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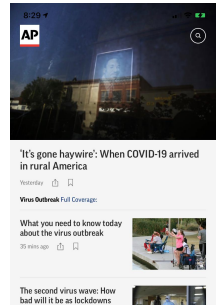
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Connecting May 08, 2020

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 8th day of May 2020,

We lead today's issue with memories of some of your colleagues relating to the 75th anniversary Thursday of the end of World War II in Europe.

AP's **Ed Kennedy**, who broke the news a full day ahead of his competition of Germany's unconditional surrender, was publicly rebuked by the AP and then quietly fired for defying military censors.



Sixty-seven years later, in 2012, then AP President and CEO **Tom Curley** (a Connecting colleague) apologized for the way the company treated Kennedy. "It

was a terrible day for the AP. It was handled in the worst possible way," Curley said, rejecting the notion that the AP had a duty to obey the order to hold the

story once it was clear the embargo was for political reasons, rather than to protect the troops.

Click [here](#) for an AP story from that time covering the apology.



AP GROUND GAME : Professional and college sports have been shutdown because of the COVID-19 pandemic. NCAA Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brian Hainline joins the “Ground Game” podcast to talk about when college teams can start gathering, practicing and competing again, as well as what might happen if a student-athlete tests positive for the virus.

Listen [here](#) .

A Happy Mothers Day weekend to all the moms and grandmas out there! Be safe and healthy. See you Monday.

Paul

Your memories relating to end of WWII in Europe - 75 years ago

Malcolm Barr Sr. ([Email](#)) - I was 13 on V-E Day and spent part of the downtown celebration in Derby, England (home of Rolls Royce and a long time target of the Nazis - they never hit it!) sitting atop a lamp post to escape the crush of people, and to see better what all was happening. The sounds I remember, the WWII songs made famous by the "Forces Sweetheart", Vera Lynn (still alive at about 102 and now Dame Vera) being sung in unison by the thousands gathered in the streets and pubs. The following day, the housewives set out tables on the pavements (sidewalks), covered by rarely seen "rations", foodstuffs retrieved from closets and chests and apparently saved for the occasion. and we all tucked in to our first real meal in years!

My mum and dad managed a pub and I was charged with collecting empty glasses until well after regular closing time. As was usual during the war in England, there was a mix of British (mainly RAF), American and Canadian

military among the pub crowd. I carried an autograph book on my tray and still have it in my bedside drawer. It contains the names and messages from many of the service personnel, many of whom gave me badges and other insignia from their uniforms that momentous weekend. I still have them all, and memories connected with most. During the last year of the war, my school chums and I spent Sunday afternoons at a Luftwaffe POW camp near my boarding school where we crawled under the wire to get in. We sat around with the air crews, took them cigarettes when we had a few spare pennies, and they gave us handmade souvenirs. I still have, with my autograph book, an etched aluminum cigarette case, made from part of a crashed plane and given to me by a German pilot.

Note: A couple of Vera Lynn's songs to jog some memories of those days: "The White Cliffs of Dover" and my favorite, "We'll meet again"... "don't know where, don't know when. But I know we'll meet again some sunny day." If you want to hear more, ask Alexa!

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Sibby Christensen ([Email](#)) - For those of us of a certain age, World War II was fought on the home front as we grew up. Rationing, victory gardens, war bond drives, air raid drills, and more. VE Day offered a moment of relief before fighting ended on VJ Day.

The war came home to us in Colorado via The Denver Post, The Rocky Mountain News, and importantly, the radio - which in those days was equivalent to television, minus the pictures.

Some vignettes:

* My grandmother, a native Copenhagener, screaming in pain when she heard that the Germans had marched into Denmark.

* My mother, exasperated that a pickpocket had swiped her book of rationing stamps. That meant a bureaucratic appeal to the rationing board before she could buy groceries.

* Putting oilcloth covers over windows at night for air raid drills - the logic being that enemy bombers couldn't find us in the dark. (Years later, it occurred to me that enemy planes of that era might not have had the fuel capacity to get all the way to Colorado.)

* My brother and I delegated to wash and flatten tin cans for scrap metal drives, needed for war materials. Old-time recycling.

* Planting vegetables and berries in a vacant lot next to our house.

* A neighbor who put up a world map in his kitchen, moving stickpins to follow troop movements he heard about on the radio.

* Another neighbor's son coming home from Army duty overseas to claim his infant child after his wife died.

I don't recall the home front crowd, having weathered the Great Depression, complaining about their sacrifices.

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Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - I remember the end of the war, and handled a lot of teletype copy as an office boy in the Columbus bureau then. It was exciting as all get out when the Flash (s) came in and the teletype bells rang, and rang, and the copy paper jumped and jumped. Lots of paper jams, and swearing!

I remember all of the Pacific copy as well as the European. It was really exciting, grabbing the copy to keep it from jamming, ripping off the flashes, and Bulletins, etc., and putting hard copy into a canister and sending by pneumatic tube to either the Columbus Journal (night office), or the Columbus Dispatch (day office).

Ancient times, my friend, ancient times. I knew then it was one helluva time to be in the news business!

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Robert O'Meara ([Email](#)) - When Germany surrendered I was with an Army Air Force group manning a radio outpost in the Western Sahara. We knew our mission was over. Then speculation began. Would it be the Pacific for us? Would we be part of a landing force in Japan? We all know the outcome.

Our view of the Statue of Liberty as our troopship pulled into New York harbor was magnificent.



My dad, on his way home - in Nancy, France

Paul Stevens ([Email](#)) - My dad's grandparents immigrated to the United States from Germany when his father was just two years old.

Dad was one of 10 children born to Margaret and Henry Stevens in the small northeast Nebraska community of Bow Valley - a farming town heavily populated by fellow German immigrants. Masses at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, a grand structure built by devoted German Catholics in 1903 and the church where dad and his siblings were baptized, were said in the German language.

So when the War in Europe came to an end 75 years ago with the German surrender on May 7, 1945, it was no small irony that Captain Walter B. Stevens learned of it while with his Army artillery unit - fighting in the heart of his dad's and grandparents' home country, Germany.

The surrender ended more than two years of combat duty for my dad - a newspaper editor in Brainerd, Minn., when he was drafted into the Army in early 1942. His combat started in North Africa and moved on to Allied landings at Sicily and Anzio, the liberation of Rome, then fighting in northern Italy, France and finally into Germany.

The German surrender, he told me years later, ended his active combat but his unit remained in Germany with the prospect of next taking part in the invasion of Japan.

Months later, after Japan had surrendered, ending World War II, he boarded the troop ship USS Argentina on Oct. 17, 1945, to return home and resume life as a civilian and re-engage in the newspaper business for the rest of his life including 50-plus years of service at The Messenger in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Dad has been gone since 2013 - he lived into his 96th year before his heart gave out on a day when his best friend, Albert Habhab, a fellow WWII veteran, had visited him at Friendship Haven.

But that date in May 75 years ago Thursday will always have special meaning for his family and those who were lucky enough to be his friends.

Connecting mailbox

A bet paid off, 30 years later, with a Pulitzer



Russell Gold pictured on the bottom, **Andrew Metz** on the top left, **Doug Donovan** on the top right.

Doug Donovan ([Email](#)) - Nearly 30 years ago (ugh) three Philadelphia Inquirer Bucks County correspondents were young and cocky enough to vow never to open a wedding-gift whisky bottle until one of them had won a Pulitzer.

Over that time, Andrew Metz, the bottle's betrothed recipient, and Russell Gold went on to national acclaim: Metz from 60 Minutes to Frontline honcho; Russell from the Express-News to Wall Street Journal star. I stayed local, landing at The Baltimore Sun.

On Monday, The Sun team that I worked on to take down a corrupt mayor and her corporate enablers won the local reporting Pulitzer. Russell's jaw-dropping teamwork exposing a utility's role in California's wildfires earned him a Pulitzer finalist honor for national reporting.

Did Metz keep the bottle? Of course. So we opened it – where else – over Zoom.

While opening the bottle was fun, the ceremony represented something far more than honoring prizes. To me it honored three decades of great journalism on three different levels: local, national and international by two of the best journalists in the business. We all have long given our all to a profession that today is so easily belittled by those on the sharp end of our motto: comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.

I left journalism a few months ago, but I sleep soundly knowing Russell and Andrew are still out there with my former amazing Sun colleagues keeping the powerful accountable whenever they violate the public interest for private gain. And I hope somewhere there are three young reporters making a similar vow today.

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I haven't forgotten Ed Kennedy

Ray March ([Email](#)) - Thanks to the ever-watchful eye of Warren Lerude, I just read the piece on Ed Kennedy (in Thursday's Connecting). I founded and co-chaired the Ed Kennedy Pulitzer Project a few years back and Lerude was on my core committee. He and so many others nationwide joined in a crusade to get Kennedy a special Pulitzer -- twice. We lost both times and never received a hint from the Pulitzer board as to why -- secrecy in journalism.

Kennedy was my first editor when I was a rookie at the Monterey Peninsula Herald. Later I did side stringing for AP. Maybe there's some irony there, but I have not forgotten Ed. I'm just changing the ribbon in my typewriter.

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Hitching a ride with a police officer

Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - Hal Bock's recollection in Thursday's CONNECTING of being locked in the Montreal Forum reminded me, in a strange way, of the time I was the last one out of RFK Stadium on Dec. 31,

1972, after the Cowboys-Redskins NFC championship game. It was my first time covering a game there.

It was sometime after 8 p.m. and no one was around outside - no taxis, nothing. So I carried my computer to the closest road (more like a three-line highway that passed the stadium on either side) and tried to flag down a cab.

They drove by empty with the roof light on, with passengers and the roof light on, empty with the roof light off, with passengers and the roof light off. None would stop for me.

Finally a police cruiser stopped, the driver rolled down the right-front window and asked me, "What the hell are you doing?" I told him I was trying to get a taxi and he said, "Get in the fuckin' car!"

Once in, I was told, loudly and at length, that it was not the safest of neighborhoods. The policeman then asked where I was staying.

When we got to the Hilton Hotel, a number of writers saw me get out of the cop car and asked what that was all about. Not willing to admit my naivety, I said, "Read about it tomorrow."

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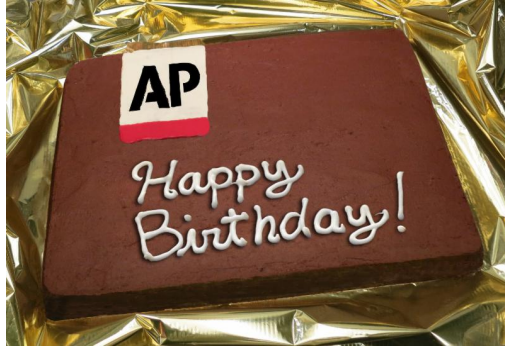
Fly me to the moon



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Peter Leabo ([Email](#)) - A flight departing Kansas City International Airport flies east past the full moon on Wednesday night. (FedEx 1613 Airbus A 300F4-600 KMCI->KIND) Shot with a 600mm lens with 1.4x converter (840mm) from our back deck in northern Kansas City, MO.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

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On Sunday to...

Joe Yeninas - jobarla@aol.com

Stories of interest

Poll: 2 in 3 Americans support COVID-19 relief funds for local news organizations (The Hill)

Roughly two-thirds of Americans support allocating coronavirus relief funds to local news organizations in the midst of the pandemic, according to a new Gallup poll.

Sixty-five percent of adults surveyed supported providing the local outlets with stimulus funds, while 34 percent were opposed.

The results were split along partisan lines, with 87 percent of Democrats backing the idea but only 43 percent of Republicans agreeing. Independents supported giving news outlets money by a 60 percent to 39 percent margin.

About 49 percent of those surveyed said they are either "very" or "moderately" concerned that local outlets will be harmed by the coronavirus's mushrooming economic fallout, though most do not indicate a desire to pay for news coverage if they do not already.

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

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Editor: Can you help fund our expanding, Pulitzer-winning investigative team? (Louisville Courier-Journal)

Richard A. Green, Louisville Courier Journal

Five months ago, with the holidays in the air, a team of Courier Journal reporters and editors dug furiously into a flurry of pardons and commutations — more than 600 of them — issued by outgoing Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin.

We were stunned by what we found.

Our reporting uncovered in granular detail how a one-term governor, upset in a nationally watched election just weeks before, flexed his executive powers to grant second chances to the convicted and imprisoned with little concern for victims or their families.

While many of his actions elicited national scorn and derision, Bevin defended his moves as America's foundational "support for redemption."

Read more [here](#) .

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What I learned about local newspapers working for Pete Buttigieg in Iowa (Carroll Times-Herald)



Ben Halle (left) served as Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg's Iowa communications director. Halle is pictured here with Buttigieg, who performed well in Iowa but later left the race and endorsed former Vice President Joe Biden's White House bid.

By Ben Halle

The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified many problems in our country. One of the most glaring is the disappearance of local journalism. While people are increasingly turning to local journalists for information on how the pandemic is impacting their communities, advertisers are cutting their budgets to account for an economy in rapid decline. This means newspapers that were struggling to get by now face the prospect of being shuttered entirely.

I spent the last year in Iowa working as Iowa Communications Director for Pete Buttigieg, a role in which I worked closely with local journalists across the state. And I can tell you firsthand: the impact of losing local journalism would be devastating for our democracy and civil discourse for generations to come.

The reality is that what's happening in your community will impact your daily life more than the president getting impeached. The decision your mayor or county supervisors make about keeping a restaurant open during the pandemic will affect your life more than what happens in the halls of Congress. But with the depletion of local journalism, local power brokers no longer will be held accountable to the people they serve.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Scott Charton.

The Final Word

BEES PREPARING FOR THE MURDER HORNETS



Today in History - May 08, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, May 8, the 129th day of 2020. There are 237 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 8, 1945, President Harry S. Truman announced on radio that Nazi Germany's forces had surrendered, and that "the flags of freedom fly all over Europe."

On this date:

In 1541, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto reached the Mississippi River.

In 1846, the first major battle of the Mexican-American War was fought at Palo Alto, Texas; U.S. forces led by Gen. Zachary Taylor were able to beat back Mexican forces.

In 1958, Vice President Richard Nixon was shoved, stoned, booed and spat upon by anti-American protesters in Lima, Peru.

In 1970, anti-war protests took place across the United States and around the world; in New York, construction workers broke up a demonstration on Wall Street.

In 1973, militant American Indians who had held the South Dakota hamlet of Wounded Knee for 10 weeks surrendered.

In 1978, David R. Berkowitz pleaded guilty in a Brooklyn courtroom to murder, attempted murder and assault in connection with the "Son of Sam" shootings that claimed six lives and terrified New Yorkers. (Berkowitz was sentenced to six consecutive life prison terms.)

In 1984, the Soviet Union announced it would boycott the upcoming Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

In 1987, Gary Hart, dogged by questions about his personal life, including his relationship with Miami model Donna Rice, withdrew from the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In 1993, the Muslim-led government of Bosnia-Herzegovina and rebel Bosnian Serbs signed an agreement for a nationwide cease-fire.

In 1996, South Africa took another step from apartheid to democracy by adopting a constitution that guaranteed equal rights for blacks and whites.

In 2003, the Senate unanimously endorsed adding to NATO seven former communist nations: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Ten years ago: Republican Sen. Bob Bennett of Utah, targeted by tea party activists and other groups, lost his bid to serve a fourth term after failing to advance past the GOP state convention in Salt Lake City. A coal mine in western Siberia was rocked by the first of two methane explosions that claimed the lives of 90 miners. Actress Betty White hosted NBC's "Saturday Night Live" as the result of a Facebook campaign.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama visited Nike headquarters in Beaverton, Oregon, where he made a pitch for a Trans-Pacific agreement that would open up commerce among the U.S. and 11 other Pacific Rim countries. A Pakistani army helicopter crashed on its way to an inauguration at a resort in the country's north, killing four foreigners [-] ambassadors from the Philippines and Norway, as well as the wives of the ambassadors from Malaysia and Indonesia [-] and a three-member crew.

One year ago: The House Judiciary Committee voted to hold Attorney General William Barr in contempt of Congress, escalating the Democrats' legal battle with the Trump administration over access to the special counsel's Russia report. Iran threatened to enrich its uranium stockpile closer to weapons-grade levels in 60 days if world powers failed to negotiate new terms for the 2015 nuclear deal.

Today's Birthdays: Naturalist Sir David Attenborough is 94. Singer Toni Tennille is 80. Actor James Mitchum is 79. Country singer Jack Blanchard is 78. Jazz musician Keith Jarrett is 75. Actor Mark Blankfield is 72. Singer Philip Bailey (Earth, Wind and Fire) is 69. Rock musician Chris Frantz (Talking Heads) is 69. Rockabilly singer Billy Burnette is 67. Rock musician Alex Van Halen is 67. Actor David Keith is 66. Actor Raoul Max Trujillo is 65. Sports commentator/former NFL coach Bill Cowher is 63. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio is 59. Actress Melissa Gilbert is 56. Rock musician Dave Rowntree (Blur) is 56. Country musician Del Gray is 52. Rock singer Darren Hayes is 48. Singer Enrique Iglesias is 45. Blues singer-musician Joe Bonamassa is 43. Actor Matt Davis is 42. Singer Ana Maria Lombo (Eden's Crush) is 42. Actor Elyes Gabel is 37. Actor Domhnall Gleeson is 37. Neo-soul drummer Patrick Meese (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 37. Actress Julia Whelan (WAY'-lan) is 36. Actress Nora Anezeder is 31.

Thought for Today: "What you see is news, what you know is background, what you feel is opinion." [-] Lester Markel, American editor

(1894-1977).

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

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