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Connecting

July 01, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this first day of July 2021.

Today, Connecting leads with word that the biography of former AP board chairman Burl Osborne will be published next year by Kansas City-based Andrews McMeel Publishing.

"Burl never wanted to be the story, however, he became the story on many occasions," his widow Betty tells Connecting.

Read on for the publisher's announcement and Betty's thoughts.

Meanwhile, stay well.

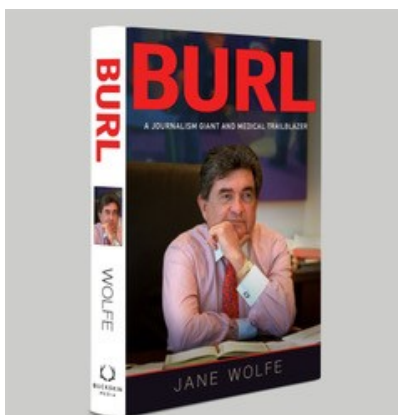
Peg

Aloha from Hana

Ye Olde Connecting Editor and wife Linda met up Wednesday in Hana, Hawaii, with old friends Tad Bartimus and husband Dean Wariner. Left to right: Jon Stevens, his friend Arianna Young, her dad Scott Young, Linda and Paul, and Tad and Dean.



Burl Osborne: Journalism giant, medical trailblazer



The working title and cover for the Burl Osborne biography, which Andrews McMeel acquired from Buckskin Media and plans to publish in May 2022.

Dear AP Connecting Friends,

My son Jonathan, Jane Wolfe and I are very excited about Andrews McMeel Publishing acquiring the manuscript to Burl's biography.

Andrews McMeel Universal is a fitting home for Burl's story. While on their board, he worked closely with Hugh Andrews and John McMeel. When newspapers were consolidating and shrinking, and digital books were growing, Burl became a valuable voice to both the syndication and publishing side of Andrews McMeel Universal.

As the publisher's news release says, the manuscript is yet untitled. I think the title ought to be, "Burl Osborne and His Love Affair with The AP". One of my favorite Burl quotes from the book: "I love The AP, I'm surprised you can't see it etched across my forehead." I think we all could.

The story of Burl's life is told mostly in his own voice through his reporting, the hundreds of speeches he wrote, his personal correspondence and emails, quotes from many published and unpublished interviews and, as editor, his letters and editorials to the readers of *The Dallas Morning News*. Burl never wanted to be the story, however, he became the story on many occasions.

I met Burl 50 years ago when I was 21. I grew up in The AP. I want to thank all of you who helped Jane tell Burl's story.

Betty Osborne ([email](#))

Andrews McMeel to publish Burl Osborne biography

Kansas City, MO (June 29, 2021) — Andrews McMeel Publishing (AMP) has acquired worldwide rights to Jane Wolfe's biography of Burl Osborne, former chairman of *The Associated Press* and publisher of *The Dallas Morning News*, who waged and won one of the last great newspaper wars in the United States. Publication is slated for May 2022.

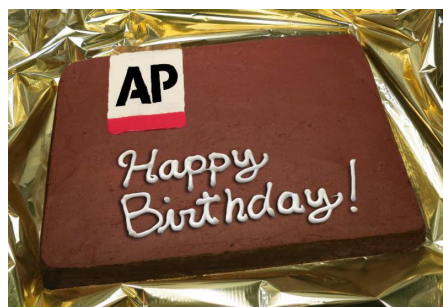
The book, currently untitled, tells the riveting story of Burl's unlikely rise from the coal mines of Appalachia to the pinnacle of journalism — a remarkable feat considering doctors told him at an early age he wouldn't live past his teens.

Suffering from kidney disease he developed as a child, Burl pioneered home dialysis treatment and became the 130th person to undergo a live kidney transplant in 1966 — a high-risk and unproven operation at the time.

Burl distinguished himself early as a writer and reporter with *The Associated Press*, eventually rising to the top of the wire service's executive ranks. Then, against the advice of his colleagues, he sought an even greater challenge: Joining *The Dallas Morning News* to lead the fight against rival newspaper *Dallas Times Herald*. At the time of his death in 2012, Burl also served on the board of Andrews McMeel Universal (AMU), parent company of AMP.

"Burl's story is personal for us, and we are honored to be publishing it," said Hugh Andrews, AMU Chairman. "Jane's biography immerses readers into the improbable and extraordinary life of a man at the forefront of medicine and the golden age of journalism. He was an exceptional executive, and individual; readers will be fascinated by his remarkable journey."

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



July 1

Jeff McMurray - mcmurrayjeff@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Study: Newspaper circulation revenue surpasses advertising

NEW YORK (AP) — For the first time in 2020, the newspaper industry earned more money from circulation than advertising.

Yet like many of the other benchmarks noted this week by the Pew Research Center in the first of a series of reports on the state of the news media, that's not necessarily good news.

Circulation revenue, from people buying digital or print subscriptions, reached \$11.1 billion in 2020, Pew said. The newspaper industry reported \$8.8 billion in ad revenue last year.

In 2006, in the early stages of the internet eating away at the industry, newspapers reported \$49.3 billion in advertising revenue. Circulation revenue in 2006 was much the same as it was last year.

Pew's estimate of weekday newspaper circulation, which is complicated by the move to digital and some different reporting sources, was 24.3 million last year. Twenty years ago, it was 57.8 million.

Newspaper newsroom employment stood at 74,410 in 2006, the last year that figure grew over the previous year. In 2020, there were 30,820 people in newsrooms.

The median wage for editors last year was \$50,010, or \$2,104 less than it was in 2012, Pew said. Where's the growth? Earlier this year, Edison Research and Triton Digital estimate 41% of Americans aged 12 and up had listened to a podcast in the past month, up from 9% in 2008.



Poynter-Koch media and journalism fellows named

(Poynter)

By Tina Dyakon

The Poynter Institute is proud to welcome 53 emerging journalists to the third year of its prestigious Poynter-Koch Media and Journalism Fellowship program. The fellowship kicked off this month with a two-day online opening summit.

This impressive class of early-career media professionals includes reporters, editors, producers and developers from news organizations across the country who aspire to be future industry leaders. They represent a variety of outlets spanning from local stations to niche publications such as The Sacramento Bee, Gay City News, KALB-TV and WBEZ Chicago.

Fellows are placed as paid, full-time employees at participating news organizations and receive intensive, yearlong training to hone their leadership skills and accelerate their careers in journalism. They will connect with seasoned mentors and award-winning journalists on a weekly basis and follow a robust, real-world curriculum led by Poynter faculty Samantha Ragland.

“The fellowship offers our nation’s up-and-coming newsmakers a cross-disciplinary approach to journalism,” said Ragland, who served as a fellowship mentor and instructor before taking over the program in 2020. “Newsrooms are rapidly changing to meet the demands of the evolving media landscape, and our Fellows will be working together to tap into exclusive opportunities that will help shape the future of journalism.”

Read more [here](#).

The great unbundling of local news

(Nieman Lab)

By Anne Schulz

Traditional local news sources, especially local newspapers, used to bundle news and information on a whole range of local topics. Local politics comes first to mind. But they have also covered stories that help build community, featuring local people who participate in local sports and local events, in addition to providing information such as weather forecasts, traffic updates, or shop opening hours. In the last year, local news has also been tremendously important in covering the local consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

This bundle of some hard news, some soft news, and other information was a major selling point in the past. Even if people didn't care that much about local politics, they had to get the local paper if they wanted to know where to go, what to do, or what jobs were available in the area. But as this year's [Digital News Report](#) from the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism shows, audiences no longer think that the local paper is the best source for most of this.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ralph Gage.



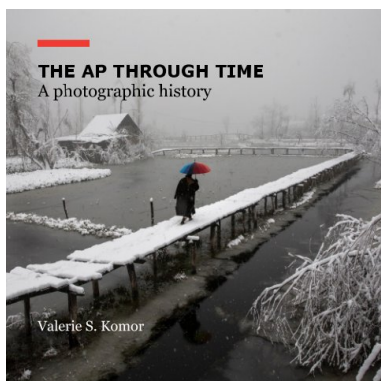
Celebrating AP's 175th

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!

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Today in History - July 01, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 1, the 182nd day of 2021. There are 183 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 1, 2015, after more than a half-century of hostility, the United States and Cuba declared they would reopen embassies in each other's capitals, marking a historic full restoration of diplomatic relations between the Cold War foes.

On this date:

In 1863, the pivotal, three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, resulting in a Union victory, began in Pennsylvania.

In 1867, Canada became a self-governing dominion of Great Britain as the British North America Act took effect.

In 1903, the first Tour de France began. (It ended on July 19; the winner was Maurice Garin.)

In 1944, delegates from 44 countries began meeting at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, where they agreed to establish the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

In 1946, the United States exploded a 20-kiloton atomic bomb near Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.

In 1962, the African nations of Burundi and Rwanda became independent of Belgium.

In 1963, the U.S. Post Office inaugurated its five-digit ZIP codes.

In 1966, the Medicare federal insurance program went into effect.

In 1973, the Drug Enforcement Administration was established.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated federal appeals court judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court, beginning an ultimately successful confirmation process marked by allegations of sexual harassment. Actor Michael Landon, 54, died in Malibu, California.

In 1997, Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule after 156 years as a British colony. Actor Robert Mitchum died in Santa Barbara, California, at age 79.

In 2019, 15-year-old Coco Gauff, the youngest player to qualify at Wimbledon in the professional era, defeated 39-year-old Venus Williams in the first round, 6-4, 6-4. Los Angeles Angels pitcher Tyler Skaggs, 27, was found dead in his room at the Texas hotel where the team was staying; the medical examiner found that Skaggs had a toxic mix of alcohol and the painkillers fentanyl and oxycodone in his body.

Ten years ago: Leon Panetta took over as U.S. secretary of defense after 2 1/2 years as director of the CIA. Six weeks after ex-California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger revealed that he'd fathered a child with a member of his household staff, Maria Shriver filed divorce papers seeking to end their 25-year marriage. The NBA locked out its players, a long-expected move that put the 2011-12 season in jeopardy. (The lockout ended in Dec. 2011 with the adoption of a new collective bargaining agreement.)

Five years ago: New laws targeting abortion took effect in about one-fifth of the states, initiating another wave of restrictions just days after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Texas measure that had led to the closing of several clinics.

One year ago: The mayor of Richmond, Virginia, which was the Confederate capital, ordered the removal of all Confederate statues from city land; hours later, crews removed a statue of Gen. Stonewall Jackson from its concrete pedestal along Richmond's Monument Avenue. Police in Seattle forcibly cleared the city's "occupied" protest zone under orders from the mayor after two recent fatal shootings in the area. Police in San Francisco said they would stop releasing the mug shots of people who'd been arrested unless they posed a threat to the public; they said it was part of an effort to stop perpetuating racial stereotypes. New York City officials delayed the resumption of indoor dining at restaurants, fearing that it would cause a spike in coronavirus infections. A New York appeals court cleared the way for a publisher to distribute a tell-all book by President Donald Trump's niece over the objections of the president's brother. Hugh Downs, host of TV news and game shows from the 1950s through the 1990s, died in Arizona; he was 99.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-dancer Leslie Caron is 90. Actor Jean Marsh is 87. Actor Jamie Farr is 87. Cookiemaker Wally Amos is 85. Dancer-choreographer Twyla Tharp is 80. Actor Genevieve Bujold is 79. Rock singer-actor Deborah Harry is 76. Movie-TV producer-director Michael Pressman is 71. Actor Daryl Anderson is 70. Actor Trevor Eve is 70. Actor Terrence Mann is 70. Rock singer Fred Schneider (B-52s) is 70. Pop singer Victor Willis (Village People) is 70. Actor-comedian Dan Aykroyd is 69. Actor Lorna Patterson is 65. Actor Alan Ruck is 65. R&B singer Evelyn "Champagne" King is 61. Olympic gold medal track star Carl Lewis is 60. Country singer Michelle Wright is 60. Actor Andre Braugher is 59. Actor Dominic Keating is 59. Actor Pamela Anderson is 54. Rock musician Mark Pirro is 51. Rock musician Franny Griffiths (Space) is 51. Actor Henry Simmons is 51. Hip-hop artist Missy Elliott is 50. Actor Julianne Nicholson is 50. Actor Melissa Peterman is 50. Actor/writer Jill Kargman is 47. Rock musician Bryan Devendorf (The National) is 46. Singer/songwriter Sufjan Stevens is 46. Actor Thomas Sadoski is 45. Actor Liv Tyler is 44. Actor Hilarie Burton is 39. Actor Lynsey Bartilson is 38. Actor Lea Seydoux (LEE'-uh say-DOO') is 36. Actor Evan Ellingson is 33. Actors Andrew and Steven Cavarno are 29. Actor/singer Chloe Bailey is 23. Actor Storm Reid is 18.

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
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com



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