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# Connecting - January 25, 2019

1 message

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# Connecting

January 25, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

Our first responses are in for Connecting's call for your stories about job interviews that didn't work out.

Thanks to **Bill Kaczor** and **Mark Mittelstadt** for sharing their experiences. Send me yours!

Have a great weekend!

Paul

## ***Connecting series:*** **Job interviews that didn't work out - or did they?**

**Bill Kaczor (Email)** - After graduating from Medill with a master's degree in journalism I started looking for a job in January 1974 in the middle of a recession and the oil embargo. Jobs were tight. I called The Chicago Tribune and was told there might be an opening in three months. I couldn't wait. I got an interview at the Milwaukee Sentinel that ended with the editor telling me he had a turnover of only four in the past year and no immediate openings. As I worked my way south I got interviews in St. Louis and Louisville, Kentucky, with similar results. At that point I gave up and returned to the Florida Panhandle, where my wife had been working at two jobs - teacher and part-time reporter - while I had been in grad school for the better part of a year. I stopped by the Pensacola News Journal, where I had worked part-time while in the Air Force, and I was hired on the spot for a full-time job covering local government.

A couple years later I was transferred to the Gannett News Service bureau in Tallahassee. I enjoyed the work, but not the pay or some of the personnel moves. I got word that the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel was thinking about opening a one-person Tallahassee bureau so I applied for the job. The Sun-Sentinel flew me down to Fort Lauderdale for an interview and it went quite well. The only problem was that a decision on opening the bureau had been put on hold. In the meantime, AP Miami Chief of Bureau Tom Brettingen made a membership visit to the Sun-Sentinel, where he was told about my availability. As a result, I he hired me in 1980 for a new vacancy in the AP's Tallahassee bureau. That launched my 33-year AP career in Tallahassee and Pensacola.

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**Mark Mittelstadt (Email)** - Upon graduation from the University of Iowa in 1976 I was married and desperately in need of a job. Mary was a vocal music teacher in a school district half an hour outside of Iowa City but was eager to see me pursue a career in journalism.

During my year in the University of Missouri school of journalism, instructor Steve Weinstein encouraged students to pursue newspaper internships between years in college. After a flurry of inquiry letters I landed one at The Waterloo (Iowa) Courier between my sophomore and junior years and another the following summer. The Courier couldn't offer a third internship after graduation and didn't have any regular openings at the time. So off Mary and I went in her sporty Fiat 128 L, resumes, clips and a handful of change in hand, seeking interviews at newspapers in Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin.

I landed one with Forrest Kilmer, the tough-talking, crewcut-sporting editor of the Quad-City Times in Davenport. Kilmer, a staunch advocate of freedom of information, was a legend in Iowa newspapers. The interview went well, I thought, and while he said he liked me and wanted me to stay in touch I did not have the experience to be considered at that time. In Wisconsin I got an interview with a lower level editor at The Milwaukee Sentinel. I had nothing set up with the competing Milwaukee Journal but wandered a narrow hallway and down a set of stairs and finagled a visit with Journal Managing Editor Joseph Shoquist. That interview, too, went well but Shoquist wanted to see more experience.

A couple months later while we were still living in the Iowa City area and calling around for jobs Courier Managing Editor Stewart Haas mentioned that their sister paper in neighboring Cedar Falls had an opening. If I was interested, he would call the editor and give him my name. He did, I interviewed with Editor David Westphal and was offered a job as a general assignment reporter at the 5,000-circulation The Record. The salary was around \$11,000 a year. I immediately accepted.

Less than two years later Westphal left to become sports editor at the Des Moines Register and I was named Record editor. The next three years the newspaper received several awards from the Iowa Daily Press Association, including General Excellence for our circulation category. It was as editor that I got to know the Associated Press chief of bureau, John Lumpkin, who made several visits in futile attempts to get me to sign for service. Then one day he called not to talk about membership but to offer a job in the Des Moines AP bureau. The pay was more than double what I was making as editor, the stories would be bigger, he promised. And it would put me in a different sphere than as editor of a tiny, AM community newspaper.

I accepted. That first AP job as general assignment reporter and desk shift editor led to a largely rewarding 29-year career with the news cooperative. It would be conjecture only, but I doubt that path would have started out of Milwaukee or Davenport.

## Connecting mailbox

## ***Coverage of viral Stephen King story overlooks layoffs at Portland ME paper***

**Richard Chady** ([Email](#)) - "It's total BS for @PressHerald bosses to do a victory lap on new subscribers when they're firing people at the same time," tweeted Mike Shepherd, a political reporter at The Bangor Daily News, Maine's second-largest paper. Shepherd, who declined to be interviewed for this story, also called for reporters to note the layoffs in their coverage.

Publisher DeSisto says the Times did not ask about additional cuts, and adds that it didn't make sense to put out a press release announcing that MaineToday was laying off what amounts to 1.5 percent of its workforce. Two of the six people who were cut-MilNeil and graphic artist Pete Gorski-worked in the Press Herald's 70-person newsroom. "The story was about how we leveraged this tweet to rally support for the community," DeSisto says.

Click [here](#) to read the Columbia Journalism Review story.

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## ***His favorite journalism film - Teacher's Pet***

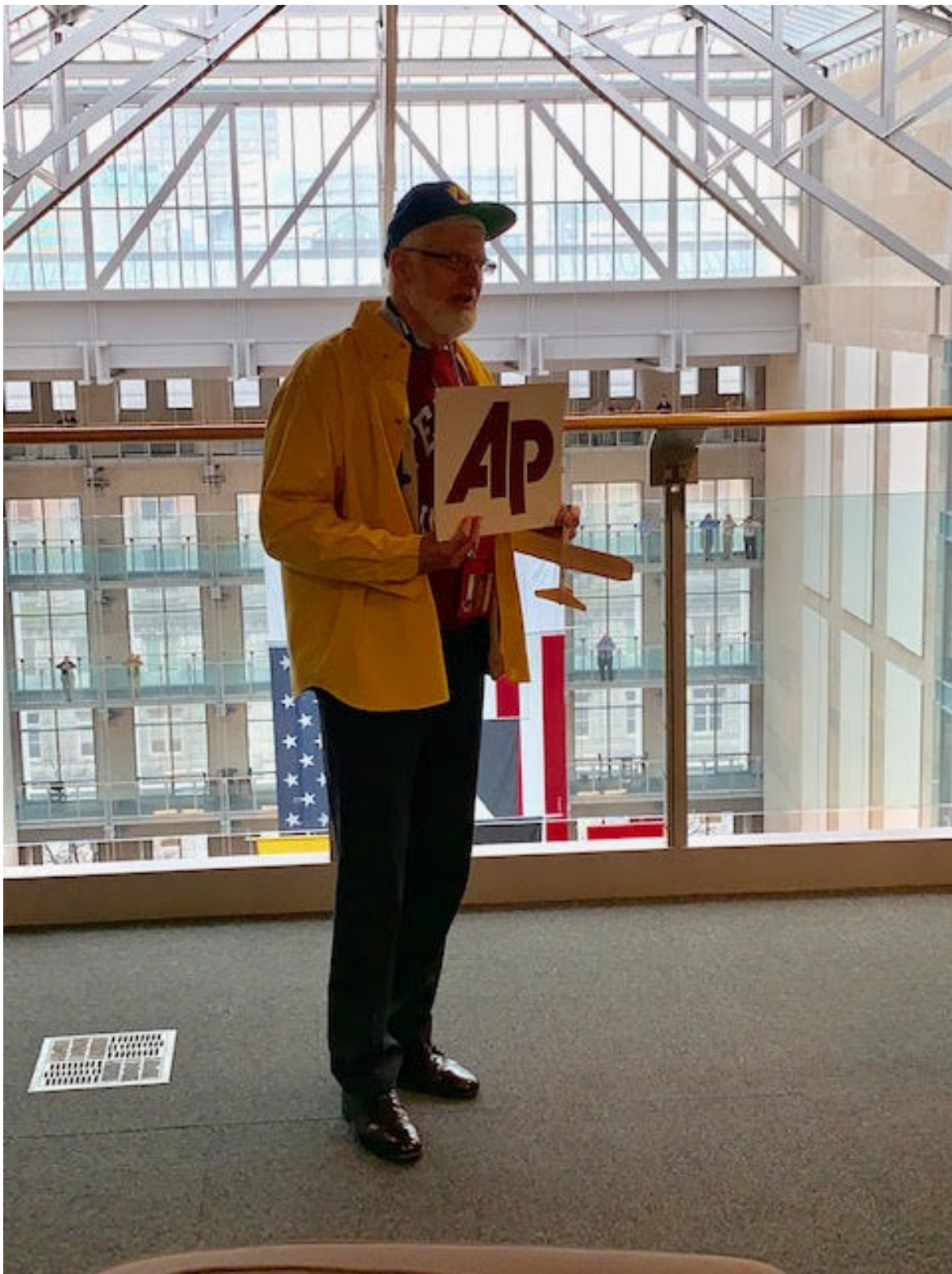
**Rick Cooper** ([Email](#)) - I've always been partial to the Clark Gable/Dorris Day 1958 film TEACHER'S PET.

Particularly memorable is the scene where Gable as a hard-boiled newspaper man give the elements of a good story to Day's college journalism class.

Yes, it's a light hearted ROM-COM but the basic elements of a good news story stuck with me.

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## ***Rich Kirkpatrick retirement party from Pennsylvania DOT***



**John Daniszewski (Email)** - Here is a photo taken by my friend David DeKok of Rich Kirkpatrick's retirement. Rich was AP Harrisburg correspondent and a wonderful mentor. He later joined Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in communications.

**Dave DeKok** - I stopped by Rich Kirkpatrick's retirement party today. He was wearing a West Philly Catholic High School sweater, a Temple U sweatshirt, and the

AP logo which he said represented the pillars of his life along with his wife. Then he followed a PennDOT tradition and tossed a balsa wood airplane into the Keystone Building atrium from the 8th floor.

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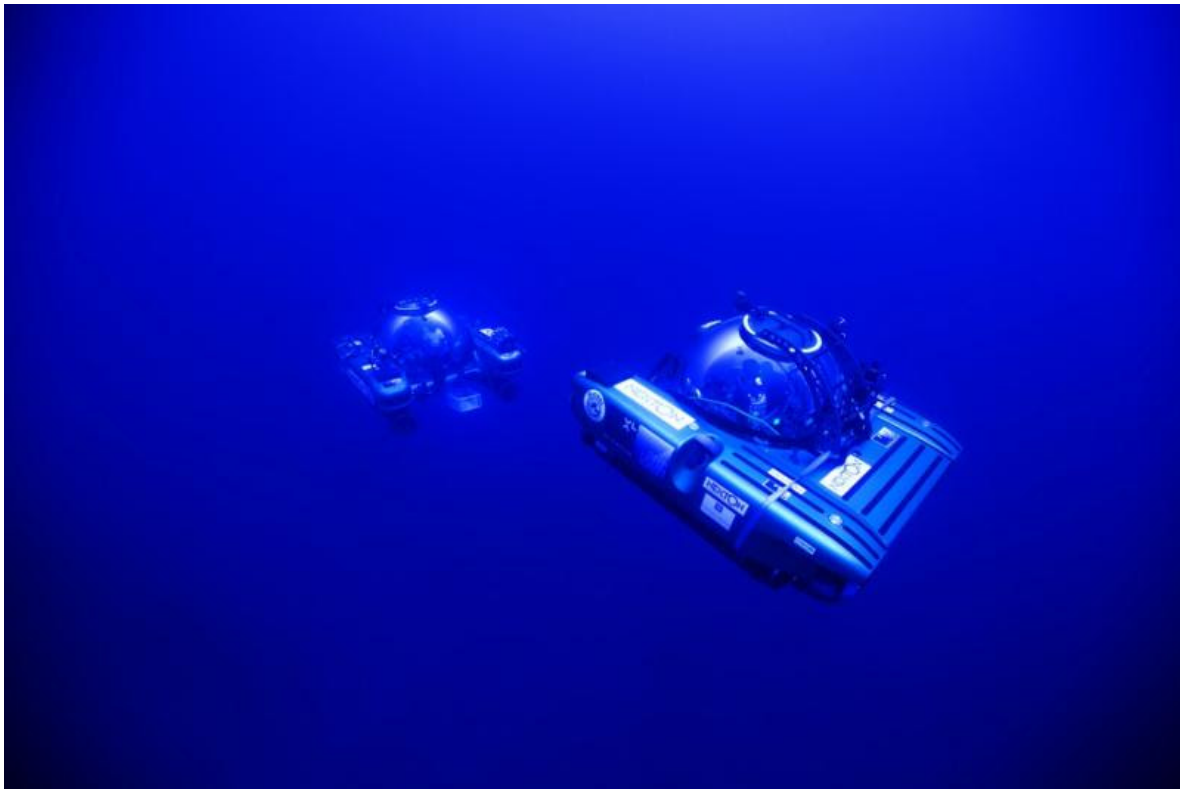
## ***Blast from past: Reading the latest news at AP's 50 Rock headquarters***



**Paul Albright** ([Email](#)) - This photo shows a group of businessmen huddle together at the window of the Associated Press office at Rockefeller Center to read

the latest news, 1955. Found in: Timeless New York Street Scenes Photographs in the 1950s, Found in a Home's Attic After Nearly 50 Years. Click [here](#).

## AP to bring Indian Ocean exploration to audiences across the globe



**Nekton submarines, similar to those that will be deployed in the Indian Ocean in March, descend into the Atlantic Ocean near Bermuda in 2018. (Photo courtesy of Nekton)**

The Associated Press announced Thursday it will provide live underwater video from a deep-sea research mission that aims to unlock the secrets of the Indian Ocean.

AP is the only news agency working with a team of British scientists from the Nekton research team, who will explore depths of up to 300 meters (1,000 feet) off the coast of the Seychelles in two-person submarines.

Scientists will draw additional data from precision instruments dropped to up to 2,000 meters (6,600 feet). There is currently very little comprehensive mapping or biological research of the Seychelles or the wider Indian Ocean below 30 meters (100 feet).

The submarines and a remotely operated underwater vehicle will be equipped with 12 underwater cameras and six more above the surface.

Using cutting-edge technology, AP plans to broadcast live from on board and speak to the scientists as they work.

"AP has been in the vanguard of developing the breaking news live video viewing experience for more than two decades. By harnessing the latest live streaming technologies, which will enable us to broadcast in real time from deep down in the Indian Ocean, we can transport viewers to a vast hidden expanse of sea that mankind has never previously explored," said Sandy MacIntyre, AP vice president and director of key initiatives for news.

He added: "What scientists from Nekton's Mission discover will be fascinating and newsworthy. It will also inform the debate on the state of our planet's ocean and the resources within that are so precious and so vital to the future of billions of people."

AP video coverage will include the search for submerged mountain ranges and previously undiscovered marine life, a behind-the-scenes look at life on board, interviews with world-class researchers and drone footage of the mission.

AP's broadcast and digital customers will be able to offer live video to their audiences around the world and may conduct live two-way interviews with the scientists and AP journalists on board.

Nekton CEO Oliver Steeds said: "We are about to embark on a vital scientific mission that will help uncover the secrets of our deep ocean, the last great unexplored part of our planet. With AP accompanying us every step of the way, we can reach millions of people around the world, to inspire them about the relevance and importance of the ocean in all our lives. Together we will be able to explore the last great frontier on our planet and inspire a new generation in the same way Jacques Cousteau did all those years ago."

The seven-week voyage will begin in March. It is the first in a series of planned Nekton missions in the Indian Ocean over the next three years.

Click [here](#) for a link to this story.



# BuzzFeed's story is a reminder to slow down for a minute

By **CARL P. LEUBSDORF**

The person generally credited with characterizing news as "the first, rough draft of history" was the late Washington Post publisher Phil Graham, though he may have borrowed the term from the paper's longtime editorial writer, Alan Barth.

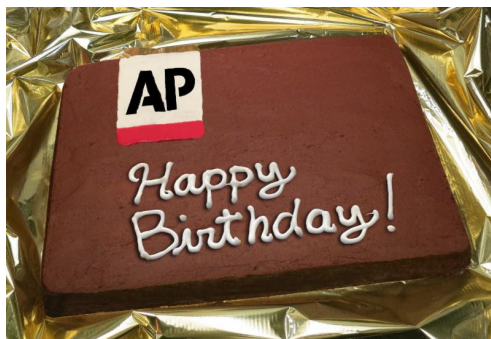
Regardless, the adjectives "first" and "rough" have never been more apt than in describing the story that prompted recent over-the-top over-reactions from the rival camps in the ongoing battle over Special Counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation of President Donald Trump.

The entire matter suggests that each combatant in this unfortunate saga ought to take a deep breath and wait for the definitive facts to unfold, rather than pronounce every new development as bolstering its case.

The occasion, of course, was BuzzFeed's story alleging Mueller had evidence Trump instructed former lawyer-fixer Michael Cohen to lie to Congress about Trump's plans for building a luxury hotel in Moscow. Mueller, who never comments except in court filings, issued a statement essentially calling the story untrue.

Read more [here](#). As published in Newsday. Carl P. Leubsdorf is a Connecting colleague.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

John Gibbons - [jandsgibbons@gmail.com](mailto:jandsgibbons@gmail.com)

*On Saturday to...*

David Royse - [daveroyse@gmail.com](mailto:daveroyse@gmail.com)

## Welcome to Connecting



Ken Kusmer - [kkusmer@ap.org](mailto:kkusmer@ap.org)

## Stories of interest

### ***More than 1,000 media jobs lost in one day***

(Axios)

The media industry's current round of cuts and consolidation is accelerating. Sizable layoffs at BuzzFeed, Gannett and Verizon Media (home of AOL, Yahoo, HuffPost and others) were announced Wednesday, totaling over 1,000 jobs cut.

Why it matters: If the headlines signal anything, it's that the news media will continue to struggle to find a sustainable business model in an advertising and attention

ecosystem dominated by tech companies like Google, Facebook and Netflix.

By the numbers:

Verizon Media will cut roughly 800 jobs, or 7% of its global workforce across the organization, as well as certain brands and products. Verizon CEO Hans Vestberg told Axios earlier this month that each of the company's three units, including the media business, needed to be able to stand on their own. (A company spokesperson later clarified to Axios that Verizon Media Group will still have access to Verizon customer data when customers opt in to provide such information.)

Buzzfeed will cut roughly 250 jobs, or roughly 15% of its workforce, including jobs within its news division.

Gannett cut over 20 jobs Wednesday, per Poynter, with more expected as the company tries to shed costs amid buyout talks.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Shane, Richard Chady.

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***APNewsBreak: Iranian TV anchor says US jailed her as warning***



By **MICHAEL BALSAMO**

WASHINGTON (AP) - A prominent American-born anchorwoman for Iran's state television says she believes the U.S. government jailed her because of her work as journalist and her beliefs, and as a warning to her to "watch your step."

Marzieh Hashemi spoke to The Associated Press on Thursday, a day after being released from custody. She was not charged with a crime but was detained for 10 days as a material witness in a grand jury investigation in Washington. Details of the investigation are under seal, and Hashemi said she could not provide details. But she said it is not related to terrorism and has to do with her job and the fact that she lives in Iran.

Hashemi said her arrest was unnecessary because she would have voluntarily appeared for questioning and would have complied with a federal subpoena.

"I'm not sure what the meaning of 'Make America Great Again' is, but if it means just basically taking away human rights more and more every day, that doesn't seem to be a very great America to me," she said, in a reference to President Donald Trump's campaign slogan.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***What is Fox News? Researchers want to know***

(CJR)

**By JACOB L. NELSON**

IN 2014, I BEGAN WORKING on an academic study that sought to determine whether conservatives and liberals exclusively got their news from ideologically aligned news organizations, or if they instead hewed to a small number of extremely popular, politically neutral outlets. At the time, no one questioned my assumption that ideologically centrist news outlets existed, something many no longer believe to be true. More importantly, no one took issue with my assertion that MSNBC and Fox News were comparable-two sides of the same, partisan coin.

A lot can change in four years.

Now, the US has a president who openly campaigns alongside Fox's most prominent commentators, hires former Fox employees for top executive branch posts, and depends on Fox to both carry his message to his supporters as well as give him positive reinforcement for a job well done. In light of these circumstances, the notion that Fox is simply another partisan news outlet is increasingly under attack. Fox no longer deserves to be treated as news, some argue, but as something more akin to state propaganda.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Opinion: Never Tweet*** (New York Times)

**By Farhad Manjoo**

Friends, reporters, fam: It's time we journalists all considered disengaging from the daily rhythms of Twitter, the world's most damaging social network.

You don't have to quit totally - that's impossible in today's news business. Instead, post less, lurk more.

"Never Tweet" is an ironic meme on Twitter, a thing people in media say to acknowledge how futile it is to consider ever leaving this place where all news happens first. I want to suggest another meaning: "Never Tweet" should be an aspiration, a necessary step toward improving the relationship between the media and the digital world.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

## The Final Word



**Scott Charton** ([Email](#)) - Then we have the NYT obit for Russell Baker, with a suggestion for j-school curricula!

## Today in History - January 25, 2019



## By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Jan. 25, the 25th day of 2019. There are 340 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 25, 1971, Charles Manson and three women followers were convicted in Los Angeles of murder and conspiracy in the 1969 slayings of seven people, including actress Sharon Tate.

### On this date:

In 1533, England's King Henry VIII secretly married his second wife, Anne Boleyn, who later gave birth to Elizabeth I.

In 1863, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln accepted Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside's resignation as commander of the Army of the Potomac, and replaced him with Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker.

In 1890, reporter Nellie Bly (Elizabeth Cochrane) of the New York World completed a round-the-world journey in 72 days, 6 hours and 11 minutes. The United Mine Workers of America was founded in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1915, America's first official transcontinental telephone call took place as Alexander Graham Bell, who was in New York, spoke to his former assistant, Thomas Watson, who was in San Francisco, over a line set up by American Telephone & Telegraph.



In 1924, the first Winter Olympic Games opened in Chamonix (shah-moh-NEE'), France.

In 1936, former Gov. Al Smith, D-N.Y., delivered a radio address in Washington, titled "Betrayal of the Democratic Party," in which he fiercely criticized the New Deal policies of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1945, the World War II Battle of the Bulge ended as German forces were pushed back to their original positions. Grand Rapids, Michigan, became the first community to add fluoride to its public water supply.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy held the first presidential news conference to be carried live on radio and television.

In 1981, the 52 Americans held hostage by Iran for 444 days arrived in the United States.

In 1990, an Avianca Boeing 707 ran out of fuel and crashed in Cove Neck, Long Island, New York; 73 of the 158 people aboard were killed. Actress Ava Gardner died in London at age 67.

In 1993, a gunman shot and killed two CIA employees outside agency headquarters in Virginia (Pakistani national Mir Aimal Kansi was later tried and convicted of the shootings, and executed). Sears announced that it would no longer publish its famous century-old catalog.

In 1998, Pope John Paul II ended his historic journey to Cuba.

Ten years ago: The White House used the Sunday talk shows to warn the country could face a long and painful financial recovery, even with major government intervention. The Eastern Conference won the NHL All-Star game 12-11. Jeremy Abbott won his first title at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, held in Cleveland. "Slumdog Millionaire" won the Screen Actors Guild Award for best cast of a motion picture; "30 Rock" and "Mad Men" won best for TV comedy and drama casts.

Five years ago: A gunman opened fire at a shopping mall in suburban Baltimore, killing two skate shop employees, 21-year-old Brianna Benlolo and 25-year-old Tyler Johnson; shooter Darion Aguilar then killed himself. On the third anniversary of

Egypt's 2011 uprising, giant crowds danced at government-backed rallies and security forces crushed demonstrations by rival Islamists and some secular activists. Li Na beat Dominika Cibulkova 7-6 (3), 6-0 in the Australian Open final. The Anaheim Ducks beat the Los Angeles Kings 3-0 at Dodger Stadium in the NHL's first warm-weather outdoor game. Morris "Morrie" Turner, 90, creator of the "Wee Pals" comic strip and the first African-American cartoonist to be syndicated nationally, died in Sacramento, California.

One year ago: President Donald Trump arrived at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland; after meeting there with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Trump threatened to cut off U.S. aid to the Palestinians unless they negotiated peace with Israel. The White House unveiled an immigration proposal that would provide a pathway to citizenship for 1.8 million young immigrants living in the country illegally in exchange for new restrictions on legal immigration and \$25 billion in border security; House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi charged that it was part of an administration effort to "make America white again." In an interview in InStyle magazine, Oprah Winfrey said she was not interested in a presidential bid, adding that she doesn't "have the DNA" for a White House run.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Claude Gray is 87. Actress Leigh Taylor-Young is 74. Actress Jenifer (cq) Lewis is 62. Country musician Mike Burch (River Road) is 53. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kina is 50. Actress China Kantner is 48. Actress Ana Ortiz is 48. Drummer Joe Sirois (sih-ROYS') (Mighty Mighty Bosstones) is 47. Musician Matt Odmark (OHD'-mark) (Jars of Clay) is 45. Actress Mia Kirshner is 44. Actress Christine Lakin is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer Alicia (ah-LEE'-shuh) Keys is 39. Actor Michael Trevino is 34. Pop musician Calum Hood (5 Seconds to Summer) is 23. Actress Olivia Edward is 12.

**Thought for Today: "The telephone, which interrupts the most serious conversations and cuts short the most weighty observations, has a romance of its own." - Virginia Woolf, English author (1882-1941).**

## 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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