



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - July 23, 2019

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com
To: pjshane@gmail.com

Tue, Jul 23, 2019 at 8:50 AM

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Connecting

July 23, 2019

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)

[Top AP photos](#)

[AP books](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)

[The AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)

A river runs through it



Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 23rd day of July 2019,

It's good to be home and bring Connecting to your Inbox after five days of cool Colorado mountain air - (Can I claim to be the only person who has been to both Lake Georges, the one near Colorado Springs, Colorado, with the South Platte River running through it (above photo) and the one in upstate New York?).

Today's issue leads with a profile of our colleague **Carl Leubsdorf**, who has had great careers with the AP, The Baltimore Sun and The Dallas Morning News. Last week, he wrote his 2,000th column for the Morning News over a 38-year time span.

We also bring you memories from two journalists who were part of the AP Dream Team that covered the Apollo 11 mission 50 years ago - **Lou Boccardi**, who with just two years of AP experience under his belt was named to head the coverage effort, and a key member of that team, **Mike Cochran**. (Boccardi later became president and CEO of the AP.)

And finally, our congratulations to colleague **Andy Lippman** ([Email](#)) for the debut last week of his first column for his hometown newspaper, the South Pasadena (California) Review. Andy, who was an AP bureau chief in Louisville, Indianapolis and Los Angeles, is writing a weekly column called "Around Town" - featuring a South Pasadena person, business, issue or trend. Click [here](#) to read his first column, "He's Sew Fine," on a South Pasadena tailor.

I look forward to your contributions to the newsletter.

Paul

Connecting Profile
Carl P. Leubsdorf



Carl Leubsdorf and his wife Susan Page at Gridiron show

What are you doing these days?

Writing my weekly column for The Dallas Morning News and Tribune News Service (with No. 2001 due this week). Doing behind-the-scenes chores for the Gridiron Club and Foundation, Washington's oldest organization of journalists. Going to or watching a lot of baseball and hockey games.

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

While at Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism, I took the AP tests and was offered a job in Tampa, then a quiet backwater. Fortunately, three days later, a spot opened in New Orleans. Going there in 1960 was like visiting another country but, five months later, the public schools were desegregated, all hell broke loose, and I was helping to cover a big national story. My first bureau chief was Ken Davis, a gentleman of the old school and a fine journalist. Also, a helluva rewrite man.



Carl Leubsdorf among a group of student editors who met with President Nixon. Carl is to Nixon's right.

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

After 2 ½ years in NU, I spent five unhappy months filing secondary wires on the General Desk, having been lured by Sam Blackman's description of a role that sounded like I'd be helping him run the AP (my peak job was lunch relief, which included running the A wire for 45 minutes). Fortunately, in June 1963, a spot

opened in Washington, which was my goal, and Sam (and Ken) facilitated my transfer. I was there through 1975, including two years covering the House and seven the Senate, where I succeeded Walter Mears as chief political writer and Senate chief. In December 1975, I took a job covering national politics for The Baltimore Sun, where I spent much of the next five years covering President Jimmy Carter. In January 1981, I was hired by (ex-AP Managing Editor) Burl Osborne as Washington bureau chief of The Dallas Morning News. I held the job for 28 years until "retiring" in January 2009, but, as noted above, still write a column for the paper that started in March 1981.

Of the 2,000 columns you've written for the Morning News, which were the most memorable?

1) A November 1997 column based on an interview with former President George H.W. Bush upon the opening of his presidential library in which he acknowledged, perhaps for the first time, that in retrospect he should not have made the "no new taxes" pledge he later had to abandon.

2) A December 2007 column, in which I predicted Sen. Barack Obama would upset Hillary Clinton in the next week's Iowa caucuses, would go on to win the Democratic nomination and would defeat Sen. John McCain the following November, coming within 10 electoral votes of his total. (In 1999, I correctly predicted George W. Bush's four electoral vote victory in 2000 over Al Gore but missed on Trump in 2016.)

3) A July 2017 column in which assessed President Donald Trump's achievements in his first six months, writing that "Trump is right in saying he has significantly influenced government and the nation's image - though much of his impact has been negative."

Who played the most significant role in your career and how?

Sam Blackman, who offered me that General Desk job and then helped me get to Washington; Ken Davis, who showed me the ropes and later put in a good word for me with Washington COB Bill Beale; and Burl Osborne, who gave me my dream job with The Dallas Morning News.

Would you do it all over again- or what would you change?

Can't think of a thing (except maybe skipping that General Desk stint).

What's your favorite hobby or activity?

Reading history and biographies, especially World War II and U.S. presidents. Going to sporting events; I'm a co-season's ticket owner for both the NHL's Washington Capitals, who won the Stanley Cup last year after trying for 44 years, and the NL's Washington Nationals, still seeking an elusive first World Series crown. Gave up my Washington Redskins tickets six years ago after waiting for 20+ years for another Super Bowl title.

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

The 2002 trip my wife, Susan Page, and I took to China with our two sons. China is the recommended gift to commemorate a 20th anniversary, and we already had the other kind, so we headed to Beijing and Xian, which Susan and I had visited with President Reagan in 1984, and Hong Kong. Runner-up: the 1970 driving trip across the country with my older children which included national parks, baseball stadiums and natural sights from the Badlands to Crater Lake.

Names of your family members and what they do?



Carl Leubsdorf Jr. and Carolyn Leubsdorf (son and granddaughter))

My wife (of 37 years) Susan Page is Washington bureau chief of USA TODAY and author of the recent best-selling bio of Barbara Bush, *The Matriarch*. I have three sons (Carl Jr., a computer

whiz, who works for NIH's National Center for Biotechnology Information; Ben, a recovering journalist, is getting a master's degree in library science at the University of Maryland; Will, a recovering political media operative, starts next month as a Middle School social studies teacher in Alexandria, Va., after getting his master's in education at George Washington); three step-children from my first marriage (Lorna, retired from working in a law firm library; Bill, a lawyer in Portland, Me.; and Claire, a computer consultant); two granddaughters (Carl's daughter Carolyn, 11 in September, and Ben's daughter Esther, 1 in October); three daughters-in-law; one son-in-law; and five step-grandchildren, successfully pursuing varied occupations from geologist to Esports player.



**Ben and Esther Leubsdorf
(son and granddaughter)
at her first baseball game**

**Carl Leubsdorf's email is -
carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com**

Memories from the man who directed it

**AP assembled a 'dream' staff to cover
Apollo 11 moon landing mission**



Lou Boccardi (left), executive assistant to the general news editor of AP and in charge of coverage of Apollo 11 at the AP Houston space bureau, confers with Max Skelton, Houston correspondent, at the AP's Apollo 11 control desk. (AP Photo/Corporate Archives)

Lou Boccardi ([Email](#)) - Reading all those wonderful Connecting recollections about Apollo 11 triggered many memories.

A few months before the flight, General Manager Wes Gallagher and Sam Blackman, then the senior news executive, told me they wanted me to go to Houston to run our operation.

The thought was overwhelming. I had joined AP exactly two years before from the wreckage of four failed New York City newspapers. (I took to often reminding my new AP colleagues that they hadn't failed because of me.) And AP was giving me my first "field" assignment: to run one of the great stories of all time for readers and listeners all over the world.

(I was a casual space news consumer but no expert. When President Kennedy targeted a moon landing in that much-referenced 1962 speech at Rice University, I was a kid reporter covering Brooklyn for the New York World-Telegram and Sun. I can't claim today that I paid a great deal of attention to it.)

But then as the Apollo 11 assignment drew nearer, AP began assembling what even now, 50 years later, I can only call a "dream" staff. The cliché "the A-Team" doesn't begin to describe the staff AP assembled. It totaled 71, counting all departments. Well aware that almost all the writers and editors knew more than I did about space, I began a cram course in moon voyaging, with help from Howard Benedict, the dean of our space reporting, help from the Washington bureau, and from others.

The list of AP greats assigned to write the story of Apollo 11 grew: Benedict, Saul Pett, Harry Rosenthal, John Barbour, Paul Recer, backed up by the Texas staff under COB Jim Mangan...I can't even try to name everybody who should be named. And not just on the words side, Photos under Pat McDonald, Broadcast with Bill Fitzgerald and Jim Wessel, Traffic (now Communications) support that never failed us -- every aspect saw AP assemble the best of its best for the flight to the moon.

AP's success on Apollo 11 was theirs.

I knew from the beginning that motivating the staff wasn't going to be any problem. Rather, keeping some sense of calm and focus, and not letting people burn out, looked like bigger challenges.

I regret very much not keeping a daily diary, but who had the time? So, be forewarned: What I write here is based entirely on 50-year-old memory and no notes.

I went to the bureau on the Sunday morning of the landing and "small step/giant leap" day and did not leave it until Tuesday afternoon. Others did so, too. Harry Rosenthal's restless energy seemed to wire the place and at one point, I think it was sometime Monday, I ordered him to go back to the hotel and get some sleep. He resisted, and I insisted, so he left. A few hours later he was back. Informed sources told me he had spent the interval at the hotel pool and not sleeping. I could hardly blame him. Everybody was wired.

Saul Pett, our poet laureate, delivered glistening copy that still thrills on re-reading today in Val Komor's archives. But he regularly pressed deadlines. I made the mistake of riding him a bit about getting the copy to me sooner. Mid-afternoon the next day, a teen wandered into the bureau, asked for me and said, "Here. I just found this on the beach and it has your name on it." With that, he handed me a soda bottle with Saul's budget story coiled inside it. I did not discuss promptness with Saul again. I got the message. AND the copy.

At a time when AP-UPI competitive play scores were part of our lifeblood, the AP team scored margins that the weekly Log called the biggest winning margins anyone could remember on a major story. In the key cycles, it got to 90 percent for the good guys.

It wasn't hard to see why, when you look at the star-studded staff AP gave me.

When it was all over, Wes Gallagher-- a great leader-- sent us this message: "Fine windup news, photo, traffic, with copy moving flawlessly. It was the best overall news and photo coverage of a big story in years, with fine handling by Traffic. Congratulations." Connecting readers who knew Wes will remember that he wasn't a man given to tender moments. He was a demanding boss and I respected him immensely.

On the afternoon of the moon landing itself, I took aside the operator who would punch the copy (I think it was Joe Carden) and told him: "When they land and then walk, this place is going to erupt. You look at me, and only me." I had flashes composed in advance and put each in a different pocket-- astronauts crash on moon, landing canceled, man lands on moon... I ask you to trust me that I knew which piece of paper was in which pocket. (My career hung in the balance.) I stood behind Joe and then "Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed" and off we went.

One bump I remember: A day or two after the landing and liftoff, I got a call from Sam Blackman in New York telling me that Barbour, who had been doing the superb night leads, had to be taken off the story to get a fast start on what became the big AP book, "Footprints on the Moon". I protested angrily that they were breaking up a winning team in Houston and what difference could a couple of days possibly make with the book. I lost. And someone whom I won't identify here swears that he heard me mutter how the people up in New York just didn't understand. As the years went on and other jobs unfolded for me at 50 Rock, that sentiment became ever more foreign to me.

It took us all longer to come down from our moon high than it did the astronauts. What a story.

On the flight home from Houston to LaGuardia in New York, I encountered the only in-flight emergency I ever had in all my years of flying around the country and around the world for AP. The pilot announced that the landing gear seemed to have jammed and we would head for the nearest airport--Atlanta-- but first had to dump most of our fuel. Crash landing with a nearly full tank appeared to be inadvisable.

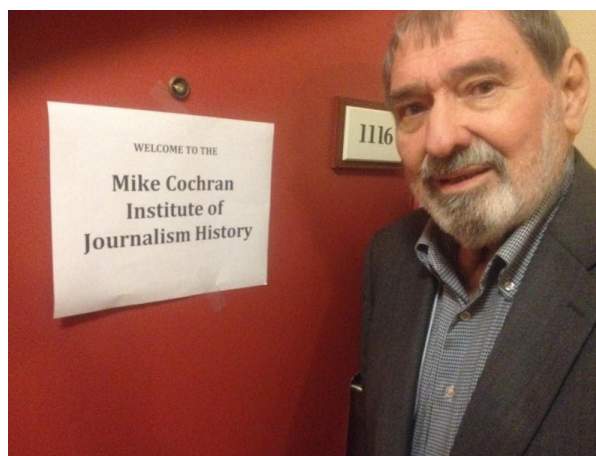
I couldn't help but think: I've just come back from chronicling one of man's most heroic achievements, and I'm gonna die on a runway in Georgia. Needless to say, we dumped and we landed with fire trucks lining the runway. A faulty signal about the landing gear was the culprit.

But there were no faulty signals that historic week in the AP office at Mission Control. It was AP at its best.

And memories of that historic mission from a member of the 'dream' team

Mike Cochran ([Email](#)) - Fifty years ago Saturday I was at the Johnson Space Center in Houston monitoring NASA and the Apollo 11 moon landing for an incredible AP team. I had worked as an underling with many of the AP's legendary reporters during coverage of the JFK assassination in Dallas and the subsequent Jack Ruby trial for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged assassin. I even wound serving as a pallbearer for Oswald at Fort Worth's Rose Hill Cemetery when no one but journalists were available to carry the casket.

Dating back to the University of Texas tower shooting in Austin and earlier Apollo missions, I was not unaccustomed to working with and even against some of the greatest newsmen in the United States such as the AP's John Barbour, Jules Loh, Saul Pett, Sid Moody, Hugh Mulligan, Walter Mears, Harry Rosenthal and our super space specialist Howard Benedict.



After I confirmed that day that Neil Armstrong's first words as he stepped on the moon were "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," NASA claimed his historic comment was a first step for "a man," not "for mankind." There was a real hassle but we established that I was correct. Armstrong good jovially disagreed up until his death in 1982.

I had been hired in 1960 by the late Dallas bureau chief Bill Barnard who had selected me on the recommendation by the greatly admired and colorful Texas Sports Editor Harold Ratliff. I joined the AP after graduating from what is now the University of North Texas and writing sports for a year at the Denton Record-Chronicle and a year at the Abilene Reporter-News. I secretly very much wanted to succeed Ratliff as Texas sports editor when he retired. But after being exposed to so many outstanding writers under Texas Bureau Chief Bob Johnson, I opted for news. Jim Mangan replaced Johnson when he was moved to New York and Jim kept me on as Fort Worth correspondent but gave me the greatest assignment of my life: roving Texas as a correspondent with a company car and an expense account for membership sessions with Texas newspaper, television and radio members.

I loved that job and kept it nearly 30 years before retiring in 1999. Johnson, Mangan, and subsequent bureau chiefs such as John Lumpkin and Dale Leach chose me to be the hospitality host at the annual Texas APME state conventions and I have continued to do so even today, 20 years after retiring from the AP and spending nearly five years as a senior writer for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. I think my hospitality host assignment has exceeded 55 years.

Until my retirement I continued as a minor member of the remaining moon missions and subsequent space flights but none - even the terrifying Apollo 13 flight - were as memorable as the 1969 moon landing.

I thank God and the AP for a fantastic 39 years with the world's greatest news service. And on Memorial Day this year my Stamford, Texas, high school sweetheart, Sondra Burson, celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary.

What a life!



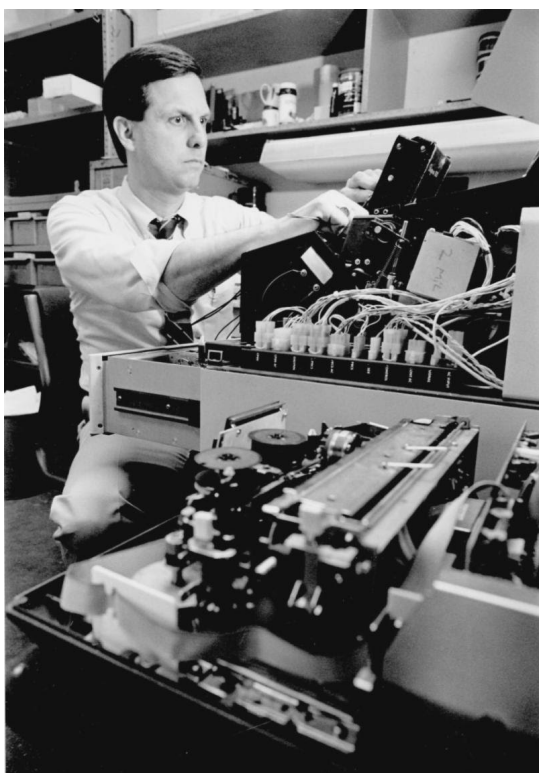
Mike and Sondra

Longtime AP technician Ed Smith dies at age 71

Longtime technician Ed Smith, who worked for The Associated Press for 40 years in three bureaus and as a Navy seaman was on the USS Hornet carrier when it retrieved the astronauts from Apollo 11 after their 1969 walk on the moon, died July 10 in Knoxville, Tennessee. He was 71.

Smith worked in the Nashville, East Brunswick and Knoxville bureaus. He started with AP as a copy boy and operator before moving into a technician role.

According to [his obituary](#), he loved to share stories about his work adventures that included working the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, the 1988 Democratic National Convention in Atlanta, the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, the 1991 Pan American Games in Cuba, the 1994 Super Bowl in Miami, and countless Tennessee sporting events. He had a passion for helping others and after retiring from the AP, he worked for Knox County for 15 years, serving in the County Clerk's Office, as well as the Juvenile Justice Center. Ed also served as a missionary in Africa.



Ed Smith in 1988 (AP Photo/Corporate Archives)

"Ed was an outstanding worker and great PR man for the company," said his friend and former colleague, retired Nashville Chief of Communications Charles Harvey. "He was a man of faith, served his country and always put his family first. He will be missed."

In a 1988 AP World story by then Knoxville Correspondent Kristi Umbreit, Smith was described as a roving "good will ambassador" for the AP in eastern Tennessee. "I like to build a good member relationship, be it with a reporter or a publisher or a TV person," he said in the story.

Smith served in the U.S. Navy aboard the Aircraft Carrier USS Hornet and did two tours of duty during the Vietnam War.

In 1969, he was on the recovery ship USS Hornet for the landings of both Apollo 11 and 12.

A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date. The family respectfully requests memorial donations be made in honor of Ed, to the Knoxville First Church

of the Nazarene located on [538 Vanosdale Road, Knoxville, TN 37909](#).

(Shared by Adam Yeomans)

Connecting mailbox

Sandy Johnson to retire in early 2020 as president, COO of National Press Foundation

Sandy Johnson ([Email](#)) - After a 29-year career with the AP, I moved into the world of nonprofits: AARP Bulletin, Pew's Stateline, the Center for Public Integrity and my last stop, the National Press Foundation.

Please share [the job posting](#) with your friends/colleagues in the news biz. It was a great capstone for me.

-0-

A conversation about trust in journalism

By Patrick Maks, Associated Press

Speaking at a Society of Professional Journalists forum in Casper, Wyoming, Deputy Managing Editor for U.S. News Noreen Gillespie addressed trust in the media and AP's commitment to fact-based journalism.

Gillespie called attention to AP's unrivaled U.S. footprint and explained how having journalists on the ground in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. informs the global news report.

"We want to make sure we're pulling reporting and observations from people who live in the communities we're writing about," Gillespie said. "And that means we have people all over the country going to church, going to school and living in the places that we want to pull those observations from."



That footprint is underscored by AP's national politics team, which boasts reporters in every U.S. region and in key states, such as California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Nevada and New Hampshire in addition to a team based in Washington.

"Our newsrooms need to reflect people of different backgrounds and different experiences whether that be race, income, or even parts of the country where they've lived in," said Gillespie. "You don't arrive at stories of how textured America is and how different groups interact with each other and what an individual experience is

unless you have those voices in your newsroom."

Read more [here](#).

Best of the Week

One face of immigration policy: 9-year-old in Texas still separated from Guatemalan family



Foster parent Holly Sewell carries Byron Xol, a 9-year-old immigrant from Guatemala, during his birthday party in Buda, Texas, June 23, 2019. AP teams spent the day with Byron in Texas, and with his father in a Guatemalan village, capturing the emotion of the day and the sharp contrast between the two worlds, an example of the effects of U.S. family separation policy. AP Photo / David J. Phillip

Dallas-based immigration reporter Nomaan Merchant uncovered a heartbreaking tale in his coverage of the lingering toll of President Donald Trump's family separation policy: a 9-year-old boy, Byron Xol, who is still separated from his parents. The boy bounced around from one detention facility to another and eventually landed in the home of a Texas family who took custody of the child, while the boy's parents were deported to Guatemala.

The story shows the value of journalists picking their moment. Nomaan had been looking for an opportunity to write a detailed narrative that would illustrate the stress that separations have on families. He had been speaking to the father of Byron and his lawyer since last summer, and when he learned of Byron's upcoming birthday from the attorney, he decided it was the perfect time to tell the tale.

Nomaan and his editors agreed to send all-formats crews to his home in Texas and his family's impoverished village in Guatemala on the same day. We would be in both places when the dad called the boy and marked the birthday to capture the emotion surrounding the day and the sharp contrast between the two worlds.

Merchant and Houston staffers - video journalist John Mone and photographer David Phillip - went to the boy's current foster home outside Austin. Meanwhile, photographer Santiago Billy, reporter Sonny Figueroa and video stringer Sergio Alfaro went to the Guatemalan village. The Guatemalan home had no electricity and was dark, creating challenges for the Central American team to tell the story visually. And the birthday phone call between the father and child was in a Mayan dialect, forcing Merchant to seek out a translation service.

"We didn't get approval from Byron's father until Saturday, two days before Byron's birthday, so we had to quickly mobilize on both sides to arrange the trip," Nomaan recounted in an email. "I think it worked out well, especially on video, where you can see both father and son looking at each other from across the divide."

The story was indeed gripping. The father described his pain over the separation and nostalgic remembrances from the boy's earlier years, along with his own efforts to try to get back to the U.S. to be reunited. The visit with Byron and the foster parents provided rich details, such as how the boy has nightmares about monsters putting him in a cage. The story, which was used by more than 400 AP members in the U.S., was one of a series of strong pieces that have put names, faces and personal narratives to the immigration story, keeping AP's coverage ahead. It finished with a kicker about how the boy's father recently sent a recording of a song to his son with the lyrics: "Wherever you are, wherever you go, I ask you to please return to my side, our lost son, because only a miracle will bring you back to us."

For recognizing the moment and mobilizing quickly across formats and borders, Alfaro, Billy, Figueroa, Merchant, Mone and Phillip share AP's Best of the Week.

Best of the States

AP Exclusive: Outdated software makes even new election systems vulnerable to hackers



Steve Marcinkus, an investigator with Philadelphia's Office of the City Commissioners, demonstrates the ExpressVote XL voting machine produced by Omaha, Nebraska-based Election Systems and Software, at the Reading Terminal Market, June 13, 2019. An Associated Press analysis has found that like many counties in Pennsylvania, the vast majority of 10,000 election jurisdictions nationwide use Windows 7 or an older operating system to create ballots, program voting machines, tally votes and report counts. AP Photo / Matt Rourke

The source's text said there was something "really troubling" to pass along.

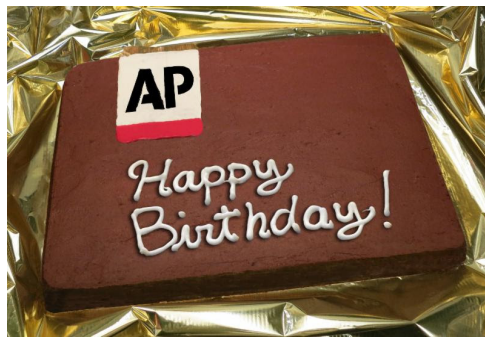
Tami Abdollah, Washington national security reporter, had just returned to covering cybersecurity - a topic she has followed off-and-on since 2015 - and had been meeting up with old sources, finding new ones and catching up on developments in the field. What the source told her was big: New election systems purchased across the United States were running on outdated Windows 7 systems, making them vulnerable to hackers.

It was a great tip, but it required a lot of work to determine the scope of the problem. Abdollah scoured hundreds of pages of technical documents. She contacted sources to rigorously fact check the details. She also reached out to every state, the territories and Washington, D.C., to determine what election systems they had and whether they were replacing them. She learned that the vast majority of 10,000 election jurisdictions nationwide use Windows 7 or an older operating system to create ballots, program voting machines, tally votes and report counts.

The result was an exclusive text and video package that received huge play and raised alarm among state and national lawmakers. The story was broadly cited and detailed by major news organizations including The Washington Post, PBS NewsHour and techie sites like Gizmodo. It also appeared in major Beltway newsletters by Politico Playbook and Axios. The story was discussed at a Netroots Nation conference panel and Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., read directly from the story on the Senate floor Monday. The National Conference on State Legislatures sent it out as the headliner for its top news email.

For combining source reporting with meticulous research to break major news on one of the biggest issues ahead of the 2020 election, Abdollah wins this week's Best of the States award.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Hank Ackerman - ack1942@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Two newspaper giants plan a massive merger
(CJR)

By JON ALLSOP

IN RECENT MONTHS, IT SEEMS, top US newspaper companies have been speed dating. In May, The Wall Street Journal reported that Gannett, the biggest of these companies by circulation, had talked to all of GateHouse, McClatchy, and Tribune-formerly tronc, with which Gannett has a messy history-about a potential merger. (By this point, Gannett had already rebuffed the only suitor to have gone public with

its interest: Digital First Media, the hedge-fund-backed publisher notorious for brutal cost-slashing at its properties.) Of these possible pairings, the notion of a Gannett-GateHouse partnership was perhaps the most striking: GateHouse-itself backed by private equity and hardly of glowing journalistic reputation-is America's second biggest newspaper chain after Gannett, and owns even more dailies than its larger rival.

It now looks like this pairing might last. Late last week, the Journal's Cara Lombardo and Dana Cimilluca reported that Gannett and GateHouse are close to a deal; an official announcement could follow in the next few weeks. According to Nieman Lab's Ken Doctor-who has long foreseen a major move to consolidate the media industry-the combined company would own 265 daily titles with a total print circulation nearing 9 million readers. That's one of every six daily newspapers in America. "The hunt for scale seems to be ending with a merger of No. 1 and No. 2," Doctor writes. Some scale.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

-0-

The media is getting a second chance to cover Robert Mueller's findings - and this time get it right (Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan

Media columnist

In political media, as in love, there aren't many chances to correct a serious wrong.

But the news media will get just that on Wednesday when Robert S. Mueller III testifies before Congress, months after his long-awaited report on Donald Trump and possible Russian collusion to swing the 2016 election was competed.

Recall how gullible - and therefore misleading to the public - the news media was in March when Attorney General William Barr characterized the unreleased report in a four-page letter.

Coverage of that letter set in place an inaccurate narrative that has been almost impossible to dislodge.

Many news organizations, including some of the most prominent, took what Barr said at face value or mischaracterized the report's findings.

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

-0-

Her husband was killed at the newspaper he loved. Now she's finishing his life's work. (Washington Post)



Andrea Chamblee looks through her husband's old files in her Silver Spring home. John McNamara was shot and killed in last year's mass shooting at the Annapolis Capital Gazette. After John died, Andrea finished the book he had been working on for over a decade, "The Capital of Basketball." It will publish this fall. (Sarah L. Voisin/The Washington Post)

By Reis Thebault

She found his notes just as he left them: filed away in folders and boxes on the floor of his den, crammed with newspaper clippings and handwritten outlines. In neat Catholic-school script, he laid out every chapter of what would end up being his last book. He began on legal pads and continued on the computer. He saved everything, backing it up three or four times.

He didn't want to lose a word.

Andrea Chamblee had never seen the drafts her husband agonized over for more than 10 years. John McNamara, 56, was almost done when he went to work on June 28, 2018.

That day, a gunman with a vendetta against the Annapolis Capital Gazette stormed the newsroom just after 2:30 p.m. Wielding a 12-gauge pump-action shotgun, the shooter walked through the office and fired repeatedly, killing five people before he hid under a desk as authorities arrived.

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

Today in History - July 23, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 23, the 204th day of 2019. There are 161 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 23, 1999, space shuttle Columbia blasted off with the world's most powerful X-ray telescope and Eileen Collins, the first woman to command a U.S. space flight.

On this date:

In 1829, William Austin Burt received a patent for his "typographer," a forerunner of the typewriter.

In 1885, Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th president of the United States, died in Mount McGregor, New York, at age 63.

In 1914, Austria-Hungary presented a list of demands to Serbia following the killing of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by a Serb assassin; Serbia's refusal to agree to the entire ultimatum led to the outbreak of World War I.

In 1962, the first public TV transmissions over Telstar 1 took place during a special program featuring live shots beamed from the United States to Europe, and vice versa.

In 1967, five days of deadly rioting erupted in Detroit as an early morning police raid on an unlicensed bar resulted in a confrontation with local residents that escalated into violence that spread into other parts of the city; 43 people, mostly blacks, were killed.

In 1983, an Air Canada Boeing 767 ran out of fuel while flying from Montreal to Edmonton; the pilots were able to glide the jetliner to a safe emergency landing in Gimli, Manitoba. (The near-disaster occurred because the fuel had been erroneously measured in pounds instead of kilograms at a time when Canada was converting to the metric system.)

In 1996, at the Atlanta Olympics, Kerri Strug made a heroic final vault despite torn ligaments in her left ankle as the U.S. women gymnasts clinched their first-ever Olympic team gold medal.

In 1997, the search for Andrew Cunanan, the suspected killer of designer Gianni Versace (JAH'-nee vur-SAH'-chee) and others, ended as police found his body on a houseboat in Miami Beach, an apparent suicide.

In 2001, Pope John Paul II urged President George W. Bush in their first meeting, held at Castel Gandolfo, Italy, to bar creation of human embryos for medical research.

In 2003, a new audiotape purported to be from toppled dictator Saddam Hussein called on Iraqis to resist the U.S. occupation. Massachusetts' attorney general issued a report saying clergy members and others in the Boston Archdiocese probably had sexually abused more than 1,000 people over a period of six decades.

In 2011, singer Amy Winehouse, 27, was found dead in her London home from accidental alcohol poisoning.

In 2017, a tractor trailer was found in a Walmart parking lot in San Antonio, Texas, crammed with dozens of immigrants; ten died and many more were treated at a hospital for dehydration and heat stroke. (The driver, James Bradley Jr., was sentenced to life in prison after pleading guilty to transporting the immigrants resulting in death.) President Donald Trump tweeted that he has "complete power" to issue pardons. Jordan Spieth (speeth) won the British Open for his third career major championship.

Ten years ago: Michael Jackson's personal physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, was named in a search warrant as the target of a manslaughter probe into the singer's death. (Murray was later convicted of involuntary manslaughter.) Authorities arrested 44 people in New Jersey in a corruption probe. Mark Buehrle (BUR'-lee) of the Chicago White Sox pitched the 18th perfect game in major league history, a 5-0 win over Tampa Bay.

Five years ago: Taiwan's TransAsia Airways Flight 222, an ATR-72, crashed while attempting to land on Penghu Island, killing 48 of the 58 people on board. The state of Arizona executed Joseph Rudolph Wood, convicted of murdering his ex-girlfriend and her father. (Wood repeatedly gasped as it took nearly two hours for him to die from his lethal injection.)

One year ago: The White House said President Donald Trump was considering revoking the security clearances of six former top national security officials who had been critical of his administration. The New York Daily News cut half of its newsroom staff, including the paper's editor in chief. The Senate, by a vote of 86-9, confirmed Pentagon official Robert Wilkie to be secretary of Veterans Affairs. The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency suspended swimming star Ryan Lochte (LAHK'-tee) from

competition for a year for violating anti-doping rules by getting an intravenous injection of vitamins.

Today's Birthdays: Concert pianist Leon Fleisher (FLY'-shur) is 91. Retired Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy is 83. Actor Ronny Cox is 81. Radio personality Don Imus is 79. Actor Larry Manetti is 76. Rock singer David Essex is 72. Singer-songwriter John Hall is 71. Actress Belinda Montgomery is 69. Rock musician Blair Thornton (Bachman Turner Overdrive) is 69. Actress-writer Lydia Cornell is 66. Actor Woody Harrelson is 58. Rock musician Martin Gore (Depeche Mode) is 58. Actor Eriq La Salle is 57. Rock musician Yuval Gabay is 56. Rock musician Slash is 54. Actor Juan Pope is 52. Model-actress Stephanie Seymour is 51. Actress Charisma Carpenter is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sam Watters is 49. Country singer Alison Krauss is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Dalvin DeGrate is 48. Rock musician Chad Gracey (Live) is 48. Actor-comedian Marlon Wayans is 47. Country singer Shannon Brown is 46. Actress Kathryn Hahn is 46. Retired MLB All-Star Nomar Garciaparra (NOH'-mar gar-CEE'-ah-par-rah) is 46. Former White House intern Monica Lewinsky is 46. Actress Stephanie March is 45. Actor Shane McRae is 42. Country musician David Pichette is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Michelle Williams is 39. Actor Paul Wesley is 37. Actress Krysta Rodriguez is 35. Actor Daniel Radcliffe is 30. Country musician Neil Perry is 29. Actress Lili Simmons is 26. Country singer Danielle Bradbery (TV: "The Voice") is 23.

Thought for Today: "To be proud and inaccessible is to be timid and weak." - Jean Baptiste Massillon (zhahn bah-TEEST' mah-see-YOHN'), French clergyman (1663-1742).

Connecting calendar



July 27 - Services for **Ed Shearer**, a longtime AP sportswriter, will be held Saturday, July 27, at 1 p.m. at St. Barnabas Anglican Church, [4795 N Peachtree Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338](#). In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to: **Lazarus Ministries**, [2270 Defoor Hills Rd NW, Atlanta, GA 30318](#). The family said that so we

can thank you, please have acknowledgments sent to: [130 Kimberly Rd, Canton, GA 30115](#). A family contact is Sheri Browne - sheribrowne@att.net

August 6 - A scattering of ashes for former AP Concord and Indianapolis bureau chief **Dave Swearingen**, who died in 2018, will be held Tuesday, August 6, at 10:30 a.m. at Reid State Park, [375 Seguinland Road, Georgetown ME 04548](#). Those attending should meet at the Todd's Point Parking lot and will head over to Half Mile Beach. While there is no formal service, brief remarks will be made. Dave's son Tim can be reached at timswearingen71@gmail.com

August 17 - Albany AP bureau reunion (including other upstate bureaus), 1-5 p.m., Marc and Carla Humbert residence on Tsatsawassa Lake, [68 Marginal Way, East Nassau, NY](#). Contact: Chris McKnight ([Email](#)).

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.

Paul Stevens
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com

Connecting newsletter, 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

SafeUnsubscribe™ pjshane@gmail.com

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!