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Connecting December 10, 2021

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Colleagues:

Good Friday morning on this Dec. 10, 2021.

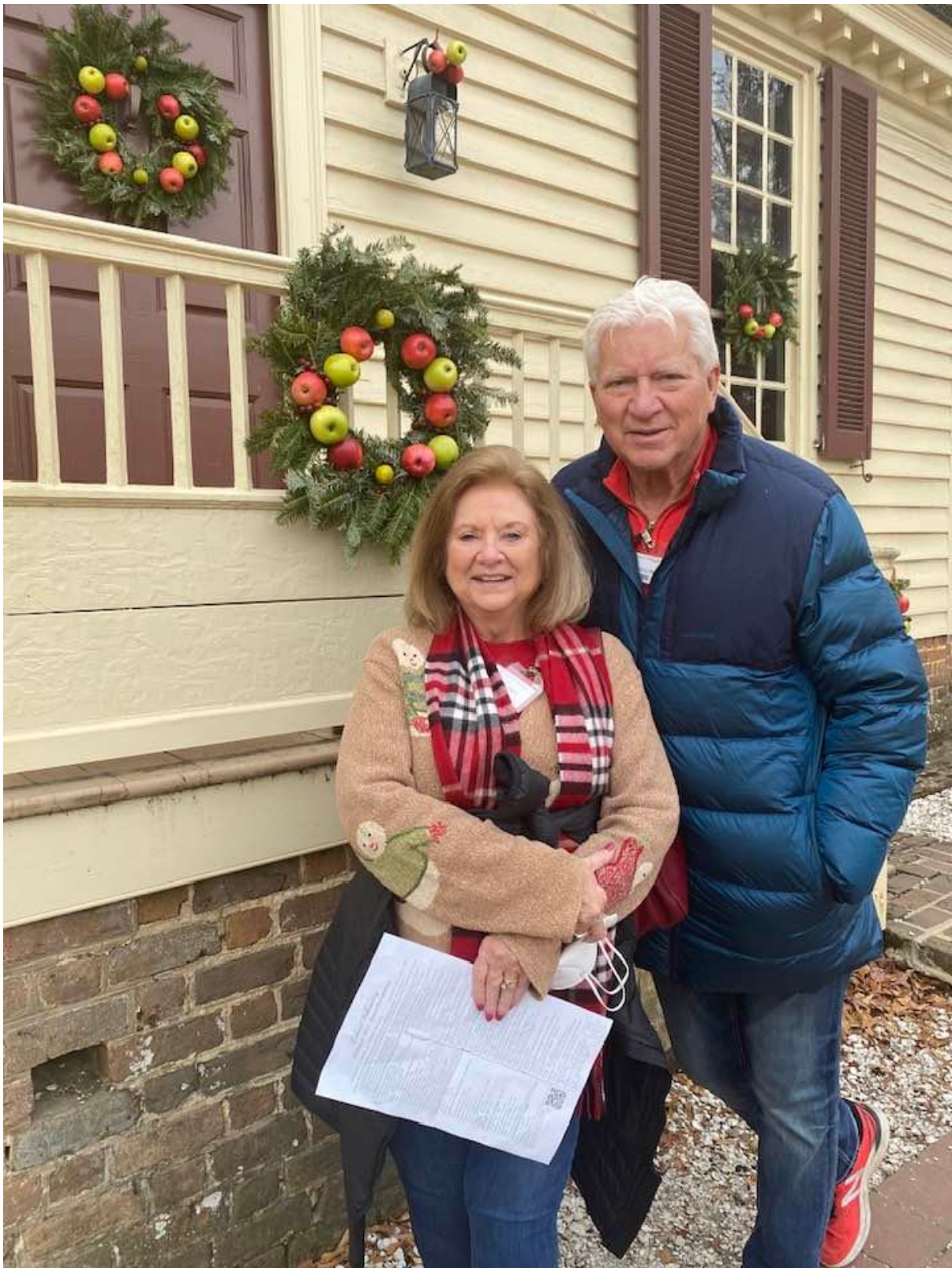
Thank you for your contributions this week while Ye Old Editor was on the road again, particularly about my and so many others' mentor Tom Jory.

The holiday lull has begun, so please keep your contributions coming as Paul returns to the helm Monday.

Happy holidays to all of you and yours.

Stay well.

Peg
pcoughlin@ap.org



Connecting mailbox

Sandy Johnson (Email) - Many others have captured the essential elections work that Tom performed so well. My fondest memory is more personal.

In 2004, my son Will and his cousin Dusty were interns at the political nominating convention in Boston. They reported to Tom, who put on his fiercest face to tell them to arrive every morning at

8 a.m. sharp to commence whatever tasks he asked. They did whatever Tom asked, and it made me smile from my perch on the news desk to see them scurry around.

On the last night of the convention, when John Kerry was due to accept the nomination, Tom called them over and gave them two coveted passes to the hall. They were nosebleed seats, but due to Tom's kindness, two youngsters got to witness the democratic process unfold. RIP Tom.

Doug Tucker [\(Email\)](#) - Every year around Pearl Harbor day when we laud the Greatest Generation I'm reminded of my one happy morning in a very sad place.

Sometimes, when visiting my late mother in her elder care facility, I would volunteer to read to residents from the morning paper. Usually 10 or 12 would gather at a conference table, enfeebled men and women in their 70s, 80s and 90s. They mostly sat in silence, staring off into space, uninterested and vacant-eyed and barely listening if listening at all.

I understood. Time hangs heavy when one is living out their last lonely days in the prison of old age.

But on this particular morning a syndicated column had caught my eye.

"Here's something," I told the slouching group, "It's about all of you. Anybody want to hear it?"

A few turned their heads to look. As I began to read, a few more perked up.

It was, in fact, about them. In glowing terms, it told of how the Greatest Generation - their generation - overcame the Great Depression and then marched off to war to defeat the evil of Adolf Hitler and Imperial Japan. After that, the story said, they came home to raise their families and build the strongest economy the world ever saw.

Pausing a second, I looked across the table and was shocked.

Everybody was smiling and nodding. Then afterward, what a lively discussion we had! One tiny thing - she couldn't have weighed more than 90 pounds - giggled as she talked about wearing dresses her mother fashioned out of flour sacks. A man told a funny story about his first day in Army boot camp.

Even my mom, an Army Nurse during the war, got involved. Although slowed by a series of mini-strokes, she told about the night in Australia when a bunch of Marines got drunk and staged a pantry raid on the nurse's quarters. Nobody got hurt or even touched, she laughed, so the girls all lied to the MPs and said they did not recognize "any of those boys."

"Mom!" I exclaimed. "Was that a war you were at or a college frat party?"

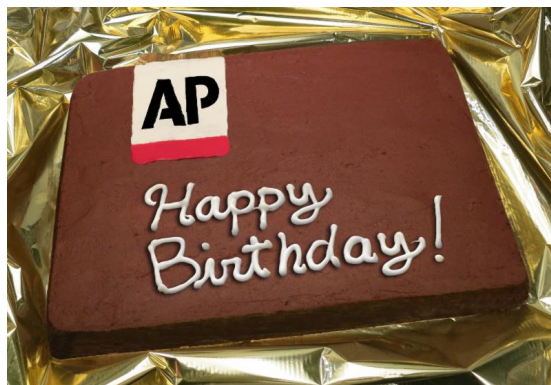
"Sometimes you get lucky and have both," chimed in a grinning old man.

The conversation got so animated the facility's supervisor came over to see.

They were proud to be members of the Greatest Generation and I felt privileged to sit there with them.

Those wonderful people are leaving quickly now. When we meet them we should make a point of thanking them. We should try to get them to talk about their unique experiences. It will make their day and do quite a lot for your day, too.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Rachel Ambrose - rambrose@rocketmail.com

Ted Warren - twarren@ap.org

On Saturday to...

Daryl Beall - peacefriendship2004@yahoo.com

On Sunday to...

Carole Feldman - cfeldman@ap.org

Bill Foley - william-foley@sbcglobal.net

Dave Zelio - dzelio@ap.org

Stories of interest

States Newsroom launches dynamic site for state capital news (Editor and Publisher)

On Dec. 6, States Newsroom, the nation's leading network of state-based nonprofit news outlets, announced it will bring all of its coverage together in one place and launch News from the States, a comprehensive source for statehouse news across the country. In the next two and a half years, the organization will expand to newsrooms in roughly 40 states with content sharing agreements in the remaining states.

"It's time to stop treating news as just a business and start to treat it also as a public service, a public good," said Chris Fitzsimon, director and publisher of States Newsroom. "That's how we've thought of States Newsroom since we began in 2017. We're proud to have newsrooms in 25 states and counting, as well as a Washington, D.C. bureau."

News from the States and all 25 States Newsroom affiliates and partners provide daily statehouse news coverage and in-depth investigative reporting free of charge to readers across the country. Unlike existing for-profit and nonprofit journalism sites, the entities do not charge readers for content, run advertisements or charge other outlets to publish their coverage.

Read more [here](#).

Lee Enterprises unanimously rejects unsolicited Alden takeover bid

By SARA FISCHER

Axios

The board of Lee Enterprises has unanimously voted to reject an unsolicited takeover proposal from Alden Global Capital, a hedge fund known for cutting journalists at local papers to maximize profits.

Why it matters: Lee is one of the last remaining independent local newspaper chains. Alden's hostile takeover bid sparked panic about the death of local news.

Read more [here](#).

European regulation of online disinformation may be a 'game changer' in 2022

By ANYA SCHIFFRIN

Columbia Journalism Review

After several years of asking the tech giants to regulate themselves on mis/disinformation and a range of other topics, the European Union is expected to issue new laws by mid 2022, some of which officials say will be “game changers.”

Europe is facing the same kinds of problems of loss of local news as the US, although their governments have done far more to support journalism than the US has—with countries like France and Denmark giving emergency grants, tax credits and other kinds of support for quality information. The growth of tech platforms has also led to increased online disinformation and misinformation even while trusted sources of information shrink and disappear.

Negotiations are continuing on different aspects of the new regulations but the French government, which will take over the rotating presidency from January-July 2022, is determined to get the Digital Services Act (DSA) and Digital Markets Act (DMA) passed before the 2022 elections in France, in part because President Macron wants to run on a record of regulating Big Tech and working well with Europe.

Read more [here](#).

Skyshot



Lee Siegel ([Email](#)) - Late last Sunday afternoon on the southernmost section of Beverly Beach looking southwest toward Yaquina Head, Oregon.



Celebrating AP's 175th

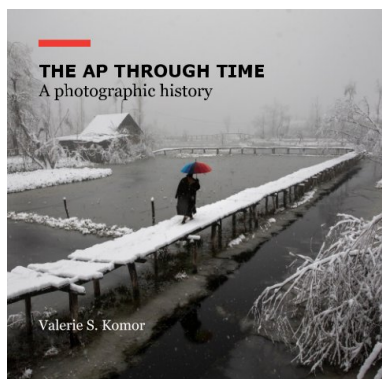
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



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. 10, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 10, 1994, Yasser Arafat, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin received the Nobel Peace Prize, pledging to pursue their mission of healing the anguished Middle East.

On this date:

In 1817, Mississippi was admitted as the 20th state of the Union.

In 1861, the Confederacy admitted Kentucky as it recognized a pro-Southern shadow state government that was acting without the authority of the pro-Union government in Frankfort.

In 1898, a treaty was signed in Paris officially ending the Spanish-American War.

In 1950, Ralph J. Bunche was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, becoming the first Black American to receive the award.

In 1964, Martin Luther King Jr. received his Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, saying he accepted it "with an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind."

In 1967, singer Otis Redding, 26, and six others were killed when their plane crashed into Wisconsin's Lake Monona; trumpeter Ben Cauley, a member of the group the Bar-Kays, was the only survivor.

In 1996, South African President Nelson Mandela signed the country's new constitution into law during a ceremony in Sharpeville.

In 2005, actor-comedian Richard Pryor died in Encino, California, at age 65.

In 2006, Former Chilean dictator General Augusto Pinochet died at age 91.

In 2007, former Vice President Al Gore accepted the Nobel Peace Prize with a call for humanity to rise up against a looming climate crisis and stop waging war on the environment.

In 2013, South Africa held a memorial service for Nelson Mandela, during which U.S. President Barack Obama energized tens of thousands of spectators and nearly 100 visiting heads of state with a plea for the world to emulate "the last great liberator of the 20th century." (The ceremony was marred by the presence of a sign-language interpreter who deaf advocates said was an impostor waving his arms around meaninglessly.) General Motors named product chief Mary Barra its new CEO, making her the first woman to run a U.S. car company.

In 2019, House Democrats announced two articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump, declaring that he “betrayed the nation” with his actions toward Ukraine and an obstruction of Congress’ investigation; Trump responded with a tweet of “WITCH HUNT!” At an evening rally in Pennsylvania, Trump mocked the impeachment effort and predicted it would lead to his reelection in 2020.

Ten years ago: Tens of thousands of Russians staged anti-government protests, charging electoral fraud and demanding an end to Vladimir Putin’s rule. Robert Griffin III beat out preseason favorite Andrew Luck to win the Heisman Trophy.

Five years ago: Donald Trump’s presidential transition team challenged the veracity of U.S. intelligence assessments that Russia had tried to tip the November election in his favor. Louisiana voters chose to send Republican state Treasurer John Kennedy to the nation’s capital, filling the nation’s last U.S. Senate seat and giving the GOP a 52-48 edge in the chamber when the new term began. In college football, Army ended a 14-year run of frustration against Navy with a 21-17 victory. Sophomore quarterback Lamar Jackson became the first Louisville player to win the Heisman Trophy.

One year ago: A U.S. government advisory panel endorsed widespread use of Pfizer’s coronavirus vaccine, putting the country one step away from launching an epic vaccination campaign. (The Food and Drug administration would authorize the vaccine the following day.) States drafted plans for who would get the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, as the nation’s death toll from the pandemic surpassed 3,100 in a single day for the first time. The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee heeded calls from American athletes by announcing that it wouldn’t penalize them for raising their fists or kneeling on the medals stand at the Tokyo Games and beyond. The Minneapolis City Council unanimously voted to shift about \$8 million away from the police department and toward violence prevention and other programs, while keeping intact the mayor’s targeted staffing levels for sworn officers.

Today’s Birthdays: Actor Fionnula Flanagan is 80. Pop singer Chad Stuart (Chad and Jeremy) Actor-singer Gloria Loring is 75. Pop-funk musician Walter “Clyde” Orange (The Commodores) is 75. Country singer Johnny Rodriguez is 70. Actor Susan Dey is 69. Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich is 65. Jazz musician Paul Hardcastle is 64. Actor John York (TV: “General Hospital”) is 63. Actor-director Kenneth Branagh (BRAH’-nah) is 61. Actor Nia Peeples is 60. TV chef Bobby Flay is 57. Rock singer-musician J Mascis is 56. Rock musician Scot Alexander (Dishwalla) is 50. Actor-comedian Arden Myrin is 48. Rock musician Meg White (The White Stripes) is 47. Actor Emmanuelle Chriqui is 46. Actor Gavin Houston is 44. Actor Alano Miller is 42. Violinist Sarah Chang is 41. Actor Patrick John Flueger is 38. Country singer Meghan Linsey is 36. Actor Raven-Symone is 36. Actor/singer Teyana Taylor is 31. Actor Kiki Layne is 30.

Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **Most unusual place a story assignment took you.**



Paul Stevens

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