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Connecting - February 27, 2019

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Connecting

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

We lead today's issue with a review of the new book written by our Connecting colleague **Henry Bradsher** - *The Dalai Lama's Secret and Other Reporting Adventures*.

In the book, Henry tells about his life as a foreign correspondent.

We bring you more memories of our recently departed colleague, **GG LaBelle**, and the eulogy presented Tuesday by **Edie Lederer** for her friend and colleague **Barry Kramer**.

Congratulations to our colleague **Tom Eblen** of the Lexington Herald-Leader on a fine career in newspapering, after getting his start in journalism with the AP in Kentucky and Tennessee. Tom plans to retire on March 1.

CORRECTION: The item in Tuesday's Connecting titled "Memories of GG LaBelle" was mistakenly credited by Connecting as being written by colleague Pat Milton. Actually, Pat submitted the memory that was written by former AP Beirut bureau chief Samir Ghattas. Here it is again, with proper credit:

***Samir Ghattas** - I learned last night of the passing of Gerald LaBelle. GG as we know him, mentor and teacher, his writing and unmatched style made reading such a joy. His humor made all the difficult circumstances seem so easy. His wise counsel made all the troubles seem surmountable.*

I will not forget how he cared - and how much he cared - for his staff. Through his friendship I was able to reconnect with my wife Bahar 32 years ago. We remained friends and we became family after AP.

We pray for him and express our deep gratitude. Eileen and his daughter are proud of him. We are proud of him.

My visits to NY will not be the same.

Paul

Memoir: Henry Bradsher looks back

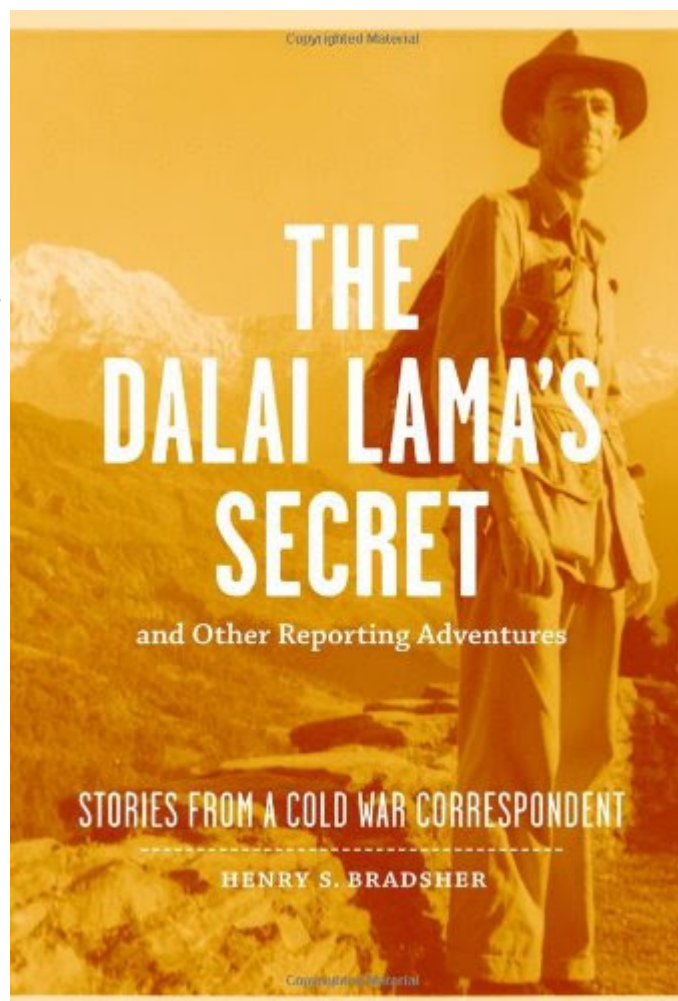
By Michael Johnson

The life of the foreign correspondent, the dream that many of us had as youngsters, is becoming almost a relic of the distant past. But as Henry S. Bradsher says with typical understatement in his recent book *The Dalai Lama's Secret and Other Reporting Adventures* (Louisiana State University Press), "Times have changed. My times were good."

A Connecting contributor and the epitome of the intrepid correspondent, Bradsher has nailed it in two sentences. Those times were good for everyone, including newspaper readers.

He decided to become a foreign correspondent at age 12 or 13 and he never looked back. (I was a late bloomer. I decided at 18.) We met and worked together in the AP office in Moscow in the 1960s, and we reveled in our important role of reporting and analysis of Cold War issues. He was my bureau chief for a year or two until he left to study at Harvard in the Nieman Fellowship program.

Bradsher's book is a collection of 26 self-standing vignettes describing some of the highlights of his long career, mainly in The AP. It is a sort of non-fiction short story collection that makes for easy reading. Chapter titles such as these will draw you in. "Stumbling Over a Policeman's Severed Head", "Tiger Hunting with Queen Elizabeth", "Stabbed in the Back", "Bombed in Moscow", and "China's Most Despicable".



Henry told me he wrote these pieces over several years, deciding only recently to compile them in book form. I found his memoir enlightening for the factual accounts of major events in the 1960s and 1970s. It is also a tribute to brave and adventurous individuals who placed themselves in personal danger - and continue to do so -- to get a story.

He cites the Committee to Protect Journalists as the authority for tracking reporters' deaths in action. As his book was printed, 926 journalists had died since 1992. The updated figure is 1,340 and climbing.

Bradsher in his low-key prose tries to keep himself out of the story (old AP training) but lets slip that he was pushed around and shot at, but he was lucky. He escaped Cambodia and Vietnam without a scratch.

We forget how dangerous it was. He recalls. "Learning the hard way, journalists had developed some criteria for judging road dangers (in Cambodia). People working in the fields and looking relaxed in villages were good signs, as was oncoming traffic. But empty fields, tense or empty villages, and no approaching vehicles indicated danger."

From 1970 to 1975, 34 foreign journalists were killed or disappeared there. "Most were lost on Cambodia's dangerous highways," he writes.

On one of those roads, Bradsher's friend and colleague Welles Hangen and his NBC camera crew were seized by Khmer Rouge and led away. Villagers later said Hangen and his crew were beaten to death three days after their capture.

There is not much scope for humor in Bradsher's telling. He always was a serious and intense writer-reporter. But he tells one story of traveling in Vietnam with Secretary of State William P. Rogers and assistant secretary for public affairs Michael Collins. Just a year earlier, Collins had been the astronaut who piloted Apollo 11 around the moon while his crew descended to the surface. Bradsher interrogated some farmers who had gathered and asked, through a translator, what they thought of Collins and his moon travel.

Paraphrasing, Bradsher quotes a farmer, "About that man having been to the moon, well, we may just be ignorant farmers but we're smart enough not to be fooled by that!"



Tennis is passion for Henry Bradsher

The title story of the book relates to Bradsher's reporting the secret treasure spirited out of Tibet by the Dalai Lama's entourage while Bradsher was based in the New Delhi AP bureau. It was a sensitive secret and Bradsher's story was greeted with skepticism. In the end, it was proven correct.

The most moving chapter, for this reader, is "Hazards of Journalism", which includes revisiting incidents later to see what happened to translators, editors and reporters he had known in difficult times. These were "men who suffered for being faithful reporters of things that powerful or unscrupulous men did not want reported". One Afghan ended up driving a taxi in Washington, D.C. A Czech editor was banished to managing the heating system of an apartment complex. Others disappeared or were imprisoned.

Later in his career, he considered offers to return to Asia but found that he and his family were ready to settle down in Washington. He was taken on by a branch of the CIA and again plunged into "extensive travel on six continents". His final touch: "My journalism career had ended. It had been a fascinating and enjoyable career.

Now in retirement in Baton Rouge, LA, he keeps busy teaching a six-week adult education course for about 100 students (in two groups), tutoring at an elementary school one morning and volunteering help to foreign students at Louisiana State University one afternoon.

For fun? Henry tells me he plays tennis three mornings a week when he can put together a doubles group. "I'm still up for singles, but no one else is."

Postscript: Henry resists boasting that his elder son Keith has been Shanghai bureau chief for the New York Times. Good journalism is clearly in the genes.

Click [here](#) for a link to the book on Amazon.

Henry Bradsher's email is - hsb682@cox.net

Carmine Cerino, retired color photo editor, dies

Carmine Cerino, who worked 25 years for The Associated Press in New York, died on February 20 at the age of 93.

He served three years during World War II as a Seabee in the United States Navy in the Pacific Theater, with a rank of Yeoman Second Class. After the war, he graduated from Iona College and pursued a career in news reporting, starting as a general assignment reporter with the New York Mirror and moving on to the AP.

He started as a photo librarian in 1964 and then became a color photo editor, retiring in 1990.

Click [here](#) to read his obituary. Shared by Evelyn Colucci-Calvert.

More remembrances of GG LaBelle

Chris Connell ([Email](#)) - I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Gerry LaBelle. Gerry and I go back to the Newark bureau, where I started in 1971 straight out of college. Whipper snapper and wannabe Woodstocker that I was, I told Gerry after a few days that the dress code didn't require him to wear a tie -- his trademark bow tie back then -- to work the desk alongside the sloppy likes of me and that beloved, casual curmudgeon Lew Head.

"Listen, I worked my way through college for the right to wear a tie and I'm going to wear it," he shot back.

I'll raise a glass Friday.

-0-

Monte Hayes ([Email](#)) - I didn't know GG LaBelle well but I will never forget what he did for me in my last months in 2008 as COB in Lima, Peru. During 23 years in Lima, I had covered political turmoil, coups, cocaine smuggling, dictators and Latin America's most violent guerrilla group, Sendero Luminoso (the Shining Path).

Years after its apparent demise, Sendero showed signs of making a comeback, and I decided to make one last trip into its lair, the remote, jungle-draped Apurimac Valley. I spent four days in the valley, a place where foreign journalists seldom dared to tread, and came back with a great story, based on interviews with dozens of coca farmers, teachers, soldiers, villagers, anti-rebel militiamen and cocaine traffickers.

I sent a richly detailed 2,000-word takeout to NY, thinking it would make a fine end to my career with The AP. That is when the hell began. Three different honchos on the International Desk individually edited the story, rewriting it and even inserting erroneous background. When they started sharing with me their individual arts of work, I hit the roof. I figured I was leaving soon, so I might as well let them know what I thought of their editing "skills." I told them that I would work with only one of them - NOT three - and they should get their act together. That was a mistake, a big mistake.

They shelved my story, leaving me to steam quietly. Weeks went by. I figured the story would never get on the wires, but there was not much I could do about it. Then one day I got a call from GG LaBelle. He said, "Monte, I'm looking at your takeout on Sendero and I don't understand why it hasn't moved. It's a really good story and I'm going to put it out. Just a couple of questions." He made a few minor edits in the

original story and got it on the wires later in the week. The General Desk gave it a prominent place on the budget. It was published at length in dozens of the country's papers and many more around the world. The General Desk later remarked on its good use. Both the New York Times and the Washington Post months later sent correspondents into the Apurimac Valley to try to replicate my exclusive. A New York Times foreign correspondent told me later how great the reporting was and how much he had enjoyed reading the story.

And nothing of that would have happened without GG LaBelle, a quiet, soft-spoken editor at the International Desk who cared about saving a good story that a reporter had risked his life to report. I regret now not calling him to thank him. But I didn't want to make a big deal of it because I worried that he might have taken a lot of flack already for ignoring his bosses' attempts to let the story die on the vine.

Because of what he did, I will never forget GG LaBelle.

A eulogy for Barry Kramer

Edie Lederer ([Email](#)) - This is my tribute to Barry Kramer which I read at his graveside funeral Tuesday at Mount Lebanon Cemetery in New Jersey. In great sadness...

Barry and I both worked for the Associated Press in the late 1960s but we didn't meet until we were both in Vietnam in 1973 - I was the first woman AP sent to cover the war full-time. He had moved to the Wall Street Journal.

It was one of the rare times in my journalistic career that I kept a diary, and I wrote in it what a nice guy he was.

We traveled together with AP photographer Chick Harrity on a memorable trip from Saigon through Da Nang and the old capital of Hue to Quang Tri. It was a major city which had been bombed to rubble during the last North Vietnamese incursion across the border into South Vietnam.

We went to witness a prisoner exchange across the river dividing the North and South.

It was amazing.

The South Vietnamese put their Communist captives from the North in boats, and as they headed across the river they threw off all the clothes they'd been given by the South Vietnamese, whom they called American puppets. So they arrived in underpants.

The North Vietnamese then sent South Vietnamese prisoners back across the river in the boats. They kept their clothes on.

What was even more amazing was that Barry and I not only got to see North Vietnamese soldiers close up for the first time but interview several of them.



Chick Harrity took a picture of us talking to them, which Barry loved. (See above)

It is in "War Torn," a book co-authored by nine women who covered the Vietnam War including me. And the picture ran with Barry's obituary which I wrote for AP on Monday.

On the trip back we stopped in Da Nang, a key port city, to eat - and we also went shopping, including to several antique stores.

None of us left empty-handed. And I discovered then that Barry and I both loved shopping and collecting - and Asian food.

When I was transferred to Hong Kong in 1978, Barry was already there.

Shortly after I arrived I was at a Chinese restaurant dining with some friends when the waiter came over and presented me with a fancy dish. I picked up the lid and ended up staring at a severed duck's head.

I told the waiter I hadn't ordered it. He pointed across the room. There was Barry, sitting at a table, laughing uproariously along with a group of friends from the Wall Street Journal.

We both had a lot of friends and went sightseeing, visited Macao, kept searching for the best Chinese restaurant in Hong Kong, and prowled antique shops.

Barry left Hong Kong before I did, but our paths crossed again when I was transferred to London in 1982.

I started a Chinese Eating Club, again searching for the best Chinese and Asian restaurants and Barry would come whenever he was in London.

The Chinese Eating Club moved to New York when I was assigned to be AP's bureau chief at the United Nations in 1998.

Over the years, when I came to New York on home leave, he would go out with my friends - and they all became his friends as well.

The Group - as he called it - would go out on weekends, Barry, me, Lynda Gould and her late beloved partner Elliot Gordon, Karen Vinacour, Ann Veneman, Toni Reinhold, and a floating list of visitors...

Barry's internist, Dr. Alice Furman, became my internist.

And her brother, Dr. Richard Furman, who is one of America's leading experts on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, became Barry's oncologist.

Barry was Dr. Furman's longest surviving patient, having survived at least 20 different regimens.

When Barry retired from the Wall Street Journal in 2001, he invited me to his send off. I learned something there that I didn't know about Barry.

Several colleagues got up and talked about the Barry Bark!

He had very high journalistic and ethical standards, both as a writer and as an editor. And I could envision him "barking" at reporters whose copy didn't meet his standards.

But he was a real softie underneath, mentoring a young generation of reporters, many of whom wrote very moving tributes to him on a Wall Street Journal Facebook page.

He was also incredibly generous. He endowed a scholarship for journalists at Rutgers, his alma mater. He often showed up at dinners with little presents for everyone at the table from his prowling in shops and markets. Every day, I look at the butterfly bedspread, the Chinese rug and the beautiful black and gold antique Chinese box that he gave me.

Barry was also a master wordsmith. AP's Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Peter Arnett, who worked with Barry in Vietnam, recalled this story in a tribute to him.

In the midst of the Vietnam war, Barry wrote about the marriage of Army 1st Lt Ruby Kay Britsch of Seward, Ill to Army Major Gary E. Scheuing of Brooklyn NY. during a break in war action in the central highlands capital of Pleiku early in March, 1968.

Barry wrote, and I quote:

"Showered with traditional rice as they left the base chapel, the newlyweds passed under an arc of mountain tribesmen crossbows held high by fellow officers. Not the same as crossed swords, but fitting for the central highlands since it is the home of South Vietnam's Montagnards who use wooden crossbows for hunting. Then the bride and bridegroom climbed a decorated ladder on to a spotless army engineer bulldozer trimmed with white crepe paper. It was loaded on a flatbed trailer for the ride to the reception, with tin cans and a pair of old jungle boots tied to the rear of the trailer for the usual reasons."

He was a man for all seasons, curious about everything, able to tell you about the plants and flowers you were passing by on a walk, to expound on politics of the day, and historical events centuries ago. We talked often, and he was like my brother.

He is irreplaceable in my life, but I hope he is banging out stories in the great newsroom in heaven with our many friends already there.

**Jim Dietz never got to share his tribute to a
AP colleague Tommy Driscoll - but his
partner Diane Turner made sure it happened**



Jim Dietz (left) and Tommy Driscoll

Diane Turner ([Email](#)) - partner of four years to AP and Getty journalist Jim Dietz - shared a tribute that Jim wrote for AP colleague Tommy Driscoll on January 29. Tommy died on January 18. Diane said he sent it to her to read it first and he

planned to post on Facebook but as life would have it, he did not get the chance. He died the next day, January 30.

Diane said, "Dawn Driscoll (widow of Tommy) and I want to share with all of you the love they had for each other. As so many of you would have been at awards season with them right now, I have included a photo provided by Rick Knudson. A toast to these good men.

Here is what Jim wrote about Tommy Driscoll:

"In this last week, we all lost a wonderful friend. I never go on Facebook anymore, but for this I will make an exception.

It's been difficult to accept Tommy's loss. For just shy of the 20 years I came to know Tommy, there was absolutely one constant, he would make me laugh. Our friendship was defined by so many things; but principally how we could get things done together. At times some of what we attempted seemed impossible, yet we would have fun and make fun during some of the most memorable times of my life. Tommy was a dear friend that I struggle to accept that I won't be able to see again.

It was always this time of year that Tommy and I would hang together, our many years of working the Super Bowl and other winter events. It's fitting I write this en route to Atlanta and Super Bowl 53. Nineteen years ago I did my last Super Bowl before I knew Tommy there, this year I do my first without him to talk about it. Damn shame the Saints won't be there. Another thing we were robbed of in this life. Maybe that's why they lost, St. Peter was busy with Tommy and took his eyes off the ball, I mean refs.

Super Bowls were always special for Tommy and I. In 2003 after the game was over, the stadium empty with confetti littering the field, we held an impromptu 100-yard dash, goal to goal. We both gave it our all, the competitive nature we share. Tommy beat me off the line, but I won in the end, but not by much. I consoled him that if he quit smoking he would beat me for sure. Another memory, after the 2002 game in the Dome, where the sheer excitement of pulling off the game without a technical fail we hugged on the field post-game in the incredible rush of accomplishment.

So many life experiences, like the time we went fishing in the gulf and brought in a big tuna. So many discussions about how we could make things better, using the best tech and improving things for those we worked with and for ourselves, smoother, faster, better.

Years went by, and eventually we were competitors, working for competing companies with different methods and different goals. But with Tommy and I we always knew how to help each other. My career benefited for the experiences I had with Tommy, I can only hope he would have said the same for me. I will be forever grateful for our experiences together.

I always expected to see Tommy again, much as I did with Alan Soldani and since last month Mark Olchowy. When I found out Tommy passed, I grieved like a child. So many times I had thought I might make it back to New Orleans, and didn't. Now I have a heavy heart that when I next return Tommy won't be there to greet me with his mustached smile and a quirk that will make me laugh.

Tommy was unique, in the true sense of the word I've met no one like him, and I can't believe I will ever meet anyone again who will see things in the same way as he did. He has left an indelible mark upon me and my life. I will cherish our friendship and time we spent for the rest of my life."

(Shared by Larry Hamlin)

Connecting mailbox

'Time to try new things.' Tom Eblen on retiring from the Herald-Leader & his next chapter



Tom Eblen began his journalism career in the AP, working vacation relief in the Louisville bureau in the summers of 1978 and 1979. After graduating from Western Kentucky University in December 1979, Nashville COB Nancy Shipley hired him for that bureau, where he helped cover the statehouse with Bill "Rocky" Rawlings. A little more than a year later, Shipley promoted Eblen to Knoxville correspondent. At age 23, he was then one of the youngest correspondents in the AP. He left the AP in 1984 to cover Tennessee and Kentucky for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution when it created a regional reporting staff. Eblen later moved to Atlanta and spent his last six years there overseeing business news coverage. He left the AJC in 1998 to return to his hometown of Lexington and become managing editor of the Herald-Leader. Toward the end of his 10-year tenure in that job, he served nearly three years on the APME board. He stepped down in 2008 to become the paper's metro/state columnist.

By TOM EBLEN ([Email](#))

After 21 years at the Lexington Herald-Leader, I leave the staff March 1. I have had a great run, but it's time to try new things.

McClatchy, which owns this and 28 other newspapers, made a voluntary early retirement offer to 450 staff members nationwide. For this 60-year-old, it is an offer too good to refuse.

I loved playing important roles at my hometown newspaper after 14 years with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and five years before that with The Associated Press. I enjoyed my 10 years as the Herald-Leader's managing editor, but stepping down in 2008 to be the metro/state columnist was the best thing I ever did professionally.

Still, there are other things I want to do, such as write books, and this will give me the flexibility to do them.

Read more [here](#).

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Mixed views on discussion of foreign reporters versus locals

Joe McGowan ([Email](#)) - I have mixed feelings about the discussion of foreign reporters versus locals. I feel that in many cases, the local would have knowledge and background that would make him valuable.

However, in many countries the local news people have not traveled abroad. They have no feeling for what a worldwide audience would like to read. And in some cases, they dare not write some stories or they run afoul of their governments.

During my three years based in New Delhi as bureau chief for India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and the Maldiv Islands (one-fifth of the world's population), I had "stringers" in major cities such as Kabul, Islamabad, Karachi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Colombo. Most of them were editors of local newspapers. But I traveled almost constantly, visiting with them, and prying out of them good stories that had not stood out in their minds. An excellent example of this is one time when I went to Calcutta and took the AP stringer (editor of the Calcutta Statesman) out to dinner. Now, he certainly would have known to file a story to AP if a boat sank in the Ganges, drowning a couple hundred people. But I was after a good background, feature story. We talked and talked and I kept saying "isn't there something unusual going on in Calcutta (now known as Kolkata). Finally he said, "well, there is that Catholic nun who has taken over a Hindu temple and collects dying people." I knew I had a story. After I wrote it and AP distributed it, Indian newspapers including Calcutta used it.


The next day, I took a pedicab to Mother Teresa's Home for the Dying. Calcutta hospitals were extremely short of beds and if you were declared terminally ill, your family had to take you home to die. If you had no family, they put you out on the sidewalk. Tiny little Mother Teresa hired a two-wheel cart with two workers to push and pull it and she went around picking up dying people from the sidewalks. Inside, there was a large room for men and one for women-about 75 in each room. They had to stay on thin mats on the floor and use bedpans. I spent two days interviewing

and following Mother Teresa around and then wrote the first worldwide story about her and her work. As you know, later she was beatified and then made a Saint. Years later, when she visited Denver to establish a new mission, I was the only reporter she would see. She wrote on the back of my business card, which I still have and treasure, "Love others as Jesus loves you. God bless you. Mother Teresa".

There were a number of stories I wrote during those three years that the local "stringers" wouldn't have come up with.

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Showing members they were on the job during spring training



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Mike Harris ([Email](#)) - To go with my story from last week re my assignment to cover the Cleveland Indians spring training camp in Tucson, AZ, in 1977, here is the promo that the Columbus bureau came up with to make sure the Ohio newspapers (which actually paid for the trip) knew Norm Clarke (covering the Cincinnati Reds) and I were going to be on the job. I loved the caricatures of Norm and me.

Video shows AP reporter shoved by guard at EPA headquarters

By **MICHAEL BIESECKER**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Security camera footage released Tuesday undermines Trump administration claims that a reporter for The Associated Press tried to force her way into the Environmental Protection Agency headquarters to cover a summit last year on drinking water contaminants.

Video obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request shows a security guard grab AP reporter Ellen Knickmeyer by the shoulders on May 22 and shove her out of the agency's lobby.

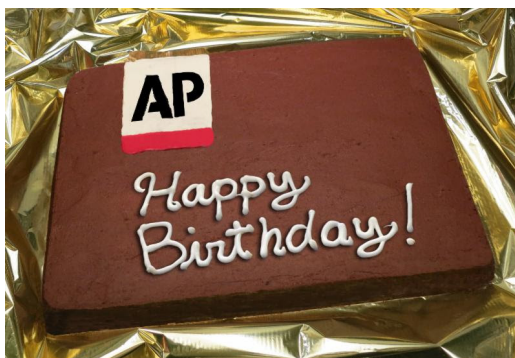
Then-EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox subsequently claimed Knickmeyer was removed after she "proceeded to push through the security entrance," but after AP objected he revised his statement to say she refused to leave when requested.

The video does not show Knickmeyer physically resisting the guards or trying to push through the barrier.

EPA officials later personally apologized to Knickmeyer for the agency's handling of the incident.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Eric Carvin - ecarvin@ap.org

Doug Crews - rdcrews@socket.net

Sam Heiman - samindobbs@gmail.com

David Tschantz - dtschantz@ap.org

Welcome to Connecting



Glen Johnson - glen@glenjohnson.com

Stories of interest

Jorge Ramos: The Dictator of Venezuela Earns His Title (New York Times)



Jorge Ramos at the Simón Bolívar International Airport in Caracas, Venezuela, on Tuesday. Photo by Carlos Garcia Rawlins/Reuters

By Jorge Ramos

Mr. Ramos is an anchor for the Univision network and the author of "Stranger: The Challenge of a Latino Immigrant in the Trump Era."

I was expelled from Venezuela on Tuesday after a contentious interview with Nicolás Maduro, the country's strongman. He stood up in the middle of our conversation and his security agents confiscated our television cameras, the memory cards and our cellphones. Yes, Mr. Maduro stole the interview so nobody could watch it.

We got the interview the old fashion way: by making a phone call and requesting it. A producer from Univision - the television network where I've worked since 1984 - contacted the government's communications minister, Jorge Rodríguez, and asked if Mr. Maduro wanted to do the interview. The leader said: "Come to Caracas." And so we did, with official entry papers in hand.

The interview started on Monday evening, three hours late, at the Miraflores Palace. Mr. Maduro had spoken a few minutes before with Tom Llamas of ABC News, and he seemed to be in a good mood. The humanitarian aid that the political opposition - with the help of an international coalition - had tried to get into the country over the

Colombian and Brazilian borders had been largely stopped, and Mr. Maduro felt emboldened. This was supposed to be a good day.

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

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Second TV journalist, Telemundo's Daniel Garrido, is abducted and detained in Venezuela

(Los Angeles Times)

By MEG JAMES

A second television journalist working for a U.S. media outlet was abducted and detained for several hours Tuesday in Caracas, Venezuela. The correspondent, Daniel Garrido, was later released.

Garrido is the Venezuela correspondent for Telemundo, the Spanish-language network owned by media giant NBCUniversal. Telemundo said Tuesday that Garrido was grabbed by unidentified gunmen and driven to an undisclosed location. He was held for about six hours.

The incident followed the Venezuelan government's detention of high-profile journalist Jorge Ramos and his Univision News camera crew for three hours Monday night. Ramos and his team arrived in Venezuela over the weekend, after securing an interview with beleaguered President Nicolas Maduro at the presidential palace. Midway through the interview, Maduro apparently objected to the interview tactics of Ramos, who is lead anchor for the Spanish-language network Univision.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

Today in History - February 27, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 27, the 58th day of 2019. There are 307 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 27, 1951, the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, limiting a president to two terms of office, was ratified.

On this date:

In 1801, the District of Columbia was placed under the jurisdiction of Congress.

In 1911, inventor Charles F. Kettering demonstrated his electric automobile starter in Detroit by starting a Cadillac's motor with just the press of a switch, instead of hand-cranking.

In 1922, the Supreme Court, in *Leser v. Garnett*, unanimously upheld the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed the right of women to vote.

In 1933, Germany's parliament building, the Reichstag (RYKS'-tahg), was gutted by fire; Chancellor Adolf Hitler, blaming the Communists, used the fire to justify suspending civil liberties.

In 1943, during World War II, Norwegian commandos launched a successful raid to sabotage a German-operated heavy water plant in Norway. An explosion inside a coal mine near Bearcreek, Montana, killed 74 miners and one rescue worker. The U.S. government, responding to a copper shortage, began circulating one-cent coins made of steel plated with zinc (the steel pennies proved unpopular, since they were easily mistaken for dimes).

In 1960, the U.S. Olympic hockey team defeated the Soviets, 3-2, at the Winter Games in Squaw Valley, California. (The U.S. team went on to win the gold medal.)

In 1968, at the conclusion of a CBS News special report on the Vietnam War, Walter Cronkite delivered a commentary in which he said that the conflict appeared "mired in stalemate." Former teen singing idol Frankie Lymon, known for such songs as "Why Do Fools Fall in Love" and "Goody Goody," was found dead of a drug overdose in New York at age 25.

In 1973, members of the American Indian Movement occupied the hamlet of Wounded Knee in South Dakota, the site of the 1890 massacre of Sioux men, women and children. (The occupation lasted until the following May.)

In 1982, Wayne Williams was found guilty of murdering two of the 28 young blacks whose bodies were found in the Atlanta area over a 22-month period. (Williams, who was also blamed for 22 other deaths, has maintained his innocence.)

In 1991, Operation Desert Storm came to a conclusion as President George H.W. Bush declared that "Kuwait is liberated, Iraq's army is defeated," and announced that the allies would suspend combat operations at midnight, Eastern time.

In 1998, with the approval of Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's House of Lords agreed to end 1,000 years of male preference by giving a monarch's first-born daughter the same claim to the throne as any first-born son.

In 1999, The Reverend Henry Lyons, president of the National Baptist Convention USA, was convicted in Largo, Fla., of swindling millions of dollars from companies seeking to do business with his followers. (Lyons, who served nearly five years in prison, was released in 2003.)

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama told Marines at Camp Lejeune, N.C. that he would end combat operations in Iraq by Aug. 31, 2010 and open a new era of

diplomacy in the Middle East. The Rocky Mountain News ceased publishing after nearly 150 years in business.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama kicked off his "My Brother's Keeper" initiative from the White House East Room, calling for vigorous efforts to reverse underachievement among young black and Hispanic males. Masked gunmen stormed parliament in Ukraine's strategic Crimean region while the newly formed interim government pledged to prevent a breakup with strong backing for the West.

One year ago: According to two people informed of the decision, the security clearance of White House senior adviser and presidential son-in-law Jared Kushner had been downgraded, significantly reducing his access to classified information. (Kushner's status was restored in May after the completion of his background check.) A five-hour truce ordered by Syria's Russian allies to let civilians flee a besieged rebel-held enclave near Damascus failed to result in aid deliveries or medical evacuations, as deadly airstrikes and shelling continued. President Donald Trump named former digital adviser Brad Parscale as campaign manager for his 2020 re-election bid. The Anti-Defamation League reported a 57 percent increase in anti-Semitic incidents in the United States during 2017.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Joanne Woodward is 89. Consumer advocate Ralph Nader is 85. Opera singer Mirella Freni is 84. Actress Barbara Babcock is 82. Actor Howard Hesseman is 79. Actress Debra Monk is 70. Rock singer-musician Neal Schon (Journey) is 65. Rock musician Adrian Smith (Iron Maiden) is 62. Actor Timothy Spall is 62. Rock musician Paul Humphreys (Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark) is 59. Country singer Johnny Van Zant (Van Zant) is 59. Rock musician Leon Mobley (Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals) is 58. Basketball Hall of Famer James Worthy is 58. Actor Adam Baldwin is 57. Actor Grant Show is 57. Rock musician Mike Cross (Sponge) is 54. Actor Noah Emmerich is 54. Actor Donal Logue (DOH'-nuhl LOHG) is 53. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chilli (TLC) is 48. Rock musician Jeremy Dean (Nine Days) is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Roderick Clark is 46. Country-rock musician Shonna Tucker is 41. Chelsea Clinton is 39. Actor Brandon Beemer is 39. Rock musician Cyrus Bolooki (New Found Glory) is 39. Rock musician Jake Clemons (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bobby Valentino is 39. Singer Josh Groban is 38. Banjoist Noam (cq) Pikelnny is 38. Rock musician Jared Champion (Cage the Elephant) is 36. Actress Kate Mara is 36. TV personality JWoww (AKA Jenni Farley) is 33. Actress Lindsey Morgan is 29.

Thought for Today: "He that respects himself is safe from others. He wears a coat of mail that none can pierce." - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (born this date in 1807, died in 1882).

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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