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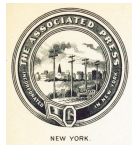
Connecting - August 20, 2019

1 message

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Connecting

August 20, 2019

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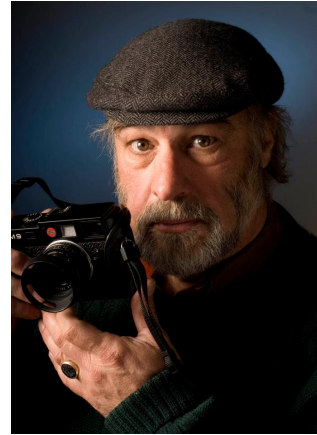
Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 20th day of August 2019,

Today's Connecting leads with the story of a gathering of friends and colleagues of **Joseph White** to honor the popular AP Washington sports writer who covered the sports beat for 20 years.

We also bring you a fascinating story from colleague **Angus M. Thuermer Jr.** on stories his father filed for the AP from Hitler's Germany, weeks before the start of World War II.

"From Aug 18, 1941, until he returned to the U.S. and for decades and decades after that, he saved his stories and dispatches from Gleiwitz," Angus Jr. shares. "He carried dozens of hand- and typewritten pages back to Berlin, guarding them for more than two war-torn years in Europe. He brought them back to the U.S where he eventually stored them in a file in his Virginia house. My sisters some years back sent them to the AP which digitized them, placed them in its archives and opened those digital files to me."



Angus Thuermer Jr.

We look forward to hearing from you. Have a great day!

Paul

Gathering of friends, colleagues honor Joseph White



From the gathering in memory of Joseph White in Washington on Friday night. Former APer Steve Wilson, with whom Joseph worked in London in the early 1990s, is speaking. Myron Belkind and Marty Niland, also both ex-AP, are among those in the picture. Photo by Howard Fendrich.

Myron Belkind ([Email](#)) - Howard Fendrich and Stephen Whyno organized a touching farewell gathering in honor of Joseph White on Friday night at an Irish pub and restaurant in the shadows of Washington's main sports arena.

More than 25 friends and colleagues, many from AP and many more from other media organizations, came to recall their favorite memories during Joe's 20 years covering the sports beat in Washington after he transferred from London in 1995. Joe initially was an AP Radio stringer in London until he showed interest in covering sports, and Steve Wilson as European Sports Editor took him on as a full staffer.

There was one common theme at Friday night's gathering: the very deep respect everyone had for Joe as a sports writer and peer and then, in the past four years, as an active member of the community in Staunton, Virginia in the Shenandoah Valley, where he owned Cranberry's Grocery & Eatery.

Joe's transition from sports writing to his new career and life in Staunton was profiled by Dan Steinberg in the Washington Post on Dec. 22, 2017, under the

headline, "[The D.C. Sportswriter who went from covering the Redskins to selling organic food.](#)"

The article also is a great tribute to Joe's AP career and his philosophy of life.

Friday's gathering also brought my first reunion with Steve Wilson, as per the attached photo, since we had last worked together in the London bureau in 2001, when I transferred to Tokyo.

Steve would always assign me to cover the Wimbledon Champions' Ball while he completed coverage of the Men's Finals on the last day of Wimbledon. I always had a tuxedo ready just in case AP got a ticket for the ball if an American won the championship!

Steve, who came to London from Rome in 1991 as European sports editor, retired from AP at the end of 2016 and is now working as a consultant and adviser for the International Olympic Committee and also serves as a mentor for the IOC Young Reporters Program. He lives in London with his family and was visiting his mother in Washington when the sad news came of Joe's passing.

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Stephen Whyno ([Email](#)) - AP's Howard Fendrich and Stephen Whyno, former AP colleagues Steve Wilson, Myron Belkind and Marty Niland and several Washington sports writers spent hours sharing stories about Joseph White at a bar around the corner from the arena he covered so many events over the years. Tales of Joseph hosting game nights, wearing his bicycle helmet to Redskins coach news conferences and - even more importantly - raising his son as a single father made the group of more than a dozen smile for a little bit, reminded of the person he was.

Treasures from his father's AP dispatches two weeks before start of World War II



My father's papers from his time as a 21-year-old reporter in Hitler's Germany, assigned to Gleiwitz on the border of Poland, two weeks before WWII started. This is the second post in this series. The photograph is from my father's scrapbook and titled "Market day in Gleiwitz." All calm, it may have appeared to his camera on Aug. 18, 1939 - 80 years ago.

Angus M. Thuermer Jr. ([Email](#)) - On August 18, 1939, two weeks before the start of World War II, a 21-year-old Associated Press reporter filed radio and print dispatches from the German town of Gleiwitz on the border of Poland.

My father, **Angus MacLean Thuermer**, had gone to Berlin in 1938 to polish his German after graduating from the University of Illinois. Somewhat serendipitously, he got a job with the AP. His boss "Louis" Lochner, sent him to Gleiwitz to find out what was going on.

He stayed in Gleiwitz for two weeks, living in the same hotel as Nazi officers, reporting on troop buildups and Hitler's Sept. 1, 1939 invasion of Poland - the start of WWII.

The U.S. would not join the war against Germany for another two years, during which time Thuermer, my father, reported from Berlin and other cities.

German security arrested him in Berlin on Dec. 8, 1941. He was interned for about six months and repatriated in a prisoner exchange. He went on to serve in the U.S. Navy.

But from Aug 18, 1941 until he returned to the U.S. and for decades and decades after that, he saved his stories and dispatches from Gleiwitz. He carried dozens of hand- and typewritten pages back to Berlin, guarding them for more than two war-torn years in Europe. He brought them back to the U.S where he eventually stored them in a file in his Virginia house. My sisters some years back sent them to the AP which digitized them, placed them in its archives and opened those digital files to me.

Here is his first dispatch, as far as I can tell, handwritten and I would guess either telephoned or telegraphed to Berlin. (I have corrected some typos and had to guess at a few words.) It is one of four Aug. 18 stories he filed, and he sent dispatches almost daily after that.



Angus MacLean Thuermer

1830 (AP) 315

[Handwritten]

Gleiwitz Aug 18 Fresh German troops in "large numbers" have arrived in this city - lying on Polands South Western border - within the last five days, residents here report.

Normally this town is the post of one regiment of Infantry and one regiment of field artillery.

Unusual numbers of messenger with cycles, heavy military lorries for a turnout of 111,000 rumble over the streets and soldiers are being seen in increasing numbers.

Work on Troop emplacements shortly this side of the border are reported, and soldiers in helmets work clothes and with entrenching tools are seen in mud splattered trucks riding through the heart of the city.

Strings of ???r? [horses?] "" roa:e led along the same route late this afternoon.

There is no accurate method of determining which new troops have arrived, [Leanaly] for the last three days, shoulder regiment numbers have been concealed by cloth tabs sewn over them.

Officers on the streets are not wearing the sharply visored dress cap seen in Berlin and other large military centers but are wearing field caps, Sand-Brown Belts and side-arms.

Since yesterday at 4/pm [?] the Polish border at PIEKAR ten Kilometers to the east has been closed by the Polish border guards, observers state, and the right to a temporary certificate to go from Poland into Germany has been withdrawn.

Polish officials, it is claimed here, state the border has ...

[end of document]

Stories of interest

Phil Blanchard, longtime editor and creator of Testy Copy Editors, dies (Albany Times Union)

By James Montalbano

Phil Blanchard, an editor for several newspapers - including the Times Union and the Schenectady Gazette - and websites for more than five decades, died on Aug. 16 at his home in Albuquerque, N.M. The cause was cancer.

Blanchard's newspaper career landed him also at the Chicago Sun-Times and The Washington Post. But his commitment to editing went beyond punching a clock in a newsroom. An early adopter of internet technology, he was the creator and longtime administrator of Testy Copy Editors, an online refuge for unheralded wordsmiths worldwide and a place "where newspaper copy editors and their fans talk shop."

Blanchard was born in Schenectady on Nov. 28, 1953, to George and Joan Blanchard. A news-hound as a child, he was a frequent listener of and caller to WSNY (1240-AM) in Schenectady - later WWWD ("Three-W-D") - and by age 13 he was hanging around the radio station, eventually granted status as a trainee, helping coordinate the internal doings at the news and Top 40 operation. In addition to serving as a news assistant, Blanchard would sneak his way on air, working his way up to fill-in weekend shifts spinning the pop hits of the day. Blanchard had a hand in the radio station's coverage of Woodstock, surveying the scene at Max Yasgur's farm from a helicopter; and the Apollo 11 mission, feeding updates, on the night of the landing and moonwalk, from the news ticker to the on-air anchorman.

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

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Stemming the Loss of Local Journalism (New York Times)

To the Editor:

Re "A Future Without the Front Page" ("The Last Edition," special section, Aug. 4):

It was good to see The New York Times focusing attention on the alarming decline in local news and ideas for reversing it. One important point needs to be highlighted: the proper and crucial role philanthropy should play. At the heart of the crisis is a collapse in revenue that funded the commercial model for local news.

When the market fails and critical services go wanting, philanthropy must step up as a loss leader to help finance the reinvention of local news as a public service. The old model for journalism produced huge cash flows that traditionally underwrote great local journalism. Reinvention requires making available the time, capital and level of risk taking that simply does not exist in the commercial market but fits squarely in the mission of philanthropy.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Holmes.

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When local news goes away, citizens suffer. Gannett's megamerger will probably just inflict more pain. (Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan

Media columnist

For a local journalist, having your newspaper snapped up by the Gannett chain never was a joyful prospect.

Although journalistically respectable - and sometimes excellent - the Virginia-based company was known for its lean newsroom staffs and its emphasis on high profit margins.

But times have changed. As it turns out, there are worse fates.

The recently announced \$1.4 billion merger with another giant newspaper chain, GateHouse Media, is not good news for journalists at Gannett's nationally circulated flagship, USA Today, or its prominent regional papers including the Detroit Free Press, the Indianapolis Star, the Des Moines Register, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and the Arizona Republic.

GateHouse's approach to its newspapers in recent years has made Gannett look almost munificent by contrast. And although Gannett's name will be attached to the new company, GateHouse's business practices seem more likely to prevail.

The merger, if it happens, means even deeper cost-cutting in newsrooms that are already hollowed out.

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

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NewsGuild orders presidential election rerun after ballot chaos (New York Post)

By KEITH J. KELLY

The NewsGuild, the nation's largest journalism union, has tossed out the results of the last election for its national president and ordered a new one after finding that more than 1,000 members in Canada never received ballots.

Insurgent Jon Schleuss, 31, who was an organizer in the successful unionization drive at the LA Times in 2018, will once again battle incumbent President Bernie Lunzer, who has held the job for the past 11 years and was seeking a new four-year term. Lunzer, 61, won the now-tossed election by 271 votes in May.

The NewsGuild has over the past two years been adding members at big papers, including the Chicago Tribune as well as New York Magazine, The New Yorker and digital outfits BuzzFeed and Vice Canada (The larger American wing of Vice Media unionized with the Writers Guild of America, East).

The union has 22,000 members - up a net of 2,000 over the past three years.

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

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Stephen Wolgast named to Knight Chair at Kansas (KU School of Journalism and Mass Communication)

A new Knight Chair in Audience and Community Engagement for News will join the faculty of the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications next week.



Stephen Wolgast, a veteran journalist who was part of a Pulitzer-Prize winning team from The New York Times covering the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, will work with students and faculty to explore new concepts in audience development and building community engagement with local news.

The School of Journalism conducted a national search for the endowed chair position, which is supported by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. The Knight Chair program identifies leading journalists for professorships at 22 universities across the country, where they teach innovative courses, create

experimental projects and develop forward-thinking programs to advance journalism in the digital age.

Read more [here](#).

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MJ-school announces new affiliation with Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting (UNC School of Media and Journalism)

On Thursday, Aug. 15, the UNC School of Media and Journalism proudly announced its new affiliation with the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting, an organization dedicated to increasing and retaining reporters and editors of color in the field; and to educating news organizations and journalists on how the inclusion of diverse voices can raise the caliber, impact and visibility of

investigative journalism as a means of promoting transparency and good government.

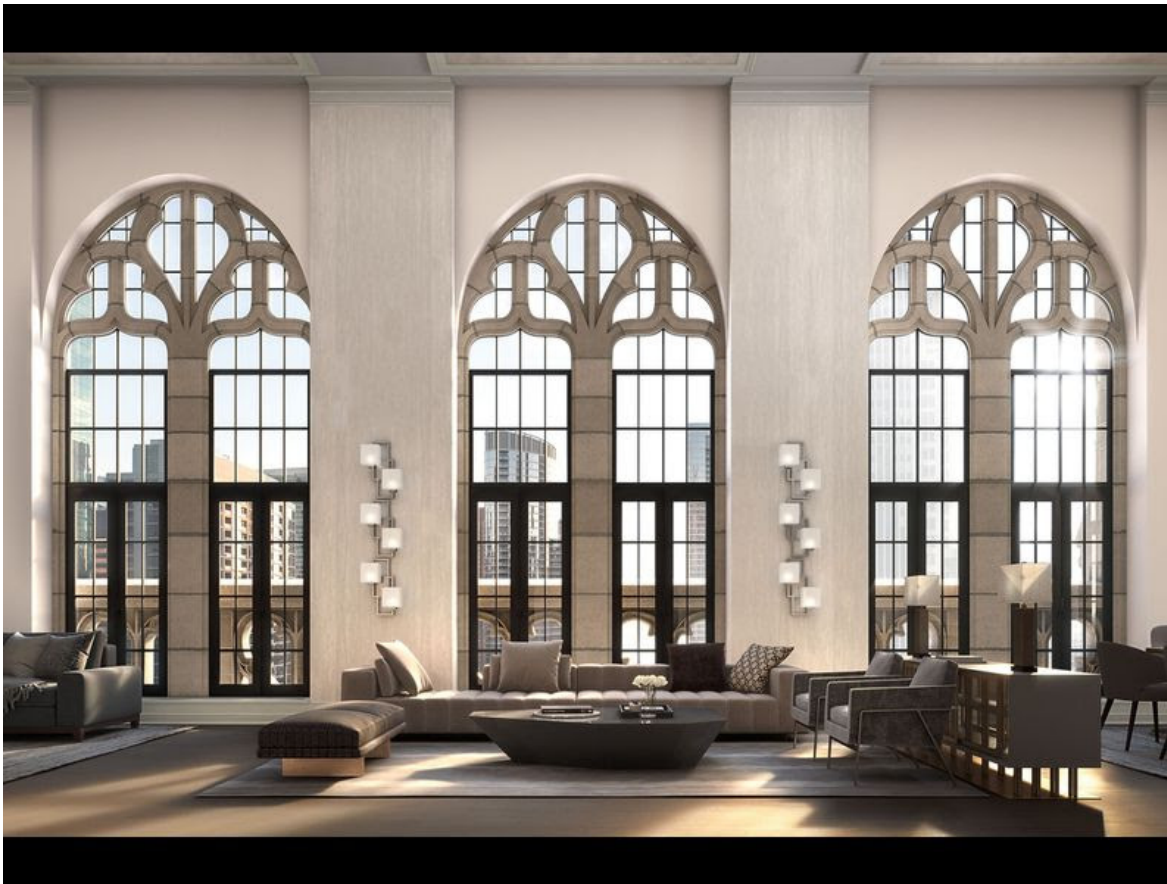
"Diversity, equity and inclusion in journalism are essential to a healthy democracy and a relevant industry. We're proud to support an initiative of this caliber to help make newsrooms more reflective of the communities which they report on," said MJ-school Dean and John Thomas Kerr Distinguished Professor Susan King.

The society, to be housed in the MJ-school's Reese News Lab, was conceived by four black journalists in response to what they recognized as a dearth of journalists of color doing investigative reporting.

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

The Final Word

Tribune Tower Residences debuts details about the condos and amenities. It's as lavish as you'd expect. (Chicago Tribune)



By DARCEL ROCKETT

Details about the highly anticipated Tribune Tower Residences project at its historic [435 N. Michigan Ave.](#) address have been fairly elusive since construction began. But the wait is over.

CIM Group and Golub & Company, who together bought the property from Tribune Media for \$240 million in 2016, Friday released new specs and photo renderings of their plans for the iconic building. A model unit, built out at the neighboring [401 N. Michigan Ave.](#) sales gallery, will open to potential buyers Aug. 29.

"They opened all of the interior of the building to design the layouts and make the most of every space and try to have some type of architectural component to it," said Shannon Gibson-Giampa, Tribune Tower Residences sales consultant. "It's easy to do in a building like this. We have so much pent-up demand."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

Today in History - August 20, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 20, the 232nd day of 2019. There are 133 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 20, 1986, postal employee Patrick Henry Sherrill went on a deadly rampage at a post office in Edmond, Okla., shooting 14 fellow workers to death before killing himself.

On this date:

In 1862, the New York Tribune published an open letter by editor Horace Greeley calling on President Abraham Lincoln to take more aggressive measures to free the slaves and end the South's rebellion.

In 1866, President Andrew Johnson formally declared the Civil War over, months after fighting had stopped.

In 1910, a series of forest fires swept through parts of Idaho, Montana and Washington, killing at least 85 people and burning some 3 million acres.

In 1953, the Soviet Union publicly acknowledged it had tested a hydrogen bomb.

In 1955, hundreds of people were killed in anti-French rioting in Morocco and Algeria.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act, a nearly \$1 billion anti-poverty measure.

In 1968, the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact nations began invading Czechoslovakia to crush the "Prague Spring" liberalization drive.

In 1988, a cease-fire in the war between Iraq and Iran went into effect.

In 1989, entertainment executive Jose Menendez and his wife, Kitty, were shot to death in their Beverly Hills mansion by their sons, Lyle and Erik. Fifty-one people died when a pleasure boat sank in the River Thames in London after colliding with a dredger.

In 2005, Northwest Airlines mechanics went on strike rather than accept pay cuts and layoffs; Northwest ended up hiring replacement workers. San Francisco 49ers offensive lineman Thomas Herrion, 23, died of a heart attack shortly after a preseason game against the Denver Broncos.

In 2008, a Spanish jetliner crashed during takeoff from Madrid, killing 154 people; 18 survived.

In 2017, actor, comic and longtime telethon host Jerry Lewis died of heart disease in Las Vegas at the age of 91.

Ten years ago: The only man convicted in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 returned home to Libya after his release on compassionate grounds from a Scottish prison. (Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, said to have only months to live because of prostate cancer, died nearly three years later.) Ryan Alexander Jenkins, a contestant on the VH1 reality show "Megan Wants a Millionaire," was charged with murdering his wife, Jasmine Fiore, whose body was found in Buena Park, California. (Jenkins was found dead three days later, an apparent suicide.) One-time Super Bowl star Plaxico Burress accepted a plea bargain with a two-year prison sentence for accidentally shooting himself in the thigh at a Manhattan nightclub.

Five years ago: The United States launched a new barrage of airstrikes against Islamic State extremists and weighed sending more troops to Iraq as President Barack Obama vowed to be relentless in pursuit of a terrorist group that beheaded American journalist James Foley. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder arrived in Ferguson, Missouri, to meet with federal investigators and reassure residents of the community torn by several nights of racial unrest since the fatal shooting of a black 18-year-old by a white police officer.

One year ago: In a letter to Catholics worldwide, Pope Francis vowed that "no effort must be spared" to root out sex abuse by priests and cover-ups by the Catholic Church. Afghan forces rescued nearly 150 people, hours after the Taliban ambushed a convoy of buses and abducted them; the militants escaped with 21 captives. The Recording Industry of America said The Eagles' greatest hits album had surpassed Michael Jackson's "Thriller" to become the best-selling album of all time in the U.S.

Today's Birthdays: Writer-producer-director Walter Bernstein is 100. Boxing promoter Don King is 88. Former Sen. George Mitchell, D-Maine, is 86. Former U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, is 84. Former MLB All-Star Graig Nettles is 75. Broadcast journalist Connie Chung is 73. Musician Jimmy Pankow (Chicago) is 72. Actor Ray Wise is 72. Actor John Noble is 71. Rock singer Robert Plant (Led Zeppelin) is 71. Country singer Rudy Gatlin is 67. Singer-songwriter John Hiatt is 67. Actor-director Peter Horton is 66. TV weatherman Al Roker is 65. Actor Jay Acovone is 64. Actress Joan Allen is 63. Movie director David O. Russell is 61. TV personality Asha Blake is 58. Actor James Marsters is 57. Rapper KRS-One is 54. Actor Colin Cunningham is 53. Actor Billy Gardell is 50. Rock singer Fred Durst (Limp Bizkit) is 49. Actor Jonathan Ke Quan is 49. Rock musician Brad Avery is 48. Actor Misha Collins is 45. Rock singer Monique Powell (Save Ferris) is 44. Jazz/pop singer-pianist Jamie Cullum is 40. Actor Ben Barnes is 38. Actress Meghan Ory is 37. Actor Andrew Garfield is 36. Actor Brant Daugherty is 34. Actress-singer Demi Lovato is 27. Actor Christopher Paul Richards is 16.

Thought for Today: "Justice is conscience, not a personal conscience but the conscience of the whole of humanity." - Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Russian author (1918-2008).

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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