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Connecting - January 07, 2020

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Connecting

January 07, 2020

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Colleagues,

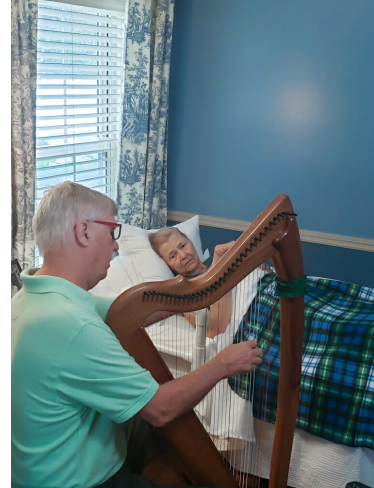
Good Tuesday morning on this the 7th day of January 2020,

Connecting has a tie to the 2020 presidential campaign - well, almost.

It appears our colleague **Norm Abelson** has been toying with running for the Democratic nomination, as he outlines in today's lead story. I think you'll enjoy how

he talked himself out of it.

My Spotlight column published Sunday in my hometown newspaper (The Messenger of Fort Dodge, Iowa) focused on a harp therapist from Merritt Island, Florida - **Dayle Olson** - who has played his harps at the bedsides of more than 2,500 hospice and hospital patients over the past 11 years.



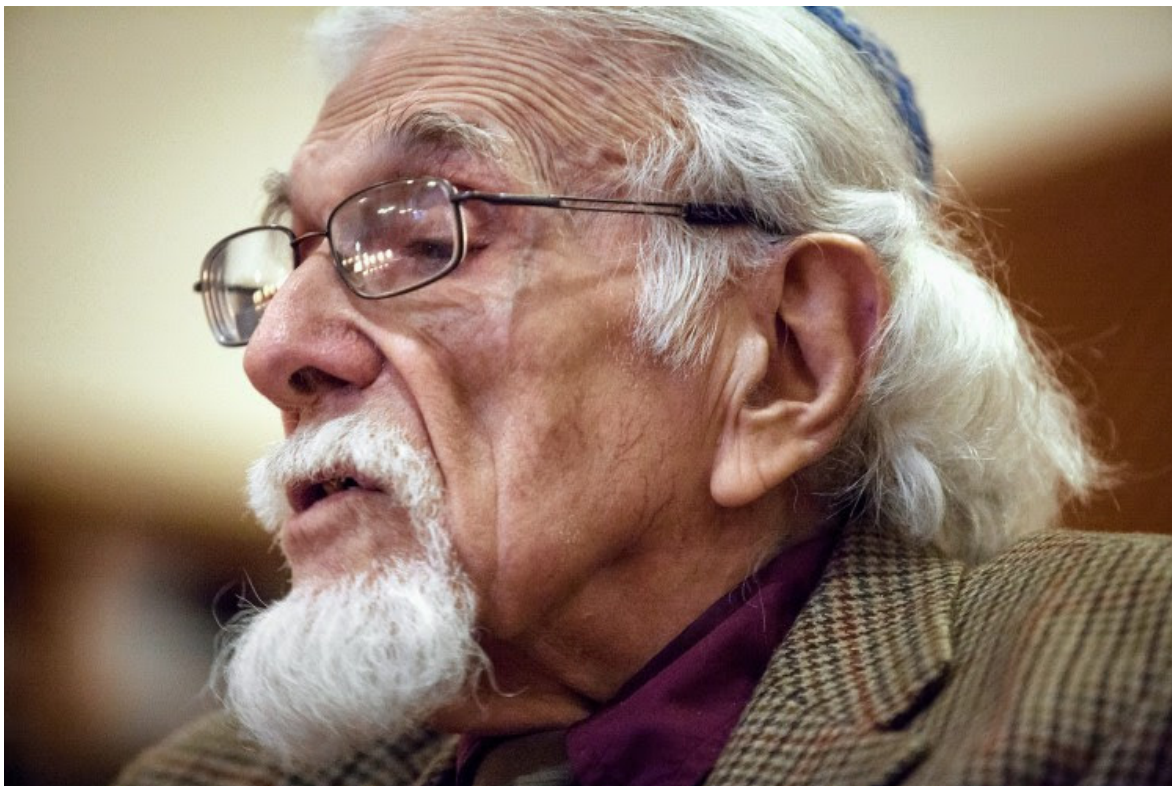
"I am asked frequently about playing music for persons who are in the process of making their final transition," Olson told me. "I realize this is not something everyone is comfortable with. Death is not a comfortable topic for many or a subject for a party conversation. I see it differently. My thinking about death and its impact on a person goes back to when I was a young Fort Dodger. When I was a high school sophomore, my brother, Roger, stepped on a land mine while serving in Vietnam. Then, less than five years later my sister, Marilyn, was hit by a car while walking with her friend north of town. Unfortunately, I learned about death and its emotional and physical effects on the survivors. As an adult I realized there must be ways to provide comfort to those who are dying - and also for those who are living."

Click [here](#) for a link to the story.

Have a great day!

Paul

Presidential dreamin'



Norm Abelson (2016 Photo/Concord Monitor)

Norm Abelson (Email) - For a while now, I've been secretly considering whether I should join the long list of candidates seeking the Democratic presidential nomination. I can hear your laughter now, as you think: "Who the heck is he to be running for president?"

Well, I must admit there are some drawbacks. I resigned from the Democratic Party some years back, after I felt they had thrown the middle and lower classes under the bus. The last Democratic National Convention I attended was back in 1964. I have pretty near no money. I don't know any lobbyists or billionaires. I have no Facebook account, and don't tweet or text. I have not publicly used any four-letter words to describe the current White House occupant. I've never met Nancy Pelosi or had lunch with Chuck Schumer. I don't know how to play golf. I still don't quite understand the Iowa caucuses.

And, if you promise to keep it to yourself, here's a confession: In the last election, I wrote in Harry Truman.

Oh, yeah, I'm 88 years old, and a lot of the people who might have voted for me have moved on to a better place. On the other hand, my advanced years would put me right in line with some of the current leaders - Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, and Elizabeth Warren. I know it's kind of late, but Michael Bloomberg, a fellow senior, also declared late.

Further on the positive side, some of the candidates aren't any better known than I am. I've never accepted money from a super-PAC. I've never appeared in the pages of a supermarket gossip sheet. I've never posted any suggestive pictures of myself. (Anyway, one look at my sagging structure would sink me like a rock.) As a U.S. Senate staffer during the Sixties, I never used a government plane to fly me for a Hawaiian vacation or to Bermuda. I never accepted a bribe (O.K., one was never offered.)

I was a Boy Scout, I love dogs, and once had a poem published in the American Legion magazine. I re-use plastic bags, eschew plastic straws, eat all my veggies (finally, Mom), and down no more than three cheeseburgers a week. My life partner, Magdalene, has great plans for a White House kale garden. In a bow to the youth movement, I'd pledge that my running-mate would be no older than 65.

Want to hear my campaign slogan? "Make America NORMAl again!"

Of course, I've got a campaign song.

"Norm, Norm he's our man
He'll kick The Donald in the can;
And no matter that he's old and grey
He's better than the guy we've got today!

"He'll cut your taxes to the bone
Give every kid a free ice-cream cone;
He's the one you should admire
'cause he'll fulfill your every desire.

"Your vote is all he's asking for
Oh, and maybe a few bucks or more."

I had even been thinking of establishing a presidential committee, and visiting next-door New Hampshire to make my announcement speech. But, to tell the truth, I'm beginning to have some doubts about the whole enterprise.

Magdalene says I'm way behind in paying the bills, and all those boxes of junk absolutely have to be moved out of the living room. I've promised to get the hedges and lawn taken care of next spring - for sure. We can't cancel plans to have our friend Duke's 85th birthday party at the house next year. And I've got an endless number of doctors' visits (with an endless string of docs) scheduled. Finally, I'm wondering whether being president is worth giving up my quiet walks along the beach here in Maine.

Maybe I'd better just put the whole thing off for four years. After all, I'll only be 92.

Connecting mailbox

Thanks for profiling Lindel Hutson

Larry McDermott ([Email](#)) - Thanks for Spotlighting Lindel Hutson (in Monday's Connecting). He's much too humble to say it, so I will.

When we started out as reporters at The Jonesboro Sun, Hutson, like most of us, was a journalism student at Arkansas State University. To a small cadre of young reporters working there, he was both BMOC and a real newspaperman. Hutson rightly credits John Troutt Jr., The Sun's ME, for tutoring us all, but it was Hutson we watched in order to learn.

He drove a Mustang Fastback that could have passed for a double of Steve McQueen's understated but fast car in "Bullitt." Even the way he talked was McQueen-like, but he was no actor. He was the real deal, and we knew it. He showed us that healthy skepticism was a reporter's headlight, and that good manners and kindness opened more doors to people's lives than anything else.

It's also no surprise that he recognized a powerful news photo in Oklahoma City. He was the best photographer at The Sun, where all reporters were expected to take photos. It was his kind and mannerly side that made him take a look at a stranger's photos fresh off a Walmart printer, and a keen news sense told him the picture was priceless.

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Thanks for perking up my day

Norm Abelson ([Email](#)) - Amidst all the churning and depression, it's good to be reminded of the simple road to happiness and fulfillment. Thanks to Ed Williams for sharing the Donkey In the Hole piece in Monday's Connecting. He perked up my day, and I happily thank him.

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Sharing memories of Cairo, Manila



Two ex-AP bureau chiefs in Cairo and Manila: Billy Mann (right) and Bob Reid in a Washington restaurant on Sunday. Bob was Cairo CoB from 1982 to 1985 and Manila CoB from 1986 to 1995. Billy succeeded him in Cairo. Billy (William C.) Mann was chief of bureau in Manila from 1977 until 1981 and CoB in Cairo from 1985 until 1994.

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AP Stylebook as a propaganda guide for media?

Neal Ulevich (Email) - Regarding John Caldara's screed in 1/6 Connecting on the AP Stylebook, right-wing gadflies such as Caldara often fault AP and other media for not identifying sources in their stories. Apparently, this criticism does not apply to Caldara, who has "the sweetest, most proper lady in the world," thought to be incapable of uttering "a harsh word" cursing our profession. Does she have a name, John? Or, in the usual right-wing insinuation of media sources unnamed, often for valid reason, does she exist?

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On getting play in the New York Times

Carl O. Leubsdorf (Email) - During my early years in the AP Washington bureau, in the 1960s, I recall great annual interest in producing some piece of enterprise reporting that would make the Times during the annual meetings of the AP board and ASNE. One year, I stumbled into doing just that.

It was my first week covering the US House (in those days, AP had five covering the House, six covering the Senate and more than a dozen regionals), and I had been assigned to cover the committee that was beginning auto safety hearings. The Senate had passed a bill calling for the first federal standards, but the auto industry was resisting. Knowing very little about how to approach coverage - I had never covered a state legislature - I started making the rounds of committee members, seeking to see the staffers handling these hearings to get string for my PMs advance. At every stop, I kept running into the same people and finally decided to see who they were and why they were there. It turned out they were the representatives of the big auto companies, and they were passing the word that, at the next morning's hearing, the companies would abandon their opposition and endorse federal standards. I went back to the House cubicle and advised the desk I had a great angle for the PMs advance. The response: it's a spot story, so I quickly wrote it up and the desk sent it out.

As it turned out, about the time my story hit newspaper and broadcast members, statements from the auto companies, embargoed for 10 am the next morning, were arriving in their and our office. I was accused of breaking the embargo, though I had not a clue about the release or any embargo. The Times put it at the top of Page 1, with the usual byline: By The Associated Press. I got a nice note from COB Bill Beale.

Later, I learned that, to save time, such advances were usually reported by phone. Not sure that was better: I never made Page 1 of The Times again.

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The NewsMuseum is Alive and Well...in Sintra, Portugal



Kevin Walsh ([Email](#)) - Spotted this on our a recent walk. The NewsMuseum opened in 2016 and bills itself as "the largest media and communication experience in Europe." Click [here](#) for a link.

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AP sighting - Louisville, Colorado



(Spotted and shared by Joe McGowan)

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A tribute to David Tirrell-Wysocki

Adolphe Bernotas ([Email](#)) - This is a tribute to Connecting colleague David Tirrell-Wysocki, published in the New Hampshire Union. Click [here](#) for a link.

Loeb school's new year

Longtime friend and New Hampshire news colleague David Tirrell-Wysocki has ended a 13-year "temporary" run as director of the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications, Inc. The school, which is the majority owner of the Union Leader Corp. but operates independently from it, has grown steadily under his quiet, insightful leadership.

When the non-profit school began, three classes were offered. Tirrell-Wysocki taught one.



Our friends at WMURTV taught another.

Their course in broadcast journalism remains among the most popular and will be back later this year.

Courses now rotate. Many are long-lasting while a few have come and gone.

Some new ones, such as digital marketing and understanding the differences between real news and the "fake" variety, were not even "a thing" when the school was founded in 1999.

Most of the six-week, evening courses are free of charge. Some specialty workshops are offered for a small fee. The new school year begins next Wednesday, Jan. 8. Information may be found at www.loeb.school.org.

You may also run into Tirrell-Wysocki at the school on East Industrial Drive in Manchester. A veteran Associated Press newsman before turning educator and later school director, he has signed up to take a course already.

We will miss him even as we welcome his successor, Laura Simoes. Simoes is also a communications professional familiar with the school and passionate about its mission. We think Nackey Loeb, who shared a passion for independent journalism with her husband, William Loeb, would be well pleased with how her little school has fared.

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This has been added to my file of favorite obits

Ed Williams (Email) - This (from the Chattanooga.com) goes into my file of favorite obits. Wish I had known this fine lady. But after reading her obit I feel like I did know her. Isn't that what an obit should accomplish?

Katy Lynn McDonald escaped this mortal realm on December 14, 2019. She was 80, we think. The family believes she did it on purpose to avoid having to cast another vote in the American elections.



Katy was world-renowned (#itsasmallworldafterall) for her generosity and kind disposition. She never met a stranger but she brought a few home (David W., you were our favorite). Mom offered a charm, wit, and undying love to those who were her friends. She was simply an amazing gal, part saint part sinner all bundled up into one marvelous package. If you were fortunate to have met her, you'd have liked her immediately... she was just that kind of person.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting '80s/'90s Club

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting publishes this list quarterly. If you are qualified for one of the age groups and would like to be listed, drop me a note.)

90s:

Mercer Bailey
Albert Habhab
Gene Herrick
Elaine Light
Sam Montello
Robert O'Meara
Seymour Topping
Sal Veder
Harold Waters

80s:

Norm Abelson
Paul Albright
Peter Arnett
Malcolm Barr
Lou Boccardi
Hal Bock

William Roy Bolch Jr.
Ben Brown
Charles Bruce
Hal Buell
Sibby Christensen
Shirley Christian
Mike Cochran
Eldon Cort
Don Dashiell
Bob Daugherty
Otto Doelling
Phil Dopoulos
John Eagan
Claude Erbsen
Mike Feinsilber
George Hanna
Chick Harrity
Jack Howey
Lee Jones
Doug Kienitz
Dean Lee
Warren Lerude
Carl Leubsdorf
Art Loomis
Dave Mazarella
Joe McGowan
Walter Mears
Yvette Mercourt
Reid Miller
Charlie Monzella
Greg Nokes
Joe Somma
Arlon Southall
Marty Thompson
Ron Thompson
Kernan Turner
Hank Waters
Paul Webster
Jeff Williams
Joe Yeninas
Arnold Zeitlin
George Zucker

Stories of interest

***Federal judge holds freelancers to new
California labor law***

By **DON THOMPSON**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) - A federal judge will not temporarily exempt freelance journalists and photographers from a broad new California labor law, saying they waited too long to challenge restrictions that they fear could put some of them out of business.

U.S. District Judge Philip Gutierrez in Los Angeles denied the temporary restraining order sought by two freelancers' organizations while he takes more time to consider their objections to the law requiring that many be treated as employees instead of independent contractors.

A hearing on their request isn't scheduled until March. An attorney who sued on behalf of the groups said Monday that the harm to their profession is immediate from the law that took effect with the new year.

"Freelance journalists in California are losing work each day AB 5 remains in effect," Jim Manley, an attorney for the nonprofit libertarian Pacific Legal Foundation, said in an email. However, he said the judge's decision to wait for a full hearing "is understandable given the gravity of the issues."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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McMillin: Nothing can quite replace the smell of newsprint in the morning, but e-editions are close (Denver Post)

By **SUE MCMILLIN** | Columnist for The Denver Post

When we visited the Newseum a few years back, my daughters surreptitiously bought me a gift of a coffee mug that says, "I love the smell of newsprint in the morning."

Mmmm. Nothing better than when mingled with the aroma of fresh coffee.

That mug reminds me not only of a wonderful trip to Washington, D.C., but also of bygone mornings with the wide sheets of newspapers spread across the kitchen table, and the trading of sections with others. My parents and grandparents were avid newspaper readers, so fetching the local daily off the porch or driveway and diving in was always part of my life.

Until a couple of years ago, when I lived in a tiny town and the largest nearby daily decided to end home delivery. I was bereft.

Sure, I had switched to reading a lot of news online, and I get that fewer newspapers is probably better for the environment. I have multiple digital subscriptions and get news alerts from various publications on my phone.

Yet something was missing, and it wasn't merely the smell of newsprint.

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

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University of Wyoming likely to appeal records lawsuit loss

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) - A University of Wyoming official says the school will likely appeal a judge's order to turn over records to news media outlets.

University spokesman Chad Baldwin said Monday the school's board of trustees hasn't made a final decision on whether to appeal but "that is the intent at this point."

Albany County District Court Judge Tori Kricken ruled Friday that the vast majority of records sought by the Casper Star-Tribune and WyoFile should be released though with redactions.

The university withheld records the news outlets sought involving a trustees' decision not to renew the contract of university President Laurie Nichols in 2019.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

The Final Word

Gifted writer tells his final story (in his own obituary)



Ken Fuson (right) and Randy Evans at Randy's retirement reception at the Des Moines Register in December 2014.

Randy Evans ([Email](#)) - Ken Fuson, a former Des Moines Register and Baltimore Sun reporter, died last week at the age of 63 from liver disease.

Tonight (Monday night), his family unearthed his self-written obituary. And what a read it is.

Ken was an extraordinary storyteller. His longest was a series for the Sun, "A Stage of Their Life," that was about 16,000 words on the cast preparing for a high school musical. His shortest was a one-sentence weather story that was just shy of 300 words. (Keep reading. I'm sharing that.)

None of us was surprised to learn Ken wrote his own obit. Friends were eager for his family to find the obit in Ken's computer.

Here it is:

Ken Fuson (DOB: 6/23/56) died Friday in Omaha at the University of Nebraska Medical Center of liver cirrhosis and is stunned to learn that the world is somehow able to go on without him.

Ken grew up in Granger, and decided when he was a sophomore at Woodward-Granger High School that he wanted to be a newspaper reporter. He covered sports for the Woodward Enterprise before leaving for the University of Missouri-Columbia.

He attended the university's famous School of Journalism, which is a clever way of saying, "almost graduated but didn't." Facing a choice between covering a story for the Columbia Daily Tribune or taking his final exams, Ken went for the story. He never claimed to be smart, just committed.

In 1981, Ken landed his dream job, working as a reporter for The Des Moines Register, where he was probably best known for writing a one-paragraph, one-sentence weather story that has been reprinted in four books.

In 1996, Ken took the principled stand of leaving the Register because The Sun in Baltimore offered him more money. Three years later, having blown most of that money at Pimlico Race Track, he returned to the Register, where he remained until 2008.

In his newspaper work, Ken won several national feature-writing awards, including the Ernie Pyle Award, ASNE Distinguished Writing Award, National Headliner Award, Missouri Award (twice) and Distinguished Writing Award in the Best of Gannett contest (five times, but who's counting?). No, he didn't win a Pulitzer Prize, but he's dead now, so get off his back.



**Register photo/Rodney
White**

There are those who would suggest that becoming a free-lance writer in the midst of the worst recession since the Great Depression was not a wise choice, but Ken was never one to be guided by wisdom. He wrote the book, "Heading for Home" with Kent Stock, about the 1991 Norway baseball team that won the state championship in its final season. Good copies still available.

In 2011, Ken accepted a job in the marketing department at Simpson College, where he remained until 2018. He enjoyed it very much, but once again forgot an important lesson: Always have a Plan B.

He was diagnosed with liver disease at the beginning of 2019, which is pretty ironic given how little he drank. Eat your fruits and vegetables, kids.

He is survived by his sons, Jesse and Max, and his stepson, Jared Reese, who all brought Ken unsurpassed joy. He hopes they will forgive him for not making the point more often. He loved his boys and was (and is) extraordinarily proud to be their father.

For most of his life, Ken suffered from a compulsive gambling addiction that nearly destroyed him. But his church friends, and the loving people at Gamblers Anonymous, never gave up on him.

Ken last placed a bet on Sept. 5, 2009. He died clean. He hopes that anyone who needs help will seek it, which is hard, and accept it, which is even harder. Miracles abound.

Ken's pastor says God can work miracles for you and through you. Skepticism may be cool, and for too many years Ken embraced it, but it was faith in Jesus Christ that transformed his life. That was the one thing he never regretted. It changed everything.

For many years Ken was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Indianola and sang in the choir, which was a neat trick considering he couldn't read a note of music. The choir members will never know how much they helped him.

He then joined Lutheran Church of Hope. If you want to know what God's love feels like, just walk in those doors. Seriously, right now. We'll wait. Ken's not gone.

anywhere.

Ken had many character flaws - if he still owes you money, he's sorry, sincerely - but he liked to think that he had a good sense of humor and a deep compassion for others. He prided himself on letting other drivers cut in line. He would give you the shirt off his back, even with the ever-present food stain. Thank goodness nobody asked. It wouldn't have been pretty. He also was a master Jumbles solver.

Other survivors: his father, Don Fuson. Brother: Joe. A niece and two nephews.

In lieu of flowers, Ken asked that everyone wear black armbands and wail in public during a one-year grieving period. If that doesn't work, how about donating a book to the public libraries in Granger or Indianola?

Yes, this obituary is probably too long. Ken always wrote too long.

God is good. Embrace every moment, even the bad ones. See you in heaven. Ken promises to let you cut in line.

--

Here's his most famous story, presented just the way he wrote it:

What a Day!

Here's how Iowa celebrates a 70-degree day in the middle of March: By washing the car and scooping the loop and taking a walk; by daydreaming in school and playing hooky at work and shutting off the furnace at home; by skate-boarding and flying kites and digging through closets for baseball gloves; by riding that new bike you got for Christmas and drawing hopscotch boxes in chalk on the sidewalk and not caring if the kids lost their mittens again; by looking for robins and noticing swimsuits on department store mannequins and shooting hoops in the park; by sticking the ice scraper in the trunk and the antifreeze in the garage and leaving the car parked outside overnight; by cleaning the barbecue and stuffing the parka in storage and just standing outside and letting that friendly sun kiss your face; by wondering where you're going to go on summer vacation and getting reacquainted with neighbors on the front porch and telling the boys that yes! yes! they can run outside and play without a jacket; by holding hands with a lover and jogging in shorts and picking up the extra branches in the yard; by eating an ice cream cone outside and (if you're a farmer or gardener) feeling that first twinge that says it's time to plant and (if you're a high school senior) feeling that first twinge that says it's time to leave; by wondering if in all of history there has ever been a day so glorious and concluding that there

hasn't and being afraid to even stop and take a breath (or begin a new paragraph) for fear that winter would return, leaving Wednesday in our memory as nothing more than a sweet and too-short dream.

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Part of Ken's life, as he acknowledges in his obituary, was his gambling compulsion. Here in [this church video](#) is Ken sharing the story of his addiction and how he finally got it under control. It's a powerful story that is marked by humor and brutal honesty.

(You can begin at the 14-minute mark.)

(Randy Evans, a Connecting colleague, is the executive director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council. He is a former editorial page editor and assistant managing editor of The Des Moines Register, where he worked 40 years before retiring in 2014.)

Today in History - January 7, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 7, the seventh day of 2020. There are 359 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 7, 2004, President George W. Bush proposed legal status, at least temporarily, for millions of immigrants improperly working in the U.S.

On this date:

In 1789, America held its first presidential election as voters chose electors who, a month later, selected George Washington to be the nation's first chief executive.

In 1904, the Marconi International Marine Communication Company of London announced that the telegraphed letters "CQD" would serve as a maritime distress call (it was later replaced with "SOS").

In 1927, commercial transatlantic telephone service was inaugurated between New York and London.

In 1953, President Truman announced in his State of the Union message to Congress that the United States had developed a hydrogen bomb.

In 1959, the United States recognized the new government of Cuba, six days after Fidel Castro led the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1972, Lewis F. Powell, Jr. and William H. Rehnquist were sworn in as the 99th and 100th members of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1979, Vietnamese forces captured the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, overthrowing the Khmer Rouge government.

In 1989, Emperor Hirohito of Japan died in Tokyo at age 87; he was succeeded by his son, Crown Prince Akihito.

In 1999, for the second time in history, an impeached American president went on trial before the Senate. President Bill Clinton faced charges of perjury and obstruction of justice; he was acquitted.

In 2002, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and nine U.S. senators swept into Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan for an unannounced visit and promised Afghan leaders their

full support in rebuilding the shattered country.

In 2004, President George W. Bush proposed legal status, at least temporarily, for millions of immigrants improperly working in the U.S.

In 2006, Jill Carroll, a freelance journalist for The Christian Science Monitor, was kidnapped and her translator shot dead in Baghdad. (Carroll was freed almost three months later.)

Ten years ago: A worker for a transformer-making company in St. Louis showed up at the plant and opened fire, killing three people and wounding five before killing himself. Thousands of Egyptian Christians went on a rampage after six members of their community were gunned down as they left midnight Mass for Coptic Christians in the southern Egyptian town of Nag Hamadi. No. 1 Alabama held on for a 37-21 win over No. 2 Texas in the BCS championship played in Pasadena, California.

Five years ago: Masked gunmen stormed the Paris offices of Charlie Hebdo, a French newspaper that had caricatured the Prophet Mohammad, methodically killing 12 people, including the editor, before escaping in a car. (Two suspects were killed two days later.) Actor Rod Taylor 82, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Actor Kevin Spacey pleaded not guilty in Nantucket, Massachusetts, to groping an 18-year-old busboy in 2016 in the first criminal case brought against Spacey following a string of sexual misconduct allegations. Second-ranked Clemson defeated No. 1 Alabama 44-16 in the national championship game of the college football playoffs; Clemson became the first team in the AP poll era, dating back to 1936, to finish 15-0. For the first time in more than 25 years, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was absent from oral arguments as she recuperated from cancer surgery. Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam granted clemency to 30-year-old Cyntoia Brown, who said she was a 16-year-old sex trafficking victim when she killed a man in 2004. Amazon eclipsed Microsoft as the most valuable publicly-traded company in the U.S.

Today's Birthdays: Magazine publisher Jann Wenner is 74. Singer Kenny Loggins is 72. Singer-songwriter Marshall Chapman is 71. Actress Erin Gray is 70. Actor Sammo Hung is 68. Actress Jodi Long is 66. Actor David Caruso is 64. Talk show host Katie Couric is 63. Country singer David Lee Murphy is 61. Rock musician Kathy Valentine is 61. Actor David Marciano is 60. Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., is 59. Actress Hallie Todd is 58. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., is 57. Actor Nicolas Cage is 56. Singer-songwriter John Ondrasik (on-DRAH'-sik) (Five for Fighting) is 55. Actor Rex Lee is 51. Actor Doug E. Doug is 50. Actor Kevin Rahm is 49. Actor Jeremy Renner is 49. Country singer-musician John Rich is 46. Actor Dustin Diamond is 43. Actor Reggie Austin is 41. Singer-rapper Aloe Blacc is 41. Actress Lauren Cohan is 38. Actor Brett Dalton is 37. Actor Robert Ri'chard is 37. Actress Lyndsy Fonseca is 33.

Actor Liam Aiken is 30. Actress Camryn Grimes is 30. Actor Max Morrow is 29.
Actor Marcus Scribner is 20.

Thought for Today: "One cannot and must not try to erase the past merely because it does not fit the present." [-] Golda Meir, Israeli prime minister (1898-1978).

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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