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Connecting - January 10, 2020

1 message

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Connecting

January 10, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 10th day of January 2020,

The Newseum in Washington has gone dark since its closure Dec. 31, but not the memories of many of us who visited the structure that told the story of news, the role of a free press in major events in history, and how the core freedoms of the First Amendment - religion, speech, press, assembly and petition - apply to our lives.

Connecting colleague **Robert Meyers** recalls an event in April 2008 when, days before the Newseum's opening at its last location on Pennsylvania Avenue NW, many journalists gathered for dedication of a memorial to fallen journalists.

We also bring you the reaction of colleague **John Wylie** to the letter published in Connecting, shared by **John Lumpkin**, that AP President/General Manager **Wes Gallagher** shared with AP staff in 1972. Those were the days...

Have a great weekend!

Paul

Memories burn brightly over special Newseum event



Horst Faas, left, a renowned photographer and editor for The Associated Press during the Vietnam War, recalls the lives of four combat photographers who died together in a 1971 helicopter crash in Vietnam during a ceremony

at the Newseum in Washington, Thursday, April 3, 2008. At center is Richard Pyle, the AP's Saigon bureau chief at the time of the crash, and right, AP President and Chief Executive Officer Tom Curley. Faas and Pyle collaborated on a book about the tragedy: "Lost Over Laos: A True Story of Tragedy, Mystery and Friendship". (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, courtesy of AP Corporate Archives)

Robert Meyers ([Email](#)) - Connecting has shared a number of stories of the Newseum and it saddened me when this innovative and novel establishment closed its doors on Dec. 31 after 11 years in its final location at [555 Pennsylvania Avenue](#) in Washington, D.C.

I wanted to note that I accompanied legendary AP photographer Horst Faas to the dedication of the memorial to fallen journalists prior to the Newseum being opened to the public in the spring of 2008. Horst brought relics (pieces of cameras and bone fragments) from the crash site where Larry Burrows, 44, of Life Magazine, Henri Huet, 43, of The Associated Press, Kent Potter, 23, of United Press International and Keisaburo Shimamoto, 34, of Newsweek died when their helicopter was shot down Feb. 10, 1971, while they were attempting to cover the incursion of U.S. forces into Laos. Horst co-authored a book on finding the crash site "Lost Over Laos" with former AP Saigon bureau chief Richard Pyle.

The ceremony of opening the memorial, moved from the previous location in Rosslyn, Va., across the river from D.C., where Gannett and USA Today had been headquartered before relocating to McLean, Va., was moving and poignant. There was a chapel-type area off a main foyer with the names of journalists who died doing their jobs.



AP Photos courtesy AP Corporate Archives

I remember the day - April 3, 2008 - clearly at the gathering of senior media representatives from many outlets who covered the Vietnam War. Edie Lederer (current AP United Nations senior correspondent) was among them. There was a group photo taken on a wide central staircase with at least 35 people posing. Horst was in a wheelchair then after being stricken in Hanoi at an end of the war anniversary gathering some years before. I think I was too humbled by those present to raise my camera at this event. I had taken the offered buyout option and left the AP after 21 years the previous October 31, when the State Photo Center closed. Horst had hired me in London in October 1986. The Newseum in Rosslyn had hosted one of the U.S. displays of Horst's and Tim Page's exhibition "Requiem", which accompanied the publication of their book that showcased and documented the hundreds of photographers on both sides who were killed in the Vietnam War.

I understand from a Washington Post story published in Connecting that artifacts the Newseum owns will move into a storage facility in Maryland, while items on loan will be returned to lenders, that the museum owns the World Trade Center antenna, the Berlin Wall segments and the Watergate door, and that the journalists' remains will be returned to the Pentagon's Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

Like many of my colleagues, I hope that a new location can be found.

Wes Gallagher's letter to staff: 'Those Were The Days'

John Wylie ([Email](#)) - What a wonderful letter, that written by AP President/General Manager Wes Gallagher sent to AP's worldwide staff in 1972 (and shared in Thursday's Connecting).

How we need thinking like that today.

I'm reminded of the song "Those Were the Days" recorded by 17-year-old Welsh folk singer Mary Hopkins. It was a huge hit and remains a symbol of its era because it raises the same thought we so desperately need now to revive our profession, which suffers primarily from self-destruction at the altar of and the lack of faith in long-term integrity, value and quality reporting/writing/editing building a stronger financial future than setting new earnings highs every quarter. Ironically, the song originated in Russia and was first performed in that language in the 1953 foreign film *Inroads in Paris*. Whatever the language, the song's message was the same - both the old and young have dreams and ideas worth saving and pursuing.

That's what Gallagher was writing about when I was in college and building a real news operation at Grinnell's public radio station - working with the AP bureau in Des Moines. We were the only station on the air between sundown and sunup in a roughly seven-county area of Iowa and we couldn't afford the cost of a dedicated phone line from Grinnell to Des Moines. We could afford a splitter and local line from the local commercial AM station to our studio about a mile away, so AP gave us service in exchange for handling breaking news in the previously blacked-out counties. Night broadcast editor Rich Buck taught me the basics of writing and dictating for the wire by phone, and soon the "Beeper Billboard" in the monthly AP Newsletter showed our contributions to be double or more the stories from our cross-town competition - which long had led the state in contributions from small market stations. The song will relive in your head when you read the lyrics...

Those Were The Days

Mary Hopkin

Once upon a time there was a tavern
Where we used to raise a glass or two
Remember how we laughed away the hours
And think of all the great things we would do

Those were the days my friend
We thought they'd never end
We'd sing and dance forever and a day
We'd live the life we choose
We'd fight and never lose
For we were young and sure to have our way

-0-

Then the busy years went rushing by us
We lost our starry notions on the way
If by chance I'd see you in the tavern
We'd smile at one another and we'd say

Those were the days my friend
We thought they'd never end
We'd sing and dance forever and a day
We'd live the life we choose
We'd fight and never lose
Those were the days, oh yes those were the days

-0-

Just tonight I stood before the tavern
Nothing seemed the way it used to be
In the glass I saw a strange reflection
Was that lonely woman really me

Those were the days my friend
We thought they'd never end
We'd sing and dance forever and a day

We'd live the life we choose
We'd fight and never lose
Those were the days, oh yes those were the days

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Through the door there came familiar laughter
I saw your face and heard you call my name
Oh my friend we're older but no wiser
For in our hearts the dreams are still the same

Those were the days my friend
We thought they'd never end
We'd sing and dance forever and a day
We'd live the life we choose
We'd fight and never lose
Those were the days, oh yes those were the days

Click [here](#) for a YouTube video.

Connecting mailbox

On visiting all seven continents



Charles Hanley ([Email](#)) - Re your query on visiting seven continents: It may not be surprising that, in decades of globetrotting for AP, I hit all seven. But it should be. I never should have set foot in Antarctica. It was one of those cases of who you know, not what.

In early 2009, a seemingly misdirected message arrived at NY AP from the Norwegian Environment Ministry, offering a seat on a trip to seldom-visited East Antarctica. The invite should have gone to the Oslo buro (I hope Doug Mellgren isn't reading this). Ellen Nimmons, overseeing the foreign report, followed the SOP and sent the message up the chain to International Editor John Daniszewski. But Ellen, longtime colleague, dear friend, also clued in yours truly, back in NY from some trip. I lobbied hard for that seat south and got it.

The two-day visit to Norway's Troll Research Station produced a half-dozen stories, most importantly a lengthy feature on a 1,400-mile traverse of the East Antarctic plateau by a U.S.-Norwegian scientific team, whose members had just arrived at Troll two months after leaving the South Pole station.

Now, of course, the eventual book on my epic, 48-hour Antarctic drop-by will be dedicated to "E.Nimmons, wisest of editors."

One postscript: The most memorable comment after that trip came from photo chief Santi Lyon, who lightheartedly remarked on "our Cartier-Bresson" having produced my photo above (of some Russian marveling at the landscape). Alas, despaired I, have I wasted 40 years scribbling instead of shooting?

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Dodi Fromson ([Email](#)) - I have not visited Antarctica, but six other continents, yes, definitely. At least 80 countries.

-0-

On a memorable flight with Richard Simmons

Russ Kaurlo ([Email](#)) - In reading the piece by John Rogers on Richard Simmons (in Wednesday's Connecting), it reminded me of a flight I took from LAX to Newark where Richard Simmons was on the same flight. Keep in mind this was the mid 90's - pre 9/11. Richard was in his SOP workout gear and proceeded to take over the flight attendants and the microphone. He actually had all of the passengers and flight crew doing exercises and singing songs - he was hilarious. The best and most endearing part is when I was heading down the tunnel after the flight, I happened to catch up to Richard and asked if he would sign an autograph for mom, who at the time was battling ovarian cancer, and a big fan of Richard. When I told him why I wanted his autograph, he slumped, gave me a hug and pulled an 8x10 picture of himself out of his bag and signed it to my mom. He took a step back when

I told him my mom's name was Shirley - it was his mother's name as well. His persona was real and he was a real person.

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Getting on Page One in The New York Times

Arnold Zeitlin (Email) - I notice the New York Times front page pictured in the note about Mike Graczyk being on page one also shows a story by Lou Uchitelle who by then was (I think) business editor of The Times after serving AP as business editor in New York and as a reporter in Philadelphia and Argentina, among other places.

I have an indistinct memory of getting a New York Times byline inside the paper in the '60s on a story from Nigeria (I also forget the context). I was told by the foreign desk that it was the first AP byline in The Times since World War II but I have never confirmed that.

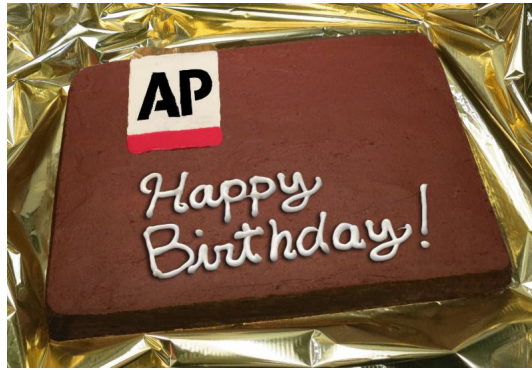
I did get a mention by name on the Times front page the end of March, 1971, when it printed part of my dispatch about the Pakistan Army's violent crackdown in Dhaka in what then was East Pakistan. That dispatch was the first story to get out despite censorship about the widespread killings.

I was the subject of a Times story, I think, twice. Once was from Joe Lelyveld, then Times correspondent in Hong Kong and later Times executive editor, who reported on the controversy some time in the 70s after Philippines foreign secretary Carlos Romulo accused me of using my reporting to alienate the Philippines from Arab states because I was "suspected of being Jewish". The other story was when the Philippines government ordered me expelled from the country in November 1976.

By the way, in reference to mentions of Wes Gallagher being grumpy and distant, I found him in my overseas career to being a caring chief executive. Under his leadership, AP was never better.

Ah, memories!

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Robert Burns - roburns22@gmail.com

On Saturday to...

Brian Horton - hortonmail@gmail.com

On Sunday to...

Walter Mears - wmears111@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Getting a Grant: How, Where and Why to Apply for Journalism Funding (News Media Alliance)

Over the past decade, donors and foundations have awarded an estimated \$300 million to hundreds of U.S. journalists and media organizations. Those donations have tripled over the years: There's a growing recognition of the need to support local and regional news in particular, as more newsrooms shrink or disappear.

But few journalists feel equipped or comfortable dealing with funders and grant applications - it's just one of those lessons not taught or even mentioned in journalism schools.

Recognizing that deficit, along with the increasing urgency for financial support, The News & Observer (a McClatchy newsroom in Raleigh, N.C.) has developed guidelines for seeking funds - and a "living" directory of journalism grants.

The project was part of The News & Observer's participation in Table Stakes, a Knight-Lenfest Local News Transformation Fund program that guides teams of journalists through newsroom challenges. The News & Observer team developed these tools to help their newsroom and others, including News Media Alliance members, navigate the world of philanthropic funding.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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Man saves California's oldest weekly newspaper from closure



In this Dec. 13, 2018, photo is The Mountain Messenger building, in Downieville, Calif. A retiree has canceled an around-the-world trip to save California's oldest weekly newspaper, which was set to shut down when its editor retires in January 2020. Carl Butz, 71, says he is taking over the Mountain Messenger, which covers two rural counties northeast of Sacramento. Terms of the deal were not immediately disclosed. (Kent Nishimura/Los Angeles Times via AP)

DOWNIEVILLE, Calif. (AP) - A retiree has canceled an around-the-world trip to save California's oldest weekly newspaper, which was set to shut down when its editor retires this month.

The paper began in 1853 as a twice-per-month publication; its claim to fame is that Mark Twain once wrote there under his real name, Sam Clemens. He was there hiding out from authorities in Nevada, where he had accepted a challenge to a duel after dueling had been outlawed, Don Russell, 70, the current publisher who is retiring told SFGate.

Carl Butz, 71, says he is taking over the Mountain Messenger, which is based out of his hometown of Downieville and covers two rural counties northeast of Sacramento. Terms of the deal were not immediately disclosed.

"I've been a widower for three years and this is a new chapter in my life," Butz, who lives in an off-the-grid cabin, told SFGate. "What am I going to do? Go on another trip around the world? Instead, I'm doing something good for the community, and I feel good about it."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

Today in History - January 10, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Jan. 10, the 10th day of 2020. There are 356 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 10, 1984, the United States and the Vatican established full diplomatic relations for the first time in more than a century.

On this date:

In 1776, Thomas Paine anonymously published his influential pamphlet, "Common Sense," which argued for American independence from British rule.

In 1860, the Pemberton Mill in Lawrence, Mass., collapsed and caught fire, killing up to 145 people, mostly female workers from Scotland and Ireland.

In 1861, Florida became the third state to secede from the Union.

In 1863, the London Underground had its beginnings as the Metropolitan, the world's first underground passenger railway, opened to the public with service between Paddington and Farringdon Street.

In 1870, John D. Rockefeller incorporated Standard Oil.

In 1917, legendary Western frontiersman and showman William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody died at his sister's home in Denver at age 70.

In 1920, the League of Nations was established as the Treaty of Versailles (veh-SY') went into effect.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson, in his State of the Union address, asked Congress to impose a surcharge on both corporate and individual income taxes to help pay for his "Great Society" programs as well as the war in Vietnam. That same day, Massachusetts Republican Edward W. Brooke, the first black person elected to the U.S. Senate by popular vote, took his seat.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton, attending a NATO summit meeting in Brussels, Belgium, announced completion of an agreement to remove all long-range nuclear missiles from the former Soviet republic of Ukraine.

In 2002, Marines began flying hundreds of al-Qaida prisoners in Afghanistan to a U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In 2004, actor-writer Spalding Gray, 62, vanished from his New York apartment (his body was found two months later in the East River).

In 2016, David Bowie, the chameleon-like star who transformed the sound [-] and the look [-] of rock with his audacious creativity and his sexually ambiguous makeup and costumes, died in New York.

Ten years ago: Data showed China edging past Germany in 2009 to become the top exporting nation. NBC announced it had decided to cancel "The Jay Leno Show," returning Leno from prime time to 11:35 p.m. Eastern time while pushing "The Tonight Show" with Conan O'Brien back to 12:05 a.m. (O'Brien ended up leaving NBC, and Leno resumed hosting "Tonight.")

Five years ago: Hundreds of thousands of people marched in French cities from Toulouse (tuh-LOOS') in the south to Rennes (rehn) in the west to honor the victims of recent terror attacks. SpaceX sent a supply ship soaring flawlessly toward the International Space Station, but the booster rocket ended up in pieces in the Atlantic following a failed attempt to land on a barge.

One year ago: A 13-year-old Wisconsin girl, Jayme Closs, who had disappeared in October after her parents were killed, was found alive in a rural town about an hour from her home and a suspect was taken into custody. (Jake Patterson pleaded guilty to two counts of intentional homicide and one count of kidnapping after admitting that he killed Jayme's parents and imprisoned her under a bed in his remote cabin for 88 days before she made a daring escape; he was sentenced to life in prison.) In the 20th day of a partial government shutdown caused by a stalemate over funding for a border wall, President Donald Trump toured a section of the U.S.-Mexico border and said that "a lot of the crime in our country is caused by what's coming through here." Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro celebrated the start of a second term, as countries elsewhere in the Americas cut back diplomatic ties with Venezuela and labeled him a dictator.

Today's Birthdays: Opera singer Sherrill Milnes is 85. Rock singer-musician Ronnie Hawkins is 85. Movie director Walter Hill is 80. Actor William Sanderson is 76. Singer Rod Stewart is 75. Rock singer-musician Donald Fagen (Steely Dan) is 72. Boxing Hall of Famer and entrepreneur George Foreman is 71. Roots rock singer Alejandro Escovedo is 69. Rock musician Scott Thurston (Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers) is 68. Singer Pat Benatar is 67. Hall of Fame race car driver and team owner Bobby Rahal is 67. Rock musician Michael Schenker is 65. Singer Shawn Colvin is 64. Rock singer-musician Curt Kirkwood (Meat Puppets) is 61.

Actor Evan Handler is 59. Rock singer Brad Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 56. Actress Trini Alvarado is 53. Rock singer Brent Smith (Shinedown) is 42. Rapper Chris Smith (Kris Kross) is 41. Actress Sarah Shahi is 40. Presidential adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner is 39. American roots singer Valerie June is 38.

Thought for Today: "In much wisdom is much grief; and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow." [-] Ecclesiastes 1:18.

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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