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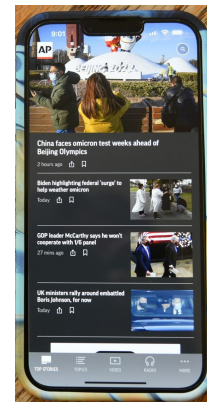
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Connecting

January 31, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Jan. 31, 2022,

What was our world like 100 years ago?

We have more than a dozen colleagues in the Connecting 90s Club but none (who I know of, anyway) who were on the planet in 1922.

The Associated Press was 54 years old then, and it dipped into its archives to find out as we lead today's Connecting with this "Glimpse of 1922" blog produced by AP Images and shared by Corporate Archives. Some wonderful images.

Here's to the last day of January – be safe, stay healthy...and I look forward to your story and photo submissions in the coming week.

Paul

A Glimpse of 1922: Selected Photos from the AP Photo Archive



A 1922 photo of children of the Russian famine. (AP Photo)



Skyline of New York City, 1922. (AP Photo)



Polish film actress Pola Negri with her fiancé British film actor Charlie Chaplin, in Hollywood, Oct. 1922.(AP Photo)

AP Images Blog

These images from a century ago are part of AP's extensive archive of more than 37 million photos, a visual history of our world. The AP launched a full photo service in 1928, but has been reporting the news since 1846.

View more [here](#). Shared by Francesca Pitaro.

New-member profile: Larry Ryckman

Larry Ryckman ([Email](#)) - I started my AP career as a legislative relief staffer in Carson City back in 1981, and the friendships I forged then have lasted a lifetime (I'm looking at you, Brendan Riley and Mitchell Landsberg). Over the next 24 years, I worked as a reporter in Reno and San Francisco, reporter and State Editor in Seattle, General Desk and Foreign Desk editor in New York, San Diego correspondent, Moscow correspondent, General Desk



supervisor, and then assistant managing editor and founder of the West and South regional wires. I oversaw coverage of Columbine, the presidential recount in Florida in 2000 and more hurricanes, wildfires and disasters than I care to remember.

I left the AP in 2005 and became managing editor of the Gazette in Colorado Springs. I later was city editor of the Greeley Tribune, and then city editor and senior editor at the Denver Post. In 2018, amid another round of layoffs ordered by Alden Global Capital, I founded the all-digital Colorado Sun along with nine colleagues from the Post.

As I was telling Sue Cross the other day, I never set out to be an entrepreneur, but the times and conditions more or less demanded it. We clearly need new business models in our business, and I had no intention of helping a hedge fund further dismantle a once-proud newsroom. We launched in September 2018 with 10 full-time staffers. Today, we have 23, along with 190,000-plus newsletter subscribers and about 16,000 paying members. A public television documentary captured the turmoil at the Post - and what Alden is doing around the country -- as well as the rise of the Sun. You can check out "News Matters" [here](#). Spoiler alert: It has a happy ending, at least as far as I'm concerned. The Sun is stronger than ever.

Glad to join you all here in Connecting!

Retirement fail

Melissa Jordan ([Email](#)) passes along this update:

I retired from my job as a writer at the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District last fall, planning to move back to my home state of Georgia and take it easy. That lasted about two months before I missed working and found something new. Now I'm a writer for the Georgia Department of Transportation, based in Atlanta. [My first piece](#) for them was about our recent winter storm.



While I'm not a spokesperson/public information officer, if any Georgia AP folks ever want to kick around story ideas, let me know. There is a lot of innovation going on here and a really lovely communications team that supports me. Thank you!

Connecting mailbox

On AP distillation of small-town America

Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - What an extraordinarily textured story (see Friday's Final Word for [this story](#)), and one that probably could be written about hundreds of similar communities.

I know it's not fair to pick out any one portion of Tim Sullivan's epic distillation of small-town America, but a single graf leapt out to me as lyrical:

"Benson was built in the 1870s as railways reached this part of the prairies, and trains remain the town's background music. In the cafes, people barely look up when mile-long trains roar through downtown. Few people stop talking. They've been hearing those trains for generations."

Oh, my!

And...

Bob Daugherty ([Email](#)) - Great read on the small town Minnesota publisher authored by Tim Sullivan and beautifully photographed by David Goldman. It's hard to see how the publisher wins. I believe he's a victim of cable tv. Hell, even his wife is not exactly a staunch supporter.

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On increased AP education coverage

Ray Newton (Email) - Hooray--and praise to the AP--increase coverage of education (see [story](#) in Friday's issue). Perhaps some of the myths perpetrated by ignorant or -self-serving politicians can be countered by fact and accurate detail. Now, perhaps even more attention will be focused on the position of U.S. education and students in relation to the rest of the civilized world. How do our schools, colleges and universities now compare to those in other countries?

I really look forward to chewing into and digesting these stories, Paul. The AP is serving the public well.

Best of the Week

Deeply reported package explores the shift away from fossil fuels, impact on states, communities



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Rhode Island-based reporter Jennifer McDermott was researching energy policies in all 50 states when she made an unexpected discovery: Roughly two-thirds of states in the U.S., including ones led by Democrats, plan to use nuclear power as an essential part of their energy plan to replace coal, oil and natural gas. Some of those plans will rely on a new, smaller type of reactor now under development.

McDermott's story detailed exclusively how the transition away from fossil fuels is forcing U.S. states to make hard choices about nuclear power. Although it does not produce greenhouse gases, nuclear fuel has a big downside: radioactive waste can remain dangerous for thousands of years.

Her state-by-state reporting was also the basis for a localization guide that allowed AP customers to tailor their energy stories to their own audiences.

Read more [here](#).

Audie Murphy earns his Medal of Honor



Marc Lancaster
World War II On Deadline

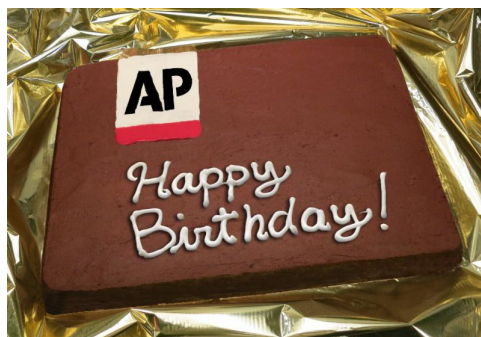
Audie Murphy might be the most famous non-general from World War II — or at least he was before *Band of Brothers* — but most of the battlefield heroics that made him one of America's most decorated soldiers went unnoticed by the press until the final days of the war in Europe.

It just so happens that today, Jan. 26, 2022, is the 77th anniversary of the day that ultimately set Murphy on the path to the folk-hero status he carried for decades after the war.

The diminutive Texan was just 16 years old when the U.S. entered the war, but he desperately wanted to join the cause. Born June 20, 1925, he couldn't bear the thought of waiting a year and a half to enlist, so his older sister Corinne signed off on a falsified birth year of 1924 that allowed him to enter the Army in June 1942, 10 days after he had actually turned 17. His enlistment papers put his vital stats at 5 feet, 5 1/2 inches and 112 pounds.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Don Deibler](#)

Welcome to Connecting



Tim Sullivan

Stories of interest

Newsrooms Are Unionizing Pretty Much “Nonstop.” Here’s Why (Nieman Reports)

By STEVEN GREENHOUSE

Mike Kelly has worked at The Record for 46 years, and until Gannett acquired the New Jersey newspaper in 2016, he saw little need for a union.

But that changed once Gannett arrived. Kelly, a columnist for The Record, says Gannett chopped the newsroom’s staff from 190 in 2016 to 100 today and fired many of his fellow journalists in demeaning, callous ways.

“Our nationally known baseball writer was fired just eight hours after the last out of the World Series,” Kelly says. “One of our best investigative reporters — a Pulitzer finalist who was one of the first to expose Trump’s questionable deals in the New Jersey Meadowlands — was given just a few hours to clear out of the building.”

“I watched too many decent people stripped of their professional dignity,” Kelly continues. “We were watching our colleagues just pushed out the door willy-nilly and without any warning. I get that the newspaper business is in financial crisis. But you don’t take a person with 35 years experience and say you have an hour or [so] to clean out your desk. It’s not right.”

Read more [here](#).

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Slain Mexican reporter described vulnerability in last show (AP)

MARCO UGARTE and JULIE WATSON

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — Mexican journalist Lourdes Maldonado dedicated her last program to a fellow journalist one day after he was gunned down outside his home, and then she described her own vulnerability covering the violent, border city of Tijuana.

In her trademark bold style, she blasted Mexico’s corruption and accused a state official of drug ties before telling her viewers she had been under state government protection for eight months.

“They take good care of you,” she said on her internet radio and television show called “Brebaje” or “Potion.” “But no one can avoid—not even under police supervision—getting killed outside your house in a cowardly manner.”

Her words eerily predicted her fate. Five days later, Maldonado was shot outside her home at 7 p.m. in the evening. She was the third journalist this year to be killed in Mexico.

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

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Trump declared a war on the media. Now proxy battles are being waged in American courts. (Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan
Media columnist

From the start of his presidential bid, Donald Trump took full advantage of the public’s growing mistrust of the mainstream press. The journalists tirelessly chronicling the near-daily scandals erupting from his White House were “scum,” he taunted. They were dishonest, he insisted. They were “the enemy of the people.”

His adviser Stephen K. Bannon memorably called the media “the opposition party.” Plenty of Americans agreed: These days, even local TV reporters are likely to be blasted as “fake news” as they try to cover school board meetings.

Now, more than a year after Trump’s presidential term ended, three volatile lawsuits forged in the culture-war fire he stoked are making their way through the legal system.

All are defamation suits, and the mere names involved suggest just how hot those flames may get: Sarah Palin, the right-wing lightning rod who gleefully slammed the “lamestream media”; Project Veritas, the hidden-camera “sting” outfit that targets journalists and liberals; Fox News, the conservative cable network that morphed into the Trump White House’s propaganda office; and the New York Times, the pillar of elite journalism that became the object of some of Trump’s most scalding attacks — and is now the defendant in two of the cases.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Harry Dunphy.

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Rejected by New Zealand, reporter turns to Taliban for help (AP)

By NICK PERRY

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — A pregnant New Zealand journalist says she turned to the Taliban for help and is now stranded in Afghanistan after her home country has prevented her from returning due to a bottleneck of people in its coronavirus quarantine system.

In a column published in The New Zealand Herald on Saturday, Charlotte Bellis said it was “brutally ironic” that she’d once questioned the Taliban about their treatment of women and she was now asking the same questions of her own government.

“When the Taliban offers you — a pregnant, unmarried woman — safe haven, you know your situation is messed up,” Bellis wrote in her column.

New Zealand’s COVID-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins told the Herald his office had asked officials to check whether they followed the proper procedures in Bellis’s case, “which appeared at first sight to warrant further explanation.”

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

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Alden hedge fund appeals to investors in news publisher Lee (AP)

By JOSH FUNK

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Alden Global Capital hedge fund is sending its own appeal to shareholders of newspaper publisher Lee Enterprises as part of its campaign to acquire the company.

The New York-based hedge fund, which is already one of the nation’s largest newspaper owners, urged Lee shareholders Thursday to support two new directors it has nominated to help reshape the Davenport, Iowa-based company’s strategy. Lee already rejected Alden’s \$24 per share offer to buy the company and asked shareholders to help it fight off Alden’s advances.

Alden is pressing ahead with its effort to reshape Lee’s board and replace the company’s Chairman Mary Junck and one other board member, even though Lee maintains that Alden didn’t meet its requirements to nominate board members. Alden sued Lee to force a vote on its nominees, and a trial on that is scheduled to begin Feb. 7 ahead of the company’s March 10 annual meeting.

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

The Final Word



Shared by Marty Thompson

Today in History - Jan. 31, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 31, the 31st day of 2022. There are 334 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 31, 1958, the United States entered the Space Age with its first successful launch of a satellite, Explorer 1, from Cape Canaveral.

On this date:

In 1797, composer Franz Schubert was born in Vienna.

In 1863, during the Civil War, the First South Carolina Volunteers, an all-Black Union regiment composed of many escaped slaves, was mustered into federal service at Beaufort, South Carolina.

In 1865, the U.S. House of Representatives joined the Senate in passing the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution abolishing slavery, sending it to states for ratification. (The amendment was adopted in December 1865.)

In 1919, baseball Hall-of-Famer Jackie Robinson was born in Cairo (KAY'-roh), Georgia.

In 1945, Pvt. Eddie Slovik, 24, became the first U.S. soldier since the Civil War to be executed for desertion as he was shot by an American firing squad in France.

In 1961, NASA launched Ham the Chimp aboard a Mercury-Redstone rocket from Cape Canaveral; Ham was recovered safely from the Atlantic Ocean following his 16 1/2-minute suborbital flight.

In 1971, astronauts Alan Shepard, Edgar Mitchell and Stuart Roosa blasted off aboard Apollo 14 on a mission to the moon.

In 2000, an Alaska Airlines MD-83 jet crashed into the Pacific Ocean off Port Hueneme (wy-NEE'-mee), California, killing all 88 people aboard.

In 2001, a Scottish court sitting in the Netherlands convicted one Libyan, acquitted a second, in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. (Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi (AHB'-dehl BAH'-seht AH'-lee ahl-meh-GRAH'-hee) was given a life sentence, but was released after eight years on compassionate grounds by Scotland's government. He died in 2012.)

In 2015, Bobbi Kristina Brown, the daughter of the late singer Whitney Houston, was found unresponsive in a bathtub at her Georgia townhome and was taken to an Atlanta-area hospital. (She died six months later.)

In 2016, Novak Djokovic maintained his perfect streak in six Australian Open finals with a 6-1, 7-5, 7-6 (3) victory over Andy Murray.

In 2020, the United States declared a public health emergency over the new coronavirus, and President Donald Trump signed an order to temporarily bar entry to foreign nationals, other than immediate family of U.S. citizens, who had traveled in China within the preceding 14 days. The Senate narrowly rejected Democratic demands to summon witnesses for President Donald Trump's first impeachment trial.

Ten years ago: Republican Mitt Romney routed Newt Gingrich in the Florida primary, rebounding from an earlier defeat. The breast-cancer charity Susan G. Komen for the Cure set off a furor by deciding to halt its partnerships with Planned Parenthood affiliates (Komen reversed itself three days later).

Five years ago: President Donald Trump nominated Neil Gorsuch, a fast-rising conservative judge, to the U.S. Supreme Court. (Gorsuch would be confirmed in April 2017 by a 54-45 vote.)

One year ago: Tens of thousands of people protested across Russia to demand the release of jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny in a second wave of nationwide demonstrations that rattled the Kremlin; activists said police detained more than 5,100 protesters across the country, including more than 1,600 in Moscow. Thousands of ultra-Orthodox Israelis participated in a pair of funerals for two prominent rabbis in Jerusalem, flouting the country's ban on large public gatherings amid the pandemic. A World Health Organization team looking into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic visited the food market in the Chinese city of Wuhan that was linked to many early infections.

Today's Birthdays: Composer Philip Glass is 85. Former Interior Secretary James Watt is 84. Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands, the former queen regent, is 84. Actor Stuart Margolin is 82. Former U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., is 81. Blues singer-musician Charlie Musselwhite is 78. Actor Glynn Turman is 75. Baseball Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan is 75. Actor Jonathan Banks is 75. Singer-musician Harry Wayne Casey (KC and the Sunshine Band) is 71. Rock singer Johnny Rotten is 66. Actor Kelly Lynch is 63. Actor Anthony LaPaglia is 63. Singer-musician Lloyd Cole is 61. Rock musician Al Jaworski (Jesus Jones) is 56. Actor Minnie Driver is 52. Actor Portia de Rossi is 49. Actor-comedian Bobby Moynihan is 45. Actor Kerry Washington is 45. Bluegrass singer-musician Becky Buller is 43. Singer Justin Timberlake is 41. Actor Tyler Ritter is 37. Country singer Tyler Hubbard (Florida Georgia Line) is 35. Folk-rock singer-musician Marcus Mumford (Mumford and Sons) is 35. Actor Joel Courtney is 26.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking [Connecting Archive](#) in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after

a 36-year career in Albany, St. Louis, Wichita, Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City.

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:

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

Paul Stevens

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