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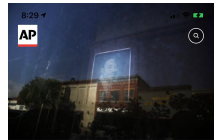
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Connecting May 18, 2020

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'It's gone haywire': When COVID-19 arrived in rural America

Wednesday

Virus Outbreak Full Coverage

What you need to know today about the virus outbreak

35 mins ago



The second virus wave: How bad will it be as lockdowns





This photo by Roger Werth, Longview (Wash.) Daily News, was transmitted by the AP around the world on May 18, 1980. Longview won the 1981 Pulitzer Prize for its Mount St. Helens coverage.

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 18th day of May 2020,

Forty years ago today, on a serene Sunday morning in the Northwest, Mount St. Helens erupted with a fury more powerful than the atomic bomb that leveled Hiroshima.

The eruption continued throughout the day and claimed 57 lives, as well as millions of birds, deer, elk and fish. More than 150 square miles of forest were lost.

We lead today's issue with the recollections of AP staffers - now your Connecting colleagues - who covered the story.

AP Images produced a News Special - A look back in photos 40 years after Mount St. Helens' deadly eruption – and you can view by clicking [here](#) .



AP GROUND GAME : From the Nancy Pelosi's push to vote on a \$1 trillion rescue bill in the Democratic-controlled House to President Trump's efforts to galvanize his supporters who oppose lockdown restrictions, Ralph Russo speaks to his co-host, Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace about the latest political news on this episode of "Ground Game."

Listen [here](#) .

Here's to a great week ahead – my hope is that you stay safe and healthy.

Paul

AP staffers' coverage of Mount St. Helens left memories that are still fresh today



Two victims of the May 18 eruption were found inside this camper about 8 miles from the mountain. (AP Photo)

FORTY YEARS LATER, five former AP staffers still feel the aftershocks -- and awe - of the May 18, 1980, eruption of Mount St. Helens.

“Mount St. Helens was without a doubt the biggest story in my 42-year AP career, and the longest I had ever had a hand in,” said retired AP/Seattle News Editor John Marlow.

“Mount St. Helens was by far the most compelling, dramatic and personally interesting story I worked on in my 38 years with The AP in Seattle and Olympia,” said former staffer David Ammons.

The eruption coverage and months of followups won an APME citation and a 1981 Pulitzer Prize nomination.

Technologically, it was a different era. There was no internet, email, texting, portable computers, GPS, cell phones, wifi or digital cameras.

Film -- black and white, mostly; few newspapers could handle color -- from Mount St. Helens was processed in makeshift darkrooms in motel rooms. Prints took up a v-e-r-y l-o-n-g 8 to 10 minutes to transmit.

Reporters dodged mudslides and police barricades to race to gas station payphone booths to call in their scrawled notes.

The mountain in southwestern Washington erupted at 8:32 a.m. on a serene Sunday with a fury more powerful than the atomic bomb that leveled Hiroshima.

Superheated blasts of ash, pumice and gas killed 57 people and millions of birds, deer, elk and fish.

The eruption, which continued all day, flattened more than 150 square miles of forest like a lawnmower cutting grass. It damaged or destroyed 200 homes, 27 bridges, 15 miles of railways and 185 miles of highway, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Gray, abrasive ash from the volcano blew east and fell as far away as central Montana. Ash clouds turned day into night in Spokane, Washington, about 250 miles northeast of the volcano, temporarily shut down air traffic over the Northwest and clogged sewage systems, caused respiratory issues and damaged cars and buildings.

Many people wore homemade cloth masks (like those seen today because of COVID-19) as fallen ash swirled in their towns for months afterward.

Seattle and Portland AP news and photo staffers had been covering the mountain since mid-March when a 4.2 earthquake and plumes of steam signaled the reawakening of the volcano after 123 years.

“We got lots of tips and questions when the mountain was rumbling or steaming, and we’d call to confirm or not,” says retired AP staffer Doug Esser.

(Mount St. Helens is 97 miles south of Seattle and 52 miles north of Portland. The eruption rattled windows 200 miles away in Vancouver, British Columbia. Never before had a volcano erupted in an industrialized country so close to major population centers.)

Aftershocks and smaller eruptions in 1980 on May 25, June 12, July 22, Aug. 7 and Oct. 16-18 rocked Mount St. Helens and sent ash to distant communities. From 1980 to 1986 and 2004 to 2008, lava oozed onto the crater floor, building domes taller than the Empire State Building and restoring 7 percent of the volume the mountain lost in 1980.

The Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, a 110,000-acre area around the mountain, was established in 1982 for “research, recreation and education.”

The volcano is quiet now but still alive. Scientists are constantly recording activity in and around the mountain, including tiny temblors and gas releases.

Former Seattle COB **John Brewer** (jcbrewer8@gmail.com) gathered personal accounts from five staffers who played key roles in AP’s eruption coverage 40 years ago. (Brewer was away on vacation when the mountain blew; he didn’t get back to Seattle until the next day).

Here are the recollections:

Carol Nanninga Lawrence, Seattle newswoman -- I remember the Sunday morning vividly. The newsroom had a beautiful view out the windows to the west -- and it was a gorgeous morning.

I was starting my shift, and the task topping the list was to call the U.S. Geological Services in Vancouver, Washington, to get an update on Mount St. Helens.

The AP staff had been covering for weeks -- around-the-clock -- the mountain's activities, and the day before I'd written about the ominously bulging mountain.

As Day Supervisor Doug Esser and I plotted out the day's activities, I heard a huge boom, felt the building shake and saw the windows moving.

We quizzically looked at each other. “What the heck was that?”

A few minutes later, I called Vancouver USGS. One of the head geologists immediately picked up. I launched into my request for the morning mountain update.

The geologist, in a shaking voice, said, "I can't talk, there's just been a violent eruption of Mount St. Helens." He hung up.

A moment later, the phone rang. I snapped it up, hoping it was someone from the USGS.

It was a New York General Desk editor looking for art for a feature story.

I told him about the call. The editor immediately filed a bulletin, quoting the geologist.

Every AP teletype machine in the office -- international, national, Asian, U.S., state, broadcast, etc. -- exploded with bells of the highest alert as they pounded out a short sentence of the mountain's eruption.

Lawrence (hugh-carol-lawrence@comcast.net) did two temporary (maternity-replacement) stints at AP between working at Seattle-area daily newspapers. She later joined The Boeing Co. and retired in 2015 after 30 years handling public relations and employee communication.

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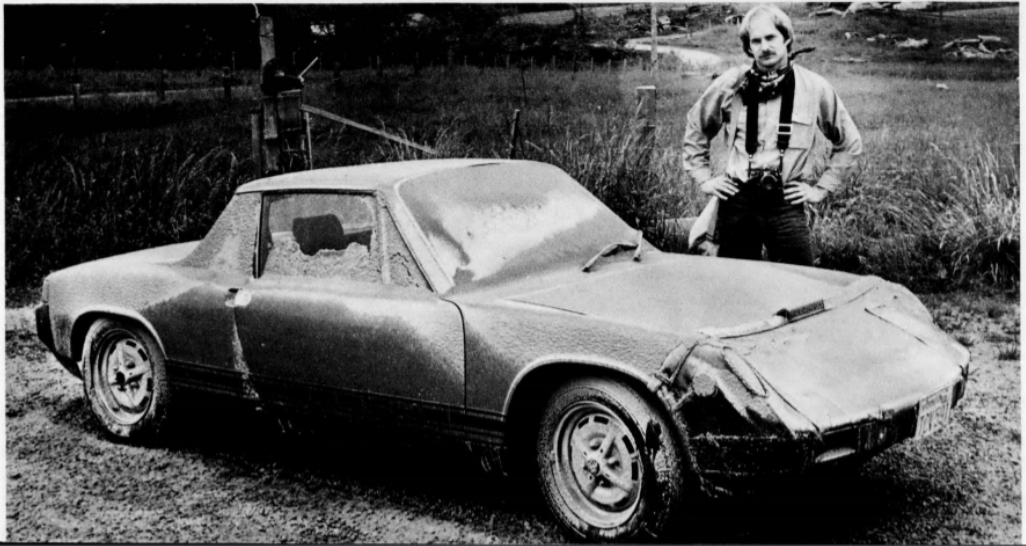
Doug Esser, Seattle day supervisor -- Our phones begin to ring incessantly, with members, New York, magazines and the general public asking for details we hadn't had time to find out ourselves.

"Yes, it erupted. We're trying to find out more as soon as we can get off the phone."

Everyone wanted to know what happened to Harry Truman, the curmudgeon who refused to leave his Spirit Lake resort. (He's still there, under tons of volcanic debris.)

Carol, who did a great job despite the pressure, and I worked to get as much as we could from sources at USGS, Forest Service, University of Washington and AP members like *The Daily News* in Longview and *The Columbian* in Vancouver.

I called News Editor John Marlow. He raced in from home and coolly and calmly began directing the coverage. I called staff photographer Gary Stewart to get him on the road to the mountain. He had a sports car, and it ended up practically buried in ash.



Seattle photographer Gary Stewart takes a look at his new Porsche, covered with volcanic ash from a Mount St. Helens eruption. He had driven the car up a mountain road after the May 18 blowup. He left it briefly to look for better angles on foot, then returned to find it caught between two mudslides caused by the eruption. He had to leave it in the mountains for two weeks before rescuing it with a flatbed truck; he couldn't drive it until the abrasive ash, which had permeated the interior and engine, had been cleaned out. (Editor's Note, 40 years later: And, yes, AP paid the cost of getting Stewart's car removed.

After 36 years with AP/Seattle, Esser (douglas.esserwa@comcast.net) retired in 2015.

David Ammons, Olympia newsman -- Mount St. Helens was by far the most compelling, dramatic and personally interesting story I worked on in my 38 years with The AP in Seattle and Olympia.

I did pre-eruption stories in the months ahead of May 18, including some flights around the mountain and surrounding areas as Gov. Dixy Lee Ray was making decisions about the Red Zone and evacuations and logging.

After the eruption, I flew with the National Guard in Huey helicopters, sometimes with the governor, as we surveyed the unimaginable swath of destruction and searched for survivors or bodies.

Mostly what I saw and remember to this day was jaw-dropping devastation in an area where I had traveled and camped and rented canoes from irascible Harry Truman.

Whole forests incinerated and blown over like so many matchsticks. Spirit Lake buried under debris. Toutle River raging with lahar muddy runoff, bridges knocked out, and the occasional pickup or horse stranded or burned.

The mountain was still having dangerous steam eruptions, so when we were in the air, we had to dodge and retreat to escape their fury.

One time was a super close call, and the pilot said later that we had barely gotten away to safety. As an indestructible 31-year-old, I just thought "cool!"

Ammons (ammonsdave1@gmail.com) still lives in Olympia, the capital of Washington state located about 40 miles north of Mount St. Helens. He is chairman of the state Public Disclosure Commission. He was an AP political writer and columnist before retiring after 38 years. He then served as communications director and senior policy adviser for the state Office of Secretary of State for more than eight years.

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John Marlow, Seattle news editor -- We assumed it was only a matter of time before all hell would break loose at Mount St. Helens. Much of the work from March to May was preparing background for when that time came.

When the eruption happened, I told Doug Esser to start calling in staffers: Graham Vink, who had done much of the preparatory background work, Kathy McCarthy, one of our best reporters, and photographer Gary Stewart (our chief photographer, Barry Sweet, was on vacation, in London I believe). I headed from home for the bureau.

When I got there, I called the Portland bureau, closer to Mount St. Helens than Seattle, to see what help they could provide, then called John White, our Olympia correspondent, to see if he or David Ammons could head down there. Then I called the Spokane bureau to get them started -- the ash cloud from the eruption was covering central and eastern Washington and causing major problems there.



Residents in Yakima, Wash., wear masks to avoid breathing ash from Mount St. Helens. (AP Photo)

I had Doug and Carol work the phones (oh, if only we had cell phones back then!) and had Graham writing the main story. With little new information coming in, the early leads were pretty much boilerplate from the background material he had gathered the past couple of months.

The New York General Desk was of major help in pulling things together, editing and making suggestions for sidebars.

Mostly it was a matter of trying to coordinate the material being called in by McCarthy, Ammons and, from the Portland bureau, newsman Bruce Bartley and photographer Jack Smith.

Working the phones was a tough job because everyone else was trying to call the same sources we were. Fortunately, Vink had some sources that he had developed, and these helped considerably.

The (Longview) Daily News, which won a Pulitzer Prize for its work on the story in their own back yard, was also of great help in providing information.

Sixteen hours after showing up, I headed for home and turned things over to State Editor Les Blumenthal.

[*A P.S. here from Carol Lawrence* : “I remember everyone in the office scrambling, assignments doled the second staffers stepped in the door. All day the phones were on fire with calls. It was difficult getting information from emergency teams; they were focused on trying to save lives vs. answering reporters’ questions . The Wirephoto machines never stopped. John Marlow wasn't doing routine desk work -- he was gathering info, getting calls to the right person to help.”]

Mount St. Helens was without a doubt the biggest story in my 42-year AP career, and the longest I had ever had a hand in.

A few months after the big eruption, I lucked into a helicopter trip over the volcano to see first-hand the destruction.

Several years later, my wife and son and I visited the site after it had been declared a national volcanic monument.

Some of the denuded landscape was beginning to show signs of remarkable recovery. There was a mosaic of young forests, flower-filled meadows and wildlife.

But the snow-covered, postcard-perfect cone that we remembered seeing at the top of Mount St. Helens all those years before the eruption was long gone, hurled into the sky on May 18, 1980.

Marlow (jtm394@aol.com) retired to Santa Fe, New Mexico, in October 2000 after his AP career in Seattle, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

-0-

Steve Graham, Portland, Oregon ([Email](#)) - Although the May 18 blast dwarfed all previous activity, Mt. St. Helens had signaled its intentions when a spurt of steam opened a small crater at the summit on March 27.

We in Portland, filed a bulletin and story, after which I got a call from somebody at the General Desk who apparently thought volcanic eruptions weren't sufficiently significant in their own right and asked if they could say that people in Portland could not hang out their laundry that day.

My somewhat intemperate rejoinder was something to the effect that regardless of the opinion people in New York might have of the Pacific Northwest, just about everybody around here used clothes dryers ... and, moreover, it was raining steadily, which is the usual PNW weather in March.

Tetsuko Itagaki, AP Tokyo linchpin for decades, dies at 96



Tetsuko Itagaki (left) and her successor as confidential secretary at AP Tokyo, Ritsuko Kumamoto, at lunch in Tokyo, Oct. 20, 2010. AP Photo/Valerie Komor

By SHIGEYOSHI KIMURA

TOKYO (AP) — Tetsuko Itagaki, who was a secretary for five AP Tokyo bureau chiefs from 1958 until she retired in 1989, has died in Tokyo. She was 96.

Itagaki suffered a fall at an assisted living home in early April and became progressively weaker, according to her nephew, Atsushi Takeuchi. She died May 7.

The funeral service was attended only by relatives because of the coronavirus pandemic.

In addition to assisting bureau leaders at a time when Tokyo was a hub of AP Asia operations, Itagaki served a key role by patiently helping a staff that had dozens of Japanese nationals as well as expatriate correspondents. As her

role grew, she began to consider the members of the bureau as part of her own family.

“It is no exaggeration to say that she was the linchpin of the bureau, often serving as a buffer between the strong personalities of the bureau chiefs and the staff, but also ready with a vast intellectual repertoire, including an intimate knowledge of the Bible, which often came in handy,” said Valerie Komor, director of AP Corporate Archives, who in October 2010 interviewed Itagaki and other Japanese staff for the company records.

Itagaki came from an academic family and studied English language and literature.

“It was a very interesting, exciting, occupation,” Itagaki said in the 2010 interview, recalling her front—row seat for the political assassinations, demonstrations, typhoons and Olympics that the bureau covered.

“I wouldn’t have worked for (an) oil company or trading company. ... Everybody recognized the name AP. ‘So you work for The Associated Press?’ ... I was so proud. I was glad I worked for the AP.”

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Shigeyoshi Kimura joined AP as a copy boy in 1957 and retired in 2002 after many years as a reporter.

The AP Corporate Archives Documents AP’s Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Real Time

**By Valerie Komor
Director, AP Corporate Archives**

Decades from now, AP journalists and communications historians studying AP’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic will be searching for official records, oral history interviews and the news report itself, in words and pictures, as they interpret these difficult times.

The AP Corporate Archives, AP's official repository of records documenting the institution, is already working to collect a thorough record of AP's coverage of and response to the crisis.

For several years, we have been capturing email newsletters and memoranda from news, administrative and executive departments using the corporatearchives.org email address. Last year, we began collecting the valuable Q&AP sessions.

As the pandemic intensified in March, we began talks with news to collect the daily editorial meeting on Zoom, going back to 2018. We are also investigating how to preserve individual Slack channels. With Nancy Nussbaum in Global Engagement, we are collecting a series of monthly webinars for AP clients. In addition, we intend to preserve the Ground Game podcast, in coordination with Jaime Holguin and Westwood One. All this material will be cataloged and searchable in ArchivesSpace, our collection management system.

One critical source of information will be the spoken recollections of AP journalists and staff. We are in the process of identifying members of AP's COVID task force and other staff members for future oral history interviews.

It almost goes without saying, but I will say it anyway. The news itself---the work of our intrepid reporters, photographers, video journalists and technology staff across the globe-- will provide the richest and most comprehensive documentation anywhere of the coronavirus pandemic.

You and your AP initials

Carolyn Carlson ([Email](#)) - I have never had a nickname, for some reason, until I arrived at the AP and became CeeCee, after my AP initials of CC. When Charlie Campbell joined the Atlanta bureau a few years after me, I agreed to become CSC since my byline was Carolyn S. Carlson and he used Charles Campbell, but the late, great AP sports writer Ed Shearer only called me "CeeCee" whenever he greeted me, and I was happy with that.

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Steve Elliott ([Email](#)) - I learned of a minor drama after transferring from Honolulu to the New York General Desk. If management didn't have your middle name handy, you'd get an X after your first and last initials. And for

some reason my middle name was a mystery at 50 Rock. How I regret being denied the chance to be SEX in ATEX messages. Marty Thompson (MCT) called from 5,000 miles away to get my middle initial and heard P instead of the correct T (for Thomas). Fellow GenDesker Patricia Bibby took to calling me SPEcial Boy. To this day, I proudly use the initials SPE for business.

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Dan Haney ([Email](#)) - My first AP job was working summer vacation relief in Portland, Maine, in 1969 while a junior in college. I knew absolutely nothing. Bill Langzettel, the kindly correspondent, told me I would need to use my three initials on messages. That was the first time it occurred to me to make my byline Daniel Q. Haney. (The Q was for Quentin, my father's name.) That initial turned out to be a good career move. The oddness of it made my name stand out, and I always felt that wire editors got a kick out of printing it.

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Ray March ([Email](#)) - My editor at the Monterey Peninsula Herald, Ed Kennedy of AP fame, always signed his front page column with EK. Now I know why. Ray A. March

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Joe McGowan ([Email](#)) - When I was sent overseas—first assignment New Delhi—I got messages from Foreign Editor Ben Bassett to “JM”. Later, another newsman with my initials—I think he went to Madrid—had to use JTM.

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Robert O'Meara ([Email](#)) - I was always known in the AP as REO, short for Robert Eugene O'Meara. It was a tradition in my parents' family to name someone after the saint who was honored on the day they were born. I was born on St. Eugene's Day. The tradition ended when my young brother was born on St. Polycarp's Day.

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Charles Richards ([Email](#)) - On my Facebook page last Thursday, I received a ton of "Happy Birthday" greetings wishing me well on my 79th birthday, including 15 from former Texas AP colleagues -- five of whom said "Happy birthday, CR!" One other called me "Chaz" and another called me "Charlie." Everybody else -- kinfolk, childhood friends, cousins and other relatives, friends I've met in the 17 years since retirement from the AP -- called me Charles in their birthday greeting. All my wire service career -- seven years with UPI and 26 with AP -- it was as you noted: we put our initials and time at the end of every story we wrote, at the bottom of every message we sent, whether on the wire or intra-office-- like "CR1023PCD 051420." UPI carried things further: The "required" format for a byline was: First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name. Or, if you went by your middle name. it was First Initial, Middle Name, Last Name." They made an exception for longtime Dallas bureau chief Preston McGraw, who in his 42-year UPI career covered the LBJ weekend assassination, including being a pallbearer (along with the AP's Mike Cochran) for Lee Harvey Oswald. Although he went by Preston, his first name was Alvin. They reconsidered when they realized "A. Preston McGraw" began "By A.P..."

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Cliff Schiappa ([Email](#)) - Regarding our work initials, when I arrived in the KX (later KAN) bureau in 1984, Confidential Secretary Carolyn Schenker (a double CS right there!) already used those initials, so I was assigned CTS (T for Thomas) on the newsroom mailbox. But over on the tech side, that department was known as CTS which stood for Carrier Transmission Systems. So within the newsroom I was CTS, but on photo captions I was CS.

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Ed Tobias ([Email](#)) - Thanks to Bill McCloskey for providing a pronouncer for his initials "wm" (WIM). For more than 40 years, since the days when Bill was my boss at WASH Radio (pre-AP), I'd always thought the pronunciation was WUM.

Connecting mailbox

Good News: MRI Shows No New Brain Tumor Growth For AP's Rachel Zoll

By BOBBY ROSS JR.
Religion Unplugged

(OPINION) Like so many of her devoted readers, I miss the stellar journalism of Rachel Zoll, longtime national religion writer for The Associated Press.

But I have positive news to report about Zoll, who was diagnosed with brain cancer more than two years ago.

An MRI last week “showed no evidence of new tumor growth once again,” said Cheryl Zoll, Rachel’s sister.

Rachel has glioblastoma, or GBM, the aggressive and deadly cancer that claimed the life of Sen. John McCain in 2018.

Read more [here](#) .

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AP Says Ditch the 'Mistress'

By Tim Graham, Townhall

The 2020 Associated Press Stylebook is being published soon, and the AP is not humble about what it represents. "The style of The Associated Press is the gold standard for news writing," they boast, and the book offers a sturdy path to the AP's "famous" brand of "clarity and professionalism."

In recent years, conservatives have seen the AP's Stylebook squad tilt perilously to the left, forgoing clarity for politically correct muddiness. In 2017, they scrapped the "gender binary," since male and female divisions are just too insensitive. "Not all people fall under one of two categories for sex or gender, according to leading medical organizations, so avoid references to both, either or opposite sexes or genders as a way to encompass all people."

On May 8, they took their torches to the term "mistress" as hopelessly outdated. "We now say not to use the archaic and sexist term 'mistress' for a woman in a long-term sexual relationship with, and financially supported by, a

man who is married to someone else. Instead, use an alternative like companion or lover on first reference. Provide details later."

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Ralph Gage.

Related: [Associated Press mocked for declaring term 'mistress' is archaic, sexist](#) (Shared by Dennis Conrad.)

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Another Leo Branham story

Kevin Noblet ([Email](#)) - Since we're telling Leo Branham stories, here's mine:

I met him just once, in the spring of 1980, and he didn't call me Honey Child or offer a martini. But he did suggest we have a whisky. It was 11 a.m. and I said, "Sure."

We were in his front yard in suburban Stamford CT, looking at smallish pine knocked over by a hit-tree-and-run driver. Leo, in unhappy retirement then, had called it in to the local paper where I covered the police beat. The city editor knew my dream was to become a foreign correspondent, so he sent me out there--and even assigned a photographer.

Actually, the tree wasn't even knocked over. It just tilted. Leo turned sheepish. "Not much of a story, is it?" he said. "Want a drink?"

We went down into his basement den, where photos on the wall showed him covering World War II. He told stories of his career and eventually asked what my goals were. I told him, and he offered to call the AP and help set up a writing test for me. I passed it, had my name put on something called "the circular," and was hired as a legislative temp in New Orleans, where my 27-year AP career began.

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Bravery on the front lines

John Willis ([Email](#)) - I saw Pat Milton's brief on Friday about the special that CBS was doing Friday evening at 9 on the battle at the front lines against the Covid-19 virus. For some reason I did not record it, as I fully intended to watch it. The I dozed off, like the old codger that I have become. So I did some clicking on the internet today and [here is the link](#) that you can use Monday in Connecting for those who might have missed it. It contains commercials, but it's worth the time. Runs about 45 minutes.

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Spotted AP names in visit to War Remnants Museum in Saigon

Ruth Ann Ragland ([Email](#)) - The Connecting stories in the May 5 and previous editions on Vietnam brought back sad memories about important events we shouldn't forget.

My husband Fred and I took a trip from Hanoi to Saigon for Christmas/New Year's 2017-18, and it was extremely interesting, but sobering, to see and visit places that were such horrors during the Vietnam war. We went to the War Remnants Museum in Saigon where there was a photography exhibit with photos from both U.S. and Vietnamese photographers. AP names that I recognized in a too-quick tour were Horst Faas, Peter Arnett and Nick Ut. I looked for George Esper's name but did not see it, although it surely must have been there somewhere. I worked with George in the Columbus, Ohio, bureau from 1975 – 1977. I later saw him at a national journalism educator's conference. He was teaching in West Virginia, and I was at Texas Woman's University.

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Zoom talk Tuesday on future of weeklies

Dennis Brack ([Email](#)) - I have never worked for AP, but my friend Bob Daugherty introduced me to Connecting and I have enjoyed keeping up with the many AP friends that I have worked with over the years. My son, Dennis, (worked for The Washington Post for years), myself, and a couple of others, own the Rappanhannock News and we are concerned about the future of local weeklies. Andy Alexander, who lives in the Rappahannock County, is giving a

Zoom talk on local news which I thought some Connecting readers would like to hear. The Zoom talk is on Tuesday May 19th at 10:30 AM. To register contact: Kathryn@rappathome.org

Click [here](#) for link.

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Pink Dogwood...



Chris Connell ([Email](#)) - ...on our front lawn is suddenly in full bloom. A nice pick-me-up in a pandemic, or anytime.

No social distancing here



Larry Margasak ([Email](#)) - No social distancing needed here on the beach in Cape May, NJ...at least until Memorial Day weekend.

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Sign Of The Times



Guy Palmiotto ([Email](#)) - My local township government just placed this reminder in our nearby park.

Lives Lost: Brothers who survived Holocaust die weeks apart



Brothers Alexander Feingold, left, and Joseph Feingold look at photo of themselves as boys in Joseph's apartment in New York on June 8, 2015. Joseph Feingold died at age 97 of complications from the new coronavirus, four weeks after his brother Alexander, 95, died of pneumonia at the same New York hospital. The brothers were Polish-born Holocaust survivors who had a difficult relationship shaped by the trauma of the war and the loss of their beloved mother and younger brother in Treblinka. The pandemic that gripped New York prevented a final farewell. (Raphaela Neihausen via AP)

By VANESSA GERA and RANDY HERSCHAFT

NEW YORK (AP) — The brothers didn't have a chance to say goodbye.

As young Polish Jews, each came out of World War II with scars that forever shaped how they viewed the world, and each other.

One survived Auschwitz, a death march and starvation. The other endured cold and hunger in a Siberian labor camp, then nearly died in a pogrom back in Poland.

Alexander and Joseph Feingold chose New York City as the place to start over. It is where they became architects, lived blocks from each other and lost their wives days apart. It was there that they died four weeks apart, each alone, as the coronavirus pandemic gripped the city.

Joe, 97, died April 15 of complications of COVID-19 at the same hospital where Alex, 95, succumbed to pneumonia on March 17.

Read more [here](#) .

Best of the Week

Blockbuster AP scoop reveals shelving of CDC guidelines on safe reopening

Source work reveals exclusively that a roadmap to reopening the country – created over weeks by the nation’s top disease investigators – was being buried by the Trump administration, and that the the decision to sideline the document came from the highest levels of the White House.

For weeks, critics had complained that the Trump administration was putting political concerns ahead of scientific recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control. A blockbuster AP scoop amplified those complaints as The Associated Press revealed that President Donald Trump’s administration shelved a CDC document containing step-by-step advice to authorities on how and when to reopen restaurants and other public places during the pandemic.

Read more [here](#) .

Best of the States

Bearing witness as COVID-19 ravages rural Georgia counties

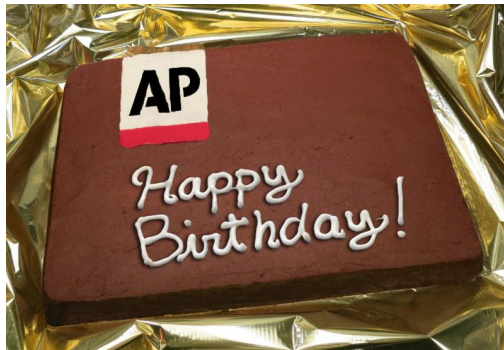
The all-formats package by Claire Galofaro, Brynn Anderson and Angie Wang focused on one county in southwestern Georgia, where the pandemic is hitting

hardest among some of America's most exposed, in this case rural blacks and the poor.

Finding people who have suffered devastating losses and getting them to talk is hard at the best of times; with this story, the team of global enterprise reporter Claire Galofaro, photographer Brynn Anderson and video journalist Angie Wang also had to cope with the logistical and safety challenges of reporting in a pandemic. They bleached their hotel rooms and cars routinely. They wore masks almost always. They took their temperatures in parking lots. They navigated how to connect with their sources enough to solicit the emotional context needed while also maintaining a safe distance.

Read more [here](#) .

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

John Epperson - jepperson2@yahoo.com

Welcome to Connecting



David Ammons - ammonsdave1@gmail.com

Laura Rehrmann - lxrehr@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Protesters who harass the media are simply following President Trump's lead



**PRACTICE
MEDIA
DISTANCING**

PLAN-DEMIC!

Protesters rally in Augusta, Maine, on Saturday. (AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)

By TOM JONES

Kevin Vesey is a reporter for News 12, a streaming news outlet on Long Island. Over the weekend, he was covering a protest from those who want the country to be reopened. As he filmed the protesters, Vesey was verbally harassed with comments of “fake news” and “enemy of the people” and chants of “fake news is not essential.”

Another protester wearing a Trump shirt repeatedly stepped toward Vesey even after Vesey asked him to back away. The protester said, “No, I got hydroxychloroquine, I’m fine” and then gave the camera a middle finger.

I recently wrote how protesters in Phoenix mocked reporters for wearing masks, saying things like “you’re on the wrong side of patriotism” and calling the reporters “communists.” The New York Times’ Marc Tracy has also written about reporters being confronted by protesters in Ohio, Michigan and California, where a man pulled a knife on a reporter.

Read more [here](#) .

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OPINION, Viewpoints, Gale Baldwin: COVID-19 crisis conjures memories of polio plague

(SavannahNow)

By Gale Baldwin

As my family members and several of my friends know, I had and, obviously, survived the national plague of polio when I was a toddler.

This comes to mind now because I can't help comparing the current COVID-19 pandemic to what thousands of us faced as polio enveloped the country during the 1940s and early '50s.

At this point, we've seen the stories of individuals, of centenarians who survived the flu pandemic of 1918-20 only to suffer from or die of COVID-19 in our current season of fear.

Those are sad, frustrating stories that should be met with anger and tears. Yet, there's another story to be told, that of those of us who survived the plague of polio only to be threatened in our twilight years by COVID-19.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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Cleveland is where the American newspaper union was born, and it's the latest place where it's been beaten (Nieman)

By JOSHUA BENTON AND HANAA' TAMEEZ

Cleveland is where the modern union movement in American journalism began.

It was there back in 1878, future newspaper magnate E. W. Scripps launched his first daily, The Penny Press. As the name implied, the Press — soon renamed the Cleveland Press — was aimed specifically at the city's working class.

As one newspaper historian put it: “The Scripps papers, from the beginning, were low-priced, popular evening papers designed to appeal to what Edward W. Scripps called the ‘95 percent,’ the plain people.”¹ Or as another put it: “Scripps targeted his papers toward the working class because he believed that newspapers needed to serve the entire population if democracy were to survive.”² Scripps was also small-d democratic when it came to ownership; employees were given shares of the company and owned about 40 percent of it by the 1920s. The Press' working class orientation at a time when organized labor was at its peak make it the dominant newspaper in Cleveland for the first 60 or so years of the 20th century.

Read more [here](#) .

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Life of a journalist in the times of Corona

(AsianLite)

Life is tough at the moment. The lockdown has affected over half the world's population and has caused social, financial, and economic strife, on top of the deadly threat it poses. Lots of people are stuck without work, but for journalists it's a crazily busy time.

For Smita Sarkar, the Founder-Editor of Global Indian Stories, there are now a huge number of people and their stories to cover. The webzine was set up specifically to give a voice to those who the mainstream media would tend to neglect or ignore, and the pandemic has given everyone a lot to say. “There is a lot of negativity out there and a lot of misinformation,” says Smita.

“Key workers, such as doctors, nurses, police, firefighters, shop workers, sanitation staff, are all vital but you'll also find journalists on that list.”

Read more [here](#) .

Today in History - May 18, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, May 18, the 139th day of 2020. There are 227 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 18, 1980, the Mount St. Helens volcano in Washington state exploded, leaving 57 people dead or missing.

On this date:

In 1863, the Siege of Vicksburg began during the Civil War, ending July 4 with a Union victory.

In 1896, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, endorsed "separate but equal" racial segregation, a concept renounced 58 years later by *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*.

In 1910, Halley's Comet passed by earth, brushing it with its tail.

In 1911, composer-conductor Gustav Mahler died in Vienna, Austria, at age 50.

In 1920, Pope John Paul II was born Karol Wojtyła (voy-TEE'-wah) in Wadowice (vah-duh-VEET'-seh), Poland.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure creating the Tennessee Valley Authority.

In 1934, Congress approved, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed, the so-called "Lindbergh Act," providing for the death penalty in cases of interstate kidnapping.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces occupied Monte Cassino in Italy after a four-month struggle with Axis troops.

In 1953, Jacqueline Cochran, 47, became the first woman to break the sound barrier as she piloted a Canadair F-86 Sabre jet over Rogers Dry Lake, California.

In 1967, Tennessee Gov. Buford Ellington signed a measure repealing the law against teaching evolution that was used to prosecute John T. Scopes in 1925.

In 1973, Harvard law professor Archibald Cox was appointed Watergate special prosecutor by U.S. Attorney General Elliot Richardson.

In 1981, the New York Native, a gay newspaper, carried a story concerning rumors of "an exotic new disease" among homosexuals; it was the first published report about what came to be known as AIDS.

Ten years ago: Grilled by skeptical lawmakers, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar acknowledged his agency had been lax in overseeing offshore drilling activities, and that might have contributed to the disastrous oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. A suicide bomber detonated his vehicle near a U.S. convoy in Afghanistan, killing 18 people, including six troops [-] five from the U.S., one from Canada. Following a 2009 party switch, Sen. Arlen Specter was defeated in Pennsylvania's Democratic primary, ending his re-election bid.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama ended long-running federal transfers of some combat-style gear to local law enforcement in an attempt to ease tensions between police and minority communities, saying equipment made for the battlefield should not be a tool of American criminal justice. An 11-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco said a three-

member panel of the same court should not have forced YouTube to take down an anti-Muslim film that sparked violence in the Middle East and death threats to actors.

One year ago: American diplomats warned that commercial airliners flying over the Persian Gulf risked being targeted by “miscalculation or misidentification” from the Iranian military amid heightened tensions between the Islamic Republic and the U.S. (A Ukrainian jetliner would be accidentally shot down by Iran’s Revolutionary Guard eight months later, killing 176 people) After being bumped and interfered with in the Kentucky Derby, which led to the disqualification of first-place Derby finisher Maximum Security, War of Will bounced back to win the Preakness Stakes in Baltimore.

Today’s Birthdays: Actress Priscilla Pointer is 96. Actor Robert Morse is 89. Actor Dwayne Hickman is 65. Baseball Hall of Famer Brooks Robinson is 82. Actress Candice Azzara is 79. Bluegrass singer-musician Rodney Dillard (The Dillards) is 78. Baseball Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson is 74. Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., is 72. Country singer Joe Bonsall (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 72. Rock musician Rick Wakeman (Yes) is 71. Rock singer Mark Mothersbaugh (Devo) is 70. Actor James Stephens is 69. Country singer George Strait is 68. Actor Chow Yun-Fat is 65. International Tennis Hall of Famer Yannick Noah is 60. Rock singer-musician Page Hamilton is 60. Contemporary Christian musician Barry Graul (MercyMe) is 59. Contemporary Christian singer Michael Tait is 54. Singer-actress Martika is 51. Comedian-writer Tina Fey is 50. Rock singer Jack Johnson is 45. Country singer David Nail is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer Darryl Allen (Mista) is 40. Actor Matt Long is 40. Actor Allen Leech is 39. Christian-rock musician Kevin Huguley (Rush of Fools) is 38. Christian singer Francesca Battistelli is 35. Actor Spencer Breslin is 28. Actress Violet Beane is 24. Actress Hala Finley is 11.

Thought for Today: “Never do anything you wouldn’t want to explain to the paramedics.” [-] Author unknown.

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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