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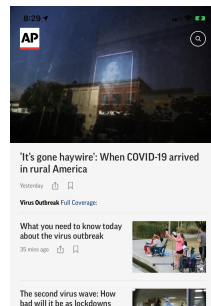
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Connecting May 22, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 22nd day of May 2020,

Today's Connecting brings sad news of the death of **Bill Keating**, who served on the AP's board of directors for 15 years and was its chairman from 1987 to 1992.

As noted in our lead story for the wire by colleague **Dan Sewell**, Keating retained "a great affinity" for The AP and its people, and in 2008 took chairmanship of the **AP Emergency Relief Fund**, helping build a pool of donations to help staffers and their families who suffer losses at home because of disasters or conflicts. He led a fundraising drive that increased the fund by more than five-fold.

“There’s something about the AP. It gets in your blood,” Keating said in a 2005 interview with AP senior vice president **Kelly Tunney** . “Even as a non-AP person but being on the board and being exposed to the people of the AP, it’s one of the great experiences that you have in your life. They’re dedicated people. They come from all types of backgrounds. They really are in the service. ... I’ve been involved with a lot of different organizations, and this is special.”



Lou Boccardi , former AP president and CEO, said, “Bill embodied the adage, ‘Just do the right thing.’ He preached it but, more importantly, he lived it. For all his accomplishments, he was at heart a quiet, modest man but he brought a firm hand to decision-making. He wasn't fond of giving grandiose speeches. (Or listening to them, either.) His style was to listen, try to judge fairly and then point the way to the right solution. He was also fun to be with, a man of principle who was not above being playful.”

Keating’s granddaughter **Liz Keating** posted on Twitter that she recently asked him what he wanted as his legacy. He replied: “I hope people will say I had faith in the common man.”

GRADUATION: More responses in today’s issue to our call to the parents and grandparents among you to share a photo of your new graduate, high school or college. With social distancing from COVID-19 disrupting most all graduation ceremonies, I thought it would be one more way to celebrate their achievement in a different way. Send along a photo with a brief description of anything done unusually to celebrate their graduation.



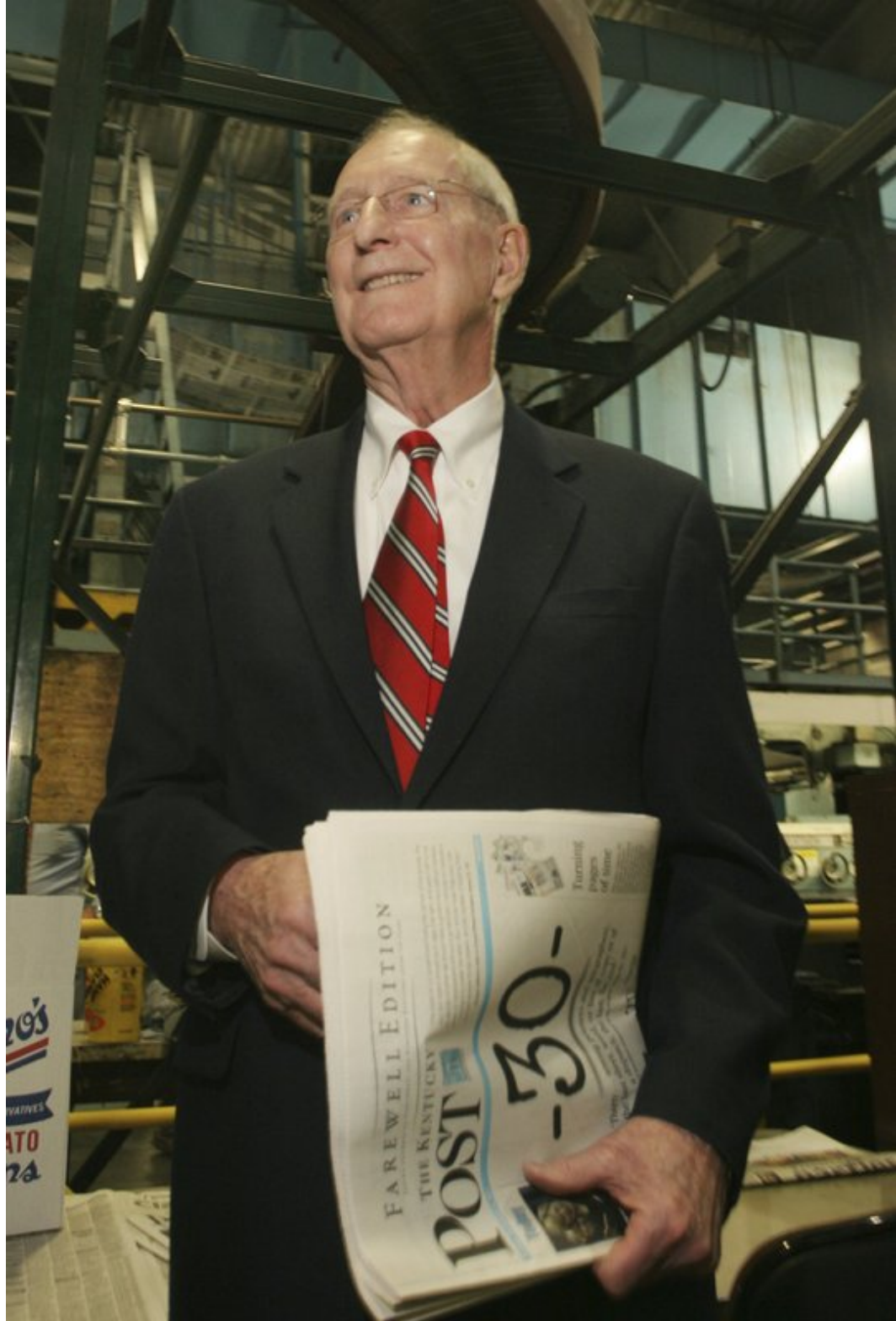
AP GROUND GAME : Artists and writers from Edgar Allan Poe to Stephen King have long turned to pandemics as a source of creative inspiration. In this episode of “Ground Game,” AP book and publishing reporter Hillel Italie explains why plagues prove such fertile ground for the artist’s imagination.

Listen [here](#) .

Have a great Memorial Day weekend – be safe, stay healthy, keep optimistic!

Paul

News executive, ex-US Rep William Keating remembered warmly



FILE - In this Dec. 31, 2007 file photo, William Keating, former Cincinnati Enquirer publisher, holds one of the final Kentucky Post newspapers off the press in Cincinnati. (AP Photo/Tom Uhlman, File)

By DAN SEWELL

CINCINNATI (AP) — Bill Keating is remembered widely as gentlemanly, considerate and modest. Underneath that genial exterior was a fiercely competitive and driven athlete, lawyer, politician and news executive.

He was highly successful in all those fields.

Keating, who died Wednesday at age 93, was an all-state swimmer at St. Xavier High School and captained the University of Cincinnati swim team. He helped build a law practice from scratch into a major firm, and rose quickly from municipal judge to Republican congressman. Then he used his political skills and business entrepreneurship to become a prominent news industry executive for The Cincinnati Enquirer, Gannett Co. and The Associated Press over three decades.

“Some people are driven and it just pours out of them,” said Louis D. Boccardi, former president and CEO of The Associated Press, which Keating chaired in 1987-’92. “In Bill’s case, he had a very quiet, very controlled, modest exterior. But there was no doubt about his objectives.”

Read more [here](#) .

Recognizing our new graduates



**Maggie Delehanty at the University of Cincinnati's Nippert Stadium.
(Photo by Melissa Heise)**

Eva Parziale ([Email](#)) - My daughter, Maggie Delehanty, graduated from the University of Cincinnati this month with a degree in marketing and public relations. UC promises to conduct a graduation ceremony at a later date, but we went ahead and celebrated – how else? – by Zoom with family members in California, complete with Prosecco toasts and a 2-minute video highlighting Maggie's four years at UC, produced by our older daughter Kelsey. We celebrated a second time – again, via Zoom – with Maggie's cousin, Jack, who graduated from the University of Kansas. Maggie and Jack are job hunting, like so many of their peers, and are remarkably upbeat. As Maggie said in a Facebook post: "While my senior year didn't play out as expected, it doesn't change that these past four years have been the most impactful of my life. ... The people I've met, opportunities I've had and challenges I've faced have allowed me to grow into who I am today, who I think freshman Maggie would be very proud of." Needless to say, Dan and I couldn't be more proud of her, her accomplishments and her optimism during this most unusual time.



Edward Seaton ([Email](#)) - Eleanor Badeker graduated from Wabaunsee High School and was among 34 graduates honored last weekend. Click [here](#) to see how the graduates were honored Covid style. She is the granddaughter of my brother David Seaton, who died April 18. Eleanor's mother is David's daughter Liz Seaton who is the curator of the Beach Museum here in Manhattan. Liz was once a feature writer at the Kansas City Star. Liz's

husband Andy Badeker was once a copy editor at the Star and later at the Chicago Tribune.

Remembering Paul Vathis

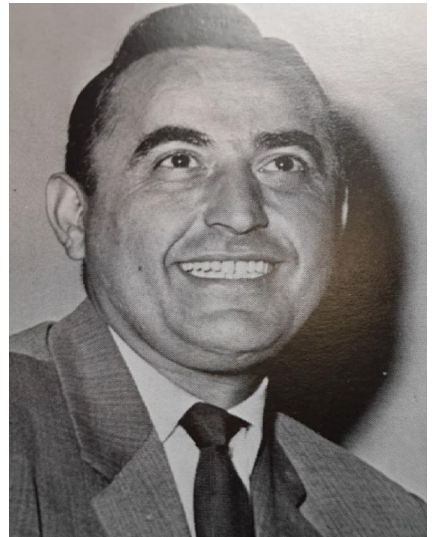
Rich Kirkpatrick ([Email](#)) - I am new to Connecting and plan to offer some remembrances in coming weeks based on a treasure trove of photos I have from my days at AP - Harrisburg between 1973 and 1996.

These will be a pale comparison to the War Stories column that the late Philly COB George Zucker used to produce weekly for readers across Pennsylvania. For the most part, I will try to pay tribute to the wonderful people I worked with at AP.

Any such endeavor must start with AP Photographer **Paul Vathis**, who sadly passed away on Dec. 9, 2002 (while still working for AP at age 77). He was amazing. Here is the story about him that I wrote for the 100th anniversary book of the Pennsylvania Legislative Correspondents Association in 1996:

When it comes to images from the Capitol, nobody captured them better or for as long as Associated Press photographer Paul Vathis.

A World War II combat photographer, Vathis joined AP in Philadelphia in January 1946, later transferred to Pittsburgh and arrived in Harrisburg on election day 1950. He had been sent to Harrisburg for a number of temporary assignments, including the state Farm Show and gubernatorial inauguration, but then his bosses advised him to stay on. He took them seriously and in 1996 celebrated his 50th anniversary with AP at his familiar stand, the wire service's Capitol Bureau.



Along the way, Vathis covered presidents, governors, lawmakers and others who wandered across the public stage. His photos depicted the range of the human experience -- from spirit-soaring glory to life-ending ruination. He won journalism's highest honor, the Pulitzer Prize in 1962, and was a finalist for a second one in 1987.



The genesis of the 1962 Pulitzer went back to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who, during his White House years, made Gettysburg his permanent home, meaning almost endless weekend work for Vathis. Every Friday, he would pack his darkroom gear into his car and head for Gettysburg, to be ready for any photo possibilities involving the President.

Vathis came to know the Eisenhowers well and in AP's mind, his long tenure covering the President established him as one of the photographers to call on for Eisenhower coverage. As a result, he was the wire service's number two

press photographer on the White House detail and traveled with the President extensively.

In 1961, after John F. Kennedy had succeeded Eisenhower, the young president called his predecessor for a consultation about the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. Eisenhower suggested that they meet at Camp David in the Catoctin Mountains of Maryland, a hideaway named for Eisenhower's grandson. Vathis was among the media crew that covered the April 22, 1961 meeting. After the standard group photo, Kennedy's press secretary, Pierre Salinger, told the camera people, "OK boys, put the lid on," meaning the cameras were to be put away. The Secret Service moved in to seal off the area. Vathis, having heard Ike tell Kennedy, "I know a place ...," turned to see the two men walking down a pathway toward a wooded area. "They looked so lonely walking up the path," Vathis later recalled. He dropped to one knee, pointed his camera with its long lens at their backs. A Secret Service man whom Vathis knew well was in the way. "Move, Moose," Vathis yelled. The man moved, and Vathis snapped one shot through Moose's legs and another around them. Salinger snapped, "I said, no more pictures," but Kennedy and Ike were already imprinted on film, and Vathis said he was just wrapping up.

Back down the mountain, in a motel where AP had set up a makeshift photo bureau, Pennsylvania Photo Editor Bill Achatz notified New York of Vathis' unusual shot. The New York editors, noting that a number of Kennedy-Eisenhower photos had already moved on the photo network, told Achatz they didn't want another one. But Achatz, a tough, seasoned AP veteran who served in posts around the world for the news cooperative, insisted. "He had to push to move it," Vathis said later. The shot of the lonely leaders on a forlorn-looking day discussing one of the Cold War's defining moments is now Vathis' most famous picture, earning him the Pulitzer Prize. Vathis has framed letters from both presidents praising him for his work and saying they were glad to be part of his prize-winning work.

Typically, Vathis was in the Capitol newsroom's card room on May 7, 1962, the day he found out the news.

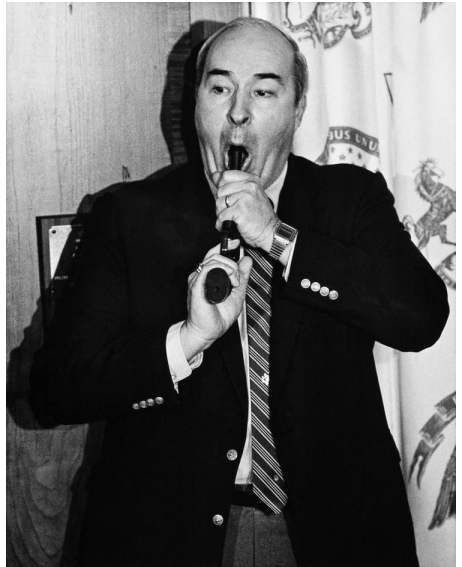
"I was playing hearts when New York called and said to get a head shot taken of myself," he recalled. "I told them I was busy, and they said to get a head shot taken right away. The Pulitzer was being announced and they thought I had won."

Vathis found Phadrig "Pat" Cahill, the United Press International photographer and his competitor at the Capitol. Cahill took the head shot that was used to publicize the rival wire service's photographer. Vathis had joined the

Pennsylvania Legislative Correspondents' Association early in 1961, even though he had already been AP's Harrisburg photographer for a decade. The first photographer admitted to membership, also from AP, had been Achatz in 1947, but then PLCA changed its by-laws and barred photographers. When it reversed the policy again, Vathis became a member, shortly before taking his famous photo.

State Treasurer R. Budd Dwyer, a good-natured, bear of a man, was also a big Vathis fan and delighted in telling people the AP photographer would certainly win a second Pulitzer some day. Strangely and tragically, Dwyer himself came close to making that prediction come true.

Dwyer fell from grace with his involvement in a reputed bribery conspiracy scheme to trade campaign contributions for favorable treatment of a state contract. Despite insisting on his innocence, Dwyer was convicted in federal court and feared a long sentence from a tough federal judge in Williamsport. The day before his sentencing in January 1987, Dwyer scheduled a news conference, widely believed at the time to be a resignation announcement. Dwyer had his press aide call Vathis at home the night before to make sure Vathis would attend. Vathis was up front in the Treasurer's Office the next morning for the rambling press conference. When it looked as though reporters were losing interest and about to leave, Dwyer picked up a large manila envelope and pulled a large revolver from it. After waving off observers who looked as though they were trying to move in on Dwyer, he put the gun in his mouth and pulled the trigger. Vathis, who had known Dwyer for years, kept his eye trained through the viewfinder and his finger on the shutter. "My mind was just on taking the shots," he said later. "Whatever happened, I wanted it on the film." When Dwyer's body slumped to the floor, Vathis jumped off the chair he was standing on and moved around Dwyer's desk for a final shot of his body lying on the floor and his press aide, Duke Hershock, standing over him looking at Vathis. On his way to the darkroom, Vathis said, he felt "a little shock. I didn't know what I had shot." Vathis' steady hand under extreme conditions won him wide acclaim. His dramatic photos of the Dwyer suicide, some of which were so graphic as to provoke controversy among readers of the newspapers that published them, were among the finalists for the Pulitzer, but were not ultimately selected.

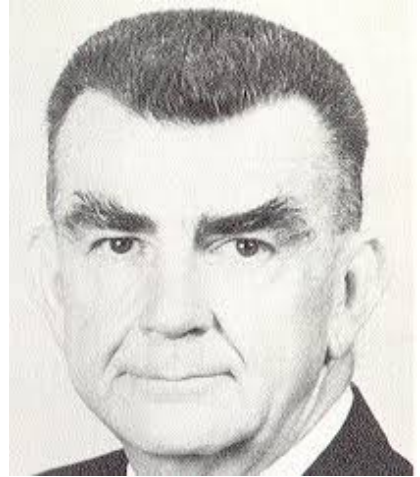


After serving half a century with AP, Vathis celebrated his longevity by doing what came naturally: working. He had no plans for retirement. "There is always something new," he said. "It's the kind of job that keeps you going."

Wes Gallagher before the AP

Doug Daniel ([Email](#)) - A friend from the AP asked me after I spent an afternoon with Wes Gallagher, "Does he still have those nuclear eyebrows?"

Of course he did. It was December 1991 and I was in graduate school at Ohio University and researching an entry on Gallagher's life and career for the Dictionary of Literary Biography. Having worked in the Kansas City bureau for most of the 1980s I was pleased that the AP wasn't being overlooked as a source of significant journalists.



The eyebrows were the only thing "nuclear" about the few hours I enjoyed with the retired AP chief at his home in Santa Barbara, Calif. He was gracious if business-like, pleasant if not warm, and completely open to my queries. While no joke-teller, he saw the irony in the twists and turns of time. There was no doubt that he was a kindred spirit, a fellow AP veteran who had stumbled into journalism and discovered it would be at the center of his life's work.

Gallagher's wire-service career has been noted elsewhere in Connecting. His pre-AP background sounds much like that of journalists I've known in my generation. Early on he came to see journalism as a public service.

Journalism did not run in the Gallagher family; his father, who died in the 1918 flu epidemic when his son was 6 or 7, was a barber. Raised along the central California coast, young Wes played high school football in Watsonville and found satisfaction in writing for the school paper. He was a stringer for the sports pages of the Watsonville daily before graduating in 1929. When a broken bone ended his football scholarship at what is today the University of San Francisco, he became a stringer for the local Daily News.

The Depression ended his journalism studies, but he kept reporting as sports editor for the Watsonville daily -- a job that also required him to serve as the paper's janitor. He made extra money working in the orchards of Santa Cruz, for the local YMCA and in WPA jobs. By 1934 he had enough saved to return to college, this time at Louisiana State University.

Louisiana was far away from the Monterey Bay area, which appealed to Gallagher's wanderlust, and governor-turned-U.S. senator Huey Long promised a lively beat. He worked part-time at a Baton Rouge paper, delivered a noon newscast on the paper's radio station, and was a stringer for the International News Service when the legislature met.

Gallagher's first big story -- there would be many others, such as the Normandy invasion and the Nuremberg trials -- came in 1935 while he was in college. Sen. Long was visiting the Capitol and walked past Gallagher. Moments later gunshots echoed in the hallways. For several days Gallagher had little sleep as he covered the assassination, Long's failing health and death, and his funeral.

A year later Gallagher's postgraduate job at a Rochester, N.Y., paper led to the AP bureau in Buffalo in 1937. He had decided the wire service offered the best opportunity to become a foreign correspondent. Two years in Buffalo initiated Gallagher to the ways of the AP, ways that were changing under Kent Cooper, the general manager who brought the AP into a more modern era.

Gallagher did become a foreign correspondent, then a war correspondent, a bureau chief and an AP executive. As the new general manager in 1962, he continued the AP's expansion and guided its evolution in an increasingly electronic age.

I still have a brief note from Gallagher, written after I had sent him a page proof of my biographical essay. It sounded like the person I had enjoyed spending the afternoon with, straightforward and thoughtful. It closed, "The writing was clear and well done." Gallagher knew there was no higher praise for an AP staffer.

Postscript: Several years later I was doing research at the Eisenhower Library and came across a file of correspondence with Gallagher, whom the president had known personally during the war years. My subject was the behind-the-scenes encouragement Eisenhower received from newspaper publishers and others in journalism while he pondered running for president in 1952. I copied that material and sent it to Gallagher. I thought he'd be particularly interested in

the cable congratulating him on the birth of his son. The note, below, gives a flavor of the lion in winter, who died not long afterward at age 86.

May 30

Dear Doug,

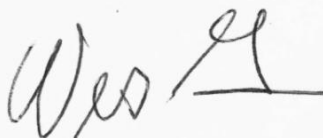
It was most thoughtful of you to send the Eisenhower correspondence which I did not keep. As you know news service types are always looking for the next story and they don't look much into the past. My son is visiting shortly and he will be interested. He is deputy editor of the editorial page of USA Today.

There was a lot of debate in the early 50's on whether Ike was drafted or was always running for the nomination. In 1946 when I was on home leave he asked me to write him about the political scene in the US. I also know he asked Teddy White to do the same. He had his eye on the White House for a long time and why not.

Too bad a man like him is not on the scene today.

Pardon the paper. My typewriter failed and this on the computer.

Many thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "West", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Remembering Karen Blumenthal

Tad Bartimus ([Email](#)) – Scott McCartney and I were members of the AP's first Regional Reporting Team, created in 1985. My territory was the Rocky Mountain region that extended west from the Mississippi River to Idaho's border with Washington State and south from the Canadian Border to Santa Fe, N.M. Scott McCartney's was the Southwest region.

Our territories shared overlapping cultural, ethnic, economic and environmental issues so we found ourselves teaming up a lot, and soon became working partners on "big issue" stories. The seven years Scott

and I collaborated -- 1985 to 1992 -- were the happiest of my professional life. It ultimately led his quick-witted, brilliant journalist wife Karen Blumenthal to introduce as "Scott's work wife." It remains a treasured compliment from a woman I deeply admired and came to love over the years the McCartney-Bartimus bylines were linked on AP wires.



Scott and I frequently traveled together to report stories -- "big" stories for AP Newsfeatures, or investigative, human interest and trend stories involving multiple states in our regions. Already respecting one another's strengths, I learned from Scott how to improve my weaknesses to be a better a reporter and writer. Like all reporting pairs who loved to chase and write "big" stories together and individually ferret out tips about small stories that, combined, would reveal greater ones, Scott and I were competitive workaholics whose families (in my case my husband, Dean Wariner, and in Scott's, his wife Karen and then-little girls Abby and Jenny) had to live our projects with us.

Scott worked with me at my base in Estes Park, Colorado, and I traveled to Dallas. We stayed in each other's guest rooms. We had understanding journalist spouses (Dean Wariner was a former newspaper editor who, in the last two years of Scott's and my collaboration, turned our home into a country inn!) who kept us supplied with healthy food and caffeine while also providing professional editing, fact-checking and sage advice on leads, kickers, libel laws and everything in-between.

When I was at the Blumenthal-McCartney house the hospitality was warm, the food fabulous, and Karen's and the kids' good humor a leavening of our intense work. Karen was many things, including a great cook. When Scott and I were down the rabbit hole writing/dictating/pacing in alternating shifts at the computer, Karen would appear with sandwiches, soup, or call us to a sit-down meal with a reminder to "take a break and it will come to you." When asked, she could shift instantly into copy editor /reporter mode, applying her sharp pencil (and mind) to our copy. She always improved it.

Karen (and Dean) not only helped us as editors and sustenance vendors, they gave spousal benediction to go at warp speed with our hair on fire when we

were working on "a big one." They understood our drive and intensity because they were fine journalists as well as parents, breakfast cooks, errand runners and bread winners. Neither Scott nor I could have done what we did together (he went on doing it for The Wall Street Journal, where he is now a columnist, when we left the AP at the same time) without the love and support of Dean and Karen. It is testimony to her generous spirit toward me that she several times introduced me as "Scott's work wife." It remains a treasured compliment.

Karen's sudden absence from this upside-down world has knocked me and probably hundreds of other friends flat. She was among the most accomplished, confident, funny, generous-hearted people I know (I cannot bear to write "known"). This funny, always organized, role-juggling woman with pizzazz was a roll-model mom who loved Abbe and Jenny beyond words.

From the time they met as Duke University freshmen, Karen was the perfect life partner for Scott. Equal partners in everything for 40 years, their love was grounded in mutual respect, religious faith, devotion to family, pride in the other's accomplishments. In the midst of this global maelstrom of pandemic grief, the loss of Karen Blumenthal has broken many hearts, Dean and mine among them.

Connecting mailbox

Initials and names

Michael Putzel ([Email](#)) - When a young upstart named Jonathan Wolman arrived in WX, he got tagged with a unique signer. Cognizant of his past as something of a student radical in college and an early adopter of women's right to liberation, someone in the bureau—I suspected his roommate and AP colleague Evans Witt—began referring to Wolman by the more politically correct Wolperson, and for years he accepted wolp, an abbreviation, as his message signer. Even as he rose through the ranks to chief of bureau, managing editor and executive editor, Jon's friends always referred to him as wolp. Jon died of cancer on April 15, 2019, at the helm as editor and publisher of The Detroit News—and still wolp to his many friends from AP-WX days.

I asked Evans if he would confirm the story, and he replied that he thought the idea actually originated with a young AP Radio newswoman named Amy Sabrin. Amy is now the roommate and wife of Evans Witt, both AP alums. But Evans added his own story. You would have to know, however, that during their

days sharing a house in Washington, Witt and Wolp referred to each other by Evans' given first name, George, and Wolman's middle name, Paley.

"There was a conference call with New York one day, with Wolman (as WX news editor) and me (as lowly reporter)," Evans wrote. "As I recall, LDB, Marty Sutphin and someone else were on the call in NY. Wolp and I disagreed on the story at hand and at one point, the conversation went something like this.

Wolman: 'George, you are just completely wrong on this.'

Witt: 'Paley, I am not the one who is wrong.'

"Dead silence from New York.

"After a long number of seconds of silence, the voice from New York intoned: 'Who the hell is George? Who the hell is Paley?'"

Thoughts on George Zucker

Tara Bradley-Steck ([Email](#)) - George was my friend, my mentor and, according to my husband, the best boss I ever had. He was a champion and cheerleader for his staff; and I will always cherish the advice, wisdom, care and concern he generously provided during the 14 years we worked together.

When people refer to the "end of an era," I always wonder "what era?" In the case of George, the era is the one in which journalists were true storytellers who spun not tall tales but rather all-too-true accounts of scoundrels and villains, politicians and potentates, gamblers and gadflies. George did so with panache, writing with a flair uniquely his own that even extended to his annual Christmas letters (written in proper journalistic style -- e.g. last name, age, city -- and with a hefty nod to AP style). George had thousands of stories, and we are all that much richer for his willingness and ability to share them with us. I pray his readership in the hereafter is equally appreciative.

-0-

An Indy 500 Bump Day Story from 42 years ago today- Sunday, May 21, 1978.



Bill Foley ([Email](#)) - The scene was chaos , with track security, journalists, mechanics, and race fans looking on as Driver Jim Hurtubise was being held back by track security.

Looking through my viewfinder on that day at the Indy 500, focusing while framing race car driver Jim Hurtubise, avoiding annoying distractions as he yells at Steward Tom Binford at the edge of the track. He had just been corralled by security after running on to the track when he was told he could not make a qualifying run. This was due to the fact that his front engine roadster had not gone fast enough during his practice runs.

42 years ago today, without a care in the world, I was doing what I loved to do, telling a story with a camera. When I knew I had the frame I wanted, I thought about getting the film back to the AP darkroom, and I could hear AP staff photographer Chuck Robinson's voice: "If you pull in your film leader, you'll spend the rest of the day in the darkroom"!. Thankfully, I did not pull in the leader.

To say things are different today, would be something of a massive understatement. There is no bump day, the Indy 500 has been postponed for

the first time in its over 100-year history, and some are worried that the August date may not happen if there is a new wave of infections, that would shut everything down again.

So, for a brief moment, in the middle of today's pandemic upheaval, I'll get in my little time machine to May of 1978, created by old negatives and prints, to a time when the world made sense and remember to not pull in the leader.

-0-

Are airlines getting smooth ride from media in Covid-19 era?

Bill Wertz ([Email](#)) - I've noticed something odd in the news recently and thought I'd seek a reality check from the pros in our group. Does it seem to anyone else that the airlines are getting a pretty smooth ride from the media on their approach to the coronavirus pandemic? I see numerous articles and critical commentary about owners of restaurants, beauty parlors, etc., who failed to observe social distancing guidelines, but not much about airlines packing passengers into metal tubes for hours only a foot or so apart. Once in a while there will be a story about a fight breaking out on a crowded flight or brief mention of someone's tweeted complaint about a flight they were on, but no real media follow-up. I've seen no vigorous challenge to airline statements that they "try" to keep middle seats open and space people out "when we can." I recall the CEO of Spirit Airlines saying something to the effect that (my words), we've had to cancel a lot of flights so naturally the remaining ones are going to be more crowded. I haven't flown lately, but I understand you have to stay six feet apart from others in the TSA line, but not after you board the plane! I've seen no stories about reporters going to the airports or checking airline records to see how many flights are full or close to capacity, although I've seen many articles about restaurants required to limit seating to 20% or 50% of their full occupancy limits. Congress and federal regulators also seem to be handling the airlines with kid gloves, although I did see a story that the chairman of the House Transportation Committee had "urged" airlines to keep passengers as separated as possible. United announced yesterday that it had partnered with Clorox to clean its planes between flights. But no promise to keep passengers six feet or even one seat apart on all flights. I have no animus toward the airline industry. I sympathize with the difficulty it and other industries are having. But as a news rat I would be interested in hearing from others on why airlines seem to be free of the scrutiny being given to others.

Salute to Mount St. Helens coverage

Cecilia White ([Email](#)) - I join in saluting this week's thoroughly engrossing coverage of a 40-year-old story, Mount St. Helens -- with fascinating new insights. I couldn't agree more, nor say it any better, than Chuck Lewis did in yesterday's (5/21) Connecting: John Brewer really kicked the slats out in his folo story in Wednesday's Connecting on the Karr family tragedy at Mt. St. Helen's. The combo pathos, journalism ethics, and the reporting that wrapped it together made a powerful impact 40 years later ... Salutes to John and his editor.

Press Pass Challenge – Two Months Later

Diana Heidgerd ([Email](#)) - It's been more than two months since I emailed AP Connecting editor Paul Stevens a note, on a whim, with the Press Pass Challenge. Click [here](#) .

My true intent was to provide Paul with a continuing offbeat feature to help him fill some of the space. About 1,500 of us get Paul's daily blog. I'm astonished at how much effort he donates to keep us informed, especially amid the continuing pandemic.

At my prodding, Paul earlier this month reluctantly shared with me that it's usually a three-hour effort each day for him to put together AP Connecting:

"You know well as a journalist that every story, and every newsletter, starts out with a blank page. 8 by 10 sheet of paper back in the day, a blank screen today," Paul wrote in an email.

Well said.

So thank you to everyone who bravely shared an early Press Pass for AP Connecting, with sometimes not so flattering photos but always great memories of journalistic lives well lived. And I especially thank those of you who emailed me with more comments about your early Press Pass stories,

including your sometimes shyness at sharing them but your eagerness to remember days gone by.

It always puts a smile on my face when another Press Pass turns up in AP Connecting. Keep them coming!

-0-

Journalism Merit Badges

JOURNALISM

MERIT BADGES



ON-THE-RECORD
ENFORCER



ELECTION NIGHT
PIZZA



FIVE-HOUR
CITY MEETING



WiFi HUNTER



COMMENT SECTION
SURVIVAL



AP STYLE
EXCELLENCE



TWITTER FIGHT



ONE DAY WITHOUT
CAFFEINE



DEADLINE
NINJA



BURED IN
PRESS RELEASES



FILED A STORY
IN MY CAR



ONE-MAN BAND



FREE LUNCH
DISCOVERY



FOIA REQUEST



OXFORD COMMA
DESTROYER



ANGRY READER
EVASION

Len Iwanski ([Email](#)) - Created by Sydney Cromwell, former managing editor at Starnes Publishing in Birmingham, Alabama.

Connecting sky shot – Beverly Beach, Oregon



Shared by Lee Siegel ([Email](#))

Colleague Robert Naylor among them **Report for America Taps Leading Journalists for New Regional Leadership Roles**

By SAM KILLE

Report for America is pleased to welcome five new corps excellence regional managers to its staff: Jason Blakeney, Sergio R. Bustos, Pam Fine, Teri Hayt

and Robert Naylor—combined, they bring more than a century of award-winning journalism experience to their new roles.

The group includes former leaders of professional organizations like the News Leaders Association and the Society of Professional Journalists; and multiple award recipients—to include Pulitzer Prize finalists. They will help the nonprofit program recruit and mentor its growing number of reporting corps members, strengthen newsroom relationships, and build partnerships with universities, journalism groups and other outlets.

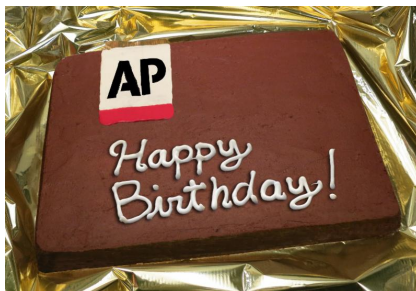


“I am overjoyed at the team that we have assembled for our very critical corps excellence regional manager positions.

Combined they bring more than 135 years of journalism and media training experience to the table,” said Alison Bethel McKenzie, director of corps excellence at Report for America. “Our corps members and participating newsrooms will have this knowledge and experience at their fingertips and Sergio, Teri, Pam, Robert and Jason will ensure that the Report for America program continues to grow and thrive and that our emerging journalists will continue to produce excellent work on under-covered communities and issues across the country, in effect strengthening local news.”

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



On Saturday to...

Bob Egelko - beigelko@sfchronicle.com

Chris Leonard - leonard.christopher@gmail.com

Dave Tomlin – dave.tomlin74@gmail.com

Jack Walker – jcwalker41@aol.com

The Final Word

Old newsboy with a new look



Paul Stevens ([Email](#)) – The newsboy in front of the St. Joseph (Missouri) News-Press – a longtime fixture outside the newspaper offices – has a new

look with a recently added face mask. My wife Linda snapped this photo Wednesday as we continued our Wednesday Getaway car trips during Covid-19 – exploring places new and old within an hour of home and finding new food spots – like the We Be Smokin' barbeque restaurant (carry out) at the Paola, Kansas, airport. Ollie, of course, accompanies us. A fun way to get out of the house.

Today in History - May 22, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, May 22, the 143rd day of 2020. There are 223 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 22, 1968, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Scorpion, with 99 men aboard, sank in the Atlantic Ocean. (The remains of the sub were later found on the ocean floor 400 miles southwest of the Azores.)

On this date:

In 1761, the first American life insurance policy was issued in Philadelphia to a Rev. Francis Allison, whose premium was six pounds per year.

In 1813, composer Richard Wagner (VAHG'-nur) was born in Leipzig, Germany.

In 1915, the Lassen Peak volcano in Northern California exploded, devastating nearby areas but causing no deaths.

In 1939, the foreign ministers of Germany and Italy, Joachim von Ribbentrop and Galeazzo Ciano, signed a “Pact of Steel” committing the two countries to a military alliance.

In 1960, an earthquake of magnitude 9.5, the strongest ever measured, struck southern Chile, claiming some 1,655 lives.

In 1962, Continental Airlines Flight 11, en route from Chicago to Kansas City, Missouri, crashed after a bomb apparently brought on board by a passenger exploded, killing all 45 occupants of the Boeing 707.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson, speaking at the University of Michigan, outlined the goals of his “Great Society,” saying that it “rests on abundance and liberty for all” and “demands an end to poverty and racial injustice.”

In 1992, after a reign lasting nearly 30 years, Johnny Carson hosted NBC’s “Tonight Show” for the final time (Jay Leno took over as host three days later).

In 1998, a federal judge ruled that Secret Service agents could be compelled to testify before the grand jury in the Monica Lewinsky investigation. Voters in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland turned out to cast ballots giving resounding approval to a Northern Ireland peace accord.

In 2011, a tornado devastated Joplin, Missouri, with winds up to 250 mph, claiming at least 159 lives and destroying about 8,000 homes and businesses.

In 2014, Thailand’s military seized power in a bloodless coup.

In 2017, a suicide bomber set off an improvised explosive device that killed 22 people at the end of an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England.

Ten years ago: Addressing graduating cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, President Barack Obama said the U.S. had to shape a world order as reliant on diplomacy as on the might of its military to lead, a repudiation of the go-it-alone approach forged by his predecessor, George W. Bush. An Air India Express Boeing 737-800 crashed after overshooting a runway at Mangalore International Airport, killing all but eight of the 166 people aboard.

Jordan Romero, at age 13, became the youngest climber to reach the peak of Mount Everest.

Five years ago: Ireland's citizens voted in a landslide to legalize gay marriage, with 62.1 percent saying "yes" to changing the nation's constitution to define marriage as a union between two people regardless of their gender. Mexican federal police got into a gunbattle with drug cartel suspects at a ranch in the western state of Michoacan (meech-wah-KAHN'); of the 43 people killed, all but one were suspected criminals, raising questions how the operation went down.

One year ago: President Donald Trump abruptly stalked out of a White House meeting with congressional leaders, declaring he would no longer work with Democrats unless they dropped all investigations in the aftermath of the special counsel's Trump-Russia report; House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she was praying for Trump and the nation. A tornado touched down in Jefferson City, Missouri, causing heavy damage but no deaths or injuries in the state capital, as severe weather swept across the state. Historical officials said researchers working in the murky waters of the northern Gulf Coast had located the wreck of the Gulf schooner Clotilda, the last ship known to have brought enslaved people from Africa to the United States.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Michael Constantine is 93. Conductor Peter Nero is 86. Actor-director Richard Benjamin is 82. Actor Frank Converse is 82. Former CNN anchor Bernard Shaw is 80. Actress Barbara Parkins is 78. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Tommy John is 77. Songwriter Bernie Taupin is 70. Actor-producer Al Corley is 65. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, is 63. Singer Morrissey is 61. Actress Ann Cusack is 59. Country musician Dana Williams (Diamond Rio) is 59. Rock musician Jesse Valenzuela is 58. Actor Mark Christopher Lawrence is 56. Former White House Press Secretary Jay Carney is 55. Rhythm-and-blues singer Johnny Gill (New Edition) is 54. Rock musician Dan Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 53. Actress Brooke Smith is 53. Actor Michael Kelly is 51. Model Naomi Campbell is 50. Actress Anna Belknap is 48. Actress Alison Eastwood is 48. Singer Donell Jones is 47. Actor Sean Gunn is 46. Actress A.J. Langer is 46. Actress Ginnifer Goodwin is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Vivian Green is 41. Actress Maggie Q is 41. Olympic gold medal speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno is 38. Actress Molly Ephraim (TV: "Last Man Standing") is 34. Tennis player Novak Djokovic is 33. Actress Anna Baryshnikov (TV: "Superior Donuts") is 28. Actress Camren (cq) Bicondova is 21.

Thought for Today: "Pride is an admission of weakness; it secretly fears all competition and dreads all rivals." [-] Bishop Fulton J. Sheen,

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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