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Connecting

February 02, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 2nd day of February 2021,

Sometimes, winter projects can lead to a contribution to Connecting.

That's what happened when **Paul Albright** was sorting through family photos and discovered a manila envelope filled with snapshots from decades ago. The envelope was marked Telemats and so with a bit of research, and help from fellow Connecting colleagues **Valerie Komor**, **Francesca Pitaro** and **Hal Buell**, he came up with a story to share.

First, however, we bring you a story on the swearing-in ceremony for our colleague **Lisa Matthews** ([Email](#)) as president of the National Press Club. It was done virtually, and she raised her right hand, placed her left hand on an AP Stylebook (you know, "the bible" of the news industry) and took the oath of office.

Congratulations, Lisa!

In a story from the San Antonio Report, headlined “After publisher’s death, the clock suddenly stops as a town loses its only news source”, by **Shari Biediger**, the link was omitted. Click [here](#) to read the story – and a welcome to Connecting to Shari.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Dan Rather swears in AP’s Lisa Matthews as National Press Club president at online inaugural gala, calls her work 'essential, noble'



By Lorna Aldrich

Lisa Nicole Matthews placed her left hand on the Associated Press style book, raised her right hand and was sworn in as the 114th president of the National Press Club by legendary CBS broadcast veteran Dan Rather Saturday at the Club’s virtual inaugural gala.

"The country needs you and the National Press Club needs you -- now more than ever," Rather told Matthews. "The country needs you to find out and communicate what is going on, what is really going on, and tell it. Lisa, yours now is especially essential, noble work."

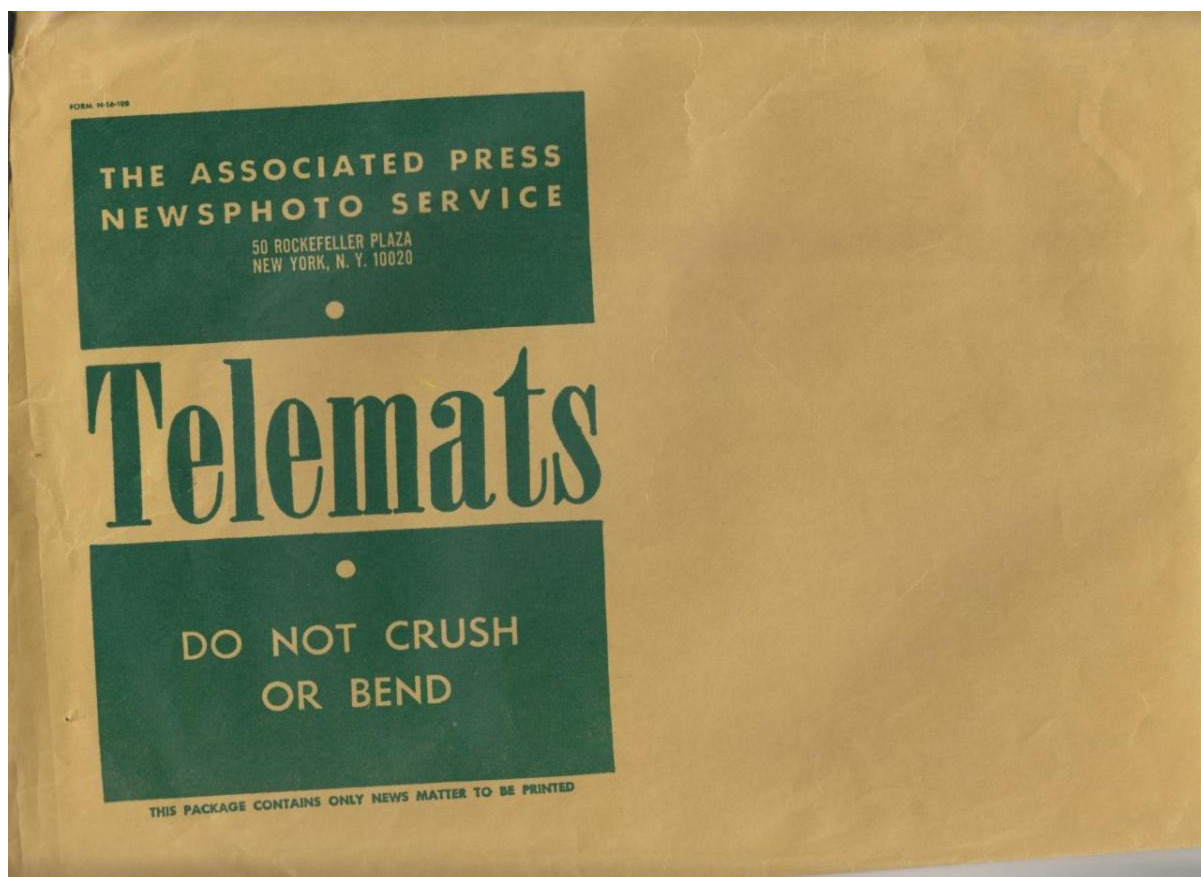
Matthews, assignment editor for U.S. Video at The Associated Press, is the third Black president of the Club and the 14th woman to serve in the role. In her inaugural address, she noted that women were admitted to the 108-year-old Club beginning in 1971, and the first Black members joined after a Club referendum in 1955.

"The first presidents of the National Press Club did not look like me," Matthews said. "What you are seeing today, my friends, is progress, and I congratulate you for your participation in the progress of the Club."

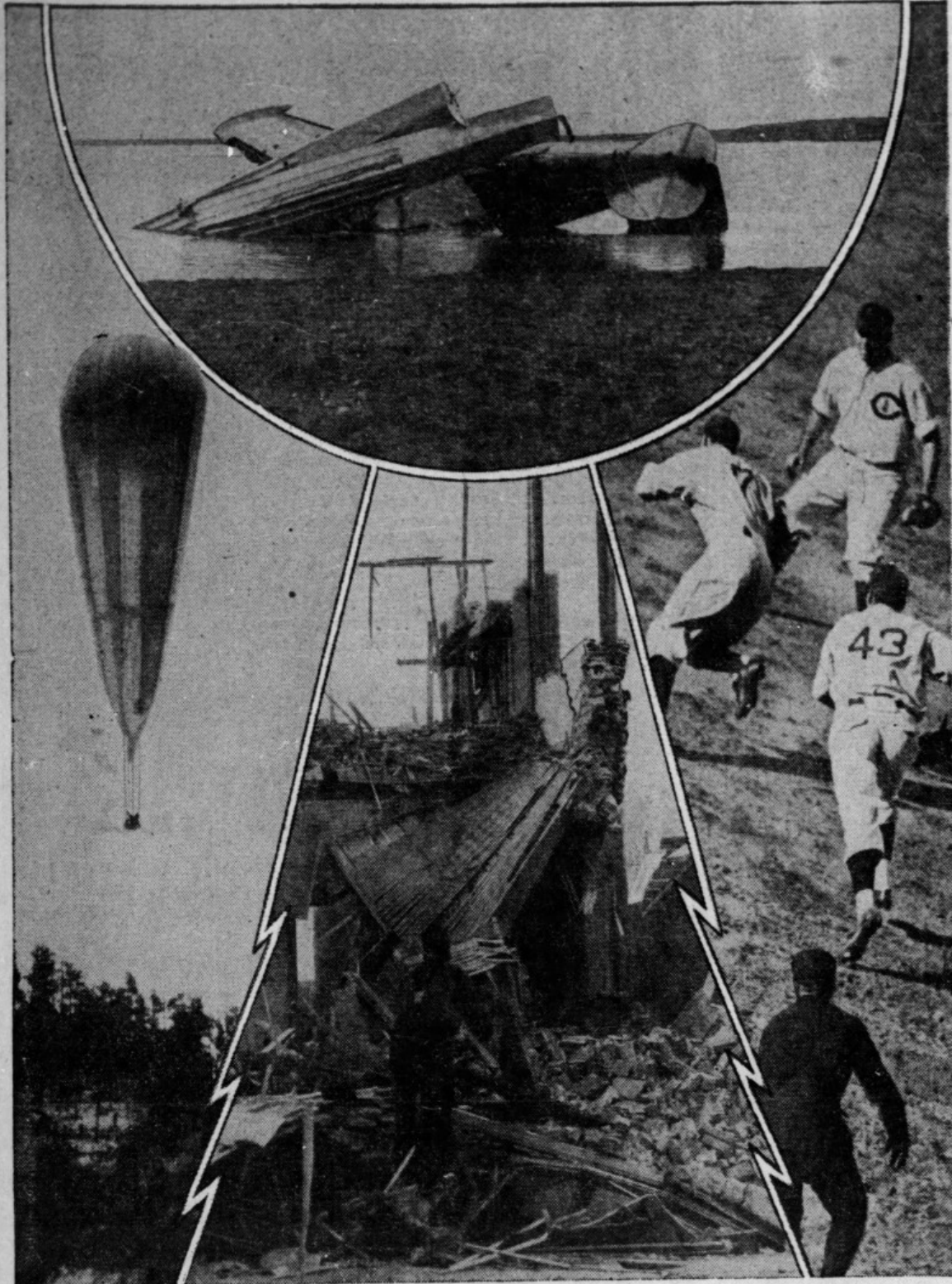
Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for a video of the swearing-in.

AP's Telemats Service from the 1930s and Beyond



Telemats First With Vivid Pictures Of 1935's Outstanding News Stories



Associated Press Telemats, the world's fastest news photo mat service, brought stories and pictures closer together in 1935. Taking advantage of the transmission of pictures by wire, Telemats, available only to members of The Associated Press, brought readers the first pictorial record of such outstanding news developments as the fatal crash of Wiley Post and Will Rogers (top); the Stevens-Anderson stratosphere ascent (left); the Helena, Mont., earthquakes (center), and world series, illustrating the drama of the day's news while it was news.

Paul Albright (Email) - My long winter project has been to sort and organize three generations of family photos. In the process, I came across a 9 x 12-inch manila envelope filled with black and white snapshots from the 1950s and 1960s. Of possible interest to "Connecting" readers, the envelope was from the AP's Newsphoto Service marked as containing Telemats and information that: "This package contains only news matter to be printed."

As a teen-age newspaper copy boy at Denver's Rocky Mountain News in the 1950s, I recall hustling cardboard photo mattes to the back shop where they were placed in the daily layout forms. But I needed more information than my hazy memory. For example, what was the AP's Telemats service all about and how did it operate? I emailed AP archivists Valerie Komor and Francesca Pitaro for assistance. Although both are working from home because of pandemic restrictions, the archivists were quick to respond with what information they could locate in online collections.

References to the Telemats service were found from 1935 and 1937, but it was the AP Reference Book of April, 1947, that provided some detail:

"Telemats are the Newsphoto matted service. They are produced from Wirephoto copy at strategically located matting points and expedited to about 700 smaller newspaper subscribers from New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Kansas City, Dallas and San Francisco. The average Telemat mailing is around eight pictures daily and is selected by the strategic bureau to fit the regional needs of the area served. Aside from regional spot Telemat mailings, New York mails to all subscribers as part of the Telemat service about seven full pages of matted pictures monthly of copy serviced primarily for preparedness, feature and non-spot value."

Connecting colleague Hal Buell recalled the Telemats service "consisted of several three- and two-column photos, a few one columns. Went out twice a day." Buell said Telemats were dropped in the early 1970s. "A guy named Henry Mecinski was the long-time Telemat editor working off the NY photo desk. When we dropped Telemats, Henry took over the photo library (he loved the job) and he retired in 1979 after several years."

A promotional montage from the AP in December 1935, hailed the "world's fastest news photo mat service" for bringing news stories and photos closer together. The year-end montage showed the airplane crash that killed Will Rogers and Wiley Post, the ascent of a balloon into the stratosphere, destruction from an earthquake in Helena, Montana, and action from the 1935 World Series between the victorious Detroit Tigers and the losing Chicago Cubs.

Through the new telemat service of the Associated Press, The Gazette today presents news pictures of the Joe Louis-Max Baer fight in New York City Tuesday night. The pictures were sent by the new telephoto service from New York to Kansas City and by mail over the Santa Fe from Kansas City to Emporia, arriving here at 10:45 o'clock this morning, only a little more than 12 hours after the fight ended.

AP's Telemats service was applauded in September 1935, in the pages of the "Emporia (Kansas) Gazette," which had printed Telemat photos of the heavyweight boxing match between winner Joe Louis and defeated Max Baer. "The pictures were sent by the new telephoto service from New York to Kansas City and by mail over the Santa Fe (railroad) from Kansas City to Emporia, arriving here at 10:45 o'clock this morning, only a little more than 12 hours after the fight ended."

'Rogue Soldier: One Man's War' available for order

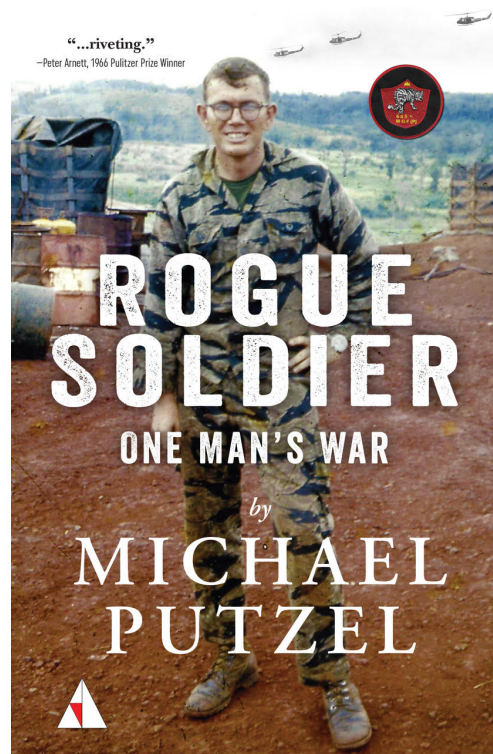
Michael Putzel ([Email](#)) - My new, short book (56 pages) - Rogue Soldier: One Man's War – is now available for order and ready to ship. It's a paperback and also available as an eBook in the Kindle Store. An audiobook will be available on Audible and iTunes pretty soon, but I haven't got a date for that yet. My son, videographer Christof Putzel, is the voice of the audio version.

Peter Arnett, who won the 1966 Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of the Vietnam War for AP, said of Rogue Soldier: "I thought I'd seen everything about the American military

experience in Vietnam, but here, 40 years later, Putzel's dramatic recounting of the exploits of Staff Sergeant Ed Keith during Operation Lam Son 719 were as riveting as anything I'd read."

The book is a more expansive view of Keith than my profile of the Army signals intelligence analyst published by Vietnam magazine last year.

Keith, who held top-security clearances, was under orders not to expose himself to dangerous situations in which he might be captured. But he left his assigned post to fly reconnaissance over the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos during the most intensive helicopter combat ever. He thought he had a special gift for spotting enemy targets and could do more good for U.S forces doing that than gathering intelligence from enemy radios and telephone lines that never reached troops in the field in time for it to be of use.



As you know, I was an AP war correspondent in Vietnam from 1969-72, covered the White House for AP during the Carter and Reagan presidencies and served as Moscow chief of bureau from 1987-90.

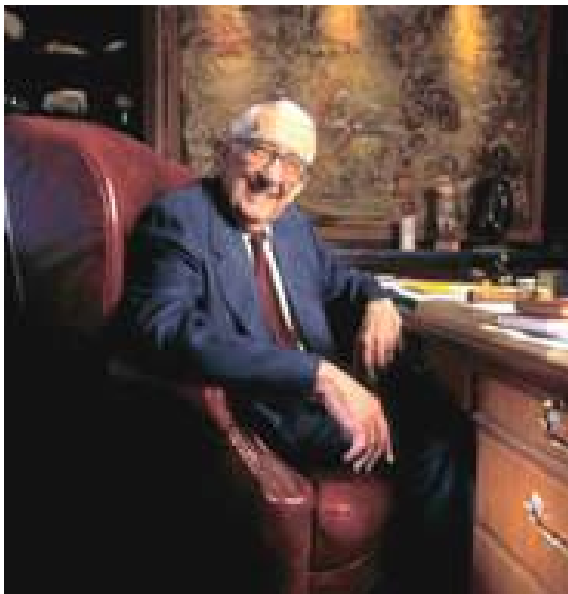
Recalling a story from Bum Bright

Charles Richards ([Email](#)) - In 1982, as an AP reporter in Dallas, I was assigned to write one of a series of stories on the 10 individuals considered to be the most powerful in Texas.

My interview was with H.R. "Bum" Bright, chairman of the Texas A&M board of regents. Two years later, he was to buy the Dallas Cowboys from Clint Murchison for \$85 million. It was Bright from whom Jerry Jones bought the Cowboys in 1989.

Something that has stayed with me through the years is a story Bum Bright told me about something that happened to him during the time he was an underclassman at Texas A&M.

The head of the petroleum engineering department -- who also taught one of his classes -- called him into his office



and asked if he would do him a favor. He gave him the name of a book and asked if he would go to the library and check it out for him.

Eager to please his professor, he said sure. When he got to the library, he found that the book had been checked out. He wrote down the day the book had been checked out, the date it was due, the name of the English teacher who had the book, and even the Dewey decimal number printed on the back of the book.

The professor wasn't impressed.

"You wasted about 20 minutes of your time and mine to come tell me why you couldn't do the job I sent you to do," the department head told him. "This world doesn't pay off on excuses why you cannot do a job. It only pays off on results."

Bright left and headed to the English teacher's office. When he found it locked, he went to the classroom where the teacher was in the middle of a lecture.

Bright knocked on the door, intent on getting the book. The teacher said he would take care of it as soon as his class was over. Bum said he had to have the book right away.

So the teacher got the book from his office and turned it over. Bright returned the book to the library, checked it in, checked it out again, and -- book in hand -- returned to his professor's office.

"Did you learn anything today?" the department head asked. Bright said yes.

"Don't ever forget it as long as you live," the department head said. "When someone gives you a job to do, find a way to get it done instead of finding excuses why you can't do it."

Thereafter, Bum Bright ran his businesses the same way.

He demanded results, not excuses, from his employees. He told them not to come to him with a problem without having a solution as well.

It had an effect on me personally over the years. Once, I called our Austin bureau to get comment from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals about a ruling just handed down.

The reporter told me it was too late -- it was after 5 p.m.

I thought, what would I do if someone told me, "I'll give you \$10,000 if you get me the answer now."

I called one of the judges at home; he was happy to respond.

Another time, when I was working post-AP retirement at The Paris (Texas) News, I made a 45-minute drive one evening across the Red River to buy a copy of the Hugo (Okla.) News, which had a front-page story of Paris interest. The newspaper racks were empty, all over town.

So I pulled up outside a lighted church activity building where lots of cars were parked. Inside, I inquired if anybody had a copy of for that day's paper. I offered \$10, and a teenager stuck up his hand. He drove home and was back 15 minutes later with what I wanted.

Bright received his bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering from Texas A&M University in 1943. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was assigned to the Army Corps of Engineers and deployed to Europe during the Second World War. Bright remained in the Army until 1946, obtaining the rank of captain in three years.

Bright returned to Texas and began investing in oil and natural gas leases. Later he expanded to trucking, banks, real estate, and savings and loans. His investments made him a millionaire by 1951, at the age of 31.

In 1990, he was listed as one of the 100 richest people in Texas. He died in 2004 at the age of 84.

Story an example of needless both-sidesism?

Robert Egelko ([Email](#)) - I don't mean to single out an AP writer based in Russia whose job is much more physically demanding than mine is from home. But there's a passage in the Jan. 29 story about Russian dissident Alexei Navalny that struck me as a glaring example of needless both-sidesism: Navalny "was arrested upon returning from Germany, where he spent five months recovering from nerve-agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin. Russian authorities have rejected the accusations."

First of all, Navalny's accusations have been backed up by every health organization that has investigated his case, including five laboratories affiliated with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. All of them found that he was poisoned with a nerve agent that the Russian government has developed and used on other dissidents, at least one of whom was killed, and to which no one else is known to have access. Further substantiation comes from journalists led by the investigative website Bellingcat, which found eight Russian agents who had spent years in surveillance of Navalny. And Navalny himself, posing as a Russian agent, recorded an incriminating phone conversation with one of the agents who had targeted him.

Second, the all-too-common use of "authorities" as a euphemism for the government -- in this case Vladimir Putin, who insultingly told reporters in his annual news conference in December, "If we had wanted to (poison Navalny), we would have finished the job." The word crops up in everyday stories to refer to statements by police or government officials or leaders. I think it implies, misleadingly, that the speakers are the final authorities on the facts of the matter.

I think it would have been better to say something like this: "...where he spent five months recovering from nerve-agent poisoning. Putin has denied any responsibility, but investigators from numerous health agencies, including the multinational Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, have concluded that Navalny was poisoned with a chemical, Novichok, developed by the Russian government, which has used it against other dissidents."

More memories of those favorite watering holes

Malcolm Barr Sr. ([Email](#)) - During the 1960s, the Columbia Inn on Kapiolani Boulevard was the place in Honolulu where local journalists regularly gathered after their 5 p.m. quitting time. The genial host was Toshi Kaneshiro who served generous portions of free sushi to accompany our \$1 pitchers of beer! One memorable evening I did an unexpected, unscheduled, brief interview with actress Jane Russell who had stopped by the Columbia and was talking with Toshi at the bar in connection with a charity fund raiser she was involved in. I caught the famous film star when she was about to leave. The Columbia Inn was a close neighbor of the downtown landmark News Building, occupied by the Honolulu Star-Bulletin and the Honolulu Advertiser, and home to both AP and UPI bureaus and their three-person staffs. I recall AP Chief of Bureau, the late Bob Myers; AP newsmen Jack Schreiber, Claude Burgett, Jim Lagier; and UPI bureau chief Roy Essoyan and newsman Bruce Cook, all "regulars" at the long-gone Columbia and, for that matter, the News Building, too.

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Joe Galloway (Email) - During my time in Kansas City and Topeka the favorite watering hole for KC Star and others was the Westport Inn, located in the oldest grimeiest building in Kansas City. There were slave rings in the basement walls. One evening as we sat with elbows on the bar a building down the block blew up with a mighty bang. Gas explosion of some sort. Slowly the troops got up, took a look out the door and then lined up at the pay phone to call it in.

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Mark Duncan (Email) - During my 34 years as staff photographer the AP in Cleveland, the staff never really had a "local watering hole", although some of us would occasionally partake at the Headliner, located next to the Plain Dealer building. Most of the clientele were Plain Dealer employees and it was usually packed at night when the pressmen took their lunch between editions.

Before joining the AP I worked at the Dayton Daily News and we did absolutely have a favorite spot to get lunch, or a beer after work.

Walking out the front door of the newspaper building, one only had to turn left and walk about 20 feet to the entrance of the Moraine Embassy Bar and Grill, co-owned by two Greek brothers, Jim and Bill Xarhoulacos. Hamburgers and fries were the staple, but could also get a good gyro there.

I spent many a night after a late shift having a beer or three with other photographers working late, often running into reporters relaxing into the wee hours even though they had worked the day shift.

Years later with the AP I was introduced to the famed Billy Goat Tavern in Chicago and it brought back memories of the Moraine Embassy (and not just because Sam Sianis was also Greek.

Sadly the Moraine closed in 2013.

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Kevin Noblet ([Email](#)) - Molly's at the Market, on Decatur Street in the French Quarter, was a favorite bar for New Orleans journalists back in the early '80's when I started with AP there. (And still is, I believe.) I had an advantage over most of them when I met and moved in with my future wife, Joan. She lived upstairs. She also sometimes tended bar there.

We later moved next door--passing our stuff across adjoining balconies--to above another bar, Coop's, which is now a very popular restaurant.

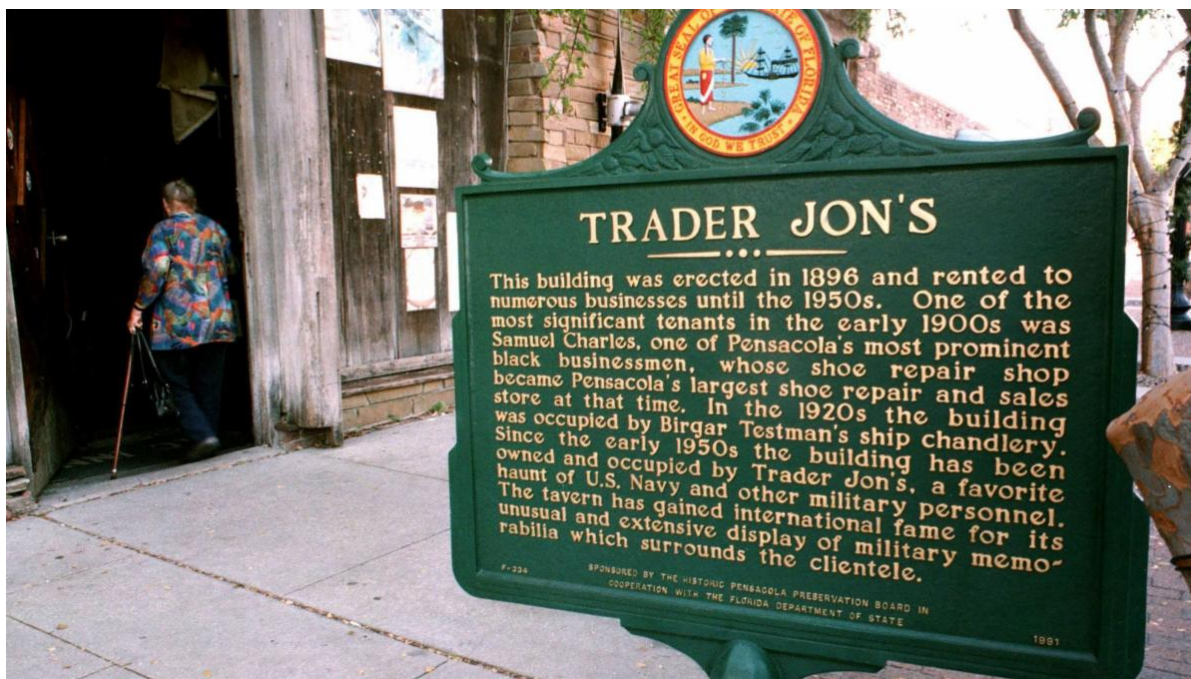


Here's a photo of Molly's on a not untypical (pre-Covid) night. And here are Joan and I sitting at a table in Coop's during a December 2017 visit. It's funny: I'm never recognized by anyone when we go back. Joan always is.

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Bill Kaczor (Email) - There were no strangers at Trader Jon's. Whenever you pulled open the heavy front door, hewn from cypress wood, you knew you would meet a friend once you walked inside the Florida Panhandle's most famous tavern.

Technically, the man with the impish grin who you met inside was a barkeeper, but he dispensed friendship, charity and joy along with beer, whiskey and other alcoholic drinks. There also was soda pop and near-beer. The barkeeper's real name was Martin Weissman, but to thousands of military men and women, naval aviators in particular, as well as journalists, tourists, celebrities and townspeople, he was Trader Jon or just Trader.



It was the go-to place in Pensacola for local media types as well those just visiting. Just ask Reid Miller. He was Trader's favorite AP customer, stopping by whenever he was in town for a membership visit during his time as Miami bureau chief. I'd like to think I came in second, probably a distance second. I was AP's Pensacola correspondent for 21 years between stints in Tallahassee and before that I had worked for the Pensacola News Journal. I wish I could take credit for helping make Trader wealthy, but for every beer I bought I probably got a free one. Trader had a sliding price scale based on how well he liked you or how important he thought you were. Trader was a Brooklyn-born gnome of a man who dressed in shorts no matter the season. He wore a baseball-style cap or Navy hat of some kind, a collegiate or military T-shirt or sweatshirt and, always, mismatched socks. Trader was almost constantly in his Pensacola bar no matter the hour to entertain, amuse, sympathize, an occasional loan and offer assurances that everything was "bee-youu-tee-ful."

That was his catch phrase, just a single word really, but he drew it out to a phrase-worthy length. Trader used it to express his approval of whatever happened to be the subject of the moment. He had no similar negative utterance probably because he seldom, if ever, needed one. Weissman operated the ramshackle waterfront saloon for 44 of his 84 years from 1953 until he suffered a stroke in 1997. It left him partly paralyzed and unable to speak. His family struggled to keep Trader's open in his

absence but closed the place the next year. After Trader passed away in 2000, the bar reopened under new ownership, but the revival was short-lived. Trader's closed for good in 2003. The building still stands. For a time it was a dress shop and currently it is an events center for weddings and such.

Before there were theme parks, Trader Jon's was a theme tavern. Actually, there were several themes. Naval aviation was first and foremost, with the Pensacola-based Blue Angels flight demonstration squadron front and center. Then came the rest of the military and the remainder of aviation with a special nod to air show performers. Other themes ranged from art to space. Trader often offered an eclectic mix of live entertainment including musicians playing everything from jazz to rock 'n roll to punk. At various times there also were strippers and stage shows, some featuring female impersonators.

A state historical marker remains as a reminder of Trader Jon's past glory in front of the old brick building at 511 South Palafox Street. Model airplanes, photographs, crash helmets, flight suits, aircraft bits and pieces and other memorabilia covered the walls or hung from the ceiling. Most of artifacts that made Trader's a virtual museum eventually came into the possession of a real museum. The state museum in Pensacola includes a life-size replica of Trader Jon's. The artifacts on display include my picture taken sitting in a Blue Angels cockpit after I'd gotten a media ride in the jet and several articles I wrote about Trader and his famous bar.

The exhibit captures some of the ambience of the real thing. One thing missing is the smell, a combination of stale beer, tobacco smoke and less savory odors. Trader's also was known for the old barber chairs that lined the bar. Many of the tables were repurposed peddle powered sewing machines and hatch covers. The floor was bare concrete and the walls were bare brick but you couldn't see them because of all pictures that hung there. There were photos of all manner of military people, stunt pilots, astronauts, politicians and celebrities who'd visited the place. They included actors John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara, Charlton Heston, Elizabeth Taylor, Bob Hope and Ernest Borgnine, television personality Larry King and England's Prince Andrew. The late Sen. John McCain even dated one of Trader's strippers when he was a Pensacola flight student. During and Vietnam War and for several years thereafter, many of Trader's waitresses were Vietnamese women, some of them war brides and others refugees. They just added to the exotic atmosphere.

Model airplanes and other items once hung from a dusty cargo net that spanned the entire ceiling. The Fire Department eventually forced Trader to remove the net because it was a safety hazard. That was especially true when a stripper who spun flaming batons took the stage. Dim lighting and all the stuff hanging from the ceiling gave it a cave-like feeling.

Trader's also was a gathering spot for politicians and city hall workers as well as reporters and editors. One of my most memorable visits came late one night in October 1975, when I was a reporter for the News Journal. I had written a story for the next morning's paper quoting state officials as saying the City of Pensacola was

negotiating a deal to dispose of treated sewage residue, known as sludge, by using it as fertilizer on pastures in nearby Okaloosa County. City Manager Frank Faison had refused to say what the city was planning to do with the sludge, but when I called state environmental officials about the matter, they did not hesitate to let me in on Faison's secret. He happened to be at the other end of the bar from the News Journal crowd conversing with one of the strippers when another staffer stopped in with the early edition of the paper. He handed it to City Editor Hector Morales, who motioned for the stripper to come over. Morales gave the paper to her and told her to hand it to the city manager, a husky, pipe-smoking man. Faison walked over to our group a few minutes later and acknowledge the story was accurate but, he was unhappy with the headline: "Pensacola Wants To Use Okaloosa For Sludge Dump." Once Faison's secret was out, Okaloosa County commissioners held an emergency meeting to ban on out-of-county sludge.

Trader's favorite media personality (Sorry, Reid) was three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist Jeff MacNelly. He'd included Trader Jon's in a couple installments of his "Shoe" comic strip. MacNelly and Weissman had connected after the cartoonist, then based in Virginia, had a speaking engagement at the Pensacola Naval Air Station. Trader once sent MacNelly a crash helmet. The artist's thank you note included a drawing of a pilot wearing the helmet with its oxygen hose attached to a liquor bottle. Once, when MacNelly visited the bar, Weissman had a steak dinner delivered for him from a popular restaurant. Another time I came in late one night to find the place nearly empty except for Trader and MacNelly. They were as excited as a couple kids on Christmas morning as they opened a big box that had just arrived from a Navy squadron deployed to the Middle East shortly after the Persian Gulf War. It was the last time I saw them together. Both passed away about four months apart in 2000.

I have posted an album of photos of the Trader Jon's museum exhibit on flickr. Click [here](#) for a link.

Braving Nor'easter



Guy Palmiotto ([Email](#)) - I am sharing a weather feature of a man walking his dog, braving the Nor'easter that has hit New Jersey Monday, that forecasters believe will dump up to 18 inches of snow to my area of Morris County.

Stories of interest

Pakistan orders man acquitted in the Daniel Pearl murder off death row (AP)

by Kathy Gannon

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the Pakistani-British man acquitted of the 2002 gruesome beheading of American journalist Daniel Pearl off death row and moved to a so-called government "safe house."

Ahmad Saeed Omar Sheikh, who has been on death row for 18 years, will be under guard and will not be allowed to leave the safe house, but he will be able to have his wife and children visit him.

"It is not complete freedom. It is a step toward freedom," said Sheikh's father, Ahmad Saeed Sheikh, who attended the hearing.

The Pakistan government has been scrambling to keep Sheikh in jail since a Supreme Court order last Thursday upheld his acquittal in the Wall Street Journal reporter's death, triggering outrage by Pearl's family and the U.S. administration.

Read more [here](#).

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Search is on for new leaders in journalism's upper echelons (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — The “help wanted” list for top management jobs in journalism is suddenly getting very long.

Searches for new leaders at brand names like The Washington Post, ABC News and the Los Angeles Times are coming at a time of rapid change in the news industry and increased attention paid to diversity in decision-making roles.

The two latest openings came this week when Marty Baron, the executive editor who transformed the Post over the past eight years, and ABC News President James Goldston both said they will step down over the next two months.

The Los Angeles Times is further along in its search for a successor to Executive Editor Norman Pearlstine. The Reuters news agency is looking to replace its editor-in-chief, Stephen Adler, who is retiring on April 1. HuffPost and Vox Media need leaders, too.

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

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Former USA TODAY MLB reporter who lived for baseball dies at 64 (USA TODAY)

By Chuck Raasch

WASHINGTON — Mel Antonen, family man, friend to the world, and renowned sports journalist, died Saturday of a rare acute auto-immune disease and complications from COVID-19. He was a longtime USA TODAY Sports and MASN-TV baseball reporter who

covered nearly three dozen World Series. In a half century in journalism, he reveled and excelled in telling others' stories.

He was 64.

Mel Richard Antonen's own story became the best of all. It began in the tiny town of Lake Norden, South Dakota, on Aug. 25, 1956, when he was the third of four children born to Ray and Valda Antonen.

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

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Carl Hiaasen retiring from Miami Herald after 35 years (AP)

MIAMI (AP) — Writer Carl Hiaasen is retiring from the Miami Herald after composing newspaper columns for the past 35 years, the newspaper says.

The Herald published a story this week saying that Hiaasen would be done after his last column on March 14. The 67-year-old Hiaasen said he no longer wants the pressure of a weekly deadline.

"I've been thinking about easing off as the years went by," Hiaasen told the Herald. "I was 23 when I started working there. I feel like I almost grew up in the newsroom. I also feel at this stage it's a good time to step away."

That's not to say that Hiaasen will stop writing. He said he plans to continue his book projects, which have ranged from comic novels such as "Tourist Season" and "Double Whammy" to children's titles such as "Hoot."

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

The Final Word



Shared by Cheryl Arvidson

Today in History - Feb. 2, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 2, the 33rd day of 2021. There are 332 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 2, 1990, in a dramatic concession to South Africa's Black majority, President F.W. de Klerk lifted a ban on the African National Congress and promised to free Nelson Mandela.

On this date:

In 1653, New Amsterdam [-] now New York City [-] was incorporated.

In 1876, the National League of Professional Base Ball Clubs was formed in New York.

In 1913, New York City's rebuilt Grand Central Terminal officially opened to the public at one minute past midnight.

In 1914, Charles Chaplin made his movie debut as the comedy short "Making a Living" was released by Keystone Film Co.

In 1922, the James Joyce novel "Ulysses" was published in Paris on Joyce's 40th birthday.

In 1925, the legendary Alaska Serum Run ended as the last of a series of dog mushers brought a life-saving treatment to Nome, the scene of a diphtheria epidemic, six days after the drug left Nenana.

In 1943, the remainder of Nazi forces from the Battle of Stalingrad surrendered in a major victory for the Soviets in World War II.

In 1980, NBC News reported the FBI had conducted a sting operation targeting members of Congress using phony Arab businessmen in what became known as "Abscam," a codename protested by Arab-Americans.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan pressed his case for additional aid to the Nicaraguan Contras a day ahead of a vote by the U.S. House of Representatives. (The three major broadcast TV networks declined to carry the speech, which was covered by CNN; a divided House voted to reject Reagan's request for \$36.2 million in new aid.)

In 2002, inside the World Economic Forum in New York, foreign economic leaders criticized the United States for protectionist policies while outside, thousands of

protesters demonstrated against global capitalism.

In 2006, House Republicans elected John Boehner (BAY'-nur) of Ohio as their new majority leader to replace the indicted Tom DeLay. Tornadoes tore through New Orleans neighborhoods that had been hit hard by Hurricane Katrina five months earlier.

In 2014, Academy Award-winning actor Philip Seymour Hoffman, 46, was found dead in his New York apartment from a combination of heroin, cocaine and other drugs.

Ten years ago: Supporters of President Hosni Mubarak charged into Cairo's central square on horses and camels brandishing whips while others rained firebombs from rooftops in what appeared to be an orchestrated assault against protesters trying to topple Egypt's leader of 30 years.

Five years ago: Health officials reported that a person in Texas had become infected with the Zika virus through sex in the first case of the illness being transmitted within the United States. A suicide bomber detonated an explosive aboard a Somali Airbus, forcing it to make an emergency landing at Mogadishu's international airport; only the bomber was killed. Bob Elliott, half of the enduring television and radio comedy team Bob and Ray, died in Maine at age 92.

One year ago: The Philippines reported that a 44-year-old Chinese man from Wuhan had died in a Manila hospital from the new coronavirus; it was the first death from the virus to be recorded outside of China. The United States recorded its ninth known case, a woman in the San Francisco area who'd recently traveled to Wuhan. Authorities in parts of China extended the Lunar New Year holiday break well into February to try to keep people at home. Quarterback Patrick Mahomes led the Kansas City Chiefs to three touchdowns over the final 6 minutes, 13 seconds to lift them to a 31-20 victory over the San Francisco 49ers in the Super Bowl. Novak Djokovic won his eighth Australian Open championship and 17th Grand Slam title overall by coming back to beat Dominic Thiem 6-4, 4-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Tom Smothers is 84. Rock singer-guitarist Graham Nash is 79. Television executive Barry Diller is 79. Actor Bo Hopkins is 77. Country singer Howard Bellamy (The Bellamy Brothers) is 75. TV chef Ina (EE'-nuh) Garten is 73. Actor Jack McGee is 72. Actor Brent Spiner (SPY'-nur) is 72. Rock musician Ross Valory (Journey) is 72. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, is 69. The former president of South Korea, Park Geun-hye (goon-hay), is 69. Model Christie Brinkley is 67. Actor Michael Talbott is 66. Actor Kim Zimmer is 66. Actor Michael T. Weiss is 59. Actor-comedian Adam Ferrara is 55. Rock musician Robert DeLeo (Army of Anyone; Stone Temple Pilots) is 55. Actor Jennifer Westfeldt is 51. Rapper T-Mo is 49. Actor Marissa Jaret Winokur is 48. Actor Lori Beth Denberg is 45. Singer Shakira is 44. Actor Rich Sommer is 43. Country singer Blaine Larsen is 35. Actor Zosia (ZAH'-shuh) Mamet is 33.

Got a story or photos to share?

(And oh yes, Go Chiefs!)

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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