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Connecting -- August 17, 2018

1 message

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Fri, Aug 17, 2018 at 9:13 AM

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Connecting

August 17, 2018







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Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., shown during a news conference on Thursday, said: "I truly believe that America always solves its problems and combating dangerous and irresponsible attacks on journalism is no exception." (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite) The U.S. Senate passed a resolution by unanimous consent affirming that the media "is not the enemy of the people."

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

It was inevitable that with all the favorite story datelines you've been sharing in the past couple weeks, at least one would lead to a Connecting story. And that happened with French Lick, a small town in southern Indiana.

It is the place where the Associated Press Managing Editors association was formed, in 1933. Our colleague Mark Mittelstadt takes us back to that time when the roots were formed for what would become one of the most influential organizations in journalism. Today, it is called the Associated Press Media Editors.

Two side notes: The Hick from French Lick is well-known to basketball fans. It is a nickname for college and NBA Hall of Famer Larry Bird, who grew up in French Lick and adopted that name. And when APME met in French Lick in 1958 for its 25th anniversary convention, my dad, Walter Stevens, managing editor of the Fort Dodge (Iowa) Messenger, was among the editors in attendance.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

French Lick, Indiana - the (APME) story behind the dateline

By MARK MITTELSTADT (Email)

"Who can possibly not head out to popular tourist, artist and casino spot, French Lick, Indiana," John Epperson asked somewhat rhetorically in Wednesday's rundown of interesting place names and datelines.

Actually, 61 newspaper editors plus a full contingent of Associated Press executive staff from New York and all AP bureau chiefs did just that 85 years ago to debate the AP news report and suggest improvements. The gathering followed years of informal visits by a few member editors with AP leadership at New York headquarters during Newspaper Week, during which AP also held its annual membership meeting. Those sessions were dominated by publishers, and editors felt they had little voice with the men who ran their news cooperative.

It was at one of those gatherings that Roy A. Roberts, editor of the Kansas City Star, suggested a meeting devoted solely to news. "I met Oliver Owen Kuhn of The Washington Star for a drink and we were talking about news," Roberts recalled later. "I asked why in the world didn't the managing editors have an informal conference with AP heads and get a lot of gripes out of their systems."

Kuhn liked the idea. He discussed it with his publisher, Frank B. Noyes, then AP president, and Kent Cooper, AP's general manager. Cooper was described as enthusiastic.

Following further discussions and planning in 1931 and 1932, it was agreed the editors should try to hold a meeting devoted solely to news and the AP report. Rather than gather in New York City, the planners opted for a location more central to the Upper Midwest movers behind the conference. They picked a small but popular tourist community in southern Indiana called French Lick. Originally a French trading post built near a salt lick, the town had grown with the development

of several spas and hotels taking advantage of its sulfur springs, advertised as holding healing properties. The town was served by the railroad, making it accessible to wealthy visitors from Chicago to Detroit to New York.

One hotel in particular had flourished under the ownership of a former mayor of Indianapolis and chairman of the Democratic National Committee. The French Lick Springs Hotel attracted many fashionable, wealthy and notable guests. The resort was known for its recreation, especially golf, although there were also hints of illegal gambling.

It was there that the editors decided to hold their first official meeting. "The hotel, as described later, was like something out of Currier and Ives, an enormous 600-room establishment set in a town obviously decaying," Don E. Carter, former editor of The Record of Hackensack, N.J., and the Macon (Ga.) Telegram & News, wrote later. "It was about as quiet a place as anyone could conceive at that time of year, but ideal for a group of editors who wanted to argue long and loud about what was good and bad about news coverage.

"Its dining room offered superb American plan service by platoons of waiters. The editors, with no place else to go, really got acquainted with each other and stuck to business."

By virtually all accounts, the gathering was a success. The editors and Cooper agreed they should continue to meet in future years. Out of French Lick was created the Associated Press Managing Editors, a group of AP member editors interested in talking shop and offering suggestions with their news cooperative.

The next three APME conferences were held in Chicago, then New Orleans, then other cities around the United States and Canada. The association has met every year since with the exception of 1944 and 1945 due to World War II. Two conferences were held in 1946 at the conclusion of the war.

APME, renamed the Associated Press Media Editors in 2011 to more accurately reflect the changing newsroom jobs and titles of its members, continues to play an important role with the Associated Press. It provides feedback through various channels, meets at least quarterly with AP leaders and recognizes and rewards outstanding work by AP journalists. It also works with the company to undertake joint national reporting projects and schedules training workshops around the country with AP support.

The group has partnered with another AP member organization, the Associated Press Photo Managers, for more than 15 years. The AP groups are meeting jointly with the American Society of News Editors (ASNE) next month for the 2018 ASNE-APME-APPM News Leadership Conference in Austin, Texas. At that conference

APME and ASNE are expected to announce a merger of the two editor organizations.

APME returned to French Lick once, on its 25th anniversary. The 50th anniversary conference was held in nearby Louisville, Ky., an appealing, accessible and affordable city which has hosted the editors three times, most recently in 2004.



2004 photo taken ahead of APME conference in nearby Louisville showing Stuart Wilk, then of the Dallas Morning News, at left, and Ed Jones, then of The Free Lance-Star of Fredericksburg, Va.

During planning ahead of that conference, then APME President Stuart Wilk, then of the Dallas Morning News, and Past President Ed Jones, then of The Free Lance-Star of Fredericksburg, Va., made a side trip to The French Lick Springs Hotel. They presented a plaque commemorating the group's founding 70 years earlier. See above photo.

It was posted in the hotel's bar.

Because, of course, APME was conceived over a drink. And came about in the noisy, cavernous corridors of French Lick.

Mark Mittelstadt, a former chief of bureau in New Mexico and New Jersey, served for nine years as executive director of the Associated Press Managing Editors and its fundraising arm, the Associated Press Managing Editors Association Foundation.



These charter members of APME attended the first meeting in French Lick, Ind., Oct. 26-29, 1933.

Bottom row, left to right: J.P. Miller, Savannah (Ga.) Morning News; W.R. Watson, Omaha (Neb.) World-Herald; William R. Craig, Philadelphia Bulletin; W.S. Gilmore, Detroit News; James A. Stuart, Indianapolis Star; R.N. Horst, South Bend (Ind.) Tribune; Talbot Patrick, Rock Hill (S.C.) Evening Herald; W.C. Stouffer, Roanoke (Va.) World-News; C.W. Orcutt, Bloomington (III.) Pantagraph; Alan Gould, AP, New York; Joseph McAuliffe, St. Louis Globe-Democrat; unidentified; Tom H. Keene, Elkhart (Ind.) Truth; Oliver Owen Kuhn, Washington Star; Gov. Paul V. McNutt of Indiana; Frank B. Noyes, Washington Star; unidentified; J. Edward Murphy, Baltimore Sun; Kent Cooper, AP, New York; Byron Price, AP, Washington; Chauncey Forgey, Ashland (Ky.) Independent; Carl Ackerman, Columbia University, New York; A.Y. Aronson, Louisville (Ky.) Times; DeWitt MacKenzie, AP, New York; L.F. Curtis, AP, New York; E.K. Gaylord, Daily Oklahoman and Oklahoma City Times; and Wilson Hicks, AP, New York.

Middle row, left to right: E.S. Beck, Chicago Tribune; W.F. Caldwell, AP, Atlanta; Wayne Gilliland, Ottawa (Kan.) Herald; Lester Filson, Joliet (III.) Herald-News; L.A. Brophy, AP, Chicago; M.H. Williams, Worcester (Mass.) Telegram; Howard W. Eskridge, Nashville (Tenn.) Banner; M.E. Garber, Madison (Ind.) Courier; Roy Dunlap, St. Paul (Minn.) Dispatch and Pioneer Press; Charles Honce, AP, New York; Jackson S. Elliot, AP, New York; John M. O'Connell, Jr., Bangor (Maine) News; J. Percy Priest, (Nashville) Tennessean; John E. King, Dallas News; Milo M. Thompson, AP, Kansas City, Mo.; Marvin Creager, Milwaukee Journal; Moses Strauss, Cincinnati Times-Star; Frank Harold, Muncie (Ind.) Star; L.M. Feeger, Richmond (Ind.) Palladium-Item; J.W. Piercy, Department of Journalism, Indiana University, Bloomington; and William Madigan and J.E. O'Brien, both Indiana Daily Student, Bloomington.

Top row, left to right: +W.C. Eastland, Clinton (Iowa) Herald; unidentified; John Parshall, Atlanta Journal; Ray Everson, Indianapolis News; unidentified; Roy A. Roberts, Kansas City Star; J.M. Kendrick, AP, New York; Hugh V. Kelly, AP, New York; M.V. Atwood, Gannett Newspapers, Rochester, N.Y.; Wallace R. Katz, Adrian

(Mich.) Telegram; Malcolm Bingay, Detroit Free Press; unidentified; Paul Bellamy, Cleveland Plain Dealer; Walter M. Harrison, Daily Oklahoman and Oklahoma City Times; S.P. Ochiltree, AP, Indianapolis; Lloyd C. Stratton, AP, New York; Sevellon Brown, Providence (R.I.) Journal and Bulletin; Bernard L. Krebs, New Orleans Times-Picayune; William F. Brooks, AP, New York; Edward Lindsay and H.C. Schaub, both Decatur (III.) Herald and Daily Review; unidentified; and J. Charles Poe, Chattanooga (Tenn.) News.

Connecting mailbox

On the competition between UPI and AP

Adolphe Bernotas (Email) - Mike Feinsilber's AP/UPI story (in Thursday's Connecting) reminds me how fiercely we competed when UPI and AP had but two people each in Concord. Whenever a UPI staffer came into the Statehouse press room and I was on the phone with the bureau (meaning Sandy [Alexander Griswold] Higgins) Sandy and I would switch to German, even if we were talking about the Red Sox.

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Hal Bock (Email) - Regarding the AP vs. UPI competition, when I went to work for the AP, my hero was Jack Hand, who wrote the World Series lead. The man never took his jacket off and churned out brilliant copy under the gun. That was what I wanted to do and in 1972, I got my chance.

That Series (one of 30 that I covered) went seven games with six of them decided by one run and several flipping in the late innings causing fast rewrites. I survived and when the first play message came with AP winning 7-0 (the first shutout) I was ecstatic. If I could get through this, I knew I could get through anything I came up against.

It was a trial by baseball and I survived.

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Margaret Mellott (Email) - I started my wire service career at UPI in Jackson. Mississippi. Our small staff of three didn't see each other much. We were spread too thinly trying to keep a bureau staffed 20 hours a day seven days a week and cover the wild assortment of news -- plus the always critical daily livestock prices -- out of that crazy state.

I got to work with the incredible Schwed siblings -- fantastic reporters, writers and editors all. And I got to beat not only AP, but also the local papers, on several nationally significant stories. One of these stories was the first time a national newspaper that shall remain nameless put my words under the byline of one of its staff writers -- maddening but nonetheless a proud moment for a young reporter.

When my husband and I moved to Detroit, UPI offered me a transfer to Chicago. I declined and started work shortly after at AP in Detroit. Sadly, my last UPI paycheck bounced, another humiliation in the unfortunate decline that had begun sometime earlier for the company.

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Robert Weller (Email) - I am probably wrong because I can't find it. But I recall an International News Agency.

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Joe Young (Email) - Very interesting 8-16-2018 article "Once there were two" (see attachment) but when I graduated IU J school and started in the business there were three: AP, UP and INS and all three had Indianapolis bureaus.

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Loved Bill Brown's confession of his love affair with newsroom

Walter Albritton (Email) - I loved Bill Brown's Confession of his love affair! If God had not called me to preach, I would have been in the newsroom with Bill. And I became a pastor for the same reason he became a journalist - not to get rich or be famous or become popular but to do something I thought was important. Bill's descriptions of ash trays, coffee cups and worn out furniture took me back to the smell of ink and the rumbling of the printing press in the back rooms of the Lee

County Bulletin where Paul Davis let us put the Auburn Plainsman together every week. Ah, precious memories!

More of your favorite story datelines

Bill Beecham (Email) - For years, the Salt Lake City bureau used "Point of the Mountain" as the dateline for stories from the Utah State Prison, where Gary Gilmore was executed by firing squad. It's about 20 miles south of Salt Lake City. The nearest place with a post office was Draper. I was at the prison, but in those days reporters were not allowed to witness executions. Several times in stories leading to his death, NY Gen would change the dateline on bylined stories to Draper, Utah. We would appeal, but still were not allowed to change the dateline. We continued to use Point of the Mountain, but NYGen would always change it. The Prison is still there, but soon will be moved to a new facility 20 miles west of Salt Lake on the banks of the Great Salt Lake. I'll be interested in seeing what the dateline will be.

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Adolphe Bernotas (Email) - I always looked for excuses to use appropriate datelines for political stories in New Hampshire -- Lost Nation and Freedom. And...while on a bicycling tour of England, I spent the night in Dorking.

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Joe Edwards (Email) - Bucksnort, TN.

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Joe Frazier (Email) - During my years in Central America I occasionally wound up in Belize. It contained the town of Teakettle. I detoured there hoping something would be something going on so I could write all about it and use the dateline. Likewise, the village of Double-Headed Cabbage. No luck in either case. Older maps list the town of Go To Hell. On a slow day, and Belize has a lot of them, I drove to where the map said it was but found nothing. Maybe the jungle ate it. Teakettle was mostly a bar doing scant business. Don't remember what was on Double-Headed Cabbage which may have been Two-Headed Cabbage, can't remember for sure.

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Dave Lubeski (Email) - Passed through Peculiar to and from my Army reunion in Branson in May. Thought you might like a visual.

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Doug Pizac (Email) - Here's a list of interesting city names and places in the West I've run across: Nigger Bill Canyon, UT, and later Negro Bill Canyon -- renamed last year to Grandstaff Canyon; Atomic City, ID; Concrete, WA; Mossyrock, WA; Soap Lake, WA; Sisters, OR.



In Tuskegee, home to black achievement, a Confederate monument endures



With graffiti from a 2017 vandalism incident still visible on its base, a Confederate monument dedicated in 1909 stands in a square in Tuskegee, Ala., July 31, 2018. Demonstrators once tried to topple the monument and it has been the target of vandals. But a Confederate heritage group owns the land, and the memorial has survived generations in a mostly black city that is a landmark of minority education and empowerment. AP Photo / Jay Reeves

The name "Tuskegee, Alabama" evokes images of black empowerment in a oncesegregated nation.

Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver became legends of education at what is now Tuskegee University, and the nation's first black fighter pilots were known as the Tuskegee Airmen after training in the town during World War II. Michelle Obama gave an impassioned speech there in 2015 while first lady.

So why is there a Confederate monument in the middle of the nearly all-black city? Birmingham, Ala., correspondent Jay Reeves set out to answer that question, using multiple formats to tell a tale with connections to the 1800s.

Reeves was looking for a photograph in AP Images when he happened upon a picture of a Confederate monument that was vandalized during a demonstration in 1966 in Tuskegee, which has had a majority black population since the days of slavery.

Using information gleaned from old newspaper accounts at the state archive, local government records and interviews, Reeves reported that the United Daughters of the Confederacy raised money for the monument at the same time Tuskegee

Institute was celebrating its 25th anniversary in the early 1900s. And the white-controlled county gave the heritage group land at the center of town for a whitesonly park. It's there that the statue still stands 109 years later.

Reeves reported that students tried to topple the monument during the 1966 protest and failed; they instead covered it in spray paint. Vandals have since tagged it with spray paint at least twice, but several efforts to relocate the monument have failed through the years, mainly because the Confederate heritage group still owns the land and refuses to move the statue.

In addition to text, Reeves shot photos and located archival images, as well as shooting and editing video for the package.

For digging in to examine why Confederate monuments are coming down nationwide but not in the historic, majority-black town of Tuskegee, Ala., Reeves wins this week's Best of the States award.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Yvette Mercourt - Yvette.mercourt@orange.fr

On Saturday to...

Tom Eblen - teblen@herald-leader.com

Tori Ekstrand - ekstrandbg@gmail.com

Stories of interest

As our media environment blurs, confusion often reigns



This combination photo shows MSNBC television anchor Rachel Maddow, host of "The Rachel Maddow Show," moderating a panel at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Mass. on Oct. 16, 2017, left, and Sean Hannity of Fox News at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in National Harbor, Md. on March 4, 2016. A generation ago, the likes of Walter Cronkite, Peter Jennings and Diane Sawyer were the heroes of television news. Now the biggest stars are arguably Sean Hannity and Rachel Maddow. Old lines between journalism and commentary are growing fuzzier with traditional media guideposts stripped away by technology and new business models. (AP Photo)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - A generation ago, the likes of Walter Cronkite, Peter Jennings and Diane Sawyer were the heroes of television news. Now the biggest stars are arguably Sean Hannity and Rachel Maddow.

Notice the difference? Cronkite, Jennings and Sawyer reported the news. Hannity and Maddow talk about the news, and occasionally make it. But you never doubt how they feel about it.

In a chaotic media landscape, with traditional guideposts stripped away by technology and new business models, the old lines between journalism and commentary are growing ever fuzzier. As President Donald Trump rewrites the rules of engagement to knock the media off stride, he's found a receptive audience among his supporters for complaints about "fake news" and journalists who are "enemies of the people."

In such a climate, is it any wonder people seem to be having a hard time distinguishing facts from points of view, and sometimes from outright fiction? It's a conclusion that is driving anger at the news media as a whole. On Thursday, it produced a coordinated effort by a collection of the nation's newspapers to hit back at perceptions that they are somehow unpatriotic.

"We don't have a communications and public sphere that can discern between fact and opinion, between serious journalists and phonies," says Stephen J.A. Ward, author of 10 books on the media, including the upcoming "Ethical Journalism in a Populist Age."

Read more here. Shared by Jenny Volanakis, Mark Mittelstadt.

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US newspapers to Trump: We're not enemies of the people

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - Newspapers from Maine to Hawaii pushed back against President Donald Trump's attacks on "fake news" with a coordinated series of editorials in defense of a free press on Thursday - and, not surprisingly, Trump didn't take it silently.

The campaign was set in motion by an editor at the Boston Globe, which argued in its own editorial that Trump's label of the media as the enemy of the people "is as un-American as it is dangerous to the civic compact we have shared for more than two centuries."

Trump denounced the effort on Twitter, saying the Globe was in collusion with other newspapers.

"There is nothing that I would want more for our country than true FREEDOM OF THE PRESS," the president typed. "The fact is that the press is FREE to write and say anything it wants, but much of what it says is FAKE NEWS, pushing a political agenda or just plain trying to hurt people."

Meanwhile, the U.S. Senate on Thursday passed a resolution with no objections stating that "the press is not the enemy of the people."

Read more here.

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Trump Says Newspapers Are 'in Collusion' on Championing a Free Press (New York Times)

By Eileen Sullivan

WASHINGTON - President Trump on Thursday assailed the media for editorials in newspapers across the country that championed the freedom of the press, a unified response in the face of the president's relentless attacks.

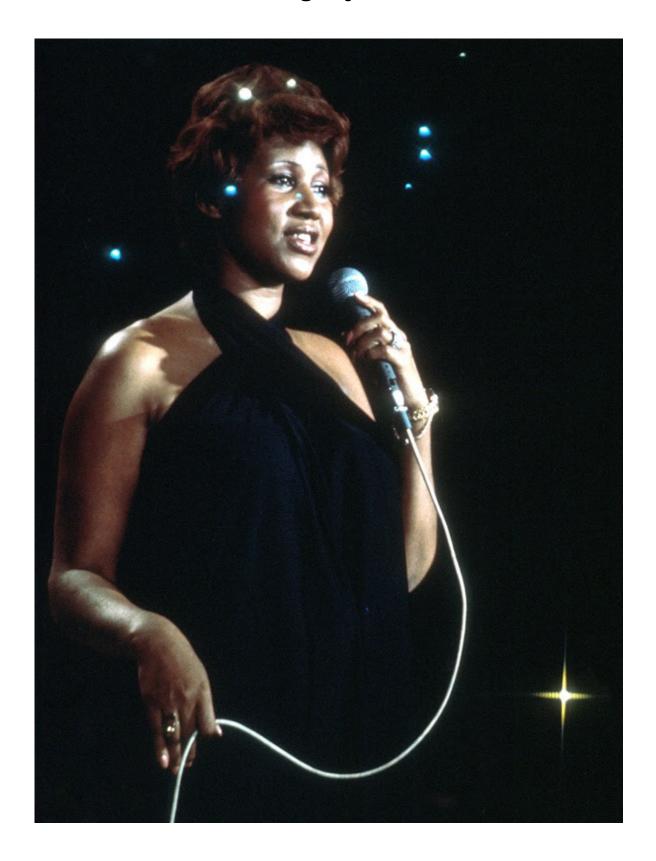
In a series of morning Twitter posts, Mr. Trump said The Boston Globe was "in collusion" with other newspapers for leading the editorial effort, choosing a word that has become synonymous with the special counsel's investigation into Russian election interference - an investigation that he has repeatedly called a "witch hunt" and a "hoax."

Trump also added "PROVE IT!" in one of the messages, though it was not clear what he meant.

Read more **here**. Shared by Sibby Christensen.

The Final Word

Aretha Franklin: A Legacy in Music (The New Yorker)



By DAVID REMNICK

Aretha Franklin's voice was a pure, painful, and unforgettable expression of American history and American feeling, the collective experience of black Americans and her own life. The Queen of Soul, who died Thursday morning, was the daughter of the most influential black pastor in Detroit, a charismatic, often cruel man who filled the house with musical friends-Duke Ellington, Della Reese, Nat Cole, Mahalia Jackson-and a constant cloud of threat and fury. Aretha Franklin rarely spoke of her inner life, her crises-she was wary of almost everyone-and yet the sound she made, the emotions she expressed and embodied, was as distinctive as that of Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday, Louis Armstrong and John Coltrane. What artist built a sturdier and more sublime arc, from the songs of the first praise houses and black churches to the blues to R. & B. to pop and hip-hop? Like Ray Charles and Sam Cooke, Franklin combined matters of the spirit and matters of the body; the whole of her, it seemed, was in every bar. And though no one could imitate that voice and phrasing-the ecstatic shrieks and eerie note-bending, that sense of behind-the-beat time-her influence was immense. Beyoncé once said that her own "soulfulness" comes "from the gospel...it comes from Aretha."

Read more here.

Today in History - August 17, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Aug. 17, the 229th day of 2018. There are 136 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 17, 1943, the Allied conquest of Sicily during World War II was completed as U.S. and British forces entered Messina.

On this date:

In 1807, Robert Fulton's North River Steamboat began heading up the Hudson River on its successful round trip between New York and Albany.

In 1915, a mob in Cobb County, Georgia, lynched Jewish businessman Leo Frank, 31, whose death sentence for the murder of 13-year-old Mary Phagan had been commuted to life imprisonment. (Frank, who'd maintained his innocence, was pardoned by the state of Georgia in 1986.)

In 1942, during World War II, U.S. 8th Air Force bombers attacked German forces in Rouen, France. U.S. Marines raided a Japanese seaplane base on Makin Island.

In 1969, Hurricane Camille slammed into the Mississippi coast as a Category 5 storm that was blamed for 256 U.S. deaths, three in Cuba.

In 1978, the first successful trans-Atlantic balloon flight ended as Maxie Anderson, Ben Abruzzo and Larry Newman landed their Double Eagle II outside Paris.

In 1982, the first commercially produced compact discs, a recording of ABBA's "The Visitors," were pressed at a Philips factory near Hanover, West Germany.

In 1983, lyricist Ira Gershwin died in Beverly Hills, Calif., at age 86.

In 1985, more than 1,400 meatpackers walked off the job at the Geo. A. Hormel and Co.'s main plant in Austin, Minnesota, in a bitter strike that lasted just over a year.

In 1987, Rudolf Hess, the last member of Adolf Hitler's inner circle, died at Spandau Prison at age 93, an apparent suicide. The musical drama "Dirty Dancing," starring Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze, premiered in New York.

In 1988, Pakistani President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq and U.S. Ambassador Arnold Raphel (RAY'-fehl) were killed in a mysterious plane crash.

In 1996, the Reform Party announced Ross Perot had been selected to be its firstever presidential nominee, opting for the third-party's founder over challenger Richard Lamm.

In 1999, more than 17,000 people were killed when a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck Turkey.

Ten years ago: At the Beijing Olympics, Michael Phelps and three teammates won the 400-meter medley relay for Phelps' eighth gold medal. In tennis, Venus and Serena Williams defeated Anabel Medina Garrigues and Virginia Ruano Pascual of Spain in women's doubles: Rafael Nadal defeated Fernando Gonzalez of Chile in the men's singles: Elena Dementieva defeated fellow Russian Dinara Safina in the women's singles. Matamoros, Mexico, pitcher Jesus Sauceda had the fifth perfect game in Little League World Series history as he struck out all 12 batters in a 12-0 win over Emilia, Italy. (The game went just four innings because of Little League's mercy rule.)

Five years ago: The attorney for a young man who'd testified he was fondled by former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky said his client had reached a settlement, the first among dozens of claims made against the school amid the Sandusky child sex abuse scandal. Nick Davilla threw six touchdown passes and the Arizona Rattlers defeated the Philadelphia Soul 48-39 in the ArenaBowl. Kansas City's Miguel Tejada was suspended 105 games by Major League Baseball for violating its Joint Drug Program, one of the longest suspensions ever handed down.

One year ago: A van plowed through pedestrians along a packed promenade in the Spanish city of Barcelona, killing 13 people and injuring 120. (A 14th victim died later from injuries.) Another man was stabbed to death in a carjacking that night as the van driver made his getaway, and a woman died early the next day in a vehicleand-knife attack in a nearby coastal town. (Six suspects in the attack were shot dead by police, two more died when a bomb workshop exploded.)

Today's Birthdays: Former Chinese president Jiang Zemin (jahng zuh-MEEN') is 92. Author V.S. Naipaul is 86. Former MLB All-Star Boog Powell is 77. Actor Robert DeNiro is 75. Movie director Martha Coolidge is 72. Rock musician Gary Talley (The Box Tops) is 71. Actor-screenwriter-producer Julian Fellowes is 69. Actor Robert Joy is 67. International Tennis Hall of Famer Guillermo Vilas is 66. Rock singer Kevin Rowland (Dexy's Midnight Runners) is 65. Rock musician Colin Moulding (XTC) is 63. Country singer-songwriter Kevin Welch is 63. Olympic gold medal figure skater Robin Cousins is 61. Singer Belinda Carlisle is 60. Author Jonathan Franzen is 59. Actor Sean Penn is 58. Jazz musician Everette Harp is 57. Rock musician Gilby Clarke is 56. Singer Maria McKee is 54. Rock musician Steve Gorman (The Black Crowes) is 53. Rock musician Jill Cunniff (kuh-NIHF') is 52. Actor David Conrad is 51. Actress Helen McCrory is 50. Singer Donnie Wahlberg is 49. College Basketball Hall of Famer and retired NBA All-Star Christian Laettner is 49. Rapper Posdnuos (PAHS'-deh-noos) is 49. International Tennis Hall of Famer Jim Courier is 48.

Retired MLB All-Star Jorge Posada is 47. TV personality Giuliana Rancic is 44. Actor Bryton James is 32. Actor Brady Corbet (kohr-BAY') is 30. Actress Taissa Farmiga is 24. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Gracie Gold is 23.

Thought for Today: "It is not love that is blind, but jealousy." - Lawrence Durrell, British-born author (1912-1990).

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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