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Connecting December 06, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Dec. 6, 2021,

Our colleague **Le Lieu Browne** was surfing the internet recently when she came across a Washington Post story on discovery of a tapeworm found in someone's brain from 20 years ago.

"I gave out a loud cry of victory," she said, as she tells how that story took her back in time to the days when she was eight years old, living in a village in the Mekong Delta of South Vietnam. She tells her own story of how she and her siblings were told ghost stories, in our lead piece for today's Connecting.

Le Lieu later met **Malcolm Browne**, an AP photographer who won a Pulitzer Prize for the 1963 photograph of the Buddhist monk immolating himself in protest against the policies of the South Vietnamese government. They married in 1966 and were together until his death in 2012 from Parkinson's disease. Her book "[Bend The Willow](#)" is the memoir of her life.

Tis the holiday season – and Connecting would love to hear your stories of people doing good things...like this from our colleague **Kathy Gannon** ([Email](#)) and this Facebook post she shares.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU - I wanted to use FB to express such deep gratitude to Brianna Bryan, colourist at @OscarBlandiHair at 55th and Madison in New York who on Friday evening was breathtakingly kind.

I tripped and slammed my head into a steel grate on the sidewalk at 53rd and Madison. She helped so quickly, racing to my side. I couldn't break my fall fearing I would hurt my wounded arm so slammed into the steel grate. I took 11 stitches and have a colourful black eye.

She called 911, stayed with me until the ambulance arrived. I told her please don't wait but she wouldn't leave me. I am so grateful I don't have words to thank her.

One of the ambulance attendants had fought in Iraq and the second one worked with Human Rights Watch and now they man Mount Sinai ambulance services. They were so professional and so caring. I was blown away.

The emergency staff at @WeillCornell Friday couldn't have been more attentive. Thank you thank you THANK YOU

That wounded arm, as you might know, resulted from a 2014 attack while covering Afghanistan elections that cost the life of her AP photojournalist colleague **Anja Niedringhaus**. Kathy is AP's news director for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The 80th anniversary of Pearl Harbor will be observed Tuesday. Any memories either firsthand or through loved ones would be welcomed.

Bob Dole died at the age of 98 - and we include in today's issue the memory that colleague **Bill Kronholm** shared. We would welcome any memories or favorite stories you have of covering the Kansas senator and World War II hero.

Recall that last Thursday was a palindrome date – 12022021? Well, colleague **Doug Waggoner** notes that it is not just a palindrome but an ambigram as well, meaning you can read it upside down as well. Now tilt your mobile or laptop upside down to see if he's right!

Have a great week – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Through Time: A tapeworm story reminds her of ghost stories from childhood in Vietnam



Le Lieu Browne shares this photo of her family with her father. She is at left in the last row with her mother.



Malcolm and Le Lieu in 2011 - the year before his death.

Le Lieu Browne (Email) - I consider myself privileged to be accepted in the prestigious Connecting, run by, nonetheless, towering and caring leader, Paul Stevens. Being part of the older generation before the Boomers, (I confess that I can't keep up with different generations beyond the Boomers,) I read with voracity, every day, all the experiences that AP former journalists and foreign correspondents have shared with us during their trajectory life working with the Associated Press – WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf, Iraq, former Soviet Union wars, distinguished celebrities they met and the losses of old friends.

My late husband, Malcolm, and I had been through that life. And I sadly feel that our generation is slowly diminishing.

Then last week, I happened to peruse, on the internet, [a summarized Apple news item](#) from The Washington Post concerning the discovery of a tapeworm found in someone's brain from 20 years ago. I gave out a loud cry of victory. It may be childish and naïve, but it evokes primitive instincts in young minds. I was a child of eight years old when I heard this mysterious story. It has brought back forgotten times when I was a child.

My childhood was fragmented and too brief. For instance, I never forgot the time I was given four children books by my father. I just returned from school when my father met me at the door and handed me the books. I was overjoyed and proud and also surprised, noticing that my two older brothers were passed by. I just began to learn to read and to write. And yet, I never questioned why neither my father, nor my mother, who was a teacher, ever read to me, or to any of us, at bedtime or any other time. My father initiated me into reading.

After my father's disappearance (he was taken by the Viet Minh), my mother hired a young free-lance teacher to tutor the four oldest, my two brothers, me and my sister, in the evening. I remember that, instead of revising our homework or helping us with math, he drew naked girls and talked things that we hardly understood. That didn't last.

When I watch on television little children starving and staring with mournful wide eyes, I feel pain and hopeless. I recall battles at our daily meals between me and my siblings. They laughed when they saw me cry. I was too slow to fill my plate with food on time before others devoured them all leaving me nothing but white rice and fish sauce.

We lived in Ben Tre, a small town in the Mekong Delta. Everybody knew everybody else and gossip was rampant. And it mostly was through the maids. One maid, Ba, who spent many years with us until we were forced to take refuge in scattered villages, had her wooden bed in our spacious and airy kitchen. In the evening, when I went to outhouse before going to bed, (we didn't have running water or electricity at that period,) I loved to sit at her bed to hear her talking of ghosts and horror stories. She had the whole dictionary of it. For instance, when I urgently needed to get to the outhouse, she called out: "It's about time!" When I came back, she told me that she knew someone who had her belly exploded because she waited too long to empty her belly.

Another time, as I came back from garden in the evening, I saw her sitting in a corner of her bed.

“Did you hear anything?”

“No. Why?” I asked, surprised.

“I saw the banana tree top grow rounder and bent down this morning. And do you know why?”

“No.” I felt my heart beating stronger.

“That means that there is a monster in it and it waits until dark to get out. When he forces his way out, he would make a tremendous scream. This is the time that one should avoid being anywhere near.”

“A friend told me that she witnessed it herself,” Ba continued when she saw a smirky smile on my face. If you don’t believe me, wait until dark.”

Of course, I didn’t. At that time, we had a big bush of banana trees in a corner of our garden. It’s a kind of banana that is only edible if cooked. As it was never properly taken care of, the bush only produces flowers that group together to form a fruit-like shape. When I told my mother the story, she pushed it aside saying that it made some noise such as a cracking branch. I still avoided passing the trees at dark.

The most frightening ghost story I was told was a serpent with its huge, horrible head and slimy intestines to replace its body. It attacks people by sliding into their bed while they are sleeping. Of all animals, I hate and fear the most is serpents of all forms. I had nightmares visualizing its ghostly and slimy bowel sliding along the bed sheets and on one’s body and one cannot escape it.

As I grow up, I look upon those ghost stories as childhood phantasmagoria and love to entertain friends for fun. But when I read the following caption under the picture, I took me back to that wonderful innocent age.

“His sudden seizure was a mystery. Then doctors saw a tapeworm in his brain from twenty years ago.” It quoted the Washington Post. I could not get the article. But the one with tapeworm was and still is, in my mind, questionable. The legend told to me in my childhood was not with tapeworm but with leeches. It didn’t come from our maid, but it was very popular among the town people.

According to the legend, a man constantly complained that he had headache and itchiness on top of his head. One day, he was in the kitchen with his wife cooking, he began scratching and complaining. His wife became sick of hearing his complain, took a hot casserole lead and dumped it on his head. The head was cracked open and out crawled hundreds of leeches down his head. Villagers truthfully believed the story. When they saw women and girls waddling in water-filled rice field, yelled out to them to watch out for leeches. I saw female rice-field workers checking their clothing carefully once they got to dry ground. Women and girls were more vulnerable because of their gender. So the story passed on from one generation to the next. I was not immune to it.

Ah! It's wonderful to relive one's childhood whether it's good or bad. Let's the wise and conscientious adults worry about this chaotic world and shape a safe future for the generations to come.

He's never forgotten a kindness from Bob Dole to an AP colleague

Bill Kronholm (Email) - The news Sunday of the death of Bob Dole triggered a memory from 40 years ago.

I was part of the Washington bureau's Capitol Hill staff, and Dole was chairman of the tax-writing Senate Finance Committee. Our tax writer at the time was a great guy named Jeff Mills who had been stricken with Parkinson's disease at a tragically young age. His mind was sharp, but physically he was almost crippled, having difficulty even walking slowly with a cane.

One morning, the Finance Committee was marking up a major tax bill and Jeff needed to be there to cover. I had some time, so I was helping him to the committee room in the Dirksen building. Jeff walked with one hand on his cane, the other holding my arm.

When the elevator door opened onto Gucci Gulch, it was bedlam. Lobbyists jammed the hallway, milling, talking, arguing, persuading. I wasn't sure how we would get through. But then I locked eyes with Dole at the far end of the hallway, and saw him speak briefly to a Capitol police officer.

By the time we could take a couple of steps, Capitol police had cleared a corridor for us the full length of the hallway to the committee room door, pushing lobbyists to the walls on each side. We had a slow but easy walk to the committee room, where police cleared space for us to get Jeff to his seat at the press table.

Dole suffered crippling combat wounds from World War II and was known for his compassion for the physically impaired. But I've never forgotten his kindness to Jeff that day.

Pearl Harbor 80th anniversary: A memory

Bill Kaczor (Email) - I didn't arrive on planet Earth until nearly five years after Dec. 7, 1941, so I do not have any personal memories of the attack on Pearl Harbor. While working in AP's Tallahassee bureau in 1983, though, I got a tip that one of just a handful of U.S. fighter pilots who had engaged the Japanese on "The Day of Infamy" lived just across the state line from Pensacola, where I became AP's first correspondent a few months later.

Lewis Sanders was genial 76-year-old who had retired from the Air Force as a colonel and then sold trailers in Pensacola. In 1941, he commanded a P-36 squadron at

Wheeler Field in Hawaii. My visit with Sanders led to telephone interviews with two other Pearl Harbor fighter pilots and John Lambert, the author of a book that traced the history of the Army's 15th Fighter Group from that day until the end of World War II. They were my reliable sources for a story recalling the heroic resistance put up by an overwhelmingly outnumbered band of aviators. Most of the American aircraft in and around Pearl Harbor had been destroyed on the ground. Only 11 pilots managed to get airborne. Six of them combined to score 10 confirmed kills (five more were unconfirmed). Four of those six were still alive in 1983 and I was lucky enough to interview three of them. To this day I feel honored they allowed me to share the history they had made. Here's how my story began:

LILLIAN, Ala. (AP) -- Army Air Corps 1st Lt. Lewis Sanders had gone to the porch of his home near Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, to get the Sunday paper when he heard strange airplane engines.

"American engines had a deep-throated exhaust, but these engines had a snapping staccato sound," Sanders said in an interview at his home in this Pensacola, Fla., suburb.

Sanders quickly and correctly surmised what was happening. With bombs and shell casings falling all around him, he drove to the base and discovered four P-36s were unscathed because they had been obscured by the smoke of other planes burning nearby. Sanders picked his three most experienced pilots to join him. Once they got airborne, though, he discovered to his horror that a rookie "who wasn't cut out to be a fighter pilot," 2nd Lt. Gordon Sterling, had jumped into a veteran airman's while that pilot had gone to get a parachute. The four American pilots soon engaged a group of eight Japanese planes. Sanders shot down the enemy leader, the first victory against the famous Japanese Zero fighter plane by a U.S. pilot. Sterling also managed to get a kill but was himself shot down. His body was never recovered. One of the other pilots I spoke with was retired Col. Phil Rasmussen, another member of Sanders' squadron. He said he accidentally shot down an enemy plane. His gun got stuck in the firing position and he had to manually cock it to keep it from shooting. "As I let it slip, it started firing by itself when this Jap plane flew into the line of fire," Rasmussen told me. The final pilot I interviewed was retired Brig. Gen. Kenneth Taylor. He and George Welch had parked their P-40s at a remote gunnery range, where they had gone unnoticed by the attackers. They faced off against 40 to 50 Japanese planes but managed to get behind a group of dive bombers and picked them off one by one. Both survived the war, but Welch became a test pilot and was killed in a 1954 crash.

Nearly 15 years later, I met another Pearl Harbor pilot: Takeshi Maeda, a Japanese airman who torpedoed the battleship USS West Virginia on Dec. 7, 1941. He was one of two Japanese pilots who participated with U.S. veterans in a symposium in Pensacola about the Battle of Midway. Maeda never got airborne in that 1942 battle, a decisive U.S. victory, before his carrier was severely damaged and scuttled. Maeda didn't discuss Pearl Harbor but expressed admiration for the bravery of a U.S. Navy torpedo plane squadron wiped out at Midway but opening the way for American dive bombers to destroy four Japanese carriers. He compared their sacrifice to "the Kamikaze spirit that we had," speaking through an interpreter.

Connecting mailbox

Bock's work among 100 best baseball books

Hal Bock ([Email](#)) - I am proud to report that my book "Willard Mullin's Golden Age of Baseball Drawings" appears on Esquire Magazine's list of the 100 best baseball books. I did the narrative to accompany the cartoons by Mullin who was a giant in the field. The cartoons were assembled by Mike Powers, attorney for the Mullin Estate. The Esquire list includes some classics like "The Glory of Their Times," "Ball Four," "The Boys of Summer" and I am privileged to be included.

Mullin was a giant in the field of sports cartooning, voted the best in the craft in the 20th century by others who practiced it. His cartoons have been on display in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Smithsonian in Washington, DC as well as the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY.

I continue to write my column "Bock's Score" for the web site NY Sportsday.

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A photo with Ansel Adams



Susan Ragan ([Email](#)) - One of my very first assignments for UPI in Los Angeles was to go shoot Ansel Adams. You can imagine how scared I was. He was so gracious, though, that it was a snap (so to speak). This was shot Feb. 22, 1982, in Carmel, Calif. A UPI friend shared this with me.

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More on palindromes

Chris Sullivan ([Email](#)) - Your numerical palindrome from Chris Connell on Friday brought to mind a list of forward-or-backward sentences that I ran across long ago, the source now forgotten. I dug it out and can't resist sending a few, just FYA.

MARGE LETS NORAH SEE SHARON'S TELEGRAM.

'REVILED DID I LIVE,' SAID I, 'AS EVIL I DID DELIVER.'

DOC, NOTE: I DISSENT. A FAST NEVER PREVENTS A FATNESS. I DIET ON COD.

Best of the Week

AP dominates coverage of Ahmaud Arbery verdict with dedicated reporting, planning, teamwork



AP Photo/Stephen B. Morton

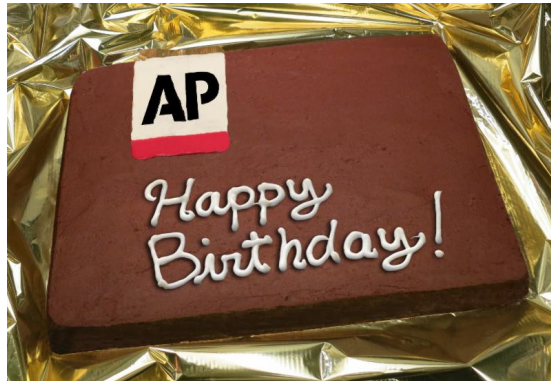
When the first murder conviction came down in the closely watched trial of three men accused in the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, AP's news alert rocketed out a remarkable nine minutes ahead of the competition. Savannah correspondent Russ

Bynum anchored that coverage on the final day as he had single-handedly for weeks, writing thousands of words over the course of the trial. His preparation, commitment and close coordination with colleagues gave AP the extraordinary speed victory and earned Bynum honors as Best of the Week — First Winner.

The dramatic conclusion in the case of Arbery, the Black man who was chased and shot dead after running through a white neighborhood in Georgia, came after more than five weeks of court proceedings. Bynum had watched every minute of jury selection, opening and closing arguments and testimony. He often prepared peanut butter sandwiches at the hotel room where he lived and ate them during lunch breaks at his computer. “During trials, lunch is only about not starving,” said Bynum.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Richard Drew – rdrew@ap.org

Dennis Lawler – dmlawler@cox.net

Stories of interest

CNN fires Chris Cuomo for helping brother deal with scandal (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER and MICHELLE L. PRICE

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN fired anchor Chris Cuomo on Saturday less than a week after new information emerged about how he assisted his brother, former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, as the politician faced sexual harassment allegations earlier this year.

The network had suspended its prime-time host on Tuesday to investigate his conduct, after New York’s attorney general released details showing he was more involved than previously known in helping to strategize and reach out to other journalists as his brother fought to keep his job.

CNN hired a law firm for that review, which it would not identify. The lawyers recommended Chris Cuomo's termination and CNN chief Jeff Zucker informed the anchor of the decision on Saturday.

"It goes without saying that these decisions are not easy, and there are a lot of complex factors involved," Zucker said in an email to CNN staff on Saturday.

The network said that "while in the process of that review, additional information has come to light." CNN would not discuss that information, or characterize whether it had anything to do with his brother.

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

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Trump media partner says it has lined up \$1B in capital (AP)

PALM BEACH, Florida (AP) — Donald Trump's new social media company and its special purpose acquisition company partner say the partner has agreements for \$1 billion in capital from institutional investors.

The former president launched his new company, Trump Media & Technology Group, in October. He unveiled plans for a new messaging app called "Truth Social" to rival Twitter and the other social media platforms that banned him following the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

TMTG's plan is to become a publicly listed company through a merger with the publicly traded Digital World Acquisition Corp., a special purpose acquisition company whose sole purpose is to acquire a private company and take it public.

The institutional investors were not identified in a press release issued Saturday by Trump Media and Digital World. The money would come from "a diverse group" of investors after the two companies are combined, it said.

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.

Today in History - Dec. 6, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 6, the 340th day of 2021. There are 25 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 6, 1865, the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, abolishing slavery, was ratified as Georgia became the 27th state to endorse it.

On this date:

In 1790, Congress moved to Philadelphia from New York.

In 1889, The Mark Twain novel "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" was first published in England under the title "A Yankee at the Court of King Arthur" (it was published in the U.S. under its more familiar name four days later).

In 1907, the worst mining disaster in U.S. history occurred as 362 men and boys died in a coal mine explosion in Monongah, West Virginia.

In 1917, some 2,000 people were killed when an explosives-laden French cargo ship, the Mont Blanc, collided with the Norwegian vessel Imo at the harbor in Halifax, Nova Scotia, setting off a blast that devastated the Canadian city. Finland declared its independence from Russia.

In 1922, the Anglo-Irish Treaty, which established the Irish Free State, came into force one year to the day after it was signed in London.

In 1957, America's first attempt at putting a satellite into orbit failed as Vanguard TV3 rose about four feet off a Cape Canaveral launch pad before crashing down and exploding.

In 1962, 37 coal miners were killed in an explosion at the Robena No. 3 Mine operated by U.S. Steel in Carmichaels, Pennsylvania.

In 1969, a free concert by The Rolling Stones at the Altamont Speedway in Alameda County, California, was marred by the deaths of four people, including one who was

stabbed by a Hell's Angel.

In 1973, House minority leader Gerald R. Ford was sworn in as vice president, succeeding Spiro T. Agnew.

In 1989, 14 women were shot to death at the University of Montreal's school of engineering by a man who then took his own life.

In 1998, in Venezuela, former Lt. Col. Hugo Chavez (OO'-goh CHAH'-vez), who had staged a bloody coup attempt against the government six years earlier, was elected president.

In 2007, President George W. Bush announced a plan to freeze interest rates on subprime mortgages held by hundreds of thousands of homeowners.

Ten years ago: Declaring the American middle class in jeopardy, President Barack Obama, speaking in Kansas, outlined a populist economic vision that would drive his reelection bid, insisting the United States had to reclaim its standing as a country in which everyone could prosper if provided "a fair shot and a fair share." A suicide bomber slaughtered 56 Shiite worshippers and wounded more than 160 others outside a shrine in Afghanistan's capital.

Five years ago: President-elect Donald Trump officially announced he would nominate retired Marine Gen. James Mattis to be his defense secretary, bringing his pick onstage at a rally in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

One year ago: President Donald Trump said his personal attorney Rudy Giuliani had tested positive for the coronavirus, making him the latest in Trump's inner circle to contract the disease. During a debate with her Democratic opponent, Rev. Raphael Warnock, ahead of two Georgia runoff elections that would determine control of the Senate, Republican Sen. Kelly Loeffler repeatedly refused to acknowledge that Trump had lost reelection.

Today's Birthdays: Comedy performer David Ossman is 85. Actor Patrick Bauchau is 83. Country singer Helen Cornelius is 80. Actor James Naughton is 76. Former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood is 76. R&B singer Frankie Beverly (Maze) is 75. Former Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., is 73. Actor JoBeth Williams is 73. Actor Tom Hulce is 68. Actor Wil Shriner is 68. Actor Kin Shriner is 68. Actor Miles Chapin is 67. Rock musician Rick Buckler (The Jam) is 66. Comedian Steven Wright is 66. Country singer Bill Lloyd is 66. Singer Tish Hinojosa is 66. Rock musician Peter Dinklage (R.E.M.) is 65. Rock musician David Lovering (Pixies) is 60. Actor Janine Turner is 59. Rock musician Ben Watt (Everything But The Girl) is 59. Writer-director Judd Apatow is 54. Rock musician Ulf "Buddha" Ekberg (Ace of Base) is 51. Writer-director Craig Brewer is 50. Actor Colleen Haskell is 45. Actor Lindsay Price is 45. Actor Ashley Madekwe is 40. Actor Nora Kirkpatrick is 37. Christian rock musician Jacob Chesnut (Rush of Fools) is 32. Tennis player CoCo Vandeweghe is 30. NBA star Giannis Antetokounmpo (YAH'-nihs an-teh-toh-KOON'-poh) 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.

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