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Connecting June 25, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 25th day of June 2020,

Today, we turn the calendar back 70 years, to June 25, 1950 – the beginning of the Korean War. On that date: 135,000 soldiers from the communist North Korean People's Army crossed the 38th parallel and invaded the Republic of Korea. Five days later, President Truman ordered U.S. ground troops into action.

The brutal fighting between North and South Korea would continue for three years, a month and two days, when the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed, creating the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) to separate North and South Korea and allowing the return of prisoners. No peace treaty was ever signed, and the two Koreas are technically still at war. In April 2018, the leaders of the two Koreas met at the DMZ and agreed to work towards a treaty to formally end the Korean War.

Our Connecting colleague **Gene Herrick** covered the war as an

Associated Press photographer. (He is pictured at right then and now.) Gene was invited to share his experiences by our colleague **David Egner**, op-ed editor for the Fox News website, and we bring you the article that appeared this morning on its website.



His story concluded:

“Looking back, my experiences covering the Korean War for the AP were interesting, challenging and dangerous. It’s sad that too many of the journalists and troops who were there with me never made it back home alive.”

“I did my job like any good war correspondent, keeping the world informed about the fighting that raged. But how I wish that the job of war correspondent could disappear, with wars ending and becoming a part of our past but not of our present or future.”

Egner’s response to Gene’s story: “May all AP men and women live to such an old age and still have Gene’s ability to write such captivating pieces.”

On this 70th anniversary, C-SPAN3 is repeating in prime time tonight, at 8 p.m. EDT, last Sunday’s “American History TV” program featuring Connecting colleague **Charlie Hanley** ([Email](#)), discussing that pivotal conflict and his upcoming book, *Ghost Flames: Life and Death in a Hidden War, Korea 1950-1953*. The show is also available [here](#) at the C-SPAN website. In addition, the online *Wilson Quarterly* offers excerpts from *Ghost Flames*, including a dramatic 1951 episode involving AP’s Bill Shinn.

Have a good day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Gene E. Herrick: Korean War memories from a 93-year-old retired journalist on 70th anniversary of war’s start



Captured by American forces in the Taegu area of South Korea on Oct. 8, 1950, these North Korean girls are pictures of dejection as they are marched to a train which will take them to a prisoner of war camp at Pusan. (AP Photo/ Gene Herrick)

By GENE HERRICK ([Email](#))

For Fox News

The Korean War began exactly 70 years ago – on June 25, 1950 – and soon afterward I was there as an Associated Press photographer and war correspondent, under fire many times. There were times I thought my life was about to end – and I never dreamt I would still be writing about the war all these years later, at age 93.

“War is hell,” Union Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman said during the Civil War. He was right. Wars have been waged since before recorded history, but no matter how many people are killed and how much destruction takes place, wars keep breaking out and taking more lives.

The Korean War was nasty. The weather was terribly hot in summer, snowy and bitter cold in winter. I traveled with troops through rugged mountains, pouring rain and clouds of dust. And worst of all, of course, was the death all around me.

RARE AND CLASSIC PHOTOS FROM THE KOREAN WAR

Growing up, our parents teach us to be peaceful and love thy neighbor. War makes troops leave those lessons behind, focusing instead on hate, killing, fear and loneliness. Hell on Earth is a good description.

Like everyone who's been to war, I have war stories. Let me tell you a few.

I landed in Pusan, South Korea in early August 1950, just a few weeks after the start of the war. I was met by three other AP war correspondents, including Max Desfor, the photographer who took the famous picture of hundreds of North Korean refugees climbing over the Han River Bridge fleeing to the South.

Click [here](#) to read the full story.

70 years after Korean war, animosity and fear still linger



FILE - In this April 27, 2018, file photo, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, left, and South Korean President Moon Jae-in cross the military demarcation line at the border village of Panmunjom in Demilitarized Zone. On both sides of the world's most heavily armed border Thursday, June 25, 2020, solemn ceremonies will mark the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of a war that killed and injured millions, left large parts of the Korean Peninsula in rubble and technically still continues. (Korea Summit Press Pool via AP. File)

By KIM TONG-HYUNG and HYUNG-JIN KIM

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — On both sides of the world's most heavily armed border Thursday, solemn ceremonies will mark the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of a war that killed and injured millions, left large parts of the Korean Peninsula in rubble and technically still continues.

This anniversary may be especially bitter for South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who'd hoped that an unprecedented swirl of engagement and diplomacy between the rivals over the last two years could fundamentally change their relationship. Amid renewed threats of violence from Pyongyang, Moon's ambitious engagement plans are fading fast.

North Korea has shown mixed signals in recent days. In a fit of symbolic rage, it blew up an empty liaison office with the South last week. But this week it appeared to shift speed by suspending purported plans to take unspecified retaliatory action against South Korea.

Whatever the North's intentions, the promising flurry of diplomacy that saw North Korean leader Kim Jong Un meet multiple times with U.S., Chinese and South Korean leaders in a high-stakes play to settle a disarmament-for-aid deal has been replaced by a revival of ideological warfare.

Seoul is now desperate to prevent relations from spiraling into crisis but also seems short on ideas on how to do so.

Read more [here](#) .

AP's top editor: Journalism 'more important than ever'



By Lauren Easton

During a panel at the virtual Collision Conference on Tuesday, Executive Editor Sally Buzbee addressed the current speed and volume of misinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic and how news organizations must combat it.

“It is an absolute firehose right now and a huge challenge to news organizations and also a huge challenge to civil society globally,” Buzbee said. “Our response to that is to do factual reporting and to be credible.”

She continued:

We believe in being a nonpartisan, fact-based news organization because we want to appeal not just to one side or another but have our news report trusted by all spectrums of people across the globe. We want to be not loved but believed by as broad of a group as possible.

Transparency of how we gather information is important. Fact-checking is important. Jumping on things as quickly as possible is important.

Actual real journalism does take some amount of time, effort and budget. The entire world has a huge interest in pushing back against misinformation. News organizations and individual people who are credible and fact-based are enormously important in this fight and should be supported.

Read more [here](#).

Saddened by death of Greg Katz



Greg Katz in Suffolk, England, in 2014

Jeff Barnard ([Email](#)) - I was very sad to learn of the death of Greg Katz. I was looking forward to many more Plymouth Gin martinis with him. We worked together back in the late 1970s and 1980 at the Cape Cod Times in Hyannis, Mass. After AP hired him to be acting chief of bureau in London, we reconnected, despite the 9-hour time difference with my job as Southern Oregon correspondent.

We regularly texted and emailed about the rivalry of the Yankees and the Red Sox. Greg imposed one rule: No gloating, which was tough on me a couple years ago, when the Red Sox won it all. There had been so many times Yankees fans were the gloaters. But Greg never did. He was the only Yankee fan I have ever met who was as knowledgeable about the team and as gracious about their success.

My wife, Beth Quinn, and I visited England last year and got to see Greg and his wife, Bea. Greg showed us around the London Bureau, with its historic cobblestone parking lot, which by law could never be paved over, despite seeming to be designed to turn your ankle. We enjoyed dinner at home with Greg and Bea, especially the Plymouth Gin in the freezer for straight up martinis, with a twist.

On the Cape in our younger days, Greg was already sporting the jaunty hats he favored throughout life. He drove a Malibu convertible, back when those were really cool cars. Greg's parents had an apartment in the Dakota in Manhattan, and when John Lennon was shot at the building entrance, Greg immediately got leave to cover the story, the only reporter able to freely enter the building. He was launched, and the Cape could no longer contain him. After selling that story to Rolling Stone, he was off to Nicaragua to write about the Sandinistas.

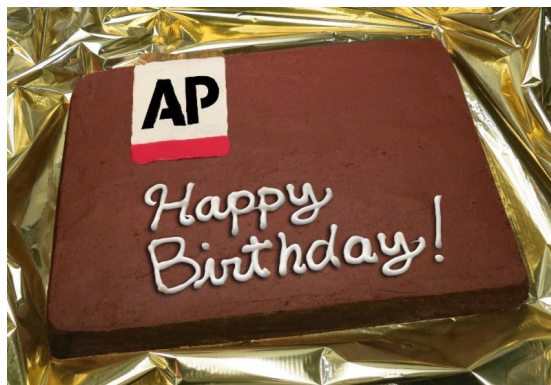
I am very sorry there was not a full-length baseball season this year . The Yankees were going to be great, way better than the Red Sox, and I am sure Greg would never have gloated, just deeply enjoyed the experience.

Connecting Road/Sky Shot – Galena, Illinois



Shared by Jim Reindl ([Email](#))

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Robert Naylor - robert.naylor@verizon.net

Cecilia White - whitecx@earthlink.net

Stories of interest

A quarter of all U.S. newspapers have died in 15 years, a new UNC news deserts study found^(Poynter)

By TOM STITES

The relentless spread of news deserts was speeding up even before the coronavirus incapacitated local economies, and since then the rate has accelerated some more.

At the same time, the digital news cavalry long and widely expected to come riding to the rescue of community journalism has decelerated to a surprising halt.

These are the main findings of “News Deserts and Ghost Newspapers: Will Local News Survive?,” a new report published Wednesday by Penelope Muse Abernathy and her research program at the Hussman School of Journalism and Media at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The 124-page report, the most extensive of four from Abernathy’s team since 2014, explores the news landscape from several perspectives. It draws from 15 years of data it has assembled that track newspapers, community digital news sites and — new this year — 950 ethnic media and 1,400 public broadcasting stations. The data is interactive through the program’s website, which also offers 350 interactive maps.

Read more [here](#).

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Olympus Exits the Camera Business (PetaPixel)

By MICHAEL ZHANG

After a year of rumors, denials, and backtracking, it's finally official: Olympus is exiting the camera business after an 84-year run as one of the world's most recognizable brands in the industry.

In a notice published to its website today, Olympus announced that it has signed a memorandum of understanding to sell its camera division to Japan Industrial Partners (JIP), the same investment firm that acquired Sony's VAIO PC business back in 2014.

Olympus and JIP are aiming to sign a legally binding deal by September 30th.

Olympus first entered the camera industry back in 1939 by releasing the Semi-Olympus I that used the first Zuiko lens. Over the following decades, the company would go on to release popular camera models, including the Pen in 1959 and the OM 35mm SLR system that competed against the likes of Canon and Nikon.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Doug Pizac.

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Estimates of COVID-19's impact on journalism fail to count freelancers, whose livelihoods have vanished overnight (Poynter)

By Molly McCluskey

While nearly every industry is facing layoffs due to the coronavirus epidemic, journalism is bearing a particular brunt. The New York Times estimated in April that 36,000 workers at news outlets had been laid off, or had their positions reduced, since the beginning of the outbreak. Legacy publications and new media alike have slashed their rosters, and national and local outlets are being forced to make difficult decisions about who will stay, and who will go.

But as dire as these figures are, they fail to provide a complete picture of the devastation to the industry, because they fail to account for freelance journalists, many of whom have seen their livelihoods vanish overnight, and who do not have unemployment and other protections.

The true cost to journalism is much greater.

One only has to look at the recent articles bemoaning media layoffs to see a disturbing trend: Nearly none account for freelance journalists or contractors.

Read more [here](#).

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Egypt news outlet says police raid office, arrest editor

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian news outlet said security forces arrested its editor Wednesday following a raid on its offices in Cairo, in the latest government action cracking down on news media.

Al-Manassa news website said in a statement that at least eight police raided its offices and searched computers. They seized one laptop, saying they would examine it, the outlet said.

The news outlet said its editor, Nora Younis, was taken in a van to a police station in Cairo's Maadi district. She faces a charge of managing a news website without an operating license, Al-Manassa said.

The outlet reported that Younis would remain in custody overnight at the police station and appear before prosecutors Thursday.

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

Today in History - June 25, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, June 25, the 177th day of 2020. There are 189 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 25, 1876, Lt. Col. Colonel George A. Custer and his 7th Cavalry were wiped out by Sioux and Cheyenne Indians in the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana.

On this date:

In 1788, Virginia ratified the U.S. Constitution.

In 1867, barbed wire was patented by Lucien B. Smith of Kent, Ohio.

In 1910, President William Howard Taft signed the White-Slave Traffic Act, more popularly known as the Mann Act, which made it illegal to transport women across state lines for "immoral" purposes.

In 1942, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was designated Commanding General of the European Theater of Operations during World War II. Some 1,000 British Royal Air Force bombers raided Bremen, Germany.

In 1947, "The Diary of a Young Girl," the personal journal of Anne Frank, a German-born Jewish girl hiding with her family from the Nazis in Amsterdam during World War II, was first published.

In 1950, war broke out in Korea as forces from the communist North invaded the South.

In 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that recitation of a state-sponsored prayer in New York State public schools was unconstitutional.

In 1973, former White House Counsel John W. Dean began testifying before the Senate Watergate Committee, implicating top administration officials, including President Richard Nixon as well as himself, in the Watergate scandal and cover-up.

In 1990, the U.S. Supreme Court, in its first "right-to-die" decision, ruled that family members could be barred from ending the lives of persistently comatose relatives who had not made their wishes known conclusively.

In 1996, a truck bomb killed 19 Americans and injured hundreds at a U.S. military housing complex in Saudi Arabia.

In 2003, the Recording Industry Association of America threatened to sue hundreds of individual computer users who were illegally sharing music files online.

In 2009, death claimed Michael Jackson, the “King of Pop,” in Los Angeles at age 50 and actress Farrah Fawcett in Santa Monica, California, at age 62.

Ten years ago: Group of Eight leaders, including President Barack Obama, began meeting in Huntsville, Ontario, Canada. BP said its effort to drill a relief well through 2 1/2 miles of rock to stop the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was on target for completion by mid-August. Edwin Jackson threw the fourth no-hitter of the season, leading the Arizona Diamondbacks to a 1-0 victory over his former team, the Tampa Bay Rays.

Five years ago: The U.S. Supreme Court upheld nationwide tax subsidies under President Barack Obama’s health care overhaul in a 6-3 ruling that preserved health insurance for millions of Americans. Univision’s UniMas network announced it was dropping its Spanish-language coverage of the Miss USA pageant in a spiraling controversy over comments made by Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, a part owner of the Miss Universe pageant, about Mexican immigrants. Actor Patrick Macnee, 93, died in Rancho Mirage, California.

One year ago: Stephanie Grisham, longtime spokeswoman and confidante to Melania Trump, was named to succeed Sarah Sanders as White House press secretary. (She would hold the job for nine months without conducting a formal briefing for reporters.) San Francisco became the first major U.S. city to ban the sale of electronic cigarettes. On the 10th anniversary of the death of Michael Jackson, hundreds of his fans gathered at his grave in Glendale, California for a daylong celebration of his life and music.

Today’s Birthdays: Actress June Lockhart is 95. Civil rights activist James Meredith is 87. Rhythm and blues singer Eddie Floyd is 83. Actress Barbara Montgomery is 81. Actress Mary Beth Peil (peel) is 80. Basketball Hall of Famer Willis Reed is 78. Singer Carly Simon is 75. Rock musician Ian McDonald (Foreigner; King Crimson) is 74. Actor-comedian Jimmie Walker is 73. Actor-director Michael Lembeck is 72. Rock singer Tim Finn is 68. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor is 66. Rock musician David Paich (Toto) is 66. Actor Michael Sabatino is 65. Actor-writer-director Ricky Gervais (jer-VAYZ’) is 59. Actor John Benjamin Hickey is 57. Actress Erica Gimpel is 56. Basketball Hall of Famer Dikembe Mutombo (dih-KEHM’-bay moo-TAHM’-boh) is 54. Rapper-producer Richie Rich is 53. Contemporary Christian musician Sean Kelly (formerly with Sixpence None the Richer) is 49. Actress Angela Kinsey is 49. Rock musician Mike Kroeger (KROO’-gur) (Nickelback) is 48. Rock musician Mario Calire is 46. Actress Linda Cardellini is 45. Actress Busy Philipps is 41. Jazz musician Joey Alexander is 17.

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

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