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# Connecting - February 17, 2020

1 message

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# Connecting

February 17, 2020

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**Landing craft heads for Iwo Jima, the island's summit in the distance. (Marine Corps photo)**

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2019 - Presidents' Day,

This Wednesday marks the 75th anniversary of the start of the Battle of Iwo Jima, the bloodiest in Marine Corps history with nearly 7,000 killed and 21,000 wounded. A total of 28,000 died in the battle that raged from Feb. 19, 1945, to March 26, 1945.

On Feb. 23, 1945, the U.S. flag was hoisted on Mount Suribachi - captured for perpetuity by the lens of AP combat photographer Joe Rosenthal. Beginning today and continuing through Friday, Connecting colleague **Hal Buell** presents the story behind what most consider the greatest photograph ever taken.

Most of the material in the series comes from an extensive video-taped interview Hal did with Joe in 1947, one of many verbal histories with AP photographers. He also spent a five-hour lunch with Joe in his favorite North Beach Italian restaurant, and then additional brief encounters after that. All this led to Buell's 2006 book, *UNCOMMON VALOR, COMMON VIRTUE: Iwo Jima And The Photograph That Captured America*.

Rosenthal left the AP in 1945 to join the San Francisco Chronicle where he spent the remainder of his career as a news photographer. Throughout his life he participated in many Marine Corps events, frequently referring to the Corps as "my Marines." Joe Rosenthal died August 20, 2006, of natural causes. He was 94 years old.

Hal Buell is a veteran photo editor who served The Associated Press for 41 years, 23 of them as the director of the worldwide photo department. He retired in 1997.

**TODAY'S QUESTION:** Sam Donaldson, who retired seven years ago from ABC News, has endorsed Michael Bloomberg for president, posing the question on whether such an endorsement hurts journalists. Click [here](#) for a CNN story.

Tom Jones in The Poynter Report writes: "Donaldson is free to do as he pleases, but it's disappointing and damaging that he felt his endorsement of a presidential candidate was more important than preserving the integrity of the institution that he served so well for most of his life. With all due respect to Donaldson, I'm not sure his endorsement helps Bloomberg as much it hurts journalism."

What are your thoughts?

Here's to a great week ahead!

Paul

## **Part 1:**

# **D-Day - The Iwo Jima Beach**



The landing beach crowded with Marines under fire. Photo/Joe Rosenthal

By Hal Buell ([Email](#))

"It never looked more aesthetically ugly than on D-Day morning ... its silhouette was like a sea monster with the little dead volcano for the head, and the beach area for the neck, and all the rest of it with the scrubby brown cliffs for a body."

That's how John Marquand, reporting for Harper's, saw Iwo Jima on D-Day, February 19, 1945, from the landing craft that carried him toward Iwo's beach.

AP photographer Joe Rosenthal watched the Iwo shore from another landing craft. He was with Marines whom he described as just kids, like kids back home, kids that in other circumstances he might photograph at a high school football game. No dancing cheerleaders here, no bright lights, no noisy fans. Just an engine's roar and water slapping at the side of the vessel. And Marines crowded against ammunition carts cradling their weapons against the Pacific Ocean's salty mist.

Joe raised his 4x5 Speed Graphic above the side of the landing craft high enough to photograph the invading force, then he ducked down and, like the Marines, cradled his camera to protect it from ocean spray.

This wasn't Rosenthal's first island assault. He was at Guam. "I wanted to photograph the first American island we took back from the Japanese," he said. Then came bloody Peleliu and Anguar. Iwo was his fourth beach shared like the others with what he came to call "my Marines." Experience gained at those previous beaches caused him to wonder how many in the landing craft would survive the attack.

If you met Rosenthal that morning before he climbed down a cargo net into the landing craft, you would not find a central casting combat photographer. Joe was on the short side, 5-foot-5 to be exact, and he wore a professor's neat, precise mustache. He smoked cigarettes in a holder like President Roosevelt, gentleman-like you might say. He spoke in surprisingly quiet tones, took a moment for thought before responding to questions. He possessed a quiet but sharp sense of humor, the kind that delivers a chuckle rather than a belly laugh. Above all Joe was modest, painfully modest.



**The Iwo beach in chaos: ships awash, equipment mired in Iwo sand. Marine Corp Photo**

The landing craft crunched to a stop. Joe photographed the Marines charging out pulling their ammunition carts with them. He followed, dashing toward a 15-foot high black, sandy terrace several steps from the water's edge. Well, not sand exactly but black, tiny sometimes shiny particles combined with volcanic ash. Feet plunged ankle deep in the mix. Like "running in a bin of wheat," one Marine said.

Enemy gunfire, zeroed in on the beach, took its toll. Explosions erupted on every side, in front and behind. Marines fell. Joe dived into a shell hole. A Marine fell to his side. Then another off to the right. Joe recalled one horrifying noise above all others, a human voice shouting, "Corpsman, Corpsman," a signal that a Marine was hurt and in pain.

Joe marveled at their courage and described his wonder that no matter how many fell more Marines kept coming. He would say later, "Surviving that beach was like walking in rain and not getting wet. No one could explain how they survived."

Survive he did and several hours after landing Joe headed back to the shore looking for a ride to the USS Eldorado, the Iwo battle's command ship.

The shore was chaotic. Rising surf tossed landing craft upside down; tanks and construction vehicles were mired in the black sand; a long lineup of the wounded and the dead awaited transportation to hospital facilities offshore; mortars screamed in wounding some already wounded.

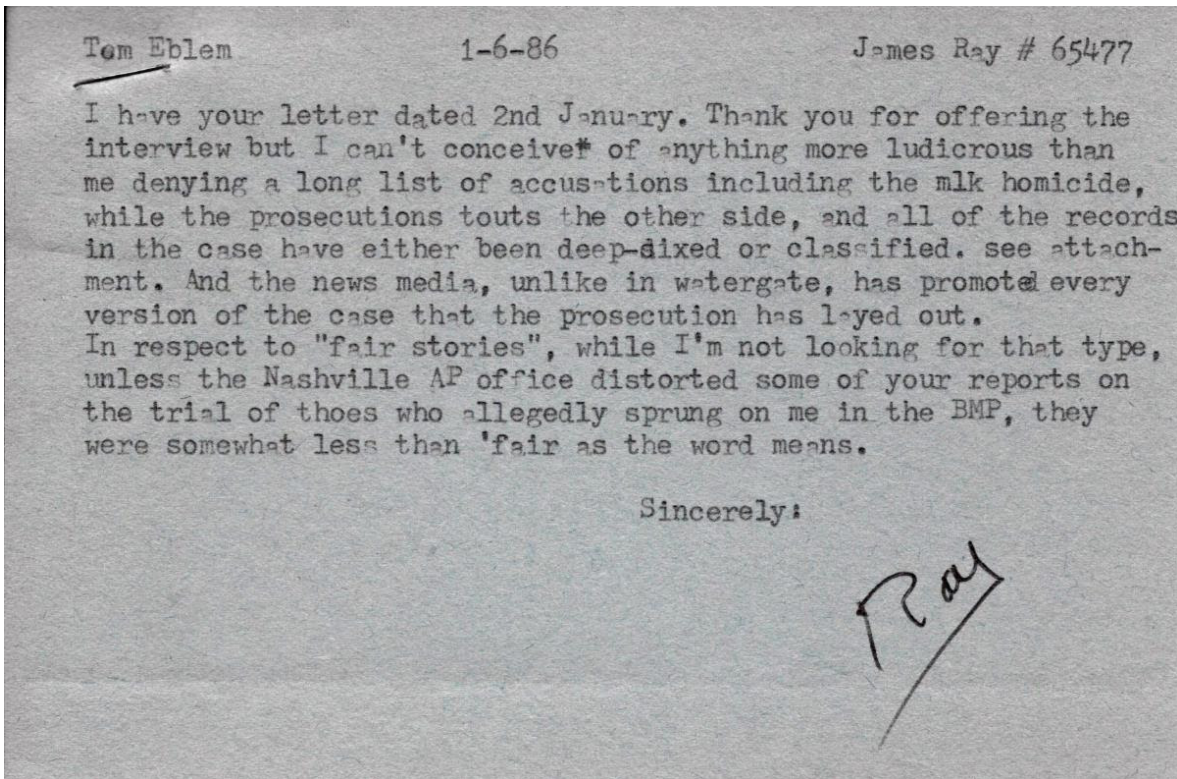
Joe hitched a ride to the Eldorado where a waiting float plane would fly his pictures and other correspondent and military material to the War Time Still Picture Pool on Guam.

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Oh... I forgot to tell you...that photo Joe made from his landing craft ride to the beach ... it placed Suribachi, the extinct volcano that Marquand described as a monster's head, prominently in the frame. Little did Joe know that he would experience the defining moment of his life on that homely, craggy bump of a hill he would always, in the Japanese style, call Suribachi-yama.

**Tomorrow: Rosenthal climbs Mt. Suribachi**

**James Earl Ray: convicted assassin -  
and press critic**



**Tom Eblen (Email)** - Like any journalist, I've received criticism over the years. This is one of the more memorable examples, from the last time I asked James Earl Ray for an interview. I found it recently while going through some files.

The background: For the first national holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King in January 1986, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution planned special coverage. I was assigned to write an update on Ray. Several years earlier, when I was the AP's Knoxville correspondent, I had covered his stabbing at Brushy Mountain Penitentiary and his subsequent Knoxville court testimony in the trial of those accused of stabbing him. Apparently, he wasn't a fan of that coverage. Ray's weird 1987 autobiography, "Tennessee Waltz," showed he read everything written about him. The footnotes include several articles I wrote, with my name misspelled a different way than in this letter.

One memorable story from my AP days of covering Ray:

In June 1981, Ray was stabbed 22 times at Brushy Mountain by a group of black inmates. Because they didn't kill him, even though they easily could have, authorities speculated they were seeking publicity. They were charged, and prosecutors decided to bring Ray to the courthouse in Knoxville to testify in their trial.

Before the trail, a "spy" of mine at a UPI client newspaper called one day and told me that my competitor at UPI's Knoxville bureau, who sat in a tiny office one thin

wall away from my tiny office in the wire room of the Knoxville News-Sentinel, had just filed a story quoting Ray as saying he couldn't testify because he didn't see who stabbed him.

Desperate for a "matcher", I called Ray's brother in Atlanta, Jerry, who I had interviewed a couple of times before, and asked if he could get word to James to call me for an interview. (Prisoners could call out of prison, but journalists couldn't call in.) But when I told Jerry about the UPI story, he just laughed and said, "That's not true. James told me he saw who stabbed him."

So, within an hour of the UPI story quoting Ray as saying he didn't see who stabbed him, I moved a story quoting his brother as saying he did. The Tennessean in Nashville actually tried to combine the AP and UPI stories into something coherent. UPI correspondent Tom Madden, my competitor and friend, came next door and yelled at me for screwing up his scoop.

## **Connecting mailbox**

### ***AP reporters honored with Hinrich Foundation Award***





**Sandy Johnson (Email)** - A team of Associated Press reporters received the first-ever Hinrich Foundation Award for Distinguished Reporting on Trade at the National Press Foundation journalism awards dinner Thursday night. Paul Wiseman spoke for his teammates, Joe McDonald and Anne D'Innocenzio, and said, "It's hard to believe but four or five years ago trade was just an afterthought." Wiseman said AP looks for angles that provide context to the trade wars. "We compared China today to the young United States -- both dens of intellectual thievery. We looked at how businesses were responding to Trump's tariffs -- by shifting out of China, by laying low, sometimes by cheating. And we looked at the trade spats that seemed to fly under the radar, disputes over Turkish cherry tarts and rubber bands from Thailand." The Hinrich award carries a \$10,000 prize. A video of Wiseman's remarks is [here](#).

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***Buell description does an amazing photo proud***

**Peggy Walsh (Email)** - Hal Buell's description of the strength of Richard Drew's Falling Man photo (in Friday's Connecting) is one of the most beautifully written

descriptions of the power of a photo - technical and emotional. I found myself going back to read it several times. It does an amazing photo proud.

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## ***Kent Potter: No one was a better teacher***

**Daniel Wolf** ([Email](#)) - commenting on the four photographers who died in a helicopter crash in Laos - I was a student at the University of Pennsylvania in the late 60s while being the photo editor of the student Daily Pennsylvanian. Kent Potter took me under his wing as a stringer at UPI in Philadelphia. No one was a better teacher. He taught me most everything I needed to know about being an aspiring news photographer, including how to work with the competition - The AP. Kent, when I first went to work for him, was too young to even go into a bar, but his youth did not keep him from reaching out to share his talents. To see that picture of the four young photographers who lost their lives in Laos was a very sad reminder of a great friend and teacher.

Thanks for publishing the picture.

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## ***Former Kentucky AP staffer T.G. Moore dies***

**Tom Eblen** ([Email](#)) - T.G. Moore, once a staffer in the AP's Louisville and Frankfort bureaus, died Feb. 11 in Lexington, Ky., after a long battle with Alzheimer's. He was 65. Click [here](#) for his obituary.

I worked with him when I was a "vacation relief" staffer -- aka intern -- in the Louisville bureau during the summers of 1978 and 1979. A fine newsman and a good guy. I later worked with his brother-in-law, Charles Bertram, the longtime chief photographer of the Lexington Herald-Leader.



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## ***Here's the story behind Mike Cochran's induction into Big Country Athletic Hall of Fame***



**Golf pro Lee Trevino dumping bag of Mike Cochran in 1971. See text.**

**John Lumpkin (Email)** - Here's yet another honor for retired AP Correspondent Mike Cochran - induction into the Big Country Athletic Hall of Fame as part of its 2020 class. The new class will be presented at the Hall of Fame's annual banquet in Abilene, Texas, on Monday evening, May 4. Click [here](#) for the announcement.

"Big Country" refers to a 19-county region of the eastern portions of West Texas, with the city of Abilene being its unofficial capital. It's at the southern end of the Great Plains, with topography somewhat consistent with the swatch of U.S. to the north of Texas, but not as cold and not as fertile.

Mike attended high school in the small West Texas town of Stamford on the fringes of Big Country. His schoolboy athletic career began and ended there as a member

of the golf team anchored by Charles Coody, whose five PGA tour wins would include a Masters Championship.

It was Coody, a long-ago Hall of Fame inductee, and his wife Lynette who encouraged me to write a nomination letter for their lifelong friend. Cochran's potential for a golf career alongside Coody was curtailed by Stamford High's golf coach, who booted Cochran from the team. The coach, Gordon Wood, is better known as perhaps the most famous of all Texas high school football coaches (yes, Coody was an all-star quarterback at Stamford in Wood's double-dip at coaching). Eventually, Wood moved to the larger West Texas town of Brownwood to become the winningest high school football coach in Texas at the time.

After Wood retired, I ran into him on a bureau chief visit at the AP member paper in Brownwood. He insisted Cochran cost him another golf championship because Cochran "got all 'beered' on the senior class trip" and had to be ejected. Cochran insists the late Wood's memory is faulty, noting the team did win the Texas small school division championship classification with Cochran's replacement.

Beer played a role in Mike's job at the Abilene Reporter-News covering sports after graduating from college. As those of us familiar with Texas newspaper newsrooms of the past remember, it was all hands on deck on Friday nights during high school football season, no matter what your regular beat was and even if you weren't in the sports department the rest of the week.

Abilene was dry in those days. The newsroom drew straws on who would skip the Friday night game coverage and drive to the small community of Lowake, settled by German farmers and one of the few communities in West Texas to vote wet after Prohibition. After a collection was taken, the lucky winner, sometimes Cochran, would make the 140-mile round trip to load up a sedan with beer and other adult beverages for all contributors and return in time for deadline to distribute the purchases. A bonus for the driver - dinner for two (in this case, Mike's spouse Sondra)) at the famed Lowake Inn, one of the few country steak houses for hundreds of miles where alcohol was served.

At the Reporter-News, Mike also covered the Hardin-Simmons University Cowboys football team, coached by NFL Hall of Fame quarterback Sammy Baugh. Mike kept up with Baugh until Baugh's death many years later, writing one of the final profiles of Baugh for Associated Press from Baugh's West Texas ranch.

As my nomination letter said of Mike, "Accolades came his way through the years - Texas Newspaper Hall of Fame, University of North Texas Hall of Fame, Legends of North Texas Journalism, Pulitzer Prize nominations, Headliners of Texas Star Awards... But he never separated himself from sports journalism, even as he broke major investigative stories, wrote widely publicized profiles and authored books about Texas."

Then there was the time he mixed writing about sports with his own participation, as the accompanying AP photos show. Quoting from the nomination letter:

"Flashback to May 1971 at Colonial Country Club for the Wednesday Pro-Am before the Colonial NIT. Lee Trevino is on the first tee with two of his foursome - actor Guy Madison (aka Wild Bill Hickok) and singer Bobby Goldsboro. The fourth member emerges from the crowd - none other than Cochran, who would write about the experience.

"But first, Trevino takes his measure - dumping Cochran's somewhat weathered clubs and bag on the ground, pronouncing them 'sleazy' to the guffawing crowd. Trevino didn't like Mike's choice of golf balls either - pulling out a box of what Mike thought was an alternative but actually contained Trevino's gag fake snake. He and Mike both remembered an inebriated Madison disappearing into the trees for at least one hole - with Trevino charitably saying 'his horse must have thrown him.'"

Then, there was Mike's contribution to sports journalism by being part of stories he didn't write - the tales of a fictitious major league baseball team, the Fort Worth Strangers. In an era when journalism didn't take itself so seriously, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram chronicled the playoff run of the Strangers in September 1979, imagining success that the hapless Texas Rangers could not attain in that decade. Actually, the real Rangers weren't that bad that year, finishing second in their division, but no matter - the Strangers went national, even being mentioned by CBS' Walter Cronkite. Grabbed from his AP office adjacent to the Star-Telegram city desk, Mike took on the character of Milo Candidi, the Strangers' slugger, and posed for a fake news photo in Stranger's garb.

Through it all, he wrote about the "Golden Palomino," Donnie Anderson of tiny Stinnett High School, then Texas Tech All-American and Green Bay Packer; Odessa High School's 1997 victory over perennial juggernaut Odessa Permian of Friday Night Lights fame, and decades of Cotton Bowls in Dallas, Sun Bowls in El Paso, Colonial pro golf tournaments and even Big Country's short-lived PGA stop, Abilene's LaJet Classic.

So, yes, Mike's induction into the Big Country Athletic Hall of Fame is about his coverage of West Texas sports, not his abruptly shortened high school golf career. Nearly all of that was with AP as part of his duties as Fort Worth correspondent, including the Texas Tech Red Raiders in Lubbock, the TCU Horned Frogs (Baugh's alma mater) and even his old nemesis, Gordon Wood, who admitted enjoying what Mike had become!

## ***Best of the Week***

# AP Exclusive: Locusts swarm East Africa as a new wave forms in the Somali desert



AP Photo/Ben Curtis

It was the case of one good story leading to another.

After its shocking report Jan. 25 on the locust swarms devastating agriculture in Kenya, AP's Nairobi team came through with another truly striking package on the worst locust outbreak that parts of East Africa have seen in 70 years. This time, they obtained exclusive coverage of the next wave of young locusts now bulking up in Somalia's desert.

Officials in charge of the United Nations' response to the locust outbreak couldn't help but notice the AP photo and video packages from Kenya, and a contact at the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization offered bureau chief and veteran photographer Ben Curtis an exclusive trip to Somalia with a team of FAO's locust experts to document the area where the next generation of locusts is crawling, wingless, and preparing for flight.

Read more [here](#).

## ***Best of the States***

# **Records reveal Virginia attorney-lawmaker privilege that delays court proceedings**



**Photo by Bob Brown/Richmond Times-Dispatch**

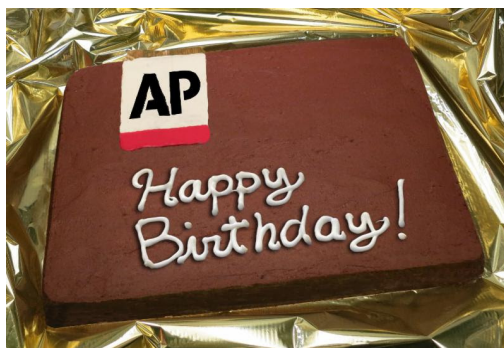
Sometimes accountability stories are hiding in plain sight, but getting to them requires first recognizing the potential and then doing a whole lot of digging. Virginia reporter Sarah Rankin did both of those things.

After seeing a one-sentence mention in a legal trade publication, Rankin began the hunt for a deeper story about a lawyer-legislator who used a continuance privilege granted to lawmakers to consistently delay court hearings in Virginia and elsewhere. That privilege is not available to most other attorneys. Rankin dug into the details in court records of one case that involved Virginia lawmaker Jeff Campbell, the defense attorney for a one-time NASCAR race driver accused by his estranged wife of domestic violence.

The woman, Miranda McClure, had not previously done a media interview about the situation. However, she talked to Rankin and explained that she believed Campbell was abusing the privilege, having delayed the appeals trial nine separate times.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Eldon Cort - [elcort@aol.com](mailto:elcort@aol.com)

Martha Irvine - [muddlymud@mac.com](mailto:muddlymud@mac.com)

Dean Lee - [dean\\_lee217@yahoo.com](mailto:dean_lee217@yahoo.com)

## Stories of interest

***The future of local newspapers just got bleaker. Here's why we can't let them die.***

(Washington Post)

**By Margaret Sullivan**

**Media columnist**

It's been a particularly rough couple of months for those who care about local journalism - which should be every American citizen.



Warren Buffett sold his 31 newspapers in January, a powerful vote of no confidence in their financial future. A rapacious hedge fund got its claws deeper into the Chicago Tribune chain in December, which includes the New York Daily News and the Baltimore Sun. Gannett and GateHouse, the two biggest newspaper chains, continued merging - a development almost certain to mean more staff cutbacks in already shrunken newsrooms.

And then on Thursday came more devastating news. Weighed down under enormous debt, the McClatchy newspaper chain - one of the nation's largest newspaper publishers and owner of the Miami Herald among many others - was filing for bankruptcy protection.

"There have been many sad days for newspapers over the last few years but [Thursday] might be the saddest yet," said Joel Kaplan, a journalism professor at Syracuse University.

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

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## ***Pension agency questions about McClatchy's largest lender threaten to slow bankruptcy process*** (McClatchy)

**BY KEVIN G. HALL AND BEN WIEDER**

NEW YORK - Bankruptcy proceedings for McClatchy Co. began Friday with a key government agency saying it opposed quick resolution of pension matters because of concerns about a 2018 transaction between the company and its largest creditor, Chatham Asset Management.

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, which takes over pensions in the event of company distress, argued against a request by McClatchy and Chatham to move immediately to mediation. The judge delayed a decision on the mediation request until Tuesday.

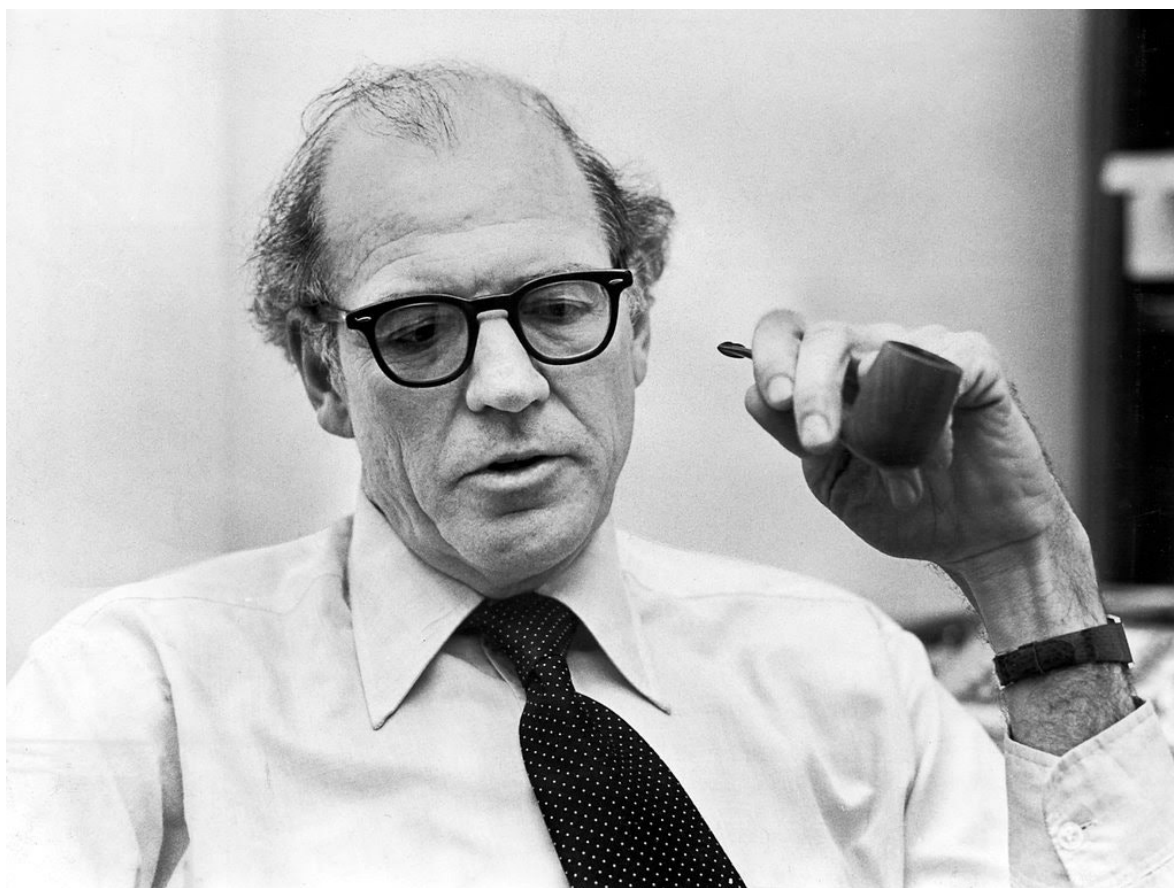
"We are not close," Kimberly E. Neureiter, an attorney for the PBGC, told Judge Michael E. Miles.

A nearly finished deal could be in jeopardy if the proceedings last longer than 60 days, when, under the company's financing agreement with Encina Business Credit, McClatchy must choose which path to take as it proceeds - a sale or a modified restructuring plan, lawyers for McClatchy and Encina told the judge.

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

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## ***Ray Jenkins, Newspaperman Who Covered Civil Rights Era, Dies at 89*** (New York Times)



**Ray Jenkins in his White House office in 1980, when he was a press aide to President Jimmy Carter. It was one of several roles he held in a distinguished 40-year career.  
Photo: Teresa Zabala/The New York Times**

**By Katharine Q. Seelye**

Ray Jenkins, the city editor of The Alabama Journal, was eating a bologna sandwich at his desk on April 5, 1960, and thumbing through a week-old copy of The New York Times when a full-page ad caught his eye.

Prominent liberals, including Eleanor Roosevelt and Jackie Robinson, were appealing for money for a legal-defense fund for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was facing a trial in Alabama on perjury charges - a good local angle for The Journal.

The ad, titled "Heed Their Rising Voices," castigated Alabama officials for what it called "an unprecedented wave of terror" against leaders of the civil rights movement.

Within minutes, Mr. Jenkins tapped out 13 paragraphs about the ad; his article appeared in the paper that afternoon.

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

## Today in History - February 17, 2020



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Monday, Feb. 17, the 48th day of 2020. There are 318 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On Feb. 17, 1801, the U.S. House of Representatives broke an electoral tie between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr, electing Jefferson president; Burr became vice president.

**On this date:**

In 1815, the United States and Britain exchanged the instruments of ratification for the Treaty of Ghent, ending the War of 1812.

In 1863, the International Red Cross was founded in Geneva.

In 1864, during the Civil War, the Union ship USS Housatonic was rammed and sunk in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, by the Confederate hand-cranked submarine HL Hunley in the first naval attack of its kind; the Hunley also sank.

In 1933, Newsweek magazine was first published under the title "News-Week."

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. forces invaded Eniwetok (ehn-eh-WEE'-tahk) Atoll, encountering little initial resistance from Imperial Japanese troops. (The Americans secured the atoll less than a week later.)

In 1964, the Supreme Court, in *Wesberry v. Sanders*, ruled that congressional districts within each state had to be roughly equal in population.

In 1965, comedian Joan Rivers made her first appearance on "The Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson.

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon departed the White House with his wife, Pat, on a historic trip to China.

In 1986, Johnson & Johnson announced it would no longer sell over-the-counter medications in capsule form, following the death of a woman who had taken a cyanide-laced Tylenol capsule.

In 1988, Lt. Col. William Higgins, a Marine Corps officer serving with a United Nations truce monitoring group, was kidnapped in southern Lebanon by Iranian-backed terrorists (he was later slain by his captors).

In 1996, world chess champion Garry Kasparov beat IBM supercomputer "Deep Blue," winning a six-game match in Philadelphia (however, Kasparov lost to Deep Blue in a rematch in 1997).

In 2006, ten U.S. service members died when a pair of Marine Corps helicopters crashed off the coast of Africa.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama marked the one-year anniversary of the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, saying it had staved off another Great Depression and kept up to 2 million people on the job. Eight American missionaries charged with child kidnapping in Haiti were released after nearly three weeks in a Haitian jail. Americans Lindsey Vonn and Julia Mancuso captured gold and silver in the women's Olympic downhill in Vancouver. Actress Kathryn Grayson, 88, died in Los Angeles.

Five years ago: Vice President Joe Biden opened a White House summit on countering extremism and radicalization, saying the United States needed to ensure that immigrants were fully included in the fabric of American society to prevent violent ideologies from taking root at home.

One year ago: In an interview airing on CBS' "60 Minutes," former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe said a "crime may have been committed" when President Donald Trump fired the head of the FBI and tried to publicly undermine an investigation into his campaign's ties to Russia. George Mendonsa, the U.S. Navy sailor who was seen in an iconic photo kissing a woman in a nurse's uniform in New York's Times Square to celebrate the end of World War II, died in Rhode Island; he was 95.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Hal Holbrook is 95. Actor-comedian Barry Humphries (aka "Dame Edna") is 86. Country singer-songwriter Johnny Bush is 85. Actress Christina Pickles is 85. Football Hall of Famer Jim Brown is 84. Actress Brenda Fricker is 75. Actress Becky Ann Baker is 67. Actress Rene Russo is 66. Actor Richard Karn is 64. Actor Lou Diamond Phillips is 58. Basketball Hall of Famer Michael Jordan is 57. Actor-comedian Larry, the Cable Guy is 57. TV personality Rene Syler is 57. Movie director Michael Bay is 56. Singer Chante Moore is 53. Rock musician Timothy J. Mahoney (311) is 50. Actor Dominic Purcell is 50. Olympic gold and silver medal skier Tommy Moe is 50. Actress Denise Richards is 49. Rock singer-musician Billie Joe Armstrong (Green Day) is 48. Rock musician Taylor Hawkins (Foo Fighters) is 48. Actor Jerry O'Connell is 46. Country singer Bryan White is 46. Actress Kelly Carlson is 44. Actor Ashton Holmes is 42. Actor Conrad Ricamora is 41. Actor Jason Ritter is 40. TV personality Paris Hilton is 39. Actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt is 39. TV host Daphne Oz is 34. Actor Chord Overstreet is 31. Singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran is 29. Actress Meaghan Martin is 28. Actress Sasha Pieterse is 24.

**Thought for Today: "Wounded vanity knows when it is mortally hurt; and limps off the field, piteous, all disguises thrown away. But pride carries its banner to the last; and fast as it is driven from one field unfurls it in another."**  
 [-] Helen Hunt Jackson, American author (1831-1885).

## 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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