which divided North Korea from Manchuria.

I never saw Max again, but my memory of him, and his exceptional work, shall live on until I too shall hang up my camera.

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## ***Memories of Max include lots of laughter***

**Arnold Zeitlin** ([Email](#)) - Amidst the acclaim for Max's professional accomplishments, Paul, I just have a few personal memories and laughs.

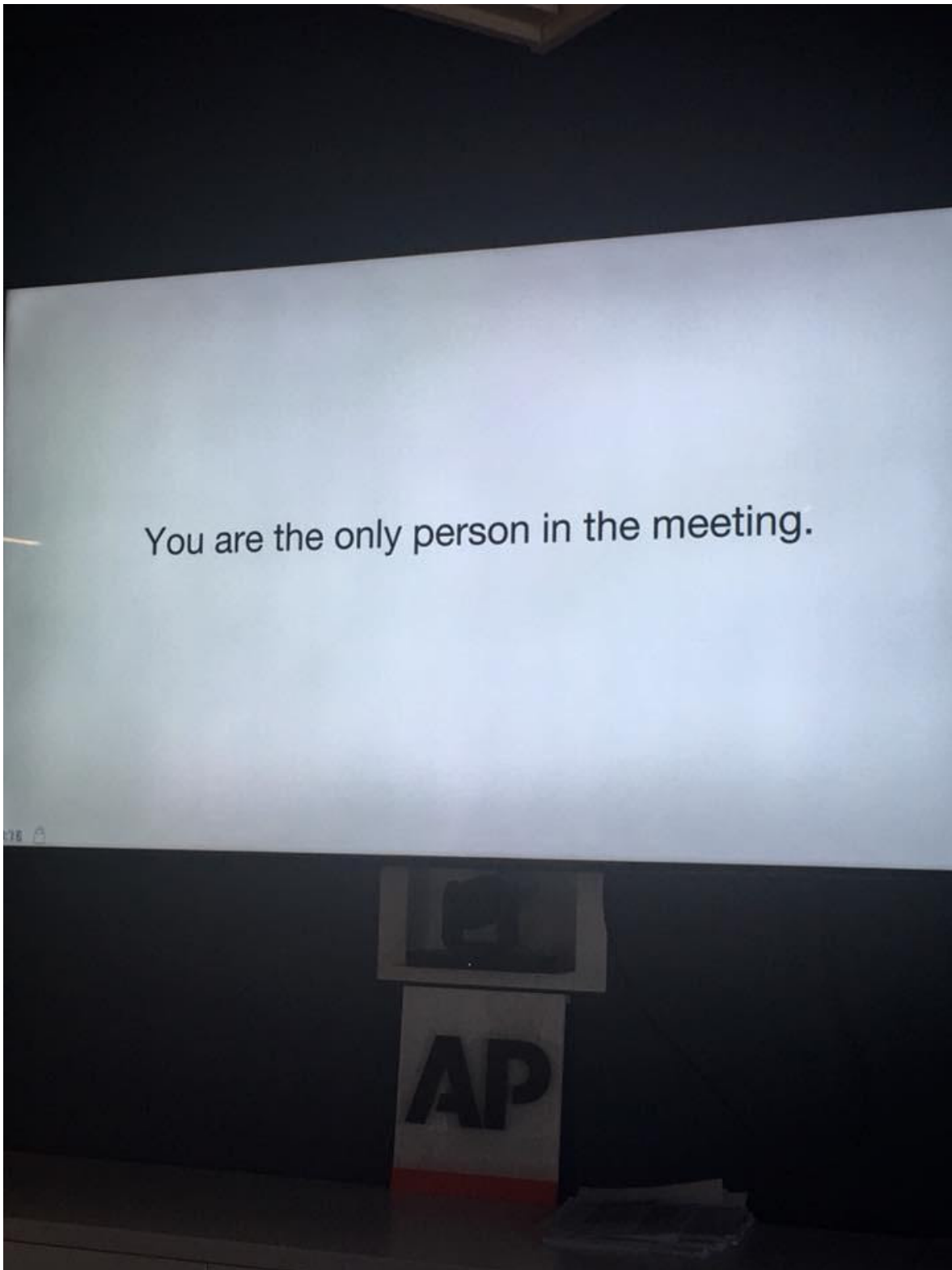
Among his lesser distinctions, Max was our first overnight guest at our home in Centreville, Virginia. He joined us for a housewarming party in the fall of 1991. We put him up for the night when he decided he didn't want to drive home in the dark to Silver Spring, Maryland.

We laughed together when we worked at Clark Field in 1975 after the evacuation from Saigon. I took a break to get a massage. When the masseuse learned I was with AP, she asked if I knew her favorite customer, Max Desfor.

Another laugh was about his being hauled in by the Japanese tax authorities who insisted because he was called Max, he must earn the maximum amount from AP and, therefore, he was underestimating his income.

Max was a lovely human being who earned every year of his 104-year reign.

## **You're wondering why we called you all together today - uh, just you**



**Kristin Gazlay** ([Email](#)) - I took this photo at the end of today's Beat of the Week judging session, which was delayed by conferencing gremlins, and I was not actually the only one in the room. We all laughed when we noticed it on the screen.

## Susan Clark's birthday a 'team event'



Our Connecting colleague Susan Clark celebrated her latest birthday Wednesday with fellow members of the AP's procurement team. Shown, from left around the table: Susan Clark, travel coordinator; Fred Savarese, senior buyer; Kristina Pentek, contracts manager and travel manager; Vince Lee, procurement specialist, and Kevin Hudson, director.

## Your favorite songs relating to the news media

**Doug Pizac** ([Email](#)) - For photographers, there is no better choice that I know of than "Kodachrome" by Paul Simon. I have a snippet of it for my cell's ringtone.

Unfortunately, fewer and fewer photographers are recognizing the classic film's name let alone the song and what it meant to my beloved photo industry. In addition to my own work, I also teach college photo courses where I'm training the next generation of shooters. One day my phone rang in class and a student asked what the song was. I said Kodachrome and she asked what was that; she and others had never heard of the film. I aged about a decade with that question.

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**Mark Thompson (Email)** - Getting a kick out of your news-media song list. As a retired reporter of more than 40 years, I always have fondly filed such lyrics away in the memory bank. Here's a handful that I haven't seen surface in Connecting (which I find to be a great read, despite my lack of APness):

**Beatles - Paperback Writer** (... "his son is working for the Daily Mail....")

**Paul Simon - Me and Julio Down by the Schoolyard** (.... "end up on the cover of Newsweek...")

**Guess Who - Share the Land** ("...did you read the news, this morning when the paper landed in your yard....")

**Neil Young - Don't Let It Bring You Down** ("...Cold wind ripping down the alley at dawn, and the morning paper flies...")

**Hedgehoppers Anonymous - It's Good News Week** (pretty much the whole thing...)

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**John Willis (Email)** - A reminder for all who carried papers as youngsters:

American Pie by Don McLean

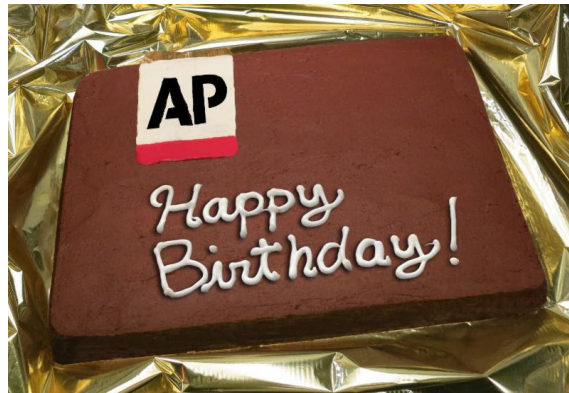
Second and third verses:



But February made me shiver  
With every paper I'd deliver  
Bad news on the doorstep  
I couldn't take one more step

I can't remember if I cried  
When I read about his widowed bride  
Something touched me deep inside  
The day the music died

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Dorothy Abernathy - [dabernathy@outlook.com](mailto:dabernathy@outlook.com)

## Stories of interest

### ***Radio News Retains a Central Industry Role***

(RadioWorld)

By JAMES CARELESS

By some measures, radio news - and radio news employment - are holding their own in an increasingly web-dominated world.

The Radio Television Digital News Association/Hofstra University Survey into radio newsroom staffing levels found that in 2016, about 75 percent stayed the same from the year before, while about 15 percent had an increase in staff size, said RTDNA Executive Director Dan Shelley. For 2017, the most recent year for which data are available, about 77 percent were planning to keep staff size the same and 12 percent were planning to increase it.

Meantime, news or news/talk leaders like WTOP, WBBM, WCBS and KFI regularly appear among the list of top-earning stations in the country according to annual revenue estimates from BIA/Kelsey.

Industry biggie iHeartMedia considers news important, with "more local news people in more places than any other news organization in the country," said Chris Berry, its SVP of News Talk and Sports. "We have more reporters than the Associated Press or any newspaper, television or radio group."

Read more [here](#).

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***The Tribune's "Tragedy"*** (Gateway Journalism Review)



**By TERRY GANEY**

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Eighteen months after GateHouse Media bought the family-owned Columbia Daily Tribune, the staff has been slashed, readers are frustrated and circulation has plunged.

No doubt daily newspapers have retrenched within the last 10 years in the face of market challenges. But the Tribune has been bled dry to achieve financial results. As of mid-February, layoffs and departures had left the newspaper with one fulltime reporter in a city of more than 100,000.

"What we are seeing here is a tragedy—a journalistic and civic tragedy," said George Kennedy, former associate dean of the University of Missouri School of Journalism. "One of the country's best small-sized newspapers has been gutted."

Kennedy is the former managing editor of the Columbia Missourian, the journalism school's teaching newspaper. He knows from experience what developments are going uncovered under the newspaper's new ownership.

"Apparently the operational approach of GateHouse, unlike other publishers, is to strip as much as they can out of the expense side, the journalistic side, and maximize profit, which is almost inevitably a pretty short term approach to things," Kennedy said.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton, Max Thomson.

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## ***Bobbi Baker Burrows, custodian of Life magazine's storied photo archive, dies at 73***

(Washington Post)



**By Adam Bernstein**

Bobbi Baker Burrows, a stalwart custodian of Life magazine's storied photo archive who, as director of photography for the magazine's book series, became an arbiter of how newsmakers and news events were immortalized by one of the most influential photojournalism outlets of all time, died Jan. 10 at her home on Martha's Vineyard, Mass. She was 73.

The cause was corticobasal degeneration, a rare neurological disorder, said her husband, photo archivist Russell Burrows.

Mrs. Burrows was hired in 1966 as a photo assistant at Life, a cornerstone of the Time-Life empire, toward the end of its heyday as a mass-market pictorial magazine. Known for its photo essays, Life was revered during the mid-20th century for chronicling war, movie stars, the space race, the Olympic Games and extraordinary human interest stories.

After shuttering in 1972, Life was resurrected as a monthly from 1978 to 2000 and also produced special issues and books to commemorate historical anniversaries and landmark news events, including the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Chuck Zoeller, who said, "While there's not an obvious AP connection, Bobbi and her husband Russell Burrows are well-known to many in the photo community. Russell's dad of course was the legendary Life photographer Larry Burrows, who worked alongside Horst and other AP photographers in Vietnam, before he was killed in the 1971 helicopter downing that also killed AP's Henri Huet and UPI's Kent Potter, among others."

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## ***Newsonomics: Will Michael Ferro double down on newspapers or go digital?*** (Nieman)

By **KEN DOCTOR**

Michael Ferro's not done yet.

He may have sold off his prized flagship Los Angeles Times - the cornerstone of his latest transformation strategy - but the publishing wheeler-dealer already has his top team consumed with finding new deals.

That deal-making appears to be traveling on two tracks. One involves newspapers - their purchase and consolidation. The other lays rail for a digital-only content business expansion. And then, there's the seemingly wild-eyed Ferro dream: buy



Gannett, a company reeling again, its stock price down more than 10 percent Tuesday after announcing dismal fourth-quarter and full-year 2018 financials.

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - February 22, 2018



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, Feb. 22, the 53rd day of 2018. There are 312 days left in the year.

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

On Feb. 22, 1732 (New Style date), the first president of the United States, George Washington, was born in Westmoreland County in the Virginia Colony.

### **On this date:**

In 1630, English colonists in the Massachusetts Bay Colony first sampled popcorn brought to them by a Native American named Quadequina for their Thanksgiving celebration.

In 1862, Jefferson Davis, already the provisional president of the Confederacy, was inaugurated for a six-year term following his election in November 1861.



In 1892, "Lady Windermere's Fan" by Oscar Wilde was first performed at London's St. James' Theater.

In 1909, the Great White Fleet, a naval task force sent on a round-the-world voyage by President Theodore Roosevelt, returned after more than a year at sea.

In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge delivered the first radio broadcast from the White House as he addressed the country over 42 stations.

In 1935, it became illegal for airplanes to fly over the White House.

In 1943, Pan Am Flight 9035, a Boeing 314 flying boat, crashed while attempting to land in Lisbon, Portugal. Twenty-five people were killed; 14 survived, including actress-singer Jane Froman.

In 1959, the inaugural Daytona 500 race was held; although Johnny Beauchamp was initially declared the winner, the victory was later awarded to Lee Petty.

In 1967, more than 25,000 U.S. and South Vietnamese troops launched Operation Junction City, aimed at smashing a Vietcong stronghold near the Cambodian border. (Although the communists were driven out, they later returned.)

In 1974, Pakistan officially recognized Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan).

In 1980, the "Miracle on Ice" took place in Lake Placid, New York, as the United States Olympic hockey team upset the Soviets, 4-3. (The U.S. team went on to win the gold medal.)

In 1997, scientists in Scotland announced they had succeeded in cloning an adult mammal, producing a lamb named "Dolly." (Dolly, however, was later put down after a short life marred by premature aging and disease.)

Ten years ago: Turkish troops crossed into northern Iraq in their first major ground incursion against Kurdish rebel bases in nearly a decade. Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez gave birth to twins, a girl and a boy. Civil rights activist Johnnie Carr died in Montgomery, Alabama, at age 97.

Five years ago: The Justice Department joined a lawsuit against disgraced cyclist Lance Armstrong alleging the former seven-time Tour de France champion had concealed his use of performance-enhancing drugs and defrauded his longtime sponsor, the U.S. Postal Service. (The case is headed to trial.)

One year ago: The Trump administration lifted federal guidelines that said transgender students should be allowed to use public school bathrooms and locker rooms matching their chosen gender identity. Most of the Dakota Access pipeline opponents abandoned their protest camp ahead of a government deadline to get off the federal land. A shooting at a bar in Olathe (oh-LAY'-thuh), Kansas, left one man dead and two others wounded; witnesses said a man yelled, "Get out of my country" before opening fire on two Indian nationals who worked as engineers at GPS-maker Garmin. (A suspect has been charged with first-degree murder and first-degree attempted murder, as well as federal hate crime charges.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Paul Dooley is 90. Actor James Hong is 89. Actor John Ashton is 70. Actress Miou-Miou is 68. Actress Julie Walters is 68. Basketball Hall of Famer Julius Erving is 68. Actress Ellen Greene is 67. Former Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., is 66. Former White House adviser David Axelrod is 63. Actor Kyle MacLachlan is 59. World Golf Hall of Famer Vijay Singh is 55. Actress-comedian Rachel Dratch is 52. Actor Paul Lieberstein is 51. Actress Jeri Ryan is 50. Actor Thomas Jane is 49. TV host Clinton Kelly is 49. Actress Tamara Mello is 48. Actress-singer Lea Salonga (LAY'-uh suh-LONG'-guh) is 47. Actor Jose Solano is 47. International Tennis Hall of Famer Michael Chang is 46. Rock musician Scott Phillips is 45. Singer James Blunt is 44. Actress Drew Barrymore is 43. Actress Liza Huber is 43. Rock singer Tom Higgenson (Plain White T's) is 39. Actor Zach Roerig is 33. Actor Daniel E. Smith is 28.

***Thought for Today: "The passion for setting people right is in itself an afflictive disease." - Marianne Moore, American poet (1887-1972).***

## Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.



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