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Connecting - August 14, 2019

1 message

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 14th day of August 2019,

Were you at Woodstock?

The 50th anniversary of the Woodstock music festival in upstate New York is being observed this week - and Connecting has received our first response to our call for stories from those of you who were there - either as a journalist or one of the 400,000 or so who attended. Thanks to **David Goodfriend** for offering his story.

I hope you will share your own story.

Me? I started with the AP in Albany - about 115 miles from the site of Woodstock in Bethel, New York - four years after the fact. At the time the concert was held, I could not have been further away figuratively or literally - into my second year of U.S. Air Force duty. No summer of love in Little Rock.

There are avid readers among our Connecting group - and one of them, **Dick Lipsey**, offers from time to time the references he sees to The Associated Press in books he has read. He contributes a few more for today's issue. Connecting would welcome your AP Sightings.

About the headline at the top: It was a momentous anniversary day in our nation's history, as you will see in Today in History: "On August 14, 1945, President Harry S. Truman announced that Imperial Japan had surrendered unconditionally, ending World War II." Many of us whose fathers fought in World War II would not be alive today if that had not occurred.

Have a great day!

Paul

**Kindness - that's what Woodstock
was to me**



On the way to Woodstock.

"Woodstock was not appealing to many blacks, who are far more tuned in to day-to-day struggle than to the essentially middle-class youth culture of 'freedom high.'"

David Goodfriend (Email) - Yes, I was there. The only music I saw was Quill, Country Joe and Santana. OK...another story. That summer was the last summer I lived at home in New Jersey. My parents told me I can't go to Woodstock with my girlfriend. Won't go into why. I of course went with her. The following May on Mothers Day I called my mom like the good son that I am. First thing my mother said was..."who did you go to Woodstock with?". I mean I couldn't believe it and I asked her how she could possibly have found this out?. And she then told me about the pic in The New York Times (above, May 1970) She thought it was funny.

It was quite a moment in time. In order to put Woodstock in perspective you have to mention two dirty words. First...Altamont. It was right down the road. And the second is a really dirty word...Vietnam. It was everywhere back then and that's all I want to say about it.

Yeah I missed most of the music and I regret Sly and Hendrix much. Just about all of the other acts I wanted to see I did see so I never have even thought about that much. Like Iggy said, it was 1969 OK all around the USA. It was the townspeople welcoming us and helping us too. You read about them being overwhelmed and I guess they were, but they were nothing but kind to us. So were the cops. First time I saw them as human beings. Nobody was staring into a phone oblivious to the world around them. Eyes were open and everyone was engaged in what was happening. And everybody looked out for one another. So for about 2 1/2 days there was something in the air always. Kindness. That's what Woodstock was to me.



EDITOR'S NOTE: David Goodfriend worked as a librarian for the AP's Washington bureau from 1988-2009.

AP sightings

Dick Lipsey (Email) - Henry Gole, Exposing the Third Reich: Colonel Truman Smith in Hitler's Germany. Truman Smith was US military attaché in Berlin from 1935-39.

"[Louis] Lochner of the Associated Press ... reported from Berlin from 1921 to 1941. ... He may have been the best-informed American in Germany, and his book 'What about Germany?' is a source of many fascinating yarns and penetrating insights. ... His remarks about Hitler, whom he interviewed several times over the years, are similarly incisive. ...

"Lochner followed German forces into Poland, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, France, Yugoslavia, Greece, and Russia - missing only Norway (which was covered by an AP colleague). After the German declaration of war on the United States in December 1941, he was interned along with other Americans in Bad Nauheim for five months. They were repatriated in exchange for Germans in June 1942. Smith and Lochner knew one another; they both shared and competed for information."

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Oliver Lubrich (ed.), Travels in the Reich, 1933-1945: Foreign Authors Report from Germany.

Howard K. Smith writes about his reaction following a press conference called by the Propaganda Ministry on October 9, 1941, to announce that German forces were

on the verge of capturing Moscow.

"I walked down the marble stairs from the Theatre Hall and talked briefly to [Fred] Oechsner [United Press], who had just returned from his breather in America, and [Louis] Lochner [Associated Press]. The mood was grim all round. ... Several American bureau chiefs had been invited the day before to leave on October 10 on a trip to the eastern front - the juiciest journalistic plum the German High Command could offer. But so strong was the conviction among us that the end was perhaps only hours away that Louis Lochner, of the Associated Press, telephoned the Propaganda Ministry, after studying his notes, and informed the proper official that he had decided to relinquish his place on the trip and remain in Berlin. It was too hazardous leaving his base of communications at a time like this. ... That afternoon powerful pieces, 'situationers' reeking with historic implications, went over the wires from Berlin."

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And on the lighter side, from Rex Stout, Before Midnight (a Nero Wolfe mystery published in 1955).

Nero's assistant, Archie Goodwin, attends a small press gathering called by a woman implicated in a homicide.

"There were three males and two females in sight, and I knew two of them: Al Riordan of the Associated Press and Missy Coburn of the World-Telegram. [Bill] Lurick [another reporter] asked a man standing inside the door if he had missed anything, and the man said no, she insisted on waiting until the Times got there, and Lurick said that was proper, they wouldn't start Judgment Day until the Times was set to cover."

New-member profile: Mark Scolforo

Mark Scolforo (Email) - I'm that rare specimen, a D.C. native, and my first job in this industry was paperboy for the Washington Star in the Cherrydale neighborhood of Arlington, Va. After getting an English degree from the University of Chicago in 1987, I started out at my hometown weekly, then called The Fauquier Democrat, in Warrenton, Va., where I was a reporter and editor before spending about a year as editor of the Rappahannock News in Little Washington, Va., out by Skyline Drive. The prospect of slow starvation drove me to what was then known as The York Dispatch/Sunday News, where I spent most of 11 years as a reporter, although I also did some editing.

AP hired me in 2003 for the state Capitol job I have today, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where I've covered government and courts, as well as the soup-to-nuts range of stories APers are well familiar with, notably the Amish schoolhouse massacre and the Jerry Sandusky scandal. A few weeks ago I celebrated 20 years of happy marriage to Liz Evans Scolforo, a crime and courts reporter at The York Dispatch, and these days I'm trying to keep ahead of the weeds in our backyard vegetable garden and keeping my fingers crossed that Dwayne Haskins can resuscitate the Washington Redskins.



Connecting mailbox

Gathering Friday to honor Joe White



A memorial for former Associated Press sportswriter Joseph White and Washington Times writer Katelyn Davis is displayed in the press box before a baseball game between the Washington Nationals and the Cincinnati Reds at Nationals Park, Monday, Aug. 12, 2019, in Washington. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

Howard Fendrich (Email) - It's a sad time for all of us who knew Joe White. Such a shock and a real loss.

We are organizing an informal get-together to honor Joe's memory; we're hoping you can join. Just a meeting of friends and colleagues to raise a toast, tell some stories - EVERYONE who crossed paths with the guy has a "Joe White story" - and share some laughs. The details:

This Friday, 8/16, 7 p.m., Irish Channel (address: [500 H St., NW](#)).

We encourage you to please pass this along to anyone you think would be interested in attending. And if you can't make it Friday but have something you'd like to say, go ahead and send along an email and one of us would be happy to read it to the group.

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A thanks from the wife of Indiana's Jack Howey

Mary Lou Howey (Email) - Thank you for using Jack's obituary and kind remarks by some who remember him.

He was devoted to the AP and always wanted to help out. I recall two calls he made, one when we saw before our very eyes a train derailing, and another when our daughter called from her Butler U. sorority house to report that a careless Kappa with a candle had set the place on fire. Both times, the AP reaction was, "Jack Howey, how do you know that?"

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Honoring the remarkable lifetime of Murray Fromson



Dodi Fromson ([Email](#)) - the wife of Murray Fromson, a longtime CBS News correspondent and former Associated Press reporter known for his work during the Korean and Vietnam wars, shares this story. Murray died last June at the age of 88. He was a founding member of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, a nonprofit organization that provides legal representation and resources to protect the rights of journalists. She writes:

So rarely does one know much about those buried as we walk by their graves, so the family tried to inject more of who he was in his remarkable lifetime. It is located at Mt. Sinai Memorial Park in the Hollywood Hills, next to Forest Lawn. It was recently placed, and Monday morning, unveiled by us, the family - our daughter, Aliza Ben Tal of Tel Aviv, Israel; Derek Fromson, our son, Derek Fromson, Washington DC, and his twins, Isabella and Eric. Rabbi Kenneth Chasen, senior Rabbi of Leo Baeck Temple in West Los Angeles, conducted the service, attended by some 40-50 family members and friends. Most have told me it was deeply moving.

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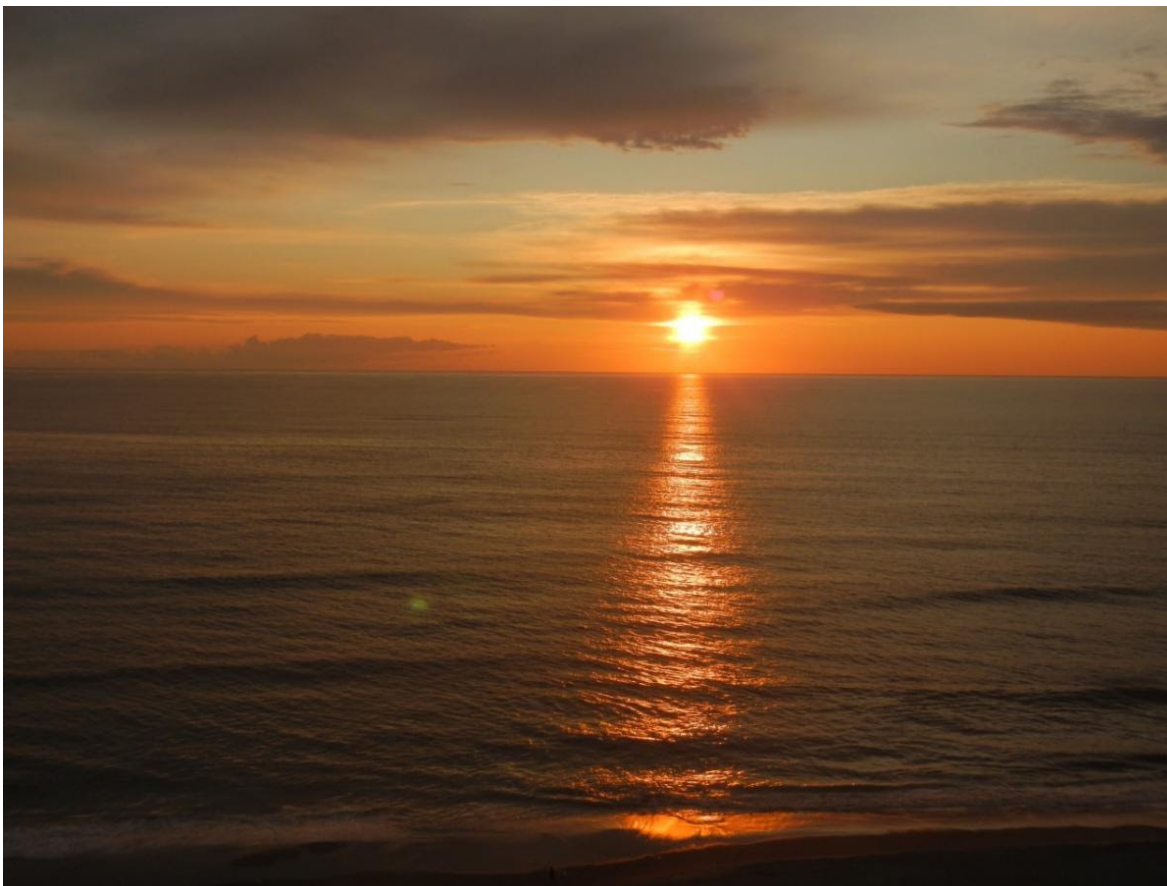
Reunion of Upstate New York AP staffers set for Saturday

Marc Humbert ([Email](#)) - It's less than a week until the reunion of current and former AP-Albany and upstate New York staffers.

The festivities are 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 17, at the home of Marc and Carla Humbert on Tsatsawassa Lake. For your mapping app the address is: [68 Marginal Way, East Nassau, NY, 12062](#). [Marginal Way](#) is a private dirt road with a strong wooden bridge spanning Tsatsawassa Creek. Ours is the second house you come to. Park by our barn and head down the hill to the lake. If you have mobility issues or gear to unload, just drive down to the lake to unload things. And, if you get lost, try the house phone (518-766-5480) or Carla's cell (518-610-0347).

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Connecting sky shot - Lincoln City, Oregon



Shared by Ralph Gage ([Email](#))

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Extra! GateHouse Eats Gannett, Still Hungry

Mort Rosenblum ([Email](#)) - PARIS - Two words sum up the existential threat to America. The first is obvious: Trump. The second is a catchall noun so vague it has no meaning, and yet it enables a would-be despot to twist truth and tie a superpower into knots: media.

Excellent news sources abound for people who find them amid a blizzard of bullshit motivated by profit or propaganda. Instead, many pluck dubious snippets off the internet and react with all the reflection of invertebrates stuck by a pin. For them, it is all "the media."

Donald Trump understands this. If one reporter gets something wrong - or, more often, gets something right that annoys him - he dismisses "the media" with his

trademark label: fake news. That works for him because of a worsening industry trend that helped put him in office.

Newspapers that once informed America are still with us, adapted to digital delivery, but most are shadows of their former selves. They replace solid up-close reporting with thumb-sucking at a distance or word sausages made up of news bits from slipshod common sources.

Now GateHouse is about to swallow Gannett and use its familiar brand name. America's two largest chains plan to merge into a Frankenstein's monster of more than 260 dailies and 300 weeklies in 47 states. That, they say, will "enhance quality journalism." Talk about blowing credibility right off the bat.

Read more [here](#).

Welcome to Connecting



Alex Brandon - abrandon@ap.org

Stories of interest

'Lead' vs. 'lede': Roy Peter Clark has the definitive answer, at last (Poynter)

By Roy Peter Clark

I am writing this essay for two reasons:

1. To help dispel (or should I say "dis-spell") a preference for "lede" over "lead" to describe the beginning or introduction of a news story.
2. To offer a century of wisdom on the purpose of a good news lead and the best way to write one.

My interest in these topics was ignited recently when the Poynter website briefly expressed a preference for "lede," a spelling I had avoided since my arrival in St. Pete in 1977. For me, the spelling has been "lead." After all, a well-written first sentence leads the reader into the story. In addition, lede felt like, not jargon, but slang, from the same generation as -30- to represent the end of a story, and "hed" as short for headline.

I was told early on that lede avoided confusion with the molten lead that dominated print technology in decades past. (So did hed serve to avoid confusion with "head" when writing about the price of lettuce?)

My editor, Barbara Allen, sent me on a scavenger hunt of sorts, but not before sharing a link to a 2011 essay written by Howard Owens. He set out to answer the same question: Is it lede or lead? As a collector of old journalism books, he discovered that even in the era of hot type, the spelling lead was preferred by writers, editors and journalism teachers.

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

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***New York Times demotes editor who sparked
fury***
(CNN)

By OLIVER DARCY

New York (CNN Business) - Jonathan Weisman, the deputy Washington editor for The New York Times (NYT), has been demoted after a pair of incidents in which he ignited controversy on Twitter (TWTR), the newspaper said Tuesday.

"Jonathan Weisman met with [Times Executive Editor Dean Baquet] today and apologized for his recent serious lapses in judgment. As a consequence of his actions, he has been demoted and will no longer be overseeing the team that covers Congress or be active on social media. We don't typically discuss personnel matters but we're doing so in this instance with Jonathan's knowledge," a Times spokesperson said in a statement.

Over the last few weeks, Weisman had faced a barrage of criticism for his behavior on social media.

Read more [here](#).

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Sanders accuses The Post of biased coverage due to his criticism of Amazon, cites no evidence (Washington Post)

By Felicia Sonmez

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) on Monday took aim at The Washington Post at two separate town hall meetings, accusing the newspaper of being biased against his campaign due to his criticism of Amazon's labor practices and tax record.

Sanders, who is running for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination, did not cite any evidence for his claims. He later clarified his comments, saying he was speaking about corporate media more broadly.

Amazon raised its minimum wage to \$15 an hour last year after Sanders and others called on the company to pay its workers a living wage. The senator has also argued that Amazon should pay more federal income tax, after the Wall Street Journal reported in June that it's unclear whether the online retailer paid taxes last year.

The Post is owned by Jeff Bezos, the founder and chief executive of Amazon, and operates independently of Amazon.

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

Today in History - August 14, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 14, the 226th day of 2019. There are 139 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 14, 1945, President Harry S. Truman announced that Imperial Japan had surrendered unconditionally, ending World War II.

On this date:

In 1900, international forces, including U.S. Marines, entered Beijing to put down the Boxer Rebellion, which was aimed at purging China of foreign influence.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill issued the Atlantic Charter, a statement of principles that renounced aggression.

In 1948, the Summer Olympics in London ended; they were the first Olympic games held since 1936.

In 1969, British troops went to Northern Ireland to intervene in sectarian violence between Protestants and Roman Catholics.

In 1973, U.S. bombing of Cambodia came to a halt.

In 1980, actress-model Dorothy Stratten, 20, was shot to death by her estranged husband and manager, Paul Snider, who then killed himself.

In 1992, the White House announced that the Pentagon would begin emergency airlifts of food to Somalia to alleviate mass deaths by starvation.

In 1997, an unrepentant Timothy McVeigh was formally sentenced to death for the Oklahoma City bombing.

In 2003, a huge blackout hit the northeastern United States and part of Canada; 50 million people lost power.

In 2008, President George W. Bush signed consumer-safety legislation that banned lead from children's toys, imposing the toughest standard in the world.

In 2017, under pressure from right and left, President Donald Trump condemned white supremacist groups by name, declaring them to be "repugnant to everything that we hold dear as Americans." The CEO of Merck, the nation's third-largest pharmaceutical company, resigned from a federal advisory council, citing Trump's failure to explicitly condemn white nationalists who marched in Charlottesville, Virginia. (Kenneth Frazier was one of the few African Americans to head a Fortune 500 company. The CEOs of Intel and Under Armour also resigned from the American Manufacturing Council later in the day.)

Ten years ago: Kicking off a four-state push for his health care overhaul plan, President Barack Obama denounced what he suggested was news media overemphasis on scenes of angry protesters at town-hall meetings, telling his own

gathering in Belgrade, Montana, that "TV loves a ruckus." Charles Manson follower Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, 60, convicted of trying to assassinate President Gerald Ford in 1975, was released from a Texas prison hospital after more than three decades behind bars.

Five years ago: Nouri al-Maliki, Iraq's prime minister for eight years, relinquished the post to his nominated successor, ending a political deadlock. Pope Francis called for renewed efforts to forge peace on the war-divided Korean Peninsula as he opened a five-day visit to South Korea. Rob Manfred was elected baseball's 10th commissioner, winning a three-man race to succeed Bud Selig. San Francisco said goodbye to Candlestick Park - the stadium where the city's beloved Giants and 49ers celebrated some of their greatest triumphs - with an evening concert by former Beatle Paul McCartney.

One year ago: A highway bridge collapsed in the Italian city of Genoa during a storm, sending vehicles plunging nearly 150 feet and leaving 43 people dead. Vermont Democrats chose the nation's first transgender gubernatorial nominee, Christine Hallquist. (Hallquist would get 40% of the vote in November against Republican Phil Scott, who won with 55%.) A state grand jury report concluded that some 300 Roman Catholic priests in Pennsylvania had molested more than 1,000 children since the 1940s and that church officials had covered up complaints. Puerto Rico officials announced that power was restored to the entire island for the first time since Hurricane Maria nearly 11 months earlier. Los Angeles transit officials said the city's subway system would become the first in the country to install body scanners to screen passengers for weapons and explosives.

Today's Birthdays: Broadway lyricist Lee Adams ("Bye Bye Birdie") is 95. College Football Hall of Famer John Brodie is 84. Singer Dash Crofts is 81. Rock singer David Crosby is 78. Country singer Connie Smith is 78. Comedian-actor Steve Martin is 74. Movie director Wim Wenders is 74. Actor Antonio Fargas is 73. Singer-musician Larry Graham is 73. Actress Susan Saint James is 73. Actor David Schramm is 73. Author Danielle Steel is 72. Rock singer-musician Terry Adams (NRBQ) is 71. "Far Side" cartoonist Gary Larson is 69. Actor Carl Lumbly is 68. Olympic gold medal swimmer Debbie Meyer is 67. Actress Jackee Harry is 63. Actress Marcia Gay Harden is 60. Basketball Hall of Famer Earvin "Magic" Johnson is 60. Singer Sarah Brightman is 59. Actress Susan Olsen is 58. Actress-turned-fashion/interior designer Cristi Conaway is 55. Rock musician Keith Howland (Chicago) is 55. Actress Halle Berry is 53. Actor Ben Bass is 51. Actress Catherine Bell is 51. Country musician Cody McCarver (Confederate Railroad) is 51. Rock musician Kevin Cadogan is 49. Actor Scott Michael Campbell is 48. Actress Lalanya Masters is 47. Actor Christopher Gorham is 45. Actress Mila Kunis is 36. Actor Lamorne Morris is 36. TV personality Spencer Pratt is 36. NFL quarterback-turned-baseball player Tim Tebow is 32. Actress Marsai Martin is 15.

Thought for Today: "There is no safety in numbers, or in anything else." - James Thurber, American author and cartoonist (1894-1961).

Connecting calendar



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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