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## Connecting March 24, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020,

The Associated Press launched a podcast Monday on the coronavirus outbreak in which AP journalists are interviewed.

In the podcast, which can be seen by clicking [here](#), it is noted: “The coronavirus pandemic ranks among one of the most consequential stories ever covered by The Associated Press in its 170-year history. Go inside the hard-hit areas and all the places in between with AP’s global team of journalists as the world tries to stem the spread of the virus.”

In the debut episode of “Ground Game: Inside the Outbreak,” host **Ralph Russo** talks to News Director for Greater China **Ken Moritsugu** about the lessons the rest of the world can learn from Asia.



Today's issue brings you memories of our colleague **Paul Shane**, who died last week, and even more examples of your first press passes. Including a surprise entry from AP's long-ago past.

Have a safe, healthy day. I look forward to your contributions...and if you haven't yet sent in your first press pass, please do so today.

Paul

## Remembering Paul Shane



**PC training session in Kansas City in 1980s - with NY execs and AP bureau chiefs. Seated, Hank Ackerman and Peggy Walsh. Standing from left: Bill Cunningham of MIS, Marty Thompson, Rick Spratling, Bill Beecham, Larry McDermott, Paul Stevens, Chuck Lewis, Byron Yake and Paul Shane.**

**Mark Mittelstadt** ([Email](#)) - Though not unexpected I am still saddened to learn of the death of Paul Shane.

Paul was one of the unsung heroes who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to keep The Associated Press running and to make it better.

In his early AP career he was a photographer, photo editor and darkroom supervisor. I got to know him as an MIS fixer willing to spend untold hours with a wet-behind-the ears bureau chief in Albuquerque trying to get administrative programs to work on brand new, non-Windows Finnish PCs placed in the Dallas hub, which included New Mexico.

He also was a teacher. The long-distance MS-DOS and .html training I received from him over the phone and in person came in handy over the years, and still does.

Paul had his ear to the ground and could usually tip you off to coming announcements or developments. He was a valued counselor if something was said or written that was not well-received in a 7th floor corner office at 50 Rock.

I always marveled at the five-hour daily bus commute he tolerated between New York City and northeastern Pennsylvania. During a weekend get-away to the Poconos, Mary and I had the joy of meeting his beloved Karen and enjoying a wonderful dinner with them.

Rest in peace dear friend.

-0-

**Steve Graham ( [Email](#) )** - Paul was one of my heroes back in the wild days of the computer revolution in the late 1980s.

The AP had established a new technology division for administrative, rather than news, computing and Paul, because of his abiding interest in technology went with it.

His calm, collaborative and enthusiastic nature eased the transition to an oncoming tidal wave of new technology that not only mystified many, but engendered active resistance among some as well.

He was always a pleasure to work with.

-0-

**Marty Thompson ( [Email](#) )** - There is a special bond one feels with the person who introduces you to something new that changes your life. It was that with Pal Shane. Our teacher, the person who brought AP men and women into the computer age. It was an enduring bond, from those first classes Paul led with bureau chiefs in the field through the years we both were in New York and he was only an elevator ride away. I can still see the twinkle in his eye and remember his great patience. To learn of his passing brought sadness, but also a warm feeling of how much a good friend brings to our lives.

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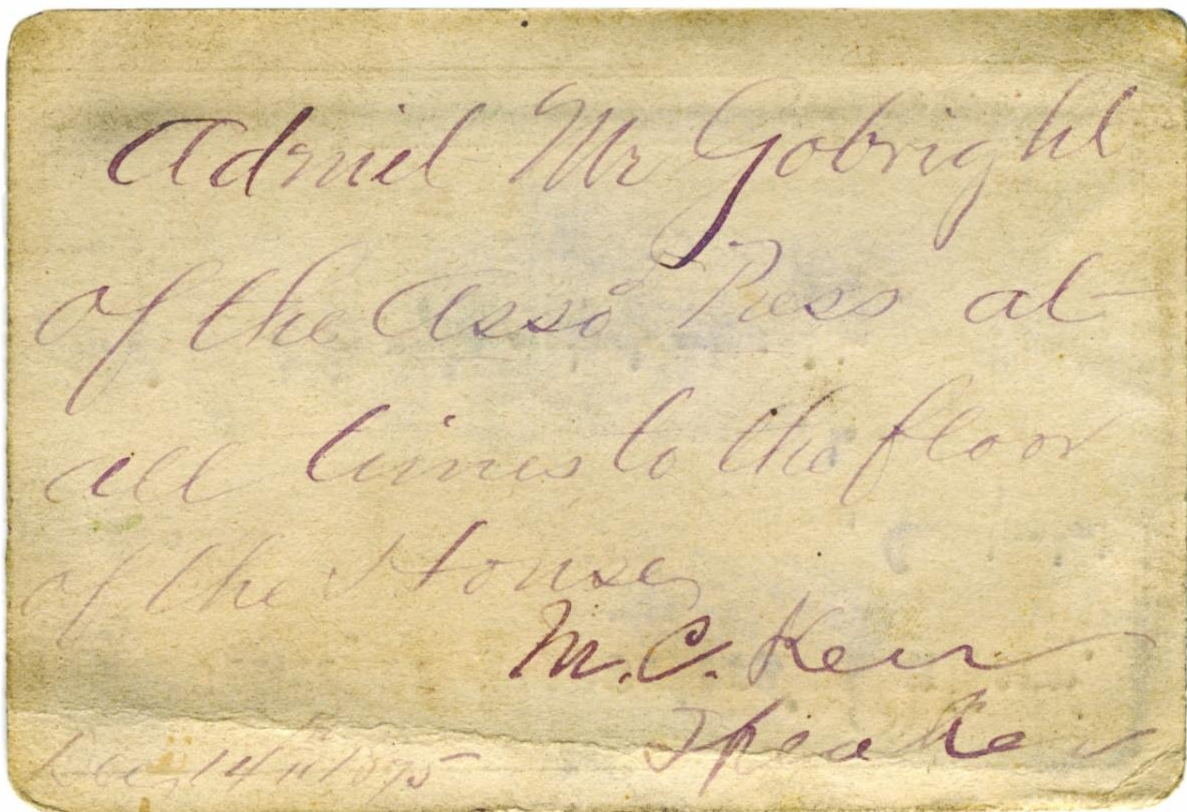
**Bob Greene ( [Email](#) )** - Shortly after I transferred to Milwaukee from Kansas City, I had to staff a University of Wisconsin football game in Madison. COB Dion Henderson said I had to travel with photographer Paul Shane, who had a company car.

Paul showed up at my apartment at 8 a.m. for a one-hour drive to Madison where the game started at 1 p.m. He was determined to be there on time even if he had four flat tires. After the game, Paul stopped to have dinner before we headed back to Milwaukee. When I turned in my overtime report, showing I was gone 12 hours for a two-hour game, Henderson was quite unhappy and let me take my own car after that.

Between Shane and I, we had 10 children as we walked the picket line during the AP strike. It was the strike that brought the whole staff together as we shared potluck dinners nightly with our families.

I was shocked to learn of the passing of both Paul and Karen. Fortunately, I had a chance to talk with Paul at last year's 25-Year Dinner.

## Your first press pass

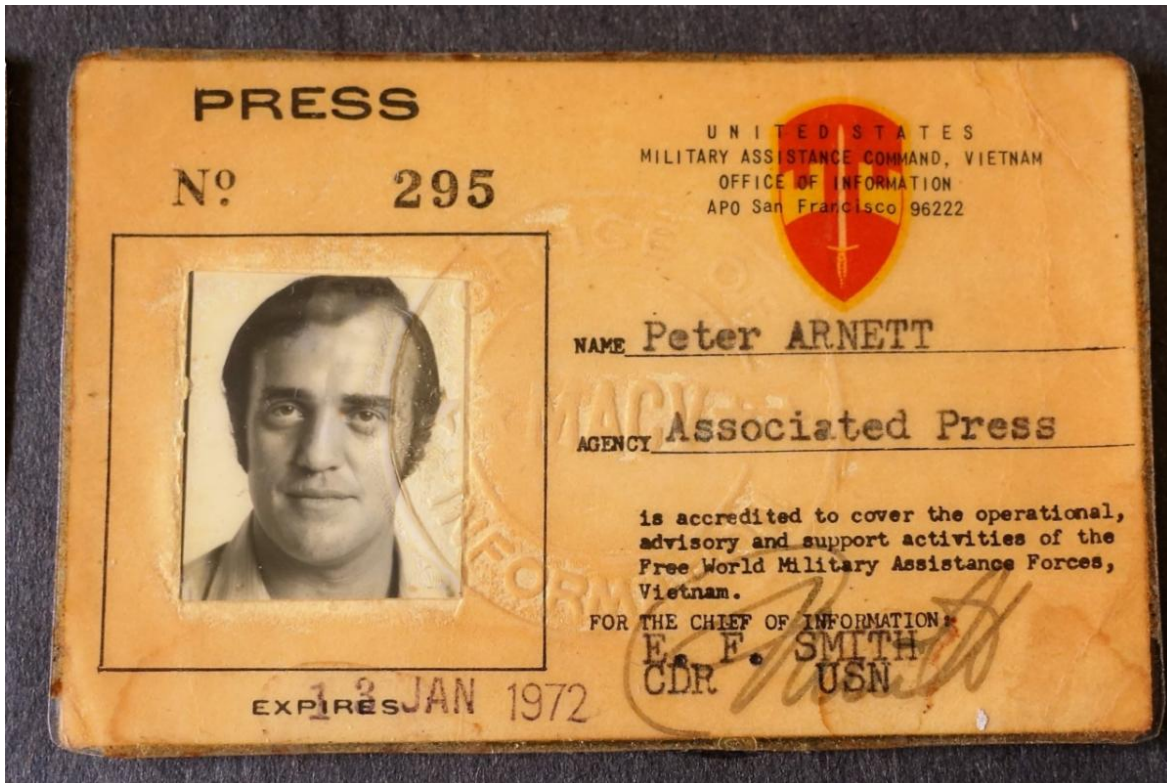


**Francesca Pitaro** ([Email](#)) - Since I don't have a press pass of my own, I offer the attached. Gobright's press pass is among the earliest documents in AP Corporate Archives. Lawrence A. Gobright (1816-1881) reported from Washington for the AP for more than 30 years and served as Washington bureau chief from 1856 to 1879. One of his most memorable assignments was covering the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. In testimony before Congress in 1862, Gobright described his journalistic principles:

"My business is to communicate facts. My instructions do not allow me to make any comment upon the facts which I communicate. My dispatches are sent to papers of all manner of politics, and the editors say they are able to make their



own comments upon the facts which are sent to them. I therefore confine myself to what I consider legitimate news. I . . . try to be truthful and impartial.”



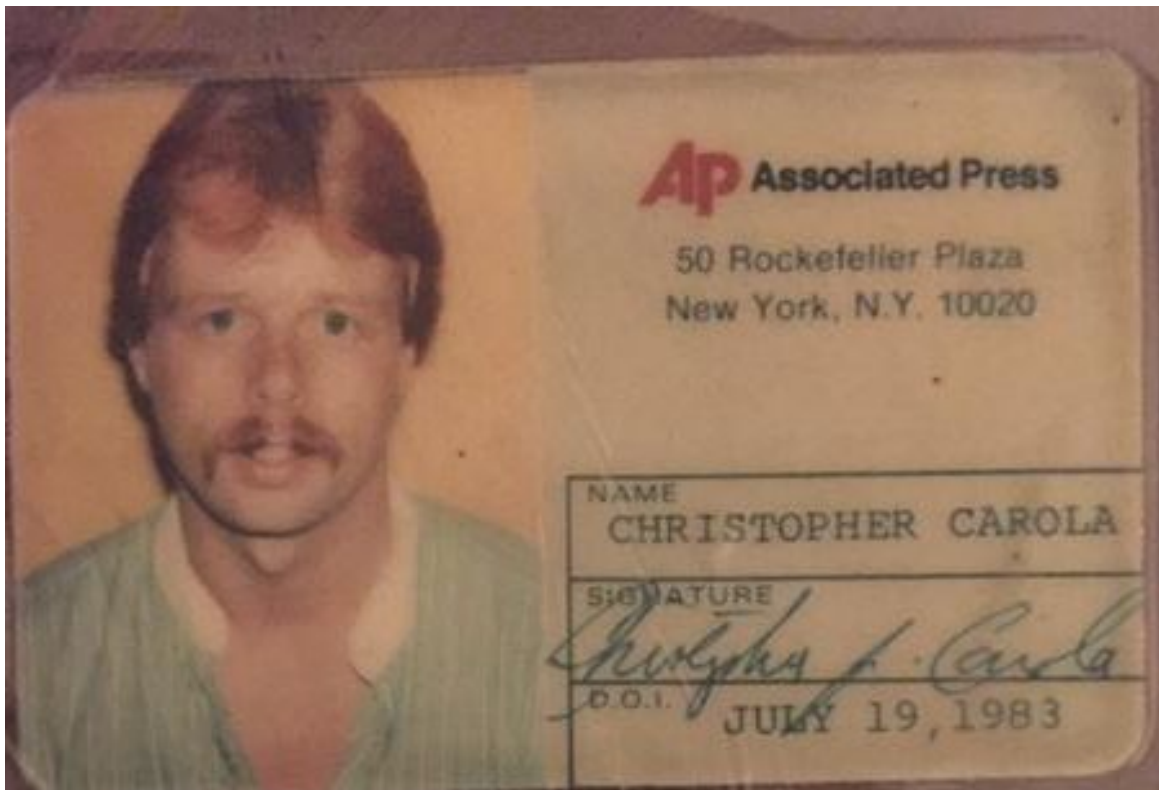
**Peter Arnett** ([Email](#)) - One of my Vietnam press cards, circa 1972.



**Jim Baltzelle** ([Email](#)) - First pro press pass: Think the year was 1979. I was a “gopher” at the Fort Lauderdale News on the copy desk after high school.



**John Brewer** ([Email](#)) - Here's my AP press card from 1969, shortly after I went from vacation relief to full-time as an AP staffer.



**Chris Carola** ([Email](#)) – This is my company ID from my time working at the old 50 Rock HQ from the summer of 1982 to March 1985.





PEG COUGHLIN  
KANSAS CITY NEWSWOMAN

The above person is authorized to  
gather news and photos for  
The Associated Press

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul D. Stearns', written over a horizontal line.

Chief of Bureau, Missouri & Kansas



**Peg Coughlin** ([Email](#)) - My first and only press pass, issued by Ye Ole Connecting Editor. Interned while at South Dakota State University at the Brule County News, Aberdeen American News and The Brookings Register before joining The AP In Pierre in 1988, then Bismarck and finally Kansas City, which had a photographer and issued press passes. Finally had made the big time! Still carry it because you just never know. ... And a 30-year-old press pass of a bright-eyed, eager, passionate journalist reminds why I still do what I do.

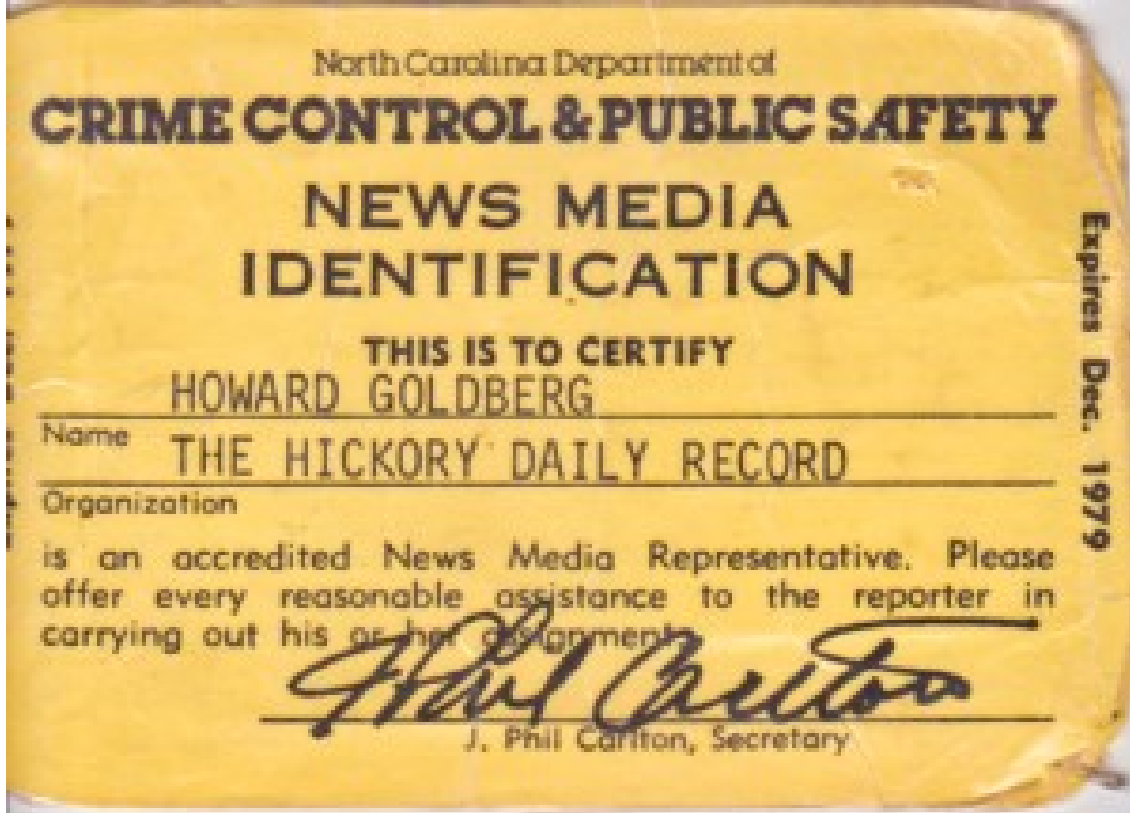


**Tom Eblen** ([Email](#)) - Here's one of my first professional press passes, from the spring of 1979 before my second summer as a "vacation relief" staffer (intern) in the Louisville bureau. I was sent out to do the annual feature on the wild scene in the infield. I still remember standing behind Sam Boyle, who I think was then AP's national sports editor, as he edited it, and then getting a nice compliment from him. I moved back to Kentucky 19 years later and helped cover another 20 Kentucky Derbies.





**Mike Feinsilber ( Email )** - I couldn't find my first press pass, so I'm sending this one that I (actually Doris, my wife) found. You'll notice that I'm "Myron - my birth name and what I use on official documents but I've been Mike since college days. You'll notice two of these were issued when I worked for the opposition, for 25 years until Walter Mears rescued me.



**Howard Goldberg** ([Email](#)) - This press card for my 1978 newspaper reporting job allowed me to cover the cops and courts beat. The Catawba County sheriff didn't think much of my beard. He called me "Fuzzface."



**Len Iwanski** ([Email](#)) - I dug this out over the weekend.

OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION

2017

STATE OF TEXAS

HARRIS COUNTY

COUNTY OF HARRIS

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

This is to certify that:

**DAVID LUBESKI**

Name

is a **NEWSMAN - KTRH RADIO**

Rank or Title

**JANUARY 1, 1973**

Date Issued

*David Lubeski*

Signature



**Dave Lubeski** ([Email](#)) - I have several DC press cards like Joni Baluh's shown in Friday's (March 20) Connecting and I also have an AP one like Latrice Davis submitted, also on Friday. The date of issue on my AP ID card is September 10, 2001, one day before the world came crashing down. I'm still looking for that one. I know I have it. However, in my search through boxes in storage, I hit the jackpot. Diana issued the challenge to come up with our first press card and I found my very first. It's from my radio days in Houston and was issued 47 years ago. Great mug shot, huh?





**Guy Palmiotto ( [Email](#) )** - From the 1976 Summer Olympics held in Montreal. I remember tight security in the wake of the '72 Munich games. Nadia Comaneci was a perfect 10, Bruce Jenner won the Decathlon gold. I was tasked with creating color separations from Ektachrome transparencies, so the three color separations could be transmitted via Wirephoto. That was how the AP transmitted color images prior to Laserphoto II. My gratitude to Hal Buell for having confidence in me with this critical assignment.

## Connecting mailbox

# ***Do not go gentle into that good night***

**Chris Connell** ([Email](#)) - *in a note to Brian Horton* - It is a beautiful, inspiring thing that you and Mar are doing in sharing in words and pictures how you are facing and fighting this disease (see Monday's Connecting). It called to mind for me this Dylan Thomas poem about his dying father, one of those poems that even those who disdain poetry remember.

## **Do not go gentle into that good night Dylan Thomas - 1914-1953**

Do not go gentle into that good night,  
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,  
Because their words had forked no lightning they  
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright  
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,  
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,  
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight  
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

And you, my father, there on the sad height,  
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.  
Do not go gentle into that good night.  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

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## ***A big rock in the road***

**Charles Richards** ([Email](#)) - It would be remiss of me not to share with my Associated Press colleagues the great country music classic, "There's a Big Rock in the Road."

I created great cheer in the Associated Press newsroom in Dallas over a couple of decades with my rendition of this song. None of my colleagues (i.e., Katie Fairbank, Jaime Aron, Arnie Stapleton, Linda Leavell, Rod Richardson, Sylvia Lee Wingfield, Diana Heidgerd, Matt Curry, Mike Drago, Matt Slagle, Joel Anderson, Dino Chiecchi, Terry Wallace, David Koenig, Jamie Stengle, Linda Sargent, Jay Jorden, Stefani Gammage Kopenc, Suzanne Miller, Evan Ramstad, Deon Daugherty Allen, Kristen Kauffman, Michelle Mittelstadt) could carry a tune if their life depended upon it -- which made things all the better.

When someone would call in sick, I provided a great service by calling him/her, putting the phone on speaker, and cheering up the employee by singing "There's a Big Rock in the Road" to them, with my co-workers blending in behind me with a raucous four-part harmony.



As the "sick" employee pleaded "Stop, Stop, Please Just Stop!" I would soothe them by promising to call back each day until they got better, serenading them again with "There's a Big Rock in the Road."

To my knowledge, no one was ever sick more than one day.

When, after 25-plus years, I retired from the AP in 2003, they had a party for me and presented me with a big rock that one colleague had found on a ranch. They shined the rock up real pretty, and everyone signed it. It has enjoyed a prominent place on the mantle in my home ever since.

Officials with the Smithsonian Institute have called over the years asking that I allow them to display the rock there, but I keep saying no. They say they cannot claim greatness without it, so I will probably turn it over to them someday.

During retirement, I worked a few years for The Paris News from 2005 through about 2008, and I gingerly began introducing "There's a Big Rock in the Road" to my co-workers there. They all LOVED it. (NOT!). When I "retired" again, my Paris News compadres came up with their own version of the "Rock," and now it, too, has an honored place on the mantle.

( [Here's a link](#) to the performance of the song by Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys.)

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## ***Moving out of another 'dumpy bureau' – this one, Nashville***

**John Nolan** ( [Email](#) ) - I enjoyed Mike Graczyk's piece (Connecting, March 20) about the experience of relocating from a dumpy former AP bureau in Detroit. It brought back memories from my service as a staff newsman in yet another dump of a bureau, where the AP operated during the mid-1970s in Nashville, Tennessee.

We were wedged between the newsrooms of the morning newspaper, The Tennessean, and what was then the afternoon daily, the Nashville Banner. The



same building also housed the UPI bureau.

Our bureau featured a bank of roaring teletypes that made telephone interviews a challenge. One longtime staffer (now deceased) had the misfortune of having his desk adjacent to the teletypes. He sat for years with their din immediately to his right. Guess which ear he was mostly deaf in? (The AP eventually built an enclosure around the teletypes, which reduced the noise level appreciably.)

The bureau itself was nondescript, at best, with old brown paneling on the walls, a smoke-stained tile ceiling and dingy floor. When I arrived in 1976, the senior staffers got to write their stories on CRTs. The others knocked out their stories on manual typewriters and faxed the copy to the South's hub bureau in Atlanta, where operators punched them in for filing to the Tennessee state wire.

Since the only two doors led to either the Tennessean newsroom or the Banner's, we generally had a stream of member editors and reporters strolling in and out each day, either to chat, make a special request or ask for a rerun of a missed item.

As Christmas approached, we would inevitably receive unsolicited free goodies from record companies on Nashville's Music Row or publicists who were hoping to invite coverage. Given the AP's long-standing directive not to accept freebies, the goodies -- sets of drinking glasses, boxed record collections, etc. -- would be stacked in a corner of the room.

Staffers from the newspapers would occasionally ask what we planned to do with the goodies. When told that we hadn't asked for the items and simply wanted to get rid of them, a few of the local staffers were happy to take them away.

In those days, the bureau was located near Union Station, a Nashville railway hub of yesteryear that had fallen into disuse. The locals had plenty of stories about the old building. My favorite was the one about the building's luncheonette. Its name? Terminal Lunch.

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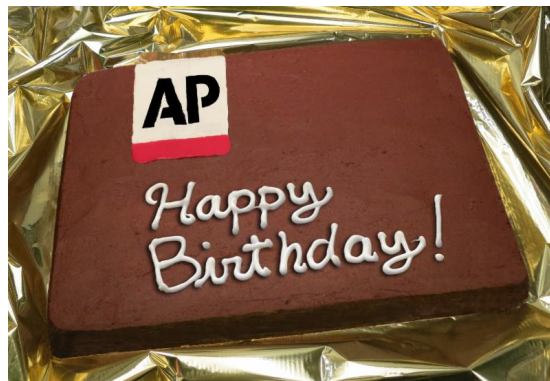
***AP sighting – in ‘The Boys in the Boat’***

What transpired over the next several minutes turned out to be one of the great varsity races in the history of the Cal-Washington rivalry. Immediately after the race, Frank G. Gorrie, writing for the Associated Press, wired an exuberant account back east for his national audience: “The famous racing eights flashed down the sun-speckled waters as if they were hooked together. First one then another forged into the lead but never by more than a few feet. California had a shade at the start, lost ground at the mile, poked its bow out again at the mile-and-a-half mark, fell behind as Washington hit ‘ten big ones’ three successive times at the two-mile mark, came back strong a moment later.”

**Cliff Schiappa** ([Email](#)) - While “sheltering-in-place” here in Palm Springs, I’ve cracked open (figuratively, it’s an e-book after all) “The Boys in the Boat” by Daniel James Brown and came upon an AP sighting. This graf refers to a dispatch from Seattle written by Frank G. Gorrie about the UC-Berkeley vs. University of Washington varsity team rowing competition on Friday, April 13, 1934. If memory serves me, Gorrie went on to become Kansas City Chief of Bureau.

For those needing a distraction from boredom these days, I recommend this book about the 1936 U.S. Olympic rowing team, a delightful historic read that is anything but boring.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



*a day late to...*

Bill Gillen - [wpatgillen@gmail.com](mailto:wpatgillen@gmail.com)

## Welcome to Connecting



Dean Fosdick - [deanfostick@mac.com](mailto:deanfostick@mac.com)

## Stories of interest

### ***Local News Outlets Dealt a Crippling Blow by This Biggest of Stories*** (New York Times)

By Tiffany Hsu and Marc Tracy

Once the Chocolate Pig closed, the paper was in trouble.

Doyle Murphy, the editor in chief of Riverfront Times, a 43-year-old weekly in St. Louis, knew how much the publication depended on ads from the Chocolate Pig, Beast Butcher & Block, the Pat Connolly Tavern and many other restaurants not far from the paper's headquarters on North 21st Street. Those businesses went dark last week, after the city announced restrictions on dining out to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

"These are people who have supported the paper for years," Mr. Murphy said in an interview. "That's when we realized we were going to have to take drastic steps, if we had any hope of coming out of this on the other side."

Mr. Murphy, who said he had never laid off anyone, told five newsroom employees last week that they were being let go. The skeleton crew putting out a smaller version of Riverfront Times consists of himself and a web editor, as well as the paper's music editor and a freelance food critic, who both insisted on working without pay.

In an article on the day of the layoffs, Mr. Murphy described the pandemic as "a nearly perfect weapon against alternative weeklies."

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



## ***White House reporter suspected to have coronavirus, WHCA says*** (Politico)

By MYAH WARD

The White House Correspondents Association on Monday said a reporter who was at the White House multiple times over the last two weeks is suspected to have coronavirus, according to an email from the organization.

The reporter was at the White House on March 9, 11, 16 and 18, and the WHCA is encouraging all journalists present at the White House during those days to "review public health guidance, consult their medical professionals and take the appropriate next steps."

The WHCA has contacted the individual's news organization and the office of the White House physician.

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

## ***Daniel S. Greenberg, Science Journalist and Iconoclast, Dies at 88*** (New York Times)

By Cornelia Dean

Daniel S. Greenberg, a writer and editor who broke ground in science journalism by reporting on the research enterprise not with reverence but with journalistic rigor, died on March 9 at his home in Washington. He was 88.

His death was confirmed by his wife, Wanda Reif, who said he had been in ill health since sustaining a fall on Dec. 26.

Mr. Greenberg, who spent most of his professional life in Washington, became a science journalist at a time when many practitioners seemed to view their job as advancing the cause of research — a consideration that many researchers expected.

As an author, newspaper reporter and magazine editor, and as the founding editor and publisher of Science & Government Report, a newsletter he ran for almost 30 years, Mr. Greenberg took a different view.

## The Final Word

**It is not boring at all  
to stay in the house.  
But how come a bag  
of rice has 7,456  
pieces and the other  
bag 7,398?**

Holidays Pg on FB

**Today in History – March 24, 2020**



# By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 24, the 84th day of 2020. There are 282 days left in the year.

## Today's Highlight in History:

On March 24, 1989, the supertanker Exxon Valdez (vahl-DEEZ') ran aground on a reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound and began leaking an estimated 11 million gallons of crude oil.

## On this date:

In 1765, Britain enacted the Quartering Act, requiring American colonists to provide temporary housing to British soldiers.

In 1882, German scientist Robert Koch (kohk) announced in Berlin that he had discovered the bacillus responsible for tuberculosis.

In 1955, the Tennessee Williams play "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" opened on Broadway.

In 1958, Elvis Presley was inducted into the U.S. Army at the draft board in Memphis, Tennessee, before boarding a bus for Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. (Presley underwent basic training at Fort Hood, Texas, before being shipped off to Germany.)

In 1975, Muhammad Ali defeated Chuck Wepner with a technical knockout in the 15th round of a fight in Richfield, Ohio. (Wepner, a journeyman known as the "Bayonne Bleeder," inspired Sylvester Stallone to make his "Rocky" films.)

In 1976, the president of Argentina, Isabel Peron, was deposed by her country's military. British war hero Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, 88, died in Alton, Hampshire, England.

In 1980, one of El Salvador's most respected Roman Catholic Church leaders, Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, was shot to death by a sniper as he celebrated Mass in San Salvador.

In 1988, former national security aides Oliver L. North and John M. Poindexter and businessmen Richard V. Secord and Albert Hakim pleaded not guilty to charges stemming from the Iran-Contra affair. (North and Poindexter were convicted, but had their verdicts thrown out; Secord and Hakim received probation after each pleaded guilty to a single count under a plea bargain.)

In 1995, after 20 years, British soldiers stopped routine patrols in Belfast, Northern Ireland.



In 1998, two students, ages 13 and 11, opened fire outside Jonesboro Westside Middle School in Arkansas, killing four classmates and a teacher. (The gunmen were imprisoned by Arkansas until age 18, then by federal authorities until age 21.)

In 1999, NATO launched airstrikes against Yugoslavia, marking the first time in its 50-year existence that it had ever attacked a sovereign country. Thirty-nine people were killed when fire erupted in the Mont Blanc tunnel in France and burned for two days.

In 2001, U.S. skater Michelle Kwan won her fourth World Figure Skating title in Vancouver, British Columbia; Irina Slutskaya of Russia got the silver, and American Sarah Hughes earned the bronze.

Ten years ago: Keeping a promise he'd made to anti-abortion Democratic lawmakers to assure passage of his historic health care legislation, President Barack Obama signed an executive order against using federal funds to pay for elective abortions covered by private insurance. Actor Robert Culp died in Los Angeles at age 79. Singer Johnny Maestro died in Florida at age 70.

Five years ago: Germanwings Flight 9525, an Airbus A320, crashed into the French Alps, killing all 150 people on board; investigators said the jetliner was deliberately downed by the 27-year-old co-pilot, Andreas Lubitz. President Barack Obama received Afghan President Ashraf Ghani at the White House, where Obama agreed to slow the U.S military pullout from Afghanistan at the request of its new government but insisted the delay would not jeopardize his commitment to end America's longest war before leaving office.

One year ago: Attorney General William Barr reported that special counsel Robert Mueller did not find evidence that President Donald Trump's campaign "conspired or coordinated" with Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election, but reached no conclusion on whether Trump obstructed justice; Democrats pointed out that Mueller had found evidence for and against obstruction, and they demanded to see his full report. (The report would be released in April.) New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski announced that he was retiring from the NFL after nine seasons, which had included three Super Bowl victories.

Today's Birthdays: Poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti is 101. Actor William Smith is 87. Fashion and costume designer Bob Mackie is 81. Former Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire is 73. Rock musician Lee Oskar is 72. Singer Nick Lowe is 71. Rock musician Dougie Thomson (Supertramp) is 69. Fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger is 69. Comedian Louie Anderson is 67. Actress Donna Pescow is 66. Actor Robert Carradine is 66. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Indiana, is 66. Former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer is 64. Actress Kelly LeBrock is 60. Rhythm-and-blues DJ Rodney "Koolhaio" Terry (Ghostown DJs) is 59. TV personality Star Jones is 58. Country-rock musician Patterson Hood (Drive-By Truckers) is 56. Actor Peter Jacobson is 55. Rock singer-musician Sharon Corr (The Corrs) is 50. Actress Lauren Bowles is 50. Actress Lara Flynn Boyle is 50. Rapper Maceo (AKA P.A. Pasemaster Mase) is 50. Actress Megyn Price is 49. Actor Jim Parsons is 47. Christian rock musician Chad Butler (Switchfoot) is 46. Actress Alyson Hannigan is 46. Former NFL quarterback Peyton Manning is 44. Actress Amanda Brugel (TV: "The Handmaid's Tale") is 43. Actress Olivia

Burnette is 43. Actress Jessica Chastain is 43. Actor Amir Arison is 42. Actress Lake Bell is 41. Rock musician Benj Gershman (O.A.R.) is 40. Neo-soul musician Jesse Phillips (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 40. Actor Philip Winchester (TV: "Strike Back") is 39. Dancer Val Chmerkovskiy is 34. Actress Keisha Castle-Hughes is 30.

**Thought for Today: "Either you think, or else others have to think for you and take power from you, pervert and discipline your natural tastes, civilize and sterilize you." – F. Scott Fitzgerald, American author (1896-1940).**

## 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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