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## Connecting

March 08 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021,

Today's Connecting Profile focuses on a retired newspaper photographer who, at 93 years of age, is an inspiration to his fellow residents of his retirement community.

**Fred Larson** is his name and for 30 years, from 1963-1993, he was staff photographer for The Messenger of Fort Dodge, Iowa, my hometown newspaper. He has lived for the past 11 years at Friendship Haven in Fort Dodge and until a week ago today, the retirement community was under social distance lockdown because of COVID-19.

I write a monthly column for The Messenger – called Spotlight, a column my dad wrote for 25 years - and Fred was the subject of this past Saturday's [Spotlight](#). It's not often, after all, that you can write about someone instrumental in your own journalism career, as Fred was to mine, or about the person who photographed your wedding, as Fred did for Linda and me nearly 53 years ago. So I wanted to share Photo Fred with you.

During several summers back in the 60s, as summer relief I filled in for Fred for two weeks at a time with photo and darkroom responsibilities - and still cannot forget the challenges of the darkroom - removing film in total darkness from its canister, souping it, mixing chemicals for the development process, bringing proofs to news editors - and the pride of doing it right and seeing a picture I took and developed appear in print. (Or occasional dismay when images ruined if not placed on the reel properly.)

Hey, photo folks among us, got a favorite story of your first encounter with photo and darkroom work? How about sharing it?

Here's to a great day and week ahead – be safe, stay healthy. And thank you, Photo Fred!

Paul

**'Photo Fred' Larson is back – lifting spirits, telling his jokes**



Photo by Brittany Drew, Friendship Haven

By PAUL STEVENS

The coronavirus pandemic could hold him down for just so long. “Photo Fred” is back!

Fred Larson, who has been photographing the people and places of Fort Dodge since he bought his first camera at 9 years old (“for 10 cents and three box tops”), has resumed self-appointed duties as the “welcome wagon” for fellow residents of Friendship Haven who until Monday had been under tight social distancing rules to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“Before the pandemic, it was hard to find him in his room,” said Julie Thorson, CEO of the retirement community. “He’d be out calling on people, lifting spirits, telling his jokes. Photo Fred is now out and about. We think things are now getting closer to the interaction we once had with one another.”

Larson, who is 93 years young, is the ultimate people person – and the pandemic took its toll on him and all his fellow residents when Friendship Haven had to severely limit social contacting beginning a year ago.

“I’ll talk to anyone who will talk to me,” Larson said. “People come from all different varieties of life, some talkative, some not. I know a lot of people here. The pandemic just made it worse. Before, I was calling on 10 people at the health center, five days a week. We’d talk for 15 minutes or so. Now only two of those are left – the others have died. It hurts me because I couldn’t go over and give them a little comfort. Some have nobody to come by. I was somebody, even if they didn’t know me.”

Larson was the first fulltime photographer for The Messenger, working at the newspaper from 1963 to 1993 and through his camera lens telling the stories of thousands upon thousands of lives – their triumphs as well as their tragedies. The scrapbooks of many Fort Dodgers include Fred Larson photos that celebrated an achievement or other memorable moment.

Think Paul Anka’s classic song, “The Times of Our Lives,” and the beginning lyrics:

“Good morning, yesterday. You wake up and time has slipped away. And suddenly it’s hard to find. The memories you left behind. Remember, do you remember? The laughter and the tears. The shadows of misty yesteryears. The good times and the bad you’ve seen. And all the others in between. Remember, do you remember, The times of your life?”

Fred Larson – a man Thorson calls “a legend of the community” – helped many remember those times of their lives. And nearly 40 years into retirement, he’s still working at it, still taking pictures from time to time with his two 35mm cameras.

“I covered a lot of good things and a lot of bad things,” Larson said. “It was a fun job. I enjoyed every minute of it. I didn’t kick and holler and scream when I had to get up in the middle of the night to go cover a story. It was a job that I loved to do.”

One exception he did note: When he and reporter Maxine Peet drove to Algona to cover the funerals of five people who were killed in a domestic disturbance, he reached back for his camera and found it wasn’t there. He left it at home. “We found a drug store downtown and I rented a camera,” he said. And he got the shots.



In his 11 years at Friendship Haven, Larson has been a “great ambassador” to other residents, Thorson said. “His wife Delores was very welcoming too. He was so devoted to her.”

Delores, a longtime school teacher who worked many years at Cooper Elementary, passed away in 2011.

“We were married 53 years, nine months, and five days, but I am not counting,” Larson said.

Larson was born at Mercy Hospital in Fort Dodge, one of five boys of Edith and Merrill “Pete” Larson. The family first lived at 209 I St. and then at 219 I St. His parents and his brothers Jack, Dick, Dave and Don have died – Don, two years ago after a career that included operating Ridgewood Lanes. His father worked for Fort Dodge Creamery, going to work at 3 a.m. and early on using horses to deliver milk.

“Those were the Depression years,” Larson said, “and he supported five boys, his wife and his dad on \$20 a week.”

His father was killed at the age of 44 – when Fred was 8 years old – when bricks fell on him after a building, the Fort Dodge Club, on the City Square exploded and collapsed after catching fire. His father and a friend were bystanders outside when both were struck by bricks. His mother then went to work for Lutheran Hospital for 35 cents an hour.

As a 12-year-old boy in 1939, Larson took his first job as a paperboy, delivering the then-afternoon Messenger on the west side of the river. He had 80 customers and held the route for two years.

Larson got into what would be his life’s profession by accident. Nels Isaacson, a master photographer and owner of Baldwin Studio, asked his mother if her older son David would be interested in a job there. David was working at Charles A. Brown clothing, she told him, but “I’m sure Fred would do a good job for you.” Larson was 10 when he started by sweeping out the store after school, then learned to develop film and print pictures while working in the darkroom.

When Isaacson divorced and moved his studio to Algona, Larson went to work for Harold Bergman at Bergman



Studios in downtown Fort Dodge. He was 13, in high school, and worked there weekends doing darkroom work and later selling camera equipment.

Larson stayed with Bergman after graduating in 1947 from Fort Dodge Senior High School and began shooting his first weddings – taking pictures both in the Bergman studio and at churches and reception halls. In all, he took pictures at about 80 weddings (including the author's).

At one wedding at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, an uninvited guest in the form of a mouse made things interesting, he recalled.

“I noticed up front that people were half standing and gawking at the altar. I took my camera and walked up. A little mouse was running from under the bride's dress, in and out three or four times. I was waiting for a scream. But she never did.”

Larson was drafted into the Army in 1950 and served two years, stationed at Fort Lee, Virginia, before being discharged and returning to Fort Dodge. He and Delores were married in 1957.

“We met in a bar, the Chatterbox. She had been at a senior dinner dance at the Laramar,” he said with a laugh. “I was trying to date her older sister but I ended up driving Delores home.”

He joined The Messenger in 1963 when General Manager Bob Merryman offered him \$20 more a week than he was paid at Bergman, Larson said. For the next 30 years, nary an event of importance occurred that did not include Fred Larson photographing it with his cameras – first a Speed Graphic, then a 2<sup>™</sup> and finally 35mm cameras.

“One of the good things I covered was the pope coming to Des Moines, and JFK coming to Fort Dodge,” Larson said. “He was one of eight presidents I covered in Iowa (Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, and George W. Bush). The longest day I ever put in was a big downtown fire in January 1971 that destroyed eight businesses and claimed a life. I was there at 3 in the morning and got home at 6 that evening. That fire was so hot that it melted a phone on a desk in a building across the street.”

Daryl Beall, former state senator, said “Fred not only was a photojournalist, capturing people and events in the news, but he was a part of the community. He recorded and chronically captured current happenings, yes, and also preserved them for their historical documentation. Fred was a bit of a joker. He interacted with his subjects. His art was memorable — just like the artist.”

Beall said Larson once told him that one of the toughest photo assignments he ever had was in his first year with The Messenger, in 1963, when he covered a plane crash that claimed the lives of Beall's brother Mike and three other young people when their aircraft went down near where Gunderson Funeral Home is now located.

Larson's sidekick on many of his Messenger assignments was daughter Carrie, who now lives in Sioux City with her husband, Jack Lammers, an assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Iowa, and their daughter, Katherine, 17, a high school senior and cross country runner at Sioux City East. Carrie and her dad talk daily by phone.

“He would take me with him if there was a fire or an accident, with orders that I stay in the car,” she said. “When we got back to the Messenger, I have great memories of running around the empty newsroom late at night while he developed his film. I can remember making hundreds of paper airplanes with printed instructions that came with each roll of film.

“I was pretty shy in high school and dad would always load me up with pictures to share with classmates who he photographed. I know he always tried when taking pictures at the high school, if he learned there was a kid who needed a boost, a little something special, he would make sure to include him or her in a photo.”

For this past Christmas, Carrie framed for her daughter’s bedroom one of her favorite photos taken by her dad – showing the High Bridge in Fort Dodge shrouded in fog and a hawk sitting on a sign that says “No Trespassing.”

Weeks after retiring from The Messenger, Fred’s hanging out at home proved too much for his wife Delores. He recalled, “She said, get out of my house. You’re in my way!” So he found a part-time job at Hy-Vee grocery and sacked groceries and had other duties there for the next 18 years. He and Delores enjoyed travel – with retirement trips to Russia, England, Scotland, Ireland, the Panama Canal, Mexico, Hawaii and Germany.

Larson still recalls with pride the time when his photos were displayed at the Blanden Art Gallery.

“I started to cry, there were so many people there,” he said.

Larson keeps several shoe boxes of negatives he’s saved over the years under his bed at his apartment in the River Ridge community at Friendship Haven. He has donated negatives to the Fort Dodge Historical Society over the years and plans to donate the film in those boxes as well.

This past Monday, when Friendship Haven began opening up once again, a dozen of Larson’s photos were put on display outside the Celebration Center.

The timing couldn’t have been better. Residents were free to mingle again – and share stories with their beloved ambassador. And he paid visits on resident friends whom he had not seen in a year.

“You feel alive again,” Larson said.

## **A message on 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her lung transplant – sign that donor authorization**



**Claudia DiMartino (Email)** - I will ever be grateful to a young nursing student named Maria. When she checked that box on the driver's license form giving permission to donate her organs, she gave me a second chance at life.

Six years ago, we got "The Call." After four false starts it was my turn to get a new lung. Signing up to be a donor often falls to the department of motor vehicles. Just check the box. For a national guide, though, take a look [here](#) to make a donation.

I'm posing here with all the life-saving drugs I took upon coming home and continue to take to this day. Really a small price to pay to be able to love my family and friends in this world. After the transplant I did some volunteering with Hal and friends and family to get people to sign up to become donors. We went to colleges and setup tables. We went to foot races and monthly visits to motor vehicle bureaus. On occasion we spoke to nurses and doctors at hospitals to thank them for their help in the donor process. All of this was with LiveOnNY (<https://www.liveonny.org>) pre-Covid. Hopefully now with the vaccines we might be able to go back to that kind of face-to-face out-reach.

## Connecting mailbox

### *The story behind 'Piggy's Picks'*

**Richard Carelli (Email)** - It was a much simpler time. I was a young AP reporter in West Virginia. As part of my duties during high school football season, I authored a column, published in most of the state's newspapers, called "Piggy's Picks." The premise, as strange as it may seem today, was I would travel to Mud, WV, each week and interview a pig about upcoming games. Piggy would predict the winners. Well, my friends at the Charleston Gazette started sometime in 1971 running my photo with the weekly column, with "Carelli" underneath. By this August 1972 column, they had



started using the caption "Piggy" under my photo. If memory serves, my buddies also sometimes used a "Carelli". caption under a photo of a pig. Like I said, a simpler (and in many ways, happier) time.

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## ***Remember stocks tables? Sure do***

**Steve Graham** ([Email](#)) – Last week's Connecting profile of our colleague Randy Picht asked if anyone remembers stock tables.

Remember them? Do I ever!

Dick Atkins brought me back from London in 1986 to oversee the reconstruction of the Financial Markets System, which was teetering on the brink of a black hole at the same time competitors were offering more technologically advanced alternatives.

(I told Dick I didn't know anything about financial markets, but his response was, "neither does anybody else here.")

Apparently, the newspaper markets pages are now a thing of the past.

When did that happen?

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## ***Don Reuter dies; once worked for AP Raleigh***

**Sue Price Johnson** ([Email](#)) – Here is the obituary for Don Reuter, who spent part of his early career working for the AP in Raleigh before spending most of his career in state government. His passing of a severe heart attack was quite a shock. He was only 58. Click [here](#) to read.

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## ***More examples of your least-favorite jargon***

My entries for annoying jargon: There's no there there.

Walking and chewing gum.

Anyone using the non-word preventative instead of preventive. I once corrected (privately of course) Senator John Edwards. He didn't seem to appreciate my help. (Daryl Beall)

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I may have missed it, but someone should have mentioned the prolific use of "new record," especially in TV sports reports. As my former Milwaukee colleague Dave DeGrace would say, it comes right from the "department of redundancy department." (Jim Carlson)

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Least favorite jargon in everyday press releases on the legal beat: "We cannot comment on pending litigation."

(Sure you can. You just want an excuse not to discuss what you're accused of doing.)  
(Bob Egelko)

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Enough of these threadbare clichés! (Marcus Eliason)

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I'm enjoying the various takes on jargon and especially the contribution from Eric Quinones Friday.

Starting in high school, I was often told I was a good writer. During many years inside government in my post-AP days, I was immersed in what I call "governmentese". So much of that internal jargon that I was finally convinced I probably couldn't write home for money. That was the compelling reason, to see if I could learn again to write for "real people", that I began my weekly local columns nearly 18 years ago. I have to continually remind myself of the tenets of good broadcast copy...simple declarative sentences, the shorter the better, present tense preferable, etc. Just this morning my editing on this week's column consisted of making two or three sentences out of some very long ones. I've learned that commas and semicolons are not my friends.

It's an ongoing struggle. (Jim Spehar)

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In case these bits of jargon haven't made the recent lists:

--People "transported" to hospitals  
--Contracts or agreements "hammered out"  
--People said to have "suffered" a minor injury (Save the suffering for when they do.)  
(Marty Thompson)

### ***And from the AP Stylebook:***

Don't know if you know, but a couple of years ago we added the below to the Stylebook. It's now in the online edition only; took up too much space in the print book.

Jerry Schwartz wrote the intro, and the examples of what NOT to do came from a variety of staffers ... (Paula Froke, AP Stylebook editor)

**cliches, jargon**

It is tempting to advise writers to avoid cliches like the plague; they are the bane of our existence. Right there, you can see why they are so difficult to shun: Cliches are the junk food of the literary pantry, much loved by lazy writers. But platitudes and shopworn phrases serve as signals to the reader to move along, there's nothing to see here.

Don't push readers away, or lull them to sleep. Engage them with original, specific phrasing.

Jargon presents other issues. It has its place in specialized worlds whose inhabitants use jargon-speak as shortcuts (and sometimes, as code words for those in the know, or as tools to disguise, euphemize or editorialize). To a doctor, "symptomatology" is a patient's set of symptoms; to a businessperson, "due diligence" is putting the necessary effort into research before making a decision; to a military officer, "collateral damage" is the accidental killing of innocent people. To the rest of us, these words may be befuddling.

William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White put it simply in "The Elements of Style": "Be clear." Jargon is the opposite of clarity. Don't just repeat the words. Translate them, and push for the true meaning when necessary.

Here's what not to do:

**COMMUNITIES:** Pivoting from her image as cheerleader touting pricey government entitlements, Mayor Begonia Jargonne voiced profound dismay at plunging revenue enhancements as she pushed back against self-professed economists who fault her policies. In taking this proactive stance, the tree-lined community's mayor aims to reach out to disgruntled constituents who have referenced her programs as irresponsible. To be sure, these critics had sanctioned such measures before, but more recently are dwelling on the mayor's pressure points as a big spender. For her part, Jargonne proclaims that citizens soon will witness a sea change in budgetary matters in her drive to rally past their objections. Far from working under the radar, she vowed to commission a blue-ribbon commission, a game-changer that she said that would leave no leaf unturned at the end of the day in formulating shots in the arm for at-risk populations.

**GOVERNMENT:** Exercising his bully pulpit, the president touted his executive orders as a dramatic, no-holds-barred way to target a laundry list of problems. But his reform proposals sparked a backlash from legislators who said the president had become the poster boy for executive overreach. The disagreement fueled a constitutional standoff on steroids that prompted both sides to take their grievances to court and poisoned the atmosphere.

In a major policy address, the president took the bull by the horns and reached out to disaffected Americans, kicking off a campaign to win over their hearts and minds with a litany of proposals to reduce red tape and cut pork-barrel spending by thinking outside the box. Casting the proposals as a no-brainer, he said his plan would drill down to put more boots on the ground in ramping up the fight against waste, fraud and abuse.

**POLITICS:** Taking no vote for granted, the candidate crisscrossed the country to take his campaign to key battleground states, where he issued a campaign manifesto with a 10-point funding plan that he had penned on his own. Still facing an uphill battle after failing to get much traction, he huddled with key advisers to map out a new blueprint that would take his campaign to the next level and broaden his support beyond his traditional lane with conservatives, who consider him a rock star. But the new narrative threatened to tarnish his brand as a truth-teller.

After amassing a huge campaign war chest and zigzagging across the heartland, the candidate pressed the flesh as he sprinted to the finish line. In a time-honored tradition, voters trooped to the polls in droves on what promised to be a long night. The candidate holed up in a hotel with top advisers to await the results, which were up for grabs.

**BUSINESS:** Buoyed by the ongoing efforts of a cutting-edge staff that doubled-down on achieving deliverables to replenish the conglomerate's coffers, CEO Notso Frank — the company's cheerleader-in-chief — downplayed wide-ranging, continuing warnings that the local economy was about to crash and burn. Joining a chorus of naysayers who have chimed in to shed a little daylight on the equities at risk, he said that after crunching the numbers and drilling down into the problem, he was hesitant to put the cart before the horse but that it appeared the company would weather the storm by the skin of its teeth and was working to avoid a worst-case scenario.

That said, Frank acknowledged that his arsenal holds no Hail Mary moves to yield dividends any time soon. Without saying the P-word by name, he termed it a wake-up call for all bucket owners to grow their bandwidth and broaden their portfolios to avoid worst-case scenarios that could be toxic for the more upscale segments.

**POLICE AND COURTS:** Police say an intoxicated person of interest suffered a self-inflicted gunshot to his left foot in an officer-involved shooting after being pulled over on suspicion of driving at a high rate of speed on a tree-lined street. Police Chief I.M. Kleeshay said responding officers, who were responding to the scene, said the unnamed suspect got into a physical and verbal altercation with them. A gun fired during the fracas, grazing him in the lower extremity. He was transported to a local hospital for treatment of his glancing toe blow, then remanded to be lodged in the local jail after which he may be bound over for trial. "A slay this wasn't, but we must toe the line on gun crimes," Kleeshay said.

Authorities responded to an active shooter situation after students reported seeing a juvenile male discharging a firearm in a dormitory before fleeing the scene on foot. The dorm was fully engulfed in flames and two students were observed to be deceased. A short time later, law enforcement officers spotted an individual matching the description of the suspect walking down a nearby street and he was apprehended without incident.

### *Best of the Week*

## **Conspiracy, lies and social media: AP finds state, local GOP officials promoting online**



# disinformation



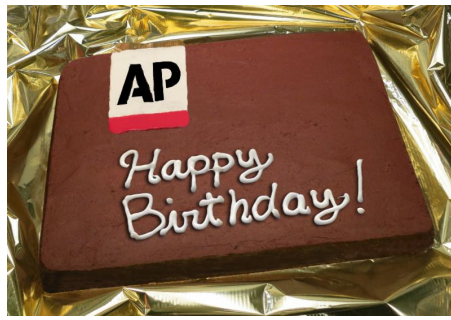
AP Photo/Steve Helber

After the deadly Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, investigative reporters Garance Burke, Martha Mendoza and Juliet Linderman wanted to know if local, county and state Republican officials across the country were continuing to amplify online messages similar to those that had inspired the riot, and what they hoped to accomplish by doing so.

To find their answer, the trio turned to data journalism. When the right-wing aligned social media platform Parler was taken offline, Burke reached out to confidential sources and obtained a comprehensive Parler archive ahead of other media competitors. Then, data journalist Larry Fenn built a framework to ingest the 183 million posts and 13 million user profiles. Burke, Mendoza and Linderman turned to AP statehouse reporters for help and quickly built a spreadsheet of hundreds of names of local, county and state-level GOP officials to check against profiles on the social platforms.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Heidi Nolte Brown - [hbrown@ap.org](mailto:hbrown@ap.org)

Hoyt Harwell - [hharwell6447@charter.net](mailto:hharwell6447@charter.net)

## Welcome to Connecting



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## Stories of interest

*Biden White House: message discipline, no news conference* (AP)

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ALEXANDRA JAFFE

WASHINGTON (AP) — No news conference. No Oval Office address. No primetime speech to a joint session of Congress.

President Joe Biden is the first executive in four decades to reach this point in his term without holding a formal question and answer session. It reflects a White House media strategy meant both to reserve major media set-pieces for the celebration of a legislative victory and to limit unforced errors from a historically gaffe-prone politician.

Biden has opted to take questions about as often as most of his recent predecessors, but he tends to field just one or two informal inquiries at a time, usually in a hurried setting at the end of an event.

In a sharp contrast with the previous administration, the White House is exerting extreme message discipline, empowering staff to speak but doing so with caution. Recalling both Biden's largely leak-free campaign and the buttoned-up Obama administration, the new White House team has carefully managed the president's appearances, trying to lower the temperature from Donald Trump's Washington and to save a big media moment to mark what could soon be a signature accomplishment: passage of the COVID-19 bill.

The message control may serve the president's purposes but it denies the media opportunities to directly press Biden on major policy issues and to engage in the kind of back-and-forth that can draw out information and thoughts that go beyond the administration's curated talking points.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***NYT Columnist David Brooks Resigns From Nonprofit After More Evidence Of Conflicts Emerges*** (Buzzfeed)

By Ryan Mac and Katie Robertson

David Brooks has resigned from his position at the Aspen Institute following reporting by BuzzFeed News about conflicts of interest between the star New York Times columnist and funders of a program he led for the think tank.

Eileen Murphy, a spokesperson for the Times, said in a statement that editors approved Brooks's involvement with Aspen in 2018, when he launched a project called Weave. But current editors weren't aware that he was receiving a salary for Weave.

"The current Opinion editors were unaware of this arrangement and have concluded that holding a paid position at Weave presents a conflict of interest for David in

writing about the work of the project, its donors, or the broader issues it focuses on," Murphy said.

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

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## ***Journalists Rebel at NewsNation, a Newcomer in Cable News*** (New York Times)

By Katie Robertson

Last summer, a staff of more than 150 people started putting together “NewsNation,” a three-hour prime-time cable news show that was billed as a throwback to the just-the-facts news programs of TV’s golden age. Unlike the prime-time shows on CNN, Fox News and MSNBC filled with partisan monologues and fiery discussions, “NewsNation” would serve up unbiased news reports in a straightforward manner.

The show made its debut in September on WGN America, a Chicago cable channel available in roughly 75 million households across the country. Its development was overseen by Sean Compton, a top executive at Nexstar Media Group, which owns WGN America. He laid out the show’s mission in a January 2020 statement: “We consistently hear from viewers who are seeking straight-ahead, unbiased news reporting that is grounded in fact, not opinion,” Mr. Compton said. “‘News Nation’ will deliver exactly that.”

Eager journalists from across the country signed on, some of them moving with their families from far away. But now, six months after its debut, “NewsNation” has abysmal ratings and disaffected staff members who say it has not lived up to Mr. Compton’s billing. In recent weeks, the news director and managing editor have resigned. Six people at the network, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to reveal internal discussions, said “NewsNation” has increasingly become a venue for right-wing views.

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

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## ***Cronkite signed off 40 years ago; it seems like an eon in news standards*** (The Hill)

By JEFFREY M. McCALL

It was 40 years ago on March 6 that news anchor Walter Cronkite signed off “The CBS Evening News” for the final time, stating his tag line, “That’s the way it is.” The phrase was more than just a signature ending of his nightly newscast. It was a statement that his newscast was designed to, as he put it, “hold up the mirror — to tell and show the public what has happened.”



Holding up the mirror meant focusing on actual news, steering away from advocacy, and nailing down facts. There was a reason that polls of the era listed Cronkite as the most trusted man in America. He projected a fatherly personality and professional image. He spoke in a slow, deliberate manner. He imposed strict standards for accuracy and objectivity into his broadcasts. Every writer and producer on his team knew the perfectionist's expectations and knew not to stray into personal bias or activism.

The journalism world could use more of the Cronkite method today.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

## Today in History - March 8, 2021



### By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 8, the 67th day of 2021. There are 298 days left in the year.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On March 8, 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, a Boeing 777 with 239 people on board, vanished during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, setting off a massive and ultimately unsuccessful search.

#### On this date:

In 1618, German astronomer Johannes Kepler devised his third law of planetary motion.

In 1817, the New York Stock & Exchange Board, which had its beginnings in 1792, was formally organized; it later became known as the New York Stock Exchange.

In 1930, the 27th president of the United States, William Howard Taft, died in Washington at age 72.

In 1948, the Supreme Court, in *McCollum v. Board of Education*, struck down voluntary religious education classes in Champaign, Illinois, public schools, saying the program violated separation of church and state.

In 1960, Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon won the New Hampshire presidential primary.

In 1965, the United States landed its first combat troops in South Vietnam as 3,500 Marines arrived to defend the U.S. air base at Da Nang.

In 1979, technology firm Philips demonstrated a prototype compact disc player during a press conference in Eindhoven, the Netherlands.

In 1983, in a speech to the National Association of Evangelicals convention in Orlando, Florida, President Ronald Reagan referred to the Soviet Union as an "evil empire."

In 1988, 17 soldiers were killed when two Army helicopters from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, collided in mid-flight.

In 1999, baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio died in Hollywood, Florida, at age 84.

In 2004, Iraq's Governing Council signed a landmark interim constitution.

In 2008, President George W. Bush vetoed a bill that would have banned the CIA from using simulated drowning and other coercive interrogation methods to gain information from suspected terrorists.

Ten years ago: Voters in Bell, California, went to the polls in huge numbers and threw out the entire City Council after most of its members had been charged with fraud. (Residents were infuriated to find out that former City Manager Robert Rizzo had been receiving an annual salary of \$1.5 million, and that four of the five City Council members had paid themselves \$100,000 a year to meet about once a month.)

Five years ago: Democrat Bernie Sanders breathed new life into his longshot White House bid with a crucial win in Michigan's primary while Hillary Clinton breezed to an easy victory in Mississippi; Republican Donald Trump swept to victory in Michigan, Mississippi and Hawaii, while Ted Cruz carried Idaho. Sir George Martin, the Beatles' urbane producer who guided the band's swift, historic transformation from rowdy club act to musical and cultural revolutionaries, died at age 90.

One year ago: Italy's prime minister announced a sweeping quarantine restricting the movements of about a quarter of the country's population. Two members of Congress, Sen. Ted Cruz and Rep. Paul Gosar, said they were isolating themselves after determining that they'd had contact at the Conservative Political Action Conference with a man who later tested positive for the coronavirus. The U.S. State Department issued an advisory against travel on cruise ships. U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams said communities would need to start thinking about canceling large gatherings, closing schools and letting more employees work from home. Actor Max von Sydow, who played the priest in the horror classic "The Exorcist," died at the age of 90.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician George Coleman is 86. Actor Sue Ane (correct) Langdon is 85. College Football Hall of Famer Pete Dawkins is 83. Songwriter Carole Bayer Sager is 77. Actor-director Micky Dolenz (The Monkees) is 76. Singer-musician Randy Meisner is 75. Pop singer Peggy March is 73. Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Rice is 68. Jazz musician Billy Childs is 64. Singer Gary Numan is 63. NBC News anchor Lester Holt is 62. Actor Aidan Quinn is 62. Actor Camryn Manheim is 60. Actor Leon (no last name) is 60. Country-rock singer Shawn Mullins is 53. Neo-soul singer Van Hunt is 51. Actor Andrea Parker is 51. Actor Boris Kodjoe is 48. Actor Freddie Prinze Jr. is 45. Actor Laura Main is 44. Actor James Van Der Beek is 44. R&B singer Kameelah Williams (702) is 43. Actor Nick Zano is 43. Rock singer Tom Chaplin (Keane) is 42. Rock musician Andy Ross (OK Go) is 42. Actor Jessica Collins is 38. R&B singer Kristinia (kris-teh-NEE'-ah) DeBarge is 31.

## 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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