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**Connecting - November 20, 2019**

1 message

**Paul Stevens** <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Wed, Nov 20, 2019 at 8:45 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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# Connecting

**November 20, 2019**Click [here](#) for sound  
of the Teletype[Top AP News](#)[Top AP photos](#)[AP books](#)[Connecting Archive](#)[The AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November 2019,

Black Friday may be nine days away, but today's Connecting brings you some gift ideas in advance - to buy for a friend or for yourself!

Five of you answered my call to share information on books you've written ( in one case, edited) in the past year - since the last Books Edition we published a year ago. (If you missed the memo and authored a book in the past year, I would be glad to use. Send me info.)

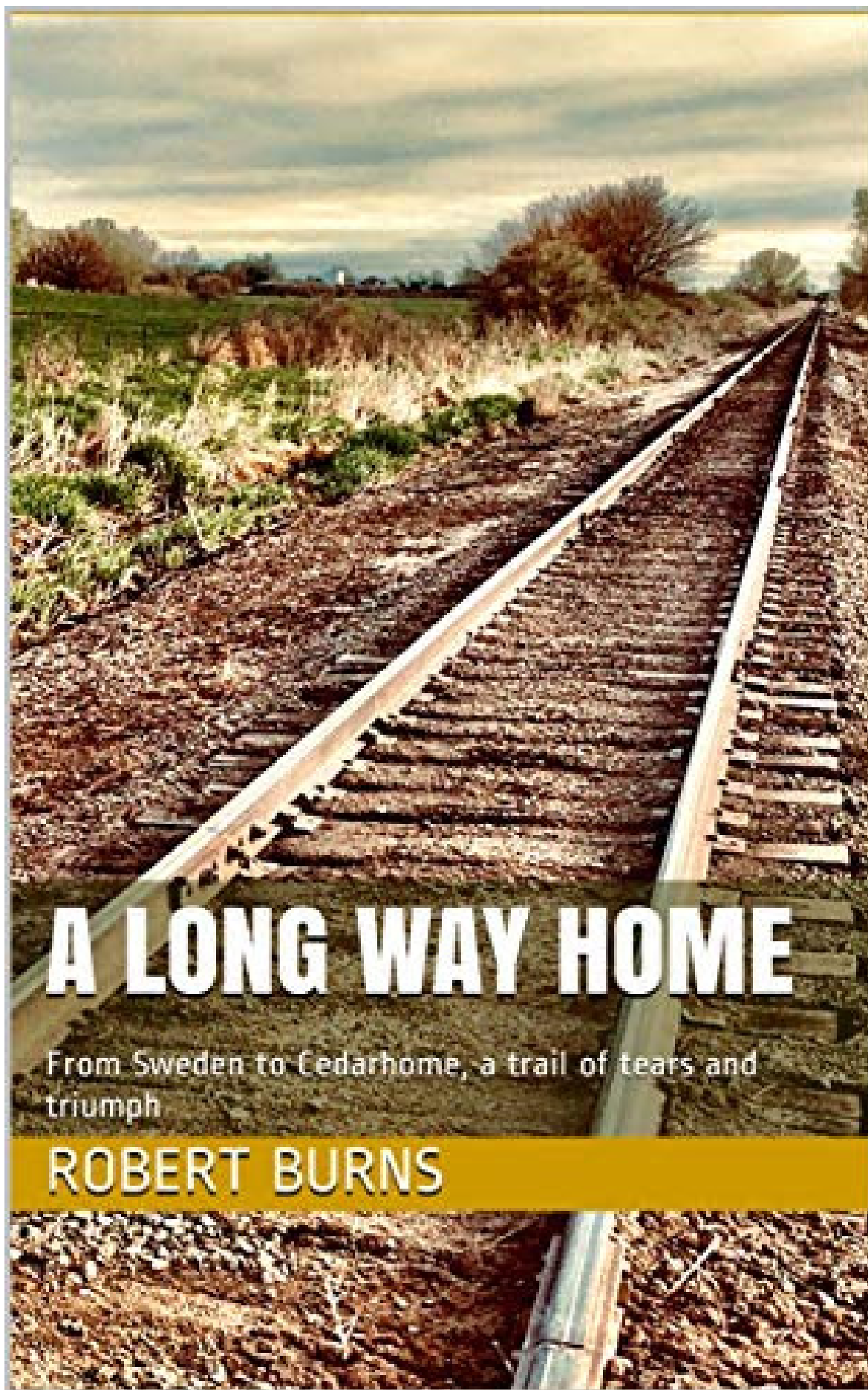
Hope you enjoy reading the work of your colleagues.

Have a great day!

Paul

## **Connecting Books Edition**

**A Long Way Home, From Sweden to  
Cedarhome, a Trail of Tears and  
Triumph**



**Author: Robert Burns** ([Email](#))

**Synopsis:** Amid personal turmoil and wretched economic conditions in Sweden, peasant farmers Johan Andersson and Anna Larsdotter left for America in 1867. They were willing to give up the familiar at home for the unseen abroad, to abandon the poverty they had inherited for a prosperity they hoped to find on their own. They sought a future, not a fortune, and the search took them on a 33-year odyssey across America, from Minnesota to the prairies of west-central Iowa and northeastern Nebraska, and finally to the shores of Washington state's Puget Sound. Along the way they faced disease, death and disappointments but persevered with a commitment to faith and family.



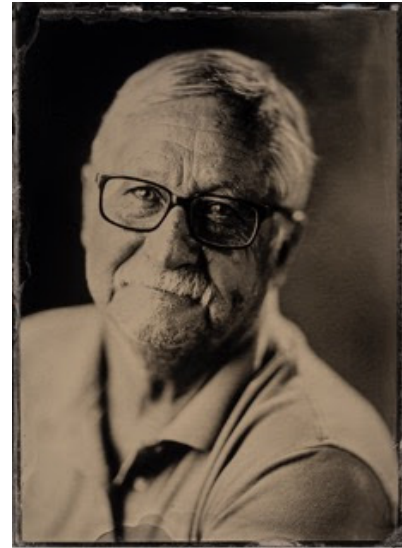
Amazon link to book, click [here](#).

## Cuba: Faces & Places



**Author: Richard Gwin** ([Email](#))

**Synopsis:** Sitting on a porch in Jamaica in 1992, fellow photographer Sam Harrell and I watched a travel agent put up a sign - Havana \$325. We looked at each other and tickets bought, took a flight in a small plane that took nearly three hours. We arrived in Varadero east of Havana and the first thing I saw was a Soviet gun ship - pretty impressive. Everyone got off and went through another security check. On to Havana where we arrived at an airport out of the 50's, drove off in a Lada left by the Russians down dark streets that looked like time gone by. We were put in a hotel we didn't like too far from Havana Veji, so we called and a travel agent for Havana Tours came out, picked us up and changed hotels. Off walking the streets, it was amazing. Stayed with a man who played chess with Che, getting stories. I've traveled tip to tip over 25 times discovering amazing things from Sugar Cane Plantations dating back to the 1600's, Folk Art, views showing landscapes that look to the bottom of the ocean, sugarcane as far as one can see, meeting people who gave up everything to fight for Fidel. Staying in 500-year-old homes listening to stories of the past, watching the island change as new hotels are built. The era then-President Obama opened and people were flooding the island. Some sort of drive pushed me to make this book that shows the island in change, for the better. Recently showed the book off on the 500-year anniversary of Havana well accepted. Pretty satisfied, still returning as change happens.

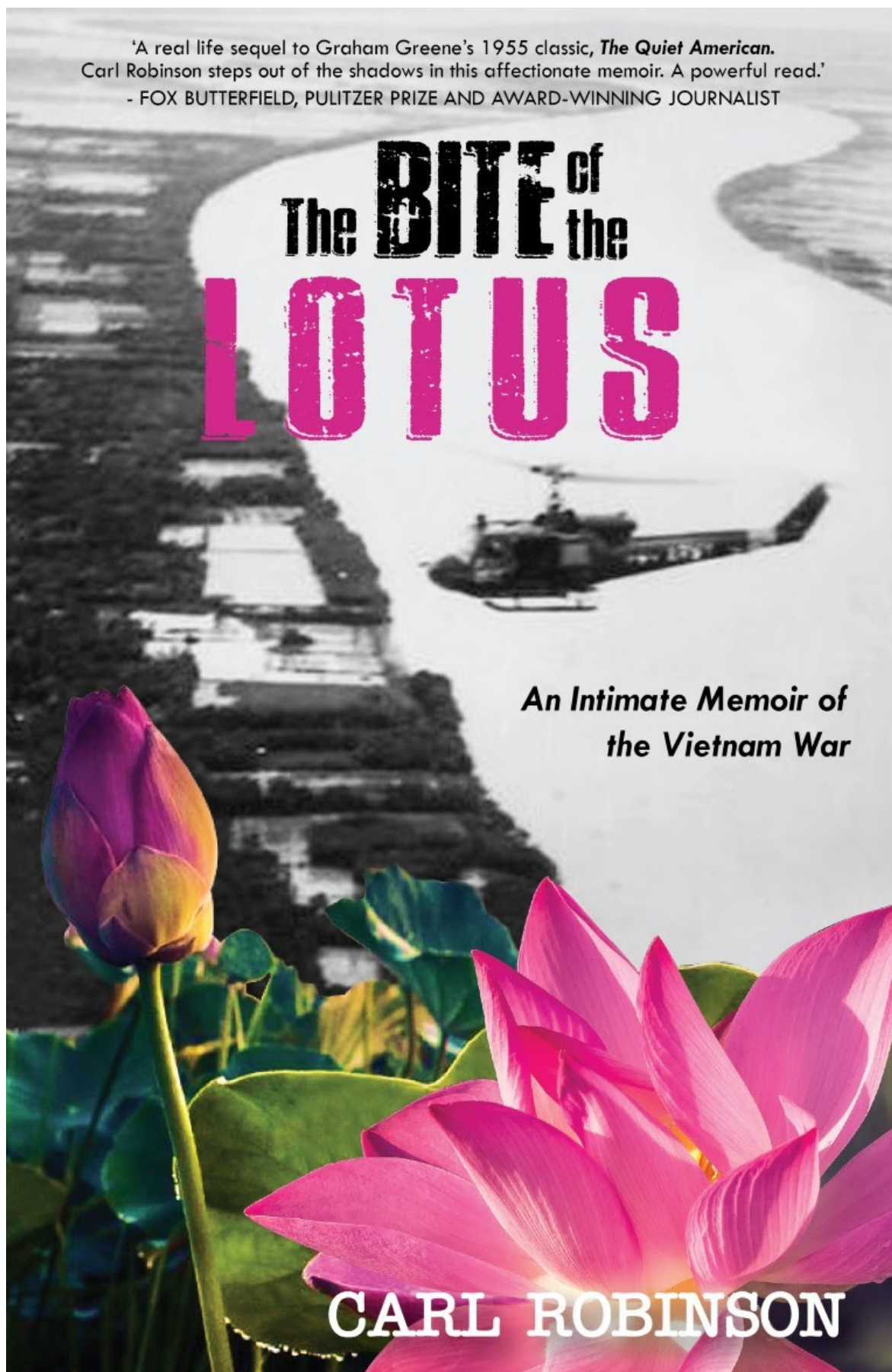


To purchase the book, reach Richard Gwin [here](#).

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## The Bite of the Lotus: an intimate memoir of the Vietnam War





'A real life sequel to Graham Greene's 1955 classic, *The Quiet American*.  
Carl Robinson steps out of the shadows in this affectionate memoir. A powerful read.'  
- FOX BUTTERFIELD, PULITZER PRIZE AND AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST

# The **BITE** of the **LOTUS**

*An Intimate Memoir of  
the Vietnam War*

**CARL ROBINSON**

**Author: Carl Robinson** ([Email](#))

**Synopsis:** Described by a Pulitzer Prize-winning reviewer as "a real life sequel to Graham Greene's 1955 classic *The Quiet American*," this story from an initially-idealistic young civilian who lived and worked in-country through the entire Vietnam War offers a new and very unique perspective on that defining struggle of the 20th Century. Told in the candour and dark humour of his adopted Australia, US-born Carl Robinson takes readers on an intense personal journey from his enchanted arrival in a somnolent Saigon by ship in early 1964 and provincial adviser in the Mekong Delta into the height of the Vietnam War. Then, his bitter disillusionment, a passionate love and ultimately hard drugs to a cynical and burned-out journalist running for those US helicopters as South Vietnam fell to the Communists in April 1975. And throughout, a deep affection glows for the Vietnamese among whom he lived and witnessed the Americans come and go, learning nothing. From its dramatic opening chapter as Saigon is falling, this fast-paced and stirring memoir takes readers on a journey through the epic arc of the Vietnam War, a personalised history lesson on how the US became increasingly and foolishly involved, and Robinson's role first as a player and then observer. Full of astoundingly recalled details, many tragic and comedic, his story is colourful, brilliant and evocative. A true insider's view of this devastating war. After the Vietnam War's end, Robinson was re-assigned to Associated Press (AP) headquarters in New York and transferred to Sydney in 1977. Barely one year later, however, his employment was terminated and, although still angry and bitter about the war, he stayed and started his life again with his Vietnamese-born wife, Kim-Dung (pronounced Kim-Yung) and their three children. Through the 1980's, Robinson was Australia & South Pacific correspondent for Newsweek and in the 1990's opened the famous Old Saigon restaurant in Sydney's Newtown. He frequently re-visits today's Vietnam running tours, organising reunions and personal explorations.



At last week's launch in Sydney at monthly William Boot Society Luncheon.

The book is available in the US as e-book on Kindle and hard copy from UK-based Book Depository. Click [here](#) for a link.

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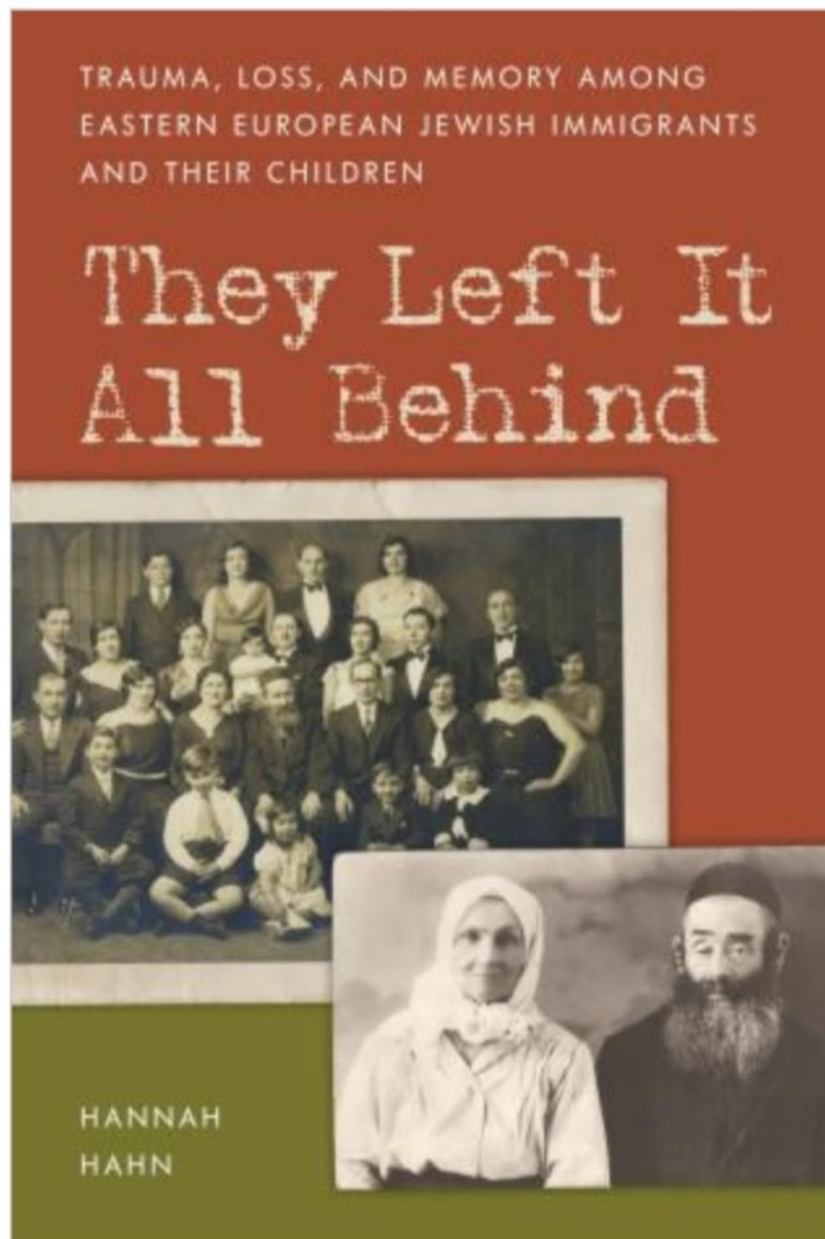
## They Left it all Behind

ROWMAN &  
LITTLEFIELD



# They Left It All Behind

## Trauma, Loss, and Memory Among Eastern European Jewish Immigrants and their Children



**Editor: Joyce Rosenberg** ([Email](#))



I edited a book that was just released, by Hannah Hahn, a psychologist and psychoanalyst. I was interested in the project because I have written and edited papers on psychohistory, a field that combines the two great professional loves of my life: psychoanalysis and journalism/history. *They Left it all Behind* explores the influence of historical events on the psychological lives of pre-1924 Eastern European Jewish immigrants. They had uprooted themselves because of grinding poverty, anti-Semitic discrimination, pogroms, and the explosive violence of World War I. Trauma was, consequently, a potent influence in their lives. This book's stories, told from a historical and psychoanalytic perspective, are based on 22 interviews with the immigrants' adult children. They tell the tales of these immigrants and their children. The title of the book refers to the fact that many of the children believed their parents had left their lives in Eastern Europe behind them. This disavowal, which resulted in part from the immigrants' silence and denial, allowed their children to minimize the trauma and loss their parents suffered both before and after immigrating. The book looks at the impact of parents' trauma and loss on the second generation and at how trauma and loss impact the transmission of memory. While *They Left it all Behind* is about the difficult experiences of people who emigrated in the late 1800s and early 1900s, it is relevant in understanding the experiences of current immigrants to America.

Amazon link to the book, click [here](#).

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## **Heroes and Scoundrels: Five Decades of Flashpoints, Conflicts and Compromises Supporting Press Freedom In Latin America**

# HEROES AND SCOUNDRELS

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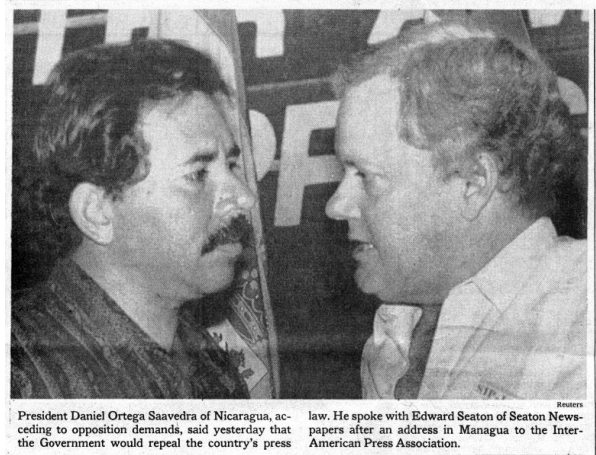
FIVE DECADES OF FLASHPOINTS,  
CONFLICTS AND COMPROMISES  
SUPPORTING PRESS FREEDOM  
IN LATIN AMERICA

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EDWARD SEATON

**Author: Edward Seaton** ([Email](#))

**Synopsis:** The past five decades have witnessed a flourishing of democracy and press freedom in Latin America. When Edward Seaton began his crusade in the 1970s on behalf of journalists and newspapers throughout the region, 80 percent of the countries were without either. Today most countries have an independent press and credible elections. While the change reflects a worldwide wave, the individuals portrayed here were in their countries the locomotives of change. These courageous, modern-thinking journalistic leaders risked in many cases their businesses and even their lives to tell truth about government and society. They faced Iberian traditions that made their accomplishments even more impressive. Organized in this book by geographic regions, their histories are related one country at a time. The people in these stories are heroes who helped build their emerging democracies.



**Daniel Ortega with Ed Seaton when Seaton was president of the Inter American Press Association.**

Amazon link to the book, click [here](#).

## Connecting mailbox

### *Connecting series: About your most memorable car*

**Jim Salter** ([Email](#)) - I think it was 1980. I was home from college for the summer, working at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Hannibal, Missouri. A co-worker convinced me to buy his 1974 Chevrolet Vega.

I knew even then of the Vega's reputation and its faulty aluminum-block engine. Still, it looked sporty and besides, it was a standard shift, which I had never had. Sure, when I'd pull into a gas station I'd tell the attendant (yes, I'm that old), "Fill it up with oil and check the gas."



Despite the flaws, the Vega was fun to drive. For about a month. That's when the motor went out. A paid a couple hundred dollars for a used motor. It lasted another month.

At least it wasn't a Pinto.



A 1974 Vega

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## ***On Gene Herrick and his beloved 4x5 Speed Graphic***

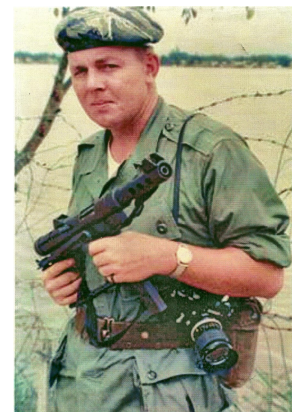
**Greg Smith** ([Email](#)) - former Dallas/NY Photos - I stay amazed at the scope of Mr. Herrick's history in AP. I found his thoughts on the old 4x5 speed graphics, etc. wonderful. Although just barely behind those days, my early days in wire service work were to be always aware you only had a small Nikor tank to develop a very limited amount of film. I enjoy his stories immensely.

***And...***

**Peggy Walsh** ([Email](#)) - Gene Herrick never ceases to amaze me. Some of his wonderfully colorful and detailed memories predate my arrival on this Earth. And I'm no spring chicken. The Barkley funeral quote was priceless.

***And...***

**Joe Galloway** ([Email](#)) - On my first assignment as a reporter for The Victoria (TX) Advocate in November of 1959, the ME sent me back to the darkroom to get a camera and 10 minutes of instruction on the care and feeding of the Speed Graphic 4X5 camera from the darkroom master Sticks Stahala. It took 20 minutes because Sticks stuttered badly. But it must have worked: I got THE photo to accompany my story. By the time I got to Vietnam in 1965 I was carrying two black body Nikon F's, one for b&w Tri X and one for Ektachrome color negative. At first UPI paid \$10 per photo radioed out; then they





raised that to \$15 per photo used. Seemed like big money back then...

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## ***Seattle's Martha Bellisle receives Jake Award***



Seattle-based AP investigative reporter Martha Bellisle poses for a photo with colleagues after she received the Jake Award at the eighth annual Nevada Sagebrush Alumni Dinner, Oct. 26, 2019, in Reno. Each year, "The Jake" is awarded to an active journalist who attended the Reynolds School of Journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno, and best exemplifies the values professor Jake Highton instilled during his 30-year tenure at the school. From left: retired AP colleague Martin Griffith, Seattle-based investigative reporter Martha Bellisle, former AP editor Larry Ryckman, former AP Carson City Correspondent Brendan Riley and LA Times Foreign and Acting National Editor Mitchell Landsberg. (Photo courtesy Martha Bellisle)

## **Stories of interest**

## ***Gannett, Now Largest U.S. Newspaper Chain, Targets 'Inefficiencies'*** (New York Times)

**By Marc Tracy**

The deal to create the largest newspaper company in the nation - which became official at 4:10 p.m. on Tuesday - came about with remarkable speed for a merger that will reshape the media landscape.

In August, Gannett, the parent company of USA Today and more than 100 other dailies, and New Media Investment Group, the owner of the newspaper chain GateHouse Media, announced their intention to join forces. Over the next two months, the plan breezed through the regulatory process, winning approvals from the Justice Department and the European Union. Last week, shareholders at the two companies voted yea. And now one in five daily papers in the United States has the same owner, under the Gannett name, according to figures provided by researchers at the University of North Carolina.

The combined company will have its headquarters in Gannett's home base, McLean, Va., and will be led by Michael E. Reed, the New Media chief executive since 2006. The job puts him in charge of more than 260 dailies - from small papers like The Tuscaloosa News in Alabama to big ones like The Detroit Free Press.

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

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## ***How the Gannett/GateHouse merger could deepen America's local news crisis*** (Brookings)

**By Clara Hendrickson**

Last week, shareholders at Gannett and GateHouse, the nation's two largest newspaper chains, voted to approve the merger of the two companies. Gannett, which publishes USA Today, owns just over 100 newspapers while New Media Enterprises, GateHouse Media's parent company, owns nearly 400 American newspapers across 39 states. When combined, the new company will own one out of every six newspapers in the United States. The deal is expected to close

November 19th and has left many already concerned about America's local journalism crisis afraid of what lies ahead.

When executives at the two companies first met to discuss the merger this past summer, they hoped to save \$200 million annually by combining. When the deal was announced in August, the companies said annual cost savings would add up to \$300 million a year. According to some reports, however, the number discussed internally has risen yet again to \$400 million annually.

Both Gannett and GateHouse have a reputation for cutting staff across their newsrooms. In the past two years alone, the number of employees at Gannett has fallen by one-fifth. The merger will likely entail another round of layoffs for local newspapers across the country to achieve the aggressive cost savings put forward by the companies' executives. No one knows for sure just how many employees will be laid off in the wake of the merger, but estimates put the number between 3,500 and 4,000. There are 37,900 newsroom employees employed by U.S. newspapers today. If the expected layoffs occur, that will mean a significant reduction of the nation's total newspaper workforce.

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - November 20, 2019



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 20, the 324th day of 2019. There are 41 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On Nov. 20, 1985, the first version of Microsoft's Windows operating system, Windows 1.0, was officially released.

**On this date:**

In 1789, New Jersey became the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

In 1910, the Mexican Revolution of 1910 had its beginnings under the Plan of San Luis Potosi issued by Francisco I. Madero.

In 1945, 22 former Nazi officials went on trial before an international war crimes tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany. (Almost a year later, the International Military Tribunal sentenced 12 of the defendants to death; seven received prison sentences ranging from 10 years to life; three were acquitted.)

In 1947, Britain's future queen, Princess Elizabeth, married Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at Westminster Abbey.

In 1966, the musical play "Cabaret," set in pre-Nazi Germany, opened on Broadway with Jill Haworth as Sally Bowles and Joel Grey as the Master of Ceremonies.

In 1967, the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Clock at the Commerce Department ticked past 200 million.

In 1969, the Nixon administration announced a halt to residential use of the pesticide DDT as part of a total phaseout. A group of American Indian activists began a 19-month occupation of Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay.

In 1975, after nearly four decades of absolute rule, Spain's Generalissimo Francisco Franco died, two weeks before his 83rd birthday.

In 1984, pop star Michael Jackson was inducted into the Hollywood Walk of Fame with the unveiling of his star in front of a horde of screaming fans.



In 1998, forty-six states embraced a \$206 billion settlement with cigarette makers over health costs for treating sick smokers.

In 2000, lawyers for Al Gore and George W. Bush battled before the Florida Supreme Court over whether the presidential election recount should be allowed to continue.

In 2003, Michael Jackson was booked on suspicion of child molestation in Santa Barbara, Calif. (Jackson was later acquitted at trial.) Record producer Phil Spector was charged with murder in the shooting death of an actress, Lana Clarkson, at his home in Alhambra (al-HAM'-bruh), California. (Spector's first trial ended with a hung jury in 2007; he was convicted of second-degree murder in 2009 and sentenced to 19 years to life in prison.)

Ten years ago: Scientists in Geneva restarted the Large Hadron (HAD'-ruhn) Collider, the world's largest atom smasher, after a year of repairs. A Chinese national killed four people and wounded nine in a shooting rampage on the Pacific island of Saipan before taking his own life. Holding back tears, Oprah Winfrey told her studio audience that she would end her talk show in 2011 after a quarter-century on the air.

Five years ago: Spurning furious Republicans, President Barack Obama unveiled expansive executive actions on immigration during a televised address that would spare nearly 5 million people who were in the U.S. illegally from deportation and refocus enforcement efforts on "felons, not families." MLB Commissioner Bud Selig announced that baseball owners had unanimously approved a five-year term for his successor, Rob Manfred.

One year ago: President Donald Trump declared that he would not further punish Saudi Arabia for the murder of U.S.-based columnist Jamal Khashoggi (jah-MAHL' khahr-SHOHK'-jee), dismissing reports from U.S. intelligence agencies that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman must have at least known about the plot to kill the writer. Trump said a judge who had ruled against his bid to deny asylum to migrants who enter the country illegally was an "Obama judge" on an appeals court that he said was biased against him. Health officials in the U.S. and Canada told people to stop eating romaine lettuce because of a new E. coli outbreak. Ray Chavez, the oldest U.S. military survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, died in southern California at the age of 106.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Estelle Parsons is 92. Comedian Dick Smothers is 81. Singer Norman Greenbaum is 77. Former Vice President Joe Biden is 77. Actress Veronica Hamel is 76. Broadcast journalist Judy Woodruff is 73. Actor Samuel E. Wright is 73. Singer Joe Walsh is 72. Actor Richard Masur is 71. Opera singer Barbara Hendricks is 71. Former national security adviser John Bolton is 71. Actress Bo Derek is 63. Former NFL player Mark Gastineau is 63. Reggae musician Jimmy

Brown (UB40) is 62. Actress Sean Young is 60. Pianist Jim Brickman is 58. Rock musician Todd Nance (Widespread Panic) is 57. Actress Ming-Na is 56. Actor Ned Vaughn is 55. Rapper Mike D (The Beastie Boys) is 54. Rapper Sen Dog (Cypress Hill) is 54. Actress Callie Thorne is 50. Actress Sabrina Lloyd is 49. Actor Joel McHale is 48. Actress Marisa Ryan is 45. Country singer Dierks (duhkr) Bentley is 44. Actor Joshua Gomez is 44. Actress Laura Harris is 43. Olympic gold medal gymnast Dominique Dawes is 43. Country singer Josh Turner is 42. Actress Nadine Velazquez (veh-LAHZ'-keh-z) is 41. Actor Jacob Pitts is 40. Actress Andrea Riseborough is 38. Actor Jeremy Jordan is 35. Actor Dan Byrd is 34. Actress Ashley Fink is 33. Rock musician Jared Followill (Kings of Leon) is 33. Actress Jaina Lee Ortiz is 33. Actor Cody Linley is 30. Pop musician Michael Clifford (5 Seconds to Summer) is 24.

**Thought for Today: "No man remains quite what he was when he recognizes himself." [-] Thomas Mann, German author (1875-1955).**

## 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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