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Connecting

June 23, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 23rd day of June 2020,

AP News staff paid tribute to the career of **John Bompengo** on Monday at the start of the daily global news meeting.

“Colleagues viewed a slideshow of his photography and those who worked with him spoke of a highly committed and brave man who was always on hand to help others, who had great technical prowess and whose loss has greatly saddened colleagues in the Kinshasa press community and beyond,” said **Gary Pruitt**, AP’s president and CEO, in an email to AP staff.

Bompengo, a freelance photographer and video journalist for AP for 16 years who covered



Congo's political turmoil and its battle against the Ebola virus, was hospitalized last week with COVID-19-like symptoms. His condition worsened suddenly on Friday and he passed away the following day. It was AP's second loss since the outbreak of the virus, following the death of business writer **Nick Jesdanun** in early April.

"AP's coverage of this pandemic continues and our focus on staff safety remains our top priority," Pruitt said. "I want to thank you again for your brave and excellent work."

For a little change of pace, I asked two of Connecting's nonagenarians for a Top 10 list of their favorite memories growing up. **Sister Donalda Kehoe**, best known to you as creator of acrostics and lover of typewriters, obliged with her list from her home in Iowa and so did **Gene Herrick**, an AP photographer whose assignments included the Korean War and the Civil Rights Movement, from his home in Virginia.

They issue a challenge to fellow Connecting nonagenarians and to octogenarians – you know who you are! – to share their own stories.

Enjoy, and have a great day – be safe and stay healthy.

Paul

Memories are made of this...

Sister Donalda Kehoe ([Email](#)) – who turned 93 this past February 3:

My childhood memories begin at age four when my family moved to 1029 Lincoln Street in Waterloo, Iowa. Parents bought or rented houses close to the parish-school within walking distance. Consequently, everyone knew their neighbors well.

The lady next door to us kids named "Old Lady Yoo-Hoo" because when she'd walk through the back door that's how she would announce her presence to borrow a cup of something.

Empty coffee cans were just right for playing in the sandbox with Charlotte Stowell, and for the more noisy practice of playing "kick the can" down the street.

Everyone learned how to walk on stilts, to roller skate, to swing a bucket full of water without spilling it; we climbed trees and harvested (uninvited) neighborhood apple trees;; we imitated but didn't condone the gangsters of that time: Al Capone, John Dillinger, Pretty Boy Floyd. And we respected and imitated cowboys like Gene Autry, Buck Jones, and the All-American Boy, Jack Armstrong whose program came over the radio.



The State Theater on East Fourth Street was crowded Saturday mornings when a special showing of Tarzan, the Ape Man, was featured. A buffalo nickel would get you in, otherwise the price was a dime! We came out of the theater well versed in jungle living and how to pound one's chest for expressing the great Tarzan call.

A rite of passage was to be able to walk barefoot over the ashes spread out over the alley way, but higher yet was the honor given to anyone able to walk through sandburs.

I played with dolls and paper dolls; while the entire country was mesmerized with Shirley Temple, I found her too much to imitate but I liked her paper dolls. Along with those of the Dionne Quintuplets.

Already then I liked the printed word, and read every newspaper and magazine that came into our house. Both papers and I spread across the parlor floor while I learned by heart every poem I came across.

Mothers patronized the ice men and the fruit men whose trucks came down the street some mornings to make their wares available. Now, we kids really never stole anything, but sometimes we'd find a way to put some pieces of fruit at the edge of the truck bed, figuring they would fall off as the truck lurched forward. We neighborhood kids played games in the evening after supper-group games we'd learned during physical education classes in school. Little kids broke away when the streetlights came, leaving the older ones to enjoy themselves. An old cliché, but in our safe and sheltered life, the entire "village" automatically contributed to raising us kids.

This is my story and I'm sticking to it. – Sister Donald.

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Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) – who will be 94 on July 26:

I love memories, and thank God I still can recall a lot for my age of one month short of my 94th birthday.

I remember:

My father telling some house painters at our home in New York to not leave the black paint out, or else Gene (age 4-5) will paint the house. They didn't, and I did.



"Helping" my father work on the engine of his car (age 5).

I was third backup "catcher" during a baseball game when I was 5. The batter hit the ball, but it came straight backwards, past the real catcher, and the backup catcher, and then hit me in the head.

We lived in Yonkers, in a duplex, with eight rooms. We had some spare bedrooms, and rented them to jockeys during horse racing season at the track some one block away. One time, one of the jockeys took me on a tour of the track. Age: 6.

My father using the car to pull me, and a couple of other kids, on our sleds, up the hill so we didn't have to walk.

A kid next door (a chubby bully) took my ice cream cone away from me and then ate it. My father talked to me to stand up to the bully, and fight back. A few days later the kid approached me again, with a snarly look. I took my ice cream cone and hit him in the face with it, and then a blow to his middle. The kid was startled and backed off. Ah Ha!

Sitting on our stoop with mother, dad, and our aged upstairs neighbor and owner. They decided they needed a beer, so, with a little metal bucket, I walked about 40 yards to "Fell's Sandwich and beer building (It had rope-lifted side boards where they took, and filled, orders, usually for attendees at the race track across the street.

I watched while Mr. Schultz (upstairs occupant, and owner) and my father make wine (Including the ladies stomping on the grapes in a big round container.

I was in bed with pneumonia (age 7) when my mother and father came in with a bicycle (my first), lifted me out of bed, placed me on the bike for a few moments, and then lifted me back in bed.

My father would drive me to Sunday School, drop me off, then proceed to a nearby bar. He would later pick me up. This one Sunday, he didn't show up, so I walked home, and across a big, dangerous, highway, and on home. My mother questioned me in a panic. She was thankful I was safe, but really upset that my father didn't pick me up.

One night, when I was 7 ½ years old, I got up in the middle of the night and walked out to a sunroom. The moon was shining in a window, and cast light on a casket, and flowers. Inside was my dead father. No one had told me of his passing. I have never forgotten this experience.

Connecting mailbox

Trump's return home



It was an image that drew much comment - the photo taken early Sunday morning by AP photographer Patrick Semansky of President Donald Trump returning to the White House from a campaign rally in Tulsa after stepping off of Marine One. In a Facebook

post, Connecting colleague David Kennerly, himself a Pulitzer Prize winner, called it a Pulitzer-caliber picture that documents the beginning of the end of Trump's presidency. Atlantic staff writer David A. Graham wrote that "Coming home from Tulsa, the intensely image-conscious president no longer looked like a winner."

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A haircut, bushy eyebrows – and Conrad Fink

John Willis ([Email](#)) - To Ye Olde Editor: After our email exchange with regards to getting a haircut during these difficult times, I joked afterwards to a friend that my barber trimmed all nine hairs on my head and my eyebrows, which had gotten a little bushy since I had not been to the barber in three months.

It reminded me of recent Wes Gallagher stories in Connecting, and his trademark eyebrows. I never got to meet Gallagher personally, but I did get to meet Conrad Fink, the VP for newspaper membership, and his eyebrows were every bit as noticeable as Gallagher's.

Fink had a long and distinguished career with The AP, and went on to become an executive vice president with Park Communications, Inc. The Park Foundation is often noted on PBS, where it still helps fund many programs. The Park group was one of The AP's largest members back in the day, owning many newspapers and broadcast stations.

Fink left Park to become a professor at The University of Georgia's Grady School of Journalism. It should be noted that he authored several books on journalism ranging from sports writing to management style.



While attending a Georgia Broadcasters convention at UGA about 25 years ago, I got to meet the legendary Fink on a personal level as he hosted a breakout session on journalism. At that time I was the AP broadcast executive for Florida and south Georgia, but I remembered well a session he addressed in 1974 in Omaha, where I was the AP news editor.

He came to address members of the Nebraska AP Managing Editors Association, and while we were introduced I did not get to talk with him because he was there for the members.

Fink spent nearly 30 years at UGA before his death (prostate cancer) in 2012.

I Googled him and came across [this YouTube video](#) of his comments from 2009 on what we now know as social media, and on how one needs to work to stay informed.

The eyebrows stand out, of course, but listen to what he says. Having leaders like Gallagher, Fink, Keith Fuller, Lou Boccardi and all the bureau chiefs I worked for, made my years with The AP the most meaningful of my life.

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Racing and bunions – a book

Dick Lipsey ([Email](#)) - Here is a book review that might be of interest, from the newsletter of the American Trail-Running Association. The book is a recent release that I edited but have no further financial interest in.

Race Across America: Eddie Gardner and the Great Bunion Derbies, by Charles B. Kastner. Syracuse University Press, 2020. Reviewed by trail runner Laura Clark for the spring 2020 edition of our Trail Times newsletter. Laura is an avid mountain, trail and snowshoe runner who lives in Saratoga Springs, NY, where she is a children's librarian.

I initially learned of the Great Bunion Derbies of 1928 and 1929 when I read C.C. Pyle's Amazing Foot Race by Geoff Williams where he documents the first transcontinental run across America. Intrigued, I later read Tom McNab's fictional account, Flanagan's Run. Charles Kastner's impeccably researched volume adds a further layer of complexity. ...

Kastner's take on the journey, however, focuses on an overlooked aspect of the experience: at a time when racial discrimination was a fact of life, there were actually five African Americans enrolled in the 1928 landmark integrated sporting event, the most promising being Eddie Gardner, a Seattle-based amateur runner. As if things weren't tough enough for any of the participants, the Route 66 based journey took these men through Southern states firmly entrenched in the grip of Jim Crow. Click [here](#) to read more.

This is the third and last of Kastner's books on the Bunion Derbies. The others were separate books on the 1928 and 1929 races. I also edited the volume on the 1929 race. All three are available through Barnes and Noble and Amazon and some local bookstores.

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What Had I Done?

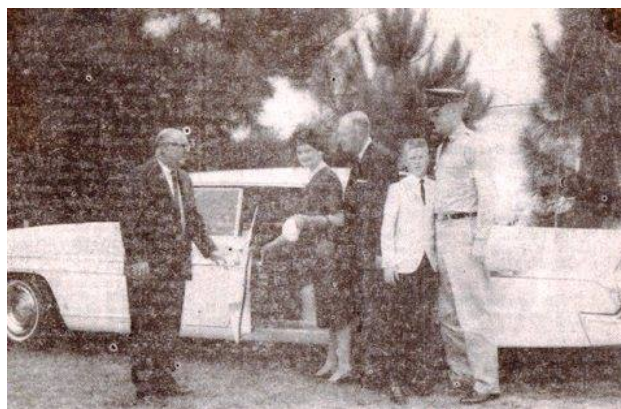
Charles Richards ([Email](#)) - In the summer of 1964, 56 years ago this month -- four months after completing college, as planned -- I left my job with UPI in Albuquerque to report to Fort Polk, La., for basic training in the Army.

A month later, halfway through my eight weeks at the base, I was called out of rifle practice one morning to meet with the commanding officer of our 200-man company. I didn't have a clue why. As I was being driven in a Jeep from the rifle range back to our company, I wondered, "What is this about? What am I in trouble for?"

Our company was one comprised almost totally of recent college graduates, and I was told I was selected to represent Fort Polk for an annual "Tourists of the Year" promotion by the nearby community of Deridder, La. -- IF my family would agree to make the 600-mile trip from their home in West Texas, where my father was a weekly newspaper publisher.

I called them, and they said yes.

A week later, my parents and younger brother picked me up at the base. During the short drive to Deridder, we were "intercepted" -- supposedly at random -- by officials with the DeRidder Chamber of Commerce.



We rode into town with the mayor and ended up at a city-wide luncheon at the civic center, where we were feted and presented with a huge number of gifts.

Included was a free night at a Deridder motel; after four weeks of "lights out" at 9 p.m., I was ready to go to bed earlier than anyone else.

The next morning, I was back on the base, as my life returned to basic training normal.

"Normal" took on a whole different meaning a couple of weeks later, in the first week of August 1964. Halfway around the world, the Destroyer USS Mattox fired three warning shots in the Gulf of Tonkin at three North Vietnamese Navy torpedo boats, which replied with torpedoes and machine gunfire. The United States used the incident to justify its entry into the Vietnam War. Somehow, I went through my six years of Army Reserve without being called up.

In September 1964, I began four months of "advanced basic training" as a "Communications Center Specialist" with the Signal Corps at Fort Gordon, Ga. In addition to several hours of cryptography I typed a couple of hours a day on teletype machines like the ones I had used -- and would continue to use -- as a wire service newsman.

In December, 1964, my active military assignment ended, followed by 5-plus years of annual two-week summer camp plus monthly weekend reserve meetings with Army Reserve at units in Dallas, Austin, Lubbock, Little Rock and New York City while working at UPI bureaus through 1970.

Shown in the picture above are my father (Afton Richards) and mother (Mary Richards) and little brother (Larry Richards). I was 23 in this picture, and my brother was 11. (The picture is grainy because it is a picture of a newspaper clipping.)

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On Hoffa phone details

Owen Ullmann ([Email](#)) - I stand corrected on the Hoffa phone details provided in the June 19 Connecting by Bob Dobkin, a great reporter who apparently has a better memory than I. He was a mentor of mine at the AP and helped me adjust to my move in 1977 to the Washington Bureau, where he worked at the time.

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Tallahassee correspondents



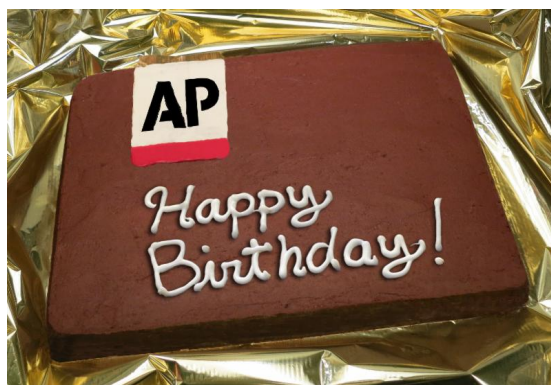
Brent Kallestad ([Email](#)) - Some AP history dating back to FDR days in this photo taken on the opening of AP's new Tallahassee digs in the spring of 1987.

L-to-R (back) Jere Moore, John Van Gieson, Bill Gibson, Malcolm Johnson, David Powell, and then Miami CoB Gary Clark.

L-to-R (front) Allen Morris, Hendricks Chandler and Brent Kallestad.

Moore, Gibson, Johnson, Morris and Chandler are deceased. John, David, Gary and I now all live in Tallahassee

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Ike Flores – ikeflores@msn.com

Stories of interest

US moves to restrict Chinese media outlets as 'propaganda'

By BEN FOX

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration added four Chinese media outlets Monday to a list of organizations that should be considered “foreign missions” because of their ties to the government and the Communist Party, a move that could force some to cut staff in the U.S. and is likely to further aggravate relations between the two countries.

State Department officials said the four organizations, including state-run CCTV, would be required to submit a list of everyone who works for them in the U.S. and any real estate holdings just as they would if they were foreign embassies or consulates.

None are being ordered to leave the U.S. and no limits on their activities were announced. But five other Chinese organizations were directed to cap the number of people who could work in the United States in March — a month after they were designated as foreign missions.

State Department officials said the organizations are essentially mouthpieces for the Communist Party and Chinese government, not legitimate news outlets.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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Tennessee newspaper investigating ‘horrific’ end of times ad

By JOHN RABY, Associated Press

A Tennessee newspaper said Sunday it is investigating what its editor called a “horrific” full-page advertisement from a religious group that predicts a terrorist attack in Nashville next month.

The paid advertisement that appeared in Sunday’s editions of The Tennessean from the group Future For America claims Donald Trump “is the final president of the USA” and features a photo of Trump and Pope Francis. It begins by claiming that a nuclear device would be detonated in Nashville and that the attack would be carried out by unspecified interests of “Islam.”

The group also ran a full-page ad in Wednesday’s editions of the newspaper stating its intention to warn Nashville residents about next month’s event “so that they may be able to make a decision intelligently.”

In a story on its website Sunday afternoon, The Tennessean said the ad violated the newspaper’s long-established standards banning hate speech.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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Double Take (Washington Post Magazine)



Photographer Lucian Perkins's view from a jeep in the Panjshir Valley of Afghanistan in 2001. "Before I arrived in Afghanistan," Perkins says, "I was in Moscow, where a friend, who served in the Soviet army in Afghanistan during their occupation in the 1980s, warned me how foolish America was to go to war with Afghanistan, where the mountainous regions ... like the Panjshir Valley and the fighting skills of the Afghans have befuddled invaders since Alexander the Great."

By Lucian Perkins

Nothing is as it seems. That's what I realized with growing apprehension as the beautiful, sunny day turned suddenly into a nightmarish blizzard. We were on horseback 14,000 feet up in the mountains of Afghanistan, and I quickly tucked my camera away to protect it. I was now too cold to take pictures and balance myself on my horse, where one slip could have easily plunged me thousands of feet below. Along with two other journalists, I was on my way to cover a war that was about to engulf the region, stemming from the attack on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon six weeks earlier. Our lives were at the mercy of fate and in the hands of Afghan guides we had met the night before. They were our only option to get us through this dangerous mountain pass and to our destination. We paid them \$60 per horse.

I was a staff photographer for The Washington Post, and this assignment was the first time I had ever worked with digital cameras. At that point, they produced mediocre images as far as I was concerned, but with a computer and a sat phone that transmitted at 14.4k baud rate, it was the only way to get photos back to my paper from this faraway place. I did bring a film camera, too, and had already shot a couple of rolls. But they would be my last: As the danger of my assignment increased, every photo counted, and I no longer had the luxury to shoot film.

Read more [here](#) .

Today in History - June 23, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, June 23, the 175th day of 2020. There are 191 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 23, 1888, abolitionist Frederick Douglass received one vote from the Kentucky delegation at the Republican convention in Chicago, effectively making him the first black candidate to have his name placed in nomination for U.S. president. (The nomination went to Benjamin Harrison.)

On this date:

In 1868, Christopher Latham Sholes received a patent for his "Type-Writer," featuring a QWERTY keyboard; it was the first commercially successful typewriter.

In 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt was nominated for a second term of office at the Republican National Convention in Chicago.

In 1938, the Civil Aeronautics Authority was established.

In 1947, the Senate joined the House in overriding President Harry S. Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley Act, designed to limit the power of organized labor.

In 1969, Warren E. Burger was sworn in as chief justice of the United States by the man he was succeeding, Earl Warren.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon and White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman discussed using the CIA to obstruct the FBI's Watergate investigation. (Revelation of the tape recording of this conversation sparked Nixon's resignation in 1974.) President Nixon signed Title IX barring discrimination on the basis of sex for "any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

In 1985, all 329 people aboard an Air India Boeing 747 were killed when the plane crashed into the Atlantic Ocean near Ireland because of a bomb authorities believe was planted by Sikh separatists.

In 1988, James E. Hansen, a climatologist at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies, told a Senate panel that global warming of the earth caused by the "greenhouse effect" was a reality.

In 1993, in a case that drew widespread attention, Lorena Bobbitt of Prince William County, Va., sexually mutilated her husband, John, after he'd allegedly raped her. (John Bobbitt was later acquitted of marital sexual assault; Lorena Bobbitt was later acquitted of malicious wounding by reason of insanity.)

In 1995, Dr. Jonas Salk, the medical pioneer who developed the first vaccine to halt the crippling rampage of polio, died in La Jolla (HOY'-ah), California, at age 80.

In 2009, "Tonight Show" sidekick Ed McMahon died in Los Angeles at 86.

In 2018, Trump administration officials said the government knew the location of all children in its custody after separating them from their families at the border, and that it was working to reunite them.

Ten years ago: Following Gen. Stanley McChrystal's criticism of the Obama administration in a Rolling Stone magazine profile, President Barack Obama named Gen. David Petraeus to replace the Afghanistan commander. Gary Faulkner, who was detained by authorities in northern Pakistan during a personal quest to track down Osama bin Laden, was released.

Five years ago: WikiLeaks published documents it said showed the U.S. National Security Agency had eavesdropped on the last three French presidents, releasing material that appeared to capture officials in Paris talking candidly about Greece's economy, relations with Germany [-] and, ironically, American espionage. The NHL's Board of Governors approved the proposed 3-on-3 overtime change. Actor Dick Van Patten, 86, died in Santa Monica, California.

One year ago: Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg faced criticism from angry residents of South Bend, Indiana, where he was mayor, at an emotional town hall meeting a week after a white police officer fatally shot a black man there; Buttigieg said he would call for an outside investigation. President Donald Trump told NBC's "Meet the Press" that he'd prefer to run for re-election against Joe Biden, suggesting that the former vice president wouldn't be the "great candidate" that

Hillary Clinton was in 2016. Two siblings from the famed Flying Wallendas safely crossed New York's Times Square on a high wire strung between two skyscrapers, 25 stories above the pavement. Nearly three months after he was shot to death in Los Angeles, rapper Nipsey Hussle was honored with the Humanitarian Award at the BET Awards in Los Angeles.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Diana Trask is 80. Musical conductor James Levine (luh-VYN') is 77. Actor Ted Shackelford is 74. Actor Bryan Brown is 73. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas is 72. Actor Jim Metzler is 69. "American Idol" ex-judge Randy Jackson is 64. Actress Frances McDormand is 63. Rock musician Steve Shelley (Sonic Youth) is 58. Actor Paul La Greca is 58. Writer-director Joss Whedon is 56. Rhythm and blues singer Chico DeBarge is 50. Actress Selma Blair is 48. Actor Joel Edgerton is 46. Rock singer KT Tunstall is 45. Rhythm and blues singer Virgo Williams (Ghostowns DJs) is 45. Actress Emmanuelle Vaugier is 44. Singer-songwriter Jason Mraz is 43. Football Hall of Famer LaDainian Tomlinson is 41. Actress Melissa Rauch is 40. Rock singer Duffy is 36. Country singer Katie Armiger is 29.

Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.



- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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