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Connecting

February 23, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 23rd day of February 2021,

Over the past week, Connecting has published some intriguing stories on the meaning behind your email address, but none with more family history entwined than our leadoff story today from longtime Kansas City sports writer **Doug Tucker**.

Ye Olde Editor is pleased with a brimming mail box today so there's a variety of topics to choose from. Keep those submissions coming!

And as a leadoff, this from our colleague **John Willis** ([Email](#)) who said, "Sure made my day, hope it makes yours, too!!!!" Click [here](#).

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

A family story from his mom's World War II service is behind his email address



Doug's mother, Lt. (later Capt.) Mildred Evans, is at left in this 1943 photo in Australia that shows her with other members of the Army Nurse Corps.

Doug Tucker - numenator@aol.com - My mother was shipping out to the Pacific with the Army Nurse Corps when her mother closed the door, drew the curtains and shared a deep secret. All her life, she confided, she had had a numen. Her numen had protected her and given her confidence. Now she was passing her numen on to her little girl and asking it to keep her safe in faraway wars.

Mom didn't even know what a numen was. Neither did I when I was 16 and first heard the quaint family story.

Believed to harken back to Ancient Rome, a numen is a divine presence that resides in people or places. Mom humored the superstition of her sincere but uneducated parent and later would sometimes joke about the divine presence that resided within her.

Later, after I entered college, my best friend and I read at mom's urging, "Black Like Me." John Griffin's groundbreaking account of his humiliating experiences while disguised as an African-American in the Deep South proved more than eye-opening. It was infuriating. That book actually re-oriented my attitude about racial injustice for the rest of my life.

So when famed segregationist George Wallace came to town for a big rally, we couldn't wait to paint signs and join a righteous sea of protesters. But mom, as opposed to Wallace as anyone, urged us to stay home. She didn't think there would be many protesters and we could be putting ourselves in danger.

When I would not relent, she gave me a hug and said OK then, it's time to transfer her numen to me. Was she serious or joking? I was not sure then. I'm really not sure now.

But as soon as got there we realized she'd been right. Rowdy Wallace fans outnumbered righteous protesters about 15,000-to-two. We were standing out there alone. Only a few minutes had passed when some guy leaped out of the crowd onto my friend, knocking him to the gravel road. I braced when I saw a couple of others start toward us. But then about a dozen cops grabbed our attacker and hauled him away and everybody stayed put. Not only did we survive, we even got our picture on the front page of the Daily Oklahoman.

Did my numen protect me from violent rednecks just as it had shielded mom from bullets and bombs?

Nah. It was the cops at the rally and the Marines on New Guinea who kept us safe. I've always thought of "my" numen as a gentle fantasy, a reassuring thought/belief/hope that ties three generations of my family together.

So when I got my first email account, numenator came to mind. I believe grandmother would approve. I know mom would.

On Dan Day's Monday Profile

Melissa Jordan ([Email](#)) - I loved every minute of serving as San Francisco ACOB to COB Dan Day in the late 1990s.

Dan and Becky welcomed our family and we ended up buying a house just a few blocks from theirs in the beautiful island city of Alameda. How lucky we were as journalists to witness history with the ascendance of Silicon Valley at that time. We had membership meetings in the Napa Valley, in San Diego at the famous Hotel del Coronado, even at Disneyland. We road-tripped to Lake Tahoe in winter and Yosemite in summer, tailgated at baseball games, went to bowling-alley birthday parties for each other's kids. Dan and Becky were the best friends and role models. They introduced us to great schools, summer camps, parks, and adventures for our two little ones who grew up California girls. We're still using the same accountant, hairstylist, mechanic and other businesses the Days put us on to, 25 years later. (Andrea at Complements says hi!) I think of them every day on walks past their old place. Dan and Becky are good people.



On the term, 'person of color'

Shirley Christian ([Email](#)) - Although I don't qualify as being "of color," I want to thank Le Lieu Browne for daring to wade into that scalding water. I'm so weary of the term that I often skip national TV news programs because I don't want to hear it anymore. My theory is that ambitious politicians invented it in hopes of pulling together a coalition of supporters beyond, say, their own black, brown, or pastel base. Does it occur to any of these politicians that voters might have needs and political ideas distinct from their skin hues? Twenty-five years in Latin America taught me things about race and racial attitudes that prove how silly it is to try to pull together such a coalition.

When I began to work in journalism in the early 1960's newspapers were generally adopting the policy of not identifying people by race, unless it was pertinent to the story. That still seems like a reasonable policy. About that same time, I began to assume that our goal was to create a society in which skin shade would be of no more significance than eye color. However, I think we are retreating from that possibility, not moving toward it.

Hal Boyle memories

2 - THE SARATOGIAN, TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1945.

Washington



WASHINGTON (QNS)—News of Germany's unconditional surrender fell like a feather on the nation's capital.

When the first flash sped around the world that Germany had capitulated on all fronts, Washingtonians remained calm. There were no smoko dances in the streets, no cheers.

In London, New York and other large cities, crowds packed the downtown areas. There was singing, dancing, impromptu parades. In London, too, the people thronged to No. 10 Downing Street, clamoring for a glimpse of Prime Minister Churchill and other British leaders.

But in Lafayette Park, across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House, only a handful of people gathered. As the city and the rest of America awaited some announcement from the White House, scarcely 50 men and women peered at the iron fence around the Mansion, peered through to watch the crowds of newspapermen, Army and Navy officers who were streaming in and out of the executive offices.

A blue-coated White House guard stopped it up the way: "It's an anti-climax," he said. "There was a guard out here that night a week ago, when we got the unconfirmed report about a German surrender. But it's different today. Everyone has known for days that Germany was finished."

As government officials, and military leaders looped up the winding White House driveway, a gardener unconcernedly pushed a broom along the sidewalk, and another group of workmen shoveled away in a garden plot without so much as a glance at the "brass hats" a few paces away.

In the huge lobby of the White House executive offices, some 300 newspapermen sagged and sky-larked for eight hours, before Press Secretary Jonathan Daniels called them into his office to read President Truman's brief statement that he was withholding any surrender announcement until simultaneous release could be made in Washington, London and Moscow.

During the long wait, there were many false alarms. Every time Daniels or some other White House attaché walked to the door, the newspapermen went into a huddle. Each time, the thought was: "This is it."

Finally, the newspapermen's thoughts began to turn to sandwiches and coffee. The President was scheduled to walk over to Blair House for lunch at 1 p.m. Everyone agreed that as soon as Mr. Truman left his office for the lunch-hour, the newspapermen would "make tracks" for the nearest restaurant. But the President never appeared. He lunched in his office. It wasn't until Daniels read the President's message relating to a joint, big-three announcement that the excrucious from the White House press room began.

Someone apparently decided to play a joke on the newspapermen.

The dining room men presided abundantly a large at the door. A short given after the 7 I Am So You. Miss ad. a plan Spring by sang, two Irish Left Sweet Dye As a so of Mrs. C in Canada Maple-Lee Worthy introduced lady and York Sta speaker, sitting and ing greet Grange to Mrs. Al the service milite, in presented courage of Mr. Chaff with bouc were given Mrs. Ellew Mrs. Pic were seor the right and Mrs. and lecture The char of the D. Roosevelt of Chapel county, and and Nation memory of served as who gave which the Two new to members were receive Worthy nounced the Neighb Galway Grava helped Grange De Deputy C rangers by the state m

THE FLAG FLIES ON IWO JIMA—The Saratogian reprints the picture of the U.S. Marines planting the American flag on Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima as photographed by Joe Rosenthal, Associated Press for which he has been awarded the \$300 Pulitzer prize. The merits of the photo were first recognized by The Saratogian and other Gannett Newspapers which on editorial pages called attention to Mr. Rosenthal's outstanding work. The photo was later adopted as the official emblem of the 7th War Loan Drive. Pictures below are of Hal Boyle, Associated Press foreign war reporter, who was awarded another \$300 Pulitzer prize for outstanding work, and of Mr. Rosenthal. Mr. Boyle's column appears frequently on the editorial page of The Saratogian.



HAROLD V. BOYLE **JOE ROSENTHAL**

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Chris Carola (Email) - Thanks for using that WWII on Deadline story about AP's Hal Boyle in Monday's Connecting. Not long after seeing it, I headed to the Saratoga Springs Public Library, where COVID-19-related restrictions on use of research equipment and material had been eased for the first time in weeks. While there, I ran into retired Albany bureau photographer Jim McKnight, a longtime AP colleague.

After catching up with Jim, I got on a microfilm machine to look at early May 1945 stories in The Saratogian, formerly owned by Gannett. I was looking at the edition for May 8, 1945 – Victory in Europe Day – when I spotted the attached item on page two.

It features photos of Boyle and photographer Joe Rosenthal under Rosenthal's famous Iwo Jima flag raising photo. A day earlier, Boyle and Rosenthal were announced as Pulitzer Prize winners, Boyle for his war reporting in 1944 and Rosenthal for the Iwo Jima photo. The Saratogian caption mentions how the editorial pages of Gannett newspapers "first recognized" the merits of the photo after it was sent out by the AP in late February 1945.

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Gene Herrick (Email) - Picking up on yesterday's story on AP Writer Hal Boyle, by Mark Lancaster, I would like to add a few incidents about Boyle in the 1950 Korean War.

We met in a sort of newsroom in a school in Taegu, South Korea, very early in the war. His reputation preceded him, and he lived up to that in the bloody battles. Hal was a soldiers' friend, and he was skilled in finding that tender part of the very young soldiers. He wrote kinda like an understanding father.

Boyle liked to smoke cigars. I smoked a pipe most of my life, but I did enjoy a stogie. Cigars were hard to come by. Boyle, with his snoopy instincts, found a storage warehouse and uncovered some cigars. Hal got a bunch for himself and got me some as well. Ah, what a pleasant moment in war!

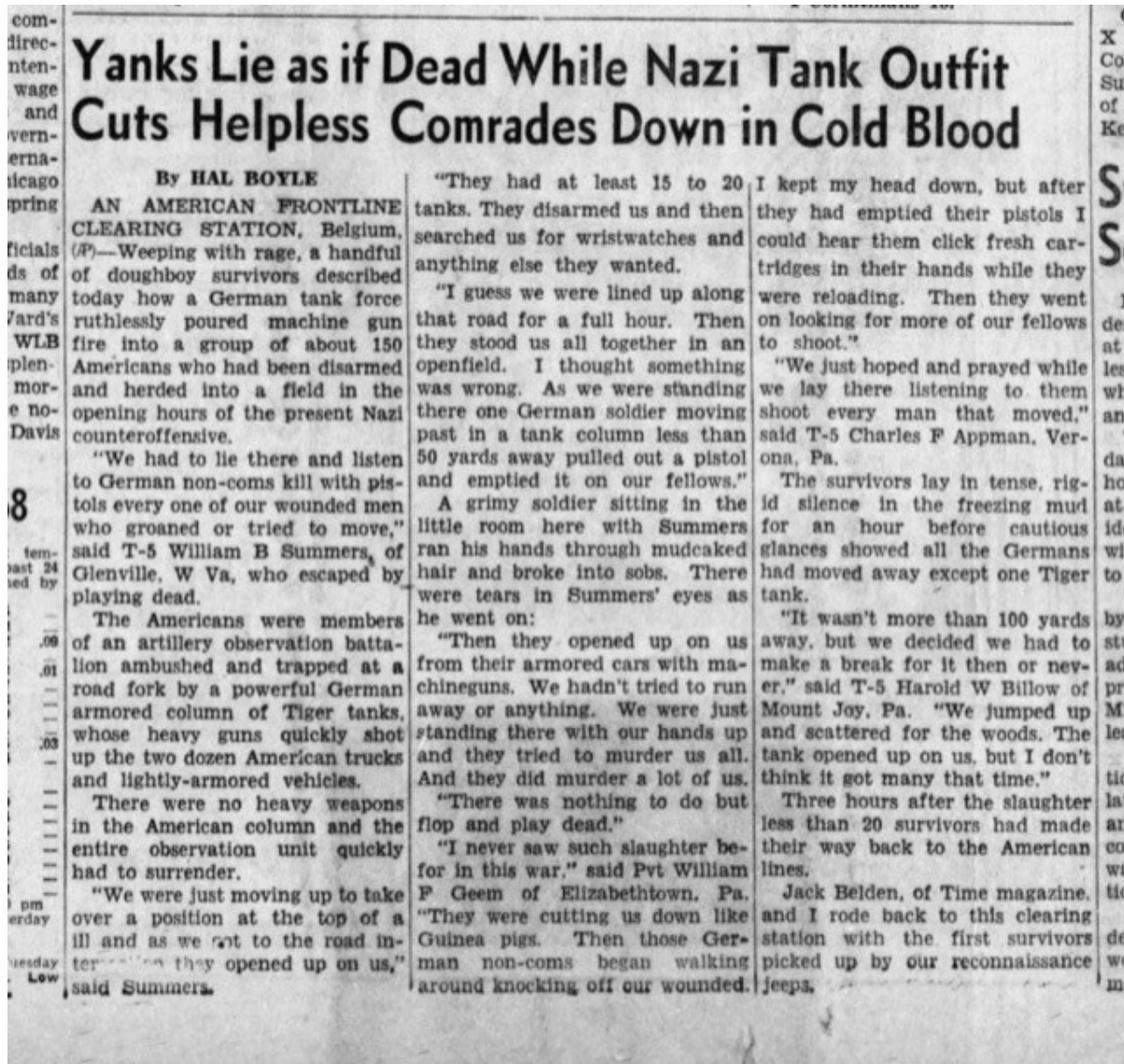
Boyle went back to Tokyo for some R&R, and while there "Visiting" some tourist attractions, he lost one of his combat boots. It was a fervent search, but no luck.

I am reminded of the story about Hal when he was covering Gen. Patton's drive in North Africa during the Second World War. When Patton, and tank, got to a certain village, the locals were out there to greet him and the troops, and yelling, "Hal Boyle, he's our pal."

It is reported that Boyle was always in competition with opposition great Ernie Pyle, even though they were friends.

Hal Boyle will be long remembered, especially by old-timers like me.

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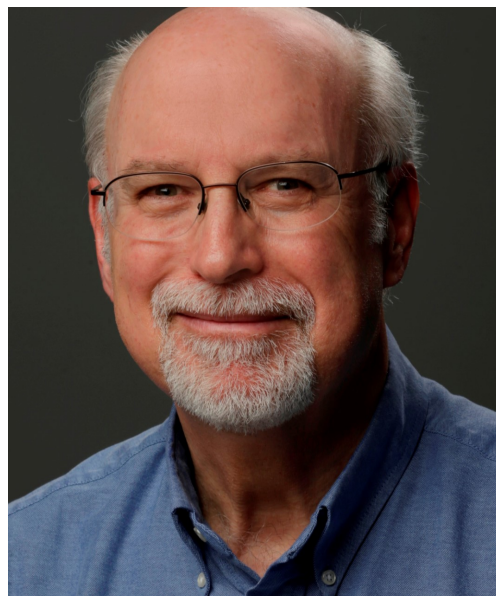


Dennis Conrad (Email) - In doing WWII research about my father's military service (1937-1967) with America's Air branch, I often came across the reporting of Hal Boyle of The Associated Press, particularly when they both were with the 33rd Fighter Group in North Africa. My father was busy fixing airplanes in places like French Morocco and Tunisia. As a reporter, Boyle had a lot of material to write about the exploits of the fighter pilots. The 33rd had the leading American aces of the North African campaign, including then-Major Levi Chase, who was No. 1 with 10 enemy kills and featured on Army radio in May 1943. In the fall of 1943, with the African campaign in his rearview mirror, Boyle wrote a column summing up his thoughts and he opined the 33rd was the best fighting group. As someone who wound up being an AP newsman decades later, I took great pride in reading such praise from a legendary war correspondent. I looked for more of his articles out of curiosity about Boyle's other experiences. Several years ago, I came across this from the European campaign. Once you read it, it is hard to get out of your mind.

New-member profile: Bill Lohmann

Bill Lohmann (Email) - columnist for the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch: I began my

career as a sports writer for the Charlottesville Daily Progress before moving in 1981 to United Press International where I worked in bureaus in Richmond (Virginia sports editor), Orlando (bureau manager) and Atlanta (regional feature writer). I returned to Richmond in 1988 to write for The News Leader – a newspaper I delivered as a kid -- and joined The Times-Dispatch when the papers merged in 1992.



Biggest story I've ever covered was probably in January 1986 for UPI when I was on the ground at the Kennedy Space Center when the space shuttle Challenger exploded. There was also the time with UPI that I got into Cuba with nothing more than an Orange County (Fla.) sheriff's press card in order to cover a 1984 visit by Los Angeles Olympics chairman Peter Ueberroth to try to persuade Fidel Castro not to boycott the games (Ueberroth failed, but I made it to Havana).

I was the 2019 recipient of the George Mason Award for outstanding contributions to Virginia journalism, presented by the Society of Professional Journalists, Virginia Pro Chapter.

Besides my newspaper work, I've written several books. The most recent is "DR COPTR: The Flying Physician Who Kept His Promise to Tangier Island," the story of Dr. David Nichols, a Northern Neck physician, and his undying devotion to Tangier Island.

Connecting mailbox

Cruz Caper reminds of another Tin-eared Texan episode

Claude Erbsen ([Email](#)) - The Ted Cruz Cancun Caper reminds me of a similar Tin-eared Texan episode I was involved in as AP COB in Brazil way back in 1966. John Connally, Texas governor at the time, turned up in Rio on a boondoggle masquerading as a "Trade development mission." Clearly it was only a one-or-two grafs a day, maximum, story for the Texas State wire.

On August 1 (thank you, Google!), he was to give a luncheon speech to some business group. It was a quiet news day so I decided to see if I could squeeze something out of it.

I couldn't, but I did chat with him either before or after the talk, and he mentioned in passing what hotel he was staying at. Later that afternoon, bells clanged on the incoming wire in the bureau, reporting that a sniper was shooting people from the top

of the University of Texas Tower in Austin. I believe it was three or four dead by then, and multiple wounded. It was time to call Connally for some reaction.

He expressed predictable shock and horror, and in a follow-up question I asked if he was going to cut short his trip and fly home. Unhesitatingly, he said no, and added it was a police matter. Then he asked me "why do you even ask?" I replied with something along the lines of "Well, you were hit by a sniper in Dallas during the JFK assassination." He did not respond and asked if he could call me back later for an update on the story. That was, of course, long before cellphones and even direct dial international phone calls.

He called back about half an hour later and said he had changed his mind and would be flying back that evening. Now THAT got AP a lot of ink and air in Texas, and left my UPI counterpart calling every major hotel in Rio trying to find Connally. Unsuccessfully, I believe.

The moral of the story? Never discard a potentially useful piece of information, or a phone number. You never know when you might need it.

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Pundits like Limbaugh had no balance

Joseph Carter ([Email](#)) - In last Friday's issue, a defender of the late Mr. (Rush) Limbaugh seemed to herald the value of balance by such pundits. He seemed to admire the fact that often Limbaugh accused broadcasters of all speaking from the "same script".

That "same script" often is the AP broadcast or other wires. Beyond doubt, those AP stories are - almost universally - sharply written, toughly edited, vetted and with opposite views inserted in controversial items. Errors on the wire, when disclosed, are most generally corrected with apologies.

Pundits like Limbaugh were widely broadcast with accounts being jaggedly written, unedited, unvetted and ignoring counter or balancing views.

By belittling the 'same script' news, extreme pundits belittled the AP and other hard news media that are vital in a thriving democracy.

Donald Trump took up the "false news" "same script" narrative with devastating results.

Limbaugh, Trump and their cronies have inflicted damage to truth in the news, integrity in journalism and honest reporting when found in politics and government. Their lies, although exposed in the mainstream media, seldom are retracted, corrected or admitted.

(Joseph H. Carter Sr., Norman, Okla., ex-UPI correspondent who respects and supports the AP, newspapers and unbiased news folks.)

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Encountering a Colleague In a Museum -- As an Exhibit!



Jim Reindl (Email) - We've been having a stretch of unseasonably warm, clear weather in Sarajevo of late and so on Sunday I ventured out in my double mask with the chief of party of USAID's new tourism program and walked to the History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In an upstairs gallery room, there's a permanent exhibition illustrating the 1991-1995 war.

There are many grim photos and sad reminders of a war I knew only as headlines, stories and TV news reports. As I inched my way along the walls viewing photos of this massacre site or that sniper shooting victim, I was stunned to find this photograph of a young Santiago Lyon, former AP photo director. At least, I was pretty sure that's who it was, especially since the caption reads "Injured Associated Press photojournalist."

I reached out to Santi this morning and he confirmed that it was a photo of him being treated for mortar shrapnel in his leg. Other friends had previously seen the photo and told him, so I wasn't surprising him (and yes, he approved of this Connecting contribution). As I said to Santi, you never know in our work who it will be or where and how you'll encounter someone you know.

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On errant emails...

Jim Hood (Email) - Even geniuses screw up email addresses. Yes, even AI geniuses. Way back in the dim reaches of time, Google started Gmail and sent out invitations to people chosen somehow or other to be the initial beneficiaries of its largesse.

I was one of those invitees so, not being very original, I signed up for jim.hood@gmail.com. Everything went along just fine for a year or two, until I started receiving emails that were obviously not intended for me.

Some seemed to be from fellow scribes, some from what appeared to be lobbyists and influence peddlers. Others were from hotels in D.C., San Francisco and other places where I had stayed. Some were, shall we say, rather personal. The hotel reservations helpfully had the address of the "other" Jim Hood. It was in Scotland and I was able to quickly confirm that it belonged to a Member of Parliament.

I dropped him an email, which of course came back to me. But it also went to him, causing me to wonder how many of my emails he had received. "Good man!" was his response to me. While encouraging, this was not really very helpful.

I tried to dig deeper but could only learn that Google knew best -- it knew which Jim Hood was which and would never misdirect our email, even though it had cleverly given us each the same address. This, of course, like so much that has issued from Google's lips, was hubris and not much else.

Sadly, the MP died a few years ago and I no longer get his email. I get lots of other Jim Hood emails though, intended for a golfer in Seattle, a hunter in Louisiana and a Ford owner in New Jersey. It has reminded me of the late Jim Smith, who traveled the roads of New England as an AP broadcast executive for many years. He was always planning to attend a Jim Smith reunion, quite popular events in New England.

My short-term answer to the jim.hood issue was to say to hell with it and get a new email address (jimhood44 ...). Long-term, I believe I'll organize a Jim Hood reunion where we can all sit around and get our email addresses straightened out.

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David Tirrell-Wysocki (Email) - I do not have an errant email story, except for a few 'reply all' episodes, but I can tell you that missing one digit in a telephone number also can lead to adventures - and AAA-wire stories.

In 1984, instead of dialing the office of Sen. Warren Rudman, R-NH., I bugged a nice fellow in New York named Fred Mannion. He quickly told me I had dialed 212, New York's area code, instead of Washington's 202. I apologized, hung up and bugged the good senator.

Afterward, I wondered how many of Rudman's calls ended up in Queens, so I called the fellow back. The result was an AAA-wire brief.

Rudman even sent Mannion a letter thanking him for his public service.

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And moving from unusual emails to unusual license plates



Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - You may have started a whole new trend with the submission of Dinesh Ramde's license plate in Monday's CONNECTING.

Here's mine.

Despite living on Florida's Gulf Coast since mid-1986, I refuse to consider myself a Floridian. I'm not proud of being a resident of one of the nation's stupidest and most corrupt states in the nation. I am still a Brooklynite (not even a New Yorker).

When I first applied for my latest license plate, I couldn't get BROOKLYN (one letter too many, and BKLYN was taken. So was BKLYN 32 (Sandy Koufax's number). So I decided, since I grew up living at 1321 Shore Parkway, Brooklyn 14, N.Y. (before the ZIP code changed it to Brooklyn 11214), I'd go with BKLYN 14.

The day after I attached the plate, I was tooling along when a guy with New York plates pulled alongside me and shouted: "Gil Hodges, right?" I hadn't thought of that, but he was one of my favorite Brooklyn Dodgers. So, yes, Gil Hodges - and maybe someday he'll be in the Hall of Fame as well as on my car. Just a thought.

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Michael Weinfeld ([Email](#)) - Dinesh Ramde started it with his BIGPAPI license plate. Here are a couple of mine.

I chose NOOZ when I was news director of WINY in Putnam, Ct. and kept it when I joined the AP Broadcast Wire in NYC and then was transferred to the BNC in DC. When I switched from news to AP Broadcast Entertainment Editor, my license plate switched from NOOZ TO SHMUUZ. (SHMOOZ was taken)

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Connecting sky shot – Starfish Cove



Lee Siegel ([Email](#)) - The view north from Starfish Cove, Yaquina Head, Oregon. Cape Foulweather in the far distance left of center. Feb. 20, 2021.

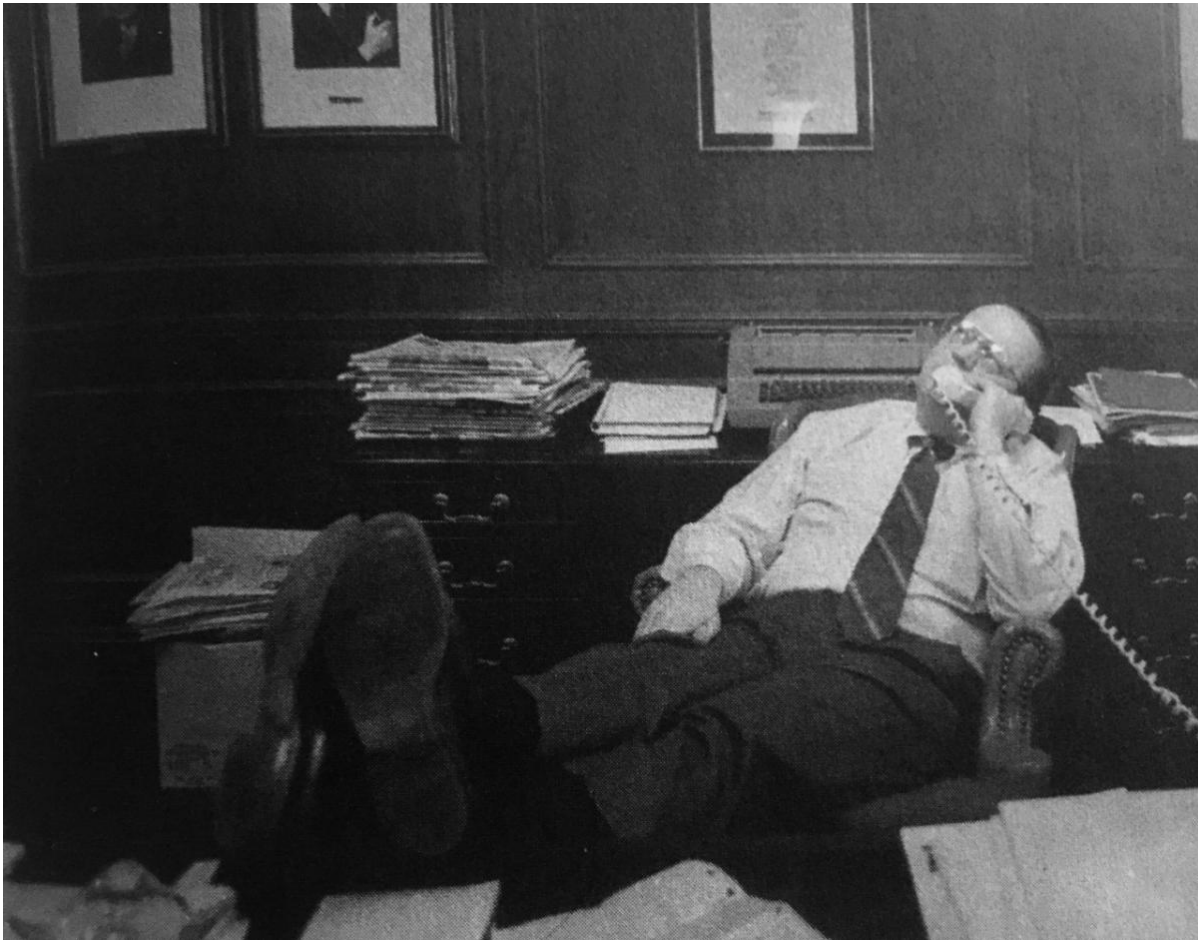
Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Warren Levinson – warrenlevinson@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

Mike Waller and Tough-Guy Journalism



By John Glionna

Mike Waller wore brass knuckles when he committed journalism.

He was the top boss when I worked at the Kansas City Star in the 1980s. We should have called him Mikey, like those other toughs from the hood, guys like Frankie and Vinnie.

At 5-foot-8, he was a diminutive character who could sneer at you with a face-full of attitude. Like all hooligans, he finished sentences with a “yeah.”

Waller’s kind are now extinct in an era when newspapers are run by hedge-fund robots. His generation had an unvarnished, blue-collar soul. They were newsroom drill sergeants who roughly guided untested kids like me through their journalistic basic training.

When Waller called the shots, the oldest veterans might have served in World War Two. Back then, it was an ink-stained trade. The Star had once hired a guy fresh out of Leavenworth prison as their police reporter because, as an ex-con, he got coppers.

Waller had that same common sense, and I was proud to work for him. There was no bullshit mean-spiritedness to the man, even though he wore his swagger like a pair of thousand-dollar shoes.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Cliff Schiappa. (Mike Waller ([Email](#)) is a Connecting colleague.)

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US Agency for Global Media reinstates employees dismissed under Trump (The Hill)

BY REBECCA BEITSCH

The agency overseeing Voice of America has reinstated five whistleblowers who were all fired on the same day last year by Trump officials.

The U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) has returned the employees fired on Aug. 12 by then-CEO Michael Pack, who was dismissed by President Biden just hours after taking office on Jan. 20.

“Deputy Director for Operations [Matt] Walsh, Chief Strategy Officer Shawn Powers, Chief Financial Officer Grant Turner, General Counsel David Kligerman, and Executive Director Oanh Tran have all returned to their positions at the agency,” Kelu Chao, acting CEO of the agency, wrote Wednesday night in a staff email obtained by The Hill.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lindel Hutson.

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Jack Schwartz, Key Cog at New York Newspapers, Dies at 82 (New York Times)

By Neil Genzlinger

This obituary is part of a series about people who have died in the coronavirus pandemic. Read about others here.

Jack Schwartz, a lifelong newspaperman, knew early that he was best suited to the kinds of jobs that are valued in a newsroom but largely invisible to the reading public.

In the fall of 1959 he landed a job out of college as a reporter for The Long Island Press, based in Queens, and a few months later found himself covering his first big story, a hotel fire on Atlantic Beach, on the South Shore. But he never actually went to the scene; instead he pieced the story together from telephone interviews and wire service copy.

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

The Final Word

Texas Winter Storm Update



Dallas AP newswoman Jamie Stengle on Friday, Feb. 19, at her unplanned winter storm retreat — with AP retiree Diana Heidgerd & husband Paul.

Diana Heidgerd ([Email](#)) - We warmly (truly) welcomed Dallas AP newswoman Jamie Stengle into our house last week as a bizarre winter storm dumped several inches of snow and dropped the temperature to minus -2 degrees.

Not wind chill. Degrees.

Jamie joined us Feb 16, a day after her condo lost power and water, the indoor temperature tumbled and she reluctantly admitted to me, as I called to check on my friend, that she couldn't feel her toes.

We luckily never lost electricity or other utilities when Jamie was with us. (See Connecting from Feb. 18.)

Jamie was coming and going for six days amid her storm reporting. She spent four nights in our spare bedroom, which also doubled as her AP workspace.

Jamie left us for good on Sunday, as the temperature in Dallas climbed into the 70s, her electricity was back on and plumbers worked to restore water. That finally happened Monday.

Jamie was among several AP folks in the Dallas, Austin and Houston areas who spent days without electricity and other utilities in their homes -- and kept working.

We are grateful for their dedication.

Jamie is welcome to share another cup of coffee at our table any time!

Today in History - Feb. 23, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 23, the 54th day of 2021. There are 311 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 23, 1836, the siege of the Alamo began in San Antonio, Texas.

On this date:

In 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln arrived secretly in Washington to take office, following word of a possible assassination plot in Baltimore.

In 1870, Mississippi was readmitted to the Union.

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt signed an agreement with Cuba to lease the area around Guantanamo Bay to the United States.

In 1942, the first shelling of the U.S. mainland during World War II occurred as a Japanese submarine fired on an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing little damage.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. Marines on Iwo Jima captured Mount Suribachi, where they raised two American flags (the second flag-raising was captured in the iconic Associated Press photograph.)

In 1954, the first mass inoculation of schoolchildren against polio using the Salk vaccine began in Pittsburgh as some 5,000 students were vaccinated.

In 1965, film comedian Stan Laurel, 74, died in Santa Monica, California.

In 1981, an attempted coup began in Spain as 200 members of the Civil Guard invaded Parliament, taking lawmakers hostage. (However, the attempt collapsed 18 hours later.)

In 1995, the Dow Jones industrial average closed above the 4,000 mark for the first time, ending the day at 4,003.33.

In 1998, 42 people were killed, some 2,600 homes and businesses damaged or destroyed, by tornadoes in central Florida.

In 2007, a Mississippi grand jury refused to bring any new charges in the 1955 slaying of Emmett Till, the Black teenager who was beaten and shot after being accused of whistling at a white woman, declining to indict the woman, Carolyn Bryant Donham, for manslaughter.

In 2006, Japan's Shizuka Arakawa (shih-ZOO'-kuh ah-rah-KAH'-wah) stunned favorites Sasha Cohen of the United States and Irina Slutskaya (sloot-SKY'-yah) of Russia to claim the ladies' figure skating gold medal at the Turin Winter Olympics.

Ten years ago: In a major policy reversal, the Obama administration said it would no longer defend the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act, a federal law banning recognition of same-sex marriage.

Five years ago: Donald Trump won the Nevada Republican caucuses; Marco Rubio finished second while Ted Cruz placed third. A 26-year-old gunman killed four family members and torched their house in Phoenix before being shot dead by authorities.

One year ago: Chinese President Xi Jinping defended the Communist Party's response to the coronavirus as "timely and effective," but warned that the epidemic was still "grim and complex." Japan reported the third fatality from among those who'd been aboard a quarantined cruise ship. Iran raised its death toll to eight, the highest toll outside China; Italy reported 152 cases, the largest number outside of Asia, including three deaths. Italian authorities said they would shut down Venice's famed Carnival events in a bid to stop the spread of the virus.

Today's Birthdays: Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Fred Biletnikoff is 78. Author John Sandford is 77. Country-rock musician Rusty Young is 75. Actor Patricia Richardson is 70. Former NFL player Ed "Too Tall" Jones is 70. Rock musician Brad Whitford (Aerosmith) is 69. Singer Howard Jones is 66. Rock musician Michael Wilton (Queensryche) is 59. Country singer Dusty Drake is 57. Actor Kristin Davis is 56. Former tennis player Helena Sukova is 56. Actor Marc Price is 53. TV personality/businessman Daymond John (TV: "Shark Tank") is 52. Actor Niecy Nash is 51. Rock musician Jeff Beres (Sister Hazel) is 50. Country singer Steve Holy is 49. Rock musician Lasse (loss) Johansson (The Cardigans) is 48. Film and theater composer Robert Lopez is 46. Actor Kelly Macdonald is 45. Rapper Residente (Calle 13) is 43. Actor Josh Gad is 40. Actor

Emily Blunt is 38. Actor Aziz Ansari is 38. Actor Tye White (TV: "Greenleaf") is 35. Actor Dakota Fanning is 27.

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.**



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