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Connecting

May 11, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 11th day of May 2021,

A Happy Birthday and a hearty welcome to the Connecting 90s Club are in order for our colleague **Henry Bradsher**.

If the weather's right in Baton Rouge, La., where Henry lives, he may be out on the tennis courts continuing a lifelong passion with the sport. Or he may be doing some volunteer work or preparing lectures for teaching yet another adult education course – this next one, he says, will be A Century of Change: Through Two World Wars.

We lead today's issue with thoughts from Henry – former AP Moscow bureau chief, Washington Star correspondent and CIA senior

analyst. If you would like to share your own thoughts on our talented colleague, please send them along. Henry's email is – hsb682@cox.net

Henry is the third Connecting colleague to join the 90s Club in the past month - with the other newest members being **Norm Abelson** and **Hal Buell**.

We bring you more memories of AP religion writer **Rachel Zoll** and her remarkable career. Rachel died last Friday at the age of 55 after a three-year battle with brain cancer.

And, doing my best Columbo, just one more thing: Ye Olde Connecting Editor and Linda's LA son Jon turns 36 today; he was born the weekend of my first state APME meeting as new Kansas City bureau chief and the speaker for that meeting, **Jack Cappon**, never let me forget that I missed his speech.)

Have a great day - be safe, stay healthy!

Paul



The 80s are just middle age...now at 90, I need a new line



● THE MOSCOW AP STAFF posed for this family portrait in Red Square on March 11. That clock in left background is in the Kremlin's Spassky Gate Tower, and over to the right is the old St. Basil's Cathedral.

The staffers (l. to r.) are Photographer Brian Calvert, on loan from the London bureau; Translator Boris Zagoruiko, Driver Nikolai Samoilo, Translator Tamara Devyatkina, Newsman George Syvertsen, Translator Emilia Taubkina, Chief of Bureau Henry S. Bradsher, Teleprinter Operator Vladimir Firsov, Newsman Fred Coleman, Photographer Vasily Gritsan.

Who was watching the store? Bradsher's wife Monica "manned" the bureau while everyone else went out picture-posing.

Moscow AP staff in 1965 (Photos courtesy AP Corporate Archives)

Henry Bradsher ([Email](#)) - As I've moved up through the 80s, I've kept telling people that the 80s are just late middle age. But on arriving today (May 11) at what Ye Olde Connecting Editor has called the august age of 90, I suppose I should come up with a new line.

How about "early old age"?

The younger ages have been enjoyable. After serving as an Air Force intelligence officer, I was hired in 1955 by Lew Hawkins for AP Atlanta because my job applications said I wanted to be an AP foreign correspondent, which he'd been during World War II. He soon sent me over to Montgomery to cover Martin Luther King Jr.'s bus boycott, and then, after 18 months on the overnight foreign desk in New York, in 1959 I became that AP foreign correspondent – in India. I spent five years running around South Asia, rising to bureau chief for the last two years. Then Wes Gallagher sent me to Moscow, where I became bureau chief for more than four stringent Cold War years that included my car being bombed as a little token of displeasure with my reporting.



• AP General Manager Wes Gallagher (l.) and Moscow AP Chief of Bureau Henry Bradsher pose against St. Basil's during WG's inspection visit to the Soviet capital.

NEW DELHI – “It was very interesting and great fun – even when riding that mule in the continual rain,” reported AP's Henry Bradsher after his return from a muleback trip into Bhutan, the world's last hermit kingdom.

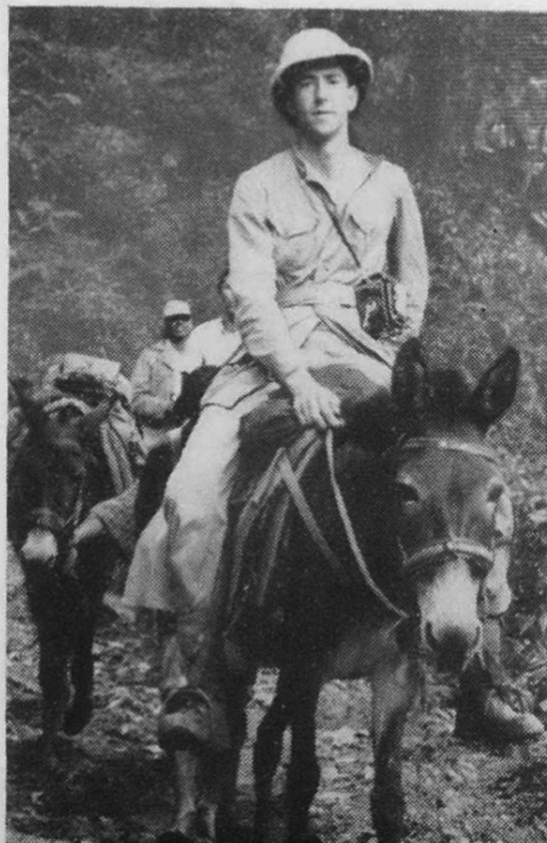
The picture shows him on his trusty Junga, plodding through the dense monsoon jungle, puttees wrapped around his ankles to keep out the many leeches – “Only one got me.”

The trip from the Indian border to Paro, temporary capital of Western Bhutan, took about five days each way. Says Bradsher;

“I also spent one day on a spirited pony visiting a cliff-hanging monastery – altogether 12 days in a saddle made of a wooden frame covered with an old blanket.”

Bradsher says *The New York Times* man and he were believed to be the second and third Americans ever to

enter the little kingdom between India and Tibet, which so far has nothing but mule tracks.



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The AP WORLD

From AP World in 1960

After a Nieman fellowship at Harvard and Keith Fuller's repeated failure to tell me where AP might send me next, I joined the Washington Star in 1969 to become its Asia correspondent for five years. This meant a switch from Kremlin caviar receptions to Vietnamese jungles, when not analyzing Chinese affairs from Hong Kong. Then during six years as the Star's foreign affairs and defense specialist in Washington, I made numerous overseas reporting trips – everywhere but Antarctica – before the paper folded in 1981. Unexpectedly, I was offered a senior analysis position at the CIA by officials who knew my journalism work. Choosing that over newspaper job offers, I spent the last 18 working years at Langley. This included lots more worldwide travel, mostly to confer with cooperating intelligence agencies but sometimes different.

So now retired to Baton Rouge, where I grew up, as I turn 90 I continue playing tennis (mostly doubles, but occasional singles), doing some volunteer work, and am now preparing lectures for teaching yet another adult education course (this one will be A Century of Change: Through Two World Wars) with extensive graphics.

Amid this still enjoyable activity, I'd like to contend that REAL old age must begin somewhat later than 90. How about around the centenarian level? Something to look forward to, perhaps . . . or maybe not.

Remembering Rachel Zoll



Senior Vice President and Executive Editor Kathleen Carroll does a Q and A with Religion Writer Rachel Zoll, on screen, reporting from the Vatican, at the 2005 AP Annual Meeting in San Francisco. As Zoll was speaking, smoke was released from the Vatican chimney and she confirmed that it was black. As a result, members in attendance were among the first in the world to find out that a pope had not been

chosen on the first day of the conclave. Pope Benedict the XVI was announced the following day, April 19, 2005. Other AP staffers presenting at the meeting were Chief of Middle East Services Sally Buzbee, Technology Writer Brian Bergstein, Science Writer Malcolm Ritter and Political Writer Ron Fournier. AP President Tom Curley unveiled several initiatives at the meeting, the most significant of which is a plan setting up an online licensing fee structure for member newspapers and broadcasters, starting Jan. 1, 2006. (Photo/Richard Drew) (Courtesy of AP Corporate Archives)

Kathleen Carroll ([Email](#)) - I can tell you that Rachel was cool as a cucumber during that live broadcast from Vatican City...one of the first we'd done for board meetings (there may have been some from war zones the previous year).

I complimented her afterward and told her how impressed the directors were with her poise and knowledge. They loved seeing the smoke and getting the skinny live from Rachel. In typical Rachel fashion, she worried her coat wasn't fashionable enough ... of course we quickly assured her it looked swell and no one paid the slightest attention to her garb when her smarts and sang-froid were on such powerful display.

As so many others have said, she was just the most genuine, natural person, a generous colleague, warm and funny. The AP family has endured many losses the last few years - maybe we're just getting old - but a fair number of our colleagues were just snatched too soon. And Rachel is one of those.

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Dan Hansen ([Email](#)) - *former AP New England News Photo Editor* - Remember Rachel Zoll fondly from our days working together at the AP Boston Bureau- a wonderful and kind co-worker.

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Chris Sullivan ([Email](#)) - In a newsroom, there are always those who express their enthusiasm for a story noisily, and that can be fun; rarer are those reporters whose equal zeal for the story is quiet, totally focused, intense. Rachel Zoll was one of the latter, determined and tireless in the pursuit of a source, a new angle, an exclusive on the highly competitive religion beat.

I had the good fortune to be one of her editors, and in our close quarters (nearly adjoining desks for a time) where you couldn't help overhearing phone interviews, it was a pleasure to experience the Zoll technique: always respectful, never argumentative, always pointed with her questions, repeating them as needed to get an answer, refusing to settle for less. It was a pleasure, too, to talk story ideas with Rachel because hers were original and ranged across her vast beat, because I always learned something new about some religion's practices or views or its intersection with the rest of society, and especially because of her quiet enthusiasm. She so obviously cared and wanted to produce the story to the highest standard – whether it was breaking news or a news-based feature. A typically challenging and ultimately illuminating one was a sort of double profile of two side-by-side churches in Georgia, one congregation Black the other white, and how they were inching toward reconciliation.

Beyond all of this, Rachel was just a warm, smart, caring, funny delight to be around. Along with her consummate professionalism, that's what those who were lucky enough to have known Rachel will remember.

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Katharine Webster (Email) - I was so sad, although not surprised, to learn of Rachel's death. I first met her in the Boston bureau of the AP, which was also my first permanent posting. She was hired around the same time as Michelle Boorstein, now religion writer for The Washington Post, and the two became fast friends. It was Michelle who told me several months ago that Rachel had incurable brain cancer.

My main memories of Rachel are of occasionally working the night shift together and having time to talk frankly and laugh over a quick, take-out dinner. But in those early days, the Boston bureau sometimes felt like a toxic environment for young women reporters. Where Michelle had the chutzpah and quick verbal wit to stand her ground and never seemed to agonize over criticism, Rachel at times felt like her spirit was being crushed by one of our supervisors -- and she was so humble that she never fought back, at least during the year and a half when we overlapped. I remember having a long talk with her when she was on the verge of quitting altogether and telling her that if she could stick it out, she would learn a lot and eventually be able to do more and better elsewhere. I don't know if that was good advice, because she suffered in silence for a few years. But ultimately, she did stay with the AP -- and went on to do great things in bureaus where her kindness, intelligence and insight were greatly appreciated. I was not good about keeping in touch, but I followed her byline with great joy and respect over the decades since then.

Connecting mailbox

Remembering Broadcast's Bob Eunson

Mark Thayer (Email) - *former Broadcast Editor, Broadcast Executive and General Broadcast Executive* - It was great to see Bob Eunson's name in a recent Connecting. He was a terrific writer and editor who went on to lead the Broadcast Department. With Roy Steinfort they greatly expanded the Broadcast Membership which resulted in more stories contributed by broadcasters because in those days radio had journalists doing five-minute newscasts every hour. And they started the AP Radio Network which the day it launched had more than 200 stations across the country. That's a tribute to the level of trust broadcasters made in AP. They knew AP would do it right.

Click [here](#) for a story on Eunson's death in 1975.

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Bill Hartman 1941-2021

John Lumpkin (Email) - Bill Hartman was a great friend of AP in my years as bureau chief in Texas, as was his late father, Fred Hartman, who is mentioned in Bill Hartman's obituary. They were champions of small independent daily and weekly community newspapers. They provided insight on how AP could be more valuable to such publications that they rightly believed should be local first. Bill was a keen though understated observer of our state report and the challenge of a fresh AP approach to small afternoon members in the shadow of AMs metros. Bill and his father both possessed a great, sometimes wry sense of humor.

Click [here](#) for a link to his obituary.

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C-SPAN3 rebroadcasts presentation on Tojo arrest

Photograph by Charles Gorry, The Associated Press

12/9/20

JACK WILPERS & HIDEKI TOJO ARREST

CHRIS CAROLA
Former Reporter
Associated Press, 1988 - 2019

World War II

C-SPAN3
AMERICAN HISTORY TV

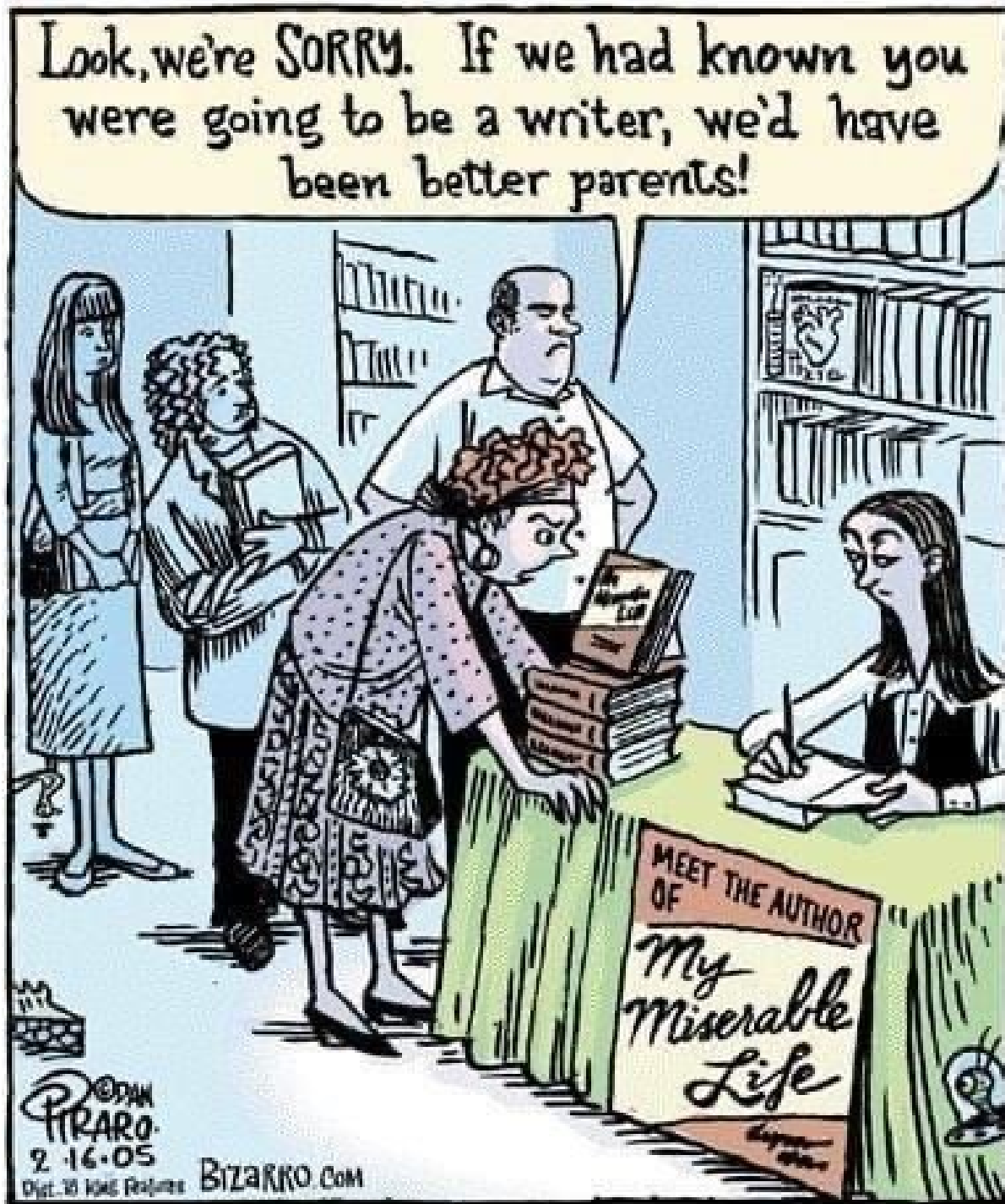
Chris Carola (Email) - Last weekend, C-SPAN3 (American History TV) twice broadcast my presentation on Jack Wilpers and the arrest of former Japanese prime minister Hideki Tojo on Sept. 11, 1945, nine days after the Japan's formal surrender ended World War II. It will be rebroadcast at 11:10 a.m. on Sunday, May 16. Or you can view it here: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?511283-1/jack-wilpers-hideki-tojo-arrest>

The C-SPAN3 program is the video of the presentation I gave last December via Zoom and Facebook livestream for the MacArthur Memorial, a museum and research center in Norfolk, Virginia, dedicated to telling the story of the life and military career of U.S. Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Jack Wilpers was a young Army intelligence officer from upstate N.Y. who played a key role in Tojo's arrest after the retired general's botched suicide attempt inside his Tokyo home. As I've written previously for Connecting, two AP war correspondents and an AP photographer were there that day and figured prominently in the coverage of the incident. Many thanks to Francesca Pitaro at AP Archives for providing info on AP's coverage of Tojo's arrest and background on the staffers who were on the scene: reporters Russell Brines and Murlin Spencer, and photographer Charles Gorry.

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Still relevant today?



Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - This cartoon is 16 years old, it appears. It was posted Monday on a Facebook page The Bizarro side dedicated to off-beat cartoons. The page is run by the guy who drew this one.

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Today, these reporters would be looking for strong cell signal



President Harry Truman, with wife Bess and daughter Margaret, waving from train during whistle-stop at Pocatello, Idaho in 1948. Thomas D. Mcavoy/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images

Richard Chady ([Email](#)) - Because a friend has a copy of the famous Chicago Tribune issue that headlined "Dewey Defeats Truman," I looked up the history. (The photo (one of at least three versions) was actually taken in St. Louis two days after the election as the Trumans took the train back to Washington.)

However, I was also impressed by the reporters banging out a story trackside after a Truman train stop in Pocatello, ID. A deadline every minute! Today they'd be frantically searching for a strong cell signal.

And a reverse photo search brought up the ozytypewriter site with lots of details and photos of that era. I'm sure many of the loyal Connecting readers are already familiar with such resource sites.

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On the column by Post's Tom Boswell

John Willis ([Email](#)) - I found Tom Boswell's [pre-retirement column](#) in Friday's Washington Post (and in Monday's Connecting) to be rather entertaining, and one special paragraph caught my eye.

He said he will be doing a few more before he really leaves, so this would be one of his "penultimate" essays.

Here's the paragraph that stood up and spoke to me:

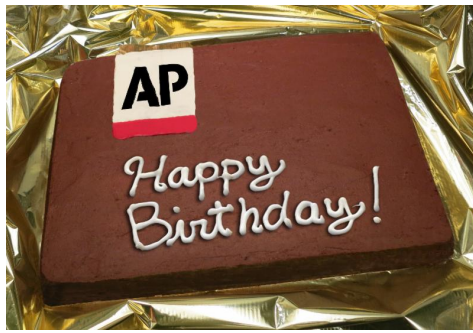
"You never know when, or if, you'll get that feeling. At writing's best, words you didn't expect jump from your fingers to print. You write what you think are your ideas; then the writing ignites and connects other, different ideas. And those insights, deep down, are yours."

I really like the word "penultimate," and I don't know why. I don't use it often, but I sometimes look for ways to use it. I also love the word "perhaps," it sounds so much more mysterious than "maybe."

Out of curiosity I wondered what a penultimate, penultimate paragraph or chapter might be called, and it's an "antepenultimate." I have never typed that word before this effort. Some words are more fun to type than others. Antepenultimate is not one of those, in my book. My spell check says I am spelling antepenultimate wrong, but when I click on "spelling" of offers no alternative.

Just another day in paradise.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



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Craig Klugman - cklugman2@comcast.net

Stories of interest

L.A. Times's Asian Billionaire Owner Wants Paper to Fight Racism (Bloomberg)

By Yueqi Yang

As the only Asian-American owner among the five biggest U.S. newspapers, billionaire Patrick Soon-Shiong said he finds himself in a unique position to elevate the fight against rising anti-Asian hate and racism.

Soon-Shiong's paper, the Los Angeles Times, has an advantage in covering race issues affecting Asian Americans because California is home to the nation's largest Asian population. He's looking to not just shed light on the issues of ethnicity through his paper, but also cover the views on both political extremes, he said.

"One of my goals of our paper is to be truly objective and give a fair exposure to both sides," he said in an interview from Los Angeles. "Maybe you completely disagree with it but at least try to understand" the opinion at the other end, he said.

Read more [here](#).

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Broad agreement in U.S. – even among partisans – on which news outlets are part of the 'mainstream media' (Pew Research)

BY ELISA SHEARER AND AMY MITCHELL

The term “mainstream media” has long been used to refer to established journalism outlets in the United States. In recent years, it has also been used in a more critical context, including by former President Donald Trump, other politicians and members of the media themselves.

To learn more about how Americans think about the term, Pew Research Center asked a representative sample of U.S. adults whether they consider each of 13 different news outlets to be a part of the mainstream media or not. The outlets were selected to represent a range of audience sizes and sectors.

Overall, a majority of Americans consider seven of these outlets to be part of the mainstream media. That includes the one national network news outlet included in the analysis (ABC News), all three major cable news outlets asked about (MSNBC, Fox News and CNN) and three legacy print publications: the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and the New York Post.

Read more [here](#).

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Founder of Apostrophe Protection Society and Lincolnshire journalist dies aged 97 (Lincolnite)

By Ellis Karran

A well-respected journalist from Lincolnshire, known across the globe for being the founder of the Apostrophe Protection Society, has died aged 97.

John Richards, from Boston, was born in 1923 and worked as a newspaper reporter and sub editor right up until 1988 when he retired.

Upon his retirement, John tried to find a new hobby to make use of his time, and in 2001 set up the Apostrophe Protection Society, in protest of the widespread misuse of apostrophes.

John said that the apostrophe “deserves our protection” before calling it a “threatened species.”

His unusual and playfully natured society captured the imagination of millions around the world, so much so that in 2001 he was awarded the Ig Nobel Prize for Literature at Harvard University.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

Today in History - May 11, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, May 11, the 131st day of 2021. There are 234 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 11, 1935, the Rural Electrification Administration was created as one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs.

On this date:

In 1858, Minnesota became the 32nd state of the Union.

In 1943, during World War II, U.S. forces landed on the Aleutian island of Attu, which was held by the Japanese; the Americans took the island 19 days later.

In 1946, the first CARE packages, sent by a consortium of American charities to provide relief to the hungry of postwar Europe, arrived at Le Havre, France.

In 1947, the B.F. Goodrich Company of Akron, Ohio, announced the development of a tubeless tire.

In 1953, a tornado devastated Waco, Texas, claiming 114 lives.

In 1960, Israeli agents captured Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In 1973, the espionage trial of Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo in the "Pentagon Papers" case came to an end as Judge William M. Byrne dismissed all charges, citing government misconduct.

In 1981, legendary reggae artist Bob Marley died in a Miami hospital at age 36.

In 1996, an Atlanta-bound ValuJet DC-9 caught fire shortly after takeoff from Miami and crashed into the Florida Everglades, killing all 110 people on board.

In 1997, IBM's "Deep Blue" computer demolished an overwhelmed Garry Kasparov, winning the six-game chess re-match between man and machine in New York.

In 1998, India set off three underground atomic blasts, its first nuclear tests in 24 years. A French mint produced the first coins of Europe's single currency, the euro.

In 2010, Conservative leader David Cameron, at age 43, became Britain's youngest prime minister in almost 200 years after Gordon Brown stepped down and ended 13 years of Labour government.

Ten years ago: Former hedge fund titan Raj Rajaratnam was convicted by a federal jury in New York in an insider-trading case of five counts of conspiracy and nine of securities fraud. (Rajaratnam was sentenced to 11 years in prison.)

Five years ago: A white former South Carolina police officer already facing a state murder charge in the shooting death of Black motorist Walter Scott was indicted on federal charges including depriving the victim of his civil rights. (Michael Slager pleaded guilty to violating Scott's civil rights and was sentenced to 20 years in prison; prosecutors agreed to drop the state murder charge.) CBS News veteran Morley Safer, a "60 Minutes" correspondent for all but two of the newsmagazine's 48-year history, announced his retirement (Safer died eight days later at age 84).

One year ago: After two cases of COVID-19 were confirmed among staffers, a memo to White House staff directed "everyone who enters the West Wing to wear a mask or facial covering"; a maskless President Donald Trump addressed a Rose Garden audience filled with mask-wearing administration officials. Twitter announced that it would add a warning label to tweets containing disputed or misleading information about the coronavirus. Georgia's attorney general appointed a Black district attorney from the Atlanta area to take over the case of a white father and son charged with killing a Black man, Ahmaud Arbery, near the Georgia port city of Brunswick. Jerry Stiller, best known for his role as George Costanza's father in "Seinfeld" and earlier as part of a comedy duo with wife Anne Meara, died at 92.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Mort Sahl is 94. Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan is 88. Jazz keyboardist Carla Bley is 85. Rock singer Eric Burdon (The Animals; War) is 80. Actor Pam Ferris is 73. Former White House chief of staff John F. Kelly is 71. Actor Shohreh Aghdashloo (SHOH'-reh ahg-DAHSH'-loo) is 69. Actor Frances Fisher is 69. Sports columnist Mike Lupica is 69. Actor Boyd Gaines is 68. Actor Martha Quinn is 62. Actor Tim Blake Nelson is 57. Actor Jeffrey Donovan is 53. Actor Nicky Katt is 51. Actor Coby Bell is 46. Cellist Perttu Kivilaakso (PER'-tuh KEE'-wee-lahk-soh) is 43. Actor Austin O'Brien is 40. Actor-singer Jonathan Jackson is 39. Rapper Ace Hood is 33. Latin singer Prince Royce is 32. Actor Annabelle Attanasio (TV: "Bull") is 28. Musician Howard Lawrence (Disclosure) 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.

Paul Stevens

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