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Connecting February 03, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 3rd day of February 2021,

The Revenue arm of The Associated Press is essential to maintaining and growing AP's worldwide operations. It funds the journalism that we write about in almost every issue of Connecting.

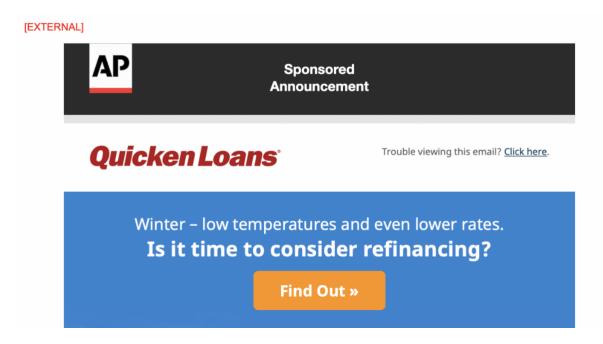
Julie Tucker, AP vice president for global marketing, shares with her Connecting colleagues one of the latest efforts – offering sponsorship opportunities from advertisers for the AP.

Where were you, the day the music died? As noted in Today in History, this is the 62nd anniversary of that sad day in 1959 when rock-and-roll stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson died in a small plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa. Send along your memory.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

New Sponsorship Opportunities for The AP



Julie Tucker (<u>Email</u>) – *AP Vice President, Global Marketing* - As we move into 2021, prepared to navigate an ever-evolving and competitive journalistic marketplace, The AP is excited to introduce new trial advertising channels. As part of this effort, we will be joining many of our member companies in offering partner-sponsored email campaigns -- paving the way for new revenue opportunities to reinvest back into the future of The AP.

Back in December, we issued our first limited-promotion test with QuickenLoans to gauge both audience reaction and advertiser performance. The insight gained from this first test has shown strong audience engagement and positive advertiser feedback. Based on the success of these results, we will now begin the process of actively engaging in brand-aligned email partnerships more frequently. Brands know we have world-class content and a highly engaged reader base, the holy grail for any marketing initiative.

We are confident that this new advertising channel will not only provide our valued AP readers with exclusive promotions, but also expand our reach and grow our business so we can continue our legacy of journalistic excellence for generations to come.

Memories of AP Pulitzer winner Eddy Gilmore

Henry Bradsher (<u>Email</u>) - As the blabbering about "fake news" recedes, there's one embarrassing bit to remember. It involves an AP Pulitzer winner.

Eddy Gilmore won the Pulitzer for "telegraphic reporting – international" in 1947 "for his correspondence from Moscow in 1946." The focus of it had been a rare interview granted him by Josef Stalin.



photo staff insisted.

After a dozen years in Moscow, Gilmore went in 1953 to AP London for most of the rest of his career, dying there of a heart attack in 1967. But in London he acquired a reputation among the photo staff of being trouble.

One example that an AP London photographer told me about involved the return of Prince Philip from a 1950s cruise on the royal yacht Britannia. Waiting at the dock, Queen Elizabeth boarded to meet him privately in a cabin. Gilmore's account said Philip emerged on deck with lipstick on his face. Why didn't our photographs show the lipstick? Because it wasn't there – it was a colorful touch made up by Gilmore, the

More memorable was the funeral of Winston Churchill in 1965. Luminaries from around the world gathered in London to pay tribute. To handle the crowd, a schedule was set up for top people to view the coffin in Westminster Hall.

Gilmore filed a story about former president Dwight Eisenhower's tribute to his World War II colleague. The report said that Eisenhower wiped a tear from his face as he stepped back from the coffin.

Then a rare AP kill hit the wires. Eisenhower had not yet gone to view the coffin. Gilmore has written another of his colorful stories. Later, as best I recall from reading the AP wire coming into Moscow, where I was then one of his successor bureau chiefs, a different AP byline appeared on the account of Eisenhower's visit to Westminster and Churchill's later burial near his birthplace at Blenheim Palace.

Overall, however, Gilmore had a great, colorful and honorable career.

During difficult, even hazardous, years in the Soviet Union, he reported on World War II and its strained aftermath going into the Cold War. He married a Bolshoi ballerina, but she and their two children were blocked from leaving the Soviet Union until after Stalin died in 1953.

In 1954 Gilmore published a book titled "Me and My Russian Wife." According to a review of the still-available book, it describes his difficulties in covering the Soviet warfront, filing censored telegraph and telephone reports, various romantic interludes before marrying Tamara, and consuming lots of vodka.

According to an obit published by the Montgomery Advertiser near his hometown in Selma, Alabama, the book became the basis for the movie "Never Let Me Go," with Clark Gable playing Gilmore. However, a description of old films says that this one, released in early 1953 – before Gilmore's book – was based on a 1949 novel about a Moscow-based reporter and a Russian ballerina. The novel by Roger Bax apparently was inspired by Gilmore's adventures, but its description of their escaping the Soviet Union was a more dramatic invention than finally getting post-Stalin permission for her to leave.

More memories of your favorite watering holes



Bill Kole (<u>Email</u>) - There were many watering holes within a short walk of the Boston bureau's decades-long location on High Street in the Financial District, but a staff favorite was The Littlest Bar, a cozy Irish pub just around the corner on Broad Street.

Sadly, it's been razed to make room for a boutique hotel – and BOS has moved to newer, smaller digs on South Street in the Leather District, two blocks away from South Station.

Until a few months ago, we had a splendid wine bar on the ground floor beneath us in the "new" bureau, but the pandemic shut it down permanently: Les Zygomates. (That's French for the collection of muscles in your face that make you smile.) We had a number of staff celebrations there. I haven't been back to the bureau since Les Zyg closed, and I'm dreading it. On the bright side, we'll just have to find another place in which to gather and decompress. **Lyle Price** (<u>Email</u>) - Doug Pizac's hazy guess in Monday's Connecting as to the name of a Los Angeles bar frequented after work hours by a number of denizens from the AP bureau in LA is CQ: It indeed was the Red Fox. It particularly was the go-to location for many of us on the night shift. It was a place where we could wind down from the endless challenge of news events and perhaps a personnel issue or two.

One of a number of the Red Fox's small tables (which could be shoved together) was adjacent to a wall containing an AP logo taken from one of the 90 teletype machines in the bureau. Yep, as a union rep concerned with literally deafening noise pollution, I counted them one day. Actually, now that I think of it, that didn't include the couple of machines the photo bureau had. I was in on the removal of the AP logo on the day it took place and maybe even was the ringleader. Those machines in the early 1970s were on their way out due to the arrival of computers, BTW, so I consider the removal of one AP logo for the bar and one for myself (which I still have) as sort of my effort to preserve a bit of history.

I tried to google out the Red Fox and can't find its existence past or present. On the establishment's walls were photos of a number of celebrities including that of Johnny Carson but I don't know if they were actually taken at the place or maybe donated by the photo staff.

Once our table included Bob Kerr, Herb Hemming, myself and a fourth staffer whose ID I have forgotten. I do recollect that Herb declared on that occasion about 1973 that the day would come when we all would look back on our days there as "the best years of our lives." Thinking about the battles I was having with higher-ups locally and nationally regarding noise pollution, the lack of air conditioning, a failure to hire minorities and to promote female staffers to management, I had some reservation about that observation. But I quibble with it no longer. Management, did, BTW, put most of the teletype machines behind a noise abatement wall it installed for \$7,000 and also put in air conditioning. Then personnel director Keith Fuller on a visit to LA personally approved the air conditioning, BTW. When fabled news editor Jack Quigg told Fuller it sometimes got to 100 degrees in LA even in February, I think that did the trick.

The LA staffers I recollect best as frequent flyers at the Red Fox include besides Kerr, Hemming and myself, include Jackie King, Lee Margulies, Ken Conway, and Cal Werner. I apologize if I've forgotten any others; I have a news staff roster from 1973 and although I can recollect all the faces and names, I don't have a mental log of everyone that wound up (or down!) at the Red Fox. The occasion I best recall other than as cited above is when I had returned from a national union meeting in New York and noted to the well-read and jovial Fox bartender that a Big Apple bar I gone to with some AP staffers had featured ice in the men's urinal. The next evening, Ken Conway said I ought to check out the men's room and he and the barkeep were grinning from ear to ear because the place had enough ice cubes in the men's urinal to fill a few hundred cocktails.

Connecting mailbox

Santiago Lyon joins Adobe advocacy, education team

Santiago Lyon (<u>Email</u>) – *former AP director of Photos* - I am incredibly excited and energized to be joining Adobe's Content Authenticity Initiative (CAI) team as Head of Advocacy and Education.

The CAI is an Adobe-led coalition of partners building a system to provide provenance and history for digital media, giving creators a tool to claim authorship and empowering consumers to evaluate whether what they are seeing is trustworthy.

Please see below for more information and if you work in media, human rights, or any field where the authenticity and provenance of your work is important, please join us!

CAI website: https://lnkd.in/eb7Hh2Y CAI membership application: https://lnkd.in/e-mGVkp CAI white paper: https://lnkd.in/dGUfS86 CAI case study: https://lnkd.in/dtJHTT2

-0-

Jenny Volanakis named SVP of Raise Communications

Jenny Volanakis (<u>Email</u>) – a Connecting colleague - has been named Senior Vice President of Client Strategy for Raise Communications Group of New York City, focusing on both client service and business operations.

In a news release from Raise: Jenny Volanakis is a strategic communications consultant with expertise in media relations, message development, merger communications, executive speech writing, media training and crisis communications. She has applied



those skills across a variety of industries including technology, food & beverage, media and entertainment and non-profit. Volanakis formerly served in-house as external PR and a spokesperson at major US consumer brands, including MillerCoors, Sprint and Madison Square Garden. She holds a bachelor of science in Journalism from the University of Kansas. -0-

Let it snow, let it snow...



Michael Giarrusso (<u>Email</u>) – Technically, we are required to shovel a clear path to our walkway. I didn't anticipate the snowplow dumping a 6-foot wall in front of my house (in Montclair, N.J.). The plow couldn't circle the cul de sac because my neighbor had a visitor who parked in the street.



Guy Palmiotto (<u>Email</u>) - This is a view of my street in Rockaway Township, NJ, this morning. The storm has dumped close to three feet of snow, with more on the way. My family and I have shoveled three times since yesterday.

Connecting '80s/'90s Club

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting publishes this list quarterly. If you are qualified for one of the age groups and would like to be listed, drop me a note.)

90s:

Mercer Bailey Albert Habhab George Hanna Gene Herrick Sister Donalda Kehoe Elaine Light Sam Montello Robert O'Meara Sal Veder Harold Waters

Norm Abelson **Paul Albright Peter Arnett Harry Atkins Malcolm Barr** Myron Belkind Lou Boccardi Hal Bock William Roy Bolch Jr. **Henry Bradsher** Ben Brown Charles Bruce Hal Buell **Harry Cabluck** Sibby Christensen **Shirley Christian** Mike Cochran **Eldon Cort** Frank Daniels Jr. **Don Dashiell Bob Daugherty Otto Doelling** Phil Dopoulos John Eagan **Claude Erbsen Mike Feinsilber** Steve Graham **Bob Greene Chick Harrity Hoyt Harwell** Lee Jones **Doug Kienitz** Dean Lee Warren Lerude **Carl Leubsdorf** David Liu **Art Loomis** John Marlow **Dave Mazzarella** Joe McGowan Walter Mears **Yvette Mercourt Reid Miller Charlie Monzella** Harry Moskos **Greg Nokes** Lyle Price **Bruce Richardson** Mike Rouse **Richard Shafer Mike Short**

Joe Somma Arlon Southall Ed Staats Marty Thompson Ron Thompson Kernan Turner Bob Walsh Paul Webster Jeff Williams Joe Yeninas Johnny Yost Arnold Zeitlin Kent Zimmerman

Stories of interest

White House Reporters: Biden Team Wanted Our Questions in Advance (Daily Beast)

By MAXWELL TANI

If you're a reporter with a tough question for the White House press secretary, Joe Biden's staff wouldn't mind knowing about it in advance.

According to three sources with knowledge of the matter, as well as written communications reviewed by The Daily Beast, the new president's communications staff have already on occasion probed reporters to see what questions they plan on asking new White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki when called upon during briefings.

The requests prompted concerns among the White House press corps, whose members, like many reporters, are sensitive to the perception that they are coordinating with political communications staffers.

One reporter raised the issue during an informal White House Correspondents Association Zoom call last Friday. According to multiple sources, leaders at the meeting advised print reporters to push back against requests by the White House press team to learn of questions in advance, or simply to not respond to the Biden team's inquiries.

Read more here.

Why we're removing comments on most of

Inquirer.com (Philadelphia Inquirer)

As of Feb. 1, we are removing comments from most of Inquirer.com. Comments will still be available on Sports stories and our Inquirer Live events, and there will be other ways for people to engage with our journalism and our journalists, including our letters section, social media channels and other features that our readers have become accustomed to, as well as new capabilities that we're developing.

Here's more about this change and what you can expect to see.

Why are we doing this?

Commenting on Inquirer.com was long ago hijacked by a small group of trolls who traffic in racism, misogyny, and homophobia. This group comprises a tiny fraction of the Inquirer.com audience. But its impact is disproportionate and enduring.

It's not just Inquirer staff who are disaffected by the comments on many stories. We routinely hear from members of our community that the comments are alienating and detract from the journalism we publish.

Read more here. Shared by Sibby Christensen.

-0-

In a career that started and ended at UNC, he molded generations of young journalists (News & Observer)

BY LUCILLE SHERMAN

Mike Yopp spent most of his life molding generations of journalists. But his legacy as a mentor and leader began when he was just a young journalist himself.

Yopp died from a stroke Thursday at the age of 79, having just wrapped up his final semester of 20 years teaching news writing at his alma mater, in UNC's Hussman School of Journalism and Media.

Some 50 years earlier, Yopp began inspiring and shaping the young journalists around him.

Yopp was a student at UNC-Chapel Hill and managing editor for the Daily Tar Heel, where he covered the civil rights movement, state politics and campus life.

Read more here.

-0-

Gannett refinances \$1B in debt from merger in costsaving move(USA Today)

By Paul Davidson

Gannett, owner of USA TODAY and more than 260 other publications, said Monday that it has refinanced about \$1 billion in debt in a move that will lower the company's interest payments and save tens of millions of dollars a year.

The deal will lower the interest rate on the \$1.045 billion in debt to 7.75% from 11.5%, saving the company \$90 million in interest this year.

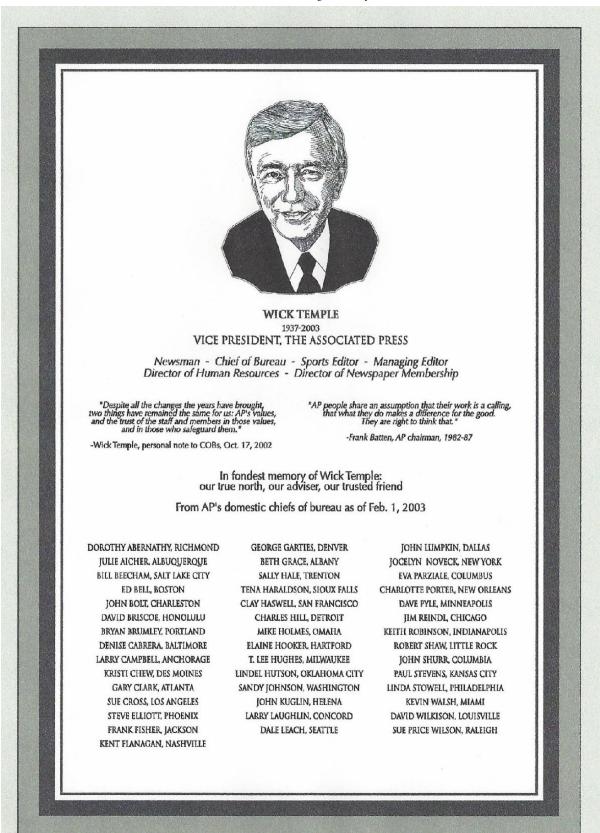
The move refinances the remainder of the loan that bankrolled the merger of GateHouse Media parent New Media Investment Group and the company previously known as Gannett in November 2019. The combined company took the name Gannett.

In November 2020, the company said it refinanced about \$500 million in debt from the merger.

Read more here. Shared by Dennis Conrad.

The Final Word

Remembering Wick Temple



This plaque honoring Wick Temple was presented to The Associated Press by the U.S. chiefs of bureau at the time of his death 18 years ago – on Feb. 1, 2003. Wick worked closely with bureau chiefs in his headquarters roles as director of Newspaper Membership, director of Human Resources, managing editor and sports editor. His wife Margy McCay (**Email**) is a Connecting colleague.

By my count, five of the chiefs of bureau listed on the plaque are still with the AP today: Julie Aicher, George Garties, Jocelyn Noveck, Eva Parziale and David Wilkison.

Today in History - Feb. 3, 2021





By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 3, the 34th day of 2021. There are 331 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 3, 1959, rock-and-roll stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson died in a small plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa.

On this date:

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln and Confederate Vice President Alexander H. Stephens held a shipboard peace conference off the Virginia coast; the talks deadlocked over the issue of Southern autonomy.

In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, providing for a federal income tax, was ratified.

In 1916, Canada's original Parliament Buildings, in Ottawa, burned down.

In 1917, the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Germany, the same day an American cargo ship, the SS Housatonic, was sunk by a U-boat off Britain after the crew was allowed to board lifeboats.

In 1930, the chief justice of the United States, William Howard Taft, resigned for health reasons. (He died just over a month later.)

In 1943, during World War II, the U.S. transport ship SS Dorchester, which was carrying troops to Greenland, sank after being hit by a German torpedo in the Labrador Sea; of the more than 900 men aboard, only some 230 survived. (Four Army chaplains on board gave away their life jackets to save others and went down with the ship.)

In 1966, the Soviet probe Luna 9 became the first manmade object to make a soft landing on the moon.

In 1988, the U.S. House of Representatives handed President Ronald Reagan a major defeat, rejecting his request for \$36.2 million in new aid to the Nicaraguan Contras by a vote of 219-211.

In 1994, the space shuttle Discovery lifted off, carrying Sergei Krikalev (SUR'-gay KREE'-kuh-lev), the first Russian cosmonaut to fly aboard a U.S. spacecraft.

In 1998, Texas executed Karla Faye Tucker, 38, for the pickax killings of two people in 1983; she was the first woman executed in the United States since 1984. A U.S.

Marine plane sliced through the cable of a ski gondola in Italy, causing the car to plunge hundreds of feet, killing all 20 people inside.

In 2006, an Egyptian passenger ferry sank in the Red Sea during bad weather, killing more than 1,000 passengers.

In 2019, in the lowest-scoring Super Bowl ever, featuring just one touchdown, the New England Patriots beat the Los Angeles Rams, 13-3.

Ten years ago: Tens of thousands of protesters staged unprecedented demonstrations against Yemen's autocratic president, Ali Abdullah Saleh (AH'-lee ahb-DUH'-luh sah-LEH'), a key U.S. ally in battling Islamic militants, as unrest inspired by uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia spread further in the Arab world.

Five years ago: Rand Paul dropped his Republican campaign for president, opting to run for re-election to the Senate. Seeking to correct what he called a "hugely distorted impression" of Muslim-Americans, President Barack Obama visited a mosque in Catonsville, Maryland. Earth, Wind & Fire founder Maurice White, 74, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: In closing arguments at President Donald Trump's impeachment trial, Democratic prosecutors urged senators to stop a "runaway presidency" and recognize Trump's actions in Ukraine as part of a pattern of behavior that would allow him to "cheat" in the 2020 election; Trump's defenders accused Democrats of trying to undo the 2016 election and said voters should decide Trump's fate. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said a "handful" of flights would head to China to bring Americans home from the province at the center of the coronavirus outbreak. Iowa's Democratic caucuses were plagued by technical glitches that led to inconsistencies in the numbers and a delay in reporting the results. (The state Democratic Party would later award 14 delegates to Pete Buttigieg and 12 to Bernie Sanders.) Conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh told his listeners that he had been diagnosed with advanced lung cancer.

Today's Birthdays: Football Hall of Famer Fran Tarkenton is 81. Actor Bridget Hanley is 80. Actor Blythe Danner is 78. Football Hall of Famer Bob Griese is 76. Singer-guitarist Dave Davies (The Kinks) is 74. Singer Melanie is 74. Actor Morgan Fairchild is 71. Actor Pamela Franklin is 71. Actor Nathan Lane is 65. Rock musician Lee Ranaldo (Sonic Youth) is 65. Actor Thomas Calabro is 62. Rock musician/author Lol Tolhurst (The Cure) is 62. Actor-director Keith Gordon is 60. Actor Michele Greene is 59. Country singer Matraca (muh-TRAY'-suh) Berg is 57. Actor Maura Tierney is 56. Actor Warwick Davis is 51. Actor Elisa Donovan is 50. Reggaeton singer Daddy Yankee is 45. Actor Isla (EYE'luh) Fisher is 45. Human rights activist Amal Clooney is 43. Singer-songwriter Jessica Harp is 39. Actor Matthew Moy is 37. Rapper Sean Kingston is 31. Actor Brandon Micheal Hall is 28.

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.

Paul Stevens Editor, Connecting newsletter paulstevens46@gmail.com

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