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Connecting September 02, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 2nd day of September 2020,

Today's Connecting brings news of the death of **George Mikulec**, a longtime Associated Press photo editor in New York, who died Tuesday at the age of 88.

George retired from the AP in 1994 after a 37-year career, and we are grateful to his former photo colleagues **Hal Buell** and **Claudia DiMartino** for providing us a story on his life.

If you'd like to share memories of working with George, please send them along.

I hope you stay safe and healthy. Have a great day.

Paul

George Mikulec, AP photo editor with reliable eye for 'telling' photos, dies at 88



By Hal Buell/Claudia DiMartino

George Mikulec, AP New York photo desk editor well known to senior photographers and photo editors, died Tuesday (September 1) at a hospital in Jacksonville, Florida. He was 88 years old. He had a reliable eye for “telling” photos.

He retired from the AP in 1994 after a 37-year career.

His career with AP was a classic example of a staffer who rose through the ranks from photo librarian to the NY supervisor's position on the NY photo desk. A classic New Yorker, George, broke in a cadre of newcomers to NY desk duties, among them the first women photo editors to take their place in what was until then an all-male staff. Many went on to careers in AP photos and others found success as photo chiefs in television and other media organizations.

As both desk supervisor and his later assignment as one Hal Buell's deputies, Mikulec watched over breaking news stories and insured appropriate staff or stringers were on the scene.

Every day George pored over the photo report from a stack of Laserphoto prints and in his desk drawer he set aside the best for later consideration for year-enders and possible contest entries.



ABOVE: George and his retirement platter in 1994, reflecting colleagues, from left: Christine Czajkowsky, Vivian Bonatti, Pat Conroy, Kathy Willens, Gina Hartwig and Ron Frehm. (Photo by Ed Bailey via AP Corporate Archives)

AT RIGHT: George in his military days.

Rande Anmuth, formerly of the NY and Washington photo desks, kept in touch with George and reports on his retirement. "His phone answering machine told callers, "Sorry I missed your call. I must be outside wrestling alligators."

George, who was ill in recent years, would send his caretaker out to buy lottery tickets. "Just last week," Rande reports, "he was excited that he won \$20 on a scratch off ticket."

"I know I will miss him terribly."

On his death other APers recorded on FaceBook:

Margarita Bergara - He was one of the kindest and most generous souls with whom I ever had the pleasure of working. And when I first started at AP, he told me of his tradition of dubbing anyone at AP named Maggie, Margaret or Margarita, "Mugs". To this day friends and relatives still call me Mugs.

Vivian Bonatti: My heart is aching.

Susan Clark: George was such a gentle soul.

Charlie Monzella: I am saddened to hear about George's death. I am proud to have considered him a good friend in our working days. He was a wonderful photo editor. RIP.

Bruce Richardson: I remember George well- great guy!!

Amy Sancetta: A classic newsman, heart of the old AP Bullpen, George was so good to me in those early days when AP Photos was getting used to having



women photographers. Makes so so sad to think of him gone, but also just the thought of him makes me smile.

Peggy Walsh: My Condolences. A great man.

Several AP people stayed in touch, but Rande Anmuth Simpson was the most constant connection to the AP family. Thank you Rande.

Foster Klug: Thanks for sharing memories of my mom, Mary Foster



Foster and his mom in his teen years

Foster Klug ([Email](#)) – AP News Director for the Koreas, Japan, Australia and the South Pacific:

I wanted to say how moved and appreciative I've been of the many memories in the newsletter of my mother, Mary Foster, and her work during Katrina. I'm biased, of course, but she's always been my journalistic hero, not least because of her reporting in August 2005. I had just joined the AP Washington bureau, reporting on Asia from the capital, when the storm hit, and I spent those days hovering between terror and awe as I read the wire. Terror because when she went into the Superdome there was a period of days where she wasn't able to contact anyone, so we had no word of what was going on with her, even as we heard rising (later largely disproved, by her) rumors of violence and mayhem there. The awe came when I saw what she produced from her time incommunicado: deeply moving, entirely exclusive stories that were the product of persistence, grit, courage, creativity, empathy -- professional stick-to-itiveness of a kind that has always characterized AP at its best. She slept in her sweltering truck in an underground parking lot. She "showered" in a sink. She ate god knows what. By the time she got home, our dog was dead. And all the while she went about her job, collecting news and stories that would show the world what was happening. Largely because of her years covering the Saints, she got access that every other reporter there couldn't get. Free to roam a structure she knew like the back of her hand, she hustled interviews with people no one else could talk to.

She used to tease me about my decision to work for the AP: Was I not paying attention to the steady stream of griping I'd heard from her and the rest of the NOLA bureau throughout my childhood (the 1980s, mostly, when it seemed like half the bureau would end up a few times a week at our house drinking cocktails and eating my mom's redbeans/gumbo and bitching/laughing/marveling about the job). But what she did during Katrina -- what everyone who worked that story did -- was perhaps the most striking piece of evidence that I'd made the right choice. Pain in the ass that it often was/is, where else could you have that much fun and adventure and bone-deep satisfaction while doing work that important?

On two-finger typing



Dick Pettys and Carolyn Carlson

Carolyn Carlson ([Email](#)) - Norm Abelson's story about two-fingered typing reminded me of another two-fingered typist -- the late Dick Pettys, who covered-the Georgia capital for decades.

As a newswriter in the Atlanta bureau, for several years in the 1980-90s, I would join him in the AP's capital newsroom to help cover the Georgia Legislature. I was always amazed, and a little irritated, to see him typing away with two fingers. I'm a piano player so naturally I use all 10 fingers to type and I assured him that I could type much faster than he.

So we decided one day to put it to the test. We brought in a colleague from across the hall with a stopwatch and picked a printed story to copy. We gave ourselves five minutes and off we went. Time was called, we counted our errors and deducted five words per error, and then added up what was left. To my shock, we both had typed at a rate of about 60 words a minute.

Dick was crowing and I never said another word about his two-fingered typing skills.

Dan Elliott (Email) - Another two-finger typing story, prompted by Norm Abelson's: My late father, a Baptist minister, said he typed using the Christian Method: Seek and ye shall find.

Your pets and the pandemic

Marcia Dunn (Email) - Meet Hercules, our Persian, and Galileo, our Tibetan Terrier better known as Gali – or his full name Galileo Galilei when he's up to no good.

Why settle for the floor when there is soft, comfortable furniture to lounge upon?

My furry boys have been a great comfort, especially during these still trying times.



Our beloved late Tibetan Terrier was named Leonardo da Vinci. It was always amusing to hear the tech at the vet's office announce to the packed waiting room, when it was our turn, "Leonardo da Vinci!"

Now it's "Galileo!" My Italian-born husband influenced both pup names. We couldn't resist honoring the famed physicist who turned his

telescope skyward more than 400 years ago and discovered Jupiter's four biggest moons.



Warren Lerude ([Email](#)) - Well it appears cats are outnumbering dogs at this point in AP responses about pets. So, here's another one.

My wife Janet and I adopted Gracie, six months old, 14 years ago from the Christmas- time display window at Macy's on Union Square in downtown San Francisco and took her to our home in Reno. Naturally we named her Gracie's from Macy's, the only cat we know with a contraction for a name.

Connecting mailbox

An exception to my no-ask-autograph rule

Hal Bock ([Email](#)) - On the subject of autographs brought up by Doug Pizac in Tuesday's Connecting:

I wrote sports for 40 years, from 1963-2004, and covered all the great stars of that era. I considered asking for autographs unprofessional and I never did ... well, almost never.

I got a call one day from a PR person asking if I'd like to ride from midtown Manhattan to Wall Street with Muhammad Ali, who was on his way to a book signing, Of course I would.

Ali's Parkinson syndrome had robbed him of the gift of speech and so I was careful to frame questions that could be answered with a nod or shake of the head. Ali was well into his retirement at this point and I wondered what kind of reception he would get in the financial district. As the car pulled up, it was surrounded by businessmen in three-piece suits, anxious to see him.

As we were getting ready to exit the limo, I said "Stop! Nobody leaves the car until he signs a book for me." Ali grinned, took my copy of his book and write ``To Hal, my pal, Best Wishes, Muhammad Ali''

It was the only time I broke the autograph rule but I am glad I did.

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Solons – how about sharing other archaisms

Marcus Eliason ([Email](#)) - Solons, those acquaintances from my earliest encounters with American newspaperdom, popped up while browsing through newspapers.com. That set me wondering whether this venerable headline-shortener for "legislator", with its origin in ancient Greece, was still in use anywhere. I last saw it in Philippine English-language newspapers in the mid-1990s.

Maybe there's grist here for a series on similar archaisms (if that's what solon is).

Oh, that Portland!



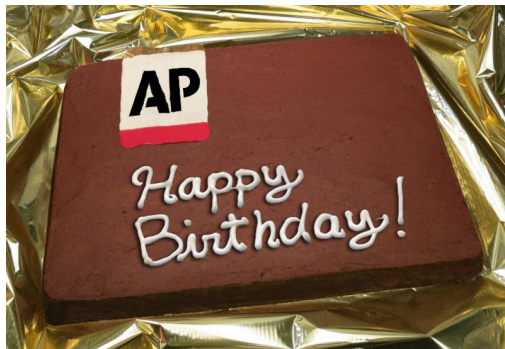
Facebook post spotted and shared by Paul Albright

Connecting sky shot – Beverly Beach, Oregon



Lee Siegel ([Email](#)) - Yaquina Head lighthouse from south end of Beverly Beach, Oregon

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Sandy Duerr - slopets2@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Facebook, Twitter suspend Russian network ahead of election

By BARBARA ORTUTAY

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Facebook said Tuesday that it removed a small network of accounts and pages linked to Russia’s Internet Research Agency, the “troll factory” that has used social media accounts to sow political discord in the U.S. since the 2016 presidential election.

Twitter also suspended five related accounts. The company said the tweets from these Russia-linked accounts “were low quality and spammy” and that most received few, if any, likes or retweets.

The people behind the accounts recruited “unwitting” freelance journalists to post in English and Arabic, mainly targeting left-leaning audiences. Facebook said Tuesday the network’s activity focused on the U.S., U.K., Algeria and Egypt and other English-speaking countries and countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

Read more [here](#).

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Trump’s interviews with friendly hosts can go awry even when they throw him a lifeline

(Washington Post)

By Josh Dawsey

President Trump's ominous answer about anarchists and looters supposedly packing a commercial jet flying to Washington came in response to a fairly simple but unrelated question.

"Who do you think is pulling Biden's strings? Is it former Obama officials?" Fox News host Laura Ingraham asked, referring to Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden.

"People you've never heard of. People that are in the dark shadows," Trump told her in an interview that aired Monday night.

Ingraham, appearing taken aback, asked for an elaboration. "That sounds like a conspiracy theory," she said. "Dark shadow. What is that?"

"They're people that are on the streets. They're people that are controlling the streets," Trump said. "We had somebody get on a plane from a certain city this weekend, and in the plane it was almost completely loaded with thugs wearing these dark uniforms, black uniforms with gear and this and that. They're on a plane."

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

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It's time to bid farewell — and say thank you (Sacramento Bee)

BY KEVIN MCCLATCHY, MCCLATCHY

EDITOR'S NOTE: McClatchy, which owns this newspaper, will emerge from bankruptcy, likely on Sept. 4. It will be owned by Chatham Asset Management. The following column represents a farewell to readers from the departing McClatchy chairman.

Five generations of McClatchys have run this local media company since the founding of its first newspaper in Sacramento 163 years ago. That's a long run for any business, especially a family-run enterprise.

But that streak will end soon when Chatham Asset Management takes control and I step down from my position as chairman of the board along with my three cousins, Molly Maloney Evangelisti, Brown McClatchy Maloney and William McClatchy.

While the McClatchy family has run the business since 1857, our story begins even earlier with a 17-year-old boy leaving his home in what is now Northern Ireland and sailing to New York. The year was 1841 and that boy was my great, great grandfather James McClatchy.

James McClatchy's journey represents more than the chronicles of an adventurous, industrious emigrant who embodied the American dream. It encompasses the ambitions of a growing nation and the blossoming of an industry that would become one of the great pillars of our democracy.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

The Final Word

75 years ago today...



Japanese officials stand in a group facing representatives of the Allied armed forces prior to signing the surrender agreement on the deck of the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, on September 2, 1945, during the surrender

ceremony marking the end of World War II. In front line wearing top hat is Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu and to his right is Gen. Yoshijiro Umezu, Chief of the Army General Staff. Behind them are three representatives each of the Foreign Ministry, the Army, and the Navy. Among the officers in the foreground are Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz and Gen. of the Army Douglas MacArthur. (AP Photo/Max Desfor) (All three photos courtesy of AP Corporate Archives)



U.S. General Douglas MacArthur, left, watches as the foreign minister Manoru Shigemitsu of Japan signs the surrender document aboard the USS Missouri on Tokyo Bay, Sept. 2, 1945. Lt. General Richard K. Sutherland, center, witnesses the ceremony marking the end of World War II with other American and British officers in background. (AP Photo/C.P. Gorry)



They pictured the surrender story. Here, aboard the U. S. S. Missouri, are, from left, AP Cameramen Max Desfor and Frank Filan, Lt. Robert Wands, Wide World Photos cameraman on military leave, and AP's Charley Gorry. Wands was at the Potsdam conference, flew to Tokyo Bay for the surrender ceremonies, and flew back to the U. S. with the first planeload of pictures of the historic event.

**Today in History - September 2,
2020**



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 2, the 184th day of 2020. There are 182 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 2, 1881, President James A. Garfield was shot by Charles J. Guiteau (gee-TOH') at the Washington railroad station; Garfield died the following September. (Guiteau was hanged in June 1882.)

On this date:

In 1566, French astrologer, physician and professed prophet Nostradamus died in Salon (sah-LOHN').

In 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution saying that "these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

In 1917, rioting erupted in East St. Louis, Illinois, as white mobs attacked Black residents; nearly 50 people, mostly Blacks, are believed to have died in the violence.

In 1937, aviator Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappeared over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to make the first round-the-world flight along the equator.

In 1961, author Ernest Hemingway shot himself to death at his home in Ketchum, Idaho.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy met Pope Paul VI at the Vatican, the first meeting between a Catholic U.S. chief executive and the head of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law a sweeping civil rights bill passed by Congress.

In 1976, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Gregg v. Georgia*, ruled 7-2 the death penalty was not inherently cruel or unusual.

In 1986, ruling in a pair of cases, the Supreme Court upheld affirmative action as a remedy for past job discrimination.

In 1987, 18 Mexican immigrants were found dead inside a locked boxcar near Sierra Blanca, Texas, in what authorities called a botched smuggling attempt; a 19th man survived.

In 2009, federal marshals took possession of disgraced financier Bernard Madoff's \$7 million Manhattan penthouse, forcing Madoff's wife, Ruth, to move elsewhere.

In 2018, rescue divers in Thailand found 12 boys and their soccer coach, who had been trapped by flooding as they explored a cave more than a week earlier.

Ten years ago: Gen. David Petraeus arrived in Afghanistan to assume command of U.S. and NATO forces after his predecessor, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, was fired for intemperate remarks he'd made about Obama administration figures in *Rolling Stone* magazine. The United States defeated Japan 7-2 to win its seventh consecutive world softball championships. British novelist Beryl Bainbridge, 77, died in London.

Five years ago: Trying to close the books on the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history, BP agreed to provide billions of dollars in new money to five Gulf Coast states in a deal the company said would bring its full obligations to an estimated \$53.8 billion. A Philippine ferry, the *Kim Nirvana*, capsized after leaving port in Ormoc City, killing about 60 people.

One year ago: Lee Iacocca, the automobile executive who helped launch some of Detroit's best-selling vehicles at Ford and then Chrysler, died in California at the age of 94. Fire erupted at a Jim Beam warehouse in Kentucky that was filled with about 45,000 barrels of aging bourbon; the warehouse and bourbon were a total loss and the bourbon leaked into nearby creeks and rivers. A decorated Navy SEAL, Edward Gallagher, was acquitted of murder in the killing of a wounded Islamic State captive in Iraq but was convicted of posing with the corpse. (Gallagher would be sentenced to four months' confinement, but was set free since he had spent more time in custody awaiting trial; the case led to a conflict between President Donald Trump and armed services leaders over military discipline and forced the ouster of Navy Secretary Richard Spencer.)

Today's Birthdays: Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos is 91. Jazz musician Ahmad Jamal is 90. Actor Robert Ito is 89. Actress Polly Holliday is 83. Racing Hall of Famer Richard Petty is 83. Former White House chief of staff John H. Sununu is 81. Former Mexican President Vicente Fox is 78. Writer-director-comedian Larry David is 73. Luci Baines Johnson, daughter of President Lyndon B. Johnson, is 73. Actor Saul Rubinek is 72. Rock musician Roy Bittan (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 71. Rock musician Gene Taylor is 68. Actress Wendy Schaal is 66. Actress-model Jerry Hall is 64. Actor Jimmy McNichol is 59. Country singer Guy Penrod is 57. Rock musician Dave Parsons (Bush) is 55. Actress Yancy Butler is 50. Contemporary Christian musician Melodee DeVevo (Casting Crowns) is 44. Actor Owain (OH'-wyn) Yeoman is 42. Race car driver Sam Hornish Jr. is 41. NHL center Joe Thornton is 41. Singer Michelle Branch is 37. Actress Vanessa Lee Chester is 36. Figure skater Johnny Weir is 36. Actor Nelson Franklin is 35. Actress-singer Ashley Tisdale is 35. Actress Lindsay Lohan (LOH'-uhn) is 34. Actress Margot Robbie is 30.

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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