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Connecting -- June 15, 2018

1 message

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Connecting

June 15, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

Two of journalism's most influential editor associations made news Thursday.

The Associated Press Media Editors and the American Society of Newspaper Editors have agreed to a merger plan - as outlined in today's lead story.

Our colleague **Mark Mittelstadt** ([Email](#)) once served as the AP's liaison with APME and noted that such a merger "has been considered from time to time, usually at low, unofficial levels. The most recent prior to this formal decision was in 2000.

"My first assignment when moving to headquarters in August of that year was to work with future APME presidents to develop programs and build a stronger bond with the news cooperative. The AP leadership felt strongly in the need to have an association of member editors to provide feedback to the company.

"It was through those revitalization efforts that APME, working with AP, created the AP Sounding Board and carried out successful journalism betterment programs like Credibility Roundtables and APME NewsTrain. APME broadened its awards program to recognize more outstanding journalism by AP staff and members.

"The two groups increasingly have worked cooperatively in recent years, including holding combined annual conferences. It is somewhat disappointing to see the unique APME identity subsumed in this but with the changes and declines in the industry it's probably inevitable. Hopefully the merged organization will continue to have a strong AP presence."

Ye Olde Connecting Editor and his wife Linda thank those of you who dropped a note on the occasion of our 50th wedding anniversary today. The AP was a big part of our lives for 36 of those years and remains so in retirement and my Connecting work.

Have a great weekend.

Paul

ASNE, APME agree to pursue merger plan



2017-18 ASNE and APME Presidents Alfredo Carbajal and Jim Simon

Columbia, Mo., and New York (June 14, 2018) -The American Society of News Editors and the Associated Press Media Editors are advancing a merger plan aimed at creating a new journalism leadership organization.

The executive teams of ASNE and APME met Sunday in New York City and agreed to proceed with merger recommendations developed over months of talks between the groups.

The new organization will support current news leaders, help develop emerging leaders and represent a stronger, more unified voice that defends a free and independent press.

"The proposed merger of ASNE and APME represents an opportunity to create a new and vibrant organization with an even stronger voice to defend press freedom, promote diversity and inclusiveness in content and coverage and build the next generation of journalism leaders," said ASNE President Alfredo Carbajal, managing editor of *Al Día* at The Dallas Morning News. "In proceeding with this merger, we also recognize and honor the legacy of both ASNE and APME, who for decades

have served news leaders and helped to uphold journalism's highest values and standards."

APME President Jim Simon, managing editor of Honolulu Civil Beat, added, "We believe that working together will allow us to vigorously promote the values of a free press and educate the public about why that matters in a democracy at a time when journalism -- and journalists -- face extraordinary challenges. In partnership, we can play a stronger and more effective role in helping ensure a vital future for journalism."

The ASNE and APME executive teams will continue to hold discussions to formalize consolidation efforts, beginning with drafting a Memorandum of Understanding. Both groups will seek membership approval in conjunction with their joint News Leadership Conference, to be held Sept. 11-12 in Austin, Texas.

My first bureau chief

Hired by Bob Haring, Newark

Campbell Gardett ([Email](#)) - Those of us who were hired in Newark by COB Bob Haring had to grow up a good bit - or at least I did - before we appreciated his unadorned support and loyalty. He didn't have a corner office - he had a corner desk in the single room that we all crowded into in the "New Jersey Hub Bureau." His desk had the same mess of copy paper, newspapers opened and unopened, and half-buried telephone as all the other desks, which were crushed together in the middle of the room as though there had been a terrible accident - that is, if a room so small could be said to have a middle. I walked down the ill-lit corridor toward the closed door where the chug-a-chug sound of teletypes was issuing. Opening the door added the sensation of machines heaving on spindly legs, as though having a stroke together or speaking in tongues. The Newark bureau made the set of *Front Page* look like Mar-a-Lago. Finding a spare (broken) chair to sit with him at his desk, Bob conveyed without fanfare that I was welcome and all would be fine. He said he had rescued me from New York, where I had applied to join AP. What did I know? After four years of university, very little indeed. It was 1968 and the Age of Aquarius may have been dawning, but the view out the office window was of the corpse of the recently deceased Newark News building. I didn't even know I was impatient to start life. I was fortunate to take my first steps and mis-steps under Bob's watch.

Hired by Kent Sturgis, Seattle

John Kuglin (Email) - I was hired by Kent Sturgis, the Seattle COB, as a probationary newsman in Spokane. This was on the recommendation of Steve Moore, the Spokane correspondent. Steve and I used to fly fish when he was the news editor in the Helena, Montana, bureau and I was a copy editor/reporter for the Helena Independent Record, and later a statehouse reporter for the Great Falls Tribune. A few months later, Kent quit AP to work for his family's daily in Fairbanks, Alaska. He offered me the job of pipeline reporter for the News-Miner. He would only pay me as much as I was making at AP. I turned him down because of the high cost of living in Alaska, and his comment that he had found me a place to live under a stairwell.

Years later, when I became Helena COB, I found my personnel file and learned that I had not done a good job on the news test.

After Kent, I was promoted to Spokane correspondent and reported to Seattle COB John Armstrong, who found I had some skills buying drinks for the members. John had a lot of staff parties at his house, usually once a month. I was required to attend, and haul a keg of Coors over the Cascades. Coors was forbidden fruit in Washington state, but I could buy a keg 30 miles from Spokane in northern Idaho. Everyone at the party was required to play volleyball, under lights, in John's yard, usually in the rain.

Later, John Brewer became COB in Seattle. He was great to work for and gave me more freedom to travel in eastern Washington to write stories. One was a four-part series about eastern Washington's potato industry, which for some reason received good play, including in the Seattle Times. If John liked one of your stories, he would sometimes grab you in a bear hug, man or woman.

After Spokane, I was the AP correspondent in Cheyenne, Wyoming before moving back to Helena as news editor under COB Hugh van Swearingen. When Hugh departed to be COB in Portland, Oregon, I replaced him as COB.

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Hired by John Lumpkin, Des Moines

Mark Mittelstadt (Email) - I was the editor of a small morning daily in northeast Iowa and had gotten to know the AP bureau chief, John Lumpkin.

The Record of Cedar Falls was one of a handful of newspapers that still had UPI. It was a choice somewhat out of my hands. The paper's owners, a family corporation that also operated the much larger Courier in neighboring Waterloo, felt The Record should have a different news and photo service. It was a point John relished making in pointing out "Brand X's" latest faux pas ("Well, that certainly WAS different.")

But truth be told, we couldn't afford AP. UPI's rates were not quite half of AP's.

So when I took the call from John I expected he'd be making his latest pitch and want to schedule a visit.

Instead, he asked me to consider applying for a job with AP and moving to Des Moines. As we talked, I realized it would be a better opportunity than remaining as editor of a "little sister" 5,000-circulation paper, one that might disappear in a future sale of the company. (It did.)

I reported for work in the Des Moines bureau Monday morning Jan. 19, 1981.

Walking through a door on the upper floor of a downtown Des Moines bank building, I expected to meet and to receive orientation with the people I would be working with. Instead, news editor Don Beman greeted me in a rushed tone, handed me a pen and reporter's notebook and told me to head back up to Northeast Iowa. Kathryn Koob was one of 52 American hostages who had been held hostage in Iran for then 443 days and who news reports said were about to be released. Koob was from Jesup. Don needed reaction from relatives and people in her hometown.

I made the two-and-a-half hour drive to Jesup, located just east of Waterloo on Highway 20, and spoke with several folks who knew her. I also spoke with her sister Jane Engquist, then called the bureau with quotes and color. One quote was included in a national roundup on the hostages by Louise Cook. I thought that was pretty cool.

Mary and our two young boys hadn't moved to Des Moines yet, so Don told me to stay at home the next couple days as the story unfolded while Ronald Reagan was being inaugurated as President. I returned to Jesup, then eventually drove back to Des Moines.

The next days with AP were a blur, with more news stories done by phone and out of the office, being shoved into bureau desk assignments, and venturing out to a fatal 30-car pileup on Interstate 80 during a blizzard in early February.

About six weeks into my employment, Beman came up to me with a twinkle in his eye: "Well, ya ready for your orientation?" We both laughed.

For better or worse, orientation for me came what then passed as the AP way -- get tossed into the daily grind and learn along the way.

Connecting mailbox

Hamilton Gregory dies - was AP newsman, soldier, author and educator

Hamilton Gregory of Asheville, North Carolina, died on June 9, 2018 at Mission Memorial Hospital. He was 74 years old. (He worked in the AP's Chattanooga bureau from 1963-66.)



He is survived by daughter Jessamyn Gregory of Edneyville, son James Gregory of Youngsville, Louisiana, daughter June Gregory of Asheville, and grandchildren Brooke, Gracie, Blake, Demi, Kristin, Makayla, Bailey, and Ty. He was predeceased by Merrell Gregory, his beloved wife of 44 years.

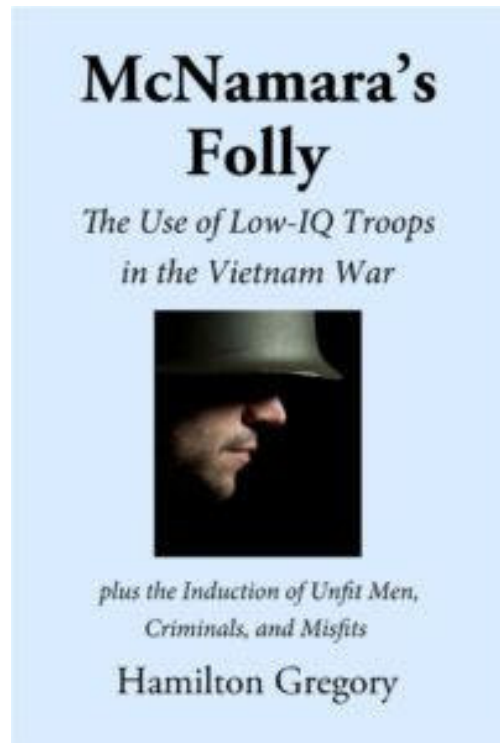
He was the author of a bestselling college textbook, *Public Speaking for College & Career*, which has been used by over two million students in the U.S. and Canada. A Chinese-language edition was sold in mainland China.

He also wrote an Amazon.com bestseller, *McNamara's Folly: The Use of Low-IQ Troops in the Vietnam War*, which was highly acclaimed by leading veterans for its exposé of Project 100,000, a program that sent mentally limited men into combat in Vietnam. Anthony Zinni, a four-star general in the U.S. Marine Corps, wrote, "Hamilton Gregory has written a superb account of the debacle that was Project 100,000. This book should be read by every one of our political leaders who need to understand the effects of stupid decisions made by those who do not understand the nature of war."

Gregory got to know dozens of "McNamara's Morons" (as they were cruelly called) while training at Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1967. He was outraged that such men

were inducted and sent into combat, with a predictably high rate of death and disability. He vowed that he would someday tell their story - a vow that he fulfilled by writing his book and by appearing in a YouTube video entitled "McNamara's Folly." ([Click here](#) for Arnold Isaac's review.)

Gregory served in Vietnam as a U.S. Army intelligence agent in 1968-69. Using a false name and posing as a civilian journalist, he worked on a team that recruited and trained Frenchmen and Southeast Asians for espionage missions in Cambodia. He narrowly escaped being killed in a terrorist attack, causing him to view each day afterward as a "bonus day" - a gift from God.'



Read more [here](#).

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More to David Sedeno's story that he modestly omitted

John Lumpkin ([Email](#)) - Re David Sedeno's very thoughtful contribution to Connecting, there is more to the story of David's recruitment that he modestly omitted.

It is true that I hired David, as he put it, "out of Angelo State University and the San Angelo Standard-Times."

I was invited by a journalism professor at Angelo State to speak to the journalism department's annual banquet and hand out its awards. I don't recall what words I offered the students in the brief speech. What I did wonder, somewhat critically, was why somebody named "David Sedeno" kept winning awards, but he wasn't in the audience.

The professor told me afterwards that David, though a regular student, was already working full-time for the Standard-Times and couldn't afford to take the night off.

That led to some exploration the next day of his dedication and performance with David's bosses at the paper, starting the process that resulted in David joining AP in Dallas.

And...

David's vignette in Connecting also was a reminder of Richard Rex Hays, news assistant who entered the priesthood. What was it about the Dallas bureau? Connecting just ran the piece from now Rev. Matt Curry, Dallas night supervisor who attended seminary at the same time.

The very young and talented Kristin Gazlay and Scott McCartney were on board when I arrived in 1982 as Dallas CoB. As we know, Kristin is our principal editor on the top story of the day. Scott rose to Dallas news editor, succeeding Kristin, and then the first among AP regional writers named by then Executive Editor Bill Ahearn. He left for The Wall Street Journal, where he still is.

Fast forward - Scott, though raised in Boston as an Episcopalian, joined Temple Emanu-El, the Reform Jewish congregation in Dallas where his spouse, Karen Blumenthal, was and is a member. He became president of Temple Emanu-El, one of the largest Reform synagogues in the nation, and was the first Jew-by-Choice to serve in that office.

Dallas bureau trivia, as mentioned by Scott: What do the late Washington power broker Bob Strauss and a former AP Southwest Regional Writer (i.e., Scott) have in common? Both served as president of Temple Emanu-El.

Elsewhere, do I recall correctly that Bureau Chief Elaine Hooker Jackson spent time studying for the ministry?

On the other hand, my father was a preacher and religious social worker, but it was my brother that followed my father's footsteps - not me. It was said of me that I found a "substitute - The Associated Press."

In a recent exchange with Scott about David's and Matt's pieces in Connections, Scott put it this way: "Lovely stories, and kind of confirms what I've always believed about the AP -- that it is a calling, and the best people believe in its mission with religious devotion."

At the eastern end of Korean DMZ



AP foreign service vets Kim Gamel (AP, 1995-2014) and Bob Reid (AP, 1969-2014) stand above the eastern end of the Korean DMZ at Goseong, South Korea. Kim is the Korea correspondent for Stars and Stripes and Bob is the newspaper's senior managing editor. Pix was taken this month just before the Singapore summit.

Linda Deutsch, then a cub reporter, recalls AP team effort in covering Robert Kennedy's assassination

Linda Deutsch ([Email](#)) - I was glad to see the report on how AP covered the Kennedy assassination in Los Angeles. I have been feeling guilty for not writing a timely recollection of my own. Yes, I was in the AP bureau that fateful night. On the anniversary this year I was delivering a speech to the Journalists' Law School at Loyola University and decided to tell the young journalists what it was like. Here is what I said (with the addition of AP names in parentheses):

"As I stand here today, I am haunted by the realization that this is the anniversary of the first history making political calamity I ever covered for The Associated Press, the assassination of Sen. Robert Kennedy. When I started out as a cub reporter, I never thought that I would live to say that anything I covered happened 50 years ago.

But here we are and the great time machine of history has overwhelmed me. Let me tell you a little about that event.

It was the night of June 5, 1968 when I reported for duty at the AP bureau downtown. It was primary election night as it was this year) and my shift was to start at midnight. At 12:05 p.m. as TV stations were signing off, we began to hear screams from the TV set which had been broadcasting Robert Kennedy's acceptance speech. Then the phone rang.

It was AP's Bob Thomas breathlessly reporting that the senator had been shot.

Bob had followed him into the kitchen and was close enough to see blood on his head. He jumped up on a stack of trays to get a better look.

Bob, who by then was a world-famous entertainment reporter, had been assigned to the Ambassador Hotel that night, probably because everyone else was occupied with primary coverage and nothing dramatic was expected to happen.

He filed the first flash that reported to the world that Kennedy had been shot and he stayed on the scene gathering details. His bravery was the sign of a dedicated reporter. He ran toward the gunfire.

It was a night of anguish that demonstrated the professionalism of a great wire service at work. In a short time, reporters who had been traveling on Kennedy's campaign bus (Walter Mears and Jules Loh among them) came running into the bureau, distraught but pitching in to file a story they never wanted to report. I hit the phones and began gathering reactions.

We heard that on the campaign bus the day before the tragedy, the senator had presented Jules with a birthday cake. His grief was palpable.

Editors who had come down from San Francisco to help cover the primary began pushing out copy. (One of them was the great Paul Lee, an AP legend.) In those

days before computers, teletype operators were indispensable.

They punched and sent copy all night and into the next day without sleep. (Don Hart's work that night was superhuman. We were throwing pieces of paper at him with typed inserts and ledes. He calmly transmitted them without a single mistake. He was one of our heroes that night).

The wire, which was usually split among locations across the country, belonged to Los Angeles that night.

At some point, as the shooter's identity became known, I heard a painful wail from a reporter asking: "What is a Sirhan Sirhan?"

And a name that would change history and my career was uttered for the first time.

The next day, after Kennedy died, I was assigned to follow his body to the airport and watched as the Kennedy family surrounded the coffin which was hoisted on a hydraulic lift into a private plane for the trip back east.

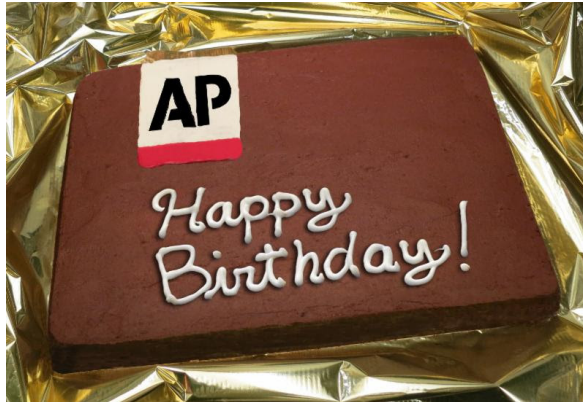
An image which stayed with me was Jacqueline Kennedy, widow of the late President, walking to the steps of the plane to ascend by herself, a singular figure of grief.

From that day forward, everyone in the bureau covered some piece of the Kennedy story. Two reporters were flown in from New York and Washington (Harry Rosenthal and Art Everett) to cover Sirhan's trial. I was assigned as their backup reporter, writing sidebars and covering events outside the courtroom. Years later, I would cover Sirhan's parole hearings and research the evidence in the controversial case.

At a hearing a few years ago, the convicted assassin saw me enter and gave me a thumbs-up of recognition. Wow, I thought. The people I have come to know in my career. "

In recent years, I have talked about that night with Bob's daughter Janet Thomas, a dear friend, and we both agreed that Bob should have received a Pulitzer Prize for his work that night. His remains a unique and heroic place in journalism history and in the history of the AP.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Tom Larimer - tom@arkansaspress.org

On Saturday to...

Ron Edmonds - redmonds3@cox.net

Mike Harris - hapauto@aol.com

On Sunday to...

Dan Haney - dqhaney@earthlink.net

Stories of interest

IG Report: FBI agents regularly received free handouts from journalists (The Caller)

By JOE SIMONSON

The Department of Justice inspector general identified a number of instances where FBI employees regularly spoke with members of the media and received a number of free perks from journalists including meals and tickets to various events.

On page XII in the report, the IG says the department "identified numerous FBI employees, at all levels of the organization and with no official reason to be in contact with the media, who were nevertheless in frequent contact with reporters."

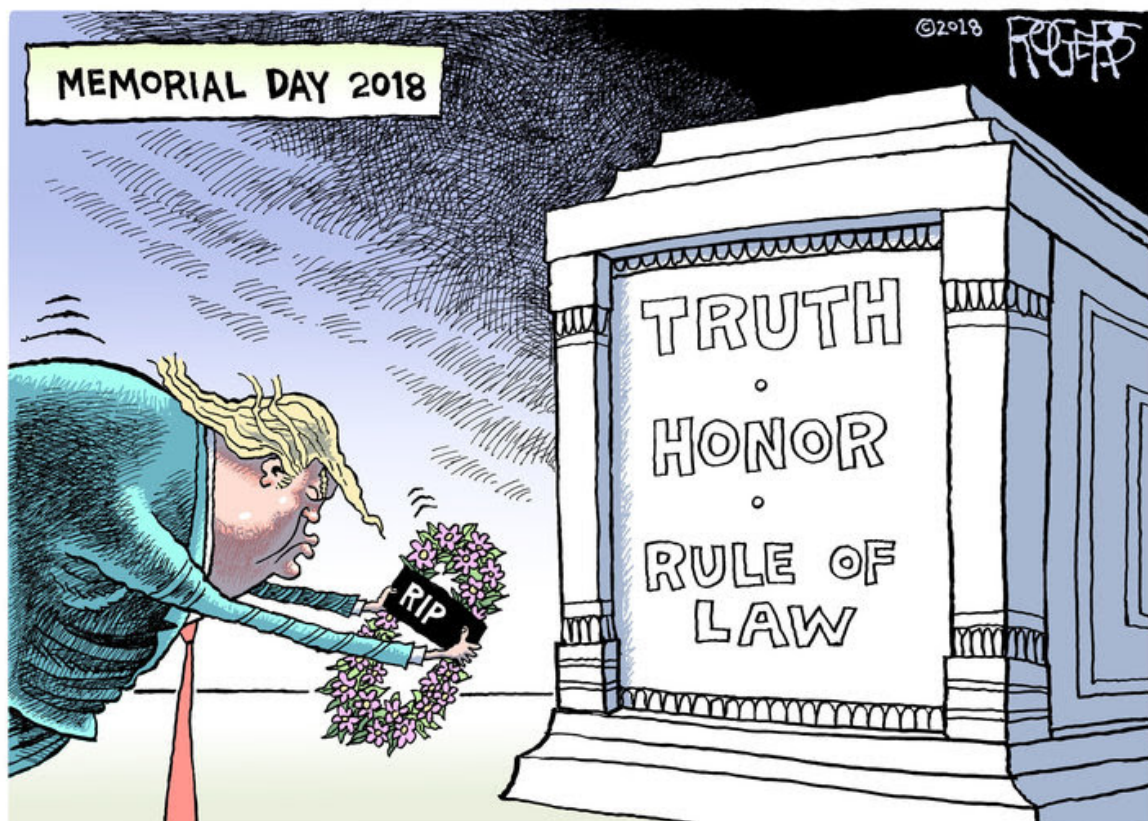
The IG expressed "profound concerns about the volume and extent of unauthorized media contacts by FBI personnel that we have uncovered our review."

The contact between FBI agents and the media extended to receiving "improperly receiving benefits from reporters, including tickets to sporting events, golfing outings, drinks and meals, and admittance to nonpublic social events."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bill Schiffman, Mark Mittelstadt.

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Editorial Cartoonist Critical Of Trump Fired From Pittsburgh Newspaper (Huffington Post)



By LYDIA O'CONNOR

A veteran editorial cartoonist for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette was fired Thursday after he and the newspaper's management clashed over some sketches critical of President Donald Trump.

Rob Rogers, a Pulitzer Prize finalist who had been with the Post-Gazette for 25 years, announced his own ouster on Twitter. Earlier this month, he'd revealed that he was working through "unresolved" issues with the paper's leaders over certain cartoons that they'd declined to publish.

"I knew in March" - when he said the paper first started rejecting his cartoon drafts and ideas without explanation - "that we were headed for some kind of a compromise or a showdown," Rogers told HuffPost. "I didn't know what it was going to be, but it turns out it was a showdown."

The Thursday meeting in which he was fired, Rogers said, was the last of several he'd had with the human resources department since the paper's editorial director, Keith Burris, began cracking down on his cartoons.

Since March, the Post-Gazette had axed 19 of his cartoon drafts and proposals without explanation, Rogers said. Over the course of a typical year, he noted, only a couple of his submissions would be rejected.

Read more [here](#).

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***Murray Fromson, Champion of Press Freedom,
Dies at 88*** (New York Times)



Murray Fromson in 1965, when he was with CBS News. In addition to covering the major stories of his day, he helped establish the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. Credit CBS Photo Archive

By Neil Genzlinger

Murray Fromson, a well-traveled print and broadcast reporter who helped found the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press at a time when journalists faced

hostility during President Richard M. Nixon's administration, died on Saturday in Los Angeles. He was 88.

His son, Derek, said the cause was Alzheimer's disease.

Professor Fromson, who also had a long career at the University of Southern California, joining its journalism faculty in 1982 and directing its journalism school from 1994 to 1999, covered many of the biggest news stories of his time: the Korean War, the Vietnam War, civil rights, the famine in Bangladesh and more.

One of those stories was the 1969 trial in Chicago of antiwar leaders on charges related to violence at the Democratic National Convention there in 1968. Mr. Fromson, working for CBS News at the time, became concerned about the aggressive stance being taken by John N. Mitchell, Nixon's attorney general, toward reporters and principles of journalistic confidentiality.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dan Wakin.

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Hazel Dicken-Garcia, longtime University of Minnesota journalism professor who helped shape the study of media history, dies (Star Tribune)

By KELLY SMITH

Hazel Dicken-Garcia's impact in life is measured in the hundreds of former students who now fill newsrooms and university lecture halls nationwide.

Hailed as a trailblazer, she helped shape the study of journalism history and ethics and was an author, including of a well-known book on journalistic standards. But it was her work as a University of Minnesota professor for 30 years that she may be remembered for most.

"She was a towering figure in journalism history," said Kathy Roberts Forde, a former U colleague who is now an associate journalism professor at the University

of Massachusetts Amherst. "In her generation, she was one of the top journalism historians. Her legacy lives on not only in her work, but in her students."

Dicken-Garcia died May 30. She was 79.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - June 15, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, June 15, the 166th day of 2018. There are 199 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 15, 1215, England's King John put his seal to Magna Carta ("the Great Charter") at Runnymede.

On this date:

In 1520, Pope Leo X issued a papal bull in which he threatened to excommunicate Martin Luther if he did not recant his religious beliefs, a threat that was carried out the following January.

In 1775, the Second Continental Congress voted unanimously to appoint George Washington head of the Continental Army.

In 1836, Arkansas became the 25th state.

In 1849, James Polk, the 11th president of the United States, died in Nashville, Tennessee.

In 1904, more than 1,000 people died when fire erupted aboard the steamboat General Slocum in New York's East River.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an act making the National Guard part of the U.S. Army in the event of war or national emergency.

In 1944, American forces began their successful invasion of Saipan (sy-PAN') during World War II. B-29 Superfortresses carried out their first raids on Japan.

In 1955, the United States and Britain signed a cooperation agreement concerning atomic information for "mutual defence purposes."

In 1969, the variety show "Hee Haw," a fast-paced mixture of country music and comedy skits, debuted on CBS-TV.

In 1978, King Hussein (hoo-SAYN') of Jordan married 26-year-old American Lisa Halaby, who became Queen Noor.

In 1988, the baseball romantic comedy "Bull Durham," starring Kevin Costner and Susan Sarandon, was released by Orion Pictures.

In 1993, former Texas Gov. John Connally, who was wounded in the gunfire that killed President John F. Kennedy, died in Houston at age 76.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush went for a bike ride and attended church in Paris, then he and his wife, Laura, traveled to London for meetings with Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, as well as Prime Minister Gordon Brown and his wife, Sarah. The NBC News program "Meet the Press" paid tribute to its host, Tim Russert, who had died two days earlier. "In the Heights" was named best musical, "August: Osage County," best play, at the Tony Awards.

Five years ago: Wild celebrations broke out in Tehran and other cities as reformist-backed Hassan Rowhani capped a stunning surge to claim Iran's presidency. Paul Soros, 87, a successful innovator in shipping, philanthropist and older brother of billionaire financier George Soros, died in New York.

One year ago: A day after a man with a rifle and a handgun wounded House Whip Steve Scalise (skuh-LEES') and others at a baseball practice in Alexandria, Virginia, some far-right Republicans suggested that vitriolic rhetoric on the left could be to blame for the attack, prompting House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi to retort, "How dare they say such a thing?" Two escaped inmates sought in the killings of two guards on a Georgia prison bus were captured after being held at gunpoint by a rural Tennessee homeowner whose vehicle they were trying to steal.

Today's Birthdays: Rhythm and blues singer Ruby Nash Garnett (Ruby and the Romantics) is 84. Funk musician Leo Nocentelli (The Meters) is 72. Actor Simon Callow is 69. Singer Russell Hitchcock (Air Supply) is 69. Rock singer Steve Walsh is 67. Chinese President Xi Jinping (shee jihn-peeng) is 65. Actor-comedian Jim Belushi is 64. Country singer Terri Gibbs is 64. Actress Julie Hagerty is 63. Actress Polly Draper is 63. Rock musician Brad Gillis (Night Ranger) is 61. Baseball Hall of Famer Wade Boggs is 60. Actress Eileen Davidson is 59. Bluegrass musician Terry Smith is 58. Actress Helen Hunt is 55. Rock musician Scott Rockenfield (Queensryche) is 55. Actress Courteney Cox is 54. Country musician Tony Ardoin is 54. Country musician Michael Britt (Lonestar) is 52. Contemporary Christian musician Rob Mitchell is 52. Rock musician Jimmy McD is 50. Actor-rapper Ice Cube is 49. Actress Leah Remini is 48. Actor Jake Busey is 47. Bluegrass singer-musician Jamie Johnson is 46. Rock musician T-Bone Willy (Save Ferris) is 46. Actor Neil Patrick Harris is 45. Actor Greg Vaughan is 45. Actress Elizabeth Reaser is 43. Rock singer Dryden Mitchell (Alien Ant Farm) is 42. Former child actor Christopher Castile is 38. Rock musician Billy Martin (Good Charlotte) is 37. Rock musician Wayne Sermon (Imagine Dragons) is 34. Actor Denzel Whitaker is 28. Olympic gold medal gymnast Madison Kocian is 21. Actress Sterling Jerins is 14.

Thought for Today: "In trying to make something new, half the undertaking lies in discovering whether it can be done. Once it has been established that it can, duplication is inevitable." - Helen Gahagan Douglas, U.S. Representative (1900-1980).

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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