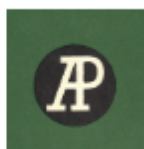


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Connecting

October 13, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 13th day of October 2020,

Stripping the wire was once one of the major responsibilities in the newsrooms of AP and UPI bureaus and their newspaper and broadcast customers, back in the days of the Teletype.

The task often landed on the shoulders of the newest members of the staff. Or part-timers - like me.

Two of our colleagues – **Tim Marsh** and **Paul Albright** – shared their favorite memories of the task of taking stories off Teletype printers – and at newspapers, clearing and winding up the yellow reperftape that allowed editors to set the stories into type instead of retyping them.

Got stories to share of your own experiences? Hope to hear from you. Yes, a trip down nostalgia lane...

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Stripping the wires



Mary Tyler Moore's expression says it all for those of us who kept the newsroom teletypes in functional order.

Tim Marsh ([Email](#)) - When I worked on The Observer daily newspaper in La Grande, Ore., the paper was UPI. Afternoon publication for afternoon/evening delivery.

We'd get to the office in the morning to rip the wire of stories that moved over the night. At the same time the stories were printed there was tape printed which was fed into (Compugraphic?) equipment which gave us hard copy to use in paste up.

But, sometimes the machine would jam. While the tape was printed OK, the paper feed would jam up and we didn't have stories to match up with the tape.

We'd call the UPI bureau in Portland and learn numbers associated with stories on tape. In other words, based on headlines and whatever else people at UPI Portland told us we'd sort of blindly pick stories to be printed for hard copy paste up.

-0-

Paul Albright ([Email](#)) - My lasting impression of stripping the wires occurred in 1953 when I was a 17-year-old college freshman with a summer job as a copy boy at Denver's "Rocky Mountain News." A recurring task, of course, was for the copy boy to strip the AP, UP, and INS wires, shape the copy into a roll, and place it on the desk of the finicky wire editor. He would place the rolled-up wire copy in his lap and pull it forward to decide which articles were to be considered for publication and which were to be spiked.

All teletypes were in a small room between the AP's night bureau and the newspaper's telephone switchboard. The noise of ringing bells when bulletins and flashes were posted could be quite distinct across the newsroom.

I was stripping the machines on the night of June 19, 1953, when the teletype bells erupted with the Flash that Ethel and Julius Rosenberg had been executed. Then came more bells and short-sentence Bulletins reporting their execution at Sing Sing prison in New York for conspiring to pass atomic secrets to the Soviets.

I recall being astonished at the bell ringing and the short dispatches. It was my first experience with breaking news. I hope I had the presence of mind to tear the copy off the AP printer and hand it to the wire editor. The rest is history!

AP Definitive Source: VoteCast

AP Vote Cast debuted in 2018 as an alternative to the traditional exit poll and, in many ways, it uses the ideal methodology to conduct accurate research about the electorate during a pandemic. Deputy Managing Editor David Scot, and Polling and Surveys Reporter Hannah Fingerhut discuss how AP came into the year ready for this moment in history.

Click [here](#) to view. (Shared by Nancy Nussbaum)

Connecting mailbox

Sweet memories of Stouffer's and her dad

Stephanie Nano ([Email](#)) – *an editor for AP's Health & Science team* - I was particularly interested in Pat Kreger's piece about her daughter in Monday's Connecting.

It brought back some sweet memories of my own about Stouffer's. My father, Ed Nano, was a commercial photographer in Cleveland and for many years did all the photos for Stouffer's frozen food packages and other projects for them.

The test kitchen workers would spend days at my father's studio, prepping the food for his cameras. They would often leave behind the leftovers, so my father --with five kids to feed -- brought them home. We kids made a game out of selecting between the mystery unmarked bags for dinner.

Like Pat and her daughter, it was fun to see my father's work on display in the frozen food section.

-0-

Proud to be part of CBS award-winning team



Correspondent Scott Pelley with producers Bob Anderson, Pat Milton, Aaron Weisz.

Pat Milton ([Email](#)) - Grateful our CBS 60 Minutes team won the Edward R. Murrow Award for Investigative Reporting for our story "Online Overdose" in which we traced the deadly drug Fentanyl from the streets of Cleveland to China.

Click [here](#) to view the story.

-0-

AP sighting – Afghanistan



Bill McCloskey ([Email](#)) - This from a Sunday Washington Post item on U.S. troops leaving Afghanistan. This is from Forward Operating Base Lightning in Paktia province in southeast Afghanistan. Photo by Lorenzo Tugnoli for The Washington Post.

More memories of working the Overnight

Steve Wilson ([Email](#)) - I've enjoyed reading all the posts about working the AP overnight shift.

I had the “pleasure” of working the early in Miami, Boston and New York before going overseas.

My usual routine involved going straight home after the shift (crossing paths with people going into work while I went in the opposite direction), sleeping during the day, getting up around 5 p.m. and heading straight to the nearest tennis courts.

I’d get in my daily sports fix, eat some dinner and chill at home before heading back into work for another round on the graveyard shift.

I can’t complain. I was young enough that my body clock adjusted relatively easily, I learned a lot working on my own and I made the most of the daytime hours to pursue my passion for tennis.

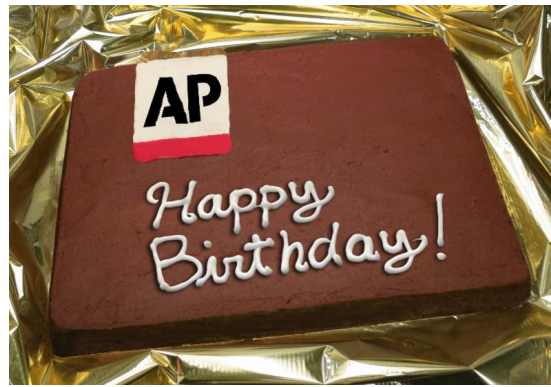
In Miami, when I would leave the bureau on Saturday morning after a week’s duty on the early, rather than going home to crash I would join COB Tom Brettingen and fellow staffer Dan Sewell for some lively (often chippy) games of touch football and playground basketball. A great way to work off the cobwebs. I’d stay up all day and try to readjust to normal sleeping hours for two nights before going back to the day shift on Monday.

I did have one unsettling overnight-related incident. Getting off work on a quiet Sunday morning after the early shift on the World Desk, I left 50 Rock headquarters and noticed a man loitering nearby. As I walked toward the corner of Rockefeller Plaza, I felt him come at me from behind. I lunged forward just in time as something hard glanced off my shoulder. It turned out the attempted mugger had wrapped a rock inside a scarf and swung it my head, but missed.

Just then, the building security guard came out and saw what had happened. We chased the man around the corner. The guard caught him and held him down until the police came. I went to a police station a few days later to file a report. I’m not sure whatever happened to the assailant.

Other than that, my memories of working the early are all good ones! And my tennis game is still going strong.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Steve Gutkin - stevengutkin@hotmail.com

Richard Vogel - richardvogel@mac.com

Sonya Zalubowski - szalubowski@gmail.com

Stories of interest

As Trump Flouts Safety Protocols, News Outlets Balk at Close Coverage (New York Times)



President Trump boarding Air Force One without a mask at Joint Base Andrews, Md., for a campaign trip to Florida on Monday. Credit: Doug Mills/The New York Times

By Michael M. Grynbaum

Major news organizations have become increasingly wary of sending journalists to travel with President Trump to White House events and campaign rallies, as the president and his aides continue to shun safety protocols after an outbreak of the coronavirus within their ranks.

The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post are among the major outlets that have declined to assign reporters to travel with Mr. Trump as he returns to the trail this week, saying they do not have assurance that basic precautions will be taken to protect reporters' health.

Foremost among the flouters is Mr. Trump himself, who, despite recently contracting the virus and spending three nights in the hospital, has shown little willingness to change his habits: On Saturday, he said the virus would soon "disappear," and on the way to a rally in Florida on Monday, he boarded Air Force One — where reporters were seated in the cabin — without wearing a mask.

At least three White House correspondents have tested positive for the coronavirus in the past two weeks, including a Times reporter who had traveled on Air Force One, Michael D. Shear.

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

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U.S. TV news networks aim for credibility, not speed, on election night (Reuters)

By Helen Coster

(Reuters) - In preparing for election night, some top U.S. television news executives see a cautionary tale in a notorious November evening two decades ago.

After major networks projected Vice President Al Gore the winner in the crucial state of Florida, they pivoted in the wee hours to calling his Republican rival George W. Bush the next president. The margin was so slim, Gore conceded, then took it back an hour later.

The election wouldn't be decided for more than a month. The only loss that night was the networks' credibility.

“I think 2000 still sort of lingers over everyone,” said Fox News Media President Jay Wallace, whose network was among those that initially called Gore the winner. “As competitive as networks can be, you do know that you’re calling a presidency and you don’t want to be wrong on something like this.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

-0-

Yakima to be part of Microsoft pilot project to preserve smaller newsrooms (Yakima Herald)

By JANELLE RETKA

The Yakima Valley is one of four communities nationwide that will be part of a Microsoft pilot program to preserve local newsrooms.

The project will support journalism in Yakima; Fresno, Calif.; El Paso, Texas; and Jackson, Miss. In addition to a year of funding, newsrooms in each community will receive technology support, training and legal support for an undefined amount of time.

Mary Snapp, Microsoft’s vice president of strategic initiatives, said the effort builds on previous Microsoft media projects and aims to prevent information deserts.

“As we started to really delve into this area and started talking about trust, we realized that people trust their local news more than they trust national news, more than they trust TV, more than they trust their government,” Snapp said.

Nationwide, newsroom employment has dropped by half and 2,100 newsrooms have closed in the past 15 years, according to a news release by Microsoft announcing the new initiative. The COVID-19 pandemic has created extra stress, with 11,000 newsroom jobs cut since January in the U.S.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

AP called out for adopting Democrat language on court-packing, forced to issue correction (Fox News)

By NICK GIVAS

The Associated Press was forced to add an editor's note to a recent story about the Supreme Court on Saturday, in which the outlet made it seem as if the Democratic strategy to pack the high court would "depoliticize" the bench.

The article, written by Iris Samuels, centered on a debate between Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., and Gov. Steve Bullock, his Democratic opponent in the upcoming election.

The AP's original post reportedly read, "Bullock said that if Coney Barrett was confirmed, he would be open to measures to depoliticize the court, including adding judges to the bench, a practice critics have dubbed packing the courts."

The report referred to President Trump's Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett.

The line about court-packing serving as a way to "depoliticize" the bench was removed to reflect the idea that it was not a statement of fact, but rather the political opinion of a Democratic lawmaker.

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

-0-

An Arrest in Canada Casts a Shadow on a New York Times Star, and The Times (New York Times)

By Ben Smith

Derek Henry Flood wasn't looking for work in March of 2018, when he sent a direct message to a New York Times reporter he admired, Rukmini Callimachi, to congratulate her on the announcement of her big new podcast about the terror group known as the Islamic State.

By that time, major American news outlets had mostly stopped hiring freelancers like Mr. Flood in Syria, scared off by a wave of kidnappings and murders.

But when Mr. Flood mentioned that he was in the northern city of Manbij, Ms. Callimachi wrote back urgently, and quickly hired him for a curious assignment. She sent him to the local market to ask about a Canadian Islamic State fighter called Abu Huzayfah.

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

Today in History - October 13, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 13, the 287th day of 2020. There are 79 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 13, 1775, the United States Navy had its origins as the Continental Congress ordered the construction of a naval fleet.

On this date:

In A.D. 54, Roman Emperor Claudius I died, poisoned apparently at the behest of his wife, Agrippina (ag-rih-PEE'-nuh).

In 1792, the cornerstone of the executive mansion, later known as the White House, was laid by President George Washington during a ceremony in the District of Columbia.

In 1932, President Herbert Hoover and Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes laid the cornerstone for the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington.

In 1943, Italy declared war on Germany, its one-time Axis partner.

In 1944, during World War II, American troops entered Aachen (AH'-kehn), Germany.

In 1960, John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon held the third televised debate of their presidential campaign (Nixon was in Los Angeles, Kennedy in New York).

In 1972, a Uruguayan chartered flight carrying 45 people crashed in the Andes; survivors resorted to feeding off the remains of some of the dead in order to stay alive

until they were rescued more than two months later.

In 1974, longtime television host Ed Sullivan died in New York City at age 73.

In 1999, the Senate rejected the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, with 48 senators voting in favor and 51 against, far short of the 67 needed for ratification.

In 2000, South Korean President Kim Dae-jung was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. Longtime American communist Gus Hall died in New York at age 90.

In 2003, the U.N. Security Council approved a resolution expanding the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Afghanistan.

In 2016, Donald Trump heatedly rejected the growing list of sexual assault allegations against him as “pure fiction,” hammering his female accusers as “horrible, horrible liars.” Bob Dylan was named winner of the Nobel prize in literature.

Ten years ago: Rescuers in Chile using a missile-like escape capsule pulled 33 men one by one to fresh air and freedom 69 days after they were trapped in a collapsed mine a half-mile underground. U.S. authorities announced the arrests of 73 people accused of being part of a vast network of Armenian gangsters and their associates who allegedly used phantom health care clinics and other means to try to cheat Medicare out of \$163 million.

Five years ago: Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders clashed over U.S. involvement in the Middle East, gun control and economic policy in the first Democratic presidential debate held in Las Vegas, but in a moment of political unity, Sanders leapt to Clinton’s defense on the issue of her controversial email practices as secretary of state. Twitter announced it was laying off up to 336 employees. Playboy announced it would no longer run photos of completely naked women in its magazine. Former NBA and reality TV star Lamar Odom was hospitalized after he was found unconscious at a Nevada brothel.

One year ago: Defense Secretary Mark Esper said President Donald Trump had directed U.S. troops in northern Syria to begin pulling out “as safely and quickly as possible.” Brigid Kosgei of Kenya was the first woman across the finish line in the Chicago Marathon; her time of 2 hours, 14 minutes, 4 seconds broke a women’s world record. Dolly Parton performed on the Grand Ole Opry radio show in Nashville as she marked her 50th anniversary as an Opry member. Helicopters, boats and thousands of troops were deployed across Japan to rescue people stranded in flooded homes, as the death toll from a ferocious typhoon climbed past 30.

Today’s Birthdays: Gospel singer Shirley Caesar is 83. Actor Melinda Dillon is 81. Singer-musician Paul Simon is 79. Actor Pamela Tiffin is 78. Musician Robert Lamm (Chicago) is 76. Country singer Lacy J. Dalton is 74. Actor Demond Wilson is 74. Singer-musician Sammy Hagar is 73. Pop singer John Ford Coley is 72. Actor John Lone is 68. Model Beverly Johnson is 68. Producer-writer Chris Carter is 64. Actor and former NBA

star Reggie Theus (THEE'-us) is 63. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., is 62. R&B singer Cherrelle is 61. Singer/TV personality Marie Osmond is 61. Rock singer Joey Belladonna is 60. Former White House press secretary Ari Fleischer is 60. Former NBA coach Doc Rivers is 59. Actor T'Keyah Crystal Keymah (tuh-KEE'-ah KRYS'-tal kee-MAH') is 58. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Jerry Rice is 58. Actor Kelly Preston is 58. Country singer John Wiggins is 58. Actor Christopher Judge is 56. Actor Matt Walsh is 56. Actor Reginald Ballard is 55. Actor Kate Walsh is 53. Rhythm-and-blues musician Jeff Allen (Mint Condition) is 52. Actor Tisha Campbell-Martin is 52. Classical singer Carlos Marin (Il Divo) is 52. Olympic silver medal figure skater Nancy Kerrigan is 51. Country singer Rhett Akins is 51. Classical crossover singer Paul Potts is 50. TV personality Billy Bush is 49. Actor Sacha Baron Cohen is 49. Rock musician Jan Van Sichem Jr. (K's Choice) is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singers Brandon and Brian Casey (Jagged Edge) are 45. Actor Kiele Sanchez is 44. Former NBA All-Star Paul Pierce is 43. DJ Vice is 42. Singer Ashanti (ah-SHAHN'-tee) is 40. R&B singer Lumidee is 40. Christian rock singer Jon Micah Sumrall (Kutless) is 40. Olympic gold medal swimmer Ian Thorpe is 38. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., is 31. Actor Caleb McLaughlin (TV: "Stranger Things") is 19.

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

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