



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - February 13, 2020

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com
To: pjshane@gmail.com

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Connecting

February 13, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 13th day of February 2020,

Mugshots, The Falling Man, Facebook's handling of graphic images, the future of Stars & Stripes, repurposed newspaper buildings...

Our Inbox is brimming with your thoughts and memories on these and more topics - and Ye Olde Connecting Editor sends his thanks.

Enjoy some good reading!

Paul

Newspapers having second thoughts on use of mugshots

David Beard ([Email](#)) - Once upon a time, news operations, desperate for new revenue streams, thought that publishing mugshots would be a winner. It was public information, right? It was a cheap way to add to local news, people would click on the photos and newsrooms would get digital revenue from the ads.

It wasn't that easy, of course.

There were several factors to consider, including a) these people weren't convicted; b) police might disproportionately stop or arrest people of color; c) these photos, with Google search, would haunt people who were innocent or made one mistake but cleaned up their act for the rest of their lives.

Newsrooms are having second thoughts about mugshots, and some are ditching them unless they are useful in ongoing news involving public safety, such as a fugitive or suspect at large.

"Mugshot slideshows whose primary purpose is to generate page views will no longer appear on our websites," Mark Lorando, a Houston Chronicle managing editor, tells the Marshall Project. "We're better than that." Click [here](#) to read more.

A picture that is indeed worth a thousand words

Norm Abelson ([Email](#)) - What would journalism do without photographers?

That thought occurred to me as I viewed Richard Drew's "Falling Man," and the discussion that followed on Connecting.

I tried to put myself at the same moment, looking out the same window and seeing the same thing Richard did on 9/11. I move to my typewriter and try to deliver words with the same impact his iconic photo does. And to keep that impact alive through the years. Could I have succeeded? Doubtful.

My life has been about putting words on paper, and I take second place to no one in believing in the importance of them in so many ways, from a news story to poetry. Of course, great writers and artists have always drawn "pictures" for us, going back before photography existed.

But that does nothing to take away from the pictures, like those from Iwo Jima to Viet Nam to the Twin Towers, that put us there, in the moment. Can they be painful to look at? At times, but also they are part of the history we should never forget.

Should Falling Man have won a Pulitzer, as one writer suggested? In my view, yes.

But the bottom line is that Richard Drew did his job.

Give users choice when it comes to graphic images

Steve Loeper ([Email](#)) - Addressing the Falling Man question posed in Wednesday's Connecting ... If the Nick Ut and Eddie Adams photos from the Vietnam War were instead snapped in today's era of social media madness, they probably would receive the same cautious treatment -- at least by responsible platforms -- as the Richard Drew photo has been given. With full view just a click away, why not give users the choice when it comes to graphic imagery - of any kind? Back in the day, it wasn't so simple, of course. Photo editors were pressed to make the tough calls -- some among the most courageous in journalism.

Facebook once censored Nick Ut's 'Napalm Girl' photo



Meg Thomas-Reile ([Email](#)) - Nick Ut's "Napalm Girl" image has been censored multiple times on Facebook including this incident that garnered a lot of media attention. It was eventually restored after numerous complaints.

Click [here](#) for a BBC account and [here](#) for an NPR story.

Explaining to a caller why the AP moved a graphic photo

Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - During the summer of 1969, several months before the birth of the Internet (and shortly before I returned to the LA buro and began my sports career by becoming the night sports editor), I was a political reporter in Sacramento and on this day I was the only one in the buro.

One day the Sacramento Union ran a graphic front-page AP photo - I vaguely remember it was from a farm in Indiana - of the aftermath of a tractor tire explosion. It showed the victim, a man whose clothes had literally been blown off, lying on his side in the wreckage and, in the background, a woman whose face was just beginning to register shock as she stepped through a doorway. It was a remarkable picture.

A caller to the AP Sacramento buro called to complain about the gruesomeness of the picture, telling me she had called the newspaper, which had sidestepped the issue, saying it was an AP photo and to complain to us.

I told the caller that when some photos, like this one, were transmitted, they were accompanied by a warning to editors that they might be unnerving or objectionable and that it was the newspaper's duty to decide whether to print it. The caller then complained that The AP shouldn't be taking pictures like that and sending them to newspapers.

We then got into a brief discussion - it was a slow day in the buro - of censorship and that it wasn't up to The AP to decide what should or shouldn't be seen by Americans and how would she feel if we took it upon ourselves to limit what she could or couldn't see or read about? When the conversation ended, the caller in essence thanked me for a lesson in civics and censorship and another in how AP and newspapers worked.

When I think of all the political stories I wrote and all the events and politicians I covered that spring and summer, I consider it my most rewarding day in the months I spent in Sacramento.

On Stars & Stripes and possible reduction of federal funding

Brian Brooks (Email) - Many thanks for highlighting the drastic proposed cuts to Stars & Stripes in today's issue of Connecting. What most people don't recognize is that troops in combat areas like Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan (and others) are not allowed to carry cell phones. Eliminating the paper would cut off our most-endangered troops from their only remaining news source, and I submit that is a VERY bad idea. (Brian was editor of Stars & Stripes Europe, 1997-99.)

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Dorothy Abernathy (Email) - I handled AP's account with Stars & Stripes for several years. The journalists at this paper pursued the news aggressively and frequently broke stories. Stars and Stripes is delivered to troops in places where there's no internet access. It's the only reliable news source that some soldiers have. I would hate to see its ability to cover the news diminished.

Repurposing newspaper buildings





Dale Leach ([Email](#)) - Enjoyed the piece in Wednesday's Connecting about the repurposing of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch building - something that has happened in dozens of cities across the United States. Thought I'd send along a photo of my local newspaper, the Springfield News-Sun, where I worked from 1976-1981. It's since been repurposed for several uses, including a gym - Springfield Health and Fitness - that I go to regularly. In the photo, I'm standing next to a sign posted in an area that once housed the newspaper's presses. Other areas of the building now house offices and other businesses - including an accounting firm that did my taxes a couple of years ago.

I had great fun working there for five years, and it prepared me for the career that lay ahead with the AP. Now, I have a different kind of fun in the same building.

Remains of 5 Vietnam War photojournalists killed in copter crash wait at Offutt for permanent burial



Four of the Vietnam War photojournalists, from left: Kent Potter, Henri Huet, Sgt. Tu Vu and Larry Burrows.

By Steve Liewer

Omaha World-Herald

The legendary Life magazine photojournalist patted the empty seat next to him in the back of the South Vietnamese UH-1 Huey army helicopter. Then he invited Marine Cpl. Sergio Ortiz, a 23-year-old combat photographer, to climb aboard.

"See? There's room," said Larry Burrows, who had spent nine years covering the Vietnam War. "Come along if you want."

Ortiz was tempted. The reporters on that helicopter on Feb. 10, 1971, would be the first to follow South Vietnamese troops on their invasion of Laos, then in its third day. Anyone in the Saigon press corps would have wanted to go.

But Ortiz had a separate assignment to finish for his Marine Corps editors - plus, explicit orders to stay on the Vietnam side of the border.

"I wanted to go with them," recalled Ortiz, 72, in a phone interview last week. "I said, 'I'd love to, but I can't.' I walked away. Then I turned around and snapped two frames."

Ortiz's devotion to duty saved his life. Those two images were the last ever taken of Burrows and three other civilian photojournalists on the chopper: Henri Huet of the Associated Press, Kent Potter of United Press International and Keisaburo Shimamoto of Newsweek.

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

AP announces East, West Africa appointments

By Patrick Maks

In a memo to staff on Wednesday, AP News Director for Europe and Africa Anna Johnson announced two appointments in Africa:

I am excited to make two important staffing announcements for Africa: Yesica Fisch is our new West Africa senior producer, based in Dakar, Senegal, and Cara Anna is the new East Africa correspondent, based in Nairobi, Kenya.

As senior producer, Yesica will drive our video report in West Africa working with staff and a network of freelancers across 27 countries. From Nairobi, Cara will help lead the text report from 13 countries across East Africa. Both Yesica and Cara will work closely with their colleagues in other formats as well as freelancers to help produce ambitious spot and enterprise stories from Africa.

Yesica currently is the senior producer and video journalist in Brazil where she has covered scores of major global stories including the tumultuous politics of the country, the Amazon wildfires the outbreak of the Zika virus, the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic games and the 2014 World Cup. She has taken on ambitious and challenging assignments including reporting from Rio de Janeiro's hillside barrios where people's lives are impacted by the violent drug wars. Yesica also served as interim Brazil news director for much of last year.

Yesica also has traveled throughout Latin America and beyond on assignment including covering the caravan of migrants on its way to the U.S.-Mexico border and the social and political crisis in Venezuela. Last year, Yesica received the Oliver S. Gramling Spirit Award for her contributions in and out of the newsroom that have helped make the AP stand out in Latin America.

Before moving to Brazil, Yesica was a producer and video journalist in Portugal, opened the first AP Television office in Venezuela and coordinated a team of staff and stringers in Mexico. She has traveled extensively globally on assignment, including previous reporting trips in Africa.

Cara has been working as an editor and reporter based in our Johannesburg bureau since 2016. Last year, Cara traveled and reported from Nigeria, Mozambique and Afghanistan. Her reporting and writing was widely praised including receiving

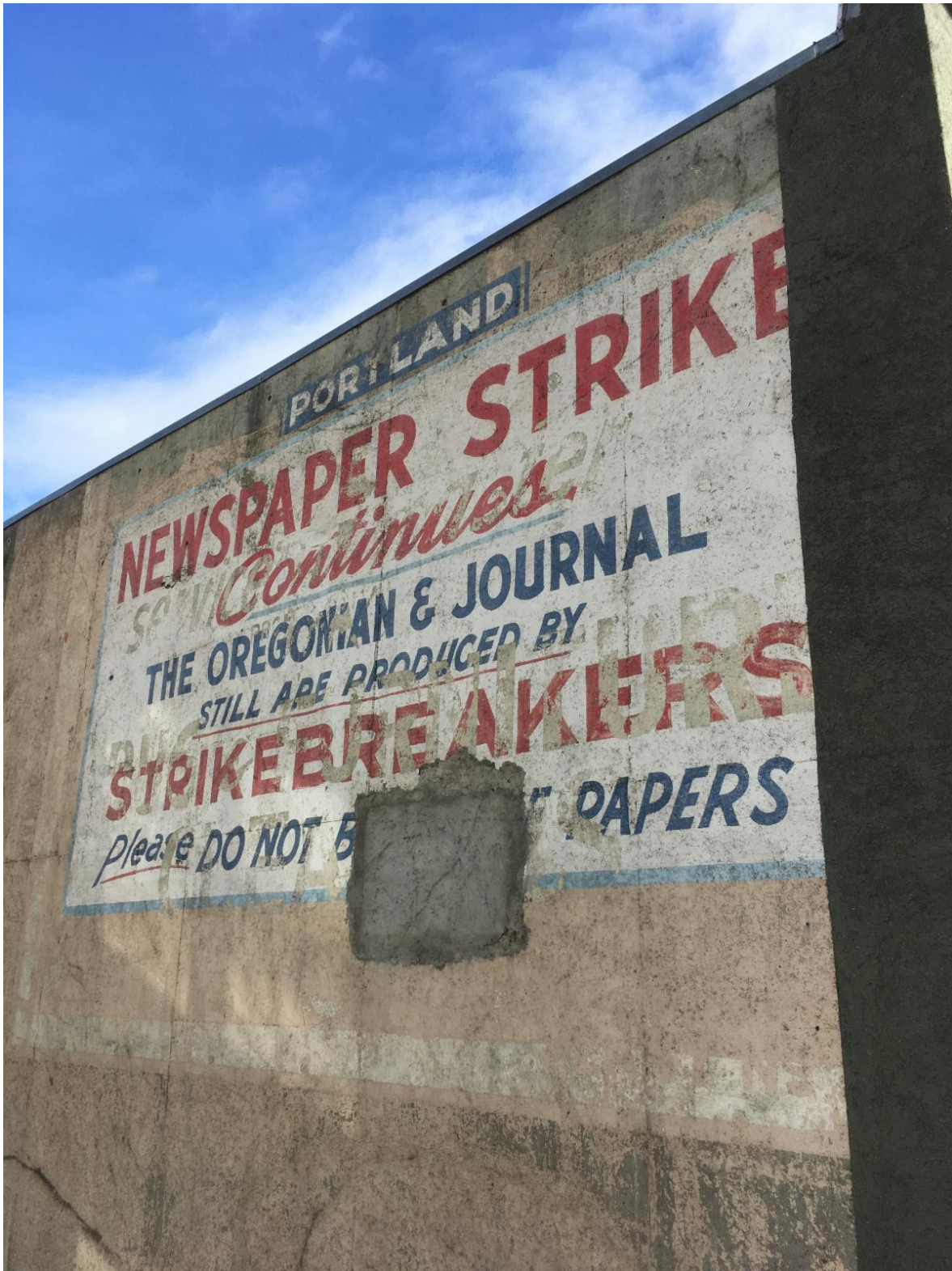
several Best of the Week honorable mentions for her work as part of all-format teams covering the elections in Nigeria, the aftermath of deadly cyclones in Mozambique and a deep-dive look into painkillers in Rwanda.

Before joining the Africa team in 2016, Cara covered the United Nations in New York, where she broke news on a child sex abuse scandal in Africa and North Korea's unusually open diplomatic efforts to counter a U.N. commission of inquiry on rights abuses. Before that, she covered China from Beijing and Shanghai including the Beijing Olympics, a devastating earthquake and Tibetan protests. She joined AP in 2005 and has spent time as an editor on the Asia and North America desks.

Prior to joining AP, Cara covered fashion and features for The Palm Beach Post, technology for the Austin American-Statesman, ran a monthly cultural publication in Shanghai, was a Peace Corps volunteer in Central African Republic and Burkina Faso and taught English in rural Pakistan.

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

Reminder of a bitter newspaper strike in Oregon



These photos were taken Feb. 5, 2020, by Connecting contributor Tim Marsh. They show a sign painted on an outside wall of a building at 207 W. 3rd St. -- currently vacant and for lease -- in downtown The Dalles, Ore., some 85 miles east of Portland, the state's largest city. The sign is a historical remnant of what the Oregon Encyclopedia says was the "third longest newspaper strike in the United States."

The strike, from Nov. 10, 1959, to Oct. 1, 1964, involved three Portland dailies, the Oregonian, Oregon Journal and Portland Reporter.

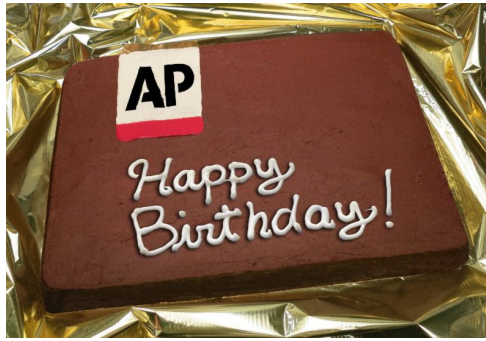
Read about the strike by clicking [here](#).

A gathering of photographers in Phoenix



Cliff Schiappa ([Email](#)) - Tall tales and other stories were shared when the three of us gathered in Phoenix on Tuesday. From left, Kansas City Photographer Charlie Riedel, former Midwest Photo Editor Cliff Schiappa and Indianapolis Photographer Darron Cummings. Riedel and Cummings were in town to cover MLB Spring Training and Schiappa was visiting from Palm Springs to make a presentation to the board of directors of the Phoenix Metropolitan Men's Chorus and also get in a few games of pickleball, of course.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Susan Wise - shwise00@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Newspaper giant McClatchy files for bankruptcy, hobbled by debt and declining print revenue (Washington Post)

By Taylor Telford and Thomas Heath

McClatchy Co., one of the nation's largest newspaper publishers, filed for bankruptcy protection Thursday, another harbinger of America's deepening local news crisis.

The Chapter 11 filing will allow the Sacramento-based company to keep its 30 newspapers afloat while it reorganizes more than \$700 million in debt, 60 percent of which would be eliminated under the plan. If the court approves, it would also hand control of the 163-year-old family publisher to a hedge fund, Chatham Asset Management, its largest creditor.

The filing foreshadows further cost-cutting and retrenchment for one of the biggest players in local journalism at a time when most American newsrooms already are straining to cover their communities. About 20 percent of all U.S. newspapers have closed since 2004, according to a recent report from PEN America, and the sector has shed 47 percent of its jobs.

The publisher of the Miami Herald, Kansas City Star and other regional dailies has been saddled with debt since its \$4.5 billion takeover of a much bigger rival, Knight Ridder, in 2006. The combination coincided with a digital boom that disrupted the prevailing business model and changed the way news is consumed.

Read more [here](#).

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'I Would Rather Win a Pulitzer Prize Than Be President' (Politico)

By CRAIG FEHRMAN

In the spring of 1953, John F. Kennedy met a prominent historian named Margaret Coit. Kennedy was only a few weeks into his first term as a U.S. senator. But Coit, who was in her 30s, wanted to interview him about the buildup to World War II, a subject Kennedy had covered in his first book, the bestselling *Why England Slept*.

Many years later, she described their meetings in great detail for an oral history at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library. "I will be very frank with you," Coit said. "I had designs on John F. Kennedy. Everybody in Massachusetts did." The historian decided to engage in some friendly flirting, in addition to their scholarly discussions, and the senator encouraged both pursuits. At the end of their third encounter, in Kennedy's Senate offices, he offered to drive Coit home. He was suffering from terrible back pain-in person, Coit thought, the 35-year-old looked at least a decade older-and he needed crutches to get to the car. Once they reached her apartment, she invited him in to rest, and Kennedy collapsed on her couch. But instead of continuing their interview, he pulled her down and tried to kiss her.

Coit had never intended for things to go that far, and she pushed him away. "I made up my mind that I was not going to kiss you on the first date," she said.

"This isn't a first date," he replied. "We have been making eyes at each other three times now."

Kennedy grabbed at her again.

"I have standards just like your sisters," Coit pleaded. "You wouldn't want me to do anything you wouldn't want your sisters to do."

"I don't care what they do," he said, before grabbing at her a third time.

Coit began to cry, and Kennedy retreated, flipping back to bookish mode with frightening ease. "It was as if he had shifted gears," Coit remembered. "It was the cold, machine-like quality that scared me so."

Eventually, Kennedy brought up Coit's biography of the nineteenth-century politician John Calhoun, which had recently won the Pulitzer Prize. "You know," the senator said, "I would rather win a Pulitzer Prize than be president."

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

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Students: Remove white supremacist's name from high school

ATLANTA (AP) - Students at an Atlanta high school want to rename their school because its namesake was a 19th century newspaper editor who endorsed white supremacy.

About 180 Henry W. Grady High School students submitted a petition to the school board on Feb. 3 requesting a name change for the school, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

Grady was an editor and part-owner of The Atlanta Constitution. He advocated for a "New South" after the Civil War, but he also campaigned against equality for freed slaves, saying "the supremacy of the white race of the South must be maintained forever."

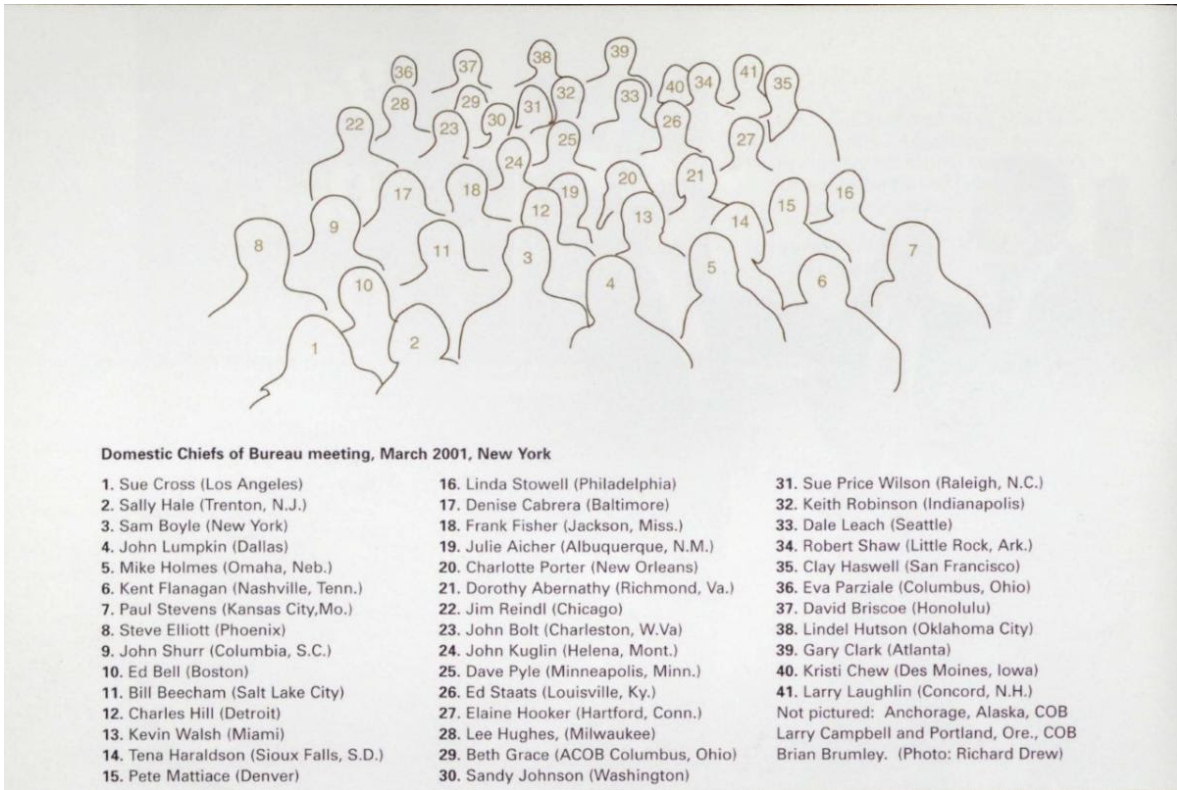
Grady's name is featured prominently on high-profile Georgia institutions such as Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta and the University of Georgia's journalism school. In biographies in Georgia, Grady is often described with glowing praise and his views about black people are often omitted.

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

The Final Word

Another Chiefs of Bureau photo (2001) from the Archives





(Courtesy of AP Corporate Archives)

Today in History - Feb. 13, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 13, the 44th day of 2020. There are 322 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 13, 1945, during World War II, Allied planes began bombing the German city of Dresden. The Soviets captured Budapest, Hungary, from the Germans.

On this date:

In 1633, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei arrived in Rome for trial before the Inquisition, accused of defending Copernican theory that the Earth revolved around the sun instead of the other way around. (Galileo was found vehemently suspect of heresy and ended up being sentenced to a form of house arrest.)

In 1861, Abraham Lincoln was officially declared winner of the 1860 presidential election as electors cast their ballots.

In 1935, a jury in Flemington, New Jersey, found Bruno Richard Hauptmann guilty of first-degree murder in the kidnap-slaying of Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was later executed.)

In 1965, during the Vietnam War, President Lyndon B. Johnson authorized Operation Rolling Thunder, an extended bombing campaign against the North Vietnamese.

In 1974, Nobel Prize-winning Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn was expelled from the Soviet Union.

In 1984, Konstantin Chernenko (chehr-NYEN'-koh) was chosen to be general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, succeeding the late Yuri Andropov.

In 1991, during Operation Desert Storm, allied warplanes destroyed an underground shelter in Baghdad that had been identified as a military command center; Iraqi officials said 500 civilians were killed.

In 1998, Dr. David Satcher was sworn in as the 16th Surgeon General of the United States during an Oval Office ceremony.

In 2000, Tiger Woods saw his streak of six consecutive victories come to an end as he fell short to Phil Mickelson in the Buick Invitational.

In 2002, John Walker Lindh pleaded not guilty in federal court in Alexandria, Va., to conspiring to kill Americans and supporting the Taliban and terrorist organizations. (Lindh later pleaded guilty to lesser offenses and was sentenced to 20 years in prison. He was released in September 2019 after serving 17 years of that sentence.)

In 2013, beginning a long farewell to his flock, a weary Pope Benedict XVI celebrated his final public Mass as pontiff, presiding over Ash Wednesday services inside St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

In 2016, Justice Antonin Scalia, the influential conservative and most provocative member of the U.S. Supreme Court, was found dead at a private residence in the Big Bend area of West Texas; he was 79.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama delivered a video address to the 7th U.S.-Islamic World Forum meeting in Doha, Qatar, as part of his continuing effort to repair strained U.S. relations with the world's Muslims. Hannah Kearney won the women's moguls for first U.S. gold medal at the Olympic Games in Vancouver; Apolo Anton Ohno won the silver medal in the short-track 1,500-meter speedskating final, to tie Bonnie Blair as the most decorated U.S. Winter Olympian.

Five years ago: Calling cyberspace the new "Wild West," President Barack Obama told the private sector during a White House cybersecurity summit at Stanford University that it needed to do more to stop cyber attacks aimed at the U.S. every day. Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber, a Democrat, resigned amid suspicions his fiancée had used her relationship with him to land contracts for her green-energy consulting business.

One year ago: NASA's Mars rover "Opportunity," which had been built to operate for just three months on the planet's surface but kept rolling for years longer, was finally declared to be no longer operational, 15 years after it landed on Mars. The head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Brock Long, resigned after a two-year tenure during which he managed the response to historic wildfires and major hurricanes but was dogged by questions about his use of government vehicles.

Today's Birthdays: U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager (ret.) is 97. Actress Kim Novak is 87. Actor George Segal is 86. Actor Bo Svenson is 79. Actress Stockard Channing is 76. Talk show host Jerry Springer is 76. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., is 74. Singer Peter Gabriel is 70. Actor David Naughton is 69. Rock musician Peter Hook is 64. Actor Matt Salinger is 60. Singer Henry Rollins is 59. Actor Neal McDonough is 54. Singer Freedom Williams is 54. Actress Kelly Hu is 52. Rock singer Matt Berninger (The National) is 49. Rock musician Todd Harrell (formerly with 3 Doors Down) is 48. Country musician Scott Thomas (Parmalee) is 47. Singer Robbie Williams is 46. Singer-songwriter Feist is 44. Rhythm-and-blues

performer Natalie Stewart is 41. Actress Mena Suvari (MEE'-nuh soo-VAHR'-ee) is 41. Rock musician Dash Hutton (Haim (HY'-ehm)) is 35. Actress Katie Volding is 31. Michael Joseph Jackson Jr. (also known as Prince Michael Jackson I) is 23.

Thought for Today: "An explanation of cause is not a justification by reason."
[-] C.S. Lewis, English author (1898-1963).

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.



Paul Stevens
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com

Connecting newsletter, [14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215](#)

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