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Connecting - July 30, 2019

1 message

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Connecting

July 30, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 30th day of July 2019,

Some of our Connecting colleagues were heavily involved in the launch of the digital news camera, the NC2000, that along with the LeafDesk digital darkroom, revolutionized news photography - and could be considered a precursor to those phone cameras that proliferate today.

Our colleague **Barry Sweet** recalls the camera, introduced in 1994, in our opening story. Got a favorite digital camera story? Send it along.

CORRECTION: In the story Monday about 96-year-old Allen Alexander, the name of former AP general editor Sam Blackman was misspelled. It is Blackman, not Blackmon.

Have a great day!

Paul

NC2000 launched the digital camera movement



Barry Sweet (Email) - I have attempted to get the Associated Press /Kodak/Nikon NC2000 for more than five years. It was my first digital professional camera which came out to us in 1994. The NC in its name means News Camera. It was developed for the journalist. I have heard many estimates of its cost; but it seems most likely to have sold for around \$18,000. I have been digital ever since that time. While I got the NC2000 from the AP, I just purchased the NC2000e. It is an upgrade of the original. The ones I located before were too expensive for my budget or in collections or museums.

The Associated Press brought me in to Princeton University to get my camera and for training. I was one of the first group of AP photographers who got the camera. They trained a few of us with the idea we could use what we learned and train other AP photographers. While they gave us background, it pretty much became trial and error and learning came from the use of the camera.

Robert Galbraith, of the AP, was the lead for the camera and was our guide into digital.

The digital camera took us out of the darkroom. No longer did we travel with cases of stuff, like enlargers, film tanks, etc. I was out of the motel bathrooms. It was a flip of a coin as to what I ended up with on a shoot. You couldn't see the images like today and it didn't always work. While the camera continued to click away, it didn't mean anything was being recorded. All it had was 1.3 MP image, which is pretty small and it had lots of noise in the photos which I had to get rid of before posting the work on the wire. The higher ISO, the more noise. The main thing about the camera was it stored the photos on a removable card freeing me to handoff the photos and continue shooting with another card. It was the first professional DSLR camera but it was bulky and weighed almost 4 pounds. I checked my old pictures from those years and almost all of them were under 1 MP.

I think the Vancouver Sun in Canada was the first newspaper to staff its photographers with the camera. I have heard that only between 600 and 3,000 cameras were made.

One the other things I remember is a Kodak official laughed when we told them what a great camera. He told us that film would never go away and the digital camera was only for the professional photographer. Normal people will stick to film because of the cost. I think they learned something from going down that road.

So I got two days training and told to go home and use the NC2000. That's pretty much what we all did.

The camera now sits on the top shelf of my office.

Black journalists push media to cover 'hyper-racial' moment in politics

By MICHAEL CALDERONE, POLITICO

The Associated Press earlier this year shifted a national race and ethnicity reporter to its 2020 election team, an acknowledgment that race has become a defining element of President Donald Trump's campaigns.

That beat, assigned to reporter Errin Haines Whack, is fairly unusual among major news organizations. And media outlets' approach to covering race is frustrating some prominent journalists of color at a time when Trump's language - as he recently called a civil rights leader a "con man" and referring to a predominantly black district, which includes much of Baltimore, as a "disgusting rat and rodent infested mess" this week - is threatening to define the campaign.



Errin Haines Whack

Some journalists of color are growing increasingly vocal in their push for media outlets to take race head-on in political coverage - and they are publicly highlighting the ways they say Trump's words and the semantic debates over whether to call them "racist" weigh on them personally.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting series

Life after AP - John Gaps III

John Gaps III ([Email](#)) - You've asked for stories on our lives after AP...

To recap:

- AP staff photographer, Des Moines, 1984 to 2001. Traveled the world for my beloved company covering war, famine, insurrection, Olympic Games, Super Bowls, etc., while only managing to get wounded once seriously by a sniper in the Occupied Gaza Strip. Was a member of an AP offering on Somalia that was runner-up for the Pulitzer Prize in 1993. I also covered the Iowa State Fair livestock shows regularly. (Did I just bury the lede?)

- Des Moines Register, director of photography and then Community Publications director. 2001 - 2012. We were a contributing member in good standing throughout my stay at the Register.

- Managing member, Thousand Dreams Productions (theatrical movie company) 2012 - 2018. Screen writing, producing and investment work. Two movies ready for pre-production and one stuck in development. Had some bad luck with losing a director (Dan Ireland, DGA) and actor (Bill Paxton, SAG) to heart problems. My movie life is in a temporary turnaround.

- Now... well, I'm living in Des Moines. I have my camera gear ready and am looking for work covering all the Democratic candidates campaigning around the state. Local AP doesn't have any work for me, so I've looked to the big dailies (NY Times, Washington Post, etc..) No takers. I don't really know if I have the heart to work for a wire service other than the AP. Although if it's starvation and homelessness vs. a Reuters gig, I guess I'd take the latter.



Jesse Jackson and dairy cow from Iowa Caucus coverage in 1988.



Mitt Romney at the State Fair, Iowa Caucus

In the middle of all of that I had a dandy bout of PTSD-related depression that almost wrecked my life. A few of my AP buddies who covered wars have gone through the same thing with differing outcomes. What terrifies you at 35 loves to come back at you emotionally at 55. But I believe I'm out of that dark place in the forest now.

coverage from 2011.

It's a summer of no-photo-love but the yard looks GREAT!!! Anybody looking for photo services from

someone with a boatload of experiences (some good) just drop a line. I've included a couple of photos from past AP work that gives an idea of my range of work.

Connecting mailbox

Priorities of a leader

Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - John Reid, a former executive of The Associated Press, used to tell new bureau chiefs they had three things to worry about: staff, (news and photo) report, and members. "Take care of the first two, the third will take care of itself."

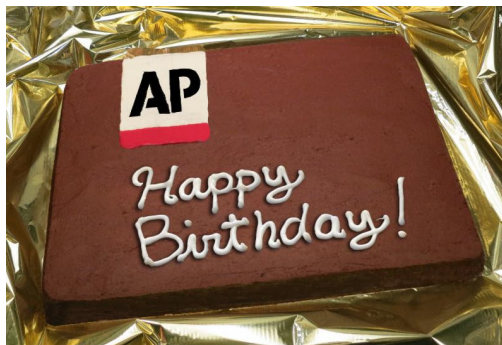
Always felt that was sage advice.

-0-

What to do with a Model 15 Teletype?

Neal Ulevich ([Email](#)) - May be used as an effective replacement, upgrade, to waterboarding. The non-stop noise causes permanent brain damage.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

David Briscoe - dcbriscoejr@gmail.com

Welcome to Connecting

Todd White - LTW804@gmail.com

Stories of interest

This journalist got a big scoop, only to watch Fox News steal his reporting - and his traffic

(Poynter)

By **KELLY McBRIDE**

Bobby Ross Jr. is a veteran religion reporter and a man of faith. He edits The Christian Chronicle, an independent news organization serving the Church of Christ community.

It was surprising, then, when Ross took to Twitter last week to call out a Fox News reporter. The cable TV network "aggregated" (Ross will say "stole") one of his best stories without doing its own reporting and without acknowledging Ross' ground-breaking work.

Ross' scoop? Remember the American missionary doctor who almost died after contracting Ebola while treating patients in Liberia during the 2014 crisis, only to be saved by an experimental drug that had never been tested in humans? After five years, Dr. Kent Brantly is headed back to Africa to treat the sick. And Ross scored an in-depth interview with him, his wife, his counselor and his fellow missionary doctors.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright, Mark Mittelstadt.

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The War on Drugs in Mexico Is Also a War on Journalists (truthout.org)

By Susie Day, Truthout

What is press freedom and how do we know what it looks like? While we in the United States are absorbed in Julian Assange-related quandaries about just who is a journalist, and whether leaked information can or should compromise national security, reporters in Mexico are harassed and killed daily for covering a "drug war" launched in 2006 by President Felipe Calderón, but abetted by the U.S. government.

Marcela Turati is one of those reporters. She is an internationally respected investigative journalist, who, for over a decade, has covered the poverty and violence wreaked by this ongoing conflict, which has disappeared or killed tens of thousands. She has seen colleagues and friends murdered by drug cartels or police or government forces - it is difficult to know, in this devastating chaos, just where danger lies. She herself lives in danger. On May 21, I spoke to Turati in New York City, at Hunter College, where she had come to address a symposium entitled "Crisis for Mexican Journalists." In this interview, Turati discusses how the drug war fueled attacks on journalists in Mexico, the role of the U.S., and how journalists are responding to threats on their lives.

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

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Max Falkenstien, voice of the KU Jayhawks for 60 years, dies at age 95 (Kansas City Star)

By **GARY BEDORE** and **RANDY KOVITZ**

LAWRENCE - Max Falkenstien, whose voice became synonymous with University of Kansas football and men's basketball broadcasts for six decades, died Monday afternoon at age 95.

Falkenstien - the No. 60 banner bearing his name hangs in the south rafters of Allen Fieldhouse with the KU men's and women's basketball standouts who have had their jerseys retired - covered more than 1,750 men's basketball games and 650 football games - a span that included every game played in the fieldhouse until his retirement in 2006.

Falkenstien, who started broadcasting KU games in 1946 after returning from World War II, is one of Kansas' most decorated broadcasters. He was presented the Curt Gowdy Media Award by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in September 2004.

"Max was a member of the greatest generation. A pioneer sports play-by-play broadcaster in Lawrence and Topeka, and just a fun guy to be around," said Bob Davis, Falkenstien's broadcast partner for two-plus decades, in a release from the athletic department announcing his death.

"In the years we worked and traveled together we spent much of our time laughing. ... We had some great times together. I loved him."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Tucker.

The Final Word



(Shared by Paul Albright)

Today in History - July 30, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 30, the 211th day of 2019. There are 154 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 30, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure making "In God We Trust" the national motto, replacing "E Pluribus Unum" (Out of many, one).

On this date:

In 1619, the first representative assembly in America convened in Jamestown in the Virginia Colony.

In 1729, Baltimore, Md. was founded.

In 1792, the French national anthem "La Marseillaise" (lah mar-seh-YEHZ'), by Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle, was first sung in Paris by troops arriving from Marseille.

In 1916, German saboteurs blew up a munitions plant on Black Tom, an island near Jersey City, New Jersey, killing about a dozen people.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill creating a women's auxiliary agency in the Navy known as "Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service" - WAVES for short.

In 1945, the Portland class heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis, having just delivered components of the atomic bomb to Tinian in the Mariana Islands, was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine; only 317 out of nearly 1,200 men survived.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a measure creating Medicare, which began operating the following year.

In 1975, former Teamsters union president Jimmy Hoffa disappeared in suburban Detroit; although presumed dead, his remains have never been found.

In 1980, Israel's Knesset passed a law reaffirming all of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

In 2001, Robert Mueller (MUHL'-ur), President George W. Bush's choice to head the FBI, promised the Senate Judiciary Committee that if confirmed, he would move forcefully to fix problems at the agency. (Mueller became FBI director on Sept. 4, 2001, a week before the 9/11 attacks.)

In 2002, WNBA player Lisa Leslie of the Los Angeles Sparks became the first woman to dunk in a professional game, jamming on a breakaway in the first half of the Sparks' 82-73 loss to the Miami Sol.

In 2003, President George W. Bush took personal responsibility for the first time for using discredited intelligence in his State of the Union address, but predicted he would be vindicated for going to war against Iraq.

Ten years ago: Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Sgt. James Crowley, the Cambridge, Massachusetts, police officer who'd arrested him for disorderly conduct at his home, had beers with President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden at the White House to discuss the dispute that unleashed a furor over racial profiling in America.

Five years ago: The House overwhelmingly approved, 420-5, a landmark bill to refurbish the Veterans Affairs Department and improve veterans' health care. Three Israeli artillery shells slammed into a United Nations school in Gaza crowded with some 3,300 people; the shells, which Israel said came in response to mortar fire nearby, killed 17 people.

One year ago: Zimbabwe voted for the first time without Robert Mugabe on the ballot; there were long lines at some polling stations. President Donald Trump said he'd be willing to meet with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani "anytime" with "no preconditions." More than 27,000 people remained evacuated because of a Northern California wildfire that ranked as the ninth most destructive blaze in the state's history; the fire in the area of Redding had destroyed more than 800 homes and left two firefighters and four civilians dead. Ron Dellums, an anti-war activist who championed social justice as Northern California's first black congressman, died of cancer at his home in Washington at the age of 82.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Edd (correct) "Kookie" Byrnes is 86. Former Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig is 85. Blues musician Buddy Guy is 83. Movie director Peter Bogdanovich is 80. Feminist activist Eleanor Smeal is 80. Former U.S. Rep. Patricia Schroeder is 79. Singer Paul Anka is 78. Jazz musician David Sanborn is 74. Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is 72. Actor William Atherton is 72. Actor Jean Reno (zhahn rih-NOH') is 71. Blues singer-musician Otis Taylor is 71. Actor Frank Stallone is 69. Actor Ken Olin is 65. Actress Delta Burke is 63. Law professor Anita Hill is 63. Singer-songwriter Kate Bush is 61. Country singer Neal McCoy is 61. Actor Richard Burgi is 61. Movie director Richard Linklater is 59. Actor Laurence Fishburne is 58. Actress Lisa Kudrow is 56. Bluegrass musician Danny Roberts (The Grascals) is 56. Country musician Dwayne O'Brien is 56. Actress Vivica A. Fox is 55. Actor Terry Crews is 51. Actor Simon Baker is 50. Actor Donnie Keshawarz is 50. Movie director Christopher Nolan is 49. Actor Tom Green is 48. Rock musician Brad Hargreaves (Third Eye Blind) is 48. Actress Christine Taylor is 48. Actor-comedian Dean Edwards is 46. Actress Hilary Swank is 45. Olympic gold medal beach volleyball player Misty May-Treanor is 42. Actress Jaime Pressly is 42. Alt-country singer-musician Seth Avett (AY'-veht) is 39. Actress April

Bowlby is 39. Soccer player Hope Solo is 38. Actress Yvonne Strahovski is 37. Actor Martin Starr is 37. Actress Gina Rodriguez is 35. Actor Nico Tortorella is 31. Actress Joey King is 20.

**Thought for Today: "An efficient bureaucracy is the greatest threat to liberty."
- Sen. Eugene McCarthy (1916-2005).**

Connecting calendar



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.



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