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## Connecting April 21, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2020,

Our colleague **Jane Anderson** got a phone call a month ago that changed life in her Connecticut home. Her older son, his wife and their two daughters, 4 and 2, live in New York City, the hotbed of the coronavirus, and asked if they could come live with her through the remainder of the pandemic.

Her interesting story leads today's Connecting – and I hope it spurs you to share your own story of life in this uncertain age.



Recognize those eyebrows (above)? One of your colleagues, **Michael Putzel**, explains who they belong to in a story in today's issue.

A hint: Our colleague **Jane Gallagher**, daughter of the late **Wes Gallagher**, former president and general manager of The Associated Press, wrote a Connecting piece recently wondering if anyone still remembered her father. They do. And for many more reasons than those distinctive eyebrows.



**AP GROUND GAME** : In this episode of “Ground Game: Inside the Outbreak,” host Ralph Russo talks to global religion editor Sally Stapleton and editor Gary Fields about a new AP feature called “One Good Thing,” which highlights the kindness of individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Listen [here](#) .

Be safe and healthy,

Paul

## Uplifting thoughts in these trying times

**Chris Connell** ( [Email](#) ) - shares:

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### The Summer Day

Who made the world?  
Who made the swan, and the black bear?  
Who made the grasshopper?  
This grasshopper, I mean--  
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down --  
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.  
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.  
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.  
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields  
which is what I have been doing all day.  
Tell me, what else should I have done?  
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
With your one wild and precious life?

—*Mary Oliver (1935-2019)*

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**Hal Spencer** ( [Email](#) ) - Here's a poem I've always loved by the late Jane Kenyon.

## **Let Evening Come BY JANE KENYON**

Let the light of late afternoon  
shine through chinks in the barn, moving  
up the bales as the sun moves down.

Let the cricket take up chafing  
as a woman takes up her needles  
and her yarn. Let evening come.

Let dew collect on the hoe abandoned  
in long grass. Let the stars appear  
and the moon disclose her silver horn.

Let the fox go back to its sandy den.  
Let the wind die down. Let the shed  
go black inside. Let evening come.

To the bottle in the ditch, to the scoop  
in the oats, to air in the lung  
let evening come.

Let it come, as it will, and don't  
be afraid. God does not leave us  
comfortless, so let evening come.

## **The Call that Changed My Life**



**Jane Anderson – with one of her granddaughters - in her newly built writer's studio where she retreated to write this story.**

**Jane Anderson ( [Email](#) )** - When I was in Washington, D.C., as regional reporter for New England in the early 1980s, the regional reporters all sat in the sunlit “solarium,” an area of the AP’s 2021 K Street office. Mike Robinson (Illinois) and Gene Grabowski (Pennsylvania) had a running gag.

When the phone would ring on the desk of either Gene or Mike, one or the other would say, “This could be the call that will change MY life,” or “This could be the call that will change YOUR life.”

On Tuesday, March 17, 2020, I got a call that changed my life.

At my home in Thompson, Conn., I was anticipating at least a month of social isolation during which I planned to write the final draft of a long paper toward a Masters in Journalism from the Harvard Extension School.

As the widow of architect Peter Vercelli, my partner for 52 years who died last year in the 19th century house we bought in 1976, I chose as my topic, “Coping with Grief,” as a way of coping with my own grief.

In the news, the COVID-19 crisis was a tragedy. As a “person at risk” both because of my age and my status as a former lymphoma patient, now thankfully cured, I had no intention of taking any chances. I decided to embrace solitude. I was looking forward to weeks alone.

The call that changed my life came from my older son, Anders, who was living in an apartment on the Upper East Side of Manhattan in New York City with his wife, Lydia, and their daughters, ages 4 and 2. He asked if I had any symptoms of Coronavirus. I said no.

“Mom, we’re not sick either. Would it be okay if we drove up and stayed with you?”

“When are you thinking of coming?”

“Lydia’s firm closed so she has to work from home tomorrow. We want to drive up tonight.”

My younger son, Lars, and his wife, Laura, had already moved with their 3-year-old son from their apartment on the Upper East Side to New Jersey to shelter in place with Laura’s parents while Lars continued to work via computer.

In the wider world, the numbers of Americans who have died from COVID-19 keep climbing. Major Connecticut newspapers are filled with obituaries for some of the more than 1,000 state residents who have died. But in northeast Connecticut, as of April 19, only two residents of Windham County had died. Four were hospitalized. This contrasts with Fairfield County closest to New York City where 447 people have died and 746 people have been hospitalized.

Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont has attributed the low numbers in this part of Connecticut, bordered to the east by Rhode Island and to the north by Massachusetts, partly to our low population density. I agree, but I also think that because the COVID-19 spread from west to east, we had more warning.

For five weeks, I have been living with Anders and his family in the same house in which Peter and I reared Anders and Lars. It has been challenging, humorous, heartwarming and a real-life lesson in the differences between generations.

When I was a child, my father told me that I was not to speak at the table unless spoken to by an adult. "May I be excused?" I was taught to ask before getting up. "Push your chair under the table," Dad would say.

When I was a mother, I told my sons that once we finished eating at the table, the dinner meal was over. "The kitchen is closed," I would say as we went upstairs for baths and bedtime stories.

Now that I'm a grandmother, I'm no longer in charge. My grandchildren do not eat at a table. They eat in the living room sitting on the sofa, the day bed, the floor. My son and his wife chase the children around, coaxing them to take a bite of this and that.

I am teaching house rules to my granddaughters, the same rules I taught to my sons:

- 1.) Walk slowly on the historic stairs. Hold the banister.
- 2.) Be respectful of the old furniture. A lot of it came from London where Peter grew up.
- 3.) Always say please and thank you.

Knowing how strict I was with my sons even as toddlers in how they treated the many antiques in the house, Anders was visibly upset when his 2-year-old daughter sat on the front hall stairs, played with the finial on a table lamp below and accidentally sent it crashing to the floor.

His almost tearful apology came from the heart of a boy who was brought as a newborn to this house and who grew up with that lamp on the same table in the same hallway.

"Let's not forget that no one in this house is sick or dying. The lamp doesn't matter," I said.

"Are you sure?" he said.

"I'm sure."

*Jane Anderson was a reporter and editor for UPI in Connecticut from 1971-78 before joining AP in Providence, where she worked from 1978-83. She plays viola in the Northeast Connecticut Community Orchestra of which she is co-founder and president, and violin in the Quiet Corner Fiddlers.*

## **AP Definitive Source Update: “Coronavirus Coverage”**

**Nancy Nussbaum** ([Email](#)) - AP last month began holding monthly webinars to reach out to AP customers/members working remotely during the pandemic. We held two sessions last week (one for international customers, second for Americas).

The invitation said this:

As COVID-19 touches nearly every corner of the globe, we together face a rare moment in journalism. The Associated Press is covering the pandemic along with you, and we are your partner for the duration and beyond. With that in mind, please join AP’s top editors for a 30-minute call to outline the storylines we are following.

We will provide insight on our coverage zones, bringing together the talent, expertise and geographic locations of our journalists to record key aspects of this story. We also want to hear from you and the editorial challenges you are facing, so we can overcome them together.

Who: Ian Phillips, Vice President/International News; Noreen Gillespie, Deputy Managing Editor/U.S. News

Here are recording links for the sessions that may be of interest to your Connecting audience – Americas click [here](#) , International click [here](#) . Both sessions are similar, aside from the questions. It really showcases the great work being done by AP. We are keeping the calls to about 30 minutes, though the Americas session went to 45 because of questions from our audience. I have included the original invite below in case you want to use any of the text.

We saw 72 register for the International call and participants joined from China, India, Singapore, Japan, France, UK, Thailand and Indonesia, among other countries. For our North America/Latin America call, we saw 139 register. We will send recording links to all 211 registrants.

## **Memories of David Melendy**

**Jim Hood** ([Email](#)) - I used to worry about David. I was afraid he would walk in and quit someday.

The early 1980s were turbulent times at AP Radio. We were being raided by competitors who were stealing our talent and our affiliates, and the resulting staff and schedule shake-ups created a lot of turmoil.

But through it all, David remained unperturbed. His amazingly smooth, almost melodious, delivery and excellent writing helped keep the ship upright. He was thoroughly professional and always pleasant to everyone around him.

If you think about it, an anchor is like a rock. David was not only one of our anchors. He was our rock.

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**Brad Kalbfeld** ([Email](#)) - If ever there was a person built for radio, it was David Melendy. Not just his voice, but his demeanor: calm, cheerful, and careful, David was unflappable. Hand him a piece of copy and he'd read it -- no, tell it -- on air, in that resonant voice that projected warmth and just a touch of formality. He was among the most dependable, consistent anchors and producers AP Radio has ever had. And he was an integral part of our coverage of the biggest stories from the '80s to the teens.

Even more important, in a business that's no stranger to prima donnas, David was modest and generous, whether he was training a newcomer, editing sound for our anchors and stations to air, or anchoring a newscast himself. Putting together a live radio broadcast is a truly collaborative effort, where the correspondent reports, sound bites, and natural sound all funnel to the listener through the writing and the voice of the newscaster. David always made everyone sound better.

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**Larry Margasak** ([Email](#)) - David (Melendy) and I were fellow Guild officers for decades. I saw personally how much he cared about improving the pay and benefits for AP employees. We all were lucky to have him.

## Longtime Kansas Newspaper Publisher Dave Seaton Dies at 80

*(Dave Seaton was a Connecting colleague and longtime friend of the Connecting editor.)*

WINFIELD, KAN. (AP) — Dave Seaton, the longtime former editor and publisher of the Winfield Daily Courier and a member of a prominent newspaper family, died Saturday. He was 80.

His son, David Allen Seaton, confirmed that his father died at the hospital in Winfield. He said his father's health had been failing and that he had undergone heart surgery about a year ago.



"My Dad was a lion in community journalism in Kansas," wrote his son, who is president of the Winfield Publishing Company, which includes The Cowley CourierTraveler and the Newkirk (Oklahoma) Herald Journal. "He saw his role as publisher and newspaper owner as one of advocacy and community leadership, in the tradition of William Allen White. And he could write. His concise, insightful editorials, especially about state issues, were admired by many (and scorned by others!)."

After earning a bachelor's degree in history from Harvard University and a master's degree from Columbia University School of International Affairs, the elder Seaton and his wife, Callie, served for two years in the Peace Corps in Brazil. He then was press secretary and legislative aide to U.S. Sen. James B. Pearson of Kansas.

In 1978, he went to work for Winfield Publishing Co., part of the Seaton media group, which has seen four generations of family members operate newspapers in Kansas, according to the Kansas Press Association.

Seaton served as president of the Kansas Press Association in 1991 and was inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame in 2010.

Click [here](#) for a link to the story. Shared by Jeannie Eblen, Kia Breaux.

## Memories of Wes Gallagher



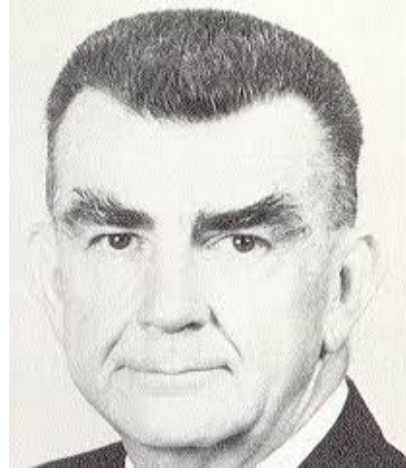
**Michael Putzel ( [Email](#) )** - When I reported to the AP Raleigh bureau in January 1967 to begin what turned out to be a 25-year run, I noticed a small, framed picture on the desk of my new boss, Correspondent Rob Wood. It was a simple pencil sketch of two imposing eyebrows.

I knew precious little about the workings of The Associated Press and had no idea why those eyebrows were there. I figured it must be a



private joke of some kind but was too timid to ask.

Raleigh at that time was a five-person capital bureau, including a photographer and teletype operator. I was a temporary add-on for the duration of the brief legislative session of the North Carolina General Assembly, so I didn't count as staff.



After I survived the first couple weeks or so, Wood invited me to join him at his favorite bar down the street, where he drank what I still regard as an odd mixture of beer and tomato juice. I screwed up my courage and asked him the significance of the eyebrow portrait on his desk.

“That’s Wes,” he said. “He’s always watching.” And he was.

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**Charles McFadden** ([Email](#)) – *in an email to Wes’ daughter Jane Gallagher* - Your father and my father, Warren “Mac” McFadden, were buddies in Santa Cruz, California when they were both very young men. I remember when your father stopped by the Los Angeles bureau one day and I told him that I was the son of a friend. “You’re MAC’s son?” He said. Might have given me a leg up with the general manager — I don’t know that, though. When I was a little kid, your father and mother stopped by to say hello to my folks, and your father was wearing a trench coat — quite dashing. Added to that glamor was the fact that your mother, I was told, had been an actress on the Lone Ranger radio program!

Wes Gallagher was a statesman in the news business, and I’m glad he’s remembered that way.

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**Le Lieu Browne** ([Email](#)) - After reading Jane Gallagher's piece, I feel that (my late husband) Malcolm would have loved me to write something for him. So here is my piece.

After reading Ms. Gallagher’s piece about her father Wes Gallagher and Peter Arnett’s response, I feel nostalgic and sad. I so much wished that Malcolm were alive to reassure Ms. Gallagher’s fear. Malcolm worshipped Wes Gallagher and through Gallagher’s guidance, Malcolm always considered AP as his second family.

Wes Gallagher was Malcolm’s mentor and savior. Wes Gallagher made his dream come true, by promoting him to foreign correspondent first, and bureau chief in Vietnam at the critical period when the Diem/Nhu’s regime began unpopular and the South Vietnamese military was in a state of unrest.

Throughout five years as AP bureau chief in Saigon, Malcolm had Wes Gallagher's support and trust through thick and thin. He gave Malcolm free hand to run the office. I never heard any complaints about Gallagher. On the contrary, that name was constantly mentioned during our years of courtship and it came to a point that I had thought Wes Gallagher was an invisible spirit or a God-send benefactor.

When Gallagher came to visit Saigon, the AP was so busy that I hardly saw Malcolm, not to mention about meeting Gallagher. Until one evening before Gallagher left, Malcolm told me that I was invited to dinner along with the AP correspondents and their family at some famous French restaurant that I don't remember any more. During the dinner in which Peter and Nina Arnett, Horst Faas and some visiting AP correspondent participated, I sensed the atmosphere was intense and surrealistic. Sitting at the end of the table, with thick, bushy eyebrows, piercing black eyes and thin lips under thick white hair, the famous tall Wes Gallagher stoically listened to the rowdy discussions around him while puffing out cigarette. smoke. Nina Arnett and I were the only two females present. The dinner concluded, Wes Gallagher got up, made a short speech of gratification and encouragement to the correspondents. He then turned to the two of us, expressing his diplomatic, gentlemanlike pleasure to meet "the lovely women," or something alike, I forgot the exact words.

"You are also a very good-looking man, Mr. Gallagher." Nina's flirty voice rung out suddenly. Short silence, I looked at the tall shy Wes Gallagher. With red face, he mumbled some "thank you," while everyone froze first and let out a hearty laugh. The atmosphere changed from formality to warmth and closeness, almost as in family.

That memorable dinner never leaves me until today. Mr. Wes Gallagher was just a human being, kind, gentle and (I suspect) sentimental. He was no longer an imaginative figure that I had dreaded for several years.

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**Henry Bradsher ( [Email](#) )** - Recently circulated memories of Wes Gallagher bring to mind some other things about him. There is no doubt that he was a great war correspondent and a great leader of The AP. His post-WWII experience in Allied-controlled Germany, however, seems to have left him with some peculiar attitudes toward dealing with foreign authorities.

Wes graduated from Louisiana State University's journalism school in 1936 (maybe taking a literature course or two taught by my father in the English department). He was there when Huey Long was shot on September 8, 1935. According to some records, he participated in covering that, possibly just as a student reporter for the j-school's newspaper, The Reveille, although he also did some work for Baton Rouge's afternoon paper, the State-Times, before going to AP in 1937. (Huey, who worried Franklin D. Roosevelt was a possible populist contender for president in 1936, died two days after being shot. He might have survived, but only political hanger-on doctors with rusty credentials treated him rather than bringing in specialist medical experts in his

kind of abdominal wound, a kind that was probably treatable then and that now many wars later is routinely repaired.)

Wes was in school with a woman who had grown up with my mother and remained a close friend. She was Margaret R. Dixon, known as Maggie. She rose to become managing editor of Baton Rouge's Morning Advocate – now just The Advocate, Louisiana's dominant newspaper, after the State-Times folded. Having studied and reported together, Maggie and Wes stayed in touch. They had lunch whenever she visited New York – and, among other things, talking about my AP career, I learned later. In 1955 I had worked briefly for her as an Advocate reporter after getting out of the Air Force and waiting for AP to respond to my application.

It was a couple of times in the 1960s that I saw Wes's attitudes toward foreign authorities. Developing AP coverage and sales in Germany after WWII, Wes worked in a situation of Americans' rebuilding the economy, strongly influencing if not directing political developments, and, with the British and to a lesser extent the French, virtually running things. Whatever Wes needed could be helped along by the influential American role.

When I was AP bureau chief in New Delhi in 1963, shortly after Wes became AP's general manager he wanted the Indian government to loosen control of foreign news agencies. This came to nothing, leaving Reuters in the dominant position – typical in former British colonies – while a local agency started to distribute AP to Indian newspapers struggled.

About 1965, while I was bureau chief in Moscow, Wes came to talk to TASS, the official Soviet news agency (and cover for espionage). TASS had its New York bureau behind a dauntingly defiant door in the AP building in Rockefeller Center. There was brief talk of moving the Moscow AP bureau into a new building TASS was planning. Soviet officials apparently realized, however, that this might compromise the TASS cover of many KGB people, so the idea died.

On his Moscow visit, Wes wanted to expand cooperation between the two agencies. But he acted as if he could dictate terms. He was not prepared to negotiate any sort of compromise with whatever TASS wanted. It was an unproductive visit. He was in a bad mood, difficult to deal with. My wife, Monica, who had to help entertain him, has unpleasant memories of that visit.

But, as I said, a great journalist. With idiosyncrasies, just like the rest of us.

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**Jim Carrier ( [Email](#) )** - As Hartford news editor, a job that had become extremely stressful to me, with chest pains, etc, I wrote Wes Gallagher in May 1975.

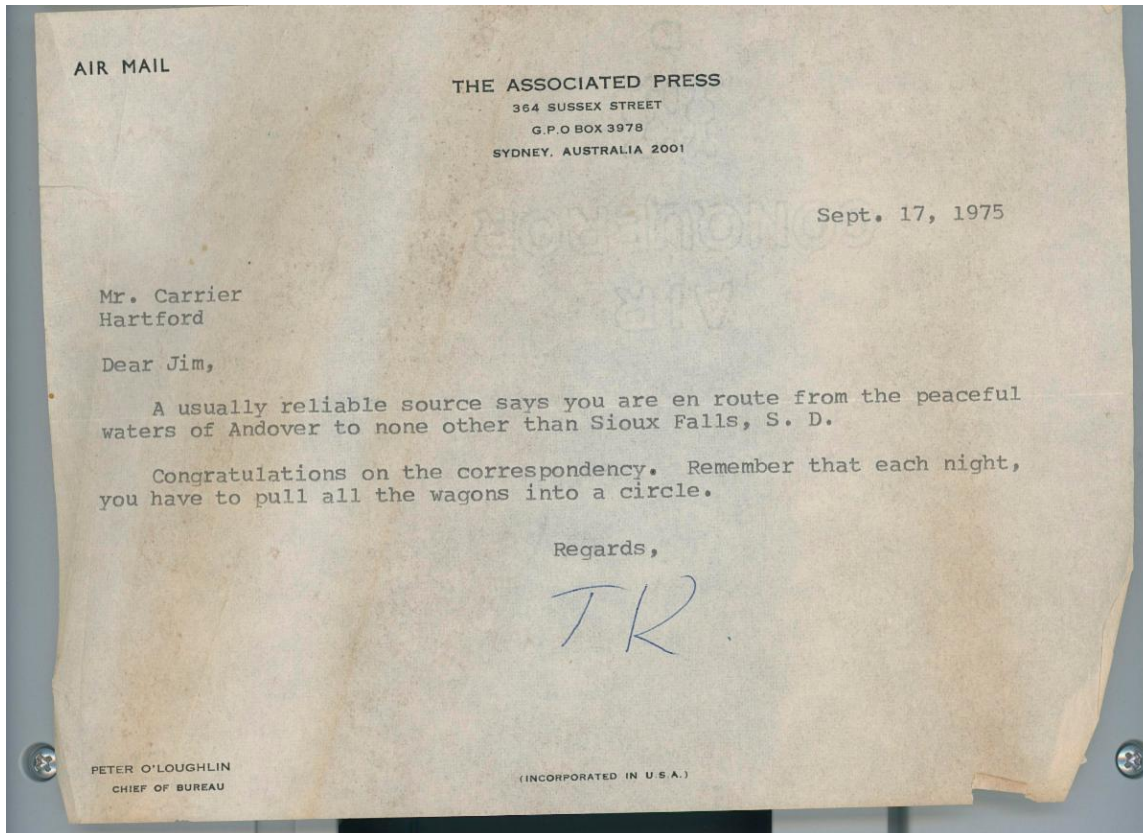
I had been nominated for a Pulitzer by the AP, but I was wrung out. "I have got to leave the Hartford bureau soon." I begged for a correspondent's job in a small, rural bureau, Montpelier, Vt., or Knoxville, Tenn., some place near bluegrass music. (I had begun to play the banjo.)

Gallagher replied: ``Aim higher, particularly if you want to become a chief of bureau or go into administrative work. Knoxville, for example, is not the world's hottest news spot.”

After turning down a transfer to the general desk I was offered Sioux Falls, S.D. I grabbed it and set out in my three-piece pinstriped Brooks Brothers suit to a land as foreign to me as Baghdad. Friends wondered why I was being sent to a gulag. The mythical bureau for AP banishment at the time was Butte, Montana, and I wouldn't be far.

Jack Cappon, AP's Newsfeatures chief, put a nice spin on it: ``You know my theory about states that are not big spot news areas. They offer even greater opportunities for people with flair...You may need a long fur coat for the winters, but otherwise you'll find the living easier and simpler than in the crowded East.”

Just before leaving, I got the following from Tom Kent, who I had trained, a Yale graduate in Russian, who, naturally, had been posted to Sidney:



I was a complete and typical Connecticut Yankee in South Dakota. But the transfer turned out to be the greatest move of my life – until I became the Denver Post's "Rocky Mountain Ranger.”

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**Ray Newton (Email)** - I recall hearing him speak decades ago when I was at some APME meeting. In that booming voice, he said those who did not buy in on the tough standards of ethics, integrity, accuracy, and honesty would not have successful – or long--careers with the AP. He never wavered in that

commitment, and he infused those who worked for the AP with that same dedication. That's the same agreement we had when approval was finally given us at NAU to use the AP name in conjunction with the award.

(Wes would be distressed, as would Lou, by what some news organizations—not the AP—try to pass off as legitimate reporting).

## Connecting mailbox

### *Ed Dennehy would offer advice that made things right*

**Bruce Lowitt** ([Email](#)) - In my early years in NY Sports after transferring from the LA buro in 1970, I spent nights on the baseball desk or filing the wire and, during breaks between games ending in different time zones, I'd wander down the hall to briefly schmooze with colleagues. That's how I got to know Ed Dennehy and, after a while, I came to view him as something of a father figure, or maybe a kindly uncle figure. On those occasions when something minor was bothering or frustrating me, usually about my career, I knew I could steal a moment of his time and he would smile and offer a bit of advice that would make things right.

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### *The rest of my mask story*

**Claudia DiMartino** ([Email](#)) – Here's the rest of the story of me in my designer mask in this photo that appeared in Monday's Connecting:

My designer mask came from the company my family started three generations ago, Tina DiMartina Designs. They specialize in formal wear for major occasions. Coronavirus put an end to that for the foreseeable future. When life hands you lemons, make lemonade! Or you can make designer facemasks.



The company has donated 1.500 masks to local hospitals, nursing homes, and individual medical workers within the last three weeks. The local ABC affiliated did a segment on the business and their charitable work. Click [here](#) .

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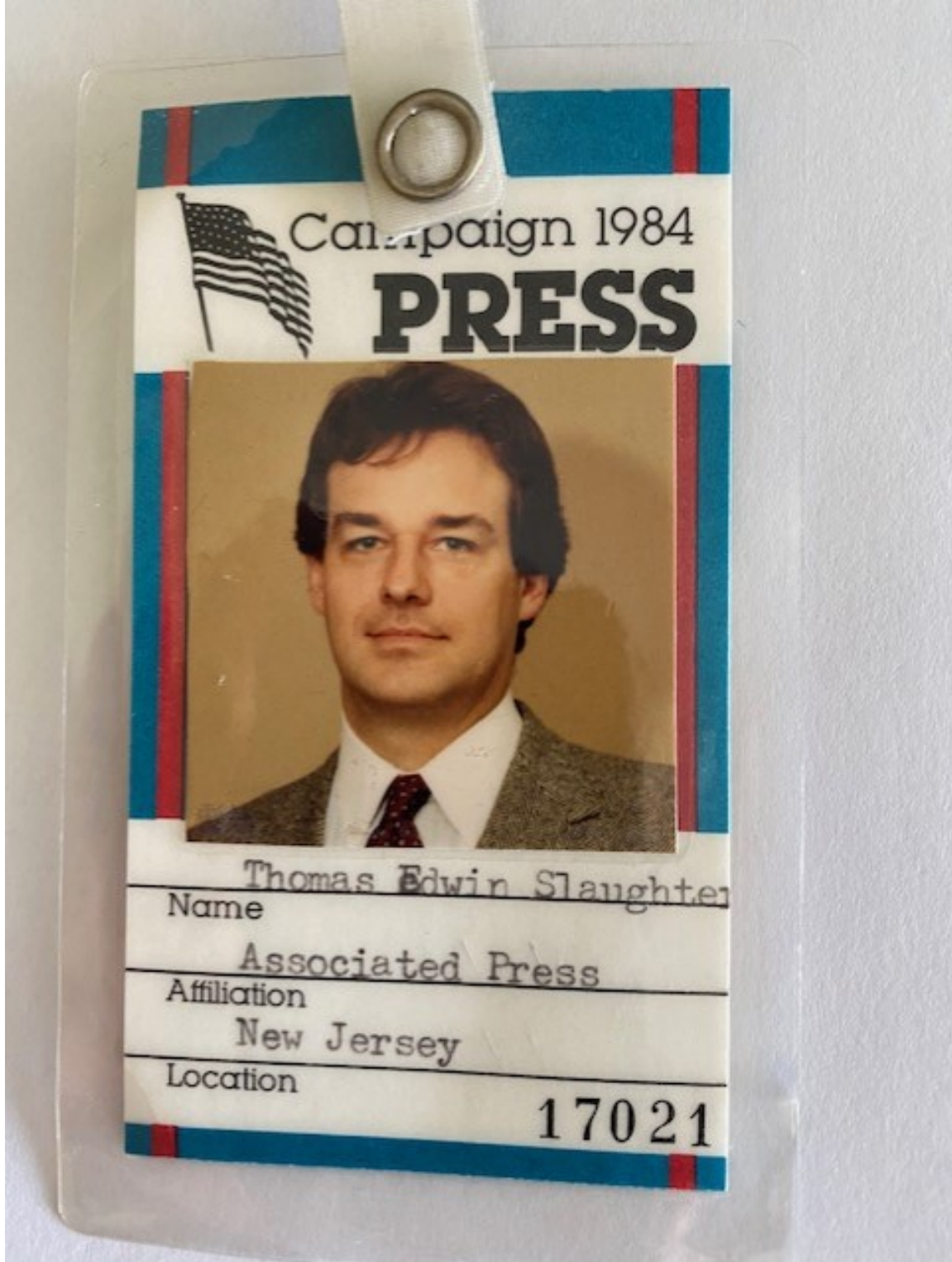
***A new day will come – virus free and worth the wait***



**Steve Loeper** ( [Email](#) ) - California's coastal parklands remain closed as the state's aggressive COVID mitigation efforts continue. This includes serious chain-linked measures stretching nearly two miles at Palisades Park in Santa Monica. But a new day will come -- virus free, chain-link free and well worth the wait.

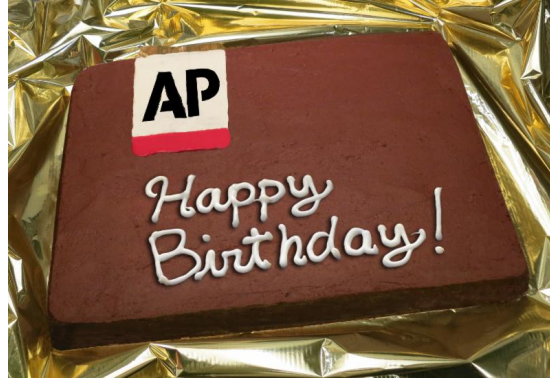
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***Press pass from his Newark days***



**Tom Slaughter** ( [Email](#) ) - For your collection of press IDs - Campaign from 84. I was Newark COB then.

**Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



to

Marty Steinberg - [marcello.steinberg@gmail.com](mailto:marcello.steinberg@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

### *Mid-April in America is an unforgiving time, and now this*

By TED ANTHONY

For a generation, mid-April has delivered some of American life's most cataclysmic moments — a week when young men have shot up schools, terrorists have blown up fellow humans, members of a religious sect have burned to death in their compound and environmental calamity has sullied the ocean.

Now, as those traumatic, unwelcome anniversaries of the past 27 years roll by in the space of a single spring week, overlay one of the most disruptive moments in all of American history, even as it is still unfolding: the coronavirus, and the efforts to contain it.

What is it about this one particular week in April, anyway? And what does it mean — for survivors, and for all Americans — to move through this barrage of violent memories knowing that life as we know it, at least for now, has gone away?

“In April, things tend to happen. I don't think it's an accident that a lot of events take place in April. That's the month that people have been waiting for,” says John Baick, a historian at Western New England University in Massachusetts.

He has been noticing the propensity for upheaval in April since he was in college. “There is,” Baick says, “something about the spring that goes against rationality.”

Read more [here](#) .



# ***The U.S. Tried to Teach China a Lesson About the Media. It Backfired.*** (New York Times)

**By Ben Smith**

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is better known for yelling at journalists than consoling them.

But when Mr. Pompeo got on the phone with the publishers of The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times on March 21, he said he was there to offer help, according to a person with direct knowledge of the call. And he acknowledged that the Trump administration's latest shot at China had been, if not wrong, poorly timed.

That's because on March 2 — a month after President Trump banned travel from China, and the day the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the United States passed 100 — the State Department announced a long-planned expulsion of about 60 employees of five Chinese state media outlets working in the United States.

Read more [here](#) .

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# ***Mark Thompson reveals why New York Times has not made any Covid-19 cuts... and how crisis may save the BBC*** (PressGazette)

**By William Turvill**

The former boss of the BBC believes the broadcaster's "exceptionally good" Covid-19 coverage could secure its long-term future, which was seen to be at risk under Boris Johnson's government.

Mark Thompson, who was director-general of the corporation between 2004 and 2012, compared the BBC's service during the crisis with that of the NHS, adding that the debate over its future will now be "transformed".

In an interview talking about how Covid-19 has affected the news industry, Thompson also told of how the New York Times — which he joined as chief executive after leaving the BBC — has so far remained "exempt" from the economic woes afflicting the industry. The title is still recruiting staff at a time when many others — on both sides of the Atlantic — have been forced to make cuts.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Claude Erbsen.

# The Final Word

*Whenever we think we've had it bad...*



Cpl. Lary Mutinski, Co A, 1st Bn, 157th Inf, 45th Div, distributes his last package of cigarettes to former prisoners at Dachau, Ger, 30 Apr 45. US Army Signal Corps via @USNatArchives Shared by Erik Villard, Digital Military Historian serving the US Army and veteran community.

## Today in History - April 21, 2020



# By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, April 21, the 112th day of 2020. There are 254 days left in the year.

## Today's Highlight in History:

On April 21, 1976, clinical trials of the swine flu vaccine began in Washington, D.C.

## On this date:

In 1509, England's King Henry VII died; he was succeeded by his 17-year-old son, Henry VIII.

In 1789, John Adams was sworn in as the first vice president of the United States.

In 1816, Charlotte Bronte, author of "Jane Eyre," was born in Thornton, England.

In 1836, an army of Texans led by Sam Houston defeated the Mexicans at San Jacinto, assuring Texas independence.

In 1910, author Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, died in Redding, Connecticut, at age 74.

In 1918, Manfred von Richthofen, 25, the German ace known as the "Red Baron" who was believed to have downed 80 enemy aircraft during World War I, was himself shot down and killed while in action over France.

In 1926, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II was born in Mayfair, London; she was the first child of The Duke and Duchess of York, who later became King George VI and the Queen Mother.

In 1930, fire broke out inside the overcrowded Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus, killing 332 inmates.

In 1975, with Communist forces closing in, South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu resigned after nearly 10 years in office and fled the country.

In 1989, the baseball fantasy "Field of Dreams," starring Kevin Costner, was released by Universal Pictures.

In 2009, the sole survivor of a pirate attack on an American cargo ship off the Somali coast, on which Captain Richard Phillips was held for ransom, was charged as an adult with piracy in federal court in New York. (A prosecutor said Abdiwali Abdiqadir Muse (AHB'-dih-wah-lee AHB'-dih-kah-dir moo-SAY') had

given wildly varying ages for himself before finally admitting he was 18. Muse later pleaded guilty to hijacking, kidnapping and hostage-taking and was sentenced to more than 33 years in prison.)

In 2016, Prince, one of the most inventive and influential musicians of modern times, was found dead at his home in suburban Minneapolis; he was 57.

Ten years ago: Pope Benedict XVI promised “church action” to confront the clerical abuse scandal. Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger was suspended for six games for violating the NFL’s personal conduct policy. (Commissioner Roger Goodell handed down the punishment after prosecutors decided not to bring charges in a case involving a 20-year-old college student who’d accused Roethlisberger of sexually assaulting her.) Juan Antonio Samaranch, 89, who’d served as president of the International Olympic Committee for 21 years, died in Barcelona, Spain.

Five years ago: An Egyptian criminal court sentenced ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi to 20 years in prison over the killing of protesters in 2012. The head of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Michele Leonhart, announced her retirement in the wake of allegations that DEA agents had attended sex parties with prostitutes. Pope Francis accepted the resignation of U.S. Bishop Robert Finn, who’d pleaded guilty to failing to report a suspected child abuser. Mary Doyle Keefe, 92, the model for Norman Rockwell’s iconic 1943 Rosie the Riveter painting, died in Simsbury, Connecticut.

One year ago: President Donald Trump spoke with the newly-elected Ukrainian leader, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, to congratulate him on his landslide election victory. (A second phone call in July, in which Trump solicited Zelenskiy’s help in gathering potentially damaging information about his principal Democratic rival, Joe Biden, would lead to Trump’s impeachment by the House.) Suicide bombings at three churches and three luxury hotels in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday killed more than 250 people; the attackers were homegrown militants who had pledged loyalty to the Islamic State group.

Today’s Birthdays: Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II is 94. Actress-comedian-writer Elaine May is 88. Actor Charles Grodin is 85. Actor Reni Santoni (REH’-nee san-TOH’-nee) is 82. Anti-death penalty activist Sister Helen Prejean is 81. Singer-musician Iggy Pop is 73. Actress Patti LuPone is 71. Actor Tony Danza is 69. Actor James Morrison is 66. Actress Andie MacDowell is 62. Rock singer Robert Smith (The Cure) is 61. Rock musician Michael Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 61. Actor-director John Cameron Mitchell is 57. Rapper Michael Franti (Spearhead) is 54. Actress Leslie Silva is 52. Actor Toby Stephens is 51. Rock singer-musician Glen Hansard (The Frames) is 50. Actor Rob Riggle is 50. Comedian Nicole Sullivan is 50. Football player-turned-actor Brian White is 47. Olympic gold medal pairs figure skater Jamie Sale (sah-LAY’) is 43. Rock musician David Brenner (Theory of a Deadman) is 42. Actor James McAvoy is 41. Former NFL quarterback Tony Romo is 40. Actor Terrence J is 38. Actress Gugu Mbatha-Raw is 37. Actor Christoph (cq) Sanders is 32. Actor Frank Dillane is 29. Rock singer Sydney Sierota (Echosmith) is 23.

**Thought for Today: “I try to avoid looking forward or backward, and try to keep looking upward.” [–] Charlotte Bronte (1816-1855).**

# 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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