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Connecting - December 02, 2019

1 message

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Connecting

December 02, 2019

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AP Photos courtesy of AP Corporate Archives

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 2nd day of December 2019,

I hope your Thanksgiving holiday was a happy one - it's good to deliver Connecting to your Inbox as we begin the new month of December.

Connecting's Monday Profile features a colleague whose byline is one of the best known in the history of The Associated Press. Yep, he's the guy pounding on a typewriter in the photo above (IDs of others in photo may include other Connecting colleagues; let me know.)

Walter R. Mears reported on national politics for the AP from 1960 to 2001 and was one of the most influential political writers of his time. During his career in journalism, he covered 11 presidential elections.

I never worked in Washington and thus did not have the opportunity many of you had to work with Walter. If you have a favorite memory to share, please send it along.

My Spotlight column that appeared Sunday in my hometown paper, The Messenger of Fort Dodge, Iowa, focused on a local Catholic church near and dear to my heart, Corpus Christi, that will be hosting Christmas services this month for the last time in its 136-year history. Next summer, it will be closed when a new church is opened. Listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, Corpus Christi may eventually face the wrecking ball. I was a parish member from 1954-68 and it is the church where Linda and I were married, where our two daughters were baptized and where in 2013 we said farewell to my dad who an usher there for years and years as a 59-year parish member. Click [here](#) to read the column.



Corpus Christi Church

Here's to a great week ahead! I look forward to your contributions.

Paul

Connecting profile

Walter R. Mears



What are you doing these days?

I am not doing much - reading and TV are my pastimes. I don't get around very well - need a walker so I largely stay put.

How did you get your first job with the AP? Who hired you? What were your first days like?

I was hired as a temp in the Boston bureau while still in college in 1955. I was hired by Pat Yale, then Boston bureau chief, as a summer replacement in 1955. It was desk work, answering phones and rewriting stringer copy.

At 20, I was constantly nervous about doing the job well, At least well enough to keep it. It was on the job training in a bureau of AP veterans and measuring up was tough.

What were your different past jobs in the AP, in order?

Jumping ahead, my most significant role was that of my demanding editor, Frank Murphy, day editor in the Boston bureau. It was basic training, a harsh journalism school. When Frank said I was doing okay, it was a great compliment. When I won the Pulitzer Prize in 1977, my Boston colleagues sent me a message that brought me to tears. It said Frank Murphy would have been proud.



Mears in 1972

I returned to the Boston bureau after graduating from Middlebury College in 1956, again as a temp. Then I was made AP correspondent in Montpelier, Vermont, in 1956. I was the first Vermont correspondent, at the time, at 21, the youngest ever to be in charge of a bureau - even a one-man bureau.

I returned to the Boston bureau in 1959, became statehouse correspondent there, and was transferred to Washington in 1961. I started on the desk and then covered the House, Senate and national politics. I became chief of bureau, then I spent five years in New York as executive editor, became a vice president, returning to Washington in 1969 as special correspondent and political writer. I retired in 2001.

What was your first AP byline - and your last?

My first AAA wire byline was in July 1956, when I was in the Boston bureau and was sent to a hospital to report on survivors and victims of the Andrea Doria shipwreck. My last was the running and roundup on George W. Bush's 2001 inauguration.

Who were your best competitors?

The toughest day to day were UPI veterans covering the Senate. On major political stories, the toughest competitors were the political writers at The Washington Post and The New York Times.

Would you do it all over again- or what would you change?

I would do it all again - I made a living doing what I loved to do - reporting and writing.



Walter and Fran in 2017

What's your favorite hobby or activity, the best vacation trip you've ever made?

Golf was my hobby and I played several times a week until the physical failing of old age intervened and forced me off the course. I took a few vacation trips, none since my wife Fran, an AP reporter, editor and bureau chief. died of cancer in 2019. I live alone in my condo in a seniors community called the Cedars of Chapel Hill.

Names of your family members and what they do?

My daughters Stephanie and Susan live in Austin Texas, and Boulder, Colo.

Bonus questions - how did you learn you won the Pulitzer Prize and how did it change your career?



I did not know it was coming, no clue. So I went to get a haircut. Returned to the Washington bureau and met Ann Blackman, Mike Putzel and other colleagues carrying in champagne - they told me it was to celebrate the Pulitzer I had just won. That's how I learned about it.

It didn't really change my career - I got a \$1,000 award which AP matched. It is \$10,000 now.

I do remember that the next day when I went to work, several colleagues gathered near my typewriter to see what I was going to do for an encore. (Nothing special - I just went back to work.)

Walter Mears email is - wmears111@gmail.com

Connecting mailbox

Getting that story out - Pronto!



Deputy Managing Editor David Scott, center, files a story using Pronto while colleagues look on at New York headquarters, Nov. 26, 2019. Pronto is the replacement for Elvis as AP's primary text editing and publishing tool. From left: Deputy Managing Editor Sarah Nordgren, Executive Editor Sally Buzbee, Top Stories Hub Deputy Director Shawn Chen, Director of Top Stories Hub Paul Haven and entertainment editor Carol Deegan look on. Pronto is scheduled to launch starting Dec. 2. (Photo by Brian Carovillano)

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Disappointed that photos in Apollo book not credited

Barry Sweet ([Email](#)) - When I saw the posting in Friday's Connecting for new AP books in 2019, I came on to "Apollo 11 an AP Special Anniversary Edition" which caught my eye so I purchased it from Amazon. It had a gallery of photos from one of the most historic events in American history.

Boy, was I shocked when I looked at the photos.

J. Walter Green and I spent almost a month on the USS Hornet waiting for the Pacific landing. While some of the photos in the book gave credit to the photographers, the landing photos only said AP Photo. We made some great photos of the event and as The AP says, it was reduced to no credit. In fact, The AP handled our work with no respect. After returning to Seattle, I contacted the AP photo library in New York to see if I could get some of my images. I was told, they had no records of them and our work was turned over to Wide World Photos and they couldn't find them. They called them lost. I am happy that I did make a few prints, which I now have, before NASA took the film back to the mainland. One of the chapter headline was "AP Was There." What a bitter pill it is knowing they couldn't go to any effort to give credit.

Connecting asked **Peter Costanzo**, AP's books editor, for comment: "I appreciate your bringing this to my attention. This was all way before my time and the credits we apply within book projects are based on what's notated in AP Images. I will look into this. I think we have an opportunity to correct an obvious oversight."

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'Toot' Enjoys his Buckeye win



Gene Herrick (Email) - Toot, our cat, got thoroughly involved in Saturday's historic and traditional football game between Ohio State and Michigan, which, of course, the Buckeyes won handily 56-27.

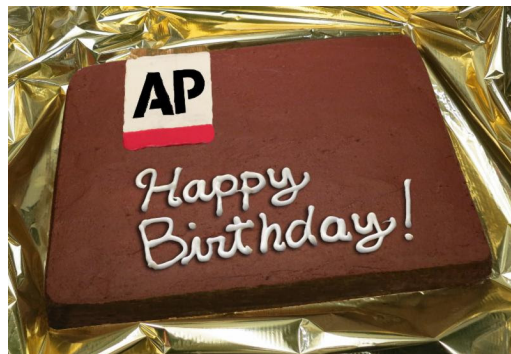
I am an avid OSU lover, since I was born in Columbus, and lived one block from the university. As a young Boy Scout, I used to be an usher at the games, and later, as an Associated Press photographer, covered some of their games. Those were the Woody Hayes days - unfortunately for photographers.

I also covered the campus riots, at Ohio State and at Ohio University, in 1970.

Also, in downtown Columbus, there was a hotel at Broad and High streets, and when Michigan lost, their fans would throw furniture flying out of the windows.

It is a strong, and long-lasting rivalry.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Doug Waggoner - dougwag@mchsi.com

Barbara Worth - barbaraworth@comcast.net

Stories of interest

It's crunch time for Seattle-based photo giant Getty Images, and for photographers (Seattle Times)

By Paul Roberts

With its vast archive of more than 350 million images, a stable of award-winning photojournalists, and annual revenues of nearly \$1 billion, Seattle-based Getty Images may be the most dominant player in the picture business.

It is also, arguably, the most controversial.

Getty has been criticized for selling the rights to photos that are freely available in the public domain. It was infamous for an aggressive copyright strategy that until recently included cease-and-desist orders and debt collections against anyone, even churches and small organizations, that used its images without permission.

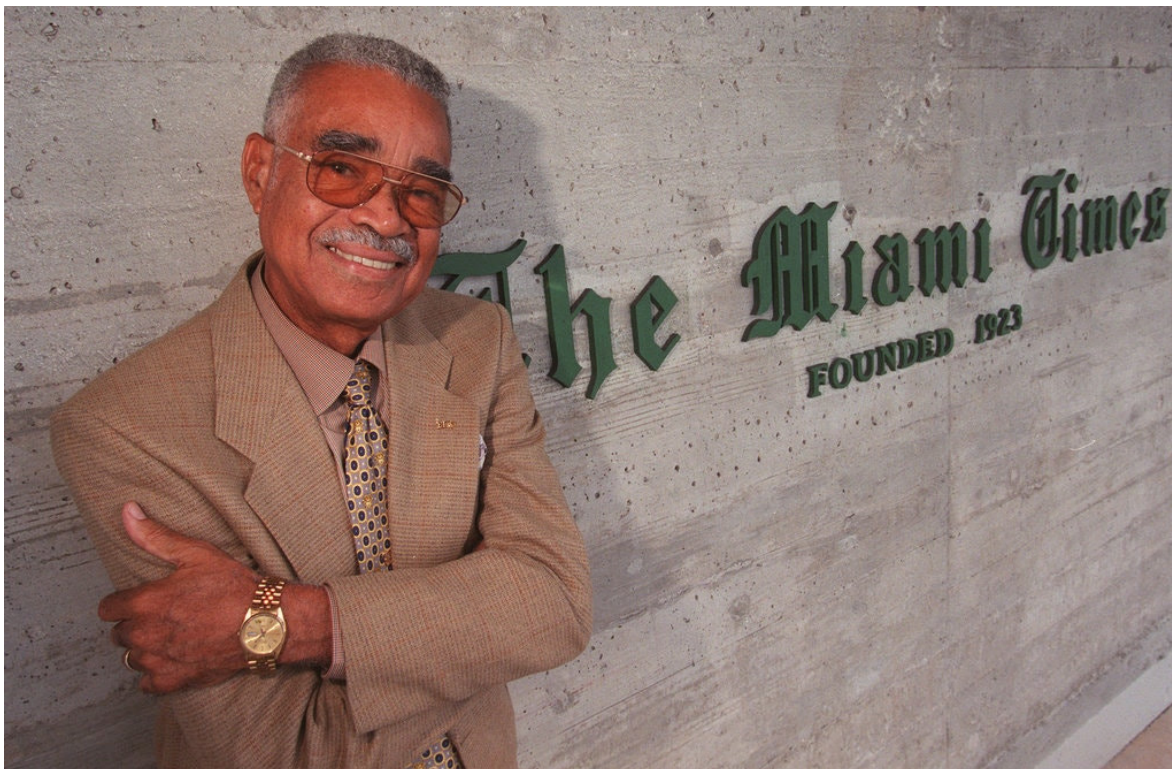
And, critics say, Getty can be tough on the people who make those images in the first place.

Just over half of Getty's revenues, according to industry estimates, come from distributing "stock" photos - images of generic subjects, such as "house" or "orange juice" or "corporate executive," that a commercial client might use in brochures, websites or advertisements.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Brian Horton.

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Garth C. Reeves, 100, Activist Newspaper Publisher, Is Dead (New York Times)



Garth C. Reeves at the offices of The Miami Times in 1998. His Bahamian immigrant father founded the newspaper in 1923. Photo/A. Enrique Valentin/South Florida Sun Sentinel

By Patricia Mazzei

MIAMI - Garth C. Reeves, the publisher emeritus of The Miami Times, the city's most influential black newspaper, which he used to advance the cause of civil rights, died on Monday in Aventura, Fla. He was 100.

His grandson, Garth Basil Reeves III, the newspaper's current publisher and Mr. Reeves's only survivor, said the cause was pneumonia. He said his grandfather's health had been in decline since the death of his daughter, Rachel J. Reeves, at 69 in September.

The elder Mr. Reeves, whose Bahamian immigrant father founded The Miami Times, a weekly, in 1923, embraced his roles as newspaperman, business owner and activist. In columns (some written by Mr. Reeves) and editorials, The Times wrote with forceful clarity about racial issues and championed - and challenged - local politicians over their promises to black voters. His efforts helped desegregate Miami's public golf courses and beaches.

Read more [here](#).

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EXCLUSIVE: Newsweek reporter fired for Trump Thanksgiving story blames editor

(Washington Examiner)

By Mike Brest

The Newsweek reporter who was fired after writing an inaccurate article about President Trump's Thanksgiving Day plans is deflecting some of the blame onto her editor.

Newsweek initially published the article Thursday morning, before the president's trip to Afghanistan was announced publicly. The story's initial headline was, "How is Trump spending Thanksgiving? Tweeting, golfing and more."

Kwong told the Washington Examiner that she was assigned to write a story on what Trump was doing on Thanksgiving. The next day, Kwong reached out to the editor on duty and relayed the president's latest actions, after which the story was published. When the president's trip to Afghanistan was announced, that editor then decided to assign another reporter to write a new story about it but neglected to update Kwong's original piece in a timely manner.

The story, which received backlash from both the president and Donald Trump Jr., was updated hours later with a new headline, a note at the bottom of the story, and the angle of the piece was changed to focus on the president's trip.

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

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Pete Hamill 'Ain't Done Yet' (New York Times)

By Alex Williams

After 9,000 or so bylines, Pete Hamill has probably earned the opportunity to write the lead of his own profile.

"Oh, I thought about it," Mr. Hamill said on a recent Friday morning, hunched over a walker in the kitchen of his brownstone apartment in the Prospect Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn.

"Pete Hamill is 84," he said. "He's got stents in his heart'- I do, I have four. 'He's got two broken hips. He has to go to dialysis three times a week. He's even got a pacemaker."

"But," he added, "he ain't done yet."

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

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Who Will Tell the Truth About the Free Press?

By The Editorial Board

The New York Times

"Concocting fake news to attract eyeballs is a habitual trick of America's New York Times, and this newspaper suffered a crisis of credibility for its fakery," the Chinese government declared after The Times broke the news this month of government documents detailing the internment of Uighurs, Kazaks and other Muslims in the northwestern region of Xinjiang.

Who would have guessed that history had such a perverse development in store for us? As the historian Timothy Snyder has written in The Times, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis came up with the slogan "Lügenpresse" - translated as "lying press" - in order to discredit independent journalism. Now the tactic has been laundered through an American president, Donald Trump, who adopted the term "fake news" as a candidate and has used it hundreds of times in office.

That is how, barely a generation after the murder of millions of Jews in Nazi death camps, the term "fake news" has come to be deployed so brazenly by another

repressive regime to act against another minority, to cover up the existence of prison camps for hundreds of thousands of Muslims.

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

The Final Word

From advice to recipes, Iowa woman retires after 70-year career as one of nation's longest-serving newspaper columnists (Des Moines Register)



Evelyn Birkby while she was in Chicago, where she lived and worked for three years, in 1945, four years before she began a 70-year column run for the Shenandoah newspaper.



Evelyn and Robert Birkby pose with some canned goods in 2014. Robert Birkby suggested his wife submit a column to the Shenandoah Evening Sentinel in 1949. She wrote it for 70 years, never missing a week. She's retiring at age 100.

By Daniel P. Finney

Fremont County farmer Robert Birkby saw an advertisement in the Shenandoah Evening Sentinel in the fall of 1949.

The newspaper sought a farmer's wife to write a homemaker's column.

Robert Birkby encouraged his wife, Evelyn Birkby, to apply.

"I don't know how to write," Evelyn Birkby remembers telling her husband.

Robert disagreed. He retrieved the family typewriter, put some paper on the roller and suggested she write about anything that came into her mind.

"It's just putting words onto paper," Evelyn remembers Robert saying.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peg Coughlin.

Today in History - December 2, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 2, the 336th day of 2019. There are 29 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 2, 1859, militant abolitionist John Brown was hanged for his raid on Harpers Ferry the previous October.

On this date:

In 1816, the first savings bank in the United States, the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society, opened for business.

In 1823, President James Monroe outlined his doctrine opposing European expansion in the Western Hemisphere.

In 1942, an artificially created, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction was demonstrated for the first time at the University of Chicago.

In 1954, the U.S. Senate passed, 67-22, a resolution condemning Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., saying he had "acted contrary to senatorial ethics and tended to bring the Senate into dishonor and disrepute."

In 1957, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania, the first full-scale commercial nuclear facility in the U.S., began operations. (The reactor ceased operating in 1982.)

In 1969, the Boeing 747 jumbo jet got its first public preview as 191 people, most of them reporters and photographers, flew from Seattle to New York City.

In 1970, the newly created Environmental Protection Agency opened its doors under its first director, William D. Ruckelshaus.

In 1980, four American churchwomen were raped and murdered in El Salvador. (Five national guardsmen were convicted in the killings.)

In 1982, in the first operation of its kind, doctors at the University of Utah Medical Center implanted a permanent artificial heart in the chest of retired dentist Dr. Barney Clark, who lived 112 days with the device.

In 1990, composer Aaron Copland died in North Tarrytown, New York, at age 90. Actor Bob Cummings died in Woodland Hills, California, at age 80.

In 1993, Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar was shot to death by security forces in Medellin (meh-deh-YEEN').

In 2015, a couple loyal to Islamic State opened fire at a holiday banquet for public employees in San Bernardino, California, killing 14 people and wounding 21 others before dying in a shootout with police.

Ten years ago: A day after President Barack Obama announced plans to deploy 30,000 more troops in Afghanistan, leading congressional Democrats said they had serious misgivings but would not try to stop the deployments. Republicans said they supported the force increase even as they questioned Obama's July 2011 deadline to start bringing troops home. Tiger Woods issued a statement saying he'd let his

family down with "transgressions" that he regretted "with all of my heart," and that he would deal with his personal life behind closed doors.

Five years ago: Israel's divided government fell apart as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fired two rebellious Cabinet ministers and called for a new election more than two years ahead of schedule. Islamic militants killed 36 quarry workers in northern Kenya who they believed were non-Muslims.

One year ago: Israeli police recommended indicting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on bribery charges, adding to a growing collection of legal troubles for the longtime leader.

Today's Birthdays: Former Attorney General Edwin Meese III is 88. Former Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., is 80. Actress Cathy Lee Crosby is 75. Movie director Penelope Spheeris is 74. Actor Ron Raines is 70. Country singer John Wesley Ryles is 69. Actor Keith Szarabajka is 67. Actor Dan Butler is 65. Broadcast journalist Stone Phillips is 65. Actor Dennis Christopher is 64. Actor Steven Bauer is 63. Country singer Joe Henry is 59. Rock musician Rick Savage (Def Leppard) is 59. Actor Brendan Coyle is 56. Rock musician Nate Mendel (Foo Fighters) is 51. Actress Suzy Nakamura is 51. Actress Rena Sofer is 51. Rock singer Jimi (cq) HaHa (Jimmie's Chicken Shack) is 51. Actress Lucy Liu (loo) is 51. Rapper Treach (Naughty By Nature) is 49. Actor Joe Lo Truglio is 49. International Tennis Hall of Famer Monica Seles is 46. Singer Nelly Furtado is 41. Pop singer Britney Spears is 38. Actress-singer Jana Kramer is 36. Actress Yvonne Orji is 36. Actress Daniela Ruah (roo-ah) is 36. NFL quarterback Aaron Rodgers is 36. Actor Alfred Enoch is 31. Pop singer-songwriter Charlie Puth is 28. Actresses Deanna and Daniella Canterman are 27.

**Thought for Today: "When your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt." [-]
Henry J. Kaiser, American industrialist (1882-1967).**

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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