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Connecting September 04, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 4th day of September 2020,

The second time around.

Our colleague **Tom Kent** ([Email](#)) hit on a subject that has happened to many of us: You've finished a story, readied it for the wire (or the air or the news pages) and then poof, for some reason – hitting the wrong key, electrical outage, static electricity, whatever – the story vanishes from the computer screen. Then (after you rant and rave!) when you re-create it, your story somehow is better than the first take. Happen to you? It sure has for me.

Kent, former AP Moscow bureau chief, International Editor and Editor for Standards during his long AP career (and currently Adjunct Associate Professor of International and Public Affairs at the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs), noted a recent Connecting story by **Kevin McKean** that made reference to the early Hendrix CRTs that would lose your story if you happened to bump the on/off switch with your knee. He wrote:

“I encountered these washing machine-size machines when I started with AP in Hartford in 1972. I don’t remember a knee-height on/off switch – perhaps they’d mercifully been removed by then – but stories vanished from the screen anyhow. All it took was for someone to walk across the carpet and touch the machine, and the static electricity would obliterate whatever you’d been working on (usually a multi-screen, thousand-word radio split). We learned to make printouts of our copy every few minutes for safety’s sake. But since the CRT had no storage capability, we still had to type everything back into the system.



“That said, I often marveled – once I was through cursing – at how much better my copy was when I typed it in a second time. Sentences were shorter. Unnecessary adjectives vanished. Overlong background shrank. Pointless quotes disappeared. Dropped words returned. Copy was almost always better, if a bit late.

“I’m sure this was true for other staffers, and I’m glad no one in authority ever noticed. Otherwise, I’m sure the CRTs would have been programmed so that whenever you hit the “send” button, a printout was made and the story vanished from the screen, forcing you to type in a better version.”

Got your own story to share?

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Memories of Tom Vint

Mike Holmes (Email) - This is such sad news. By the time I was made Omaha COB, Tom was opening the bureau as our day broadcast editor. Always reliable, even in the worst blizzard, Tom was simply unflappable whether getting urgent news to the wire or helping new staffers learn the ropes. Everyone lucky enough to have known Tom is the better for it.

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Mark Mittelstadt (Email) - I am very sorry to learn of the death of Tom Vint.

He and I were hired the same year (1980), Tom to Omaha and me to Des Moines. Nebraska and Iowa were the responsibility of one bureau chief based in Des Moines, at the time John Lumpkin. The states had many shared interests, including agriculture, farm markets and the since dissolved Big Eight Conference, whose members included University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Iowa State University. There was considerable communication and cross-filing of wires between the two states and I got to know Tom as very helpful and easy to work with.

Tom quickly became AP's voice for Cornhusker sports, a role he relished.

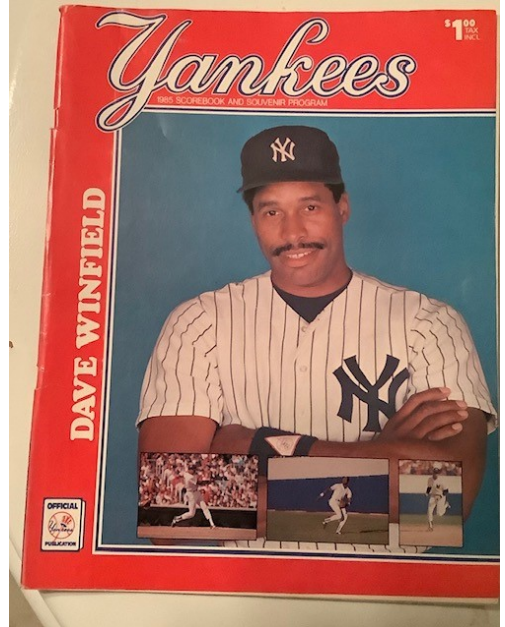
He was a fine man who not only enjoyed writing sports but apparently playing and coaching it as well. His life's scoreboard was closed way too early. Thoughts and prayers to Tom's wife of 51 years, Georgie, and to his family.

Thanks to Tom Seaver for life of kindness, greatness

Dennis Conrad (Email) - So sad to see one of the sports heroes of my youth, Tom Seaver, move on from planet Earth to finish his hurling career against the best hitters Heaven has to offer. My favorite memories include my senior year in high school when he came to Orlando, Florida, to pitch in a Mets exhibition game against the Minnesota Twins at Tinker Field, a few

miles down the road from my home. It was March 15, 1971, an important day in the history of Oak Ridge High School, for I was at home with a terrible cold and putting an end to my remarkable attendance record. Then, upon reading the Orlando Sentinel about the game scheduled for that afternoon, I quickly recovered, almost, and told my mother I was sure to recover fully if she let me take a bus to see the Mets and Seaver on this beautiful sunny day. And yes, she said yes. Amazin', I know. I hurriedly grabbed the 1969 Mets Yearbook I got when I attended the July 30, 1969 Mets doubleheader against the Houston Astros at Shea Stadium.

(Though the Mets blew that doubleheader by surrendering 27 runs as I recall, they did go on to win their World Series against Baltimore). The game was great at Tinker Field, Seaver pitched five innings and was superb at baffling batters.



Now the best part. I stayed for the Mets to leave the park on their team bus and managed to get a few autographs...beautifully written ones...from fellas you might have heard about: TOM SEAVER, COACH YOGI BERRA and MANAGER GIL HODGES. It was a memory for the ages. The next morning, when I was in home room, the teacher, Mrs. Currie, took roll. When she came to my name, she noted with a quizzical look that I had been absent Monday. I smiled and told her I had gone to the baseball game. She thought I was joking and proceeded with the roll as if I had told her I had to have surgery and then provided the paperwork to prove it. That is when I learned one can get away with admitting something “negative” as long as one otherwise has a great track record.

To top it off, there is also an AP angle to this story. I had a chance to return my respects to Tom Terrific, shortly after I joined The Associated Press and started my first job with the news cooperative in the summer of 1985. In early August, with time off scheduled from work and my wife and daughter still in Florida waiting to join me in Ohio, I saw a story about Seaver, then with the Chicago White Sox, scheduled to pitch at Yankee Stadium for his 300th career win. I got in my car, drove to Kearny, New Jersey, picked up two of my brother's kids who were big Mets fans, then took the train and subway to the Bronx. We were among the last 50 fans to get tickets for entry into the ballpark and saw the

field with a sky-high view. It was good enough to see Seaver master the Yanks with a complete game performance. Mission accomplished. Thanks, Tom, for a life of greatness and kindness. RIP.

Adolphe Bernotas' piece on cliches 'hit it right out of the park'

Norm Abelson ([Email](#)) - In response to my friend Adolphe Bernotas, on his hilarious Thursday piece on the cliché:

Amigo of mine,

You hit it right out of the park!

What a rip-snorting, mind-churning piece of work! It was a screed worthy of an ink-stained wordsmith such as you. A brain-storm replete with flair, it was, at the same time, giggle-worthy and replete with newsworthy content. Your Hemingway-esque words flowed like fine wine into the crystal goblets of us admiring scribblers.

It deserves a spot atop journalism's Mt. Olympus, alongside the storied giants of the printed word. You may now rest upon your well-earned laurels.

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Mike Feinsilber ([Email](#)) - Adolphe Bernotas's collection of journalism's clichés probably caused a lot of forehead slaps. What I always say is: Avoid clichés like the plague.

Your pets and the pandemic



Malcolm Barr Sr. ([Email](#)) - AP Honolulu and Washington 1962-1969) holding the leash at a regular "Two Pint Tuesday" gathering at the Virginia Beer Museum in Front Royal, VA while his rescue Siberian Husky, Diva , smooches with one of her friends. At left is Roger Bianchini, a staff reporter and colleague at the town's on-line newspaper, the Royal Examiner (Royalexaminer.com). Barr is a contributing writer for the Examiner, one of four news organizations (Warren County Report; Warren Sentinel; and Northern Virginia Daily) that cover the town and the area. Yes, really, four newspapers! In the past 18 years, in retirement, Barr has contributed to them all. He is big into animals, particularly dogs and horses. Diva is a co-traveler of downtown bars, banks, non-food stores, dog friendly offices and helps host a weekly "Yappy Hour" at a downtown restaurant. She is one of a series of

adopted huskies. beginning with his son's dogs, Lola and Alfie, left behind when Staff Sgt. Malcolm Barr Jr. was assigned to USAF duty in Iraq. Before that, he'd supported a national rescue organization dedicated to the Japanese Chin (96 rescues over 26 years) and is a former president of his local humane society. Barr raced Thoroughbred horses for 21 years, publishing his exploits in the book "1,000 to 1!" "Claiming, Breeding and Racing Thoroughbreds on a Shoestring, and Beating the Odds" (authorhouse.com). He and his wife, Carol, have two other rescue dogs at their home, one an elderly adopted black pug, "Ophelia" - so named when she was brought home from the shelter to be a companion to another old and feeble dog, "Hamlet". a rescued Japanese Chin.

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Mark Mittelstadt (Email) - Our son's 12-year-old pit bull has become sort of a comfort blanket for us and the queen of the house during COVID-19.

Matt rescued LuLu as a puppy from a bad situation and took her with him to various apartments and a rental home as he established himself in Tucson. From the start she was a pampered princess, getting walks, going for swims, sleeping on our son's bed, being socialized with other dogs and people, being by his side on day trips or at work.

She loves being around people and other dogs.

She became a member of our household shortly after we arrived in Tucson in 2016 and as Matt began law school, putting in long hours studying and writing nights and on weekends and not having much time for his pet. LuLu became friends with our 15-year-old lab-pit mix and nurtured her through her final year of life, calming her down, stopping erratic joint-threatening runs around our yard and seemingly not minding when KeeKee accidentally stepped on her or plopped on her when laying down.

LuLu gets us up at 5:30 and dutifully takes us for long walks around the neighborhood. If Mary or I feel under the weather she'll crawl up next to us. If we seem down or angst about the virus or the world in general, LuLu senses it, climbs on the couch and plops hard into a hip, seemingly suggesting "Here I am. You can pet me. It's OK."

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Bill Schiffmann ([Email](#)) - Speaking of wildlife in our lives ...

My wife and I have adopted the whitetail deer that are almost as numerous in our community as their human neighbors.

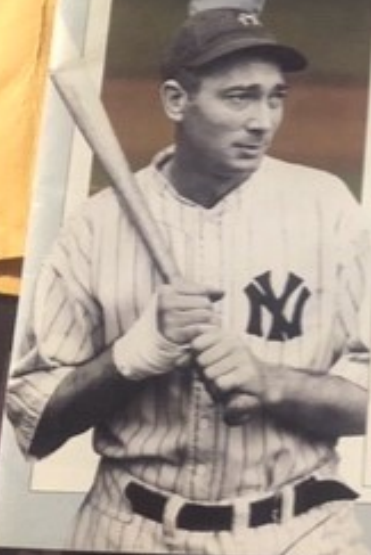
There are too many to name, but they show up most mornings for carrots. The first to arrive will look in our front window to make sure we see that they're ready. When we open the door, one or two will peek inside.

We have skunks, armadillos, squirrels, even a roadrunner or two, but the deer are the best.



More 'fessing-up on the no-autographs rule

FIFTY-SECOND
HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONIES
ANNUAL PROGRAM



Sunday, July 21, 1991
Monday, July 22, 1991
Cooperstown, NY

PUBLISHED BY

The Sporting News

Nabisco Championships

Chris Carola (Email) - Add my name to the growing lineup of AP

staffers who violated the “no autographs” rule while on duty.

In July 1991, I was assigned to cover the annual Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony, and the next day’s Hall of Fame Game, in Cooperstown, N.Y., about an hour’s drive west of the Albany bureau.

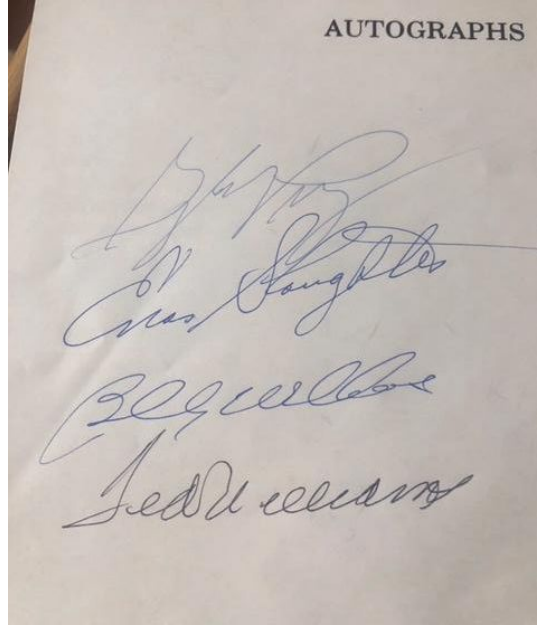
As a former newspaper sports editor who was three years into my second stint with AP, I knew reporters weren’t supposed to hit up athletes for their autographs. But that July weekend in Cooperstown was extra special: the 50th anniversary of Ted Williams hitting

.406 and Joe DiMaggio’s 56-game hitting streak were being celebrated, and both Hall of Famers were in town for the induction ceremony. Just before it started, as the returning Hall of Famers walked to their seats, the applause and cheers grew much louder.

Ted and Joe came walking in side by side, right past where I was standing. They waved to the adoring crowd. Williams was dressed in slacks and open-collar shirt, while DiMaggio was in a jacket and tie, despite the heat and humidity that Sunday.

Earlier, I had gotten three Hall of Famers to sign the induction’s official program: Gaylord Perry (being inducted that weekend), Enos Slaughter (1985) and Billy Williams (1987). That was a no-no, according to the media access rules listed on the back of my Hall of Fame press credential, which prohibited asking Hall of Famers for autographs.

That same press pass allowed me to get onto Doubleday Field during batting practice for Monday’s Hall of Fame Game between San Francisco and Minnesota. Before the game started, cheering erupted outside the stadium. Through the gate leading to the field came Ted Williams, who made a beeline for the third base dugout and sat on the bench. None of the print reporters or TV news crews were approaching him. I knew about his run-ins with the press during his playing days and wasn’t going to be the first one to talk to him.



Just then a sportswriter I didn't recognize sat down and started talking to Williams, who apparently knew the woman and greeted her in a pleasant manner. That's when I thought, "You're standing near Ted Williams. Why not ask him for an autograph?"

I approached him and asked if he wouldn't mind signing my Hall of Fame program. He looked at me, nodded at the credential hanging from my neck and said, "You know you're not supposed to do that."

Leave it to Teddy Ballgame to know the rules.

As I tried to stammer a reply, the sportswriter sitting next to him said, "Oh, c'mon, Ted, sign it for the kid." Williams did, grumbling during the few seconds it took to add his signature to the program page left blank for autographs.

When I got home, I gave the program to my older sister, who had given birth two years earlier to her first child, a son. I told her to save the program and give it to him when he got older. She still has it, but my nephew Michael will soon be adding it to his collection of sports memorabilia.

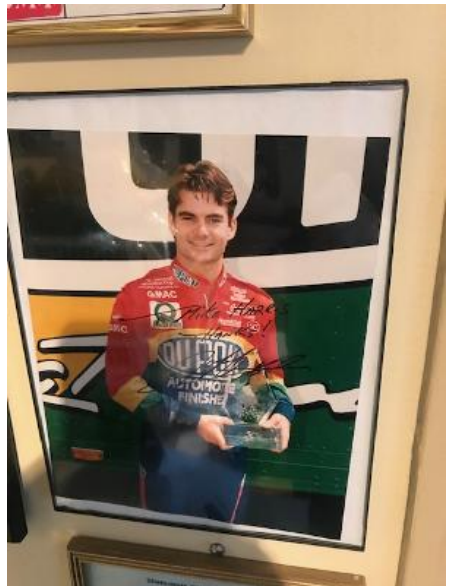
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Mike Harris (Email) - After reading the stories from Hal Bock and Bruce Lowitt about the one time they asked for an autograph, it reminded me of the only autograph I got during my working years.

In the early 1990s, a good friend told me a story about the son of a friend who was very ill and was a huge Jeff Gordon fan. Could I possibly get the sick kid an autographed picture of his hero?

I grudgingly asked Jeff's public relations person for the picture.

"Who should he make it out to?" I was asked. I had no idea. So I said, "Just ask him to say, "Best Wishes" with his signature.



A couple of weeks went by before the PR guy walked up with an envelope. In it was a color picture of Jeff Gordon. He had signed it, "Mike Harris, Thanks, Jeff Gordon."

Totally embarrassed, I took a deep breath and asked for another picture for the young man and eventually got it. Meanwhile, that Jeff Gordon picture he signed for me is framed and hung on my office wall. Why not?

Two-finger typists

Ed Tobias ([Email](#)) - I love the lead on Adolphe Bernatos' two-finger typing story about being asked to leave his high school typing class because he lacked a "proper attitude."

In high school I was asked to leave my French class because of a similar attitude problem. Typing, however, was a class in which I excelled.

Ever since, I've found touch-typing to be a skill that's been much more useful than the ability to speak French.

Connecting mailbox

These Solons played baseball

Allen Matthews ([Email](#)) - Thursday's column made me recall this minor league team:

The Sacramento Solons were a minor league baseball team based in Sacramento, California. They played in the Pacific Coast League during several periods (1903, 1905, 1909–1914, 1918–1960, 1974–1976). The current Sacramento River Cats began play in 2000.

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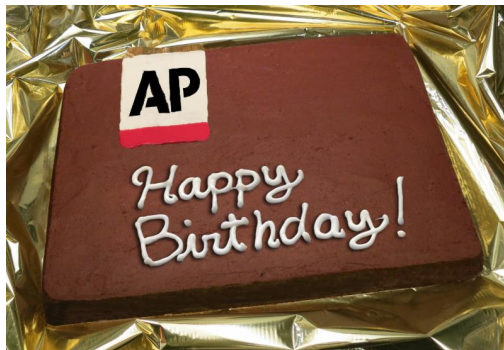
Connecting sky shot – Kansas City



© PETER B. LEABO :: WWW.LEABOGALLERY.COM

Peter Leabo ([Email](#)) - The Midwestern sky is ablaze in a late summer sunset behind an old barn north of Kansas City, MO.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



On Saturday to...

Tad Bartimus – hanagirl@aol.com

Jim McElroy – jmcelroy37@comcast.net

On Sunday to...

Al Habhab – judgealbertandjanethabhab@mchsi.com

Carl Robinson – robinsoncarl88@gmail.com

Cliff Schiappa – schiappa@aol.com

Karen Testa Wong – testawong@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Senators call on Pentagon to reinstate funding for Stars and Stripes newspaper (The Hill)

By JUSTIN WISE

A coalition of Republican and Democratic senators are calling on the Defense Department to reinstate funding for Stars and Stripes, the editorially independent military newspaper whose future was put in doubt earlier this year after the Pentagon proposed shifting money away from the outlet.

In a letter sent to Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Wednesday, the senators argued that funding for the newspaper represented a tiny fraction of the department's annual budget and that cutting it could have a "significantly negative impact on military families."

"We understand that DoD plans to cease publication of Stars and Stripes on September 30, 2020 and completely dissolve the organization by January 31, 2021 as a result of the proposed termination of funding in the fiscal year 2021 President's budget," states the letter, which was spearheaded by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.). Signatories included Sens. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), a veteran, Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.).

"We urge you to take steps to preserve the funding prerogatives of Congress before allowing any such disruption to take place," the senators said.

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Portland protests set up clash between journalists, police

By **SARA CLINE**

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The beam of a police officer’s flashlight swept across a group of 15 people standing on the sidewalk in downtown Portland, Oregon, recording and taking photos of the nightly protests that have roiled the city for three months.

Most in the recent group wore helmets, reflective vests or shirts emblazoned with the word “PRESS” and had media badges dangling from their necks. But some were demonstrators, taking cover behind reporters despite orders to go home or face arrest.

“Hey,” an officer yelled at his colleagues as they cleared streets and arrested people who weren’t leaving. “Half this group is not press. ... Purple mask isn’t press. Bicyclist not press. ... If they are not press, take them into custody.”

For nearly 100 days, reporters have been covering protests that often turn violent in Oregon’s largest city, and in the chaos, some journalists have been injured or arrested despite press freedoms laid out in the First Amendment. The clash also led to a lawsuit against federal authorities sent in to help local police in July.

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

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Opinion: ‘Why Aren’t You Calling These Riots?’ (Wall Street Journal)

By **JAMES FREEMAN**

Today's headline is one of the questions readers of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel have been asking the paper's editors about recent violent events in Kenosha, Wis., and elsewhere. No doubt citizens nationwide have the same question for many politicians and members of the press corps who have lately been extremely creative in conjuring euphemisms for destruction and lawlessness.

The Milwaukee newspaper attempts to respond in an article entitled "Why we aren't reporting on the records of the victims of the Kenosha protest shooting, and answers to other questions about our coverage."

As for the specific question on why the paper is reluctant to use the word "riot," the Journal Sentinel claims:

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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CJC Mourns the Loss of Dean Emeritus Ralph Lowenstein

The University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications is mourning the passing of Dean Emeritus Ralph Lowenstein, who died on August 10 at the age of 90.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of Dean Emeritus Ralph Lowenstein," said Dean Diane McFarlin. "To say that a cornerstone of our College has crumbled would not adequately express the role Ralph played in bringing our College to where it is today. No one has had a greater impact on this program. His imprint from nearly two decades as dean continues to be felt to this day. He was truly a transformational leader and an extraordinary human being."

Lowenstein, who served as Dean from 1976 – 1994, propelled the program into one of the premier communication programs in the country. Under his direction, the college opened a new building, Weimer Hall, in 1980. He was a pioneer in digital media, including establishing the Interactive Media Lab in 1993, which created one of the first journalism-related Web sites in the world.

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

Today in History - September 4, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Sept. 4, the 248th day of 2020. There are 118 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 4, 1781, Los Angeles was founded by Spanish settlers under the leadership of Governor Felipe de Neve.

On this date:

In 1888, George Eastman received a patent for his roll-film box camera, and registered his trademark: "Kodak."

In 1944, during World War II, British troops liberated Antwerp, Belgium.

In 1957, Arkansas Gov. Orval Faubus used Arkansas National Guardsmen to prevent nine Black students from entering all-white Central High School in Little Rock. Ford Motor Co. began selling its ill-fated Edsel.

In 1962, The Beatles, with new drummer Ringo Starr, recorded “Love Me Do” at EMI Studios in London. (The more familiar version with substitute drummer Andy White and Starr on tambourine was recorded a week later.)

In 1969, the Food and Drug Administration issued a report calling birth control pills “safe,” despite a slight risk of fatal blood-clotting disorders linked to the pills.

In 1971, an Alaska Airlines jet crashed near Juneau, killing all 111 people on board.

In 1974, the United States established diplomatic relations with East Germany.

In 1998, Internet services company Google filed for incorporation in California.

In 1999, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat signed a breakthrough land-for-security agreement during a ceremony in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

In 2006, “Crocodile Hunter” Steve Irwin, 44, died after a stingray’s barb pierced his chest.

In 2014, comedian Joan Rivers died at a New York hospital at age 81, a week after going into cardiac arrest in a doctor’s office during a routine medical procedure.

In 2018, Amazon became the second publicly-traded company to reach \$1 trillion in market value, following closely behind Apple. Comic actor Bill Daily, the sidekick to leading men on TV’s “I Dream of Jeannie” and “The Bob Newhart Show,” died in New Mexico at the age of 91.

Ten years ago: Protesters hurled shoes and eggs at Tony Blair in Dublin, Ireland, as he held the first public signing of his memoir as British prime minister amid high security. Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Paul Conrad, 86, died in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Five years ago: Hosting Saudi Arabia’s new monarch for the first time, President Barack Obama said the U.S. shared King Salman’s desire for an inclusive, functioning government in Yemen; their talks also addressed the Iran nuclear deal, a source of lingering tension in the U.S.-Saudi relationship. Hundreds of migrants, exhausted after breaking away from police and

marching for hours toward Western Europe, boarded buses provided by Hungary's government after Austria and Germany said they would let them in.

One year ago: During an Oval Office meeting, President Donald Trump displayed a map of the National Hurricane Center forecast for nearly a week earlier that showed that Hurricane Dorian could track over Florida; the map included what appeared to be a hand-drawn half-circle that extended the cone of uncertainty over part of Alabama. (Trump had been publicly corrected by the National Weather Service after he had tweeted that Alabama would be among the states that would likely be hit "harder than anticipated.") A list of spending projects released by the Pentagon showed that officials would be cutting funding from projects including schools, target ranges and maintenance facilities to pay for the construction of 175 miles of fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border; a total of \$3.6 billion would be diverted to the barrier.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Mitzi Gaynor is 89. Soul singer Sonny Charles is 80. Actor Kenneth Kimmins is 79. Singer Merald "Bubba" Knight (Gladys Knight & The Pips) is 78. TV personality and veterinarian Dr. Jan (yahn) Pol (TV: "The Incredible Dr. Pol") is 78. World Golf Hall of Famer Raymond Floyd is 78. Actor Jennifer Salt is 76. World Golf Hall of Famer Tom Watson is 71. Rhythm-and-blues musician Ronald LaPreard is 70. Actor Judith Ivey is 69. Rock musician Martin Chambers (The Pretenders) is 69. Actor Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs is 67. Actor Khandi Alexander is 63. Actor-comedian Damon Wayans Sr. is 60. Rock musician Kim Thayil is 60. Actor Richard Speight Jr. is 51. Actor Noah Taylor is 51. Actor lone (eye-OH'-nee) Skye is 50. Actor-singer James Monroe Iglehart is 46. Pop-rock singer-DJ-musician-producer Mark Ronson is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singer Richard Wingo (Jagged Edge) is 45. Rock musician Ian Grushka (New Found Glory) is 43. Actor Wes Bentley is 42. Actor Max Greenfield is 41. Country singer Granger Smith is 41. Singer Dan Miller (O Town) is 40. Singer Beyonce (bee-AHN'-say) Knowles is 39. Country singer-musician Tom Gossin (Gloriana) is 39. Actor-comedian Whitney Cummings is 38. Actor-comedian Kyle Mooney (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 36. Folk-rock musician Neyla Pekarek (NEE'-lah peh-KAYR'-ehk) (formerly with The Lumineers) is 34. Pop-rock singer-songwriter James Bay is 30. Actor Carter Jenkins is 29. Actor Trevor Gagnon is 25.

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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