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Connecting December 24, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 24th day of December 2020,

The year I was born, 1946, my parents Ruth and Walt Stevens started a Christmas tradition of a family photo and newsletter that they mailed to family and friends – a tradition I helped them continue in their last years before it came to an end Christmas 2013, the year my dad joined mom in Heaven.

Following in my dad's journalism footsteps, I did the same with our own family – and Linda and I have continued their photo/newsletter tradition from the year we were married, in 1968, through the present day. There are lots of favorite stories through those years on the challenges of assembling the group, especially when Jenny, Molly and Jon were in those terrible teenage years, for the photo.

Like you, we never would have guessed what 2020 would bring and that a photo of a Family Zoom gathering in the middle of a pandemic would be the only way we would all be together for that Christmas card. But here we are - virtually in a Zoom.

A Merry, happy, safe Christmas to each of you. I feel fortunate to be connected with you through the newsletter.

I'll see you in your Inbox next Monday morning.

Paul

Some Christmas offerings

An Ohio light show



Mark Duncan (Email) - I thought I'd share this photo I made several years ago of an elaborate light show in our little burg. Norman Rados puts up his display every year at his Olmsted Township home, beginning in early November with the goal of hitting the switch Thanksgiving night. For many years we (and many others) have driven past to take in the scene. I'm sure passengers on planes landing at Cleveland Hopkins airport - about 5 miles northeast - can certainly see this as well.

He does have an advantage. Norm works for a large crane rental company and has access to a bucket truck.

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Sharing a Christmas lunch with Andy

Gary Gentile ([Email](#)) - I am one of those lucky staffers to have shared Christmas lunch with Andy (Lippman) at the LA Bureau! (See Wednesday's Connecting)

More than the food (which was always good and most welcome), it was Andy's broad smile and good cheer that brightened up the day. I never had the privilege to work for him, but enjoyed the opportunity to get to know him in his emeritus role.

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Remember Allan Sherman - A Little Different Take On A Traditional Christmas Song

John Terino ([Email](#)) - If you are old enough you will remember Allan Sherman and his parody songs.

Click [here](#) for the one he did, so old it is in black and white, for Christmas - 12 Gifts Of Christmas - on the Jimmy Dean Show, Thursday, Dec. 5, 1963. The night before, Allan went into Columbia Recording Studios with the same group here and recorded the single that would be released Monday, Dec. 9, 1963

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Christmas Eve - early '70s, El Lay bureau

(LA100)LOS ANGELES, Dec. 24--NO EL, NO EL--After an all-night party at the glorious Los Angeles photo bureau in beautiful downtown El Lay, photographer Nick Ut, alias Nick Huynh, Huynh Cong Ut, Lone Ranger, etc., sits atop the polytron as he tries to convince photo ed JA Steck, alias JAS, Jodie, Dale Evans etc., and fellow photog Doug Pizac, alias Duug, puppy-saver, rookie, Roy Rogers, that yes, there really is a Santa Claus (however, he's not Vietnamese). Merry Christmas, Kids. From ALL of us (and those not pictured) to the best crew this news-gathering organization could ever find. (AP Laserphoto)(jas51800staff phto by Lone Ranger)



Jo Steck (Email) - In my recent move, I unpacked a HUGE RANDOM HOUSE, unabridged 2nd edition; it was among boxes I had in storage for easily 20 years.

When I opened it, it was filled with a ton of bulletins and this.

(Nick, Doug and Jo are all Connecting colleagues - and Jo is our newsletter archivist.)

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There's at least one snowy newspaper reader!



Shared by Paul Albright

Connecting mailbox

Did you have LDB plates?

Dan Day ([Email](#)) - I was on my way from Princeton to home in Lawrence, N.J., last evening when I spotted this car in front of me.

Surely there's a Connecting laugh in here somewhere, I thought as I snapped this photo while at a stoplight.

Maybe: OK, how many of us had LDB license plates? (LDB is Louis D. Boccardi, former AP president and CEO, and a Connecting colleague.)

Merry Christmas and all the best to you and your families

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Publisher turns biographer

Joseph Carter ([Email](#)) - John C. Hughes, who capped a 42-year career in journalism as editor and publisher of the Aberdeen, Washington Daily World, has written a compelling 294-page biography titled "Julia Butler Hansen: A trailblazing Washington politician." By all measures, the deeply intellectual but pragmatic politician Hansen shattered many glass ceilings facing women.

Hansen, 1907-1988, was a powerhouse appropriations subcommittee while a member of Congress after serving 20 years in her state's legislature rising to Speaker Pro Tempore. While in Congress, she chaired a 1973 committee that de facto overhauled the rules of the House of Representatives. Breaking other glass ceilings, Hansen was nationally active in highway policy groups and in her later years was chair of the Washington State transportation commission.

During her early years, Hansen authored a published book and aspired to become a journalist. After being elected to her hometown council of Cathlamet, Hansen was caught up into Democratic politics becoming a Capitol Hill favorite of Presidents John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson.

During an era when women faced historic and well-known odds, she won 42 consecutive elections.

Since retiring from the newspaper, Hughes became chief historian of “Legacy Washington” where he has penned 12 other books.

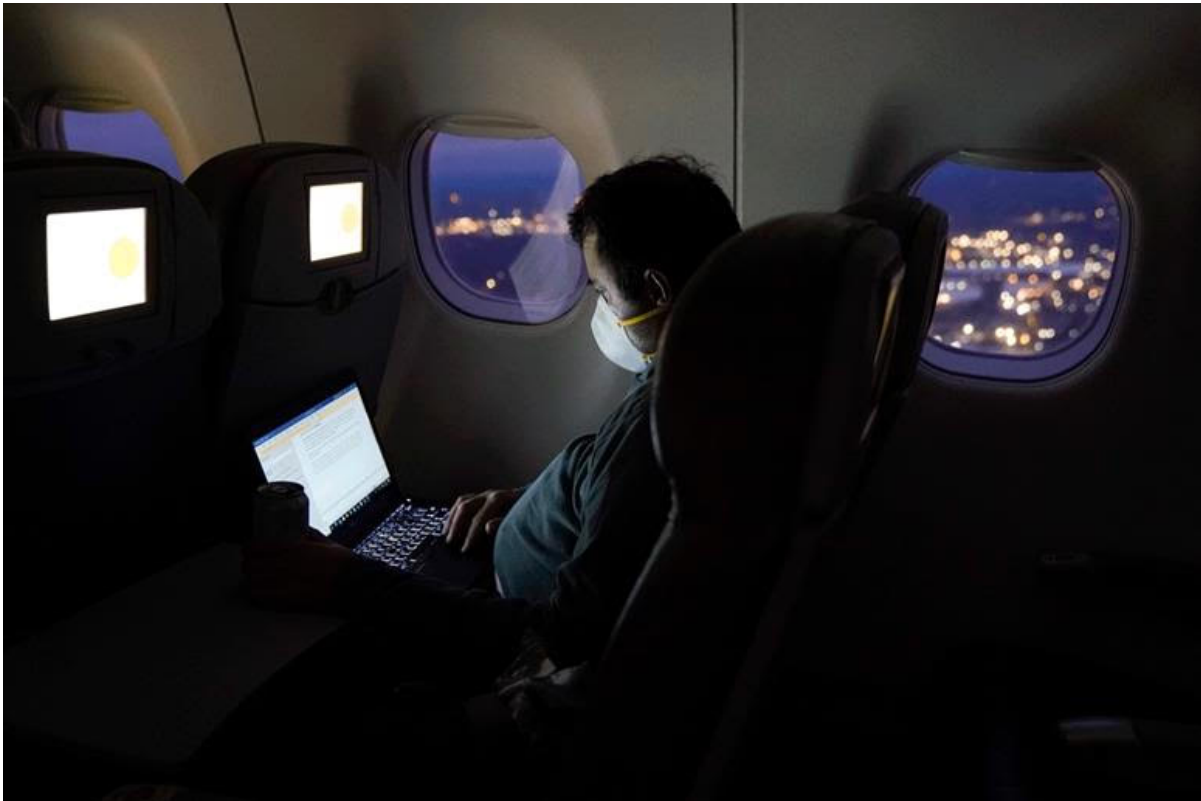
As a disclaimer, I, Joseph H. Carter, the writer of this summary, served on Rep. Hansen’s congressional staff after years as a wire service and newspaper reporter. Beyond assisting Hughes’ research, I am mentioned in the book.

Prior to release of the biography, John C. Hughes’s superb magazine cover story about Julia Butler Hansen was published by the Seattle Times.

AP journalists on the job



Photographer Rahmat Gul captures the aftermath of a car bomb blast in Kabul, Afghanistan, Dec. 20, 2020. (Photo by Ahmad Zubair)



White House reporter Aamer Madhani works on a press plane departing Atlanta, Dec. 15, 2020, after covering President-elect Joe Biden's appearance at a rally for Georgia's Democratic Senate candidates. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Bill Wertz - wcwertz@gmail.com

On Friday to...

Ed Bell – edbell40@gmail.com

Mike Cochran – cochranmike@sbcglobal.net

Chris Connell – cvconnell@gmail.com

Roger Petterson – repetterson@gmail.com

Anita Snow - anitasnow@hotmail.com

On Saturday to...

Darrell Christian – darrellchristian@yahoo.com

Tom Cohen – tomandlesley@verizon.net

Peggy Simpson – pegsimpson38@gmail.com

On Sunday to...

Greg Halling - ghalling66048@gmail.com

Scott McFetridge - smcfetridge@ap.org

Stories of interest

Journalist killed in Honduras, 4th so far this year (AP)

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — A radio journalist has been killed in Honduras, the fourth to be slain this year, the InterAmerican Press Association said Wednesday.

The group identified the victim as Pedro Arcángel Canelas, owner of Radio Bambi and host of the news program “Correo Informativo.”

It said Canelas was shot to death by a man on a motorcycle in the rural province of Olancho over the weekend. The group called on Honduran authorities to thoroughly investigate the crime.

Independent journalist Luis Alonso Almendares was killed in September, and reporter Germán Vallecillo Jr. and cameraman Jorge Posas were killed in July.

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

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The Village Voice Rises From the Dead (New York Times)

By Katie Robertson

The Village Voice, the storied New York alt-weekly that shut down in 2018 after a 63-year run, will live again.

Brian Calle, the chief executive of Street Media, the owner of LA Weekly, said on Tuesday that he had acquired the publication from its publisher, Peter D. Barbey.

“I think a lot of people will be hungry for this and I’m superoptimistic,” Mr. Calle said in an interview.

He added that he planned to restart The Voice’s website in January and would publish a “comeback” print edition early next year, with quarterly print issues to follow. On Tuesday he hired Bob Baker, a former Voice editor, as a senior editor and content coordinator. Mr. Calle said he wanted to bring back more former staff members who know the paper’s tone. He has not yet named an editor in chief.

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

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Turkish court convicts former editor on terror charges (AP)

By ZEYNEP BILGINSOY and DOROTHEE THIESING

ISTANBUL (AP) — A Turkish court on Wednesday convicted the former editor-in-chief of opposition newspaper Cumhuriyet on espionage and terror-related charges over a 2015 news story, a verdict the exiled journalist said exemplified the pressures on Turkish media.

The court in Istanbul found Can Dunder guilty of “obtaining secret documents for espionage” and “knowingly and willingly aiding a terrorist organization without being a member.” It sentenced him to 27 1/2 years in prison.

Dunder fled to Germany in 2016, and he was tried in absentia. His lawyers said the proceedings did not adhere to the standards for a fair trial and judicial impartiality, and they did not attend Wednesday’s court hearing in protest.

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

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Gannett negotiates early exit from management deal with Fortress Investment Group (USA Today)

By Nathan Bomey, USA TODAY

Gannett, the owner of USA TODAY and more than 260 other daily publications, has negotiated an early exit from a fee-based arrangement in which an investment firm has been managing the company.

Gannett announced Tuesday morning that it will pay FIG LLC, an affiliate of Fortress Investment Group, a one-time fee of \$30.375 million to end its management deal at the end of this year. The deal had previously been set to expire at the end of 2021.

As part of the move, Gannett announced that Michael Reed, an employee of Fortress who has been serving as Gannett's CEO and chairman, will become an official employee of the newly independent media company effective Jan. 1. He will retain his role as CEO and chairman.

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

The Final Word

A season of fear, not cheer, as virus changes Christmas (AP)



FILE - In this Dec. 21, 2020, file photo, Tessa Boulton, left, takes a swab test from Michael Kruse, dressed as Santa Claus, at a coronavirus testing center at the Helios Clinic in Schwerin, Germany. All most people wanted for Christmas after this year of pandemic was some cheer and togetherness. Instead many are heading into a season of isolation, grieving lost loved ones, experiencing uncertainty about their jobs or confronting the fear of a potentially more contagious variant of the coronavirus. (Jens Buettner/dpa via AP, File)

By VANESSA GERA

Montserrat Parelo lost her husband eight years ago, and Christmas gatherings with children and grandchildren had helped her deal with her loneliness. But this year, the 83-year-old will be alone for the holiday at her home in Barcelona, due to the risk of infection from the coronavirus.

“In these days of pandemic, I feel loneliness and anger,” Parelo said, expressing fears that “I will leave this life devoid of affection, of warmth.”

All most people wanted for Christmas after this year of pandemic uncertainty and chaos was some cheer and togetherness. Instead many are heading into a season of isolation, grieving lost loved ones, worried about their jobs or confronting the fear of a new potentially more contagious virus variant.

Residents of London and surrounding areas can't see people outside their households. Peruvians won't be allowed to drive their cars over Christmas and New Year to

discourage visits even with nearby family and friends. South Africans won't be able to go to the beach on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - Dec. 24, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 24, the 359th day of 2020. There are seven days left in the year. This is Christmas Eve.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 24, 1814, the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812 following ratification by both the British Parliament and the U.S. Senate.

On this date:

In 1524, Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama [-] who had discovered a sea route around Africa to India [-] died in Cochin, India.

In 1851, fire devastated the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., destroying about 35,000 volumes.

In 1865, several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski, Tennessee, that was the original version of the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1913, 73 people, most of them children, died in a crush of panic after a false cry of "Fire!" during a Christmas party for striking miners and their families at the Italian Hall in Calumet, Michigan.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe as part of Operation Overlord.

In 1968, the Apollo 8 astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Old Testament Book of Genesis during a Christmas Eve telecast.

In 1980, Americans remembered the U.S. hostages in Iran by burning candles or shining lights for 417 seconds [–] one second for each day of captivity.

In 1984, actor Peter Lawford, 61, died in Los Angeles.

In 1992, President Bush pardoned former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and five others in the Iran-Contra scandal.

In 1993, the Rev. Norman Vincent Peale, who blended Christian and psychiatric principles into a message of “positive thinking,” died in Pawling, New York, at age 95.

In 2014, Sony Pictures broadly released “The Interview” online [–] an unprecedented counterstroke against the hackers who’d spoiled the Christmas opening of the comedy depicting the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

In 2016, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused President Barack Obama of a “shameful ambush” at the United Nations and said he was looking forward to working with his “friend” Donald Trump; Netanyahu’s comments came a day after the U.S. broke with past practice and allowed the Security Council to condemn Israeli settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

Ten years ago: Pope Benedict XVI ushered in Christmas Eve with an evening Mass amid heightened security concerns following package bombings at two Rome embassies and Christmas Eve security breaches at the Vatican the previous two years.

Five years ago: Christian faithful from around the world descended on the biblical city of Bethlehem for Christmas Eve celebrations as an outburst of Israeli-Palestinian violence dampened the typically festive mood. California Gov. Jerry Brown pardoned Robert Downey Jr. for a nearly 20-year-old felony drug conviction that sent the Oscar-nominated actor to jail for nearly a year. William Guest, 74, a member of Gladys Knight and the Pips, died in Detroit.

One year ago: With the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris unable to host Christmas services for the first time since the French Revolution because of damage from a fire earlier in the year, the clergy, choir and congregation relocated to a Gothic church next to the Louvre Museum for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Democratic presidential contender Michael Bloomberg said he had cut ties with a contractor that used prisoners to make calls for his presidential campaign.

Today's Birthdays: Federal health official Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., is 80. Recording company executive Mike Curb is 76. Actor Sharon Farrell is 74. Former U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions is 74. Actor Grand L. Bush is 65. Actor Clarence Gilyard is 65. Actor Stephanie Hodge is 64. The former president of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai (HAH'-mihd KAHR'-zeye), is 63. Rock musician Ian Burden (The Human League) is 63. Actor Anil Kapoor (ah-NEEL' kuh-POOR') is 61. Actor Eva Tamargo is 60. Actor Wade Williams is 59. Rock singer Mary Ramsey (10,000 Maniacs) is 57. Actor Mark Valley is 56. Actor Diedrich Bader is 54. Actor Amaury Nolasco is 50. Singer Ricky Martin is 49. Author Stephenie Meyer is 47. TV personality Ryan Seacrest (TV: "Live With Kelly & Ryan") is 46. Actor Michael Raymond-James is 43. Actor Austin Stowell is 36. Actor Sofia Black-D'Elia is 29. Rock singer Louis Tomlinson (One Direction) 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

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