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Connecting April 23, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 23rd day of April 2021.

The Associated Press celebrates its 175th birthday next month.

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.” This is the third of eight installments. Photo editing and text was produced by our colleague **Valerie Komor** ([Email](#)), director of Corporate Archives.

A reminder that the Nick Jesdanun Virtual Memorial will take place today at 8 pm EST. Nick, deputy technology editor for the AP, died a year ago of coronavirus-related complications at the age of 51. Click [here](#) for information on joining the Zoom memorial.

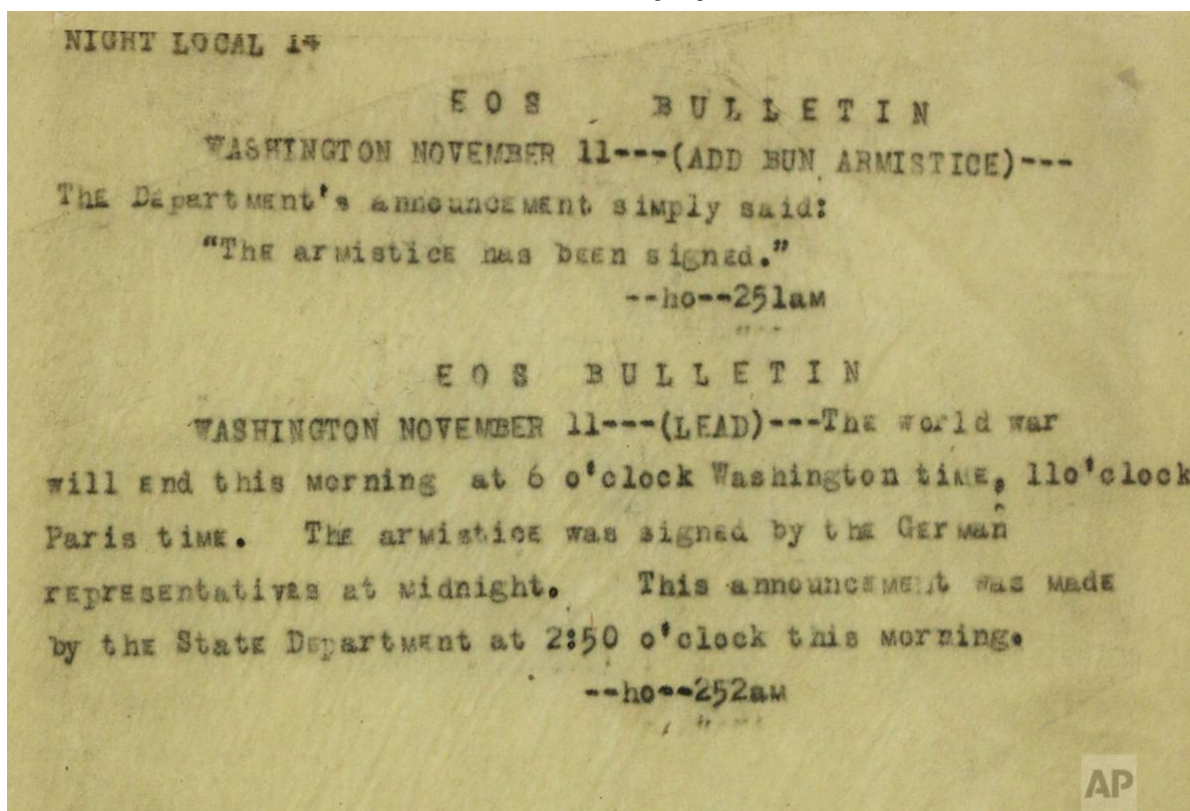
Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

AP at 175, Part 3: A New Century, 1901-25



AP teletype operators on the New York City circuit, 51 Chambers Street, New York, 1923. APCA.



EOS (Extraordinary Occasion Service) Bulletin, Nov. 11, 1918. Washington D.C. Bureau Records of the Associated Press, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.

Melville Elijah Stone (1848-1929), who had been named general manager of the AP of Illinois in 1893, remained in that role as AP moved to New York City in 1900. His newspaper background in Chicago, combined with experience owning an interest in an iron foundry (his father was both clergyman and tool manufacturer), perfectly prepared him to appreciate the mechanics of the cooperative. For under his leadership, an array of technologies sprang up, were tested, perfected, installed, and eventually replaced by something faster and more efficient. His most important hire was a young Kent Cooper to the Traffic Department in 1910.

The first generation of telegraph technology--the Morse key, sounder and the Vibroplex bug--gave way in 1905 to the Yetman transmitting typewriter, which could transmit Morse code and typewrite copy simultaneously at 35 words per minute. When the Morkrum Company of Skokie, Illinois introduced "telegraph typewriters" or "teletypes," in 1914, Cooper visited the factory and ordered them installed on the New York City circuit. Clattering away at 60 words per minute, the teletype created a perforated tape that triggered the printing of copy at sending and receiving stations.

One of AP's proudest telegraphic feats occurred during the 1916 World Series, which featured the Boston Red Sox and the Brooklyn Braves. Employing 26,000 miles of wire--the longest Morse circuit in the history of the telegraph-- AP transmitted the play by play directly from the ballparks to 550 newspapers, just under half of membership.

Thomas Edison, an expert telegrapher as well as inventor, noted AP's achievement and cabled Cooper immediately. "The Associated Press must be wonderfully well

organized to be able to accomplish what was done in the ball games,” he wrote. Uncle Sam has now a real arterial system and it is never going to harden.”

Read more [here](#).

Walter Mears – ‘my personal AP hero’

Scott Charton (Email) - I was delighted to see Walter Mears’ byline atop an AP politics story, a byline that was for decades the most trusted in political coverage (see Thursday’s Connecting). Including in newsrooms, where, as Timothy Crouse noted in “The Boys On The Bus,” a call might go out to traveling reporters on presidential campaigns asking why Mears opted for a different angle, so natural was his straight news sense about what was most important. The most famous quote from that book about the 1972 campaign was other reporters rushing up to Mears after a debate and shouting, “Walter, what’s our lead?”



For countless AP political and statehouse writers, Walter Mears is the gold standard for reporting and writing. He’s my personal AP hero - Walter was always patient, approachable and helpful to me during my 22 years covering Missouri and Arkansas statehouses and campaigns. I recall the 1988 Republican National Convention in New Orleans. At a pre-convention meeting of AP staff from around the country, then-Executive Editor Bill Ahearn and then-Washington Chief of Bureau Chuck Lewis made speeches laying out the responsibilities of the regional state convention reporters - often scrambling to cover two or more delegations - and making it clear we were drones to serve the national staff as well as our own state members.

Then Walter stepped up and we all paid attention. I’m paraphrasing, but Walter had simple advice. The only real suspense was who Vice President Bush would pick as his running mate, Walter said, and the state reporters had a good shot at learning first who the pick would be if the selection hailed from one of their states - “not some downtown reporter from D.C.” That made us feel like part of a reporting team, and it was an honor to be on any team that included Walter Mears.

CNN’s John King speaks of his AP days at University of Rhode Island lecture



Michelle Smith (Email) - Your readers might be interested in this lecture Wednesday night by CNN's John King at his alma mater, the University of Rhode Island. King spoke about his early days as an intern and staffer in the AP Providence bureau, and his career that took him to AP Boston, then AP Washington before jumping to CNN. He spoke about the importance of mentorship and noted in particular former AP Providence staffers, including the late Dave Pyle, Mitch Zuckoff, now a professor at Boston University, and Chris Callahan, now president of the University of the Pacific.

The lecture series is named for the late Jim Taricani, a legendary TV journalist in Rhode Island, best known nationally for protecting a source who leaked him video showing a top aide to then-Providence Mayor Buddy Cianci taking a cash bribe. Taricani was sentenced to contempt and served several months of home confinement. Locally, he was known for being a great mentor and friend to many reporters in the Rhode Island media corps.

Click [here](#) to view the video.

Reimagining the power of the cooperative

The Associated Press is reinventing how it cooperates with its member news organizations and nonprofits with the expansion of AP StoryShare, a tool that allows them to share content and collaborate.

Deputy Managing Editor for U.S. News **Noreen Gillespie** explains how AP StoryShare has revitalized cooperation among news outlets while increasing the availability of state and local news.

AP was founded as a cooperative 175 years ago. How has AP StoryShare changed the way we work with our members?

AP has long shared member content on its wires. Sometimes we pick up a member news outlet's reporting or photos in a breaking news story or transmit a feature that we think will have wide interest. We are still a cooperative – we're just changing the cooperative by reimagining how we cooperate. AP StoryShare knits together virtual newsrooms around geography or topic, and lets the network participants share what they want, when they want, how they want. It's a tool to turbocharge the existence of state and topical news and put the power to share in the hands of the network.

How many members and other groups are using AP StoryShare? What kind of impact has it had?

Right now, we have six active networks in upstate New York, Colorado, Illinois, Oregon, New England and West Virginia, with others in development. More than 130 news outlets have contributed content across those six networks.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

Nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization also launches weekday newsletter.

John Lumpkin ([Email](#)) - I was encouraged to join the founding Board of Directors last year as preparations for creating Fort Worth Report were beginning to be pursued after securing the seed funding from Fort Worth's Burnett Foundation.

I now serve as corporate secretary and a member of the executive committee. We have joined the Institute for Nonprofit News, of which former AP colleague Sue Cross is CEO. INN is a facilitator for the growing nonprofit news industry and has more than 300 members. Larry Ryckman, editor of the Colorado Sun, is another former AP manager now active in the nonprofit news segment. I helped develop the Fort Worth Report's mission statement, which used legacy language in AP Bylaws to inform the language about objectivity and nonpartisanship. Co-chair of the Board of Directors is Wes Turner, a great friend of AP in his career as an executive in CapCities/ABC, Knight Ridder, McClatchy and Advance.



Click [here](#) for a news release on Fort Worth Report, which begins:

Fort Worth, Texas – Fort Worth Report, the new digital source for local news in Fort Worth and Tarrant County, is now live. Two years in development, its initial in-depth

reporting explores next month's city and school board elections and the key issues for voters.

"We have had a strong first week," said Thomas Martinez, Fort Worth Report's managing editor. "We launched our web site with an in-depth look at the mayoral race and its leading candidates. This election and a new mayor could shape Fort Worth's future for years."

Click [here](#) to read more.

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Yarnold steps down from National Audubon Society

Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - David Yarnold, a former director on the board governing affairs of the Associated Press association of member editors, is stepping down next month as Chief Executive Officer of the National Audubon Society.

Yarnold, an award-winning editor of the San Jose Mercury News, was elected to the Associated Press Managing Editors board in the early 2000s. A leader on raising issues of diversity in the journalism profession, he was involved with creation of "Time Out for Diversity and Accuracy" while at APME. He went on to serve the American Society of Newspaper Editors where he helped create the Diversity Leadership Institute.



Yarnold, the Audubon Society's 10th CEO, led the environmental group for 11 years after previously serving as executive director of the Environmental Defense Fund.

His departure effective May 14 comes as a "mutual agreement" with the Audubon Society board following an internal audit into the organization's workplace culture prompted by reporting from the magazine POLITICO. Reports suggested an atmosphere marked by systemic racism, gender discrimination, intimidation and threats.

Read more on Yarnold's departure [here](#). Original POLITICO story [here](#).

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At the border



Three Amigos! Pulitzer Prize winning photographers (from left) David Hume Kennerly (UPI), Nick Ut (AP) and Don Bartletti (Los Angeles Times), while documenting the border wall separating Mexico and the U.S., April 21, 2021, San Luis, Arizona. (Photo by Jimmy Dorantes).

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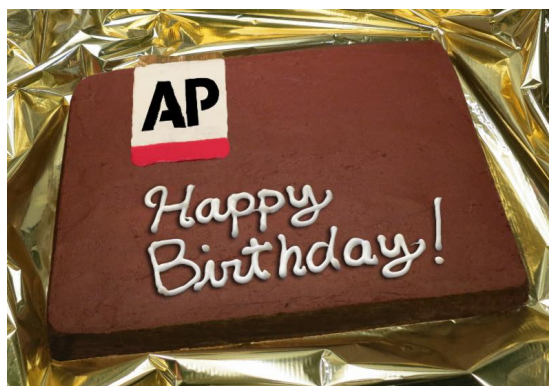
More names for our literate canine



Gary Graham - Scoop dog

Alan Sayre - "Damn. PetSmart stock was down again yesterday"

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Howard Gros - hgros@bellsouth.net

On Saturday to...

Evelyn Colucci-Calvert - eccalvert@ap.org

Reed Saxon - reedsaxon@gmail.com

Story of interest

How journalists in Minnesota covered a story that shook the world (Poynter)

By: Kristen Hare

It would be easy to start where everyone was on Tuesday, as crowds of journalists and community members waited outside the Hennepin County Courthouse and around Minneapolis for the verdict in former police officer Derek Chauvin's trial for George Floyd's death.

But maybe it's better to start in the days before that.

On Monday, April 12, Mark Vancleave was in Brooklyn Center covering the community's reaction to Daunte Wright's death when a police officer shot a rubber bullet that hit Vancleave's finger, breaking it in two places. The Star Tribune photojournalist spent the night in the hospital before surgery.

Nearly a week later, on Sunday, Jaida Grey Eagle was planning to attend an event at George Floyd Square when she saw a Black Lives Matter rally marching down her street toward the governor's mansion. The Sahan Journal photojournalist stepped out of her home and followed them.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - April 23, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, April 23, the 113th day of 2021. There are 252 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 23, 1969, Sirhan Sirhan was sentenced to death for assassinating New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. (The sentence was later reduced to life imprisonment.)

On this date:

In 1616 (Old Style calendar), English poet and dramatist William Shakespeare died in Stratford-upon-Avon on what has traditionally been regarded as the 52nd anniversary of his birth in 1564.

In 1789, President-elect George Washington and his wife, Martha, moved into the first executive mansion, the Franklin House, in New York.

In 1898, Spain declared war on the United States, which responded in kind two days later.

In 1940, about 200 people died in the Rhythm Night Club Fire in Natchez, Mississippi.

In 1943, U.S. Navy Lt. (jg) John F. Kennedy assumed command of PT-109, a motor torpedo boat, in the Solomon Islands during World War II. (On Aug. 2, 1943, PT-109 was rammed and sunk by a Japanese destroyer, killing two crew members; Kennedy and 10 others survived.)

In 1954, Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Braves hit the first of his 755 major-league home runs in a game against the St. Louis Cardinals. (The Braves won, 7-5.)

In 1987, 28 construction workers were killed when an apartment complex being built in Bridgeport, Connecticut, suddenly collapsed.

In 1988, a federal ban on smoking during domestic airline flights of two hours or less went into effect.

In 1993, labor leader Cesar Chavez died in San Luis, Arizona, at age 66.

In 1996, a civil court jury in The Bronx, New York, ordered Bernhard Goetz (bur-NAHRD' gehts) to pay \$43 million to Darrell Cabey, one of four young men he'd shot on a subway car in 1984.

In 1998, James Earl Ray, who confessed to assassinating the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and then insisted he'd been framed, died at a Nashville, Tennessee, hospital at age 70.

In 2005, the recently created video-sharing website YouTube uploaded its first clip, "Me at the Zoo," which showed YouTube co-founder Jawed Karim standing in front of an elephant enclosure at the San Diego Zoo.

Ten years ago: Yemen's embattled president, Ali Abdullah Saleh (AH'-lee ahb-DUH'-luh sah-LEH'), agreed to a proposal by Gulf Arab mediators to step down within 30 days and hand power to his deputy in exchange for immunity from prosecution. (Saleh ended up leaving office in Feb. 2012.) Former Sony Corp. president and chairman Norio Ohga, credited with developing the compact disc, died in Tokyo at age 81.

Five years ago: A confident Donald Trump told supporters in Bridgeport, Connecticut, that he was not changing his pitch to voters, a day after his chief adviser assured Republican officials their party's front-runner would show more restraint while campaigning. Britain marked the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare with parades, church services and stage performances; President Barack Obama took a break from political talks in London to tour the Globe Theatre, a re-creation of the venue where many of the Bard's plays were first performed.

One year ago: New data showed unemployment in the U.S. swelling to levels last seen during the Great Depression of the 1930s, with 1 in 6 American workers thrown out of a job by the coronavirus; more than 4.4 million laid-off workers had applied for unemployment benefits in the preceding week. At a White House briefing, President Donald Trump noted that researchers were looking at the effects of disinfectants on the coronavirus, and wondered aloud whether they could be injected into people. Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden told an online fundraiser that Trump's efforts to block emergency funding for the U.S. Postal Service showed that Trump was trying to "undermine" the election and make it harder for Americans to vote by mail. In an NFL draft conducted remotely due to the coronavirus, the Cincinnati Bengals chose LSU quarterback Joe Burrow as the first pick.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Alan Oppenheimer is 91. Actor David Birney is 82. Actor Lee Majors is 82. Hockey Hall of Famer Tony Esposito is 78. Irish nationalist Bernadette Devlin McAliskey is 74. Actor Blair Brown is 74. Writer-director Paul Brickman is 72. Actor Joyce DeWitt is 72. Actor James Russo is 68. Filmmaker-author Michael Moore is 67. Actor Judy Davis is 66. Actor Valerie Bertinelli is 61. Actor Craig Sheffer is 61. Actor-comedian-talk show host George Lopez is 60. U.S. Olympic gold medal skier Donna Weinbrecht is 56. Actor Melina Kanakaredes (kah-nah-KAH'-ree-deez) is 54. Rock musician Stan Frazier (Sugar Ray) is 53. Actor Scott Bairstow (BEHR'-stow) is 51. Actor-writer John Lutz is 48. Actor Barry Watson is 47. Rock musician Aaron Dessner (The National) is 45. Rock musician Bryce Dessner (The National) is 45. Professional wrestler/actor John Cena is 44. Actor-writer-comedian John Oliver is 44. Actor Kal Penn is 44. Retired MLB All-Star Andruw Jones is 44. Actor Jaime King is 42. Pop singer Taio (TY'-oh) Cruz is 38. Actor Aaron Hill is 38. Actor Jesse Lee Soffer is 37. Actor Rachel Skarsten is 36. Rock musician Anthony LaMarca (The War on Drugs) is 34. Singer-songwriter John Fullbright is 33. Actor Dev Patel (puh-TEHL') is 31. Actor Matthew Underwood is 31. Model Gigi Hadid is 26. Rock musicians Jake and Josh Kiszka (Greta Van Fleet) are 25. Actor Charlie Rowe (TV: "Salvation") is 25. Tennis player Ashleigh Barty is 25. U.S. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Chloe Kim is 21.

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.

Paul Stevens

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