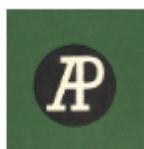


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Connecting September 09, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 9th day of September 2020,

The quality of the AP staff has long benefited from key faculty at journalism schools around the country who often point their best students toward an AP career or who identify graduates out in the field who would make strong AP employees.

One such person was **Ralph Izard**, longtime journalism professor at Ohio University and Louisiana State (pictured at right with his wife Janet). He died last week at his home in Athens, Ohio, at the age of 81 – and our Connecting colleague **Dan Sewell**, AP's Cincinnati correspondent who was once himself a beneficiary of Izard's guidance, brings us the story.

Izard was professor emeritus at both the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University and the Manship School of Mass Communication at LSU. His 32 years at Ohio included 12 years as director, and he served as interim dean of the Manship School for the 2011-2012 academic year.



In my nearly 20 years as Kansas City chief of bureau, one of my best go-to faculty members (and friends) was the late **Tom Eblen**, general manager of the daily campus newspaper at the University of Kansas journalism school who had strong newspaper background before joining KU. Among the many who Tom steered AP's way is **Sally Buzbee**, AP's executive editor, who started her AP career in the Topeka bureau. Tom's wife **Jeannie** is a Connecting colleague.

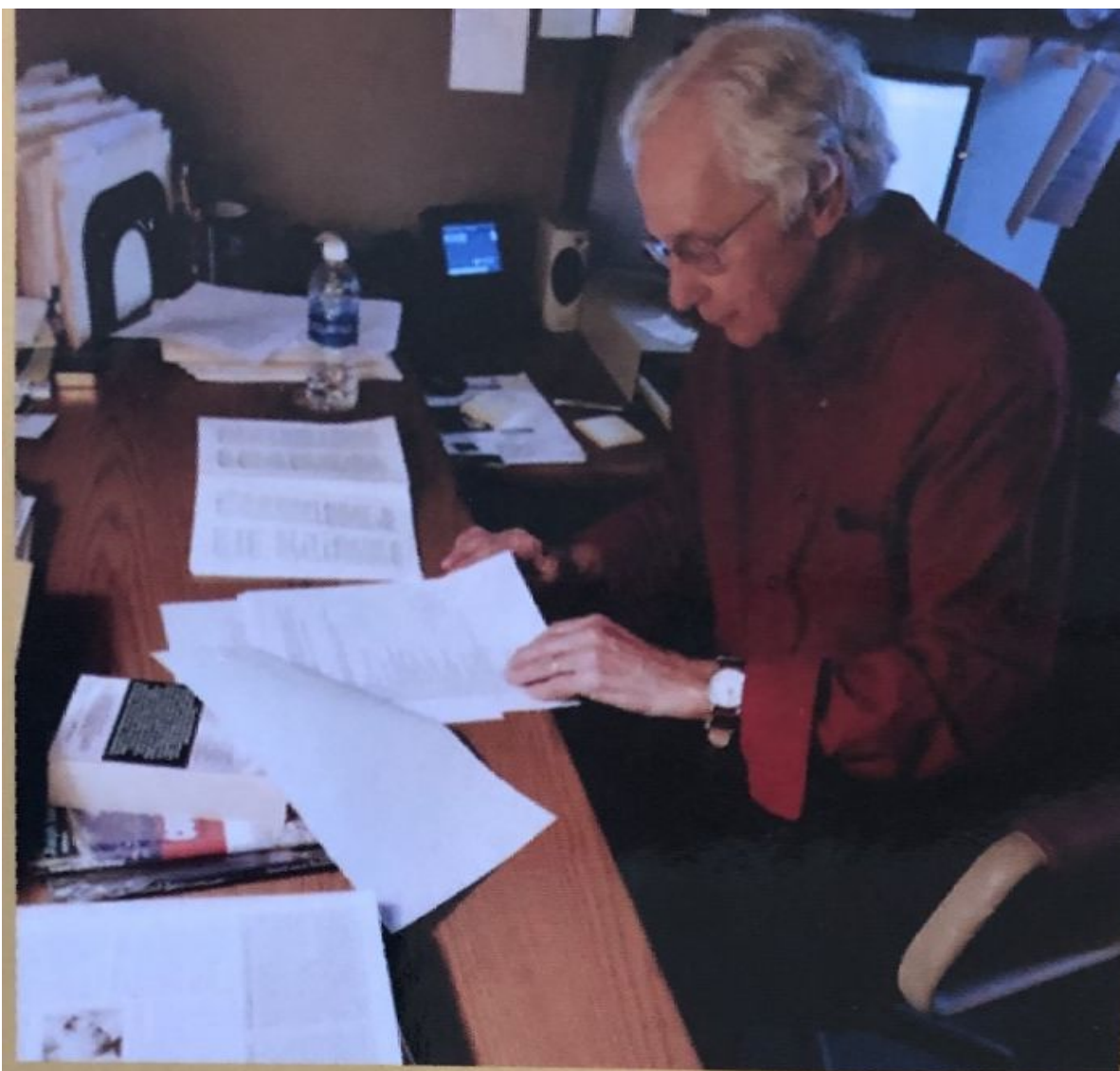
We mourn the death of Ralph Izard, but how about sharing your own thoughts about journalism school faculty who were your go-to people in bringing talent into the AP? Some of them are among our Connecting colleagues.

Today's issue also brings a story on the retirement of a longtime friend of mine, **Ken Newton**. We met 36 years ago when he worked in newspapering in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and our editor/bureau chief relationship continued when he moved to the St. Joseph News-Press. In all, Ken devoted more than 40 years to the newspaper business and what impressed me most was how well he adapted to huge technological changes in that business. He and his wife **Connie** remain close friends.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

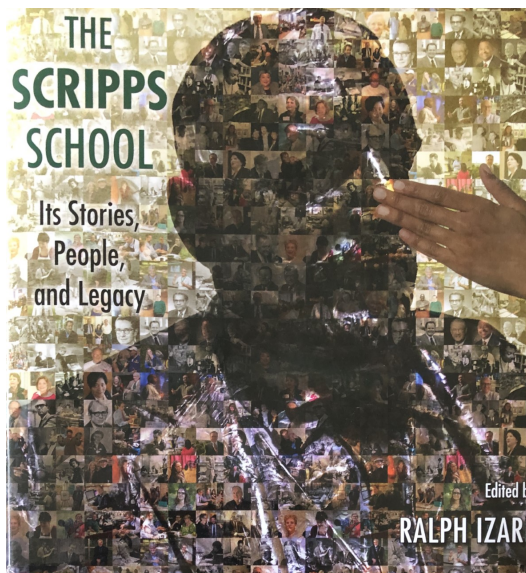
Paul

Ralph Izard, journalism professor with strong AP ties, dies at 81



Dan Sewell (Email) - Ralph Izard, a longtime journalism professor at Ohio University and Louisiana State who had strong connections with The Associated Press, died Sept. 3 at age 81 at his home in Athens, Ohio.

During Izard's time, Ohio U was a regular talent pipeline for The AP. At the time then-Executive Editor Kathleen Carroll visited Athens in 2013 to receive the school's Carr Van Anda Award, some two dozen Ohio U alums were employed by AP, including then-East Africa Bureau Chief Jason Straziuso, Top Stories editor Brian Friedman, Auto Writer Tom Krisher, AP Radio anchor/producer Sandy Kozel, AP Radio newsman Mike Hammer, sports writers Jay Cohen, Joe Kay and Mitch Stacy, New York courts reporter Larry Neumeister, Columbus reporter Kantele Franko, Indianapolis BNS Ken Kusmer, Virginia sports writer Hank Kurz, Washington newsman Doug Daniel and your Cincinnati correspondent. Former AP Political Editor Liz Sidoti, longtime Supreme



Court reporter Dick Carelli and Time Magazine politics reporter Phil Elliott are among other Ohio U products who had AP stints.

Izard also liked to keep his skills up to date and interned for four AP bureaus, including Miami.

His final project was compiling "The Scripps School: Its Stories, People and Legacy." Published in 2018. The cover photo above depicts the students' tradition of patting the statue of E.W. Scripps on the nose while entering the journalism building. The photo of Ralph is on the back cover. Among the stories is on the school's ties to AP, with former Los Angeles bureau chief Andy Lippman recounting how he always hired his Cincinnati summer interns from Ohio U, including future pro football guru Peter King.

Izard was preceded in death in January by his wife Janet, 78, an Ohio University teacher of dress and design. Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

Doug Daniel (Email) – AP Washington writer and editor - adds: "I met Ralph Izard as a professor when I entered the graduate program at Scripps in 1989 and later when I joined the faculty in 2000. He had the same qualities as a teacher and a colleague: encouraging, generous, wise and fun to be with. Ralph believed a journalism school could and should have a professional focus as well as an academic one. Under his guidance and with the efforts of the faculty, the Scripps program turned out journalists to practice the craft and professors of journalism to teach it. That's quite a legacy."

The final chapter is hard to write



Ken Newton, left, and Alonzo Weston.

By News-Press NOW (St. Joseph, Missouri)

A quarter century or so ago, Ken Newton and Alonzo Weston walked into a newsroom that was considerably different than what you would see today.

Reporters worked toward a single evening deadline for the next day's newspaper, although St. Joseph News-Press employees recalled a not-so-distant past with an evening and morning print edition. Photos were developed on film, a printing plant rumbled in the basement and a single computer terminal was connected to the internet.

That computer sounded like it had a broken spring when you logged on. Twitter followers? That sounded like some sort of cult.

One thing, however, remained unchanging for Newton and Weston. Both displayed a distinguished commitment to journalism that was both highly readable and in the public interest during careers as reporters and columnists at the St. Joseph News-Press. Both retired Friday from their full-time positions at what is now a media company with print, television and online platforms.

"Both leave behind an impressive body of work, the likes of which may never be seen in our newsroom, or our community, again," said Steve Booher, director of news and content strategies, in a note to the newsroom. "Over the decades, they've watched the news industry change. They both have stayed mindful that, even as a newspaper's methods and delivery change, the ethics, standards and commitment to serve readers remains constant."

Read more [here](#).

Thoughts on **Ken Newton** ([Email](#)) – a Connecting colleague – from retired St. Joseph News-Press executive editor Dennis Ellsworth ([Email](#))

A few final remarks about Ken, my colleague of 18 years (and your friend as well):

Ken easily ranks among the most capable journalists I have ever known or observed. His deep interest in telling stories of substance, in a highly readable way, true to the facts, always fair, are hallmarks of his personality and career.

Ken justifiably is respected for his reporting on government and politics, at both the state and national levels. He also is a gifted writer, recognized for columns both serious and humorous, and yet very possibly is not given enough credit for his feature reporting. In particular, I recall the weekly "Life Stories" series that graced the pages of the News-Press for more than a decade and frequently produced content for the AP member exchange.

Ken also, during his long career, demonstrated remarkable ability to adapt to changing technologies. He consistently ventured where other print veterans were hesitant to tread. He was the first online editor for the News-Press and in recent years remade himself into an accomplished all-platforms reporter equally adept at online and television reporting.

Ken's retirement is richly deserved, and I have no doubt he will continue to contribute to his community in other ways. But missing him from the ranks of full-time journalists at the News-Press will take some getting used to.

More thoughts from two-fingered typists

Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - When I attended J.H.S. 128 (junior high school) in Bensonhurst, I was given the opportunity to join the school orchestra. I played the accordion. (Note: From what I can tell, every Jewish boy in Brooklyn played the accordion in the 1950s.)

The accordion is not an orchestral instrument. But because I knew how to read music, I was invited to join. I would play another instrument. I had my heart set on the trumpet. But my father would have none of that. I would be the next Pablo Casals. He decreed I would play the cello.

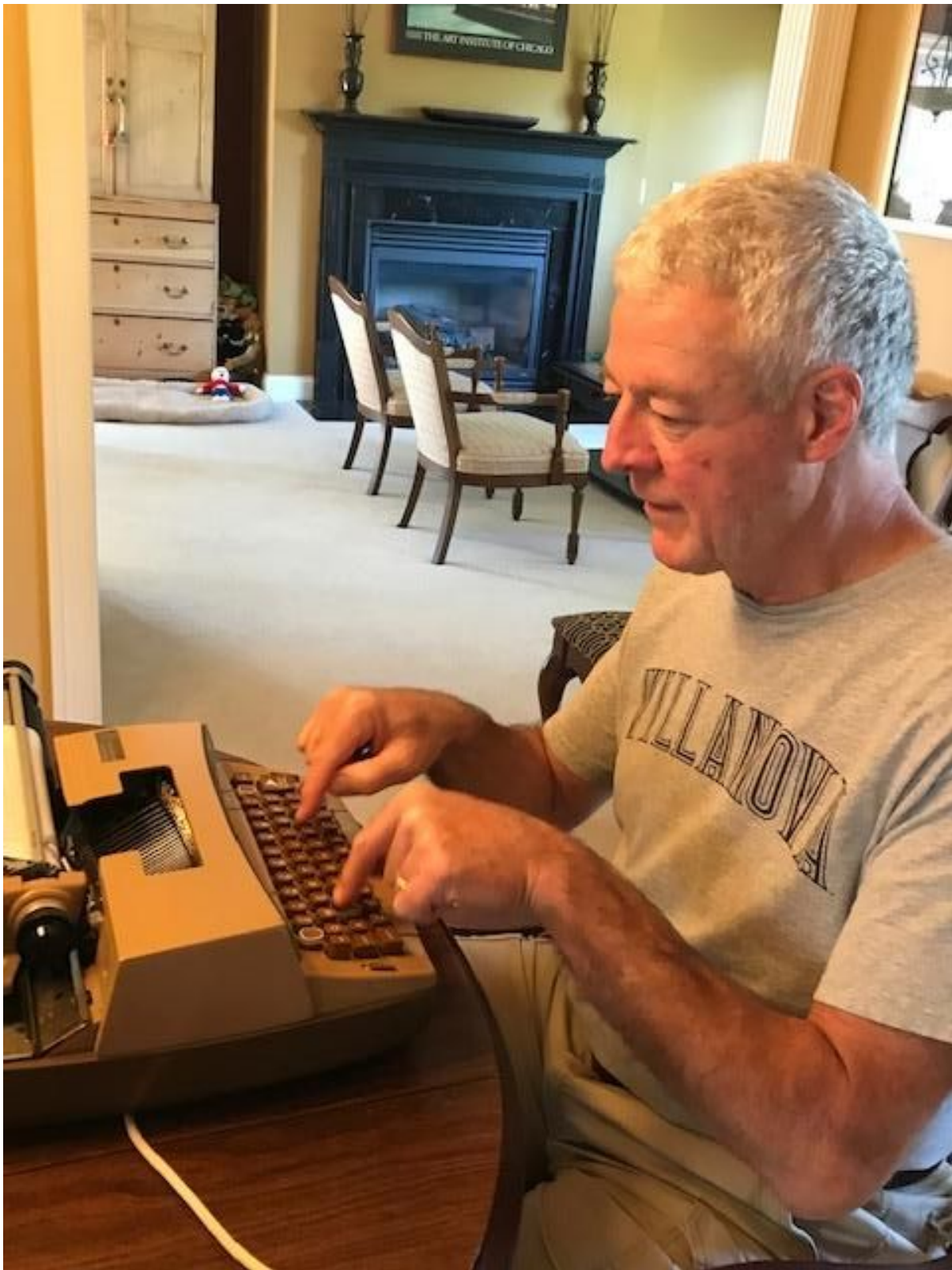
For two weeks I shlepped the instrument and a briefcase filled with books to school - a city block walk from home to the bus stop (if you don't know what a city block is, in New York City it's very long), two bus rides (transferring at 86th Street and 18th Avenue to the second one), and two more blocks to the school. And, of course, back home again.

I finally pitched a major fit and my father relented. I could play the trumpet. By then, of course, it was no longer available. I had two choices: the harp (I envisioned my father having to buy a pickup truck to get me to and from school) or the viola. My father decreed that I would be the next Lionel Tertis. I would play the viola.

I disliked it so much that I not only never learned how to play it, but by the time the school year ended I had essentially forgotten how to read music.

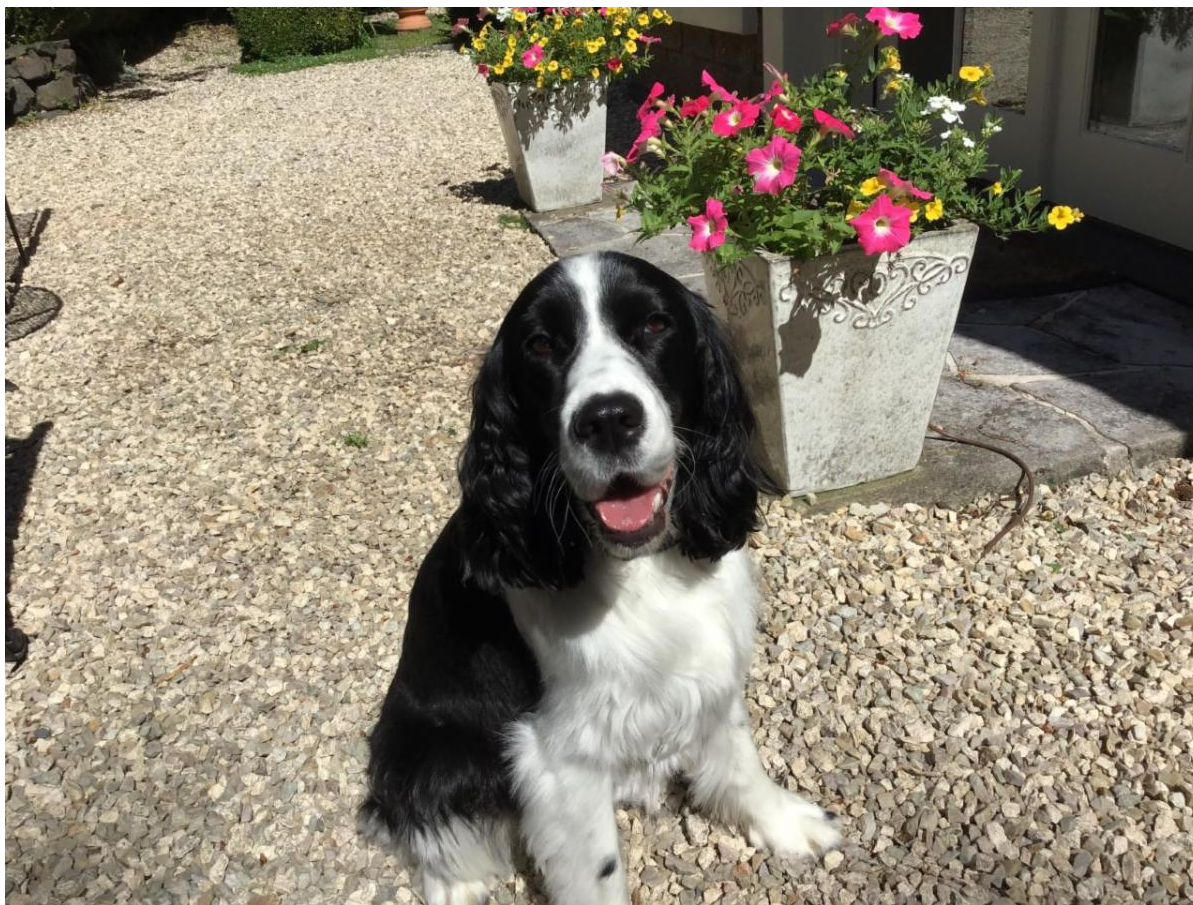
The reason I tell this tale is that, had I not been invited to join the J.H.S. 128 orchestra, I would have taken typing. But I didn't. Not then. Not ever. Which is why I have always been a two-fingered (or, more accurately, four-fingered) typist.

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John Nolan ([Email](#)) - demonstrates the two-fingered typing technique on a Smith-Corona typewriter. This is a comfortable compromise for those unable, or unwilling, to try to coordinate all 10 fingers for typing. The two-fingered style served John well through almost 29 years with the AP in Nashville, Chattanooga and Cincinnati. (See his story in Tuesday's Connecting.)

Your pets and the pandemic



Linda Kramer Jennings ([Email](#)) - Daisy is basking in the extra time and attention from her humans in the year of COVID. She gets many more walks and tummy rubs. She has never met someone she didn't immediately love and has trouble not jumping up to show that you are now her new best friend. She also is the best doorbell we ever had. We don't have a real doorbell but can count on Daisy to bark when a delivery truck arrives. She is convinced that anyone coming to the house must be coming to play with her, thus the enthusiasm for FedEx, USPS and other drivers (an enthusiasm not always reciprocated by the drivers).

She is lucky to be growing up on Bainbridge Island where just up the hill from our house we can walk on a trail through the Douglas Fir. She's an English Springer Spaniel and does a great job springing over fallen logs on the trail.

She also is lucky that there are wild blackberries everywhere this time of year. Somehow she manages to nibble them off one at a time and avoid the prickles. Thanks to Daisy, we also discovered that an ornamental pear tree in our back had a graft that has turned half of it back into a fruit producing tree when Daisy trotted up with a pear jammed in her mouth. When not chomping down pears, she goes for any apples that fall to the ground from our eight apple trees. So far none of this foraging has upset her system.

Chomping fruit is one thing, but I wish she wouldn't chomp on dish towels and cloth napkins. Yesterday she was racing delightedly around the house with a napkin that is part of a set we bought in France. It now looks like lace.

Connecting mailbox

Kudos to Doug Tucker and his Nameless Cat

Hal Bock ([Email](#)) - What a marvelous story from Doug Tucker and his Nameless Cat (in Tuesday's Connecting). They are terrific pets. We just lost our beloved Smoky last month after 17 years and we are still trying to get over it. Like Nameless, she was a stray we rescued and she crept right into our hearts. Enjoy Nameless, who deserves all the love Doug and Phyllis give her.

Andy Lippman ([Email](#)) - Doug Tucker's story about No Name was so good that it read like an O. Henry short story.

It had a horrible beginning and then the story of how the cat came into Doug's life and changed it was so touching. Then he had the great line about his girlfriend – now wife - inviting him for a spaghetti dinner.

Purr-fect.

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At least Israel bureau's Telex's didn't gobble up our work

Marcus Eliason ([Email](#)) - I guess I was lucky. The Israel buro didn't come of computer age until years after stateside, so cumbrous though our steam-powered Telex machines were, they at least didn't gobble up our work, and if they did, we could fall back on our typewritten original.

When the early CRTs finally arrived, I did suffer some of the copy losses described by colleagues in Connecting, but I have to be honest: Whenever I lost a story, the redo usually came out shorter and sweeter.

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California wildfires darken the sun



Smoke from wildfires burning east of Los Angeles dimmed the sunrise on Monday, seen from Pasadena. John Antczak/Associated Press

Michael Rubin ([Email](#)) - John Antczak's photo of the smoke-filled Pasadena sunrise is showing up all over — here in the NYT California Today e-newsletter and in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat as well.

This pretty well sums up California fire weather. It was 111 for two consecutive days here in Napa and we're now in day 23 of Spare the Air alerts for the San Francisco Bay area, not to mention Red Flag warnings for windy conditions and "public safety power shut offs" by PG&E for wide swaths of Sonoma and Napa counties.

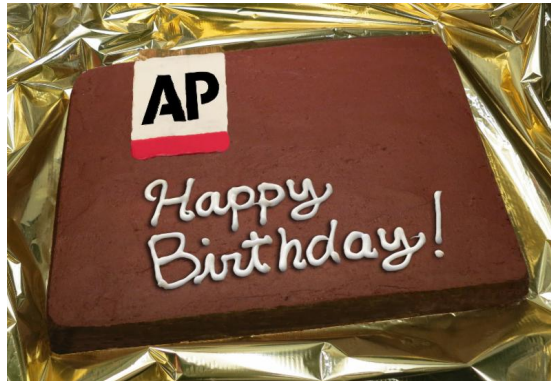
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Good day, sunshine



Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) – shares a pleasant view from his backyard.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Bill Hancock – bhancock@collegefootballplayoff.com

Stories of interest

Journalists Aren't the Enemy of the People. But We're Not Your Friends. (New York Times)

By Ben Smith

The worst thing about being a reporter in the age of Donald Trump is, of course, the president's concerted attacks on the free press. The second-worst thing is well-meaning readers who say things like, "Thank you for what you do."

I mean, I appreciate it. Last week, on assignment in Cape Cod — hardship travel, I know — I thanked myself for what I do with a dip in the Atlantic and a buttery lobster roll. Some of my more frontline colleagues, from Elmhurst, Queens, to Wuhan, China, take physical and psychological risks to deliver information that deserve true gratitude.

But when some of you who are alarmed by the rise of Mr. Trump thank a political journalist or a television pundit, you're feeding our worst instincts — toward self-importance, toward making ourselves the story and toward telling you exactly what you want to hear. And you're leading us into a dangerous temptation at a time of maximum pressure on the free press.

Read more [here](#).

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The 5G lie: The network of the future is still slow

(Washington Post)

By Geoffrey A. Fowler
Technology columnist

Unless you've been living under a rock — which in 2020 actually sounds soothing — you've probably heard there's a new cellphone technology called 5G. Any iPhone or Galaxy owner knows the law of Gs: Every additional G makes downloads faster. 3G sent pictures. 4G streamed video.

Apple is planning to hold a launch event on Sept. 15, where it could unveil its first 5G-enabled iPhones. Samsung's entire flagship lineup is now 5G-equipped. So these 2020 models are going to really fly, right?

Well, hold on just a minute. 5G may hold promise for the years ahead — but across most of America in 2020, a 5G phone does diddly squat. Testing 5G phones, I've been clocking download speeds that are roughly the same as on 4G LTE ones. And in some places, like inside my house and along the California highway, my 5G phones actually have been slower.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

Today in History - September 9, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 9, the 253rd day of 2020. There are 113 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 9, 1776, the second Continental Congress made the term "United States" official, replacing "United Colonies."

On this date:

In 1543, Mary Stuart was crowned Queen of Scots at Stirling Castle, nine months after she was born.

In 1850, California became the 31st state of the union.

In 1942, during World War II, a Japanese plane launched from a submarine off the Oregon coast dropped a pair of incendiary bombs in a failed attempt at igniting a massive forest fire; it was the first aerial bombing of the U.S. mainland by a foreign power.

In 1948, the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea) was declared.

In 1956, Elvis Presley made the first of three appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

In 1971, prisoners seized control of the maximum-security Attica Correctional Facility near Buffalo, New York, beginning a siege that ended up claiming 43 lives.

In 1986, Frank Reed, director of a private school in Lebanon, was taken hostage; he was released 44 months later.

In 1991, boxer Mike Tyson was indicted in Indianapolis on a charge of raping Desiree Washington, a beauty pageant contestant. (Tyson was convicted and ended up serving three years of a six-year prison sentence.)

In 2005, Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Michael Brown, the principal target of harsh criticism of the Bush administration's response to Hurricane Katrina, was relieved of his onsite command.

In 2013, four days of vehicular gridlock began near the George Washington Bridge when two of three approach lanes from Fort Lee, New Jersey, were blocked off; the traffic jam was later blamed on loyalists to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie over the refusal of Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich (SAHK'-oh-lich) to endorse Christie for re-election. (Two political insiders were convicted for their roles in the closure; a unanimous Supreme Court later threw out the convictions. Christie denied any prior knowledge of the lane closures, but the episode helped derail his 2016 presidential bid.)

In 2014, Apple unveiled its long-anticipated smartwatch as well as the next generation of its iPhone.

In 2016, Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, speaking at an LGBT fundraiser in New York City, described half of Republican Donald Trump's supporters as "a basket of deplorables," a characterization for which she would end up expressing regret.

Ten years ago: A natural gas pipeline explosion killed eight people and destroyed dozens of homes in the San Francisco suburb of San Bruno, California. Iran said it would free Sarah Shourd, one of three American hikers held for more than 13 months on spying accusations, as an act of clemency to mark the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. (Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal were sentenced in August 2011 to eight years in prison, but were released the following month.)

Five years ago: Queen Elizabeth II became the longest reigning monarch in British history, serving as sovereign for 23,226 days (about 63 years and 7 months), according to Buckingham Palace, surpassing Queen Victoria, her great-great-grandmother. New York became the first U.S. city to require salt warnings on chain-restaurant menus.

One year ago: Coast Guard rescuers pulled four trapped South Korean crew members alive from a cargo ship, more than a day after the ship overturned as it left a port in Brunswick, Georgia. President Donald Trump said peace talks with the Taliban were now "dead," two days after he abruptly canceled a secret meeting he had arranged with Taliban and Afghan leaders. The acting chief scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said the agency had likely violated its scientific integrity

rules by publicly chastising a weather office that had contradicted Trump concerning a hurricane threat to Alabama.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Topol is 85. Singer Inez Foxx is 78. Singer Dee Dee Sharp is 75. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Joe Theismann is 71. Rock musician John McFee (The Doobie Brothers) is 70. Actor Tom Wopat is 69. Actor Angela Cartwright is 68. Musician-producer Dave Stewart is 68. Actor Hugh Grant is 60. Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., is 57. Actor-comedian Charles Esten (formerly Chip) is 55. Actor Constance Marie is 55. Actor David Bennent is 54. Actor Adam Sandler is 54. Rock singer Paul Durham (Black Lab) is 52. Actor Julia Sawalha (suh-WAHL'-hah) is 52. Model Rachel Hunter is 51. Actor Eric Stonestreet is 49. Actor Henry Thomas is 49. Actor Goran Visnjic (VEEZ'-nihch) is 48. Pop-jazz singer Michael Buble' (boo-BLAY') is 45. Latin singer Maria Rita is 43. Actor Michelle Williams is 40. Actor Julie Gonzalo is 39. Neo-soul singer Paul Janeway (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 37. Actor Zoe Kazan is 37. Author-motivational speaker-businessman Farrah Gray is 36. Actor Kelsey Asbille is 29. Contemporary Christian singer Lauren Daigle is 29. Country singer-songwriter Hunter Hayes is 29.

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