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Connecting - August 01, 2019

1 message

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 1st day of August 2019,

Today's issue brings you more of your thoughts on the pioneering NC2000 digital camera introduced by the AP and Kodak that revolutionized the news photo business.

Share your own story.

Got mugs? Lots of them? With an AP logo or not? Why do I ask, you say?

Well, a Facebook post by **Roy Peter Clark** of the Poynter Institute prompts me to see if you suffer from the same mug malady as him. He writes:

By my count the Clarks own about 56 coffee mugs and cups. 17 of those are in the trunk of my car, and I can't seem to be able to give them away. Even charities seem mugged out. It makes sense. The mug is the easiest gift, the least expensive souvenir. Of our 39 mugs I probably use about five. So what's your mug story. Are the Clark's mug weird or American normal?



Send along your response and maybe a photo of your favorite mug - especially an AP one.

I look forward to your submissions as we begin the new month. Have a great August First!

Paul

More thoughts on historic conversion to digital cameras

Dave Tomlin ([Email](#)) - I really enjoyed Barry Sweet's account of the first big field test of the NC2000. I was director of Technology Marketing at the time and heavily involved in making the deal with Kodak and the effort to turn the sale of the cameras into a profitable business for AP. Here are some additional points I remember:

- NC2000 images were only 1.3 megapixels each, which meant there wasn't a lot you could do for a photo that needed digital darkroom help. So the pressure on photographers to get their settings right was enormous.

- The 30-minute deadline advantage Barry referred to was the main incentive to buy the NC2000 in spite of its shortcomings. But the advantage was at its height for coverage of night sports events, where low light and moving targets played to the camera's weaknesses. Yet AP photostaffers overcame those challenges and cashed in on the speedy delivery benefits time after time.



- Obviously we hoped AP photographers would all embrace and evangelize for the NC2000, and quite a few did. But I also empathized with the many others who were skeptical and wary. I knew from my own days covering news that it often takes planning, patience, stamina, out-of-box thinking, hair trigger reflexes and luck to capture a great image. The risk of losing such a hard-earned "moment in time" to glitchy and untried technology struck some as too high. I understood both reactions to the NC2000.

- Another important reason some newsrooms bought the NC2000 in spite of its jaw-dropping \$14,500 pricetag was the savings in film and darkroom chemistry. We estimated that replacing a film camera full time with an NC2000 would save enough to pay for the purchase in about 18 months. At least one paper that tracked the savings for us claimed the camera recovered its cost in less than 15 months.

Thanks for the memories, Barry.

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Tom Slaughter ([Email](#)) - Barry Sweet's piece about his experience with the digital version of the workhorse Nikon was a great read.

But, from my perspective, the camera was just a piece of a much bigger story: How the AP led, cajoled and finally forced the US newspaper industry's conversion from analog to digital photography. First, came the conversion from analog to digital photo transmission, introduction of the digital camera, the digital darkroom, and, ultimately, creation of an end to end digital system that dramatically increased the speed of the network, supercharged color news photography, increased the fidelity of news photographs over that transmission system, and put revolutionary tools in

the hands of photographers, photo editors and, importantly, our newspaper members.

It wasn't easy or cheap. But the AP made it happen.

There were many at AP who helped make this a reality, from the support of Lou Boccardi and AP's board, to AP's many technicians and photographers, the field staff, and (always) AP's chiefs of bureau.

But you can't tell the story of this transformation without crediting its champion and chief evangelist, Hal Buell.

Hal saw this future, believed in it, and never backed down in its pursuit.

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Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - Vas Ist Das?

The German language says it best - What is that, NC2000?

Having a 28-year life experience with the AP, most of it as a staff photographer, leaves me in awe of the changes in the mechanics of the art.

I remember the 4x5 Speed Graphic (With no gizmos on it except the lens and film), the 2 ¼ film Mamiyaflex, which was awkward to use, and didn't last long, and then the 35mm (film) Nikon camera, which was an ideal camera.

FYI, as I understand it, Nikon representatives met three WWII Pacific Theater correspondents, in Tokyo, after the signing of the Japanese Peace Treaty. Included was an AP photographer, and asked them what they would want on a camera. From their conversation and responses, Nikon developed the hardworking camera many of us later used.

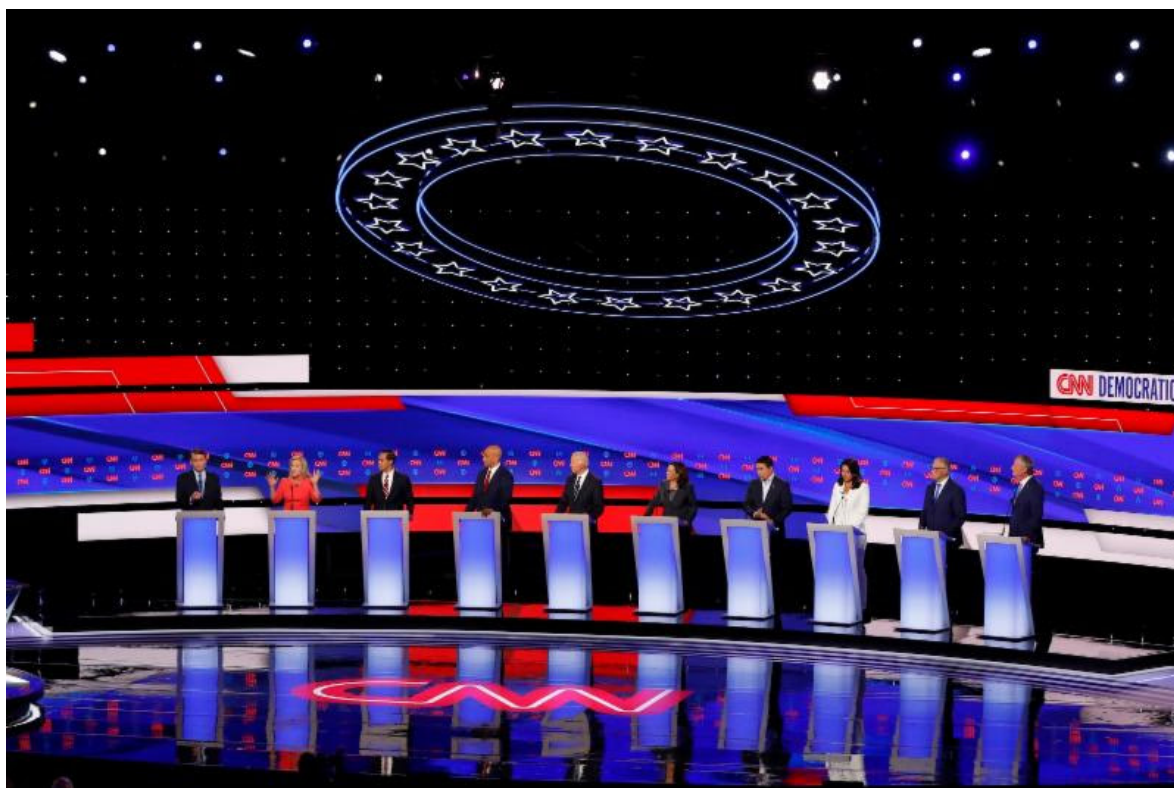
Now, this new one, the NC2000 must be something out of space. I have had a Nikon digital camera for some time, but I can barely operate the damned thing because I don't understand the nomenclature of the operating system. I understand a few

settings, but am afraid if I change something, I won't know how to get back to where I was!

Training to use a camera?

Ah, yes, progress...

AP Photo of the Day



All the Democratic presidential candidates involved in Wednesday night's debate at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. (AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

Connecting mailbox

More on those clacking Teletypes

Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - in response to Neal Ulevich's post that the clacking Teletype "may be used as an effective replacement, upgrade, to waterboarding":

There were some people who found the continuous clackety-clack (behind heavy glass windows and behind a door) soothing. I remember when the circuits went down and the printers stopped it suddenly seemed very, very quiet!

I've told the story before of the struggle we had to get the last M15s in the country out of the Silver City, N.M., Press. The old publisher, a former electrical engineer, found the sound of the printers next to his office comforting. He didn't want to let them go.

And this response from **Neal Ulevich** ([Email](#)) - True enough. That Model 15 teletype sound came to mean "news" for millions of radio listeners. Walter Winchell used a phony baloney Morse key set-up to bring the same sense of urgency to his broadcasts. (I met the ageing Winchell when, as a college journalism student, I flew to Washington DC to see the city in flames after the murder of Martin Luther King. Ran into him on the street doing what I was doing...marveling at the unbelievable sight of the capitol city in flames).

I had always assumed that the Model 15 teletype remained the standard long after the five-level code ALL CAPS presentation was obsolete simply because the wartime government had bought many of the 200,000 built (Wikipedia). By the end of the war there was a huge surplus of the machines and a military-trained cadre of techs who could fix the mind-numbing internal complexity of the machine.

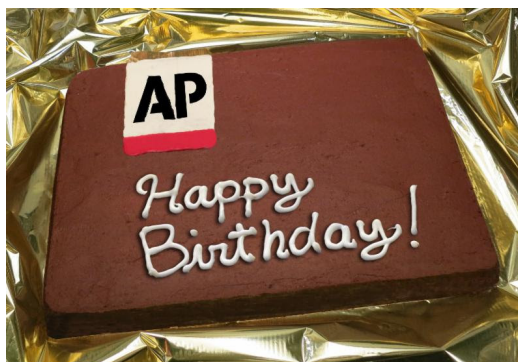
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One cool typewriter



Steve Hendren ([Email](#)) - Thought you might enjoy this gem found in the Split Rock Lighthouse on the north shore of Lake Superior... About 40 miles north of Duluth and just south of Beaver Bay on MN 61 (Same Highway 61 as Bob Dylan wrote about; he was born in Duluth. Although now referred to as MN 61 between Duluth and the border, prior to [1991 US 61](#) ran from the Canadian border to New Orleans - aka The Great River Road and The Blues Highway since it ran through St. Louis, Memphis and the Delta).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Dolores Barclay - tobibar@gmail.com

Mike Goodkind - goodkindm@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Stranger Things Fans' Confusion Over What a Photography Darkroom Is Goes Viral (People)

By RACHEL DeSANTIS

A Stranger Things fan in the dark about the purpose of a darkroom as featured in the series has gone viral thanks to nostalgic fans lamenting their age amid an era of digital cameras.

The outdated technique, used to develop photos, is seen multiple times in the '80s nostalgia-packed series thanks to character Jonathan Byers, who uses his high school's darkroom in season 1 and 3.

The room, lit only by a red glow, caught the eye of a viewer unfamiliar with the process, who then took to the online forum StackExchange to ask about the purpose of the "red room" featured in the Netflix show.

"In Stranger Things, we frequently see Jonathan go inside this to 'refine' his photos or something. I don't quite understand what happens here," the user wrote. "He puts the photo in water, and somehow this makes it more clear? An example is in the first season when he refines Barbara's photo and sees a little bit of the Demogorgon. Is this an old film technique, and if so, what is it called?"

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

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'I had a cat and the cat died': Marianne Williamson delivers downer to 10-year-old reporter (USA Today)

By William Cummings

Democratic presidential candidate Marianne Williamson drew voters' attention during the first debate of the 2020 campaign with her unconventional style in Miami and she did so again in Detroit on Wednesday.

While shunning specific policy proposals, the author and activist delivered an upbeat message of conquering the "dark psychic force" of hatred that she said has been activated by President Donald Trump by using the unifying power of love.

But she also dished out something of a downer Wednesday in an exchange with a young reporter that gained attention on social media.

"Do you have a pet?" asked the bowtie-clad young man,

"I had a cat, and the cat died," Williamson replied

Read more [here](#).

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What if we fed the beast less crap? (Poynter)**By KRISTEN HARE**

The internet, and many journalists who work on it, have this unending hunger.

Chartbeat says we're low!

CrowdTangle says this is trending!

Someone else wrote this thing we can aggregate and add no value to but we must feed the beast!

This feels like a problem that should have expired by now, but as more newsrooms switch to subscriptions and memberships to make money and keep publishing, the value of people's time and attention matters way beyond pageviews.

So what happens when you stop feeding the beast crap?

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - August 1, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Aug. 1, the 213th day of 2019. There are 152 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 1, 1944, an uprising broke out in Warsaw, Poland, against Nazi occupation; the revolt lasted two months before collapsing.

On this date:

In 1714, Britain's Queen Anne died at age 49; she was succeeded by George I.

In 1876, Colorado was admitted as the 38th state.

In 1907, the U.S. Army Signal Corps established an aeronautical division, the forerunner of the U.S. Air Force.

In 1914, Germany declared war on Russia at the onset of World War I.

In 1936, the Olympics opened in Berlin with a ceremony presided over by Adolf Hitler.

In 1957, the United States and Canada announced they had agreed to create the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD).

In 1966, Charles Joseph Whitman, 25, went on an armed rampage at the University of Texas in Austin that killed 14 people, most of whom were shot by Whitman while he was perched in the clock tower of the main campus building. (Whitman, who had also slain his wife and mother hours earlier, was finally gunned down by police.)

In 1973, the movie "American Graffiti," directed by George Lucas, first opened.

In 1981, the rock music video channel MTV made its debut.

In 1994, Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley confirmed they'd been secretly married 11 weeks earlier. (Presley filed for divorce from Jackson in Jan. 1996, citing irreconcilable differences.)

In 2007, the eight-lane Interstate 35W bridge, a major Minneapolis artery, collapsed into the Mississippi River during evening rush hour, killing 13 people.

In 2013, defying the United States, Russia granted Edward Snowden temporary asylum, allowing the National Security Agency leaker to slip out of the Moscow airport where he had been holed up for weeks.

Ten years ago: A fierce storm caused an outdoor stage at the Big Valley Jamboree in Camrose, Alberta, Canada, to collapse, killing one person and injuring dozens of others. A gunman opened fired at a gay youth center in Tel Aviv, Israel, killing two people. Former Philippine President Corazon Aquino, 76, died in Manila.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, in a televised news conference, said that the United States had "tortured" al-Qaida detainees captured after 9/11, adding, "We did some things that were contrary to our values." Congress approved a \$225 million package to replenish Israel's missile defense system known as Iron Dome. A medical examiner ruled that a New York City police officer's chokehold caused the death of Eric Garner, whose videotaped arrest and final pleas of "I can't breathe!" had sparked outrage.

One year ago: The remains of dozens of presumed casualties of the Korean War were returned to U.S. soil; in an emotional ceremony in Hawaii, military members carried 55 boxes draped with American flags off two military transport planes. Ohio State University put football coach Urban Meyer on paid leave amid claims that his wife knew about allegations of domestic violence against an assistant coach years before the staff member was fired.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Ramblin' Jack Elliott is 88. Former Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., is 82. Actor Giancarlo Giannini is 77. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Roy Williams is 69. Blues singer-musician Robert Cray is 66. Singer Michael Penn is 61. Rock singer Joe Elliott (Def Leppard) is 60. Rock singer-musician Suzi Gardner (L7) is 59. Rapper Chuck D (Public Enemy) is 59. Actor Jesse Borrego is 57. Actor Demian Bichir is 56. Rapper Coolio is 56. Actor John Carroll Lynch is 56. Rock singer Adam Duritz (Counting Crows) is 55. Movie director Sam Mendes is 54. Country singer George Ducas is 53. Country musician Charlie Kelley is 51. Actress Jennifer Gareis is 49. Actor Charles Malik Whitfield is 47. Actress Tempestt Bledsoe is 46. Actor Jason Momoa is 40. Actress Honeysuckle Weeks is 40. Singer Ashley Parker Angel is 38. Actress Taylor Fry is 38. Actor Elijah Kelley is 33. Actor James Francis Kelly is 30. Actress Ella Wahlestedt is 21.

Thought for Today: "As scarce as truth is, the supply is always greater than the demand." - "Josh Billings" (Henry Wheeler Shaw), American author (1818-1885).

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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