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Connecting - November 19, 2018

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Connecting

November 19, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

For 33 of her 45 years in The Associated Press, **Rachel Ambrose** was the California-Nevada broadcast supervisor in the Los Angeles bureau where her skills in guiding the report and dealing with members were admired throughout the AP.

But in her first bureau assignment, in Indianapolis, she faced a challenge that very few of us ever encountered: She was working the desk in 1966 when she took a call from the Highway Patrol letting the AP know that its chief of bureau, **Bill Richardson**, the man who had hired her, had been killed in a car-truck accident while on a member visit.

Writing the story of his death was one of the most difficult assignments she ever faced, said Rachel, who is the subject of today's Monday Profile. (If you dealt with a similar situation, send your story to Connecting.)

If you're a Facebook friend of Rachel's, you'll know that she is an excellent photographer whose hobby in retirement is taking photos of her travels, in the Los Angeles area and beyond.

I was recently reminded of Rachel when ordering a Mark Twain AP trophy for a Missouri member editor who was retiring. It is the most handsome AP award of all time, in my opinion, and the one that carries the Twain quote: *"There are only two forces that can carry light to all the corners of the globe... the sun in the heavens and the Associated Press down here."*

Rachel conceived the idea for the trophy, she said, "but I am not an artist. The actual sculpture was done by former AP-LA broadcast supervisor **Cal Werner**, who was an art major in college. That was about 30 years ago and the trophy has been awarded in various contests and remembrances ever since. It has evolved to today's golden likeness on a marble base. The trophy was designed for the top categories in AP's California-Nevada broadcast news competition."



CORRECTION: In the Birthday section of Friday's issue, the email for birthday celebrant **Bob Dobkin** was incorrect. It should be - robertd357@aol.com

Have a great day as we begin Thanksgiving week.

Paul

Connecting profile

Rachel Ambrose



What are you doing these days?

I volunteer for a broadcast journalism boot camp I helped establish as APTRA Academy 18 years ago. Putting a plug in for the next one, now called Camp News, in Malibu Dec. 1 and 2. I also volunteer on the marketing committee for the Los Angeles Science Center. We're preparing for a big exhibit on dogs.

I belong to three book discussion and two film groups. And, I remain active with the American Association of University Women. I served as president while I was working. My big passions are photography and travel. I combine them by walking at least 10,000 steps a day while taking pictures. I post the photos on Facebook.

How did you get your first job with the AP? Who hired you? What were your first days like?

I was hired for the Indianapolis bureau right out of college after being interviewed on campus by a member of an Indiana newspaper member group. I was hired by the late Chief of Bureau Bill Richardson. I would later take the highway patrol call that informed me he had been killed in a rainy traffic accident while on a member visit. I started the day after graduating with a journalism degree from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (near Terre Haute, Ind.). I was trained by Jim Polk who was a relentless critic and a Pulitzer Prize winner after he left the AP for the Washington Post. I thought I wouldn't make it to probation. Big stories I went on to cover in Indiana were the Palm Sunday tornadoes that killed 271 people across the Midwest and the Fountaintown nursing home fire that killed 20 elderly patients. And, the Indianapolis 500's.

What were your different past jobs in the AP, in order? Describe briefly what you did with each.

I was hired as a general assignment reporter for the Indianapolis bureau in my native state. I was in the bureau 3.5 years, the last year as broadcast editor. I transferred to the Los Angeles bureau in late 1967 and was named California-Nevada Broadcast supervisor in 1976. I was in that job until my retirement in 2009, 45 years to the date when I started. During that time, I was responsible for the APTRA broadcast membership group--planning seminars, conventions and contests for, ultimately, 13 western states. For 3.5 years, I did interviews for AP's early entry into the audio market. The show was called Hollywood Report, and that's how I met my husband, George, a publicist for CBS Entertainment. George died five years ago. We were married 40 years. He accompanied me to New York when I won AP's Gramling Spirit Award in 2001.

Would you do it over again?

Yes.



Rachel during Ichikawa, Japan, visit one year ago. Part of the sister cities' exchange celebration. Person on left is Susan Helm from Gardena, California.

What's the best vacation trip you've ever made?

To France, Spain and the Canary Islands in 1999 with my son, Josiah. It was his college (University of Michigan) graduation present, and he got a chance to revisit

the places where he studied during his junior year abroad. I just returned from three weeks in Ireland, traveling with five of my cousins. Thumbs up on that trip, too.

Names of your family members and what they do?

Son, Josiah, is a neurologist who directs the epilepsy treatment center for Kaiser-Permanente in Redwood City, Ca. His wife, MaryAlice, also is a Kaiser neurologist and is education chief in Santa Clara, Ca. They have two children: Ezra, 8, and Polly, 6, who major in mayhem at their elementary school.



Rachel in New Albany, Indiana, where she was born, with brothers Jerome (left) and Joe.

Rachel Ambrose's email is - rambrose@rocketmail.com

Connecting mailbox

Editors want aggressive reporters who challenge the president, other officials - not lob softball questions

Anita Snow (Email) - This may be moot now that a federal judge has temporarily ordered the Trump administration to return Jim Acosta's press credentials, siding with CNN's argument that the White House did not provide the reporter with the required due process.

But in the wake of complaints some expressed here about how Acosta handled himself at the recent White House news conference where this all started, I still feel compelled to point out that we journalists seem to have lost sight of the big picture: Do we really want the president or any public official to decide who can or cannot cover him?

As AP's chief of bureau in Havana when Fidel Castro was in power, I can assure you that is never a good idea. Castro and other Communist officials often shut out reporters it did not consider friendly, sometimes going as far as expelling them from the country.

Sure, Acosta can be a jerk. So can most of the rest of us reporters. It's in our DNA and really part of our job to defy authority.

The White House's assertion that it can pull Acosta's press pass because he "refused" to apologize to an intern for pushing her arm away when she tried to grab his microphone also ignores the fact that he clearly says on the video, "Pardon me, ma'am."

The Associated Press, Fox and about a dozen other media outlets and reporter advocacy groups filed an amicus brief supporting the cable network's lawsuit to restore Acosta's pass. Why? Because they believe editors, not the presidency, should have the power to decide which reporters cover the White House. Editors want aggressive reporters who challenge the president and other officials, not lob softball questions.

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More praise for AP's California fire coverage

Marty Thompson ([Email](#)) - Mike Rubin's comments in Friday's Connecting about AP coverage of the California fires is right on the mark. Mike and I read the same newspapers and so see the same major use of AP stories by editors with multiple choices.

In addition to the fires, LA was challenged by a mass shooting in Thousand Oaks, which itself has been the scene of a wildfire.

Responding to a complimentary email complimenting AP's all formats coverage, California Editor Frank Baker in Los Angeles noted these major ongoing stories come on top of the election.

An impressive AP performance.

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About those hard hats in the LA bureau

Retired San Francisco and Sacramento AP photographer **Sal Veder** ([Email](#)) dropped a note to **Lyle Price** ([Email](#)) on Lyle's recent Connecting post about hard hats in the LA bureau. Sal recalled that AP staffers wore hard hats during riots at San Francisco State College and the University of California campus in nearby Berkeley. One of those, he said, was a hard leather bonnet once used by steel workers constructing the Golden Gate Bridge that is still in his possession.

Lyle's response, shared with Connecting:

I was the city desk editor in the AP's Los Angeles bureau when the extraordinary wirephoto by Sal of the return of a Vietnam POW came over at the printer set up in the newsroom in front of my nose and I called the staff over to look at it and predicted it would win some sort of a prize. I turned out to be on target: it won a Pulitzer Prize in 1974).



Sal came to mind in this story from back in those days:

I once in LA came across a filing cabinet clear across the office that was unmarked. Like the current staffer at AP Los Angeles that checked a cabinet and found a hard hat, I was curious and came across old files that the late COB Bill Waugh had brought with him from FX to LA and were still there long after Waugh had transferred to WX and NOT under lock and key. In that file there was a communication relative to FX expenses rung up by staffers sent to help cover the Alaska earthquake of I think it was 1962 (before my start in FX in 1964). NY noted that the Arizona bureau chief sent there had rung up expenses like 19 cent hamburgers but that Sal, in a stern "how come" note to Waugh, had charged off more than \$200 (yes, two hundred) for a single meal. Waugh's response was that he had picked up the tab for the entire table and besides that, "Sal is a hefty man and I presume he has a hefty appetite." The response to that didn't show any sense of humor. Incidentally, I once walked a mile from the LA office to LA city hall on my lunch hour and charged off like 50 cents for an ice cream cone--saving I thought the time and trouble of moving my car or finding a parking lot and (since I walk a lot) even being faster than waiting for the bus. NY's response, according to then news editor Jim Lagier, was to say they couldn't understand being charged for an ice cream cone and would I (Lagier pleaded) find

another way to be reimbursed in the future. That happened before I ran across yer case and the cheap burgers that NY bean counters obviously had no trouble with.

Quotes can make a story - more of your favorites from the reporting trail

Carolyn Carlson ([Email](#)) - I was covering First Lady Nancy Reagan giving a speech as part of her "Just Say No" campaign at Georgia State University in Atlanta. The person introducing her gave a flowery introduction full of praise but somehow failed to mention the "Just Say No" campaign.

So Mrs. Reagan, wanting to be clear, opened her remarks by saying, "I'm just here for the drugs."

Everyone howled, and she turned red as a beet and took a minute to regain her composure before she proceeded.

I worked the quote into the second graf.

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Steve Hindy ([Email](#)) - Bill Farrell of The NYT once shared his favorite malapropism from the NYS Legislature: "Mr. Speaker, we have milked this turnip right up to the eyeballs!"

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Bill Kaczor ([Email](#)) - I struggled with your request for favorite quotes because I've got so many. It's like asking a parent which child is his or her favorite. That's not, however, so hard for me because I've only got one child, but I do have lots of quotes so here are some of my favorites:

Most memorable:

"As a gift to Jesus on his birthday" - Kaye Wiggins, 19, responding when asked why she and three other young people planted pipe bombs that exploded in the pre-dawn

darkness on Christmas Day 1984 at a clinic and two doctors' offices where abortions had been performed in Pensacola.

Most ironic:

"I said to myself, 'Isn't that a coincidence. Of all the people that they might have brought this to, it happened to be the person who was flying with him the morning he was killed in that crash.'" - Bob Rasmussen, director of the National Naval Aviation Museum, after a dog tag and small metal squadron emblem belonging to a fellow Blue Angels pilot had been brought to him in 2009. The finders were looking for someone who could give them information about the artifacts discovered on an Alabama beach where the other pilot had died in a crash 50 years earlier.

Most scientific:

"I really concentrate on finding the right equations ... for describing the atom. One feels that a good equation must be beautiful. It's like appreciating any kind of beauty. You feel it within you." - Nobel Prize winner Paul Adrien Maurice Dirac in a 1983 interview at Florida State University, where he was on the faculty. Dirac won the Nobel Prize for physics in 1933 for his pioneering work on quantum mechanics, the basis for scientific advances that led to such things as computers and space travel.

Most fun:

"You ... would ... really ... like ... it," - Astronaut Neil Armstrong, pausing for effect between each word, in response to an 11-year-old boy's question about what it was like to walk on the moon during a panel discussion with fellow moon walkers in 1997 at the National Naval Aviation Museum.

Most humorous:

"I could walk, but I won't. I'm not physically maimed or anything. I don't have one foot in the grave and another on a banana peeling." - Former Florida Senate President W.D. Childers requesting an appeal bond in testimony after he had been convicted in 2003 of bribing a fellow county commissioner. Childers was a well-known speaker of "saw mill talk" in the Florida Panhandle. The appeal bond was denied.

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Bruce Lowitt (Email) - Former colleague and good friend Mike Harris' recollection of Mario Andretti's answer to the question of whether he was ever scared during a race brought to mind Jim Crawford's memory, before the 1989 Indianapolis 500, of his horrific crash during a qualifying run two years earlier. Both feet, both ankles and the better part of both legs were mangled when his car approached Turn 1 at 236 mph and hit the outer wall.

"The first reaction, when I started to spin, was, 'Oh, s---, this has ruined the lap.'

"The next reaction, when I hit the wall, was, 'I've ruined the car.'

"A couple of seconds later, it was, 'Oh, I might have ruined my legs as well.' It's only third that you worry about yourself."

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Joe McKnight (Email) - Don't recall notable quotes from reporting days but a few situations come to mind. Merrill Harrison wrote Nov. 16 about quotes from a United Mine Workers president during a strike in 1982. It may have been the same strike when I drove about a hundred miles from Columbus to the District 6 UMWA headquarters in the hamlet of Dilles Bottom, on the Ohio side of the Ohio River across from West Virginia. Striking miners gathered at the headquarters at night so I got to the site about 8 p.m. I'm sure I looked out of place in a suit and tie among men dressed in rough work clothes. I started asking for the president of the local. A couple of miners ignored me and a third noted toward a man in the crowd. I walked up and started to introduce myself when he interrupted me, asking "Who's son-of-a-bitch are you?" I replied: "I'm the son-of-a-bitch from The Associated Press."

He liked the response and gave detailed answers to my questions. As the interview ended, he offered to take me a tour of a local mine shaft, and I accepted.

We got battery-powered lights that we strapped to our heads and walked a hundred yards or so before entering the mine.

He told me the mine ran for about a mile under the Ohio River and said to tell him when I had seen enough.

We had to walk in a crouch in the gently sloping shaft. I walked only about a block as he pointed out remnants of coal seams in the walls when I told him I had seen enough. We left the mine and shook hands as I left to find a phone and write a story.

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Kent Prince (Email) - Hal Spencer's comments (Connecting Nov. 15) reminded me of an encounter with one of those old computers that had no memory. It was probably a Delta Data, but we called it more descriptive names. The thing had an on-

off switch hanging down below the keyboard. More than once my knee flipped off the power when I swiveled in the chair. Once when I lost a story, I controlled my outburst enough to march straight-away to the tool chest, where I armed myself with a claw-tooth hammer. As I advanced on the enemy, the chief of communications gasped and froze. But instead of doing what the cathode ray tube deserved, I reached under the keyboard and snapped off the entire protruding switch. Small personal satisfaction. And great relief at the COC's desk, where it was officially documented as an "Unauthorized Field Modification."

Furthermore, Tom Kent was absolutely correct. The second-time through, recreating the vaporized copy, always improved it.

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Doug Tucker (Email) - The subject of favorite quotes sure does set one to strolling down Memory Lane.

There was the striking baseball player who told me, with a very downcast look, "Now I know how miners feel when they go on strike. If they don't settle this pretty quick, I'll have to sell my Mercedes."

Then there was the quote from KC Chiefs coach Marty Schottenheimer that was so delicious it led to negotiations with the late Dave Goldberg, AP's great NFL writer. As fans will remember, Denver QB John Elway seemed to have a hex on Marty and whatever team he was coaching, beating him time after time, often in heartbreaking fashion. It was starting to become NFL lore. But one year as the Chiefs prepared to play the Broncos, Marty said he'd finally figured it out. "Elway's got a little Marty Schottenheimer doll and he sticks pins in it," deadpanned the coach. "And let me tell you, those pins are painful." Dave called me when he saw the quote in my story and we shared a laugh. But the next year and the year after that whenever KC and Denver were about to square off, we would both dust off Marty's words and put them to good use. Eventually, not wanting to wear out what we both agreed was coach quote gold, we decided to share. Dave could invoke Marty's Elway Voo Doo in odd-numbered years if he wished while even-numbered years were mine.

But as far as honest self-reflection and a peek into the sad-but-inescapable path time is leading all of us down, nothing beats the elderly couple at the NASCAR track. Kansas City's new speedway was about to open when they held a "meet your seat day," a chance for fans who had purchased expensive season passes to come see exactly where their seats in the enormous oval edifice were. Yes, NASCAR fans are that devoted. Just ask Mike Harris. Standing near the entrance were a little old man and a little old woman, both north of 85, I would guess. Are you folks racing fans, I asked. Yes, he said. Then he looked at his companion and said with a shrug of narrow shoulders, "This is the only thing we enjoy doing together anymore."

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Bill Vogrin (Email) - During my rookie season with The AP in 1981, I helped Doug Tucker cover the Kansas City Chiefs home games by shagging quotes from the visitors' locker room. It was this assignment that taught me the power of a good quote and how they can take on a life of their own.

On Nov. 15, 1981, Chiefs' rookie running back Joe Delaney had a record-setting 196-yard rushing performance against the Houston Oilers. In the locker room, I found Oilers defensive end and future Pro Football Hall of Famer Elvin Bethea and spoke privately with him. I asked him to rate Delaney and he told me:

"I've played against the best - O.J. Simpson, Gale Sayers, Walter Payton - and (Delaney) ranks right up there with them. He is great with a capital G."

In June 1983, after Delaney drowned trying to rescue children from a pond in Louisiana, that quote was used prominently in his obituary and in tributes to him. It has been repeated over the years in NFL publications and at Delaney's induction to the Chiefs' Ring of Honor ceremony in 2005.

(I know all this detail because it's even in the Wikipedia entry for Delaney!)

'Honey' has a sweet day out to watch Ceres



Jimmie Dean "Honey" Charton enjoys a cup of coffee last Thursday in front of the window at Sapphires Restaurant so she can see Ceres come down from her perch atop the Capitol. Photo by Julie Smith /News Tribune.

CONNECTING EDITOR'S NOTE: *Honey is the mother of Connecting colleague **Scott Charton**, former AP Little Rock newsman and Jefferson City and Columbia correspondent.)*

By JOE GAMM

Two 94-year-old women were the subjects of celebrations Thursday.

Ceres, the statue that stands atop the Missouri Capitol Dome, was celebrated for coming down from her perch for the first time since workers placed her there Oct. 29, 1924.

Jimmie Dean "Honey" Charton, who is also 94, was celebrated for sticking around to see a woman (Ceres) who is the same age as her - which is rare, she said.

Honey lives in a retirement home in Columbia. But when news that Ceres was going to be removed from the top of the Capitol Dome, her son Scott Charton decided to put the two in somewhat close proximity. He and other family members organized a Ceres watch party early Thursday morning in the Sapphire Restaurant atop the DoubleTree Hotel.

Honey was only 7 months old when the statue of the goddess was placed in three pieces atop the dome. Her family lived in Arkansas at the time.

"She probably looks better than I do," Honey said while sitting over her breakfast in the restaurant. "She's beautiful - Greek-looking. There was a girl in my class who looked just like her."

Family and friends thought watching the removal of Ceres from the Capitol would be a fun event for Honey. The bronze, 10-foot, 4-inch goddess of agriculture, grain crops, fertility and motherly relationships has stood atop the dome all these many years, withstanding all the elements, including lightning strikes. Crews took Ceres down for the first time so they could do much-needed repairs to the Capitol and to send her away for a "makeover."

The statue is to be sent to the Chicago-area for a little work.

Read more [here](#).

Best of the Week

Cataclysmic fires cap off week of momentous and devastating news in California



Sheriff's deputies recover human remains, Nov. 10, 2018, at a residence destroyed by the Camp Fire in Paradise, Calif. Sheriff's deputies recover human remains, Nov. 10, 2018, at a residence destroyed by the Camp Fire in Paradise, Calif. The death toll of the Camp Fire was at 56 after a week, with many of the victims in the Paradise area. AP Photo / Noah Berger

California's news staff still was in the midst of reporting the tragic night-spot shooting in Thousand Oaks, outside Los Angeles, when news reached the AP that a wildfire in Northern California was spreading quickly, sending thousands fleeing. And before long, another wildfire broke out - near Thousand Oaks itself - a gut punch for the community still reeling from the shooting.

Bay Area freelance photographer Noah Berger, as good a fire chaser as there is anywhere, tipped the office off that the Northern California fire looked explosive. By 11 a.m. Sacramento reporter Don Thompson was hitting the road, and a first AP NewsAlert moved saying people fleeing for their lives had abandoned vehicles as the fire swept in.

As the wildfire bore down on the small community of Paradise, the scope of the disaster was becoming clear. The devastation would prove to be beyond even the worst of recent years. Within a week, the confirmed toll sat at 56 dead and was expected to climb, with hundreds reported missing, the country's deadliest wildfire in a century.

AP's all-formats coverage went into high gear, with staffers pouring in from the region. In addition to Thompson, who stayed at the scene with fire crews for several

days straight, Portland, Ore., all-formats reporter Gilly Flaccus arrived, producing unmatched interviews in text and video of survivors and of crews searching through the burnt rubble for the remains of those killed. San Francisco reporter Paul Elias gathered information on the dramatic rescues and chaotic evacuation including that sheriff's officials were using bulldozers to push vehicles out of the way.

Las Vegas photographer John Locher and Denver videographer Peter Banda joined Berger in providing gripping visuals from the scene. Many of Peter's videos had hundreds of hits on Teletrax, including one of the first showing burnt out cars and destroyed buildings and homes that got nearly 650 uses recorded on Teletrax, which tracks video usage on international broadcasters.

AP was first to report thousands of homes destroyed, pressing a fire captain who had seen the devastation to quantify the scope of the loss Thursday evening: "Pretty much the entire community of Paradise is destroyed," he said, leaving everyone to credit AP for an entire cycle.

AP was also first to report a named victim on Sunday, describing how officials had taken a man to what remained of his home and shown him where his infirm wife failed to make it out. And after interviewing a man searching for his mother, we were alone in accompanying a search and recovery crew in all formats as they went to the mother's home and found her remains.

The coverage was nuanced and emotional: AP told stories of those searching for missing loved ones and of the trauma for firefighters who couldn't fight fire at all, only try to save people.

Competitors scrambled to keep up with exclusive photo coverage; several of our video downloads each scored more than 300 hits on Teletrax over the weekend, with at least three exceeding 600, and clients praising our extensive Live coverage.

Some of our video edits on the human side of the tragedy were unmatched.

Berger, Thompson, Flaccus, Elias, Locher and Banda were not alone in the heroic work. California News Editor Frank Baker says there was no one on the California staff who didn't contribute to the outstanding coverage, working unrelentingly right after last week's elections and mass shooting.

In the space of three days, staffers in California covered the midterm election, the Thousand Oaks mass shooting and devastating wildfires.

"This level of coverage simply doesn't happen without superior commitment and teamwork," he wrote the staff. "We have those in spades from the California staffers and those from outside who have helped with coverage."

For outstanding work, bolstered and supported by California's all-formats reporting staff and editors, Thompson, Flaccus, Elias, Berger, Locher and Banda share this AP's Best of the Week.

Best of the States

Multiple AP exclusives in all formats from mass shooting at California bar



An FBI agent talks to a potential witness as they stand near the scene, early Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018, in Thousand Oaks, Calif., where a gunman opened fire Wednesday inside a crowded country dance bar. Twelve people were killed, in addition to the gunman, who reportedly died of a self-inflicted gunshot. AP Photo / Mark J. Terrill

Just before midnight on the day after California staffers were up late covering the midterm election came reports of a shooting at a country music bar in Thousand Oaks, about 40 miles northwest of Los Angeles. Over the next 12 hours, as the scale of the carnage emerged, Sacramento correspondent Kathleen Ronayne,

Washington-based reporters Mike Balsamo and Tami Abdollah, and photographer Mark Terrill and video journalist Krysta Fauria, both based in Los Angeles, combined to provide exclusive all-formats content for AP customers.

Despite the hour, Fauria and Terrill were on the scene within 90 minutes of the first reports coming in. Before police closed the area, Terrill and a photographer from a competing agency worked their way to a high spot that provided a good vantage point of the investigation. Terrill had an 800mm lens, twice as powerful as the competing photographer's, and made tight shots of the scene unfolding below that no one else could match.

Fauria, meanwhile, quickly set up a live shot, the first of four she would do over 12 hours at three locations. With no reporter on the scene yet, Fauria was able to keep her shot as she got AP's first interview from a survivor.

Police had indicated six people were shot and then by the time Terrill and Fauria arrived the number was 11. But there was no indication yet that anyone had died. Then, about three hours after the first reports, came the shocking news that 12 people, including a police officer, and the gunman were all dead.

Reporter Ronayne was in Los Angeles for election coverage with Sacramento colleague Jonathan Cooper and both were bleary-eyed from a long election night when they were dispatched to the scene. They arrived and began providing color and witness accounts. Ronayne was sent to the shooter's house and cut her teeth on Bambuser to provide the first live video of authorities searching the home. Balsamo used a source to break the news that the murder weapon was a handgun, not an assault weapon often used in mass shootings.

Balsamo's beat was used by ABC7, KNX radio and other media outlets in Los Angeles and well beyond. Terrill's photos were featured in galleries in the San Francisco Chronicle, Los Angeles Times and others.

While other news organizations used photos of the gunman taken off social media, Balsamo's Washington colleague - and fellow AP-Los Angeles alumnus - Tami Abdollah used a source to obtain a driver's license photo that is believed to be the first and still perhaps the only rights-cleared image of the gunman.

AP's first-day coverage greatly benefited from entertainment courts reporter and former Los Angeles night breaking news staffer Andrew Dalton's decision to work late to finish a piece of enterprise. He was the lone staffer in the Los Angeles bureau when news of the shooting broke and worked all night reporting and writing the initial versions of the story.

For providing news, photos and video that others couldn't, Ronayne, Terrill, Balsamo, Abdollah and Fauria win this week's Best of the States award.

Welcome to Connecting



Lisa Holewa - lmholewa@gmail.com

Story of interest

As city burns around it, a newspaper staff rises to cover unspeakable tragedy (Los Angeles Times)



The massive plume from the Camp fire, burning in Feather River Canyon near Paradise, Calif., wafts over the Sacramento Valley as seen from Chico, Calif. (David Little / Chico Enterprise-Record)

By BENJAMIN ORESKES

It's an iconic if horrifying shot of the Camp fire pulverizing Paradise - a large ball of grayish-black smoke with fire radiating on the right, taken less than two hours after the Northern California inferno started a week ago.

The photo ran on the websites of the New York Times, Washington Post and Time magazine. It was taken on an iPhone from the roof of the Chico Enterprise-Record's office by the paper's editor, David Little.

The responsibility fell to the Chico native because the newspaper's only photographer is on medical leave. The image also ran prominently in the Enterprise-

Record's Friday print edition.

"It was just the first photo we posted on our website that morning and stayed there till [the] afternoon," Little said. Until "we got some real photographers in town."

Little has run the small paper and several others, which are part of the Digital First Media Group, for almost 20 years. The Enterprise-Record's staff was 45 when he started; now it's 10 with four part-timers pitching in. Journalists from their sister papers in the San Francisco Bay Area were dispatched to assist with coverage.

The last week has been like nothing else the 40-year-newspaper veteran has experienced. Like the community they're trying to keep informed, members of Little's staff have been displaced and are worried about missing friends and lost loved ones.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Brian Bland.

Today in History - November 19, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 19, the 323rd day of 2018. There are 42 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln dedicated a national cemetery at the site of the Civil War battlefield of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania.

On this date:

In 1831, the 20th president of the United States, James Garfield, was born in Orange Township, Ohio.

In 1919, the Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') by a vote of 55 in favor, 39 against, short of the two-thirds majority needed for ratification.

In 1942, during World War II, Russian forces launched their winter offensive against the Germans along the Don front.

In 1959, Ford Motor Co. announced it was halting production of the unpopular Edsel.

In 1969, Apollo 12 astronauts Charles Conrad and Alan Bean made the second manned landing on the moon.

In 1977, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat became the first Arab leader to visit Israel.

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev met for the first time as they began their summit in Geneva.

In 1990, the pop duo Milli Vanilli were stripped of their Grammy Award because other singers had lent their voices to the "Girl You Know It's True" album.

In 1995, Polish President Lech Walesa (vah-WEN'-sah) was defeated in his bid for re-election.

In 1997, Iowa seamstress Bobbi McCaughey (mihk-KOY') gave birth to the world's first set of surviving septuplets, four boys and three girls.

In 2004, in one of the worst brawls in U.S. sports history, Ron Artest and Stephen Jackson of the Indiana Pacers charged into the stands and fought with Detroit Pistons fans, forcing officials to end the Pacers' 97-82 win with 45.9 seconds left.

In 2007, Amazon.com released its first Kindle e-book reader.

Ten years ago: Al-Qaida's No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahri (AY'-muhn ahl-ZWAH'-ree), slurred Barack Obama as a black American who does the bidding of whites in a new Web message intended to dent the president-elect's popularity among Arabs and Muslims. The Dow Jones industrial average closed under 8,000 at 7,997.28 - the lowest close since March 2003. Drama and dance critic Clive Barnes died in New York at age 81.

Five years ago: Suicide bombers struck the Iranian Embassy in Beirut, killing 23 people, including a diplomat, and injuring more than 140 others. Virginia state Sen. Creigh (kree) Deeds was attacked and stabbed multiple times by his mentally ill adult son, Gus Deeds, who then took his own life. Diane Disney Miller, 79, daughter of Walt Disney and one of his inspirations for building the Disneyland theme park, died in Napa, California. The Disney animated feature "Frozen" had its Hollywood premiere.

One year ago: Charles Manson, the hippie cult leader behind the gruesome murders of actress Sharon Tate and six others in Los Angeles in 1969, died in a California hospital at the age of 83 after nearly a half-century in prison. In an announcement that would trigger impeachment proceedings, Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe

defied calls to quit and said he would preside over a ruling party congress in December. State media and a monitoring group in Syria reported that pro-government forces had defeated the Islamic State group in its last major stronghold in the country. Longtime country music star Mel Tillis died in Florida at the age of 85. Actress and singer Della Reese died at 86 in her Los Angeles area home.

Today's Birthdays: Talk show host Larry King is 85. Former General Electric chief executive Jack Welch is 83. Talk show host Dick Cavett is 82. Broadcasting and sports mogul Ted Turner is 80. Former Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, is 79. Former Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson is 77. Fashion designer Calvin Klein is 76. Sportscaster Ahmad Rashad is 69. Actor Robert Beltran is 65. Actress Kathleen Quinlan is 64. Actress Glynnis O'Connor is 63. Broadcast journalist Ann Curry is 62. Former NASA astronaut Eileen Collins is 62. Actress Allison Janney is 59. Rock musician Matt Sorum (Guns N' Roses, Velvet Revolver) is 58. Actress Meg Ryan is 57. Actress-director Jodie Foster is 56. Actress Terry Farrell is 55. TV chef Rocco DiSpirito is 52. Actor Jason Scott Lee is 52. Olympic gold medal runner Gail Devers is 52. Actress Erika Alexander is 49. Rock musician Travis McNabb is 49. Singer Tony Rich is 47. Actress Sandrine Holt is 46. Country singer Jason Albert (Heartland) is 45. Country singer Billy Currington is 45. Dancer-choreographer Savion Glover is 45. Country musician Chad Jeffers is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tamika Scott (Xscape) is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lil' Mo is 41. Olympic gold medal gymnast Kerri Strug is 41. Actor Reid Scott is 41. Movie director Barry Jenkins (Film: "Moonlight") is 39. Actress Katherine Kelly is 39. Neo-soul musician Brownie Molaro is 36. Actor Adam Driver is 35. Country singer Cam is 34. Actress Samantha Futerman is 31. Rapper Tyga is 29.

Thought for Today: "The misfortunes hardest to bear are these which never came." - Christopher Morley, American author and journalist (1890-1957).

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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