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## Connecting August 11, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Aug. 11, 2021,

Today's issue brings news of the death of **Ahn Mu-hun**, a longtime Associated Press journalist who covered South Korea's stunning economic rise from the devastation of the 1950-53 Korean War and its transition from dictatorship to democracy in the 1980s. He died Monday at age 97.

If you have a memory of working with him, please send it along.

**"Leave it to a couple of guys to argue where the "first woman" emphasis belongs in the story about our soon-to-be CEO."**

That's the first sentence of a submission from our colleague **Sibby Christensen** ([Email](#)), who continued: "I'd bet there are few women earning a paycheck in our business - now and in history - who haven't reached 'first woman' status in ways large and small. But it's still news when it happens - usually resulting from the mantras of 'work twice

as hard' and 'take on jobs the fellows don't want to do.' We're still chipping away at the Adam's Rib mythology, but we're not there yet.

"I do agree that the dynamic of **Daisy Veerasingham's** performance in her current positions should have been played higher in the story."

**LARRY HEINZERLING SERIOUSLY ILL** - John Daniszewski ([Email](#)) - I am sorry to share more widely the news that **Larry Heinzerling**, our close friend and colleague of many, many years, and former deputy international editor, world services executive and Frankfurt bureau chief, has fallen seriously ill due to pneumonia and cancer. He is at home in New York City. He is resting and under care of a hospice unit. **If anyone has messages for him and his wife, Ann Cooper, I would be happy to relay them to her.** Larry is one of AP's greatest champions and since his retirement has taught at Columbia and more recently has been finishing a fascinating book with Randy Herschaft about AP's history in Germany before and during World War II. He is also one of the nicest people in the world and a mentor to many.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Longtime AP journalist Ahn Mu-hun dies at age 97



Seoul news editor Ahn Mu-hun receives a 30-year AP service plaque from departing CoB Barry Renfrew in 1990. Joining the celebration, from left: Seoul CoB Kelly Smith Tunney, office driver Lee Jang-Heu, secretary Kang Youn-Ok and Byong-Jong Lee, AP-Dow Jones correspondent. (AP World photo courtesy Corporate Archives)

By KIM TONG-HYUNG

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Ahn Mu-hun, a longtime Associated Press journalist who covered South Korea's stunning economic rise from the devastation of the 1950-53 Korean War and its transition from dictatorship to democracy in the 1980s, has died at age 97.

Ahn's son, Ahn Young-joon, an AP photojournalist, said his father died Monday evening at a nursing home in Goyang, near Seoul, after experiencing age-related illnesses for years.

Born in the North Korean town of Haeju in 1924, Ahn Mu-hun was among millions of North Koreans who fled to South Korea during the 1950-1953 Korean War. After studying economics at South Korea's Korea University, Ahn briefly worked at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul before joining the AP as a writer in 1960.

His spent the next three decades chronicling a dramatic period highlighted by Cold War animosities between the Koreans, rapid industrialization that propelled South Korea into one of Asia's biggest economies, and massive pro-democracy demonstrations that were violently suppressed by South Korea's military leaders until they accepted free elections in 1987.

"He was a very hard-working reporter with a strong sense of responsibility, a person whom I loved working with," said Paul Shin, a former AP writer. "We shared a period of dramatic change, when students were rallying in the streets demanding democracy while tear gas canisters flew around."

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

## An old story, and a new threat

**Norm Abelson (Email)** - The lead on my AP story said the state was closing out its best year in history in fighting the disease, and a top health official predicted it could be eliminated if everyone got vaccinated.

No, it wasn't about the coronavirus, and the story was dated December 20, 1956. Here's the lead:

"New Hampshire is concluding its best polio year on record, and a state health official said today 'We might wipe out polio altogether if we have 100 per cent participation in the Salk vaccination program.'"

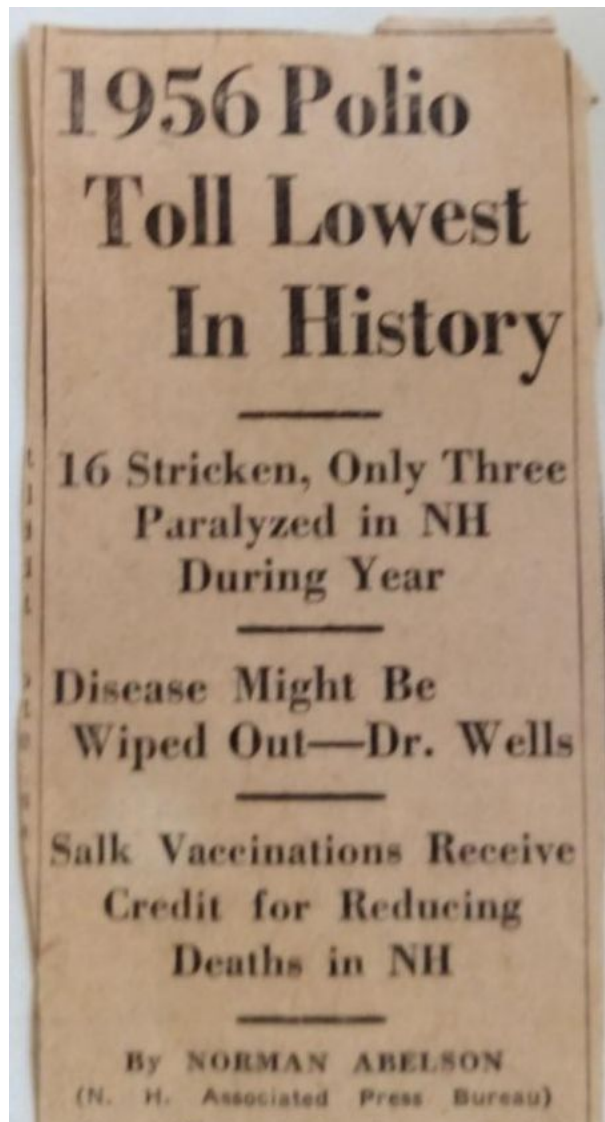
Well, the Salk, and later Sabin, mandated vaccines did conquer polio, as other mandated programs have beat back smallpox, diphtheria, mumps and rubella, saving untold numbers from infection, sickness and death. Influenza, on the other hand, with no mandate, still kills some 35,000 Americans a year.

So has the time come for broad covid mandates?

The Delta variant of the virus has already caused a frightening number of new cases around the world, nearly all of the newly afflicted unvaccinated. And no one knows how many additional variants an undefeated corona has up its sleeve. Millions of unvaccinated children are headed back to schoolrooms and playing fields. Restaurants and bars are jammed. Parks and recreation areas are overflowing with visitors. Workplaces, theaters and other public venues are re-opening.

Large numbers of adamant anti-vaxxers and anti-maskers continue to put your family and mine at risk. There's an old truism that your freedom to swing your fist ends at the tip of my nose. In other words, no one has the right to endanger someone else

Mandates? Bring 'em on, and the stronger and sooner the better.



## Photo of Governor Cuomo by AP's Seth Wenig gets Page One display





**Margy McCay (Email)** - I don't often see an AP pic so prominently displayed in the New York Times. The Star-Ledger liked Seth Wenig's image, too.

From the cutline: New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo is about to board a helicopter after announcing his resignation in New York Tuesday. Cuomo says he will resign over a barrage of sexual harassment allegations. The three-term Democratic governor's decision, which will take effect in two weeks, was announced as momentum built in the Legislature to remove him by impeachment. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

## More memories of covering Bobby Bowden

**Dan Sewell (Email)** - Really enjoyed the remembrances of Bobby Bowden by Bill Kaczor and Brent Kallestad, especially Bill's recounting Bowden's displeasure at questions about the theft charges, which is hard to envision because I only saw him at his folksy friendliest.

In my first year as AP sports writer in Miami (and second with AP), in 1978, the stunningly rapid turnaround at Florida State made the Seminoles a must-staff game.

Our Tallahassee staff then was very focused on covering state government and politics, and they were delighted when I volunteered to fly up on an early Saturday

flight to cover the games (often after a Friday night desk shift). I was single, and this was big-time college football in the South!

As described, Bobby was easy to cover - I'd rank him with Sparky Anderson on that - and beating the University of Florida Gators shook up the state.

Soon, the University of Miami was building a national champion under Howard Schnellenberger, a former assistant to Don Shula, and those three Florida schools became perennial powers.

But there was another game in town. Former Ohio State star and assistant coach Rudy Hubbard had built a Division I-AA champion at historically Black Florida A&M University.

He complained about lack of coverage. The Tallahassee Democrat beat reporter called then-sports editor Wick Temple, then quoted Wick promising: "I'm going to send Dan Sewell there."

Did the story, with a rare quote lead with Hubbard starting "I'm not crazy," but then saying he didn't see how the other Florida schools could claim to be better than his Rattlers if they wouldn't play them.

UM took the bait, and lost a stunning upset before handily winning the rematch.

I saw Bowden one more time: back in Tallahassee for the 2000 presidential election recount, I ran quotes with a press pass Brent secured for me.

The Seminoles got a surprisingly easy 30-7 win over the Gators.

The next day, T-shirts were on sale around town with the score proclaiming, "No Recount Necessary!"

## Connecting mailbox

### *Adding her Amen on Joe Somma*

**Peggy Walsh** ([Email](#)) - Add my amen to Dave Tomlin's and the other tributes to Joe Somma. He was a boat steadying force in an ever-changing business. So many of us benefited from his guidance.

-0-

### *Running NY Marathon in honor of Nick Jesdanun*

**Prinda Mulpramook** ([Email](#)) – *cousin of Nick Jesdanun, AP journalist who died of coronavirus complications on April 2, 2020* - I have no idea why I waited until now to

announce this, but in June I was able to officially register for this year's New York City Marathon on Nov. 7. Training has been difficult. It has managed to make me feel more closely connected to Nick (I often feel he is with me, pushing me to go just a little further), but at the same time it makes the hole he left on this earth feel cavernous and I often feel a deep sadness that I can't pick up the phone and hear his voice advising me on ways to prepare for my first marathon. I'm doing it though. And I'm gonna get that medal for the 50th running of the marathon. And I'm gonna hold it up proudly. For Nick.



After the marathon was cancelled last year, I put a pause on fundraising. Now that it is back on, I'd love to be able to raise the balance of the \$5,000 for Reading Partners. Fundraising is how I got the opportunity to run the marathon in the first place (since this non-runner had no other way of qualifying!), and Reading Partners is where I spent the last four years completing my AmeriCorps service. Only about \$1,500 left to go!

If you'd like to support with *\*any\** amount (truly), please click on [this link](#). To those who have already donated, thank you for your generosity, patience and understanding.

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***California bluebird***





**Nick Ut** ([Email](#)) - This is a picture of Eastern Bluebird in Irvine, California.



# Joe James Custer at Savo Island

By Marc Lancaster  
WW2 on Deadline

As the final minutes of Aug. 8, 1942 ticked away, United Press correspondent Joe James Custer retired to bed in his cabin aboard the USS Astoria. The day before, the cruiser had supported the Marines as they landed on Guadalcanal and Tulagi, and she was now patrolling between the two, east of Savo Island.

Custer didn't get much sleep on the night that would permanently alter the course of his life.

Around 1:50 a.m. on Aug. 9, general quarters sounded aboard the Astoria. The cruiser was illuminated in the darkness by searchlights beamed from Japanese ships that had stumbled upon the U.S. patrol, and they opened fire.



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

## Connecting Regional Reunion: September in Texas

***UPDATED ADVISORY: Register by Aug. 23!***

**NOTE:** Organizers are monitoring pandemic concerns and urging all participants to be fully vaccinated. Plans continue, at this time, for the AP Connecting Regional Reunion to be held as originally scheduled.

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Due to continuing interest, the deadline to register for the Sept. 18-19, 2021, AP Connecting Regional Reunion in the Dallas-Fort Worth area has been extended to Monday, Aug. 23.

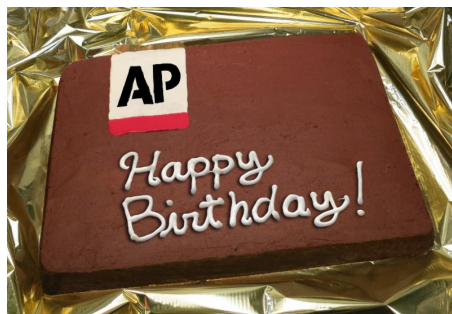
About 70 people have already registered for the event co-hosted by Mike Holmes of Omaha, Brent Kallestad of Tallahassee and Diana Heidgerd of Dallas. To register, email Diana at [heidgerd@flash.net](mailto:heidgerd@flash.net)

\_ Pay your own way for events Saturday night, Sept. 18 (Tex-Mex group dinner) and the Texas Rangers vs. Chicago White Sox game on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 19. The all-you-can-eat seats at the game are \$45 each and reservations must be made in advance via Diana. Please order game tickets by Friday, Aug. 20.

\_ A bonus BBQ dinner event, hosted by David & Ellen Sedeño, is scheduled for Friday night, Sept. 17. Please also register in advance for this gathering.

Details on the group hotel and confirming your place at all three events are in the registration form. Email Diana: [heidgerd@flash.net](mailto:heidgerd@flash.net)

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Rich Clarkson - [rich@clarkson-creative.com](mailto:rich@clarkson-creative.com)

## Welcome to Connecting



Robert Wielaard - [Robertjanwielaard@outlook.com](mailto:Robertjanwielaard@outlook.com)

## Stories of interest

*The Words the AP Didn't Want to Use* (Atlantic)

By Emma Green

Lately, the news has regularly demonstrated how the United States has fallen short of its ideals. The New York Times' 1619 Project stirred controversy for reframing

American history around the country's early dependence on slavery, rather than its declaration of founding principles. The United States' withdrawal from Afghanistan confirmed to the world that the U.S. failed in its mission to rebuild that country as a democracy. And the recent assassination of Haiti's president, Jovenel Moïse, was a reminder that many of America's historical foreign interventions also failed to live up to the nation's professed principles, as with the 1915 U.S. military invasion after the assassination of another Haitian president, Vilbrun Guillaume Sam.

These issues are particularly difficult for hard-news journalists to navigate. What some readers see as plain-language descriptions of history and context, others perceive as evidence of bias. Jonathan Katz, a former Associated Press reporter in Haiti, has had to figure out that balance for himself. His time in Haiti during the devastating 2010 earthquake and its aftermath left him convinced that America bore some responsibility for the poor quality of life in the Caribbean country. Katz went on to write a book on the international community's failure to respond to the 2010 disaster and another, forthcoming book on America's interference in countries around the world during the early 20th century. But despite the evidence he can produce to justify using terms like occupation and colonialism, he's found that some editors still shy away from those descriptions.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Cecilia White.

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## ***Mexican cartel threatens news anchor, demands equal coverage*** (AP)

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Masked men claiming to represent Mexico's most powerful drug cartel have taken the unusual step of circulating a video threatening to kill a national television news anchor for what they viewed as unfair coverage.

The video circulated Monday showed masked and heavily armed men surrounding a man seated at a small desk who delivered a message he said was from Ruben Oseguera Cervantes, aka "El Mencho," leader of the Jalisco New Generation cartel. It was unclear if the person reading the message was Oseguera himself.

The message complained that Milenio Television, a national cable news channel associated with a major newspaper chain, was favoring so-called self-defense groups that are battling the Jalisco cartel in Michoacan state.

He singled out Milenio anchor Azucena Uresti, threatening to kill her and make her eat her words.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Chicago Tribune names new top editor as newsroom leader resigns*** (Tribune)



By **ROBERT CHANNICK**

A summer of transition for the Chicago Tribune under new hedge fund ownership continued with the announcement Tuesday of a change at the top of the masthead.

Colin McMahon is stepping down as editor-in-chief after a challenging 18 months at the helm of Chicago-based Tribune Publishing's flagship newspaper. The last day for the longtime Tribune reporter, editor and executive, who also serves as chief content officer for Tribune Publishing, will be Aug. 20.

Succeeding McMahon will be Mitch Pugh, who has been named executive editor of the Chicago Tribune after eight years in the same role at The Post and Courier in Charleston, South Carolina. His first day will be Aug. 30.

"The search for a new editor included a diverse group of candidates both inside and outside of Tribune Publishing," Chicago Tribune General Manager Par Ridder said in a memo to employees. "Ultimately, it was decided that Mitch was the right person for the role given his significant journalistic achievements, leadership skills and experience driving digital subscriber growth."

Read more [here](#).



## 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.

Click [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.



# Today in History - Aug. 11, 2021



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 11, the 223rd day of 2021. There are 142 days left in the year.

## **Today's Highlight in History:**

On August 11, 1992, the Mall of America, the nation's largest shopping-entertainment center, opened in Bloomington, Minnesota.

## **On this date:**

In 1949, President Harry S. Truman nominated General Omar N. Bradley to become the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In 1952, Hussein bin Talal was proclaimed King of Jordan, beginning a reign lasting nearly 47 years.

In 1964, the Beatles movie "A Hard Day's Night" had its U.S. premiere in New York.

In 1965, rioting and looting that claimed 34 lives broke out in the predominantly Black Watts section of Los Angeles.

In 1984, at the Los Angeles Olympics, American runner Mary Decker fell after colliding with South African-born British competitor Zola Budd in the 3,000-meter final; Budd finished seventh.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton named Army Gen. John Shalikashvili (shah-lee-kash-VEE'-lee) to be the new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, succeeding the retiring Gen. Colin Powell.

In 1997, President Bill Clinton made the first use of the historic line-item veto, rejecting three items in spending and tax bills. (However, the U.S. Supreme Court later



struck down the veto as unconstitutional.)

In 2006, TV talk show host Mike Douglas died in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, on his 81st birthday.

In 2009, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of President John F. Kennedy and founder of the Special Olympics, died in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, at age 88.

In 2012, Republican presidential contender Mitt Romney announced his choice of Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin to be his running mate. Usain Bolt capped his perfect London Olympics by leading Jamaica to victory in a world-record 36.84 seconds in the 4x100 meters.

In 2017, a federal judge ordered Charlottesville, Virginia, to allow a weekend rally of white nationalists and other extremists to take place at its originally planned location downtown. (Violence erupted at the rally, and a woman was killed when a man plowed his car into a group of counterprotesters.)

In 2014, Academy Award-winning actor and comedian Robin Williams, 63, died in Tiburon, California, a suicide.

Ten years ago: Minnesota rivals Tim Pawlenty and Michele Bachmann sparred bitterly during an eight-candidate Republican debate in Ames, Iowa; Mitt Romney sought to stay above the fray as he focused on President Barack Obama, saying, "Our president simply doesn't understand how to lead and how to grow the economy."

Five years ago: The Obama administration said it had decided marijuana would remain on the list of most dangerous drugs, rebuffing growing support across the country for broad legalization, but said it would allow more research into its medical uses. Michael Phelps won his fourth gold medal of the Rio Olympics and 22nd overall with a victory in the 200-meter individual medley. Simone Manuel became the first African-American woman to win a gold medal in swimming with her win in the 100-meter freestyle, upsetting world-record holder Cate Campbell and tying with Penny Oleksiak of Canada. Simone Biles of the U.S. soared to the all-around title in women's gymnastics.

One year ago: Democrat Joe Biden named California Sen. Kamala Harris as his running mate; Harris was the first Black woman on a major party's presidential ticket. Marjorie Taylor Greene, a businesswoman who had expressed support for the far-right conspiracy theory QAnon and had been criticized for racist comments, won the Republican nomination in Georgia's 14th Congressional District. (Greene would win election to Congress in November.) College football's Big Ten and Pac-12 conferences said they would not play football in the fall because of concerns about COVID-19. (Weeks later, both conferences reversed those decisions and scheduled abbreviated seasons.) Russia became the first country to approve a coronavirus vaccine. The newly elected district attorney in Portland, Oregon, said he would not prosecute people arrested on non-violent misdemeanor charges during protests. Singer and guitarist Trini Lopez, known for his versions of "Lemon Tree" and "If I Had a Hammer" in the 1960s, died in California at 83 from complications of COVID-19.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Arlene Dahl is 96. Songwriter-producer Kenny Gamble is 78. Rock musician Jim Kale (Guess Who) is 78. Magazine columnist Marilyn Vos Savant is 75. Country singer John Conlee is 75. Singer Eric Carmen is 72. Computer scientist and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak is 71. Wrestler-actor Hulk Hogan is 68. Singer Joe Jackson is 67. Playwright David Henry Hwang is 64. Actor Miguel A. Nunez Jr. is 62. Actor Viola Davis is 56. Actor Embeth Davidtz is 56. Actor Duane Martin is 56. Actor-host Joe Rogan is 54. R&B musician Chris Dave is 53. Actor Anna Gunn is 53. Actor Ashley Jensen is 53. Actor Sophie Okonedo (oh-koh-NAY'-doh) is 53. Rock guitarist Charlie Sexton is 53. Hip-hop artist Ali Shaheed Muhammad is 51. Actor Nigel Harman is 48. Actor Will Friedle is 45. Rock singer Ben Gibbard is 45. Actor Rob Kerkovich is 42. Actor Merritt Wever is 41. Actor Chris Hemsworth is 38. Rock musician Heath Fogg (Alabama Shakes) is 37. Singer J-Boog is 36. Rapper Asher Roth is 36. Actor Alyson Stoner is 28.

## 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**