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Connecting - September 16, 2019

1 message

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Mon, Sep 16, 2019 at 8:44 AM

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Connecting

September 16, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 16th day of September 2019,

In a sense, **Norm Abelson's** journalism school was The Associated Press and his "professors" were a variety of AP editors who fashioned a 19-year-old copy boy into an AP journalist who would later be the author of three books, with another on its way.

In an essay that leads today's Connecting, our colleague, who is 88, said he decided to contribute this story after noticing how frequently Connecting contributors, often in obituaries and retirement pieces, recall and express thanks to the men and women who helped show them the way.

How about you? It's never too late to single out those who contributed to your own career.

Was it "Just My Imagination" that I would "Treat Her Like a Lady" after being "Ain't Too Proud to Beg" and see the Temptations in concert with the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra on Saturday night with "My Girl"? Afterward, where else could you go on a '60s date night than "Get Ready" for Town Topic for a burger and shake.



Linda and I enjoyed the concert - and getting the chance to see Otis Williams, at 77 the last original member of the Temptations still touring. (Gotta share [this video](#) of the Temptations' 1965 classic "My Girl".)

Have a great week!

Paul

My Journalism School - The AP

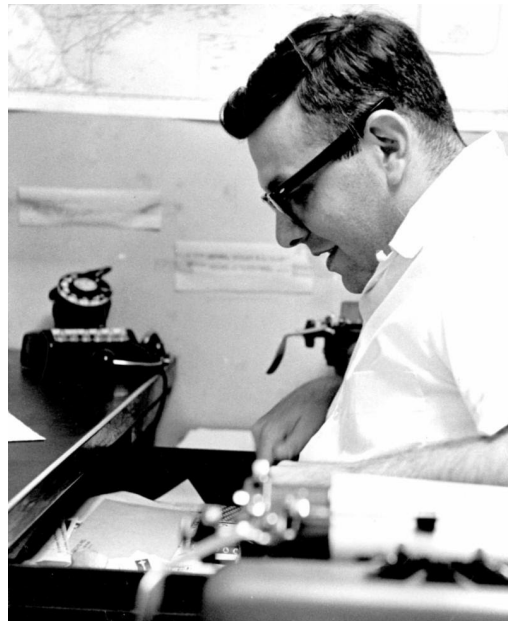
Norm Abelson (Email) - What does a young man do when he finds himself, at 19, a newly minted Associated Press copy boy with ambitions to become a newsman - especially a guy with no journalism degree or prior newswriting experience?

In my case the answer was to find teachers and learn from them. Connecting seems the perfect place to recall and acknowledge those mentors.

It has been just under 70 years since I first set foot in the AP office on the third floor of the old Boston Globe Building, and it was there

that my education began. In those first days, my ignorance was immense, my nervousness palpable. Fortunately, the folks who helped me were endowed with patience and a modicum of compassion. (Well, Frank Murphy was an exception; more on him below.)

I put together an agenda to prepare myself for my "training" sessions. One of a copy boy's tasks was to bundle together and store copies of the day report. (Yes, there were only hard copies then.) When my shift ended, I would retreat to the file room to read and try to digest every word of every story. From that task I would come up with a bunch of questions to ask the newsmen. Also, I would listen, when I could, as the editors talked with reporters phoning in stories or discussed strategies in the newsroom.



**Norm in Concord bureau.
Photo/AP Corporate Archives**

In the Boston bureau, night editor Joe Kelley talked me through story after story, explaining structure and language. He also allowed me to write brief obits and short pieces on sports, which he edited and put on the wire. He was a sweet man who entertained me with stories of his dad's days as a sports writer for the Hearst papers.

Jim Collegero, the overnight man, urged me along with humor and understanding, and let me take some minor incoming stories and write them up.

Jimmy Smith, on the radio desk, taught me how to write for that medium, occasionally leaving me in charge while he was off to a Newspaper Guild meeting.

Oh yeah, Frank Murphy, the day editor. An old school guy, he showed neither patience nor compassion.

He communicated largely by yelling and demeaning, but if you listened closely you could learn. And he was the one who assigned me my first AP byline, an unusual spate of fire deaths in New England.

One night a week, I was assigned to AP Photos, one floor up from the newsroom, to help with developing and to deliver packages of pictures to train stations and the airport. Abe Maloof, the gregarious dark room guy, was always ready to answer my endless questions and instruct me in the photo process. The great photographer, J.

Walter Green, showed me the relationship between story and picture - and how to aggressively chase after a story.

My first writing assignment was in Augusta, Maine, as a member of the AP team covering the 1953 session of the state legislature Bob Crocker, the correspondent, was a gentle man who taught by example, correcting and explaining, and who invited a lonely young man to his home to sample his wife Peg's great cooking.

Bill Langzettel, the rightfully demanding editor, was a tougher teacher, banging impatiently on the shift key of his Remington standard while yelling for copy. One night I was pretty depressed after he had cut about 80 per cent out of one of my first shaky efforts. He told me, "Don't worry kid, you'll make it."

Following Augusta, I spent the next 10 years getting a graduate degree in newswriting and editing in the Concord, N.H., office. There I was tutored and befriended by three great guys - Correspondents Bob Tagen, Joe Kamin and Gordon Glover. (Gordon and I became lifelong buddies.)

I was fortunate also to see how the big stories are covered, when AP stars like Relman (Pat) Morin and Jack Bell came up to cover, among other A-wire worthy events, the famed New Hampshire presidential primary.

At the heart of every type of writing I've done in the years since - features, op eds, speeches, public radio, memoir, fiction, poetry - lies those lessons, gifts from long ago.

While those folks may not be around to read this, still, let me say thank you, thank you one and all.

**A thank you to Bobby Baker for being
friend and mentor**



Bobby Baker at work in Richmond bureau

Dorothy Abernathy (Email) - Bobby Baker (retired Richmond chief of communications now in home hospice for cancer) and I worked together in Richmond for about 18 years. When I was a brand-new bureau chief, he made me feel welcome and at home. He was always there to talk to when I was stumped or frustrated.

Bobby took great care of our members. When a call came in, he was right on it. The problem would be solved quickly and well. And Bobby always was available to help take care of any installation issues we might have at a state meeting. Frankly, he would pitch in on virtually anything I might need - like moving newsroom filing cabinets during a hard rain when water poured around the edges of the windows in our old bureau.

One of the most impressive times was when our building caught fire, and we were forced out. Bobby worked quickly with his staff to set up the Capitol pressroom so more editors and reporters could work there. Then he turned his attention to getting the bureau ready for us to move back in. He rented a generator and ran cables up something like 10 stories to our office. He bought desk lamps because there would be no way to power the overhead lights. As the building manager was working to do repairs so tenants could officially return, there was a burst of fire when the building manager's crew attempted to restore power. The city ordered the landlord to order all tenants out of the building - and keep them out - until the wiring could be replaced. Our friends at the Richmond Times-Dispatch welcomed us there. Bobby worked with them to get an area set up for our use. Altogether, we were out of our office for 18 days. It seemed like an eternity! And in those initial days, Bobby seemed to be working nearly round the clock. He knew how important it was to get the newsroom up and running, and he did it quickly - in three different places!

It was always a pleasure to do member visits with Bobby. We did that fairly regularly during my first dozen years or so as COB. Members were always so happy to see him. Once we drove to Petersburg to have lunch with the publisher and editor. They were excited to take us to a restaurant in an historic, downtown building that had opened recently. (I believe it was one of the buildings damaged in a tornado down there.) We all ordered our food. We talked and we waited. And we talked and waited some more. Finally, a server came to advise us that they were out of the entrée that two of us ordered. So we had to reorder. And then we talked and waited some more. The publisher and editor were embarrassed, but it wasn't a problem with Bobby at the table to help keep the conversation moving.

I am particularly grateful to Bobby for traveling with me when I had to fire a correspondent. I was concerned about doing that alone. I didn't know how the correspondent might react. He was the only AP staffer at that location. Bobby wasn't thrilled about the trip. (Who would be?) But he traveled there with me, walked with me into the office and sat with me as I delivered the bad news. The correspondent was upset, of course. Bobby waited with me as the correspondent packed his things to go.

Bobby really showed me that day, and many other days, what a good friend he was.

I'm so grateful for Bobby's support, trust and friendship during all those years. He added much to my personal and professional life.

Connecting mailbox

Bill Winter (Email) - I particularly enjoyed seeing the photos of Hodding Carter Jr. and Walter Mears (in Friday's Connecting). Hodding was editor/publisher of his family's newspaper in Mississippi when I was AP Correspondent in Jackson, and I met Walter when he participated in a couple of API seminars for the leading political writers (Germond, Broder, etc.).

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My 9/11 memory - in the Capitol

Larry Margasak (Email) - I arrived at the AP's booth on the House side of the Capitol just after the attack. It wasn't long before the Capitol police ran through the

building telling everyone to get out FAST. I still have the memory of piles and piles of ladies shoes - many with heels - at a first-floor entrance, abandoned so women could be more safe running down the outside stairs.

Outside, we could see the smoke coming from the Pentagon, and everyone believed the Capitol was next. While congressional leaders were taken to a secret location, many lawmakers were outside with the rest of us, clueless and only able to guess what might happen next.

We just started interviewing anyone we came in contact with - legislators, staffers, and just ordinary people. Several associations with offices near the Capitol generously let us use their phones multiple times.

Finally, I ran into Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, a California Republican, who had been to Afghanistan in the company of mujahedin when they were fighting the Russians there. He was the only person who seemed to get it right, saying the attacks were somehow connected to Afghanistan.

At some point the Capitol police briefed members of Congress and eventually some pieces of the awful day began to come together.

I'm glad I was at work and able to contribute, along with my AP colleagues who performed magnificently.

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Confusion and the lack of hyphens



Jim Hood ([Email](#)) - The sky may not fall without hyphens propping it up but the lack of the skinny little guys seems likely to lead to at least occasional episodes of confusion. As evidence, I humbly submit this example from the office of DC Mayor Muriel Bowser. And yes, my business disaster is ready, thanks.

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Connecting sky shot - Boynton Beach



Robert Dobkin ([Email](#)) - Friday 13th Harvest Moon rising to stormy skies over Florida's southeast coast, nearby Boynton Beach, where I live.

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Second Careers, sort of ...



Kendal Weaver ([Email](#)) - I was a writer and editor in Alabama in my career with AP, then continued to write in retirement - including a book, *Ten Stars*, as well as book reviews for AP. Then I took a trip to the canyon lands out West and shot the photo below of a double rainbow over the Red Canyon Arch on the road to Bryce Canyon. Was a second career as a photographer in my future?

Well, the hand of Nature drew that incredible double rainbow, and humans made the cellphone camera that took the shot. Also, our driver, Saunders Clark, actually is a pro photographer, among other things, and stopped our van when he saw the rainbows and arch aligned. I did take the shot, but there was no pot of gold at the end. I'll stick with being a book review writer for AP in my retirement.

Still, I treasure this photo.

Best of the Week

AP data project shows women facing restrictions increasingly seek abortions out of state



Hevan Lunsford poses with the ultrasounds, footprints and handprints of her son, in Prattville, Ala., Aug. 29, 2019. Lunsford found out when she was five months pregnant that the baby she would later name Sebastian was severely underdeveloped and had only half of a heart. Lunsford said she felt the only way to guarantee her son would not suffer would be to end the pregnancy and was told she would need to travel to Georgia for the procedure. Lunsford is one of thousands of women in the U.S. who have crossed state lines for an abortion in recent years. (AP PHOTO / VASHA HUNT)

Legislative debates over restricting access to abortion in the U.S. have been among the most hotly contested and thoroughly covered state government topics of recent years. But what of the women affected by those laws? A distinctive, data-driven investigation by the state government and data teams provided one answer: Thousands of women leave their home state each year to get abortions in another state, sometimes flying or driving long distances.

The story idea originated from one line in a spot story in June that caught the attention of state government team editor Tom Verdin. That story was about the ongoing effort by Missouri officials to close the state's sole abortion clinic and included that more Missouri women were getting abortions in Kansas than in Missouri. Verdin wondered how many other women across the U.S. must now leave

their home state to get an abortion, with states passing ever-tougher restrictions and clinics closing. He turned to AP's state government and data teams; Cassidy, a state government team reporter with data expertise and experience covering the abortion topic, and data team editor Meghan Hoyer, who routinely helps the AP's beat teams.

The question was not easy to answer. For one, the relevant data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control was current only through 2015, a lifetime ago in the raging legislative debates over abortion. So, for more than two months, Cassidy went state-by-state to gather the most recent abortion data, including the geographic information - where it was available - about the residency of women who get abortions in another state. She worked closely with Hoyer, who oversaw the methodology and analysis.

In the end, they were able to determine that over the six-year period, 276,000 women had abortions out of state. And the share of non-resident women getting abortions had risen significantly in about a dozen states as conservative legislatures passed severe restrictions on the procedure and took actions that led dozens of clinics to close.

Cassidy also worked sources to find women who had left their home state for an abortion and persuade them to go on the record with their stories. She got three, allowing her to humanize the story behind the data.

One of the women became the centerpiece of the video. Beats team editor Alina Hartounian in Phoenix took the footage of that interview from reporter Gillian Flaccus in Oregon and paired it with footage taken at a New Mexico nonprofit by Albuquerque correspondent Susan Montoya Bryan, then produced the full video and used it to create the social plan that blew up on Twitter. The video alone received 1.4 million views and nearly 8,000 link clicks on Twitter, both extraordinary numbers for social media. New York top stories visual artist Francois Duckett contributed a graphics package that ended up receiving excellent play.

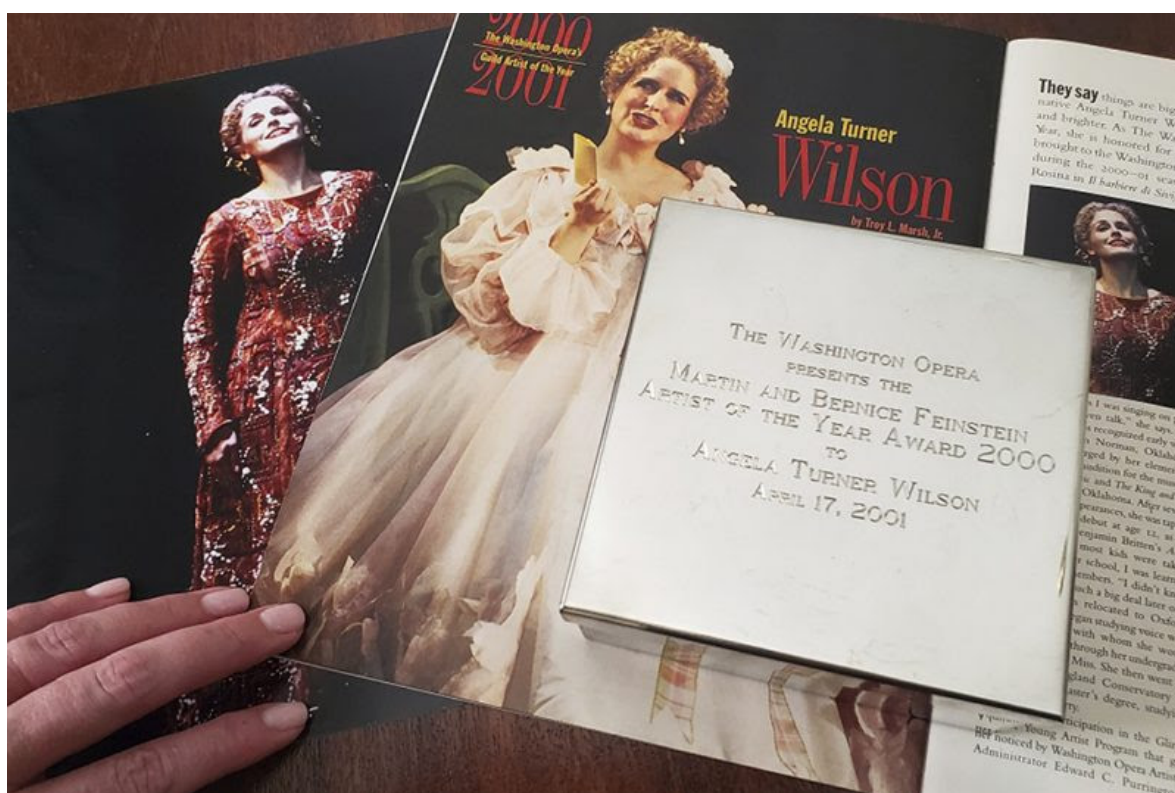
The project checked all the boxes for customer engagement and multi-formats. A unique dataset was released to AP customers two weeks before publication, allowing member publications to produce localized graphics and stories.

Lee Enterprises, a major AP customer, used the data to create a lookup tool for its member papers. The advance release of the data and story also paved the way for extraordinary play. The story ran on nearly 40 front pages, including with some of AP's biggest print customers: The Detroit News, The Seattle Times, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer, The Oregonian, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and The Tennessean, to name a few. Several major papers also used it as the centerpiece of their front page.

For putting the AP out front on one of the most contentious issues roiling American politics, Cassidy, Hoyer, Flaccus, Montoya Bryan, Hartounian and Duckett share AP's Best of the Week award.

Best of the States

Only on AP: Singer says Domingo harassed her, grabbed her breast; more women come forward



Opera singer Angela Turner Wilson displays her 2000 Artist of the Year award from the Washington Opera next to a photo of herself from a 1999 performance of "Le Cid," left, and an article in the opera's magazine, at her home in Texas, Sept. 2, 2019. An evening before a performance of "Le Cid," part of the Washington Opera's 1999-2000 season, she said she and Placido Domingo were having their makeup done together when he suddenly reached into her robe and grabbed her bare breast. "It was not gentle. He groped me hard," she told the AP. She said Domingo then turned and walked away, leaving her stunned and humiliated. (COURTESY ANGELA TURNER WILSON VIA AP)

In the weeks after Jocelyn Gecker's bombshell investigation detailing multiple sexual harassment allegations against Placido Domingo, competitors were out in full force,

trying to produce their own stories about women who had encounters with the opera superstar.

But only the AP was able to advance the story, offering the accounts of an additional 11 women who said the legend had behaved inappropriately with them, including Angela Turner Wilson, who said Domingo insisted on kissing her and later forcefully grabbed her bare breast under her robe in a makeup room - and put her name to the accusation. In addition, a number of backstage staff told the Jocelyns - AP's Gecker and Noveck - how they strove to keep young women from ever being alone with Domingo. One of them, Melinda McLain, allowed her name to be used in the story and was featured in our video and photos.

No one could match the Jocelyns' reporting, which formed the basis of stories by many media outlets, including one competitor that could offer nothing more than an extensive citation of AP's piece. And the story produced immediate results: The Dallas Opera announced it would cancel its March gala due to the "ongoing allegations," and the American Guild of Musical Artists, which represents singers and opera workers, announced it would launch its own investigation into Domingo's behavior, specifically citing AP's reporting. Administrators at the LA Opera, where Domingo has served as general director since 2003, sent employees a letter saying they were "very troubled by the ongoing allegations raised by the Associated Press."

The story hit it big. It saw strong play internationally, particularly in Domingo's native Spain, dominating the web versions of El Pais and El Mundo, among others. And it was one of the most-read stories on AP's platform, logging unusually strong engagement over the course of 24 hours and racking up more than 150,000 page views, even as Hurricane Dorian was leaving a trail of destruction in its mighty wake.

For remarkable source building and reporting that continued to give AP ownership of this highly competitive story, Gecker and Noveck earn this week's Best of the States award.

Welcome to Connecting



Ann Levin - annlevinnyc@gmail.com

Stories of interest

How the New York Times broke Harvey Weinstein (Washington Post)

By Carlos Lozada

Book critic

It was Oct. 5, 2017, just hours after the New York Times published a brutal story detailing Harvey Weinstein's alleged sexual harassment and assault stretching back decades, and the movie producer was on an emergency call with his company's board. Some directors urged him to take a leave of absence and called for an investigation. But Weinstein decried the "rush to judgment" and said he could persuade women's groups to support him. "There will be a movement," he asserted.

He was right about that.

The movement that emerged, in which countless women shared stories of abuse and many men suddenly had to answer for their predatory behavior, represented a "seismic social change," Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey write in "She Said," their captivating account of breaking the Weinstein story for the Times. This is a book about journalism, yet it reveals the power and limits of a cultural transformation too often confined to slogans and hashtags. The authors had to persuade victims of assault and harassment to discuss their experiences and make clear that they would

be taken seriously, but that was just the beginning. "The Weinstein story would have to be broken with evidence: on the record accounts, ideally, but also the overwhelming force of written, legal, and financial proof," the reporters write.

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

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I create fake videos. Here's why people believe even the obvious ones (Fast Company)

BY CHRISTYE SISSON

Lots of people—including Congress—are worried about fake videos and imagery distorting the truth, purporting to show people saying and doing things they never said or did.

I'm part of a larger U.S. government project that is working on developing ways to detect images and videos that have been manipulated. My team's work, though, is to play the role of the bad guy. We develop increasingly devious, and convincing, ways to generate fakes—in hopes of giving other researchers a good challenge when they're testing their detection methods.

For the past three years, we've been having a bit of fun dreaming up new ways to try to change the meaning of images and video. We've created some scenarios ourselves, but we've also had plenty of inspiration from current events and circumstances of actual bad guys trying to twist public opinion.

I'm proud of the work we've done, and hope it will help people keep track of the truth in a media-flooded world. But we've found that a key element of the battle between truth and propaganda has nothing to do with technology. It has to do with how people are much more likely to accept something if it confirms their beliefs.

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

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How 3 local newsrooms grew exponentially on Instagram (Poynter)

By KRISTEN HARE

This summer, three young journalists went to work in local newsrooms. But they weren't there to report, photograph, video or edit - they did it for the gram.

University of Missouri Journalism School graduates Emily Dunn, Grace Lett and Magdaline Duncan worked at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, The Boston Globe and the (Minneapolis) Star Tribune specifically to test and create Instagram strategies to attract younger audiences.

The Instagram Local News Fellowship was a project from Instagram and the Reynolds Journalism Institute at Mizzou.

The three fellows brought creativity and a fresh perspective to their newsrooms, said Lila King, news and publishing partnerships lead with Instagram, in an email. (You can hear even more about their fellowship at a session at ONA19 in New Orleans this week.)

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

The Final Word

McClellan: Pens, hats and newspapers

**LIPIC FOUNTAIN PEN
REPAIR SERVICE**

New Sac
Clean
Adjust feeder
Adjust point and
regulate flow
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Polish gold
trimmings

Guaranteed factory
standard workmanship
and materials. Come in
TODAY!

All This
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By Bill McClellan St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Twenty-one years ago, I had lunch with Leonard Lipic. He was then 86 and a gentleman of the old school. He wore a monogrammed shirt, and his cuff links were solid gold nibs. Nibs are the tips of a fountain pen.

Lipic was the grandson of George Berg, who opened a one-room pen-making shop down by the river in 1863. Berg was 18 years old when he started his business.

Those must have been heady times for pen makers. No computers, no typewriters, no mimeograph machines. The commerce of the world was recorded in ink. St. Louis was then a commercial center. Berg's business did well.

It was taken over by his son-in-law, Joseph Lipic. He grew the business and soon the Joseph Lipic Pen Company was famous for the quality of its pens. Fountain pens, of course.

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

Today in History - September 16, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Sept. 16, the 259th day of 2019. There are 106 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Sept. 16, 2001, President George W. Bush, speaking on the South Lawn of the White House, said there was "no question" Osama bin Laden and his followers were the prime suspects in the Sept. 11 attacks; Bush pledged the government would "find them, get them running and hunt them down."

On this date:

In 1810, Mexico began its revolt against Spanish rule.

In 1893, more than 100,000 settlers swarmed onto a section of land in Oklahoma known as the "Cherokee Strip."

In 1910, Bessica Medlar Raiche of Mineola, N.Y., made the first accredited solo airplane flight by a woman in the United States.

In 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Selective Training and Service Act. Samuel T. Rayburn of Texas was elected Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1974, President Gerald R. Ford announced a conditional amnesty program for Vietnam war deserters and draft-evaders.

In 1976, the Episcopal Church, at its General Convention in Minneapolis, formally approved the ordination of women as priests and bishops.

In 1982, the massacre of between 1,200 and 1,400 Palestinian men, women and children at the hands of Israeli-allied Christian Phalange militiamen began in west Beirut's Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.

In 1987, two dozen countries signed the Montreal Protocol, a treaty designed to save the Earth's ozone layer by calling on nations to reduce emissions of harmful chemicals by the year 2000.

In 1994, a federal jury in Anchorage, Alaska, ordered Exxon Corp. to pay \$5 billion in punitive damages for the 1989 Exxon Valdez (val-DEEZ') oil spill (the U.S Supreme Court later reduced that amount to \$507.5 million). Two astronauts from the space shuttle Discovery went on the first untethered spacewalk in ten years.

In 2005, President George W. Bush ruled out raising taxes to pay the massive costs of Gulf Coast reconstruction in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, saying other government spending had to be cut to pay for the recovery effort.

In 2007, contractors for the U.S. security firm Blackwater USA guarding a U.S. State Department convoy in Baghdad opened fire on civilian vehicles, mistakenly believing they were under attack; 14 Iraqis died. O.J. Simpson was arrested in the alleged armed robbery of sports memorabilia collectors in Las Vegas. (Simpson was later convicted of kidnapping and armed robbery and sentenced to nine to 33 years in prison; he was released in 2017.)

In 2013, Aaron Alexis, a former U.S. Navy reservist, went on a shooting rampage inside the Washington Navy Yard, killing 12 victims before being shot dead by police.

Ten years ago: Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mt., chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, unveiled sweeping legislation to remake the nation's costly health care system. Mary Travers, 72, one part of the folk trio Peter, Paul and Mary, died in Danbury, Connecticut.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama declared that the Ebola epidemic in West Africa could threaten security around the world and ordered 3,000 U.S. troops to the region in emergency aid muscle. After a day of public pressure from angry fans and concerned sponsors, the Minnesota Vikings reversed course and placed star running back Adrian Peterson on the exempt-commissioner's permission list while he addressed a felony charge of child abuse in Texas. (The Vikings had initially decided that Peterson could play with the team while the legal process played out; Peterson later pleaded no contest to misdemeanor reckless assault for physically disciplining his 4-year-old son with a wooden switch.)

One year ago: At least 17 people were confirmed dead from Hurricane Florence, and the North Carolina city of Wilmington was cut off by still-rising waters as catastrophic flooding spread across the Carolinas. Some Republican senators considering the Supreme Court nomination of Brett Kavanaugh expressed concern over a woman's allegation that a drunken Kavanaugh had groped her and tried to take off her clothes at a party when they were teenagers.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Janis Paige is 97. Actor George Chakiris is 87. Bluesman Billy Boy Arnold is 84. Movie director Jim McBride is 78. Actress Linda Miller is 77. Rhythm-and-blues singer Betty Kelley (Martha & the Vandellas) is 75. Musician Kenney Jones (Small Faces; Faces; The Who) is 71. Actress Susan Ruttan is 71. Rock musician Ron Blair (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers; Mudcrutch) is 71. Actor Ed Begley Jr. is 70. Country singer David Bellamy (The Bellamy Brothers) is 69. Country singer-songwriter Phil Lee is 68. Actor Mickey Rourke is 67. Actor-comedian Lenny Clarke is 66. Actor Kurt Fuller is 66. Jazz musician Earl Klugh is 66. Actor Christopher Rich is 66. TV personality Mark McEwen is 65. Baseball Hall of Famer Robin Yount is 64. Magician David Copperfield is 63. Country singer-songwriter Terry McBride is 61. Actress Jennifer Tilly is 61. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Orel Hershiser is 61. Baseball Hall of Famer Tim Lincecum is 60. Actress Jayne Brook is 59. Singer Richard Marx is 56. Comedian Molly Shannon is 55. Singer Marc Anthony is 51. News anchor/talk show host Tamron Hall is 49. Comedian-actress Amy Poehler is 48. Actress Toks Olagundoye (tohks oh-lah-GOON'-doh-yay) is 44. Country singer Matt Stillwell is 44. Singer Musiq (MYOO'-sihk) is 42. Actor Michael Mosley is 41. Rapper Flo Rida is 40. Actress Alexis Bledel is 38. Actress Sabrina Bryan is 35. Actress Madeline Zima is 34. Actor Ian Harding is 33. Actress Kyla Pratt is 33. Actor Daren Kagasoff is 32. Rock singer Teddy Geiger is 31. Actress-dancer Bailey De Young is 30. Rock singer-musician Nick Jonas (The Jonas Brothers) is 27. Actress Elena Kampouris is 22.

Thought for Today: "Some problems are so complex that you have to be highly intelligent and well informed just to be undecided about them." - Laurence J. Peter, Canadian writer (born this date in 1919, died 1990).

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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