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Connecting - November 19, 2019

1 message

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Tue, Nov 19, 2019 at 8:22 AM

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Connecting

November 19, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 19th day of November 2019,

Ever own an Edsel? Well, as you will note in today's Today in History, on this date in 1959, Ford Motor Co. announced it was halting production of the unpopular automobile. Tell us your story of your Edsel - or another favorite car now out of production.

Mike Feinsilber's post in Monday's Connecting on leads on the first day of the congressional impeachment inquiry last week wasn't meant to be a test, but a couple colleagues took it that way.

To refresh, those leads were:

The Wall Street Journal - President Trump in a summer phone call asked about politically advantageous investigations he wanted the Ukrainian president to announce, the top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine disclosed Wednesday as the House opened the public phase of its seven-week-old impeachment probe.

The Washington Post - The first day of public impeachment hearings unearthed new evidence potentially implicating President Trump more directly in a scheme to center American policy toward Ukraine on political investigations, heightening the stakes of upcoming proceedings that will include a set of critical witnesses.

The Associated Press - A top American diplomat revealed new evidence Wednesday of President Trump's efforts to press Ukraine to investigate political rivals as House investigators launched public impeachment hearings for just the fourth time in the nation's history.

The New York Times - The House of Representatives opened historic impeachment hearings on Wednesday and took startling new testimony from a senior American diplomat that further implicated President Trump in a campaign to pressure Ukraine to publicly commit to investigating former Vice President Joseph R. Biden.

The Los Angeles Times - Democrats succeeded on Wednesday in more directly connecting President Trump to alleged misconduct related to Ukraine as they opened historic public hearings with two career diplomats who solemnly testified about watching American policy being hijacked for Trump's personal benefit.

What two colleagues had to say:

Harry Cabluck ([Email](#)) - Stopped reading at (c) and knew that it was The AP lede. Only 35 words, to the point, with impact.

A good writer knows when the words are assembled in their best order.

Similarly, a good photographer knows when a fine image has been captured.

Nobody needs say anything more, but reassuring when the supervisor says, "good job."

And...

Chris Connell ([Email](#)) - It seemed like Mike's headlines cried out to be graded. Here's my stab:

To my eye, the order of merit is: C D E B A. Here's why.

The AP lead (C) concisely captured both the action (top diplomat reveals new evidence) and the drama (investigators launched public hearings for only fourth time in history).

The NY Times lead (D) is a close second with powerful language (startling new evidence that further implicated President Trump).

The LA Times (E) begins boldly (Democrats succeeded) and ends with a striking image (watching policy being hijacked).

The Washington Post (B) got off to a strong start with "unearthed new evidence," but bogged down with "heightening the stakes of upcoming proceedings."

The Wall Street Journal (A) lead was humdrum, from the "summer phone call" to opening the public phase of its 7-week-old probe.

Connecting mailbox

My ole 4x5 Speed Graphic was my best friend



Gene Herrick - War correspondent with camera in Tokyo, 1950 on way to Korea.

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - David Burnett is a man of my own cloth. In Monday's Connecting, Burnett was acclaimed for his bravery and proven ability in using the old, old, tool of photography - the 4x5 sheet film camera.

That big old cumbersome camera was a one-shot instrument whereby the photographer had to be knowledgeable of the story he was covering, what ONE shot would tell the whole story if need be. That was the AP way of doing it. Photogs in the

old days were single-shot artists, not operators of AR15's, or other rapid-fire instruments.

Many of us had to edit our own copy. Going through hundreds of digital shots is time consuming, and often confusing.

As I have written before, I once was reminded by the top man in NY photos - Al Resch - that I had taken too many shots of VP Alben Barkley's funeral. The handwritten note said, "Gene, he's dead. We don't need all of those shots."

I started with the "Big One" in 1946, and carried it through hundreds of stories, including covering the Korean War in 1950, the Civil Rights Movement, local and national politics, sports, riots, and you name it. My ole 4x5 Speed Graphic was my best friend. Memories of her are still warm in my heart.

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Amazing images from HK



Police in riot gear move through a cloud of smoke as they detain a protester at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in Hong Kong, Monday, Nov. 18, 2019. Hong Kong police fought off protesters with tear gas and batons Monday as they tried to break through a police cordon that is trapping hundreds of them on a university campus. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

(Shared by Bob Daugherty)

Letter from the Editor: The times 'they' are a-changin'

By Therese Bottomly | The Oregonian/OregonLive

A pronoun in an article last week left some readers confused and others annoyed.

Jayati Ramakrishnan, general assignment reporter, turned in a routine story about the resignation of an Oregon school board member. She wrote:

"A member of the Corvallis School Board will resign Tuesday, after they tweeted an anti-police message that the rest of the board publicly disavowed."

Ramakrishnan explained later in the article that the subject, Brandy Fortson, identifies as non-binary - in other words, neither male nor female. Ramakrishnan used the pronoun "they" as singular, abiding by Fortson's preference.

At least one reader was confused.

"'They' is a plural pronoun," he wrote. "The article on page A6 of today's Oregonian refers to a school board member as 'they.' Unless that board member is a conjoined twin -- very unlikely -- no matter how that person thinks of his or herself, he or she is not a 'they.' I would like my newspaper or the magazines I subscribe to be reasonably clear. I shouldn't have to read an article 3 times to understand it. Please discontinue this practice today."

Another reader thought it was a careless error. "There are repeated errors ... where a singular pronoun should be used and instead he/she uses plural pronouns," she wrote. "I'm sure the writer would appreciate the heads up on this."

The reporter's usage is correct. The Oregonian/OregonLive, like most newspapers, follows Associated Press style. In 2017, the AP changed its guidance to allow "they" as singular. The entry reads, in part:

"They/them/their is acceptable in limited cases as a singular and-or gender-neutral pronoun, when alternative wording is overly awkward or clumsy."

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

Stories of interest

***The Hill* vows to review Solomon's Ukraine pieces** (Politico)



John Solomon. | Nick Wass/Invision for BFI-Good News Source One America/AP Images

By **MICHAEL CALDERONE**

The Hill is reviewing reporting by John Solomon, a former columnist at the publication whose writings on Ukraine have come under heavy scrutiny during the impeachment inquiry.

"Because of our dedication to accurate, non-partisan reporting and standards, we are reviewing, updating, annotating, and when appropriate, correcting any opinion pieces referenced during the ongoing congressional inquiry," editor-in-chief Bob Cusack informed staff Monday in a memo obtained by POLITICO.

Former U.S. ambassador Marie Yovanovitch on Friday denied claims published by Solomon earlier this year in The Hill, including the allegation that she gave Ukraine's then-top prosecutor a list of who not to prosecute. Solomon's pieces in The Hill were amplified through his dozens of appearances on Fox News and promoted by President Donald Trump and his allies on Twitter.

Solomon, a former reporter at The Associated Press and The Washington Post, has emerged as a key player in the Ukraine scandal, with testimony continuing this week about Trump and his allies put pressure on the country to open politically motivated investigations as military aid was withheld.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

Click [here](#) for Washington Post story. Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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Newspaper Publisher McClatchy Teeters Near Bankruptcy (Bloomberg)

By Josh Saul and Gerry Smith

The McClatchy Co., the storied news publisher weighed down by pension obligations and debt, could file for bankruptcy within the next year, according to analysts.

The company faces a mandatory \$124 million contribution to its pension plan in 2020.

"If they can't offload the pensions or get pension plan relief, they'll have to file for bankruptcy," said media analyst Craig Huber, founder of Huber Research Partners LLC, who has followed the company since 1995. In an interview, Huber estimated McClatchy would have free cash flow of less than \$20 million next year, a fraction of what it needs to cover its pension obligations.

A representative for the company declined to comment. In its third-quarter earnings release last week, McClatchy said the pension contribution created "a significant liquidity challenge in 2020." It also warned in regulatory documents that it may not be able to continue as a going concern.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac, Kevin Walsh, Paul Shane.

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Bill Lyon set the standard here, as a writer, as a mentor, as a man | Mike Sielski (Philadelphia Inquirer)



A university lecture hall earlier this month. A room full of students, most of them seniors, seeking career advice and insight. One of them raises his hand and asks a good question: How do you find a mentor?

Ah, well, no problem. Here's what you do: You grow up reading the man who wrote a sports column in Philadelphia better than anyone has or will. When you yourself are a college student, you write that man a letter, on the wing-and-a-prayer hope that he'll give you some tips about the business, and after he responds, you discover that he is also the finest man to write a sports column in Philadelphia.

Bill Lyon came to The Inquirer in 1972, and in a story he loved to tell, he arrived at the moment that this star-crossed sports town might have been at its nadir. The Eagles went 2-11-1 in 1972. Steve Carlton won 27 games. The rest of the Phillies won 32. The Flyers finished 12 games under .500 and missed the NHL playoffs on the final day of the regular season, when the Buffalo Sabres scored with four seconds left to beat them. The 76ers went 9-73, which remains the worst record over an 82-game season in NBA history. And Bill Lyon - who had moved his wife, Ethel, and their sons, Jim and John, to the Delaware Valley on the promise that they would never move again - looked at her and said, "My God, what have I done?"

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

The Final Word

94 FORT DODGE CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY

*"Say, -
maybe I'm
missing
some calls"*



That's a likely possibility when you're making one call after another. When you're using the telephone constantly, no one can call you. And on a party line, all the other phones also register a "busy" signal.

When your "calling list" is long, space out your calls. Then you won't worry about missing any incoming calls . . . and your party-line neighbors will be able to make and receive their calls as well.

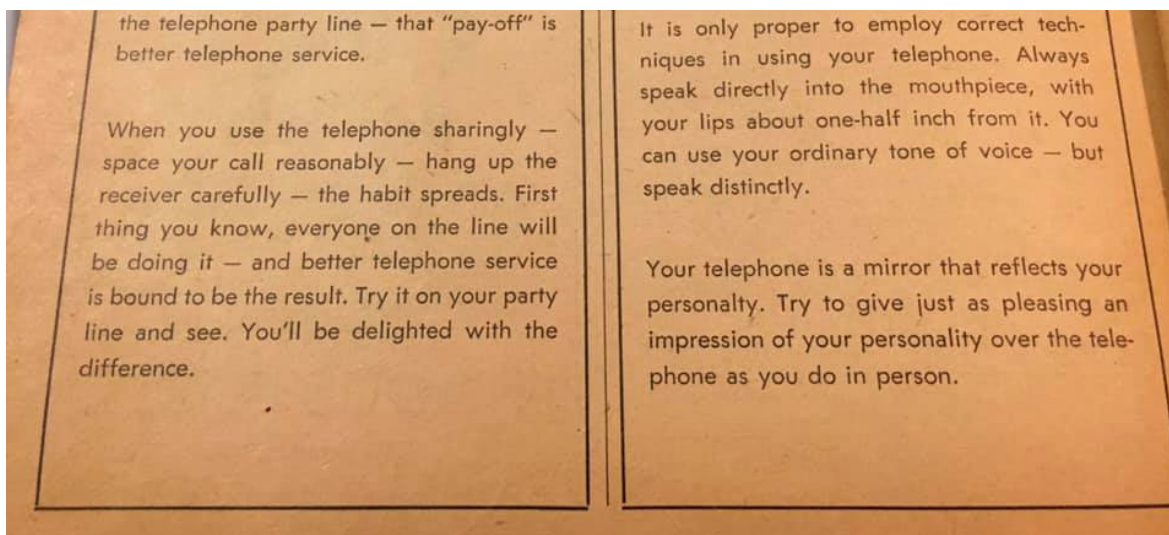
FORT DODGE TELEPHONE COMPANY

EAST ON HIWAY 20

COOPERATION PAYS
ON THE PARTY LINE

There's a rich "Pay-off" for cooperation on

**Telephone
Etiquette**



Tom Dowd - On Facebook: There is a surprising amount of telephone etiquette guidance in the 1953 Fort Dodge (Iowa) phone book Mick Halverson let me borrow. In the era of party lines I guess that was useful to smooth the relationship amongst party liners.

Today in History - November 19, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 19, the 323rd day of 2019. There are 42 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 19, 1969, Apollo 12 astronauts Charles Conrad and Alan Bean made the second manned landing on the moon.

On this date:

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln dedicated a national cemetery at the site of the Civil War battlefield of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania.

In 1915, labor activist Joe Hill was executed by firing squad in Utah for the murders of Salt Lake City grocer John Morrison and his son, Arling.

In 1919, the Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles (veh-ry-SY') by a vote of 55 in favor, 39 against, short of the two-thirds majority needed for ratification.

In 1942, during World War II, Russian forces launched their winter offensive against the Germans along the Don front.

In 1959, Ford Motor Co. announced it was halting production of the unpopular Edsel.

In 1977, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat became the first Arab leader to visit Israel.

In 1984, some 500 people died in a firestorm set off by a series of explosions at a petroleum storage plant on the edge of Mexico City.

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev met for the first time as they began their summit in Geneva.

In 1995, Polish President Lech Walesa (vah-WEN'-sah) was defeated in his bid for re-election.

In 1997, Iowa seamstress Bobbi McCaughey (mihk-KOY') gave birth to the world's first set of surviving septuplets, four boys and three girls.

In 2006, British authorities said they were investigating the apparent poisoning of Alexander Litvinenko (leet-vee-NYEHN'-koh), a former KGB agent who had been

critical of the Russian government (Litvinenko died in London four days later of polonium poisoning).

In 2017, Charles Manson, the hippie cult leader behind the gruesome murders of actress Sharon Tate and six others in Los Angeles in 1969, died in a California hospital at the age of 83 after nearly a half-century in prison.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama wrapped up his weeklong Asia trip in South Korea, where he said the United States had begun talking with allies about fresh punishment against Iran for defying efforts to halt its nuclear weapons pursuits. President Hamid Karzai (HAH'-mihd KAHR'-zeyeh) pledged to get tough on corruption and strengthen security in Afghanistan as he started a second five-year term. Artist Jeanne-Claude, who helped create various "wrapping" projects with her husband Christo, died in New York at age 74.

Five years ago: Defying Congress, President Barack Obama ordered sweeping changes in U.S. immigration policy possibly affecting as many as 5 million living illegally in the country. Film and theater director Mike Nichols, 83, died in New York.

One year ago: A federal judge in San Francisco temporarily barred the Trump administration from refusing asylum to immigrants who cross the southern border illegally. Nissan said the company's chairman, Carlos Ghosn (gohn), had been arrested for allegedly underreporting his income and misusing company funds. The Trump administration dropped its effort to bar CNN reporter Jim Acosta from the White House, but said he could have his credentials pulled again if he didn't follow guidelines governing the behavior of journalists. For the first time in NFL history, each team scored more than 50 points as the Los Angeles Rams outlasted the Kansas City Chiefs, 54-51; the game featured 14 touchdowns, included three by defensive players.

Today's Birthdays: Talk show host Larry King is 86. Former General Electric chief executive Jack Welch is 84. Talk show host Dick Cavett is 83. Broadcasting and sports mogul Ted Turner is 81. Former Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, is 80. Former Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson is 78. Fashion designer Calvin Klein is 77. Sportscaster Ahmad Rashad is 70. Actor Robert Beltran is 66. Actress Kathleen Quinlan is 65. Actress Glynnis O'Connor is 64. Broadcast journalist Ann Curry is 63. Former NASA astronaut Eileen Collins is 63. Actress Allison Janney is 60. Rock musician Matt Sorum (Guns N' Roses, Velvet Revolver) is 59. Actress Meg Ryan is 58. Actress-director Jodie Foster is 57. Actress Terry Farrell is 56. TV chef Rocco DiSpirito is 53. Actor Jason Scott Lee is 53. Olympic gold medal runner Gail Devers is 53. Actress Erika Alexander is 50. Rock musician Travis McNabb is 50. Singer Tony Rich is 48. Actress Sandrine Holt is 47. Country singer Jason Albert (Heartland) is 46. Country singer Billy Currington is 46. Dancer-choreographer Savion Glover is 46. Country musician Chad Jeffers is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tamika Scott (Xscape) is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lil' Mo is 42. Olympic gold medal gymnast Kerri Strug is 42. Actor Reid Scott is 42. Movie director Barry Jenkins (Film: "Moonlight") is 40. Actress Katherine Kelly is 40. Neo-

soul musician Browan Lollar (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 37. Actor Adam Driver is 36. Country singer Cam is 35. Actress Samantha Futerman is 32. NHL forward Patrick Kane is 31. Rapper Tyga is 30.

Thought for Today: "You can always tell gifted and highly intelligent people as they always turn to the past. Any young person who knows anything that happened before 1980, or 1990, or 2000 for that matter, is immediately someone who is intelligent, probably creative, maybe a writer. Nobody who is drawn to the past and learning about the past is not gifted." [-] Mike Nichols (film director, born in 1931, died on this date in 2014).

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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