



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - September 03, 2019

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 3, 2019 at 8:44 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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Connecting

September 03, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 3rd day of September 2019.

From copy boy tearing printed stories off a Teletype to satellite delivery of the news, **Bob Ladish** experienced huge changes in the delivery of Associated Press news over five decades with the AP.

He was a valuable member of the Kansas City communications team but his influence was felt by staff and members throughout the Midwest.

Ladish died last week at the age of 83 and we bring you the story, along with remembrances by several of our Connecting colleagues who worked with him. We'd welcome any memory you'd care to share.

Hope you had a great Labor Day weekend. Here's to the new month of September. I look forward to your submissions.

Paul

Bob Ladish dies: A career that started as AP copy boy ends 50 years later as assistant chief of bureau

Robert G. Ladish, whose Associated Press career began as a copy boy and ended 50 years later as Kansas City assistant chief of communications, died Wednesday, August 28, 2019, at his home. He was 83.

A visitation will be held from 1-2 p.m. Thursday, September 5, at Maple Hill Funeral Home, [3300 Shawnee Drive, Kansas City, Kansas](#). Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m. with entombment to follow at Maple Hill Cemetery.

Ladish joined the AP in his hometown of Kansas City in 1952 as a 16-year-old copy boy, charged with ripping stories off Teletype machines and delivering them to editors. His early technical assignments took him to Sioux Falls, Cleveland and New York with temporary assignments in Chicago, San Francisco, Phoenix, Des Moines and Washington, D.C.

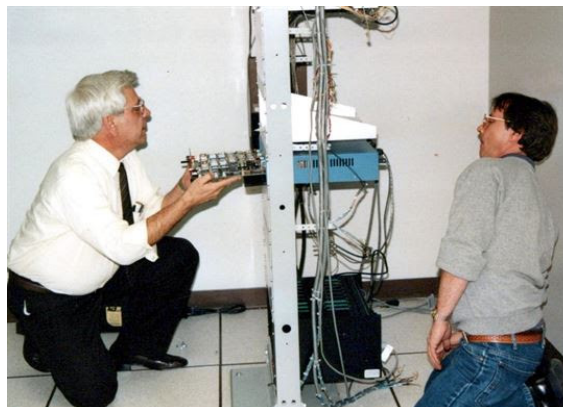


His AP travels were interrupted in 1955 with four years' service in the U.S. Army Airborne where he made 13 jumps.

Ladish was named AP Missouri-Kansas assistant chief of communications in Kansas City in 1978 and served in that position for the next 24 years before retiring in 2002.

His communications training included AVTS Electronics studies in Kansas City, Kansas; West Tech Radio in Cleveland, and his associate's work in computers at Kansas City, Kansas, Community College.

Ladish was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley Ladish. He is survived by his sons, Bob (Pamela) Ladish and Danny Ladish; daughter, Debbie Vitatoe; four grandchildren and five great grandchildren.



Bob Ladish (left) with technician Jerry Reynolds.

Click [here](#) for link to his obituary, shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

Sharing your memories of Bob Ladish



At Bob Ladish's retirement in 2002, from left: Deanna Young and Dave Young, Paul Stevens, Russ and Rose Percival, Bobbie Mundt, Shirley and Bob Ladish, Phil Emanuel, Herb Mundt and Bud Weydert.

Brad Martin (Email) - Bob Ladish was a friend and mentor who literally shaped my career and as it turns out, my life. While still in high school and working nights at AP as a young copyboy, Bob did his best to teach me mechanical and other worldly things; things I was unaccustomed to getting from other sources. He also appealed to my childish side which was easy for him because as he was just a grown-up child himself. He loved to have fun and he liked company. I learned a few traits from Bob that would serve me well (and not so well) throughout my life and career.

Bob was one of two or three AP Communications employees in the Kansas City office that talked me into joining the Navy instead of the Army so I wouldn't go straight to Vietnam, where I might get training for the career I had already picked out - repairing Teletype machines for the Associated Press. As it turned out, I was sent immediately to Vietnam as soon as I finished boot camp and Radioman school and I never got the damn Teletype training in the Navy!

But after the service I came back to AP and Bob was still there, so we picked up where we had left off and I eventually became a technician. Once while on a temporary assignment in the new Milwaukee office where I was wiring up the office transmission system known as Lenkurt 25A that connected all domestic AP offices, I was having trouble getting some of the gear to function correctly after installation so

guess who I called? Good old Bob to the rescue. After a couple of hours on the phone we had it up and running. You could always count on Bob to take you from one logical point to the next until you found the source of your trouble.

Over the years as we both moved through the technical ranks, the same scene played out over and over. Bob was always a source of knowledge and patience and friendship to me as well as many others. One of my favorite memories of him was pulling up next to him at a stoplight. I just watched as he worked out another problem, aloud to himself. The next day I told him he must be getting senile and replayed the scene from the night before. He smiled his usual grin and walked away quietly. I found out sometime later that what he had been talking to himself about that afternoon was a technical problem someone had posed to him that day, a problem he eventually solved. Any guesses whose problem he solved?

RIP Bob Ladish, you were a good employee and a good friend to many.

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Doug Tucker (Email) - The word that comes to mind when I think of Bob is "fun." The soldiers who served under him in the Army must have loved their Sergeant Ladish. He was always quick to smile and bring smiles to others, loved a good joke and never seemed in a bad mood.

Bob fell in love with his future wife when he was an AP copy boy and Shirley worked downstairs as a copy girl for the KC Star. I remember him telling me they would send each other secret love notes through the pneumatic tubes that connected the two busy newsrooms. But great confusion ensued one day when an unknowing Star editor got his hands on one of love-struck Bob's missives before Shirley could grab it. Something about the sun blinking out if Shirley stayed mad at him. The guy called upstairs to ask if AP was working on a story about a solar eclipse.

Bob had a big, hearty laugh. We need more of them.

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Tom Young (Email) - I'm not sure I can give Bob the credit and recognition he deserves, but a couple things I'll always remember about Bob.

He was one of finest people I've ever worked with and I am grateful for the time I got to spend with Bob. He was a brilliant technical person, a fantastic teacher, leader

and a constant positive force in the Communications Department for so many years. Bob loved to laugh and share stories. He was more than happy to tell on himself, if there was a good story in it - and he had some great stories! He looked forward to folks coming in from out of town and the chance to reminisce over a beer, but he took his work seriously, and he was always available when any of us needed help. As committed and loyal as he was to AP, you didn't have to work with Bob very long to realize that his family was everything to him. Bob loved his occasional trips to member sites, to help with a project, or solve a perplexing problem. He was a talented ambassador too and his strong, reassuring presence, and wonderful humor made for many fun and memorable projects. As we decommissioned the Kansas City Data Center last this past year, emptying old storage areas, and file cabinets...I was flooded with lots of fond memories and most all of them included Bob Ladish.

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Ken Fields (Email) - I was lucky enough to have Bob Ladish as a manager for the first 11 years I was with the AP. Bob was a friend and a great mentor for me. He understood AP technical systems, from Teletype to Satellite, and was willing to share that knowledge with the rest of us. I would still call on him after I moved to the Chicago Bureau for advice and help with troubleshooting. Sometimes I called just to hear that laugh of his. A period of AP technical history is passing with men like Bob. He will be missed.

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Larry Blasko (Email) - Folks like Bob Ladish formed the core of what was and still is an organization for service to democracy. Any problem that encountered Bob had a very short lifespan and any colleague or member who did come away with a smile and confidence. Rest easy Bob, until God needs help untangling Climate Change or some other folly and knows He needs the A-Team Guy.

Connecting mailbox

A visit with Bobby Baker



Michael Mazzo ([Email](#)) - Last Saturday, former AP technician Roberto Rochet (on the left) and myself (on the right) visited Bobby Baker (middle).

After Bobby retired and Roberto's departure from the AP, it has been difficult for the three of us together. Bobby was very happy to see us. We spent some time catching up on what has transpired in each of our lives over the past few years. We reminisced about the days we worked as a team and laughed at some of the stories, and we all proudly shared photos of our children and grandchildren.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bobby Baker is in home hospice. His email is - bebaker3@msn.com and he welcomes hearing from you.

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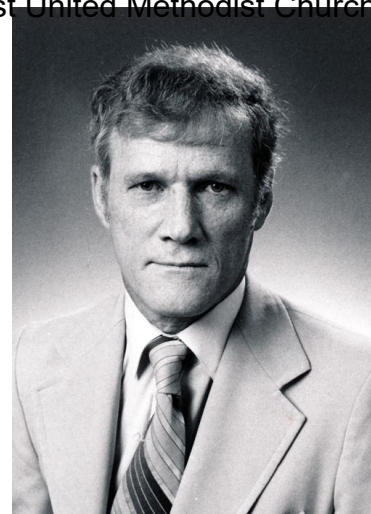
Windsor Ridenour, The Tulsa Tribune's last executive editor, died Thursday at age 80

By John M. Wylie II

Windsor Ridenour, The Tulsa Tribune's last executive editor, past Oklahoma APME president and an Oklahoma journalism legend, died Thursday at age 80.

His service was set for 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 6, at the First United Methodist Church in Skiatook, Okla.

Ridenour, a Skiatook native, earned his journalism degree from Oklahoma State University in 1964, followed by a stint at The San Diego Union as a reporter before starting his 28-year career at The Tribune as a reporter in 1965.



He served as Oklahoma City bureau chief, was promoted to city editor in 1973, assistant managing editor in 1982, managing editor a year later, and executive editor in 1989. He held that position until the newspaper ceased publication in October 1992 when its joint operating with its fierce rival, the morning Tulsa World, was not renewed.

During his tenure in senior management, he promoted female staff into top positions. When he was named executive editor, the managing editor post was split—city editor Pearl Wittkopp was promoted to managing editor news and well-known investigative journalist Mary Hargrove took the post of managing editor for special projects.

Read more [here](#).

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A memory thread to the heavens



Brenda Smiley (Email) - Last Friday, I was late coming back from the gym, and regretted missing the sunset. Then I looked out the window and saw it! Our memory thread to the heavens.

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Kudos to the Columbian

Doug Pizac ([Email](#)) - My wife Betty and I now live in Vancouver, Washington, across the Columbia River from Portland, Oregon. Our hometown paper is now The Columbian. For a local paper, we consider it one of the best we've ever seen. It does a great job covering home-grown issues and interests for its readership. And from a previous piece in the paper months ago about changes and expansions it was making, it appears profitable too.

Editor Chris Brown occasionally writes a column about the paper, how it works, issues they deal with, etc. to keep the readership informed about THEIR paper and how it was bettering itself to serve them.

In the August 31st issue, his topic was about Monday, the 26th. Mondays are usually an easy day for him he said, "But last Monday was crazy!" There was a big crash on I-205 in the Salmon Creek area of Vancouver, after a quite summer there were seven items in their police blotter to report on that took up half a page, the courts were busy with a homicide trial and other cases, at 3:30p they chose a story about Brazil's wildfires for page one whereupon at 4:30p there was carbon monoxide exposure and evacuation at several businesses that changed priorities, and so on.

As they were trying to decided which stories would be where in the paper, a grass fire in Portland grew into a major four-alarm blaze with power cuts to thousands of residents for firefighter safety. The plume of smoke could be seen across the river in Vancouver. But normally, the paper does not cover Portland.

Brown wrote: "Clearly this was a story that Columbian subscribers were going to want to read. But what were our options? It was after 5 p.m.; we knew that the Associated Press' small office in Portland was undoubtedly closed."

Followed by: "So we did the obvious thing and reported it ourselves. Amy took the lead, cobbling together a story from statements issued on social media by the various fire departments, the police, the power company and other official sources. We looked at online maps and live TV helicopter pictures, which clearly showed what had burned, what was still burning, and where the fire was headed. We folded in other facts we could verify through trusted sources -- emergency dispatch logs, for example, and the fire weather conditions as measured at PDX (airport)."

Brown closed his piece with: "We put it in the front-page spot where we were going to put the Amazon fires story. It turned out pretty well, I thought. My only regret is we

didn't have any photos. (AP finally moved several, along with a story, at midmorning on Tuesday). Sometimes it's pretty amazing what a team can do when it's pressed."

Personal Opinion: this is what great local journalism can do when the staff pulls together, rely on their own resources, be able to make on-the-fly decisions about story importance and placement, and have their own local presses versus having to send their copy to remote design centers on early deadlines that can't be easily changed. Also, fyi, the four photos were pickups from The Oregonian that had many OUTs.

Kudos to The Columbian.

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Joseph Quinlan, prosecutor who survived knife attack in Hampden County courthouse (and former AP newsman), dies after battle with cancer



Assistant Hampden County District Attorney Joseph Quinlan listens in Northampton

Superior Court on April 17, 1990 as John Mace, at his sentencing, apologizes for attacking him with a knife on Oct. 23, 1989.

By Peter Goonan, MassLive

SPRINGFIELD - Family members and friends are mourning the death of Joseph Quinlan, a former longtime prosecutor in the region who survived a knife attack 30 years ago when he stumbled upon a state police lieutenant trying to burn courthouse records to cover up a theft.

Quinlan, 61, of Lowell, died Wednesday after a battle with cancer, said his sister, Marian Quinlan Walsh, of Florida.

"He was a tenacious fighter," Walsh said Thursday. "Joe was a fiercely loyal friend and family member. He absolutely loved and believed in the work he did for multiple years as a prosecutor."

Quinlan's career included working as an assistant district attorney in Hampden County and in the Northwestern district attorney's office, as well as in Worcester and Middlesex counties.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Laura Baenen, who noted Quinlan once worked for AP in Springfield, Massachusetts.

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About -30- on an editor's gravestone

John Wylie ([Email](#)) - To Ed Williams' question in Friday's Connecting: "And I am wondering - how many other editors across the country have -30- on their tombstones?":

I'll bet many have. My wife cringes and my friends laugh at what I plan to have on mine, in place of the usual sentimental treacle: "He was not a nice person and he had no LIVING enemies." Ensuring accuracy to the end and forever would argue putting -30- at the bottom. It would also make sense in Oklahoma, where the Radio Code for a fatality is Signal 30.

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To crop or not to crop

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - As a long-time AP photographer and photo editor, I found it most interesting to read about the editing of a picture with a body mysteriously residing at the edge of the picture.

In the old days, a good photo editor would have questioned the situation right off. "Who is it; why is it there; what does it mean?"

Confucius said it well: "Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated."

Best of the Week

AP delivers powerful dispatches and visuals from the front line of climate change



Large Icebergs float away as the sun rises near Kulusuk, Greenland, Aug. 16, 2019. AP Photo / Felipe Dana

"There are lucky journalists but no such thing as a lucky lazy journalist." That industry adage was again proven true when the crack team of video journalist Mstyslav Chernov, photographer Felipe Dana and science writer Seth Borenstein captured global attention by squeezing every last drop out of being in the right place at the right time for The Associated Press and its clients.

The place was Greenland, so inhospitable and remote that it is infrequently visited by journalists despite being at the epicenter of planet-threatening climate change. And the timing couldn't have been better: As the giant but often ignored frozen island was suddenly thrust into the news when U.S. President Donald Trump unexpectedly expressed interest in buying it, sparking a diplomatic spat with Denmark, which said the semi-autonomous Danish territory wasn't for sale.

When NASA earlier this year invited media to accompany its scientists on a flight over Greenland to study climate change, Borenstein signed on without knowing how timely the trip would turn out _ and not simply because it overlapped with Trump's ill-received Greenland overture.

Chernov and Dana, dispatched with Borenstein to ensure compelling all-formats coverage for the full array of AP clients, immediately spotted an opportunity for especially haunting, compulsive visual journalism in the beautiful blue-tinged "midnight light" that bathes Greenland in its long summer days, with only a couple of hours of darkness.

"By the end of the summer, about 440 billion tons (400 billion metric tons) of ice - maybe more - will have melted or calved off Greenland's giant ice sheet, scientists estimate."

"The fact that we had very few night hours worked to our advantage," Dana said. "We decided to make full use of the beautiful light at night"

"Basically, all of it is in this blue-ish light. It's 11, midnight at night. It's very picturesque, very interesting for photos and video."

To show the vastness of the ice and isolation, Dana also flew a drone.

Their images were breath-taking, a can't-look-away lament to the furious melting of Greenland's glaciers hit by record-shattering heat, destruction expertly documented by Borenstein, in terms that all of AP's global audience could understand.

"By the end of the summer, about 440 billion tons (400 billion metric tons) of ice - maybe more - will have melted or calved off Greenland's giant ice sheet, scientists estimate. That's enough water to flood Pennsylvania or the country of Greece about a foot (35 centimeters) deep," Borenstein wrote in a searing dispatch from the fast-retreating Helheim Glacier.

Accompanying scientists by day and shooting in the midnight light didn't leave much time for sleep during the three-day trip.

"We decided that we literally would do everything we could to make use of every minute we were there," Dana said. "It was a very intense trip."

Using every minute included the team reacting instantaneously to breaking news of Trump's interest in a Greenland purchase. About to board a helicopter, they interviewed Greenlanders in the airport, on the flight itself and at their destination, quickly filing their reaction stories before boarding another helicopter flight to a glacier where they wouldn't have been able to file had they waited, because there was no cell reception.

"Greenland to Trump: Thanks, but we're not for sale."

Their headline made Greenlanders' feelings clear: "Greenland to Trump: Thanks, but we're not for sale."

The stories, photos and videos were widely used by AP's membership and resonated with the public. The Helheim Glacier story landed on 16 front pages and was downloaded 85 times on AP Newsroom.

On their way back from Greenland, the trio also covered a glacier memorial in Iceland, a story that produced 75,000 Facebook engagements, with video downloaded 208 times. The team's images also received wide play and were published on member sites including New York Times, Los Angeles Times, ABCNews.com, New Zealand Herald, Time.com, PBS Newshour and more.

For their shining example of how to turn a pre-arranged media trip into essential world-grabbing journalism with tireless enthusiasm, smart thinking and the sharpest of eyes, Chernov, Dana and Borenstein share AP's Best of the Week honors.

Best of the States

Early Epstein accuser: Police could have stopped him in 1997



Alicia Arden arrives on the red carpet at the 54th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, Feb. 12, 2012. AP Photo / Chris Pizzello

It's exceedingly rare to get any details from a police report in California and even rarer to get a glimpse inside a detective's notebook. But Jennifer Peltz and Katie Campione did just that. Peltz and Campione convinced police to finally explain how they handled one of the earliest known sex crime accusations against Jeffrey Epstein, a 1997 case that the accuser has called a massive missed opportunity to bring the financier to justice years before he was accused of sexually abusing dozens of girls and young women.

It was a bookend of sorts to the news just days earlier that Epstein had hung himself in his New York City jail cell amid a new federal sex trafficking indictment. The early complaint against Epstein by a model who claimed he groped her in a California hotel room during what she thought was an interview for Victoria's Secret had always been something of a mystery.

No charges ever came of it and police never explained why. Peltz, in an earlier story on Epstein, had interviewed the model who made the complaint, Alicia Arden, and reached out to Santa Monica, California, police for comment. They didn't respond. We decided to go deeper by enlisting help from the Los Angeles bureau.

Campione, who was living in Santa Monica during her summer internship with AP, made it her mission to get police to explain how they made their decision not to prosecute. She filed a Freedom of Information request and went to the department several times demanding answers. Eventually, the department agreed to summarize the detective's notes on the case, which revealed that the "he said-she said" case resulted in a "he-said she-said" response.

The department said the detective interviewed Epstein and found he gave a much different account (it wouldn't say how it differed) and, most notably, that Arden decided she no longer wanted to press charges. Peltz did several follow-up interviews with Arden, who strongly denied the assertion she didn't want to press charges and divulged previously undisclosed details about the case.

Their story turned out to be one of the most popular stories of the week on the AP News mobile site and was also one of the most engaging with readers. Even the Los Angeles Times had no choice but to put the AP story on its website front page.

For going the extra mile to get an explanation for a case that could have stopped Epstein from the start, Katie Campione and Jennifer Peltz win this week's Best of the States.

Stories of interest

Jim Leavelle, lawman at Lee Harvey Oswald's side, dies at 99



FILE - In this Nov. 24, 1963 file photo, Lee Harvey Oswald reacts as Dallas night club owner Jack Ruby, foreground, shoots at him from point blank range in a corridor of Dallas police headquarters. At left is Detective Jim Leavelle. The longtime Dallas lawman who was captured in one of history's most iconic photographs as he escorted President John F. Kennedy's assassin moments before he was fatally shot, has died on Thursday, Aug. 29, 2019. He was 99. (Bob Jackson/Dallas Times-Herald via AP)

By DAVID WARREN

DALLAS (AP) - Jim Leavelle, the longtime Dallas lawman who was captured in one of history's most iconic photographs as he escorted President John F. Kennedy's assassin as he was fatally shot, has died. He was 99.

Leavelle, distinctive in his light-colored suit and white Stetson, is seen in the photograph with his hand on Lee Harvey Oswald, Leavelle's body stiffening as nightclub owner Jack Ruby shot the handcuffed presidential assassin at close range on live TV in 1963. Leavelle appears shocked as Oswald grimaces in pain.

Leavelle's daughter Tanya Evers told The Associated Press her father died Thursday while visiting her sister in Colorado. He fell earlier this week and broke his hip, requiring surgery at a Denver hospital, Evers said Friday. He responded well to the surgery, she said, but then later suffered a heart attack.

In the decades after the assassination, Leavelle regularly spoke at schools and before various groups because he believed "he had a responsibility to share his story," said Evers, who lives in San Antonio.

Read more [here](#).

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Some secrets do keep. A year later, the Trump official who penned an explosive op-ed is still unknown. (Washington Post)



Carl Bernstein, left, Ben Bradlee and Bob Woodward gather at The Washington Post as the identity of their secret Watergate source, Deep Throat was revealed in 2005. They kept his identity secret for more than 30 years. (Katherine Frey/For The Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

Almost a year later, we still don't know.

Outside of a tiny circle of insiders, no one knows who wrote the instantly viral op-ed column about President Trump that appeared in the New York Times last Sept. 5. Despite an informal White House investigation, plenty of outside sleuthing and a whole Internet's worth of guessing, his or her identity remains unknown.

The column - "I Am Part of the Resistance Inside the Trump Administration" - set social media aflame and cable chat shows ablatter with speculation about who the "senior official" behind it could be.

Kellyanne Conway? Mike Pompeo? Nikki Haley? Mike Pence? In the year since publication, dozens of names have been floated. All have denied it, sometimes ostentatiously. No one has stepped forward or conclusively been shown to be the author.

History suggests this cannot last. Others who started out as anonymous in high-profile cases have eventually been revealed.

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

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Trump's Twitter War on Spelling (New York Times)

By Sarah Lyall

It was late May, and the president of the United States could not seem to get off Twitter. The low IQ-ness of Joe Biden. The idiocy of the Democrats. The Wall! The

opinions spewed forth like unguided missiles, delighting those who support Donald Trump and dismaying those who do not.

As he followed along from Texas, Bryan A. Garner, the author of "Garner's Modern English Usage," could feel his blood pressure steadily rising. But it was a particular phrase in a particular presidential tweet about Senator Mark Warner, Democrat of Virginia - "there is nothing bipartisan about him" - that sent him over the cliff of indignation.

"You mean, 'There is nothing bipartisan about him,'" Mr. Garner tweeted back, directly addressing the president. "Not 'their,' which is the possessive form of 'they.' Wouldn't it be worth \$75,000 a year to pay for a Presidential Proofreader so that you'll have the semblance of literacy?"

At a time when nerves are stretched to the point of snapping and every political issue seems to verge on the apocalyptic - climate change; immigration; gun violence; race relations; what the president said or claimed to say or did not say about China - it might seem needlessly picayune to dwell on the writing style of the occupant of the White House.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin.

Today in History - September 3, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 3, the 246th day of 2019. There are 119 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 3, 1943, Allied forces invaded Italy during World War II, the same day Italian officials signed a secret armistice with the Allies.

On this date:

In 1783, representatives of the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Paris, which officially ended the Revolutionary War.

In 1939, Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand declared war on Germany, two days after the Nazi invasion of Poland; in a radio address, Britain's King George VI said, "With God's help, we shall prevail." The same day, a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the British liner SS Athenia some 250 miles off the Irish coast, killing more than 100 out of the 1,400 or so people on board.

In 1962, poet E.E. Cummings died in North Conway, N.H., at age 67.

In 1967, Nguyen Van Thieu (nwen van too) was elected president of South Vietnam under a new constitution.

In 1970, legendary football coach Vince Lombardi, 57, died in Washington, D.C.

In 1976, America's Viking 2 lander touched down on Mars to take the first close-up, color photographs of the red planet's surface.

In 1978, Pope John Paul I was installed as the 264th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1994, China and Russia proclaimed an end to any lingering hostilities, pledging they would no longer target nuclear missiles or use force against each other.

In 1995, the online auction site eBay was founded in San Jose, California, by Pierre Omidyar under the name "AuctionWeb."

In 1999, a French judge closed a two-year inquiry into the car crash that killed Princess Diana, dismissing all charges against nine photographers and a press motorcyclist, and concluding the accident was caused by an inebriated driver.

In 2003, Paul Hill, a former minister who said he murdered an abortion doctor and his bodyguard to save the lives of unborn babies, was executed in Florida by injection, becoming the first person put to death in the United States for anti-abortion violence.

In 2005, President George W. Bush ordered more than 7,000 active duty forces to the Gulf Coast as his administration intensified efforts to rescue Katrina survivors and send aid to the hurricane-ravaged region in the face of criticism it did not act quickly enough. U.S. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist died in Arlington, Virginia, at age 80, after more than three decades on the Supreme Court.

Ten years ago: Vice President Joe Biden told a Brookings Institution gathering that the Obama administration was fiercely determined to get a health care overhaul, although he conceded it likely wouldn't happen without "an awful lot of screaming and hollering." A private funeral service was held in Glendale, California, for pop superstar Michael Jackson, whose body was entombed in a mausoleum more than two months after his death.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, during a visit to Estonia, harshly condemned Russian aggression in Ukraine as a threat to peace. President Obama also said the United States would not be intimidated by Islamic State militants after the beheading of American journalist Steven Sotloff. A judge sentenced Theodore Wafer, a suburban Detroit man who'd killed an unarmed woman on his porch instead of calling police, to at least 17 years in prison.

One year ago: A court in Myanmar sentenced two Reuters journalists to seven years in prison on charges of illegal possession of official documents, a ruling that was met with international condemnation. (The two were freed as part of a mass presidential pardon in May 2019.) President Donald Trump escalated his attacks on Attorney General Jeff Sessions, suggesting that the Justice Department had hurt the chances of Republicans in midterm elections with the recent indictments of two GOP congressmen.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Pauline Collins is 79. Rock singer-musician Al Jardine is 77. Actress Valerie Perrine is 76. Rock musician Donald Brewer (Grand Funk Railroad) is 71. Rock guitarist Steve Jones (The Sex Pistols) is 64. Actor Steve Schirripa is 62. Actor Holt McCallany is 55. Rock singer-musician Todd Lewis is 54.

Actor Costas Mandylor is 54. Actor Charlie Sheen is 54. Singer Jennifer Paige is 46. Dance-rock musician Redfoo is 44. Actress Ashley Jones is 43. Actress Nichole Hiltz is 41. Actor Joel Johnstone is 41. Actor Nick Wechsler is 41. Rock musician Tomo Milicevic (30 Seconds to Mars) is 40. Bluegrass musician Darren Nicholson (Balsam Range) is 36. Actress Christine Woods is 36. Actor Garrett Hedlund is 35. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Shaun White is 33. Hip-hop singer August Alsina is 27.

Thought for Today: "In the arts, the critic is the only independent source of information. The rest is advertising." - Pauline Kael, American movie critic (1919-2001).

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

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