

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting August 21, 2020

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)
[Top AP Photos](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)
[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)
[AP Books](#)

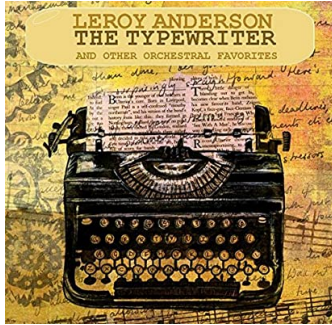
Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 21st day of August 2020,

Caring for your community and stating your opinion on how it can be better were the basic tenets of **Hank Waters'** long tenure at the Columbia (Missouri) Daily Tribune.

Waters, a Connecting colleague, became publisher of his family-owned newspaper in 1966 and wrote more than 18,000 opinion pieces for more than 50 years. It is

with sadness that we learned of his death Thursday at the age of 90. Our colleague **Scott Chorton** – former AP Jefferson City correspondent and Columbia-based roving reporter - brings us his memories of Hank in today's issue.



Connecting has had some great homages to the typewriter, writes our colleague **Chris Sullivan**.

“This takes the idea to another level. (And we all need a laugh these days.)”

Click [here](#) to view – and let it be noted that its composer, Leroy Anderson, is the father of former AP newswoman and Connecting colleague **Jane**

Anderson.

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

Paul

Remembering Hank Waters



Scott Charton and Hank Waters – and in the photo in background, Hank and his late dad Jack Waters from 1966, when Hank became CDT

publisher.

Scott Charton ([Email](#)) - Columbia Daily Tribune Publisher Henry J. "Hank" Waters III was a strong and constant supporter of The Associated Press, including a family legacy: Son Andy Waters worked for AP in Los Angeles and Portland, Ore., before coming home to serve as CDT city editor, and later as co-owner and publisher.

"The whole reason I came back to work there was to work with him," Andy told the Columbia Missourian on Thursday. "I cherish those moments that I had there with him, there were so many of them. He was there in the corner office the whole time."

I first met Hank more than 30 years ago after arriving in Jefferson City as statehouse correspondent. Hank was an incredible resource for Missouri politics and history. Statewide and local candidates visited his corner office in downtown Columbia, seeking endorsements or support for projects. They knew him as Hank. But he signed more than 18,000 daily, local editorials as "HJWIII."

Hank put his name right on his opinion, with a body of work so large, the Boone County Historical Society, of which Hank is a Hall of Fame member, called the sheer volume "a feat so rare, it's not known to have ever been done before in modern American newspaper publishing."

In some editorials, Hank Waters would write of politicians ducking attention or responsibility, "Meanwhile, xxxxx, he lay low." It was a comedic indictment that got noticed. In 2014, Hank told a Mizzou audience: "What more important service can a local newspaper do than try to discuss the candidates for office and what they stand for?"

U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., issued this statement: "Missouri will miss Hank Waters. He had a great appreciation for and understanding of our state," Blunt said. "From our first meeting four decades ago to our last decade working together on the board of the State Historical Society of Missouri, Hank always made any conversation more interesting. He had a disproportional impact running a family newspaper that other editors paid attention to. In my political efforts, Hank endorsed me at least two-thirds of the time, but was my friend 100% of the time."

Laughter amid sadness: Hank was known to be frugal with money (as generations of Tribune reporters will testify). But he was generous of heart and

in local philanthropy. When Paul Stevens appointed me as the first Missouri Roving Correspondent for AP after my statehouse tenure, we decided to put my office in the Columbia Tribune newsroom. Easy choice, both in central location to spring out from on stories, and the high quality of the CDT newsroom and its leadership under Managing Editor Jim Robertson as well as Hank and his beloved wife and Associate Publisher Vicki Russell and son Andy.

When Paul and I discussed the move with Hank, he welcomed me with open arms - and never charged AP a penny of rent, which drew laughter and surprise from folks who knew Hank his business acumen. He considered it a partnership, the kind AP treasured with its fine community papers. His door was always open.

The Center for Missouri Studies, a state-of-the-art headquarters for the State Historical Society of Missouri across from Peace Park at the University of Missouri in Columbia, is part of Hank's lasting legacy. A SHS Trustee since 1992, Hank lived to see its dedication last year, after years of advocacy. It includes archives of Missouri newspapers since statehood. Hank Waters and his family are an indelible part of that history.

"He was a very conscientious public servant," his wife Vicki told the Missourian. "He was my husband, but he belonged to the community. He was a community treasure."

Click [here](#) for Columbia Daily Tribune story and photos.

‘A sign of the times’: How I got that shot



Flames from the LNU Lightning Complex fires burn in unincorporated Napa County, California, on Aug. 18, 2020. (AP Photo/Noah Berger)

By Patrick Maks

During an assignment on Tuesday covering the LNU Lightning Complex fires in Northern California, photographer **Noah Berger** captured a gripping AP image of flames surrounding a COVID-19 safety sign at a senior center.

The photo immediately rocketed across social media.

Berger recounted how he got that shot:

We were watching the flames come over the hillside really fast and really strong, so everybody was kind of on edge and the air was pretty charged watching the fire bear down. Mostly we were shooting a complex of homes that we thought the fires would burn, and then the firefighters came in and saved it. As I was walking out of that complex back to my car, I just turned and saw that hillside on fire. What caught my eye was that there was a directional sign, so I stopped to shoot that, and then I noticed next to it was that sign.

It doesn't take a lot, you just look at that sign and think, 'That's 2020.' That's a sign of the times that everybody is so freaked out about this one thing and another crazy thing comes on top of it. It didn't take me long to make that connection even when I was shooting it.

Read more [here](#).

Memories of covering political conventions



At left is the credential from my first political convention in 1964 in San Francisco. The one on the right is from the 1972 Democratic convention

in Miami Beach. I noticed it is labeled 'Honored Guest.' That was obviously a mistake. Both parties held their conventions in Miami Beach that year.

Bob Daugherty ([Email](#)) - My first of 18 political conventions in San Francisco is memorable for a couple of reasons. AP photographers and a visitor gathered for a few adult beverages at their hotel the night before the opening of the convention. This was the first time I met the legendary Joe Rosenthal. I was in awe of this modest man with eyeglasses the thickness of a cola bottle. The convention proceeded with Barry Goldwater delivering his 'extremism' acceptance speech and Dan Rather being roughed up by floor security personnel on live TV. There were 17 conventions to follow, some memorable, others not so much.

-0-

Ed Tobias ([Email](#)) - Random convention memories from the dozen that I attended between 1980 and 2004.

1980 – Detroit was my first convention and I was a young News Director at all-news WTOP. There were three of us: Anchor Pat Korten, reporter Ralph Begleiter (who went on to a great career with CNN) and me. We had no support...just us. The work hours, of course, were long and by the convention's end we were pretty whipped. We had one last convention wrap-up show to do, live, from our workspace in Cobo Hall the morning after the final night. First, we wanted some food so we drove to a breakfast place near our motel. Hop out of the car, shut the doors and...the rental car is still running. Key in the ignition. Doors locked. There's not enough time to try to get a cab from our far-out location and reach Cobo in time for the show so....Begleiter stayed with the running car, I got a cab to the airport to get a new key from the car rental place and Korten walked back to the motel room, where he hooked a Comrex sound box to the phone and did the show from there.

1984 – Dallas was steaming but the convention center was freezing. Several of us in the AP Radio group alternated between working inside and going out for 10 minutes to warm up. By that time we were fried and welcomed returning inside to cool off. Ah, yes. Dallas's Plaza Hotel. (Thanks, Mike Grazcyk, for the reminder). I think we shared it with delegates from Guam, American Samoa and another small island. Its outstanding feature was the bird cage in the lobby. Inside the cage were three birds that looked like pigeons (but, growing up in NYC all birds look like pigeons to me). One had his feathers dyed red, one was dyed white and the other was blue. I still wonder how that was

accomplished in San Francisco, where the Democrats met that year, the weather was much cooler than in Dallas; cool enough to sleep in the hotel with the windows open. That was good because the hotel had no air conditioning. It was also not so good, because there was a major fire house right across the street which had units – sirens and air horns blaring – rolling out all night.

1988 – The Republicans were in New Orleans. My 40th birthday fell during the time we were there. If I say more the Treasurer's office might come after me for some questionable expenses.

2000 – Democrats were in Los Angeles. AP Broadcast's L.A. reporter Brian Bland set out to cover a demonstration where the participants were all on bicycles, disrupting traffic. Bland, in order to keep up with the moving demonstration, was also on a bike. And when the LAPD decided to sweep up the riders, they swept up Bland, too. After a couple of hours, a judge set bail for our guy in the pokey but it had to be paid in cash. So, Brad Kalbfeld and I alternated making \$300 dollar withdrawals from the ATM in the lobby of the Marriott. The hotel, down the street from the L.A. bureau, was the convention headquarters and had a heavy police presence. COB Sue Cross drove up to the Marriott's entrance and, with several officers giving us very questioning looks, we handed her a couple of thousand dollars in \$20 bills. Bland, and his bike, were released not long after that.

But my most vivid memory is from Boston in 2004, watching a young Barack Obama give the keynote address. He was presidential, even then, four years before he would accept his party's nomination to run for that office.

Connecting mailbox

To campaign or not during other's convention

Chris Connell ([Email](#)) - I don't know what the Dems have up their sleeves for next week, but the parties used to have a tacit gentleman's agreement to refrain from campaigning during the other's convention. Bush 41 went fishing for a couple of days with Jim Baker in Wyoming in 1992. I think that type "truce" prevailed in other conventions, too, at a time when fall campaigns officially kicked off on Labor Day. I suspect others can attest to this. It speaks to the coarsening of our political discourse.

...but who should decide?

Steve Graham ([Email](#)) - Should The NYPD Get To Decide Who's A Journalist? (Connecting, Aug. 20)

... but who should decide?

And, while we're at it, what constitutes a "journalist?" (Oregon authorities do not issue press passes.)

A judge in Portland, Ore. issued a temporary order giving "journalists" protection from crowd-control measures - even though Oregon authorities do not issue press passes.

One result was that large numbers of demonstrators indulging in (shall we say) "non-journalistic activities" began showing up with big "PRESS" signs on their clothes.

U.S. District Judge Michael Simon offered two unusual suggestions Friday (July 31) for how to make a temporary restraining order he issued against the federal government last week work: ACLU-issued blue vests for journalists and large white football jersey-style numbers for federal officers.

Full OPB story [here](#).

That idea died a-borning.

There's an old aphorism, attributed to a number of writers, that "Freedom of the press belongs to the man who owns one," but that's irrelevant in our technological environment where images, videos, reports and opinions fly about nearly instantaneously.

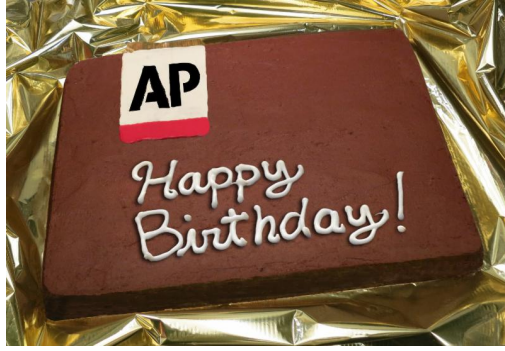
In the meantime, the Portland chaos continues.

Wait, wait – one more car story



Paul Stevens ([Email](#)) – We were ending a long day in the fall of 2000, Topeka Correspondent John Hanna and I, as I drove in darkness along I-70 en route to our hotel in Colby, in far northwest Kansas. We were on one of my regular tours as Kansas City bureau chief to visit a dozen members in that area of the state and were talking about the last visit when, without warning, we heard a whomp! And then saw the body of a deer streak over the windshield and over the top of my AP company car. We were traveling at 70 mph and it was good fortune that the deer didn't fly through the windshield and not over it. And the next morning, at the Colby Free Press, we got to demonstrate to that member newspaper the lengths we would go to pay a visit.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Jay Reeves – jreeves@ap.org

Kendal Weaver – Kendalweaver45@gmail.com

On Saturday to...

Norm Black - normanblack73@gmail.com

Jenny Volanakis – jvolanakis@gmail.com

On Sunday to...

Dave Tenenbaum - dmt013@gmail.com

Stories of interest

USA TODAY owner Gannett commits to make workforce as diverse as America, add new beats on race and social justice

Nathan Bomey
USA TODAY

Gannett, the owner of USA TODAY and more than 260 local news operations, announced a broad initiative Thursday to make its workforce as diverse as the

country by 2025 and to expand the number of journalists focused on covering issues related to race and identity, social justice and equality.

Gannett also disclosed demographic figures for the entire company. Company leaders described the move as a commitment to transparency as they work to ensure that local operations throughout the USA TODAY Network reflect their individual communities and that USA TODAY's workforce reflects the nation.

As part of its announcement, the company said it's adding or reassigning journalists to 60 newly created beats in a concerted effort to enhance coverage of topics such as criminal justice, educational inequity, the roots of racism, environmental justice, fairness in housing and employment, and LGBTQ issues.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Washington Post managing editor Emilio Garcia-Ruiz named editor in chief of San Francisco Chronicle (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

Emilio Garcia-Ruiz, who has overseen a broad expansion of The Washington Post's digital-news operations, will become the San Francisco Chronicle's new editor in chief, the paper's parent company, Hearst, announced on Thursday.

Garcia-Ruiz, 58, has been a managing editor at The Post since 2013, one of four currently under Executive Editor Martin Baron, and has been with the news organization for more than 20 years.

During Garcia-Ruiz's tenure, The Post became one of the largest digital-news sites in the world, with monthly traffic regularly exceeding 80 million U.S. visitors and surpassing 100 million during the coronavirus pandemic. Digital-only subscriptions to The Post grew to more than 2.5 million this summer.

Garcia-Ruiz will join the Chronicle, long the San Francisco Bay area's largest newspaper, next month. He succeeds Audrey Cooper, who left the newspaper

this summer after five years leading its newsroom to become editor in chief of WNYC, the public-radio station in New York City.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Pandemic's toll among journalists in Peru is especially high

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Dozens of journalists have died from COVID-19 in Peru since the pandemic began, in the highest reported death toll of media workers from the new coronavirus in Latin America, according to journalists' groups that are monitoring available data.

As in many countries, the new coronavirus has hit virtually all sectors of society and areas in Peru, killing and sickening medical workers, teachers, street vendors, the unemployed and others. But emerging data on fatalities among journalists in Peru is among the highest in the world, although it is extremely difficult to confirm in many cases whether they got sick after covering pandemic news or doing other work.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peg Coughlin.

-0-

Born at The News: WWJ radio celebrates 100 years since launch as nation's first commercial broadcaster (Detroit News)

Michael H. Hodges
The Detroit News

For a behemoth that now dominates the local AM radio dial, its beginnings were surprisingly humble.

One hundred years ago Thursday, WWJ radio — Detroit's very first station — was born when Detroit News publisher and radio enthusiast William E. Scripps had a 200-watt transmitter set up in a corner of the sports department. (Today? It's 50,000 watts.) WWJ will air a special show, "WWJ at 100, a Century of News," at 7 p.m. Thursday to celebrate.

WWJ wasn't just first in Detroit. Depending on how you slice things, it was the first commercial broadcaster in the U.S., though when it went on the air that Aug. 20 a century back, it was probably picked up by only a few dozen households in possession of what was, at the time, shockingly high-tech radio equipment.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Charles Hill.

-0-

Ready or not... (Poynter)

By KRISTEN HARE ([Email](#))

The news broke everything. Well, almost everything.

Last Monday, on a clear, sunny morning, about 10 newsroom leaders from The (Cedar Rapids) Gazette were touring the future home of their newsroom when the sky turned black, the winds turned violent and objects started flying.

They tried not to watch, to hide in the hallway. But through the two-story picture window looking out on downtown, executive editor Zack Kucharski spied swirling streetlights, ripped off roofs and street signs 40 feet in the air.

This is not his first natural disaster.

Kucharski has worked at The Gazette since 2000. That newsroom covered a 2006 tornado in Iowa City, flooding in 2008 and a close call in 2016.

"I've been very close to tornadoes," Kucharski said, "and the derecho is different."

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

If you used one of these:



Stay at home! You are in
the high risk group.

Shared by Bob Petsche

**Today in History - August 21,
2020**



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Aug. 21, the 234th day of 2020. There are 132 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 21, 1831, Nat Turner launched a violent slave rebellion in Virginia resulting in the deaths of at least 55 whites. (Turner was later executed.)

On this date:

In 1609, Galileo Galilei demonstrated his new telescope to a group of officials atop the Campanile (kahm-pah-NEE'-lay) in Venice.

In 1911, Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" was stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris. (The painting was recovered two years later in Italy.)

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman ended the Lend-Lease program that had shipped some \$50 billion in aid supplies to America's allies during World War II.

In 1961, country singer Patsy Cline recorded the Willie Nelson song "Crazy" in Nashville for Decca Records. (The recording was released in October 1961.)

In 1963, martial law was declared in South Vietnam as police and army troops began a violent crackdown on Buddhist anti-government protesters.

In 1983, Philippine opposition leader Benigno S. Aquino (beh-NEEG'-noh ah-KEEN'-oh) Jr., ending a self-imposed exile in the United States, was shot dead moments after stepping off a plane at Manila International Airport.

In 1987, Sgt. Clayton Lonetree, the first Marine court-martialed for spying, was convicted in Quantico, Va., of passing secrets to the KGB. (Lonetree ended up serving eight years in a military prison.)

In 1991, the hard-line coup against Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev collapsed in the face of a popular uprising led by Russian Federation President Boris N. Yeltsin.

In 1992, an 11-day siege began at the cabin of white separatist Randy Weaver in Ruby Ridge, Idaho, as government agents tried to arrest Weaver for failing to appear in court on charges of selling two illegal sawed-off shotguns; on the first day of the siege, Weaver's teenage son, Samuel, and Deputy U.S. Marshal William Degan were killed.

In 1993, in a serious setback for NASA, engineers lost contact with the Mars Observer spacecraft as it was about to reach the red planet on a \$980 million mission.

In 2000, rescue efforts to reach the sunken Russian nuclear submarine Kursk ended with divers announcing none of the 118 sailors had survived.

In 2014, Gov. Jay Nixon ordered the Missouri National Guard to begin withdrawing from Ferguson, where nightly scenes of unrest had erupted since a white police officer fatally shot a Black 18-year-old nearly two weeks earlier.

Ten years ago: Iranian and Russian engineers began loading fuel into Iran's first nuclear power plant, which Moscow promised to safeguard to prevent material at the site from being used in any potential weapons production. A Vincent van Gogh painting, "Poppy Flowers," was stolen in broad daylight from Cairo's Mahmoud Khalil Museum. (Although Egyptian authorities initially said they'd recovered the painting the same day at the Cairo airport, that report turned out to be erroneous; the painting remains missing.) Emmy-winning CBS News correspondent Harold Dow died at age 62.

Five years ago: A trio of Americans, U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Spencer Stone, National Guardsman Alek Skarlatos and college student Anthony Sadler, and a British businessman, Chris Norman, tackled and disarmed a Moroccan

gunman on a high-speed train between Amsterdam and Paris. First Lt. Shaye Haver of Copperas Cove, Texas, and Capt. Kristen Griest of Orange, Connecticut, became the first female soldiers to complete the Army's rigorous Ranger School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Mike Fiers pitched the second no-hitter in the major leagues in nine days, leading the Houston Astros to a 3-0 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

One year ago: Escalating an international spat, President Donald Trump said he had scrapped his trip to Denmark because the country's prime minister had made a "nasty" statement when she rejected his idea of buying Greenland as absurd. Trump signed an order erasing the hundreds of millions of dollars in federal student loan debt owed by tens of thousands of disabled military veterans.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-director Melvin Van Peebles is 88. Actor Clarence Williams III is 81. Rock-and-roll musician James Burton is 81. Singer Jackie DeShannon is 79. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Willie Lanier is 75. Actor Patty McCormack is 75. Pop singer-musician Carl Giammarese (jee-ah mah-REE'-see) is 73. Actor Loretta Devine is 71. NBC newsman Harry Smith is 69. Singer Glenn Hughes is 68. Country musician Nick Kane is 66. Actor Kim Cattrall is 64. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL quarterback Jim McMahon is 61. Actor Cleo King is 58. Retired MLB All-Star John Wetteland is 54. Rock singer Serj Tankian (TAN'-kee-ahn) (System of a Down) is 53. Figure skater Josee Chouinard is 51. Actor Carrie-Anne Moss is 50. MLB player-turned-manager Craig Counsell is 50. Rock musician Liam Howlett (Prodigy) is 49. Actor Alicia Witt is 45. Singer Kelis (kuh-LEES') is 41. Actor Diego Klattenhoff is 41. TV personality Brody Jenner is 37. Singer Melissa Schuman is 36. Olympic gold medal sprinter Usain (yoo-SAYN') Bolt is 34. Actor Carlos Pratts is 34. Actor-comedian Brooks Wheelan is 34. Actor Cody Kasch is 33. Country singer Kacey Musgraves is 32. Actor Hayden Panettiere (pan'-uh-tee-EHR') is 31. Actor RJ Mitte is 28. Actor Maxim Knight is 21.

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

paulstevens46@gmail.com