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Connecting

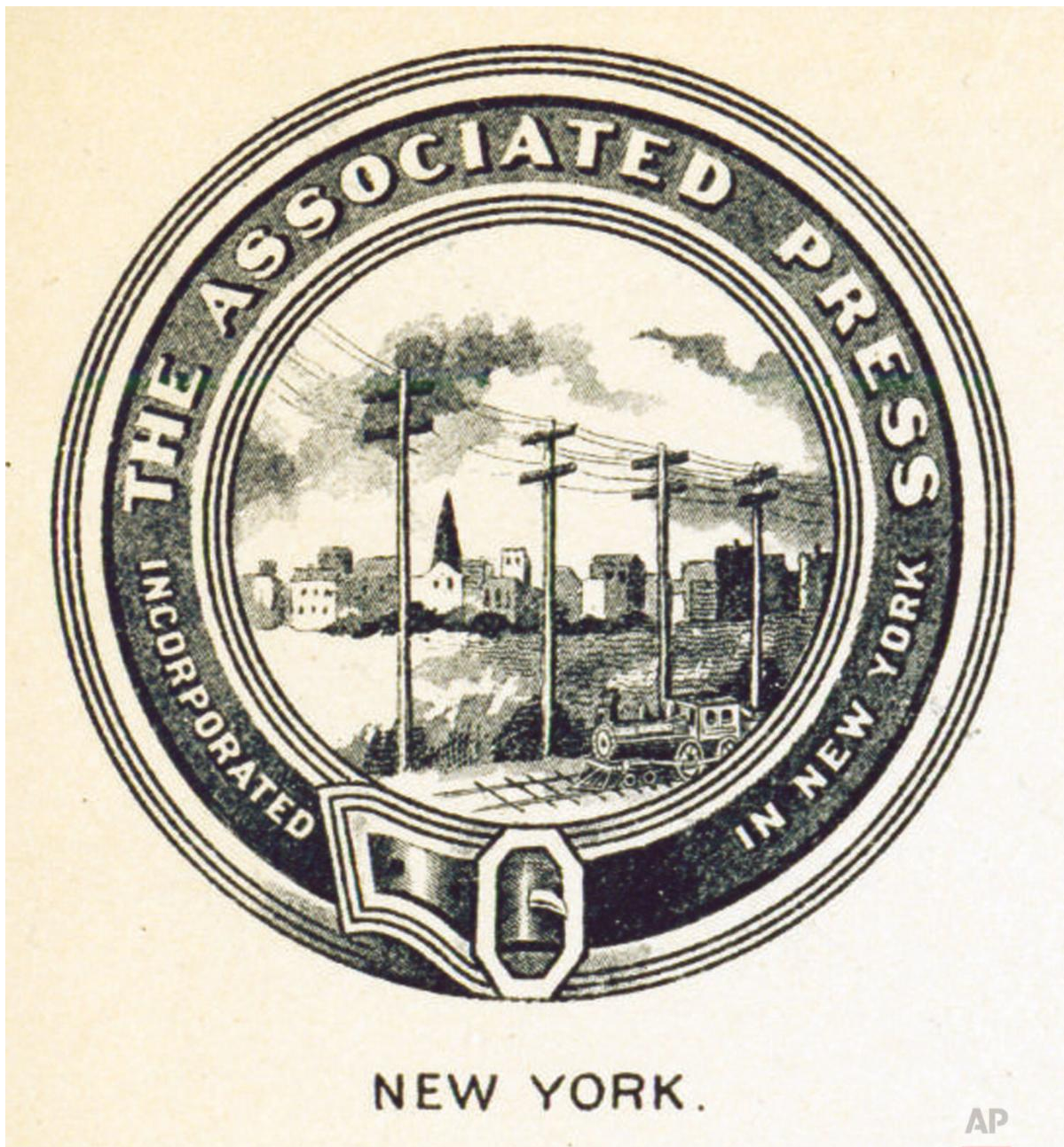
March 16, 2021

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This is the first logotype created for the modern Associated Press following its incorporation in New York state (May 22, 1900) and its move to New York City. Using the leather belt as a border (which may reference what pony express riders wore), it features the steam engine and the telegraph as examples of technological progress and sets them before the skyline of a thriving metropolis.

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 16th day of March 2021,

The Associated Press celebrates its 175th birthday in May 2021. To mark this milestone, the AP Corporate Archives has assembled a concise visual history of the organization, offered here in an eight-part monthly blog, "AP at 175."

We bring you in today's Connecting the second of eight installments, written by our colleague **Valerie Komor**, director of Corporate Archives.

If you missed or would like to revisit the first installment, you can find it [here](#).

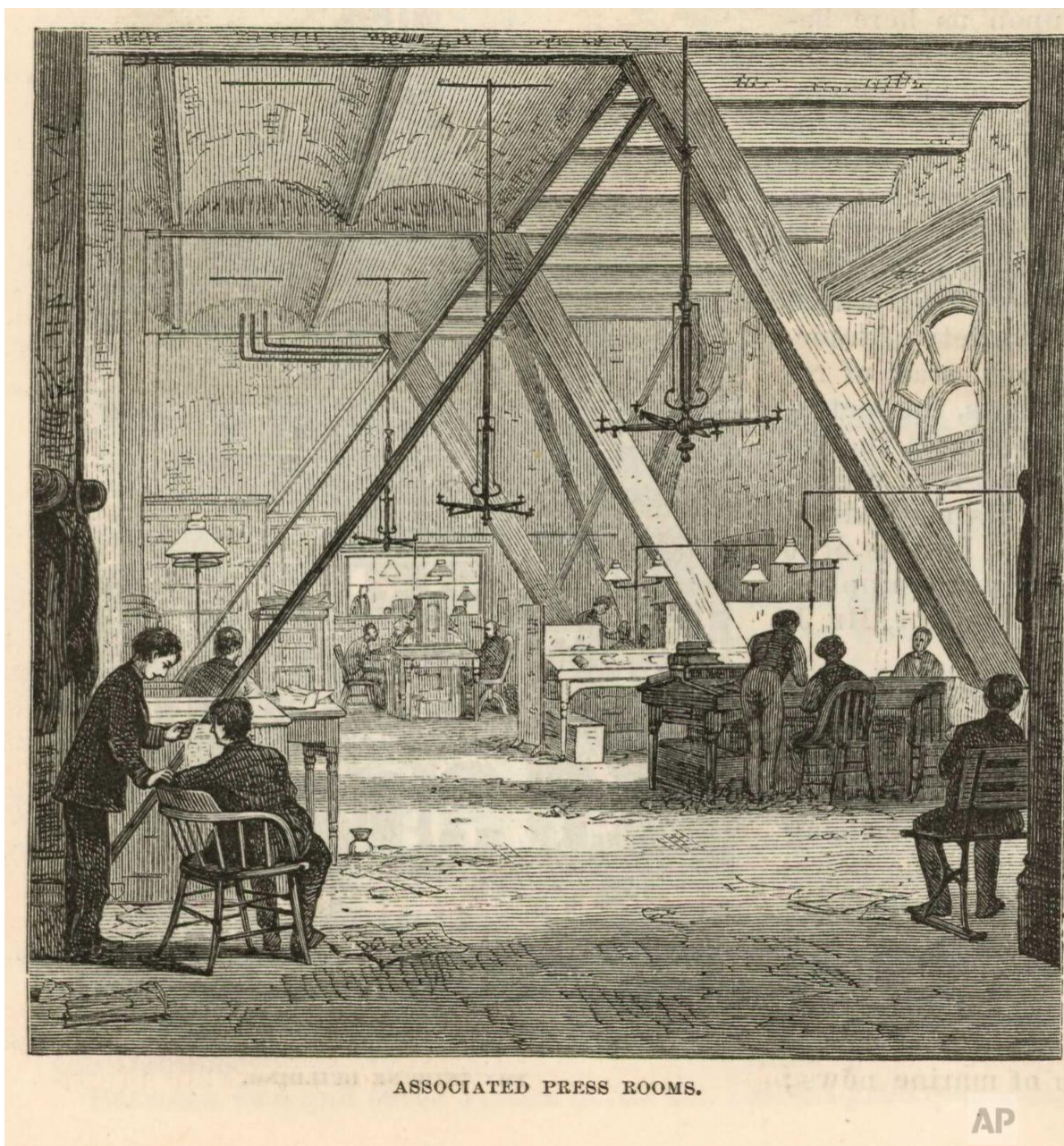
Speaking of birthdays...

Our newest member of Connecting's 90s Club, as of today, is **Norm Abelson**, who writes poignantly and elegantly about what it means to him to have circled the sun for the 90th time. Happy birthday, Norm!

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

AP at 175, Part 2: Evolution, 1860-1900



“Associated Press Rooms,” 1877. Harper’s New Monthly Magazine, December 1877. This illustration appeared in “The Metropolitan Newspaper,” an article by William H. Rideing, which offers a wonderfully detailed account of AP internal operations at the time. “As the dispatches reach the general agency,” Rideing explains, “they are handed to the manager of the manifolding-room, under whose direction copies are multiplied for distribution, the manifolding process enabling one writer to make from twelve to twenty-six copies at a time, by means of a very tough oiled tissue-paper alternated with carbonized paper, and an agate or carnelian point substituted for a pen or pencil. When a page of manifold is written, the office assistants separate and envelope the copies, which are sent to the city newspapers by messengers. Other copies are handed to agents representing sections of the papers in the North, South, East, and West, who edit them, each agent eliminating whatever will not interest his particular constituency, and adding anything of value that he can obtain from other sources.”

The war left its mark on AP governance, as it did on society at large. A group of northern Midwest papers formed the Western Associated Press at a meeting in Indianapolis on Nov. 25, 1862. This body, headquartered in Chicago, ran the AP jointly with New York until 1893. In May 1900, under Chicago Daily News publisher Melville E. Stone, it moved to New York City and incorporated under New York state law as the Associated Press.

Read more [here](#).

Celebrating the memory of Nick Jesdanun

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Anick Jesdanun, longtime AP technology writer in New York, died April 2, 2020, of coronavirus-related complications. He was 51.)

Prinda Mulpramook (Email) – My cousin, Nick Jesdanun, would have turned 52 this week. Our family will take the next two weeks to celebrate Nick's memory by raising funds for two very special projects.

- Swarthmore College Scholarship Fund:

The Nick Jesdanun '91 Memorial Summer Opportunity Fellowship will support summer opportunities for students interested in journalism, technology, and/or public policy.

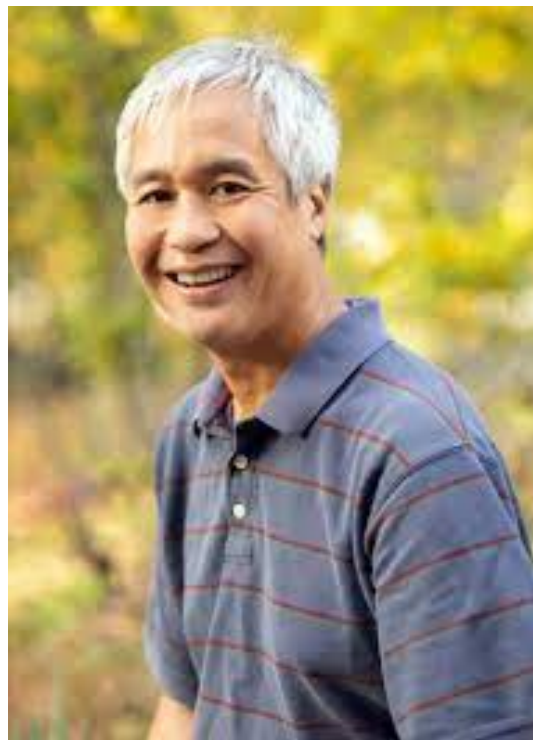
- Central Park Conservancy Adopt-a-Bench:

We wish to honor Nick with a bench in his beloved Central Park, where he proudly completed 15 New York City Marathons.

For more information and to view or share photos and memories of Nick, please visit: www.miles4nick.com

We know this has been a difficult time for many, so please feel no pressure. Our family appreciates all the love and support we have been shown over this past year.

Since Nick knew many people that we may not be connected to, please also feel free to like and share this in order to reach more of those whose lives have been touched by his love.



**Some 33,000 days later –
My 90th birthday**



'So, finally, what does it mean to me to be 90? I guess, as the African saying teaches, it means that now I am myself like a library, but one who isn't quite ready to be burned down.'

Norm Abelson - March 16, 1931, dawned windy and overcast in my old home town, a working-class community a few miles outside of Boston. Alternately, it snowed large, wet flakes, and spit icy rain. I know this because about a half century later, my Mom told me the story of my birth day.

At 27, Sophia Abelson lay in her maternity ward bed at the Malden Hospital, yelling out in pain and relaxing after getting medication. Her husband, my Dad, and other relatives awaited my birth nearby, perhaps plotting the future of the first American-born grandchild in a family of immigrants from Russia, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Spain and England. But on that dark winter day, in the midst of the Great Depression, I was busy inching my way down the birth canal and into the world. It was a journey I had in common with billions of other primates. Yet it heralded a life to come that was to be individual, different in some ways from any other.

My long life, like that of others, has been marked by tragedy and some bumpy times. Still, there have also been transcendent moments of good fortune, joy, discovery and accomplishment. I have loved and been loved. I have survived several close calls with death. I have had failures, made notable mistakes, and yet have been afforded second chances. I have been blessed with and learned from a nurturing family, and a long line of caring friends and colleagues.



I have had a diverse and challenging career. In whatever I have undertaken throughout my life, I have had as a working partner and warm traveling companion my writing, which, thank the lord, has never abandoned me.

What would I have done or become without it? I shudder to think.

Though my birthday comes at a time of strife, fear and uncertainty, I hold in a corner of my mind and heart the hope for a better future to come for my Natasha and Michael, and for all the other grandchildren.

One of the special moments of launching into my tenth decade is that I now have the honor of joining my friend, Gene Herrick, and a select group on Connecting's list of colleagues in their nineties. That's a gift, along with my longevity, I accept happily, and with gratitude.

DOES AGE HAVE ITS OWN MEANING?

With the advent of my birthday, I'm sure to be asked, "So how does it feel to be 90?" "No different than it felt on the last day I was 89," I may be tempted to reply.

Perhaps a more meaningful question might be: "What does it mean to be 90?" There is an African adage that says when an old man dies it is as if a library has burned down.

I do not think that meant that elderly people were necessarily very wise or had some secrets about life and longevity. Rather I feel it was about the fact that they had lived a long life, with all its ups and downs, all its moments of joy and sadness, mistakes made and lessons learned. It was about living through change, and how it was dealt with. In short, the elders had meaningful stories to tell, and we had important things to learn by listening. That's certainly been true with me.

In the long-ago days of my youth, my family home had its share of old folks. I was born into the Great Depression, and because money was short, as many as eight family members – sharing expenses - were crowded into our six-room flat. Among them

were my great-grandfather, some eighty years my senior, and my maternal grandparents, well along in their sixties.

Great Grandpa Isaac (with me reading him the comics circa 1937, photo at right) was an endless story-teller, filling my mind with tales of his earlier life in Holland and his years as a premier cigar-maker. We became fast friends, sharing a love of cowboy movies and taking long walks, just the two of us. He subsisted on a \$30-a-month pension from the Dutch government, which helped with the rent (and a few candy bars for me). I learned from him how a life was lived, and the importance of remembering and story-telling. From his death when I was seven, I first learned the meaning of loss. Grandpa Aaron, a liberal activist who became a union organizer at the birth of the American labor movement, greatly influenced my political and social thinking. From his wife, Grandma Sarah, who was like a second mother, I learned the power of love.



From my parents I was taught, among other things, respect. For example, I was to stand when a senior entered the room. Generally, I was to speak to them only when spoken to. I was to enter conversations only on subjects to which I had listened and gained some knowledge.

While I neither expect nor receive any such subservience from my own grandchildren, they have been taught to respect life experience and whatever accumulated lessons their elders have learned and can pass along.

Colored by the sum these early family experiences, all though my writing life memory of those years has been a key element. All three of my books are memoirs, and I taught memoir writing for a quarter century. Many of my Connecting offerings, Op Ed pieces and National Public Radio commentaries have reflected upon those early times. To assure these lessons wouldn't be lost when my time ended, I recently wrote my obit and composed a narrative of family stories I recalled, and how it was and how it felt when I was a kid. As I continue to look back over the decades, I find I have more still to learn from those wise and loving elders of my youth.

So, finally, what does it mean to me to be 90? I guess, as the African saying teaches, it means that now I am myself like a library, but one who isn't quite ready to be burned down.

Norm Abelson's email - naftali@maine.rr.com

Connecting mailbox

Coronavirus and focus of daily journalism

Ed McCullough ([Email](#)) - Is sufficient daily journalism attention paid to U.S. states' sometimes positive - or at least not dire - economic and personal as well as health experiences and outcomes that differ from Covid lock-down orthodoxy? Not that I see.

I'm 66 years old, live in a +55 community and thankfully have not caught the virus. That said, in SW Florida for much of the past year I have gone to church (which seats 1,500), the civic center and a 75,000 square foot indoor market (unrestricted), restaurants, barbershops, supermarkets, etc.; and, of course, the beach, with only commonsense precautions like social distancing and face-masking where required. There have been no "super spreader" events that I know of and Florida's overall health results seem as reasonable as possible given the deadly virus.

"Follow the science" data show that 80+% of Covid deaths correlate directly and primarily to age (older than 65) and co-morbidities; while fewer than 8,000 (of 500,000+) happened to those under age 40 - generally regardless of state or economic policy.

What public policy should flow? Perhaps something other than continued lockdowns wherein only public employees - notably teachers - are paid not to work; while state governments that shut down unnecessarily count on federal funds for bailouts that should not be needed.

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I support Dr. Seuss

Sister Donalda Kehoe ([Email](#)) - Having just read (in Monday's Connecting) more about the banning of some of the great books by lovable Dr. Seuss, I join those who support all his books, and regret these and other classics that have been banned. But not all is lost. Banned books have a life of their own - it makes them even more popular and more widely read! I support Dr. Seuss from the beginning. In 1971, Springfield, Massachusetts' own Dr. Seuss published the LORAX, one of the first children's books to directly address environment concerns. ("Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.") -On the side, I picked up a book by James Finn Garner titled, Politically Correct Bedtime Stories. Yikes. I say, bring back Little Black Sambo, Tom Sawyer. . .

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Recommends documentary 'Collective'

Rachel Ambrose (Email) - I recommend this investigative reporting documentary. I was watching "Collective" Monday (via Netflix DVD) when it was announced that "Collective" was nominated for an Oscar. Compelling for all, and especially journalists.

Click [here](#) for an AP review.

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Treasure found in basement



Paul Albright (Email) - While rummaging through basement boxes, I spotted this November 11, 1918, EXTRA of the "Fort Collins Express" (in Colorado). While publicizing the World War I Armistice agreement, the broadsheet also prominently listed the credit source above the banner headline: "Associated Press 4:00 A.M." This EXTRA was among a number of newspapers marking historic events in the early and mid-1900s that were retained by my grandmother and my uncle.

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More journalists who worked for CNN, AP

Here's another name for the AP/CNN list: **Richard Roth**. (Gerald Bodlander)

Jeff Adkinson, former CNN and former AP engineer. (Craig Broffman)

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AP Stylebook newsletter - March 2021

The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020.

This month's newsletter focuses on the coronavirus and the many ways the pandemic has changed our lives in the last year.

Click [here](#) to view.

More Connecting sky, snow shots



Monday morning found blue sky and sunshine and the melt beginning from the 30-inch snowfall Sunday which crippled most of northern Colorado and southern

Wyoming. This snow is in south Larimer County, Colorado near Loveland. Photo/John Epperson



One of those rare winter mornings when the desert mountains surrounding Tucson are dusted with snow. We don't get a lot of the white stuff so when we do it's a treat. The view looking southeast to the Santa Catalinas from Riverfront Park in Oro Valley, Ariz. Photo/Mark Mittelstadt



One of the Desert X 2021 Public Art installations, "Never Forget" is seen in north Palm Springs Monday morning, March 15, 2021. According to The Desert Sun, this is one of nine pieces of art in this biennial exhibit. Created by artist and musician Nicholas Galanin, it's to draw attention to the Landback Movement which aims to return land to indigenous people. Its design references the famous Hollywood sign in Los Angeles. Photo/Cliff Schiappa



The sunrise sky gave a beautiful backdrop to the woods in Rocky Mount, VA.
Photo/Gene Herrick

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Jack Limpert - jlimpert@washingtonian.com

Janis Magin - Janismagin@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

Brian Barger, journalist who helped unravel Iran-contra scandal, dies at 68 (Washington Post)



Brian Barger in the mid-1990s. (Family Photo)

By Bart Barnes

Brian Barger was an investigative journalist who edited and reported on Colombian drug cartels, covert operations of the CIA, international terrorism, money laundering, excessive levels of toxins in sea fish, and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was among the primary reporters covering the Iran-contra arms-for-hostage scandals of the Reagan administration.

In a journalism career spanning three decades, he worked for the Associated Press, CNN and The Washington Post, among other organizations. He was a restless man who disliked staying long in one place. Early in his career he was a school bus driver and a garbage collector in suburban Maryland; a bartender in Tokyo; a logging truck driver in Wyoming; and an auto mechanic, taxi driver, carpenter, house painter, short-order cook and motorcycle messenger in Washington, D.C.

For a time, he was a California farmworker and organized protests against low wages and poor working conditions. He also had been an insurance claims adjuster and an activist for political and humanitarian causes. He was arrested several times in protests against the Vietnam War.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Elaine Hooker.

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Time's up. Carl Hiaasen is retiring his Miami Herald opinion column, but not his outrage (Miami Herald)



Carl Hiaasen in Vero Beach, Florida, in early 2020. JOE RIMKUS JR. SPECIAL TO THE MIAMI HERALD

BY ANDRES VIGLUCCI

For 35 years in the pages of this newspaper, journalist and best-selling novelist Carl Hiaasen has trained his stinging wit and satirist's eye on the seamy, the crooked and the downright dumb: the stumbles and bumbles of the leading lights and assorted other riffraff who populate and befoul his beloved Florida.

No one's too big or too powerful to feel the bite of the barbs Hiaasen has regularly hurled from the pages of the Miami Herald in his opinion columns. Not politicians in high office, rich developers or puffed-up celebrities. Not the Miami politico he indelibly nicknamed "Mayor Loco," the former White House occupant he dubbed "the Big Orange Trumpster" or even — just that one time — the Herald's own "Publisher Loco," raked by Hiaasen for a brief, ill-advised flirtation with politics.

Maybe they won't miss him. But the Herald's readers will have to get used to doing without their weekly Hiaasen fix.

Carl Hiaasen will publish his last opinion piece in the Miami Herald on March 14.

His flourishing dual writing career — encompassing both his column and his novels — has stretched to improbable longevity and unmatched reach and productivity, at least for a lifelong newspaper hack. Now Hiaasen said he's decided to retire from the

Herald, where he's been employed as reporter and columnist with hardly a break since July 4, 1976, coincidentally but fittingly the nation's Bicentennial.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Linda Deutsch.

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With or without me, Florida will always be wonderfully, unrelentingly weird | Opinion (Miami Herald)

BY CARL HIAASEN

Let's get it over with.

This is my last column for the Miami Herald. I didn't plan to write about that because there's actual news to be covered, but my dear friend Dave Barry told me I'd look like a jerk if I didn't say some sort of goodbye.

So here goes. I grew up reading the Herald and what was then the Fort Lauderdale News, my parents holding this radical notion that being factually informed would help us develop into conscientious, fully functioning citizens.

I fell for newspapers and ended up at the University of Florida's journalism school, still one of the best. The Herald shelved my first job application, but in the summer of 1976 I got hired as a city desk reporter.

Reubin Askew was governor, and a harmless fellow named Gerald Ford was president only because the paranoid criminal who preceded him had been forced to resign, and the criminal president's criminal vice president had also quit after getting busted for taking bribes.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Chris Connell, Linda Deutsch.

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'They saved me.' The story behind a routine medical 911 call in Sedgwick County (Wichita Eagle)



Roy Wenzl, center, stands with emergency personnel who helped save his life on February 2, 2021 when he had a pulmonary embolism. From left to right, Wichita firefighter Garrett French, Capt. Rocky Bumgarner and firefighter Dalton Scott, EMS paramedics Sarah Cindric and Stuart Fayette and 911 dispatcher Kaylyn Perez. (March 10, 2021) JAIME GREEN THE WICHITA EAGLE

BY ROY WENZL/SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

News reporters always listen with half an ear to the newsroom police scanner, in case something interesting happens — a shooting, a homicide, a bad wreck.

We ignore thousands of routine calls — “difficulty breathing,” for example. On those calls, over my 42 years working in newsrooms, (21 at The Wichita Eagle) I never tried to learn names, or what the story was.

No story there. Right?

But last month — two days after I got out of the intensive care unit, with a green tube still whispering life-giving oxygen into my nose, out of gratitude to six people who saved my life days before — I finally made that call to 911’s non-emergency number here in Sedgwick County. I tracked down those six names — at first only so I could send thank-you notes.

But now I’m writing this story — to remind us that we are surrounded by rescuers every day.

Today in History - March 16, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 16, the 75th day of 2021. There are 290 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On March 16, 1945, during World War II, American forces declared they had secured Iwo Jima, although pockets of Japanese resistance remained.

On this date:

In 1802, President Thomas Jefferson signed a measure authorizing the establishment of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

In 1926, rocket science pioneer Robert H. Goddard successfully tested the first liquid-fueled rocket at his Aunt Effie's farm in Auburn, Massachusetts.

In 1935, Adolf Hitler decided to break the military terms set by the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') by ordering the rearming of Germany.

In 1968, the My Lai (mee ly) massacre took place during the Vietnam War as U.S. Army soldiers hunting for Viet Cong fighters and sympathizers killed unarmed villagers in two hamlets of Son My (suhn mee) village; estimates of the death toll vary from 347 to 504. Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In 1972, in a nationally broadcast address, President Richard Nixon called for a moratorium on court-ordered school busing to achieve racial desegregation.

In 1984, William Buckley, the CIA station chief in Beirut, was kidnapped by Hezbollah militants (he was tortured by his captors and killed in 1985).

In 1987, Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In 1991, a plane carrying seven members of country singer Reba McEntire's band and her tour manager crashed into Otay Mountain in southern California, killing all on

board. U.S. skaters Kristi Yamaguchi, Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan swept the World Figure Skating Championships in Munich, Germany.

In 1994, figure skater Tonya Harding pleaded guilty in Portland, Oregon, to conspiracy to hinder prosecution for covering up an attack on rival Nancy Kerrigan, avoiding jail but drawing a \$100,000 fine.

In 2003, American activist Rachel Corrie, 23, was crushed to death by an Israeli military bulldozer while trying to block demolition of a Palestinian home in the Gaza Strip.

In 2004, China declared victory in its fight against bird flu, saying it had “stamped out” all its known cases.

In 2006, Iraq’s new parliament met briefly for the first time; lawmakers took the oath but did no business and adjourned after just 40 minutes, unable to agree on a speaker, let alone a prime minister.

Ten years ago: Pakistan abruptly freed CIA contractor Raymond Allen Davis, who had shot and killed two men in a gunfight in Lahore, after a deal was reached to pay \$2.34 million to the men’s families.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama nominated Merrick Garland to take the seat of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who had died the previous month; Republicans pledged to leave the seat empty until after the presidential election and said they wouldn’t even hold confirmation hearings. Frank Sinatra Jr., 72, who carried on his famous father’s legacy with his own music career, died while on tour in Daytona Beach, Florida.

One year ago: Global stocks plunged again, with Wall Street seeing a 12% decline, its worst in more than 30 years; the S&P 500 was down 30% from its record set less than a month earlier. The White House released a set of guidelines for the next 15 days; Americans were urged not to gather in groups of more than 10 people and older Americans were told to stay home. President Donald Trump acknowledged that the pandemic could send the economy into a recession; he suggested that the nation could be dealing with the virus until “July or August.” Canada closed its borders to non-citizens; Americans were exempted. (The two countries agreed two days later to close their shared border to nonessential travel.) Ohio called off its presidential primary just hours before polls were to open, but Arizona, Florida and Illinois went ahead with their plans.

Today’s Birthdays: Country singer Ray Walker (The Jordanares) is 87. Game show host Chuck Woolery is 80. Country singer Robin Williams is 74. Actor Erik Estrada is 72. Actor Victor Garber is 72. Country singer Ray Benson (Asleep at the Wheel) is 70. Bluegrass musician Tim O’Brien (Hot Rize; Earls of Leicester) is 67. Rock singer-musician Nancy Wilson (Heart) is 67. World Golf Hall of Famer Hollis Stacy is 67. Actor Clifton Powell is 65. Rapper-actor Flavor Flav is 62. Rock musician Jimmy DeGrasso is 58. Actor Jerome Flynn is 58. Folk singer Patty Griffin is 57. Movie director Gore Verbinski is 57. Country singer Tracy Bonham is 54. Actor Lauren Graham is 54. Actor Judah Friedlander (FREED’-lan-duhr) is 52. Actor Alan Tudyk (TOO’-dihk) is 50. Actor Tim Kang is 48. R&B singer Blu Cantrell is 45. Actor Brooke Burns is 43. Actor Kimrie

Lewis is 39. Actor Brett Davern is 38. Actor Alexandra Daddario is 35. R&B singer Jhene Aiko is 33. Rock musician Wolfgang Van Halen is 30.

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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