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Connecting August 11, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 11th day of 2020,

The November 3 general election is 84 days off – and our colleague **Doug Pizac** ([Email](#)) offers this suggestion to his Connecting colleagues of all political persuasions.

“I would like to start a new thread on political candidates who stand out from the pack because of what they say in their political statements,” Doug suggests, and notes that while reading through Washington State’s official

Voter's Pamphlet for the primary election last week, some candidate information "caught his eye as non-mainstream rhetoric and qualifications. Below are ones that grabbed my attention. What is said is straight off their profile that they wrote."

Governor: Goodspaceguy -- Prefers Trump Republican Party. Goodspaceguy has run against perennial incumbents 21 times. Sometimes Goodspaceguy survived the primary election to go on to the November General Election.

Commissioner of Public Lands: Cameron Whitney -- Prefers Republican Party.
Community Service: I've never been to jail.

20th Legislative District: Kurtis Engle -- States No Party Preference. I've lost about 20 jobs. Almost all for the same reason: Don't sleep right. Makes it tough to show up on time every day. I've served 8 years house arrest by the transit authority.

Now, Doug and Ye Olde Connecting Editor are wondering, are there unusual statements from candidates in other states that Connecting members can share? Send them along. Be nonpartisan as best you can.

Let's call the series: Candidates Say the Darndest Things!"

Our lead story tells about a Philadelphia radio station that has cut the clicking teletype noise that has filled the background of its broadcasts for decades.

Michael Tanenbaum of PhillyVoice brings you the story.

And may I add this: your Connecting editor will never, ever, ever drop the link in each issue's masthead that brings you that soothing teletype sound. Promise!

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

KYW Newsradio cuts teletype background noise from radio

broadcast

BY MICHAEL TANENBAUM
PhillyVoice Staff

A familiar sound in Philadelphia radio vanished from the airwaves in recent weeks, as KYW Newsradio 1060 chose to ditch the clicking teletype noise that has filled the background of broadcasts for decades.

The track, a relic from the era when teletype printers were common in newsrooms, had long been digitized and played on a loop from a flash drive for some time prior to its recent disappearance. An example of the unmistakable noise can be heard in the 1983 broadcast snippet below.



KYW brand manager and program director Alex Silverman gave the Inquirer a facetious explanation for the move on Thursday.

"They stopped making the ribbons for the trusty teletype in 1986, and our supply finally ran out – so alas, old reliable is out of commission until further notice," Silverman said. "As technology has evolved over the years, so has KYW Newsradio, and the sound of the station should reflect the modern, nimble, multi-platform news organization we've become."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Rachel Ambrose.

More thoughts on the 75th anniversary of Hiroshima atomic bomb

Joseph Carter (Email) - When I was on the UPI desk in Kansas City, circa 1972, a stringer from Independence, Mo., covered the Truman Library. She phoned that she was present when a group of Japanese students enjoyed an audience with President Harry Truman. One asked "why did you bomb

us?" Truman's reply, as I recall the stringer reported, was: "Son, you wouldn't be here today if I hadn't." That's how the event remains in my memory, so take it for what it's worth.

Another time when the Soviets had cosmonauts circling Planet Earth in opposite directions, it was early evening when I called the Truman home. Bess answered and I said: "I'm Joe Carter with United Press, is the President available?" She replied: "Just a minute, Joe."

"Yes, Joe," came the familiar voice. I explained that I wanted his view about the cosmonauts. Very clearly I remember: "I don't believe it. If those sonsofbitches had lied to you as many times as they lied to me, you wouldn't believe it either."

"May I quote you, Mr. President?"

"Sure, Joe," the voice said, "and you've got an exclusive. I'm not taking any more calls tonight."

I don't have any tear sheets, only this memory, I posted the story.

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Joe Coleman ([Email](#)) - I just wanted to chime in a bit on the Hiroshima question. I covered bombing anniversaries there when I was based in Tokyo in the 90s and early 2000s, and as a teacher I've taken journalism students on week-long reporting trips there three times, so I've spent a lot of time thinking about the bomb. There's no doubt an Allied invasion of Japan would have been hell on earth. That said, you have to take the death toll estimates with a huge grain of salt, first because they were all over the map in terms of numbers, and second because of the internal politics of the Truman administration, where some figures were more interested in using the bomb than others. I've read that the estimates actually got bigger after the bombing, as part of the after-the-fact justification for incinerating an entire city and its civilian inhabitants.

Another point I'd like to make is about the political pressure Truman must have felt at the time. It's easy to imagine the public outrage that would have occurred had he not used the bomb, ordered an invasion, and it came out later that we had this weapon, developed at great taxpayer expense, that potentially could have ended the war before a costly invasion. A NYT reporter, William Laurence, was permitted to witness the Alamogordo explosion (the stories,

including his eyewitness account of Nagasaki, came out after surrender), so the cat would eventually get out of the bag — Truman had to use the bomb or face the political backlash or worse.

There were many reasons behind the use of the bomb, aside from saving American lives. The USSR would be the next big rival, and dropping the bomb was a potent signal of American invincibility. We also wanted to wrap up the war before the Soviets invaded, which was expected in September. And, not to be flippant, but there's no doubt we had this awesome weapon and wanted to test it in warfare. We picked a city that hadn't been touched by conventional bombing so we could measure the bomb's destructive power. After the war, American scientists went to the city to examine injured civilians to see how the bomb affected them. Survivors have said they were examined, but not treated by these Americans. Many people in Hiroshima feel they were basically experimented on, and it's hard to disagree.

There's a lot of back and forth in the literature about whether Japan would have surrendered even without the bomb. This of course is very speculative, but the prospect of a Soviet invasion in northern Japan might have been enough to force Tokyo's hand even without the bomb. Some have argued the threat of Soviet invasion was actually more important than the bombings in convincing the Japanese to ultimately cave in. The Japanese elite was terrified of the communists.

In the end we achieved our goal, which was unconditional surrender before the Soviets showed up. Was unconditional surrender necessary? Or rather, was it worth achieving by incinerating a city packed with civilians and sentencing thousands of survivors to many decades of illness and suffering? Could we have worked out a deal with the Japanese to let them keep the emperor (which we did in the end anyway) but accept a US occupation? Could we have demonstrated a bomb off-shore to illustrate what was next? This is all speculation, and all the alternatives have their downsides. And opinion was not unanimous before the bombing. Nuclear scientists sent a letter to Truman urging him not to use the bomb. Eisenhower had misgivings.

But in the end we pulled that trigger — twice. I can't say whether we should have or not, but it definitely was a savage end to a savage war.

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Ray Newton (Email) - Boy, do I know about The A-bomb and all that. When I was a beginning writer-reporter in Santa Fe, I became acquainted with Dr.

Ralph Carlisle Smith (Smitty). A Ph. D. physicist- engineer from Rensselaer Polytechnic and later, a J.D. from the University of New Mexico, Smitty had been the assistant to Robert Oppenheimer at Los Alamos during the secret days of the development of the atomic bomb. He was present at the first A-bomb explosion at White Sands, and he later was among the scientists who participated in the A-bomb explosions at Bikini. He wrote a book, in fact—the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy.

After he retired from Los Alamos, Smitty became a professor and dean and then president at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas. That was around 1961 or so. About that time, I took a job as the PIO for NMHU, and I got to know Smitty and his wife Petie really well. In fact, they were our next-door neighbors and the godparents for our three kids.

I recall one evening, we were having drinks or something. A lot of us sometimes Smitty was blowing smoke pretty heavy about his relationships with Gen. Groves and Oppenheimer and others at Los Alamos. But that night, the phone rang, and Smitty answered, “Hi, Oppie. You’re in town? Come on over.” We were believers thereafter.

Wish I had the insight then to write the biography for Smitty. Some of the stories were classic. One of them: when the first A-bomb exploded at Bikini, the military had set up cameras and recorders to cover it and then send the images to President Truman. Truman received the film.

The camera started rolling and the sound was turned on—and the first thing Truman heard when he was the film of the bomb exploding was “Wasn’t that a sonofabitch.” That was Smitty. He was great copy.

BTW, he was a good friend of Howard Graves.

More stories of your first, or favorite, vehicle



Joe McGowan ([Email](#)) - Two cars over the years became my all-time favorites.

First was a 1958 Chevrolet Impala convertible—similar model above. I bought it after I joined AP in Cheyenne. It had twin pipes and I had a Continental Kit installed. Also put on a fake second radio antenna on the other rear fender.

Drove it to Miami when transferred there and to NYC when I was transferred to the Cable international desk. Sold it a year later when transferred to New Delhi.



Second and present favorite is my 2000 Signature series Lincoln town car which has 164,000 miles. It weighs over 4,000 pounds and delivers 20-plus

mpg.



Our other car is my wife Babette Andre's 2012 red Ford Mustang convertible with manual transmission with 6 on the floor. A while back we took it to the dealer to have the defective Takata airbag replaced. We waited in customer area until a young woman called our names. She apologized profusely, saying her job was to drive completed cars to the customer area. But she didn't know how to drive a manual so she walked us to the service area and we drove home!

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Marc Wilson (Email) - Some pitied the thief or thieves who stole my first car, a white 1961 Mercury Comet.

But I didn't. They got what they deserved.

The theft occurred on a windy, snowy early January day in 1968. The low that day was near zero and the high temperature barely reached double digits.

They day of the theft, I had, as usual, picked up several of my fellow juniors at Wheat Ridge (Colorado) High and took them to class.

In a rush to get into the heated school building, I mistakenly left the keys in the ignition.

The thief or thieves spotted the keys, jumped in the Comet and sped off (as much as they could speed off in a 1961 Mercury Comet).

The thief or thieves didn't know several important things.

First, when one shut the driver's door it was necessary to hold the window firmly – or the window dropped down, disappeared, and the roll-up device didn't catch.

Second, the heater in the Comet was controlled by pulling out a knob that let air from the engine into the passenger compartment. The air produced by the heater on very cold days was never very warm, but it was always grey and smelly. My passenger friends and I had decided we preferred the cold to the perhaps toxic fumes.

Third, it was wise (actually necessary) to add water or antifreeze to the radiator every 20 or 30 miles. If not, the Comet stopped.

Fourth, I'd found it to be a good idea to add a quart of oil to the Comet about every 50 or so miles. My friends joked that the Comet got better gas than oil mileage.

Later that afternoon, when my friends and I got out of class, we discovered the Comet was missing.

"Pity the poor bastard," one of my friends said.

I went to the school office and called the Jefferson County Sheriff's office. A deputy met me at the school office.

The deputy didn't understand why I was chuckling.

"What's so funny?" he asked.

"The thief or thieves probably won't get very far."

I explained about the disappearing window, the perhaps noxious heater gas, and the need to add water to the radiator and oil to the block to keep the Comet running.

"It's cold today," the deputy acknowledged.

The deputy called me three days later. The Comet had been found.

It had stalled out in a double turn lane in one of the busiest intersections in suburban Denver about 10 miles from my high school.

The driver-side window was down, the heater shut off, the radiator empty.

The Comet was dead.

“They had to abandon the car in the middle of Alameda and Wadsworth,” the deputy said.

“Told you they wouldn’t get far.”

“They were probably pissed,” said the deputy.

Connecting snapshots





Tom Fenton ([Email](#)) - Here's a photo offering shot through the window of my truck a couple of years ago. I was en route to the Big Bend for the annual White Wing Fling – a combination golf, dove hunt, drinking, gambling and shooting competition. The event takes place the week before Labor Day, has been going on for decades and involves about 50 guys who originally had some El Paso connection.

The next shot shows the aftermath downstream. Sadly, the Fling was canceled this year – another Covid victim.

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Sean Thompson ([Email](#)) - View from our campsite in Woodford State Park, Vermont, over the Adams Reservoir.

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Carl Robinson ([Email](#)) - This morning's -- Tuesday -- sunrise Down Under.

The view from our back 'al fresco' or verandah looking up the Illawarra Escarpment which rises sharply to 500 metres (1500 ft) and dominated by Mt Kembla about 15 kms away.

Never get tired of this view from our new home although cloudless days never have the drama, of course.

Stories of interest

In 60 days, drone journalism will be legally possible in any U.S. newsroom (Nieman)

By MATT WAITE

In 60 days, drone journalism will be legally possible in any newsroom in the United States. That's not to say it will be easy, but it will be legally possible in

ways that it has never been before.

Today, the FAA released Part 107 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, which encompasses the new rules covering Unmanned Aerial Systems (or drones or flying robots or whatever you want to call them). You can read all 600-plus pages of it [here](#), or you can opt for the summary [here](#).

For journalists, this breaks down into three categories: who, what, and where.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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Have Female Reporters Got Trump on the Run? (Politico)

By JACK SHAFER

It starts with a reporter, usually a female reporter, asking President Donald Trump hard, tenacious questions at a news conference. Trump's jaw seizes up, rattled and dumbfounded by the questions that he can't or won't answer, he abruptly ends the presser by saying, "Thank you, very much" and stalking out of the room.

Trump threw such a fit on Saturday when CBS News reporter Paula Reid launched a volley of questions about why he once again took credit for passing a veterans program that the Obama administration pushed through in 2014. In late July, the same fight-or-flight response turned to flight again when CNN reporter Kaitlan Collins chased Trump with pointed, persistent questions about his retweets of a fringe doctor's theories that masks were useless and hydroxychloroquine cured Covid-19. "OK, thank you very much everybody," Trump said as he backed off, truncating the news conference. In May, it was CBS News reporter Weijia Jiang and Collins again whose questions prompted Trump to crumble and skedaddle. And in April, when Playboy White House correspondent Brian Karem barraged the president with Covid-19 questions, a flustered Trump threatened a walk-off. "If you keep talking, I'm going to leave and you can have it out with them"—meaning the other reporters—Trump said.

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

Watch the First Official Trailer for the Pete Souza Documentary ‘The Way I See It’ (PetaPixel)



By DL Cade
PetaPixel

Focus Features has just dropped the first trailer for the Pete Souza documentary *The Way I See It*. The movie follows the former White House Photographer for both Ronald Reagan and Barack Obama as he “transformed” from photojournalist into a “searing commentator” on the state of US politics, all through the power of his photographs.

Whatever your political bent, you have to admit that Souza is a giant within the world of photography. As the Chief White House Photographer for two of the most iconic presidents from either side of the isle he was granted an incredible level of access, and he used that access to give the American public an intimate glimpse inside the life of the most powerful person on Earth... twice.

By virtue of the rise of digital photography and online photo sharing, many of his photos of the Obama Presidency became instantly iconic, and over the

past few years, he's used that same photography to draw sharp, biting contrasts between the Obama and Trump administrations.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty. In a note to Connecting from Souza ([Email](#)), he said: "I hope this film serves as a reminder about the importance of the Presidency, but also how the power of the still image in behind-the-scenes moments can reveal the true character of the person holding that office."

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'Don't shut up!' Film spotlights Filipino journalist



FILE - Maria Ressa, the award-winning head of a Philippine online news site Rappler, talks to the media after posting bail at a Regional Trial Court following an overnight arrest by National Bureau of Investigation agents

on a libel case in Manila, Philippines on Feb. 14, 2019. A new documentary tracks Ressa's dual life in recent years. She's seen smiling while accepting international honors and praise from the likes of George Clooney, then grimly facing down online harassment, legal action and real world threats for her news site's reporting on the drug war waged by President Rodrigo Duterte. (AP Photo/Bullit Marquez, File)

By RYAN PEARSON

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Maria Ressa says she didn't take Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte seriously when he declared four years ago that "corrupt" journalists weren't "exempted from assassination."

"In 2016, it was really, really laughable. And I thought, 'Oh, doesn't matter.' I laughed," said the country's most well-known journalist and leader of the independent Rappler news organization.

Grim reality set in as Ressa was arrested and thrown in jail, targeted in a series of criminal cases and convicted this summer on libel and tax evasion charges seen widely as attacks on press freedom. She now faces six years in prison.

"A Thousand Cuts," a new documentary from Filipino-American filmmaker Ramona S. Diaz, tracks Ressa's dual life in recent years. She's seen smiling while accepting international media awards and praise from the likes of George Clooney, then grimly facing down online harassment, legal action and real world threats for Rappler's reporting on extrajudicial killings in Duterte's drug war.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

The Final Word

Turn Your Newspaper Into a Basket (New York Times)



Tony Cenicola/The New York Times

By Christy Harmon

Months into the pandemic, you've most likely spent more time decluttering — and assessing the amount of joy sparked by forgotten discoveries — than you'd ever expected. Now you're on to organizing, and baskets are a great way to collect all of those little things floating around your home. You can transform your newspaper into a receptacle to keep things tidy that's also a woven work of art. Here's how.

What you'll need:

- A full size newspaper
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- 1 paper clip

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

Today in History - August 11, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 11, the 224th day of 2020. There are 142 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 11, 1997, President Bill Clinton made the first use of the historic line-item veto, rejecting three items in spending and tax bills. (However, the U.S. Supreme Court later struck down the veto as unconstitutional.)

On this date:

In 1934, the first federal prisoners arrived at Alcatraz Island (a former military prison) in San Francisco Bay.

In 1949, President Harry S. Truman nominated General Omar N. Bradley to become the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In 1952, Hussein bin Talal was proclaimed King of Jordan, beginning a reign lasting nearly 47 years.

In 1960, the African country of Chad became independent of France.

In 1964, the Beatles movie “A Hard Day’s Night” had its U.S. premiere in New York.

In 1965, rioting and looting that claimed 34 lives broke out in the predominantly Black Watts section of Los Angeles.

In 1991, Shiite Muslim kidnappers in Lebanon released two Western captives: Edward Tracy, an American held nearly five years, and Jerome Leyraud, a Frenchman who’d been abducted by a rival group three days earlier.

In 1992, the Mall of America, the nation’s largest shopping-entertainment center, opened in Bloomington, Minnesota.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton named Army Gen. John Shalikashvili (shah-lee-kash-VEE’-lee) to be the new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, succeeding the retiring Gen. Colin Powell.

In 2012, Republican presidential contender Mitt Romney announced his choice of Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin to be his running mate. Usain Bolt capped his perfect London Olympics by leading Jamaica to victory in a world-record 36.84 seconds in the 4×100 meters.

In 2017, a federal judge ordered Charlottesville, Virginia, to allow a weekend rally of white nationalists and other extremists to take place at its originally planned location downtown. (Violence erupted at the rally, and a woman was killed when a man plowed his car into a group of counterprotesters.)

In 2014, Academy Award-winning actor and comedian Robin Williams, 63, died in Tiburon, California, a suicide.

Ten years ago: In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, police and FBI agents captured Michael Francis Mara, suspected of being the so-called “Granddad Bandit” who’d held up two dozen banks in 13 states for about two years. (Mara later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 25 years in prison.) Dan Rostenkowski, a former Illinois congressman who’d wielded enormous power on Capitol Hill for more than 30 years, died at his Wisconsin summer home at age 82.

Five years ago: Federal authorities charged that an international web of hackers and traders had made \$100 million on Wall Street by stealing a look at

corporate press releases before they went out and then trading on that information ahead of the pack. China rattled global financial markets by devaluing its currency in an effort in part to revive economic growth.

One year ago: A day care center in Erie, Pennsylvania where children could stay overnight was ravaged by a fire that killed five children. Two Americans used their medal-winning moments at the Pan American Games in Peru to draw attention to social issues back home; fencer Race Imboden took a knee, and hammer thrower Gwen Berry raised her fist.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Arlene Dahl is 95. Songwriter-producer Kenny Gamble is 77. Rock musician Jim Kale (Guess Who) is 77. Magazine columnist Marilyn Vos Savant is 74. Country singer John Conlee is 74. Singer Eric Carmen is 71. Computer scientist and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak is 70. Wrestler-actor Hulk Hogan is 67. Singer Joe Jackson is 66. Playwright David Henry Hwang is 63. Actor Miguel A. Nunez Jr. is 61. Actor Viola Davis is 55. Actor Embeth Davidtz is 55. Actor Duane Martin is 55. Actor-host Joe Rogan is 53. Rhythm-and-blues musician Chris Dave is 52. Actor Anna Gunn is 52. Actor Ashley Jensen is 52. Actor Sophie Okonedo (oh-koh-NAY'-doh) is 52. Rock guitarist Charlie Sexton is 52. Hip-hop artist Ali Shaheed Muhammad is 50. Actor Nigel Harman is 47. Actor Will Friedle is 44. Actor Rob Kerkovich is 41. Actor Merritt Wever is 40. Actor Chris Hemsworth is 37. Rock musician Heath Fogg (Alabama Shakes) is 36. Singer J-Boog is 35. Rapper Asher Roth is 35. Actor Alyson Stoner is 27.

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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Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"