
Connecting - March 20, 2020

1 message

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

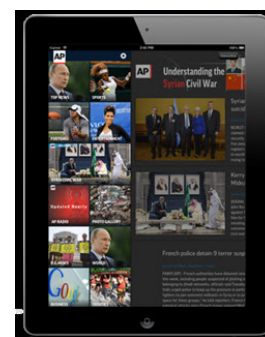
Fri, Mar 20, 2020 at 5:52 AM

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 20th day of March 2020,

Patrick Casey and his wife **Wanli** are into their 56th day, he says, “of what is essentially the situationally imposed quarantine of an entire country” caused by the coronavirus.

And from their home in Beijing, he has this advice to Americans: “You also will learn that, as trite as it sounds, tough times don’t last but tough people do. You will resist that initial urge to freak the hell out and instead, manage the challenges. There’s no other way.”

The essay by the former AP Oklahoma City newsman (1987-1999) and New York Digital editor (1999-2008), now a copy editor for CGTN’s Global Business news program, leads today’s issue as we near completion of a week like no other in our lifetimes – and face the uncertainty of how long the situation will last.

Today's issue brings first responses to a call from **Diana Heidgerd** in Thursday's issue to share your first press card – and a brief description. I hope you will follow suit over the weekend. I plan to drop into the basement and see if I can find mine. Plenty of time on my hands to do so.

Have a great weekend – and be healthy and safe.

Paul

**Advice to U.S. from
Beijing: Unexpected troubles will
come but you will manage,
somehow**



Zhang Wanli studies photo editing during her 56th straight day at home because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Patrick Casey ([Email](#)) - Wanli and I sit in our Beijing apartment and watch CNN in amazement as one of our favorite cities in the whole world continues to shut down along with the rest of America.

We're taken aback to see images of an empty Times Square, sparse traffic on 6th Avenue and a lifeless West Village devoid of the music, food and energy that's inspired generations of countless musicians, photographers and other artists.

We're also troubled to see grim video from across America of empty store shelves, long lines waiting to enter supermarkets and to-the-death fights over such trivial goods as toilet paper and WonderBread.

Drunken spring-breakers carelessly cavorting on crowded Florida beaches confuse us. So do those who are grabbing guns, ammunition and medical marijuana as if the Apocalypse is going to descend upon America while the country battles the coronavirus pandemic.

This all comes as we begin our 56th day of what is essentially the situationally imposed quarantine of an entire country. That's because, as Americans are finding out, all businesses except for groceries and pharmacies are closed and there's literally no place to go.

That doesn't mean, though, that there's nothing to do and we're wallowing in boredom. Quite the opposite. There's plenty to keep us busy.

Many people, like me, are working from home now and it's no vacation. It's still work even if you're sitting in your favorite spot in your favorite PJs. I've found it's helpful to be ready to go whatever the starting time.

That means keeping to your usual routine, including eating well and exercising, and not being slothful just because you're at home. Seeing a freshly made bed and hearing the humming washing machine in a clean bathroom starts our day on a positive footing.

It also means shutting off the TV and eliminating any distractions. Television, as Wanli and I have found out, is an immense waste of time and we rarely watch except to get updates on the pandemic.

Instead, we've mostly turned to the Internet and social media. WeChat and FaceTime let us stay directly in touch with our families and friends while Facebook is an endless source of wit, angst and consternation.

We've seen countless educational videos on YouTube and Chinese platforms. Wanli has completed courses on the photo editing programs LightRoom and PhotoShop and through Tsinghua University has a raft of classes to watch on everything from philosophy to Chinese poetry.

But it hasn't been all sunshine and rainbows by any stretch. We've had to make some decisions that in ordinary times would never cross our minds. Wanli, for example, fell and broke her ankle just before the pandemic began. Fortunately, she was able to have it properly treated before all hell broke loose. But it's been too risky to go back yet for follow-up treatment.

Her accident and sudden lack of mobility unexpectedly gave me more work but we've managed just fine. We're still are better off than many people here. I think that that is what those of you in America will find out as the pandemic widens. Unexpected troubles will come but you will manage, somehow.

It will likely be sometime before you can get another haircut, eat in a sit-down restaurant or watch your favorite team or band play in person. It will also be awhile, maybe quite a while, before you see your coworkers again, visit your dentist or eye doctor, or go inside any store except for a supermarket. But, again, you will manage.

You will learn the meaning of patience over and over and over again as you wait out the pandemic. Government impositions? No problem. Bored? Dance like no one's watching. Slow food deliveries? Please. Noisy kids? Be grateful they're home and healthy. Spending more time with your spouse than when you were dating? Life should be so hard. Enjoy the moment.

You also will learn that, as trite as it sounds, tough times don't last but tough people do. You will resist that initial urge to freak the hell out and instead, manage the challenges. There's no other way.

Recalling the great polio scare of 1952

Kathy Curran (Email) - This new period of confinement due to the coronavirus has me thinking of the great polio scare of 1952.

You're enough younger than I am, Paul, that I'm not sure if you remember much about the polio epidemic. I was eight years old and recall being confined to the farm for the summer, no trips to town or anyplace else. At the time I had four siblings and five cousins next door, and we played hours of games together, so the isolation was, except for the absence of church on Sunday, not as much noticed by us as by others. I do remember being terrified at the thought of someone being in an iron lung. Many in our small town were affected. Sadly, the little boy who sat behind me in school the previous year died of polio that summer. I recall my mom being thankful, that, as I had, Freddie had just made his First Communion.



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As I think of that long ago epidemic, I am in awe of how much the world is depending now on technology, something not possible in 1952. I am finding that, in addition to the crucial connections allowing work at home, continued schooling and keeping the world apprised of current status and guidelines, we are getting great comfort from all the personal texts, emails, calls, FaceTimes, virtual activities and videos of singing grandchildren.

I realize the solutions and comforts being afforded to us by technology, do not begin to touch the suffering of the sick and all the terrible losses being incurred by so many. Our hopes and prayers are for them. But I remain grateful for the benefits technology has offered all of us.

Cartoon of today borrowed from AP image of yesterday



Shared by Bob Daugherty

Hal Buell (Email) - The drawing that uses Joe Rosenthal's famous Iwo Jima flag raising photo is only the most recent instance of the photo as parody.

Might be dangerous for me to say it, but I would bet Joe's photo is the most parodied photo of all time. It has appeared on magazine covers, commercial products, anti-war messages, etc. The U.S. Naval Institute has a collection of nearly 100 such items.

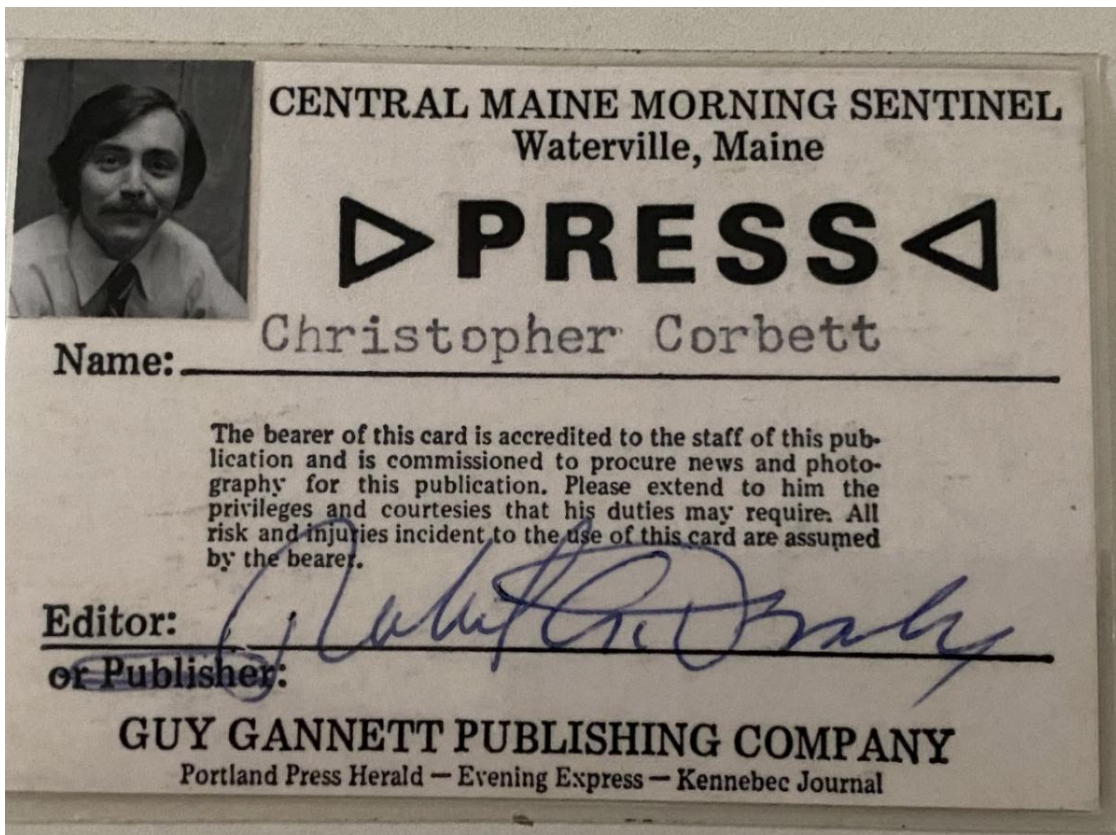
Each time it appears reaction ranges from those who believe a parody cheapens the photo to those who believe the parody emphasizes, sometime good and sometimes bad, the message.

Either way, the parodies testify to the lasting impact of the photo on Americans.

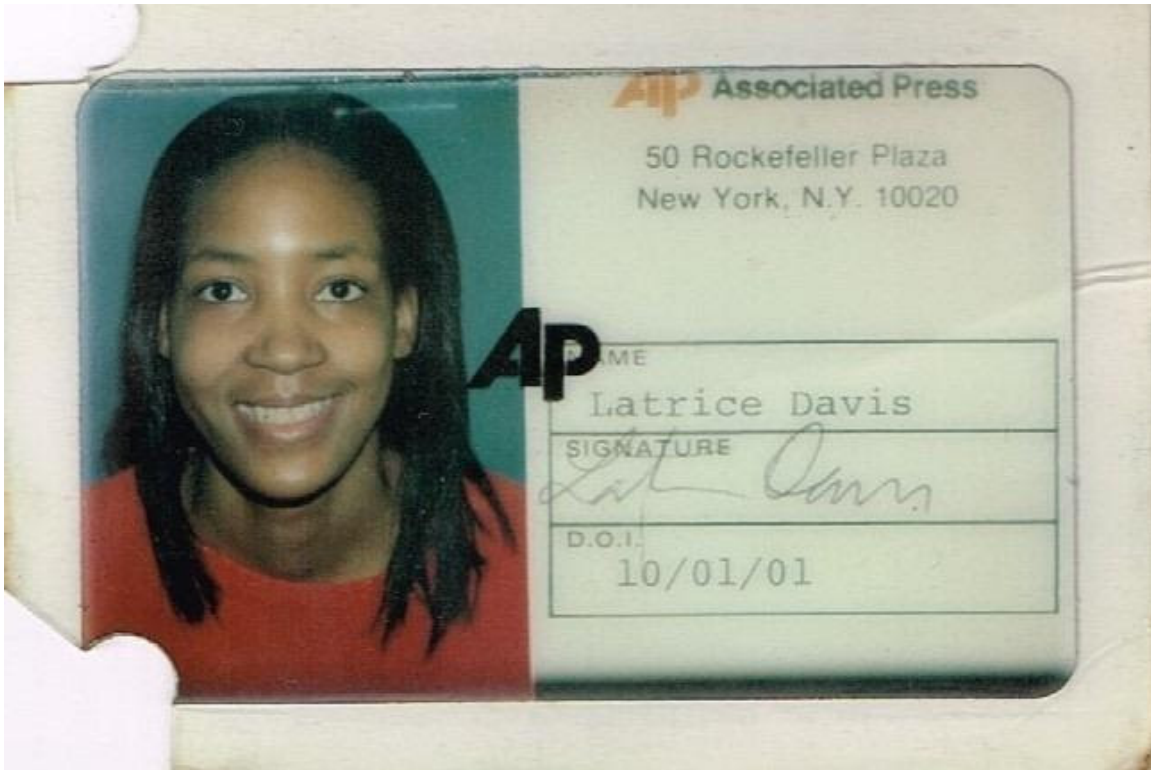
Your first press pass



Joni Beall ([Email](#)) - Here's the oldest news ID I can find. It's from 1990. As I told Diana Heidgerd, Chandler Bing would say: "Can those glasses BE any bigger?" Sure wish I could find my WINC, Winchester, VA cards. I did dig up a Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board card from when I turned 21.



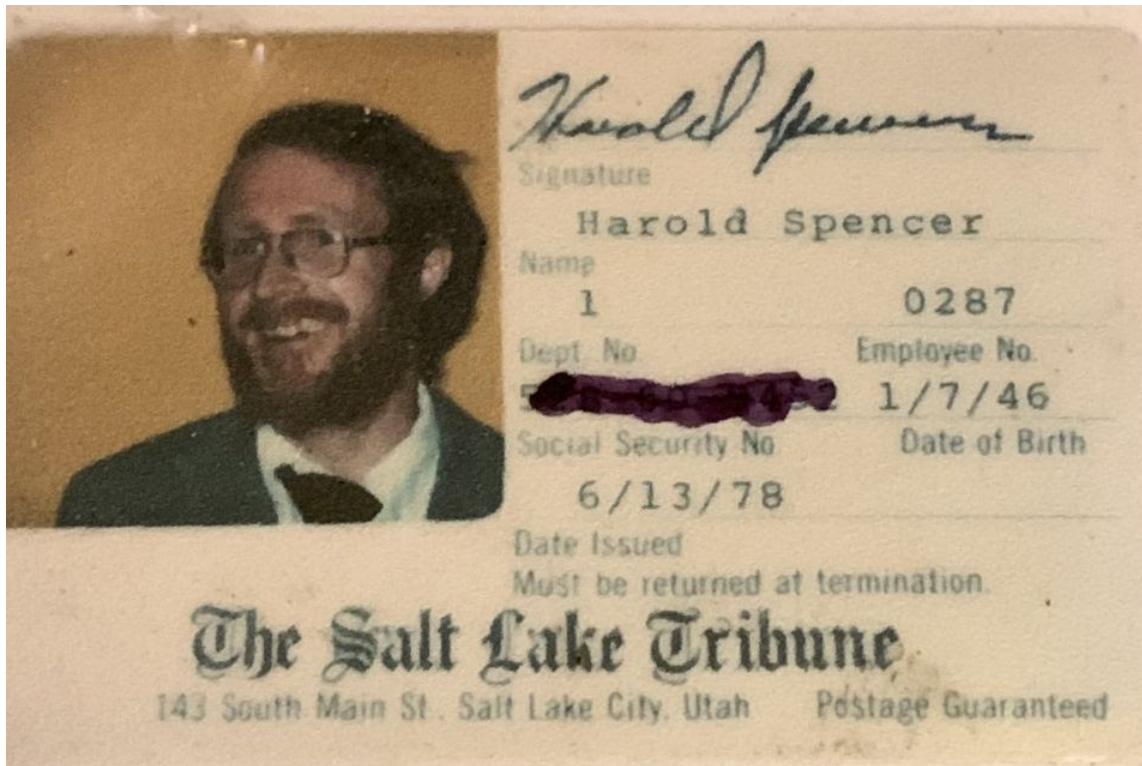
Chris Corbett (Email) - I worked for AP in the late 1970s and 1980s in Hartford and Baltimore (where I was news editor). This press card was issued in 1975 at the Central Maine Morning Sentinel in Waterville, Maine. I went to AP from there in 1977.



Latrice Davis (Email) – This ID card was issued shortly after the terrorist attacks, even though I'd been working for the wire service for almost a year. I'd just passed probation and felt like I was FINALLY on my way as a professional journalist. #woohoo



Mark Mittelstadt (Email) - I don't recall receiving photo press passes for my first career assignments with the Daily Iowan and The Record of Cedar Falls, Iowa in the mid to late 1970s. If I did they vanished into the ether or, more likely, got lost in moving boxes over the past 40-45 years. Here's a Cuba press pass for when I joined officers of what was then the Associated Press Managing Editors for a visit to Havana in April 2004.

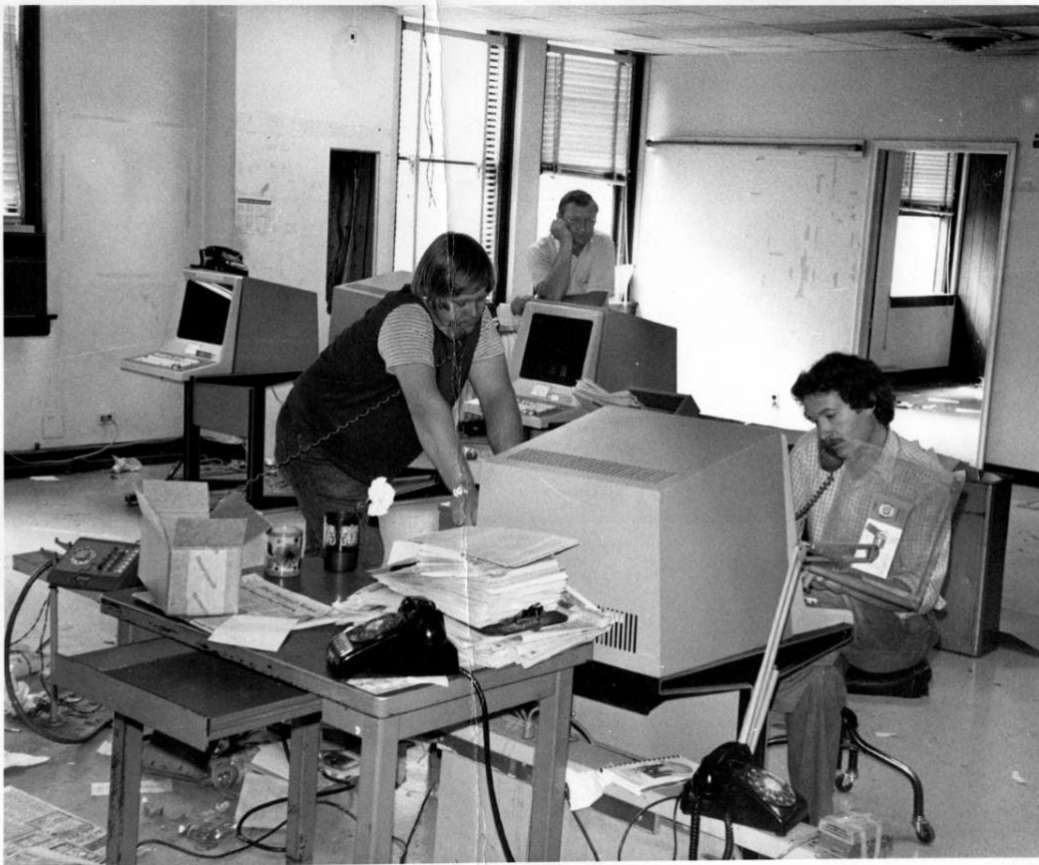


Hal Spencer (Email) - This is the earliest press pass I could find. I took the liberty of crossing out the social security number. As for Covid-19, I'm walking a lot, at least 5 miles a day. Easy to stay away from people then.



David Tirrell-Wysocki (Email) - This is from 1975, when I was news director at WKXL in Concord, NH, and the state issued press IDs. There must have been one from my first job the previous year at another NH station ... but who knows where that ended up.

And while looking for my old press pass...



Mike Graczyk (Email) - I haven't found an old press pass yet, and I will because it's around here somewhere, but I did stumble over this photo from the day we moved the Detroit bureau in the mid to late 70s.

While I'm hunched over on the phone, that's Owen Ullmann in front of a CRT dealing with a news story on another line and COB Jim Wilson in the background. I believe we did this on a Saturday.

As with most bureau moves at the time, the place we left behind was a dump. Of course, the Detroit office back then could almost always be considered a dump. We were on the 6th floor of a decrepit office building across the street from The Detroit Free Press. UPI was one floor below us and we shared the building - The Commerce Building - with a former Cinerama movie theater that had turned to adult flicks. The office building security guard downstairs sometimes was missing at night but could be found in the theater. A small restaurant adjacent to it was painted a hideous lime green and became known as the green latrine.

The heat and AC were either on or off and had no effective temperature settings. In the dead of a Detroit winter, we'd open the windows (yes, they

opened) to bring down the warmth. I recall collecting snow from the exterior window ledges and tossing snowballs to the street below. After finishing a 5p-130a shift one night, I went outside to find my car and watched a rat stroll down the center of Washington Boulevard, the main street on one side of the building.

The CRTs look like Hendrix machines. I'm not sure if those were the ones with the white or green characters on the screen. They were word processors and little else. We didn't have the ability to save items, so if what was on your screen blipped and got lost, it was gone. According to the AP grapevine back then, our folks covering the Three Mile Island nuke fiasco in Pennsylvania were using the same machines and had their radioactive warning badges go off while sitting in front of them. Of course, that may be an AP urban myth. Or not.

Owen's seated at what was the broadcast desk. You can see that our pleas for button phones were ignored. We had many dial telephones. What was the COC's office is through the doorway on the right. Apparently all the teletypes had been moved to the new quarters when this photo was taken, meaning the office would have been eerily quiet.

It wasn't all bad. We all did a lot of good work there, from Jimmy Hoffa to the Edmund Fitzgerald to the ups and downs of the auto industry. And I had the pleasure of learning from and working with so many talented people there.

Connecting mailbox

Teletype operators were as good a teacher as any journalism prof

Mark Thayer ([Email](#)) - Lloyd Bost and Max were punchers, operators, Teletype operators in the Salt Lake bureau when I arrived in late 1965. (See Thursday's Connecting) Seasoned veterans, they were as good a teacher as any journalism prof. They had great command of the English language, too. Thanks to Greg Nokes for his memories which jogged mine. Unfortunately I don't remember Max's last name.

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Larry Lage's fundraiser for freelancers featured on Detroit TV

Charles Hill ([Email](#)) - WDIV-TV broadcast a piece on AP Detroit sports writer Larry Lage and his fundraising for freelancers Thursday night on the evening news. Below is a link to its video and story.

As the anchors discussed the story, Bernie Smilovitz, the longtime WDIV anchor and sports director, said: "Larry's one of the good guys."

Click [here](#) to view.

-0-

'I'm not going to sit on my couch and waste my retirement'

Jim Carlson (Email) - Amid all the coronavirus coverage, a scene-setting story by Bill Glauber of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel described how the city has reacted and included my choice as the quote of the day. It came from Lake Michigan fisherman Jim Dembiec, fishing from the shore near the harbor entrance Wednesday and getting no bites:

"I'm not going to sit on the couch and waste my retirement," he said.

Good philosophy, eh?

-0-

Look for the helpers



Volunteers pack free groceries for distribution to senior citizens at Hope Community Services in New Rochelle, New York.

John Minchillo / AP

Ed Williams ([Email](#)) - *When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."*

—Mister Rogers

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Is that an iPhone?



George Widman (Email) – In the painting “In An American Inn/Village Tavern” in Tuesday's Connecting, the fellow apparently quaffing, foreground, at the tavern needed a closer look. Obviously, he's just using the antique version of the iPhone – see attached for blowup version.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Giovanna Dell'Orto - dell0014@umn.edu
Larry Margasak - lmargasak@msn.com

On Saturday to...

Lew Wheaton - lew.wheaton@comcast.net

On Sunday to...

Jerry Harkavy - jerryharkavy@outlook.com

Stan Miller - amer1749@gmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Bob Zaltsberg - Bob.zaltsberg@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Finding joy indoors in troubled times, one leaf at a time



By **MOLLY SPRAYREGEN**

CHICAGO (AP) — I have spent my first full week of isolation carefully observing one of my houseplants. Dylan, as my fiancée and I so fondly call her, has been growing new leaves at an uncharacteristically rapid rate.

It might be the longer hours of daylight. But I imagine Dylan's new zest for life also comes from the increased attention we've paid to her and the rest of our houseplants now that we're with them in our apartment 24/7. At a time when so little feels under control, one thing we know is up to us is the survival of these living things we have committed to taking care of.

We check on them more. We give them more water. Sometimes, we just stare at them, taking in the beauty and comfort they provide.

When we first decided to take the leap into plant ownership, before the outbreak of the coronavirus, I simply wanted to brighten our apartment. I'd been sprucing up the place with flowers, but had grown tired of spending money on something that would die within days or weeks.

I had no idea how much joy the plants would bring me, or how much fun I would have learning to care for them.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Cecilia White.

Working from home during coronavirus

Click [here](#) for freelance cartoonist Ann Telnaes's advice - The Washington Post.

Shared by Sibby Christensen

-0-

92 Years Old, Scared and Pleading to Come Home (New York Times)

By Dan Barry

His daughters were not at his bedside, holding his hand. His sons were not making him smile with wisecracks about the institutional setting. His grandchildren were not cheering him up with reports from the distant world of youth.

Joseph Trinity's family members were there one day, and then they were not, for the same reason much of the world is trying to suppress the human desire to be with one another: the coronavirus.

Mr. Trinity had found himself in a New Jersey rehabilitation facility that, like most health care institutions across the country, had declared a no-visitor policy to stem contagion. But he is 92, and in fragile health; family sustains him.

Several times a day, he would call his daughter, Mary Trinity, to ask in a faint, slightly garbled voice where everyone was — and to beg her to please, please, get him out of there.

Mr. Trinity was caught in a moment. And he wasn't alone.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History – March 20, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, March 20, the 80th day of 2020. There are 286 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 20, 1854, the Republican Party of the United States was founded by slavery opponents at a schoolhouse in Ripon (RIH'-puhn), Wisconsin.

On this date:

In 1413, England's King Henry IV died; he was succeeded by Henry V.

In 1760, a 10-hour fire erupted in Boston, destroying 349 buildings and burning 10 ships, but claiming no lives.

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte returned to Paris after escaping his exile on Elba, beginning his "Hundred Days" rule.

In 1899, Martha M. Place of Brooklyn, New York, became the first woman to be executed in the electric chair as she was put to death at Sing Sing for the murder of her stepdaughter.

In 1933, the state of Florida electrocuted Giuseppe Zangara for shooting to death Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak at a Miami event attended by President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt, the presumed target, the previous February.

In 1942, U.S. Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur, having evacuated the Philippines at the order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, told reporters in Terowie, Australia: "I came out of Bataan, and I shall return."

In 1952, the U.S. Senate ratified, 66-10, a Security Treaty with Japan.

In 1976, kidnapped newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was convicted of armed robbery for her part in a San Francisco bank holdup carried out by the Symbionese Liberation Army. (Hearst was sentenced to seven years in prison; she was released after serving 22 months, and was pardoned in 2001 by President Bill Clinton.)

In 1977, voters in Paris chose former French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac to be the French capital's first mayor in more than a century.

In 1995, in Tokyo, 12 people were killed, more than 5,500 others sickened when packages containing the deadly chemical sarin were leaked on five separate subway trains by Aum Shinrikyo (ohm shin-ree-kyoh) cult members.

In 1996, a jury in Los Angeles convicted Erik and Lyle Menendez of first-degree murder in the shotgun slayings of their wealthy parents. (They were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.)

In 2004, hundreds of thousands of people worldwide rallied against the U.S.-led war in Iraq on the first anniversary of the start of the conflict. The U.S. military charged six soldiers with abusing inmates at the Abu Ghraib prison.

Ten years ago: Pope Benedict XVI sent an unprecedented letter to Ireland apologizing for chronic child abuse within the Roman Catholic Church, but failed to calm anger of many victims. Thousands of protesters [–] many directing their anger squarely at President Barack Obama [–] marched through the nation's capital to urge immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. Former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall died in Santa Fe, New Mexico, at 90. Lady Bird Johnson's former press secretary, Liz Carpenter, died in Austin, Texas, at 89.

Five years ago: A jury in Gadsden, Alabama, convicted 49-year-old Joyce Hardin Garrard of capital murder for running to death her 9-year-old granddaughter, Savannah Hardin. (Garrard was sentenced to life in prison without parole; she died in February 2016.) Suicide bombers attacked a pair of mosques in the capital of Yemen, unleashing blasts that killed 137 people. Former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, 84, died in Canberra. Actor Gregory Walcott ("Plan 9 from Outer Space") died in Los Angeles at age 87.

One year ago: Mike Trout and the Los Angeles Angels announced agreement on a \$426.5 million, 12-year contract, a record deal that would tie baseball's top player to the Angels for what would likely be the rest of his career. As Republican lawmakers denounced his comments, President Donald Trump aimed new invective at the late Sen. John McCain, claiming credit for McCain's moving Washington funeral and complaining that he was never properly thanked. A U.N. court upheld the genocide and war crimes convictions of ex-Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic and sentenced him to life behind bars.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Dame Vera Lynn is 103. Producer-director-comedian Carl Reiner is 98. Actor Hal Linden is 89. Former Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney (muhl-ROO'-nee) is 81. Country singer Don Edwards is 81.

Basketball Hall of Fame coach Pat Riley is 75. Country singer-musician Ranger Doug (Riders in the Sky) is 74. Hockey Hall of Famer Bobby Orr is 72. Blues singer-musician Marcia Ball is 71. Actor William Hurt is 70. Rock musician Carl Palmer (Emerson, Lake and Palmer) is 70. Rock musician Jimmie Vaughan is 69. Country musician Jim Seales (formerly w/Shenandoah) is 66. Actress Amy Aquino (ah-KEE'-noh) is 63. Movie director Spike Lee is 63. Actress Theresa Russell is 63. Actress Vanessa Bell Calloway is 63. Actress Holly Hunter is 62. Rock musician Slim Jim Phantom (The Stray Cats) is 59. Actress-model-designer Kathy Ireland is 57. Actor David Thewlis is 57. Rock musician Adrian Oxaal (James) is 55. Actress Jessica Lundy is 54. Actress Liza Snyder is 52. Actor Michael Rapaport is 50. Actor Alexander Chaplin is 49. Actor Cedric Yarbrough is 47. Actress Paula Garces is 46. Actor Michael Genadry is 42. Actress Bianca Lawson is 41. Comedian-actor Mikey Day is 40. Actor Nick Blood (TV: "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.") is 38. Rock musician Nick Wheeler (The All-American Rejects) is 38. Actor Michael Cassidy is 37. Actress-singer Christy Carlson Romano is 36. Actress Ruby Rose is 34. Actress Barrett Doss is 31.

Thought for Today: "Common sense is genius dressed in its working clothes." [-] Ralph Waldo Emerson, American writer and poet (1803-1882).

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

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