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People burn joss sticks in front of the cenotaph for the atomic bombing victims before the start of a ceremony to mark the 75th anniversary of the U.S. bombing in Hiroshima, western Japan, early Thursday, Aug. 6, 2020. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 7th day of August 2020,

The 75th anniversary of the dropping of an atomic bomb on Hiroshima prompted several of your Connecting colleagues to offer their thoughts and stories that we bring you in today's issue.

From Japan, we also bring you another remembrance: The 2020 Olympics Games in Tokyo have been postponed this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and an AP Images blog looks back to 1964 when Tokyo last hosted the event. Our colleague **Hal Buell** contributed the narrative to this post which was put together by **Kat O'Mara** in London Photos.

Here's to a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy.

On the 75th anniversary of atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima

‘Unforgivable’ or ‘necessary’?

Kazuo Abiko ([Email](#)) - I was going to write some piece about the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, as requested. But after seeing Mari Yamaguchi's [thorough article](#) for the AP wire on the subject, I thought I had little to add, except the interesting results of a recent survey conducted by Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK).

According to NHK, its Hiroshima bureau conducted an online survey this year on three groups of young people of ages between 18 and 34, ahead of the 75th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The three groups consisted of residents of Hiroshima Prefecture, people elsewhere in Japan, and residents of the United States, respectively. About 1,000 from each group responded to the survey, they said.

What caught my attention in NHK's reporting was that 41.6 percent of the U.S. respondents said the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were "unforgivable," while 31.3 percent said it was "necessary."

In comparison, NHK cited a 2015 survey by Pew Research Center, which showed that 47 percent of young Americans of ages between 18 and 29 said the use of atomic bombs 75 years ago was justified.

Methods of the two surveys were different so that they cannot be compared directly, but the results indicate that public perception in the United States, especially among young generations, is changing, perhaps, due to tireless awareness-raising activities by aging survivors and their supporters.

The atomic bombings killed 140,000 people in Hiroshima and 70,000 in Nagasaki, mostly civilians.

The NHK survey also asked if nuclear weapons are needed. About 87 percent of the respondents in Hiroshima and 85 percent elsewhere in Japan said they

are not. And about 70 percent of the U.S. respondents gave the same reply, they said.

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‘Hiroshima, a military base’

Charles Hanley ([Email](#)) - Connecting’s coverage yesterday of the Hiroshima 75th anniversary reminded me of a day many years ago when I was researching an AP book on World War II and uncovered our lead graf on the bombing. Citing the White House, it said a powerful new weapon had been dropped on “Hiroshima, a military base.”

It was dropped, of course, on the center of a teeming city, detonating at about 2,000 feet directly above the central hospital. The Washington buro surely had a gazetteer handy. But that story was never corrected.

Yesterday on NPR, I heard Maria Ressa, the persecuted Philippines journalist, say that “in the battle for the truth, journalists become activists.” On August 6, 1945, it seems, we surrendered.

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‘I wouldn’t have danced at my granddaughter’s wedding’

Doug Tucker ([Email](#)) - Thursday’s Connecting piece about the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima took me back to the banks of the Mississippi River and a very tall, frail old man.

For him, this was personal.

“If not for the bomb and Truman’s decision to use it, I wouldn’t be sitting here with you right now,” he told me.

“I wouldn’t have danced at my granddaughter’s wedding.”

Only the luckiest of happenstance allowed me to spend a few brief minutes with the elderly gentleman. I was in Wisconsin covering the Kansas City Chiefs' training camp and given an unexpected free afternoon, set out to explore. It's lovely country. A park bench on a hill overlooking the Mississippi seemed the perfect spot for a picnic lunch.

No sooner had I sat down when the tall stranger, walking with difficulty, asked to join me. He said he often came here to pass the time and watch the mighty river roll by.

For some reason - can't remember why - the conversation turned to World War II and his final deployment.

"I was in China training for the invasion of the Japanese islands," he recalled. "There was not a man in our unit who expected to survive. We were supposed to be among the first to go in. Everybody knew the Japanese were determined to fight to the last man. They told us even young girls were being trained to fight."

Word of the bomb devastating Hiroshima shot through camp like a thunderbolt, he said.

"Everybody started cheering. We were hugging each other and dancing around. We knew now the Japanese might quit."

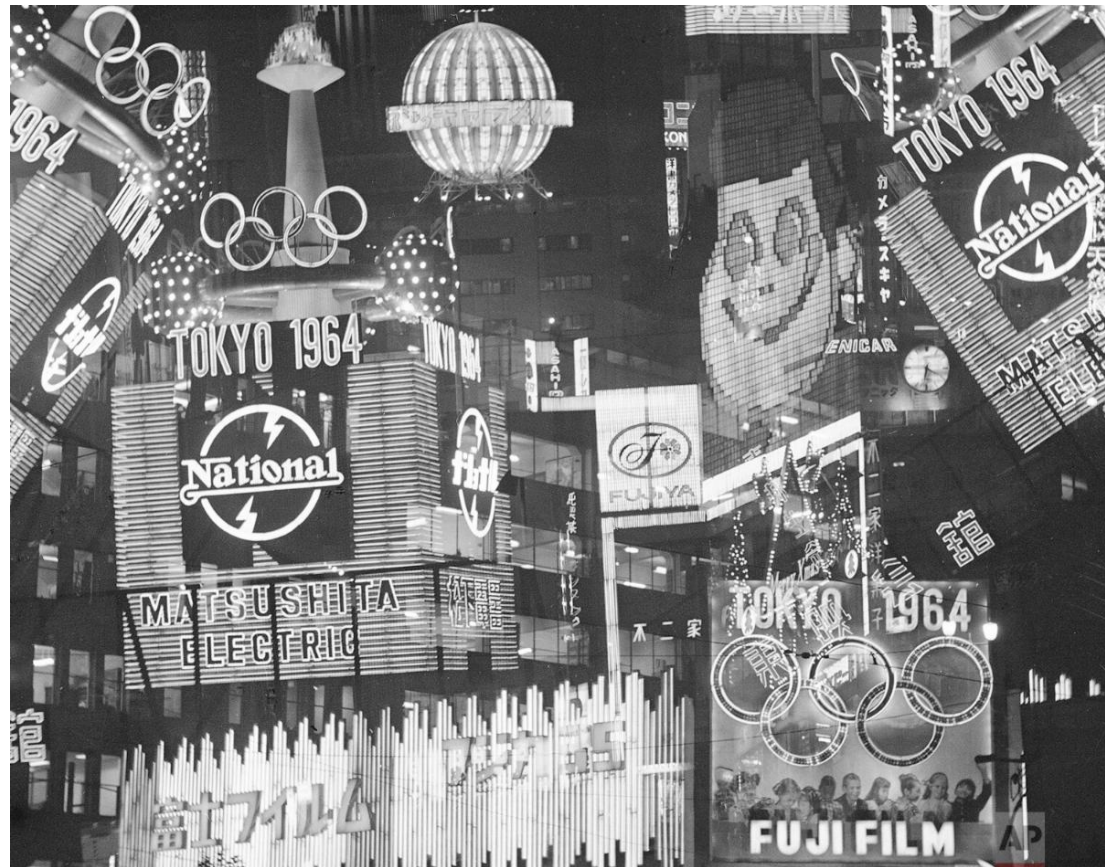
Three days later, a second bomb blasted Nagasaki. The Soviet Union declared war and quickly overwhelmed the forces in Manchuria that Japan was planning to hurl against the invading Americans.

War over.

I'm sorry I can't recall his name. This man deserves to be identified by name. As much as I was savoring the sunny summer afternoon, he seemed to appreciate it even more.

"I'll always be grateful to Truman for dropping the atom bomb," he told me. "I have enjoyed my life."

In the archives: Tokyo Olympics 1964



The five-ring Olympics symbols stand out in the jumble of bright lights in downtown Tokyo on Dec. 16, 1963. The signs dot Tokyo as the host city prepares for the 1964 Olympic summer games. (AP Photo)

The 2020 Olympics Games in Tokyo, Japan have been postponed this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Here we look back through our photo archive to 1964, when Tokyo last hosted the event.

The following are quotes from Hal Buell who was head of AP Photos for 25 years and worked at numerous Olympic Games for AP, including Tokyo 1964.

“Tokyo was easily the best organized Olympics I covered. [The] Japanese had it organized to the minute...events rolled along as efficiently as the Japan train system.”

“Ahead of the games we had to make the rounds of every venue to select the spot that AP staff would use to cover specific events. That led to negotiations with the Japanese organizers who wanted to insure that photographers didn't go crazy to get THE picture.

Japanese in uniforms were helpful at each venue, but at the same time there was little chance for squeezing just a bit more freedom from assigned positions.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Francesca Pitaro.

Larry McShane's obit of Pete Hamill a masterful piece of writing

Marc Humbert ([Email](#)) - While Thalia Beaty's Pete Hamill obit was very nice, I hope most Connecting colleagues took the time to click on the New York Daily News obit as well. It was written by Larry McShane who I have long argued is the best writer/reporter I ever worked with at the AP. The Daily News' gain was our loss when Larry went down the hall to the News. McShane's Hamill obit is one great writer's tribute to another great writer. Doesn't get much better than that.

Click [here](#) to read.

Frank Eltman ([Email](#)) - I think all who read it will agree that AP alum Larry McShane's obituary on legendary NY journalist Pete Hamill was a masterful piece of writing. The New York Daily News gained a giant in the world of journalism when McShane left the AP about a dozen years ago. Thanks for including his work, along with the AP obit, in Thursday's update.

More on your favorite or first vehicle



Owen Ullmann ([Email](#)) - My first car was a 1951 Pontiac Chieftain with a straight-8 engine. My father got it for my older sister but I inherited it when she went off to college. While learning to drive it, I veered off the road and hit a tree, which got the worst of the damage. The Pontiac felt like I was driving a train engine.



My next car was a 1955 fire engine red Pontiac convertible. I remember taking a girl on a date and getting her home late. The transmission got stuck in first

gear and was so loud it woke up the entire neighborhood, including her not-to-happy father. Now I drive an incredibly boring Lexus.

Connecting mailbox

Unsubstantiated opinion replacing straightforward reporting

Dick Lipsey ([Email](#)) - The John Sands report on the Gallup/Knight study, "Americans Are Losing Faith in an Objective Media," reflects my observations, even in a liberal college town.

Personally, after 50-plus years as a regular NY Times reader, I recently dropped my online subscription because of what seemed to me as consistent, unbalanced reporting. AP copy seems to be going down the same path of unsubstantiated opinion replacing straightforward reporting. And it's setting a precedent.

Reporters on the local newspaper are occasionally following suit and, in my opinion, editorializing in news stories. The opinion page is completely unbalanced, but that's a different issue.

I support my local newspaper and will continue to do so, but it's getting harder. I hope the journalism schools are trying to hold the fort.

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PC gone amok?

Jeffrey Ulbrich ([Email](#)) - PC gone amok strikes again.

This from the NYT:

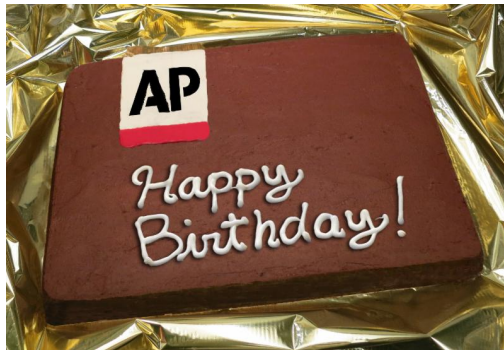
Following the lead of other real estate brokerage communities around the country, several industry groups in New York are planning to eliminate the term

“master bedroom” from floor plan descriptions and conversations between real estate agents and clients.

Yoicks! And what about those master classes that are so popular these days? Or that degree snuggled between BA and PhD? Do we need to rid the army of master sergeants?

Quick, call the AP Stylebook's PC police and get them on the case.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

On Saturday...

Steve Crowley - scrowley727@yahoo.com

On Sunday...

Mark Elias - melias.media@gmail.com

Stories of interest

After Atomic Bombings, These Photographers Worked Under Mushroom Clouds (New York Times)



Patients being treated in a medical tent in Hiroshima on Aug. 9. Credit: Yotsugi Kawahara, courtesy Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

By Mike Ives

In August 1945, a Japanese newspaper sent a photographer from Tokyo to two cities that the United States military had just leveled with atomic bombs.

The photographer, Eiichi Matsumoto, had covered the firebombings of other Japanese cities. But the scale of the calamity that he encountered in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, he later recalled, was on another level.

At a Red Cross hospital near Hiroshima's ground zero, he met victims dotted with red spots, a sign of radiation sickness. And on the desolate, rubble-strewn streets of Nagasaki, he watched families cremating loved ones in open-air fires.

"I beg you to allow me to take pictures of your utmost sufferings," Mr. Matsumoto, who was 30 at the time, said he told survivors. "I am determined to let people in this world know without speaking a word what kind of apocalyptic tragedies you have gone through."

Mr. Matsumoto, a photojournalist for the Asahi Shimbun newspaper who died in 2004, is among dozens of photographers who bore witness after the bombings, which forced Japan's surrender and ended World War II.

Read more [here](#).

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How will we remember them? (Poynter)

By Kristen Hare

A week or so ago, while driving with my daughter, I started mentally writing my own obituary. My ears were clogged. My throat was starting to hurt. And, you know, there's a rapidly spreading pandemic.

Also, I live in Florida.

"Maybe you need to be passionate about something other than writing obituaries," my sister told me on the drive home from the doctor, where I had my ears cleaned out in a very unpleasant process and was, happily, not sick.

I explained to her that just being a journalist — always aware of the numbers and stories and seeing growing disbelief in both — wasn't helping either. But telling stories about lives lost, especially now, still feels important.

Read more [here](#).

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WSJ Reporter Relives the Moment of the Blast in His Shattered Home - The Wall Street Journal

Click [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

Donald Trump's Campaign Seeks Earlier Date For First Debate, Gives Suggestions For Potential Moderators (Deadline)

By TED JOHNSON

Donald Trump's reelection campaign is requesting that the first presidential debate between the president and Joe Biden be held in early September, while it has provided organizers with a list of recommended moderators.

The list, below, is heavy in Fox News personalities, yet does not include Chris Wallace. He moderated a debate in the 2016 cycle, but recently interviewed Trump for Fox News Sunday in a widely praised hour-long exchange in which he, at multiple points, fact-checked the president's assertions.

Trump's campaign argues that the first debate, now scheduled for Sept. 29, will take place after early voting has begun in 16 states. Two other presidential debates are scheduled for Oct. 15 and Oct. 22. The Trump campaign also continued its call for debate planners to a fourth debate to the schedule in early September, but said that if that does not happen, the Oct. 22 event should be moved to that date.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

Today in History - August 7, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Aug. 7, the 220th day of 2020. There are 146 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 7, 1964, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, giving President Lyndon B. Johnson broad powers in dealing with reported North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. forces.

On this date:

In 1782, Gen. George Washington created the Order of the Purple Heart, a decoration to recognize merit in enlisted men and noncommissioned officers.

In 1789, the U.S. Department of War was established by Congress.

In 1912, Theodore Roosevelt was nominated for president by the Progressive Party (also known as the Bull Moose Party) in Chicago. New Jersey Gov. Woodrow Wilson accepted the Democratic presidential nomination at his summer home in Sea Girt.

In 1942, U.S. and other allied forces landed at Guadalcanal, marking the start of the first major allied offensive in the Pacific during World War II. (Japanese forces abandoned the island the following February.)

In 1957, Oliver Hardy, who starred for decades in popular film comedies with partner Stan Laurel, died in North Hollywood, California, at age 65.

In 1959, the United States launched the Explorer 6 satellite, which sent back images of Earth.

In 1971, the Apollo 15 moon mission ended successfully as its command module splashed down in the Pacific Ocean.

In 1989, a plane carrying U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, and 14 others disappeared over Ethiopia. (The wreckage of the plane was found six days later; there were no survivors.)

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush ordered U.S. troops and warplanes to Saudi Arabia to guard the oil-rich desert kingdom against a possible invasion by Iraq.

In 1998, terrorist bombs at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killed 224 people, including 12 Americans.

In 2000, Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore selected Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman as his running mate; Lieberman became the first Jewish candidate on a major party's presidential ticket.

In 2017, medical examiners said the remains of a man who'd been killed at the World Trade Center on 9/11 had been identified, nearly 16 years after the attacks.

Ten years ago: Elena Kagan was sworn in as the 112th justice and fourth woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. A healthy-looking Fidel Castro appealed to President Barack Obama to stave off global nuclear war in an address to parliament that marked his first official government appearance since emergency surgery four years earlier. Jerry Rice, Emmitt Smith, John Randle, Dick LeBeau, Rickey Jackson, Russ Grimm and Floyd Little were inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Five years ago: Colorado theater shooter James Holmes was spared the death penalty in favor of life in prison after a jury in Centennial failed to agree on whether he should be executed for his murderous attack on a packed movie premiere that left 12 people dead. Former Food and Drug Administration employee Dr. Frances Kelsey, credited with preventing the U.S. distribution of

thalidomide, a drug blamed for serious birth defects in the early 1960s, died in London, Ontario, Canada at age 101. Louise Suggs, 91, an LPGA founder and Hall of Famer, died in Sarasota, Florida.

One year ago: President Donald Trump and his wife visited the Dayton, Ohio hospital where many of the victims of a weekend shooting attack had been treated; they then flew to El Paso, where a shooting at a Walmart had killed 22 people. Cyntoia Brown was released early from the Tennessee Prison for Women, where she'd been serving a life sentence for killing a man who had picked her up for sex at the age of 16; Brown, who was now 31, had been championed by celebrities as a symbol of unfair sentencing. In his most aggressive attack yet on the character of the man he hoped to replace, Joe Biden accused President Donald Trump of "fanning the flames of white supremacy." Puerto Rico's Justice Secretary Wanda Vazquez became the island's new governor, just hours after Puerto Rico's Supreme Court declared that the swearing-in of Pedro Pierluisi a week earlier had been unconstitutional.

Today's Birthdays: Magician, author and lecturer James Randi is 92. Singer B.J. Thomas is 78. Singer Lana Cantrell is 77. Former FBI Director Robert Mueller is 76. Actor John Glover is 76. Actor David Rasche is 76. Former diplomat, talk show host and activist Alan Keyes is 70. Country singer Rodney Crowell is 70. Actor Caroline Aaron is 68. Comedian Alexei Sayle is 68. Actor Wayne Knight is 65. Rock singer Bruce Dickinson is 62. Marathon runner Alberto Salazar is 62. Actor David Duchovny is 60. Country musician Michael Mahler (Wild Horses) is 59. Actor Delane Matthews is 59. Actor Harold Perrineau is 57. Jazz musician Marcus Roberts is 57. Country singer Raul Malo is 55. Actor David Mann is 54. Actor Charlotte Lewis is 53. Actor Sydney Penny is 49. Actor Greg Serano is 48. Actor Michael Shannon is 46. Actor Charlize Theron (shar-LEES' THEHR'-en) is 45. Rock musician Barry Kerch is 44. Actor Eric Johnson is 41. Actor Randy Wayne is 39. Actor-writer Brit Marling is 38. NHL center Sidney Crosby is 33. MLB All-Star Mike Trout is 29. Actor Liam James is 24.

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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