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Connecting -- May 17, 2018

1 message

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Connecting

May 17, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

Many of you - fellow former chiefs of bureau, broadcast executives, chiefs of communication and technicians - spent a lot of time on the road, calling on members and recruiting prospective ones, attending conventions and state meetings, tending to member equipment and the like.

Translation: Lots of nights in motel rooms.



In my visits to the Bootheel of Missouri when Kansas City chief of bureau, I often was accompanied by the St. Louis correspondent whose staff had news responsibility for that area of the state and its 10 newspaper members.

I was reminded of one of those correspondents, **Jim Salter**, who is still in that position today, when I played a USTA match Tuesday night in an Over-18 league in Kansas City and got to meet the newest member of our team - Jim's son **Tyler**, who is 25.

To get some exercise and have some fun after long days on the road, Jim and I (and **Randy Picht** before him) would find a lighted tennis court in the town where we were overnighing and play a few sets. We weren't picky where we played. The cracked, poorly-lit courts in Kennett held special appeal because the internationally famed singer **Sheryl Crow** once played on them while in high school. (Later on, she donated money to renovate the courts.)

Jim says the "new-found enthusiasm" for tennis that resulted from our trips "rubbed off on the rest of the family. Soon, (wife) Kathy and I were taking rackets on vacations and all three kids were playing. The love of tennis stuck: Dan and Tyler both played No. 1 singles in high school and both went to state. Emily, our youngest, also played three years in high school. Lincoln, the family's bichon frise, likes tennis, too, but just the balls."

How did you spend your off-duty hours on the road - whatever your duties involved. Anything out of the ordinary? I'd welcome your stories.

And oh yes, playing on the same team with the son of my colleague aged me just a bit.



Sheryl Crow Photo by **George Anderson/Daily Dunklin Democrat**

Connecting question of the day: Name your Connecting colleague, one who some of you know quite well, who has deep ties to Kennett and its daily newspaper, the Daily Dunklin Democrat. First in with the correct answer gets an old tennis ball!

Today's issue brings you photos of the honorees at the annual AP 25-Year Club celebration at New York headquarters last week. Here's a preview photo that shows **Carol Deegan**, Entertainment News, New York, hiding her face momentarily as she is honored for 50 years of service by AP President and CEO **Gary Pruitt** and Director of Media Relations **Lauren Easton**. (Photo courtesy of AP Corporate Communications)



Congratulations to all of those honored. Have a great day!

Paul

Exiting the exit poll: The AP's new plan for surveying voters after a not-so-hot 2016

By CHRISTINE SCHMIDT

Nieman Lab

One hundred and seventy-four days remain until the United States' midterm elections (902 until the next presidential election, but who's counting) - which means there's still time to "evolve" how polling is conducted.

The 2016 presidential election wasn't polling's shining moment, with many post-mortems pointing to opinion polls misleading election forecasters and underestimating now-President Trump's support. It didn't help that some polls were tied to news organizations that don't really have the resources anymore to support this work - at least doing this work well. There's no perfect poll aside from (maybe) the ballot itself, but the polling system - both conducted by the media and reported on in the media - has faced critics since long before November 8, 2016.

These issues contributed to the Associated Press' and Fox News' departure from the Election Day polling data shared by the major networks last year. But now the wire service has built a new-and-hopefully-improved election data-gathering system made up of comprehensive surveys and online polling. It tested the new approach in several 2017 state elections; for 2018, both Fox News and The Washington Post have signed up to receive AP's results from at least some states on Election Day.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

Fred Wright Didn't Know about Germond Rule

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - Fred Wright was the head of the Chicago photo department for many years. Fred was loved by most, even though he was exocentric, not very tall, almost cuddly, and one of the finest photo editors in the business.

Fred had apparently not been aware of the Germond Rule, as expressed by Carl Leubsdorf in Monday's Connecting, or he was displaying his unusuality.

My memory thinks it was the 1952 National Democratic Convention in Chicago. In those days, the conventions most often lasted about 10 days, and the work day

went from about 5 a.m. until about 2 a.m. - you know, one of the usual days for something like that.

Anyway, one night, after we quit business at the "Office" in the convention hall, at the famous Chicago Stockyards, we all went to a reportedly excellent steak house in the Loop. If I remember correctly, Barry Stroup, the photo editor in Dallas (His brother, Preston was a great photographer in Detroit), was the one to highly praise the T-bone steaks at this place. That is what all of us ordered, except Fred Wright. Fred ordered bacon and eggs. Of course, we all prepared our stomachs by pre-wetting with libations. Fred had his usual: One shot of Seagram's 7-Crown over ONE ice cube. Were it delivered with two ice cubes, back it went.

There were about 15 of us who ordered the T-bone steaks. Fred, of course, ordered his bacon and eggs. When the order came, the T-bone steaks were devoid of the tasty filet, which is naturally a part of the steak. Barry sent them all back, with a great admonition to the maitre'd, the waiters, and all who would listen. "The filet is a natural part of the T-bone. Take all of these back and give us the proper T-bone steak. The restaurant quick cooked the proper number of filets to match the T-bones already delivered.

We ate; the bill came, and Executive Newsphoto Editor Al Resch, using the Germond method, equally divided the total amount. Poor ole Fred Wright had to spend mucho dollars above the bacon and egg cost. We all had a wonderful laugh. Fred Wright smiled.

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Hopscotching around Mexico with the Pope, and Hugh Mulligan

Tom Fenton ([Email](#)) - Hugh Mulligan truly was a hoot. I had the pleasure of working with him over the course of several days in 1979 during Pope John Paul II's first trip to Mexico. AP pulled out all the stops for the historic visit, beginning with the chartered jet we used to follow the Pope around the republic. The clock on the cabin bulkhead was intended to show time to destination but Hugh promptly explained what it was really showing - namely, "time left to drink!" Indeed, the plane came with a full bar and a very agreeable stewardess. It was a great way to follow the Pope as he hopscotched around Mexico.

My favorite Mulligan story was one he told on himself and I am surprised someone who was there hasn't already revisited it. The way Hugh told it the setting was a publisher's convention during the Vietnam war.

Hugh said that he gave a talk and then stood for a question and answer session. It was then that an old and conservative publisher stood up in the back of the room and barked, "Mr. Mulligan, when you were in Vietnam, did you try any of that there marijuana?"

Hugh said he thought for a moment and then responded, "You know, I'm a Catholic. And I pays good money to the church of Rome to go to confession. So I can't see any reason why I oughta stand up here and take on amateurs."



Not sure AP executives in attendance were amused but Hugh said the crowd went wild. I wish I had had the chance to be around him more, but Hugh didn't make too many trips to Latin America.

Another amusing moment from the same trip, though not directly involving Hugh, occurred during the Pope's stop in Guadalajara.

As I recall it the Pope was running about four hours late and it was well into the evening by the time he finished and we all headed for the airport.

Yet the delay did not stop hundreds of thousands of people from lining the main route back to the planes.

The papal entourage and press pack boarded our chartered buses to head for the airport, but in the crowd and traffic confusion the motorcade somehow got out of order. It wasn't supposed to happen this way but the press bus we were in somehow wound up in the lead, well ahead of the Pope.

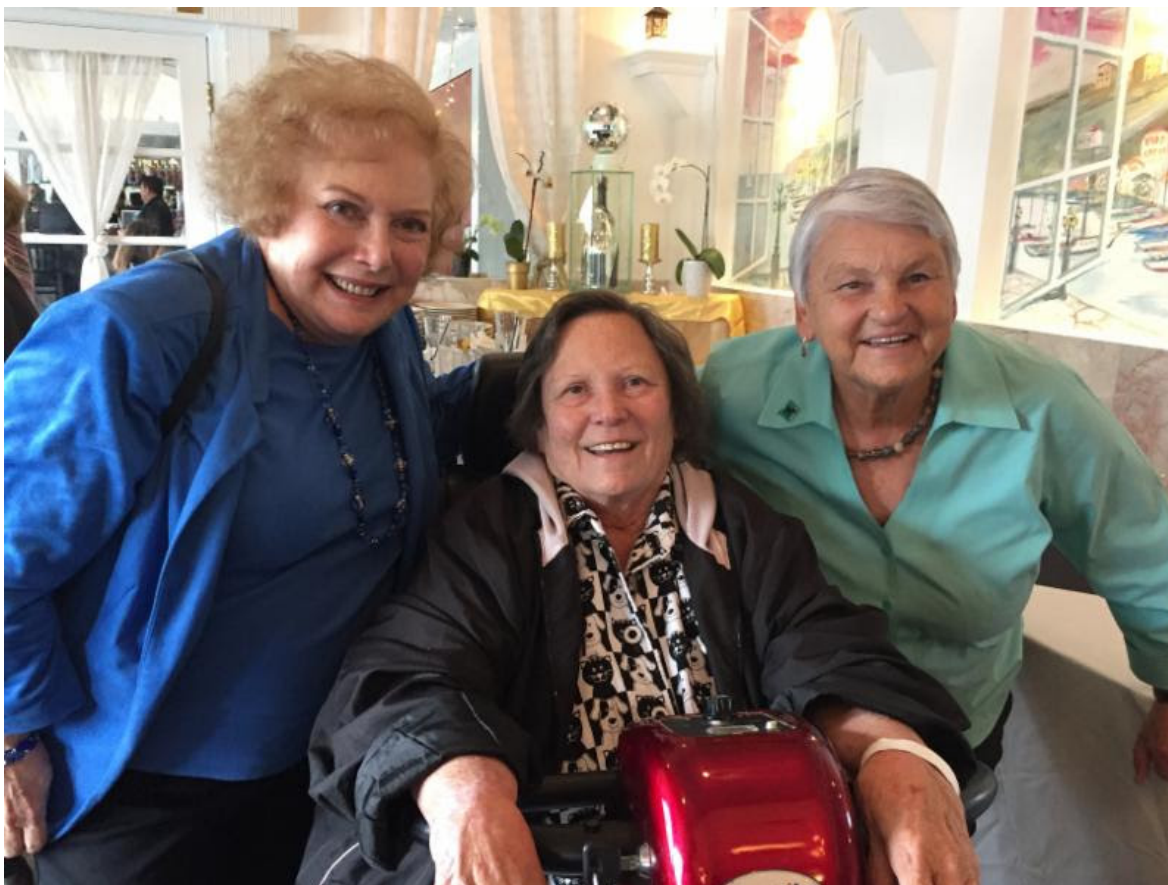
In the dim glow of the interior bus lights, a VOA correspondent wearing a white guayabera wandered up to the front of the bus to get a better look at the people lining the street. As we sped by, the crowd began to cheer. We realized they were mistaking the VOA guy for the Pope.

As soon as the VOA guy figured that out, he got up against the windshield and, with hand outstretched, began making the sign of the cross, blessing the crowd.

We'd have been in trouble if the bus had broken down but my guess is that after they saw the Pope, most of the crowd probably figured they had also been blessed by a lesser Vatican official.

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The News Geezers



Linda Deutsch ([Email](#)) - Three AP vets attended a gathering of a venerable AP group called News Geezers. After a fierce battle over the name, I and others yielded to founder Bob Tarlau who sees it as joke. Left to right are Linda Deutsch, Sue Manning and Rachel Ambrose. Geezers? You be the judge.

Your memories of covering the Indy 500



Mike Harris ([Email](#)) - Not only has the physical plant at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway changed greatly since my rookie year of 1970, but the way that the Associated Press covers the race has changed significantly, too.

This month, led by auto racing writer Jenna Fryer, who succeeded me when I retired in 2009, there will be four or five AP writers at the track on race day, all sitting in the gigantic and hermetically-sealed infield media center, where you can see the main straightaway or watch the race on one of the dozens of TVs hanging from the ceiling.

These days, the 500 festivities last just two weeks and Indiana sports writer Mike Marot does most of the daily coverage and feature setup work before the out-of-towners arrive.

In my early years there, the Indy 500 was a month-long event and we always had at least two people at the speedway every day that cars were scheduled to take to the 2 1/2-mile oval. Back in the 70s and early 80s, that was usually me and my Indy compatriot Steve Herman. Fellow Indy staffers Jerry Garrett, who later had a short stint as auto racing writer, and Hank Lowenkron were also among the regulars at the track in May.

We wrote a main story for the morning newspapers and another for the many (in those days) afternoon newspapers, as well as covering the crashes, breaking news and planning and writing numerous weekend features that appeared in newspapers all over the world. After all, Indy was and is an international event.

Race day was very different back then for a variety of reasons. Among them: It was the biggest single-day sporting event in the world, attracting more than 300,000 spectators and it was much more dangerous back in those days before numerous advances in safety technology on the cars and to the racetrack itself.

Just getting into the track on race day was a tough job. The traffic was heavy, starting before dawn, and the parking lots would fill up early. For a number of years,

most of the out-of-town AP staff, including me after I left Indy, stayed at a Howard Johnson Motor Inn about one mile from the track. We would form up a convoy of cars at around 6 a.m., with my car in the lead, and drive into the speedway on a route that no GPS would have found. The short trip often took 25 to 30 minutes, depending whether we got the credential gate before or during the arrival of all the buses crammed with high school and college bands that took part in the extravagant pre-race ceremony.

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief when we were safely parked inside the track oval. And then the waiting began, with the race not starting until 11 a.m. But, with all those people stuffed inside the track, the air was crackling with electricity and anticipation for many hours.

The start of the 500-mile, 200-lap race was considered the most dangerous moment in sports, with 33 racing missiles, traveling at speeds over 200 mph lined up in 11 rows of three and heading for the first turn that three-time Indy winner Johnny Rutherford described as "turning left into a dark narrow closet."

By Wednesday of race week, the out-of-towners began to arrive. In the early years, AP headquarters was always represented by the General Sports Editor or the Deputy Sports Editor. Wick Temple made it out several times, as did Byron Yake, Terry Taylor and Darrell Christian, who actually became a regular, editing copy on race day right up to his retirement a few years ago.

Over the years, columnists Will Grimsley, Hal Bock and Jim Litke have chronicled the race, while great feature writers like Bruce Lowitt, Paul Newberry, Nancy Armour, Eddie Pells and many other of AP's best have taken part in the 500 coverage.

Of course, Darrell Christian had another reason for coming to Indy, where he had worked as news editor in the early 70s, the same time I was state sports editor. He was and is an avid golfer and he began the tradition of the AP staff playing golf on the Saturday of race weekend, a day when there was no action at the track. It began as a foursome with me, DC, Steve Herman and whoever we could recruit. But it grew to as many as eight foursomes and became known as the DC Open. It was an all-star event, drawing member sports writers, family members and golfers of every ability, from low-handicap to true duffers. And it was great fun.

Also in my early years, another tradition developed. That was a big AP dinner the night before the race. Not only were the Indy sports writers invited, but also the rest of the Indy staff, along with spouses, added to the out-of-towners and hosted by the sports editor or deputy sports editor. As the fun evening drew to a close, I was always called up to make my race prediction, which wasn't always very accurate.

On race day, the AP had at least 100 people at the track, including writers, editors, photographers _with longtime Indy photo editor Chuck Robinson in charge _ and runners. It was a massive effort that paid off big in the days when we were competing head-to-head with UPI. AP generally won the play _ the competition with UPI _ and there was hell to pay if we didn't.

In the 70s and 80s, Steve and I worked in the auxiliary press box, hanging below the upper deck on the outside of the main straightaway. It was open air. That meant broiling hot some years and freezing cold in other years _ depending on the fickle Indiana weather _ and always windy.

From our perch, we could see the entire pit road and fairly deep into the fourth turn and the first turn. We used headphone radios to listen to the race and keep us informed on what was happening on the parts of the track we couldn't see. Eventually, closed circuit television gave us a view of the entire track and replays of the accidents, but that didn't come until a few years after I started writing the main lead.

In those early years, we had staffers or stringers spread out around the track, manning telephones to call in their observations of accidents, incidents and color. And it was often very tough to hear what they were saying with the cars roaring past in the background.

In those early days, Herman would write a running account of the race, filing 100-mile updates and bulletins on crashes. My leads were edited in the press box by one of the NY editors, usually Terry Taylor or Darrell Christian, two of the best editors I ever worked with. And we would get two or three leads, totaling more than 1,500 words, onto the wire within 30 minutes of the end of the race. Then we would go back and streamline the copy, add more quotes and color and send it again.

Meanwhile, in the media center in the infield, the rest of the AP writers on hand were turning out columns, sidebars and features. By actual count, we had 17 Indy stories on the wire one year in the early 80s. By the time, the last PMer was turned out, it was many hours after the checked flag,

Finally, for a number of years, we would all gather again at the Indy home of technician Pat Bradshaw and his family for a light dinner, a few beers and to watch the TV replay of the race _ it was not broadcast live to Indy in the early days.

It was a long and exhausting day for everyone, but usually very rewarding.

Honorees at AP's annual 25-Year Club celebration

25 Years



Staffers marking 25 years of service pose with AP president and CEO Gary Pruitt during the 25-Year Club Celebration at New York headquarters, May 10, 2018. From left, Michael Sirolly, East Regional Desk, Philadelphia; Patrick Sison, New York Photos; Drew Kieffer, Cranbury Technical Center; Bernadine Jimenea, Corporate Finance; Vinay Cherwoo, New York Sports; Pruitt; and Jim Clarke, Local Markets, Denver. (AP Corporate Communications)

30 Years



Staffers marking 30 years of service pose with AP president and CEO Gary Pruitt during the 25-Year Club Celebration at New York headquarters, May 10, 2018. From left, Bill Pilc, New York Technology; Debbie Rusolo, Cranbury Technical Center; Jorge Nunez, New York Technology; Chris Carola, Albany News; Darlene Superville, Washington News; David Wilkison, Revenue/Americas, New York; Palmet (Pam) Ellis, Corporate Finance; Marian O'Neill, Corporate Finance; Pruitt; and Yvette Reyes, Revenue/Americas, New York. (AP Corporate Communications)

35 Years



AP News staffers marking 35 years of service pose with AP president and CEO Gary Pruitt during the 25-Year Club Celebration at New York headquarters, May 10, 2018. From left, Mary Esch, Albany; Stephanie Nano, New York; Vickie Cacioppo, New York; and Pruitt. (AP Corporate Communications)

40 Years



Revenue/Americas staffers marking 40 years of service pose with AP President and CEO Gary Pruitt during the 25-Year Club Celebration at New York headquarters, May 10, 2018. From left, Ruth Gersh, New York; Greg Groce, Washington; and Pruitt. (AP Corporate Communications)

45 Years



Staffers marking 45 years of service pose with AP President and CEO Gary Pruitt during the 25-Year Club Celebration at New York headquarters, May 10, 2018. From left, Martin Crutsinger, Washington News; Evelyn Colucci-Calvert, New York Benefits; and Pruitt. (AP Corporate Communications)

50 years



Carol Deegan, Entertainment News, New York, recognized for 50 years of AP service, poses with AP President and CEO Gary Pruitt during the 25-Year Club Celebration at New York headquarters, May 10, 2018. (AP Corporate Communications)

Story of interest

Covering rural America: What reporters get wrong and how to get it right (Journalist's Resource)

By Chloe Reichel

Sarah Smarsh reports on socioeconomic class, politics and more for national and international outlets, including The Guardian, The New Yorker and The Cut. Her forthcoming book, *Heartland: A Daughter of the Working Class Reconciles an American Divide*, delves into her experiences with class and place growing up on a working farm in Kansas. Smarsh spent the spring of 2018 at Harvard as a Joan Shorenstein fellow, developing a podcast exploring the intersection of health and

poverty. She spoke to Journalist's Resource about what many reporters get wrong when covering rural areas, and how they can improve their work.

"The fact that I work in journalism and in particular for national outlets that have an urban base, and simultaneously I live in a largely rural state and am from a rural area and background makes me sensitive to the problematic ways that a national, coastal media often talks about parts of the country in an overly pat way that I think is not constructive for political discourse," Smarsh said.

WHAT REPORTERS GET WRONG: They oversimplify and mischaracterize the political, social, and cultural nature of rural areas.

"Often the monolithic portrayal of rural America amounts to a whitewashing along racial lines," Smarsh said. "In fact, rural areas are much more racially diverse than one would think from reading national headlines. ... Those parts of the country have always been much more than white people, and as we speak they are diversifying, in some places quite rapidly, often due to an influx in immigrant populations taking jobs in industries like industrial agriculture and meatpacking plants.

Read more [here](#).

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The Final Word

Myron Belkind ([Email](#)) - Noting Ann Blackman's comment in Connecting Wednesday, perhaps you might want to include in Thursday's Connecting the actual story Hugh did on how wedding guests returned their royal attire to Moss Bros. the "morning after." It is the story I referred to in my Connecting story.



July 30, 1981, Thursday, AM cycle

BYLINE: By HUGH A. MULLIGAN, AP Special Correspondent SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 739 words

DATELINE: LONDON

The suitcase squad turned up the morning after at Moss Bros., the Covent Garden rental wear firm, returning the grey toppers and morning suits they hired for the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Chauffeur-driven limousines and low-slung sports cars, even the odd Rolls Royce, drove up to deliver the black cardboard cases containing the rented regalia.

"It's almost a rule of thumb around here," said a Moss Bros. executive, "if the returnee shows up in blue jeans and a T-shirt, it's his nibs himself. If he's smartly dressed, it's the chauffeur."

Some were returning general's and colonel's uniforms with medals and decorations.

"We began as military tailors," said sales director Bernard Thomas, "and still do quite a trade in military rentals, right down to duplicating decorations like Knight Commander of the British Empire or whatever. A lot of these retired officers can't get into their old uniforms or else the moths have got at them."

In a trade where discretion is everything, Moss Bros. never inquires whether the customer actually is a general, nor do they require proof of clan membership of those wishing to rent a drafty plaid tutu with ruffled blouse to imitate the lads who toss telegraph poles up and down the glens.

"We are always asked," said firm publicity director John Byatt, "if we ever get sued for someone turning up at Harrods in a general's uniform and buying up the place on credit, but that is the risk that discretion requires." Harrods is that famous London department store that offers for sale everything from theater tickets to real estate.

The Covent Garden premises, mother house of 36 branches throughout England and Scotland, rented out about 400 morning suits for Wednesday's royal wedding, which was nothing compared with Royal Ascot week when the fitters were running their tape measures over 1,500 customers.

Still, considering that only 2,500 wedding guests were invited to St. Paul's Cathedral and subtracting the women in their flowered frocks and those on active military duty, something like half the remaining congregation was in rented regalia, including the prime minister of New Zealand, comedian Spike Milligan, dozens of earls and baronets, this reporter and a South African diplomat who telephoned in a panic asking the shop to open early on the wedding morning because his plane was delayed. Firm chairman Monty Moss, grandson of one of the founding brothers, was in the foyer to pour a champagne toast for him and other late-calling customers.

A number of VIPs around the world telephoned and cabled ahead their measures "in both inches and centimeters ... It made no difference, we are prepared to convert," Thomas added. Several crowned heads keep an account at Moss Bros.

Worldwide terrorism has helped business. "Now we have to outfit the bodyguard too, so he can melt into the scene," said the sales manager. Such precautions are to be expected even in the decorous world of formal wear. After all one of the liveried postillions in the carriage procession delivering the royal couple to the honeymoon train was a security guard.

Renting the wedding garment at Moss Bros. sets a guest back about \$38. Failure to return the regalia on the morning after invokes a penalty fee of one-fifth the rental costs for each day overdue.

At the return counter, clerks were going through the coat and trouser pockets to be sure no renter had left behind anything valuable. "After Ascot this year, we came up with a beautiful pair of gold sovereigns made into cufflinks. They were returned of course, but usually it's just losing race tickets."

Moss Bros. has a policy of returning all items found, even lipstick stained handkerchiefs. "It's better to risk a family row and keep the staff honest," said Thomas in what seemed like a departure from the firm's discretionary policies.

Moses Moses, a famous London bespoke tailor, had two sons, Alfred and George, who went into business for themselves in 1860 but called their firm Moss Bros. so as not to compete with the father. The rental business really "took off," according to Byatt, when Britain's first Labor government came to power in the 1920s. "King George V was worried about falling standards in dress and had Viscount Stamfordham send a letter to all Labor ministers telling them that Moss Bros. had occasional wear for rent at modest prices. For us, this was better than a royal warrant."

Today in History - May 17, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, May 17, the 137th day of 2018. There are 228 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 17, 1968, nine men and women, including brothers Daniel and Philip Berrigan, entered the Selective Service office in Catonsville, Maryland, seized several hundred draft files and burned them outside to protest the Vietnam War before being arrested. (The "Catonsville Nine," as they came to be known, received federal prison sentences ranging from 24 to 42 months.)

On this date:

In 1536, Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer declared the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Anne Boleyn invalid after she failed to produce a male heir; Boleyn, already condemned for high treason, was executed two days later.

In 1792, the New York Stock Exchange had its beginnings as a group of brokers met under a tree on Wall Street and signed the Buttonwood Agreement.

In 1875, the first Kentucky Derby was run; the winner was Aristides, ridden by Oliver Lewis.

In 1938, Congress passed the Second Vinson Act, providing for a strengthened U.S. Navy. The radio quiz show "Information, Please!" made its debut on the NBC Blue Network.

In 1948, the Soviet Union recognized the new state of Israel.

In 1954, a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court handed down its *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* decision which held that racially segregated public schools were inherently unequal, and therefore unconstitutional.

In 1973, a special committee convened by the U.S. Senate began its televised hearings into the Watergate scandal.

In 1978, women were included in the White House honor guard for the first time as President Jimmy Carter welcomed Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda (kah-OON'-dah).

In 1980, rioting that claimed 18 lives erupted in Miami's Liberty City after an all-white jury in Tampa acquitted four former Miami police officers of fatally beating black insurance executive Arthur McDuffie.

In 1987, 37 American sailors were killed when an Iraqi warplane attacked the U.S. Navy frigate Stark in the Persian Gulf. (Iraq apologized for the attack, calling it a mistake, and paid more than \$27 million in compensation.)

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed a measure requiring neighborhood notification when sex offenders move in. ("Megan's Law," as it's known, was named for Megan Kanka, a seven-year-old New Jersey girl who was raped and murdered in 1994.)

In 2004, Massachusetts became the first state to allow same-sex marriages.

Ten years ago: Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., was flown to a Boston hospital after suffering a seizure at his Cape Cod home (he was later diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor, and died in August 2009). Nearing the end of his five-day Mideast trip, President George W. Bush held a rapid-fire series of diplomatic meetings at the Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheik in Egypt. Kentucky Derby winner Big Brown ran away with the Preakness; the horse's Triple Crown quest ended three weeks later when he finished last in the Belmont Stakes.

Five years ago: The ousted head of the Internal Revenue Service, Steven Miller, faced hours of intense grilling before Congress; both defiant and apologetic, Miller acknowledged agency mistakes in targeting tea party groups for special scrutiny when they applied for tax-exempt status, but insisted that agents broke no laws and that there was no effort to cover up their actions. Jorge Rafael Videla (HOHR'-hay rah-fay-EHL' vih-DEH'-lah), 87, the former dictator who took power in Argentina in a 1976 coup and led a military junta that killed thousands during a "dirty war" against alleged subversives, died in Buenos Aires while serving life in prison for crimes against humanity.

One year ago: The Justice Department appointed former FBI Director Robert Mueller as a special counsel to oversee a federal investigation into potential coordination between Russia and Donald Trump's campaign during the 2016 presidential election. Pvt. Chelsea Manning, the soldier who was sentenced to 35 years in a military prison for giving classified materials to WikiLeaks, walked free after serving seven years behind bars, her sentence having been commuted by President Barack Obama. Chris Cornell, one of the most lauded contemporary lead singers in rock music with his bands Soundgarden and Audioslave, committed suicide in a Detroit hotel room; he was 52.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Gerety is 78. Singer Taj Mahal is 76. Rock musician Bill Bruford is 69. Singer-musician George Johnson (The Brothers Johnson) is 65. TV personality Kathleen Sullivan is 65. Boxing Hall of Famer Sugar Ray Leonard is 62. Actor-comedian Bob Saget is 62. Sports announcer Jim Nantz is 59. Producer Simon Fuller (TV: "American Idol") is 58. Singer Enya is 57. Actor-comedian Craig

Ferguson is 56. Rock singer-musician Page McConnell is 55. Actor David Eigenberg is 54. Singer-musician Trent Reznor (Nine Inch Nails) is 53. Actress Paige Turco is 53. Rhythm-and-blues musician O'Dell (Mint Condition) is 53. Actor Hill Harper is 52. TV personality/interior designer Thom Filicia is 49. Singer Jordan Knight is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Darnell Van Rensalier (Shai) is 48. Actress Sasha Alexander is 45. Rock singer-musician Josh Homme (HAHM'-ee) is 45. Rock singer Andrea Corr (The Corrs) is 44. Actor Sendhil Ramamurthy (SEN'-dul rah-mah-MURTH'-ee) is 44. Actress Rochelle Aytes is 42. Singer Kandi Burruss is 42. Actress Kat Foster is 40. Actress Ayda Field is 39. Actress Ginger Gonzaga is 35. Folk-rock singer/songwriter Passenger is 34. Dancer-choreographer Derek Hough (huhf) is 33. Actor Tahj Mowry is 32. Actress Nikki Reed is 30. Singer Kree Harrison (TV: "American Idol") is 28. Actress Leven Rambin is 28. Actress Samantha Browne-Walters is 27. Actor Justin Martin is 24.

Thought for Today: "A burning purpose attracts others who are drawn along with it and help fulfill it." - Margaret Bourke-White, American photojournalist (1904-1971).

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:

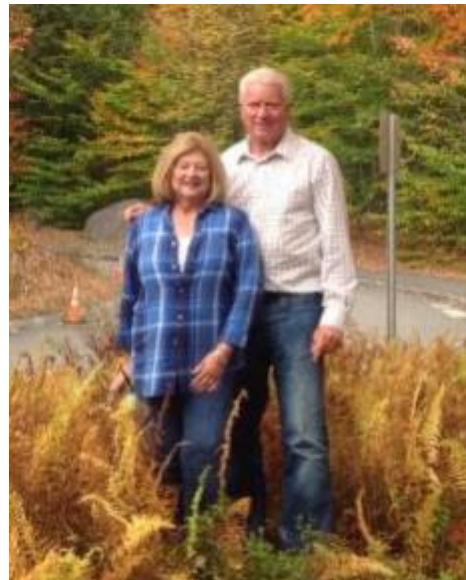
- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **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.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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