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Connecting - September 07, 2018

1 message

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Connecting

September 07, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

The funeral for **Robert Barr**, longtime reporter and editor for the AP, will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, September 19, at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Hatfield Broad Oak, southeast England. His wife **Sue** ([Email](#)) shared this news with her Connecting colleagues and said Bob had been the organist at St Mary's for the past 17 years. He died last week at the age of 71.

In Thursday's issue, Connecting featured typewriters used by AP journalists all over the world that have been collected by AP Corporate Archives. One of them belonged to **Peter Arnett**, AP Pulitzer Prize winner for his reporting of the Vietnam War and later one of the first correspondents for the then-fledgling CNN. Peter tells the story of his trusty Olympia portable in a delightful story that is our lead for today.



Peter Arnett

His story reminds me of once hosting a state publishers-editors meeting in Kansas City where the keynote speaker was an expert on this new-age development called the Internet. To prove his reliance on the 'Net and computers, he used a small laptop to store his speech and went to the podium with the computer only - no hard copy backup whatsoever. Well, you guessed it - the laptop froze and he had to delay his speech 10 minutes while he rushed to resuscitate the device. The guffaws from an audience filled with Internet and computer doubters were polite but audible.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

My Olympia portable had the last laugh



Peter Arnett (Email) - Paul Stevens advises me that the subject today is the history of the portable typewriter, particularly my well-worn Olympia now in the archives of the AP. I have a special fondness for that model of tough little writing machine because it served me well before, during and, for some time, after my AP career. The little typewriter to me was as a camera was to a photographer, an essential component of my reporting persona.

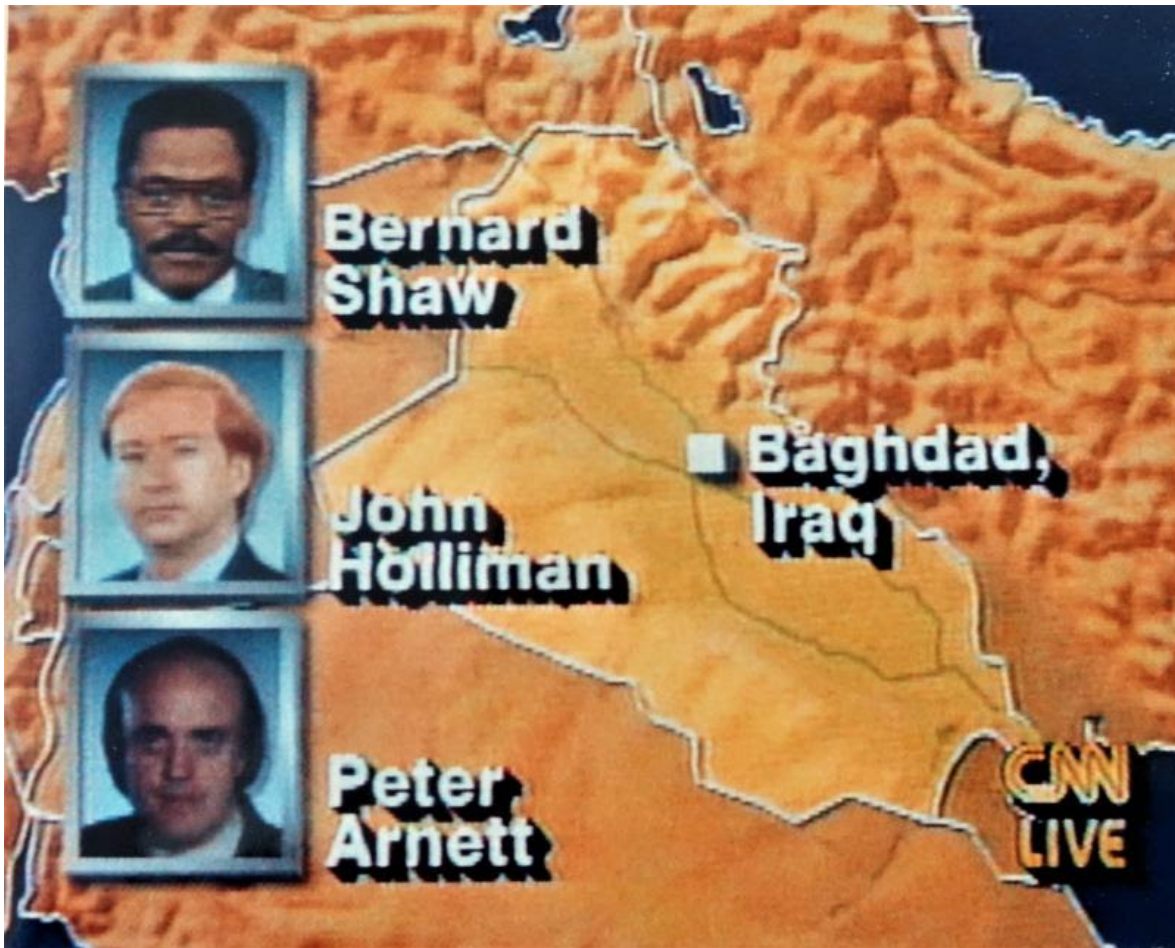
I remember being very tough on typewriters, belting the keys hard as deadlines approached. The springy mechanism of the Olympia bounced the machine around in front of me as though escaping my attacks. Consequently, I wreaked havoc on the delicate mechanisms, and in my peak years of coverage for the AP I was trashing a portable a year. I sometimes purchased the replacements myself, a small price to pay for the convenience they provided me.

The model now in possession of the AP archives (right) was a portable I dragged on international assignments in the aftermath of the Vietnam War when I worked out of the New York General Desk as a special correspondent. When I left the AP early in 1981 I took the Olympia with me on my new job as the national correspondent for CNN, traveling the world with young camera crews. The age of computers was catching up on me. My typewriter remained handy for writing scripts for the news stories we edited



on the road, but a greater emphasis on live coverage and the availability of portable electronics was out-dating my favorite writing tool. It reached the point that out on assignments when I unveiled my portable, I drew amused looks and muttered comments from my young colleagues that I understood to mean something like, "Look at the old guy typing away on that piece of ancient junk....."

But my Olympia would have the last laugh!



I was summoned by CNN to Baghdad from my base in Israel in January 1991. It was five days before President George H. Bush's promise to launch an avalanche of air and missile strikes against Saddam Hussein's capital city, the intention to force the Iraqi leader to withdraw his invasion army from Kuwait. A dozen CNN staffers were in place at the Al Rashid Hotel where several scores of foreign journalists were covering the steadily worsening crisis. I was quickly put to work by senior producer Robert Wiener to help fill CNN's insatiable demand for stories. This was the cable network's first big opportunity to prove to the world that a new age of international news communications had arrived.

Most of the CNN staffers were young technicians from headquarters in Atlanta, familiar with the sophisticated audio and editing equipment in place in the large ninth floor CNN suite at the hotel. Several desktop computers commanded one wall but had no international hookup. I had rarely worked at headquarters and in the

relatively remote bureaus where I had labored for CNN the previous decade, I had no need for any writing equipment beyond my pen and typewriter. So when I began the script for my first story in Baghdad, I unpacked my portable and sat down to write. Several young staffers gathered around me. I had the impression they had never seen anyone use a typewriter, particular an Olympia with keys that clacked like rifle fire as I beat my two-finger tattoo. My colleague John Holliman, hired by CNN from the AP to host an agricultural program early in the 1980s and who had become a valued headquarters-based correspondent, tapped me on the shoulder.

"Pete, we don't use those things anymore," he said as I ceased typing and looked up at him, "Computers are the thing now. Neat, and easy to correct errors. I threw away my typewriter years ago." I remember his comments to this day. I liked John who had an endearingly impish side to his personality, and I knew he was right in his awareness of the supremacy of electronic technology. But in an environment as urgent we faced in Baghdad, I preferred my old ways. After all, I reasoned, the page I type on my portable for the film editor will differ from the one printed from a computer only in its neatness. And there was another issue; I had never bothered to master the intricacies of the computer.

I earlier mentioned my portable typewriter would have the last laugh. That came when the technological might CNN had assembled collapsed in our hotel room when the early bombing attacks on Baghdad January 17 knocked out the city's power grids. Our hotel suite, along with the computers and editing equipment, went dark. and our room was illuminated with only the blinking battery light on our special landline phone to our Atlanta headquarters, and the blinding yellow and red flashes of bomb explosions from outside our windows. Our communication link to Atlanta remained tenuous, with only verbal reports over the landline possible. But transport had started to move to neighboring Jordan over the main highway.



Holliman woke me up late morning after I'd been reporting most of the night with he and Bernard Shaw. "Peter," he said, "We need your typewriter to prepare scripts. We're sending video to Amman to be edited there." When I made my way to the CNN suite, producer Robert Wiener was typing a letter on the machine to the Iraqi Information Minister requesting an urgent interview with Saddam Hussein. I endeavored to restrain my victory. Two days later when the authorities granted me permission to remain in Baghdad to cover the war, along with permission to use the Immarsat satellite phone CNN had sent in the previous month, they demanded that I write a script before each broadcast and submit it for censorship. Two days later, after writing several scripts, my Olympia disappeared from my hotel room. I started writing scripts but my handwriting was so bad they were unreadable, so the government censors decided that I could broadcast live for limited times each day under supervision. My Olympia did turn up eventually, reappearing in my hotel room as mysteriously as it had disappeared. By then CNN had dispatched a live

television uplink to Baghdad along with a team of technicians, and our reporting had reached a whole new level.

When I returned to CNN in 1994 after writing my autobiography (on a computer, supervised by my electronics savvy daughter Elsa) the age of the laptop had arrived. Unlike my earlier portable typewriters that I had discarded uncaringly, I decided to give this last one a decent burial, where it now rests in AP archives.

'Maybe I can be your cadaver and I'll wink at you'



Jeannie Eblen flanked by her son Matt and daughter Courtney

(Editor's note: Tom Eblen's journalism career included serving as managing editor of The Kansas City Star and Times and as general manager of the Daily Kansan at the University of Kansas. He was active in APME and served on its national board of directors.



Tom died in June 2017 and willed his body to the KU School of Medicine. Recently, the school hosted a program for families of donors to KU's Willed Body Program and Tom's wife Jeannie, a Connecting colleague, and their children Courtney and Matt, attended. Jeannie provides this account:

Jeannie Eblen ([Email](#)) - The KU School of Medicine Willed Body Donors' event was awesome in every way.

A year and a day before Courtney was born, Tom signed his donor card on August 16, 1967, when he was 30, and kept it in his billfold ever since. Then, KU Med's address was "39th and Rainbow, Kansas City 3, Kansas" and the phone number was "ADams 6-5252, area code 913." Many of you reading this are older than Tom when he made this philanthropic decision.

One impetus for the donation: About that time my paternal grandfather came to KU Med for a heart pacemaker when they were placed and connected with wires threaded through relevant parts on the front of his body. He was in his mid-70s then. Tom stopped every day on way home from work at The Kansas City Star to see Grandpa Herbert. Tom and I were there when Grandpa called my Grandma Roslyn and said, "Rozzie, I'm good for another 100 years." (Actually, he lived 15+ years longer, but not without some excitement from time to time. Shortly after leaving KU Med, Grandpa was on horseback, working cattle, something spooked his horse and it threw him. Grandpa landed on his back, thank goodness, not face-down. Wires stayed connected, parts kept working and he lived to age 90.)

After Tom began teaching journalism and advising the University Daily Kansan, occasionally his students told him they'd decided to become docs and study at KU Med. Tom would say to them after showing them his donor card, "Maybe I can be your cadaver and I'll wink at you." Didn't happen then, but when we went to their med school graduation parties, the new docs introduced Tom to their fellow grads with that story.

Back to the Aug. 28 event: Second-year med students organized the program, greeted us, performed, spoke, planned the follow-up treats, etc. For those who may not realize it, these multiethnic, often multilingual, kids are so talented in ways other than medical pursuits -- athletes, instrumental musicians (piano, violin, guitar we heard), solo and choral vocal group performers, public speakers, video producers, volunteers and event planners who involved Med School chairs, faculty and staff. When the first-year med students walked in and assembled onstage, I recognized some from their participation in KU's Rock Chalk Revue. And based on our experience, after these kids graduate, they'll go out in the communities where they settle and take an active role, participating and volunteering as well.

As the screen scrolled through the donors' vocations, we learned they represented all walks of life. And back to the original idea of furthering medical research and medical knowledge to help others, we know individuals -- friends including former students and their families who are dealing with some of Tom's health conditions, so we hope what the KU Med teams learn from Tom and other generous donors can make all lives better.

One more thing ... not knowing which first-year student drew the "Tom Body," what I wonder is, "Did you find a morel mushroom or an Arthur Bryant's rib squirreled away to tide him over until the next serving?"

Connecting mailbox

Disagrees with Times' decision to run op-ed story by an anonymous source

Larry Margasak ([Email](#)) - This is about journalism, not Donald Trump.

I've been thinking a lot about the New York Times' decision to run the anonymous op-ed by a Trump administration insider, telling us "that many of the senior officials in his own administration are working diligently from within to frustrate parts of his agenda and worst inclinations."

For my 48 years with AP - especially 1977 to 2013 in Washington - we lived under a rule that banned attacks by anonymous people.

We could use anonymous sources for factual information we could not obtain any other way. We had to go as far as possible to explain the source's area of expertise.

The policy was tough and restrictive, but I agreed with it.

If I had been the Times' decision maker on the op-ed, I would have told the writer, "Great stuff, but you have to identify yourself."

I would have cited the need for strong journalism ethics and fairness. But I also would have mentioned some more practical reasons for disclosure.

Unlike the decades-long, and ultimately successful quest to learn the identity of Deep Throat, I believe the president is applying so much pressure to find the leaker that we'll know sooner rather than later. I question whether the author, as one key person after another declares "It wasn't me," will be able to withstand the pressure.

The other question to consider is: Was this an attack or just factual information? I believe that elevating this information to an op-ed - clearly a space dedicated to opinions - does fit the attack description.

You didn't need an op-ed to describe the chaos in the Trump administration. Many news stories have quoted multiple, unidentified administration sources on this, but did so in news sections where an organization's standards on anonymous sources were applied. And, we have seen several books on the subject, now including the descriptions in the book by The Washington Post's Bob Woodward, who sets the standard for integrity in the journalism profession.

The information given Americans about the administration's chaos is important. But the Times could have - in fact has - found another way to present it.

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A portable Olivetti accompanied Murray Fromson through his journalism career

Dodi Fromson ([Email](#)) - The article (in Thursday's Connecting) about Hugh Mulligan's typewriter reminded me of one owned by my late husband - Murray Fromson, who died June 9 at age 88. It was a portable Olivetti. A friend here in LA many years ago solicited it for the collection of artifacts used by well-known Jews. I'm not sure where it is housed, but somewhere out here in LA and has been shown in museum setting in the past, and might again in the future.

It accompanied him after his Army days (Stars and Stripes) into his AP years in Asia, NBC News briefly and then CBS News for the next

17 years, before he was lured into the halls of academia. Though he converted to computer use, he never really cared for it like he did for his old Olivetti.

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Chicago Diary found

Chris Connell ([Email](#)) - It turns out that while one day of the first-person account of my escapades covering and participating in the antiwar protests in the streets of Chicago during the 1968 Democratic National Convention was lost to history, the rest of the week survives on the internet. Connecting colleague Dan Day, former Trenton and San Francisco COB and now a Princeton University spokesman, unearthed it from the 'Prince' archives.



Murray Fromson using a typewriter during his Army days, reporting for Stars and Stripes about Marines fighting in Korea.

[Click here](#) to view.

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During draft days of Vietnam War, those classified 1-A didn't make long-range plans

Dave Lubeski ([Email](#)) - Impacted by the military draft during the Vietnam war. Indeed. Those of us over the age of 18 with a I-A draft card had better not make any long-range plans. I wasn't worried. I had the sacred II-S (two-S) status on my draft card. Registrant deferred because of collegiate study. I was a 19-year-old college student when I contracted Mononucleosis and missed six weeks of school. When I was fully recovered it was too late to rejoin my class so when summer came I took a course at a broadcast school with the hopes of getting a job in radio. The draft board didn't get wind of my change in status, so I was still as II-S when I got a job as the all-night DJ at a radio station in Orange, Texas, and opted not to return to school that semester.

All of this was before the lottery system was put into place, which matched a number with your birth date to determine when you would be called upon to serve. I never knew when it was coming.

In 1966 I was one of 382,000 men who got draft notices. I was reclassified I-A in September, called in to take a physical in October, notified I passed the physical in November, got my draft notice in December and reported for duty in January. Basic training at Ft. Polk, medic training at Ft. Sam Houston and permanent duty with the 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry in Sandhofen, Germany.

The draft during Vietnam was front and center for every eligible young man. When applying for work anywhere the first question would be, what is your draft status?

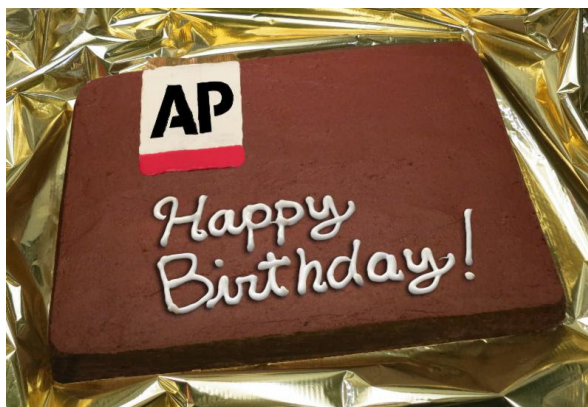
Getting the call was inevitable and in a way it was a family tradition. My grandfather served in the Navy in WWI. My father was a B-17 bombardier in WWII and his younger brother lied about his age to join the Marines and fight in the Pacific as a teenager in WWII and was recalled to fight in Korea. I looked at it as my turn when I got the call and when I came home I was classified as 4-A (already served) and didn't miss out on a job opportunity because of an uncertain draft status.

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Recalling Alan Boyce - highly professional and personable

Joe Galu ([Email](#)) - I remember Alan Boyce very well, although I remember him with a great shock of dark brown hair. (See Thursday's Connecting on Boyce's death.) He rode a bicycle to work and regularly blew out his generator lights when he topped 50 miles an hour going down the Menands hill. He was highly professional and personable. I am not surprised he went on to far greater things.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Doug Tucker - numenator@aol.com

Mike Waller - mikeewaller@aol.com

On Saturday to...

Steve Paul - stevepaul92@gmail.com

Glenn White - gcwhite1@gmail.com

On Sunday to...

Bill Hancock - bhancock@collegefootballplayoff.com

Stories of interest

The story behind the New York Times' anonymous op-ed blasting Trump (CNN)

By BRIAN STELTER

Several days ago a senior official in the Trump administration used an intermediary to contact New York Times op-ed page editor Jim Dao.

Through the go-between, the senior official expressed interest in writing an explosive piece for the paper, describing a "resistance" to President Trump within the government that works overtime to protect the United States from the president's worst impulses.

The result, published on the New York Times' website on Wednesday, prompted speculation all across Washington about who the official is.

Dao, of course, isn't saying. In a telephone interview, he was careful not to share any identifying details, even the person's gender.

"The person contacted me through an intermediary," he said.

Read more [here](#).

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Getty family to regain control of photo agency

(Reuters)

(Reuters) - The Getty family said on Tuesday it would acquire Carlyle Group LP's (CG.O) majority stake in Getty Images Inc, ending ten years of private equity control that contributed to the U.S. photo agency's debt pile swelling.

The deal values Getty at slightly below \$3 billion, including debt, less than the \$3.3 billion valuation Carlyle placed on the company when it acquired a majority stake six years ago, according to a source familiar with the terms who requested anonymity to discuss them.

The terms of the deal were reported earlier by the Financial Times.

The lower valuation reflects the challenges Getty has faced in competing in an increasingly digital media landscape. Founded in 1995 by Mark Getty and Jonathan Klein, Getty has had to adapt to a shift in the media industry from print to online, where prices for images are lower.

Read more [here](#).

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Media School receives \$6 million gift for investigative journalism center at IU Bloomington

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. -- The Media School at Indiana University will launch an independent investigative journalism center in fall 2019, thanks to the largest gift in the history of the century-old journalism program.

The Michael I. Arnolt Center for Investigative Journalism, funded by a \$6 million gift from Arnolt, an IU Bloomington alumnus from Indianapolis, will focus on the production and teaching of investigative journalism in Indiana and beyond.

"I'm thrilled to be able to announce this transformational gift for The Media School and for journalism in Indiana," said James Shanahan, dean of The Media School. "We've all recently been reminded of the need for strong and independent investigative journalism. Michael Arnolt shares this recognition with us and is helping us take a strong step toward producing great journalism and training great journalists."

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - September 7, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Sept. 7, the 250th day of 2018. There are 115 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 7, 1940, Nazi Germany began its eight-month blitz of Britain during World War II with the first air attack on London.

On this date:

In 1901, the Peace of Beijing ended the Boxer Rebellion in China.

In 1927, American television pioneer Philo T. Farnsworth, 21, succeeded in transmitting the image of a line through purely electronic means with a device called an "image dissector" at his San Francisco laboratory.

In 1936, rock-and-roll legend Buddy Holly was born Charles Hardin Holley in Lubbock, Texas.

In 1963, the National Professional Football Hall of Fame was dedicated in Canton, Ohio.

In 1972, the International Olympic Committee banned Vince Matthews and Wayne Collett of the U.S. from further competition for talking to each other on the victory stand in Munich during the playing of the "Star-Spangled Banner" after winning the gold and silver medals in the 400-meter run.

In 1977, the Panama Canal treaties, calling for the U.S. to eventually turn over control of the waterway to Panama, were signed in Washington by President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos (toh-REE'-hohs). Convicted Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy was released from prison after more than four years.

In 1979, the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) made its cable TV debut.

In 1987, the syndicated TV talk show "Geraldo," hosted by Geraldo Rivera, began an 11-season run.

In 1996, rapper Tupac Shakur was shot and mortally wounded on the Las Vegas Strip; he died six days later.

In 2001, Venus Williams and Serena Williams reached the finals of the U.S. Open, defeating Jennifer Capriati and Martina Hingis respectively, becoming the first sisters to play for a Grand Slam championship in more than 100 years.

In 2002, President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, meeting at Camp David, said the world had to act against Saddam Hussein, arguing that the Iraqi leader had defied the United Nations and reneged on promises to destroy weapons of mass destruction.

In 2007, Osama bin Laden appeared in a video for the first time in three years, telling Americans they should convert to Islam if they wanted the war in Iraq to end.

Ten years ago: Troubled mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were placed in government conservatorship. Hurricane Ike roared across low-lying islands in the Atlantic as a Category 4 storm. Serena Williams outlasted Jelena Jankovic 6-4, 7-5 to win her third U.S. Open championship and ninth Grand Slam title. Hall of Fame basketball coach Don Haskins died in El Paso, Texas, at age 78. Mystery author Gregory Mcdonald (cq) died in Pulaski, Tenn., at age 71. Astroland, New York City's world famous amusement park at Coney Island, closed after 46 years. Britney Spears won three MTV Video Music Awards, including video of the year for "Piece of Me."

Five years ago: Tony Abbott's conservative Liberal-led party won a crushing victory in Australia against the center-left Labor Party which had ruled for six years. Tokyo was awarded the 2020 Summer Olympics, defeating Istanbul in the final round of secret voting by the International Olympic Committee.

One year ago: More than a half million people were ordered to leave South Florida as Hurricane Irma approached; Georgia's governor ordered nearly 540,000 coastal residents to move inland. One of the most powerful earthquakes ever recorded in Mexico struck off the country's southern coast, toppling hundreds of buildings and killing at least 90 people. (A deadlier quake would strike central Mexico nearly two weeks later.) Equifax, one of the three major U.S. credit bureaus, announced that hackers gained access to credit information on 143 million Americans between mid-May and July. A federal appeals court rejected the Trump administration's limited view of who is allowed into the country under the president's travel ban, saying grandparents, cousins and other close relatives of people in the United States should not be kept out. Donald Trump Jr. told a Senate panel that he did not collude with Russia to hurt Hillary Clinton's campaign.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Sonny Rollins is 88. Singer Gloria Gaynor is 75. Singer Alfa Anderson (Chic) is 72. Actress Susan Blakely is 70. Rock musician Dennis Thompson (MC5) is 70. Actress Julie Kavner is 68. Rock singer Chrissie Hynde (The Pretenders) is 67. Rock musician Benmont Tench (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers) is 65. Actor Corbin Bernsen is 64. Actor Michael Emerson is 64. Pianist Michael Feinstein is 62. Singer/songwriter Diane Warren is 62. Singer Margot Chapman is 61. Actress J. Smith-Cameron is 61. Actor W. Earl Brown is 55. Actor Toby Jones is 52. Actress-comedian Leslie Jones (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 51. Model-actress Angie Everhart is 49. Actress Diane Farr is 49. Country singer Butter (Trailer Choir) is 48. Actress Monique Gabriela Curnen is 48. Actor Tom Everett Scott is 48. Rock musician Chad Sexton (311) is 48. Actress Shannon Elizabeth is 45. Actor Oliver Hudson is 42. Actor Devon Sawa (SAH'-wuh) is 40. Actor JD Pardo is 39. Actor Benjamin Hollingsworth (TV: "Code Black") is 34. Actress Alyssa Diaz (TV: "Ray Donovan"; "Zoo") is 33. Singer-musician Wes Willis (Rush of Fools) is 32. Actress Evan Rachel Wood is 31. Actor Ian Chen (TV: "Fresh Off the Boat") is 12.

Thought for Today: "Nothing is more unpleasant than a virtuous person with a mean mind." - Walter Bagehot (BAJ'-uht), English editor and economist (1826-1877).

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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