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Connecting

June 15, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 15th day of June 2015,

Several of you shared the sad news of the death Monday of **Mary Pennybacker**, longtime Washington bureau administrative assistant who has been described as the heart and soul of the bureau during her 42 years of AP service.

“We lost Mary today to Heaven,” said her friend **Margaret Callahan**. “Her husband John and daughters Karen and Jennifer were with her.”

Mary was hired in 1961 and worked with six Washington chiefs of bureau until her retirement in 2003.



Look for more detail on her life and career in Wednesday’s Connecting. Meanwhile, if you would like to share a favorite story of working with Mary, please send it along.

AP merchandise includes 175th, vintage branding

Connecting wants you to know that the London-based store where you can purchase AP-branded merchandise has reopened for business with a greatly expanded inventory that includes 175th anniversary items but also far more items and designs – some of them branded with AP’s most historic logos.



Thanks to our colleague **Jenny Hammerton** of the AP’s London bureau for shepherding this store – which can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Some really good stuff - and Jenny promises more to be added.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

New-member profile:

‘In short, it was a remarkable AP adventure’

Bruce Handler ([Email](#)) - I’m from Chicago, but I joined the AP in 1967 in Portland, OR. I had been working as news editor at KEZI-TV in Eugene, OR, my first job since getting a master’s degree in journalism from the University of Oregon.

A highlight of my stay there was when COB Frank Wetzel picked me to go on the press plane with Robert Kennedy during Oregon’s 1968 Democratic presidential primary (which he lost), instead of giving the assignment to the bureau’s long-time political writer.

I had expressed an interest in Latin America and Frank –what a great boss – got me transferred to the AP Foreign Desk in 1968.

But...I had been dating a summer intern in the bureau (just graduating from the U of O’s Journalism School) and we fell in love and got married that year. She too had an interest in Latin America. I wound up getting a scholarship (\$2,500 total!) from the Inter-American Press Association to study in Buenos Aires. So I turned down the AP transfer, and my wife and I set off on a five-month journey – by land – from Oregon to Argentina.

By the time we got there it was summer in the Southern Hemisphere, and all the universities were on vacation. So I wandered into the AP bureau in Buenos Aires.

COB Louis Uchitelle (he later went to the New York Times) said, "What? You were an AP staffer in the United States and speak Spanish? Here, sit down and file this story!"

He was short-handed, as he still was waiting for Bill Heath (unfortunately no longer with us but later a COB in at least two Latin American countries) to arrive from NY to be his news editor. Lou hired me at \$2 an hour in Argentine pesos.

Apparently, I did okay, as Lou recommended that the AP take me back on staff full time. In 1969 Rio COB George Arfeld hired me as a newsman in the Sao Paulo, Brazil, bureau, where I worked under correspondents Ike Flores and later Ed Miller.

That's when the unexpected Chile adventure happened, and in 1971 I was transferred to Rio as news editor under COB Dennis Redmont (later long-time COB in Rome.)

In 1974 I left the AP again (!) to take an offer from Newsweek and The Washington Post, then owned by the same company, to be a "special correspondent" (i.e. super-stringer) in Rio, but with a guaranteed retainer, expense account, health plan and so on. I also was free to take on other freelance gigs, such as a short-lived (but lucrative for me) NBC 24-hour all-news radio network. And I got my work published in the New York Times Magazine, The Atlantic and Saturday Review.

In 1977 I gave up this one-man news empire to accept a Professional Journalism Fellowship at Stanford. It was from there that AP Personnel Director Tom Pendergast took me back (yes, a third time!), as COB in Rio, to replace my old boss Ed Miller, who was leaving to edit a magazine for the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, DC.

And that's where I served from 1978-1993 (always under the watchful scrutiny of AP Vice President and International Services Director Claude Erbsen, who had held the Rio post years earlier) until I took early retirement.

Oh, yes, my AP wife went back to the United States, and I later married a Brazilian lady whom I was with until her death in 2016. I'm still in the house we bought 41 years ago in Niteroi, a lovely city across a wide bay from Rio. I have a post-card view of Rio (sort of like seeing New York City from New Jersey or San Francisco from Oakland.)

Although here in Brazil I have been speaking Portuguese for more than 50 years, since I still remembered my Spanish, the AP often sent me as a visiting fireman to help out in news crises throughout Latin America or sometimes to cover COBs' home leaves.



These assignments took me to Argentina (Falkland Islands war 1982), post-Allende Chile (the Pinochet dictatorship), Peru (guerrillas, elections) and Colombia and Bolivia (drugs.)

AP staffers I worked with in those places include Bill Heath, Eduardo Gallardo, Monte Hayes, Tom Wells, Kevin Noblet and Harold Olmos, in no particular geographic or chronological order. I'm sure I left somebody out. I'm getting old. (Harold, now retired in Bolivia, took over in Rio when I left.) (Oh, yeah, Mort Rosenblum, ex-COB in Buenos Aires, later an AP special writer in Paris, came back for the Falklands.)

In short, it was a remarkable AP adventure.

Stories of interest

Anyone care that local news dead or dying?

Dave Tomlin (Email) - It's truly startling to read items like the Politico piece in Monday's Connecting pointing out that a big share of news readers don't care that local news is dying or dead in their communities. In the years I spent trying to persuade publishers to spend more on their "wire service," I often encountered this line: "I need to save as much of my news budget as I can to pay my reporters, because local news is what my subscribers really want." The argument sounded good then and still does. Too bad it wasn't always made in good faith and, it now appears, may not even have been true.

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Zoom retirement party for Susan Spaulding



David Wilkison (Email) – Thanks again for helping make Susan Spaulding’s retirement party on Friday such a success. If you were unable to participate in the Zoom, you can replay the event by clicking [here](#). The passcode is - ^9y*a3C1 (Note: If you have problems with the password, please try typing it in versus cutting and pasting.)

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Israeli ambassador meets with AP president



Ambassador Gilad Erdan (left) with AP President/CEO Gary Pruitt

Here’s a tweet from Gilad Erdan, Israel’s Ambassador to the United States and the United Nations, on his visit to AP headquarters to meet with AP president and CEO Gary Pruitt:

Yesterday, I visited the @AP HQ in New York to explain to top executives that the building housing their Gaza operation was being used by Hamas terrorists trying to jam the Iron Dome - that is why it was prioritize by the IDF during last month’s operation.

Click [here](#) for a CNN report on “Inside the AP’s meeting with Israeli officials” that was published in Monday’s Connecting and featured AP international editor Ian Phillips.

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Cringing at this use of 'titanic'

Claude Erbsen ([Email](#)) – regarding this from the Miami Herald: “News alert: Titanic clash pits DeSantis against potent cruise industry as it prepares to restart”.

Forget the story. It's the headline that caught my eye. Titanic is hardly the word to use when talking about the cruise industry.

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Celebrating Flag Day

Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - Monday was Flag Day, an increasingly overlooked holiday marking anniversary of adoption in 1777 of the Stars and Stripes as the official US flag. I was pleased to walk into my dentist's office to find they had posted numerous flags on the check-in counter and around the waiting area.



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Colbert ribs AP

Lee Siegel ([Email](#)) - Comedian Stephen Colbert makes a bit of fun of the Associated Press from 2:23 to about 3:20 in this bit. Click [here](#).

Things found while cleaning out office (continued)



Dan Sewell ([Email](#)) – This portrait of then-President and CEO of The Associated Press, Lou Boccardi, has a backstory.

But first wanted to mention what an important influence he, too, had in my AP career.

When I was a very young news editor (yes, I used to be very young) in Florida, we had so many big stories, or, a typical era for Florida, as future news eds Will Lester, Freida R. Frisaro or Terry Spencer can attest.

Lou was a top AP editor then, and many of my mornings began with a call from him asking what we were planning on this story or why we handled a story that way. It often was like being cross-examined.

Many of us in Miami, Matt Bokor and Gary Clark prime examples, had memorable conversations with Lou. He pushed hard for excellence, and The AP was better for it.

One more anecdote before the back story: At an APME meeting in Atlanta, then-Exec Editor Bill Ahearn pointed at me and said: "I need to talk to you. See me after this session." That had me sweating for an hour.

Turned out Lou and AP Chairman Donald Newhouse were flying in early the next morning in a private plane. Bill wanted me there to meet them.

I got there an hour early. They graciously invited me to join them for breakfast. When I saw Bill, he asked: "Everything go OK?" I replied: "Couldn't find Lou. Does he have a moustache now?" Bill's face dropped, then he realized he had been had and laughed.

The portrait story predates me. but Lou, in town for a meeting, dropped by the Cincinnati office. The intern on duty didn't know who he was, Joe Kay tells me. Al Behrman may know more.

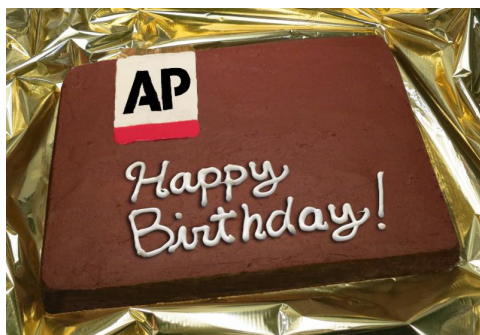
Then-Chief of Bureau Jake Booher had this photo framed and ordered it hung prominently in the office, to make sure that never happened again. (I don't think Lou was ever back, but we were ready).

It will soon be on its way to LDB.

[Here](#) is a story that captures him well.

(Cincinnati Correspondent Dan Sewell is retiring from AP at the end of June.)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Tom Larimer - tom@arkansaspress.org

Welcome to Connecting



David Powell - dlpowell1@gmail.com

Stories of interest

*News executives protest Trump-era probe with
Garland* (AP)



Bruce Brown, second from right, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, speaks accompanied by Washington Post publisher Fred Ryan, left, Washington Post Executive Editor Sally Buzbee, Washington Post general counsel Jay Kennedy, New York Times Publisher A.G. Sulzberger, and CNN executive vice president and general counsel David Vigilante after a meeting with Attorney General Merrick Garland on Monday. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

By **DAVID BAUDER** and **MICHAEL BALSAMO**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Executives from CNN, The New York Times and The Washington Post met Monday with Attorney General Merrick Garland to protest the Trump-era Justice Department's efforts to seize phone and email records of journalists.

After the hourlong meeting in Washington, Bruce Brown, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, said the journalists explained how this represented an "existential crisis" for the organizations.

None of the media executives would answer questions, with Brown saying they had agreed the meeting was off the record. The meeting included the publishers of the Times and Post, A.G. Sulzberger and Fred Ryan, respectively, as well as Post executive editor Sally Buzbee and Sam Feist, CNN's Washington bureau chief.

The Justice Department said the group had a "productive conversation about the need for new rules" governing the ability of prosecutors to seek this material.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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One of the Most Influential Black Journalists You Probably Never Heard Of (WNYC)

Record numbers of journalists formed unions over the last few years, surpassing data even from the surges of labor organizing in the 1930s. And the pandemic didn't slow the trend. Just this week journalists at the Atlantic announced that they were forming a union affiliated with the News Guild.

But even with all the recent coverage, it's unlikely that you've heard of the very first person to lead a journalism unionization effort. Marvel Cooke was a crusading Black journalist who organized one of the first chapters of the Newspaper Guild...and she reported on labor and race until she was pushed out of journalism by redbaiting.

Lewis Raven Wallace is the creator of The View from Somewhere, a podcast about journalism with a purpose, and author of the book The View from Somewhere: Undoing the Myth of Journalistic Objectivity.

For years he's been researching journalists in U.S. history whose stories haven't been thoroughly told — because they were marginalized by a structure that didn't see them as "real" "objective" reporters. And that's what happened to Marvel Cooke...

Read more [here](#). Shared by Latrice Davis.

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Making Missouri: The Printer Who Connected Missouri to the World (Missouri Historical Society)

By Emily Jaycox | Head Librarian
Missouri Historical Society

Charless launched the first newspaper west of the Mississippi.

JOSEPH CHARLESS'S PRE-ST. LOUIS YEARS

Born in Ireland in 1772, Joseph Charless has a special place in Missouri history. He brought the first printing press to the state and launched the Missouri Gazette, the first newspaper published west of the Mississippi River. He may have participated in the 1795 Irish Rebellion, an unsuccessful movement for independence from England.



After immigrating to the US, he changed his surname from Charles to Charless so Americans would pronounce it the way he did, with two syllables. While working as a printer in Pennsylvania, he married Sarah Jordan M'Cloud, a widow, and trained her son Robert as a printer. They moved to Kentucky, where Charless launched several newspapers before he was recruited to move again.

FILLING A NEED IN FRONTIER MISSOURI

Before Missouri became a state, a territorial legislature was formed to make laws, which had to be printed and shared with citizens. But no one in Missouri had the necessary large, heavy printing equipment or a printer's specialized skills. The state had to convince someone that the expense of setting up a printing business here would be worthwhile. Meriwether Lewis, who was serving as Missouri's territorial governor, secured commitments from prominent citizens saying that they would subscribe to a St. Louis newspaper. Lewis sent an advance to Charless in Kentucky and urged him to come to Missouri at once.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Liz Irwin.

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Why The New Yorker's Stars Didn't Join Its Union (New York Times)

By Ben Smith

Writers for The New Yorker have been known to refer to the editor, David Remnick, as "Dad," so there was something a little illicit about their decision to gather without him back in 2018 at a Windsor Terrace apartment.

Some 20 of the writers, many of them marquee names, were getting together to decide how to react to the surprise announcement that their less heralded colleagues — fact checkers, copy editors, web producers, social media editors — were forming a union and demanding raises.

The writers discussed whether they should follow their colleagues into the NewsGuild, and whether the magazine treated writers fairly.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Hank Ackerman.

The Final Word

No hoarding toilet paper back then!



Who'd have guessed 53 years ago that simple ol' toilet paper would take on such a significance – though we're finally moving out of that TP-hoarding stage of the pandemic, right? Displaying leftovers from the "decorations" on the back of our car, that's Linda and me as we celebrated our wedding June 15, 1968, and started a life's journey that has brought us three great kids and four grandkids, wonderful careers and friendships, and more possibilities on the road ahead.

(P.S. - and a life's irony, a few months ago I did a profile for my hometown paper on Fred Larson, the guy who took this photo on his off time from The Messenger of Fort

Dodge, Iowa. Fred is 93 years young and still taking photos.)



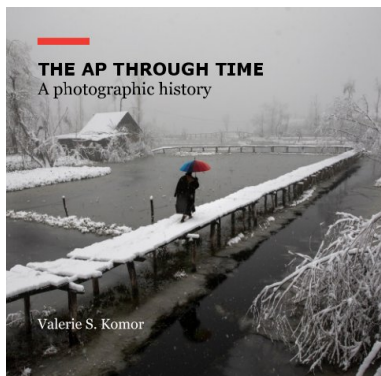
A special section celebrating AP's 175th

AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase, as well as items branded with some of AP's most historic logos. The site can be reached by clicking [here](#).

AP Through Time: A Photographic History



AP Through Time: A Photographic History” - created by Director of Corporate Archives, Valerie Komor, is a keepsake commemorating AP's 175th year. Small in size (6 ¾ x 6 ¾ in.), it is organized chronologically in eight segments that trace the broad outlines of AP's development from 1846 to the present: Beginnings, Evolution, New

Century, Modernity, Expansion, One World, Speed, and Transformation. Click [here](#) to view and make an order.

AP at 175 video

This video celebrates the unique role AP has played since 1846.

Oops!

The embed code for this video is not valid.



UPCOMING WEBINARS

To celebrate AP's 175th anniversary, the Corporate Archives has organized "AP at 175: Conversations with History," a series of three webinars.

The final one is THIS THURSDAY!

AP correspondents bring home the world: Their history in their own words: Prof. Giovanna Dell'Orto in conversation with Vice President and Editor at Large for Standards John Daniszewski.

When: Thursday, June 17, 2021 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: Zoom: <https://ap.zoom.us/j/94209986199>

Giovanna Dell'Orto, Ph.D., is a former newswoman with The Associated Press (in Minneapolis, Rome, Phoenix and Atlanta). Now Associate Professor of journalism at the University of Minnesota, she teaches and researches the interplay of news production, news content and international affairs. She is the author or senior editor of six books on this topic, including an oral history of AP foreign correspondence from the Second World War to the 2010s, published by Cambridge University Press in 2015.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ap.zoom.us/j/94209986199>

Meeting ID: 942 0998 6199

Today in History - June 15, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, June 15, the 166th day of 2021. There are 199 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 15, 1215, England's King John put his seal to Magna Carta ("the Great Charter") at Runnymede.

On this date:

In 1775, the Second Continental Congress voted unanimously to appoint George Washington head of the Continental Army.

In 1864, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton signed an order establishing a military burial ground which became Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

In 1902, the 20th Century Limited, an express passenger train between New York and Chicago, began service. (The Limited made its last run in December 1967.)

In 1904, more than 1,000 people died when fire erupted aboard the steamboat General Slocum in New York's East River.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an act making the National Guard part of the U.S. Army in the event of war or national emergency.

In 1944, American forces began their successful invasion of Saipan (sy-PAN') during World War II. B-29 Superfortresses carried out their first raids on Japan.

In 1955, the United States and Britain signed a cooperation agreement concerning atomic information for “mutual defence purposes.”

In 1985, the Shiite Muslim hijackers of a TWA Boeing 727 beat and shot one of their hostages, U.S. Navy diver Robert Stethem (STEE'-them), 23, throwing him out of the plane to die on the tarmac at Beirut airport.

In 1988, the baseball romantic comedy “Bull Durham,” starring Kevin Costner and Susan Sarandon, was released by Orion Pictures.

In 1991, Mount Pinatubo in the northern Philippines exploded in one of the biggest volcanic eruptions of the 20th century, killing about 800 people.

In 1996, Ella Fitzgerald, the “first lady of song,” died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 79.

In 2003, with a deadline passed for Iraqis to hand in heavy weapons, U.S. forces fanned out across Iraq to seize arms and put down potential foes.

Ten years ago: Pushing back against congressional criticism, the White House said that President Barack Obama had the authority to continue U.S. military action in Libya even without authorization from lawmakers on Capitol Hill. Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords was released from a Houston hospital, five months after being shot in the head during a Tucson political event. The Boston Bruins won the Stanley Cup for the first time since 1972, beating the Vancouver Canucks 4-0 in Game 7 of the finals; angry, drunken Vancouver fans ran wild, setting cars on fire and looting stores.

Five years ago: The interim police chief in Oakland, California, Ben Fairow, was abruptly removed after six days on the job by Mayor Libby Schaaf, who said she had lost confidence in Fairow's ability to lead the department amid a widening sex scandal in which a number of officers allegedly had sex with a teenage prostitute. A public funeral was held in Detroit for hockey legend Gordie Howe, who had died five days earlier at age 88.

One year ago: The Supreme Court, in a 6-3 decision, ruled that a landmark civil rights law protects gay, lesbian and transgender people from discrimination in employment. European countries reopened borders after a three-month coronavirus shutdown; international visitors were still kept away. U.S. regulators revoked emergency authorization for malaria drugs promoted by President Donald Trump for treating COVID-19 amid evidence that they didn't work and could cause serious side effects. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said death rates for coronavirus patients with chronic illnesses were 12 times higher than for others who became infected. The Seattle City Council voted unanimously to bar police from using tear gas, pepper spray and several other crowd control devices after officers repeatedly used them on mostly peaceful demonstrators protesting racism and police brutality.

Today's Birthdays: R&B singer Ruby Nash Garnett (Ruby and the Romantics) is 87. Funk musician Leo Nocentelli (The Meters) is 75. Actor Simon Callow is 72. Singer Russell Hitchcock (Air Supply) is 72. Rock singer Steve Walsh is 70. Chinese President Xi Jinping (shee jihn-peeng) is 68. Actor-comedian Jim Belushi is 67. Country singer Terri Gibbs is 67. Actor Julie Hagerty is 66. Actor Polly Draper is 66. Rock musician Brad

Gillis (Night Ranger) is 64. Baseball Hall of Famer Wade Boggs is 63. Actor Eileen Davidson is 62. Actor Helen Hunt is 58. Rock musician Scott Rockenfield (Queensryche) is 58. Actor Courteney Cox is 57. Country musician Tony Ardoin is 57. Country musician Michael Britt (Lonestar) is 55. Actor-rapper Ice Cube is 52. Actor Leah Remini is 51. Actor Jake Busey is 50. Actor Neil Patrick Harris is 48. Actor Greg Vaughan is 48. Actor Elizabeth Reaser is 46. Rock singer Dryden Mitchell (Alien Ant Farm) is 45. Former child actor Christopher Castile is 41. Rock musician Billy Martin (Good Charlotte) is 40. Actor Jordi Vilasuso is 40. Rock musician Wayne Sermon (Imagine Dragons) is 37. Actor Denzel Whitaker is 31. Olympic gold medal gymnast Madison Kocian is 24. Actor Sterling Jerins is 17.

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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