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Connecting - February 07, 2020

1 message

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 7th day of February 2020,

Lew Ferguson was considered one of the best AP statehouse correspondents in the AP during his 29 years of heading the Topeka bureau and that work led to his induction in 2012 into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame.

But just months before he took over the Topeka bureau in 1970 - where he trained some 50 young writers including **Sally Buzbee**, the AP's executive editor - Ferguson was Kansas City sports writer and helped cover Super Bowl IV in New Orleans when the Kansas City Chiefs defeated the Minnesota Vikings for their first and only Super Bowl victory - until this past Sunday when they beat the San Francisco 49ers.

Mike Ferguson remembers his late father (Lew died in 2017 at the age of 83) on the occasion of the Chiefs' most recent victory in our lead story for today's Connecting. Mike is a professor of chemistry at the University of Central Oklahoma. Lew's daughter **Diane Ferguson** is a internal medicine physician in Los Angeles.



Lew Ferguson

Our colleague **Peter Costanzo**, who heads up the book publishing program at The Associated Press, is currently taking book submissions, so if you've got a biography or memoir you'd like to pitch, feel free to email him directly at pcostanzo@ap.org

Have a great weekend!

Paul

Chiefs' first Super Bowl in 50 years brings memories of his AP dad covering 1970 Super Bowl

The Big Play

By LEW FERGUSON
Associated Press Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Alan Page got caught cheating and the Minnesota Vikings got caught on the short end of a 15-0 halftime score in Sunday's Super Bowl because of a perfectly executed play 5½ minutes before intermission.

Mike Garrett squirted five yards up the middle to score a touchdown on the play, giving the Chiefs control of the game.

Kansas City delivered the knockout punch near the end of the third quarter when Otis Taylor pulled in a short pass from Lenny Dawson, broke two tackles and rumbled 46 yards to score the last touchdown in the Chiefs' 23-7 decision over the Vikings for pro football's richest game.

"The biggest play was the touchdown run of Garrett," Minnesota Coach Bud Grant said. "When they're inside the five-yard line, they run 100 per cent of the time. They haven't passed from there yet, so we shouldn't have been surprised. Yet he scored."

The Vikings may have been looking for a run because of the Chiefs' predictability in the close-yardage situation, but they weren't looking for the play Kansas City called.

Jim Marshall, the Vikings' end was supposed to be the

man trapped, but Page got cut down by Mo Moorman's block instead because he was there.

"Our left tackle (Jim Tyrer) pulls to the outside, influencing the end (Marshall)," Chiefs' coach Hank Stram said. "Then, we trap him (Marshall) from the inside out (with Moorman)."

What actually happened on the play, however, was that Page cheated to the outside, and he was the man in the Vikings' defensive line who took the bait as Tyrer pulled.

The other key block in the play was delivered on Vikings' middle linebacker Lonnie Warwick by Chiefs' tight end Fred Arbanas.

The result of the blocks by Moorman and Arbanas was a neat path through the middle

of the Vikings' defense for Garrett. "All I had to do was run through the hole," he said.

Stram also cited Taylor's touchdown run with the short pass as the game's other deciding play. "It was a great individual effort on Otis' part," Stram said. "We figured we could throw in front of their cornerbacks and gain yardage, but Otis turned that into a touchdown play."

Taylor fended off the tackle of Earsell Markwe at the Minnesota 35 yard line, then ran over Karl Kassulke at the Vikings' 10.

Mike Ferguson (Email) - My late Dad covered the KC Chiefs as a sportswriter at the time of their first Super Bowl victory in 1970. Out of curiosity, I Googled "'Lew Ferguson' Chiefs" and found this article in the Moberly (Missouri) Monitor-Index from Jan. 12, 1970. The reprint is shown above.

I don't remember much about dad's sports writing, because much of it was when I was too young to remember.

I got my first taste of college football by attending Kansas State football games. This was back in the days when KSU wasn't very good, and no one wanted to drive to Manhattan to cover them, especially when KU and the Chiefs were in town. He would take me and I would sit in the press box and watch with him. I remember the admonishments from the supervisor that it was a "working press box", so there was to be no cheering, etc. I saw two of Band Days, a Parents' Day game, and a few OU games, too. It was from watching those games in the (usually) quiet press box that I learned to appreciate the game without being loud about it. I grew to appreciate good plays, even when the other team made them. Nowadays, it helps me avoid getting too upset when a great play by my team gets overturned on review; if he trapped the ball, it's an incomplete pass: end of story. No reason to get upset that the officials made the right call.

When Dad was in the press box, you'd never know if he favored a side in a game, but outside of the press box, Dad was a very vocal supporter of his teams. He liked the Chiefs and the Royals. He had a soft spot for the Twins and Vikings (he covered them while working in the AP Minneapolis bureau), but his one true love was the Oklahoma Sooners. Back in those days, television broadcasts of a particular team were fairly rare, so when an OU game was telecast, we were sure to tune in. We watched many bowl games together, but the OU-Nebraska games are the ones I most clearly remember. It was a regular event, sitting down on the Friday after Thanksgiving to cheer on the Sooners. I remember cheering and jumping and hugging as Elvis Peacock nearly scored on the hook-and-lateral in 1976. I remember us shouting in dismay and disbelief as Billy Sims fumbled the ball on the 5-yard line in 1978. We saw many OU-Nebraska games together, but those two memories really stand out.

After I moved away, we would often talk by phone about the latest OU games, which started to include basketball games when the team was under Billy Tubbs. I remember him calling me at college one night in 1987 and just saying "OU got beat." I don't think he ever truly got over OU losing the NCAA title to Kansas in 1988. Years afterward, he was still somewhat bitter at Billy Tubbs' coaching decisions in the second half of that game.

In contrast, Dad was much more relaxed about baseball. He taught me how to keep score, and he even let me use his old scorebooks. I remember that the scorebooks included the 1960 All-Star game, and even some exhibition games against teams from Havana.

I remember that he covered the 1980 and 1985 World Series, getting quotes from the opposing teams' locker rooms. During the Royals' resurgence in 2014 and 2015, we talked more often, especially after many of the post-season games.

My Dad passed away in August 2017, but watching the Kansas City Chiefs and this year's amazing season brought back memories of talking with Dad. When the phone conversations turned to sports, we often spent a while discussing that year's team and their prospects for the season. We went to two home games in the 1990s, and even back then, the noise of the crowd left our ears ringing for hours afterward. But it was this year where things seemed to fall just right. The Patriots' loss that gave KC the bye, and the two come-from-behind victories in the playoffs, and their exhilarating win in Super Bowl LIV. It almost seemed like the Chiefs were destined to win it all, a half century after their first title. I like to think that Dad had the best seat in the house, watching the game and smiling.

Get your paper here!

Norm Abelson ([Email](#)) - The other day I tried to recall all of the newspapers I have read at different times in my life, and what they have meant to me. And, perhaps, to all of us.

They have kept me current on world, national and local affairs; printed the latest on the arts and sciences; informed me on the manners, mores and foibles of the times; recounted the sports scene; stated opinions for me to consider; presented the news and views on the economy; advised me when I needed to get my snow shovel and overshoes out; tantalized me with their crossword puzzles, and more. All the while they afforded me the privilege of reading reports from some of the world's finest and best-informed writers. All of these things were illuminated with marvelous photographs.

Newspapers have been, and continue to be, an education in themselves. For example, many immigrants learned to read and find out about their new homeland through them, including members of my own family. This treasure trove of words on paper (with a mere 24-hour life span) appears, amazingly, day after day after day. Even though prices have had to edge up, still, what a bargain!

What would life in America have been like had a free and responsible press not existed? It's a pretty safe bet to say an open, democratic society would have been darn near impossible. Of all the foresight embedded in the Bill of Rights, the First Amendment ranks right up at the top.

While the size of the print press continues to slide downhill, there are a heck of a lot of fine papers, large and small, still publishing. Subscribing to and supporting them seems no longer just an option; it's more like a duty.

Here, with great appreciation, is my list of papers, some still in operation, others gone. I feel they each have earned a mention.

During my early years growing up in Malden MA, and as an AP copy boy, our family home was loaded with newspapers. They were the weekly Malden Press, the daily Malden Evening News, and Boston's Globe, Herald-Traveler, Post, and Record-American & Sunday Advertiser.

In my first AP writing assignment at the Maine Legislature, they included the Portland Press Herald & Sunday Express, Kennebec Journal, Lewiston Sun, and Bangor Daily News.

During my days as an AP newsperson in Concord, N.H., I read or scanned every daily and Sunday in the state - The Concord Monitor, Manchester Union Leader & Sunday News, Portsmouth Herald, Dover Democrat, Keene Evening Sentinel, Laconia Citizen, Claremont Eagle and the Berlin Reporter.

While working in Washington during the 1960s, my reads included the Post, the Star, Roll Call of Capitol Hill, the New York Times and, on occasion, the New York Herald-Tribune.

Currently, in Maine, I continue to have delivered and read the print editions of the New York Times and the Portland Press Herald. What would I do if the paper versions ended? I suppose I'd have to read them online. But, you know, it just wouldn't be the same.

Amid irregularities, AP unable to declare winner in Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) - The Associated Press said Thursday that it is unable to declare a winner of Iowa's Democratic caucuses.

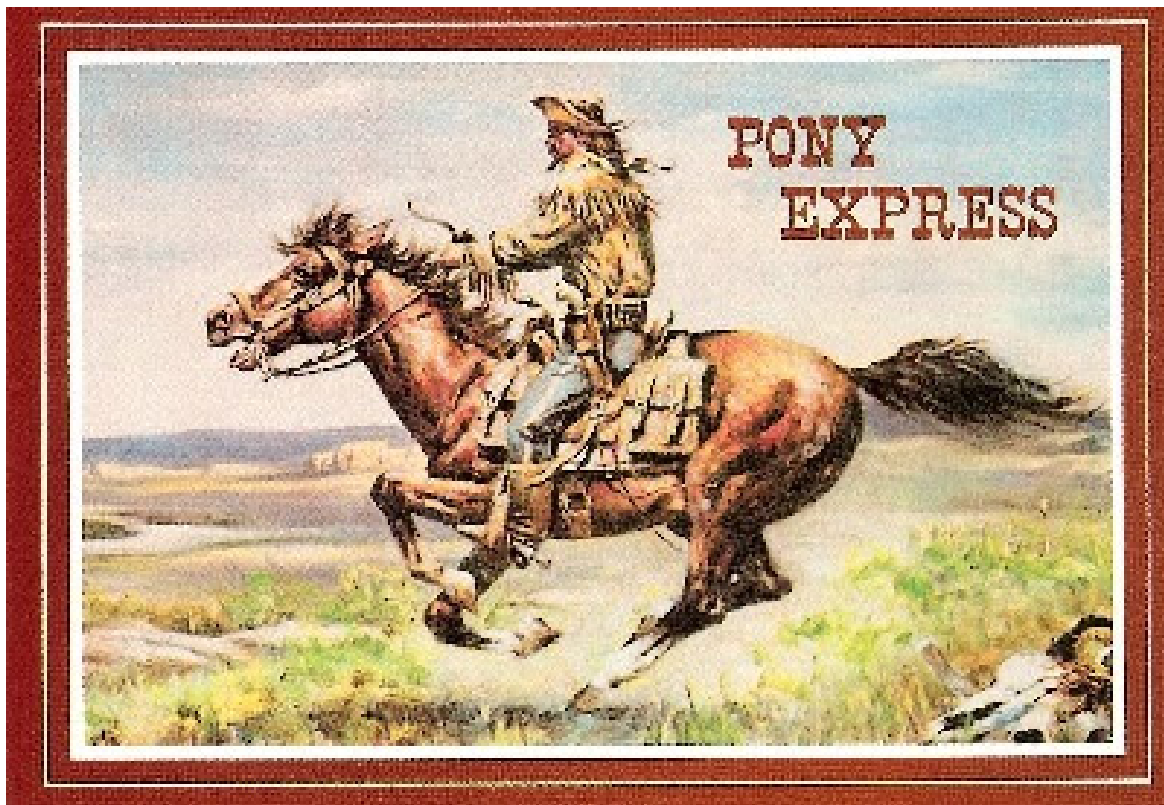
With 97% of precincts reporting from Monday's caucuses, former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg leads Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders by three state

delegate equivalents out of 2,098 counted. That is a margin of 0.14 percentage points.

However, even as the Iowa Democratic Party's effort to complete its tabulation of the caucus results continues, Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez on Thursday asked the Iowa Democratic Party to conduct a recanvass. That is not a recount, but rather a check of the vote count to ensure the results were added correctly.

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

Post Office? What Post Office?



Jim Hood ([Email](#)) - Elderly tourist type at Ralph's supermarket check-out: "Could you tell me where the post office is?"

Millennial cashier: "Post office? I don't think there is one in Palm Springs anymore. Maybe in LA."

It's not about Coronavirus...



Neal Ulevich ([Email](#)) - Car dealership at Fort Morgan, CO, flogging rides, but when I saw the sign contagion popped into my mind.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



On Sunday to...

Spencer Jones - spencerj@aol.com

Stories of interest

King angry at CBS promo of interview questions about Bryant

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - In the wake of a social media backlash, CBS' Gayle King says she is embarrassed and angry with how the network promoted part of her interview with WNBA star Lisa Leslie that concerned the late Kobe Bryant.

King responded via Twitter on Thursday to address the reaction to a video clip from her wide-ranging "CBS This Morning" interview with Leslie that aired Tuesday. The clip, distributed online and on CBS News' social media accounts, focused on a portion of the interview where Leslie addressed a sexual assault charge that had been brought against Bryant and dismissed.

Bryant died in a helicopter crash in Southern California on Jan. 26.

"I know that if I had only seen the clip that you saw, I'd be extremely angry with me, too," King said. "I am mortified, I am embarrassed and I'm very angry."

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

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Did Fox News Edit an Interview at Trump's Request? Chris Wallace Says No (New York Times)

By Michael M. Grynbaum

On Dec. 10, 2016, the Fox News anchor Chris Wallace spent several hours interviewing Donald J. Trump for an episode of "Fox News Sunday." Mr. Wallace spoke with Mr. Trump at Trump Tower in Manhattan and then flew with Mr. Trump

and his advisers to the Army-Navy football game in Baltimore, where their conversation continued.

In the broadcast, which aired the next day, Mr. Wallace pressed the president-elect about Russian intervention in the 2016 election, his unorthodox cabinet appointments and why Mr. Trump believed it was ethical to maintain his private business interests while in office.

One exchange between the two men did not make the cut: a question about Michael G. Flynn, the son of Mr. Trump's choice for national security adviser, Lt. Gen. Michael T. Flynn. The younger Mr. Flynn had been fired from the transition team days earlier for spreading incendiary conspiracy theories on social media.

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

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A sore subject: Almost half of Americans have stopped talking politics with someone (Pew)

BY MARK JURKOWITZ AND AMY MITCHELL

At a time when the country's polarizing politics and public discourse are dividing many Americans, close to half of all U.S. adults acknowledge that they have stopped discussing political and election news with someone, according to a new analysis of data from Pew Research Center's Election News Pathways project.

Nearly half of U.S. adults have stopped talking with someone about political news. In total, 45% of the nation's adults say they have stopped talking about political and election news with someone as a result of something they said, either in person or online. A slim majority of American adults (54%) say they have not cut off political conversation with someone because of something they said. The findings are based on a survey of 12,043 U.S. adults who are members of the Center's American Trends Panel conducted from Oct. 29 to Nov. 11, 2019.

In examining which types of people are more or less likely to stop talking to someone about political news, four characteristics stand out: party and ideology, race and ethnicity, the medium relied on most for political news, and engagement with political news.

Read more [here](#).

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Fox News Internal Document Bashes Pro-Trump Fox Regulars for Spreading 'Disinformation' (Daily Beast)

By Will Sommer, Maxwell Tani, Andrew Kirell

Fox News' own research team has warned colleagues not to trust some of the network's top commentators' claims about Ukraine.

An internal Fox News research briefing book obtained by The Daily Beast openly questions Fox News contributor John Solomon's credibility, accusing him of playing an "indispensable role" in a Ukrainian "disinformation campaign."

The document also accuses frequent Fox News guest Rudy Giuliani of amplifying disinformation, as part of an effort to oust former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, and blasts Fox News guests Victoria Toensing and Joe diGenova-both ardent Trump boosters-for "spreading disinformation."

The 162-page document, entitled "Ukraine, Disinformation, & the Trump Administration," was created by Fox News senior political affairs specialist Bryan S. Murphy, who produces research from what is known as the network's Brain Room-a newsroom division of researchers who provide information, data, and topic guides for the network's programming.

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

The Final Word

I won't be part of auto industry workplace hugging anymore (USA Today)

By Mark Phelan

Detroit Free Press

Any day now, I'll walk into a room with no idea who expects me to hug them and who doesn't. I hate that feeling, so I'm going to do something about it.

I walk into those rooms a hundred times a year at auto shows, vehicle introductions, dinners and interviews with automotive executives and engineers.

The execs and engineers are easy. I don't hug them; they don't hug me. It's purely professional.

Somewhere along the line, though, it became common for male automotive journalists and female public relations staffers to greet with a hug.

Don't ask me why, and definitely don't ask me who wants to be hugged and who doesn't, because nobody asks. We just do it.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - Feb. 7, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Feb. 7, the 38th day of 2020. There are 328 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 7, 1964, the Beatles arrived at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport to begin their first American tour.

On this date:

In 1812, author Charles Dickens was born in Landport, Portsmouth, England.

In 1817, America's first public gas street lamp was lighted in Baltimore at the corner of Market and Lemon streets (now East Baltimore and Holliday streets).

In 1940, Walt Disney's second animated feature, "Pinocchio," premiered in New York.

In 1943, the government abruptly announced that wartime rationing of shoes made of leather would go into effect in two days, limiting consumers to buying three pairs per person per year. (Rationing was lifted in October 1945.)

In 1948, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower resigned as U.S. Army chief of staff; he was succeeded by Gen. Omar Bradley.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy imposed a full trade embargo on Cuba.

In 1984, space shuttle Challenger astronauts Bruce McCandless II and Robert L. Stewart went on the first untethered spacewalk, which lasted nearly six hours.

In 1986, the Philippines held a presidential election marred by charges of fraud against the incumbent, Ferdinand E. Marcos. Haitian President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier (doo-VAHL-yay') fled his country, ending 28 years of his family's rule.

In 1991, Jean-Bertrand Aristide (zhahn behr-TRAHN' ahr-ihs-TEED') was inaugurated as the first democratically elected president of Haiti (he was overthrown by the military the following September).

In 1998, the Winter Olympic Games were opened in Nagano, Japan, by Emperor Akihito.

In 1999, Jordan's King Hussein died of cancer at age 63; he was succeeded by his eldest son, Abdullah (ab-DUHL'-uh).

In 2001, death claimed singer-actress Dale Evans at age 88 and author Anne Morrow Lindbergh, widow of aviator Charles Lindbergh, at age 94.

Ten years ago: A nearly completed Kleen Energy Systems power plant in Middletown, Connecticut, exploded, killing six people and injuring 50. Pro-Russian opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich (yah-noo-KOH'-vich) declared victory in Ukraine's presidential runoff, but his opponents rejected the claim, saying the vote was too close to call. (Yanukovich was inaugurated Feb. 25.) The New Orleans Saints rallied for a 31-17 Super Bowl victory over the Indianapolis Colts.

Five years ago: Olympic gold medalist Bruce (now Caitlyn) Jenner was involved in a fatal multiple-vehicle crash on Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu, California, that left one woman dead and several others injured. In a memo released by NBC, Brian Williams said he was stepping away temporarily from the anchor chair of the "NBC Nightly News" amid questions about his recollections of war coverage in Iraq (Williams ended up being permanently removed from the principal anchor chair, but remained with NBC News).

One year ago: Former U.S. Rep. John Dingell, the longest-serving member of Congress in American history, died at his home in Dearborn, Michigan at the age of

92; the Democrat had served in the House for 59 years before retiring in 2014. Democrats launched a sweeping plan to transform the U.S. economy to combat climate change and create thousands of jobs in renewable energy; at least six senators running for president or considering White House bids backed the "Green New Deal." Albert Finney, one of the most respected and versatile actors of his generation, died at a London hospital at the age of 82. Frank Robinson, the first black manager in Major League Baseball, died in Los Angeles at the age of 83.

Today's Birthdays: Author Gay Talese is 88. Former Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., is 85. Reggae musician Brian Travers (UB40) is 61. Comedy writer Robert Smigel (SMY'guhl) is 60. Actor James Spader is 60. Country singer Garth Brooks is 58. Rock musician David Bryan (Bon Jovi) is 58. Actor-comedian Eddie Izzard is 58. Actor-comedian Chris Rock is 55. Actor Jason Gedrick is 53. Actress Essence Atkins is 48. Rock singer-musician Wes Borland is 45. Rock musician Tom Blankenship (My Morning Jacket) is 42. Actor Ashton Kutcher is 42. Actress Tina Majorino is 35. Actress Deborah Ann Woll is 35. NBA player Isaiah Thomas is 31. NHL center Steven Stamkos is 30.

Thought for Today: "A day wasted on others is not wasted on one's self." [-] Charles Dickens (born this date in 1812, died 1870).

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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